



Axolotl at a Glance

Difficulty of care: **Moderate**

Average lifespan: **10–15 years**
with proper care

Average adult size: **Around 12"**
(some larger)

Diet: **Carnivorous**

Minimum habitat size: **30 gallons**
(40-gallon breeder recommended)

Temperature: **60–68 F**

Fun fact ↪ Axolotls
keep their feathery
gills for life and
stay fully aquatic.



Enclosure Setup & Maintenance

- Axolotls need a fully cycled aquarium with clean, stable water. A 40-gallon low, wide tank is ideal for easier maintenance.
- Provide hiding spots and decorations larger than their head to prevent accidental swallowing.
- Water quality is very important, as axolotls produce a lot of waste that raises nitrate levels quickly. Perform weekly water changes and use a strong filtration system to keep nitrates below 20 ppm and avoid ammonia spikes.
- Keep water temperatures cool, between 60–68 F. Use fans, chillers, or frozen water bottles if needed. Live plants can help control waste levels, but avoid fertilizers. Always keep a secure lid and leave space at the top, as axolotls can jump out.



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Supply Checklist

- 40-gallon breeder aquarium
- Hiding spots (caves)
- Low-light plants
- Low-flow filter
- Water chiller or cooling method
- Air pump and air stone
- Water conditioner
- Siphon and cleaning buckets
- Thermometer
- Water test kits
- Food and treats

Fun fact ↪ They can
regrow limbs, organs, and
even parts of their brain.

Health

Axolotls can develop health issues, often linked to poor water quality.

- **Fungal infections:** White patches on body or gills
- **Bacterial infections:** Red skin, bloating, lethargy
- **Impaction:** Trouble eating or passing waste from swallowing objects
- **Ammonia poisoning:** Gasping, inflamed gills
- **Metabolic bone disease:** Weak bones from poor nutrition

Limit handling, as their skin is delicate. Use a soft net when moving them.

Fun fact ↻ They are nocturnal and hunt by sucking food into their mouths.

Diet

Axolotls are carnivores that eat a variety of animal-based foods. Their main diet should consist of earthworms and nightcrawlers, which provide most of their nutrition. They can also eat small fish and mollusks. If live food is not available, axolotl or sinking carnivore pellets can be offered as an alternative.

Juvenile axolotls should be fed every day, while adults should be fed every two to three days. Occasional treats such as waxworms, frozen bloodworms, and blackworms can be given, but only about once per month.

Some small tankmates, like cherry or ghost shrimp, may also be eaten, but they should be quarantined before being introduced. Feeder fish such as minnows and goldfish should be avoided because they can cause nutritional deficiencies.

Fun fact

↻ Wild axolotls are critically endangered, but many are kept as pets.

