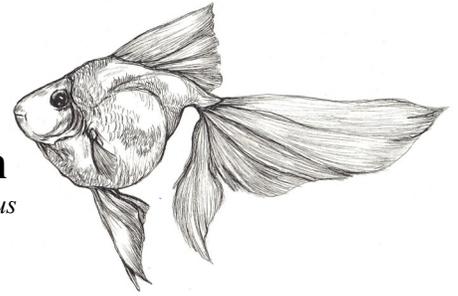


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Goldfish

Carassius auratus



Necessities:

- Large bowl/tank
(AT LEAST 1 gallon per inch of fish)
- Start Right® conditioner
- Live Plant (Elodea or Banana plant)
- Food
- Gravel
- Net
- Aquarium salt

Extras:

- Filter/air bubbler
- Light
- Decorations

General:

Goldfish are not only fun to watch with so many different colors, patterns, body shapes and a wide variety of personalities but will even learn to recognize you when you enter a room. Goldfish originated from temperate Asia, but have been introduced to all parts of the world. Many cultures began to ‘domesticate’ the goldfish as long as 1300 years ago. The lifespan of your fish will vary greatly with the size of the tank and the quality/filtration of the water. Bigger is always better! In a bowl they generally live from 1-3 years. In a tank or pond they could live up to 25 years. If you are looking for a fish that can live happily in a small bowl alone, we recommend getting a Betta.

Handling:

Obviously you don’t! Unfortunately they do not respond well to children sticking their hands in the bowl. Small children will need to be educated on this.

Housing:

This instruction sheet is designed for those who wish to keep their goldfish in a bowl. If setting up at tank please also ask for our Aquarium instruction sheet to supplement this information.

1. Rinse the bowl with luke warm water. NEVER use soaps or cleansers on the bowl or any accessories. Rinse the gravel in the same manner as the bowl.
2. Fill the bowl with room temperature tap water. Room temperature water is usually 5 degrees lower than the air temperature of the room. If in doubt let the water stand for an hour before putting it in the bowl.
3. Add Start Right® dechlorinator to the water following the instructions on the package. Dechlorinator is a must. Not all chlorine evaporates by letting the water stand. We recommend using tap water instead of distilled or bottled as they are not of the appropriate hardness or PH. Goldfish also benefit from the addition of Aquarium Salt to the water at the ratio of 1 tsp per gallon. PLEASE NOTE that table salt IS NOT appropriate.
4. Float the fish in the bag in the bowl for at least 5 minutes. Temperature changes are very harmful. Add the fish and plant(s) gently.
5. Place the bowl away from direct sunlight in a warm room during winter time and a cool room during summer time. Please do not place the bowl by a vent or heat source as temperatures in these areas tend to change frequently.
6. The bowl should be cleaned at least once a week. Following the same instructions. If the bowl should become cloudy in only a few of days it generally means the fish is being overfed and the bowl should be cleaned and feedings cut back.

Diet:

Overfeeding is the common reason for all types of fish to fail to thrive. Fish food that is uneaten collects in the tank and rots causing very harmful bacteria to thrive. The smaller the bowl the more serious the problem. HINT: To make feeding easier for very young children, use a 7 day pill container with appropriate amounts in each compartment. Goldfish thrive on a varied diet. In addition to goldfish food, they should be offered brine shrimp, krill, blood worms, small insects like crickets or mealworms, aquatic plants like Elodea and even small amounts of fruits or vegetables. Remember to remove any uneaten food!

Heating:

Goldfish are a cool water fish. In warm weather the oxygen level in the bowl will go down causing the fish to try to gulp air at the surface. This can lead to swim bladder problems.

Lighting:

Special lighting is not required. But your fish should have a good day/night cycle to promote good eating and activity.