

The VOICE

[june 2003 issue 19]

WELFARE OF ANIMALS IN TRANSPORT ORDER (WATO)

Those of you with long memories may recall that there was whole series of WATO's in the 1990's. Out of these came a series of measures that applied to the transport of all animals, including fish and other aquatic livestock.

One provision of the WATO's is that fish, travelling more than 50kms, are accompanied by an Animal Transport Certificate, or all the required information is available on alternative paperwork, such as an invoice. Members are reminded that the following information is required:

1. Name and full address of the owner of the animals;
2. Number and species of animal to be carried;
3. The place of departure where animals are loaded, with full address;
4. Date and time of loading of the first animal;
5. The date and time of departure;
6. The full address of the final destination, including postcode;
7. Name, address, business name, telephone and fax number of transporter;
8. Registration number of vehicle;
9. Name of person in charge during the journey;
10. Name and signature of person in charge of the transport undertaking;
11. Date and time of arrival at the final destination (to be provided after the journey). ■

[1] Welfare of Animals in Transport Order (WATO)

[2] Koi thefts ● Coral with poor survival... ● Pond safety

[3] EU by-products legislation ● Fish treatment review ● Data protection scam

[4] EU suspends trade in some coral species ● Is it or isn't it??... ● Email addresses ● Website links

OATA, Wessex House, 40 Station Road, Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 3JN UK

Telephone 0870 0434013 Fax 01373 301236

info@ornamentalfish.org www.ornamentalfish.org www.aquaticsworldwide.org

KOI THEFTS

In our last Newsletter in April we warned members that there appear to have been a number of thefts of high value koi around the country over the last year.

Since then there have been at least two more incidents. The first was a theft of 17 fish valued at £40,000 from a pond in Scotland. The second involved one of our members. In this instance a single high value koi was stolen. Pond pumps and the like had been ignored, as had lower value but larger koi.

While following up these events, an approach was made to a police force in England who at first said they had had no incidents. However, on checking they found they had had five or six incidents, one of which involved the theft of koi valued at £10,000.

It is easy to add two and two together and decide that there is a countrywide conspiracy. Of course there may be, but equally this could be a set of random occurrences. To decide what is happening more information is needed so we would repeat our requests for members to let us know of koi thefts (including those from garden ponds) reported in your area.

If koi are stolen one of the biggest hindrances to full investigation is lack of definite identification of the koi concerned. If the fish can't be identified, they can never be "found" and hence no action can be taken. Good quality photo's (apparently it is best if these are on film rather than digital) and chipping are alternatives that might aid positive identification.■

First published on Friday 04 April 2003:

Thieves net 388 exotic fish

by Catherine Bruce

ALMOST 400 exotic fish have been stolen from a York garden centre.

Burglars raided Wyevale garden centre, in Northfield Lane, Upper Poppleton, and stole 388 fish, worth thousands of pounds, over two nights.

The haul included 30 Koi Carp, worth £200 each, 20 Ghost Koi, worth £100 each and 20 Shubunkins, worth £80 each.

CORAL WITH POOR SURVIVAL NEXT FOR SUSPENSION?

The SRG also made a recommendation that the EC should consider suspending trade in *Goniopora lobata*. The reason cited was its poor survival. It will be interesting to see if while making this decision the SRG reflected that if such a decision had been made 15 or so years ago many of the techniques to keep, grow and reproduce many coral species would never have been developed. A suspension might as one of its main achievements merely bring the development of captive rearing techniques within the EU to a halt.■

POND SAFETY

Several children have drowned in ponds and other waters this summer. There has been considerable coverage from the BBC, The Mirror and other local newspapers amongst others.

We would strongly recommend that Members provide appropriate advice regarding ponds and display our pond safety signs. The "Make your pond safe!" correx signs (20cm x 30cm) in red and black are available for £4 + VAT each.■

EU BY-PRODUCTS LEGISLATION

In the March updates we explained, briefly, the EU By products legislation that should be in force. We concluded by saying we would seek further clarification of what should happen to ornamental fish deaths.

It is not entirely surprising that the situation is still unclear. The Scottish Executive have indicated that ornamental fish are pets and thus exempt from the provisions of this regulation. However, in England DEFRA officials in conversation said ornamental fish were not pets

until sold to the public, so were covered by the regulation. Their advice was that members should contact their local trading standards office for information. In the meantime DEFRA were writing a circular to these same officers asking them to take a pragmatic or practical approach.

While confusion reigns and lack of realistic options are available, contacting local enforcement officers for their interpretation of the law, may be the most effective option.■

DATA PROTECTION SCAM

Some OATA members have received unsolicited phone calls or letters from companies who claim to offer data protection services. These companies - who are not affiliated with the government - are charging fees considerably in excess (up to £95 + VAT) of the official £35 per annum for registration under the Data Protection Act.

Visit <http://www.dataprotection.gov.uk/dnbmlist.html> or contact the OATA office (T: 01373 301351 <laura@ornamentalfish.org>) for a list of companies under investigation, if you think you may have been affected; we have already saved one member £95!

Members who wish to complain about the correspondence received from these businesses, should contact their local Trading Standards Office.

Members who retain records of individuals, companies, employees, credit details or customer lists may be obliged to register under the Data Protection Act 1998. Members should visit www.dpr.gov.uk and www.dataprotection.gov.uk/dpars.htm for further information, and seek advice from the Information Commission directly on 01625 545740. There are some exemptions.■



Young children should always be supervised when near open water of any kind.
Produced by OATA Ltd

FISH TREATMENT REVIEW

We are once again promised a review of the rules governing the sale of fish treatments. This time it is due to commence in July, and for legislation be in place by early 2004. This the latest more or less firm commitment to resolve the guidelines on this topic. Maybe matters will reach a conclusion, but as we have said in previous items on this matter, don't hold your breath!!■

EU SUSPENDS TRADE IN SOME CORAL SPECIES

At the end of May the EU Scientific Review Group (SRG) that provides advice on CITES matters held a meeting. They decided to place “negative opinions” on the following species from:

Indonesia

Hydnophora microconos
Nemanzophyllia turbida
Scolymlia vitiensis
Trachyphyllia geoffroyi
Wellsophyllia radiata

Fiji

Blastomussa wellsii
Catalaphyllia jardinei
Euphyllia yaeyamensis
Hydnophora rigida
Plerogyra simplex
P. sinuosa
Scolymlia vitiensis
Trachyphyllia geoffroyi

A negative opinion means in practical terms a ban on imports

of these species to the EU. We would once again draw member’s attention to the fact that once a coral is imported illegally then it remains illegal, even if it moves from one member state to another. We strongly recommend members insist that anyone selling these species (and those already subject to negative opinions) from these origins provide an import number or copy import permit.

More details on the most recent SRG meeting at http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/cites/agenda_summaries/26th_summary_srg.pdf

It would be a wise precaution to check http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/cites/srg_en.htm for a list of negative opinions to March 2003.■

IS IT, OR ISN'T IT?? WILL IT OR WON'T IT??

As the temperatures rise we receive calls in office, along the lines of those in the title concerning fish deaths. We are rarely, if ever, able to do anything other than indicate what might have caused a particular problem. We are more than happy to discuss problems and go through options. That said, in many cases the only way to finally decide what caused a problem is to undertake more or less extensive investigations. In some instances the only way of identifying a problem will be to involve the official services like CEFAS, as they have the only labs in country able identify some diseases, KHV being an example.■

EMAIL ADDRESSES

If you have an email address, and don't currently receive this newsletter by email, please let Ray <ray@ornamentalfish.org> know. We are quite happy to send email to home email addresses, and to several designated staff within larger organisations. Sending information by email additionally ensures members receive news as it happens, rather than wait for the next newsletter to be produced; it also reduces our paper, photocopying and postal budget, allowing funds to be redirected to more useful areas.■

WEBSITE LINKS

Our “Ornamental Fish” website (www.ornamentalfish.org) features many members organised by business category with hyperlinks, and a review of their site. If you wish to be listed or update your description, please submit your web address and details to Laura <laura@ornamentalfish.org>.

For those of you who don't have a website yet, or would like a redesign of their existing site, OATA provides webdesign services including hosting from £100 + VAT pa.■