

# The McPet Shop

## SETTING UP A NEW AQUARIUM

This leaflet will help you decide which equipment you will need for a new aquarium.

### **1. THE AQUARIUM COST £ .**

When choosing your aquarium there are two main criteria, how much space you have available and how much you wish to spend. You must remember the following points when deciding which size to choose:

- a) An aquarium when full of water is very heavy. Make sure the supporting shelf; tabletop or floor joists are strong enough to hold the weight. 500 litres of water (a 4'x2'x2' tank) weighs half a tonne.
- b) The aquarium should be sited away from direct light and direct heat, i.e., away from windows and radiators.
- c) The larger the aquarium you choose the more expensive the accompanying equipment will be.
- d) You should choose the largest aquarium you can afford.

### **2. THE FILTER COST £ .**

An aquarium filter is designed to clean the water mechanically (physically taking the particles of dirt out of the water) and to clean the water biologically (providing growth media for bacteria which can eat the pollution the fish create).

There are many different types of aquarium filters and they are listed below with their pros and cons.

- a) Undergravel filter
  - Cheapest of all filters
  - Hidden almost completely out of sight
  - Available for all sizes of aquarium
  - High maintenance as the dirt is trapped in the gravel and has to be cleaned manually every four to six weeks.
  - Causes a disturbance in the aquarium when cleaning
  - Needs an air pump for operation and can be expensive

