



Common Fish Diseases

1. Prevention

Prevention is better than cure and many diseases can be avoided by maintaining good water conditions. This is because fish become stressed in poor water which can lower their immune system leaving them susceptible to diseases. The most effective way to keep your fish in good quality water is to carry out partial water changes and test your water weekly.

Healthy water = Healthy Fish

Below is a list of the most common diseases that can affect your both cold water and tropical fish.

2. Fungus

Description

Often seen as white or grey fluffy, cotton wool like patches on the fish's body of fins. Very common in livebearers, fancy goldfish and gourami's.

Treatments

Easily treated with an anti-fungus treatment, please ask staff for more details. Aquarium tonic salt is also of great benefit when treating fungus, and can be used alongside other medications. Always read the instructions on medication before use.

3. White Spot

Description

Small round white spots all over the fish, usually starting on the fins, fish will often try to remove these spots by rubbing against surfaces.

White spot is a parasite and even the fish is clear of spots the parasite may still be in the water.

Treatment

Choose an anti-white spot treatment, follow the instructions closely ensuring the treatment is correct for the type of fish.

Also, ensuring they are treated for the correct length of time to clear all parasites in the water.

Aquarium tonic salt is also of great benefit when treating white spot, and can be used together with some medications, although always check the instructions before using together.

4. Fin Tail and Mouth

Description

Frayed and damaged decaying fins and /or tails which appear to be rotting away. If the mouth is affected it will look decayed and have pink/white fluffy patches.

Fish will often be lethargic, possibly not eat or hang in the water with little movement, eyes will often have a white sheen.

Handy Tip:

When buying new fish ask our staff for any common diseases and familiarise yourself with the treatments. It is helpful to keep a stock of common treatments such as aquarium salts.

Treatment

Choose an anti-fin rot treatment. Aquarium tonic salt is also beneficial when treating fin/tail/mouth rot, and can be used together with some medications, although always check the instructions before using together.

Helpful Information:

Treating fish for problems should be done as soon as symptoms are detected. As long as the damage to fins and tails are not too bad, fish usually re-grow the damaged areas. Re-growth times vary due to amount of damage and species of fish.

5. Velvet Disease

Description

The fish look as though it has been dusted with icing sugar and will be covered by tiny white spots, which are much smaller than white spot.

The parasites cause fish to have rapid gill movements and increased efforts to remove the spots by rubbing surfaces on stones and ornaments.

Treatment

Choose an anti-velvet disease treatment, Aquarium tonic salt is also beneficial when treating velvet disease. Always check the instructions before use.

6. Swim Bladder Problems

Description

The swim bladder is a gas filled sack inside the fish to maintain its depth in the water.

If the fish is unable to swim properly due to floating or sinking too much this could indicate an infection in or around the swim bladder.

Treatment

Off the shelf treatments include swim bladder control treatments or an anti-internal bacteria treatment. Also aquarium tonic salt may help.

We Recommend:

You take a picture of your ill fish to help the aquatics staff recommend an appropriate treatment.



7. Ulcers

Description

Red sore or sores on the sides of the fish.

Treatment

Ulcers need quick treatment they are caused by bacterial infection and often get secondary fungal infections. Choose an anti-ulcer treatment or anti-bacterial treatment, and keep a close eye on the fish for fungal infections.

Important Note:

Maintaining the water quality is the most important factor in keeping fish healthy. Regular water changes are vital for keeping healthy fish.

8. Large External Parasites

Description

These can be seen on the fish, most common are fish lice and anchor worms.

Treatment

Do not try to remove the parasites by hand, use an anti-external parasite treatment and follow the instructions closely.

9. Dropsy

Description

The fish scales are raised and make the fish look like a pine cone, Fish become lethargic and not interested in food.

Treatment

Choose an anti-bacterial treatment.



10. Slime Disease

Description

Excess mucus covering the body giving the fish a cloudy grey appearance. May cause rapid gill movements.

Treatment

Choose a slime disease treatment.

11. Aquarium Salt

This is very useful addition to the aquarium, it is a useful general tonic and it is highly recommended that you add it to your care routine. Higher dosages can help treat some fish diseases it is an ideal secondary treatment.