

Name \_\_\_\_\_



### What's on the Menu for Betta Fish?

Betta fish, with their vibrant colors and flowing fins, are not just beautiful to look at—they are also skilled hunters! Betta fish are carnivores, which means they eat meat. In the wild, their diet mostly consists of tiny creatures like insects and insect larvae. These small meals provide the nutrients Betta fish need to stay healthy and strong.

In their natural habitat, Betta fish hunt in shallow waters like rice paddies, ponds, and slow-moving streams. Here, they use their sharp eyesight to spot tiny prey. Betta fish are quick and precise hunters, snapping up small insects or worms floating on the surface of the water or hiding among plants. Mosquito larvae are one of their favorite foods because they are easy to find and packed with energy. When kept as pets, Betta fish can't hunt like they do in the wild, but they still need a diet rich in protein. Fish owners feed them specially made Betta pellets or flakes, which are designed to provide all the nutrients they would get from their natural diet. Betta fish also enjoy live or frozen treats like bloodworms, brine shrimp, and daphnia. These foods are a great way to keep them healthy and happy.

It's important to remember that Betta fish are not herbivores, so they don't eat plants. However, in the wild, they may sometimes nibble on plant roots or algae if other food is hard to find. This is rare and not their preferred diet. Betta fish rely on protein-rich food to thrive.

Whether in the wild or in a tank, Betta fish need the right food to live a long and healthy life. Understanding their diet helps fish owners take better care of these beautiful creatures. So, the next time you see a Betta fish, remember that it's more than just a pretty pet—it's a tiny hunter with a big appetite!