

Goldfish

Goldfish have an average lifespan of 10-15 years.

Follow this guide to make sure your fishy friend swims through life!

Food

Goldfish need to be fed special goldfish food. The best type of food is small floating pellets because it helps to keep the tank clean. It also means all the fish will receive their fair share! A mixture of goldfish flakes and granules are a good staple diet. Always ask the seller for some treats you could give them, and how much to feed them, as it can depend on their breed.

Shelter

The bigger the tank is, the better it is! With a bigger tank, you'll find it won't get as dirty as quickly. So have a tank with a minimum volume of 50 litres.

Hygiene

To help keep the water clean, some of the water will need to be changed every week – only change 10-25 per cent of the water each time. To do this, use a tube to move water out of the tank. While sucking up the water, use the tube to remove fish faeces from the bottom of the tank.

To help prevent algae growth, keep the aquarium away from direct sunlight or windows. Aquarium lights can be left on for eight hours a day. Remember to turn the lights off at night as fish have no eyelids and need darkness to sleep!

Health

Goldfish eat quite a lot, so they'll probably poo a lot too! Make sure the filter suits the tank size to help keep the water clean. Also, buy a filter that creates bubbles or moves the water's surface.

This should help oxygenate the water and provide a healthier environment.

Enrichment

By putting real water plants into the tank, goldfish can have places to hide and something to interact with. It also helps to absorb some waste products. The more plant cover, the more active the goldfish will become, so plants should take up about half of the tank.



Adopting your goldfish

When choosing a new fishy friend, make sure the aquarium is responsible and the tanks are not overcrowded.

Signs of a healthy goldfish include:

- Ability to swim well
- Clear, bright body colour
- Fins are straight, not curled up or torn

Signs of an unhealthy goldfish include:

- Has lumps, bumps or wounds
- Has a trail of poo from its behind
- Sinks or bobs to the surface
- Stays in the corner for a long time

For more information about goldfish, visit kb.rspca.org.au/74/.