



ProBitesTM

The new generation koi food

Spring-Autumn

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www.nedkoi.com

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Introduction

ProBites is a new generation of koi food made from only the best ingredients and manufactured using the very latest technology. This has allowed us to distance ourselves from inferior, low quality ingredients that are so often used in the production of animal feeds. Such inferior ingredients often contain harmful contaminants or are of such low quality that they are capable of affecting the health of Nishikigoi when used over long periods of time.

With the development of ProBites we have gone back to the drawing board and developed from scratch a product that is 100% designed with the long term health of koi in mind. Our product avoids the use of specific ingredients and detrimental methods of production that are often used in the fabrication of feed for the food fish industry. The vast majority of the koi pellets now manufactured are nothing more than variations of the cheap bulk pellets used for industrial breeding and forced growth of carp intended for consumption. In most cases these koi feeds are nothing more than industrial pellets to which some extra vitamins or the latest trendy ingredient has been added. In our eyes and if you value the long term health of your koi such bulking out ingredients while common place for monetary reasons are very unsuitable for use in any koi feed.

Carbohydrates

A good example is the use of carbohydrates. Carbohydrates form a very large percentage of the ingredients in most pelleted koi food, in general these consist of cheap bulking ingredients used in the livestock industry such as: wheat flour, maize meal, tapioca meal etc. There is in fact; nothing wrong with the presence of carbohydrates in koi feed provided it is of good quality and contains as little potential sugars as possible e.g. a low GI (Glycaemic Index). Carbohydrates consist of starches, simple and complex sugars. They often have ideal properties as a binder which serves to keep all the ingredients together.

However, carbohydrates do have certain big disadvantages. Nearly all koi feed contains carbohydrates with very high levels of sugars (high GI). The fact that sugars WILL become fat with detrimental health effects is also very well known. Carbohydrates are converted by the body into sugars (glucose) to be burned as energy. The unused portion is converted to fat which accumulates in the liver and muscle tissue as glycogen. This condition is called Carbohydrate Overload. The symptoms of this are high blood sugars, an excess strain to the liver and lack of hunger. This manifests itself by an enlarged fatty liver caused by the excessive storage of glycogen, the net effect will result in reduced levels of liver function. Such deposits are not only unhealthy but can greatly reduce the lifespan of our koi. It is difficult to say just how much damage is done by the feeding of excessive fast carbohydrates to our koi, but we find it essential that a well balanced koi food must never contribute to the early demise of our fish.

Koi living in closed systems with little need for high performance exploits have little need for rapid introduction of sugars into the bloodstream. This is totally unnecessary and makes the rapid rise in blood sugar levels unwanted. ProBites contain only carbohydrates with very low sugar levels. This way, the carbohydrates used in ProBites not only contribute to the health and lifespan of your fish, but also to a slow, natural and thus efficient digestion.

Quality control

Almost all the raw materials used in the production of ProBites are food grade. This means that almost all of our ingredients are fit for human consumption. These raw materials are constantly supervised and inspected to be sure they meet standards of quality such as those stipulated in the GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice. A worldwide recognized control and management system for the manufacturing and quality control testing of foods and pharmaceutical products) and HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points is a systematic preventive approach to food safety. A system used at all stages of food production and preparation processes). Only a small portion of our ingredients are specifically intended for sole use in the aquatic environment and therefore not normally for human consumption but even then these are of the highest quality available. ProBites is living proof that a koi food can be both high quality and affordable at the same time.

Production techniques

Because it is important that ProBites retains as many of its nutrient values as possible, ProBites is manufactured using the same low temperature extrusion techniques employed in the production of food for human consumption. This preserves many fragile nutrients and vitamins as well as retaining the full taste and smell. After all, smell and taste are the most important factors which koi use to judge the quality of any food given to them. We are proud to state that even though ProBites have no synthetic taste, smell or other synthetic additives, koi still exhibit an irresistible attraction to ProBites. Because of this, koi remain continually attracted to ProBites as it is a tasty nutritional product.

Extensive tests

A series of long and extensive tests have been done to ensure that ProBites meets the following strict criteria:

- ProBites pellets must not cloud the water of the pond.
- The pellets must not put undue strain on the pond and its filtration.
- At a normal feeding regime, protein foam formation should be zero or minimal.
- The pellets should retain their form when moistened.
- ProBites must have an open structure that increases their attraction to koi.
- ProBites must be tuned to the different water temperatures in the pond and the nutritional needs of koi by these temperatures.

The growth factor

Needless to say we have taken time to examine the specific wishes and needs that koi lovers demand of their feed as well as their expectations of what a good quality koi food should achieve. The most evident of these demands is that a koi food should allow a fish to grow well. Research has shown that growth in a koi can be best achieved through the use of protein derived from fresh and salt water habitats with a high biological protein value. These kinds of proteins most closely resemble those of which a koi is made and are therefore most quickly and efficiently converted to muscle tissue. Insects are also suitable for this purpose and have the added attraction of having an attractive smell and taste koi find irresistible.

Fats and oils

In order to properly digest its food a koi also needs fat. The correct fats are not only rich in healthy fatty acids, but are also the source of the energy a koi needs to digest its food. The healthiest fatty acids and oils are those derived from plants. Once again, the lower the temperatures are in the extraction process, the better the quality of the fatty acids in the oils produced. All fats and oils chosen in the manufacture of ProBites are therefore cold pressed food grade. This combination of quality proteins, oils and fats are a guarantee for unprecedented growth.

The Concentrated Colour Formula™

Another quality that koi keepers find important when choosing a koi food is its ability to enhance colour. There are many different substances that can influence the colour of koi, but many of these have the unfortunate side effect of colouring the water or even worse, affecting the white of our koi. Much extra thought was given to this problem during the development of ProBites. This has resulted in an extraordinary combination of raw materials that naturally stimulate and support the production of pigments. We have labelled this combination, Concentrated Colour Formula™ (CCF).

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ProBites Spring-Autumn is especially suitable for slightly lower water temperatures. It is highly digestible and produces little solid wastes.

This serves to reduce the load on the bio-filtration and creates a balance between the food consumed and the capacity of the bio film in the filter.

This stabilizes the water values and prevents the formation of excess ammonia and nitrite peaks in the pond water. ProBites Spring-Autumn is especially suitable for preparing for the approaching growth season or winding down in the approach to winter.

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