

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Pet Care of a Fish



Freshwater fish have different needs and need special care.

Buying an Aquarium

When buying an aquarium – the fish tank – it is important to get the right sort, not one that just looks interesting. Think about this list to make sure you get the best tank:

- The tank needs to be the right temperature. It must not be warmer than 21°C.
- It is important for fish to have a night and day pattern. Turn the light on and off at a regular time.
- A filter must be fitted to make sure the water is good quality.
- Fish like to hide so they need wood and rocks, from the aquatic shop, in the tank.
- Plants give the fish shelter, shade and food. Make sure there are some plants in the tank too.

Diet

Goldfish need a plant based diet and tropical fish need more protein.

Surface feeders: These fish come up to the surface of the water to get their food. Examples of these fish are Siamese fighting fish and the hatchet fish.

Mid-water feeders: These fish have small mouths at the front of their faces. Examples of these fish are angelfish and the glass catfish.

Bottom dwellers: These fish have flat bodies. They need their food to sink to the bottom of the tank. Fish like the bronze catfish and clown loach are bottom dwellers.

Did you know...?

As well as their fish flake food, goldfish like chopped vegetables like lettuce and spinach, and some tropical fish even like crumbled egg yolk!

Do Fish Like Company?

- Some types of goldfish should not be kept together, as they fight for food.
- Some tropical fish are 'shoaling' fish, which means they live in groups. They can get stressed if they are not with other fish.

Signs of Disease or Illness

Look out for these signs as they can mean the fish is ill:

- large belly;
- scales that stick out from their body;
- tiny white spots on their scales;
- swimming on its side;
- sinking to the bottom of the tank.

If you notice any of these signs, you need to take it to an aquatic expert who can advise you on the best treatment.

Tips:

- Read all about the type of fish you are going to keep so you know what to do.
- Ask the fish experts lots of questions.



Questions:

1. What is an aquarium?

2. How can fish owner help their pet develop a night and day pattern?
3. Of the list of aquarium requirements, which do you think is the most important?
Explain your reasons.
4. What sort of feeder is an angelfish?
5. Which type of fish likes crumbled egg yolk?
6. From where do bottom dwellers eat their food?
7. Why should some types of goldfish not be kept together?
8. Identify two signs of fish illness.
9. Why do you think you should ask fish experts lots of questions if you are thinking about buying a fish?