Bettas are known for their jewel-bright colors and spectacular fins. They have been referred to as Siamese fighting fish due to the male Bettas' extreme aggressiveness toward other Bettas. In their place of origin, Southeast Asia, Bettas often live in small puddles, so they can live in smaller habitats but it is wise to give them a habitat of at least 5 gallons.

**Average Size**: 2 1/2 - 5 inches long, not including tail  
**Life Span**: up to 4 years and beyond with proper care

**Diet**: Pellet fish food made especially for Bettas

**Feeding**: Feed your Betta up to 6 pellets per day, only as much as it will eat within two minutes.

**Housing**: Bettas must be able to breathe from the surface of the water; they are a rare type of fish called anabatoids, which means they can breathe atmospheric air using a unique organ called a labyrinth. This enables them to live in low oxygen conditions that would kill other fish. Male Bettas are usually kept individually in smaller containers or aquariums but do best in larger habitats and can be kept in a community tank with other tank mates. Female Bettas may be housed together. Do not keep male and female Bettas together.

**Habitat Maintenance**: Check filter and other equipment daily if used. Do a complete water change for small bowls (less than 2 gallons) once weekly. Do not use chlorinated tap water unless treated to remove chlorine.

**Signs of a Healthy Fish**:  
- Active and alert  
- Eats eagerly  
- Vibrant colors  
- Reacts aggressively to outside stimulus

**Signs of Illness**:  
If you notice any of these signs, test water quality and improve as necessary, or contact your exotic animal veterinarian or pet shop for suitable medication  
- Loss of appetite  
- Spots or fungus on body or mouth  
- Labored breathing  
- Listlessness  
- Frayed fins  
- Staying at the bottom of the tank
**Common Health Issues:**
Fin Rot - symptoms, frayed or disintegrating fins; the base of the fins usually reddens.
Ick - symptoms, white spots appear on fins and body; fish rubs against hard objects or swims awkwardly

**Preventing Common Health Issues:**
Avoid crowded conditions; they are a major cause of stress and disease. Maintain good water quality with regular water changes and adequate filtration.

**DO NOT USE ANY SPRAYS AROUND FISH TANK** including insecticides and air freshener.