

**NORTHERN GOLDFISH
& PONDKEEPERS
SOCIETY**
A Nationwide Society
NEWSLETTER



JULY2010



Sherridan's Common that won Best in Show at the very last BAF OS 2012

.... and now an article from him about feeding, or not, your Goldfish:

When not to feed your Goldfish.

Hundreds of articles must have been written and thousands of conversations taken place on the subject of when and what to feed your goldfish but in some respects it is just as important knowing when not to feed and this is a subject rarely mentioned.

Newly acquired fish: it is so tempting when you get a new fish from the shop, breeder or auction to feed it the moment you put it in its new tank but it really is not a good idea. Under these conditions most fish are rather shocked and disoriented and are unlikely to eat properly for a day or two so you will have uneaten food rotting in your tank - something you need to avoid. Even when the fish has settled it is not a good idea to give food in normal quantity, much better to start with small amounts and as the fish gets used to eating again slowly increase to normal.

This is particularly important with imported fish that can be hugely stressed in their jet delivery half way round the world when they may very well have been subject to being dosed with anaesthetics to slow their metabolism down, stop their digestive processes and allow more fish to be packed in the transport bags. All the fishes bodily processes will need to start up again and be working properly before it can eat normally, even if the fish is eating freely large amounts of, possibly unfamiliar food types, in the gut not being digested properly

Taking fish to a show: fish should not be fed for several days before being taken to a show or on any other journey for that matter, this is to avoid them fouling their transport water or show tank with their droppings not only can this be very unsightly but without filtration in a small volume of water really quite dangerous.

When going on holiday: Goldfish and all other pet fish do not have the same feeding needs as we and other mammals do, we need to regularly eat each day fish do not. Your Goldfish, provided they are healthy and in a well maintained suitable tank, will be perfectly alright for several weeks with no feeding, in fact they will probably be in better condition on your return. It is much better to do this than ask a neighbour or friend with no experience to come in and feed, **THEY WILL FEED TOO MUCH AND TROUBLE WILL ENSUE.**

Diseased fish: very ill fish are unlikely to want to feed and will be particularly badly affected by the results of decaying food in their water. If medication, or improvement in water conditions, is effective and the fish begins to recover feeding may be reintroduced slowly to provide the patient with much needed energy.

In the winter: In cold conditions the fishes will eat much less food, so make sure they are well fed in autumn to build up their reserves. The traditional view is that all food should be withheld below 50 degrees Fahrenheit / 10 degrees Centigrade and generations of fish have overwintered on this policy. Recently I have questioned the wisdom of absolute adherence to this rule and had better results with occasional light feedings through the winter.

When they are full: probably the NUMBER ONE FEEDING RULE - DO NOT OVERFEED, the fish, however they are kept, will only eat a certain amount before they are satiated, food left over will cause all sorts of problems, the most immediately dangerous probably being the natural bacteria in the water will use it as a food source increase their numbers a billion fold and use up all the Oxygen in the water, asphyxiating the fish.

Feed your Goldfish - yes, they are little piggies and will thrive when fed properly, but think about it as well.

The FBAS Chairman sent this letter to all their members

Dear Members,

As you have probably gleamed from the Federation Website our June meeting due to the current corona virus situation was cancelled.

Unfortunately, this year our show season has been severely hit with all shows cancelled or put on hold, but thanks to a brilliant idea and a lot of work by Alan (*Stevens*) he has devised a Virtual Fish Show together with Dick (*Mills*) the details are on our website (www.fbas.co.uk) . My thanks go to both for the work that they have done to put this

venture together and I hope all fishkeepers support this fantastic idea.

I hope all members are keeping virus free and that fish houses are in prime condition and that your fish will be ready to show again in the future. As a song goes...We'll meet again, don't know where don't know when But hopefully soon and not too far in the future.

Please watch and support our website for updates on our hobby and please support the Virtual Fish Show.

Hope you all keep safe and well. Keith Cocker FBAS Chairman.

Our 2020 Online Fish Show

As stated last month, we will be having a photographic competition. The Classes are 1001 – Goldfish Varieties, 1002 – Goldfish Breeding, 1003 – Ponds, 1004 – People, 1005 – Any Fish. Take digital photos of the

fish, pond or people and send to me via email, WhatsApp, Message (etc.) at drdmford@gmail.com any time before the end of August. These will be judged by your Chairman, with announced First, Second and Third in the September Newsletter. For the members with no internet, send a paper photograph (any size), with details on the reverse side, to Sherridan. Post to him at 19, Manley Road, Sale, Cheshire M33 4EG. Include a note if you want it returning.

Tip of the Month

In these virus-ridden days you need to frequently wash your hands. Residual soap or sanitiser will be on those hands, which will harm your Goldfish if you use the popular hand scoop method of moving fish. Hence use a surgical glove, which are everywhere on the Web or even handed out free in some

shops.

The above tip was written in June, the next day this appeared on the social media....

“Fish owners are urged to take extra precautions before touching tanks, like washing their hands thoroughly beforehand or trying not to sanitise until after they have cleaned the tank. Fish are basically the only pet who could die from consuming low levels of hand sanitiser, like the amount that would rinse from a person's hands. It's bad for all pets, but with fish it is more serious.”



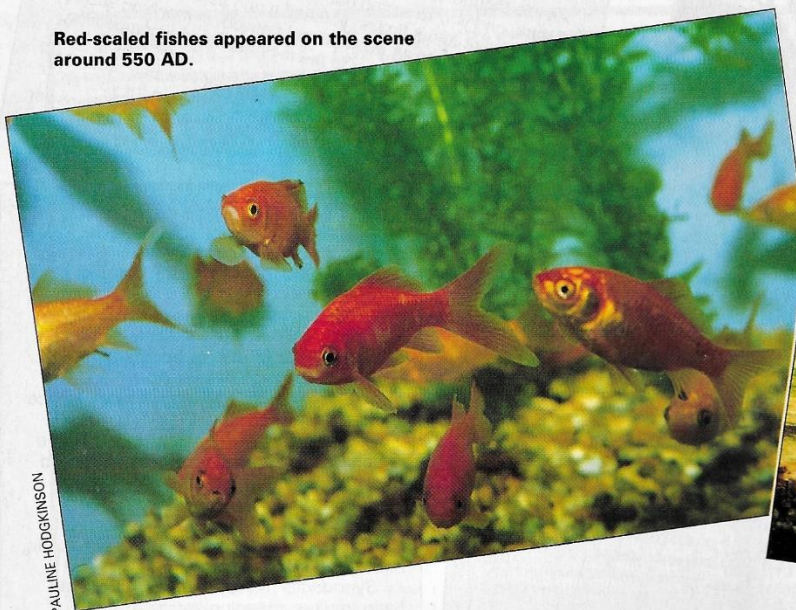
The coronavirus necessity that is killing pet fish
The coronavirus crisis saw a spike in the use of sanitiser, which is generally created from an alcohol base.

Alex Stephenson

It is now two years since we lost this talented Goldfish Breeder. His articles for the aquatic press are still being discovered in the archives – here is a three part series written for A&P back in 1994.

See the next few pages

Red-scaled fishes appeared on the scene around 550 AD.



PAULINE HODGKINSON



BILL TONEY

The Oranda.
Accounts and opinions regarding its ancestry vary.

A Fish for all Seasons **PART 1** Origins

Alex Stephenson begins a three-part series on the most popular of all pet fish: the inimitable Goldfish.

Of all the cultivated animals in the world, few can rival the diversity of shape and colour shown by the amazing Goldfish. Love them or hate them, they clearly demonstrate what can be achieved by selective breeding.

Selection is, of course, the key; such variations are not brought about by surgery or witchcraft ... they 'happen'. It's like evolution speeded up, except, in this case, we choose the survivors, instead of allowing nature to decide. All of our domestic animals have been developed this way.

To understand Goldfish we need to get 'historical' for a moment. The original fish came from China, when a kind of carp, used as a food fish, was kept and grown in ponds.

As any goldfish breeder will tell you, given the right conditions, these fish can multiply quicker than cones on a motorway! It was therefore not a surprise

when someone noticed that, in the comparative safety of these ponds, one or two gold-coloured individuals cropped up. These 'sports' occur among all living things but, due to Natural Selection, they seldom live long enough to breed and, thus, reproduce themselves. Because a gold-coloured fish sticks out like a pork pie at a health farm, it needs our intervention to promote its survival.

Uncertain beginnings

Exactly when this selection first started is not known, and information is, at best, patchy. However, there are reports of 'red-scaled' fish in China from about 550 AD.

Roughly 500 years later, during the Sung Dynasty, breeding as we know it was well established and, around 1500 AD, the Goldfish found its way to Japan. Here, it was regarded as too good for the

peasants and, for a long time, remained a novelty for the ruling classes.

Meanwhile, progress in China continued and there is evidence that double-tailed fish were thriving before 1600 AD. Shortly after, 'transparent scales' were reported. This suggests nacreous fish, the ones we usually refer to as 'Calico'.

One source of information states that Goldfish began to filter into Europe at about this time, with several kinds available by the 1700s.

A further development seems to have shown up prior to 1726 when some Chinese artwork depicted fish without dorsal fins. Introduction into the USA, where many fish are now produced, is thought not to have taken place until the late 1800s.

Japanese expansion

Eventually, Japanese Shoguns, in a wave of liberalism, allowed common folk to keep Goldfish. Always an enterprising people, soon, fish production was widespread. Many of these cottage industries developed their own strains and some of our present varieties still carry the names of their place of origin.

These early strains, together with further imports from China and a few other places, like Korea, were used by the Japanese to create still more variations, and Japan became world leader in Goldfish culture.

Exactly which country developed which varieties, and how, is an interesting and complex subject, particularly as few records are available. Further, the whole issue is clouded by the movement of fish between countries. For example, one source of information states the Oranda

was first produced in Japan in 1840, when a Ryukin was crossed with a Ranchu of Korean origin. However, work done by the renowned expert Dr. Matsui indicates the Oranda came about as a direct mutation of the Ryukin.

Since then, it's not only possible, but highly likely that many crossings have been done to produce the Orandas we have today. The differences between Chinese, Japanese, American and British fish seems to support this. Whatever the details, it remains a fact that most varieties have been developed in the Far East. The exceptions include Britain's claim to fame, the Bristol Shubunkin, and the very popular American contribution, the Comet.

As a point of interest, the national fish of Japan is not a Koi; it is, in fact, the Ranchu Goldfish. There's not many Koi keepers who know that!

Unfortunately, due to population and industrial pressures, the future for Japanese fish culture looks uncertain. By contrast, China, where it all began, doesn't seem to have the same problems. Chinese breeders have therefore continued to develop new varieties and are currently exporting large numbers of fish.

British quality

The rest of the world hasn't stood still either. Many countries with suitable climate now produce Goldfish in commercial quantities.

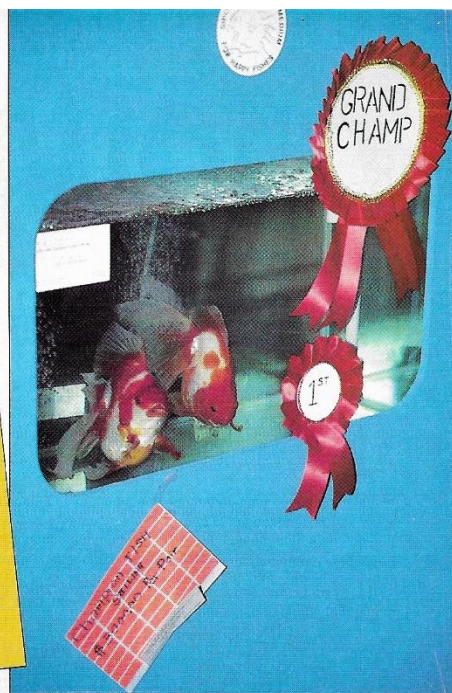
In this respect, Great Britain is at a disadvantage. Here, in the 'Twilight Zone', the summers are relatively short and the winters can go on forever. Even in

GOLDFISH FACTS

Family: Cyprinidae.
Latin Name: *Carassius auratus*.
Origin: China — now common throughout the world in many cultivated forms, all of which have been produced by selective breeding.
 All varieties will interbreed.
 Hybridisation is also possible with other members of the carp family.
 Some feral populations (domesticated forms which have gone wild) exist, notably in the United States.
Water Conditions: Temperature, pH values (acidity/alkalinity), and hardness, very adaptable. However, sudden changes to any of these are harmful.
Breeding: Egg scatterer; fertilisation external; eggs adhesive, sticking to the first thing they touch. Hatching time dependent on temperature. At 70°F (21°C) it takes four days.
Lifespan: About 20 years (for 'Common' or 'Primary' [simple] varieties), although much longer has been reported.
 For more exotic forms, it varies greatly, but 10 to 12 years is reasonable.

a good year, the weather may best be described as 'fickle'. This makes Goldfish breeding a very expensive undertaking, as indoor facilities and heating are required, at least some of the time.

The very few commercial breeders who are prepared to struggle against the elements tend to concentrate on quality rather than quantity. These dedicated few, supported by some 'serious amateur' breeders, have developed some classic British strains, and a small but steady stream of our fish go to foreign buyers every year.



A prize-winning pair of Ryukin. Was this variety one of the 'ancestors' of the Oranda?

The influence of Goldfish societies and associations has played a major part in shaping home-bred stocks. Competing at shows not only fires enthusiasm, but also demands a set of Standards by which to judge the exhibits. This has resulted in British fish being different in some respects from the Oriental types.

All this striving for perfection under doubtful conditions has a price, which is why home-bred fish are often more expensive than imported ones.

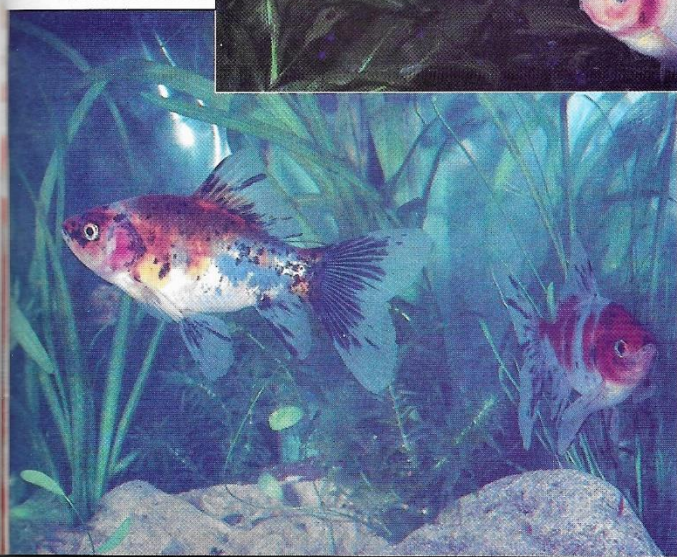
A&P

In Part Two, I will deal with some aspects of keeping Fancy Goldfish.

Transparent-scaled fish — known as 'calico' — were reported shortly after 1600. These are Calico Veiltails.



LAURENCE E. PERKINS



An outstanding British achievement: the Bristol Shubunkin developed by Bristol Aquarist Society in the 1930's.

LAURENCE E. PERKINS

SOME KEY DATES

- 1 Circa 550 AD — Selective breeding of red-scaled fish.
- 2 Circa 1050 — Selective breeding well established.
- 3 Circa 1500 — Goldfish 'arrives' in Japan.
- 4 Before 1600 — Double-tailed varieties in China.
- 5 Shortly after — 'Transparent'-scaled fish reported.
- 6 Circa 1600 — Goldfish 'arrives' in Europe (according to one report).
- 7 1700's — Several varieties available.
- 8 Prior to 1726 — Dorsal-less varieties.
- 9 Up to late 1800's — Introductions into the US.
- 10 Early 1880's — Comet developed in the US.
- 11 1840 — Oranda probably developed.
- 12 Early 1930's — Bristol Shubunkin developed in Britain.



LAURENCE PERKINS

A well planted aquarium will show off varieties such as the Redcap to best effect.



PAULINE HODGKINSON

Whatever you do, never overcrowd Goldfish.

A Fish for all Seasons PART 2 Successful Keeping

Alex Stephenson moves on to the second stage of his Goldfish keeping review for beginners

There must be many hundreds of successful fishkeepers whose first taste of the hobby came in the shape of a Goldfish. Equally, there must be hundreds more whose first experience with Goldfish has encouraged them to take up taxidermy!

It is a common practice for well-meaning people to suggest 'trying Goldfish' before attempting tropicals. More than once, I have heard people, who should know better, say things like: "Start with a small tank and a few Goldfish". This is much the same as saying, "Buy a few sheep and keep them in the conservatory."

Although the Common or 'Primary' Goldfish is a very hardy creature, capable of surviving in spite of human ignorance, the more exotic forms are much less forgiving. Having said this, experienced fishkeepers should find Goldfish fairly straightforward, that is, providing a few basic principles are observed.

Temperature factors

Firstly, realise that these fish are not, in the true sense, coldwater fish. Yes, I know that famous 'pond filler', the Common Goldfish, survives outside in our climate. So do some of the hardier strains of fancy varieties.

This is only possible owing to the adaptability of the species. These fish can somehow hang on to life at temperatures just above freezing, but not for long. At the other end of the scale, temperatures over 90°F (32°C) can be endured, again for a limited period. Slow temperature changes are not normally a problem, but rapid ones almost always are.

If the intention is to keep the fish outdoors all year round, then it might be prudent to stick to the more basic varieties i.e. those with long bodies and short or medium length finnage. Some round-bodied types can be sensitive to chilling,



The Comet can be kept both in aquaria and most ponds.

BONAVENTURA APICELLA

and extensive finnage is often damaged by prolonged cold.

Another thing to bear in mind is the fact that fish imported from the Far East have been reared in a climate much warmer than ours. It would therefore be a mistake to subject these fish to a pond full of icebergs without suitable acclimatisation.

For the more exotic types, indoor tanks offer a more protected environment. Opinions vary on the ideal temperatures for Goldfish, but most agree that between 60° and 70°F (15.5-21°C) is best. Many breeders believe a cooler resting period, representing a short winter, is beneficial.

I think you will agree that temperatures in the mid sixties are not very different to those preferred by some species we think of as 'tropical'. In fact, it is true to say that many so-called 'tropicals' are kept too warm. This serves to make them 'super active' and is likely to shorten their lives. The same applies to Goldfish. If kept at constantly high temperatures they can 'burn themselves out'.

Other factors like pH values (acidity/alkalinity) and hardness levels are not critical, as long as any changes are gradual and extremes are avoided.

Currents

One important point, often overlooked, is water movement. These fish did not evolve in mountain streams and cannot therefore be expected to fight constantly against strong currents.

I find it inexcusable to see round-bodied fish, totally exhausted, drifting in the wash created by an unsuitable filter system. Tanks with turbulence like a dishwasher are ideal for some fish species, but are no use at all for Goldfish.

Space and stocking

Probably the most important consideration for success is adequate space: large tanks rather than small; or, to put it another way: much water and few fish.

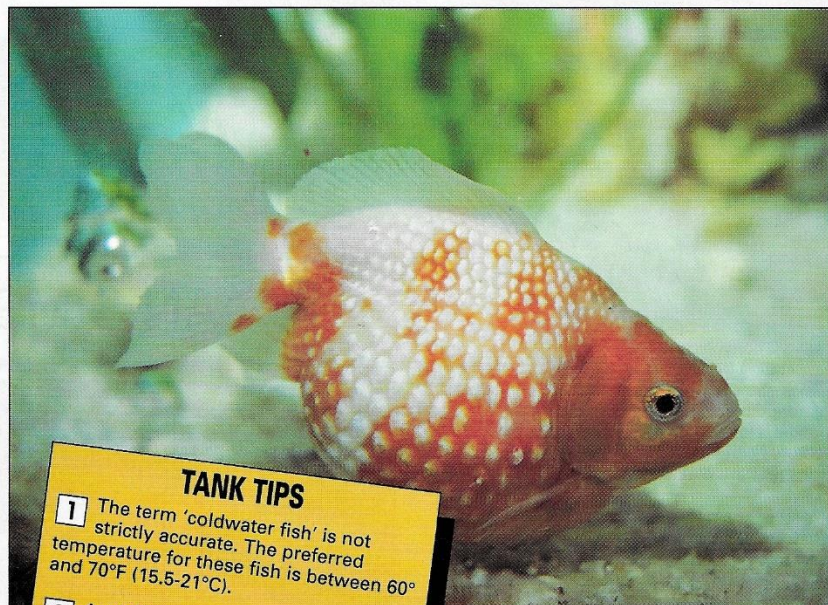
As all set-ups are different, it is difficult to recommend stocking levels. As a guide, one adult fish per square foot of tank surface area should prove satisfactory. For tanks which measure twelve inches from back to front, this means one fish per foot of tank. Eg. a four-foot tank = four fish.

This may not sound like many fish, but these few will thrive and reach their full potential, instead of remaining undersized and constantly ailing.

Quality control

Goldfish are very messy things. They eat almost constantly, utilise large amounts of oxygen and produce huge quantities of waste products.

If water quality is allowed to deteriorate, the fish will be seriously affected, but



JOHN DAVIES

Fancy varieties like the Pearlscale should be kept in aquaria at all times.

TANK TIPS

- 1 The term 'coldwater fish' is not strictly accurate. The preferred temperature for these fish is between 60° and 70°F (15.5-21°C).
- 2 A wide range of temperature pH, and hardness is tolerated, providing the change is gradual and extremes are avoided.
- 3 Good water quality is essential. Never overcrowd!
- 4 Strong currents, such as those produced by power filters, should be avoided. Diffuse the discharge with a spray bar or some other mechanism.
- 5 Furnished tanks similar to tropical community set-ups make attractive accommodation.
- 6 Keeping other species with Goldfish can be done, but the problems are many and the failure rate high. I would not recommend it!

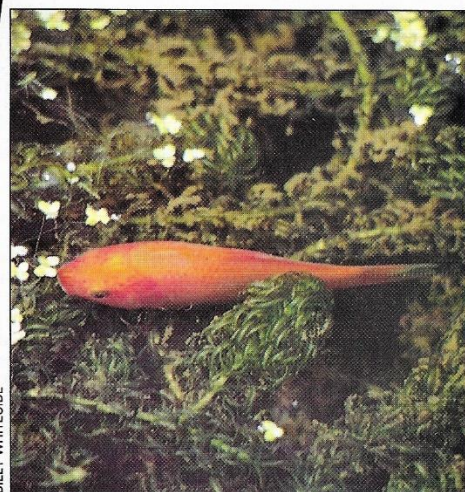
the results of this kind of problem may not be immediately apparent. My own opinion is that every upset takes its toll, and that the effects are cumulative, a fish eventually 'popping its' clogs' for no obvious reason.

To maintain good water, most hobbyists employ effective filtration systems and back this up with regular part water changes. Some enthusiasts keep their fish in bare tanks, without gravel or plants. This makes cleaning and maintenance easier, very important if you have a lot of tanks.

Furnished accommodation

A functional set-up like this is fine for a fish-house, but it doesn't look too good in the living room. It certainly won't impress a non-fishkeeping-spouse. So, to keep up appearances... and avoid divorce ... we need to consider 'furnished tanks'.

The Goldfish tank can be very much the same as the 'tropical' community set-up, with the usual lights, filters, gravel, plants, etc. Bear in mind, though, that your plants will have to survive not only



BILLY WHITESIDE

The best varieties for a pond are the plain-bodied, short-finned ones such as the Common Goldfish.

the attentions of the fish, but the different temperature range as well. This is not as difficult as it sounds, since many plant species used for tropical aquaria adapt very well to these slightly cooler conditions; some even prefer it.

If undergravel filtration is chosen, do provide a more-than-adequate depth of gravel; healthy Goldfish dig constantly and can move enormous amounts of the stuff.

Sharp rocks and ornaments should, of course, be avoided. Goldfish, especially the deep-bodied types, are notoriously clumsy. The fish themselves make ideal domestic pets, though. Having adapted to an artificial lifestyle for countless generations, they are better suited than most to life in captivity.

A&P

In Part Three, I will be dealing with choosing fish, Standards and showing.



LINDA LEWIS

Some thoughts on choosing goldfish

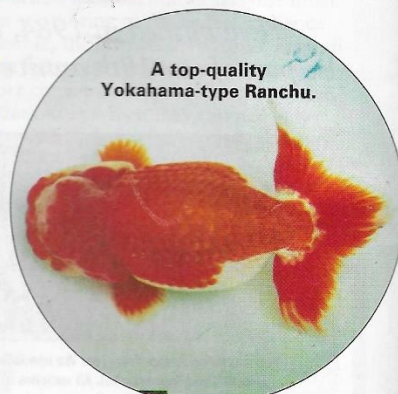
- 1** Health is always the first consideration; no matter how special a fish may be, it's no use unless it lives!
- 2** Fish kept purely for pleasure need not conform to any Standard or type; they only have to please you!
- 3** All the major organisations have Show Standards for Goldfish. Choosing fish to show requires at least some knowledge of the relevant Standards.
- 4** For breeding purposes, fish from an unknown source are a 'shot in the dark'. However, with imported fish, you often have little choice, except to take a chance.
- 5** Because it has taken hundreds of years to develop the present varieties, indiscriminate crossing of Goldfish is frowned upon. Improving strains and developing new varieties sometimes entails crossing. However, this should always be done under controlled conditions and the results properly identified.
- 6** Offspring must never be passed on under the guise of something they are not.

It may not be a show stopper, but this Common Goldfish is a perfectly acceptable fish for the general Goldfish keeper who does not intend to enter fish in competitive shows.

A Fish for all Seasons PART 3 Choosing Goldfish

Goldfish expert Alex Stephenson rounds off his personal guide to his favourite fish.

A top-quality
Yokohama-type Ranchu.



JOHN DAWES

A good-quality Calico Fantail. Whether it would win any prizes would depend on what standards it would be judged by ... and on the quality of the competition.



GORDON WIGENS

If you decide to go in for Goldfish, you could find yourself spoilt for choice, since it is said that there are over a hundred recognised varieties. Of these, a dozen or more are easily obtained in the UK; more still can be found from time to time, but usually only at establishments catering for Goldfish enthusiasts.

If what you want is a pretty fish which is not necessarily a pedigree specimen, your general aquatic shop is likely to be as good a place as any. For those requiring something more, it pays to find a specialist.

Sorting grades

When studying Goldfish with a view to purchase, it may help to know what you are looking for.

Not always, but more often than not, the larger fish are of better quality than the smaller ones. The reason is that

breeders produce large numbers of fish. The 'rubbish' is culled and the 'acceptable' grown to saleable size, at which point they are re-sorted.

Those fish considered good enough will be retained to 'grow on', the rest go to market; these are 'the smalls'.

How many fish are retained often depends on how much space the breeder can allow for them. He/she won't crowd youngsters, as this stops them growing. This means that good fish can sometimes be found among 'the smalls'. In due course, the better fish, now larger, will be sorted again and graded for sale. Anything really special may be kept for future breeding stock or held for customers prepared to pay a high price. I've simplified this a bit, but I'm sure you've got the picture.

Choosing good fish

Normal rules of fish buying apply to Goldfish, health being the paramount consideration. Ask the right questions. Where are the fish from? How long have they been in the country? What medi-

cation have they had? Are they feeding well? etc. If you are happy with the answers, spend some time observing the fish before making your final choice. Avoid anything which isn't alert and moving about with 'purpose'.

Technicalities concerning shape and colour are only important if breeding or showing is intended. Selecting 'show' specimens requires a working knowledge of the variety concerned. Nothing is perfect, and all fish have faults. Some are minor and will only set you back a few points on the show bench. Others, which might not look serious, can cause judges to write meaningful but indecipherable messages on judging sheets!

National standards

Goldfish have always been subject to a number of varying sets of show standards, each organisation having a different perception of the ideal. This situation still exists, but to a lesser degree these days than it did in the past.

Specialist Goldfish societies, putting their best minds together, have come up with an agreed set known as *The Nationwide Goldfish Standards of Great Britain*. Although these are not yet carved on tablets of stone, they are seen as a basis for the future.

The Federation of British Aquatic Societies (FBAS) still retains its own standards which, I think, were revised in 1988, while the Association of Aquarists who, unlike the others, award points for presentation, are currently working on theirs. I am told these will be ready for the 1994 show season.

So, whichever shows you attend, it pays to know which rules apply.

Shows

There are, basically, two types of show:

1 Mixed shows

These cater for all sorts of fish species, mostly tropical, and normally have two classes for Goldfish. One of these is for all the single-tailed varieties, and the other for the double tails.

Despite mutterings from the Goldfish lobby, this seems unlikely to change. At

these shows, where you supply your own tanks and water, you can normally enter your fish on the day, so if you are exhibiting several fish, it helps to have a big strong car and a big strong wife or husband.

2 Goldfish-only Shows

The other type of show is a Goldfish-only affair. At these gatherings, fish are 'classed' according to variety. Here we find 'serious Goldfish', owned, and often bred, by men and women committed to the cause.

All tanks are prepared, numbered and filled with water in advance. Also, a show catalogue is usually produced. All this means that entries have to close some time before the show date.

There's no magic formula involved when choosing fish for the show bench. Armed with a mental picture of what a particular variety *should* look like, apply this to the fish you see before you. After that, it's a question of experience.

Choosing broodstock

Selecting fish for breeding stock needs a somewhat different approach. Here, 'pedigree' is a major factor. A good show fish will not necessarily produce good-quality offspring. Unless a fish has a known parentage from a well managed strain, the results could be surprising, and totally worthless.

The best place to obtain breeding stock from is, of course, a breeder. He or she will not sell you the very best fish (of course) but might offer you some very worthwhile 'second bests'. These fish may win no prizes, but should be fully capable of producing fish that will.

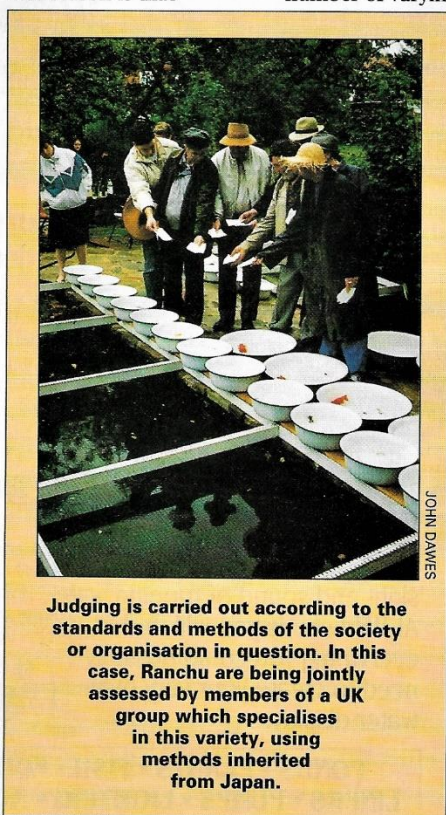
As a general rule, a moderate fish from a high-quality batch is worth far more than the odd good fish from an otherwise poor batch.

Don't choose a fish whose strength or stamina is suspect. Weak fish, if they spawn at all, tend to produce weak progeny. It is difficult enough trying to raise superior fish without adding to your problems. As one well known breeder keeps saying, "It's all in the genes, kid".

There are at least three ways to track down breeders. One is to scan the advertising pages of magazines such as *A&P*. Another is to go to the Goldfish shows which are usually announced in our magazine. Or join one of the Goldfish societies. There are a few in England and Scotland, but I don't know of any in Wales and Northern Ireland.

Of course, you don't need to breed or show Goldfish to enjoy them. A good sized furnished tank, containing one or more varieties of these superb creatures, can be most impressive and very satisfying. At least, I think so, but then, I like Goldfish ... so I might be just a little bit biased!

ARP



Judging is carried out according to the standards and methods of the society or organisation in question. In this case, Ranchu are being jointly assessed by members of a UK group which specialises in this variety, using methods inherited from Japan.

Notes from the Chairman's Fish House

Still here in the fish house typing away, Will have to go in and change my socks in the next few days. Have been rebuilding the place around me and now two, of the eventual three, 72" x 18" x 8" tanks are back in and in commission. I think I said they were 48" or four foot recently - not so - they are six foot long. I used to have two banks of three, totalling six, of these tanks but I am altering this and having two 48" x 15" x 15" along the other long side of the 8' x 6' fish house with the four sawn-off three footers across the short end. I am doing this alteration so I have some more, deeper, substantial bodies of water for overwintering. I am replacing all of the drip system and using as always standard hose with barbed connectors, although a good push fit will suffice in cool conditions. It really is necessary to fit jubilee clips as in hot

conditions the plastic of the hose will soften and the water will start spurting. Use stainless steel clips, they are slightly more expensive but much easier to fit and longer lasting, try not to drop your nice electric screwdriver into a tank, it stops it working.

Another of the fish house renovations has been replacing the glass panels in the door, two 24" x 24" and one 24" x 9", this glass cost 12 pounds from the glass shop in Altrincham, where the chap told me that supplying glass with holes cut in was no problem and small holes would cost "a couple of pounds". We seemed to spend most of the 1990's at meetings talking about the great difficulty and cost of cutting holes in glass - if only we had known.

I now have four spawnings on the go; two, originally, 1,000+, of metallic red Lionheads from the start of June and two later spawnings of red x calico Lionheads, one

small at 100 and one big at 1,500+. There are some promising fry. It is just down to growing them on now and then culling, culling and culling. They are presently eating live brine shrimp, spirulina powder, JMC high protein granules and, as recommended to me by Craig, Queni baby koi food. Soon they will be big enough for frozen blood worms and some flake.

The Veiltails and Commons have shown no inkling whatsoever of any interest in spawning and now it really is getting a bit late in the year - the fish may still spawn, though from their behaviour I doubt it, but there will not be sufficient time to grow any fry big enough to go through the winter safely.

Though some of the virus restrictions are now being eased I think we can safely say now that it is NOT going to be possible to hold our 2020 annual Open Show nor have

our autumn members holiday. Though it may soon be possible to recommence our monthly meetings at the Church Inn. We will go ahead with our photographic show classes, full details elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Thank you to those members who have paid their subs but still many to come in yet, please pay if you can. Back next month, perhaps with new socks on.

Latest News

Chairman's Notes are in lieu of the Meeting Minutes but the Church Inn at Prestwich (where we meet second Tuesdays at 8pm) has now reopened. However, the pub is not yet ready for club meetings, social separation needs to be completed. They said that the August Meeting date should be ready – but are you?

Can you telephone Sherridan (mobile

07933732123 landline 01619697567) to say if you can attend at 8pm August 11th (Church Inn, Prestwich M25 1AJ). If you cannot (I can't – still in Shielded Lockdown) it would be helpful to let him know too.

