

American Goldfish
Association



Goldfish Standards, Revised 2009
A Publication of the American Goldfish Association

Preface to the 2009 Edition

Welcome to the AGA 2009 edition of the U.S. Goldfish standards. As I write this, I am reminded of the work that preceded these standards. The first set of standards was written by the Philadelphia Aquarium Society sometime at the turn of the twentieth century. These standards remained in existence for over fifty years. The next set of “guidelines” for goldfish, as they were called, was written by Bob Mertlich of the Goldfish Society of America (GFSA). For various reasons, these “guidelines” were not widely used, and in 1996, a new set of “guidelines” were issued by the GFSA. I had the privilege of leading the group that published the 1996 edition of guidelines, which were widely distributed and are used by hobbyists, breeders and judges throughout the U.S.

Since the 1996 edition of the “guidelines” was issued, we have witnessed many changes in the goldfish hobby, the most important of which are the availability of high quality goldfish in the U.S.; the explosion in goldfish shows throughout the country, especially in the last few years; and the availability of information over the internet. These changes have prompted us to issue a new set of standards for the goldfish hobby in the U.S.

The 1996 “guideline” was a modest twenty-eight pages in length, including the front and back cover. This edition tops out at over eighty pages. The increase in length will, hopefully, be justified by the addition of new variety descriptions, additional full-color photos taken at fish shows, an increase in the number of line drawings furnished, and expanded variety descriptions. In addition, we have expanded our coverage of Ranchu to include top and side view variety descriptions, and recommend that clubs across the U.S. begin to have two categories of competition for Ranchu at their shows.

As with any collaborative work, there are many people to acknowledge. I wish to thank Merlin Cunliffe for once again providing our line illustrations, and add Russ Taylor’s name to that of Merlin’s in providing wonderful line drawings of top-view Ranchu. Next, I would like to thank those people who provided photographs for this edition of the standards, including: Vicki Knill, Carolyn Weise, John Barcellona, David Lains, Southwest Koi & Goldfish, Dale Rohrer, John Parker, John Hubschman, Art Lembke, Steve Hopkins, and Mark Dolan. Finally, I’d like to thank the contributors to this publication, some of whom worked on the 1996 standards, as well. These contributors include: Gary Hater, Steve Hopkins, Larry & Pat Christensen, Art Lembke, Bay Bateman, John Hubschman, Dave Mandley, Vicki Knill, Gaye Langley Jones, Russ Taylor, John Parker, Rick Hess, Carlos Perez, Scott Taylor, and Tony Reynolds. Without the dedication of these people, this work would not be possible.

Finally, I would like to dedicate this book to the memory of three people who have made the goldfish hobby in the U.S. possible: to Bill Parsonson, who acted as a mentor to so many of us; to Al Thomma, who introduced us to the science of genetics in goldfish; and to Fred Rosenzweig, who showed us the way in pictures.

Respectfully,

Peter J Ponzio

Chairman, AGA

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Basic Goldfish Characteristics

1. **Scalation** – Four basic types of scalation occur in goldfish: metallic, matte, nacreous and Pearlscale.

a. **Metallic** – Has a shiny, reflective appearance, much like a metal object, hence the name metallic. The shiny appearance is caused by the presence of guanine in the scale.

b. **Matte** – Scales which lack the reflective guanine layer, leading to a dull or non-reflective appearance.

c. **Nacreous** – A scale type which combines characteristics of the metallic and matte scale patterns, often in random proportions, causing a mixture of reflective and non-reflective scales on a fish.

d. **Pearl Scale** - An encrustation on each scale of the fish, causing the scale to appear to have a miniature dome in the center. In the best specimens, the pearling occurs over the body of the fish, and wraps around the entire fish completely.

2. **Colors** – Goldfish come in a number of distinct colors, including combinations of colors. Common goldfish colors include the following: red, orange, white, black, blue, chocolate brown, yellow, red and white, black and red, black red and white, calico (a combination of colors usually including red, white, black and blue).

3. **Eyes** – Goldfish have several different eye-types, as follows:

a. **Normal eye types**

b. **Telescope eyes** – eyes which are mounted atop a cone-shaped protrusion on either side of the head.

c. **Celestial eyes** – Similar to a telescope-eyed goldfish, but the eyes are pointing upward at the end of the “telescope” feature

d. **Bubble Eyes** – the eyes of a bubble-eyed goldfish are actually considered of the normal type. The distinguishing feature of this

fish is the large, fluid-filled sack which forms on each side of the face, directly underneath the eye of the fish.

4. **Tail types** – Goldfish have a great deal of variation in the caudal or tail fin, as outlined below.

a. Single tail – The most common form of tail type, which is moderately forked, and rounded at the edges.

b. Comet tail – longer than the single tail variety (about 2 – 3 times longer), with a marked forking, and pointed tail tips.

c. Shubunkin tail type (primarily in the Bristol Shubunkin) – a long tail, similar in size to the comet tail type, but having rounded tail edges, which tend to flare out at the tail edge, causing the tail to look fuller than that of the comet.

d. Double tail – a tail which has two distinct components or lobes, and which is not joined along 2/3rds of its length, and which has rounded tail edges. The size of the double tail can range from 2/3rds the length of the body to double the length of the body, depending on the goldfish variety.

e. Lionhead or Ranchu tail – Similar to the double tail, but forking is permissible. Generally speaking the double tail of the Ranchu or Lionhead is $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ the length of the body.

f. Tosakin tail a variation on the double tail, which is joined, rounded at the edges, and where the tail tip curves back toward the head, producing a curlicue-type appearance in the tail of the fish.

g. Jikin tail – Similar in appearance to the Ranchu or Lionhead tail; when viewed from behind the tail creates four distinct lobes which are held perpendicular to the body and which form an “X” shape.

h. Veiltail – A modification of the double tail variety, whereby the tail is 2-1/2 to 3 times the body length of the fish, and where the forking is non-existent, producing a tail with a straight edge; hence the name “veil” tail.

i. Butterfly tail – A modification of the double tail in the telescope variety, whereby the tail is fully or nearly fully split, appears relatively flat in side profile, and with a shape which is reminiscent of a butterfly when viewed from the top.

5. **Head Growth** – Some varieties of goldfish, including the Oranda, Lionhead and Ranchu have a growth on the head known as a “wen.” This growth looks like a raspberry, and causes a distinct appearance, similar to a lion’s mane, when viewed on the fish. Several varieties of head growth are recognized.

a. Goose head – growth limited primarily to the top of the head, with little or no “wen” occurring on the cheeks or opercula.

b. Tiger head – head growth which appears on the top of the head and on the cheeks of the fish.

c. Lionhead – Full head growth, which appears on the top of the head, cheeks, and opercula.

6. **Dorsal fin characteristics** – the fin located on the back of the fish is known as the dorsal fin. In some varieties (Ranchu, Lionhead, Celestial, Bubbleye and Phoenix), the dorsal fin is not present. The dorsal-less varieties can be further sub-divided into the Ranchu and Lionhead type of back profile.

a. In the Ranchu type back profile, the back is gently arched, until it reaches the caudal peduncle, when it sharply angles downward and meets the tail at a 45 degree angle.

b. In the Lionhead type back profile (which is also shared with the Celestial, Bubbleye and Phoenix), the back is less arched than that of the Ranchu, and joins the tail at an angle that is much less severe than in the Ranchu-type tail.

7. **Other growth characteristics of goldfish.** Goldfish have been selectively bred for growth characteristics over the centuries. A partial listing of these characteristics appears below.

a. Narial bouquets (poms-poms or pom-poms) – a tuft-like series of growth appearing on the narial area (nose) of the fish, which in fully developed specimens resembles a cheerleader’s pom-pom.

b. Pearlscale – an encrustation on each scale of the fish, causing the

scale to appear to have a miniature dome in the center. In the best specimens, the pearling occurs over the body of the fish, and wraps around the entire fish completely.

c. Out-turned operculum – a fish with the gill-plates turned-over, so that the gills are revealed.

8. Body shape characteristics – Body shape characteristics are varied among goldfish types, and are difficult to succinctly categorize, since body shapes can vary within the same variety (as an example, an Oranda may have a fantail or Veiltail body conformation).

a. Streamlined body shape – this shape is found on the common goldfish, Shubunkin, and Comet varieties. It is the basic torpedo shape common to most types of fish.

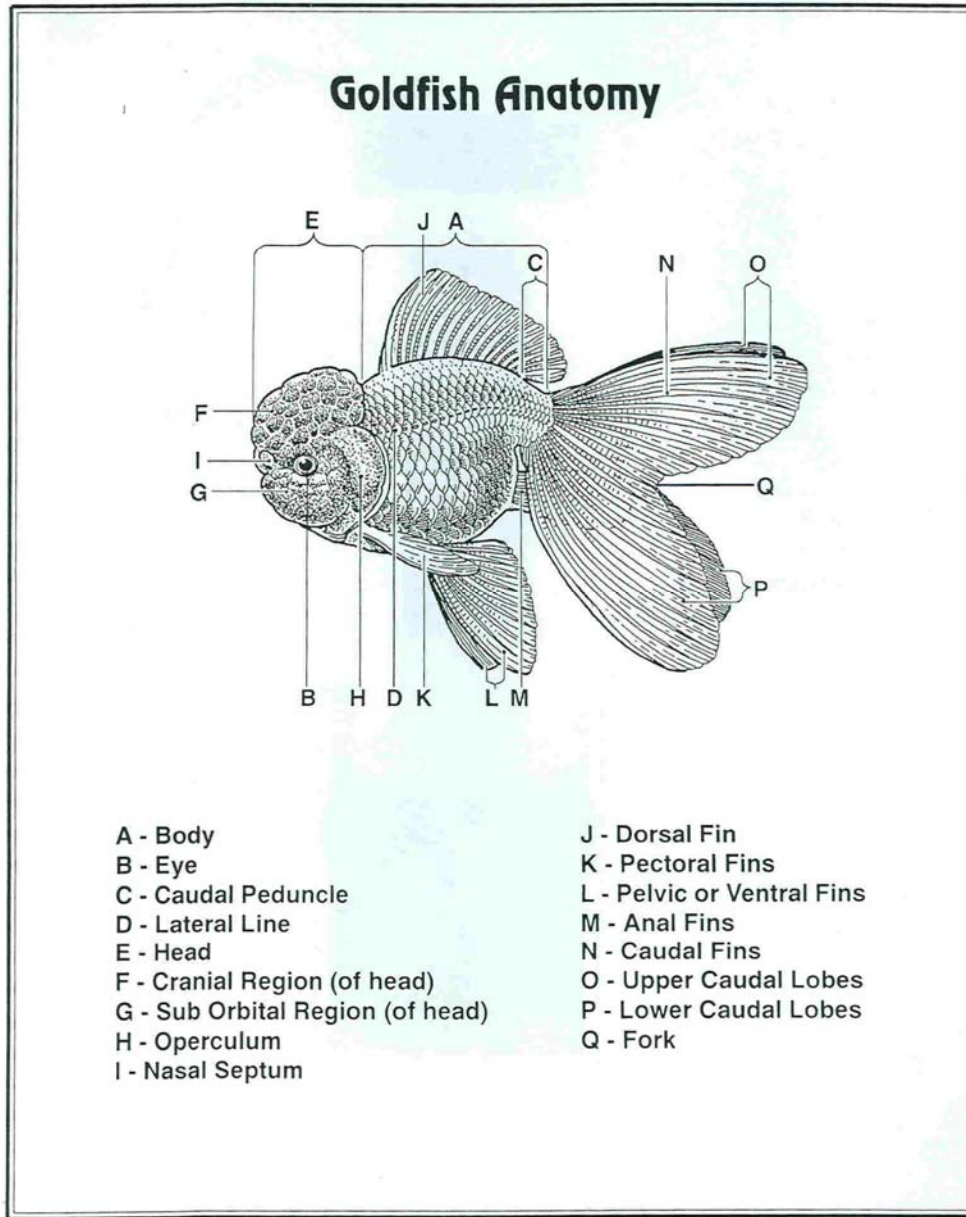
b. Fantail shape – This body shape is more egg-like, and produces a rounded profile in the fish. This body type is commonly seen in the fantail, some varieties of telescope, some Oranda bodies (especially on the Red Cap), some Pearlscales, and on the Celestial and Bubble-eye.

c. Veiltail body type – this body type is similar to that of the Ryukin, without the hump on the back. It is more rounded than that of the fantail, and the body depth is approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ deeper than that of the traditional fantail. This body type is found on some Telescopes, some Orandas, Pearlscale, Veiltails, and some ribbon tails.

d. Lionhead or Ranchu body type – A very rounded body type, with a depth that is $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ greater than that of the Veiltail variety. The body appears chunky, especially in the area of the caudal peduncle, which does not flare out to meet the tail as on most fish, but looks more like a part of the body.

e. Other body type – the Wakin, Jikin and Tosakin have distinct body types that do not fit into any other category.

AGA Goldfish Standards



Goldfish Varieties are determined by three broad types, as follows:

- Presence or absence of dorsal fin
- Tail/Finnage type

- Special variety growth characteristics

Classifications are therefore made first by dorsal fin, then by tail type, and finally by special variety growth characteristics (if applicable).

The following table illustrates this concept for the varieties of goldfish recognized by the AGA.

Variety Name	Dorsal, Y/N	Tail Type	Variety Growth Characteristic
Common	Y	Single	No
Comet	Y	Single	Finnage
Shubunkin Finnage variations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Shubunkin • Japanese Shubunkin • Bristol Shubunkin 	Y	Single	Finnage
Fantail	Y	Double	No
Pearlscale	Y	Double	Pearl scales
Ryukin Finnage variations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short • Medium • Long 	Y	Double	Humped back
Oranda	Y	Double	Wen
Veiltail	Y	Double	Finnage

Telescope	Y	Double	Eyes
Celestial	N	Double	Eyes
Bubble eye	N	Double	Eyes
Lionhead	N	Double	Wen
Ranchu			
View Variations:			
• Top View	N	Double	Wen, caudal peduncle, tail spread
• Side View	N	Double	Wen, back profile, tail attachment
Wakin	Y	Double	Body shape
Jikin	Y	Double	Tail, color, body shape
Phoenix	N	Double	Finnage, body shape
Tosakin	Y	Double	Tail, body shape

Overall appreciation of Fish

It is the intent of the AGA to foster the appreciation of the overall development of the fish. We encourage our judges to view the fish as a whole, not breaking the fish up into discrete parts for judging.

AGA judges review a fish according to the following basic characteristics:

- Body style – this refers to one of the five body types, as follows:
 - Streamlined body Shape
 - Fantail body shape
 - Veiltail body shape
 - Lionhead or Ranchu body shape
 - Other body shape

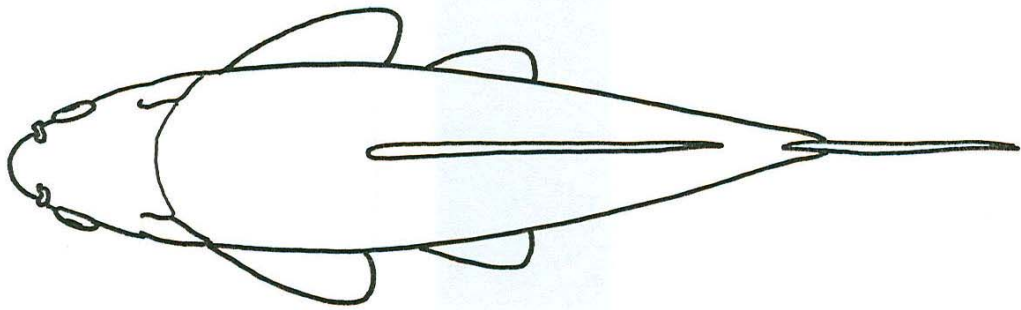
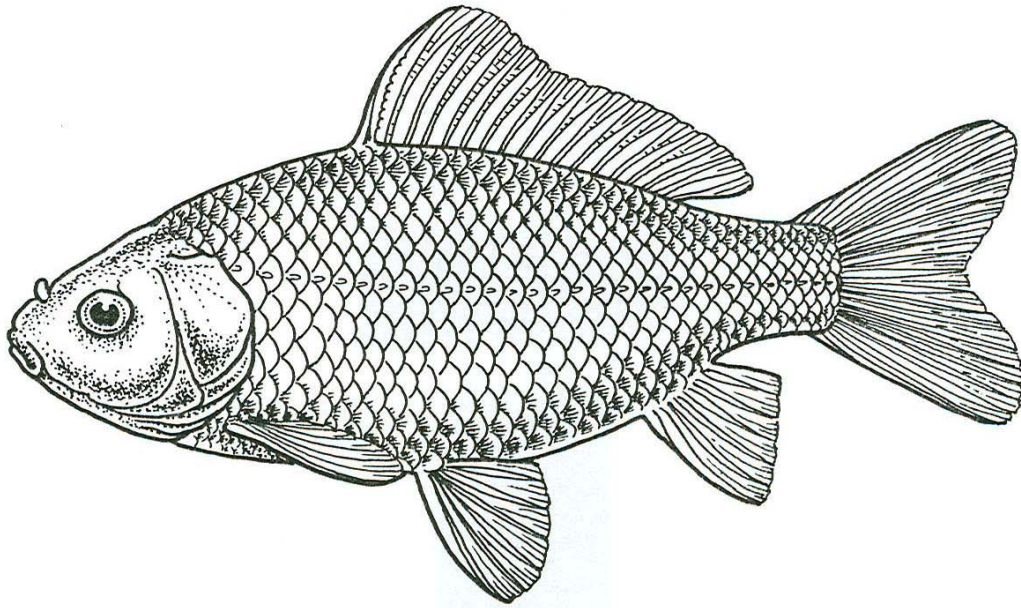
Since the body shape is so important to the development of a fish, body shapes which do not conform to the type of fish being judged will result in severe downgrading during judging.

- Color—color is often misunderstood when judging goldfish. Generally speaking, goldfish do not have recognized, ordered patterns, as do koi. When we speak of color in goldfish, we are talking about the intensity and thickness of color. As an example, a fish may look “washed out,” which refers to the thickness of the color on a fish. A “washed out” fish appears to be losing its color, hence the lack of thickness in the color plate. When we speak of intensity, we are referring to the condition of the color and of the skin on the fish, or shine. If a fish is healthy, it possesses a shine or glow that is noticeable to the observer.
- Finnacle—refers to the combination of tail and other fins on the fish. Finnacle will be described in more detail under each goldfish variety.
- Special variety characteristics—each variety has special characteristics which are unique. The variety characteristics will be described in each individual variety standard.
- Deportment and condition—refers to the swimming motion and carriage of the fish in the water. Swimming motion can be affected by the length and condition and angle of fins, the length and placement of the caudal peduncle, and also by the swim bladder. A diseased or injured fish would not be in top condition, and should not be shown. For a fish to be of show quality, proper deportment and condition is essential.

For each variety type, a line drawing will be provided, as well as color photograph(s) and detailed descriptions of the variety and points of appreciation.

Single Tail Fish

Common Goldfish



- The common goldfish is classified as a single-tail fish, having a dorsal fin. The fish possess a “torpedo” shaped body, and can grow to become from twelve to twenty inches in length. The body shape of the fish, while similar in appearance to that of a common carp, is not as deep as that of a common carp, and hence, has a more streamlined appearance when viewed from the side. When viewed from the top, the goldfish has an aerodynamic appearance, with the front and rear of the fish tapering into a “torpedo” shape. The common goldfish possesses double pectoral and pelvic fins, a single anal and caudal fin.
- Common goldfish, while often thought of as red fish, come in a host of colors, including orange, yellow, white, olive or drab green, yellow-brown, and black. Scalation in common goldfish is limited to the metallic form.
- The number one criteria in judging a fish is the overall appearance or “conformation” of the fish. The fish should be free of defects and disease, and should swim vertically through the water.
- Scalation should be regular and even, and scales should not be missing.
- Since this is a metallic fish, the sheen of the fish is important, and coloration takes on added significance and should be a deep uniform color, throughout.
- Fins should be in good shape, with the tail fin being about $\frac{3}{8}$ the length of the fish. The dorsal should be carried erect, and should be about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ the depth of the body. Paired pectoral and pelvic fins should be the same size, and should be full.



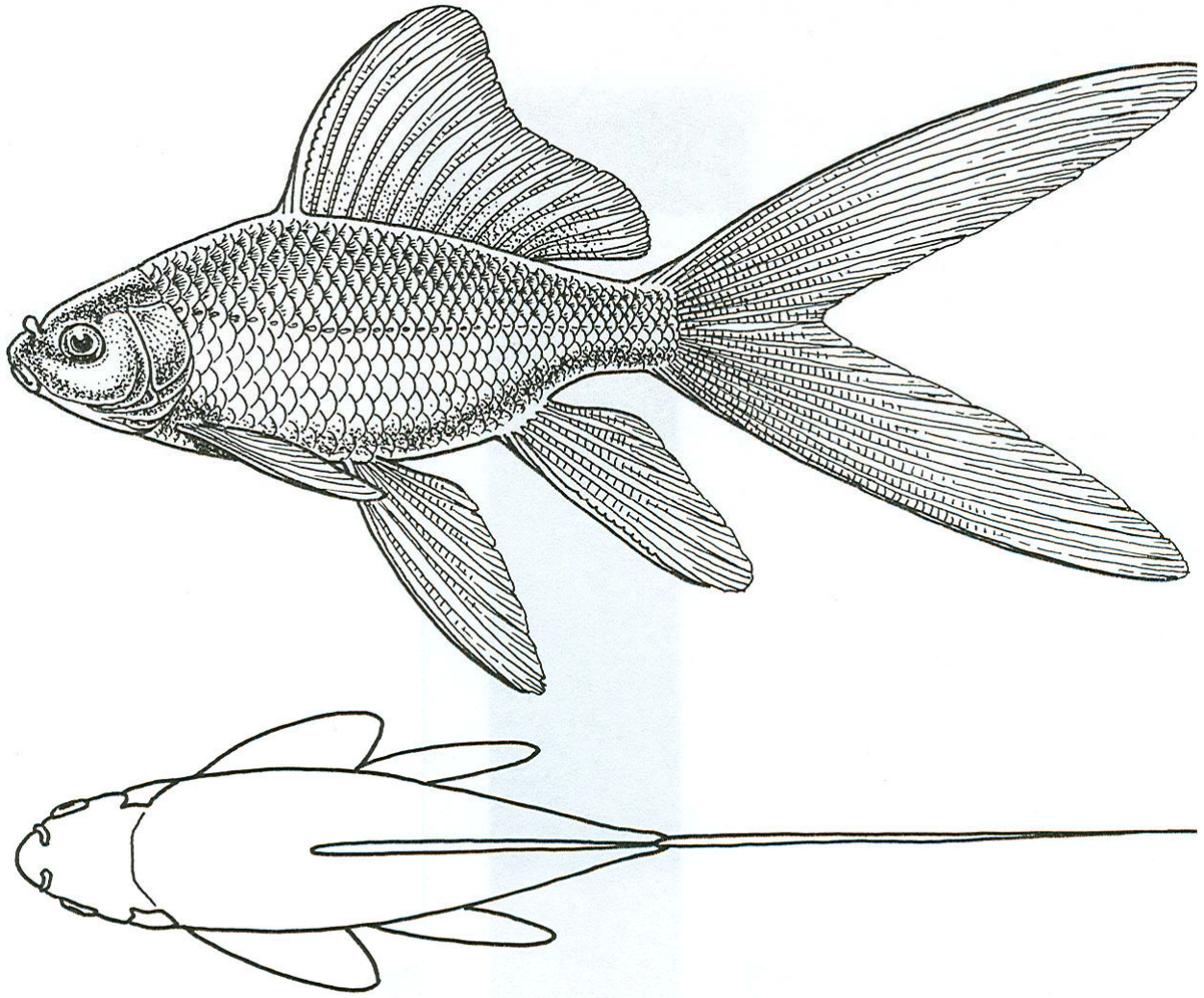
Mock Metallic Yellow Common Goldfish



Red and White Common Goldfish

Single Tail Fish

Comet Goldfish



Comet Goldfish

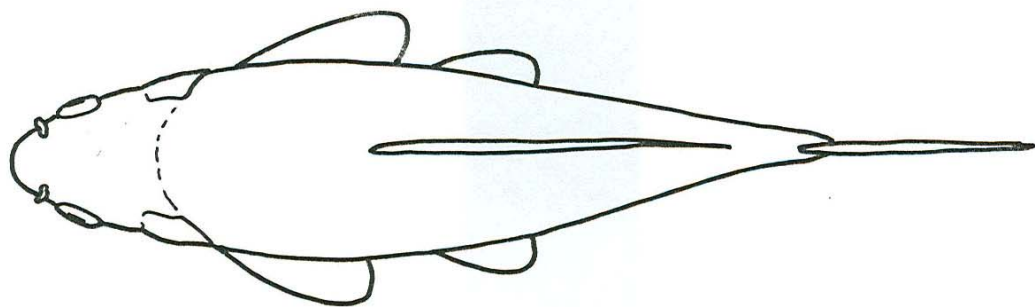
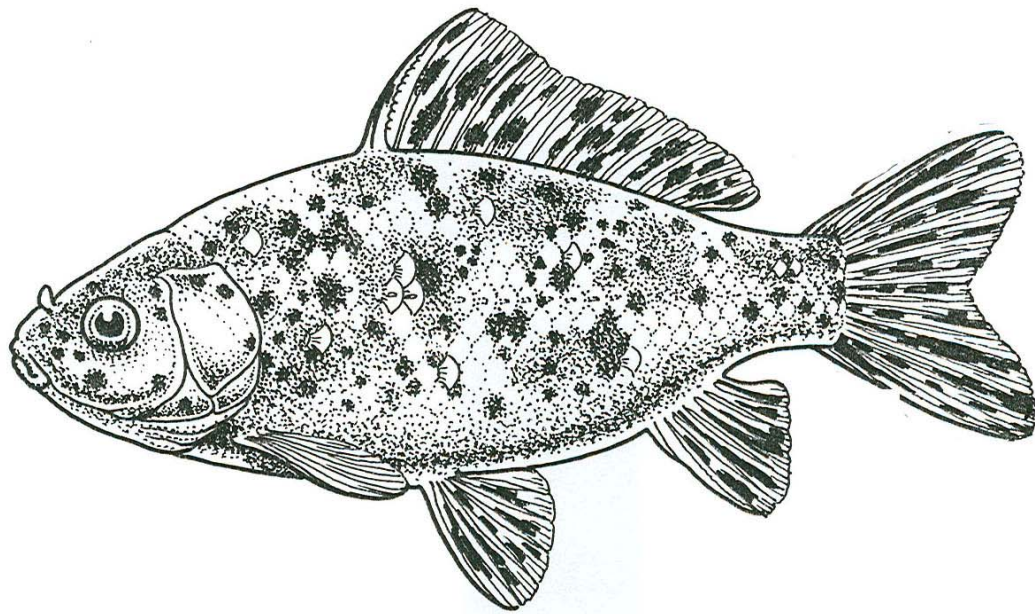
- The Comet is a single-tail long-bodied goldfish, and is the fish most people think of when the word goldfish is mentioned to them. The fish possesses a streamlined body shape, and can grow to become from twelve to twenty inches in length. Comets are graceful fish, and swim easily through the water.
- The comet comes in a variety of colors, including orange, yellow, white, olive or drab green, yellow-brown, and black. If the comet appears in a calico coloring, it is classified as a long-finned Shubunkin, rather than as a comet.
- The identifying characteristic of this variety of goldfish is the long, flowing fins which occur in the dorsal, caudal, pectoral and ventral fins. The caudal fin is often the length of the body, and in well-developed specimens, may be double the length of the body.
- The tail, in addition to being long, should also possess a prominent forking, so that approximately 80% of the tail is forked in appearance. In the best specimens, the tips of the tail are almost clear, which produces a beautiful effect against the background color of the fish and fins. The dorsal fin should be carried erect, and should be as deep as the body, or slightly deeper. There is a single ventral fin, which should be consistent with the length of the remaining fins.
- Scalation should be regular and even, and scales should not be missing.
- Since this is a metallic fish, the sheen of the fish is important, and coloration takes on added significance and should be a deep uniform color, throughout.



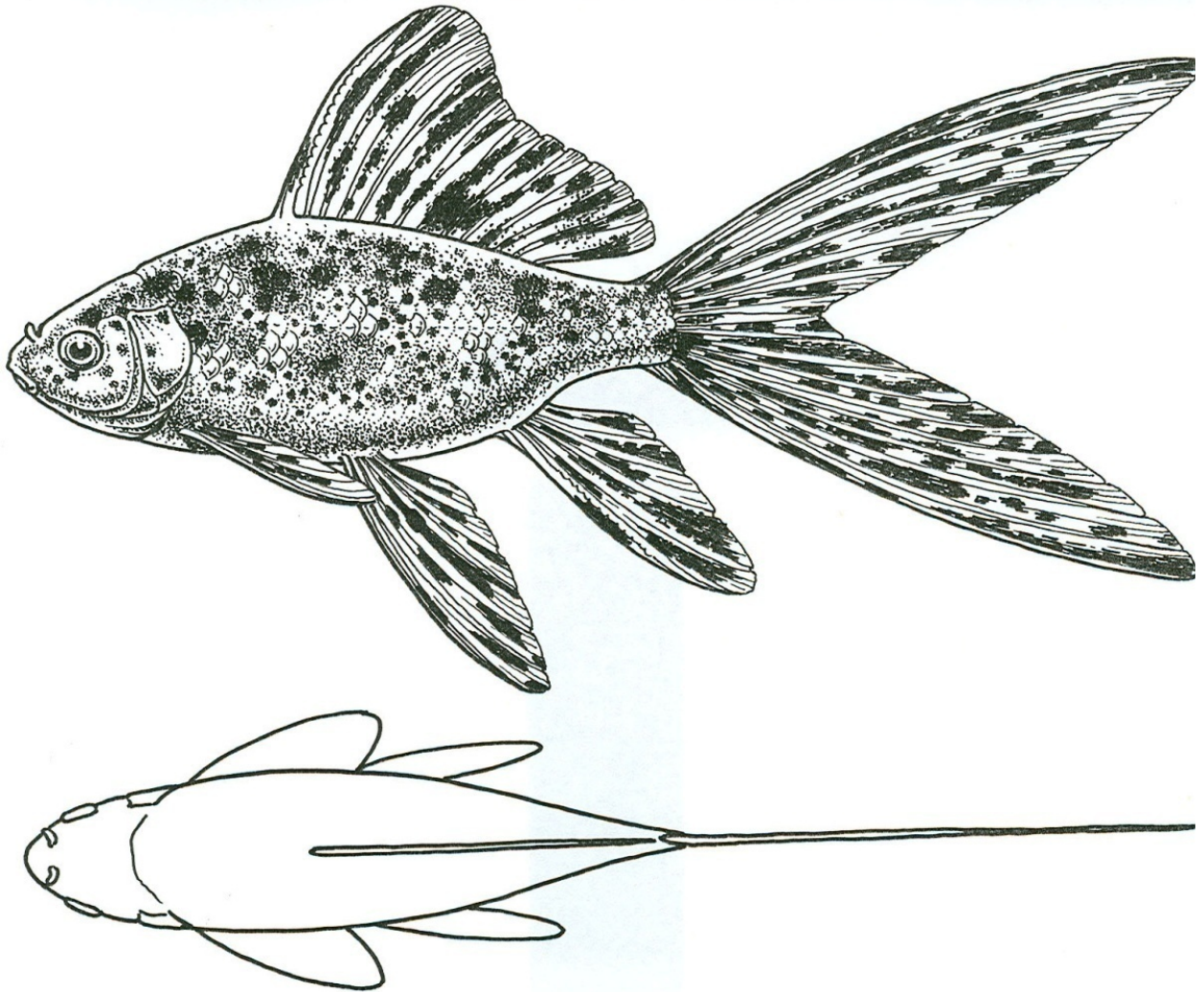
Red and White Comet Goldfish

Single Tail Fish

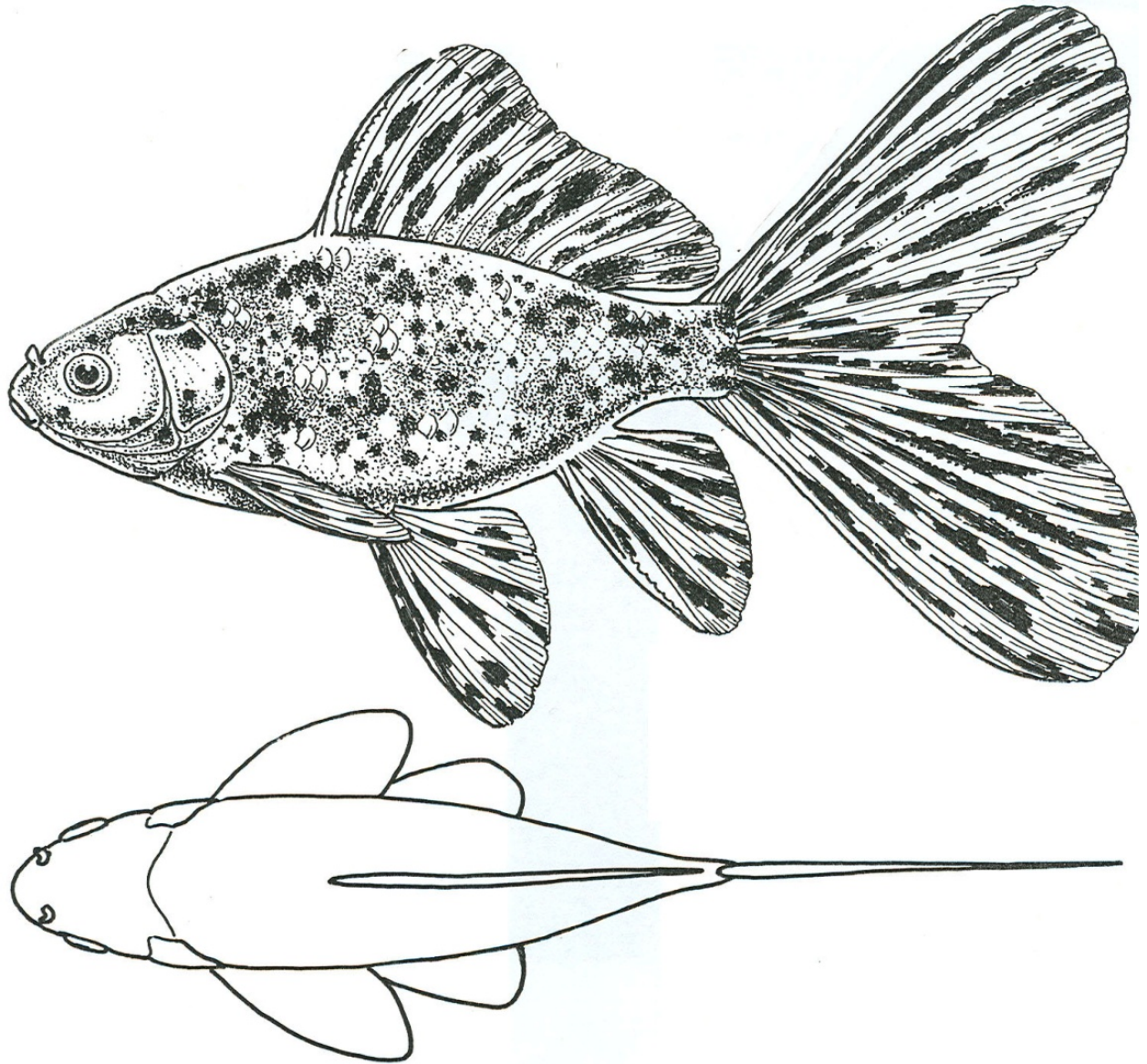
Shubunkin



Shubunkin - London Tail



Shubunkin - Japanese Tail



Shubunkin - Bristol Tail



Bristol Tail, photo courtesy of John Barcellona



Midnight Blue – a color variation of a Japanese Tail – photo courtesy of Vicki Knill



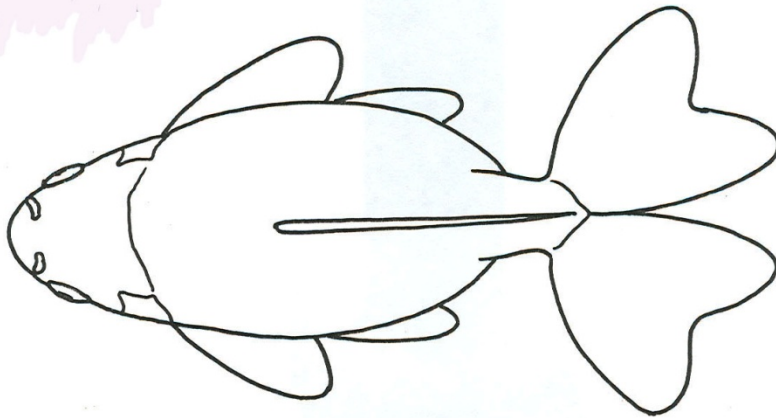
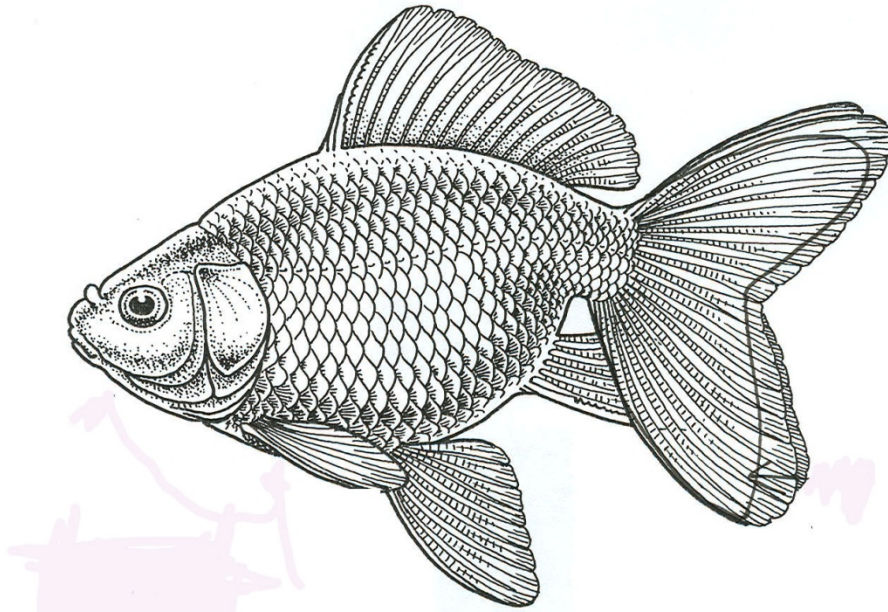
London Tail – photo courtesy of David Lains

- The Shubunkin is similar to the common goldfish and comet, and is classified as a single-tail fish, having a dorsal fin. The fish possess a “torpedo” shaped body, and can grow to become from twelve to twenty inches in length.
- The primary difference between the common goldfish, comet, and the Shubunkin is primarily the coloring. The Shubunkin goldfish is a calico fish, and can be nacreous or matte, meaning that the fish can have scattered scales (nacreous) or matte (having the appearance of no scales).
- An interesting attribute of the Shubunkin is the caudal or tail fin, which actually comes in three distinct types. The short tail, often seen on “common” goldfish is called the London tail. The elongated tail typically seen on “comet” goldfish, which is known as the Japanese tail form. The final tail type is known as the “Bristol” which is a very beautiful, spread tail found only in the Shubunkin.

- Judging for these fish is similar to that of the common goldfish, but with added emphasis placed on coloration (since these are calico fish), and the tail fin.
- All other characteristics being equal, the ranking for finnage in these fish will be as follows:
 - Bristol tail
 - Japanese tail
 - London tail
- Since coloration is so important to this fish, it is important that three primary colors are shown on the fish. The first of these colors is black, which should appear on the body, as well as in streaks which appear on the fins. The second primary color that must appear on the fish is red. The red should be as deep as possible, with an intense vermilion color being preferred. The third primary color that must appear on the fish is blue, which should be as intense as possible. Shubunkins often have the most intense blue coloring of any goldfish, and the color is often so deep that it appears purple.
- Other colors are permissible on the fish, as long as these three primary colors are included. Other colors seen on Shubunkins include: pink, yellow, white, and orange. An exception to this rule occurs in the case of the “Midnight Blue” Shubunkin, which is a black, blue and white fish. The color red is not present in the “Midnight Blue” Shubunkin.

Double Tail Fish

Fantail Goldfish



- The Fantail is a double-tail goldfish, which possesses an egg-shaped, rather deep body and paired anal, ventral and pectoral fins. The dorsal fin is large, and should be carried erect. Fantails can grow quite large, with specimens of 10 -12" being reported.

- The fantail comes in a variety of colors, including orange, yellow, red, white, olive or drab green, yellow-brown, calico and black. Fantails come in metallic, matte, and nacreous scales patterns.
- The primary identifying characteristics of this variety of goldfish are the paired fins (especially the caudal or tail fin), the deep body, and the high erect dorsal, which is expected to be from $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ the depth of the body. Typically, the caudal fin should be from $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the body, split for at least 75% of the length of the tail, with the remaining fins being proportional to the shape and size of the fish. Unsplit, or tripod tails are to be avoided, and will sometimes result in a disqualification at a show.
- Scalation should be regular and even, and scales should not be missing.



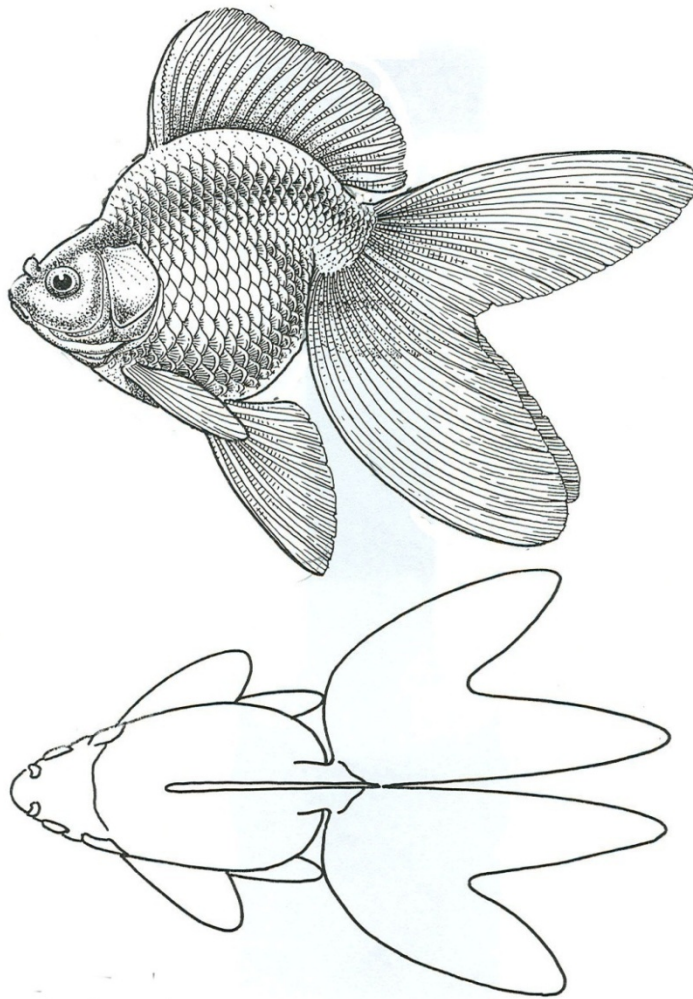
Single Color Fantail



Calico Fantail

Double Tail Fish

Ryukin Goldfish



Finnage Variations in Ryukin Goldfish



Calico Short Fin Ryukin



Red & White Medium Fin Ryukin



Calico Long Fin Ryukin



Single-Colored Broadtail Ryukin

- The Ryukin is a double-tail goldfish, possessing an oval body shape, which is almost round, with paired anal, ventral and pectoral fins. The

dorsal fin should be carried erect and is usually $1/3$ the depth of the body. The caudal fin, which is forked, is from $3/4$ to $1-1/2$ times the length of the body. The distinguishing feature of this fish is the hump, which starts at the back of the head, and arches markedly until the start of the dorsal fin. In some cases, the hump can take on a double appearance, with one hump starting at the back of the head and developing into a second hump just before the dorsal fin. The head is often overlooked on Ryukins, but should appear triangular when viewed from the top of the fish.

- The Ryukin comes in a variety of colors, including red, red and white, orange, white, olive or drab green, and calico. Red, and red and white Ryukins seem to have an intense coloration; recently all-black, metallic blue and “Goshiki” (silver or gray with orange markings) have been introduced from the Far East.
- The presence of the hump is an important characteristic when judging this fish. Single or two-colored metallic fish tend to have humps that are more pronounced than either metallic calico or matte/nacreous calico fish. It is important to note that when judging Broadtail Ryukin, care should be taken to distinguish between poorly developed Veiltail/Ryukin crosses, and actual Broadtail types. The presence of an identifiable hump will be the determining factor in distinguishing improperly developed crosses between Veiltails/Ryukins.
- All other characteristics being equal, the following rankings apply to finnage types:
 - Broad-tailed Ryukin
 - Long-finned Ryukin
 - Medium finned Ryukin
 - Short finned Ryukin
- Regardless of fin type, all Ryukin should have proportional fins. That is, a fish should not have a long tail matched with short pectoral, ventral and anal fins. Similarly, finnage should match the size and shape of the body; a mis-match in size and proportion of fins is considered a major conformation issue.

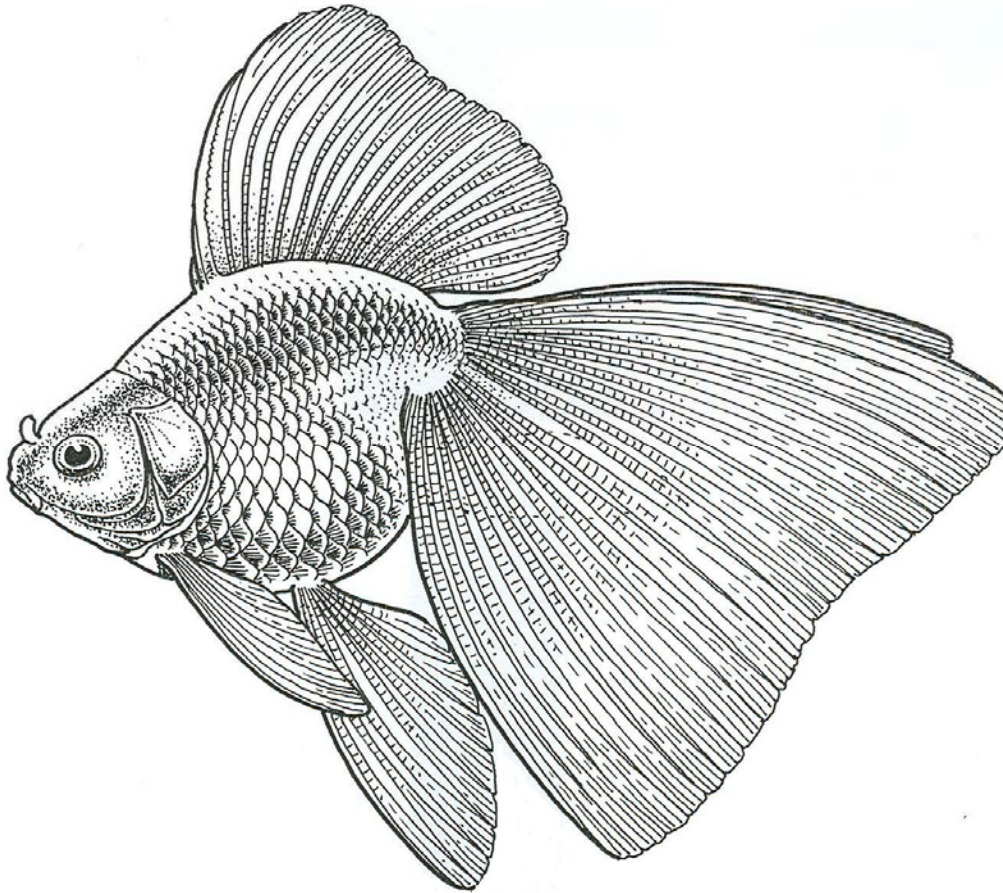
- Ryukin sometimes develop swimming problems, due to the placement of the air bladder. Impaired swimming motion is considered to be a conformation issue.



Red and White Long Fin Ryukin

Double Tail Fish

Veiltail



- The Veiltail is a round bodied fish, and possesses paired anal, ventral and pectoral fins. The dorsal fin is usually $\frac{3}{4}$ or more of the depth of the body and should be carried fully erect, and the caudal fin, which in the best specimens is completely straight, is often the length of the body to 2 times the length of the body. The distinguishing feature of this fish is the finnage; the fins literally flow around the fish as they swim, giving the impression that the fish is gliding in the water. The body is round, and should look almost like a ball, and be very compact.

- Veiltails have a body size of 5 to 6 inches; the body shape should be round, with an arch to the back. The presence of a hump indicates that the fish is a cross between a Veiltail and a Ryukin. Since these crosses are neither a true Veiltail, nor a true Ryukin, they should be marked down when judging. Alternatively, Veiltail/Ryukin crosses can be entered in the “other” category in a fish show, where they can expect higher placement.
- Fintage is the primary characteristic of this fish. Dorsal fins should be carried erect (a slight bending of the dorsal is allowed, but pronounced bending should be marked down). It is common for the dorsal to be two to three times the depth of the body. The caudal fin should be long and flowing. The edges of the caudal fin should be as straight as possible; pronounced forking of the tail should be marked-down. The length of the caudal fin is two to three times the length of the body.
- Veiltails come in metallic coloration with red, orange and blue-silver colors being the most common. Single coloration is the norm in Veiltails. Calico Veiltails are sometimes seen and the same rules apply in calico coloration of Veiltails, as in other varieties.
- Veiltails sometimes develop swimming problems, due to the placement of the air bladder. Impaired swimming motion is considered to be a conformation issue.



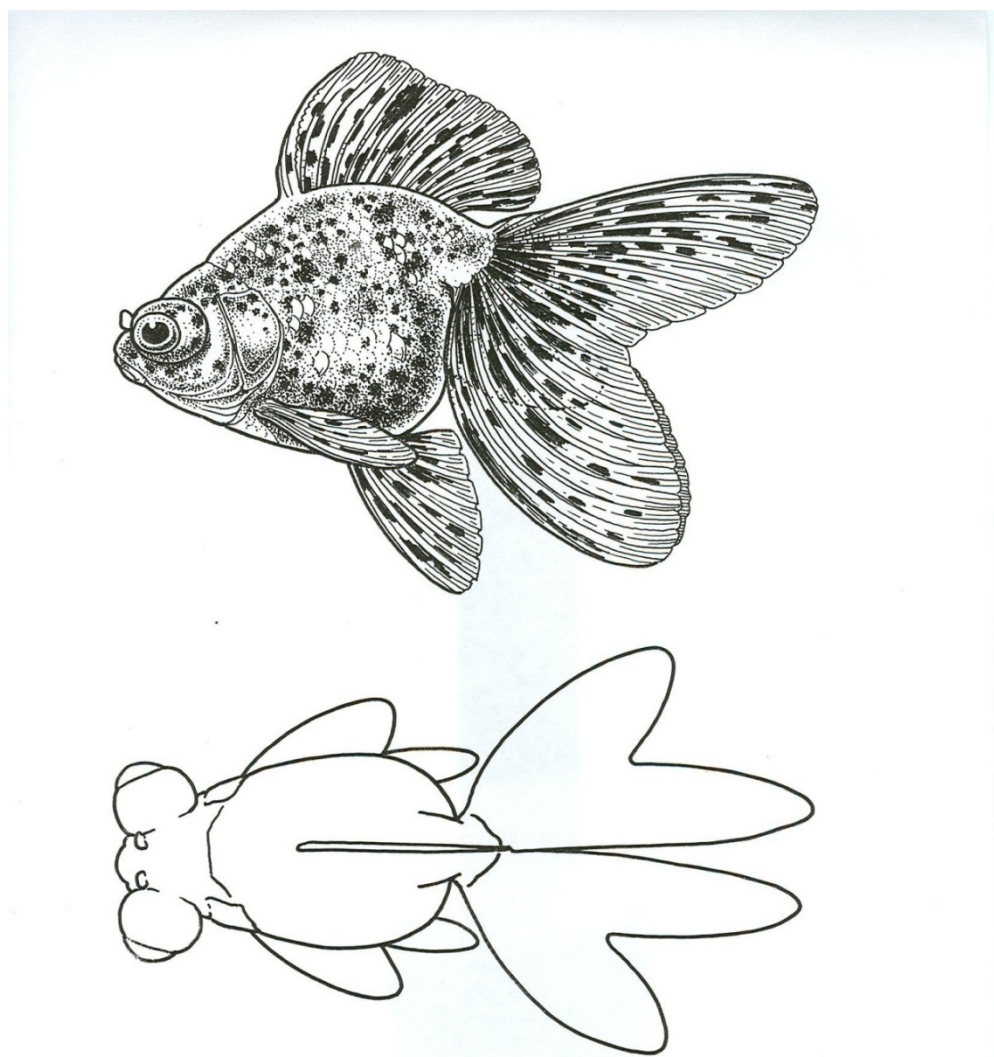
Natural colored Veiltail



Red Veiltail

Double Tail Fish

Telescope



- The Telescope eye is a fish with a round body, paired fins, and protuberant eyes. The body shape is rounded, but it is not round shape (as in the case of the Ryukin or Veiltail). The finnage is paired and tends to be moderately long, although in some strains, the fins appear extremely long, especially the dorsal and caudal fin. In these longer-finned fish, the caudal fin shows little or no forking and appears square-cut. This “square-cut” tail is also known as a petticoat tail, and fish are

sometimes sold with a fanciful name of “petticoat.” Another name for this fish is a “broadtail” telescope or Moor.

- The eyes are the characteristic feature of this fish, and should be matched, as well as being protuberant. When we speak of matched eyes, we are actually talking about two aspects of the eyes. The first aspect is that of size; in other words, the eyes should be of the same size and type. An example of a problem relating to eye size would be that of a fish with one eye that is significantly larger than the other. The second aspect of eye type is that of placement on the head of the fish. Both eyes should be placed symmetrically on the head. If one eye is placed significantly forward or backward of the other, or if one eye is placed upward or downwards on the head, when looked at in relation to the other eye, this is considered to be a conformation problem.
- There are actually several types of eye types which are permissible: a segmented type, where the eye appears to be composed of a series of concentric circles, which gradually get smaller; a conical type, where the eyes are cone-shaped looking almost like a volcano; and a rounded, protuberant type, which appear to form a small balloon attached to the cheek, and which is pictured on the line art drawing. Of these three eye types, the segmented and balloon-type are the most elegant, and are the preferred type. Please note that mixing of eye types on a single fish is undesirable: as an example, one eye should not be round and the other segmented. If eye mixing occurs, this is considered to be a conformation issue.
- The Telescope is not a very large goldfish, and is usually six to seven inches in size, excluding the tail.
- The Telescope comes in a variety of color and scalation types including metallic, matte and nacreous.



Black and White Telescope



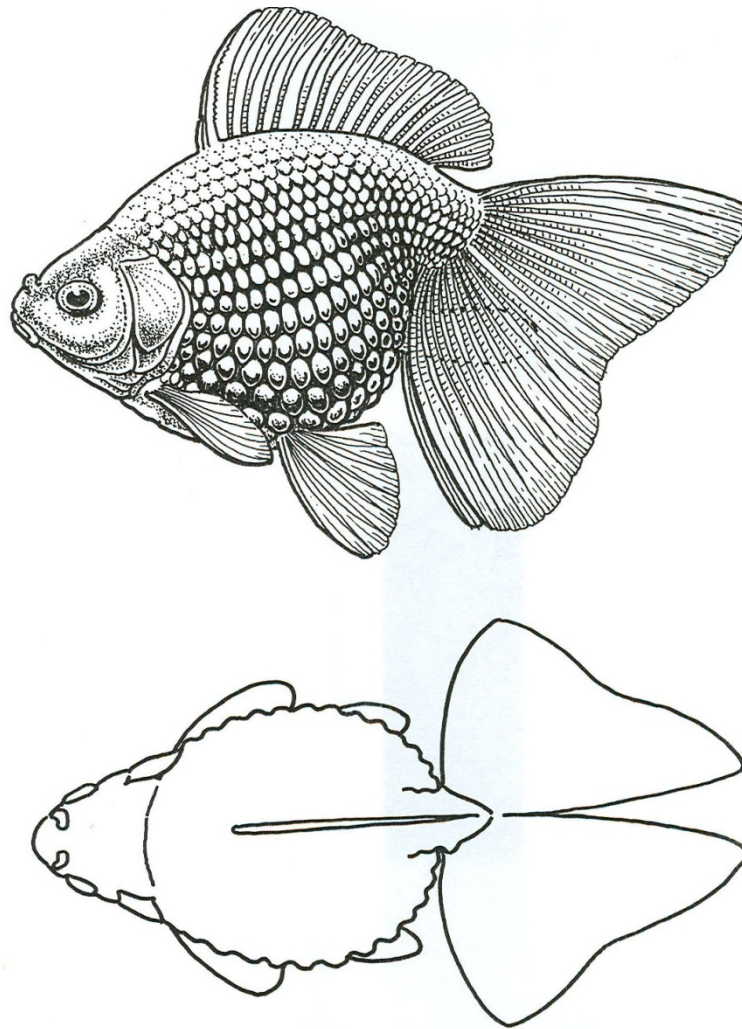
Tri-Color Metallic Telescope



Black Moore Telescope

Double Tail Fish

Pearlscale



- The Pearlscale possesses a stout, rounded body, smallish dorsal fin, and double pectoral, anal, and caudal fins. The body of the fish is among the most rounded, and therefore, compact of any of the goldfish varieties. In some instances, the body is so rounded as to appear to be ball-shaped.

- The caudal fin of these fish is usually well-developed, which, when combined with the round body, gives these fish an unusual swimming motion, and makes them look as if they were waddling in the water. A new variety (within the last twenty years) from China has very short dorsal, anal, pectoral and caudal fins, and further impairs the swimming motion of the fish.
- The scaling is the characteristic feature of this fish. The scales should be raised, with a bump or excrescence appearing on each individual scale. These excrescences are made up of the same material as regular scales, and can be damaged or knocked-off. Scales, once removed, may or may not grow back with the raised protuberance at the base of each scale. In order to be competitive in a judging environment, the scaling should be observed on each individual scale of the fish, without the fish having missing scales. It is important that the scales continue from the belly, through the sides and onto the back area of the fish, right up to the dorsal fin.
- Despite the rounded body of the fish, the Pearlscale is not large, in terms of the body length. Most examples are five to six inches in length; the girth of the fish makes it appear much larger than it actually is.
- The Pearlscale comes in a variety of color and scalation types (other than the pearling) including metallic, matte and nacreous.
- All other characteristics being equal, the following rankings apply to finnage types:
 - Long-finned Pearlscale
 - Short finned Pearlscale
- A variation of the Pearlscale that has a headgrowth is known as the Hamanishiki, or Pearl-Scaled Oranda. These fish have the basic body-shape and pearling associated with a regular Pearlscale, along with a wen-growth, like the Oranda goldfish. The Hamanishiki can have two wens on top of the head. The Crown Pearlscale does not have the raspberry-shaped growth of the Oranda, but has one or two lumps placed on top of the head.

- Pearlscales sometimes develop swimming problems, due to the placement of the air bladder. Impaired swimming motion is considered to be a conformation issue.



Hamanishiki Pearlscale



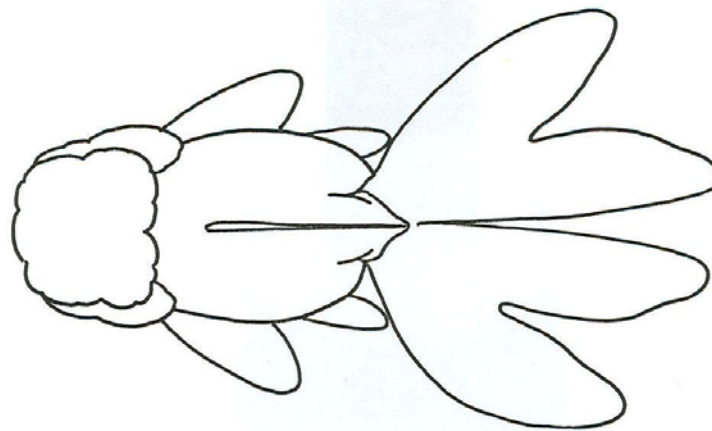
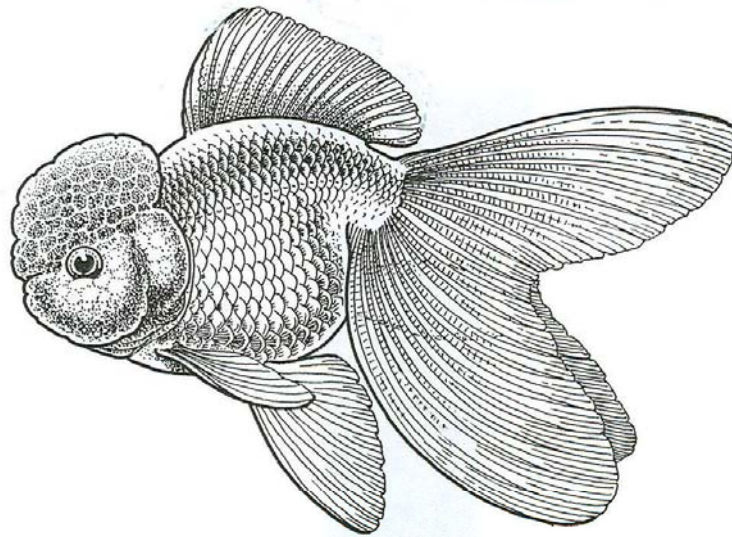
Crown Pearlscale



Hamanishiki Pearlscale

Double Tail Fish

Oranda



- The Oranda comes in a variety of body styles and exhibits a wide range of variation in fin length and style. Due to the variations in body shape, finnage, and head-growth characteristics, Orandas are difficult to judge and purchase. One thing that all types of Orandas have in common is the ability to reach large sizes. It is not unusual to see Orandas that range in size from eight to twelve inches, and with fins that add several inches to the body size.

- There are two predominant body styles seen in Orandas. The first type of body style tends to be more rounded, and looks egg-shaped. The line illustration shown above reflects this body style. The following photographs depict this body style type.



- The second body type tends to be more streamlined, and less robust. The following picture shows this second, more streamlined body type.



- Generally speaking, the more rounded body shape is preferred, since it provides a better structure for the placement of fins, and permits the fish to balance the wen or head-growth, which can become quite heavy as the fish matures.
- Finnage on Orandas can be quite variable, ranging from a thin style of fin (which is also known as ribbon-tail, forked, or basic double tail), to a fuller style of fin, which looks similar to a Veiltail. There are also versions of Orandas which have tail styles that are intermediate between a true ribbon-tail and a Veiltail.
- Dorsal fins seem to be linked to tail type. The ribbon-tail varieties seem to possess less well-developed dorsal fins, while the Veiltail types seem to produce dorsal fins that are higher and carried more fully erect.
- Body style also seems to be linked to finnage. Generally speaking, the fuller body types seem to have better developed fins, while the thinner body types tend to have less well-developed fins. Longer, more flowing fins are preferred, and tend to be rated more highly when judging these fish.



This is an example of an Oranda with a ribbon-type tail



Here is an example of an Oranda with an intermediate-type tail - photo courtesy of Southwest Koi & Goldfish



Here is an example of an Oranda with a more fully developed, almost "Veiltail" tail type - (photo courtesy of Carolyn Weise)

- Headgrowth in Orandas can be quite variable, and there are three areas where headgrowth occurs in these fish. The first area of growth is in the cranial region, that is, on the top of the head. The second area of growth is on the checks of the fish, and the third area of growth is on the gill plates. Ideally, the fish should have evenly distributed headgrowth over all three areas of the fish. It is often common for Orandas to have headgrowth in one or two of these areas, or to have uneven headgrowth in any of the areas. Fish with uneven headgrowth should be avoided.



An example of a Redcap Oranda with excessive cranial headgrowth



An example of an Oranda with well-developed and balanced headgrowth - (photo courtesy of Carolyn Weise)

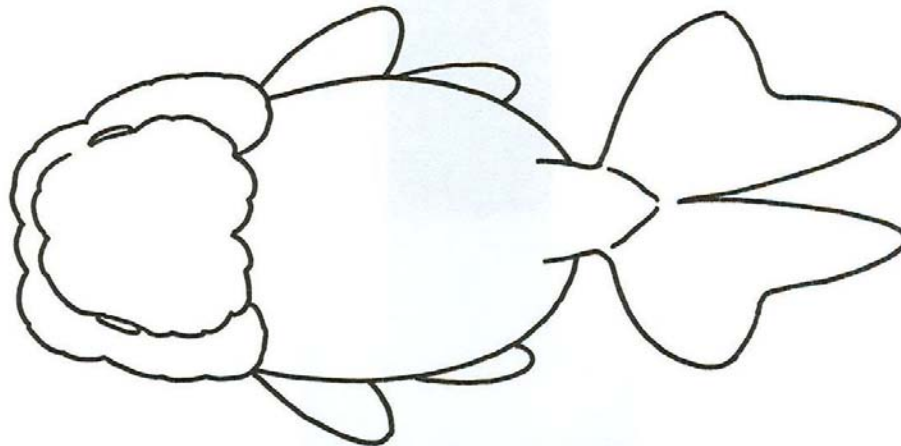
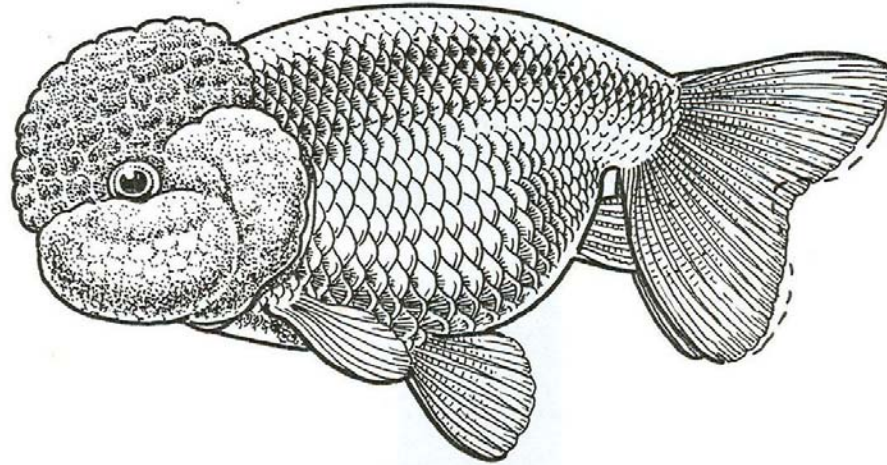
- Orandas occur in all colors common to goldfish. Several specific types of coloration have been developed in Orandas, including a Redcap which is a white fish with a red headgrowth, and the Azumanishiki, which is a Japanese term for a Calico Oranda, and contains more blue coloration.



Redcap Oranda- (photo courtesy of Dale Rohrer)

Double Tail Dorsal-Less Fish

Lionhead



- The most striking characteristic of the Lionhead is the prominent headgrowth, which can be divided into three areas: cranial growth, cheek growth and opercular, or gill growth. Cranial growth refers to the development of the wen over the top of the fish's head area. Cheek growth refers to the placement of the wen over the region surrounding the eye and extending into the cheek and frontal areas of the face. Opercular growth refers to the area covering the gill plates of the fish.

In the Lionhead, all three areas should be fully developed, and growth in one area should not predominate over the other areas. The overall effect of the headgrowth should be balanced, so that the fish appears to have a rounded appearance, as shown in the line drawing.

- The back profile of the fish should be almost flat, with a gentle slope towards the caudal peduncle, where the tail joins the body at an obtuse angle. There should be no trace of a vestigial dorsal spine, nor should there any hint of an indentation where the dorsal fin would normally meet the body. When viewed from the top, the caudal peduncle appears to narrow where it joins the body and tail, but the fish should not show signs of a pinch near the peduncle region. In some fish, the caudal peduncle appears to be rather long, which gives the fish an unbalanced look; fish that possess a caudal peduncle that is too long or too short should be marked down when judging.
- Finnage is paired for the pectorals, ventrals and anal fins, and the tail should show a fork. The amount of forking permitted in the tail is from twenty-five to seventy-five percent, but this should be evaluated by eye-sight, and not by a strict attempt at measurement. The degree of forking in the tail will determine the fish's swimming motion. If the tail is forked at less than twenty-five percent, the fish will collapse its tail and swim with a lurching motion from side-to-side. If the tail is forked by more than seventy-five percent, the tail will spread out too greatly, causing the fish to sink while swimming. A tail split of approximately fifty percent seems to produce the best swimming motion for the fish.
- The body shape of the fish should appear slightly rectangular, and not elongated.



Lionhead Goldfish



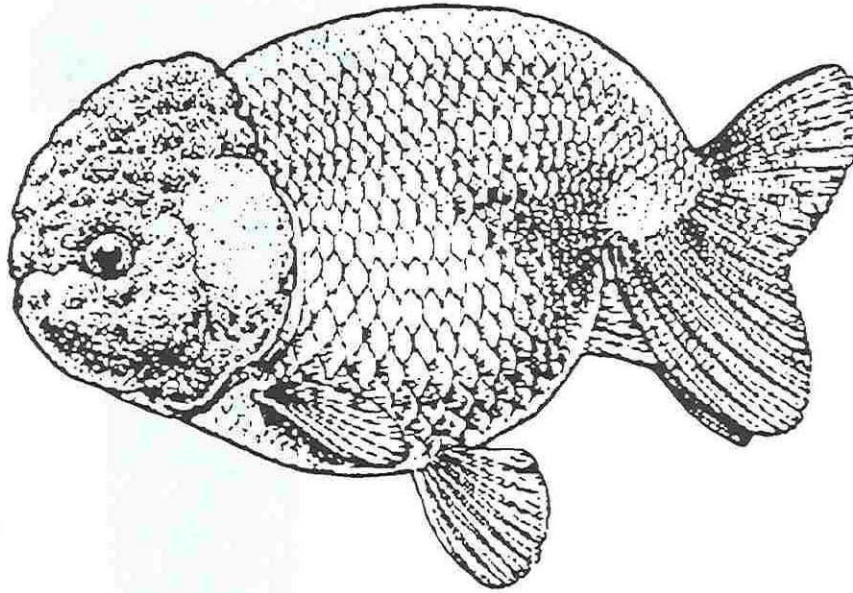
Lionhead Goldfish, exhibiting a peduncle that is too short



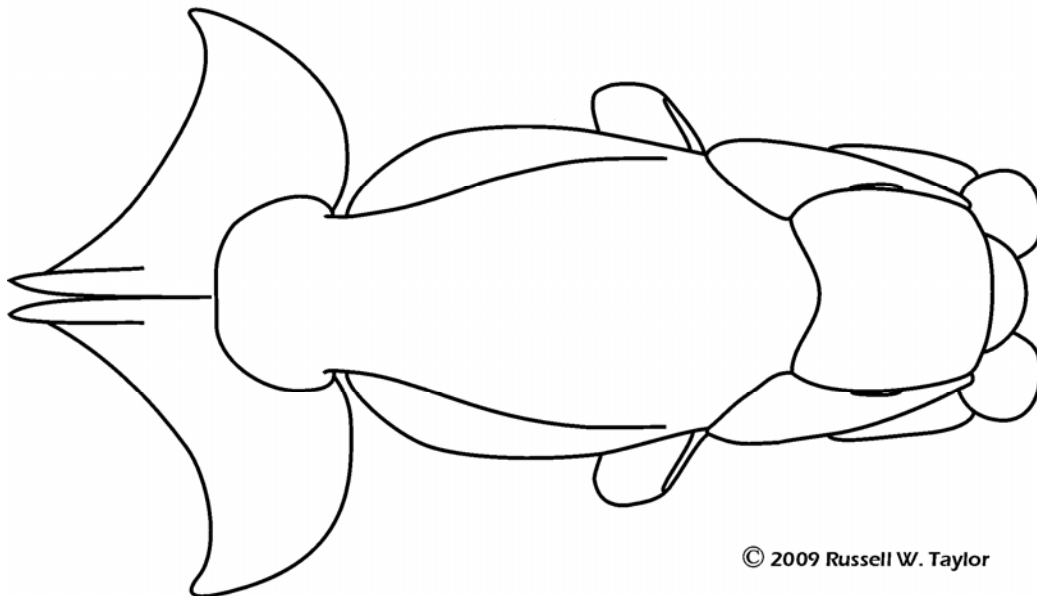
Red Cap Lionhead Goldfish

Double Tail Dorsal-Less Fish

Ranchu



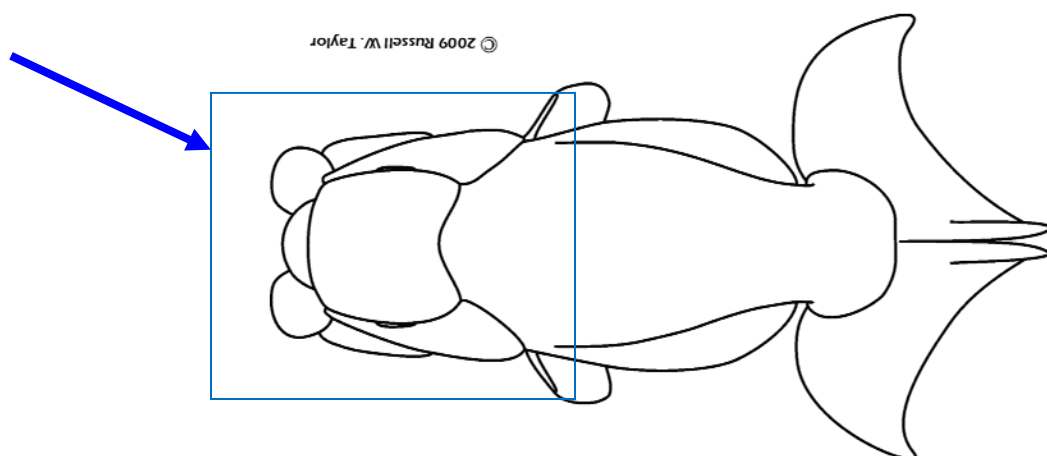
Ranchu, Side View



© 2009 Russell W. Taylor

Ranchu, Top View, Courtesy of Russ Taylor

- The Ranchu is a dorsal-less fish which has headgrowth, or a wen. The Ranchu can be distinguished from the Lionhead, by possessing a more moderate headgrowth, and rounded, sloping distinct back and tail profile. In addition, the body shape of the Ranchu appears less boxy-looking, and more rounded than that of the Lionhead.
- The headgrowth of the Ranchu is one of its primary characteristics and can be divided into three areas: cranial growth, cheek growth and opercular, or gill growth. Cranial growth refers to the development of the wen over the top of the fish's head area. Cheek growth refers to the placement of the wen over the region surrounding the eye and extending into the cheek and frontal areas of the face. Opercular growth refers to the area covering the gill plates of the fish. All three areas of headgrowth should be fully developed in the Ranchu, and growth in one area should not predominate over the other areas.
- When looking down at the fish, imagine that the headgrowth forms a rectangular area. The head should appear rectangular and should to fill the area inside the rectangle as completely as possible. The front of the hood, which comprises the cheeks and mouth, should be nearly square. The following line drawing illustration shows a rectangle around the headgrowth area, and shows the head occupying the area within the rectangle.



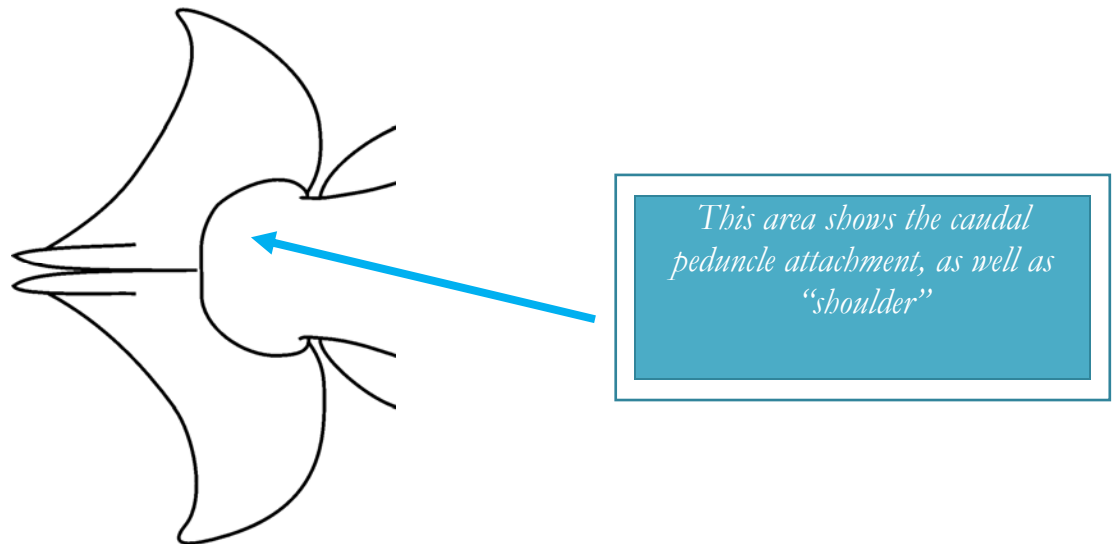
Line Drawing showing rectangular area of headgrowth

- In addition to the headgrowth, the Ranchu has a unique back and tail profile. Where the back of the Lionhead slopes slightly towards the caudal peduncle, and is relatively flat, the back of the Ranchu slopes drastically downward in an arc, where it joins the caudal peduncle. The tail is upswept at a forty-five degree angle where it joins the peduncle. The caudal peduncle, that is, the area where the tail joins the body is very thick in order to support the sharp back curve and the angle at which the tail is joined to the body. This unique thickness of the caudal peduncle is a distinguishing characteristic of Ranchu, and can be used as one of the methods of distinguishing between Lionhead and Ranchu.
- Finnage is paired for the pectorals, ventrals and anal fins, and the tail should show a fork. The amount of forking permitted in the tail is from twenty-five to seventy-five percent, but this should be evaluated by eye-site, and not by a strict attempt at measurement. The degree of forking in the tail will determine the fish's swimming motion. If the tail is forked at less than twenty-five percent, the fish will collapse its tail and swim with a lurching motion from side-to-side. If the tail is forked by more than seventy-five percent, the tail will spread out too greatly, causing the fish to sink while swimming. A tail split of approximately fifty percent seems to produce the best swimming motion for the fish. Please note that the finnage for the Ranchu is more rounded at the edges than that of the Lionhead, which can appear pointed at the edges of the fin. The body shape of the fish should appear rounded and full, not elongated. Elongated body shapes are signs of fish that were not properly culled, or bred with Lionhead.
- The Ranchu is available in all colors seen in goldfish, and although calico varieties are very rare, a strain of calico Ranchu called Edonishiki, is known. In practice, most Ranchu are red, red and white, and black with other colors being uncommon. Ranchu can grow to lengths of eight to ten inches, although they are generally seen in the five to six inch size for mature specimens.

Beginning with the introduction of these standards, Ranchu judging will be divided into Top view and Side View judging categories. The owner of the fish will have the discretion to show fish in either the Top View or Side View category.

Top-View Judging Characteristics

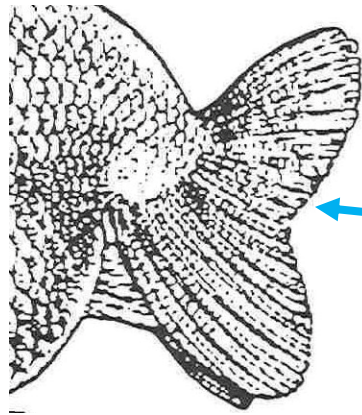
- Note rectangular appearance of fish, and ensure that head area is “Squared off”
- Ensure that caudal peduncle is thick enough to support tail adequately
- Check to see that tail has a sufficient “shoulder” spread



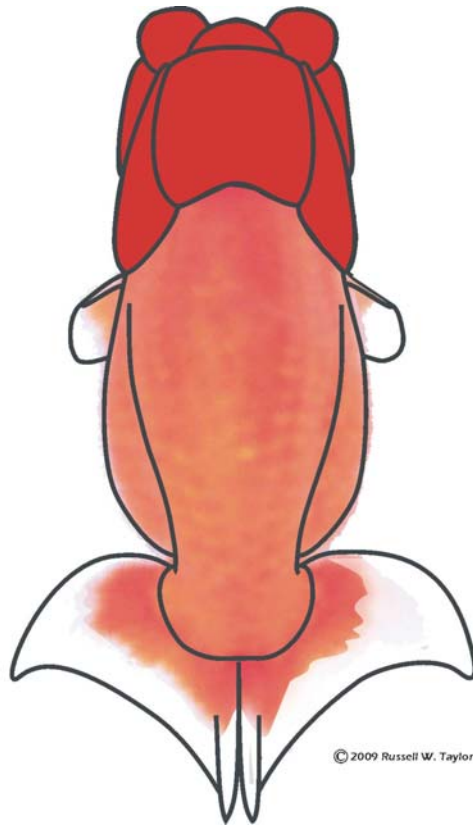
- The area around where the caudal peduncle ends and the tail begins forms a “bracelet.” Ideally, a single scale should mark this edge where the peduncle and tail join.

Side View Judging Characteristics

- Side profile should appear rounded.
- The curvature of the back should be pronounced; back should not be flat, as in the case of the Lionhead
- The tail is upswept at a forty-five degree angle where it joins the peduncle.



This area shows the caudal peduncle attachment, and the angle of attachment for the tail



Top View Ranchu Drawing, Courtesy of Russ Taylor



Top View Male Ranchu - photo courtesy of John Parker



Top view Female Ranchu - photo courtesy of John Parker



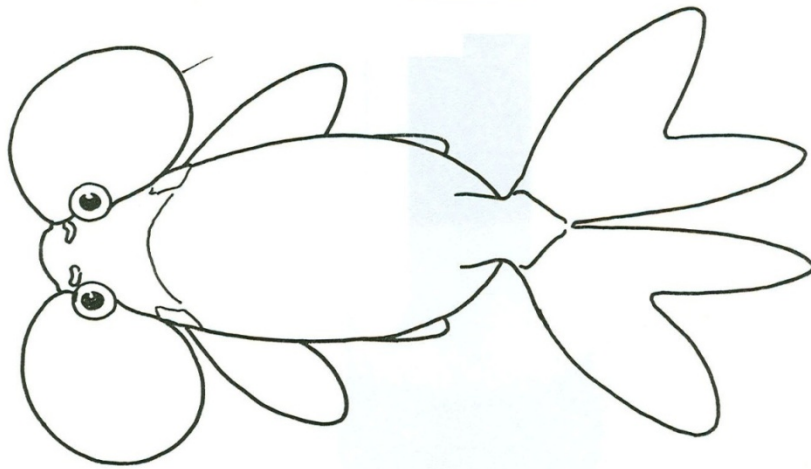
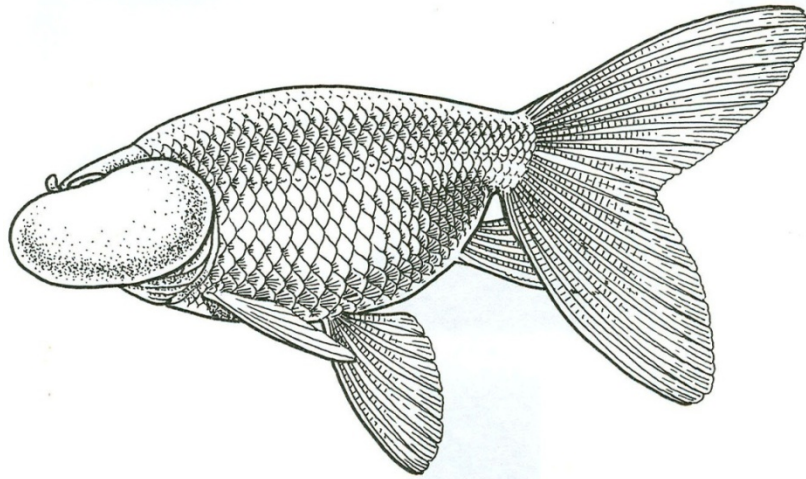
Side View Ranchu



Side View Ranchu - photo courtesy of John Hubschman

Double Tail Dorsal-Less Fish

Bubble Eye



- The bubble eye has a slim body, which gives the fish a streamlined appearance. Long bodied bubble eyes were common in the seventies and eighties, but have been replaced in the last twenty years with a stouter-bodied fish.
- When judging fish, look for a slightly rounded back profile, with the back free from dorsal appendages or protuberances. The fins should be

long and flowing, and all fins should be double. The fluid filled sacks should be the same size, and not too large.

- Bubble eyes come in all three scale types: metallic, nacreous and matte, although the metallic scalation is most frequently seen. These fish are also available in all colors common to goldfish, although once again, orange to orange-red is most common. Calico varieties of these fish are rare, and when seen, are striking.
- Since these fish have unique eyes and lack of a dorsal fin, swimming can be problematic. Improper swimming motion caused by the bubbles is considered to be a conformation problem.



Top view of a Bubble Eye Goldfish



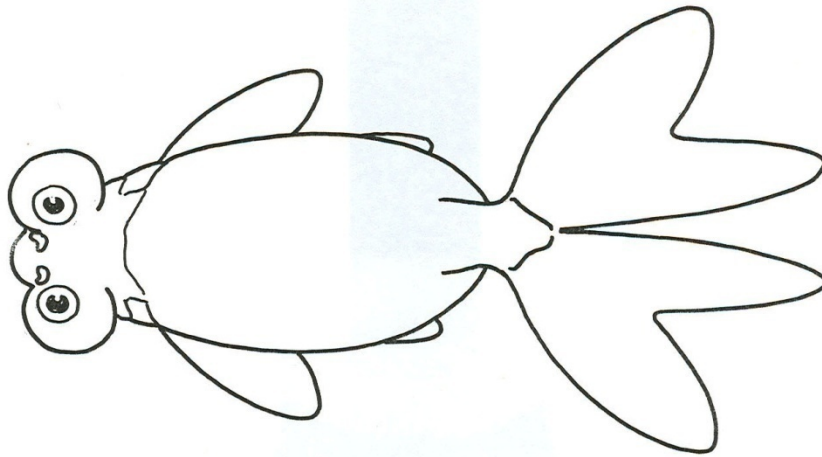
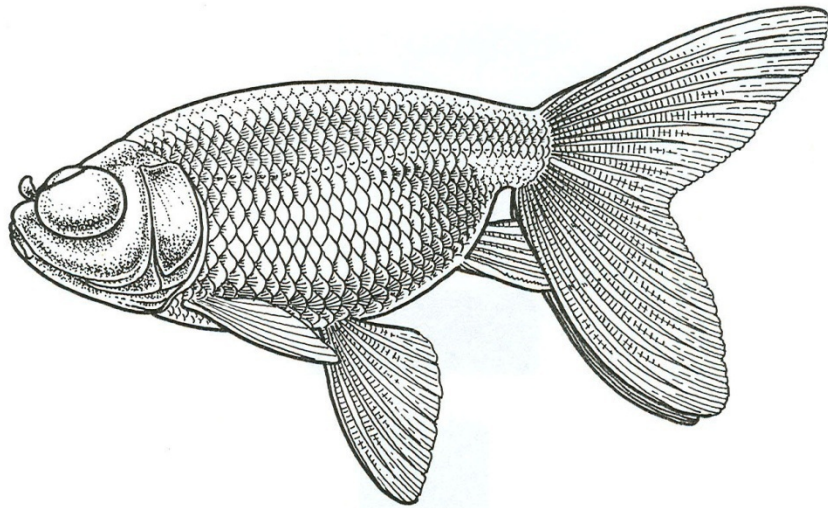
Front view of Bubble Eye goldfish



Side View of a Bubble Eye Goldfish

Double Tail Dorsal-Less Fish

Celestial



- The celestial has a robust body shape and long, flowing fins. The shape of the celestial closely resembles that of an Egg-fish, with an oval shaped body, and slightly curving back profile.
- The Celestial should possess a slightly rounded back profile, and the back should be free from dorsal appendages or protuberances. The fins should be long and flowing, and all fins should be double.

- The eyes should be pointed upward, and many fish appear to be slightly cross-eyed. The eye sockets should be matched in size and type. The celestial can have the same types of eye sockets as the telescope goldfish, but the oval types are seen in the vast majority of cases.
- Celestials come in all three scale types: metallic, nacreous and matte, although the metallic scalation is most frequently seen. These fish are also available in all colors common to goldfish, although once again, orange to orange-red is most common.
- Since these fish have unique eyes and lack of a dorsal fin, swimming can be problematic. Improper swimming motion is considered a conformation issue.



Pom-Pom Celestial Goldfish



Top view Celestial Goldfish

Other Varieties

Wakin



Red & white Wakin

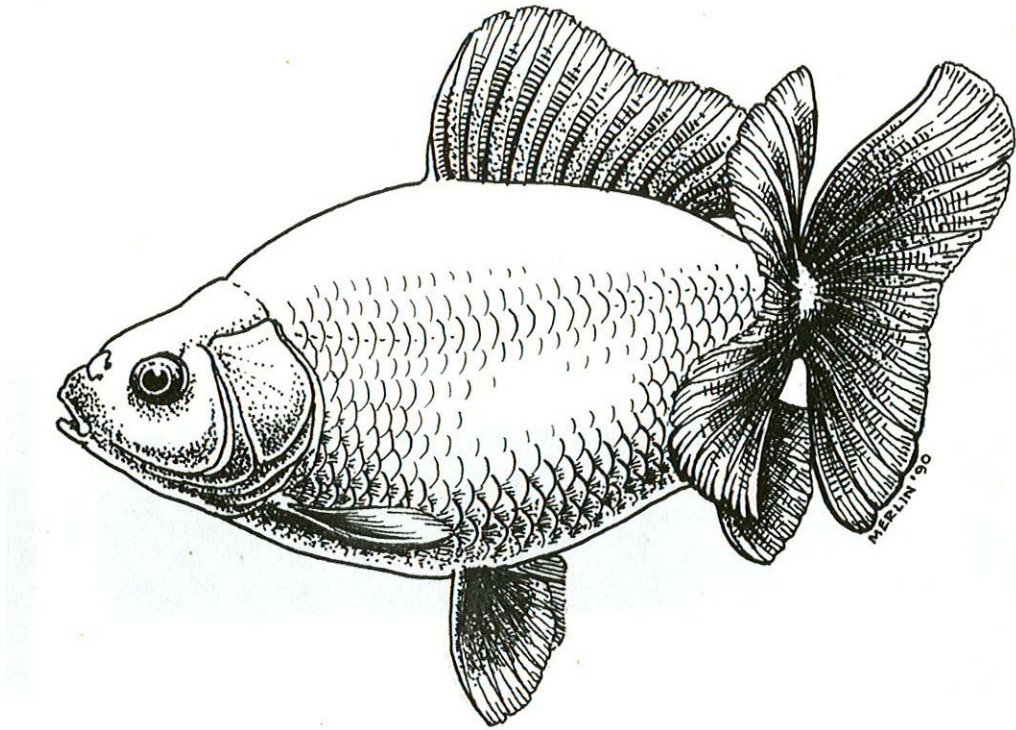


Red & white Wakin, photo courtesy of Vicki Knill

- The Wakin is considered the “common” form of goldfish in Japan, and was, until recently, not seen in the U.S. Wakin can grow to be large fish, with lengths reaching 10 to 12 inches when fully mature.
- Wakin have an elongated body shape which is intermediate between that of the single-tail fish and the fantail. Similarly, the Wakin has a double tail that is not as developed as a fantail, but more developed than in the single-tail varieties.
- Body conformation is an important criterion in this fish; it is important that the dorsal fin start farther back on the trunk than on other goldfish. The tail is relatively short; longer tails are considered to be a conformation problem.
- Older fish may develop a headgrowth, or wen. The presence of the headgrowth is not considered to be a defect. Highly developed headgrowth is considered to be a conformation problem.
- Colors should be deep and intense, as shown in the first picture; fish possessing intensity of color will do well when compared to those exhibiting more subdued colors.

Other Varieties

Jikin



- The Jikin is relatively rare in the U.S. The fish was developed as a modification of the Wakin. Most Jikin which appear in shows are relatively small, with most fish being between 5 to 6 inches in length, although growth of up to 10 inches can be obtained. There are several differences between the Jikin and Wakin, which should be noted when judging.
- The body shape of the Jikin is more compact when compared with that of the Wakin; in addition, the body is deeper than that of the Wakin.
- The tail is the distinguishing characteristic of this fish, with the tail being attached to the caudal peduncle at an almost 90 degree angle. When viewed from the back, the tail appears to form a large “X.”

- The tail, body shape and coloration are the most important judging criteria for these fish.
- The traditional scalation of the fish is metallic, with a white pearlescent body and scarlet fins and lips. Recently, matte and nacreous fish have been reported, with calico coloration as well.
- The ideal Jikin color pattern is white with twelve points of red (red on the nose, gill opercula and all fins). The less there is on the rest of the body, the better.
- Particular emphasis should be placed on the swimming motion of the fish, as a well-developed Jikin will appear to swim from side-to-side, due to the unique tail.
- The Jikin should be judged using a top-view and side-view.



Traditional Jikin – photo courtesy of John Parker



Jikin – photo courtesy of Art Lembke



Jikin – photo courtesy of Steve Hopkins of Rain Garden Goldfish Farm

Other Varieties

Phoenix



Red Phoenix with Pom-Poms

- The Phoenix is one of the oldest varieties of goldfish, and is believed to be the common ancestor of many of the dorsal-less varieties of goldfish.
- The Phoenix has a long body shape, no dorsal fin, and long pectoral, anal and tail fins. The body tends to be shaped like an egg, hence the use of the designation egg-fish.
- The Phoenix comes in all goldfish color categories, but they are commonly seen with metallic scalation. They tend to be solid colored in shades of blue, brown, and orange colors. A blue-brown color variety is sometimes seen as well.
- The back profile should be like that of a bubble-eye or celestial; that is, slightly rounded; flat or saddle backs are considered a conformation problem.
- The Phoenix should be judged from the top and side.



Silver blue Phoenix with slightly uneven back profile –
photo courtesy of Mark Dolan

Other Varieties

Tosakin



Tosakin – photo courtesy of Steve Hopkins of Rain Garden Goldfish Farm

- The Tosakin is a medium-bodied goldfish, possessing a tear-drop shaped body, a triangular head like that of a Ryukin, and a unique curled tail.
- The tail and body shape are the most important characteristics of this fish, and are the primary basis for judging these fish. The tail should curl up in a curlicue, and appear wavy when viewed from the side, and

should re-curve back towards the head. The tail should appear flat when viewed from the side.

- Because of the unique shape of the tail, the fish should be judged from the top and side to ensure that the tail curves appropriately from the top and side.
- It is important for the tail to be in the same plane as the body (when viewed from the side) in order for the fish to swim well and not turn somersaults.
- Tosakin are metallic-scaled fish, and generally appear as single colored fish. A variety which is marked like a Jikin exists, but is rare. The ideal Jikin color pattern is white with twelve points of red (red on the nose, gill opercula and all fins). The less there is on the rest of the body, the better.



Side view of Tosakin tail



Jikin-marked Tosakin – photo courtesy of Steve Hopkins of Rain Garden Fish Farm

Common Goldfish Names and Alternates

Bubble Eye - Shui Pao Yen (Chinese); Suihogan (Japanese)

Celestial – Sky-gazing eyes: Sky Staring Dragon eyes; Wang Tian Yen (Chinese); Chotengan (Japanese)

Common Goldfish – Jin-Yu (Chinese); Hibuna (Japanese)

Fantail – Fringetail; Lettered fish (named after the Chinese character “wen,” which they resemble)

Lionhead – Tigerhead; Goose Head (high capped Lionhead); Mushroom Head; Chrysanthemum Head; Shi Tou (Chinese); Kouton (Japanese)

Oranda – Azumanishiki (calico Oranda); Mushroom Head; Chrysanthemum Head; Gao Tou (Chinese); Shishigashira (Japanese)

Pearlscale – Hamanishiki (a form of Pearlscale with headgrowth); Ball fish; Zhen Zhu Qiu (Chinese); Chin Shu Rin (Japanese), Ping Pong (Southeast Asia), Tikus (Southeast Asia).

Pom Pom – Narial bouquet; Velvet ball fish; Run Chiu YU (Chinese); Hanafusa (Japanese)

Ranchu – Edonishiki (a calico form of Ranchu); Maruko (having a headgrowth that is not as fully developed as the traditional Ranchu)

Ryukin – Hump-backed Ryukin; Japanese fantail; Wen Yu (Chinese – note similarity to the traditional name for “lettered-fish” or “wen”).

Telescope – Dragon eye; Moore (black form of telescope); Long Jing (Chinese)

Show Best Practices

1. General Standards

- A. Judges should be familiar with size categories and classes of fish which will be exhibited at the show. Requirements for special prizes (e.g. most unusual fish, judge's award, best young fish, etc.) should be understood before judging begins.
- B. If the judge has any special requirements for the show, these should be communicated to the show chairperson before the start of the show (several weeks advance notice should be given). Examples of special requirements are not limited to nets, holding tanks, viewing bowls, special lighting requirements, audio/visual equipment, etc.
- C. The judge should communicate with the Show Chairman to determine rules for disqualification before judging begins (advance notification is strongly recommended). Disqualification can be merited by the following occurrences, and should be determined by the Show Chairman prior to the commencement of judging (other reasons for disqualification may be present):
1. The fish is injured or diseased
 2. The exhibitor has not paid the entrance fee
 3. The exhibitor has not provided his/her own aquarium (if required by the show rules)
 4. The fish does not possess a characteristic which is required for a particular variety (e.g. telescope fish possessing one normal and one telescope eye).
- In most cases, disqualification should be communicated to a show participant by the Show Chairman. In special circumstances, however, the judge may at his/her discretion; disqualify a fish after consulting with the Show Chairman.
- D. The judge should indicate in writing to the show chairman, prior to the start of the show, the rules by which he/she will be judging fish. If the AGA guidelines will be used, the judge shall have the latitude of judging strictly on a "points-based" system, or through a combination of "points-based" system and general knowledge of goldfish. If a "points-based" system is used, the judge is encouraged to provide the show chairman with the "point" totals, but may share the "point" totals with other parties solely at the judge's discretion.

- E. During the course of the judging, judges are encouraged to indicate the selection process which they are using. The communication should be made to the show chairman, or any other official representative of the show. Communication among judge and show entrants is discouraged until after the judging has been finalized.
- F. The judge may, at his or her discretion, view, handle, or “bowl” fish to observe conformation with general breed guidelines. The handling of fish may be necessary to determine: proper placement and count of fins, condition and quality of special characteristics (e.g. wen growth in head fish; eyes for eye fish; color intensity for Shubunkins, etc.). Care should be exercised by the judge, so as to prevent damage during handling. In addition, some form of sterilization should be made by the judge before continuing with the judging.
- G. Judging should be conducted in such a manner that positive characteristics of the fish are noted. If the judge experiences a fish with a minor fault (such as non-paired anal fins, where the breed characteristic requires paired fins), the judge may subtract points from the fish, ignore the infraction, or in more severe cases disqualify the fish, at the judge’s discretion.
- H. After completion of judging, results should be communicated to the show chairman and prizes awarded according to the size categories and classes established for the show. Frequently, show participants will ask the judge for a description of how the fish were judged, and the selection criteria used by the judge. The AGA strongly encourages judges to provide answers to these questions in order to help promote knowledge of fish standards and judging criteria. The formality of these responses is left up to the discretion of the judge.
- I. When providing commentary at shows, judges are encouraged to use discretion when commenting on a particular fish. It is best to emphasize the positive attributes of a fish, rather than to dwell on the negative aspects of the animal. When discussing an attribute(s) of a fish that may be considered less than ideal, the judge should do so in a professional manner. Judges should always remember that the exhibited fish are a personal pet, and that people have invested time and money in the care of their fish.

2. Show Best Practices

- A. The show is encouraged to provide the following items necessary to conducting a goldfish show:
1. A source of fresh, clean water.
 2. Chemicals which may be necessary to treat water for removal of chlorine, chloramines, and ammonia.
 3. Chemicals which may be necessary to stabilize water conditions at the show, such as: stress coat, zeolite, pH water buffers, etc.
 4. General medicinal agents, such as: mercurochrome, salt, methylene blue
 5. A sufficient number of aquariums (if provided by the show) or tubs, for viewing.
 6. Fish nets, “bowling” tubs, vats, or final viewing aquaria (if shows want to display major category winners separate from the general fish population).
 7. Adequate lighting for proper viewing and judging of fish.
 8. Adequate bracing or support which will hold the weight of aquaria on display.
 9. A bagging and oxygen station for transporting fish from the show after display.
 10. Adequate check-in procedures which eliminate diseased or injured fish; provide pictures of each fish entered for later identification and display; classification into the categories accepted at the show.
 11. Air stones should be provided, by the show committee, for each aquarium in use at the show.
 12. Water quality measuring kits should be provided at the show, and regular water quality measurements should be taken at pre-determined times during the show. If required, water changes should be made to ensure the health of the fish.
 13. Alternatively, the show may elect to use the “Norm Meck” system, which uses pre-determined measurements of ammonia and pH levels prior to the show, and then compensates for changes in these parameters by adjusting the ammonia and pH levels accordingly.
 14. The show policy on filtration should be communicated to the participants prior to the show. It is strongly recommended by the AGA that filtration be used in each tank at the show.
- B. The policy on feeding should be communicated to show participants. Feeding is not to be allowed at the show. Fish should be placed off-feed for a minimum of three days prior to the show, with five days being the preferred length of time for being off-feed.

- C. A policy addressing the number of fish permitted for each tank should be communicated to the participants prior to the show. In the case of participant-provided tanks, more latitude may be given to stocking guidelines.
- D. Required water change times and amounts, if the show does not elect to use the “Norm Meck” system, should be communicated to show participants. In the case of tanks with filtration provided, water changes of one per day should be sufficient. In the case of tanks which do not have filtration, water changes of two or more per day are encouraged.
- E. The show should provide a person to measure water quality parameters, such as: ammonia/Nitrite levels, presence of chlorine/chloramines, pH, and optionally, dissolved oxygen. Similarly, if the “Norm Meck” system is used, then a designated person to monitor water quality is required.
- F. Proper pre-show tank cleaning methods should be followed for all shows. These methods should include cleaning aquariums with bleach or muriatic acid immediately after show tear-down or prior to tanks being set-up for the show. Clean-up in this manner will ensure owners that tanks are sterile, and will prevent the spread of disease.
- G. In addition to the proper tank disinfecting prior to the show, each club should ensure that water in the used tanks has been treated with bleach at the rate of one cup of normal household bleach (5.25% sodium hypochlorite) per 500 gallons of show tank water, mixed and allowed to stand for a minimum of one half hour prior to discharge into sanitary sewers. If the treated water is to be discharged onto the ground or into another water source, residual bleach should be first neutralized by dosing with sodium thiosulfate. Please see attached table for dosing guidelines.

Gallons	Ounces	Tablespoons	Teaspoons
500	8.0	16.0	48.0
300	4.8	9.6	28.8
100	1.6	3.2	9.6
50	0.8	1.6	4.8
20	0.3	0.6	1.9
10	0.2	0.3	1.0
Bleach Dosage			
=1 cup per 500			
gallons			

H. If comments by the judge are made after the show, adequate communications equipment such as a PA system, slides, or overhead projectors should be provided, if required by the judge.

3. Show Categories (to be used at the discretion of each local club)

- A. Single tail (including common, comet & Shubunkin) over 3”
- B. Single tail under 3”
- C. Fantail/Ryukin over 3”
- D. Fantail/Ryukin under 3”
- E. Oranda Over 3”
- F. Oranda under 3”
- G. Eye fish (includes Telescope, Bubbleeye, and Celestial) over 3”
- H. Eye fish under 3”
- I. Dorsal-less Head Growth (Lionhead & Ranchu) over 3”
 - i. Top View
 - ii. Side View
- J. Dorsal-less under 3”
 - i. Top View
 - ii. Side View
- K. Other/Oddities (includes all varieties not listed above) over 3”
- L. Other/Oddities under 3”
- M. Baby Grand Champion – under 3”
- N. Reserve Grand Champion
- O. Grand Champion

Note: separate categories can be made for the following fish if the number of show entries is warranted: Shubunkin, Telescope, Lionhead, Ranchu, and Ryukin.

4. Judging Etiquette

- A. Judges are encouraged to dress appropriately for the show. The status and authority of the judge is often influenced by visual and verbal signals which may serve to detract from a judge's perceived knowledge. Proper attire will provide a positive visual sign of authority and knowledge.
- B. It is customary for a judge to provide a gift or trophy to the club in recognition of the honor accorded the judge. The trophy or gift may or may not include an AGA acknowledgement or sanction of the event, at the judge's discretion.
- C. Judges are usually required to provide transportation to and from the event, at their expense. In some cases, the club or organization sponsoring the show may provide transportation or lodging. The club or organization is expected to provide meals and lodging for the judge at the event. In many cases, the show organizations will also provide the judge with a gift or honorarium, as a means of expressing their thanks to the judge. The AGA encourages judges to acknowledge these gifts to the organization, and to write a thank-you to the show chairperson.