

CARING FOR YOUR

GOLDFISH



We care about pet care

Goldfish are one of the easiest of all fish to keep, but if they are to be kept in an aquarium you must remember that they are totally dependent on you for their welfare.

AQUARIA

Goldfish will remain healthy only if they have the proper conditions in which to live. The container must be clean and contain fresh water. Debris must be removed regularly and plants trimmed. Fish must have oxygen to breathe. Oxygen enters the water through the surface, so the surface area must be large enough. The traditional goldfish bowl has a surface area for only one small fish. A tank 2'x1'x1' (60x30x30 cm) is suitable for up to four fish depending on their size. Fish need a little light and a lot of shade, so provide ample rock and plant cover and do not expose to strong sunlight. Do not place the aquarium in a position where there are likely to be frequent temperature changes. Goldfish can tolerate both high and low temperatures. Change the water as little as possible. When you do be careful not to cause vibration, sudden changes in temperature and splashing, as shocks of this kind can be harmful. Guard against contamination by household sprays.

POOLS AND PONDS

The ideal pond should be at least 2' (60cm) deep with as big a surface area as is practicable. Deep ponds will help the fish to survive hard winters. Large ponds are more likely to achieve a natural balance of plant life that will enable the fish to survive and flourish with the minimum of attention. A large volume of water has a more stable temperature which is beneficial to the fish. Plants help to provide cover and assist oxygenation. They also convert fish wastes which assist with their natural growth. Do not overstock or overfeed. Plants should be thinned out if the cover exceeds 30%.

FEEDING

Aquarium Fish Feed daily in small quantities,

following manufacturer's instructions. Vary the diet periodically. There is a wide range of prepared and live foods to choose from. Stop feeding if the food is not being taken. All food should be consumed within one hour.

Pond Fish Feeding may be necessary only every other day, and still less frequently in winter. Feed according to the manufacturer's instructions. During the summer there is likely to be some natural food available.

GENERAL CARE

Goldfish are normally long-lived and trouble free. Healthy fish are bright eyed and have a shiny appearance. First signs of distress are usually sluggish movement and drooping of dorsal and/or tail fins. The most common illnesses are fungal infections of the skin, parasites and constipation. Accidents can cause problems. Loss of scales, split fins and wounds received from predators can cause infection. Usually injuries can be treated with one of the many preparations available for the purpose. Your pet shop or aquatic centre will be pleased to advise you on the many proprietary remedies available for treating fish.

EQUIPMENT

There is a great variety of aquaria, ponds, equipment and accessories available to make your hobby more enjoyable. All manufacturers give good advice on the installation and maintenance of equipment. It is important that you follow their instructions carefully.

SHOPPING LIST

Aquarium Tank, Pond/Liner, Food, Plants, Rocks/Stones, Ornaments and Remedies.

This leaflet gives basic guidelines only. It is not intended to be a substitute for a good book on Goldfish. Your pet shop will be pleased to show you their range.

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