

# HINTS ON THE CARE AND FEEDING OF AQUARIUM FISH



SKAGIT SEED CO.,  
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# GOLDFISH

## HISTORY:

The natural habitat of the Goldfish is China. They were not introduced in Europe until towards the end of the seventeenth century, the Japanese having taken up the breeding on an extensive scale in the early part of the eighteenth century. In comparatively recent times the industry has taken firm hold in this country with the result that the number of Goldfish lovers has greatly increased of late. The common Goldfish is sold by dealers in almost every city, but there are a great many very beautiful and attractive varieties ranging in price from a few dollars to several hundred dollars a pair.

## ADVICE TO BEGINNERS:

Wash the aquarium in a solution of salt and water, taking care to see that it is thoroughly clean. A layer of coarse washed gravel about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch deep is sufficient in most cases for a small receptacle. Fill from the cold water tap, adding about one third each day until within two or three inches of the top, otherwise there will be a risk of cracking the aquarium if an attempt is made to put in all the water at one time.

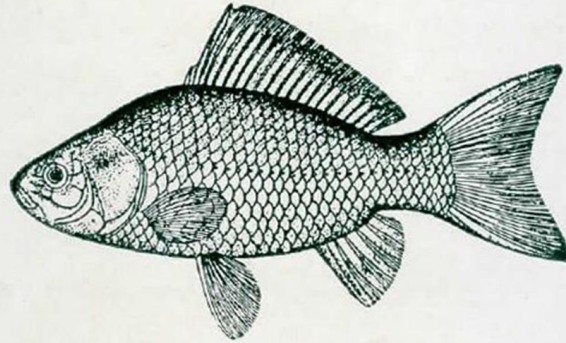
## THE NEXT STEP:

Do not fail to obtain several fresh water plants. There are many varieties including Hair Grass, Ludwigia, Cabomba, Anacharis, etc. These should be arranged along the side of the tank.

They keep the water pure in addition to affording a reasonable amount of shade to the fish. They should be rooted in the pebbles and will grow rapidly under ordinary conditions. The inside of the glass can be kept clean and the aquarium free from waste by adding one or two snails and a couple of tadpoles or so. It is well to allow at least half a gallon of water for every fish of medium size (two to three inches in length) although four fish are frequently kept in a one gallon globe. Nevertheless it is always desirable to avoid overcrowding even when there is a liberal supply of plant life. The use of a dip net is the only safe method of removing fish from one receptacle to another.

Be sure to see that the water in your aquarium has remained in room for a day or so as a change in tem-

perature from that found in store might result in the death of your fish. Should the water become cloudy, siphon out about 50% with the aid of a piece of rubber tubing, taking care to see that the fresh water is of the same temperature as that removed. Never heat the water artificially.



**Common Goldfish**

### **DISEASES:**

Should the presence of white or red spots be noted on the head above the eyes or should there be a lowering of the dorsal fin, the indications are that steps should immediately be taken to combat these conditions. In most cases the disorder is due to overfeeding. Sometimes a change from one aquarium to another will correct the trouble. Usually, however, it is advisable to remove the sick fish and place them in half a gallon of water to which a teaspoonful of coarse salt (preferably sea salt) has been added, allowing them to remain in this solution for five or six hours when they can be returned to their original home. The treatment may be repeated two or three times after an elapse of forty-eight hours in each instance.

### **FEEDING**

**SPRATT'S NATURAL AQUARIUM FISH FOOD** is the result of a number of years careful experimenting in our laboratory on several kinds of fresh water fish in balanced and other aquariums. It contains the precise combination of vegetable and animal matter most suitable for the maintenance in good health of aquarium fish in which are included tadpoles and shell fish.

**A WORD OF WARNING:** Most beginners overfeed with disastrous results, especially where a sufficient number of scavengers (tadpoles, snails, etc.) are not kept.



# TROPICAL FISH



This fascinating hobby presents many attractive features and we cannot suggest any more delightful way of adding to the pleasures of a home than through the installation of a balanced aquarium where tiny representatives of the Finny tribe of varying sizes with their iridescent hues are constantly darting in and out amongst the luxuriant plant life in a manner that commands one's interest at all times.



**Community Tropical Fish Tank**

## **INSTALLATION:**

Your aquarium should be of rectangular type without legs as it is easier to keep clean and the contents can be seen to better advantage. A glass cover over the top resting on the four corners and  $\frac{1}{8}$ " above the sides will help to eliminate dust and prevent the fish from jumping out.

Cover the bottom of tank with two inches of sand, care being taken to wash the former thoroughly. First fill the tank with a saturated solution of rock salt and allow it to remain over night and rinse several times with fresh water after emptying. The sand should

also be washed thoroughly for the purpose of leaching out all dirt and foreign matter.

A one gallon tank is sufficient for either one goldfish or a pair of tropical fishes.

Fill with fresh cool water from the tap and then introduce plants recommended by your aquarist, such as Hair Grass, Vallisneria or Sagittaria, etc. being careful to spread the roots into the sand. The latter may then be covered with an additional layer of coarse gravel  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick. All plants should be thoroughly washed in the initial instance so as to remove the eggs of such natural enemies as the Dragon Fly, etc. The water should be allowed to stand at least a day before fish are added.

### **POSITION:**

Place near a window where a moderate amount of the morning sun can stream through.

### **TEMPERATURE:**

It is well to bear in mind that an average of from  $74^{\circ}$  to about  $80^{\circ}$  is satisfactory for the summer months, but during the winter season from  $60^{\circ}$  to  $70^{\circ}$  will do provided the Tropicals are not spawning when the temperature should not be less than about  $80^{\circ}$ . If there is any likelihood of a severe drop at night or at other times during cold weather, be sure to cover the aquarium with a blanket.

### **ATTENTION:**

If there is plenty of plant life it will not be necessary to change the water except on occasions when it has become foul through neglect to remove dead fish or snails. This can best be done by siphoning three-quarters of the water out with a rubber tube and replacing with fresh water of the same temperature. Remember that snails are useful scavengers and also keep the glass sides clear.

### **FEEDING:**

Live food such as Daphnia, Angle Worms from the garden chopped into small pieces, Ants' Eggs "Zeke", Mosquito Larvae, etc. are recommended for Tropicals. However, in addition to these Spratt's Tropical Fish Food is an excellent substitute as it contains in concentrated dry form a balanced ration which has been

thoroughly tested out and found to be perfectly satisfactory.

All fish need variety and although wafer foods can be given sparingly to goldfish, they are not suited to the requirements of Tropical Fish

**Spratt's Natural Aquarium Fish Food** of all known products is less harmful when fed in unnecessarily large quantities. Furthermore it will not foul the water.

**Directions:** A small amount should be sprinkled on the surface each day and under no circumstances should the daily meal be given unless every vestige of the last meal has disappeared. These remarks of course refer especially to balanced aquariums



**Spratt's Natural Aquarium Fish Food.**—In punch-top tins as illustrated.

$\frac{3}{4}$ oz.....	10c
4 oz.....	25c
1 lb.....	75c

**Spratt's Genuine Wafer Fish Food.**

Small size.....	10c
Large size.....	15c



**Spratt's Zeke (Dried Flies)** a valuable food for aquarium fish, trout, turtles, insectivorous birds, etc., in  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce packages, price.....10c

**Spratt's Ants' Eggs.** A treat for goldfish. In  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. packages.....10c



**Spratt's Tropical Fish Food**

For baby fish (Fine). Price.....	10c
For adult fish (Coarse). Price.....	10c
1 lb size.....	75c
Spratt's water purifier.....	10c



**An Outdoor Aquarium**

**Spratt's Aquarium Fish Food.**—1 lb. size is packed especially for fish ponds. It is particularly recommended for this purpose as it stays on the surface of the water for a considerable length of time, thereby eliminating waste, etc. Price.....75c

**Spratt's Aquarium Cement**.....1 lb. can 40c

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Goldfish and The Aquarium**.....25c

**Aquaria**, by Chas. N. Page.....30c

**A B C of the Fish Fancier**.....25c

**Tropical Fish Handbook**.....25c

**Primer of Fish Breeding**.....25c

*For your protection see that the name **SPRATT'S** is on every package.*

*All prices F.O.B. Newark, N. J., or San Francisco, Cal.*

# SPRATT'S MANUFACTURE

## FOODS FOR ALL PETS

**F**OR more than seventy years Spratt's foods for Dogs, Puppies, Foxes, Cats, Pheasants, Quail, Game Birds, Fish, Cage Birds and Pet Stock of every description have been the standard for quality and satisfaction in all parts of the globe.

### List of Spratt's Publications

- "Hints on the Care and Feeding of Dogs"  
    "Hints on Feeding Cats"  
    "Hints on Canary Feeding"  
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"Vigorous Chicks and How to Rear Them"  
    "Pheasant and Quail Bulletin"  
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- "Canaries, their Varieties and Management,"  
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    "Parrots and Cage-birds,"  
    price 25c postpaid  
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and rearing of Quail, Partridges, Wild  
Ducks, Turkeys, etc., price 35c postpaid.
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