

Taking Fish Home

ANGFA Victoria
Information Sheet 3
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The setting

ANGFA Vic has a Trading Table, frequent mini-auctions & the occasional mega-auction. All of these are great opportunities to buy top quality & often rare fish, at wholesale or lower prices! Often there are swaps of fish done at meetings too.

A lot of these opportunities are unpredictable, so it is better to be prepared, just in case.

What do you need?

To bring to the meeting

1. The key item needed, especially for those cold winter evenings, is a way to keep your fish warm until you get them home. Polystyrene boxes, car fridges, supermarket freezer carry-alls, even the small six-pack poly boxes are OK. A rug, a towel, a woollen jumper would all do at a pinch.
2. The suggestion is to get yourself something that is light & not too bulky that you can leave in the boot for the unexpected.

At home

1. Because you can't guarantee that the seller has used oxygen to bag your fish, or even used Prime, Tetra AquaSafe or equivalent products that absorb ammonia & help the stability of the pH, you need to decant your bags on arrival home. But you can't just tip them into the home tank because water parameters may be so different it can fatally stress your new fish.
2. **Caution: it is always better to have a quarantine tank where you can introduce your new fish to your environment & observe them for any signs of stress or disease for at least 2 weeks, before adding them to your main home tank.**
3. I like the 9 litre 'Jumbo' plastic tubs that you can get from the \$2 shop or the Reject Shop. Be aware that the fish could have gone to sleep on the way home & could be quite frantic when exposed to the light. Just gently tip the fish in & if there's not enough water in the bag to give an adequate depth, then tilt the tub so the water goes to one end. It is advisable to sit the lid on top of the tank to prevent unwanted escapes. Then use a bit of airline to siphon tank water from your tank into the tub (assuming that you don't have unusual water parameters). This will slowly and gently alter the temperature and the water chemistry so that the new fish can be safely introduced into your tank. If there's enough water and you have heat and an air stone, you could leave the fish in the tub overnight.
4. It is preferable to net the fish out of the tub, rather than emptying the tub into the tank. This is because the water the fish came in may have become 'stale' in its time in the bag.
5. Don't forget: rainbows do sleep at night (often the best time to catch them), so any interruption to their normal cycles can make them jumpy - literally. You don't want them jumping out of the tank, so make sure your cover-glass is put back in place.
6. Enjoy.

Further Information

Attend an ANGFA VIC meeting and ask an ANGFA member for practical tips on safely transporting fish back home. Meetings held the 1st Friday every second month starting February. Or go to www.angfavic.org