

AQUARIUM FISH DISEASES

HISTORY OF AQUARIUM

Although the first aquarium was reported to be used by Egyptian for ornamental purposes, there is much evidence that ornamental fish is of Far Eastern origin. Goldfish have been proven to be produced the first time between 970-1278 in China.

Production of ornamental fish in glass bowls spread to Europe in the 16th century, Aquariums were exhibited in public areas; the first aquarium in the USA association was established in the 19th century.

The first aquarium was produced according to today's standards by Heath Robinson (1872-1944). Then, the aquariums were heated with gas lamps.

The aquarium has developed rapidly with the relative control of heat with the use of electric dynamos in the 19th century.

Benefits of fish feeding

- Aquarium fish can be grown in every house regardless of the size of the house.
- There is no problem to prevent this fun, especially in this period when we live in apartments.
- There is no problem with fish such as walking outside, dirtying inside and noise.
- Caring is very easy. It will be enough to do a few minutes a day and very short time weekly.
- No skill required, everyone can deal with the aquarium. There is no danger of the tools and equipment produced according to the standards.
- Those who are interested in the aquarium will get rid of the stress and have better psychology.
- Those who work in this profession field (aquarists) can earn high income financially. It has been determined that 60% of income from pet market is provided from the aquarium sector in the United States.

System Selection

There are 4 different systems in the aquarium. First of all, one of the freshwater or saltwater systems should be selected after, cold or tropical aquarium systems selection can be considered.

Freshwater Aquarium

It is divided into cold and tropical fresh water aquarium.

a) Cold Freshwater aquarium:

- Historically, cold freshwater aquariums were made in ancient times.
- A single fish requires about 75 cm² of space in the aquarium.
- If you want more fish in your aquarium, large aquarium is needed.
- The fish variation is limited. But they are usually ornate fish.
- There is no need to heat the aquarium.
- To grow plants, it is necessary to select an appropriate light source such as fluorescent or tungsten bulb.
- Cold Freshwater fish are resistant. The type of fish that requires special care is few
- Aquarium setup is not costly.
- Fish lay eggs. Gender can be distinguished.
- Powerful filter is required for filtration.
- Fish are fed with artificial and live food.

b) Tropical Freshwater Aquarium:

- A single fish requires about 30 cm² of space in the aquarium so it is possible to grow a large number of fish in small aquariums.
- Approximately 24 C° heat is needed. Therefore, it is necessary to use thermostat controlled heater
- The cost is slightly higher than the cold freshwater aquarium.
- If the plant is grown, it is necessary to select an appropriate light source such as fluorescent or tungsten bulb
- There are a wide variety of fish species. Most of these fish are durable and don't want special care.
- Standard filters are adequate.
- Fish are fed with artificial and live food.
- Depending on the type of fish, they may be oviparous or viviparous.
- Gender discrimination is possible.

2. Saltwater Aquariums

Marine or salt water aquariums are a relatively new field. Two groups are separated as cold and tropical saltwater.

a) Cold Saltwater Aquarium:

- The ownership of tropical marine fish is quite expensive. So, for dealing with the marine fish species, fish collected from the local coastal areas can be bred in the aquarium in this system.
- For this purpose, a glass aquarium made in suitable size for the number of fish is required.
- Sea water or sea mix can be used.
- No heater required. If the plant is grown, it is necessary to select an appropriate light source such as fluorescent or tungsten bulb
- Cold saltwater fish species are not much, and species found from the coastal area can be bred.
- Filtration must be powerful.
- Fish are fed with artificial and live foods
- If the aquarium remains dirty, the fish get sick quickly.
- Cost value is very low (Transport between coast and aquarium)
- Production and sex discrimination is very difficult.

b) Tropical Saltwater Aquarium:

- In this system, it is possible to select fishes in very attractive and various colors.
- These fish are collected from the tropical seas around the world and offered for sale.
- For the purpose of supplying salt water to the system, the mixture called "sea mix" must be mixed into tap water. "sea mix" is sold in the pet shops.
- Large and glass aquariums are needed.
- Approximately 120 cm² area is required for a fish.
- A heater and thermostat are required for 24 C⁰.
- If the plant is grown, it is necessary to select an appropriate light source such as fluorescent or tungsten bulb
- Filtration is required.
- There are a wide variety of fish species. These species are relatively resistant to diseases.
- Fish production is very difficult and rarely done. Sex discrimination is also very difficult to do.
- Cost price is quite high.

3. Aquarium without Fish

- Instead of fish, marine aquariums can have invertebrates such as sea anemones, shrimps, starfish, mussels.
- These creatures usually take their food from plankton by filtering the water, so the water should not be filtered.

Purchasing and selection of healthy fish

- If it is decided to buy imported fish, it must pass through the quarantine for 3 weeks. A good dealer tells this to the customer.
- A healthy fish is balanced without excessive effort.
- A healthy fish should be able to stand calmly in the water.
- Fish with swelling, pits, bubbles, open wounds should not be selected.
- There should be no tears and splits on the fins.
- Unhealthy fish tend to stay at the bottom or on the surface and their fins appear clamped down to the body.
- The color of healthy fish is seen as bright and shiny as reflecting its race.

- The normal behavior of fish is not to evaluate the disease. For example some marine fishes fins appear clamped down to the body when they are swimming.
- The colors of night-hunting fishes can be pale, not bright. This condition should not be evaluated as disease.
- It is necessary to know the size of the fish when they are adults. Otherwise the fish will grow and the aquarium will become inadequate.
- The fish suffer from bent spin should not be purchased.
- Beginners are not recommended to buy expensive and rare fish species. It must be gained experience for a certain period of time.
- It is not right to buy fish from the tank that contains dead and sick fish or fish that have ich (small white spots).

Use of aquarium space

- Fish have different lifestyles. Some species feed from the surface, some from the middle water level, and some from the the bottom.
- It is possible to place fish at every water level and provide shelter.
- Thus, the aquarium can be used marginally.