

Red Claw Lobsters in the Aquarium

Written by

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By: Charles Showalter What to expect from Redclaw while in fish tanks. Redclaw are a very colorful, and make a nice addition to any fish tank. Redclaw can be a tan color, with pastel markings on the side of the body ,or a dark blue black color that has golden band . In both cases male Redclaw will display the sky blue claws, and bright red patches on the outside of their claws. Redclaw are omnivorous, and will take advantage of any food source. Any food source can include your plants, small slower moving fish, and each other. Most of this can be overcome by having enough food for Redclaw to eat, and a good place to hide.

Hides can be constructed by any inert material that provides enough space for the Redclaw to hide in. In hatcheries 2-3 PVC tubing cut to 6-8 length are commonly used as hides for redclaw. In show tanks you could use shale plates, rocks, or anything that compliments your show tanks look. Hides are necessary for Redclaw, as they are very vulnerable while molting. Redclaw after molting will need between 24-48 hours to reharden their shell. While soft Redclaw can be eaten by fish, or other Redclaw.

Redclaw are most active during the evening, and night time, but can be coaxed out of their hide by food. Redclaw are timid creatures, and will hide from threats. Bright lights can put Redclaw on edge, and stress the animals. A Redclaw would rather eat food that is dropped in front of it?s hide, then chase after fish that share it?s habitat. Good food for Redclaw include worms, sinking fish food, shrimp, carrots, potatos, and many other easily controlled food products.

What you feed Redclaw is not as important as feeding them a balanced diet. If you would like to have bluish Redclaw feed them a high protein diet, this induces the Redclaw?s exoskeleton to turn blue. For tan colored Redclaw feed them a diet with a high carotene content. For the best health of Redclaw feed them a well rounded diet.

Redclaw are very good climbers, and can escape from aquariums. Redclaw can climb airlines, between the heater, and tank walls. It is a good idea to have a top on your aquarium. If you Redclaw disappears form the tank, look around on the floor, Redclaw can survive for long periods out of water. Return the Redclaw to the water if it shows any signs of life. When returning a Redclaw to water hold it head up for a few seconds, this allows the air to bubble out if the gill area, and reduces the possibility of doing damage to the Redclaw?s gills.

Water quality for Redclaw while in fish tanks.

Temperature: 80-90 degrees Chloride: 50 PPM

pH: 6.5-90 Nitrite: > 0.3 PPM

Hardness: 80-200 Alkalinity:

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Ammonia: 5.0 PPM

These water quality are shared with most tropical fish, this is an other reason why Redclaw do so well in tropical fish tanks. While you have the time take a look at Mitchelton High school web site (see Main Page) on Redclaw, they have an awesome site. Thanks for the pictures guys, keep up the good work!

Please send your questions, comments, or submissions to:

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