South East Koi Club 英國錦鯉愛好會東南俱樂部

Koi Show Welfare Procedures



Version 1.2 - Jun 2010

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Version Control.

Version	Short Description	Date	Update
v1.0	Original version	10/Jul/08	Woollands.
v1.1	Recovery vats	18/Jan/09	Woollands
v1.2	AWA ready	19/Jun/10	Woollands

Authors:

This document was co-written by Tim Fisher, Teresa Lambert, Syd Mitchell, and Bernie Woollands, All members of the South East Koi Club.

Additional amendments as recommended by Bernice Brewster Bsc, FLS, MIFM, CBiol, MiBiol. Louise Andrews Bsc.Hons, BVetMed, MSc.Vet Aqua, MRCVS. Dr Paula Reynolds Bsc, PhD,BA

"Having represented fish during the revision of the Animal Welfare Act I now see firsthand how the legislation has improved animal welfare generally and the best interests of Koi specifically. The ethos of the Act has been understood by the South East Koi Club members and well demonstrated in their Rules and Guidelines for use at all Koi shows held under their auspices to ensure the highest possible Koi welfare standards."

Dr P A Reynolds BSc PhD BA Consultant in Fish Medicine. 19th June 2010.

Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to lay down clear guidelines and where necessary, codes of conduct for show officials of the South East Koi Club engaged in any centre ring activity involving the welfare of the exhibits at the South East Koi Show.

1. Overriding principles:

- 1.1 The South East Koi Club states from the outset that a Koi show is no place for a sick Koi and that these procedures are provided for contingences (e.g. incidents & accidents) outside of our control and within the environs of the South East Koi Show.
- 1.2 Injured, diseased or Koi suffering from any infestations of visible parasites are barred from entry into the show. Warnings to this effect are published in our 'Show Rules & Guidelines for Exhibitors' specifically to exclude Koi from the rigours of travelling and being exhibited with these complaints.



2. Definitions.

Animal Welfare Act refers to the current UK Act dated 6th April 2007.

Benching. The formal process of accepting a Koi into the show. It consists of classifying, measuring, photographing and a visual health check. Satisfactory completion will be the signing-off of the Benching form.

Benching Admin. The processes responsible for compiling the data recorded at benching and managing the paperwork through the judging stage until the production and publication of results.

Bio-security is generally accepted to mean the process and objectives in managing the risks associated with the spread of disease amongst livestock. This is the definition by which the term is used within this document suite.

Duty of Care is understood to mean the provision of the 5 freedoms decreed under the Animal Welfare Act. See section 6.

Exhibit. An exhibit is a Koi that has been duly accepted into the show and completed the Benching process.

Exhibitor. An exhibitor is the owner of an exhibit.

Koi Welfare Officer (KWO). The nominated Koi Club's representative responsible for overseeing the exhibits welfare during the course of the show.

Nishikigoi (**Koi**) are ornamental versions of the Common Carp (Cyprinus Carpio) that originated from specimens selectively bred over centuries in Japan to produce distinct varieties based on their colours and patterns. The same definition applies to scale-less varieties produced through the introduction of the 'Mirror & Leather Carp' variants of Cyprinus Carpio. Only Nishikigoi are permitted as entries in the show.

Show Chairman is The Koi Club's representative responsible for the overall coordination, organisation and management of the show.

Show Chairman's Nominated Officials are specialised or selected representatives of the Koi Club responsible for specific tasks within the framework of the show e.g. Benching, Benching Admin, Koi Welfare, Water Management, Public Relations, Vat Allocations etc.

The Koi Club, refers to the South East Koi Club.

3. Equipment.

3.1 Contingency vats.

These are 4 dedicated vats located within the centre ring reserved for fish in the unlikely event that a koi jumps from its vat.

Centre ring officials finding fish that have jumped will place them in the Contingency Vat unless they have personally witnessed the jump and are therefore 100% certain of the vat the fish came from. When in doubt they will follow procedure, placing Koi in one of the contingency vats and the contacting Benching Admin to ascertain the location of the correct vat. At no time will any cross contamination be put at risk.

3.1 Recovery vats.

The Recovery Vats are two vats reserved for Koi that the Koi Welfare Team deem unfit for showing and due to prevailing circumstances require a rest period before being re-bagged for transporting home.

3.2 Bio security stations.

Are six conveniently located hand disinfectant dispensers prominently displayed inside the centre ring for the use of centre ring personnel engaged in any activity where contact with the exhibits or equipment is foreseen.

3.3 Disinfectant hand sprays

Personal hand sprays are issued to key members of the centre ring team as alternatives to the Bio-security station disinfectant gels.

Lists of centre ring equipment can be found within the documentation relating to *Benching* and *Water Management*. Preparation and maintenance of these vats and hand-gel dispensers are the responsibility of those teams.

4. Personnel.

The Koi Welfare Team shall consist of:-

a *Koi Welfare Officer* – who has the responsibility to coordinate the activities of the Koi Welfare Team and provide an interface with other centre ring staff.

an Assistant (or two)— who provide logistical assistance to the KWO.

Professional Advisors – qualified members of the Aquatic and Veterinary professions assisting the KWO.



(Hand disinfectant dispenser – 1 of 6 inside the SE showring.)

5. Roles and Responsibilities.

5.1 Koi Welfare Officer (KWO).

- 5.1.1 Should be cognizant of the *South East Show Rules and Guidelines*, and is responsible for determining the acceptability of an exhibit in the event of a health related issue.
- 5.1.2 Is the final authority and the prime interface with the *Chief Bencher* on all health related issues. *Chief Bencher* can relay KWO decision to exhibitors.
- 5.1.3 Determines the course of action for any exhibit that fails the benching examination.
- 5.1.4 Determines the course of action for any exhibit that injures itself or shows signs of illness during the course of the show.
- 5.1.5 Is the sole authority for the use of Recovery vats.
- 5.1.6 Must ensure that Contingency vats are emptied and disinfected after use.
- 5.1.7 Is the prime authority for the Water Testing & Water Changing teams.
- 5.1.8 Has the authority to refer any health related issue to the Professional Advisors.
- 5.2 **Assistant.**
- 5.2.1 Should be equally cognizant of the South East Show Rules and Guidelines.
- 5.2.2 Assists the Koi Welfare Officer in their task, relaying orders and information to other members of the centre ring staff
- 5.3 **Professional Advisors.**
- 5.3.1 Are members of the Aquatic or Veterinary professions available or on-call in an active or an advisory capacity to the Koi Club for the duration of the show.

6. Contingency Vat.

The Contingency vats are 4 small vats reserved for fish that jump from their vats. Centre ring officials finding fish that have jumped are to place them in a Contingency Vat unless they have personally witnessed the jump and are therefore 100% certain of the vat the fish came from. If in any doubt – follow procedure. At no time should any cross contamination be risked.

Once the fish is settled examine the vats in the vicinity reconciling the content against the photographs affixed to the vat. Once the correct location is identified the fish can be returned to its vat using the recognised procedure for moving fish. (see 4.1.23 & Diag 3 of Benching Protocol)

Then contact the Benching Admin advising them of the situation, the photo number of the fish so that the owner can be contacted and advised.

- 6.1.1 Once used in this manner the Contingency Vat must be emptied, disinfected and dried before refilling for further use.
- 6.1.2 Should all Contingency vats be in use or not available then a Recovery Vat can be utilised as a temporary measure. However, 6.1.1 must be deployed before returning vat to the Koi Welfare Team.

7. Recovery Vats.

Two Recovery Vats are located within the Centre Ring under the responsibility and control of the Koi Welfare Team.

They are to be set up according to the same procedure and water quality criteria as the Exhibition Vats and then excluded from the water testing regime until occupied.

The *South East Koi Club* accepts that in the case of 'long-distance exhibitors' residence in the Recovery Vat could be for the duration of the show.

- 7.1.1 Once occupied their water testing regime is to be co-ordinated with the *Koi Welfare Official*.
- 7.1.2 Once the occupant(s) are removed the Recovery Vat is to be emptied, disinfected and dried before refilling for further use.
- 7.1.3 Should both Recover Vats be in use then the Exhibition Vat will be used. However, the vat will be covered and all its occupants removed from the competition, i.e. they will not be judged.

Appendix A: Professional advisors.

Bernice Brewster: Bsc., FLS, MIFM, CBiol, MiBiol

Bernice is the MD of Aquatic Consultancy Services, a company specialising in fisheries and fishery management and a regular columnist in Koi Magazines and an author of books and videos on koi related subjects.

Dr Paula Reynolds: Bsc, PhD,BA

Paula an aquatic patho-biologist, runs Lincolnshire Fish Health Laboratories and Research Centre a company that specialises in research into fish diseases for vets, fish farmers, hobbyists and the aquatic trade.

In Memoriam

Louise Andrews: BSc. Hons, BVetMed, MSc. Vet Aqua, MRCVS

was the senior partner of Andrews Veterinary Services who sadly passed away in June 2009 aged only 38. Louise served the South East Koi Club in an advisory capacity on matters relating to fish health and water quality.

Appendix B: Contingency Vat record.

	Contingency Vat South East Koi	
Date/Time	Reason	Comments
2007	N/A	NOT NEEDED
2008	N/A	NOT NEEDEL
2009	N/A	NOT NEEDED
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Appendix C: Recovery Vat record

	Recovery Vat record.			
	South East Koi Club			
Date/Time		Comments		
2007	Koi unable to maintain equilibrium on arrival. Consulted BB - placed in recovery vat. Fish recovered after 3-4 hours but was kept in vat for remainder of show as precautionary measure.	Returned to owner a debenching.		
2008	N/A	NOT NEEDED		
2009	N/A	NOT NEEDED		