



**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Pet Ownership
- Tank Maintenance
- Hardy Fish
- Adding New Fish

## So You Are Thinking About Getting a Pet

Is your family thinking of bringing home a pet? Tropical fish make an excellent first family pet. Having an aquarium is an ideal way to teach your children responsibility of owning a pet and tropical fish ownership is easier and less expensive to feed and care for than other pets.

Owning a fish tank provides proven health benefits and much more. Fish can make entertaining companions and your children will enjoy seeing how their fish responds to them when they come by the tank. Recent research has shown that taking care of a pet fish can have positive effects on kids, teaching them responsibility of caring for a pet, plus watching fish swim gracefully around the aquarium can aid in calming children who suffer from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD).

Unlike other pets that require a lot of attention and care, fish are super easy to care for and are low maintenance pets, ideal for kids. Fish are allergen free so no worries or concerns when it comes to children allergic to pets and pet hairs. Tropical fish do not have hair or dander nor do they come in direct contact with their care givers, therefore any possibility of fish allergies are removed.

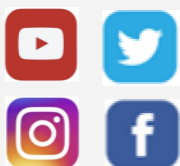
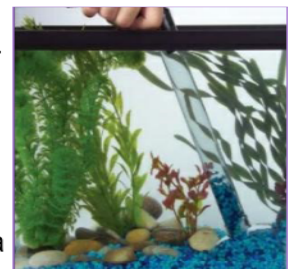
Children who are raised with pets at home show a much higher empathy level than kids who are raised without pets. Fish ownership teaches children responsibility too and can be given age-appropriate care tasks. They can also help when it comes time to handle maintenance chores or feeding time (always be sure to provide adult supervision).



An Aquarium Provides Family Enjoyment

## How Often Should You Clean Your Aquarium

Ideally, you should change 20% - 25% of the aquarium's water every 3 to 4 weeks, depending on the number of fish and amount of daily feedings, by performing a partial water change using a gravel vacuum siphon. A gravel vacuum will enable you to remove fish waste and other detritus that have accumulated in the gravel. Be sure to use a tap water conditioner when refilling the tank to remove chlorine, chloramines and ammonia from your tap water that can be harmful to your fish. It is recommended to fill an unused bucket with freshwater the night before performing a water change to allow the water to get to room temperature.



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## GREEN SWORDTAIL

The Swordtail is a hardy livebearer and ideal for beginners. The males are easily identified due to the shape of the tail (caudal fin), resembling a sword. They are peaceful, hardy and colorful.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: 2 inches

Temperature: 70°F - 79°F

pH: 7.0 - 8.0

Lifespan: 2 - 3 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible, recommend one male for every two females

Aquarium Size: 3 gallons or larger

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

Diet/Foods: Flake food, algae flake food, frozen and freeze-dried foods such as brine shrimp

Tank Region: All over the tank

Gender: The males will have the 'sword' and modified anal fin. Females have gravid patch behind stomach area

Breeding: Live bearers, if you have a male and a female, there is a good chance they will have offspring

Origin: Central America



## How Soon Can You Add Fish to a New Aquarium?

Allow the aquarium's water to stabilize to room temperature before adding fish, usually one to two days will be sufficient to enable the aquarium to achieve room temperature. Also have your aquarium store test your water to be sure the water is safe to add fish. In fact, most aquarium dealers will test your water as a service to ensure a balanced environment before adding fish. It is our strongest recommendation that you follow their advice; their expertise will provide you with invaluable information and assistance along the way.



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