



Goldfish

(*Carassius auratus*)

General Information

Goldfish originated from a species of fish called the Crucian carp. No one knows for certain when they were domesticated but they are one of the first species to be bred by man in captivity. References to the keeping and breeding of goldfish in China date back more than 2,000 years! Goldfish are easy to keep and an ideal beginners fish. They can be kept outdoors in garden ponds or indoor aquariums. Most varieties are quite suitable for the Beginner, although some varieties such as Siamese Dolls are best kept by hobbyists with reasonable fish keeping experience.

Origin and Habitat

Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*) range from Eastern Europe across to China and inhabit well-vegetated pools and lakes.

Water quality

Goldfish are tolerant of a wide variation in water quality. However, they prefer slightly alkaline water of pH 7.0 – 7.5, moderately hard water 100 – 250 ppm general hardness and temperatures of 12-22°C.

Feeding

Goldfish are omnivorous and will eat most foods. In nature they eat a wide variety of zooplankton, crustaceans, snails and plant matter. They should be fed foods with a low protein content specifically designed for goldfish.

Compatibility and tank mates

Goldfish are compatible with other non-aggressive species of similar size. Avoid stocking small fish, etc with large goldfish as large specimens may prey on small fish, crustaceans and snails.

	Comet
	Fantail
	Oranda
	Pearlscale
	Lionhead

Colour and varieties

There are many different colours and varieties – here are some of the more popular choices:

Breeding

Goldfish spawn during spring as water temperatures increase to 18 – 22°C. They are voracious egg-eaters and some form of spawning substrate should be provided to protect the eggs – artificial or real water-plants are ideal for this. During spawning, the males are easily distinguished by their 'nuptial tubercles' (small white pimple-like dots) which cover their gill covers and pectoral fins. Females are vigorously chased by the males and scatter their eggs amongst aquatic plants.