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Wild zebrafish are found in habitats with a variety of vegetation, substrates and water flow rates.





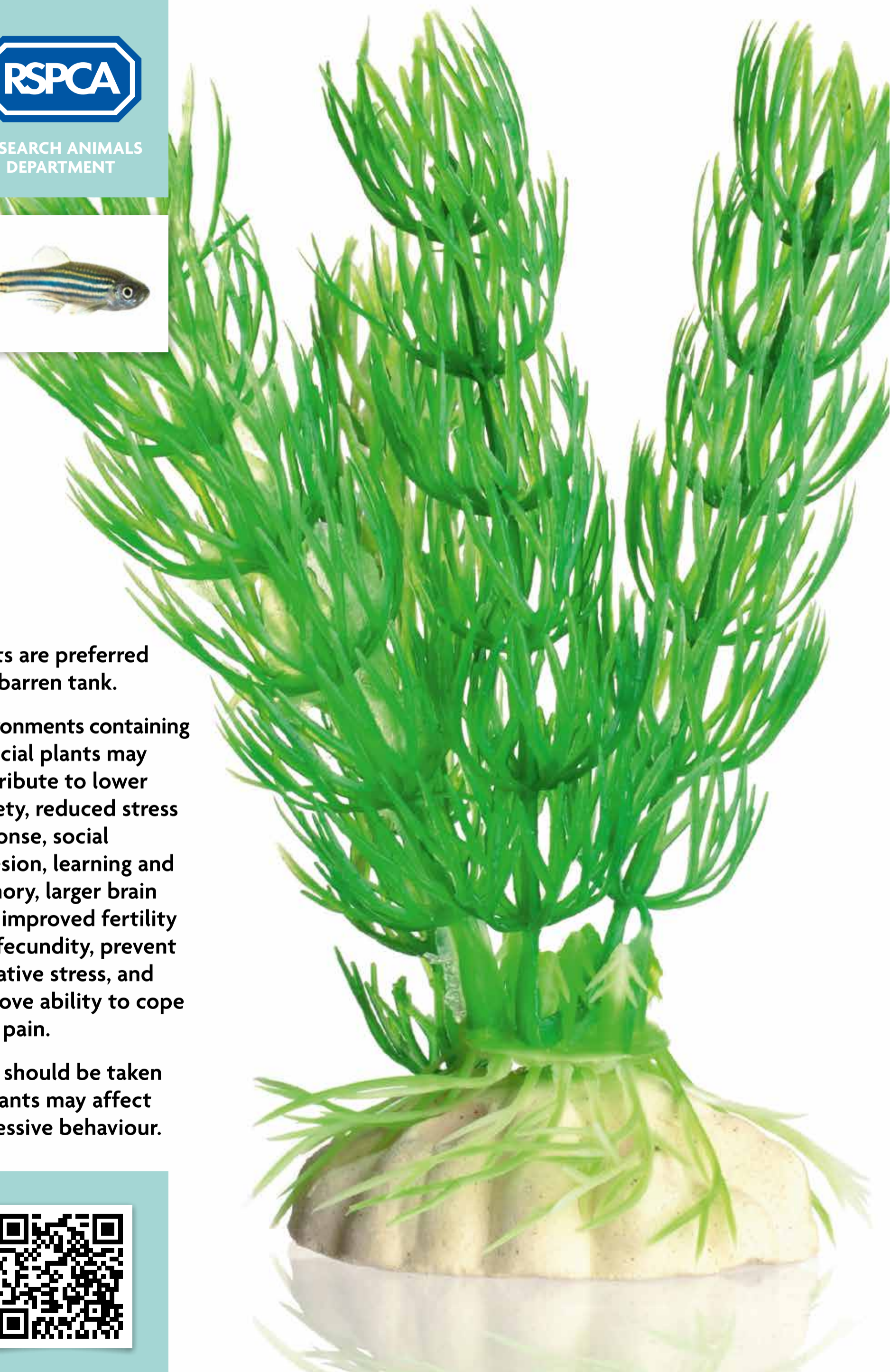
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**Plants are preferred  
to a barren tank.**

**Environments containing  
artificial plants may  
contribute to lower  
anxiety, reduced stress  
response, social  
cohesion, learning and  
memory, larger brain  
size, improved fertility  
and fecundity, prevent  
oxidative stress, and  
improve ability to cope  
with pain.**

**Care should be taken  
as plants may affect  
aggressive behaviour.**





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**Gravel, sand, or even an image of gravel is preferred to a barren tank.**

**Environments containing substrate may contribute to lower anxiety, reduced stress response, larger brain size, larvae survival, prevent oxidative stress and improve ability to cope with pain.**





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Tanks with shelter and structure are preferred to barren tanks.

Structured environments may contribute to lower anxiety, reduced stress response, increased exploration, improved learning, larger brain size, and improve ability to cope with pain.





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Live food likely provides  
short-term enrichment  
by stimulating natural  
predatory behaviour.





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Group housing is preferred and contributes to lower anxiety and faster recovery from stress. More information is needed on preferred group sizes.

Aggression may be high in small groups of zebrafish (<6 individuals) so caution should be exercised and animals carefully monitored.

Where fish need to be housed alone or in pairs, using clear perforated barriers to maintain visual and olfactory contact and providing other enrichment such as plants, can help reduce stress.

