



tideline newsletter tideline aquatics

July 28, 2011

STORE HOURS

MONDAY	CLOSED
TUESDAY THRU FRIDAY	11AM-7PM
SATURDAY	10AM-6PM
SUNDAY	12PM-5PM

EUPHYLLIA CORALS – CARE & CULTURING



The most popular LPS (Large Polyped Stony) corals have to be from the genus Euphyllia. These include different forms of what are commonly sold as Frogspawn Corals, Torch Corals and Hammer Corals. This genus includes Euphyllia divisa, Euphyllia ancora, Euphyllia cristata, Euphyllia glabrescens, Euphyllia paradivisa and Euphyllia parancora. There are both 'branching' forms and what are referred to as 'wall' forms available. Colors vary greatly from brown, green, pink and even orange (the most expensive color variant). Most have a base color with a different colored 'tip' on each polyp cluster. All have the ability to sting nearby corals using sweeper tentacles (the ability to extend a portion of a polyp up to 4" or 5" away to touch and sting a nearby coral to discourage it from encroaching on its territory). For this reason, placement of Euphyllia corals should be taken seriously to prevent damage to other corals within reach of the sweeper tentacles.



SWEEPER TENTACLES ATTACKING A NEARBY ZOANTHID COLONY

Once established Euphyllia corals are extremely hardy. Colonies will live for many many years in the reef aquarium. But when first being introduced to the aquarium, they can be somewhat tricky if they are not acclimated (and transported) properly. As with all stony corals, Euphyllia species all have a coral skeleton. The coral polyps extend from the outer most area of the skeleton BUT the coral has a very delicate tissue that extends up to 2" below the top of the skeleton too. This is are most often damaged due to improper handling, poor transportation or from falling off your rock formation due to other reef creatures or precarious placement. When handling a Euphyllia coral NEVER touch this delicate tissue just around the upper edge of the coral skeleton. Instead handle the coral from the bright white area on the lowest portion of the skeleton. When being transported, the coral is best suspended with a floating material like Styrofoam so the coral does not roll about in the bag damaging the coral heads and the delicate tissue surrounding each head on the skeleton. Wrap the coral with the Styrofoam and use rubberbands to hold it in place around the coral skeleton. The entire coral with then float around in the shipping container without any damage being caused to the colony. When you get it home simply cut the



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rubberbands away and handle the coral by the bottom of the white skeleton.



PROPER HANDLING OF A EUPHYLLIA SPECIES



LIVE CORALS SUSPENDED IN BAGS USING STYROFOAM

Once you get home with your new Euphyllia coral and properly unbag it and cut it free from the shipping material it must be given proper placement in your reef aquarium. These corals enjoy good water flow but they do not appreciate being blasted with water. Remember too that these corals have sweeper tentacles so they should not be placed too closely to other corals species

as they will sting 'reach' out and sting it! The Euphyllia coral polyps will not be extended after it has been transported so it will not appear as large as it will eventually become once it opens up and fills the polyps with water. We suggest giving the coral about 8" all the way around it for the protection of other corals species and to allow the coral to fully expand. It is also imperative that you place the coral skeleton somewhere it will not fall. If it does fall, there is a great risk the coral will develop an infection from the fall that could kill the entire colony. Using underwater putty is highly recommended with these corals. Use the putty to mount the coral upright where water can flow completely around the colony. The putty dries underwater (use an aquarium safe epoxy putty designed specifically for mounting corals under water) after several hours and will support the colony without the risk of falling.



MARINELAND HOLDFAST UNDERWATER EPOXY IS EXCELLENT FOR MOUNTING CORAL COLONIES LIKE EUPHYLLIA SPECIES TO PREVENT THEM FROM FALLING AND BEING DAMAGED!



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After several days your new Euphyllia coral should be expanded and settled into its new surroundings. Within a few weeks it should be fully expanded once the lights have been on for several hours. These are fast growing corals species (especially for stony corals). The branching variants are easiest to propagate. The coral grows similar to a small tree with branches that form of the sides of the coral skeleton or upper coral heads that split and divide into two or more heads. Once the branch has grown out large enough to be cut far below the delicate tissue surrounding the top of the coral skeleton it can be propagated. Use clippers designed specifically for cutting corals and clip the branch away from the main colony. That head can be then mounted on a rock or other appropriate material using the underwater epoxy. Before long you will have numerous colonies (within a year or two in a healthy environment) in your reef aquarium or you can trade in extra colonies at your local aquarium store or local reef club. If you have a 'wall' colony it is not quite so simple. The wall Euphyllia must be cut directly through the tissue using special saws. The cut pieces AND the main colony will then need to be dipped in a medicinal coral dipping product to prevent the colony from developing disease and dying. If necrotic tissue develops you MUST act quickly! Using a container of saltwater gently shake the colony to remove the dead tissue. In another container you will dip the infected coral using a coral dip product repeated daily until the infection has been stopped from spreading. Entire colonies of Euphyllia coral are often lost to this infection just because the aquarist did not react quickly enough to stop it.

But don't let this risk change your mind about keeping Euphyllia species. If given proper care and good water quality these coral species are extremely hardy. There are reef keepers that maintain nothing but different color variants of different Euphyllia species in their aquariums. They make a magnificent display of under water beauty for any reef aquarium!



WHO SAYS FRESHWATER FISH ARE NOT COLORFUL! SOME GREAT CHOICES TO BRIGHTEN YOUR FRESHWATER TANK...

If you have ever worked in the aquarium trade then this question will come to you as not surprise "do you have anything more colorful for my aquarium?". We hear it nearly every day at least once.

The problem is that most freshwater fish do not "color up" in aquarium stores. Fish are often in crowded conditions with less than ideal surroundings (no substrate, light décor and constant nets being placed in the tanks) causing them just enough comfortableness to be faded in color compared to the same fish kept in ideal surroundings. Though neon tetras, cardinal tetras, livebearers and glofish are always colorful in aquarium stores here are some species that may not appear so





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dynamic yet the potential for color in your home aquarium is extraordinary:

RAINBOWFISH



Pictured above are two male Bosemani Rainbowfish. In aquarium stores these fish show little color and are often juveniles that have much color yet. But these community fish are amazing once established. There are numerous rainbowfish to choose from too! Turquoise Rainbowfish are blue to purple in color and Millenium Rainbowfish are brilliant red as adults. Rainbowfish are extremely hardy and long-lived if giving adequate water quality.

RAMS



Blue Rams are one of THE most incredible of the dwarf cichlids. They are sometimes bossy but are really a

perfect community fish. When spawning they can be quite belligerent but otherwise they just like to guard their space in the aquarium. The color on these fish is as striking as any marine fish in our opinion and when given soft warm water that is low in organics they thrive. While wild caught rams are picky eaters the ram commonly sold as German Blue Ram are tank bred and eat all types of prepared foods from flake to frozen.

GEOPHAGUS SPECIES



Now this is a group of fish that is a classic example of poor color in aquarium stores. Most geophagus are sold as juvenile fish which have absolutely not color in most species. Prices start at around \$10 with some species being as much as \$60. Geophagus should be kept with medium to larger mild to medium aggressive tank mates. Larger growing gouramis species, bala sharks, redtail sharks, rainbowfish, giant danios, severums and congo tetras are all candidates. Most geophagus are super easy to keep and live for many years if given good living conditions. This genus of fish is often commonly sold as Earth eaters. That is due to their habit of picking up fine gravel or sand and sifting it through their gills for food particles.



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CONGO TETRA



Time and time again folks just walk right past an aquarium full of juvenile congo tetras and that's because they have no color at that size. This tetras is like the ugly duckling though because as it matures the colors begin to flower and the fins begin to flow! Congo tetras are completely peaceful and make a wonderful schooling fish for color. As they move about the aquarium colors change from blue hues to gold depending on the angle the light is striking them. The bright white edging on the elongated fins is just icing on the cake... give these a try as you'll love them!

DISCUS



And then there were Discus! Now this is the prize of the freshwater aquarium trade. In stores most of the time you will only see juvenile discus. The color may be somewhat pretty as young fish but once mature discus are a sight to behold. From neon reds, solid greens to vivid blues you'll likely not see more lovely color than from adult discus. This is not a fish for just anyone though. Discus require excellent water quality with weekly to biweekly partial water changes and a balanced diet of frozen fish foods and dry foods. The aquarium water needs to be warm 82-86 degrees and soft. The aquarium should be well planted or well decorated using driftwood and smooth stones. These fish demand a high price even as juveniles (prices usually start around \$60-\$70 for a 3"-4" fish) but they are worth every penny for the reward of beauty they add to the aquarium as they mature.



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WE SELL WATER AT TIDELINE AQUATICS!

You bring in your containers and we fill them up. Our regular water is pretreated and buffered. Our reverse osmosis water is the best in town. All R.O. saltwater is made with quality Seachem Salinity Salt Mix. Just call the store and reserve your water prior to you coming it. Your order will be filled by one of our helpful staff!

Remember to visit us on **FACEBOOK!** We offer random FREE livestock and product that you can obtain just by coming to the store that day and asking for it by name (details on our facebook page). "Like" Tideline Aquatics and get free stuff!

Don't forget to always check out our weekly specials on our website COUPON page. They change every Wednesday night to offer you big savings on new additions and products for your aquarium and pond.

Tideline Aquatics still offers big savings on REFILLS! We refill many of the OSI flake foods, Aqualife Complete Water Conditioner, Amquel, Amquel Plus and Phosguard all at reduced prices. Just bring in your empty container and have it refilled at the register.



We are in the process of setting up a Groupon account. In case you are unfamiliar Groupon offers super deals via online coupons to groups (numbers are set by each company offering the groupon coupon). If you have a Smartphone then you can just add the app. If not, you can go online and join. Each day Groupon sends you coupons you can use for places locally. In order for us to get started they require us to have 24 "Likes". At this point we have about 15. So we'd appreciate your help by joining Groupon (it's FREE) and then finding Tideline Aquatics' page and hitting "Like". Once we reach their requirements we can start putting up money saving products for you to try!