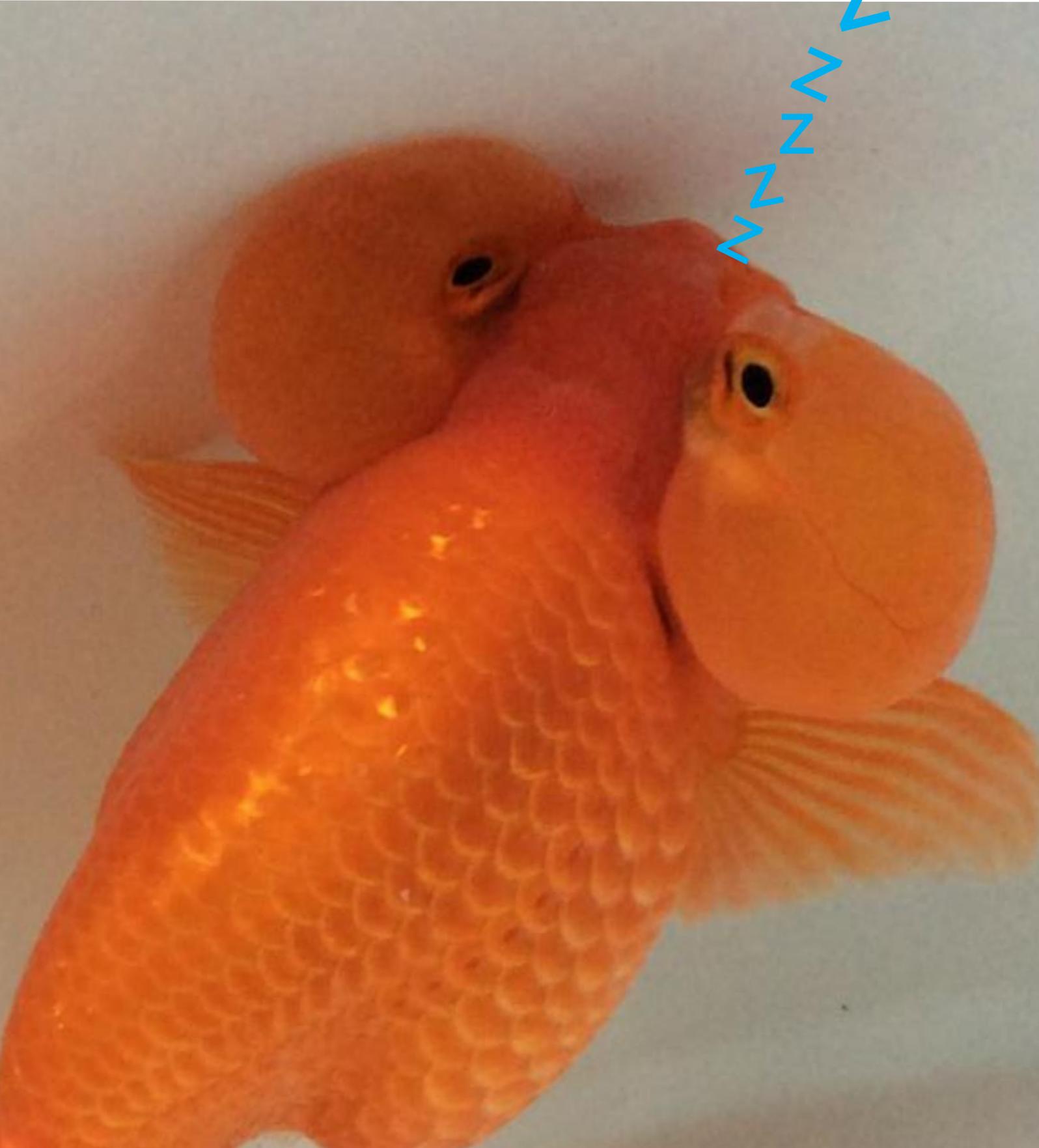




the
GOLDFISH
STANDARD

Newsletter of the **A**ssociation **M**idland **G**oldfish **K**eepers

March 2024





New Chairman's Bit

Dear Members,

Firstly I would like to say thank you for the warm welcome that so many of you have offered. It is a great privilege to be the acting chairman, especially during this historic year for our club.

Sadly, my first job as chairman was to deal with unpleasantness on social media. Please can I take this opportunity to remind all of our membership that we must always remain respectful of each other and all members. I'm pleased to say that this is a small minority but it can not continue especially if we, as a club, are to prosper for the next 50 years! My view generally, of our unique hobby, is that we must all stick together regardless of our differences. Without each other there is no hobby!

On a more positive note, as a committee we have acted swiftly and a number of items have already been sorted for the show. We, as a committee, are currently having monthly meetings - this has been entirely beneficial. We are receiving lots of ideas from members - I

welcome this! I hope that in this role I can be the sounding board for the membership. This is your club and it needs your ideas and support to take it forward. Within this spirit I would be grateful for volunteers for our 50th year celebrations- please contact me directly regarding this.

On a personal note, my fish have come out of winter rather well. I see the future of my fish keeping within electric cars! My wife is none the wiser that the fish house heaters have been on since January and the cost masked by our car charging!

As a committee our entire focus is on our 50th show. I hope we are all able to make this a fantastic event for anyone who keeps, breeds or has a general interest in fancy goldfish - new or old to the hobby!

Happy water changes.

Josh

07896756686

joshuahearnwilkins@icloud.com

Notification of Resignation of AMGK President

It is with some regret that we announce the resignation of our latest President Mick Smith, who was elected President at our last Annual General Meeting in October 2023. Mick had been Vice President for the few years previously, following a very long stint of over 20 years as our Open Show Secretary. Mick has been a valued stalwart of the Society, bringing his unique insight into our conversations at the regular members' meetings, with hardly missing any over what must be some 40 years or so.

Mick's time as Show Secretary, both for our Open Shows in June of each year, together with our regular table shows held in our May and August club meetings gave us all confidence that the shows would go smoothly and contribute to a promised successful day to the enjoyment and wellbeing of all of us attending on the day. With the advent of the home computer, much of the behind the scenes work of the Show Secretary leading up to the big events has been made much simpler, but in Mick's day, it was always recognised as being a bit of a slog! It was this recognition by others that ensured that Mick's role lasted so long. Volunteers to take over all the tasks required throughout the years to keep the society running

smoothly are always hard to find when required as those of us of long standing know only too well. Therefore, a big thankyou to Mick from all of us, who continue to juggle our free time in order to fill his shoes, and send our best wishes as his health conditions take centre stage for both Mick and his devoted partner, June.

We, of course, hope to see both him and June at future meetings and shows whenever they are able. We also hope to see his famous London Shubunkins on the Show bench too!

Mick was courteous enough to properly inform the committee of his decision to step down from his duties to the Club, due to his current state of health, (his letter is printed below with his approval), and I'm sure that all members and friends of the Society wish him well for his planned surgery and also to June, who will continue to care for him as he makes a full recovery. Thank you Mick for all your time and efforts over the many years of Society Membership, it is greatly appreciated by all.

I am writing to notify you of my resignation from the position of President of AMGK, effective immediately. As the committee is aware, my recent health issues leave me unable to contribute fully to the club and therefore I can no longer continue in this role.

I hope you understand my position, and I am sad to leave my cherished long-standing roles on the committee, and formerly the Show Secretary for 20 years or so.

*I intend to remain an enthusiastic member of AMGK and wish to thank the committee for their continued commitment to the club, which I hope will remain a friendly and welcoming society of dedicated keepers and breeders of fancy goldfish.
Sincerely,*

Mick Smith
President

Editor's musings

I don't know what winter has been like in your neck of the woods but north Hampshire started very mild with just the odd short spell of freezing conditions this has been followed by an unseasonably warm period (10C water temperature).

I prefer a drop of cold weather as I think a spell of semi hibernation will help trigger my fish to spawn in the spring, problem is I don't want to hibernate and I can't stop myself keep going out to check that the fish are ok. I have a large fibre glasstank at end the garden with most of my adult fans in it is covered with thick wire mesh to but I still worry about a heron or a cat getting to them.

The fish in the fish house are ok with their temperature fluctuating between 5 and 12 C mind you I do have one heated tank with the smallest fans in, the other small ones I have put outside where they will have two choices this leaves me with only the strongest fish (well that's what mother nature does).

I'm still pondering on what feed the fish between now and spring proper arriving I will probably wait for the temperature to hit around 12 or 13 C and then start feeding them small amounts of brine shrimp supplemented by the odd block of bloodworm and flake food. (I am beginning to wonder now if bloodworm is about the same price as gold).

I'm trying to put a decent breeders team together but I'm (as usual) struggling to get the fourth fish to match well enough, still I have a couple of dozen fish yet to sort so I might be lucky. All this year's fish seem to be happy in unheated tanks in the fish house which is lucky as it saves on the electricity bill this at least means I can save up to buy some more bloodworm!

As you have probably gathered from my advert below I am trying to get hold of some broadtail moors for this year's breeding season ideally from a certain Mr Roberts strain so if you have any spare for sale please let me know.

WANTED

Broadtail Moors

*Please contact editor on:
rayrich1955@gmail.com*



Breeding and culling for quality butterfly telescopes

Jackie Pedley

I have been breeding and showing Butterfly tail telescopes for 8 years now and although I have Shubunkins veils and pearlscales, butterflies are still my favourite breed of fish. My 5 year breeding programme and hard work eventually paid off and in 2022 they were entered into the Nationwide Standards book.

They are extremely hard to breed and get right and over the years I have learned a lot of common faults in these beautiful fish.

Stage 1 cull is at around 3 weeks old and all the normal faults are taken out, joined tails, single tails and spine deformities, most fry have these faults in the beginning.

I use a jeweller's headset to be able to see my fry under extreme magnification, and I prefer to cull as young as possible. When the fry are about a month old and around half inch long, I look for the twin anal fins. From then on it is all down to development. I use Koi sedate overdose to cull as this is the most humane way in my opinion.



Unfortunately in these fish their tails can become problematic quite late on, sometimes as old as 6 months. Although the tail can initially appear good, sometimes faults can develop within a few weeks or months.

See example below, photo 1 shows a female where the tail looks quite good, and from the side nothing seems wrong. But photo 2 shows the tail after 6 months, the tail became deformed within a very short period of time, and I am really not sure what causes it apart from a fault with a weak peduncle. The tail can develop extreme upright, or I have seen it develop curled under where the fish is almost in a ball.



Using a jeweller's headset when culling fish . . . what a brilliant idea.

Ed

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2,

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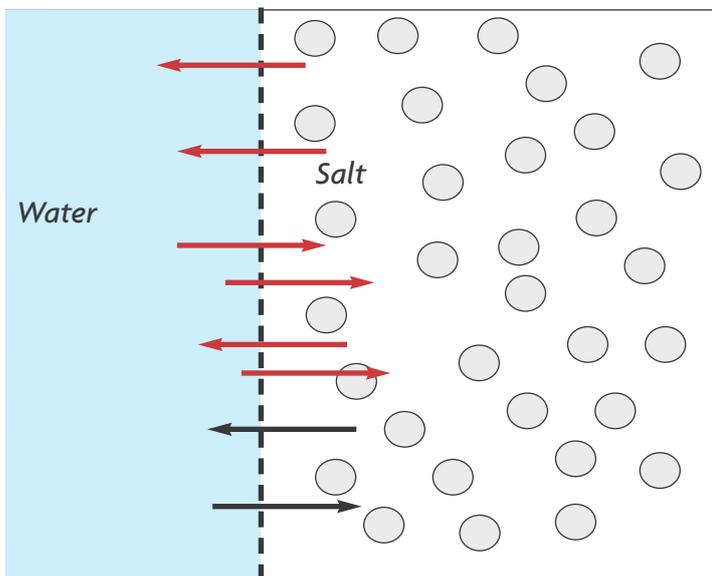
Salt . . . Why?

Alan Race

Some time ago Tom Bell emailed me asking about salt, he had heard that some goldfish enthusiasts used salt as part of their water treatment throughout the winter and wanted to know why.

This got me thinking about yhe many whys and wherefore about salt. To fully explain I must start with Osmosis. . . . No please don't just yawn and turn the page, it is interesting honest! . . .

Simply put if a permeable membrane separates two fluids each with an unequal amount of salt dissolved in them the water from the weaker solution will move through the membrane in an attempt to dilute the salts on the more concentrated side, also the salts in the stronger solution will diffuse into the weaker solution in an attempt to equalize the concentration of salt on both sides of the membrane.



In effect our goldfish are simply bags of salt wrapped in a membrane which has a higher contraction of salt than that of their surrounding water. They need these salts and minerals to sustain life, which they absorb from their food and surrounding environment).

The water from the environment which our fish live in is constantly flooding across their gills (membrane) and to some degree their skin (especially if it has a wound or

an ulcer), attempting to equalise the salt concentrations. The salts in the body will diffuse out into the surrounding water, again trying to balance the concentrations. Marine fish have the opposite problem, their salt concentration is lower than the surrounding water, this means that their water is flooding out of their bodies into the sea. These fish have to constantly drink the surrounding water and excrete the excess salts so that they do not de-hydrate.

Goldfish could not survive very long with all of the excess water in their system (in fact this is exactly what happens in the disease known as Dropsy, a symptom of a deeper problem rather than a disease itself) the kidneys are working very hard to excrete all of the excess. This hard work is no problem to a healthy strong fish, but a diseased and stressed fish or a fish with a reduced body function, i.e. during the winter, could do without the extra burden of osmoregulation.

How do we help I hear you ask? well, a teaspoon or two of salt (try around half an ounce) in each gallon of water is going to reduce the stress that the fish is under. What, in effect we are doing is bringing the concentration of salts in the water closer to that of the Goldfish, giving it a little helping hand.

There may be times when matching the salt concentration of our fish may be useful, about one and a half ounces per gallon, but this should only be used in extreme circumstances and the fish should be returned to a lower concentration as soon as possible.

When I say salt, what do I mean? Well not most cooking salts as they contain iodine and other dietary supplements. Not marine salts as they contain a mixture of salts and other elements. Best to use, is the salt sold in Koi retailers, just pure Sodium Chloride, check some table salts, they may be suitable. This is the advise given by most books, having said all of that I have used whatever came to hand at the time with little ill effects.

In conclusion always keep some salt to hand, you never know when you might need it.

Metallic Veiltails *my way*

Brian Young



Calico veiltails have been my favourite fish for many years and I have had success with them at the National, AMGK, BAS and GSGB shows. It was while showing them that I noticed one or two metallic veils were benched and my eye was drawn to them because of their fantastic colour, a very intense hue as near to red as is possible. Surprisingly there were not many breeders specialising in these metallics. Those I am aware of are Bill Cook, Andy Barton and Ian Mildon. These metallics are covered under the "Self" portion in the National Standard for veiltails, so being curious I wondered if there were major differences between the two types. Obviously there are different requirements for each in terms of colour but all else is the same. With this in mind I decided to acquire some metallics to see if I could breed them successfully and to perhaps boost the interest in them in our hobby.

I had a good discussion with Bill Cook who then kindly supplied me with three adult metallics from his pond, two females and a male. It was January, not the best time to move fish in the cold weather, but I introduced them into my fish house with no heat after letting them equalise to the water temperature which was about 10 C. I decided I had time to condition them for a spring spawn so I gradually raised the temperature over a period of about two weeks to 20 C and started feeding them regally about three times a day on reasonably high protein food, pellets and flake just to vary their diet. Once the weather started to warm my compost bin came alive with tiger, or brandling, worms so I fed them at least once a day in addition to the dried food. I separated the sexes at the end of April and continued to feed them heavily, increasing the number of worms. At the same time I increased water temperature to about 24 C over two weeks. The females had fattened and males had tubercles by then so I introduced them and placed mops in a breeding tank. I use "Skin Scrubbers" as mops, they are made from soft nylon and when they are unravelled they make an ideal medium to catch eggs.

Eggs were laid after a couple of days and hatched three days later at 24 C

The work then starts. Liquify No1 is used after the fry are free swimming and then brine shrimp is introduced at least three times a day for at least six weeks when it becomes possible to cull out single tails and distorted bodies. Tanks are kept at about 20C from now on. After another couple of weeks joined tails can be seen with a solid line on top of the caudal. Dried food is introduced gradually while continuing with a daily feed of brine shrimp. I use a pestle and mortar to grind pellets down to powder for a week or two before feeding with small pellets although powder food is available commercially. I would like to feed daphnia to help with growth but natural sources are impossible to find in my area and growing my own is limited because of restricted space. Without mentioning particular manufacturers I feed a varied diet of high protein pellets and flake both of which are insect based. I also try to use food which does not result in large amounts of waste. I have successfully tried steamed egg and have blitzed some peeled prawns with a few peas thrown into the mixture as alternatives to the dried food. Throughout this initial period it is most important to keep water in good condition. I am fortunate to have individual taps to each of my tanks and a common drain system so changing water is easy and can be done as often as necessary, probably 25% three times a week. Filtration is also important and I use air lift sponge filters in each tank, cleaning them regally..

Now comes the wait. Metallic fish turn black gradually before changing colour, the process can take several weeks. Not all fish in a brood change colour at the same time with most changing after a period of some months and some even up to a year. It has been said that the longer they take the deeper the colour. One thing effecting colour density is natural light and those kept in my small pond over the summer months have



certainly had better colour than those kept in the fish house.

In my view the fish would normally take about a year to obtain good colour, most of that time being in sun or bright daylight. Best colour usually takes two years. I have found the metallics are hardier than calicos and although the last few winters have not been too severe my fish have survived throughout in my small pond. I do keep the water moving and also use acetate sheeting to cover it.

Apart from having to satisfy the requirements of the National Standard there are two colour problems which a judge might consider apart from its depth: colour not extending fully in the fins and lightness, even white, under the ventral curve (under the head and extending to the vent) This latter could be considered to be part of the fishes natural camouflage and it is very hard to overcome. Perhaps the answer is to find fish without these two

colour problems and to use them as breeding stock. There could be some in most broods.

Now that I have had a couple of years experience and some success in a couple of shows with these fish I am convinced they are well worth breeding and hopefully they will be given the attention they deserve with more being bred and benched in future.



Welcome to a new member of the AMGK **Clara Hart**



“My pride and joy are my ranchu which I'd love to breed in the future, but I also enjoy orandas and fantails. Aside from goldfish, I think dojo loaches are fab. I also have many tanks of tropical fish, but I can't say I have a favourite type anymore. I also keep other watery pets, such as axolotls.”



You Are What You Eat: Naturally Enhancing Colour in Goldfish

I have written an article below which may be of interest.

You Are What You Eat: Naturally Enhancing Colour in Goldfish

In the colourful world of ornamental fish, skin colour plays a pivotal role in determining attractiveness and commercial value. A recent study explored the impact of *Delonix regia* on the coloration of goldfish which revealed some intriguing insights into the realm of aquatic aesthetics.

Conducted over 90 days in controlled glass aquariums, the experiment introduced *Delonix regia* powder into the diets of goldfish, acting as a potent source of carotenoids. The results revealed a striking correlation between the concentration of *Delonix regia* and the enhancement of goldfish pigmentation.

Carotenoid content, assessed through spectrophotometric analysis, showcased a significant increase in fish fed with *Delonix regia*-enriched diets. The highest carotenoid concentration was recorded at 20% supplementation, resulting in a visually striking coloration of the goldfish.

As the ornamental fish market continues to thrive globally, with colour being a key determinant in pricing, this study underscores the need for innovative dietary interventions. *Delonix regia*'s natural pigments prove to be a valuable addition to fish diets, promising not just improved coloration but also potential benefits for growth and overall well-being.

Breeding Quality Ryukin

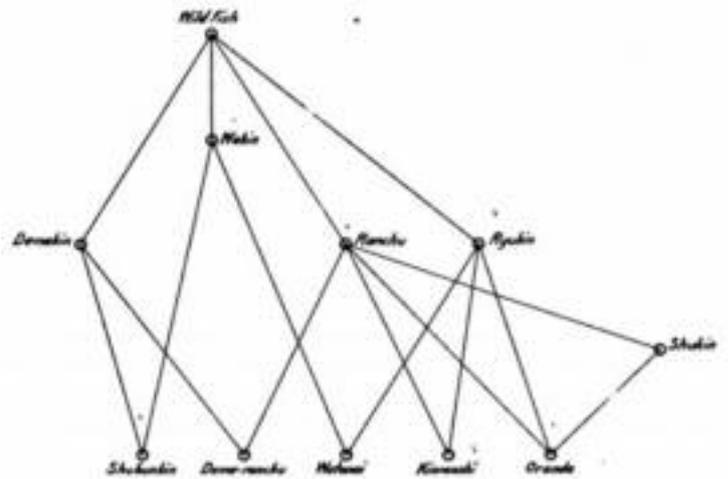
Grahame Draper

The Ryukin is a distinctive and historic variety of fancy goldfish, yet can be challenging to breed consistently to the show standard in the UK. After 7 years of experience and benefiting from mentoring, research papers and books from experts worldwide, I've developed strong opinions on best practices for maintaining quality in Ryukin bloodlines.

My current Ryukin stock originates from a long-tailed male and a short-tailed female acquired years ago from commercial sources.

department. While minor variations may appear, each generation conforms closely to the classic Ryukin type, refuting the mongrel variety stigma often given to this progenitor variety.

I think it is important not to forget that the Ryukin variety from Japan is the variety that gives us other more popular show bench varieties such as Fantails and Veiltails, and originally did not have its now famous hump.



Ryukin Painting from Goldfish and their culture in Japan by [Matsubara, Shinnosuke], 1858

By raising fry in incrementally deeper tanks, I help strengthen body shape during development. My fish are robust, active feeders that retain humps and

Deep Tanks Develop Better Humps

I use deep tanks for grow outs as I believe the weight of the water helps strengthen body shape. As Nathan Sylvester, an award-winning Ryukin breeder, states: "Moving Ryukin to 20+ inch tanks as early as possible allows the back muscles to develop properly to

support the signature hump" (Sylvester, 2021). Nathan who I contacted in the US was instrumental at the start of my breeding in answering questions as one of the few active breeders of Ryukin at the time.

Genetics, Food, and Water Depth Influence Form
There are three main theories on developing the signature Ryukin hump - genetics, overfeeding, and water depth. While genetics likely play a key role, some feed aggressively without losing form. As noted by Chen Ruixue, founder of Dingyu Fish Farm in China, "Ryukin should be fed protein-rich diets frequently to maintain bodily vigour" (Chen, 2017).

I'm convinced deep water also helps strengthen the back through exercise. Japanese commercial Ryukin ponds are substantially deeper than Ranchu grow outs. Likewise, moving juveniles into deeper tanks preserves the hump dome in UK Ryukin (Loach, 1999). My young fish go into 16 inch tanks/tub at minimum, and the most development happens in the second and third year.

Long Tails are More Balanced but Require Care

The UK Ryukin standard describes a medium tail, satisfying those wanting either long or short. However, I find long-tailed Ryukin the most elegant overall. According to noted author and US judge Dr. Herbert Axelrod: "The long-tailed Ryukin is one of the most beautiful of the veiltail class of goldfish" (Axelrod, 2015). Yet long fins require caution when mixing sexes before breeding, as males risk damage from territorial

females, especially when food is in the tank, the often larger females are capably of causing considerable damage.

In closing, selectively breeding for both form and fins results in quality Ryukin. Patience and proper conditions give the best results over generations. With sound advice from dedicated enthusiasts worldwide, I have strived to bring these internationally popular variety to the UK Show bench.

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Nationwide: Goldfish Societies National Open Show 2022: Best in Show.

Article from our new Member Carla Hart

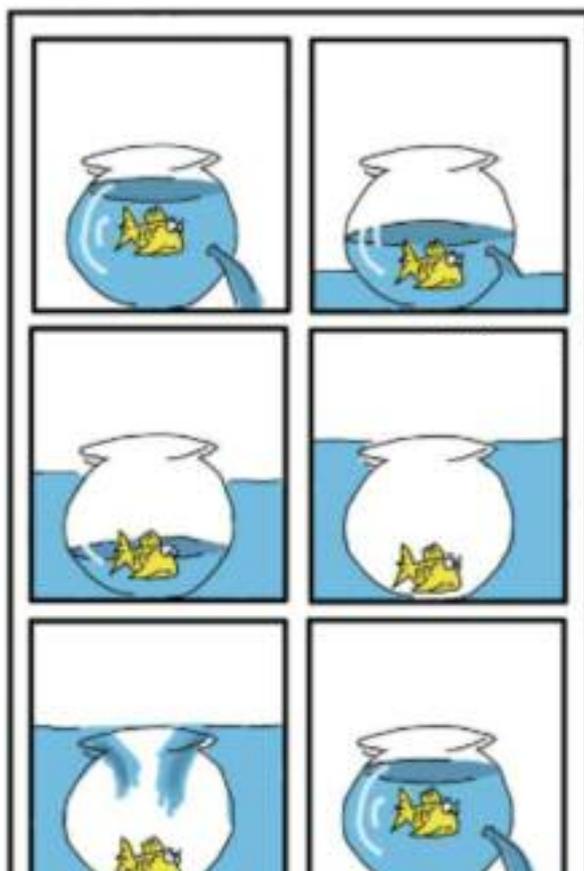
Improving Goldfish Health and Wellbeing with *Lavender Extract*



Lavender extract is a promising home remedy for boosting the health, reproductive success and stress management in goldfish. Recent research has revealed that supplementing goldfish food with lavender extract can significantly reduce markers of stress (cortisol & glucose), improve immune function, increase growth rates and boost reproductive outcomes.

Researchers in the study compared the effects of different lavender extract concentrations on goldfish's stress response, immune system, growth and reproductive metrics, following an air exposure stress test for a period of 56 days. The optimal concentration was 3 mg kg⁻¹ feed of lavender extract, exhibiting significant improvements in growth, reductions in stress levels, and improved immune responses. The reproductive success of goldfish receiving the optimal lavender concentration saw higher fertilisation and hatch rates, as well as increased larval survival.

This research suggests that lavender extract could play a role in boosting the health and reproductive success in goldfish. It also highlights the need for further investigation into natural remedies in fish keeping.



Article from goldfish history with acknowledgement to Petfish Monthly and thanks to intrepid reporter Elaine Edmunds . . .

● *Putting the breeders together*

● *First foods to the fore*

● *Standards and shows*

FOR the first time for a few years, the tanks in my fish house have had ice on the water surface. The fish lie on the bottom in a semi-dormant state, as I write, and a glance at the thermometer shows an air temperature of a little over freezing point. It seems strange to think that before very long spring will arrive and with it the goldfish breeding season. March is the month that usually sees the first spawning activities of goldfish and therefore we should give some thought to preparing the fish, and the accommodation, in readiness.

After their winter rest it will pay to separate the males from the females and condition them apart. The separation of the sexes will help to encourage a successful spawning when the fish are put together. During this period of separation the spawning tanks can be made ready. Use the largest tank available, preferably one having a surface area of not less than 36 inches by 12 inches. The depth should not be too great, in fact the water need be no deeper than 6 inches. Thoroughly clean the chosen tank and fill it with fresh water, which can then be left until required.

In the meantime the goldfish, which you intend to use for breeding, must be brought into breeding condition. With plenty of good meaty foods — such as chopped earthworms, added to a varied diet, the fish will soon exhibit all those signs of good health and tip-top condition; bright eyes, shining scales and erect fins. The sexual characteristics of the males will become evident; small, white, pin-head-size 'pimples', known as tubercles, will be seen on the gill plates and the front rays of the pectoral fins. The females will assume a distinctly plump ap-

Coldwater Scene



by Frank W. Orme

pearance as they fill up with ova and, at times, seem quite lopsided, due to the eggs distending one side of the body more than the other. When the fish display these signs they have reached breeding condition.

As the water temperature slowly increases and the daylight lengthens so the time approaches for putting the fish together. Wait for a settled period of weather to arrive, with water temperatures of 60°F (16°C), and then set up the spawning tank. Bunches of fine-leaved plants can be used, if they are well cleaned and all pests destroyed (including any snails or their eggs). The safest method is to use some artificial medium such as synthetic wool made into mops. These mops are simple to make by cutting the wool into 18 inch lengths, doubling these and binding to give a mop of 9 inches, suspended in the water to receive the fish spawn. Before use it is advisable to boil the mops and swill thoroughly, to remove any trace of water-soluble dye. The spawning material should be placed at both ends of the tank in sufficient quantity to form a reasonably dense thicket — but not so dense that it impedes the fish swimming through it as they spawn.

When you have decided that the right time has arrived, and the

fish are alert and in good breeding condition, the chosen male can be placed in the prepared breeding quarters and allowed to settle down for 24 hours. The following evening the female can also be gently placed in the tank. If the male swims straight to her and after a while commences to push and nudge quietly at her as he follows her around, then, in all probability, you may be lucky enough to find that the following morning the spawning will be in full swing.

Around mid-day an inspection should reveal many eggs, each about the size of a pin head, adhering to the spawning medium, base and sides of the tank. The fish must now be removed to prevent them eating the eggs, which they will do if they are left in the tank. Install a heater and thermostat and slowly raise the temperature to 70°F (21°C); this will ensure that the eggs hatch in around 4 days.

If you have not been successful in obtaining a spawning after 3 or 4 days, separate the fish and try again after a further week of feeding them with earthworms and daphnia.



If everything goes according to plan with your first spawning of the year, it is essential to see that you have a plentiful supply of small food available, with which to feed the tiny fish when they become free-swimming. Brine shrimp eggs can be placed, according to the supplier's instructions, in containers to hatch. The newly hatched brine shrimps can then be strained on a fine material such as an old well-washed handkerchief, and then swilled into the tank of baby fish. Goldfish fry can, in fact, be maintained upon this food until they reach a size of almost half an inch.

Before the spawn hatches it will be seen that a great many of the eggs will become white and develop fungus; these will be the dead infertile eggs, but do not worry, for the fungus will not attack any of the eggs which are fertile. After a time it will be possible to see the minute alevin, within the egg, making sudden and vigorous twisting move-

ments, which is a sure sign that they will soon be hatching out.

Quite possibly, on inspection of the tank the day after noticing the movement of the alevins, tiny glass-like splinters will be seen hanging from the glass sides of the aquarium; be very careful not to disturb them for these are the young fish. Look closely and you will be able to see the air-sac, a rudimentary backbone and even a minute heart beating. Before long they will commence, in short spasmodic bursts of energy, their journey to the water surface, where they take in a small amount of air to 'inflate' the swim bladder. Owing to the water pressure this demands great effort and any fish that has the misfortune to sink to the bottom may have some difficulty in again struggling to the surface. Indeed some fry will fail to fill the swim bladder and are doomed not to survive. For this reason spawning and hatching tanks should have no greater depth than 12 inches, and many breeders suggest the ideal depth should be a maximum of 9 inches.

The day after the swim bladders have been 'inflated' the alevins have recovered sufficient strength to swim freely. They have used up the food which was contained in their yolk-sac, and they will be actively hunting for the microscopic food which forms a newly hatched fish's diet. It is at this stage that the brine shrimp nauplii can be fed to the young. If the shrimps are available in sufficient quantity the little bellies of the fry will become filled to bursting point, and will take on the red coloration of the shrimp; such feeding will lead to quite a rapid growth. It is possible to have, after 7 to 10 days, a tank of young fish of up to half an inch in length.

Having raised the young goldfish to this size it becomes essential that they are given extra space, so that they do not begin to suffer from being overcrowded, and so it becomes necessary to remove any small, weak and deformed fry. If another tank is available it will pay great dividends, in the continued growth rate of the small fish, if some of the young are carefully placed into this extra tank after they have been sorted. Space, as

well as ample supplies of food, is an essential ingredient in keeping the fish healthy and growing. If sufficient space cannot be provided then the number of young must be reduced otherwise the fry will become stunted and many will die. A crowded tank provides the basis for severe losses if disease should strike. It will come as a shock to the unfortunate person who tries to raise too many fish in too small a space to see how quickly a complete spawning can be wiped out by a disease or outbreak of flukes, either of which could probably have been controlled in less crowded conditions. No experienced goldfish breeder attempts to raise more fish than he knows he can cope with and will not waste valuable space on poor quality specimens. Regular sortings are made to cull out the less desirable fish so that, eventually, only the best remain.



Recently I had occasion to look back at the various standards that have been produced for goldfish varieties. Did you know that the now defunct British Aquarist Association drew up their standard in 1935, and that this remained the judging standard until 1947? A new standard was produced in 1947 by the Federation of British Aquatic Societies and 3 years later, in 1950, a new set of standards arrived on the goldfish scene, produced by the Goldfish Society of Great Britain. Both the FBAS and GSGB standards remained in current use, by their own adherents, for some years — although the Bristol Aquarist Society devised their own standards in 1951.

In 1974 the goldfish world arrived at, in my opinion, a most stupid state of confusion by having no less than three sets of standards launched upon it. The GSGB issued a revised version of their standards and these were followed by a revised edition of the FBAS standards, only to be followed by a completely new set of standards, produced in the Midlands by goldfish enthusiasts of the Midland Aquarium and Pool Society who called their product 'International Competi-

tive Standards for Pedigree Goldfish Varieties'. But that was not to be the end, for 1975 saw a still further addition to the number of standards when the Confederation of United Kingdom Aquarists issued theirs. When it is considered that during the 16 years between 1935 and 1961 only four standards were produced surely it must be admitted that there was no need for four differing standards to have been produced between 1974 and 1975, all appearing in the space of around 18 months. It should, however, be stated that those issued by the 'Confederation' were not launched for general use.

As mentioned in previous issues of PFM, the national body for goldfish interests, Associated Goldfish Societies, is now trying to bring some commonsense to

the matter by, hopefully, rationalising the position. If their efforts result in a reduction in the number of existing standards I am sure that the majority of goldfish enthusiasts will appreciate their efforts to bring some semblance of sanity back into the hobby.



The season of open shows will soon be with us and this Jubilee Year will, no doubt, be a theme of many — especially those which provide classes for displays. Last year saw a number of the shows staging an improved coldwater section and it is to be hoped that this trend will continue during this, and coming, seasons. As I have said on previous occasions, the organising committees would be encouraged if more

goldfish exhibitors were prepared to enter their fish in their shows. Many times I have been told that one reason why exhibitors do not enter shows, that involve any travelling distance, is the difficulty of having to supply their own show tanks. This is quite understandable when one thinks about it — there is sufficient difficulty in getting fish to the shows without the additional chore of carrying tanks, which have to be filled upon arrival and emptied before leaving. Although it would involve some extra cost it might be worthwhile to consider having a few tanks available for the use of any exhibitor travelling over a certain distance. This facility might well encourage more distant exhibitors to enter a show — even if they had to pay a small extra charge for the use of a tank.

pfm NEWS

THIRTEEN societies took part in the PORTSMOUTH AS Inter-Club Show 1976. An interesting assortment of films were shown ('Stories from the Sea', 'Worms', 'The River must Live', 'Among the Rushes' and the TV chimps in 'Golfers Progress') while FBAS judges, Mr C. A. T. Brown, Mr B. Coombes, Mr J. Jefferys and Mr D. Lambourne, dealt with the fish. Havant AS won the Shield with 21 points (2, Gosport AS, 18; 3, Portsmouth AS, 14; 4, Isle of Wight, 12). Other societies taking part were Salisbury & DAS, Kingston & DAS, Roehampton AS, Southampton & DAS, Petersfield & DAS, Wessex AS, Reigate & Redhill AS, Brighton & Southern AS and Pisces AS. Circumstances beyond their control prevented Crawley, South Park, Hounslow, Basingstoke, New Forest and Godalming societies from attending. Bracknell, were unable to enter the competition although a few of their members attended the Show as a day

out. Only half the clubs were able to enter all the classes. Haslemere AS and Kingsclere & DAS had intended to take part but were unable to do so on the day.

Points were allocated according to the FBAS general show rules (by prize cards) and the winners of the twelve classes were:

● 1, Havant; 2, Southampton; 3, Kingston; 4, Salisbury. ● 1, Isle of Wight; 2, Salisbury; 3, Havant; 4, Roehampton. ● 1, Havant; 2, Reigate & Redhill; 3, Roehampton; 4, Gosport. ● 1, Roehampton; 2, Brighton; 3, Gosport; 4, Petersfield. ● 1, Gosport; 2, Portsmouth; 3, Havant; 4, Petersfield. ● 1, Wessex; 2, Portsmouth; 3, Salisbury; 4, Hants. ● 1, Gosport; 2, Southampton; 3, Kingston; 4, Isle of Wight. ● 1, Havant; 2, Petersfield; 3, Roehampton; 4, Wessex. ● 1, Mt. Gosport; 2, Havant; 3, Southampton; 4, Isle of Wight. ● 1, Salisbury; 2, Portsmouth; 3, Isle of Wight; 4, Petersfield. ● 1, Isle of Wight; 2, Portsmouth; 3, Kingston; 4, Havant. ● 1, Kingston; 2, Gosport; 3, Portsmouth; 4, Salisbury.

Because of the transfer of the Spring Bank Holiday to June this year, the date for the 1977 inter-club show is 5th June and societies in the south will be notified.

RYDE, Isle of Wight, was the venue for an inter-society contest between members of the ISLE OF WIGHT AS and SOUTH PARK AQUATIC (STUDY) SOCIETY. Three fish from each club were entered in the three classes and judges were Mr D. Crisp and Mr J. Pollard. Awards were:

Common goldfish: 1, Mrs E. Ford (IW); 2 & 3, Mr B. McHugh (IW); 4, Mr J. Herring (SPASS). Fancy goldfish: 1 & 4, Mr J. Herring; 2, Mrs M. Dudley (SPASS); 3, Mr S. Stevens (IW). Native and foreign coldwater: 1 & 2, Mr B. McHugh; 3, Mrs M. Dudley; 4, Mr D. Herman (SPASS).

The contest is an annual event and the Cup presented to the overall winners was awarded to South Park this year.

HULL AS members enjoyed a really good evening's programme when Mr R. Singleton lectured on Lake Malawi cichlids. Starting with the geography of the Rift Valley in eastern Africa he progressed on to the Lake and its inhabitants and related some of his own experiences in spawning many of the species. Mr Singleton showed a number of really excellent paintings of these cichlids — of a large size and expertly and accurately coloured.

The Society's 'Fish of the Year' competition has been judged by Mr J. Scarll and Mr

F. Shipley, both of Goole AS. Any fish gaining a first during the year may be entered and the winner was a peah danio entered by Mr I. Duncan (2, Apt. spilouchens, Master A. Young; 3, *Gymnotus carapo*, Mr A. Frisby; 4, *Po. macrophthalmus*, Mr G. Andrews). Trophy winners for 1976 were: Senior aquarist of the year, Mrs G. Frisby; Junior aquarist of the year, Master A. Young; Fish of the Year, Mr I. Duncan; Home breeders, Mr R. Willerton; Table breeders, Mr R. Willerton; Most points at table shows, Master A. Young; pairs rearing competition, Mr P. Oldroyd.

Readers living near Hull are urged by Miss Karen Bellard, 6-year-old daughter of Mr I. Bellard:

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Guppies and killies, not perch and trout.

They have Open Shows and Bring-and-Buys —

"Here's two fine swords", the auctioneer cries:

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The Hull Aquarist Club you'd better remember.'

CHESTERFIELD AS report a most successful year in 1976. Members have been very active, entering a society display in both the Yorkshire



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