IMPORTANT INFORMATION

GLASS OCEAN

Keeping Jellyfish:

Frequently Asked Questions,
Care & Troubleshooting Guide

The information held within this guide is intended to offer hobbyists simple advice on the basics of jellyfish keeping and contains important instruction necessary to set up a safe and appropriate environment for healthy jellyfish livestock.

Please read in conjunction with Cubic Aquarium Systems'

Jellyfish Husbandry Guide

&

Before introducing jellyfish to a new aquarium set up

GLASS OCEAN

Keeping Jellyfish: *Frequently Asked Questions*

Are jellyfish difficult to keep?
With the correct equipment, jellyfish are no more difficult to keep than tropical or marine fish.

Isn't it cruel to keep wild creatures in captivity?
Jellyfish have no brain or central nervous system so are not 'alive' in a way we perceive; in fact they are closer to plankton or coral than to other marine creatures.

All jellyfish we supply have been aqua cultured. We do not supply any wild caught jellyfish.

What is *the right* equipment?
Jellyfish must be kept in a specially designed tank containing salted R.O. (reverse osmosis) water. The tank must have adequate water movement and filtration that has no areas of suction or fast current that will harm the jellies. In addition, the tank will be free of sharp objects, decorative gravel or other obstruction that again will harm them.

Standard fish keeping tank set-ups are unsuitable for keeping jellyfish.
Tap water is unsuitable for keeping jellyfish.

This sounds complicated.
Not at all. Cubic® have many years of aquatic and design experience and all their tanks are not only proven to be suitable for jellyfish but are stylish and require minimal maintenance, allowing you to fully enjoy the experience of keeping jellyfish.

What do I need to do to look after my jellyfish?
Once set up, your Cubic® tank will only require a 10% water change once a fortnight and a wipe over with a cloth to keep clean. Your jellyfish will require a daily feed of either dried food or 'live' food such as copepod or brine shrimp (all of which are readily available) and any uneaten food should be removed to keep the water unpolluted and jellyfish in very best health.

Is it really that easy?
Yes, bear in mind all fish keeping requires monitoring of water conditions such as salinity, pH, nitrate, etc., and jellyfish keeping is no exception, although they are more tolerant of variable water conditions than all marine and most tropical fish.

The *Cubic® Orbit 20 desktop jellyfish aquarium* comes complete with testing kit and analysing the water condition is not at all difficult. Water parameter testing kits are also widely available from your local marine pet store and online.

What sorts of jellyfish are there?

There are hundreds of different species of jellyfish, the most commonly kept species are: *Moon*, *Blue Blubbers*, *Flames*, *Spotted Lagoons*, and *Amuskas*.

Moon jellyfish can tolerate temperature ranges between 10°C - 25°C, whilst *Blubbers*, *Flames & Spotted Lagoons* are more 'tropical' in their temperature requirements: 24°C - 28°C. For these reasons it is not normally necessary to have a heater or chiller fitted to you tank as jellies can be kept in the average house's ambient temperature.

What do I feed jellyfish?

The best food for jellyfish is the sort of live food they might find in the wild, such as copepod or freshly hatched baby brine shrimp (*Artemia nauplii*). These are at their most nutritious right after hatching and of an appropriate size for juvenile and smaller jellyfish.

The biggest advantage to live food is that it swims within the water column where the jellies can continue to find and feed upon it, rather than settling at the bottom of the tank as prepared packaged foods ultimately does.

If fresh live foods aren't available or inconvenient, there are frozen alternatives or pre-packed planktonic foods that are designed to provide all the necessary nutrients - all of which are easily found at your local marine pet store, and online.

How much food should I give them?

As you get to know your jellyfish you will instinctively know how much food they need, but allow sufficient food for the jellyfish stomachs (the four-leaf clover shape in centre of Moon jellyfish bell) to be full and tank to be free of floating particles in about 15 minutes. Adjust the amount accordingly – especially if you find yourself regularly removing a lot of uneaten particles.

Jellyfish cannot store energy. The more you feed jellyfish, the bigger they will grow; feed them less and they will shrink in size. Jellyfish can survive for a number of days without food, but for their long term wellbeing it is recommended that they be fed at least once per day.

Food Preparation

In the wild, jellyfish bump into their prey as paths collide in the water flow. It is best to try and simulate this in the domestic environment by:

- releasing live food into the aquarium water flow without aiming it directly at the jellyfish
- thoroughly mixing packaged planktonic foods into a small sample of aquarium water before adding a little at a time into the water flow. Handy video tutorial

Can I mix species, and what happens if I forget to feed them or go away?

Jellyfish will predate on different species so you can only keep one species in a tank. The average jellyfish life span is about 12 months and as they have no way of storing energy they have adapted to growing or shrinking dependent on their food source. Jellyfish can survive for a number of days without food, but for their long term well-being it is recommended that they be fed at least once per day.

What other care is needed?

- Your ***jellyfish require water movement*** to stay within the water column, so a quick check that your jellyfish are moving around the tank and 'pulsing'. At normal room temperature, a pulse every 1-3 seconds indicates good health.

- If your ***jellyfish are staying at the top of the tank***, check that no air has become trapped underneath the jellyfish bell by gently inverting the jellyfish to allow air to escape.

- If ***jellyfish have sunk to the bottom***, check water movement is still active by checking pump connections and function and power supply.

- ***Jellyfish has torn or holed appearance***. Check your water parameters are correct and ensure water temperature hasn't become too hot or cold. Once the cause is corrected your jellyfish will repair itself.

We recommend the following routine:

Daily
- Feed jellyfish once or twice as necessary
- Remove uneaten food

Weekly
- Gently wipe the inside of the tank to remove algae
- Check water salt levels
- 10% water change

Monthly
- Remove tank filter sponge and rinse under the tap

Every 6 Months
- Thoroughly clean tank filter and filter sponge
- Remove and clean the tank pump

- ***Over-feeding*** can cause the water to become polluted and possibly cloudy, so remove any uneaten food from bottom of the tank on a regular basis.

- ***Direct sunlight can cause algae bloom*** so keep your tank out of direct sunlight, if you do experience an algae bloom increase water changes until cured.

- If your ***jellyfish is beginning to turn inside out*** (jellyfish eversion syndrome), there are several potential reasons:
  - Poor water quality
  - Poor nutritional intake - diet contains insufficient nutrients or jelly is not taking food
  - Dramatic salinity change
  - Dramatic temperature change

  Check each cause and adjust as necessary, remembering that some will only happen when sufficient care is not taken during water changes.

- ***Jellyfish turning a brownish colour*** would indicate the jellyfish is nearing the end of its natural lifespan.

Troubleshooting

Keeping jellyfish is an enjoyable hobby and with some simple routine maintenance we trust it will remain a rewarding experience.

If you find something unusual happening in your aquarium, it's best not to ignore it and hope all will be fine. In addition to the recommended routine found on page 4, here are some common situations you may need a solution to:

Jellyfish are held at the top of the tank

- Check that there is no air beneath the jellyfish bell keeping it aloft in the water

Jellyfish have sunk to the bottom of the tank

- Is there adequate water flow? Adjust pump output if too low
- Check pump operation
- Check pump connections
- Check power supply
- Check water parameters are within tolerance:

Temperature:	13-26°C depending on species
Salinity (PSU):	34-35ppt | 1024-1025 SG
Acidity (pH):	8.1 – 8.4
Alkalinity (A_T)	7.4 - 8.4 dKH
Ammonia (NH3)	0.0 ppm
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)	< 0.05 ppm
Nitrate (NO3)	< 10.0 ppm
Phosphate (PO4)	< 2.0 ppm

Jellyfish appear torn or have holes

- Check water parameters are within tolerance (see tolerances above)
- Ensure there is no gravel in tank or objects interfering with water flow upon which jellyfish may be being damaged

Aquarium water is cloudy

- Check and clean filter and filter sponges as appropriate
  - Replace filter sponges if necessary
- Is tank in direct sunlight?
  - Move out of direct sunlight
  - Change 20% of water every other day until clear again
- Is uneaten food being left in tank?
  - Change 20% of water every other day until clear again
  - Ensure uneaten food is removed on a daily basis

Aquarium water is not circulating

- Check power supply
- Check pump is working
- Adjust pump speed
- Check pipe connections from pump

Abbreviations Key

dKH: degrees carbonate hardness | **ppt**: parts per thousand | **ppm**: parts per million | **SG**: specific gravity

GLASS OCEAN

For more information, visit us online at glass-ocean.co.uk

Join the Cubic Help & Advice Forum