



Before you buy, consider size of fish tanks, dogs

Our family is thinking of starting a tropical fish tank. What size would be a good starter size? Where in our home should we place an aquarium? How do we know which fish are compatible?

A good starter size aquarium is a 10 to 25 gallon tank. Money may dictate the size you will get. Before deciding on size, you will need to know where you are going to place it.

Never place it in direct sunlight or close to an open fire. This would cause the aquarium to get warm. Also, putting the aquarium in direct sunlight causes algae to grow faster in the tank. Never place an aquarium in a draft from an open window or door. Tropical fish need the aquarium temperature to stay 77 to 80 degrees.

Avoid placing the aquarium in a main traffic area to protect it from knocks and vibrations. To answer your questions about fish compatibility, ask at the pet store where you buy the fish. Or buy a book called "The Aquarium Fish Survival Manual" published by Barron's, New York.

I recently bought 2 small Plecostomus (algae eaters) for our 15 gallon aquarium. I have just found out that Plecostomus will outgrow our aquarium. Is this true?

True. About a year and a half ago, we bought 2, 1 1/2-inch long Plecostomus and they grew to 6 inches in that length of time. I traded them in at the pet store where I purchased them. I now have 2 Chinese algae eaters that won't outgrow this aquarium. They're very pretty and more active than the Plecostomus. Our cats enjoy watching their activity.

What is the smallest dog in the world?

The Chihuahua is the smallest dog, but don't let its size deceive you. The Chihuahua is more robust than it looks. It can weigh up to six pounds. Because of its tiny size, cuter care takes little time. It does have to be walked regularly and likes to be entertained and played with at home. It enjoys human companionship.

We have a 4 year old Siberian Husky. We found out she is a class called working dogs. What is the difference between working dogs and herding dogs?

Herding dogs such as Collies, Australian Cattle Dogs, and Belgian Sheepdogs are dogs that herd cattle, sheep, goats and other farm or ranch animals.

Working dogs such as German Shepherds, Rotweillers, Dobermans or Siberian Huskies either are trained to guard or pull sleds and many other jobs to help people.

My husband and I have a dispute. What is the largest dog, a Great Dane or an Irish Wolfhound?

The Great Dane is the largest dog in the American Kennel Club. Males are 32 inches tall. This measurement is taken from shoulder to floor. Males can weigh 160 pounds. Some other breeds can weigh more than the Great Dane, but the dane is the tallest dog.

The dane is an elegant, proud, intelligent and very strong dog. It makes a courageous, reliable guard and watch dog that will turn aggressive only if circumstances dictate, especially if its master is threatened. Strangers automatically respect it because of its sheer appearance. It's fond of children.

Our family lives in a condominium complex that allows pets. We would like a small dog. The problem is every small dog I see barks excessively. Is there a breed of small dog that doesn't have this bad habit?

It's interesting that people with small dogs tend not to train them. Any dog can be trained not to bark excessively.

There's one breed that tends not to be a barker. The Papillon is suited for people who want a small dog that tends to not yap or bark much. Their needs can be met in a small apartment. Short walks satisfy it; it is no friend of long hikes. For a small dog, it requires quite a lot of grooming. The Papillon has long fur and the silky hair on its butterfly-wing ears must be thoroughly combed and brushed daily. Its life expectancy is 10 to 14 years.

Bev Cornell, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, will answer your pet questions in care of Ask Bristol, Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335.

Student artists shine



3D Winner: Lauren Lanke, a North Farmington High junior, displays her winning piece.

The Farmington Area Arts Commission named winners of the 12th annual contest for high school artists. Gail Piepenburg, Farmington artist and teacher, judged entries.

In two dimensional art, first prize was awarded to John Boychuk of Farmington High School. Second prize went to Akil Dawson of Farmington High and third prize to Erin Gross of North Farmington High.

In three dimensional art, first prize went to Lauren Lanke, a North Farmington junior. Second place went to Gregory Slinko of Harrison High and third prize to Renee Schochit of North Farmington.

Honorable mentions were earned by Ken Clark of Farmington High, Melissa Connolly of Mercy, Keith Fleck of Farmington High, Lindsay Hamilton of Harrison High, Guy Kinsey of Farmington Alternative Academy, Lilian Krynska of North Farmington High, and Ray Matson of Farmington High. Also earning honorable mentions were Ann McHenry, Jennifer Reese, and Brittany Pulver of Farmington High, and Chris Rande of North Farmington.

Awards will be presented Sunday, April 26 at 2 p.m. at the Courtland Activities Center, 29220 Eleven Mile.



Winner: John Boychuk, Farmington High sophomore, gets help from his sister, Nicole, displaying his winning painting.

Miss Farmington marks 25 years

Some 25 years of service to the Miss America Scholarship program will be celebrated on July 8 at 7 p.m. at Vladimir's on Grand River. This year's program is called "A Silver Celebration."

The executive board of the program includes new sponsors including Ural Interiors, Birmingham Chrysler Plymouth,

Dubin Optical and Jazz's.

The 25th year of the pageant coincides with the Silver Anniversary of the community of Farmington Hills.

The committee is seeking a few former Miss Farmingtons to be a part of the celebration this year. Former winners can contact Ginny Morris at 471-8042.

Ticket sales are under way, and this year's contestants are making appearances throughout Oakland County. Tickets are available at the Chamber of Commerce.

Businesses or individuals wishing to place an ad in this year's program book should call 661-8179.

Class boosts memory

Can't find your keys? Don't remember where you park? Back by demand, this month ElderMed at Botsford is offering a course called Enhancing Your Memory.

Presented by ElderMed manager Sandy Baumann, the three session course provides a wealth of tips and practical exercises to help jog your memory as well as an informative overview on the physical and emotional causes of memory changes. The course fee includes the workbook, Improving your Memory, a \$15 value,

from which participants will be given take home assignments.

Offered on consecutive Tuesdays, April 14, 21 and 28, the two hour course will be held 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Botsford Hospital's 2 East A Conference Room, 28050 Grand River. Fee for the class is \$38 for ElderMed members; \$40 for non-members. Due to limited space, pre-registration is required. Call 471-8020.

ElderMed is a free, lifetime membership program offering a variety of services.

WTVS auction needs donations

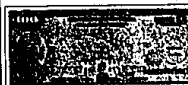
Detroit Public Television auction shoppers are seeking merchandise donations for the 30th annual fundraiser which airs Tuesday, April 28 to Sunday, May 3 on WTVS, Channel 56.

Some of the local volunteers who will be canvassing local businesses include Sheila Luscutti of West Bloomfield, Ellen Burrows and Sue Stark, both of Farmington Hills.

Donations can be made by calling 313-876-8350.

Celebrity chairpersons are UPN60 news anchor David Scott and his wife, Tommy.

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