



Is there a clear winner?

As is often the case, it depends on what you want and can accommodate – and your budget, of course. Both have pros and cons but both are perfect for UK ponds. Both will mix readily with each other, their own kind as well as other pond favourites like Orfe and Tench.

For the smaller pond, Goldfish are the best choice bar none, and are far easier and cheaper to accommodate.

For the larger display pond, Koi hold the most visual qualities.

In planted ponds, Goldfish are a better choice. Koi are more destructive because of their larger appetites, digging tendencies and large size. Large Koi ponds rarely contain plants because of these factors, but you do not have to rule them out entirely.

If you want your pond fish to breed, Goldfish will do so prolifically in the pond, whereas Koi on the whole will not.

If you are worried about thieves, either of the avian or human variety, Koi outgrow predatory Herons; Goldfish don't. But Goldfish don't tend to get stolen from ponds. Expensive Koi do.

Both Koi and Goldfish are invasive in the wrong, unnatural waters and can threaten ecosystems, yet paradoxically, both can be challenging to keep.

Many of us grew up with Goldfish. Many, now grown up, want Koi. But whichever floats your boat, the most important thing is that you enjoy your fish. Long live the great British pond.

Goldfish News

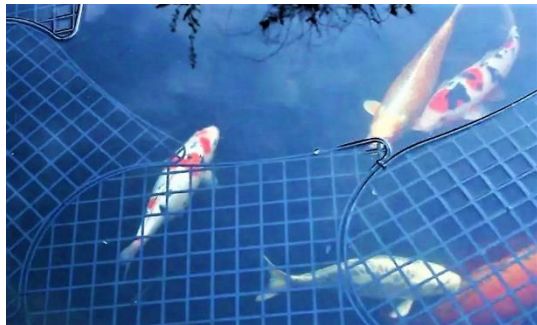
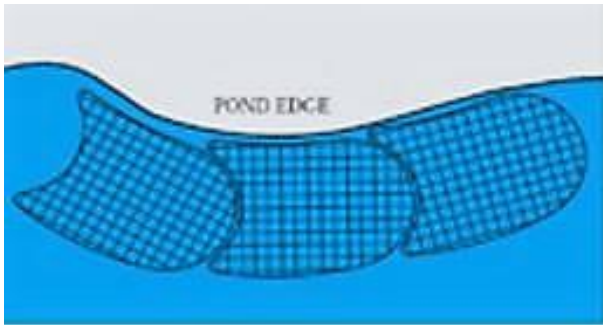
Andy Green of Star Fisheries has been in the news – both the Daily Mail and Practical Fishkeeping monthly. He owns an Oranda that weighs in at 2lb 10oz (1kilo,180gms) and is almost a foot (30cm) long. He says it is called Rocky and is three years old. Imported from China it took Andy months to persuade the Chinese owner to sell it.

If you want it, Andy is asking £4,500.



Pond News

When I had three ponds, Herons were not a problem in Halifax. But if they were, I would have used the 'Heron Guard' a British product made by the firm Heron Solutions (contact them at info@heronsolutions.co.uk.) It is a black plastic mesh that locks together to just cover the perimeter of any shape of pond. Because a Heron lands nearby and steps up to the pond, the protection keeps it (and cats) at bay.



This is better (aesthetically) than covering the whole pond, and all the other methods, from Plastic Herons to Flashing Lights, just do not work, I was told.

They cost £4.99 each (including VAT) and the P&P is £5.99 no matter how many purchased. To give a total coverage, measure the pond perimeter in inches and divide by 20 to give number needed. If in cms, divide by 50.8.

For example, a 10 ft X 8 ft will cost £90 plus that P&P. You can order via the website or phone 01905757899 (mobile 07708283656) – they told me.

More of Bill's Goldfish



Bill says: these were a family of Nacreous Lionheads ... the best was chosen for line breeding.



Not all breeding was successful. These Metallic Fantails developed long bodies – the Line was ended.



Bill says: A shoal of 40 Metallic Veiltails – held in just a 4 foot aquarium via constant water changes.



I liked Nacreous Veiltails, especially with a blue background, shown here.

A Sad Tale

Living on the top story of a building converted to flats meant I can no longer have the giant aquarium I have always owned (a burst tank would be a problem – it happens). So I have a bank of mini-tanks (unlikely that all will leak). In one 60 litre aquarium I had a Veiltail given to me by Sherridan a few years ago. It was developing well and perhaps will win a prize at some OS. Its companion (Goldfish need company) was a Lionhead, chosen by President Bill from Dave's Aquarium in Bolton.

The other day the Lionhead showed typical stress signs and so the various treatments were started, to no avail. It just stopped eating and faded away. A post-mortem examination showed a growth inside the mouth that blocked the alimentary canal. The reaction of the Veiltail was dramatic. It kept pushing the Lionhead and refused food itself, obviously upset at the Lionhead's problem. When the Lionhead died the Veiltail hid away and continued to refuse foods. I immediately went to the local aquastore to find another companion – but too late, it died. I am sure of a broken heart.

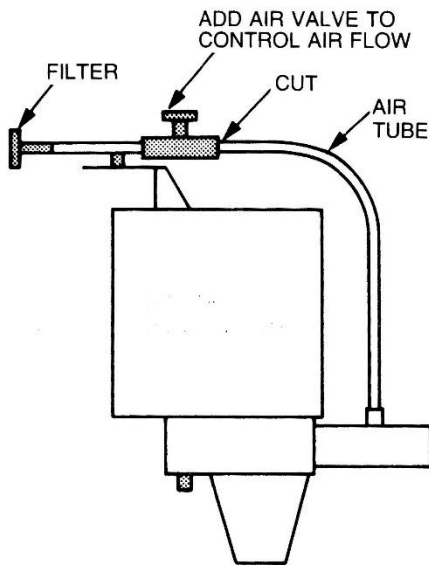


It is not at all anthropomorphic to say that Goldfish have emotions.

They do.

**My Companion Goldfish
– but no longer mine**

The Monthly Top Tip



If you use a power filter with built-in aeration you may get too much air – to reduce this means slowing the pump down and so reduced filtration.

To reduce the air while still on full power, add an airline attached to its own valve control, as shown.

The filter is just to keep out dusty air, if needed. Any polyfilter wool or pad will do.

Fix all in place with a blob of Silicone Sealer.

Digital Goldfish

If you would like to monitor your Goldfish from anywhere in the world, get the REEF-Cam (sold by the Tropical Marine Centre in the UK – they are wholesalers so you need to ask for one at an aquastore such as Maidenhead Aquatics) @ £140.

A submersible camera sends images to a Wi-Fi unit that can be accessed from your iPad or iPhone etc.



The instructions are both comprehensive and confusing. But it will work, eventually, if you experiment with the settings on your laptop, tablet or smart phone. Here is my iPad showing the internal scene of my display Goldfish tank ...



With a Wi-Fi connection you can receive, live, the aquatic scene anywhere in the world. Useful to check on the fish while you are on holiday (but what you do about a problem is itself a problem).

The Wi-Fi receiver has an option to include an SD card (micro – not supplied) so you can record a video. Still photos can be taken, again from anywhere with a Wi-Fi connection.

There are two models - to hold the camera in place, one has a magnetic clamp, through the glass, the other has a sucker to fix internally. Knowing the life expectancy of suckers, I chose the magnetic clamp, which worked well.

FNAS News

The once mighty Federation of Northern Aquarium Societies has faded over the years as Northern clubs closed down. We, the NGPS, remain one of the few society members, so no less than four of us attended that FNAS meeting detailed in last month's Newsletter. It was decided that the Federation should continue if only to supply Judges who offer FNAS Standards and perhaps keep the 'Champion of Champions' alive via BAF, the British Aquarist Festival.

As a consequence, our Chairman Sherridan was voted in as their Treasurer and myself, David Ford, as Secretary and Webmaster. Alan Birchenough and Alan White are on Committee too.

To see the Minutes of that meeting go to www.fnas.co.uk.

Members Write

Our Scottish member, Alex King, reports an unusual start to the breeding season. He wrote: This has been the strangest year I have had since I started breeding fancy goldfish 39 years ago. I have never had so many females throwing eggs all over the bottom of my tanks/tubs with or without males being present. I reckon I could have had about 12 spawnings up till now, but obviously I have to consider the amount of space available and food to keep them growing, so I have kept 3 planned spawnings of Ranchu, 2 fairly large and 1 small as I wanted to breed with this specific female just to see what she will produce.

Below are photos of 1st planned spawning after they were culled at 7 and 17 days old and I still have over a 100 and will keep culling them at regular intervals as they develop.



(Ed.) Thanks Alex – will other members send me spawning details (and photos where possible) for the Newsletters. This is our only record of members' success in breeding the Varieties. As always: drdmford@outlook.com

Minutes of the May Meeting

These proposed logos for the Nationwide Societies' Badge and Rosettes were shown and unanimously approved.



Memories of Bristol's past President, Jim Day, were discussed. He was an aquarist legend for producing prize-winning Calico Veiltails every year, many at our NGPS Open Shows.



He died 24th April. The funeral will be in Bristol but if any members wish to attend contact Sherridan for the details.

Sherridan was able to report the good news that the NEGS's Open Show will take place this year as usual.

Richard reported two successful spawnings of his Moors and David Ormondroyd reported that the Goldfish collected last meeting were successfully (eventually) installed at St Matthews Hall.

Next meeting at The Church Inn will be Tuesday June 13th at 8pm.

Please let Sherridan know if you can't make it.

