

Goldfish Keeping

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Many aquarists remember their first attempts at the hobby as a child, eagerly overfeeding a bright orange [goldfish](#) in a bare small bowl with colored marbles on the bottom. When the fish floated belly up - usually in weeks or months - the moral our parents taught us was more about the cycle of life than the nitrogen cycle.

It's a myth that you can successfully keep goldfish in a bowl. As adult hobbyists returning to this challenging species, it's easy to spot our mistakes: goldfish produce many times more ammonia than other fish of equal proportion, and therefore require a filtered aquarium which can deal with their waste effectively.

Given the proper care, environment, and conditions, goldfish can live for over a decade. No matter what variety, the Fancy Goldfish is sure to add color and beauty to any aquarium or water garden. If you're up for a unique challenge unlike tropical or marine fish keeping, the rewards of these ornamental beauties will be golden.



Tips for keeping healthy goldfish:

Space: Goldfish demand large volumes of water: 20 gallons for one fish and 10 gallons per each additional goldfish.

Water Quality: The more filtration, the better. For best results, use all three [filtration](#) methods: [mechanical](#), [biological](#), and [chemical](#). Regular water [testing](#) and frequent partial [water changes](#) are also essential for managing the ammonia levels goldfish produce.

Aeration: Goldfish require a maximum amount of dissolved oxygen, so use an aerating [power filter](#) or Bubble Disk connected to an [air pump](#).

Temperature: Because goldfish can withstand a wide variety of temperatures, they will adapt to most room temperatures. However, it is recommended to use a [heater](#) for stability, as wildly fluctuating temperatures can lead to a goldfish's demise.

FANCY GOLDFISH

The term "[Fancy Goldfish](#)" refers to members of the Goldfish family specifically bred to enhance certain colors or body characteristics, such as the tail or head shape. Goldfish are members of the carp family (*Cyprinidae*) which includes more native members of freshwater fish in the northern hemisphere than any other group.

Varieties of Fancy Goldfish include the Fantail or [Ryukin](#), Veiltail, Globe-eye, Celestial, Bubble-eye or Toadhead, [Pearlscale](#), Pompom, Lionhead or Ranchu, [Black Moor](#), and [Oranda](#). Each variety may share commonalities with other varieties but generally has at least one characteristic that sets it apart.