



## Aquascaping Contest

America's Family Pet Expo  
April 27, 28 & 29, 2018  
OC Fair & Events Center  
Costa Mesa, CA

**Deadline: April 6, 2018**

**First 10 entries will be accepted.**

**Entry fee: \$120** - This cost includes a 3-day entry pass to America's Family Pet Expo, 3-day parking pass as well as merchandise; a \$200+ value.

To enter go to:

**Entrants will receive the following items valued at over \$200.00:**

- A 7.9 gallon Fluval Nano Tank (11.8"D x 11.8"W x 13.7"H)
- Fluval Aquaclear, hang on back Filter
- Fluval Aura High Output LED Lighting
- Fluval Stratum Substrate and/or light sand (amount(s) must be specified on the entry form)

**Entrants will receive the following items to use:**

- One 3 day pass for America's Family Pet Expo.
- One 3 day parking pass for America's Family Pet Expo.
- Winners 1<sup>st</sup>-3rd place will receive cash prizes and ribbons.
- If needed, additional electrical outlets will be available on-site.

Passes for Expo and Contest will be located at Green Gate Will Call.

**Rules:**

- Entrant assumes all responsibility for travel expenses
- Aquascaping must be done within the hours listed below so attendees can view the work-in-progress:
  - Friday, Apr. 27, 2018 10:00-6:00pm
  - Saturday, Apr. 28, 2018 10:00am-2:00pm
- Judging will take place on the show floor Saturday, Apr. 28, 2018 2:00-4:00pm.
- **All tanks MUST be set up on-site; no swap-outs, no exceptions.**
- Entrants are responsible for choosing and providing all hardscape, plants and animals for their aquascape. **These materials may be grown out ahead of time in any way desired by the entrant, including in a similarly sized tank, and brought to the site, ready to re-assemble.**
- Live animals may be used in the tank, but are not required. It is the responsibility of the entrant to select animals appropriate for the size of the tank.



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### **During the exhibition, all entrants MUST use the provided:**

- Fluval Nano Tank, Fluval Aura High Output LED Lighting and Fluval Aquaclear filter
- During the grow-out period, it is acceptable to use alternate lighting and CO2 diffusion systems.
- Entrants MAY choose to substitute other substrate and may use a background of their choice, or no background at all.
- Entrants may use a heater.
- Entrants are responsible for supplying any and all substitutions.

### **Prize Money:**

1st Place      \$300.00 + entry into the Aquascaping Nano contest at America's Family Pet Expo, Costa Mesa  
2nd Place      \$200.00  
3rd Place      \$100.00

- Winners and prize money will be announced and awarded in the aquatic building Saturday, Apr. 28, 2018 4:00pm.
- Ribbons will be displayed on the winning tanks through the end of the show, Apr. 29, 2018.
- At the end of America's Family Pet Expo, the tanks and provided equipment will remain the property of the entrants.
- Tanks must be up and operating during ALL show days and hours. You may NOT dismantle your tank at any time before closing of show at 6:00pm on Sunday.
- At close of show, Sunday, April 29, 2018 starting at 6:00pm, all small tanks must be taken down and removed by the entrants. Tanks not claimed by 8:00pm will become the property of America's Family Pet Expo.

Questions about substitutions or rules, please contact Zach Franck at [Zach@wpamail.org](mailto:Zach@wpamail.org)



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### Rules for Judging:

#### Overall Impression – maximum 50 points

- Does the aquarium as a whole; plants, animals (if used), and hardscape, create a positive visual impact?
- Do all parts of the aquarium work together to present a harmonious and cohesive whole?
- Do the plants and animals appear healthy?
- Hardware should be as inconspicuous as possible, and clean.
- Water should be clear.

#### Composition: Balance, Use of Space, Use of Color – maximum 60 points

- Is the aquascape laid out well?
- Does the aquarist make good use of differences in color, leaf size and shape, and height (growth habit or trimming) to maximize contrast between groups of plants?
- Does the aquarist use the space effectively, balancing planted areas and negative space?
- Do the species and planting enhance or detract from the sense of depth and scale?

#### Selection & Use of Plants, Hardscape Materials, and Animals – maximum 50 points

- Has the aquarist selected plants appropriately?
- Do the colors, shape, and size of the fish or other animals, if used, harmonize with the plants? Are schooling fish present in sufficient numbers to make a suitable school?
- Are hardscape materials well chosen for character, size and form? Is the hardscape well balanced and in proper scale for the aquascape?

#### Viability of Aquascape – maximum 40 points

- With appropriate grooming and maintenance, would the plants selected be suitable for use in the aquarium if maintained as-is for a long period?
- If visible, are the fish and other animals likely to grow too large for the aquarium, cause damage to the aquascape, or each other at adult size?
- Please note - Due to the short-term nature of this competition, lack of animals in a tank will NOT be a deduction, although use of appropriate animals, could enhance an aquascape. It is up to the entrants to decide whether or not to use animals in the display, keeping in mind the nature of the competition. Deductions WILL be made for unhealthy animals.