



## Shipment Notes:

- **Do not try to undo rubber bands. Just cut bags open.**
- **Fish will be stressed and will not show normal colors right out of the bag.**

## Fish Acclimation Procedures

Have an aquarium ready for your shipped tropical fish. It is best to quarantine your new arrivals from any other fish you have. They are stressed by shipping and susceptible to any pathogens your other aquariums may contain. If you do not properly quarantine them, you will risk having them die. Anything added from another tank to your quarantine tank means that it is no longer quarantined. Just because your existing tank shows no signs of disease, it may still contain pathogens. They can be present in low numbers waiting to attack a stressed fish.

### Be Prepared

- Carefully follow each step in the acclimation procedure.
- Be available to start the acclimation as soon as the fish arrive.
- Have fish-safe buckets, ammonia neutralizer, siphons, valves, nets and a quarantine tank with a biologically active filter.
- Have plenty of time on the day of their arrival to be sure they are doing well.
- Notify Angelmania immediately in the event of a problem or concern.
- For a refund of any fish that are dead on arrival, you must provide a clear photograph of the dead fish in the unopened bag.
- **NOTE: Live arrival guarantee is cancelled if seller is not notified, and if photographs are not provided within 2 hours of first attempted delivery or pickup.**

Use your regular tap water when setting up the aquarium to be used for the shipped fish. Be sure your aquarium filter has fully established nitrifying bacteria or be certain to have an "active filter" with established nitrifying bacteria, ready to put in when your shipped tropical fish are added. **Do NOT put your shipped tropical fish into pure "R.O." or de-ionized water.** This will greatly stress and probably kill your newly shipped fish.

## **On the Arrival of your Fish**

Shipping can be stressful on fish. Be prepared with an ammonia neutralizer. You should add an appropriate amount to each bag to eliminate some of the ammonia. It may be necessary to repeat this if the acclimation takes a long time, you see signs of stress or if you smell ammonia at any point. If the fish are stressed because the water is too cold, they must be warmed up to a reasonable temperature rather quickly. It is best to empty each bag into an appropriately sized, fish-safe, bucket. Lots of surface area is important. Do not aerate the water, and do not float the bags in an aquarium. When very cold, fish can enter a torpid state, showing little sign of life. In these situations, the fish will be just fine if warmed up soon enough, and acclimated properly. To warm the tropical fish, place their bucket into a larger container that contains warmer water. This should be done until the temperature gets into the low 70's. The acclimation procedure can be started while the water is warming.

## **Drip System for Acclimating Fish**

Start a siphon from the aquarium they are going into, through airline tubing, into the acclimation bucket. Put an airline valve in-line to control the drip rate. If you don't have an airline valve, then you can tie a knot in the airline and tighten or loosen it to control the drip.

## **Acclimation Procedure for Fish**

Drip water from the aquarium into the fish bucket, at the rate of one drip per second. Every 30 minutes, double the drip rate. When the water volume in the bucket has doubled to tripled, add one fish to the aquarium and observe its reaction. If it looks worse, then acclimate the rest of the tropical fish for another hour and then try adding one more. If the transferred fish look okay, it is then safe to add the rest. Any individual fish that haven't been added to the tank, and look overly stressed during acclimation (spinning, erratic movements), should be acclimated quicker. Put them in a separate container and take at least 10 to 15 minutes to gradually double the water volume and then add the stressed fish to the tank. If they improve and look good, the others can be added in the same manner.

# **CRITICAL**

**Part of acclimating your new tropical fish is to not feed them for at least 24 hours and preferably 48 hrs. When you do start feeding, start with no more than one or two bites of dry food. Normal sized feedings can make your fish sick or even cause newly shipped fish to die! Remove all uneaten food within 2 minutes. If you cannot get them to eat dry food, try a very small amount of a live food. However, it is best to not feed live foods during the first week. Do not feed frozen foods for any reason during the first week after their arrival (bacterial risk)!**

**Remember, your fish will need to spend a few days in good clean water in a stress-free environment for their colors to return to normal. Some angelfish types can temporarily lose almost all coloration during shipment.**

- **TIPS:**
  - **Angels are slow water fish. Too much current from a HOB or canister filter can stress and even kill them. Best to use sponge filters with young angels.**
  - **Resist the urge to put your angels in a community tank right away. They should be properly quarantined and kept separate, preferably until grown to Quarter+ size.**