

PARK PET SHOP'S
CARE SHEET FOR FISH IN A BOWL
GOLDFISH / BETTAS / GUPPIES / MOLLIES

Congratulations!

Did you know that the oldest goldfish on record lived to be over 40?

By following some basic guidelines, you too can keep your healthy fish for years to come.

1. The container / bowl / aquarium should never be cleaned with detergent, and if detergent may have been used, use vinegar and hot water to free any toxins that may be holding on to the surface. Rinse the container well.
2. As soon as possible, provide some shelter for the fish. A plant and/or decoration for the environment will make them feel comfortable when they feel threatened.
3. Tap water requires a conditioner that makes the water less toxic to your fish. You should have acquired a water conditioner and some beneficial bacteria. The bacteria will counter the waste coming from the fish which helps to keep the ammonia level down. Ammonia is the number 1 killer of fish. By using tap water and a conditioner your environment should be safe almost instantly. Make sure the water is room temperature. Use at least half of the original water in the new environment. Add your bacteria, and feed the fish in a couple of hours.
4. To feed, remember that the belly is about the size of the fish's eye. 2-3 small flakes 2 times a day should be plenty to sustain your new pet. Too much food results in waste and decay which will build up ammonia.
5. When maintaining the bowl, try to only change 25% of the old water and keep the rest. This helps to stabilize the environment without causing too much stress on the fish. Filtration can help the environment stay cleaner longer, but a bowl scenario will probably need maintaining once a week. Remember to condition the new water. (Sometimes we save a milk gallon to store the preconditioned water in a closet or cabinet) Expect the bowl to become a little cloudy. This is normal after a water change. Do not panic.
6. **Please avoid tapping on the glass** as the booming sensation may cause the fish to perish prematurely.
7. Yes, fish will enjoy a larger environment and some companions as your budget allows. Keep in mind that too many fish in too small of an environment will cause ammonia to rise faster. A second or third water change throughout the week may be necessary.

Please don't hesitate to call if you have questions or concerns related to proper keeping of fish.

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