



Goldfish Standard

Newsletter of the Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers

March 2011

Volume 1 Issue 1

Welcome

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DISCLAIMER

Please note that the views, opinions and individuals' comments expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the A.M.G.K. society or its Committee, and no liability will be accepted by the A.M.G.K. about the information contained therein

Welcome to your first issue of AMGK's Newsletter. We trust you will enjoy reading the thoughts and comments of other members, and that perhaps you'll consider submitting something of your own for future issues.

If you'd like to submit your own articles, hints and tips, for sale and wanted, product reviews and particularly photos of your fish, then they would be gratefully received. It's so easy to submit something for printing:-

Write your articles etc by hand, or type and print, or type on computer and save. You can either post to the Newsletter address which is **AMGK, 96 Wood Street, Bedworth. CV12 8AZ** or Email to: **just4friends@tiscali.co.uk**

Photos, You can post in your actual photos but don't forget to write your name and address on the back in pencil so I'll know who to send them back to, or, Resize them on the PC to either 6" x 4", or 75 dpi, and email them

In future issues, I'd love to see a Q&A forum so that other members may help with your fishkeeping problems, or perhaps you could help someone else.

Letters will also be most welcome, whether good or bad, giving us feedback on what you think so far, and what you'd like to see in YOUR Newsletter, including How you got into Goldfish in the first place.

I'd also like to get some of the manufacturers give us news on their

new products, perhaps offer prizes, and even better, buy advertising space.

There is so much we can do with this Newsletter, including encouraging other goldfish keepers to join us.



Personally I've had many years of experience producing quality newsletters for clubs that I've been a member of, and growing them into large publications that the members looked forward to receiving. I absolutely love researching articles, trying to attract advertisers, and filling the pages with quality reading. But I can't do a good job without your help. I need you all to send in stories of how you got interested in goldfish, projects you've undertaken, quick tips that you've discovered, Aquatic suppliers you love, letters with any kind of comments,, and most of all, photographs of your fish.. Please help me to make this the best aquatic newsletter in the country

Sandra Witter
Editor

Chairmans' Comment— Pat Davies

Happy New Year to you all!

For most of us as I write, the winter seems to be still with us. The two weeks that we had up to and over the Christmas period meant that I couldn't see my fish in the fish house over my two week break due to frozen doors and locks. Not having fed my fish since early November, I was dreading seeing them once temperatures had gone back to 'normal'. Both leaving for work and returning in the dark, week after week is really not conducive to good fish keeping but this weekend I was at last able to have a look inside the fish house and all seems well - at least so far.

As a member of most of the other specialist goldfish societies up and down the country, I try to keep my ear to the ground, not only to let you know who is breeding what, thereby sourcing potential availability of good quality surplus stock, but also to gauge the health of the hobby nation wide. I know that the hard winter has taken its toll on a number of breeder's establishments but the good news is that many have been fortunate. This all bodes well for the coming breeding season with the ultimate challenge of doing well in the National shows later in the year. I hope that for most of you your fish have come through the winter unscathed and if they have and you have any good tips for your success please let the rest of us know at the first meeting of the year in March.

New look Newsletter:

You can also compose an article for our new look Newsletter – I'll guarantee that no non libelous article will be refused! Your opinion counts and if you want to have a go – help yourself! One of our newer members, Sandra Witter, has kindly agreed to use some of her valuable time in producing our newsletter for this year to see how it goes. The committee will give all the help and encouragement it can so that Sandra won't be left on her own, to ensure we have a worthy newsletter. However, as we all agreed at the last AGM this is your newsletter

so let us know what you are up to with regard to your fish ambitions for the year or anything else with regard to this wonderful hobby of ours. My aspiration for the new newsletter is that it will become an historical record of the club through the forthcoming years –with 2014 being our **40th Anniversary**. As a nationally represented club, it will also reflect on the real state of the hobby through the eyes of like minded fish keepers and breeders. It is not intended to become a sounding off board for any temporarily insane and embittered individual – no one individual's opinion will be judged less important than another's. Let's make 2011 the year that we carry on with enjoying ourselves both in our own set ups at home and in our much applauded convivial meetings.

As we produce many of the finest fish on the National show circuit (and not a small number of Best in Show winners of late (with Andy's Rancho and Sheridan's Bubble Eyes etc.) we ought to get lots of photos published to see how the standards evolve over the years with careful breeding and, of course, genetic luck!

Nationwide Standards:

I will not dwell on this subject too much as the current Chairman of Nationwide, Andy, will include a summary of where we are and what the future might hold. Suffice it to say that after a totally disproportionate amount of time, and not a little effort by Andy behind the scenes, Nationwide had, by June 2010, an agreed standard for the Rancho, not to mention the approval of a Jikin standard, that was approved some months earlier.

Every club throughout the land has within its ranks Rancho breeders with as many opinions as to what a good one should look like. Even the Japanese have variants to this peculiar looking variety so it was no wonder that a little more time was needed. Sensibly, the Nationwide delegates agreed that this standard

would be kept under review over the next three years to see if fish on the show benches warrant any modification to the standard as set in 2010.

It is important to remember that the Nationwide Standards have been drawn up over many years through co-operation and, not a little, spirited argument with representatives from all interested goldfish societies. They can really only be used as a guide to breeders and judges alike with each breeder, perhaps sometimes even unwittingly, putting their own stamp on their chosen variety in just the same way as pedigree dog, cat and rare breed chicken breeders achieve their individual breeding of excellence. This is to be welcomed, enjoyed and even encouraged. As the years go by there should be no reason not to look again at the standards in general as individual fashions may change with some varieties coming to the fore whilst others will undoubtedly fall away from popularity.

Subscriptions

These are now due and are £12.00p. Please make cheques payable to AMGK and forward them on to the society Treasurer, Gary Malpas or bring them to the first meeting.

Hope to see you all on Sunday 6th March.

Pat Davies,
Chairman



Awards Presentation 2010

Adult Fish Table Show

Bristol Shubunkin	-	Chris Whitehurst
Lionhead	-	Chris Whitehurst
Common Goldfish	-	Chris Whitehurst
Nacreous Fantail	1 st /2 nd /3 rd /4 th	- Gary Malpas
Pom Pom	1 st /2 nd	- Chris Whitehurst
Nacreous Veiltail	-	Chris Whitehurst
Pearlscale	1 st /2 nd	- Elaine Edmunds
Celestial	-	Chris Whitehurst



Prettiest/Bluest Fish Table Show

Prettiest Fish	-	Chris Whitehurst
Bluest Fish	-	Chris Whitehurst



Baby Fish Table Show

Bristol Shubunkin	1 st /2 nd	- Elaine Edmunds
	3 rd /4 th	- Pat Davies
Metallic Fantail	1 st /2 nd /3 rd /4 th	- Dave Tuggey
Nacreous Fantail	1 st /2 nd	- Andrew Barton
Oranda	1 st /2 nd	- Andrew Barton
Pearlscale	1 st /2 nd /3 rd /4 th	- Elaine Edmunds
Tosakin	1 st /2 nd	- Andrew Barton
Ranchu	1 st /2 nd	- Andrew Barton
	3 rd /4 th	- Pat Davies
Ranchu Team	1 st /2 nd	- Pat Davies



Special Awards

Best in Show, Adults	-	Gary Malpas
Best in Show, Babies	-	Andrew Barton
Best Female Exhibitor	-	Elaine Edmunds
Best Male Exhibitor	-	Chris Whitehurst
Top Point Scorer	-	Chris Whitehurst

Please note, the above photographs are library pictures and **not** those of show winners at AMGK

Your Committee 2011

PRESIDENT/OPEN SHOW MANAGER	ANDREW BARTON	01933 222642
VICE PRESIDENT	DAVID TUGGEY	024 7661 1649
CHAIRMAN	PAT DAVIES	01952 504280
VICE CHAIRMAN/ OPEN SHOW SECRETARY	MICK SMITH	01785 251974
TREASURER	GARY MALPAS	01604 451515
SECRETARY/CATERING MANAGER	LINDA MALPAS	01604 451515
TABLE SHOW MANAGER	CHRIS WHITEHURST	0121 554 3347

Member Profile—Dave Easingwood (Canada)

Dave Easingwood is the only International member of AMGK and lives in St Catharines, Ontario, CANADA.

Dave emigrated to Canada in 1981 with his family and spent time in Nova Scotia, Alberta and now Ontario practising Civil Engineering on bridges, highways and large oil/gas projects. He is now kind of retired and lives close to his family (including two grandsons) in St Catharines, near Niagara Falls, Ontario.



Dave's first fish tank was a 36" tropical tank set up in Coventry in 1967. He eventually joined the Coventry Pool And Aquarium Society where he was Newsletter Editor and helped with their Open Shows at the Foleshill Community Centre. In the early 1970's the CPAS Open Shows attracted over 800 entries.

In 1970 Dave went to the MPAS show at Bingley Hall in Birmingham with a friend and was struck by the beauty of Bristol Shubunkins !!! The classes in those days were single adults, adult pairs and sets of four juveniles. The top showers were Tommy Sutton senior, Tony Roberts and Les Dodge with some entries from Bristol and London. Jim Whiting may have shown fish in those days at MPAS in the 70's.

Dave then became hooked on fancy goldfish and eventually obtained some adult Shubs from Les Dodge and Jim Whiting. He bred from a Les Dodge male and a Jim Whiting female and raised Bristol's till emigrating to Canada. Fish were shown around the Midlands, the Jim Whiting female won best Coldwater

fish at the Bedworth and Coventry Shows in 1974-76.

Emigrating to Canada put an end to fishkeeping as Dave focused on his Civil Engineering career, he became a Principal Design Engineer in the mid 80's working for large International Consultants on some of the largest Canadian Oil Sands Projects for Shell, Petro Canada and Saudi Aramco.

In the mid 90's while working in Calgary, Dave saw a large 'Bristol type Shub' in a pool at a Calgary pet store. He was 'smitten' again by the lovely blue, red black markings of the 6" female. The store did not know where the fish came from, it was probably brought in at the end of the pond season. Ponds in Alberta may freeze to 3ft deep in a severe Canadian winter. Most ponds are emptied and re-stocked next spring.

Anyway, Dave had a 4ft aquarium and other miscellaneous tanks and kept the "Shub" in a basement playroom for two years. Work at this time was very stressful for Dave,

leading teams of 30-40 Engineers on massive Oil/Gas Projects took a toll and overwork, stress and a bout of depression made him very ill. Throughout all of this one thing that kept up his spirits and thoughts was the idea of getting some proper Bristol Shubs and breeding them but how ???

Living in Western Canada, it was not easy to obtain or import goldfish, you need permits etc.....(to be continued in Part two).

Dave Easingwood

Dave isn't a new member as such, as Dave was actually one of the Founding Members of this Association

2011 Programme—Dates for your Diary

Sunday 6th March	-	Andy Barton talk/general discussion
Sunday 15th May	-	Adult Fish / Prettiest & Bluest Fish / Non Standard Fish Table Show
Saturday 25th June	-	Open Show
Sunday 24th July	-	T.B.A.
Sunday 14th August	-	Baby Fish Table Show (Bred 2011)
Sunday 6th November	-	A.G.M. & Presentation of Awards

Presidents Report By Andy Barton



This is the first time that I am writing to you as President of the A.M.G.K. and already the job as President has served up some important challenges.

Through the Winter I have kept in touch with some of you but my moving house has now reached a critical stage, with the sale of my old house almost completed. Most of my Winter since we were all together has been spent building my new fish houses and ponds, with mixed success. With all that has been going on and also the bad weather, it has been very trying to say the least but I am moving to a house that I have always wanted so it will be worth it in the end. Help has been forthcoming from members and friends of the club in many different ways and I would like to thank, Jim and Jan Amos, Linda Malpas and Stan Woolridge for their help and a very special thank you to Gary Malpas for a massive effort in helping to move all the fish and the cleaning of tanks and ponds; *Many Thanks Gary*.



This year the A.M.G.K. is trial running a new look newsletter which is being organised by Sandra Witter, in which she will either send you a copy of the newsletter by post or email if you



have it. Please take some time to contribute to the newsletter as we would all like to hear from you on any goldfish subjects and with everyone's help it could become a success.

Hopefully at some point I will be in a position to give a talk on my moving house, this will be but a small part of a very busy calendar with other speakers and club table shows.

The Nationwide Goldfish Standards, of which I am Chairman, has been subject to a lot of criticism over the way it conducts its affairs and the interim standard for the Ranchu. You will find in this newsletter my response that I will be sending to the member societies and the two main Ranchu groups. A lot of members and fellow goldfish keepers are up in arms about some of the articles published in the G.S.G.B. Bulletin and I will be trying to get a retraction of those comments or an apology from the G.S.G.B.

All the best for 2011 and do send Sandra some articles if you can.

Best Wishes

Andy Barton
PRESIDENT



Please note that the photos on this page are library pictures and not fish belonging to Association members

NATIONWIDE GOLDFISH STANDARDS OF GREAT BRITAIN

41 St Barnabas Street
Wellingborough
Northants
NN8 3HA

26th January 2011

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Fellow Goldfish Keepers,

Reading of the January Bulletin published by The Goldfish Society of Great Britain has left me no option but to write to you all, about The Nationwide Goldfish Standards and also the Rancho standard.

Since the original nationwide standards were put together there has been an unprecedented amount of cooperation between all of the societies not only with standards but also with members sharing knowledge and advice, with stocks of fish readily changing hands. It also brought to an end, differences between clubs, as the members of those clubs sought to have one common standard throughout Great Britain.

The Standards are by no means perfect, but they are extremely well thought out, well drawn and easy to understand. The main body of the Standards were produced by the Goldfish Societies at the time and with many meetings and much editing and the redrawing of some of the standards eventually we ended up with the Standards that we have today. All of the the Standards in the book were reviewed and great care is taken with any new Standards that are to be added to the book, the most recent completed Standard to be added was the Jikin, and to this point in writing I have only heard good reports about it.

Currently the Nationwide Committee is trying with great difficulty to produce a permanent Rancho Standard and we have published an interim standard for this fish, a copy of which is included in this letter. There is a great debate going on at the moment about this fish and in time, it is hoped that we can get to a point where a vast majority of Rancho keepers will be happy with the Standard. However due to the politics surrounding this fish, it will be virtually impossible to please all the member societies and the two main Rancho groups. But it is important to recognise that it is the current Standard for the Rancho, is done well and is the best standard we can get, before any final Standard is agreed and produced.

As everybody knows, I as Chairman and Fishkeeper, have the best interests of the hobby and the fishkeepers at heart and would strive to make sure that the right decision is made, no matter how long it takes to get the best possible result for the Rancho and their owners.

Recent comments and actions by some people in the hobby are not helping sort out a good Standard for the Rancho. All it is doing is upsetting some very dedicated and hard working people who work tirelessly for this hobby that we all enjoy so much.

There has been many decades of work gone into the Nationwide Standards and the test of time has proved that it holds a standing second to none.

The way forward is to write with your comments and suggestions to our Club and the delegates, or even to myself, regarding these issues. There has also been suggestions that we hold a RANCHO Day at some point with all welcome to try to get to a solution.

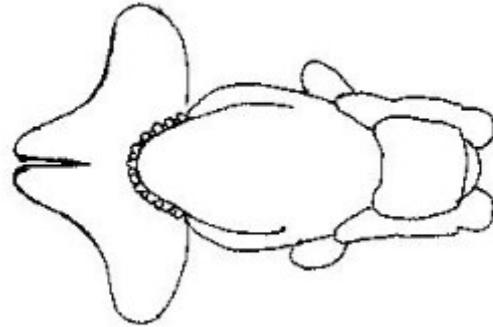
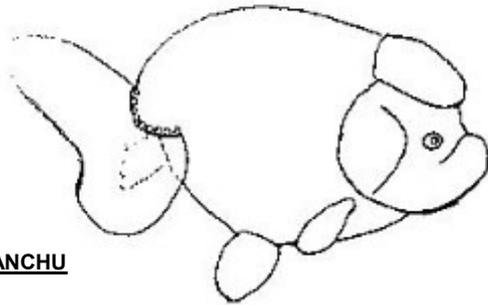
Some good articles have been published on the Rancho and I look forward to seeing some good quality fish on the show bench this year and some interesting conversations.

Happy Fishkeeping

Yours faithfully

A.P.Barton

Ranchu



RANCHU

Type Test Fish failing this test will be severely down pointed, deformities and major defects will cause fish to be disqualified.

- Depth of body – greater than ½ body length
- Hood – well developed
- Dorsal fin absent
- All other fins paired, caudal fin divided
- Caudal fin forked
- Extremities of fins having a rounded appearance
- Minimum body length – 2 ¼”

APPLICATION OF STANDARDS

Fish will be bright, alert and well balanced.
 Body not elongated with smooth contours and no sign of a dorsal fin.
 Caudal fin to be divided between 1/3 and 2/3
 The hood to be well developed in all three separate areas, i.e. cranial, infra-orbital and opercula, to give a pleasing face.

- Colour -**
- metallic group – self colours as listed in points table
 - variegated group - any combination of the listed colours in a pleasing pattern and similar on both sides. Colours to appear as burnished metal, extending into the fins
 - calico group – blue background with patches of violet, red, orange, yellow and brown spotted with black

POINTS TABLE

Body		Fins	
D/L ratio	6	Contour and size of caudal	8
Dorsal contour	5	Contour and size of others	5
Ventral contour	3	Contour of trunk in “dorsal fin” region	7
Lateral contour	3		20
Eyes and mouth	3		
	20		

COLOUR

Metallic Group		Other Groups (Calico)	
Self – red, orange, yellow, blue brown, black	20	Blue, violet	9
Variegated – Red, orange, yellow Blue, brown, black, silver	20	Red, orange, yellow	5
		Black	5
		Brown	1
			20
Condition and Department		Special Characteristics	
Condition	10	Hood	
Department	10	Development in cranial region	5
	20	Development in infra-orbital region	10
		Development in opercula region	5
			20

New Member Profile—Sandra Witter (Coventry)

Hello there, my name is Sandra Witter and I'm born and bred in Bedworth, small market town on outskirts of Coventry. I'm now 56 yrs old and live alone except for my 'babies'.



This picture was my 2nd small aquarium. I kept fish with my ex-partner about 20 years ago up to about 3 years ago, we started with cold water, progressed through tropical and marines and then a large Koi pond. He did most of the technical and dirty stuff, whilst I admired, bought new fish and wrote and sold articles to the two fish keeping magazines of the day. We seemed to be exceptionally lucky in getting previously unrecorded breeding of fish in captivity such as cold water catfish (first recorded in UK) and likewise a marine goby.

When we separated, 3 years ago, I moved into a small one bed flat where pets weren't allowed.

Just before Christmas 2009, I bought a small corner 30 litre aquarium from a neighbour, just to see if I could cope with it on my own. The three tiny fancies I bought, soon outgrew it and I bought a second-hand 70 litre tank

and stand from Ebay. for £70 with loads of extras.

This became my pride and joy and I'm now realising that this habit strikes hard when it hits, even for a second time.

I came along to the club meeting in June to try and meet up with some local people with similar interests as well as to try and make contact with people breeding lionheads and ranchu, my personal favourites. I actually joined up at the Open show and at the same time volunteered to create a newsletter for the club as this is something I've loved doing for years.

Some of you have already seen this part of the story, but there is now more to add. Once the fish outgrew the 70 litre, I started looking for a bigger one and was delighted to find a nearly new Aqua One 980 on Ebay, which I managed to win for £100.



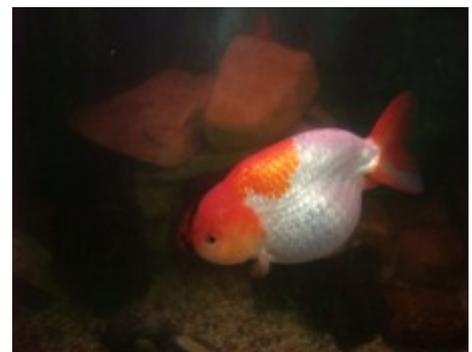
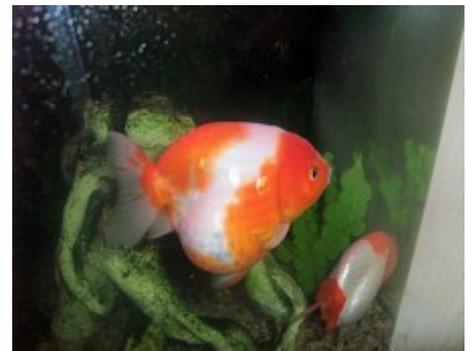
After much thought, I decided to buy an external filter, which I had a lot of problems with and the manufacturers very kindly allowed me to upgrade it. (Many thanks to Aqua One for their superb customer service)

So I now own a superb 215 litre tank and have spent the last couple of

months searching for some decent colours of Ranchu. (Well, decent to my mind!)

Most of the pictures you will see in this issue are of my Ranchus, until the rest of you send in pictures of your own fish. Those not Ranchu are library pictures

So this is my short story, let's hear yours now.....



Spring Clean your Aquarium

Clean your aquarium in the following order:

1. Inside glass
2. Decorations (rocks, plants, etc)
3. Gravel
4. Outside glass and fixtures
5. Filter

AlgaePads/Scrapers

Start by giving the glass a good cleaning on the inside with an algae pad. There are a wide variety of algae scrapers on the market, from long handled scrubbers to magnetic scrubbers. Just make sure it is made either for Acrylic or for Glass as the glass ones can scratch acrylic tanks. Is it necessary to purchase algae pads at a pet shop instead of the housewares department of a regular store? I use household pads for non stick pans, but be wary in case they have a soap or chemical residue in them.

For stubborn residue on the glass, use a razor blade to scrape it off. Take care not to cut yourself. If your aquarium is acrylic, use a plastic blade, as standard razors will scratch acrylic.

Bleach

Once the inside glass is clean, remove rocks, artificial plants, or decorations that have significant algae growth, or are noticeably dirty. Do not clean them with soap or detergents. It's very difficult to completely remove soap, and even a trace can be lethal to fish. Usually a good scrub with an algae scraper will remove the algae and dirt from rocks and plants, or use a toothbrush. A denture brush is brilliant. For particularly stubborn cleaning problems, prepare a 10% bleach solution and soak the items for 15

minutes. Scrub any remaining residue off, rinse well in running water, and let air dry to eliminate residual bleach.

Don't use bleach unless you have to. When using bleach, get dilutions correct and Rinse Rinse Rinse

Live plants can be bleached, however stem plants are not tolerant of bleaching. To bleach live plants prepare a 5% bleach solution, soak the plants for two to three minutes, then rinse well. Leave the rocks, decorations and plants out of the tank while you vacuum the gravel. That way none of the debris stirred up from the gravel will settle on them, which looks very messy.

Tip - be sure to get a new bucket and designate it for aquarium use only. If you use a bucket that has had soap or detergent in it, you could introduce lethal chemicals to your tank, keep a cheap one just for the fish.

Siphon

Clean the gravel next, by using a water siphon to vacuum away the debris. There are several types of siphons available, all of which work essentially the same. Although this removes larger debris, smaller

Don't clean the filter media at the same time as cleaning the rest of your tank

particles will pass through the filter and are returned to the tank. Be sure to vacuum the entire surface of the gravel thoroughly so that all debris is removed.

Glass and Lime Cleaners

Once the inside of the aquarium is

cleaned, clean the hood, light, tank top, and outside glass. Regular glass cleaners contain ammonia, which is toxic to fish. Standard lime cleaners are even more toxic. I strongly urge using vinegar or cleaners designated as aquarium safe, and rinse rinse rinse!

Filter Cleaning

Once the outside is clean, the rocks, plants, and other decorations may be returned to the tank. Now wait a couple of weeks before cleaning the filter. Why wait? The major cleaning you just performed disturbed the beneficial bacterial colonies on the plants, rocks, and gravel. Fortunately many beneficial bacteria reside within the filter media, so you haven't completely upset the Eco-system. However if you changed the filter at the same time, you might trigger a dangerous ammonia spike because there aren't enough beneficial bacteria left to eliminate the toxins.

When you are ready to clean the filter, should you clean or simply replace the filter media entirely? Some experts caution that replacing the filter media removes too many of the beneficial bacteria, and triggers a new tank break-in cycle. Other experts argue that sufficient bacteria reside on the rocks, plants, and in the gravel to prevent the tank from cycling when the filter is replaced. I believe what you should do depends on the type of filter media you use.

If you have filter media containing carbon, ammonia absorbers, or ion-exchange resins, it should be replaced if it's more than three weeks old. After a couple of weeks the absorbing qualities of the media have been exhausted, and it no longer serves its purpose. Media that acts as a mechanical filter instead of absorbing toxins (i.e.: ceramic rings,

filter fibre, or sponges) should be gently rinsed to remove debris and returned to the filter instead of replaced. If care is taken to use water that is the same temperature as the aquarium water, and the media is quickly returned to the filter, the bacterial colonies growing on them will not be lost entirely. If you're using fine wool as a particle remover, then that will probably benefit from replacement as it doesn't seem to last long.

Don't forget to clean the filter tubing and other parts of the filter assembly. A filter brush will help clear out the sludge that invariably builds up in all the small crevices.



Don't forget to send in your hints and tips of maintaining aquariums to help newer members to not make the mistakes you made when starting up

Ongoing Maintenance

Once you've gotten your tank in shape, make sure you clean it on an ongoing basis so it never needs a major spring-cleaning again. Scrape the glass weekly, vacuum the gravel every time you perform a water change, and clean any rocks or plants as soon as you see debris or algae on them. Clean the filter monthly, either by replacing the media, or rinsing it. Don't replace ALL the media at the same time, leave some for the bacteria. While you are at it, soak your fish nets in a disinfectant solution to keep them clean and soft. With regular care, your aquarium will look beautiful all the time.

My Favourite Fancy - Ranchu & Lionheads

Tell us about your favourite, and why. Give your reasoning and send your photos



My own personal favourite fancy has always been the lionheads and ranchu. I can't explain why, except that from the front, they have such cute little faces and I always tend to go for the ugliest ones!

I bought three when I first started again. A small black Ranchu which I'd never seen before and believe they are still quite rare, and then because I'd spend more on that than I intended, I bought a tiny ugly calico lionhead to add a bit of colour. As I'd wanted three and there was nothing

else half decent, I added a minute red cap oranda to the collection. I bought them all just before Christmas and by April they were all HUGE. I needed a bigger tank.

Unfortunately the black ranchu was getting a very good head development and within days of getting him home I realised his growth was overgrowing his eyes. As you can see from the pic, the poor things eyes couldn't be seen at all. I often wondered if this would mark him down at a show.

Sadly, I lost two just a week before our open show or I might have plucked up the courage to bring them both along for a Judge's opinion. I still don't know why I lost them both on the same day. I had just bought another two tiny Ranchu the week before, along with two small algae eaters.

Luckily and because I've never been a big fan of Red cap Oranda, I had sold the female Oranda to my neighbour just days before the other two passed on to the pond in the sky.

She has developed into a lovely big fish now with a huge cap, though the colour does overspill a touch around her eyes.

I now look after 2 large red and whites, 1 large black, and 3 small black ones along with a gold and what was chocolate brown and is now turning gold.

My fish are my babies and my pride and joy, and I'd love to try and encourage more people to take up this fascinating hobby.

Latest problem to hit the Witter household is cloudy water, which I just can't get rid of for more than a couple of days.

Any suggestions gratefully received.

Sandra Witter

Pictures of shubunkins/Black Moor to the right from a previous Open Show, courtesy of Pat Davies

Members Health Forum



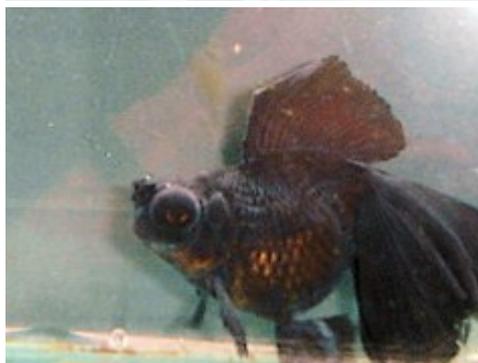
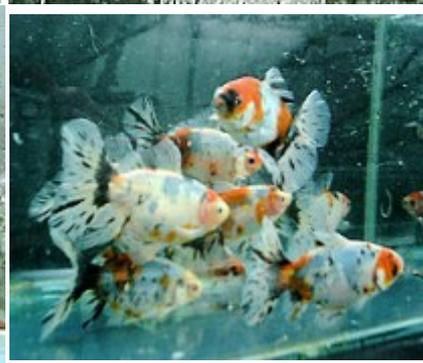
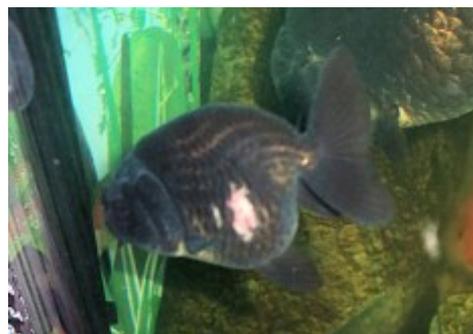
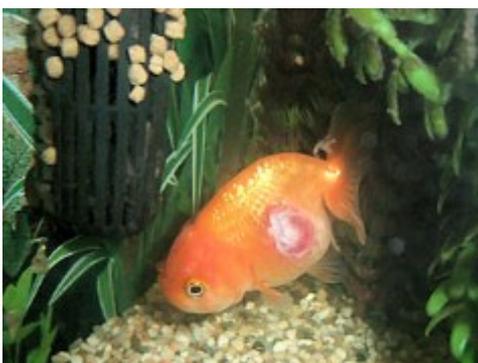
Please take a look at these four pictures. Can you suggest what the ailment might be, or why two seemingly healthy fish should both suddenly lose a couple of scales each, and then progress like the goldfish on the left

They've been given anti-bacterial treatment, they've had fungus treatment, and even been swabbed with Ulcer seal. The Gold one died a couple of days ago.

I'm hoping to save the little black one, though he looks to be going the same way.

Any suggestions gratefully received.

Sandra Witter



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Goldfish Standard

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A Brief History of A.M.G.K.

In 1973, three Goldfish enthusiast, Frank Orme, Tony Roberts and David Easingwood, met to discuss the possibility of forming a specialist society for Goldfish keepers in the Midlands.

At the inaugural meeting, which was held at Foleshill Community Centre, Coventry on Sunday 24th March 1974, many enthusiasts turned up to support.

At that meeting the constitution was agreed and the group given the title of ASSOCIATION OF MIDLAND GOLDFISH KEEPERS.

The present committee continues to work hard to make the A.M.G.K. a successful society that welcomes members from a wide area of the Midlands. These members range from the beginner to some who are very experienced goldfish breeders. It has always been a feature of the A.M.G.K. that all members treat each other as equals; The more experienced always happy to advise and pass on their knowledge.

Meetings are kept as informal as possible and the business

of the group, got through as speedily as possible so that the main part can be devoted to matters of interest to members. In this connection, one of the the most popular type of meeting has been found to be table shows of members fish. Early in the season, members bring along adult fancy goldfish. Later in the year, young fish that have been raised that season are displayed. These miniature shows invariably provoke much discussion from which newer members can pick up many worthwhile tips.

Lectures, talks, videos and slide shows are arranged throughout the year, which cover all aspects of cold water fishkeeping including, pond breeding, fish spawning, raising baby fish and showing. The Association has three nationwide judges available to give advice on showing.

