

Chinese Algae Eater

Gyrinocheilus aymonieri



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Chinese algae eaters originated in Southeast Asian mountain streams. They are well-adapted for scraping algae because their wide, strong mouth is able to attach to any surface with suction. These vigorous feeders make excellent natural freshwater aquarium cleaners.



Is a Chinese algae eater the right choice for your aquarium?

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check "Yes" or "No" after reading the following statements:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. I have room for an appropriate size aquarium.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. I can commit to providing proper care for this fish.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. This fish would be compatible with my other aquarium inhabitants.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this fish.

If you answered "Yes" to these statements, a Chinese algae eater may be the right choice you! Continue reading about how to care for a Chinese algae eater and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible aquarium care.

Average Size 2½ to 10 inches long

Life Span Depends on species

Diet Various forms of algae, spinach, or live plants and dry or tablet plant foods
Some may eat any leftover aquarium food or debris

Feeding Feed small amounts daily or weekly, depending on size, species, and algae growth in the tank
Observe algae consumption to ensure proper feeding

Housing Maintain strong circulation and aeration; Chinese algae eaters prefer rapidly moving water
Provide hiding places and plenty of vegetation, driftwood and surfaces to feed on
Water temperature should range from 72° F. to 82° F.

Stable water quality, water temperature, and pH levels are critical to the health of fish.
If you are unsure of your water quality or pH levels, PETCO provides free water testing.

Recommended Supplies	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate aquarium	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquarium cover	<input type="checkbox"/> Heater
<input type="checkbox"/> Water conditioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate food	<input type="checkbox"/> Filter and Net	
<input type="checkbox"/> Water test kit	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate lighting	<input type="checkbox"/> Décor	
<input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer	<input type="checkbox"/> Substrate	<input type="checkbox"/> Airstone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Book about algae eaters or freshwater aquariums		<input type="checkbox"/> Air pump	

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Characteristics Wide mouth forms a suction disk for attaching to various surfaces to eat while breathing through special slits in the head; may have eczema-like symptoms around mouth area

Younger algae eaters are peaceful and primarily eat plant matter while older ones can become territorial and prefer meaty foods as well

During spawning, females are larger and plumper than males

Habitat Maintenance Check filter, other equipment, and water temperature daily

Check water quality at least once a week

Ensure there are strong circulation and aeration systems

Change 10–25% of the total volume of water every two to four weeks, or as needed

Best suited for an established aquarium with plenty of vegetation

Introduce new fish to the aquarium gradually

Compatibility Compatible with most other freshwater fish of similar size

Though peaceful, limit the number of algae eaters as they mature because they may become aggressive towards each other

Signs of a Healthy Fish

- Clear eyes
- Even coloring
- Healthy appetite
- Clean in appearance

Common Health Issues	Health Issue (alpha)	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
	Fin Rot	Frayed or disintegrating fins; the base of the fins usually reddens	Improve water quality.; commercial antibiotics may be effective
	Ich	White spots appear on fins and body; fish rubs against hard objects or swims awkwardly	Quarantine fish immediately; use a commercial Ich remedy for at least two weeks

Signs of Illness

- Loss of color or appetite
- Listlessness
- Spots or fungus on body
- Cloudy eye(s)

If you notice any of these signs, test water quality and improve as necessary

Preventing Common Health Issues Avoid crowded conditions; they are a major cause of stress and disease

Maintain good water quality with regular water changes and adequate filtration

Sources *Aquarium Fish* by Dick Mills

The New Aquarium Handbook by Ines Scheurmann

The Pocket Idiot's Guide to Freshwater Aquariums by Mike Wickham

Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the above sources or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.