



CharlestonShowa KoiClub

Last Meeting...

Our last meeting was held at the home of Butch and Lorna. They provided us with a wonderful buffet. Robert gave a very informative talk on different types and colors of Koi.



Our next meeting...

Our next meeting will be at the home of Trish and Kathy on Sunday May 3rd at 2:00. Our pond tour meeting will be at 1:00. Don't forget the last grow our photo is due at this meeting. The winner will be picked!



Pond tour update...

Things have gone pretty well with the tour so far! The tickets are on sale now! Check the website for ticket sales locations, charlestonshowakoiclub.org.

Now to the important information.

- 1. We need help with the finale, we are only a few and we will need a lot of people to handle the crowd.**
- 2. I have a list of jobs that need to be done; if you don't have your pond on tour and you haven't volunteered to help you will be getting a call to help. We need every member present at the finale, if nothing else to answer questions for people.**
- 3. A. We need 2 people to help set up and serve food from 4-6:30.**
 - B. We need 2 people to help with parking.**
 - C. We need 2 people to greet guest 4-6.**
 - D. We need 2 people to sell raffle tickets. 4-6.**
 - E. We still need people for clean up from 6:45 till 8:00.**
 - F. We still need a few people to put our signs the night before. WE HAVE THESE!**
 - G. We need each member to bring a salad of some kind. We need it the day before or the early morning of the tour.**
 - H. We need each member to get a donation from someone or some where. It can be fish, pond, water garden, gift card or anything we can use for raffles or door prizes. Please bring these Sunday!**

Koi Herpes Virus

By Cindy Coombs

Earlier this week, I watched as an acquaintance found out that his fish were infected with Koi Herpes Virus, more commonly known as KHV. It's heartbreaking to watch this hobby slowly break a man's spirit as he makes his morning trip to his pond to see which fish died overnight. His pond is 51,000 gallons and contained over 100 koi. And now the fish are dead or doomed to die, all because he failed to quarantine some new fish.

It started a few months ago when this guy made his annual trek to the Orlando Koi show. He bought fish from 4 vendors and took them directly from the show to his pond. His QT tank was full, so he just put them in his pond. A couple weeks ago, his fish began to die. He blamed a number of things...mango tree irritation, costia, flukes, etc, before he finally submitted a couple of koi for testing and he could no longer blame anything else; his fish had KHV. So now, because of his failure to QT his fish, he will lose ALL of his fish. The kill rate for KHV is around 60%. It used to have a much higher kill rate, but apparently fish are learning to survive the disease and recover. The problem is that although they appear to be healthy, they are still KHV infected and can still transmit the virus. They are considered "carrier fish" and will be so for the rest of their lives. Are you scared yet? You should be. This virus is very bad news and it's too easy to spread it around.

When a fish is infected with KHV, you will see a variety of symptoms. Whenever a fish's immune system is compromised, parasite populations explode so costia is very commonly seen with KHV. A fish

dying of KHV may look very sick. He may have a slime coat that looks patchy or sandpapery; he may have a notch above his nose, sunken eyes and necrotic gills. Costia also causes these symptoms, so seeing them is not proof positive that your fish has KHV! If you suspect KHV, the ONLY way to know is to have the fish tested. I'll talk more about that at our meeting. If your pond is infected, all of the koi and goldfish must be destroyed and the pond must be sterilized. Note: Goldie's will not die from KHV so if the goldie's in your pond are dying, it's not from KHV. Goldie's CAN be carriers though, so they must be destroyed if they were housed with infected koi.

So now that you know what KHV is, what can you do? The two most important things you can do are buying only from reputable dealers and breeders and quarantine your fish no matter where it comes from. Don't take free fish from the guy down the road just because they are free; you do not know what his fish have been exposed to. Don't buy fish on EBay. Don't buy fish at Wal-Mart. After you get your new fish home, place it in a quarantine tank that is heated to between 72° and 80°. If the fish has been exposed to KHV, this might make it show up. Notice I said might; it doesn't always. Also make sure you have one of your own fish in that QT to see if the new fish infects it. The temperature needs to stay stable and under no circumstances must it go above 82° because that can cause the virus to go dormant, and the fish becomes a carrier. Please be aware that although heat cycling is good, it is still not 100% certain. The best possible thing to do after the koi spends 3 weeks at the permissible temperature is to

now do a blood test on the fish that looks for KHV antibodies. The test is not terribly expensive. If you weigh out the cost of the test versus replacing every fish in your pond the test is quite cheap!! Many koi hobbyists have this test done on each and every fish they acquire. All reputable breeders test and QT every new breeding fish they bring on their property.

This virus can put a koi dealer or breeder out of business so they take it very seriously and take all possible precautions to prevent it. We as hobbyists must also do whatever we can to stem the spread of this deadly virus.

Quarantine, Quarantine, Quarantine, no mater if you use a tub or a real quarantine tank, you must quarantine your fish.



100 gallon feed tanks are available at tack and feed shops.



Koi with mottled gills and sunken eyes due to koi herpesvirus disease. Photo-University of FL IFAS Extension. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/VM113>



Or you can buy an all contained system with filter.



Koi with KHV often show gill mottling with red and white patches. This mottling can appear similar to that seen in the gills of fish with columnaris disease. Photograph courtesy of Andy Goodwin, University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff. http://www.wernersponds.com/koi_herpes_virus.htm

Calendar of events...

- May 3 – Trish and Kathy pond tour meeting 1:00
 - May 3 - Trish and Kathy....Grow out 2:00
 - May 03 – last grow out photo
 - June 12 – Set tents and tables for finale
 - June 13 - is the pond Tour
 - June 14 - Robert and Linda 2:00
 - July 12 – Ralph and Sue
 - August 9
 - September 13 – Chris and Mark
 - September 18 – 20 Atlanta Show
 - October 11 Cindy and Charlie
 - October 16 - 18 NCKWS show in Cary, NC
 - November 6-8 Charlotte Show
 - November 15 – Ty (Matt McCain)
 - December 13
- Meeting times and places may be subject to change.