

Keeping Moon Jellies

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The keeping of Jellyfish in home aquariums is not new in the hobby, but has recently gained quite a bit of popularity these last few years. This is thanks to the appearance of more resellers in the marketplace of both the special aquariums needed, and the Jellyfish themselves.

Moreover, the prices of the Jellies, especially the Moon Jellies, have decreased in cost a great deal. The cost of the aquarium itself can still be rather high but there are currently models available that fall in the affordable range for many everyday aquarists who are considering keeping Jellyfish.

Moon Jellies are of particular interest to me because while Moon Jellies are widely available, and not all that costly, they are, at least in my experience, among the easiest to successfully keep alive and thriving for extended periods of time (12-24 months depending on their origin and their initial size at purchase).

They are also fairly hardy and can take a little bit of abuse (so to speak). To an extent, they can endure inconsistent and subpar water quality. As long as they are kept well fed, they will heal torn tissue or lost oral arms (the long appendages you see underneath them), even when injured a bit. For these reasons, I felt the need to share my insight on successful keeping of Moon Jellies to my fellow aquarists.

Moon Jellies can be bought in different sizes: small, medium and large. Small Moon Jellies are best to purchase as they have the longest lifespans in the home aquarium.

Moon Jellies require a special food which you can buy from your own vendor (good). Aquarists should inquire about food options at the time of purchase. However, the best choice for jellyfish is Brine Shrimp Nauplii. People generally say Moon Jellies should be fed everyday, but I do not believe it is necessary in my experience. The more you feed them, the

faster they grow, and the sooner they change their pulsing behavior and bell shape (larger ones tend to have a more flattened shape than the smaller ones). Moon Jellies left without food for a few days, once in a while, will not die of starvation. In fact, depending on how long they are left without food, they may shrink somewhat in size.

I alternate between a few brands of food. I use the one provided and sold by my Jellyfish vendor, but I also use Hikari® Coralific Delite™ and our own food, Total Nutrition Powdered Capsules.

Moon Jellies sold in the trade are, for the most part, captive bred, although one can find wild ones as well. Wild ones are not recommended for aquarium keeping, but seem to work better for breeding.

Moon Jellies should preferably be kept in a special tank where the water circulates in a round or circular manner, called a "Kreisel" aquarium.

This prevents the delicate Jellies from being sucked into a pump, or stuck up against the bottom or sides of the aquarium.

Moon Jellies should move around in the aquarium in a circular motion and remain for the most part in the middle of the tank, and not against the bottom or sides. Their tentacles may sometimes touch the sides of the tank, but this only becomes a problem if they get stuck there. This also requires that the Kreisel effect, driven by air, is correctly regulated so the Jellies are not sucked to the area where the air and water are mixed. Ideally, the Jellyfish should move from the bottom to the top of the aquarium in a circular motion (see video at www.marineaquarist.com).

Successful maintaining jellyfish depends a lot on where the Jellyfish came from and the original vendor's recommendations. However, I have acquired some general guidelines based on my own Jellyfish keeping experience. I started off



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