

PASSION *for* PETS

Tropical Fish Information Care Sheet



Check list

- Fish Tank
- Chlorine Neutraliser such as- Safe Guard 5 or Aqua Plus
- Water Conditioner such as Geo-Liquid or Conditioning Salts
- Live Bacteria such as Cycle
- A Heater
- A Thermometer
- Aquarium Gravel
- Ornaments or Plastic Plants
- Live Plants
- Plant food such as Sprout or Flora Pride
- Fish Food
- A pH Test Kit
- Hardness Test Kit
- A Gravel Cleaner
- A Filter
- Aquarium Foam
- Background

SETTING UP YOUR FISH TANK:

Choose a home for your fish tank that is not in direct sunlight. Rinse your tank and place it on aquarium foam in its new home. Thoroughly rinse your aquarium gravel in a strainer under fast running water to remove all dust and dirt particles. Now place this in an even layer across the bottom of your tank. Fill your tank/bowl with tap water ensuring that you count how many litres you are adding. Add the appropriate amount of chlorine neutraliser, water conditioner, live bacteria and plant food to the filled tank. Always use the instructions on the packet to add the correct amount. Thoroughly shake all bottles first as many contain sediment. Decorate your tank with your ornaments/plastic plants and live plants. Place your filter in the corner ensuring it is covered with water then turn it on. Set your heater to 28°C and place it on the inside wall of your tank next to the filter. Place the thermometer on the opposite side of the tank to the heater. Secure your background to the outside of your tank/bowl

JUST PRIOR TO PURCHASING YOUR FISH

You need to have your tank set-up and running for a minimum of seven days before you introduce your tropical fish. Two days before you get your fish you will need to perform a pH and hardness test. If the test levels are incorrect you will need to make the appropriate adjustments and re-test in 24 hours. Don't introduce your fish until your water quality is stable and correct.

ARRIVING HOME

Place your fish (still in the sealed bag) into your tank and allow it to sit for ten minutes to adjust to the different water temperatures. After ten minutes un-tie the top of the bag and allow some of the tank water to mix with your fish, then gently upend the entire bag to allow your fish to swim into its new home.

FEEDING

It is best not to feed your fish straight away after arriving home, always wait a few hours first to allow your fish to feel completely comfortable. It is best to feed your fish a varied diet to keep it happy and healthy; you should alternate its food every other day.

You can feed your fish flake food, pellet food, and freeze dried food, frozen food and live food. You should give your fish live food at least once a week. Your Passion for Pets staff member can show you the different foods suitable to feed your fish.

The size of your fish's stomach is only as big as its eye so it is best to feed your fish small amounts of food once to twice a day. It is better to give really little amounts twice a day as uneaten food simply falls into the aquarium gravel and starts to breakdown into harmful ammonia almost immediately. Your live plants need to be fed as well with plant food. Plant food contains nutrients that are not found in a newly established aquarium. It is recommended to feed your plants three times a week for the first two weeks then twice a week for the second two weeks then once a week after that.

WHY ADD PRODUCTS TO THE TAP WATER?

Many people ask why we recommend to add certain products to tap water before putting it into your tank, as years ago many people kept fish without ever having to add anything to the water. The main reason for this is that, years ago only chlorine was added to tap water to make it safe for us to drink. After a small period of time chlorine will evaporate making the water ok for fish.

However now chloramine is added with chlorine to make our water safe to drink. Chloramine does not evaporate and doesn't completely disappear from filtered water. Chloramine is harmful to fish. It actually burns them causing quite a lot of pain and eventually death. Also for most parts of Melbourne our tap water is quite soft, as it doesn't run over many rocks and clay to absorb minerals to make it hard. Generally our tap water is at 30ppm hardness. Goldfish require a minimum 100ppm hardness to survive. This is why we must add a water conditioner to put back the minerals, calcium and salts that our tap water is missing.

The following products must be used to turn tap water into aquarium water.

Aqua Plus / Chlorine Neutraliser / Water Ager are chemicals that condition the water while by removing chemicals. These chemicals do not add minerals to harden our soft water. Therefore you need to use these products in conjunction with a water conditioner.

Geo-Liquid is not a chemical it actually attaches to the chlorine, fluoride and chloramine particles and naturally breaks them down. Geo Liquid also contains the minerals, calcium and salts to raise the water hardness. You can actually see the geo liquid working as it turns the water a milky colour during this process. It becomes crystal clear once it has finished. It is recommended to use a live bacteria with geo liquid to increase the effectiveness of it. It is very important to thoroughly shake Geo-Liquid first as the minerals are like a sediment on the bottom of the bottle and these must be mixed for it to work.

Safe Guard 5 works well in conjunction with geo liquid as it increases the speed at which the chlorine and chloramine is removed. But the best thing about this product is it contains aloe vera and puts a protective coating over the fish that helps to reduce stress and prevent the fish from injury from the net, bag and ornaments.

Water Conditioning Salts need to be used in conjunction with a chlorine neutraliser to make the water harder.

Cycle / Bio booster – these are all live bacterial products. They help put good bacteria into the aquarium water that would otherwise take a long period of time to naturally occur. Good bacteria have a very important role in the aquarium.

It breaks down fish waste and food waste to prevent it from turning into harmful ammonia.

TANK MAINTAINENCE

Fish prefer a small amount of cleaning often rather than being left alone for a long period of time, then a lot of cleaning at once. To keep your fish happy and healthy we recommend that you clean your tank on a weekly basis.

The best way to do this is by using a gravel cleaner. You should not take out more than 1/3 of the total water volume at once. Our Passion for Pets staff can show you how to use a gravel siphon tube cleaner.

It is best not to disrupt your fish by removing all ornaments and plants when cleaning the tank. Never remove the gravel and wash under tap water as you will kill all of your good live bacteria. Your gravel is cleaned by using a gravel cleaner. Always add your water products to the tap water before putting it into your tank.

Make sure you have a bucket that is only used for your fish. Make sure the bucket has never had cleaners in it, as the chemicals are harmful to your goldfish.

You need to perform a pH and hardness test after you have cleaned your tank to ensure it's back to correct levels.

CONTACT US

Our friendly staff are always available to answer any questions you may have so please don't hesitate to contact us for further information.