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February, 2023

By the Pond

I hope you all are as excited as I am, because we are only two days away from our February 2023 meeting at the Georgia Aquarium for the Behind the Scenes Tour! For those that have purchased tickets, please plan on arriving shortly **before** 12 pm. Angie has been kind enough to distribute physical tickets for us to those that purchased them. Please plan to **meet at the Aquarium Entrance to the left of the Pemberton Cafe to receive your ticket.** See the information below for details on the tour times:

What Is Included: Georgia Aquarium General Admission + Behind the Scenes Tour

Date: Saturday, February 11, 2023

Time: 12:00 pm (Arrival)

Tour 1: 1:00 pm

Tour 2: 1:30 pm

Group Sizes: 21 - 22 members

Address: Georgia Aquarium - 225 Baker St NW, Atlanta, GA 30313

The Aquarium does have a parking deck, but parking is extremely limited. PARKING PASSES ARE NOW COMPLETELY SOLD OUT. Parking downtown can be difficult, so the club does recommend carpooling when possible. Can't wait to see you all there!

Marlon Tiller Vice President Atlanta Koi Club

MEMBERSHIP

Two emails went out in the last two months in regard to renewal of memberships for 2023. We still have several members who have not renewed. Some people did not get an email because they do not owe until next year. If you think you owe, please check your junk folder or contact me with any questions at membership@atlantakoiclub.org. 2023 membership renewal was due January 31st. So anyone not renewed is considered late at this time. Remember, you will receive benefits when you participate in the auction and show if your renewal is received by January 31. This is also a good time to purchase name badges from our website if you haven't already so that you can receive a free raffle ticket at our meetings.

Rhonda Eubanks AKC Membership Chairperson

Welcome to four new sponsors:

Pond Care Plus (Sandersville, GA)

We're So Koi (Blountstown, FL)

Aqua Meds/USA Koi (NJ)

Koi Swag

Aqua Man, Inc.

These are the Club Committee position responsibilities & breakdowns. We want to encourage members to volunteer & sign up to fill these committee positions so the Club can function more smoothly!

Atlanta Koi Club: 2023 Club Committees & Available Positions

Membership Committee

Chair: Rhonda Eubanks

Committee Size: 2 - 3 Members

Raffle management: Solicit donations or source raffle items for club meetings & handling raffle ticket sales and winning ticket exchanges

Membership management: Assist as directed by Committee Chair

Nominating Committee Chair: Get 3-5 people for the nominating committee. Those people will submit a list of candidates for upcoming Board elections. The Chair will rank the candidates according to the committee submissions, contact the candidates to see if they agree to run and then submit the list of candidates.

Volunteer Coordinator Chair:

Position Available

Committee Size: 1 - 4 Members

Club Events (i.e. Auction, Pond Tour, Koi Show): Recruit & manage volunteers to assist with event setup & teardown

Set up and manage the Sign-Up Genius for each event.

Pond Tour Committee

Chair: David Esser

Committee Size: 2 - 5 Members

Pond Recruitment: Recruit member or non-member ponds to add to the tour Pond Photos & Owner Write-ups: Gather pond photos and write-ups from pond tour participants

Pond Tour Booklet: Design and print pond tour booklets

Sponsor & Local Business Advertisements: Recruit local businesses & sponsors for premium ad placements in the pond tour booklets Pond Tour Route: Plan and finalize official pond tour stops from start to finish

Koi / Goldfish Show Committee

Koi Show Co-chairs: Diane Giangrande & Chad Bishop

Goldfish Chair: David Driggers

Committee Size: 1 - 6 Members Banquet Auction / Raffle / Store: Solicit donations for raffle for the store and banquet and items for the banquet auction

General Show Assistance: Check airlines, observe fish, and assist Koi and Goldfish

Chairs as directed

Vendor Appreciation Reception & Awards Banquet: setup & arrangements as directed

Social Media / PR Committee / Advertising

Chair:

Position Available

Committee Size: 2 - 4 Members

Advertise upcoming events (show, auction and pond tour). Post ads to a list of places the club maintains and out new opportunities.

Social Media Content Creation: Create Instagram, Facebook or TikTok content to be approved by the Board

Social Media Accounts: Manage accounts, post regularly and maintain appropriate online presence to increase AKC social media engagement

Photographers / Videographers: Recruit members or professionals to capture content at important Club events pending Board approval

Club Meetings and Socials - Record and take photos during meetings for social media content

Koi Winter Madness

Last February The Koi Store hosted hobbies and enthusiasts to Winter Koi Madness. It was a 3 day program which included a judging competition for Marudo and Koda koi farms, jumbo tosaï. Many judges were in attendance to help educate participants. We did a zoom meeting with Ryuchi from JPD foods and also a presentation from Dave Bitton for his advanced sensory systems. We had a wide selection of bourbon and homemade Brunswick stew and a low country boil Saturday night. We hope that everyone had a good time. (editor: The video has been posted onto Facebook....Atlanta Koi Club's group page.)

Vicki Vaughan
The Koi Store

Our meetings simply are not possible without meeting locations. One joy of being in a koi club is for members to meet & check out each others' ponds so we can all experience new fish, filtration or a new way of doing things. Please, if you have not already, **consider hosting a club meeting** and reach out to me or any member of the board if you have any questions or concerns. The club provides reimbursement of costs of food and refreshments for both our normal meetings and social meetings.

Correction to meeting dates:

Our May meeting date should be Saturday, May 6 at 5PM instead of Sunday as listed in January's newsletter. (Of course, that's assuming the one of our members volunteers to host that meeting)

Here are the Atlanta Koi Club 2023 Meeting Dates:

July 15th (Saturday) - Summer Social, Location Needed

August 12th (Saturday) @ 5pm - *Topic, Location Needed*

September 10th (Sunday) @ 3pm - *Topic, Location Needed*

October 13th - 15th - 2023 Atlanta Koi & Goldfish Show

October 22nd (Sunday) @ 3 pm - *Topic, Location Needed*

November 11th (Saturday) @ 6 pm - Winter Social, Location Needed

We've gotten a few volunteers, however everyone is most interested in our limited spring months. Hopefully more members are willing to open up their homes for us and we can figure out speakers shortly after.

Once we work through a few things, I'll have the confirmed locations updated on the website soon.

Koi Anatomy By Aquascape

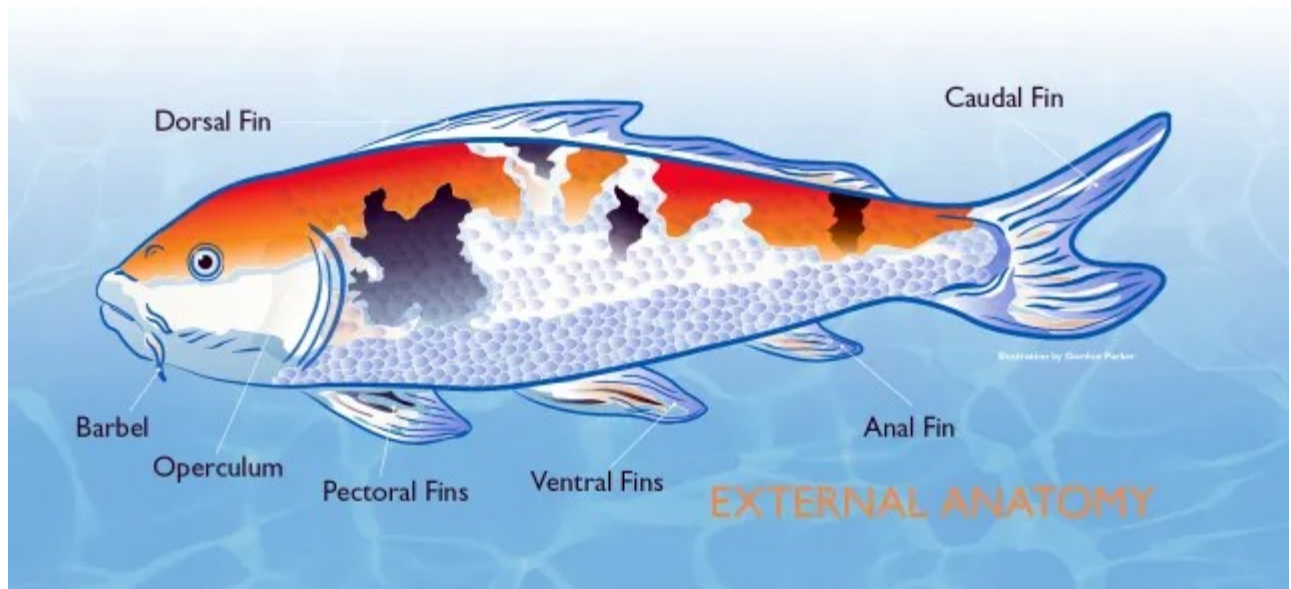
Did you know your koi and pond fish have a simple heart with only two chambers? Should that even matter to you as an owner of pond with fish? Probably not, but you should be aware of koi and pond fish anatomy that actually does matter to you.

The Fins

Let's start with the obvious. Koi and goldfish have the usual dorsal (top) fin, an assortment of bottom fins, and the caudal (tail) fin, as well as a few others.

The dorsal fin in koi is extremely vulnerable to ulceration and it's not uncommon for the mildest of bacterial infections to erode a hole right in the middle of it! Once the ulcer has healed, the fin can remain incomplete. When purchasing a new fish, inspect the dorsal fin to make sure it's whole.

The two pairs of pelvic fins are the pectorals and the ventrals. These are the fins that define the landmarks for injection of sick fish because it is the safest site with good absorption.



The Scales

Next up in learning about pond fish anatomy are the scales. The scales cover the body of the fish and are of variable size, depending on the location, and they overlap at five points. People tend to think the scales overlap on the obvious four sides, but the center of the scale is underlapped by the scale behind and in front of it.

When a fish gets a deep wound, they may dislodge or shed their scales. The dead tissue and loose scales that surround a wound can provide bad bacteria with fuel to continue to infect the fish. To avoid this, gently scrub the wound with a piece of gauze soaked in grocery store hydrogen peroxide. The term for this process is *debridement*. It's not meant for all wounds and should not be overdone. Over-cleaning a wound removes cells that are trying to heal, so usually only one debridement is needed.

Fish do a good job of replacing lost scales over the course of several weeks after their loss. However, the replacement scale is of a finer (thinner) quality and sometimes unevenly marked compared to the original scales.

The Gills and Operculum

The gills are to a fish what your lungs are to you – a delicate organ system that exposes all your blood to oxygen. The gills are the same structure only they're pushing the blood through capillaries that exchange with water, not air.

What most people don't know is that the gills perform another important function – the excretion of fish waste in the form of ammonia. The gills are the most important waste excretion organ in the fish's body. Damage to the gills by way of infection with bacteria, destruction via viruses, infestation with parasites, or just damage from medications or poor water quality, can impact the fish far more than just breathing.

The operculum is the thick boney covering on either side of the head and protects the gills. You may need to lift the operculum to examine the gills, but don't lift it too far or it might tear. The gills of any sick or dead fish can be photographed to provide important forensic information after a fish disease outbreak.

The Eyes

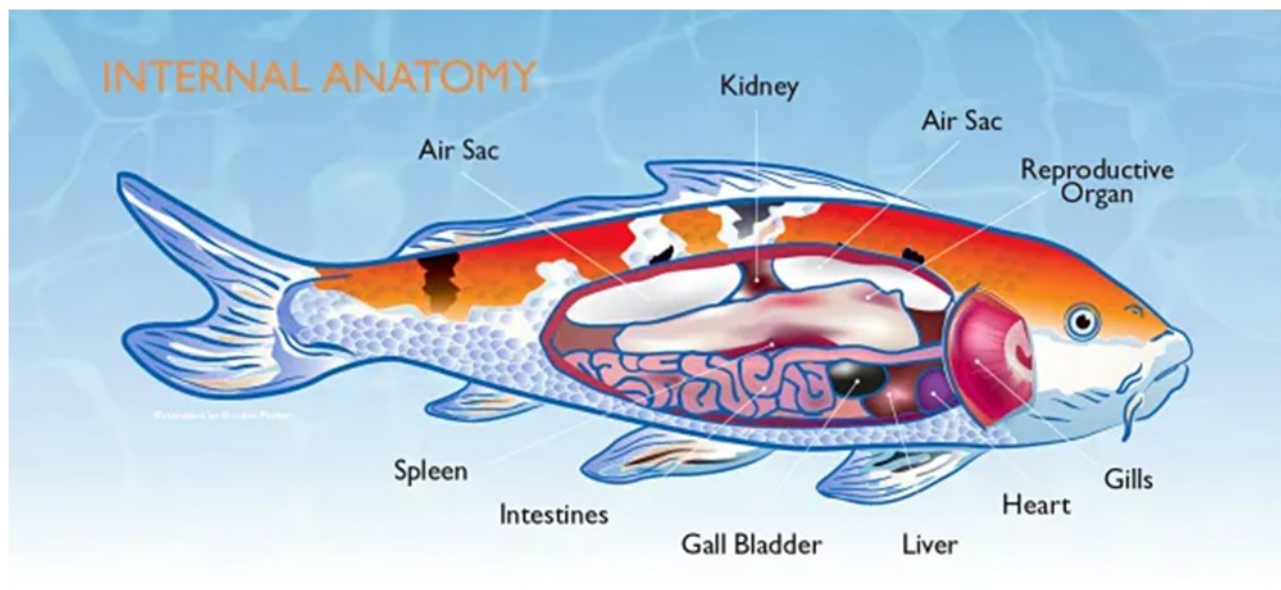
Koi and goldfish don't need eyes to live. In fact, there's a genetic mutation that causes one out of ten thousand fish to hatch without any at all. If a fish loses one or both eyes through trauma, it can still find food perfectly well with their barbels, lips, and mouths which are loaded with sensory structures like taste buds.

There's a fat cushiony blood supply to and from the eye called the *choroid plexus*, designed to protect the eye from any trauma. Sometimes the choroid swells due to a blow to the eye. This is temporary and the eye may sink back into the socket over the coming week. A popped eye for an indefinite period could be the sign of another problem that may require the help of a fish professional.

An Overview of the Guts

You'll find koi and pond fish anatomy shows a very simple digestive tract. They have an esophagus that comes from the mouth and goes to the "stomach." Their "stomach" is actually just a stretchy wide spot in the top of the intestine for food storage before it's passed into the intestine.

Koi tummies hate to be full in cold water. When this occurs, the lining of the intestine is damaged and bad bacteria can get through the damaged lining into the blood stream. The fish show no obvious signs of this, but may die later in the spring when the water warms and the bacteria go to work on the poor fish. This is one reason we recommend that you not feed your fish when water temperature reaches 50-degrees Fahrenheit or below



The Muscles

Fish muscles are different from your muscles. If you've ever seen a fish filet, you remember that there are red and white lines in the meat. The muscles of a fish are oriented in thick bands called *somites*. These bands are stacked all down the sides of the fish in thick, orderly rows. Let's go back to carrying fish in nets to find out

The Air Bladder

The air bladder is an amazingly delicate structure. It fills with air via a thin veil of capillaries extending over its surface, and air is released by way of a thin tube that comes from the caudal sac. The air is burped into the esophagus, which then escapes through the mouth. The air bladder is balanced to the weight of the fish against the water, which is the primary means by which the fish can hang in the water without paddling the whole time.

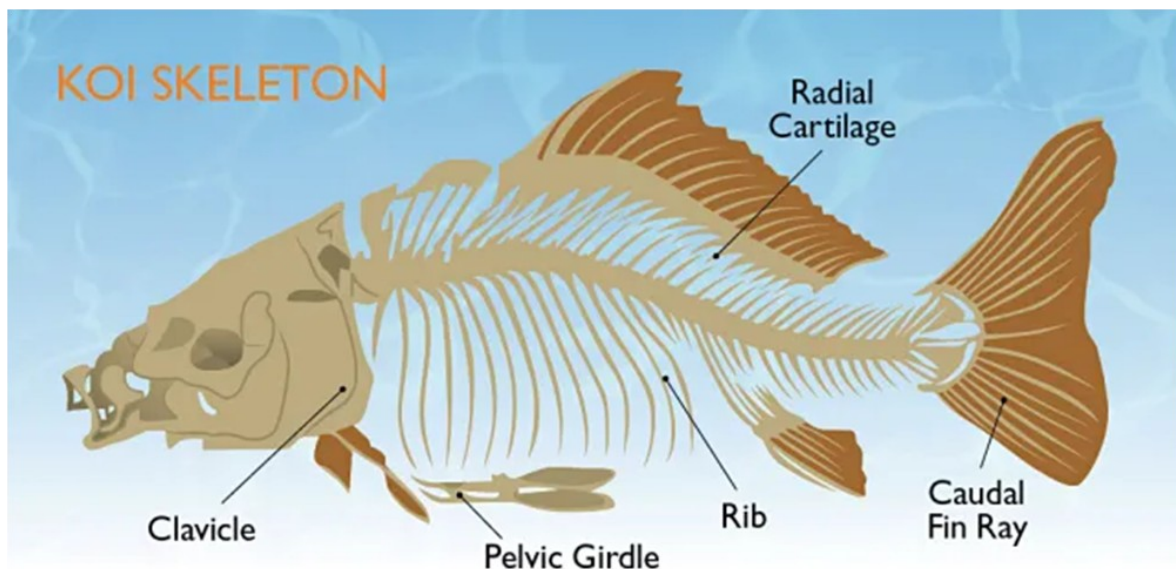
If a fish is floating upside down on the surface, something has happened to the air bladder's ability to let air out, so it is then too large and too buoyant for the weight of the fish. A problem with the air bladder can also cause the fish to sink to the pond bottom. This usually occurs when the spinal cord is damaged near the point where the nerves that regulate the air bladder emerge. Sometimes the air bladder can be removed or surgically corrected, enabling the fish to swim normally.

The Skeleton

Fish are boney, and ornamental pond fish are no exception, as you'll see in the pond fish anatomy diagram. Unlike the bones of sharks and stingrays, their bones are truly bones and not cartilage. The bones of a fish are not meant for bearing weight because, in water, the fish is pretty much weightless. The two principal stresses on the fishes' bones are hydrostatic pressure from the water, and the push and pull of the fishes' mighty muscles on those bones.

That's why, when you net a fish and carry it in that net, you're putting a unique force on their skeleton which can damage them. The fish is bent into a u-shape and its full weight torques the skeletal bones. Broken backs are a common result. Instead, use your net to catch the fish and then slide a big plastic bowl under the fish to carry it.

If a fish suffers from a broken back, the cure is simply time. The fish may compensate for the injury – even if crooked from that day on – or it may simply starve to death.



The Muscles

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Whenever a somite dies, the muscle gets smaller and a kink in the fish will be seen. The concave side of the bend is the side with the dead somite. If you don't carry fish around in nets, this is unlikely to ever have been seen in your collection.

Koi Teeth

In the back of the koi throat, emerging from the lower gill arch in the back, there are three to four molars. These molars have serrations on the top like your own molars. They're broad, crowned teeth used to destroy shells and pulverize insects and crustaceans scavenged from the pond bottom. These teeth are shed and replaced continually through the life of the koi. They are too far back for you to ever be bitten by a koi.

Hopefully you now feel a little more confident in understanding koi and pond fish anatomy and how it relates to your care for them. Finned friends are just as important as furry friends but are often less understood since you can't hold and cuddle them. Enjoy watching your fish and familiarize yourself with their behavior. That way, it will be easier for you to identify when something might be amiss.

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