

## **WE LIVE WITH FISH**

10:17:00

10:17:03 Today we'll travel under the water and look at the wonderful life of aquarium fish. We'll also see how an aquarium is set up.

10:17:15 First you must wash the gravel. New gravel should be washed because it's usually dusty. You only wash it when starting up a new aquarium, not later when you clean up the tank.

10:17:33 This is a 500-litre tank, so you need quite a lot of gravel. Then it's filled up with water. It should be done slowly to ensure that the seams will not leak. Jamie does the checking,

10:17:51 Tap water is good enough. But you should add conditioner which removes chlorine and hazardous heavy metals. The conditioner also protects the skin of the fish.

10:18:12 – Now the decoration begins. – Decorating? – We need some plants, stones and stumps, of course.

10:18:28 The tank is usually decorated with living plants, stumps and stones. Stumps improve water quality and plants produce oxygen and help keep the water clean.

10:18:42 They also serve as hiding places for the fish.

10:18:51 –An aquarium needs lungs too.

10:18:58 An aquarium is a rather technical construction. You need a special filter system to purify and oxygenate the water.

10:19:12 The water circulates through the filter about three times in an hour. You also need a heater to keep the water temperature at the right level.

10:19:26 At this stage you should also add artificial good bacteria which help the tank to develop a safe biological cycle.

10:19:37 Lighting is needed for the plants to grow.

- 10:19:40 – Switch off the light for the night so we can sleep.
- 10:19:46 But where do you get the fish? In the pet shop, of course. Fish should be chosen with great care, because not all species go together. You should consider their natural living conditions and their size – big fish may eat up smaller fish. And their behaviour – a lively fish does not fit into a quiet company. You catch the fish with a net and take them home in a plastic bag, for instance.
- 10:20:15 – I don't want to be crammed in a small bag.  
– What about a refuse sack? – Stop arguing or nobody will want you!
- 10:20:30 Now this aquarium has got new dwellers. *Acanthicus adonis* and *Siamese algae eaters* are living here in perfect harmony. These funny animals are *puffers*.
- 10:20:44 *Columbian tetras* like to swim in swarms.
- 10:20:48 – She's very shy. She's a *Pitbull pleco*.
- 10:20:53 – I never have any peace!
- 10:21:01 – I'm the biggest and finest, I'm a *Royal pleco*.
- 10:21:06 – And I'm a *catfish*. Beat it, this is my show! I'm a lively catfish and I'm waiting for food.
- 10:21:15 Today there are spirulina tablets for groundlings and chironomid larvae for the rest. Bon appetit!
- 10:21:40 Good bacteria treat the waste of a fish tank. They break down fish faeces, uneaten food and plant parts, which otherwise would spoil the water. Still, the gravel must be vacuumed regularly. This is how uneaten food and fish faeces are removed from the gravel. This also removes some water and new water should be filled in. This ensures healthy water condition. Catfish and algae eaters also contribute to the tidiness of the tank.
- 10:22:25 –We have a good place to live. Bye for now!
- 10:22:39 The end