

Fact Sheet for the
Koi Health Advisor Program
An AKCA sponsored program
Updated: June 2009

The Koi Health Advisor (“KHA”) program (the “Program”) is an ongoing program that is sanctioned and sponsored by the Associated Koi Clubs of America (“AKCA”) and was started in March of 2001. The Program seeks to increase the pleasure and satisfaction of Koi hobbyists by helping to improve and maintain the health of their fish. The program offers training on good Koi husbandry to interested and qualified hobbyists and professionals. It is hoped that the graduates of the Program will not only improve their own Koi keeping skills but also teach and assist others where the law allows and will provide a link to qualified veterinarians if and when the need arises.

The course is open to any member of an AKCA associated club and to Koi professionals that are AKCA professional members. A Koi professional is an owner of a business, a spouse or direct relative of the owner, or employee or representative of a business that sells Koi or that sells products or services used in Koi keeping.

The tuition for hobbyists is free; this is because of funds provided by the AKCA. To help support the AKCA Koi Health Advisor Students will be required to maintain a subscription to Koi USA for two a minimum of 2 years. There is a \$100 fee for Koi professionals plus a \$240 professional membership fee in AKCA, both of which are non-refundable. The AKCA has and intends to continue to fully fund the preparation and teaching of the Program as a way to give back to and support the hobby that supports the organization. Students will, however, be required to obtain their own equipment and supplies and provide their own transportation, meals and lodging to attend the laboratory session. It is estimated that the out of pocket cost to the individual student for participating in the Program will likely be between \$200 and \$1000 for the first year and depend on a number of factors including the travel distance to the lab and amount of equipment and supplies that the student already possesses.

Classes typically run from July 1st of a given year to May 30th of the following year – see Participation Requirements and Schedule. However, qualified students may usually enroll until Dec. 31st of the starting year as long as they commit to finishing with the then current class. The course is taught almost entirely over the internet with the exception that all students are required to attend one, hands-on lab. Labs are now conducted in conjunction with the AKCA’s annual Seminar, traditionally held about the last week in June. See the AKCA and KHA web sites for specifics on the seminar schedule for the current year.

The course can teach virtually anyone to be a better Koi keeper. The basic course has eight sections taught by advanced hobbyists and veterinarians. They are as follows:

Pond Design – by Burt Ballou Last updated: 7/19/09

Filtration – by Chris Neaves

Basic Water Chemistry – by Norm Meck

Nutrition – by Chris Neaves Last updated: 3/26/09

Anatomy & Physiology – by Nick Saint-Erne, DVM

Health – by Nick Saint-Erne, DVM

KHA/Hobbyist Interface – by Joe White

Lab – by Nick Saint-Erne, DVM

Tests are given after each section except the lab and the criteria for passing a given section test are set by the individual instructors. The instructors are very supportive and everyone who has continued to study and try has passed the tests and completed the course. Additionally all instructors are available by email and there is a closed bulletin board for the graduates, students and instructors.

Hobbyist graduates of the Program are issued a Certificate, a pin and are certified as KHAs. Koi Professionals who complete the program are issued a Certificate of Completion but are not certified as KHAs. In order to maintain their certification, hobbyist graduates are required to take 15 continuing education ("CE") units every two years. CE courses are sought, promoted, and in some cases the preparation is financed, by AKCA. Credit is also given for completing approved courses that deal with Koi health but are outside the Program. Koi Professionals are eligible to take most, if not all, of the CE courses.

Certified graduate KHAs (hobbyist) may work to achieve advanced levels of certification. Currently Advanced, and Master Certifications are available.

This brief fact sheet is intended to provide a general overview of the KHA Program and is not a complete description of the Program. Additional information, including how to sign up for the KHA program, may be found on the AKCA web site at <http://www.akca.org/> (follow the KHA links) or by going directly to the KHA site at: <http://www.koihealthadvisor.org/> and following the links to the program information.

Sign up information can also be obtained by contacting:

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