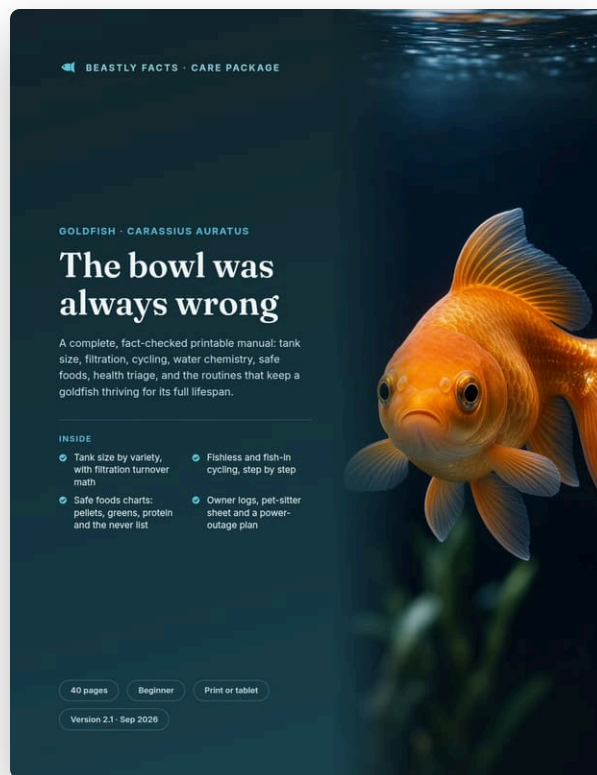


FREE SAMPLE

Goldfish Care Package

The first 5 pages of the 40-page printable manual, free to keep.



In this sample: What's inside, How to Use This Package, Quick Profile, Cost, Commitment & Fun Facts. The contents page shows every one of the 40 pages, so you can see exactly what the full package covers before you buy it.

Not in this sample: the 35 pages that follow, which are the full care guide, the health section, the quick reference cards, and the owner tools, checklists and logs.

The full package is \$8.99 at beastlyfacts.com/care-packages/goldfish/. One purchase, and every corrected edition is a free re-download from your library. The free goldfish care guide it was built from is at beastlyfacts.com/guides/goldfish/, and stays free.

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What's inside

Every page is written to be used, not just read once.

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START HERE

How to use this package

Three ways to get value from it, depending on where you are right now.

If you haven't set up yet

Read pages 4 through 18 in order before buying anything. The tank and the filter are the two decisions that determine how the next decade goes, and both are far easier to get right the first time than to correct later with a fish already in the water. Budget for the tank before the fish, and expect to spend four to six weeks cycling it before a goldfish goes in. Then use the Budget and Shopping List on page 29 to buy once.

If your goldfish is already set up

Jump to the Setup Checklist and Targets on page 27 to audit what you have, and the Health Red Flags section starting on page 22 if anything seems off. Test the water first, before you change anything else. Most goldfish problems that look like disease are a water reading, and you cannot rule that out by looking at the tank.

If you already have a fish in an uncycled tank

This is the most common situation a goldfish owner is actually in, and it is fixable. Go straight to the fish-in cycle on page 9. Do not tear the tank down, do not replace the filter, and do not start dosing treatments. Daily testing and water changes carry you through it.

Print these first

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Page 27: Setup Checklist & Targets | ☐ Page 34: Pet-Sitter Sheet |
| ☐ Page 28: Emergency & Quick Targets Card | ☐ Page 35: Owner Log |
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WHY THIS PACKAGE EXISTS

No pet is sold with worse instructions than a goldfish. The bowl on the counter, the "grows to fit its tank" line, and the three-second memory are all still repeated in stores, and every one of them is wrong. This package replaces them with numbers you can test against. Cross-checked against veterinary and aquarium-science sources (listed on page 39), not recycled forum advice. Every temperature and dimension is given in both imperial and metric.

NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR

An aquatic veterinarian. This is a husbandry reference for day-to-day care. Anything urgent or health-related is always a professional call, not a page in this book. Aquatic vets are rarer than small-animal vets, so find one before you need one and write the number on page 28.

SECTION 01

Quick profile

Everything at a glance before you read the detail.

Scientific name	<i>Carassius auratus</i>
Adult size	Fancy varieties 6 to 8 in (15 to 20 cm); common and comet 10 to 14+ in (25 to 36+ cm). Pond fish have exceeded 18 in (46 cm)
Captive lifespan	10 to 15 years in a well-kept tank; 20 to 30+ years in a spacious pond. The record holder reached 43 years
Origin	Domesticated in China over a thousand years ago from a wild carp relative
Diet type	Omnivore. Sinking goldfish pellets as the staple, vegetables and protein foods alongside
Tank minimum (adult)	20 gal (76 L) for one fancy, plus 10 gal (38 L) per extra fish; 55 gal (208 L) for one common or comet
Water temperature	65 to 75°F (18 to 24°C). A coldwater fish; no heater needed at normal room temperature
Water chemistry	Ammonia 0, nitrite 0, nitrate under 20 ppm, pH 7.0 to 7.5. Full table on page 10
Filtration minimum	10 times the tank volume per hour
Sexual maturity	Roughly 9 to 12 months, which is also when sexing first becomes possible
Handling difficulty	Not a hands-on pet. Container transfers only, never bare hands (page 13)
Social needs	Social. Does well in same-type groups if volume and filtration support the bioload
Conservation status	Domesticated, not evaluated. The wild ancestor is Least Concern

TWO CLAIMS TO UNLEARN FIRST

A goldfish does not grow to fit its container, it becomes stunted in a small one, which shortens its life. And it does not have a three-second memory: goldfish form associative memories lasting months and can be trained. Both myths exist to make an inadequate setup sound acceptable. The full argument is on page 6.

SECTION 01

Cost & commitment

What the fish costs, and what the fish actually asks of you.

Initial setup

\$208 to \$500 for equipment, plus \$5 to \$30 for the fish itself. Full itemized list on page 29.

Monthly ongoing

\$13 to \$32 for food, water conditioner, filter media and electricity, averaged.

BUDGET FOR THE WORST CASE TOO

The goldfish is the cheapest animal in the store and one of the more expensive fish to house correctly. The real risk to your budget is not the monthly cost, it is replacing an undersized tank and filter six months in, once the water will not stay clean. Aquatic vets are uncommon and consultations are priced as a specialist service, so set aside a few hundred dollars, and buy the correct tank once rather than twice.

Fun facts worth knowing

- Goldfish form associative memories that last months. They can be trained to navigate mazes, push levers for food, and learn feeding routines, which makes the three-second memory line not just wrong but backwards.
- Goldfish have no true stomach. Food passes more or less straight through the intestine, which is exactly why small frequent portions work and one large meal does not.
- Goldfish and koi are different species in different genera and cannot interbreed, despite both being carp relatives selectively bred for color over centuries.
- A single goldfish produces a waste load comparable to several tropical fish of the same size combined, which is the whole reason the filtration numbers on page 7 look excessive for the animal.