

Koi Dealer Best Health Practices Certification Program



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Program Sponsor

Project KHV
an AKCA project



Koi herpesvirus

- A herpesvirus that causes disease only in Koi and common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*)
- Found in archived tissue from the mid-1990s
- Gained worldwide attention in 1998 and '99 - large outbreaks in Israel and the U.S.



Current KHV status

- Now found worldwide (except Australia)
- Incomplete scientific knowledge and a lack of adequate testing
- Vaccines are under development – 6 or 8 companies
- Israeli vaccine in use in several countries
- Plus, biosecurity is neither widely understood nor widely practiced





BHP goal

To provide an effective program to help dealers keep KHV disease from entering their Koi for sale



How will the BHP work?

- Veterinarians help dealerships prepare and implement the Essential Requirements of the BHP
- When ready, the veterinarian inspects the facility for compliance
- If everything is in order, a Certificate of Compliance is issued



Certificate of Compliance

with Koi Dealer Best Health Practices

This is to certify that

Peters & Sons Koi & Pond Supply

has been found compliant with the minimum requirements of the Koi Dealer Best Health Practices Certification Program (the "Program") and the ownership of this business has agreed to continue that compliance through the certification period commencing the _____ day of _____, 20____ and ending one year from the date of issuance unless otherwise revoked by the undersigned certifying veterinarian.

2009

Certifying Veterinarian: _____ Date: _____

(signature)

_____ Contact Phone: _____

(print name here)

**Koi CANNOT be guaranteed KHV-FREE.
Undetected latent KHV may later become active disease.**

Issuance of this certificate means the certifying veterinarian has inspected the premises, equipment, programs and procedures and has found this dealership to be in compliance with the Program's minimum requirements. These minimum requirements are believed to be adequate to detect, intercept and stop 'active' koi herpesvirus (KHV) disease in incoming livestock only and the certified business owner(s) has/have agreed to comply with these minimum Program requirements on a continuous and ongoing basis for as long as this certification is in effect.

**Latent or low-level persistent infections may not be detected by the Program,
and if they are not, the disease may later become active.**



How will it work? (cont.)

- The veterinarian continues to monitor and verify the Dealership by requiring:
 - Proper facility configuration and maintenance,
 - Proper quarantine of all incoming Koi,
 - Ongoing and appropriate bio-security procedures,
 - Appropriate record keeping and
 - Personnel training,
 - Regularly scheduled dealer reports,
 - Immediate reporting of suspected KHV disease (KHVD), and by
 - Periodic veterinary on-site inspections.



- Certified dealers will have agreed to quarantine all incoming Koi
- at the permissive temperature for a time adequate for KHVD to show itself
- If no symptoms are observed, the fish are released for sale



- If KHVD is suspected, veterinarian directs and monitors the dealer's investigation and any required corrective action
- If KHVD infected or exposed Koi are identified, they are destroyed and associated tanks and equipment sanitized



Issues not addressed by BHP

- Carriers – either latently infected or carrying a low-level persistent infection
- The BHP is not designed to identify carriers
- Some tests for KHV antibodies are available and will identify KHV survivors or vaccinates
- Survivors may well be carriers



BHP Development

- Current program started in 2007
- Project KHV sponsored and managed BHP development and marketing
- Animal health professionals wrote the basic requirements document



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BHP development (cont.)

- Legal review by James Wilson, DVM, JD,
- Web-based course for veterinarians developed by Professor Richard Strange
- Licensed veterinarians will be the independent, third-party Certifiers of Koi dealerships



Development (cont.)

- Beta testing of online course (mid-2008) - 8 veterinarians
- Beta testing of the Essential Requirements (late 2008) - 11 Koi dealerships
- 5 Koi dealerships certified
- Feedback from Beta phase used to improve the Program (early 2009)



Short-term Plans

- National release imminent (2nd Qtr '09)
- Online course will seek accreditation for veterinary continuing education
- Free BHP use to any veterinarian who agrees to only certify dealers that meet the BHP's minimum Essential Requirements
- Veterinarians make their own arrangements with Koi dealers and keep all the money. Such a deal!



Future

- Project KHV will continue to sponsor & manage the Program for up to 1.5 years
- Program is anticipated to be turned over to veterinarians. Final recipients/managers have yet to be identified
- Website: www.besthealthpractices.org



Questions?



End.....



Thank you

