



Fish leaflet



Guppy

Guppies are among the best-known aquarium fish. They are of interest to both novice aquarium keepers as well as those with more experience. Guppies combine well with a variety of other fish, making them suitable for the community aquarium. Male guppies can have a variety of colors and tail shapes.

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Fish leaflet

General

The guppy is one of the best-known aquarium fish. Originally, they come from South America. The males often have beautifully colored tails and fins. Females are predominantly gray-brown colored but the breeding forms often have beautifully colored tails as well. The length of a guppy is approximately between three and six inches, with the females being larger than the males. Guppies belong to the viviparous toothed carp. This means that the females do not lay eggs but incubate them internally. Guppies do not grow very old, averaging a maximum of 2 years

Variants

Guppies come in different breeding varieties. There are a variety of color forms of both fins and body. There are also differences in tail shapes, such as the flag tail, under sword, round tail and spear tail.

Nature

Guppies are peaceful and live in groups. By nature, guppies occur in both fresh and brackish water. They use all water layers, but swim most often in the upper layer. Guppies primarily eat insect larvae.

Housing

There is a lot involved in setting up, decorating and maintaining an aquarium. You can choose a tank with only guppies, but they are also suitable for keeping in community aquariums with other species. However, keep in mind that some other species (such as sumatranes) can damage the tails of your guppies. To keep guppies, you will need an aquarium at least sixty centimeters long. Take always more females than males because the males keep chasing the females to mate. One male for every two to five females works best. Make sure the water temperature is between 23 and 25 degrees. The pH (acidity) of the water should be between 7 and 8. Gups prefer water with a hardness between 9 and 20 DH. An air pump, a water filter and lighting are also part of the basic equipment of the aquarium. Put plants in the aquarium, these also serve as hiding places for the young fish and help maintain water quality.

Care and Handling

Daily you should take a look at the fish to see if they are healthy. Also check the water temperature and remove any food debris. Remove loose plant debris every week. Regularly test the water with test kits. Important are especially the acidity (pH), hardness and the amount of ammonium, nitrite and nitrate. With a well-functioning filter ammonium and nitrite are not measurable. Nitrate can be most easily removed from the water removed from the water by changing water. Therefore, refresh regularly, depending on the measured water quality. A guideline for guppies is to change about a third of the water every two weeks. Clean the mechanical part of the filter regularly by rinsing in the old aquarium water. If necessary, clean the panes with a magnetic sweeper, a scraper or filter wads. Use attributes intended for the aquarium, such as a bucket and scoop net, only for the aquarium and not for other household activities. Always wash your hands after with the aquarium. If you are using a siphon hose, make sure you do not water in. Some fish diseases are also contagious to humans.

Fish leaflet

Feeding

You can use all kinds of food for guppies, such as frozen food, dry food and live food. Do allow frozen food to thaw first. For newborn guppies, crumble the dry food. Guppies also like to eat algae and other green food. Feed once a day as much as the fish will eat in one to two minutes. Feed leftovers should be removed because they pollute the water.

Reproduction

In guppies, there is a clear distinction between males and females. Not only is the male is often more colorful and smaller than the females, the anal fin also looks different. In the male guppy this is transformed into a mating organ, the gonopodium. Because the guppy is viviparous, fertilization of the female must occur internally. Guppies are incredibly fertile, which is why they are sometimes called "million fish". The female gives birth to ten to seventy young at a time. Larger females often give birth to more young than smaller females. In addition, females can store sperm and distribute them among multiple fertilizations. Pregnancy lasts four to six weeks. Pregnant females can be recognized by a dark spot on their abdomen. The young guppies take care of themselves. They do need a hiding place in water plants, for example, otherwise they will be eaten. After about two to three months they can already reproduce themselves.

Disease and Disorders

To keep your fish healthy, it is very important to ensure good water quality and proper nutrition. Stress can be prevented by leaving the fish alone as much as possible and a fixed daily pattern. Do not put species together that bother each other. Signs of health problems are dull or damaged skin, pinched fins, an abnormal body shape or an abnormal way of swimming (for example, rocking or crooked). Guppies, like many other aquarium fish, can suffer from parasites. Examples of parasitic skin diseases are white spot and velvet disease. On the gills, unicellular organisms such as Trichodina and Ichthyobodo and gill flukes such as Dactylogyrus or Gyrodactylus may occur. The latter attach to the gills with hooks, damaging the tissue and causing infections. Parasites also occur in the intestines, including various worms and flagellates. Bacteria can cause various fish diseases. One example is columnaris disease. This leads to superficial infestation of the skin and gills, which quickly spreads into a serious disease. It is difficult to treat. Fish TB is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium marinum*. This affects the organs of the fish and causes granulomas, small yellowish globules between and inside the organs. In humans, this bacterium can cause swimmer's granuloma, a disease with skin lesions that requires a long course of antibiotics is required. Fish TB can also be transmitted through frozen food transmitted. Infections by bacteria are often secondary: they are then a result of reduced resistance (e.g. due to stress), damaged skin or impairment of the mucus layer of the skin due to poor water quality. An example of this is fin rot. In such cases, it is important not only to remedy the condition, but above all to identify the primary cause and correct it. Often fish can recover through prompt treatment. In the pet or aquarium store you can get general advice on diseases and possible treatment methods. You will also find some remedies to treat diseases. Make sure that Treat long enough to kill all pathogens.

Required Experience

No specific experience is required to responsibly keep this pet. Make sure be sure to inform yourself well in advance about setting up an aquarium.

Fish leaflet

Purchase and Costs

Guppies can be purchased at aquarium specialty stores. When buying fish, make sure they come from clean tanks with healthy animals. Choose the most active fish. Make sure that the fish have nice clean skin and are not skinny. Gradually allow the animals to get used to the new water conditions, even better to put new fish in a quarantine tank. place. A guppy is a cheap fish, per piece you will spend about a euro for females, for males a few euros. Some special breeding varieties are more expensive. The start-up costs of an aquarium depend on the size of the aquarium and the desired technique. Recurring costs are those for food, test kits, filter material and energy for heating and light. In addition you may incur costs if diseases develop in the aquarium.