



All About the **Goldfish**

A complimentary eBook from CheapPetStore.com

Our prices say it all. Our Pet Library makes it better.™



The Goldfish

About the Goldfish

Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*) are cyprinoids, and have been cultivated as pets longer than any other aquarium fish. They originated in the Far East (China, Japan, and Korea). They made their way to Europe in the late 1600s, and to North America just a bit later. They also go by the names golden fish and golden carp, among others. This short eBook can only just touch the vast breadth of goldfish information.

Average Size	Varies	Characteristics	Gentle, alert, social
Average Lifespan	Up to 15-30 years	Special Needs	Need cool water; not a tropical fish
Coloring	Varies, usually oranges	Health Concerns	Can suffer from typical fish problems: parasites and skin diseases.



- [Treats for Your Goldfish](#)
- [Health Care for your Goldfish](#)

Goldfish Characteristics

Goldfish are not tropical fish. Let us say that again: goldfish are not tropical fish. They need colder water – as cold as 65°F. They can tolerate up to about 75°F, and some sources recommend keeping them at the warmer end of that range. Most likely, you should ask about the fish you are interested in, as to what temperature they should be kept at, to avoid shocking them. Goldfish come in a dizzying array of colors, shapes, sizes, and configurations. The basic “goldfish” that we all think of is just the tip of the iceberg, because they have been cultivated for centuries. While they are considered “easy fish” and “fish for children,” they do need some basic care. They are terrific pets, however – attractive, personable, responsive to anyone approaching their tank, and able to recognize their owners. Goldfish can even display begging behavior! They can be long-lived – one fish in England lived for 45 years. That, however, is an amazing anomaly; most goldfish don’t live that long. On the other hand, stories of feeder fish that become beloved pets and lived 15-30 years are legendary.

Selecting Your Goldfish

Do some research before selecting your goldfish. Obviously, the fish should be responsive and handsome, with no sign of bloat. Other than that, appearances vary a lot.

A Few Words About Pet Stores

Goldfish from pet stores can be a fine choice. If you wish to institute a breeding program, pet store goldfish can work quite well.



[Aquarium Heater](#)



 [Send this eBook to a Friend](#)

A Few Words About Breeders

Fish from breeders are usually more expensive, but you will have a wider variety to choose from, and can even select breeding pairs. Because there are so many variants, you may be able to find precisely the goldfish you seek by working with a reputable breeder.

How to Choose your Goldfish

Goldfish are quite hearty if bred and cared for correctly. If you are buying your fish from a store, their aquariums should be clean and free of dead fish. Most stores have a quarantine tank (or several) for sick fish. If they don't, it's worth asking about.

Unfortunately, choosing healthy fish can be a matter of well-educated guesswork. Signs of unhealthy fish are obvious, however:

- Fin and skin discolorations
- Evidence of injury
- Parasites attached to the fish's skin
- Lethargy or lying on bottom of aquarium
- Scraping body on rocks
- Irregular gill movements

Lack of appetite is hard to determine without seeing the fish eat – ask if your salesperson can give your potential fish a little food. They should be perky and notice the food immediately, because goldfish simply love to eat. They will eat constantly, whenever food is available. Observe your potential fish; they should interact with others. What you see is very much what you get with fish.

Breeding, Care and Feeding

Water quality and temperature is vital to breeding goldfish – they need a cooling period, followed by a slow warming to trigger breeding. Keep in mind that some fancy goldfish cannot be bred naturally, so the following method will not work for these fish.

Isolate a breeding pair at least 3 years old in their own 20-gallon love nest. The tank should also be planted so the eggs will have something to stick to when the female lays them. Keep in mind that you will be moving the eggs (and what they're stuck to).

The male will chase the female around the tank ceaselessly. He may even damage her slightly. The female will, upon exhaustion, release her eggs (as many as hundreds or thousands) all over the tank. Many will stick to the greenery. The male will spray this milt – a milky substance – over the eggs. This courtship will continue for about 3 to 4 hours.

Remove the eggs to the small offspring tank you prepared. At the lower end of the temperature range, the eggs will incubate in about 7 days, down to 5 days for the warmer tank. Watch the eggs for any signs of fungus, and remove those promptly. Healthy eggs will be transparent; after about 4 days, you will see the little black dots in the eggs – future goldfish! Once they hatch, they will feed off egg yolks for a couple of days.

Obviously there is more to breeding than this. If you plan on breeding your goldfish, it would be wise to invest in a book on goldfish breeding.



You'll need these basics before your Goldfish comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

- [Aquarium Goldfish Food](#)
- [Glass Drum Fish Bowl](#)
- [Aquarium Decorations](#)
- [Aquarium Gravel](#)



[Cool Shark No Fishing Ornament](#)



Goldfish Fry

Newly-hatched fry don't need to be fed until Day 4 or 5. At that point, you can feed them a live diet of freshly-hatched baby brine shrimp. Food particles are about the right size – boiled egg yolk can be fed in little tiny chunks that you press with your fingers and disperse into the tank or press through fabric. There's also a goldfish fry feeder liquid sold commercially. At Day 10 or so, you can start feeding them with powdered flake food, alternated with freshly-hatched brine shrimp or infusoria.

When the Fry are around 21 days old, they can begin to be fed powdered flake food. At 28 days, they should be fed three times a day-- morning, midday, and afternoon. After they grow a bit, up to 4 months, feed them twice a day. After 4 months, they're essentially adults, and should only be fed once a day.

The Goldfish Adult

Goldfish are omnivores and seriously opportunistic feeders. They will eat nearly anything at any time, and can even make themselves ill. Overfed goldfish sometimes explode. Your goldfish will not pace itself, so you have to do it for him. Never feed a goldfish more than it can eat in about 2 to 3 minutes, and only feed them once a day. Select a basic flake as the primary food, and supplement your goldfish's diet generously with live or frozen brine shrimp, black worms, chopped earthworms, and some vegetables. Don't forget that goldfish will also nibble away at your tank plants. In all cases, you should be careful that you are not introducing disease with live or frozen food – know your supplier.

Medical Considerations

Although goldfish are quite hearty, they can suffer from many diseases as well – this is partially a function of there being so many goldfish out there! If your goldfish suddenly changes his behavior for any length of time or if his skin, eyes, mouth, gills or fins look different, you might want to do some research to find out what is ailing your fish. Some common ailments are Ick (a parasite), anchor worms, and myriad skin diseases. Most of these diseases and parasites can be treated with medications you can buy at any pet supply store.

Necessary Items

Fish need a home and food. The home can be spruced up with a variety of décor. Set up their home at least several days before bringing your fish home. Your fish will need a tank, 20 gallons or larger. Goldfish need more room than normally given them. You will also need a stand for the tank, a hood with a light and perhaps most importantly, a filtration system. Often a larger tank is easier to maintain with several smaller filters, so you can stagger your filter care. Just be sure to provide enough filtration. You can also decorate your tank however you like. There are huge selections of various products you can choose from. Tank decorations, gravel, rocks, wood, marbles, live plants and synthetic plants are just some of the items you can use.



Can't miss gifts for the Goldfish Owner:

- [Book About Goldfish](#)
- [Goldfish Bowl Accessories](#)
- [Total Goldfish Feeder](#)
- [Marina Goldfish Kit](#)



[Wardley Small Fry Food](#)



[Tank Filter](#)

 [Send this eBook to a Friend](#)

Popular Products for Your Goldfish

- [Gravel Vacuum Cleaner](#)
- [Ultra Faucet Adapter](#)
- [Elite Air Pump](#)
- [Aquasafe Water Conditioner](#)
- [Goldfish Bites](#)
- [Aqua Glo Bulb](#)
- [Ultra Faucet Adapter](#)
- [Elite Air Pump](#)
- [Gravel Vacuum Cleaner](#)
- [Aquarium Insert Kit](#)
- [2 Sided Aquarium Background](#)
- [Millionaire Air Stone](#)
- [Wellness Fin Guard](#)
- [Net Breeder](#)
- [Glass Aquarium Canopy](#)
- [5" Fine Fish Net 10" Handle](#)
- [Book - Setting Up 1st Aquarium](#)
- [Elite Airline Tubing](#)
- [50/50 Fluorescent Lamp 20Watt](#)



 Send this eBook to a Friend



[Goldfish Bowl Filtration Kit](#)



[Marina Gravel](#)



[Liquid Super Ick Cure](#)



[Tubifex Worm Cubes](#)



[Aqua Kritter Oriental Goldfish Ornament](#)



[Goldfish Floating Pellets](#)

Attention Webmasters: Publishing of this document without express written authorization of Cheap Pet Store, Inc. is deemed unlawful.