

CARING FOR YOUR

TROPICAL FISH

**PET CARE
TRUST**



We care about pet care

Aquariums are basically miniature underwater scenes in which fish provide colour and movement. Modern technology has vastly improved aquarium design and equipment. Today almost all tank glass is permanently bonded with special sealant that makes a frame unnecessary, although a few manufacturers still feature frames for extra security and decorative effect.

THE TANK

There is a great variety of designs and sizes to choose from. Always select a branded product. Handle with great care and transport horizontally. The tank must be placed either on a specially designed stand or a strong flat rigid surface, with a sheet of expanded polystyrene underneath the tank. Remember that a full tank is heavy. Position the tank away from windows as daylight encourages algae growth. Never move a full tank.

THE EQUIPMENT

The heater and thermostat should heat the water to between 70F and 80F (20C and 27C) depending on the fish you keep. A filter and air pump will aerate the water and keep it clean. A variety of thermometers are available. Purpose-built lighting systems will bring the tank to life and stimulate plant growth. Too much light will result in the growth of green algae, too little will cause plants to die. For tidiness and safety it is sensible to connect all wiring to a control panel.

GRAVEL AND ROCK

Use only suitable gravel and rock. Your pet shop or aquatic store will advise you. The material should be thoroughly washed before placing in the tank.

SELECTION OF FISH AND PLANTS

There is a wide variety to choose from, but always seek advice from your retailer. Do not exceed the number recommended for your particular set-up. Plants should be planted thickly for the best effect, but they may need thinning out once established. Artificial plants are also available.

SETTING UP YOUR TANK

Thoroughly rinse your new tank with clean water. If you are using an under-gravel filter install this first, spread the gravel across the base of the tank, sloping from back to front. The rock can be partially buried in the gravel. Next slowly fill the tank with water. Install the heater and airline from the pump to the filter before connecting to the mains. Leave the water to settle for a few days. A water treatment can be added. Check that the equipment is working properly before adding the fish. When bringing your new fish home do not let the water get cold. Float the bag in the tank for 30 minutes, then open the bag and allow the fish to swim into their new home. Introduce hardier species first.

MAINTENANCE

Once established your system should require little maintenance. Check the thermometer at least daily. Once a fortnight siphon off 2ins (5cm) of water and replace with fresh conditioned water. Never use hot water from the domestic supply. At least every 18 months completely empty the tank, keeping the water to re-fill afterwards, clean the rocks and gravel (not with detergent) and replace everything carefully. Remove uneaten food, rotting plants and excreta regularly.

FEEDING

Fish should be fed sparingly with a proprietary brand. There are many to choose from.

GENERAL CARE

Properly cared for fish are generally hardy. The most common causes of disease are chilling, over-feeding, over crowding and excessive light. Your retailer stocks a range of useful remedies.

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

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