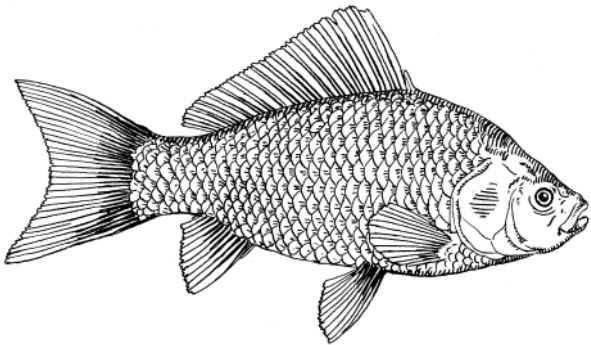
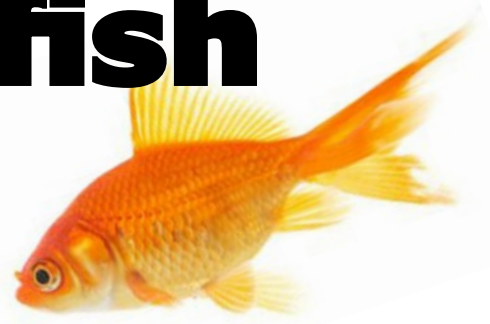


How to NOT Kill Your Goldfish



About Goldfish

- ◆ **Scientific Name:** *Carassius auratus*
- ◆ **Origin:** Throughout Asia



Goldfish are one of the most popular aquarium fish. However, most are stunted when they “grow to the size of their container.”

All goldfish require 20 gallons PER FISH minimum!

History of Goldfish

- ◆ Centuries ago, Prussian and Crucian carp were kept as food fish
- ◆ Natural mutations caused subtle differences in scale color
- ◆ Colorful fish were kept separate in special ponds and encouraged to breed
- ◆ Over many generations, we have the golden goldfish we know today
- ◆ In the 14th century, goldfish started to be kept indoors
- ◆ Fish with special tails and other anatomic features began to appear
- ◆ In the 17th century, ornate and beautiful goldfish were highly prized
- ◆ As more fish became available, goldfish lost their prized status
- ◆ Goldfish are one of the most popular pet fish sold today

Many fancy varieties of goldfish

- ◆ Oranda
- ◆ Ryukin
- ◆ Pearlscale
- ◆ Ranchu

- ◆ Telescope
- ◆ Bubble eye.. And many more!

Goldfish colors can change with age, water chemistry and genetics!



Goldfish Tanks



**All goldfish MUST be kept in a filtered tank!
Bowls are not appropriate for ANY fish!**

Your Goldfish's Ideal Home

- ◆ **At LEAST 20 gallons**
Expect most goldfish to outgrow their original 20 gallon tank within their first year. We have goldfish patients in their own 100 gallon tank!
- ◆ **You do NOT need a heater**
Goldfish do best at “room temperature,” or in the mid 70sF (22 to 25C). Too warm, and your goldfish will be VERY hungry and make a big mess. Too low and their immune function will not work very well.
- ◆ **Lots of filtration**
Goldfish are not the most efficient feed to mass converters, so they make a lot of waste. Extra filtration for comet goldfish is always a good idea. For fancy varieties, many of these fish do not swim very well, so make sure the filtration isn't pushing them around too much.
- ◆ **Not too many decorations**
Goldfish can be very active and get very big. Comet goldfish can be up to 16” long! Lots of décor items may be okay when they're little, but active fish can hurt themselves if they have too many things to maneuver around.
- ◆ **Tank mates for goldfish not required**
Many goldfish owners like to keep multiple goldfish. This is fine as long as you don't mix long body fish with fancy varieties. Fancy goldfish do not have the swimming capabilities of their straighter brethren and can miss out on food during feeding time. Some goldfish do NOT play well with other fish, and that is okay! We have many goldfish who prefer to be only children, provided they get lots of interaction from their human family.
- ◆ **Training opportunities encouraged**
You can 100% train your goldfish to target feed and swim through obstacles or hoops! Goldfish are highly food motivated, and with a little patience, you can train them the same as a dog or dolphin.

Care & Maintenance

Maintenance Guide

No fish, including goldfish, are “maintenance free” pets. All fish tanks require just as much care as a cat or a dog! Check out our video about how to best clean your fishes’ tank.

Watch here: <http://bit.ly/fishtankclean>



Tank Care Checklist

Now that you know how to clean your tank, here are the tasks you need to complete on a daily, weekly, monthly and yearly basis!

**Remember: Goldfish are dirty!
Keep up with your maintenance!**

Daily

- _____ Remove excess food
- _____ Monitor water level and top off if necessary
- _____ Evaluate fish swimming behavior and appetite (make note if anything seems different)
- _____ Check water temperature

Weekly

- _____ 10% water change using gravel siphon (OR 25% every other week)
Please note: this is only a general guideline. Cleaning frequency and volume will be determined by bioload, diet, size of tank and filtration capability.
- _____ Perform water quality testing if new fish or equipment have been added within last 2 months
- _____ Scrub algae from sides of aquarium using appropriate tool (glass or acrylic?)
- _____ Rinse biological filtration gently in tank water from water change
- _____ Remove dead leaves from live plants

**Never replace your filter pads!
These should last for YEARS!!**

Monthly

- _____ Rinse biological filtration gently in tank water from water change
- _____ Perform water quality testing if NO new fish or equipment have been added within last 2 mo
- _____ Remove décor and scrub separately
- _____ Vacuum gravel under décor

Yearly

- _____ Buy new water test kit

Having trouble remembering to do your maintenance?

- > ***Put it on your calendar!***
- > ***Get the whole family involved!***
- > ***Maintenance is NOT optional!***

Feeding

Goldfish Nutrition

Here are a few key points to selecting the goldfish food that is best for you:

- ◆ Goldfish are omnivores, eating a mix of animal and plant proteins
- ◆ Look for a protein content of around 30% and low fat around 5%
- ◆ Pellets retain their nutrition better than flakes, and they can be small!
- ◆ Replace your fish's food every 6 months, or buy a smaller container
- ◆ You do NOT need to soak your fishes food! It will lose Vitamin C!

Our Favorite Goldfish Food



Omega One Goldfish Pellets
Lots of variety in available sizes



How Often to Feed

Feeding your goldfish will depend on your water temperature:

60-75F/15-24C → **once a day**
>75F/24C → **twice a day**

How Much to Feed

Since pellet size varies, we recommend starting with a light sprinkle and allow them to eat every bite. Then sprinkle a little more. Continue for 3-5 minutes or until your fish is no longer interested in food.



Vigorous surface feeding may result in floating fish.
(Caused by pneumatic duct between esophagus and swim bladder)

Common Diseases

Signs of Disease

Many signs of disease in goldfish are general signs and require further investigation. These clinical signs include:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| ◆ Decreased appetite | ◆ Fin rot |
| ◆ Increased lethargy | ◆ Fungal growth |
| ◆ Fin tears/rips | ◆ Pale gills |

If you see any of these signs—check your water chemistry!

****Don't use test strips! Use liquid-based kit!****

Ranges available here:

<https://cafishvet.com/water-quality/water-quality-ranges/>

Water chemistry bad? —> Water change

Water chemistry good? —> Call your vet

To find a fish veterinarian near you, visit:

American Association of Fish Veterinarians

<https://FISHVETS.org>

World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association

<https://WAVMA.org>

Why is my goldfish floating?

Many goldfish float after eating, due to their anatomy. Usually, it is a transient problem. Try feeding a sinking food and see if the problem resolves. No? Call your vet!

Is my goldfish constipated?

It is physically impossible for any freshwater fish to become constipated. The “green pea treatment” actually works by decreasing your ammonia levels, adds vitamins and provides a sinking diet.

Is my goldfish fat?

Obesity is a concern in long body goldfish. Goldfish are also prone to polycystic kidney disease, causing them to swell like a water balloon. Treatment is supportive.