



True Blue Marron Care Sheet

Prior to marron arriving:

1. Check the pH levels of your water. Marron like water with pH levels as close to neutral as possible. Levels of around 7 -8 are best.
2. If you are using tap water you need to be aware that chlorine may be present - this is a problem for marron. You need to aerate water for 48 hours prior to marron arriving to remove the chlorine from the water.

Additionally, whenever you are topping up the water you again need to be aware of the chlorine in the water and either aerate for 48 hours or you can go to your aquarium supplier and get some neutralizer to add to the water. If the neutralizer option is chosen, follow instructions that come with product in terms of amount of neutralizer to add.

3. Marron love highly oxygenated water. Their preference is for 6 parts per million (ppm or above). If the oxygen levels get down to 3ppm or lower than the animals will become stressed and deaths may occur. To address this, venturi's or air stones can be used to circulate the air and oxygen within your setup.
4. Temperature will also play a part in the survival of your marron. Although marron can survive in very low temperatures, to achieve growth your marron will need the temperature above 12 degrees Celsius. Optimum growth will occur at 24 degrees. Once temperatures get to 28 degrees and above deaths can occur.

Within a tank set up it may be advisable to keep temperature below the 24 degrees. This will slow growth which in turn will mean less moults. Marron are at their most vulnerable during the moulting process.

5. Ensure that your set up has 'structure' within it. This can be as simple as the addition of shells and rocks included within the tank/pond/etc. This will allow the marron to find their own 'home' and will allow them to habitat happily with everything else within the setup. If it is possible, we suggest the inclusion of limestone as one type of structure. The benefits are that not only can this be used as a structure, but it also acts as a buffer for the pH.

Once marron arrive:

The climate within the boxes that the marron arrive within should, as a general rule, not be vastly different from that of their new home. However, if it is in the middle of summer and we have packed them with more gel packs you may consider opening the box, removing some of the gel packs so the temperature within the boxes rises slightly.

This should only take between 5 - 10 minutes to achieve and then simply remove remaining foam and gel packs and either tip box or place marron into new setup.

NB: while acclimatising the marron, make sure that moist foam sheeting is covering marron to prevent them from drying out.



Ongoing maintenance:

Feeding

We feed our marron a specialised marron pellet, you can purchase this from us direct for \$5 per kilo plus postage, or any sinking fish feed or crustacean food will be fine.

Marron do not require feeding every day. We only feed those within our tanks every 3 days and then only a couple of pellets per marron. Overfeeding marron will result in algae blooms within your tanks.

Introduction of other species into the marron's environment

Marron can happily co-habitat with other species. We find this is the most common mistake made by aquarium suppliers who are often under the impression that marron must be kept on their own.

Within our aquarium we have marron live with Goldfish and Koi. The trick is to make sure that there is enough structure within the tank to allow all species to have their own space.

If you are introducing fish into the marron's environment, you can also consider taping or 'banding' their claws for a few days. Marron do not need their claws for eating etc so by not being able to use them will not harm them. This will allow the new additions time to acclimatise and adjust to each other without any worry on your behalf.

banding = using small elastic bands to wrap around claws

Cleaning your marron

One way that some customers like to interact with their marron is to clean their shells from time to time. Because marron can survive out of water, it is quite acceptable to get them out and clean their shells with a soft toothbrush. Not only will this allow interaction, but it also will allow the brilliance of their colour to remain at its best.

It is also important to remember that the colour of the marron intensifies with every moult.



