

The Pier Aquarium presents the Celebrity Critter of the Week!



False Percula Clownfish

Scientific Name: *Amphiprion ocellaris*

Description: Typically orange in color with three white bars with the middle bar having a forward-projecting bulge; may have no black margins or thin black margins around the white bars.

Habitat: Indo-Malaysian Archipelago, Philippines, northwestern Australia and coast of Southeast Asia northward to the Ryukyu Islands.

Top 10 Facts:

1. The False Percula Clownfish is distinguished from the “true” clownfish by having 11 – not 10 – dorsal spines.
2. With this clownfish, the anterior or forward part of the dorsal fin is taller than the rest of the fin.
3. Like true clownfish, the *ocellaris* clownfish live in symbiotic relationships with sea anemones.
4. This species may exhibit a more brownish or dark orange body coloration.
5. Black *Amphiprion ocellaris*, with white bands and black coloring (instead of orange), are found off the Northern Territory of Australia and are highly valuable in the aquarium trade. This fish is known as the *melanistic* variety of clownfish.
6. Ocellaris clownfish tend to exhibit a more rounded caudal fin or tail.
7. They have grey/orange irises that make their eyes appear larger. The Percula (“true”) clownfish also have bright orange irises, making their eyes appear smaller.
8. Nemo in the movie *Finding Nemo* is an Ocellaris clownfish.
9. Many clownfish are now tank-bred to reduce the number of clownfish removed from the wild.
10. Generally, Ocellaris clownfish are hardier and slightly less aggressive than Percula clownfish.