Arowana at a Glance

Fun fact In some cultures, they symbolize prosperity, health, and good luck.



Difficulty of care: **Advanced**

Average lifespan: **20 years or longer with proper care**

Average adult size: **Up to 3 feet or longer, depending on species**

Diet: **Floating pellets or sticks, with freeze-dried shrimp or live crickets as treats**

Minimum habitat size: **200-gallon aquarium minimum for adults; indoor ponds are often more practical**

Temperature: **72–82 F**

Enclosure Setup & Maintenance

- Arowanas need a large aquarium or indoor pond because they grow quickly. Juveniles can start in tanks of 55 gallons or larger, but adults require at least 200 gallons.
- Use a tightly fitting lid because these fish are powerful jumpers. Floating plants may help reduce jumping in indoor ponds without lids.
- A strong filter is essential and should process the aquarium's water five to ten times per hour. Test water regularly for pH, ammonia, nitrite, nitrate, and other key water parameters. Maintain a pH of 6.5–7.5 and keep the water temperature between 72–82 F. Perform water changes every two to four weeks, replacing 10–25% of the water while vacuuming the substrate to remove waste.

Supply Checklist

- Large aquarium or indoor pond
- Freshwater substrate (optional)
- Strong filter
- Heater and thermometer
- Water test kit
- Dechlorinator and starter bacteria
- Secure hood and fish net
- Floating pellets, freeze-dried shrimp, and live crickets

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Health

A healthy arowana is active, swims normally, has clear eyes, healthy fins, and a good appetite. Watch for drooping eyes, lethargy, poor appetite, or rapid breathing, as these may require attention from a fish expert.

Raised scales, lesions, or red streaks in the fins may indicate a more serious problem and should be addressed promptly.

Fun fact They're among the largest predatory fish kept in home aquariums.



Diet

Feed young arowanas once daily and adults every day or every couple of days. Offer floating pellets or sticks made for surface-feeding fish. Freeze-dried shrimp and live crickets can be given as treats. Feed only what your fish can eat within a few minutes.



Fun fact

Some specialty species can be extremely valuable, with prices reaching hundreds of thousands of dollars.