



# TROPICAL FISH

## STEPS TO SETTING UP YOUR AQUARIUM

Wash everything thoroughly with fresh water including gravel. Do not use soap, cleaners or anything which may have had chemicals in it. Fill the aquarium two thirds with tap water. Set up filtration and heating system. Decorate and fill the aquarium. All water must be treated regardless of its source. Treat the water with Water Conditioner which removes chlorine and ammonia.

New water lacks beneficial bacteria which are essential to break down your fishes waste. Without these bacteria, your fishes waste accumulates and can poison your fish. This is called 'new tank syndrome'. To avoid this, Purer Water should be added to all new water. Purer Water is a liquefied bacterium which instantly establishes the helpful bacteria in your tank. One of the most important things to remember is that it takes about a month to establish sufficient good water and purifying bacteria to have a good stock of fish in your aquarium. Add no fish for the first 5-7 days, then add only a few more on a weekly basis until fully stocked. Maintaining pH is the most important factor in keeping fish successfully. PH is a measure of the alkalinity and acidity in water. Most tropical fish require a neutral pH to survive so a pH test kit is essential to achieve the correct level. Your fishes waste and food will cause the pH to become acidic, hence the importance of water changes as acidic water will kill most tropical fish.

Neutralising blocks can be used to help stop the pH from becoming acidic, but always check with a test kit.

## HEATING & LIGHTING

The ideal water temperature for your tropical fish is 26C. Lights enhance the colour of your fish and are necessary for plant growth. Aquarium lights should be fitted with a Grolux tube. These tubes provide a pink coloured light which enhances plant growth and minimizes algae. Lights should be on for 8 hours a day.

## GRAVEL & ROCK

Gravel and Rock should be obtained from Pet City, not from the environment as the composition of these is unknown, so beware you could run the risk of killing your fish.

## WATER

25% to 50% of the aquarium water should be changed monthly using a gravel cleaner. The gravel cleaner siphons water from the tank whilst removing the dirt from the gravel, enabling you to clean the tank without dismantling it. If the tank has been left to long without regular maintenance and has become choked with dirt and fish waste, as a last resort the whole tank may

require emptying. When your aquarium needs a total clean, be sure to use Purer Water to replace beneficial bacteria lost in the cleaning process.

## FEEDING

Tropical Fish should be fed once a day but only the amount they can eat in about 2 minutes. Uneaten food will pollute the water. Almost without exception cloudy water is due to overfeeding. You should vary your fish's diet. Like people, fish do not enjoy eating the same thing every day. For example, you could use flakes one day and frozen bloodworms the other.

Frozen food helps bring out the colour in your fish. Different species of fish require a sinking food as they feed from the bottom. Overfeeding fish is the greatest hazard you will have to face with your new aquarium. Fish, including scavengers will reject polluted & decaying food. Remove any uneaten food after a few minutes if you have misjudged the amount. Remember cloudy water is mainly caused by overfeeding. If you are going on a holiday, use a vacation block. Do not overfeed before you go or leave feeding to an inexperienced friend.

## ALGAE

Algae growing on rocks, gravel and plants, is caused by too much light. Reducing the amount of light the tank receives, increasing the number of plants or using an aquarium 'algae-killing' product relieves this problem. Algae eating fish are an excellent way of controlling algae.

## Things you might need:

- Tank, Stand, Lid & Gravel
- Filter
- Heater & Thermometer
- PH Test Kit/Neutraliser Blocks
- Light Unit & Grolux Tube
- Foam Base
- Water Conditioner recommended by Pet City
- Beneficial Bacteria recommended by Pet City
- Gravel Cleaner
- Rocks/Plants/Decorations/Backgounds
- Food
- Net
- Air Pump, Hose and Stone

*This leaflet is just a basic guide. To find out more about your pet, ask Pet City about suitable books. We also offer a free water testing service to help target possible water problems.*

