



South Hants Koi Club

Koi Health & Welfare



Information for Members



The South Hants Section places a great emphasis on Koi Health and Welfare. In order for our hobby to be successful and to ensure that our members attain the most rewarding experience, our Club proactively seeks to promote and support our new and existing membership by the ever-continuing development of knowledge in the caring for our Koi.

This is achieved by the promotion of Education and Support. All our members are able to participate in:

Education

- Beginners Classes for new members
- Resident and specialist guest speakers on Health & Welfare matters at Wednesday Evening club nights.
- Specialist Health Groups (Gerry wants to get a few of the members together and get them 'hands-on' in using the microscopes.
- A selection of Health books and Videos are available for hire from the Club Equipment table at Club night.
- Preparation of a 'Health & Welfare' guide to try to help you avoid those 'pit falls' which we all seem to encounter.

Support

- Advice and help is always available on the end of a telephone. Should you have any difficulties or concerns, you can always reach the Club's Koi Health advisers (Rod and Gerry) by telephone (leave a message on the answer machine if out) or contact other experienced club members.



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- You cannot diagnose a problem over the phone but we can tell you how to go about determining what the problem is from



Gerry assisting a member with scrapes

observation, clinical examination, testing, mucus scrapes etc. More importantly, you need to determine 'why' it occurred.

- Should you need further assistance, either we, or other experienced members are always willing to 'drop-in' to give you the on-site help that you may need.
- We all understand what it feels like to encounter problems or loose fish (unfortunately, it always seems to be your favourite one affected first!). There are bags of sympathy from us all.
- Club equipment is available for hire to assist you such as microscopes, vats, water meter etc.
- There are generous discounts available from the Club Night Shop.
- We aim to teach you to be self-sufficient



Learn to deal with wounds

With regards to the health advice given, our members are using their 'best endeavours' to provide you with advice based on their experience as Koi hobbyists and how they have dealt with similar situations in the past. We give our time voluntary as fellow 'club members'; we are not part of any commercial fish organization or business, and are not here to 'sell you equipment'. However, there are times when we suggest that certain areas of your pond set-up require reinforcing (i.e. Filtration, additional air pumps etc.) Being voluntary, it is not always possible to assist you instantly due to family/ personal commitments but we will respond as soon as possible. Sometimes when there are a lot of calls for assistance, it



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is necessary for us to deal with the most critical problems first. Treat any visit as a social event - the person/s attending do so during their 'leisure time'!

Site Methodology

Should it be necessary for one of our Club Health advisors to visit your pond, they will:

- 1 Initially OBSERVE the pond and behavior of your Koi for a short while. All living creatures have a way of communicating and each time you look at your Koi, they are giving you an insight into their world with their possible inherent problems. Your Koi will point you towards the problem areas through behavioral changes (see Koi Health & welfare Guide). You may think that you have a 'local' problem with one Koi affected but it could be an 'acute' problem with all Koi 'off-colour' (often indicating 'water quality'). This is a good time to have a cup of tea or coffee after arrival, and just sit and watch the fish.
- 2 Without fail, check the water quality even if it's just to confirm the Koi Keepers results. Check temperature, pH, Ammonia, Nitrite & Total Chlorines as a minimum. Other parameters may also be tested such as Dissolved Oxygen, nitrate, heavy Metals etc..
- 3 Depending upon the outcome of 1 & 2, and the nature of the problem, assistance and advice can also be given with mucus scrapes, filtration checks, water and air circulation & supply, organic content, water bacterial levels, swabs for culture checking, topical dressings, further water quality testing, etc. It may be that another member carries out these areas of work on a subsequent visit.

Some of us have had limited formal training in health matters. It is obviously up to you to consider all the advice given from all sources and for you to decide on any course of action. The South Hants Section and members giving advice do not accept any responsibility for the information given in 'good faith' or for the outcome. If in doubt, consult a vet or other qualified person.



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Costs

Although the advice is given voluntary, it is necessary to charge 'out-of-pocket' expenses only in order to ensure that those giving health advice to other members under the South Hants Section 'banner' are not penalized.

There are no 'call-out' charges for attending your pond however reimbursement is expected to include:

Traveling - 17pence per mile.

Water testing - 40 pence per test to cover replacement reagents. (pH, ammonia, Nitrite, Nitrate, Dissolved Oxygen & Chlorines).

Dip slide - £1.50 (to assess the bacterial count in the pond water)

Plus reimbursement for any other agents/ medications used and specialist testing.

Should you need any help on Koi Health & Welfare matters, please do not hesitate to contact us on: 01243 572762.

Rod & Gerry Isted.