

FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

FISH CARE SHEET No: 16

Large American Cichlids

11/01/2001

Genera : *Aequidens, Astronotus, Cichlasoma, Crenicichla, Geophagus, Vieja* etc.
See those fishes listed in the current Federation Size Book under Class D.

Family : Cichlidae.

Geographic Origin : South America, Central & North America.

Common Names : Oscars, Peacock Cichlid, Jack Dempsey, Green Terror etc.

Compatibility : Generally large and aggressive. Some can grow to 24 inches (600mm).

Minimum Aquarium Size : A tank of 900mm x 380mm x 300mm (36" x 15" x 12") is suitable for the smaller species of these fish. Even larger tanks are even better!

Temperature : 23°/28°C 73°/82°F, some fluctuation is normal in nature.

Habitat : Gravel substrate with plenty of rocks.

Water Parameters : Medium to hard, neutral water is considered ideal for the fish. Should be well filtered and remain 'sweet'.

Health : Not generally a problem. Damage caused by territorial disputes should be carefully monitored and treated as necessary.

Diet : Most of these fishes should be considered as carnivores. Some fish can be persuaded to accept special pelletised dried foods.

Plants : These fish will rearrange gravel and rocks to suit themselves, often on a daily basis. Any plants will be uprooted continuously.

Breeding Notes : Egg-depositors (often of very large number of eggs). Strong parental care and vigorous defence of young.

Availability: Generally a good selection available of young fish. This should be taken into account when stocking the tank – remembering that they will grow! Overcrowding will lead to territorial fighting.

Show Class: FBAS Show Class D.