

Fish Diseases, Identification, Prognosis, and Treatment

Courtesy of The Koi Store

Special thanks to the Atlanta Koi Club & Atlanta Water Gardens



What Is A Disease?

* A disorder of structure or function in a human, animal, or plant, especially one that produces specific signs or symptoms of that affects a specific location and is not simply a direct result of physical injury



What Affects Koi?

- * Parasites
- * Viruses
- * Bacteria
- * Water Quality
- * Fungal Issues





Microscopes

* Major Components:

- * Oculars (eye looker inners)
- * Stage
- * Objectives (different magnifications)
- * Filters
- * Coarse & Fine Focus
 - * Maximum magnification is 400X

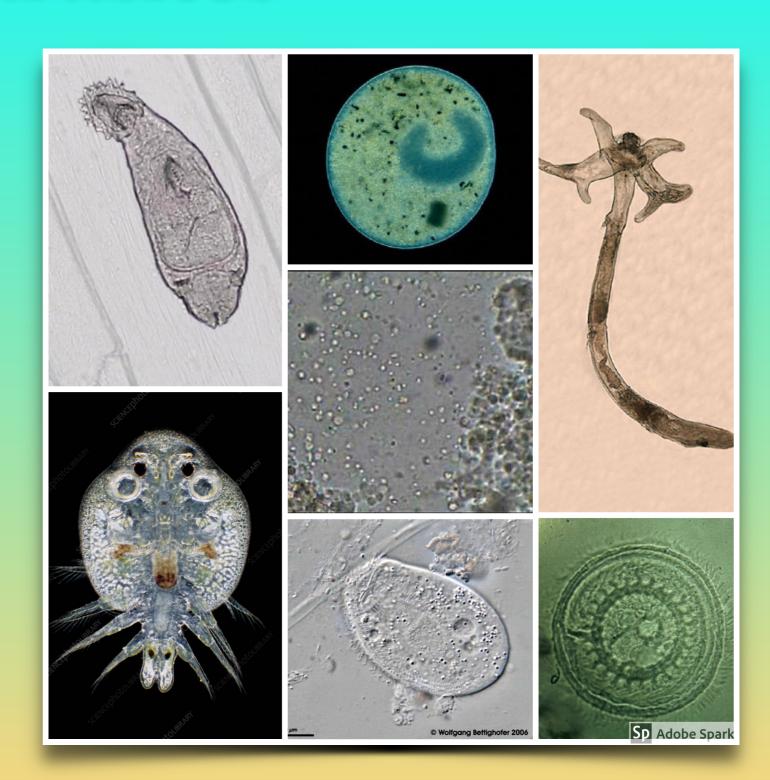




Parasites

* 7 major types

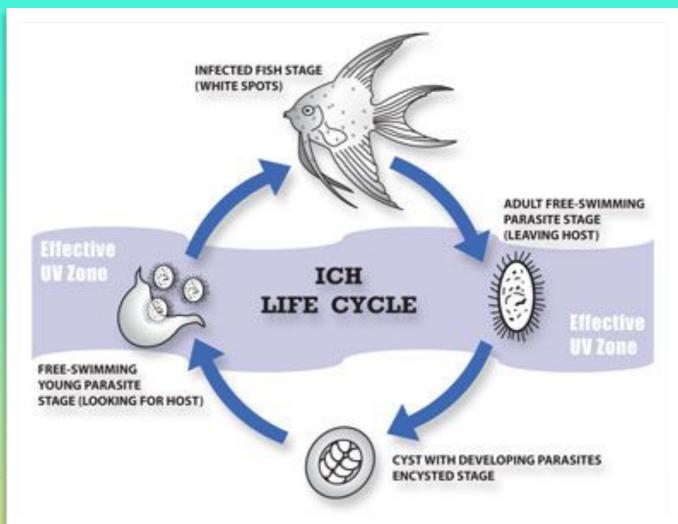
- I. Ichthyophthirius Multifillis
- 2. Flukes
- 3. Costia
- 4. Trichodina
- 5. Learnea
- 6. Argulus
- 7. Chilodenella
- * Identification of particular parasites is of upmost importance early on



Ciliates

1. Ichthyophirius Multifillis

- A. Commonly known as Ich or Ick
- B. Doesn't always manifest as white spots on Koi
- C. Has to be identified microscopically
- D. Treatments can include:
- * Salt
- * Potassium Permangnate (for the novice it is useful to have an ORP meter to measure concentration)
- * Currently there is nothing to kill Ich on the fish without killing its host, therefore you must end the Ich's life cycle
- * All Ciliates and Trematoda can also be treated with FMG (Formalin Malachite Green)



Ciliates Continued

2. Ichthyobodo Necater

- A. Also known as Costia
- B. Multiplies rapidly
- C. Most deadly when attacking the gills
- D. Treatments can include:
- * Potassium Permanganate
- * Nitrofurazone





Ciliates Continued

3. Trichodina

- A. Looks similar to flying saucers
- B. Characterized by the presence of a ring interlocking cytoskeletal denticles
- C. Treatments can include:
- * Potassium Permanganate
- * Salt
- * Acriflavin
- * Nitrofurazone





Ciliates Continued

4. Chilodenella

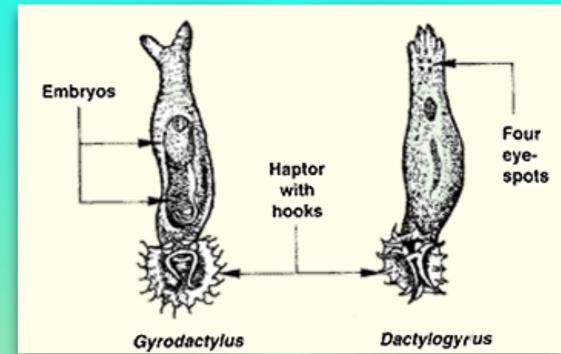
- A. Can also be referred to as Killer Don
- B. Dual nuclear structure
- C. Can be difficult to diagnose
- D. Treatments can include:
- * Potassium Permanganate
- * Nitrofurazone
- * FMG



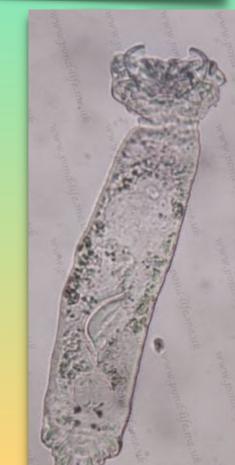
Trematoda

1. Flukes

- A. Two main types of Flukes:
- * Dactylogyrus (Egg laying)
 - Eye spots
 - Can take longer to kill
- * Gyrodactylus (Live bearer)
 - No eye spots
 - Shorter recovery process
- B. Treatments can include:
 - * Potassium Permanganate
 - * Praziquantel
 - * Fenbendazole







Crustaceans

2. Argulus Foliaceus

- A. Commonly referred to as Fish Lice
- B. Known to be the vehicle for other fish diseases
- C. Can be seen with the naked eye
- D. Treatments can include:
- * Dimilin (Diflubenzuron)
- * Physical removal
- * Can NOT be treated with FMG



Crustaceans Continued

3. Learnea

- A. Also known as Anchor Worms
- B. Must not only do physical removal of parasite but also full tank treatments
- C. Treatments can include:
- * Potassium Permanganate
- * Dimilin (Diflubenzuron)
- * Physical removal
- * Can NOT be treated with FMG



Bacteria

- * Bacterial diseases in Koi are surprisingly not usually caused by actual bacteria
- * Other causative events open the fish's defense and immune systems
 - * Such as: Poor water quality, stress, overcrowding, parasites, and mechanical
 - * Pathogens bacteria are ubiquitous in the fish's environment and can only "get the upper hand" when the fish is somehow compromised



Manifestations of Bacteria

- * Mouth, tail, and fin rot
- * Ulcers
- * Septicemia
- * Dropsy
- * General Malaise



Treatments for Bacteria

- * Raise salt level in tanks/ponds
- * Rectify water quality issues
- * Identify and eliminate pathogens
- * Injectable/dissolvable antibiotics
- * Antibiotic dips (Tricide Neo)
- * FMG
- * Potassium Permanganate
- * Reduce bacterial levels in environment
 - * Without compromising beneficial bacteria





Viral Diseases Affecting Koi

- * Koi Herpes Virus (KHV)
- * Carp Pox
- * Spring Viremia of Carp SVC
- * Lymphocystis
- * Sleeping Sickness
- * The key to Viral Diseases is prevention!





Testing Modality For KHV

- * Virus Neutralisation
 - * serological titer virus
- * Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)
 - * detects and measures antibodies in blood
- * PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction)
 - * Reveals viruses
 - * NOT an appropriate screening tool
- * White blood cell PCR





Fungal Issues

- * Usually secondary involvement due to other stress factors
- * Some common fungal diseases found in fish are:
- * Saprolegniasis
- * Branchiomycosis





Fungal Treatments

- * Clean wound & apply potassium permanganate slurry
- * Nitrofurazon
- * Most importantly, check water hygiene and quality!



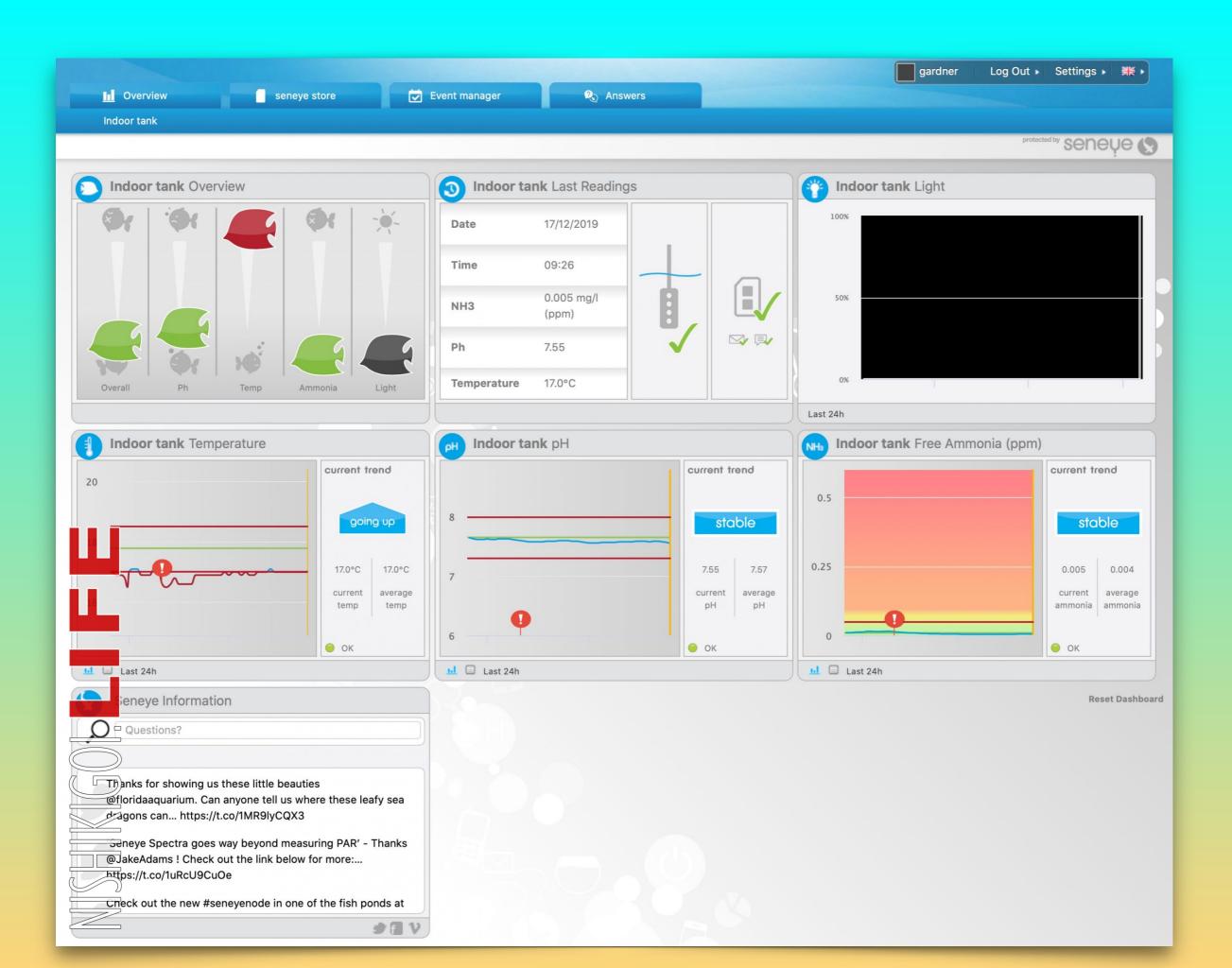


Water Quality

* Seneye Unit:

- * Constantly monitors water and alerts you to possible issues
- * Rectify negative parameters
- * Chlor-am-ex
- * Salt
- * Adjust pH
 - * Fritz-alkanlinty boost- we use massive amounts of oyster shells to buffer water and maintain constant pH







Thank You for Having The Koi Store!

