Fish Rescue & Welfare

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Can Goldfish & Tropical Fish Be Kept In Together?

Even in warmer climates the simplest answer is no

- ***Its much easier to simply say no as there are actually many factors why this is a bad idea. To be specific, here are just eight of them Goldfish and tropical fish have different temperature requirements. Goldfish – coldwater fish – prefer cooler temperatures around 65°F (18°C), while tropical species like their water toasty warm (72 to 85°F or 22 to 29°C).***
- ***Yes, a goldfish can stand warmer temperatures temporarily (when they're kept in a pond during summer months). But they won't feel comfortable kept in warm water all the time. And if you try keeping tropical fish in cold water, they'll just become lethargic and refuse to eat. One of the many benefits of keeping goldfish is that they don't need a heater, most tropical tanks do.***
- ***Goldfish and tropical fish have different temperaments. Goldfish are peaceful, while many tropical fish can get very aggressive. Some fancy goldfish varieties also have long, flowing fins that other tropical species love nipping on. Since goldfish are rarely ever aggressive, it's not uncommon for several smaller fish to bully larger goldfish. And if***

you have territorial fish in the aquarium (angelfish, for example), it'll be a living nightmare for your goldfish. Your goldfish could become seriously hurt or even killed.

- ***Goldfish and tropical fish have different disease tolerances. Some diseases affect fish differently. Since tropical fish are a completely different species, there's a good possibility that your goldfish will get sick from a disease that won't necessarily impact your tropical fish. Goldfish also get diseases more readily under warmer temperatures than they would under cooler, more comfortable temperatures.***

- ***Goldfish and tropical fish have different diets. Without the right nutrients, your goldfish may not thrive. Many may even become malnourished, which can lead to all sorts of goldfish diseases. Goldfish require more fiber-rich foods in their diet to prevent constipation (very common in fancy varieties). Young and fancy goldfish also require protein-rich foods to develop and grow. To top that off, goldfish are primarily plant-based and so need plenty of veggies. Since goldfish don't have "true" stomachs, they often run into digestion problems. Tropical food is harder for goldfish to digest than food specially formulated for goldfish.***

- ***Goldfish are ravenous eaters. Goldfish won't think twice before gobbling up every morsel of food you drop into the tank – and greedily pushing aside slower fish that stand in their way. Unlike bettas, goldfish aren't picky at all. And because they feed so quickly and thoroughly, some tropical fish (especially the smaller ones) won't stand a chance during feeding time.***

- ***Goldfish are messy. Goldfish excrete lots of waste that can quickly pollute a smaller aquarium (which is why they're kept in large tanks). Most tropical fish don't need the extra space goldfish do and so are usually content in smaller aquariums. And because many tropical tanks have filtration systems that can't keep up with the high levels of waste your goldfish excrete, you'll soon find yourself with devastating and dangerous ammonia spikes that can cause serious problems – even killing your fish.***

- ***Goldfish are very large compared to many tropical fish species. Most fancy goldfish varieties grow up to 6 or 7 inches long (15 or 18 centimeters), while common and comet goldfish can grow to a foot long (30 centimeters) and even more. Though there are exceptions, tropical fish tend to stay small. By the time your goldfish reach adulthood, your tropical fish may turn into tasty snacks.***
- ***Goldfish love the company of other goldfish. While goldfish don't form very tight schools like neon tetras, they are still quite social and like to be around other goldfish. In fact, you may notice that your goldfish stick together and will often follow one another around the aquarium. Even so, certain goldfish varieties still shouldn't be mixed; goldfish do best when they're with other goldfish similar in size and shape.***