



# Koi herpesvirus (KHV)

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## Summary Status

KHV is a virus that causes disease in koi and common carp only, is highly contagious, can kill most of the koi/carp in an infected system and has spread world-wide.

Survivors of infections can be carriers.

Koi hobbyists and dealers can help protect themselves by:

1. Buying from reputable sources that adequately quarantine all fish arriving at their facilities and operate under Best Health Management Practices,
2. Adequately quarantining new fish (and fish returning from outside the facility) prior to (re)introducing them into the general fish populations. **This is the single most effective action within the fish owners' control,**
3. Disinfecting, or otherwise verify the safety (non-infectivity), of everything that comes in contact with water of existing pond/system or new fish,
4. Depopulating all koi and carp exposed to KHV,
5. Supporting efforts to educate the koi community and find new ways to control and ultimately eradicate this disease, e.g., donating to Project KHV (shameless plug), and
6. Buying vaccinated koi if and when proven safe (and effective) and having existing fish vaccinated.

Testing for antibodies to KHV (an indication of past exposure or vaccination) and for the virus (during active disease) is now possible without killing the fish.

Starting in the Spring of 2007, a course with then-current and much more complete information and presented by very competent instructors will be made available through the sponsorship of AKCA's Project KHV (see announcements in July/Aug '06 and Sept/Oct '06 issues of KOI USA).

The fact sheet (from which this summary was taken) was assembled to help bridge the gap between the 2007 education course described above and now. To view the complete fact sheet, please visit the Project KHV web site at <http://www.akcaprojectkhv.org/index.htm>.