

## Maintenance and Feeding of Goldfish



A common myth about goldfish is that they are small and do not require much space but, that is not true as they grow fast and many can grow to be a foot or longer. A 20-gallon tank is about right for one fish but if there are more than one fish you need at least 10 gallons per adult fish. A full sized canister or a hang on filter can be used for filtering water. These filters need to be cleaned at least monthly to keep the mechanical portion working properly. In a properly sized tank, a minimum of a 25% water change weekly is required. Water changes remove waste, ammonia, nitrates, and phosphates as well as provide oxygen and nutrient enriched water. Gold fish tanks should be set up like fresh water tropical tanks, with a layer of substrate on the bottom. Rocks and woodwork provide hiding and resting places for them. Rapid changes in water temperature of more than several degrees in a twenty four-hour period can be very stressful so avoid those situations.

### **Feeding:**

Gold fish are omnivorous and they generally need a mix of both plants and animals in their diets. One important fact to remember about them is that they are continuous feeders and should be fed small frequent meals. Small amounts of dry food should be given at a time as they can develop gas or constipation problems if they engorge large amounts of dry food at a time. Adding vegetables spinach and plant materials is very beneficial for them. Hard boiled egg yolk, earth worms and brine shrimp can be added to help meet their animal protein needs. If your fish develops any digestive problems stop feeding until the condition improves and then readjust the feeding.

Gold fish are magnificent aquarium fish and they can be hardy, colorful, interactive and cherished pets if treated properly.