Koi Fish Care

Congratulations on your decision to purchase pond fish from us at McShane's. We take great care to select the highest quality pond fish that are raised domestically in sustainable and humane ways. Adding fish to your aquatic ecosystem will complete the balance necessary for a healthy water feature. The purpose of this handout is to share details about the varieties of fish we sell along with some tips when it comes to care and feeding.

How to Care for Koi Fish

There is no wonder that many aquarists prefer to keep koi fish, as they are among the most beautiful pond fish of all time. However, taking care of koi fish requires understanding about their basic requirements. As they are marine fish, they need special attention like a correct sized pond or fish tank for free movement, water quality and correct feeding. Hence, prior to purchasing koi fish for your pond, you can gather information regarding their special needs and optimal conditions (temperature level, light conditions) for rearing them.

Water Quality: One of the most important tips for koi fish care is maintaining the water quality. Regulate the temperature, light condition and nutrient concentration (nitrites, phosphates) as per the seasonal needs. The pH range should be between 7-7.5. Installing a pump and skimmer system is a basic necessity prior to introducing koi fish in the koi pond or the fish tank. The water quality should be monitored regularly; you can replace about 20 percent of the tank water at least once in two weeks time.

Feeding: While feeding the koi fish, make sure that you feed the appropriate fish food that are specially formulated for them. Koi fish foods are available in the form of a stick or pellet. Also, the protein content of the foods differ for each fish stages; young koi require higher protein, while older ones can be fed with foods that contain less protein. The amount of foods should be such that they are eaten within a few minutes. Otherwise, koi fish are heavy feeders and can feed excessively. In addition, fallen fish foods may degrade and disturb the water chemistry.

Koi Fish Population: While purchasing the koi fish, make sure that you select the number as per the size of the pond or the fish tank. You can also consider the size of the koi fish that you are opting. On an average, a full grown koi fish can be reared in a water capacity of about 100 gallons. Accordingly, estimate the number of koi with reference to the total water in the fish tank or pond system. An overcrowded system results in an unhealthy water quality and/or environmental condition for the inhabitants.

Koi Fish Disease: In case of any irregularities in the water chemistry or nutrition, koi fish will become inactive and dull. In severe cases, they may become sick due to the bacterial infections. Diseases may also result from the introduction of other diseased fish or damaged plants. You can check for occurrence of bacteria on the underside of the belly. In case if you find any sick koi fish, separate it from the rest of the population and change the water as soon as possible, so as to prevent further spreading of the disease.
In brief, on how to care for koi fish. Follow the steps in which we went over and you will have an amazing pond full of beautiful koi. Koi fish can easily survive up to 40 years and beyond, provided that the right environmental conditions are maintained. Though it requires patience and continuous efforts to keep koi fish in the pond, the satisfaction of watching them playing is worth taking up the hurdles.

**Fun Facts About Koi**

- They can reach up to three feet in length which is why you need a very large pond to house them in.

- **JAPAN IS THE MECCA** for Koi. They are part of the culture, much like dogs and cats are here in America. One big difference, however, is that most of these wet pets outlive their owners. In fact, fish are often passed down from generation to generation, as the valuable heirlooms they are.

  In one village, the fish in a family's pond had been passed down through so many generations, that the original ancestors who'd kept these prized fish could not even be recalled. Knowing, though, that these were some old fish, it was decided that someone should find out just how old they were.

  Working with a local university, a few of the fish gave up some scales for the sake of science. When the scientists tested the scales, even they were amazed at the results. The older fish alive in that pond had been around for an amazing 226 years! Two of his fellow pond dwellers were 180 and 156 years old, respectively.

  The moral of the story? Take good care of your Koi, because maybe some day your great, great, great, great grandchildren's grandchildren will enjoy gazing at these truly amazing creatures.

- Koi will recognize the person feeding them and gather around them at feeding times. You can even train them to take food from your hand!

- **The koi varieties** are dependent upon its **color**. For example, the kohaku is the red and white koi, the goshiki is orange and white while kigoi is plain yellow and kumonryu is the black koi.

  Today, keeping koi has become a very popular hobby not only because of the beauty and color of the fishes but also the calming effect you get when watching these magnificent koi swimming gracefully in your own koi pond.

Here at McShane's we value the addition of a water feature to the landscape. We pride ourself on our full service pond department. Should you need professional advice, don't hesitate to contact us.

**Pond Fish Guarantee**

McShane's is proud to stand behind the health of the fish that we sell. As long as fish are transported and added to their new aquatic environment as directed, we offer a 30 day "replacement" guarantee. Should you have any questions, please see an associate for details.