



ANIMAL ANTICS

Note for Pet Owners:

Pet Patrol 365 provides this information for educational purposes only. You should seek the advice of your veterinarian if your pet is ill as only they can correctly advise on the diagnosis and the recommended treatment for your pet.

FANCY GOLDFISH AS FIRST PETS



History

Goldfish originated from a species of fish called the Crucian carp. No one knows for certain when they were domesticated, but ancient Chinese art and literature suggests they have been kept in Chinese homes since 800 AD. Goldfish became widespread in many other countries in the Far East after 1650. At this time, Europeans were trading with the East and brought Goldfish back to Europe with them. At first, Goldfish were kept in outside ponds and were not housed indoors until the late 1800s.

Life Span

The average lifespan of a Goldfish is 5-10 years.

Choosing your fish

You can buy your Goldfish from a good pet shop, a garden centre or from a fish-keepers club. Before you buy any fish, check that they are healthy. Choose a fish with bright, clear eyes and shiny skin. It should not be slow moving, or have damaged fins or white spots on the surface of its skin. Do not pick a fish from a tank with other dead fish.

The basic things your Goldfish will need

- Tank (Aquarium) - set this up about a week before you get your Goldfish
- Gravel
- Food

Caring For Your Goldfish

- Goldfish like company so it's a good idea to get two or more.
- Make sure the tank (Aquarium) is big enough for your Goldfish.
- Set the tank up away from direct sunlight and make sure it does not get too hot or too cold.
- Your tank should contain plants, rocks and ornaments to make it interesting and provide places for your fish to hide.
- Feed your Goldfish 2-3 times a day but only in small amounts (food left can turn bad and poison the water).
- You can buy Goldfish food from a pet shop, together with "bloodworms", which can be given as a treat.
- Check that the water is clean every day and that your fish are swimming about. Your fish will quickly become ill in a dirty tank.

Cleaning the fish tank

- Clean the tank regularly, replacing some of the water every few weeks and cleaning the gravel and any ornaments.
- Never use water straight from the tap (leave the water in a bucket for a day or two before using it in your tank).
- When you move your Goldfish to a new tank or whilst you are cleaning the tank, make sure that the fish don't get a shock from the change in temperature and light. Float the bag or container that you've put them in, in the new water for about 30 minutes.
- Cut back any plants that have grown too tall or bushy, and clean off any green slime off the inside of the glass with a scraper.

Healthy fish

Goldfish are very healthy pets if you care for them properly. If you think your Goldfish looks ill call a vet or visit your local Aquarium shop they will be able to tell you what is wrong with your fish. If your fish seems to be moving slowly, it may not be well. Drooping fins or white spots on its skin are also signs of illness.

Your pet fish

Goldfish make great pets and are fun to keep, but you must care for them properly. Your Goldfish will depend on you for all its needs. If you go on holiday make sure that someone looks after your Goldfish.

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