

What do I need to have for my new axolotl?

- 15 gallon aquarium for one axolotl (add 5-10 gallons to that for each additional axolotl)
- They can be kept together, just watch for aggression.
- Filter: Hang on back filter, internal filter, or sponge filter
- Water Conditioner! This is IMPORTANT. The chlorine in tap water can harm your Axolotl. You need a water conditioner that will remove chlorine from the tap water.
- Food: Carnivore pellets of some kind (shrimp pellets, salmon pellets, etc), frozen bloodworms, redworms, earthworms when your axolotl is an adult
- Fine sand substrate (when your axolotl is above 3 inches): This helps your axie to grip the ground when he is walking. Big chunks of sand or gravel can become a choking hazard. Pool filter sand, or play sand works fine but you can get aquarium sand in many different colors
- Cooler environment! Axolotls prefer temperatures around 60-70 degrees Fahrenheit, and getting over 75 degrees can harm your axolotl. You can purchase an aquarium chiller, but those can get expensive. Running a small fan pointed at the surface of the water can bring the temperature down 5-10 degrees. Evaporative cooling is very effective!
- Axolotls do not appreciate bright lights or fast moving water. Natural light is fine, if you want a light, just make sure they have 12 hours of darkness to sleep. If your axolotl is GFP, you can use a blacklight occasionally but not 24 hours a day.
- Axolotls love to play with decorations and plants! Live plants will help keep your water clean, but artificial plants are fine as well. Remember that axolotls have very soft, fragile skin, so nothing sharp or jagged. Terracotta pots and PVC pipes make for great caves!



What do I need to do?

- **Nitrogen Cycle!** Your aquatic pets produce ammonia in the aquarium, this ammonia is eaten by helpful bacteria and turned into nitrites (dangerous to animals) and more helpful bacteria turns nitrites into nitrates (not harmful to fish or amphibians). This process can take a couple weeks to a month to happen in your tank. Extra water changes and more frequent cleaning of the tank will be necessary until this cycle is complete. Those helpful bacteria live in the sand, on surfaces and MOSTLY in your filter. Don't sanitize your filters when you clean the tank!



- 20% water changes weekly, gravel vacuuming to clean up waste
- Feeding: Juveniles daily, adults 2-3 times a week
- Occasionally clean filter, but leave good bacteria in the filter!

If your axolotl is not eating, has any marks on its skin, or its gills are ever curled up toward its face, something is wrong. Contact us if you need help or need your water tested.

If at any time during the life of your axolotl, whether you got it here at Xochi or elsewhere, you need help, please call, text, email us or stop by. We will help however we can, and will happily take back animals that you no longer want or feel able to care for. Our priority is happy, healthy pets and happy, health pet owners!