

BREEDING BEAUTIFUL AWARD WINNING NISHIKIGOI

## CARING FOR YOUR NEW BABY KOI

FOR KOI UNDER 1 YEAR OLD (INCLUDING KOI FRY)



Float them for around 30 minutes (more if your water is considerably warmer) in the <u>unopened</u> bag on the pond before you release them into their new home.



We recommend that you add salt at 0.75% to the system that your Tosai are being introduced to as this will help them to settle into their new home (held at this level for 1 week).

Young Koi have immature immune systems and often need greater observation than more mature Koi to spot if they are having health problems or not. Other than that, provide your Koi with a clean and healthy environment and good food and they should flourish. The best growing temperature for Koi is around 23c. A temperature of 18c or above will keep their immune system at its most active.

When a fish experiences acute stress from injury, disease, handling or transport their body releases hormones and neurotransmitters that make the fish breath faster, over-hydrate and lose salt. This can lead to an osmotic imbalance as a result of ion depletion — the most life-threatening impact of stress. To counteract this, we recommend adding salt to their tank or pond water to a level of 0.75% and maintaining it at that level for one week before reducing the level gradually with your regular weekly water changes.

A freshwater fish's blood has a higher concentration of salt than the surrounding water -0.9% to be exact. Freshwater fish need salt – without it they would die. 10-15% of their energy from food is spent extracting salt from the water they are swimming in and then not losing it.

Don't feed your Koi for the first 24 hours. Feed them a high quality food, little and often. Feed 2-4 times per day depending on fish size and water temperature and no more than the Koi eat within 5 minutes. Remove uneaten feed from the pond in case of overfeeding.

# LAWS OF USING SALT

- Only use it when necessary, not all the time.
- Always dissolve it first when you add it to your pond any piles of salt not dissolved can cause chemical burns on fish that might lay in or near it.
- Bring the salt level down using weekly water changes of 10 15%.
- If you are using salt, you must have a salt meter. You can't dose properly without one. If not a salt meter, then a hydrometer.
- Don't use any other medication with salt apart from those recommended by the manufacturer as being safe to do so. (Especially DO NOT use with Formaldehyde (Formalin)).
- Only use cooking salt or PDV (Pure Dried Vacuum). Other types of salt can contain iodine or anti caking agents which could be harmful to the fish.

### WHEN IT'S GOOD TO USE SALT

**0.75%** (7.5ppt): Tonic for stress i.e. handling/moving fish. Chilodonella and White Spot treatment (for 7 days). Reducing nitrite toxicity.

**0.9%** (9ppt): Costia (Ichthyobodo) treatment (for 3 days).



1kg of salt per 1,000L = 0.1% salt concentration

For example: 75kg of salt is added to 10,000L (2,200 gallons) for 0.75% salt concentration



#### HOW TO CALCULATE THE VOLUME OF YOUR POND:

Length x Depth x Height (in metres) x 1,000 = Volume in litres

#### HOW TO CHECK YOUR ACTUAL VOLUME AFTER DOSING WITH SALT:

Amount of salt added (ie 30kg)  $\div$  salt meter reading (ie 0.6%) = 50 Then multiply the result by 100 (50 x 100) = 5,000L

For more information visit: www.cuttlebrookkoifarm.co.uk/articles

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