



# **CODES OF PRACTICE FOR THE AUCTION OR SALE OF SURPLUS FISH**

**THIRD EDITION**

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## **FISH SALES**

Fish are not to be offered for sale as pet fish on any occasion, to do so would require the seller to hold a pet sales licence. Fish are only to be offered for sale as stock fish with a view of increasing the available gene pool.

## **DUTY OF CARE (Vendors)**

The Duty of Care of any fish offered for sale is not transferred in total to the Society organising the Sale or Auction, into which the fish is entered, nor to the Purchaser until the transaction is completed. Until then the Vendor has a Duty of Care to ensure that the fish is in good health is free from disease and damage, is not in a stressed condition, the container is suitable for the fish and that he/she will be available should the fish require attention.

## **DUTY OF CARE (Sale or Auction Organisers)**

Show organisers have a Duty of Care to the fish entered in their Sale or Auction. Initially, that the fish is fit for sale in that it is free of disease and damage and that its display tank is suitable for the fish to display.

That whilst it is in their care it will receive the best treatment possible.

That the intended Purchaser has knowledge of the fish and its requirements and, if appropriate, its suitability to be kept with other fish that may already be in his/her possession.

That the Purchaser has the means to transport the fish home in an approved container.

## **DUTY OF CARE (Purchasers)**

The Duty of Care of a fish offered for sale is transferred in total to the Purchaser when the sale transaction is completed. The Purchaser has a Duty of Care to ensure that the fish is in good health is free from disease and damage and the fish is not in a stressed condition.

That he/she is aware of the fish's needs and its suitability to be kept with any other fish he may have.

That the Purchaser has a suitable container for the fish's onward transportation.

## **MAILING**

Under no circumstances are live fish or any vertebrate to be sent through the GPO or any other mailing system. It is illegal to do so.

It is known to be a common practice of sending fertile eggs through the mail; although this is not illegal, to do so is ill-advised and is not to be recommended.

Send fish and eggs by courier. The sender must arrange a firm delivery date with the recipient to ensure that someone is present to accept the delivery.

## **CONTAINERS**

Fish will not be offered for sale in plastic bags **under any circumstances**.  
Aquatic Plants can be offered for sale in plastic bags

They must be benched in tanks large enough to allow the fish freedom of movement to be able to display to its full advantage. If, in the opinion of the Organisers, the tank is considered too small for the fish it will not be allowed entry into the Sale. At no time will the tank be removed from the sales bench and held aloft, especially during the selling and bidding process.

The name of the fish and the Vendor to be shown on a label fixed to the tank.

## **PLASTIC BAGS.**

Fish when sold can be placed in double lined plastic bags suitable in size for the fish that are being transported by the new owner. This should then be placed in a Black Plastic bag to reduce the stress to the minimum that the fish could be experience.

A supply of both Clear Plastic and Black Plastic Bags should be made available by the organisation organising the Sale or Auction of Excess Stock.

## **SUITABILITY OF WATER**

It is the responsibility of the Vendor to ensure that the water, in which fish are presented for sale is suitable for that fish. If special water conditions are required then this must be written on a label fixed to the sale tank.

## **WATER CONTENT**

All fish containers shall be adequately filled with water.

## **TRANSPORTING TROPICAL FISH**

Tropical fish are best transported in the suitable Show tank and packed in a polystyrene container box. The boxes that fish are sent to the importers are quite suitable and are readily available. Pack pieces of polystyrene between the Show tanks to hold them firmly in place. A thermos flask of hot water should be carried to slowly raise the temperature of any container that may have suffered a heat loss as a result of transportation. Arrive in plenty of time to enter your fish in the Sale, giving them time to settle down.

## **TRANSPORTING COLDWATER FISH**

Many of the so-called coldwater fish can also be transported as above but not in the same box as the tropical fish.

Goldfish and similar sized fish are best transported in fish buckets, of a type similar to the five litre tubs in which paint or emulsion is sold. These must have a tight fitting lid and, as they are often made of a white polyurethane material, the outside is best painted black so that the fish are not stressed. Unless one is fully competent in handling fish then a suitable size net should be used to transfer the fish from the sale tank to the bucket.

## **GENDER**

Where fish are advertised as pairs, ie, they are to be a male and female rather than two fish, and they must be readily identified as such

## **FEEDING**

Fish should not be fed 48 hours before selling. Feeding them by the Purchaser on installing them in their new surroundings, i.e. aquarium or pond will allow them to quickly settle down. If special food or feeding conditions are required then this must be written on a label fixed to the sale tank.

## **GRAVID LIVEBEARERS**

Heavily gravid livebearers will not be allowed to be offered for sale.

## **COLOUR-ENHANCED FISH**

Any fish which appears to have been subjected to colour-enhancement, or has its natural colouration altered by dye, injection or by any other means will not be allowed to be exhibited.

## **BALLOON FISH**

All Balloon fish irrespective of species will not be accepted or offered for sale.

## **DISTRESSED FISH**

Where any fish appears distressed it will be removed from the sale area to a treatment area, where it can be dealt with and if necessary given emergency treatment.

**Administration of any treatment, with the exception of aeration, is only to be administered by the owner.**

**A list of all known Open Shows and Aquatic Events are published in the quarterly FBAS Events Catalogue and are also available on the FBAS Website.**

**If you consider there are any improvements that can be made to these Codes Of Practice (or there are other issues that should be introduced into them to improve the manner in which Fish are kept, exhibited, auctioned or sold), please put them in writing to the Secretary of the FBAS Judges & Standards Committee whose address can be found on the Federation's website.**

**[www.fbas.co.uk](http://www.fbas.co.uk)**