

goldfish and koi care sheet



These were the first fish species successfully bred in captivity on a large scale. Goldfish and koi can grow quite large and their beauty is impressive. Despite popular belief, goldfish do not “grow to the size of their tank.”

facts

average adult size:	5 inches to 3 feet long, depending on species
average life span:	up to 60+ years with proper care
diet:	omnivore
minimum aquarium size:	20+ gallons, depending on species
water temperature:	koi 36 to 90°F goldfish 65 to 75°F



Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, refer to the Sources section or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

Developed with and approved by a qualified veterinarian.

diet

A well-balanced goldfish or koi diet consists of:

- Flakes, pellets, frozen or freeze-dried foods.
- Goldfish and koi need more carbohydrates than other freshwater fish; feed them foods specifically formulated for goldfish and koi.

feeding

Things to remember when feeding your goldfish or koi:

- Feed small amounts 1 to 2 times a day, only as much as they can consume in 1 to 2 minutes.
- Thaw frozen food before feeding.

housing

- Keep in an appropriately sized aquarium or pond; goldfish or koi are not recommended for tropical aquariums.
- Stable water quality and parameters are critical to the health of aquatic life. If you are unsure of your water quality, Petco provides free water testing.

characteristics

- Create more waste than other fish of comparable size, and require better filtration.
- Color patterns on multi-colored goldfish or koi may change throughout their lifetime. Will often lose black markings as they grow.

habitat maintenance

Daily: Check filter, water temperature and other equipment.

Weekly: Check water quality at least once a week.

Monthly: Change 10 to 25% of the total volume of water every 2 to 4 weeks or as needed.

Introduce new inhabitants to the aquarium gradually.

compatibility

- Compatible with cold water community fish that can tolerate lower temperatures. Can be kept singly or in schools if tank or pond is large enough.
- Check Petco's Freshwater Compatibility Care Sheet for species specific information.

signs of a healthy fish

- Clear eyes
- Healthy appetite
- Active swimming
- Regular breathing

Avoid overcrowded conditions, which are a major cause of stress and disease. Maintain good water quality with regular water changes and adequate filtration.

red flags

- Loss of color or appetite
- Spots or fungus on body or mouth
- Erratic swimming
- Labored respiration
- Cloudy eyes
- Weight loss
- Bloating
- Pop eye
- Frayed fins
- External parasites

If you notice any of these signs, test water quality and improve as necessary.

common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Fin rot	Frayed or disintegrating fins; the base of the fins usually reddens.	Improve water quality; consult your aquatic veterinarian for treatment.
Fungus	White cottony growth and/or discoloration of the eyes.	Quarantine fish; use a commercial antifungal remedy as directed.
Bacterial infections	Cloudy eyes, open sores, and/or reddening of the skin.	Improve water quality; use a commercial antibacterial remedy as directed.
Ich	White spots appear on fins and body; fish rubs against hard objects or swims awkwardly. Rapid respiration.	Quarantine fish immediately; use a commercial ich remedy as directed.

shopping list for needed supplies

- Appropriately sized aquarium
- Appropriate food, dry and frozen
- Décor
- Water conditioner
- Filter
- Water test kit
- Full spectrum lighting
- Net
- Thermometer
- Freshwater substrate
- Airline tubing
- Airstone
- Air pump
- Book about goldfish or koi

sources

Ask a store partner about Petco's selection of books on goldfish and koi and the variety of private brand products available for the care and happiness of your new pet. All private brand products carry a 100% money-back guarantee.

Because all aquatic life are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as *Atypical Mycobacterium* and *Salmonella*, always wash your hands before and after handling your aquatic life or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of disease.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5, senior citizens and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing or caring for aquatic life and should consider not having aquatic life as a pet.

Go to cdc.gov/healthypets and petco.com/caresheet for more information about aquatic life and disease.

This care sheet can cover the needs of other species. Go to petco.com for more information.

