

# Husbandry Data Sheet

**Common Name:** *Northern Clearwater Crayfish* **Latin Name:** *Orconectes Propinquus*

**Family:** Cambaridae

**Order:** Decapoda

**Class:** Malacostraca

**Phylum:** Arthropoda

**Natural History:** Generally, they live 3-4 years. Crayfish provide an important food source for their predators and act to control the populations of their prey species. They are found in clear, rocky streams and the rocky shores and riffles of lakes.

**Permits Required:** No

**Life Stage:** Adult

**Ease of Care:** Moderate

## Housing:

**Temp:** Can tolerate freezing cold water to Room Temp, only kept out in warmer weather (May-Sept). No artificial light source needed.

**Humidity:**

**Substrate:** Pebbles

**# of Animals per Exhibit:** 1

**Choose One:** Solitary

**Compatible Species:** Not housed with any other species. Started with 3 crayfish, dominant larger one killed other 2 (in previous years, have been able to co-house 2 as long as both were less aggressive)

**Enclosure Description:** 40 gallon tank with 2-3" of water, water filter and aerator.

**Lighting/Photoperiod:** Natural since exhibit is outdoors in summer

**Furniture/Props:** pebbles and rocks piled on one side of tank to provide an area to climb for the crayfish

**Escape Concerns:** Must keep lid on tank (with clips or weights) because they will jump out

**Other Concerns/Precautions:**

## Husbandry

**Diet/Frequency of Feeding:** Crayfish pellets, can cloud water. They really enjoyed dog food pellets. Also enjoy any organic plant material, especially grapes, banana and lettuce

**Water Source/Frequency:** Water level should be checked daily. Water has to sit for 24hrs to allow chlorine to be removed and pH should be neutral

**Care:** Daily

**Enrichment:** Switching variety of plant/fruit/veggie they were given

**Medical/Health Concerns:** none found so far

**Treatment:**

**Keeper Safety:** Very aggressive and actively jump out of water to defend itself with claws.

**Other Concerns/Precautions:**

## Education

**Do you handle species directly with the guests?** :No

**If Yes or No how do you use the species with the guest:** View animal while in clear glass tank

**Conservation/Population Status:** Species not threatened

**Message:**

**Personal Comments:**

**Submitted by (name and email):** Marina Haynes/Ashley Miller, haynes.marina@phillyzoo.org

**Date:** 19-Sep-05

**Name of Institution:** Philadelphia Zoo