



*Pet Town Chatswood 02 9415 2298*

*Pet Town Castle Hill 02 9894 6571*

## **How to care for your Fish**

- Quality flakes, pellets, vegetable based foods, dried bloodworms, frozen foods, tubifex worms, etc, should all be mixed together to vary your fishes diet as much as possible. The first sign of your fish needing more variety is the regular eating of plants or having long hanging faeces. Pro Balance & Nutrifin fish foods are all premium quality.
- Though there is a lot of misinformation around, ideally you should feed your fish 2-3 times per day. Do not overfeed, everything must be eaten in 2 minutes & none should ever sink to the bottom (approximately 2-3 flakes per fish). Fish are grazers, & need lots of little feeds, not one big one. Any flakes that sink to the bottom are not eaten later, they rot & cloud the tank.
- A gravel cleaner should be used to remove excess food & waste. You must change one third of your water every two weeks (no more, no less). Changing most of your water is damaging, as it removes the natural bacteria that break down the fish waste products (ammonia).

There are four essential steps to turning tap water into aquarium water:

- Firstly, Safe Guard, Water Safe or Stress Coat is used every time tap water is added. It removes the chlorine, fluoride & Chloramine, which kill fish. Do not use filtered water, as it does not have enough natural bacteria & is too soft (not enough minerals) for fish.
- Secondly, Biostart or Stress Zyme provides the natural bacteria that break down the ammonia your fish secrete (this bacteria takes 6 weeks to build up naturally). This is essential when you add any new filter, change all your water, set up a new tank, & every time tap water is added.
- Finally, Water Conditioner is used every time tap water is added, to 'harden' the water (1 level teaspoon per 10 litres). So after you put in the initial

quantity for the complete tank, you just add the Conditioner for the amount of water you are taking out. Conditioning the water is very important for the fishes immune system.

- Maintaining the proper pH for your fish is important for keeping them healthy. An easy, at home pH test kit lets you accurately measure the level of pH. A neutralising block will dissolve as needed and buffer the pH so that it stays neutral.
- Live plants oxygenate, absorb excess nutrients that algae live on, give hiding places for fish & are full of vitamin C for your fish's immune system. Take off the lead, which is holding the bunch together.
- As a guide you need a minimum of 8 litres to keep a goldfish without a filter, or 6 litres to have a goldfish with a filter. A filter is a good idea for every tank, so ask about the most suitable one for your tank or outside ponds.
- Gravel is necessary to help with filtration. You should always wash the gravel really well before placing it in the tank for the first time.
- Ornaments, rocks & silk or plastic plants decorate your tank & entertain fish, while giving places to hide.
- A heater is required for tropical tanks & they should be kept at 26 degrees. Cold-water fish do well in tropical tanks.
- Special non-rusting aquatic lights & aquatic bulbs, encourage plants to grow, & make fish more active & appear much more colourful (turn off at night).
- Weekend & Vacation feeders can be used when you go away, & fresh plants should also be placed into tanks as a back up.
- Algae Cure, live plants, limiting light, sucking catfish, live snails & the use of Water Conditioner are most effective for combating algae.
- A net should always be used, never touch your fish with your hands. Bowls & tanks should always be placed on flat towels or foam, & never move a tank when it is full.

*The above information is only meant as a guide, and you should not hesitate to contact our helpful staff if you have any problems or concerns. Enjoy and look after your new fish.*