

The Use of Substrate in Home Aquaria



You are invited to take part in a study by the University of the West of Scotland in collaboration with the WALTHAM Petcare Science Institute (Mars Petcare) investigating the use of substrate in home aquaria (salt or freshwater), and how this impacts microbial communities and fish behaviour and welfare.

We are looking for anyone living in the UK over the age of 18 who owns a home aquarium to take part in a short survey to determine whether you use substrate in your tank and if so which type of substrate. As part of the survey we are asking you to send us a small sample of substrate from your tank. Participation will contribute to research which will allow a better understanding of the effects of substrate type on fish welfare.

About this survey:

- Survey packs will be mailed to you and take approximately **30 minutes** to complete. No record will be kept of which sample pack number is sent to you so that all participants remain **anonymous**.
- You will be asked to fill out a short questionnaire and take a small sample of your aquarium substrate when you next clean your tank, and send it to us.
- Detailed information about the research and instructions on how to take your substrate sample are included in the survey pack, along with a pre-paid return envelope.
- Chance to win **£100 Amazon gift voucher**.

To request your survey pack, please contact one of the following researchers involved:

Louise Ross Research Masters Student louise.ross@uws.ac.uk	Michael Crossan Research Masters Student michael.crossan@uws.ac.uk	Prof. Katherine Sloman Lead Supervisor katherine.sloman@uws.ac.uk
---	---	---

We hope that you will take the time to contribute to this research and thank you in advance for your participation!