Who is the carp?

Carp are native to Eurasia and have been introduced around the world by humans.

Carp are closely related to the goldfish

Carp live up to 20 years and the longest living carp lived 47 years but in commercial production are slaughtered at 2-14 months old , so they do not reach adulthood during their lifetime. Carp are harvested at 0.25-3 kg.

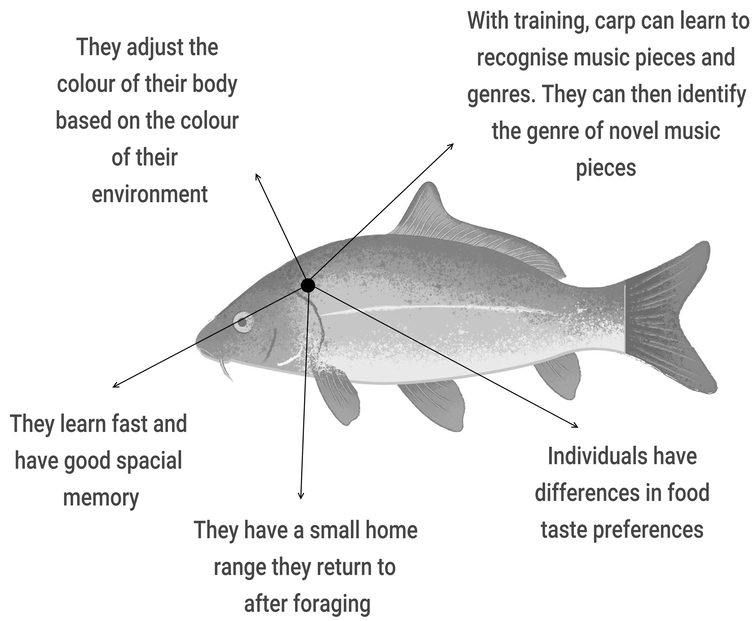
What does the carp want?

TOP 10

1. to live in good quality water
2. to have access to food
3. to forage for their food
4. to have space to swim
5. to choose the size of their school
6. to respond to environmental cues
7. to choose their swimming depth based on lifestage
8. to have natural substrate
9. to have vegetation and shelter
10. to be undisturbed

What can carp do?

Carp calm and scare easily



How do carp spend their day (or night)?

Swimming

Resting

Foraging

Swimming

Swimming behaviour varies with season: they aggregate during winter and early summer.

Carp often swim in small schools with larger individuals becoming solitary.

Foraging

Carp are omnivorous fish who feed on plants, and scavenge the bottom for insects, crustaceans, crawfish, and benthic worms

Resting

Carp are mainly nocturnal. They are active during the night and swim less during the day

Although carp have been farmed since Roman times, little is known about their behaviour in the wild

How can we provide carp with a good quality life?

Give them environmental enrichment like a natural and diverse substrate, hiding places and cover

Give them nutritious food

Give them good quality water

Give them enough space to swim, explore, and escape dominant fish

Give them a life that is free from pain and stress: no fin clipping

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