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### Aquariums For Dummies

by Maddy Hargrove

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Chuck M

##### My daughter loves this book

Reviewed in the United States on September 19, 2001

This is not a book for people who want to work at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. This is a book for someone who got a fish bowl, killed a couple of gold fish in it, and is now wondering "So what exactly do I need to do to keep my goldfish alive?"

This was exactly the issue my daughter faced with her first "pet" experience, goldfish. Having won a fish at a fair she quickly discovered that filling a bowl with tap water and sprinkling fish

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Gordon M. Wagner

##### Not quite a book, more like notes for a book

Reviewed in the United States on July 30, 2004

That someone decided to publish. Maybe all of the "Dummies" books are like this. I sat down and read it from cover to cover a couple of times. It wouldn't have taken all that much more work to make it into a finished book.

If you buy this book, buy a red marker, too, so you can mark up the book and submit it back to the publisher for corrections... : ' |

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#### From the United States

Stephanie N. Kadel

##### Fun to read, good for beginners.

Reviewed in the United States on May 20, 2004

I bought this book as a freshwater aquarist returning to the hobby after a 12-year hiatus. For beginners, it's a great book - the writing is funny, the information is useful, and it covers a good range of topics. Topics include: step-by-step instructions for setting up an aquarium, basic fish anatomy, water chemistry information, information on the nitrogen cycle (i.e., how a tank's ecosystem gets started), and a basic description of most fish diseases & parasites, along with frequently-used cures. It also includes a list of fish that "aren't" for beginners, which is helpful, as many stores that stock fish don't have knowledgeable staff on-hand when you go to buy your fish. The writing also makes light of some of the more frustrating problems aquarists encounter (i.e., fish jumping out of the tank, etc.), which is bound to make any beginner feel less incompetent when these things almost inevitably happen.

As with most Dummies books, you will need to add other books to your library, but this is a good one to start with.

5 people found this helpful

P. KEVIN OSULLIVAN

##### Alright, just listen to this- I'll tell you what.

Reviewed in the United States on March 11, 2004

OK. Let me start off by saying that this is the first fish book I ever read. Not at this time however- so I can look at it from a beginner's and an advanced hobbyist's point of veiw. This book is a great deal of fun to read- it is very easy to navigate and has a nice flavour to the writing- and so by now I must have read it a dozen times. In that reading, I did find numerous errors. The fine details, most of which are not exceedingly informative anyway, should be largely ignored as they are often riddled with errors. Over all, this book is a very palatable introduction- although it should be bought with a more reliable book for cross- checking.

3 people found this helpful



**Don't be misled by this book!**

Reviewed in the United States on October 20, 2003

Yes, this is a "Dummies" book, and yes I like the "Dummies" series, because they tend to take the mystery out of a complex subject and make it easier to understand.

The problem with this book, as you can tell from the true fishkeepers who have bought it and made reviews, is that much of the information is wrong. "The discus is an easy-to-keep brackish water fish". HAH! It's not brackish water, and it's not recommended for beginners. At least they got the picture right. The fish pictured is a discus.

This is only one of several glaring fishkeeping errors, not to mention grammatical errors.

The "Dummies" Editing staff should be ashamed, as they are misleading people who trust the "Dummies" name to help them with their new hobby. The information "sounds good" and a lot of people really like this book, because it's got some nice humor, easy-to-understand analogies, all the key elements of a good "Dummies" book.

The problem is, the unsuspecting beginner has no idea which of the information is accurate, and which isn't. If you're a beginner, buy the "Complete Idiot's Guide" by Mike Wickham. If you are an experienced fishkeeper and already know what you're doing and just love to collect "Dummies" books, by all means, get this one, pay the publisher to hire better editors, and get a red ink pen and test your knowledge.

I'd give this book 3 stars overall as a book goes. It's amusing, it has good information (if you can tell which information is good), and it's fun. The reason for its 1-star rating is because it's marketed for beginners and beginners can't tell which paragraph they happen to be reading is right, and which one is completely wrong.

If a second edition comes out, buy it. I have to assume that the authors know by now what mistakes they've made and would be all too happy to correct them if given a chance.

13 people found this helpful

Helpful

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John Corey

**Great Book!**

Reviewed in the United States on May 29, 2002

This is a great book! Lots of great information!

I found this book to be very helpful.

The author is also funny and adds spice to the book.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn how to set up an aquarium.

This book has allowed me to start and maintain several aquariums, without my fish dying!

The book is easy to read and understand. I like that about the book also.

The pictures are great. I am looking forward to more books from this author.

Helpful

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P. Burdette

**OK, I admit it -- I'm a dummy!**

Reviewed in the United States on March 11, 2002

Verified Purchase

I found this book to contain great advice for the novice and beginning aquarium keeper -- as I am. I love all the "dummy" books for their wit, ease of reading and sound information. My fish are glad I got the book!

Helpful

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Jeffrey A Schraeder

**Condescending, inaccurate and redundant,**

Reviewed in the United States on January 31, 2002

There is some good information buried in this book but it is too hard to get to and has so many inaccuracies that unless you already know something you will be mis-informed. Using the author's calculations in the book my 30" x 12" x 18" (29 gal) tank holds over 4,000 gallons of water and can support 30 plants!

The author talks down to the reader in the worst possible ways, with sentences such as "Actually, there are a lot of other good reasons to keep live plants, but looking cool in front of your friends and family is the most important one.", and by mindless repetition. I'm sorry I spent my money on this one.

10 people found this helpful

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Chuck M

**My daughter loves this book**

Reviewed in the United States on September 19, 2001

Verified Purchase

This is not a book for people who want to work at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. This is a book for someone who got a fish bowl, killed a couple of gold fish in it, and is now wondering "So what exactly do I need to do to keep my goldfish alive?"

This was exactly the issue my daughter faced with her first "pet" experience, goldfish. Having won a fish at a fair she quickly discovered that filling a bowl with tap water and sprinkling fish flakes in twice a day wasn't going to cut it. This book did an excellent job of laying out what she needed to do and more importantly why she needed to do it. Ever since we bought her this book her fish have survived now for several months (and showing no sign of dying any time soon.)

I can easily recommend this book to anyone who would like to keep a few fish around. It is also a good stepping stone toward more advanced books, helping you to understand the issues with fish care and where you need to seek out assistance.

Helpful

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Chris Reardon

If you are an absolute beginner in search of a book that explains the technical stuff in very simple terms and are not concerned with the depth of the information provided, this book is appropriate, except it lacks in the visuals department. If you are looking for depth, you will find none. I was trying to find a good intermediate-level reference...and I'm still looking.

One person found this helpful

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 Douglas D. Hodson

**A bit disappointed, redundant, 2.5 stars**

Reviewed in the United States on January 22, 2000

I own a LOT of dummies books! I love most of them but, unfortunately, it looks like the company is getting a little too focused on quickly cranking out funny books while allowing their overall content to suffer. This I believe is one of the most basic problems with this book. It is VERY redundant, contains many editing mistakes, is missing the most basic description of the nitrogen cycle and takes several hundreds of pages to get to the point. The book does contain vital reference information, but tends to scatter it in several different chapters, instead of neatly organizing it in one appendix. I have found, in several cases, MORE useful information from the book titled "Aquarium FISH" published by DK. This is a reference book not intended to teach you on how to setup an aquarium, and it does a better job of providing the essential information you need to start an aquarium. By the way... this book makes a big mistake in trying to cover both freshwater and saltwater aquariums. Because of this the book become more of a mess and more confusing... Given all the negatives I have typed, if you intend on starting a freshwater system, this book does contain most of the pieces, it just takes way to long to get to the point (like this review), and completely misses the vital nitrogen cycle!

52 people found this helpful

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 Jeffrey T. Saathoff

**Very solid book for the beginner.**

Reviewed in the United States on January 1, 2000

At 34 years of age, I decided to put together my first aquarium. While I could understand the basics, the concepts such as nitrogen cycles, what foods to feed, etc. were mysteries to me. Of course going into the pet store and asking the 18 year old clerk for help would be my last option (hey, I'm a man, asking for help, well, you know) So I turned to Aquariums for Dummies! Let me say that I was VERY pleased with the purchase. The book takes you through tank setup, explains the nitrogen, PH, ammonia tests in layman's turns and give practical advice. There is a little humor thrown in and even got me to laugh out loud a few times. The book also contains sections on various diseases, which type of fish to get, what type of tank etc. If you're new to keeping fish, I don't think you can go wrong with this book. It covers, freshwater, brackish, and marine. What keeps it from being 5 stars? I would have liked some more descriptios of recommended fish, but that's just being greedy.

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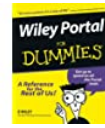
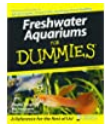


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