

HOW TO



keep GOLDFISH

Goldfish are simple, inexpensive to keep and make excellent pets. They are, however, completely dependent on your skills as a fish keeper to keep them healthy and happy. Learn the basics to keeping fish and your goldfish could live to a ripe old age. The average life span of a common goldfish is 20 years and up to 14 years for the fancy varieties.

Common Goldfish, Comets and Shubunkins are more suited to

outdoor ponds as they can out-grow their bowl or tank very quickly reaching 8-12" long when fully grown. Fancy varieties do not grow as large and cannot be kept outside in a pond:- these fish have double tail and anal fins

and their bodies are shortened. They are not the best swimmers so they can be kept in smaller environments indoors.



FILTERS:-

Goldfish need clean water that contains enough oxygen to allow them to breathe. Aquariums are enclosed spaces and can quickly become polluted without filtration and regular partial water changes. Fish produce waste which includes a toxic substance called ammonia and this goes directly into the water they live in.

Filters work by drawing water through a medium which traps solid particles. This is known as 'mechanical filtration'. The filter medium also houses bacteria which live inside the filter. This bacteria breaks down the fish waste, making it non-toxic and harmless. This is known as biological filtration. Bacteria levels take 6-8 weeks to build up to enable the filter to work at 100%, so never introduce too many fish too soon.

STOCKING LEVELS:-

Surface area is the most important factor when stocking a bowl or tank. A narrow necked container will support less fish than a wide necked one of the same size. As a general rule, allow one inch of fish for each 24 square inches of surface area:-

A tank, 2' x 1' has a surface area of 288 square inches, which, when divided by 24, will support 12" of fish. Don't forget that fish grow, so start off with less than maximum capacity.

HOUSING:-

Rectangular aquaria are better than bowls because they have a larger surface area which means more oxygen can enter the water. They are also large enough to house a filter. Small bowls have a small surface area and need careful maintenance to keep good water quality.