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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Aquarium Ownership
- Hardy Fish
- Disease Management

Thinking About Getting an Aquarium?

So you are thinking about buying an aquarium. While a freshwater aquarium isn't too difficult to set up or maintain, it does require some research, maintenance, and commitment. Many beginners want to bring their new tank home, set it up and add fish the same day, unfortunately this can create problems. First off, decide which size fish tank you want and the types of fish you will keep. Plastic or glass tanks are ideal habitats and are easy to care for. Next, you should research what kind of fish you want to own and find out the following things:

- What is the ideal condition for the fish?
- What part of the world is it from and what water conditions does it need?
- What is the water chemistry tolerance range? pH? Hard or soft water?
- Are there diet requirements? What is its basic diet?
- How large will they grow to, how much space will they require as they mature?
- Community or Territorial? Which fish are best kept together? Are they schooling fish?

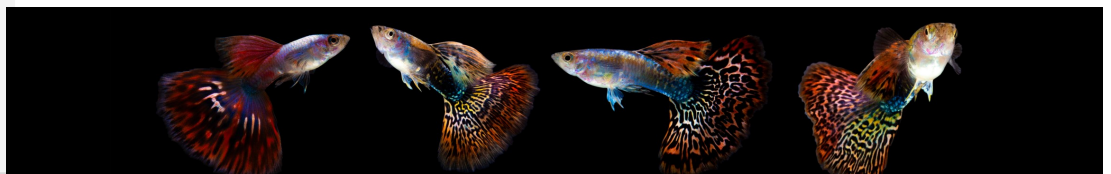
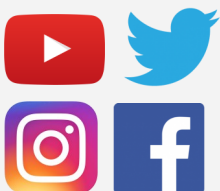
When starting out it is best to add one or two fish (depending on the size of the fish tank) and wait 2 weeks as the aquarium becomes established and beneficial bacteria begin growing, unless you add products that can speed up this process. Typically, it takes 4 to 6 weeks for a tank to cycle through and become established. So it is always best to start slowly. Generally, the number of fish you can keep in your tank depends on the type of fish and amount of bio-load in your tank. A good recommendation is an inch of fish per gallon of tank,



Family Enjoyment



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Neon Tetra

The Neon Tetra is another popular and easy to care for beginner fish that is an excellent addition to nearly any community tank. These active fish do well when kept in a school of four or more.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Mature Size: 1.5 - 2 inches

Temperature: 73°F - 81°F

pH: 6.8 - 6.9

Life span: 5 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with all other fish.

Aquarium Size: 2 gallons or larger

Breeding: Egg Layers

Compatible Tank Mates: Bettas, Guppies, Mollies, Swordtails, Platies, Tetras, Zebra Danios, White Clouds and Corydoras Catfish

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen food such as brine shrimp and bloodworms

Tank Region: Middle to top level

Gender: Males have slimmer bodies while females are fuller bodied

Origin: South America, Brazil



How to Take Care of Sick Fish - Disease Management

Proper tank maintenance will enable your fish to remain healthy and thriving.. However, overcrowding and poor water quality can unfavorably affect the health of your fish. Other factors that can adversely affect your tank inhabitants are improper diets, incompatible fish that do not get along, fluctuating tank temperature and introduction of sick fish.

Potentially harmful parasites and bacteria are almost always present in your aquarium. When a fish is unhealthy or stressed, its immune system is suppressed and it becomes susceptible to these parasites and bacteria. Some of the symptoms listed below can be indicative of a sick fish.

Symptoms of Sick or Unhealthy Fish

1. Cloudy eyes
2. Open skin sores with reddened edges
3. Sunken body or stomach
4. Rapid and/or labored breathing
5. Refusal of food
6. Paleness or discoloration of skin
7. Fins clamped against body
8. Ragged and/or frayed fins
9. Erratic or disoriented swimming
10. White spots on skin or fins
11. Scratching against rocks and/or gravel
12. Red streaks in fins with abnormal lightening of fins edges

Go to the pet store where the fish was purchased and they will recommend the proper medication.

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