



## 10 golden rules for the successful keeping of our STENDKER discus.

### 1. what distinguishes our STENDKER discus fish?

We have been breeding our popular STENDKER discus fish for over 55 years in the 3rd generation in Germany and have accustomed our offspring to German tap water values. Our animals are therefore brilliantly coloured, very robust, not very skittish and used to people. Our STENDKER discus fish are OTHER and can no longer be compared with the wild-caught discus fish from the Amazon.

### Our water values:

GH 15, carbonate hardness KH 8, pH value 7, conductivity 800 µs, at a water temperature of 28°-30°C. (usually no osmosis system necessary).

### Dealer recommendation Water values in the specialist shop:

We keep our animals at a nitrate value NO<sub>3</sub> of approx. 200 mg/l. Our specialist dealers should therefore not make the water values too good and keep the NO<sub>3</sub> value at approx. 100 mg/l. If you keep our animals at 100 mg/l nitrate value it is already an improvement and if the customer then has 50 mg/l it is again an improvement and so it is ideal for the fish and the customer. A permanent pH value below 8 is important.

With a 1 x weekly water change of approx. 30 percent and 3 x daily feeding with our professional discus food Good Heart, our STENDKER discus fish usually have a long life expectancy (up to 15 years).

Our STENDKER discus fish are available in 29 different colours and can all be socialised with each other without hesitation.

We recommend not to mix our STENDKER discus fish with other discus fish from other breeders (danger of bacterial incompatibility and different keeping and feeding conditions).

Our STENDKER discus fish should be kept in a group of at least 10 discus fish (exception: pair keeping from 14 cm size) and of course continue to be fed 2-3 times daily with our Good Heart complete food mix (as in our breeding farm).

### 2. aquarium equipment:

In addition to a heater, we recommend a good filter (e.g. Hamburger Matte), for oxygen supply an oxydator, diffuser or aerator and not to use too bright light. Ideally, use a daylight tube and a nightlight to avoid scaring the fish and causing them to bang in front of the glass.

With our high stocking recommendation, which is for the well-being of the animals, it is absolutely necessary to feed oxygen into the aquarium (also in the sales system in the specialist shop). Approx. 30 minutes after feeding, breathing should be calmer again. Calm breathing is about one breath per second.

**For raising a group** of e.g. 12 discus fish in 8 cm (in this size the animals are already very robust and also suitable for aquarium beginners) a 180 litre aquarium is suitable. However, after approx. 8 months (approx. 1 year old, 14 cm size), the animals should be moved to a larger aquarium. For example, 450 litres would be ideal for 12-15 adult discus. **Approx. 30 litres per adult discus fish is ideal for our animals. More litres/per adult fish is rather harmful for our STENDKER discus fish.**

**For breeding** our SMALL discus fish it is NOT better to be raised in a larger aquarium right away, as the animals do not feel well, eat worse and therefore do not develop ideally. A SMALLER aquarium is BETTER for breeding and can later be used as a quarantine aquarium.

However, it is also possible to reduce the size of a 450 litre aquarium, for example, with a divider or a hamburger mat, so that the breeding group feels more comfortable. As the animals grow, please increase the swimming space again.

Our GERMAN BREEDING do not need any substrate or plants, but can be used for optical reasons. Please ensure that the substrate is CLEANED weekly to prevent hydrogen sulphide poisoning from forming (bubbles rise when you run your finger through the substrate). Plants can also introduce bacteria, so please also test plants for bacterial incompatibility in advance under quarantine.



### **3. use of the discus fish after transport: VERY IMPORTANT!**

Please determine the temperature difference between the transport water and your aquarium water when the animals arrive (determine with the transport bag closed).

If the temperature difference is MORE THAN 4 degrees:

Please leave closed transport bags in the box and fill aquarium water into the box. Adjust 1-2 degrees every hour (no more) until the temperature difference is LESS than 4 degrees. Only then can the transport bags be opened and the water adjustment (fill in aquarium water) can take place.

**ATTENTION:** After opening the bags, the oxygen escapes and the animals should swim in your retail unit after LATEST 15 minutes. Otherwise our animals can suffer from oxygen deficiency and the immune system will be considerably weakened, which can lead to illness and even death.

We are not the wholesaler around the corner. Our animals often have many hours of transport behind them and it would be nice and very important to make it as gentle as possible. Our animals will thank you with their beauty and health.

### **4. feeding and care of our STENDKER discus fish is quite simple:**

**1 x weekly water change of 30 percent and 2-3 x daily feeding with our Good Heart**, just like in our breeding farm. A high stocking density contributes to a better food intake and well-being of our discus fish.

Our Good Heart is available in 3 varieties (Classic, Spirulina Algae and Colour) in 100 g blister packs and 500 g flat tablets. Our STENDKER discus fish do not need variety and do NOT need ANOTHER FOOD!

**Feeding:** Our STENDKER discus fish should continue to receive our Good Heart and no live food, which can make our animals ill (please do not feed Tubifex, mussels or red mosquito larvae!!!).

Live food that can be used as a SNACK but does not replace a full meal with our Good Heart would be e.g.: Black and white mosquito larvae, Cyclops crayfish, water fleas.

**ATTENTION: Please do not feed any other mixed beef heart food, granules or dry food to our STENDKER discus fish. Our PROFI discus food mix Good Heart contains everything our animals need!**

### **5. water values and water changes**

We recommend a 1 x weekly water change of 30 percent with cold water for our animals. If more water is changed, warm water should be added, but there is a risk of getting copper poisoning from the boiler. Our water values: GH 15, carbonate hardness KH 8, pH value 7, conductance 800  $\mu$ s, at a water temperature of 28°-30°C.

### **6. stocking density in the shop and at the customer's.**

Please choose the stocking density in your shop according to the TVT (veterinary association for animal protection). I.e.:

Fish up to 10 cm in size, 2 cm fish to 1 litre of water.

8 cm fish, 4 litres of water and for 10 cm fish 5 litres of water.

Minimum 10 fish per aquarium. The fish stocking in your sales facility should be between the maximum and minimum values to ensure that the animals are doing well.

For the end customer, approx. 30 litres is the rule per litre for adult discus fish.

A 450 litre aquarium is ideal for 12-15 adult discus fish.

Our animals are used to large groups and feel well as a group, eat better and present themselves more beautifully.

An aquarium of 350 litres or more is already suitable for 10 adult STENDKER discus fish with little equipment and decoration.



## **7. advising customers**

Please point out to your customers that these are STENDKER German offspring, which no longer have much in common with wild-caught discus fish.

It is important to point out our Good Heart food, which should continue to be fed 3 times a day as in our breeding farm. Our feed consists of over 100 valuable ingredients and is made on a beef heart basis. Our feed is a guarantee for good growth and for keeping our STENDKER discus fish healthy.

Please also refer to point 2 Equipment and stocking density and feed. Reference to our homepage with important contents on keeping and care is recommended: (see homepage available in 6 languages):

<https://diskuszucht-stendker.de/en/Diskus-Handbuch/>

## **8. diseases and their treatment**

Important information can be found on our homepage Diskus-Handbuch:

Please inform yourself and your customers on our homepage. Here you will also find helpful tips for the treatment of e.g.

- feeding disorders, pitting disease, external parasites, detoxification, testing, holiday tips and much more. We also give helpful tips on testing the bacterial tolerance of by-fish and plants:

[https://www.diskuszucht-stendker.de/plugins\\_en/pdfs/4.5.\\_Bakterielle\\_Vertraeglichkeit\\_Testen\\_bei\\_Fischen\\_und\\_Pflanzen\\_en.pdf](https://www.diskuszucht-stendker.de/plugins_en/pdfs/4.5._Bakterielle_Vertraeglichkeit_Testen_bei_Fischen_und_Pflanzen_en.pdf)

## **9. feedback, social media and sales increase**

Satisfied customers recommend us and you to others and also send feedback, which we are happy to publish for you on our internet platforms with reference to your specialist shop. A picture is worth a thousand words.

We can also publish up to 12 pictures of you on our dealer list. There is also great feedback and exchange in numerous Facebook Stendker groups in several languages.

Have a look and become a part of our Facebook groups:

### **Germany:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/633632623319346>

### **International:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/542066006653602>

### **Italy:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1489621331333312>

### **Belgium (multilingual):**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/32756754924772>



## **10. packing of our STENDKER discus fishes**

We pack our valuable discus fish in extra thick bags, with rounded corners, several times inside each other. These bags are filled with oxygen and sealed with two metal clips. These fish bags are then placed in our original STENDKER transport boxes, which are heated by a heat pack during transport in winter.

Here, too, we attach great importance to quality. We offer you the possibility of purchasing our bags, boxes and packaging material for your use from us at cost price. Just ask our team.

We recommend you to pack our discus fish in multiple bags, with pure oxygen and to give them in a transport box to the customer with one of our flyers at the time of purchase (please also refer to food Good Heart and feel free to include our recommendation for use, which you can also download from our homepage, packing with pure oxygen or oxygen tablet).

When using transport buckets with lids, we recommend adding an oxygen tablet so that our animals do not suffer from oxygen deficiency in the event of transport arrest.

Tip: Our original STENDKER boxes are also very popular for leisure and camping, as a cooler or emergency quarantine aquarium :-)

### Tips for your order

Please do NOT let the discus groups in your sales facility shrink below 10 per aquarium. Order in advance and make sure that the boxes are full when you place your order (please refer to the order form, first line table, to see how many animals will fit in which size). Our team will also be happy to help you optimise your order and keep the shipping costs as low as possible.

We can also offer you an ideal block stocking for your system. Simply send us a sketch with litre specifications and the intended fish stocking.

Tip: If you know that our animals will be delivered the next day, lower the temperature of your sales system in advance so that the temperature difference between the transport water and your aquarium water does not exceed 4 degrees. This way you can start adjusting the water right away upon delivery.

We look forward to a continued good cooperation.