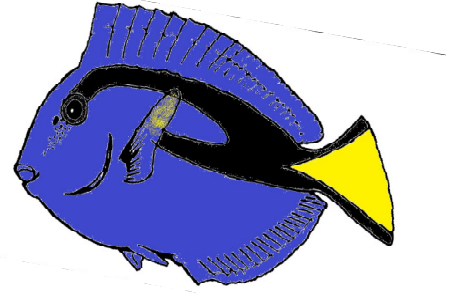


Thinking of Dory? (Regal Tang)

The film Finding Dory has led to increased interest in the keeping of marine fish, specifically Regal Tangs and Clownfish, which are now often referred to as 'Dory's' and 'Nemo's' by children.

Unlike Goldfish, which live in fresh water and will survive in less than ideal conditions, Regal Tangs and Clownfish are sensitive marine fish (they come from the sea) and they require significantly more equipment, and care to be happy and healthy.

To keep any marine fish including Clownfish you will need to spend at least £300, or more on the aquarium, and equipment and over £1000 to keep a Regal Tang. These will require frequent attention and despite advances in filtration technology, weekly maintenance will be also required.



Basic overview of equipment required

- An aquarium of at least 250 litres (55 gallons) for a Regal Tang or 60 litres (13 gallons) in capacity for a pair of Clownfish. Smaller aquariums are not recommended for the novice marine fish keeper. Marine fish require a stable environment; small aquariums suffer from variable water conditions. A 100 litre marine aquarium will only support a maximum of three 8 centimetre fish.
- A suitable stand or cabinet capable of supporting the weight, each litre of water weighs just over 1kg.
- Some form of filtration, this helps to keep the water clear and breaks down waste produced by the fish. Filtration for marine aquariums is often larger and more complex than for freshwater aquariums
- Protein skimmer, this removes many waste products from the aquarium, as well aerating it. It is possible to keep marines without one, but in our opinion it is a vital piece of equipment.
- A 2-3cm layer of coral sand, this helps maintain the pH of the water as well as decorating the aquarium. Ideally, this should be live aragonite as this establishes the filter much quicker.
- A lighting system, if possible this should be LED, good quality ones emit plenty of light without heating the water like other forms of lighting will.
- Regal Tangs and Clownfish are tropical marine species and require water heated to around 25°C (77°F), this is achieved by adding a heater that is controlled by a thermostat.
- A thermometer to ensure the temperature is correct.
- Water testing kit to check ammonia, nitrite, nitrate and pH. These are important to the health of all fish, but especially marine species.
- A hydrometer, or preferably a refractometer, these measure the salinity of the water, another important factor for marine organisms. This should be kept at 1.020-1.026
- A specially designed salt mix to add to purified fresh water (R.O. water) making it capable of sustaining marine organisms.
- There are many types of rock and replica corals that provide fish with hiding places and enhance the look of the aquarium. We would recommend Real Reef Rock or CaribSea Life Rock, as these will aid the filtration process.
- Maintenance equipment for cleaning the glass and changing the water. This would

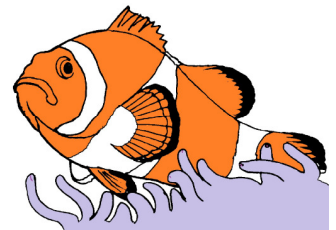
normally include: - bucket(s), pipe for siphoning and an algae magnet to clean the glass.

- Fish food, again specifically for marine fish, frozen Brineshrimp, Mysis and marine flake
- There are numerous complete marine aquarium kits, these are worth considering, as much of the equipment needed is included. For example the Kent Bioreef would be suitable for a pair of Clownfish and has adequate filtration. Juwel aquariums may be suitable with additional equipment. The Red Sea Reefer is a dedicated marine aquarium which can be custom equipped.

Patience is something that cannot be bought, and will be required in quantity for successful fish keeping. A marine aquarium should be set up at least a week before any livestock is added, with the snails and crabs being the first additions. It should be gradually stocked over six months to a year. This is essential as it allows time for the filter to mature. In this time vital bacteria multiply that break down fishes waste, if the aquarium is stocked too quickly poisonous ammonia or nitrite will build up, these could kill the fish.

It is essential not only to monitor the water for toxic ammonia and nitrite, but also pH. For marine fish this needs to be between 8.0 and 8.3, lower than this and the fish may become sick. Even with good filtration you will need to change at least 10% of the water every few weeks, this helps to dilute the nitrate. This slowly builds up in the aquarium and could eventually poison the fish. Ready mixed salt water can be purchased from The WaterZoo, or alternatively you can mix it yourself in a separate container, not in the aquarium, this would harm the fish.

Regal Tangs (Dory) are wild caught from the Indian/Pacific Ocean with an adult size of 20-30cm, they are best left to experienced marine fish keepers as they can be sensitive to disease and requires a large aquarium and high standard of water quality.



All the Common Clowns (Nemo) at The WaterZoo are captive bred in the UK or US, their adult size is around 7-8cm and are a good choice for the newcomer to marine aquariums. Captive bred Clownfish do not require an Anemone to live in, and normally ignore it if one is offered. Anemones are also best left to experienced aquarists as they require very high lighting levels and have a more complex set of requirements.

Octopus (Hank) are only for the dedicated, they require a dimly lit aquarium with exceptional water quality. They cannot be kept with any fish, shrimps etc. as they will eat them!

Anyone who wishes to keep any pet, including fish has a responsibility to ensure they are provided with a suitable environment and it is cared for correctly. This leaflet is a very basic introduction only, and you are strongly advised to do further research before purchasing any fish.

Any of the following provide reliable information

The new marine aquarium, author M. Paletta
Interpet Mini Encyclopaedia of the Marine Aquarium
The Water Zoo guide to marine aquariums.

Finding Dory and Finding Nemo are animated films for entertainment, they do not necessarily reflect the needs of marine species.

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