

Caring for your new pet goldfish Carassius auratus

Goldfish are colorful, active, and easy to please fish that are great pets to keep in a bowl on your dresser or in your first aquarium. To keep things simple, we've put together the following basic care instructions to help you keep your goldfish happy and healthy in its new home.



Easy step by step set up

1. Find a place out of direct sunlight and drafts to set up your new goldfish tank.
2. Rinse/wipe down the entire tank (inside and out) and all decorations with clean water (NO, soaps, detergents or other cleaning materials).
3. Place substrate in bottom of the tank.
4. Fill the tank with dechlorinated water.
5. If using one, set up the water filter according to the manufacturer's instructions.
6. Add any desired tank decorations.
7. Acclimatize your new pet to the tank water temperature by floating its bag in the tank for five to ten minutes.
8. Release your goldfish into its new home.

About your goldfish

Goldfish are members of the family Cyprinidae. The variety of goldfish available in pet stores today all originated from the species *Carassius auratus* which was originally isolated as an unusual, colorful variation in captive carp populations during the 11th-

century in China. Goldfish have been maintained in captivity longer than any other species of fish. If kept in a large aquarium and given proper care and living conditions, goldfish can live for 5 to 10 years. Goldfish are docile and will live happily in a community.

The following information will help you create a happy and healthy home for your new pet goldfish.

Goldfish care

Picking a container

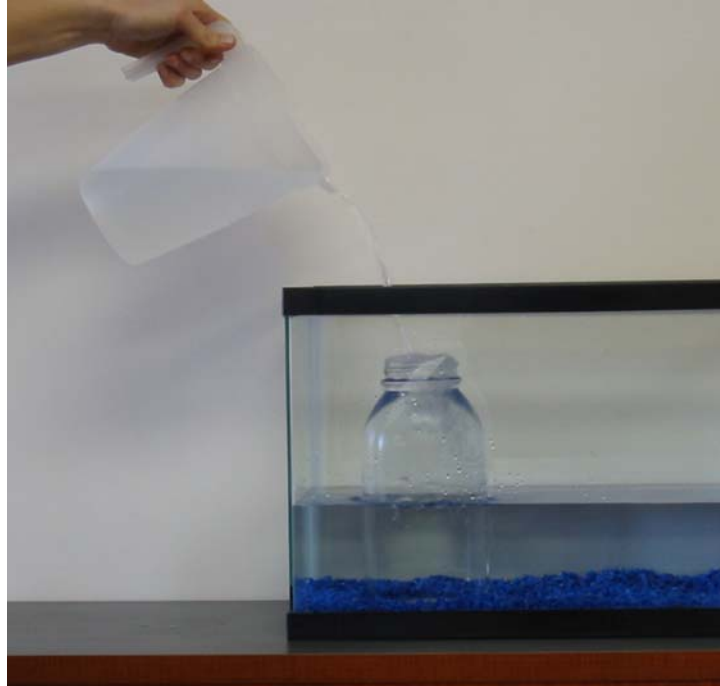
Pick a container that is big enough for your goldfish. While you can put a single goldfish in a bowl with an air pump, this means more work cleaning the container and changing water. It is best to get a 10 gallon aquarium that can be fit with a simple hanging water filter. This way you can keep your goldfish happy and healthy without a lot of work. Rinse out your new tank with tap water and no soap.

Light and temperature conditions

Put your tank in a place where you will see it and appreciate your fish throughout the day. It should be in a room with a fairly constant temperature and natural light, but not in direct sunlight and away from heating or cooling vents. Goldfish live in temperate to sub-tropical environments and do best in a temperature range between 50 to 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

Adding substrate

Add clean substrate, like pebbles or marbles, to line the bottom of the tank. Be sure to thoroughly rinse all substrate in clean water (without soap) before adding them to your tank.



Filling your tank

Place a bowl or jar in the substrate of the tank and then fill the tank by pouring the conditioned water into the jar, this will prevent the force of the water from moving the substrate. After adding the water you can add your filter according to the manufactures' instructions along with any additional tank decorations, like rocks or artificial plants for hiding places.



Conditioning your water

Tap water must be conditioned before being added to your tank. For immediate water conditioning you can simply add **HBH bowl prep** to tap water. Conditioned water can

then be added to the new tank. You can also condition your water simply let it stand in an open container overnight. By "aging" the tap water overnight, harmful chemicals like chlorine will dissolve into the air making the water safe for your goldfish.



Introducing your goldfish to its new home

When you bring your goldfish home do not put him directly into its new tank. First, make sure that the water in the bowl is room temperature. Next, place your fish, in its bag from the pet store, in the prepared tank for 15 minutes. This will allow your fish to acclimate to the water temperature in the new tank. After the acclimation period you can release your fish into its tank. This first day is stressful so don't feed him and avoid disturbing him any more than necessary.

Caring for your goldfish

Feeding



Goldfish thrive on **HBH Flake Frenzy Goldfish Flakes**. You can also try **HBH Goldfish Nuggets** or **HBH Goldfish Nibblers** to add variety to your goldfish's diet. Feed your fish once a day, offering only small pinch of food and then removing any uneaten food after about 2 minutes. Overfeeding can lead to poor water conditions and disease, a closely monitored diet is the best way to maintain the health of your goldfish.



Tank maintenance

Maintain the water quality in your goldfish tank with weekly partial water changes. To minimize the disturbance to your fish, use a siphon or a cup and gently scoop out 10% of the tank water and then replace it with new, clean, conditioned water. If algae or other debris builds up in the substrate you may be over-feeding your fish. You can use a siphon or vacuum hose (pictured) to clean out debris from the substrate. Avoid total water changes if possible as it is stressful for your fish.

Thoroughly rinse all cleaning equipment (sponges, scrub brushes, hose etc.) in tap water before using them to clean your fish tank. Never use any soaps or solvents on any aquarium equipment.

Other fun ideas

Plants

You can add live plants, which can be purchased at your local pet store, to your fish tank. Before adding any decoration or plant to the tank, be sure to rinse it thoroughly.

More Fish

New fish should be kept in a separate 'quarantine' tank for at least a week as they can carry diseases that may infect your established tank. Be sure to be extra diligent about water changes and filter maintenance as you add more fish to your tank.