



Acclimating and Settling Guidelines From Northern Axolotls

Shipping can be a stressful experience for an axolotl. They can often have an adverse reaction to too much stress, so to mitigate this, I have found allowing a slow acclimation process to be useful. It allows them time to adjust each step of the way and a greater success rate overall. These are a few of the processes I have found helpful for my animals during shipping and adjusting to new environments in general. I hope it helps others as well. This is in addition to my standard care and hopefully you have taken advantage of the care guide found on the website, if not, it can be found under both Care-guide and files.

I hope you find your axolotl/s well after their journey. Mine are fasted prior to their shipping, so they will likely be hungry, and a bit stressed after their travels. Here are some guidelines for a safe landing and acclimating experience once in your care. These methods are useful for all animals being moved around, whether shipped, carried, or driven to a new area. I use them when I receive animals and encourage others to use them when they receive one of my animals for a greater chance of success.

As you unpack the box, you should find the animal/s safely tucked in double bags with approx. 1/3 water and 2/3's air. They may have soiled the water, even after fasting, this is normal. I like to have a 15-quart tub with 2 gallons of cool, freshly dechlorinated water ready to put them into. It is best to use either Sachem Prime or Aqueon water conditioner to prep the water, both are excellent. Here we use Aqueon in our home hatchery. It is best to allow the bags to float in the water for a time to allow the water temps to adjust. Then you can open the bags and add some of the clean water into the bag to allow the baby to get used to the mix of both waters. Once you have added about a 50/50 mix of water into the bag, take the baby out and put just it into the tub of new clean water, discarding the old dirty water and the bag. Some reach into the bags and gently grasp the baby/s, making sure their hands are exceptionally clean and oil or lotion free. Others use nets to gently scoop them out or pour them into the net over another empty tub. However, you remove the baby/s be careful, they are wily and wiggly buggers and liable to jump.



You can usually offer some food after a few moments to adjust, live blackworms if you have them, live pieces of worm or pellets if not. Adjusting the size pieces to the size of the baby. See care guide for further information on feeding.

Allow the animals time to get used to their new water chemistry and the quiet space to de-stress from shipping. This is a good time to monitor them to be sure they have no complications from all the excitement. With small babies, this is usually about a week or two, as they adjust quickly. With Adults, it is good to keep them segregated and tubbed for about a month. If you notice complications arise, let me know for further discussion. If you have other axolotls already at home, it is best to keep your new baby/s apart for the acclimating period just in case. They can be more susceptible to foreign bacteria and adding the further stress of an introduction to tankmates can be further traumatizing. Axolotls can only handle so much at a time, so it is best to allow them the patience to take things slower. Keeping them in clean water daily makes sure they have a pristine environment to acclimate in.



It is also nice to use this close time with your derpy new pet/s to bond and get acquainted with their personalities. Tubbing instructions can be found on my care guide should you have further questions. Thank you and enjoy getting to know your new baby/s.