

# Fantail Goldfish

*Carassius auratus*



## CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

This was the first fish species successfully bred in captivity on a large scale. Like all goldfish, fantails can grow quite large. But despite popular belief, goldfish do not “grow to the size of their tank.” Their beauty is quite impressive.



### Is a fantail goldfish the right choice for your aquarium?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check “Yes” or “No” after reading the following statements:

- I have room for an appropriate size aquarium.
- The goldfish would be compatible with my other aquarium inhabitants.
- I can commit to providing proper care for this goldfish.
- A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this fish.

If you answered “Yes” to these statements, a fantail goldfish may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for a fantail goldfish and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible aquarium care.

**Average Size** 5+ inches

**Life Span** Up to 10+ years with proper care

**Diet** Goldfish flake; dried, pelleted, or frozen foods

Goldfish need more carbohydrates than other freshwater fish; feed them foods specifically formulated for goldfish

**Feeding** Feed small amounts once a day, only as much as they can consume in three minutes; at the end of three minutes, there should be no food left on the surface of the water or on the gravel

**Housing** Goldfish should be kept in an appropriate size aquarium, typically needing more than two gallons per fish inch to maintain good water quality

Water temperature should range from 64° F. to 75° F.

Goldfish are not recommended for tropical aquariums

**Stable water quality, water temperature, and pH levels are critical to the health of fish. If you are unsure of your water quality or pH levels, PETCO provides free water testing.**

### Recommended Supplies

- |   |   |                                   |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate size aquarium  | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer    | <input type="checkbox"/> Air pump |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water conditioner and additive   | <input type="checkbox"/> Water test kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Airstone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate commercial goldfish food   | <input type="checkbox"/> Décor          | <input type="checkbox"/> Filter   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book about goldfish or aquariums   | <input type="checkbox"/> Substrate      | <input type="checkbox"/> Net      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PETCO Care Sheets: Water Quality; Nitrogen Cycle; Setting up a Freshwater Aquarium |   |                                   |

# Fantail Goldfish

*Carassius auratus*



## CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

**Characteristics** May be solid red, solid white, red and white, or calico; born a dull greenish-bronze, gradually changing to adult color in first year; color patterns on multi-colored goldfish may change throughout lifetime; will often lose black markings as they grow  
Create more waste than other fish of comparable size, and require better filtration  
Can get their oxygen from the water's surface

**Habitat Maintenance** Check filter and other equipment, daily  
Test water quality weekly  
Change 10–25% of the total volume of water every week, or as needed in filtered tanks; change 50% of the water 1–2 times a week in unfiltered tanks or bowls

**Compatibility** Compatible with other coldwater community fish that can tolerate lower temperatures  
Can be kept singularly or in schools if tank is large enough

**Signs of a Healthy Fish**

- Healthy appetite
- Active swimming
- Clear eyes
- Regular breathing

**Common Health Issues**

Health Issue (alpha)	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Fungus	White cotton-like patches appear on the fish's body or fins	A commercial chemical remedy can be effective; improve water quality
Ich	White spots appear on fins and body; fish rubs against hard objects or swims awkwardly	Quarantine fish immediately; use commercial Ich remedy for at least two weeks

**Signs of Illness**

- White spots on fins and body
- Labored breathing
- Spots or fungus on body or mouth
- Loss of appetite

**If you notice any of these signs, test water quality and improve as necessary.**

**Preventing Common Health Issues** Avoid overcrowded conditions, a major cause of stress and disease  
Maintain good water quality with regular water changes and adequate filtration

**Sources** *Aquarium Fish* by Dick Mills  
*The Proper Care of Goldfish* by James Geran  
*The Simple Guide to Freshwater Aquariums* by David E. Boruchowitz

**Note:** The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the above sources or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.