American Goldfish Association

Goldfish Standards, Revised 2014

A Publication of the American Goldfish Association

Preface to the 2014 Edition

Welcome to the AGA 2014 edition of the U.S. Goldfish standards. In the previous version of the standards, published in 2009, I wrote about the work that occurred to develop standards in previous years. That important work has led to the development of the current set of standards, and I will instead emphasize the changes that have occurred in the goldfish hobby since 2009.

The goldfish hobby, like many others, has experienced changes over the years. In the hundred years or so that goldfish have been raised and exhibited in this country, tastes have changed and the methods for raising, breeding and showing goldfish have improved immeasurably. During that time, goldfish raising and breeding has vacillated between hobbyist-bred fish to commercially-bred fish. We are now at an inflection point in the goldfish hobby, where hobbyist-bred fish are now becoming more prevalent, and have, in many cases, surpassed the commercial quality of fish being offered from the Far East.

As a result of this increased emphasis on hobbyist-bred fish, there has also been an increase in the demand for standards which can be used to breed, as well as, show fish. Prior versions of the standards attempted to effect a compromise between general guidelines and specific requirements for breed characteristics. The compromise led to a situation where judges often made subjective choices for show fish which were not always consistent with the “guidelines” or standards then in existence. Additionally, hobbyist-breeders often produced fish which were not consistent with current guidelines, and offered them for sale as conforming to AGA standards. (I am reminded of a development of a fish that was intended to be a composite of a Ranchu and Lionhead, and which was neither, which I dubbed a “Lionchu;” a decision I regret to this day).

The current standards hope to address these issues and provide more specific guidance for judges and breeders alike. In this edition, we provide a point system, which emphasizes common features of all goldfish, as well as features specific to certain varieties. Although the point system is provided, it should be emphasized that judging and breeding fish is not a strict arithmatic exercise, and that judges will be free to choose whether or not to use the point system to accomplish judging. A winning fish at a show is based on the aggregate qualities of the fish—that is, the total fish—a fact that is sometimes lost on people new to the hobby who focus on a single characteristic of a fish to the detriment of the total picture presented by a fish.

Each variety of fish is shown with a line drawing, a description of the fish and judging criteria, a point table, and pictures which provide a visual depiction of a variety as well as certain features of a fish which are included for emphasis. In addition, a short introduction to basic goldfish characteristics is provided, along with an explanation of deficiencies and defects found in fish; a critique of non-standard fish; a glossary of goldfish names; and a description of goldfish show best practices.

The goldfish hobby in the United States was made possible through the efforts of a number of people who I would like to recognize. The early pioneers in goldfish breeding in the U.S. included Mr. William Seal and Mr. Barrett who helped design the goldfish exhibits at the Columbian Exhibition in 1893, and later distributed the "World's Fair Fish" to the public. Mr. William T. Innes helped develop the Philadelphia Aquarium Club, which published the first goldfish standards used in the United States. Bill Parsonson, John Arenello and Al Thomma helped form the Goldfish Society of America (GFSA), the predecessor of the AGA. Bob Mertlich and others helped publish the first official guidelines for goldfish by the GFSA. Al Foster, Larry and Pat Christiansen, Tony Reynolds, Gary Hater, Joe Lightcap, Carlos Perez, Dave Mandley and Sandy and Julie Rick helped me write the 1996 goldfish standards, and many of these same folks worked on the 2009 revisions, as well. Special thanks to Patti Magee-Kaufman for designing the beautiful AGA logo and for assisting with such AGA publications as *Spike's Goldfish Guide.* Also, thanks to Merlin Cunliffe for his line drawings, as well as Kendal Liddle and Russ Taylor for their drawings of Ranchu. A special note of gratitude to Steve Hopkins, Vicki Knill, David Lains, Art Lembke, Dale Rohrer, John Parker, Tun Tun Win, Dan Young, Gary Hater and Mark Dolan for their photographs. The list of contributors to goldfish keeping and breeding would not be complete without a mention of a good friend whose pictures helped thousands of people join the goldfish hobby, Mr. Fred Rosenzweig.

Respectfully,

Peter J Ponzio

Treasurer and Judge, AGA

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Basic Goldfish Characteristics

1**. Scalation/Scale types** – 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 - There are three separate varieties of Shubunkin tail types, a relatively short tail type, much like the common goldfish; a relatively long tail type, similar to a comet goldfish, and the Shubunkin tail type, which is rounded at the edges and is heart-shaped.

d. Double tail – a tail which has two distinct sets of 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 ¼ to 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 ¾ to 2 times the depth of the body, 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 Side view 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 (pom-poms or pom-pons) – 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, and 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.

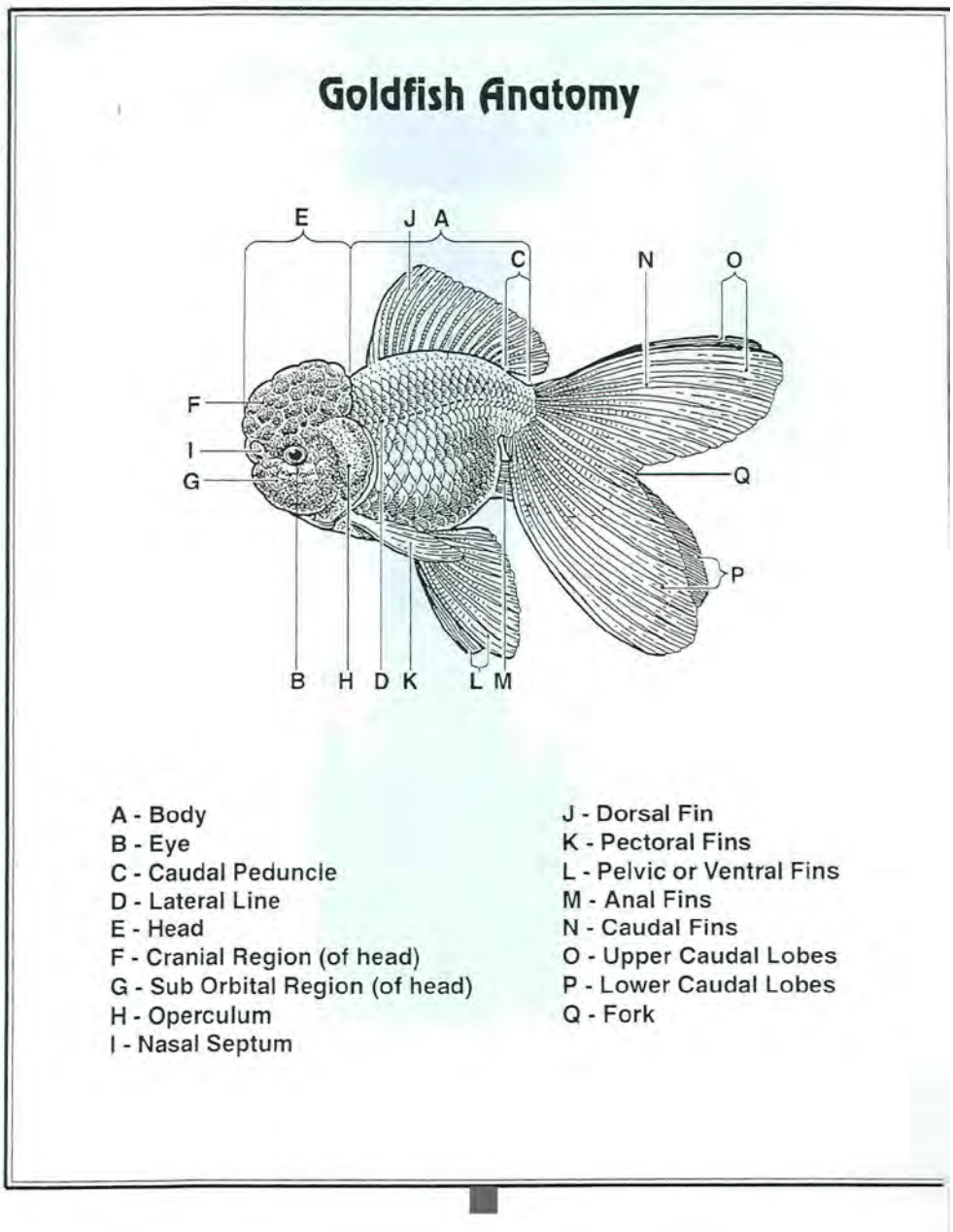
b. Fantail shape – This body shape is more egg-like, and produces a rounded profile in the fish. This body type is commonly seen in the fantail, some varieties of telescope, some Oranda bodies (especially on the Red Cap), some Pearlscales, and on the Celestial and Bubble-eye.

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 ¼ to 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 Side View Ranchu body type – A very rounded body type, with a depth that is ¼ to 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. The body of a Top View Ranchu is more rectangular in shape and not as rounded as that of a Side View Ranchu

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: • London Shubunkin • Japanese Shubunkin • Bristol Shubunkin	Y	Single	Finnage
Fantail	Y	Double	No
Pearlscale	Y	Double	Pearl scales
Ryukin Finnage variations: • Short • Medium	Y	Double	Humped back

• Long			
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 • Side View	 N N	 Double Double	 Wen, caudal peduncle, tail spread 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 it noticeable to the observer.

- Finnage—refers to the combination of tail and other fins on the fish. Finnage will be described in more detail under each goldfish variety.

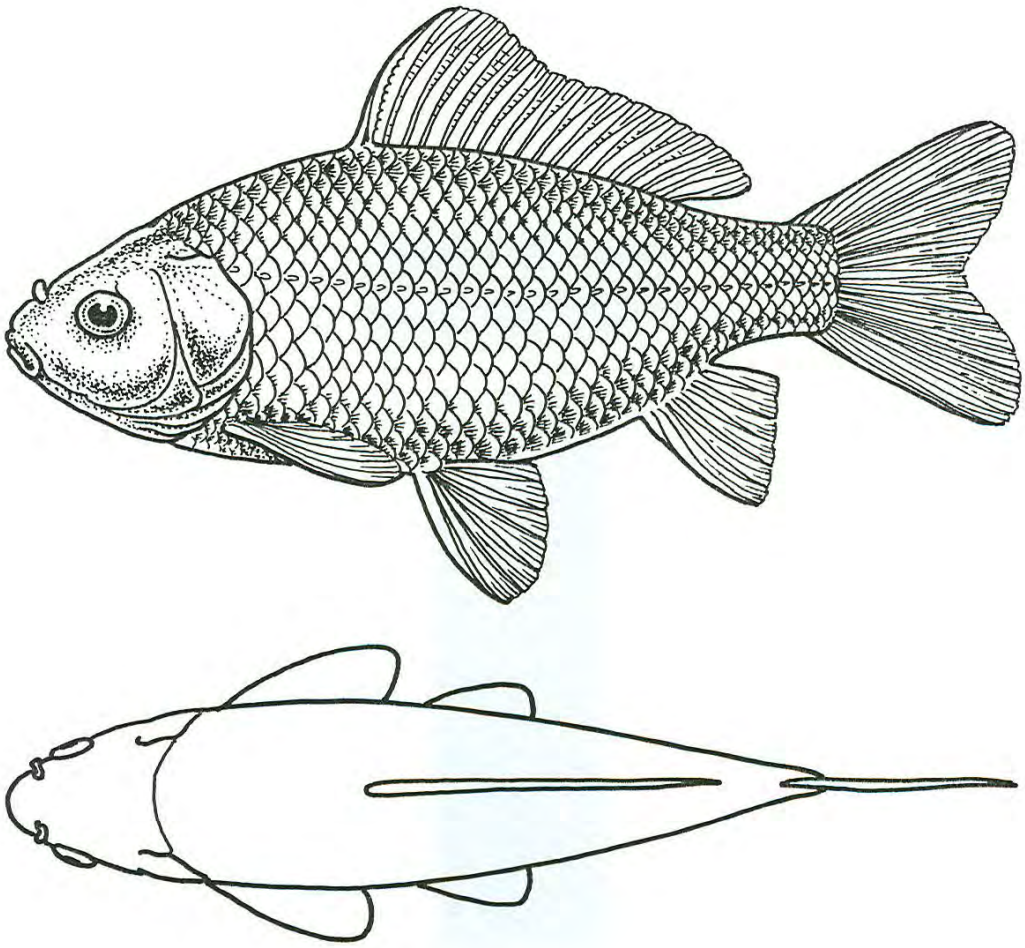
- Special variety characteristics—each variety has special characteristics which are unique. The variety characteristics will be described in each individual variety standard.

- 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 standard 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. In prior versions of the standards, scalation in common goldfish was limited to the metallic form, but these standards have been modified to include nacreous and matte forms of this goldfish.

- 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 horizontally through the water.

- Scalation should be regular and even, and scales should not be missing.

- In metallic fish, the sheen of the fish is important, and coloration takes on added significance and should be a deep uniform color, throughout. In the case of matte or nacreous fish, sheen will not be as apparent as in metallic fish. In nacreous and matte fish, the quality of the skin becomes more important, and should exhibit a healthy glow.

- Fins should be in good shape, with the tail fin being about 3/8 the length of the fish. The dorsal should be carried erect, and should be about ¼ to 3/8 the depth of the body. Paired pectoral and pelvic fins should be the same size, and should be full.

American Goldfish Association
2014 Goldfish Standards
Variety Name: Common Goldfish
Dorsal Fin: Y/N, Y
Tail Type: Single
Special Characteristic: N/A

Description	Points
Body Style	20
Coloration	20
Deportment and Condition	20
Finnage	20
Special Characteristics (color)	20
Total	100

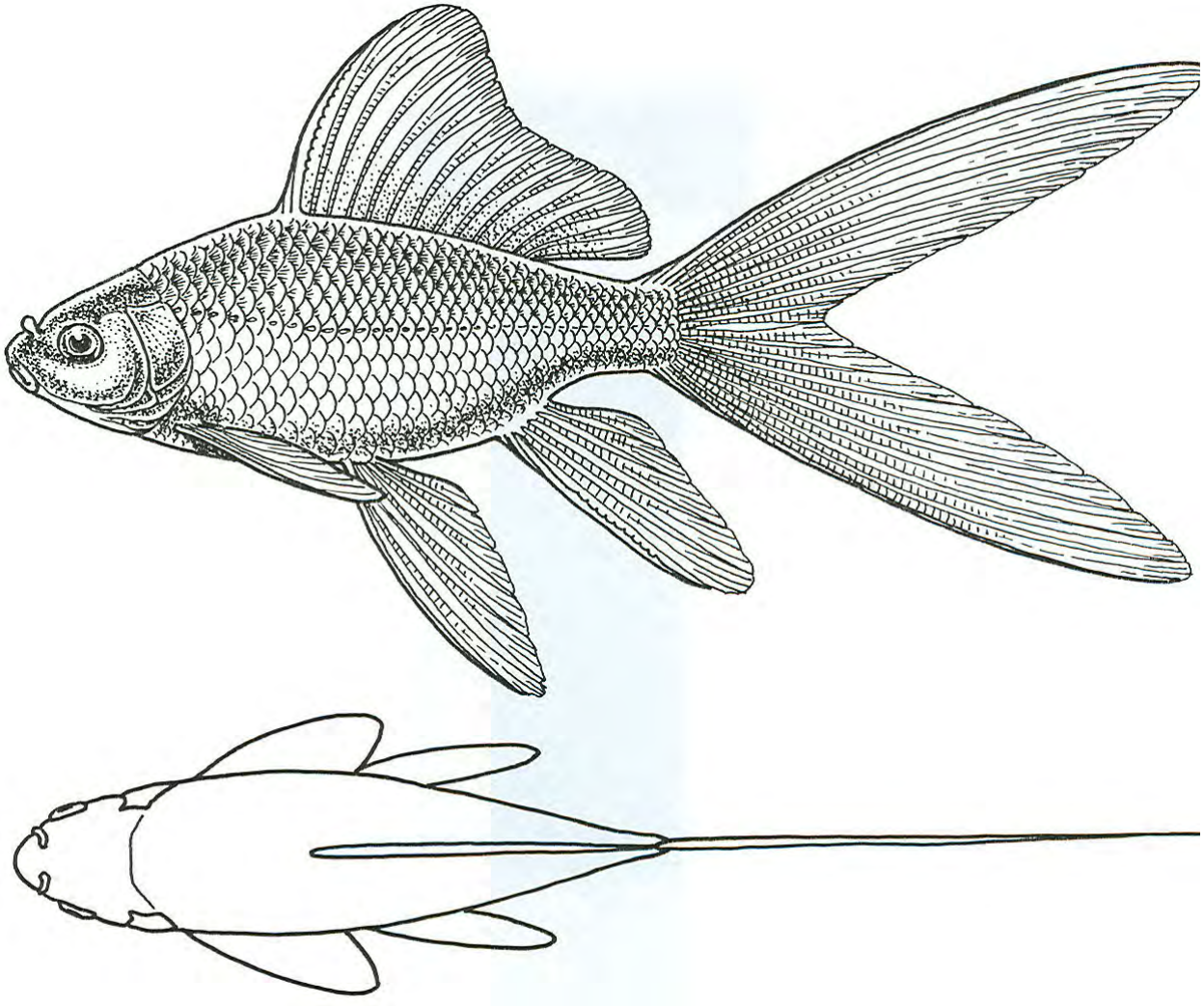
Yellow Blue Belly Common Goldfish

Red and White Common Goldfish

Orange 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.

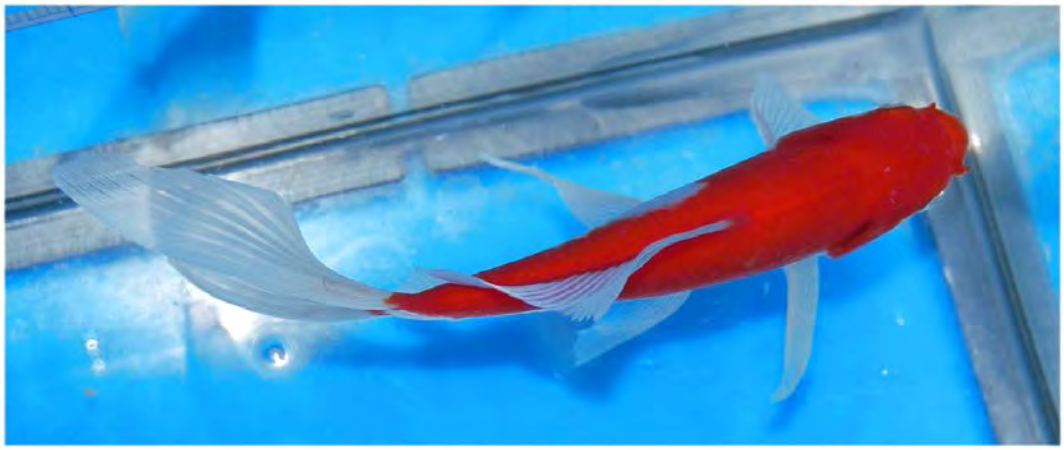
- Scalation should be regular and even, and scales should not be missing.

- 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.

American Goldfish Association
2014 Goldfish Standards
Variety Name: Comet
Dorsal Fin: Y/N, Y
Tail Type: Single
Special Characteristic: Finnage

Description	Points
Body Style	20
Coloration	20
Deportment and Condition	20
Finnage	20
Special Characteristics – Finnage (additional points)	20
Total	100

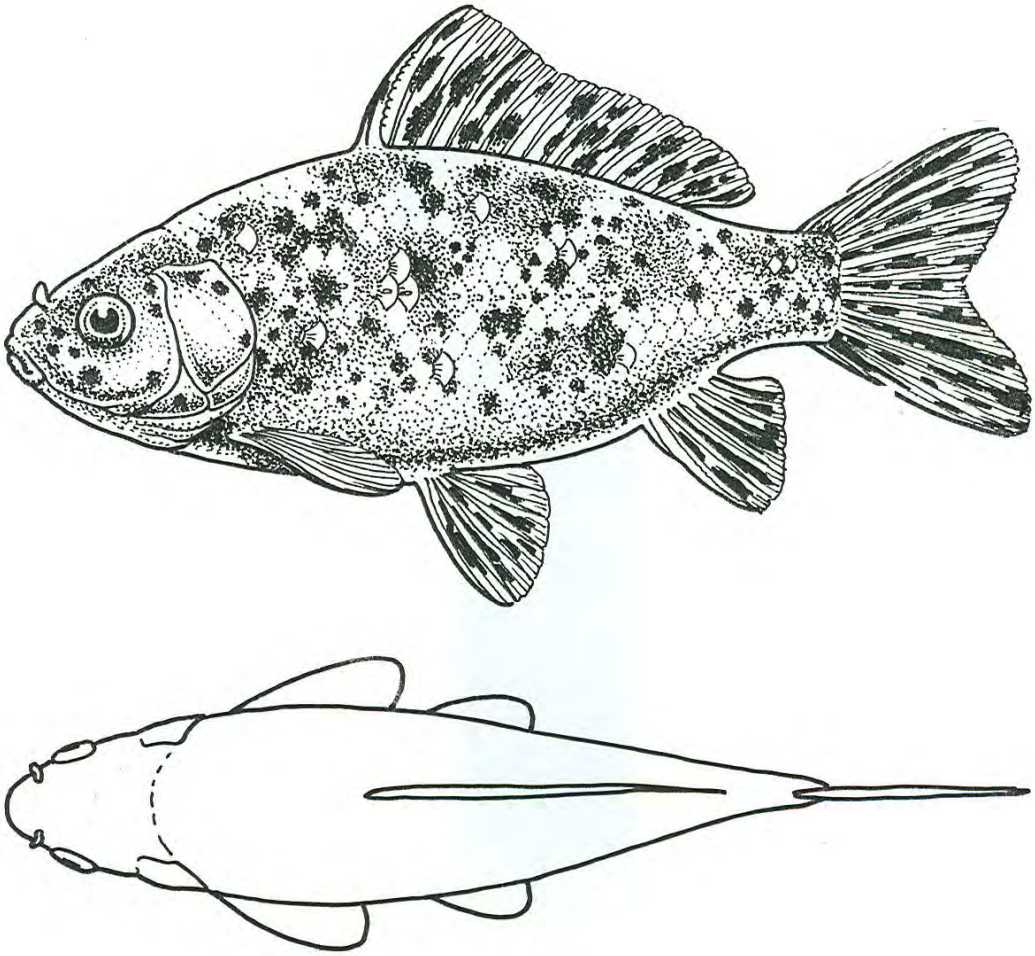
Red and White Comet Goldfish



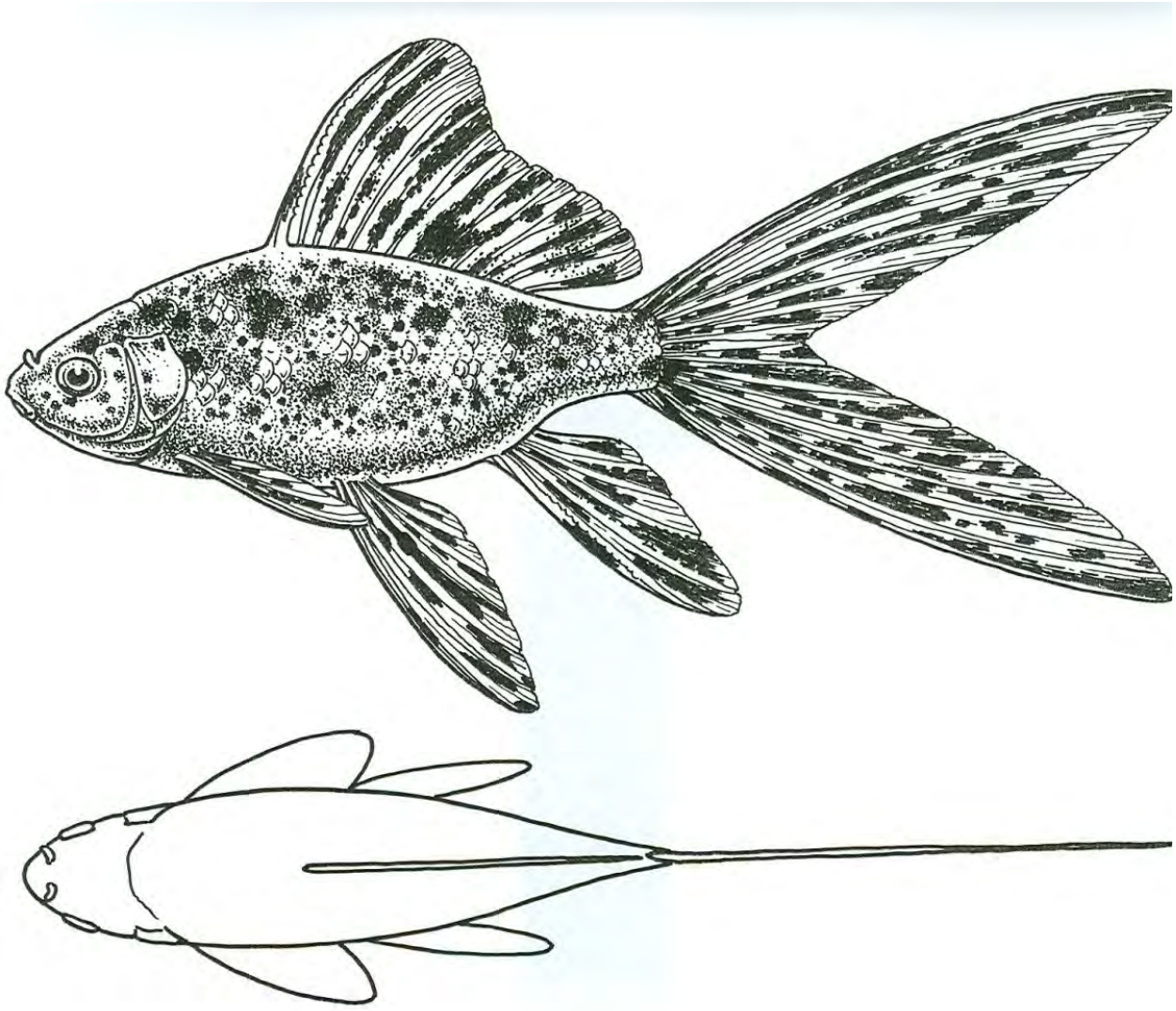
Red and White Comet Goldfish

Single Tail Fish

Shubunkin



London Shubunkin – (London Tail Type)



Japanese Shubunkin – (Japanese Tail Type)

Bristol Shubunkin – (Bristol Tail Type)

- 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. In recent years, the tail of the Bristol Shubunkin has been improved so that it is carried almost perpendicular to the body, close to a 180 degree spread between the outermost caudal rays. A combination of this spread and ray branching creates a tail similar to the letter "B."

- 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 type**
    - **Japanese tail type**
    - **London tail type**

- 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 vermillion 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. Recently, Bristol Tail-like fish have been produced in single colors, including: blue, brown, chocolate and purple. These are not considered "true" Bristol Shubunkins and should be benched in the "Other" or "Miscellaneous" categories in goldfish shows.

American Goldfish Association
2014 Goldfish Standards
Variety Name: Shubunkin
Dorsal Fin: Y/N, Y
Tail Type: Bristol Tail; Japanese Tail; London Tail, in order of preference
Special Characteristic: Tail, Coloration

Description	Points
Body Style	20
Coloration	20
Deportment and Condition	20
Finnage	20
Special Characteristics - Finnage and coloration (additional points)	20
Total	100

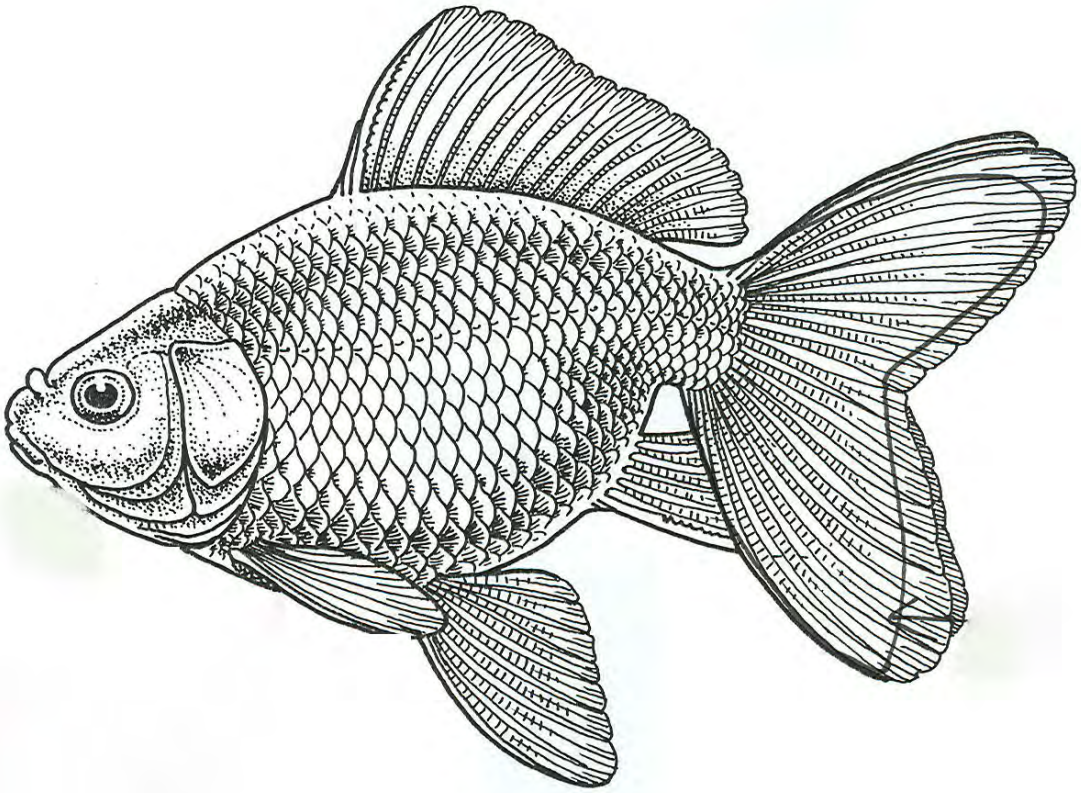
Bristol Shubunkin

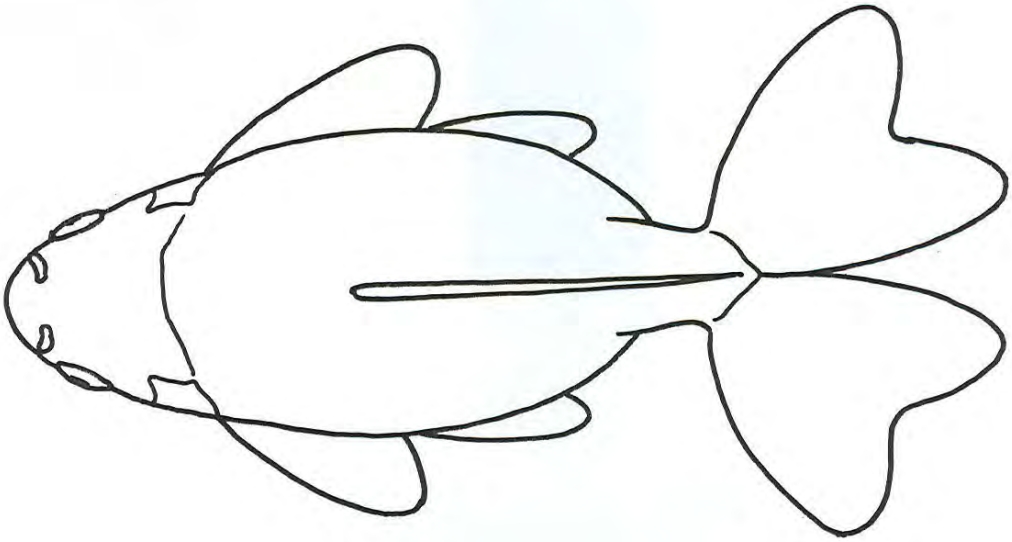
Midnight Blue – a color variation of a Japanese Tail – photo courtesy of Vicki Knill

London Shubunkin – photo courtesy of David Lains

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 1/3 to ½ the depth of the body. Typically, the caudal fin should be from 1/3 to 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.

American Goldfish Association
2014 Goldfish Standards
Variety Name: Fantail
Dorsal Fin: Y/N, Y
Tail Type: Double
Special Characteristic: N/A

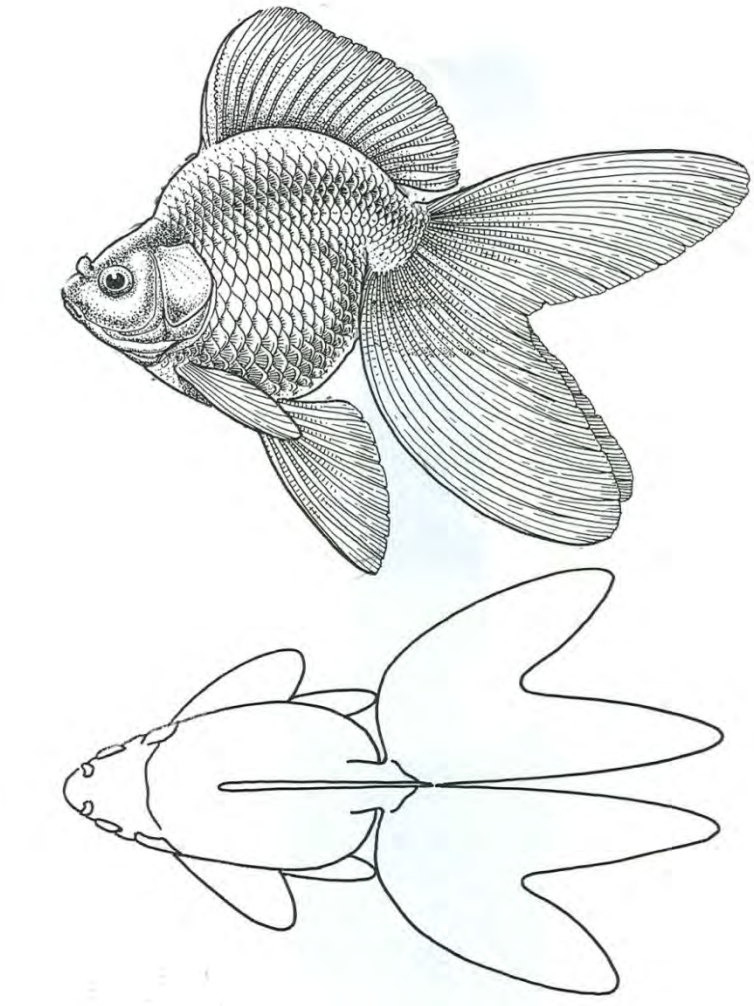
Description	Points
Body Style	25
Coloration	25
Deportment and Condition	25
Finnage	25
Special Characteristics N/A	
Total	100

Single Color Fantail

Calico Fantail

Double Tail Fish

Ryukin Goldfish



- 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. Veiltail/Ryukin crosses should not be entered in the Ryukin category in goldfish shows, but should be benches in the "Other" or "Miscellaneous" categories.

- **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. Overall, the Ryukin finnage should "balance" with the body to create pleasing symmetry.

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

American Goldfish Association
2014 Goldfish Standards
Variety Name: Ryukin
Dorsal Fin: Y/N, Y
Tail Type: Double
Special Characteristic: Hump

Description		Points
Body Style	20	
Coloration	20	
Deportment and Condition	20	
Finnage (note: scoring for finnage in order of preference Broad-tail, long-finnage, medium finnage, short finnage)	20	
Special Characteristics: quality of hump (additional points)	20	
Total	100	

Finnage Variations in Ryukin Goldfish

Calico Short Fin Ryukin

Red & White Medium Fin Ryukin

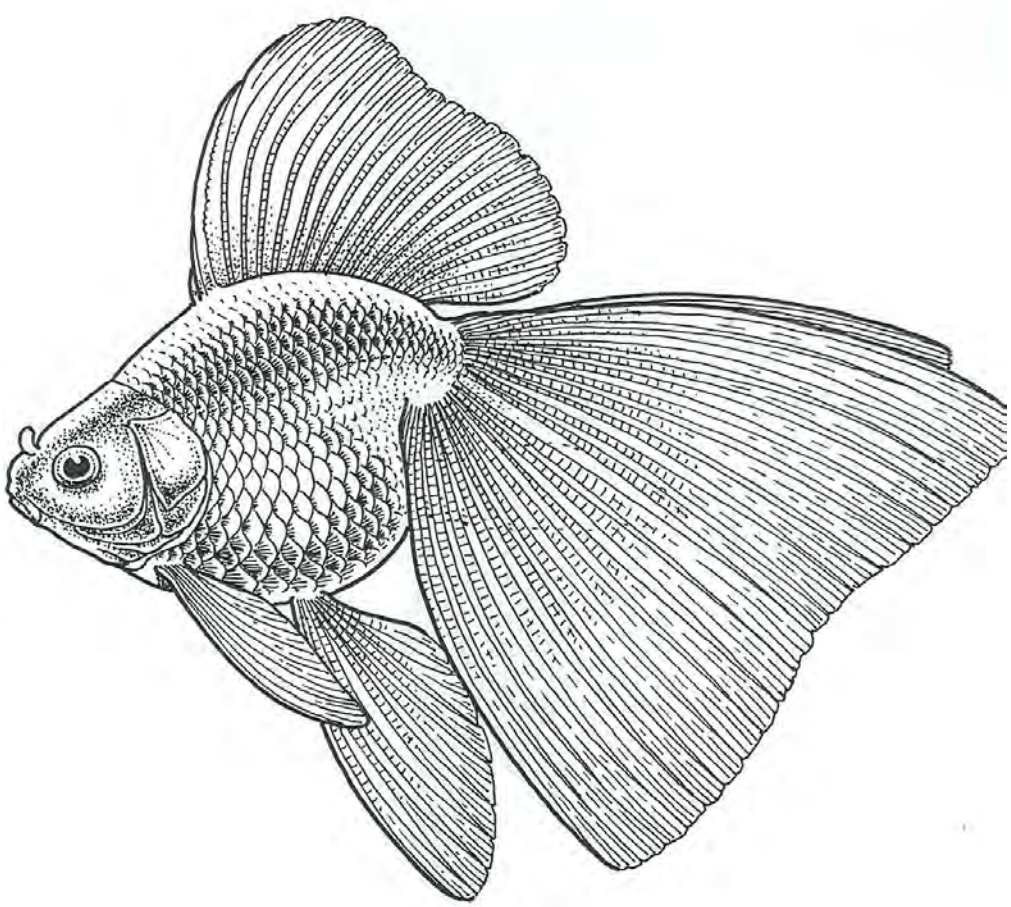
Calico Long Fin Ryukin

Single-Colored Broadtail Ryukin

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 ¾ 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 pronounced 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.

- Finnage 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. Fullness and volume of the caudal fins is desired over shear length that can destroy symmetry. 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.

American Goldfish Association
2014 Goldfish Standards
Variety Name: Veiltail
Dorsal Fin: Y/N, Y
Tail Type: Double
Special Characteristic: Finnage

Description	Points
Body Style	20
Coloration	20
Deportment and Condition	20
Finnage	20
Special Characteristics – Finnage (additional points)	20
Total	100

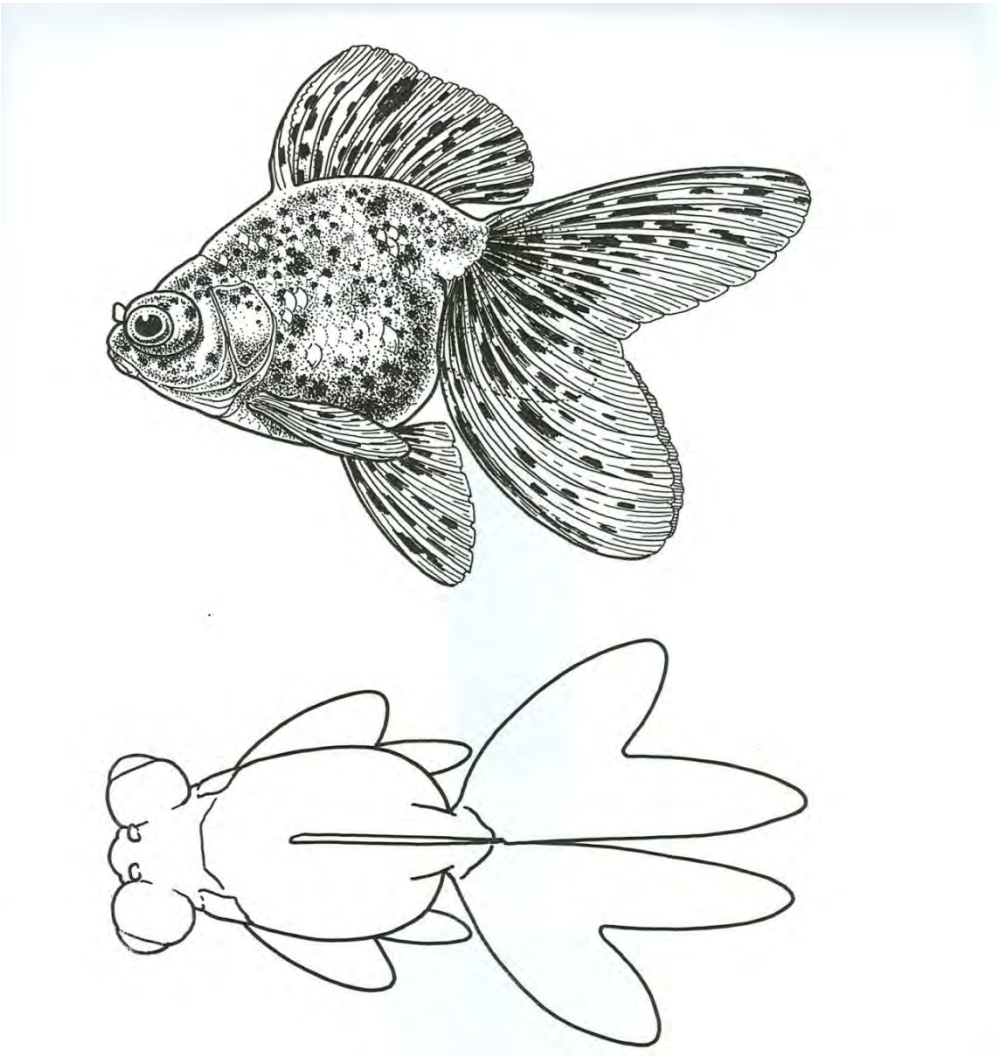
Natural colored Veiltail

Red Veiltail

Nacreous (Calico) 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.

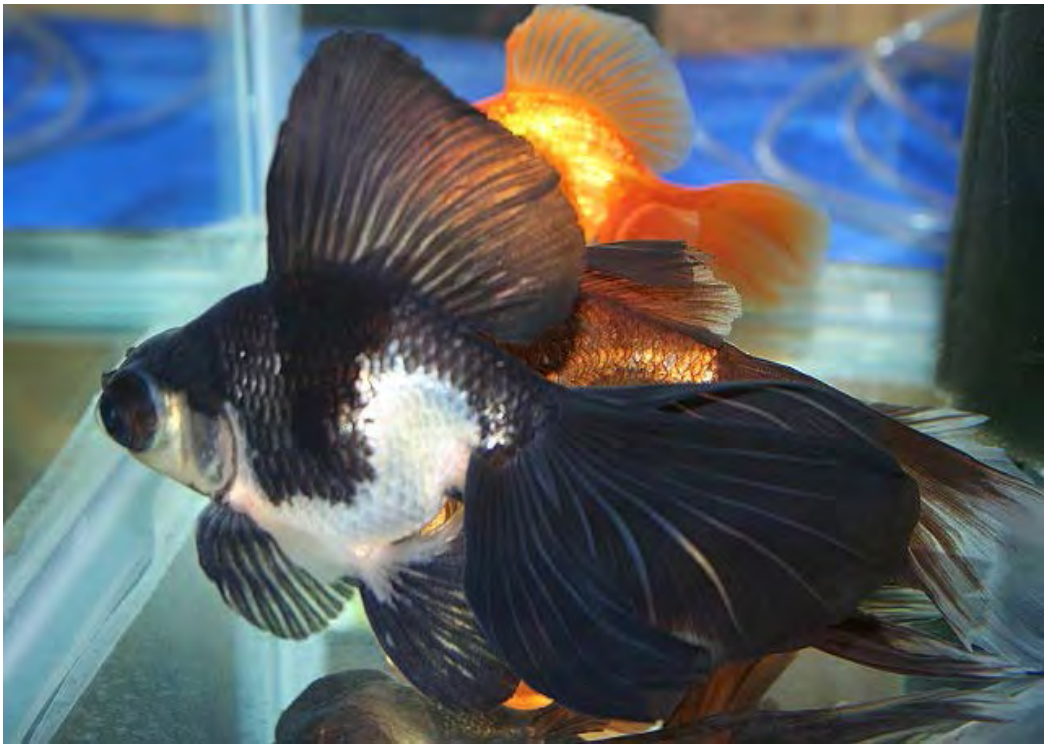
- There are actually several types of eye types which are permissible: a segmented type, where the eye appears to be composed of a series of concentric circles, which gradually get smaller; a conical type, where the eyes are cone-shaped looking almost like a volcano; and a rounded, protuberant type, 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.

American Goldfish Association
2014 Goldfish Standards
Variety Name: Telescope
Dorsal Fin: Y/N, Y
Tail Type: Double
Special Characteristic: Eyes, petticoat tail

Description	Points
Body Style	20
Coloration	20
Deportment and Condition	20
Finnage	20
Special Characteristics – Eyes and finnage (extra points)	20
Total	100



Black and White Telescope

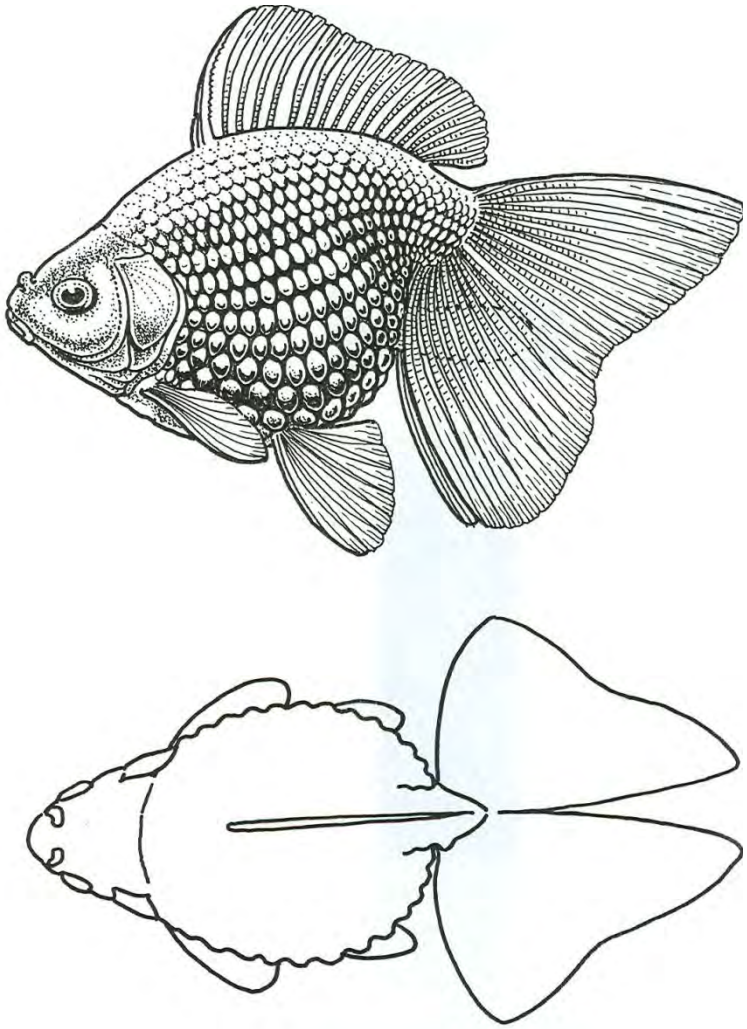
Tri-Color Metallic Telescope

Black Moore Telescope

Black and red 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 fish 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.

- **<u>All other characteristics being equal, the following rankings apply to finnage types:</u>**

    - **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.

American Goldfish Association
2014 Goldfish Standards
Variety Name: Pearlscale
Dorsal Fin: Y/N, Y
Tail Type: Double
Special Characteristic: Scaling and optionally headgrowth

Description	Points
Body Style	20
Coloration	20
Deportment and Condition	20
Finnage	20
Special Characteristics – Scaling and optionally headgrowth (extra points)	20
Total	100

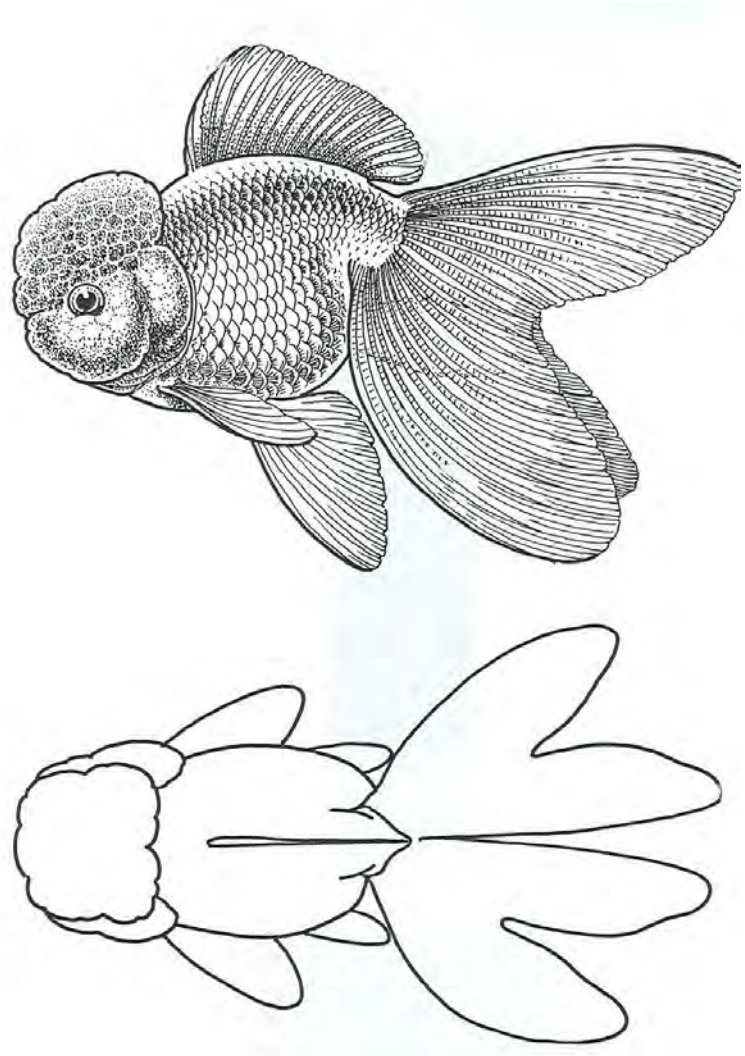
Pearlscale

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. 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.

- 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.

- 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. The redcap is judged in the Oranda category with a modification to the standard for the unique red hood and brilliant white body color. At this time, the Azumanishiki is judged in the "Other" or "Miscellaneous" categories at shows.

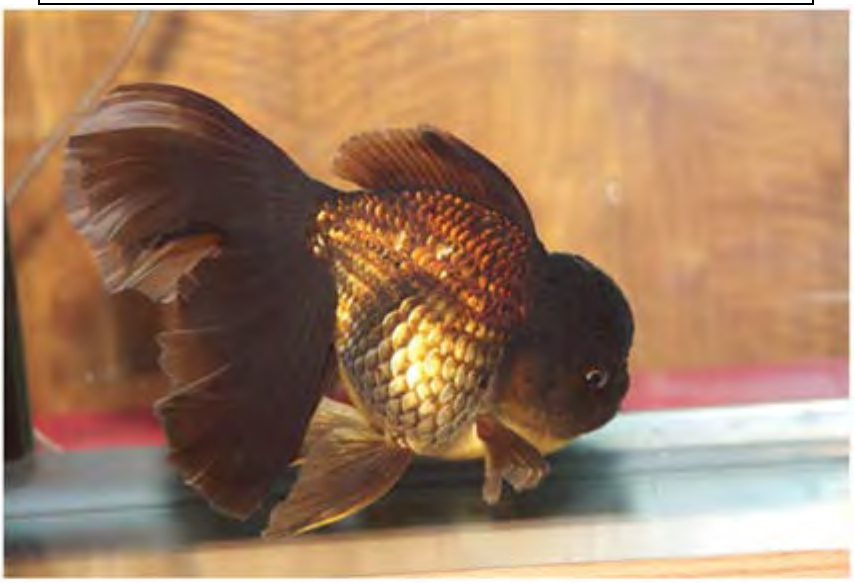
- The Azumanishiki has a thinner, streamlined body shape and a hood which is similar to that of a Top-view Ranchu, with special emphasis placed on the development of the futon, or cheeks, of the fish.

American Goldfish Association
2014 Goldfish Standards
Variety Name: Oranda
Dorsal Fin: Y/N, Y
Tail Type: Double
Special Characteristic: Fully developed hood

Description	Points
Body Style	20
Coloration	20
Deportment and Condition	20
Finnage	20
Special Characteristics – fully developed hood (extra points)	20
Total	100

American Goldfish Association
2014 Goldfish Standards
Variety Name: Oranda (Red cap variant)
Dorsal Fin: Y/N, Y
Tail Type: Double
Special Characteristic: Red cap hood fully developed

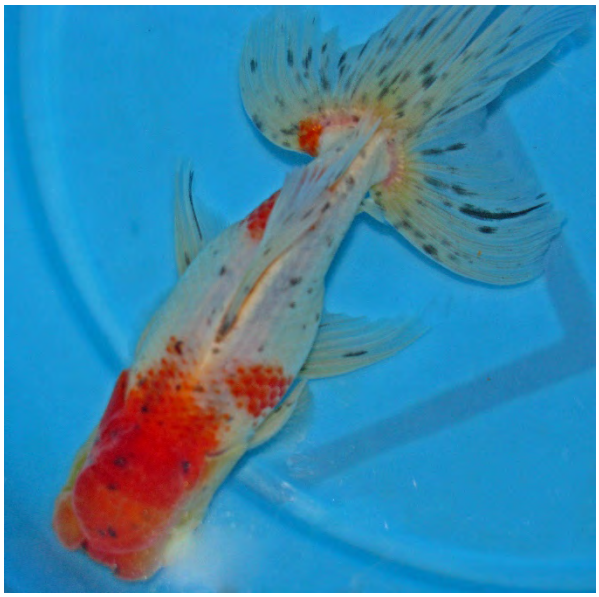
Description	Points
Body Style	20
Coloration	25
Deportment and Condition	15
Finnage	20
Special Characteristics – presence of fully developed red hood, along with bright white background (extra points)	20
Total	100



Chocolate Oranda

Calico Oranda

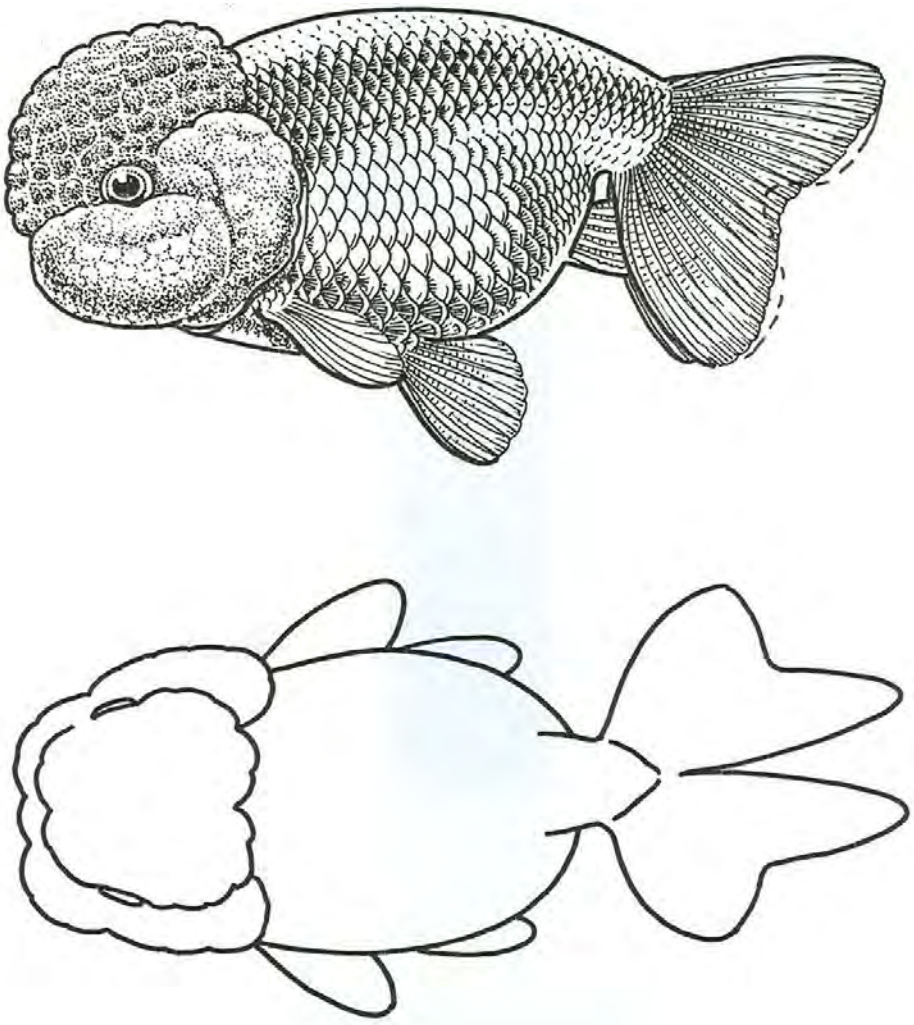
Redcap Oranda- (photo courtesy of Dale Rohrer)



Azumanishiki

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-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.

- The body shape of the fish should appear slightly rectangular, and not elongated.

American Goldfish Association
2014 Goldfish Standards
Variety Name: Lionhead
Dorsal Fin: Y/N, N
Tail Type: Double
Special Characteristic: Fully developed headgrowth, gently contoured back

Description	Points
Body Style	20
Coloration	20
Deportment and Condition	20
Finnage	15
Special Characteristics Fully developed headgrowth, gently contoured back	25
Total	100

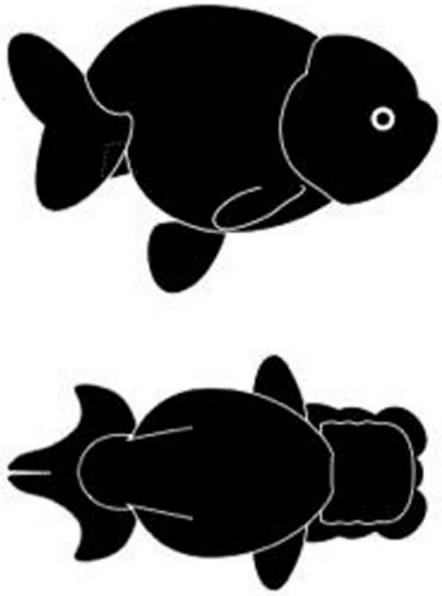
Lionhead Goldfish

Lionhead Goldfish

Red cap Lionhead Goldfish

Double Tail Dorsal-Less Fish

Side-View Ranchu



Drawing courtesy of Kendal Liddle

- 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.

- 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.

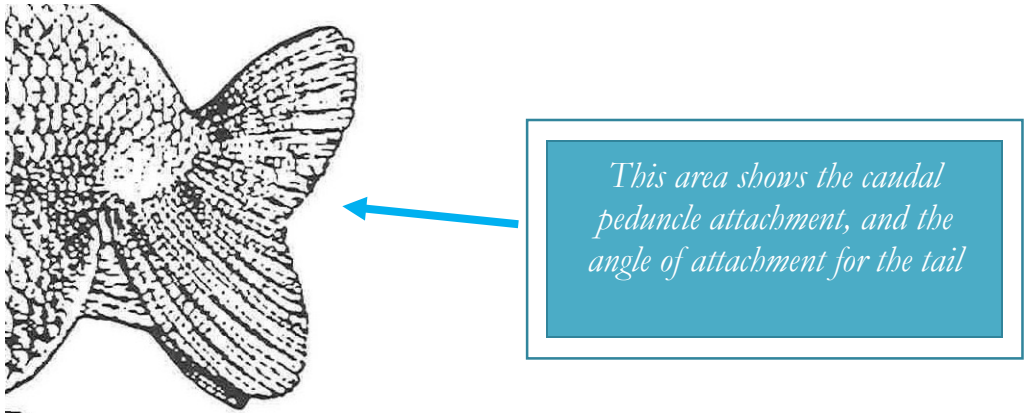
- Finnage is paired for the pectorals, ventrals and anal fins, and the tail should show a fork. The amount of forking permitted in the tail is from twenty-five to seventy-five percent, but this should be evaluated by eye-site, and not by a strict attempt at measurement. The degree of forking in the tail 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.

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.



American Goldfish Association
2014 Goldfish Standards
Variety Name: Side View Ranchu
Dorsal Fin: Y/N, Y
Tail Type: Double
Special Characteristic: Full headgrowth, sloping back contour

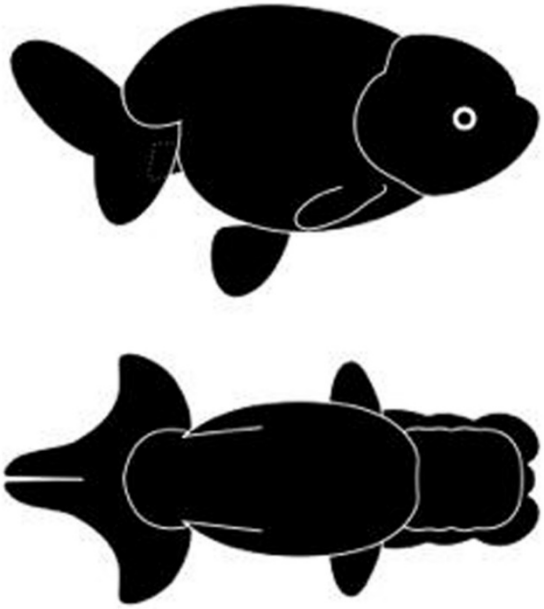
Description	Points
Body Style	20
Coloration	20
Deportment and Condition	20
Finnage	20
Special Characteristics – full headgrowth, sloping back contour (extra points)	20
Total	100

Side View Ranchu

Side View Ranchu

Double Tail Dorsal-Less Fish

Top-View Ranchu



Drawing courtesy of Kendal Liddle

In some ways, the term Top View Ranchu is a misnomer; it is a term that has been attached to Japanese ideals of the Ranchu. While these fish are bred for top view appreciation, they are judged from all angles. For optimal viewing, they are exhibited in white enamel bowls, and will be subjected to some minimal handling during judging. Deportment, especially swimming motion and tail action, are of great importance.

- 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.

- 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 rectangular and should appear to fit inside a shoebox.

- 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.

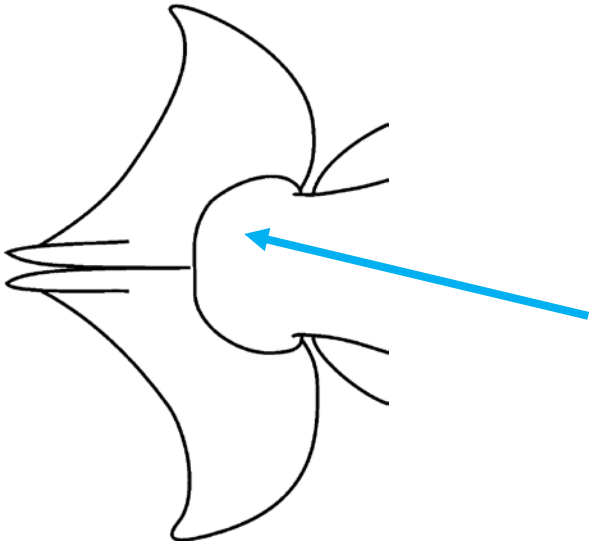
- Beginning with the introduction of these standards, Ranchu judging will be divided into Top view and Side View judging categories. The owner of the fish will have the discretion to show fish in either the Top View or Side View category.

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

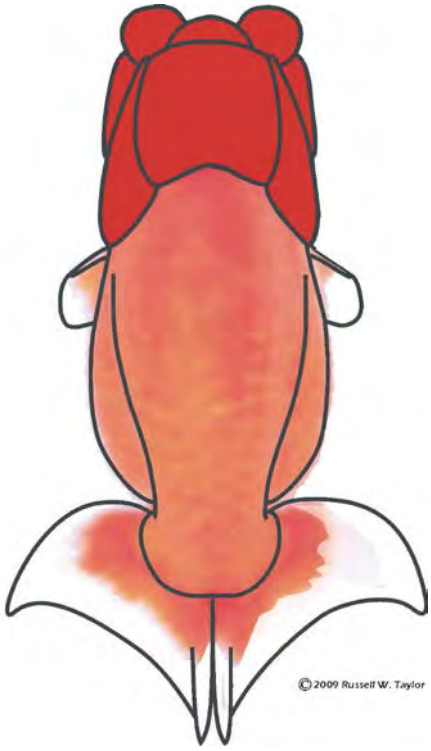


This area shows the caudal peduncle attachment, as well as "shoulder"

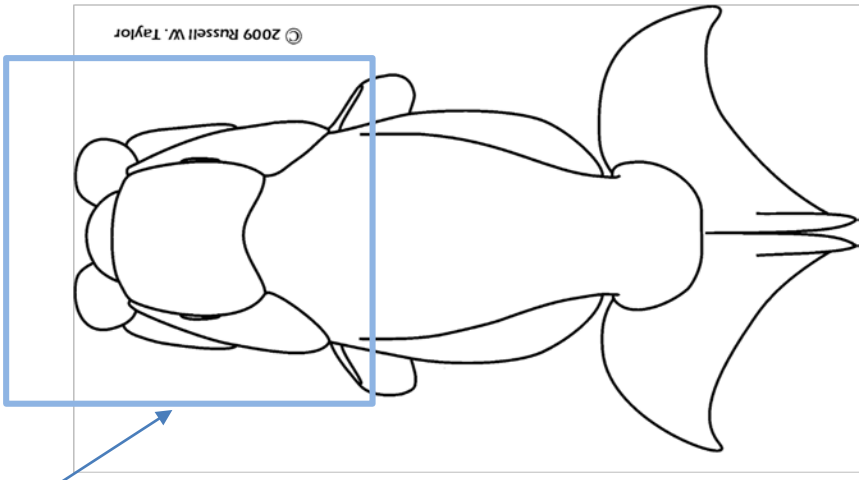
- The area around where the caudal peduncle ends and the tail begins forms a "bracelet." Ideally, one or two scales should mark this edge where the peduncle and tail join. The center tail core ray should not penetrate the peduncle. This ray can penetrate the bracelet, but not by more than two (2) scale rows. The caudal fin base (in order to see this, the fish must be flipped over to view) or "oza," should be as large and full as possible. This will allow for strength in motion, along with a thick peduncle. The caudal fin base should be strong enough to allow the tail to remain open at rest, but flexible enough to bow inward in motion.

The desired caudal fin base causes the tail to "open" like a flower. The following picture illustrates the proper placement of the caudal fin base.

- 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.



Top View Ranchu Drawing, Courtesy of Russ Taylor



Line Drawing showing rectangular area of headgrowth

American Goldfish Association
2014 Goldfish Standards
Variety Name: Top View Ranchu
Dorsal Fin: Y/N, N
Tail Type: Double
Special Characteristic: Body shape, fully developed headgrowth, tail spread

Description	Points
Body Style	20
Coloration	15
Deportment and Condition	15
Finnage	20
Special Characteristics – fully developed headgrowth, body shape, tail spread (extra points)	30
Total	100

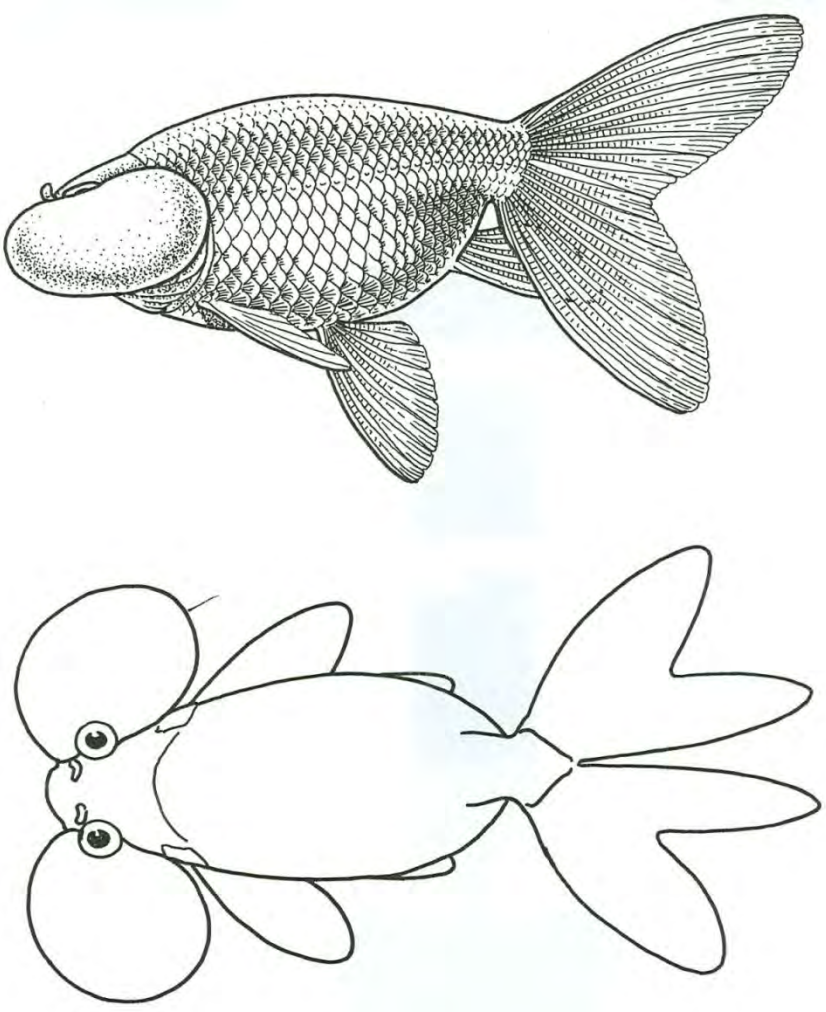
Proper placement of caudal fin base in a Top View Ranchu, photo courtesy of Dan Young

Top View Male Ranchu - photo courtesy of John Parker

Top View Ranchu

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.

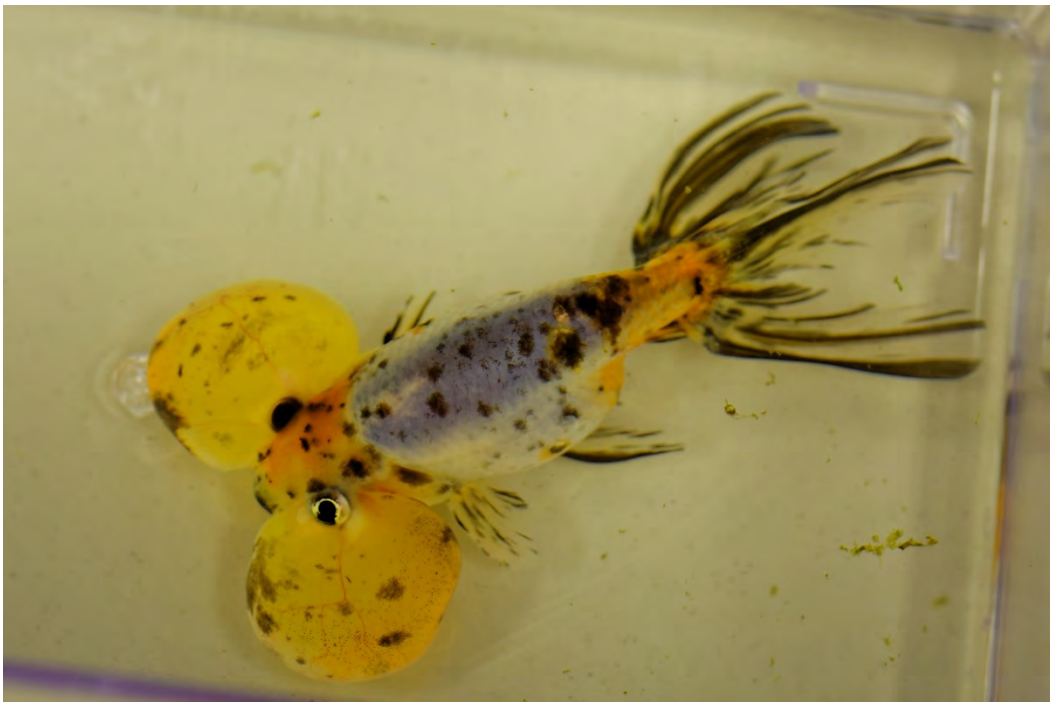
- Bubble eyes come in all three scale types: metallic, nacreous and matte, although the metallic scalation is most frequently seen. These fish are also available in all colors common to goldfish, although once again, orange to orange-red is most common. Calico varieties of these fish are rare, and when 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.

- The bubbles should be symmetrical and of the same size. Lack of symmetry or differences in the size or position of the bubbles will cause the fish to be placed lower in overall standing, or could result, in extreme cases (for instance, a punctured bubble), in the fish being disqualified.

American Goldfish Association
2014 Goldfish Standards
Variety Name: Bubble Eye
Dorsal Fin: Y/N, N
Tail Type: Double
Special Characteristic: Symmetrical Bubbles by Eyes

Description	Points
Body Style	20
Coloration	20
Deportment and Condition	20
Finnage	20
Special Characteristics – bubbles (extra points)	20
Total	100

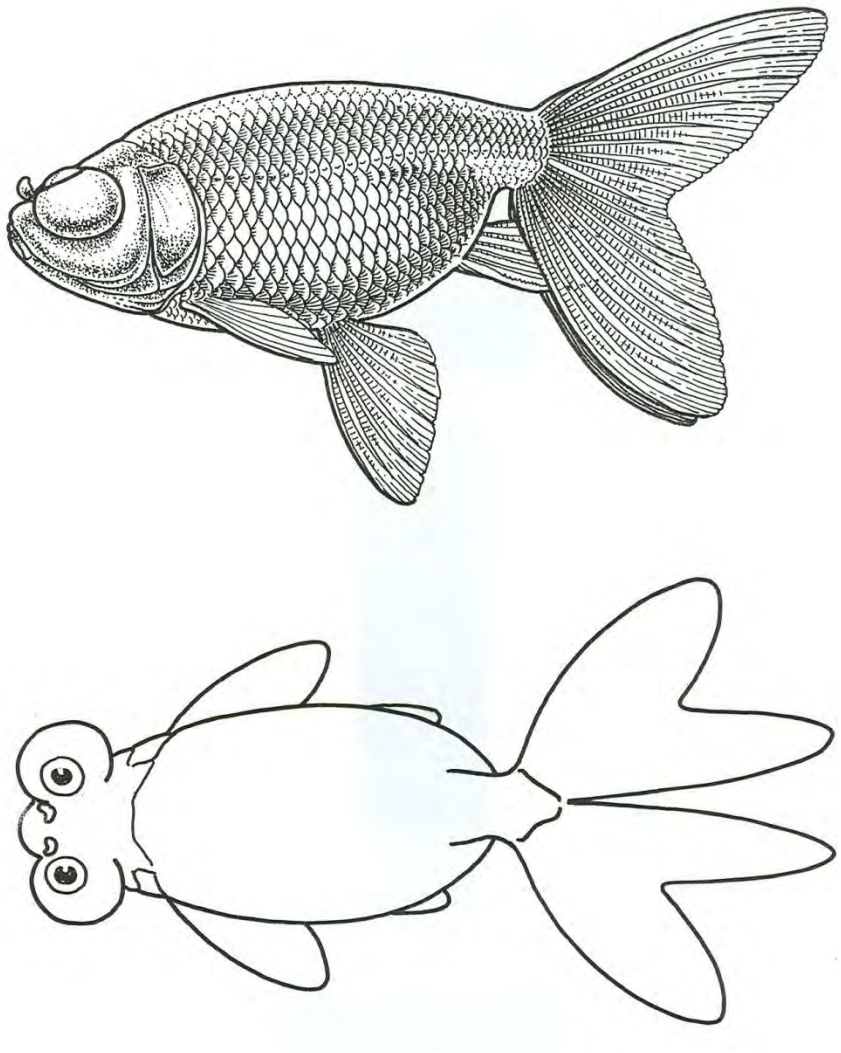


Calico Bubble Eye Goldfish

Bubble Eye Goldfish, photo courtesy of Tun Tun Win

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; failure to be symmetrical or of the same size will result in the fish being downgraded in judging. 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.

American Goldfish Association
2014 Goldfish Standards
Variety Name: Celestial
Dorsal Fin: Y/N, N
Tail Type: Double
Special Characteristic: Upturned, symmetrical eyes

Description	Points
Body Style	20
Coloration	20
Deportment and Condition	20
Finnage	20
Special Characteristics – upturned, symmetrical eyes (extra points)	20
Total	100

Pom-Pom Celestial Goldfish

Top view Celestial Goldfish

Other Varieties

Wakin

- 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.

American Goldfish Association
2014 Goldfish Standards
Variety Name: Wakin
Dorsal Fin: Y/N, Y
Tail Type: Double
Special Characteristic: N/A

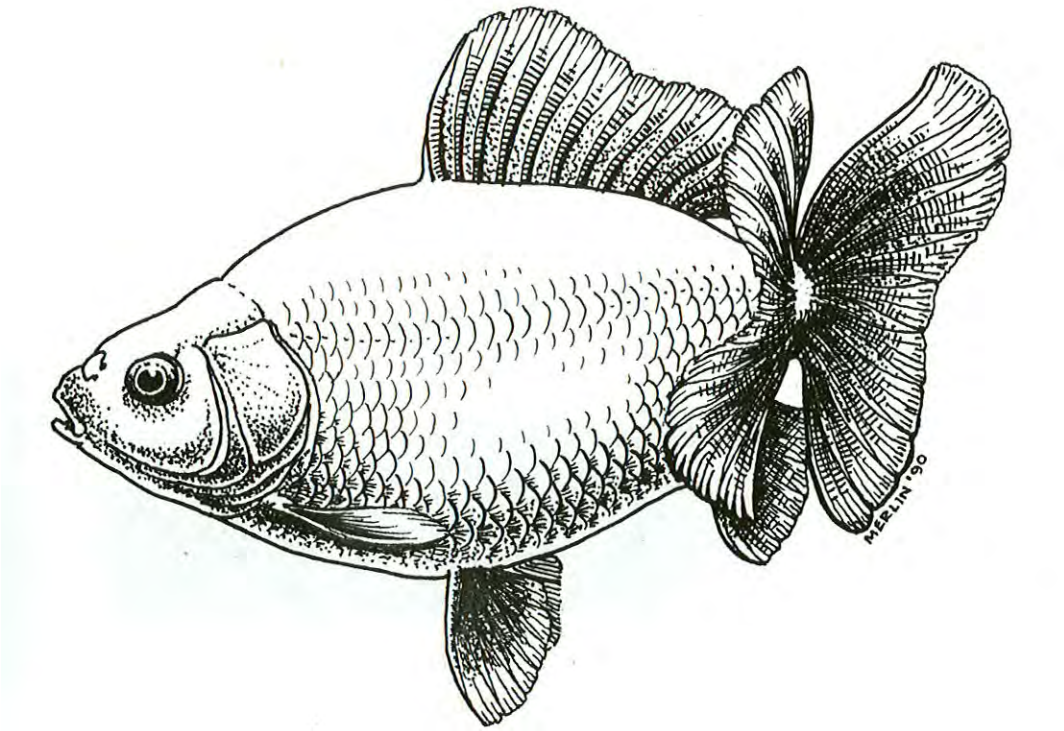
Description	Points
Body Style	25
Coloration	25
Deportment and Condition	25
Finnage	25
Special Characteristics – N/A	
Total	100

Red & white Wakin

Red & white Wakin, photo courtesy of Steve Hopkins

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.

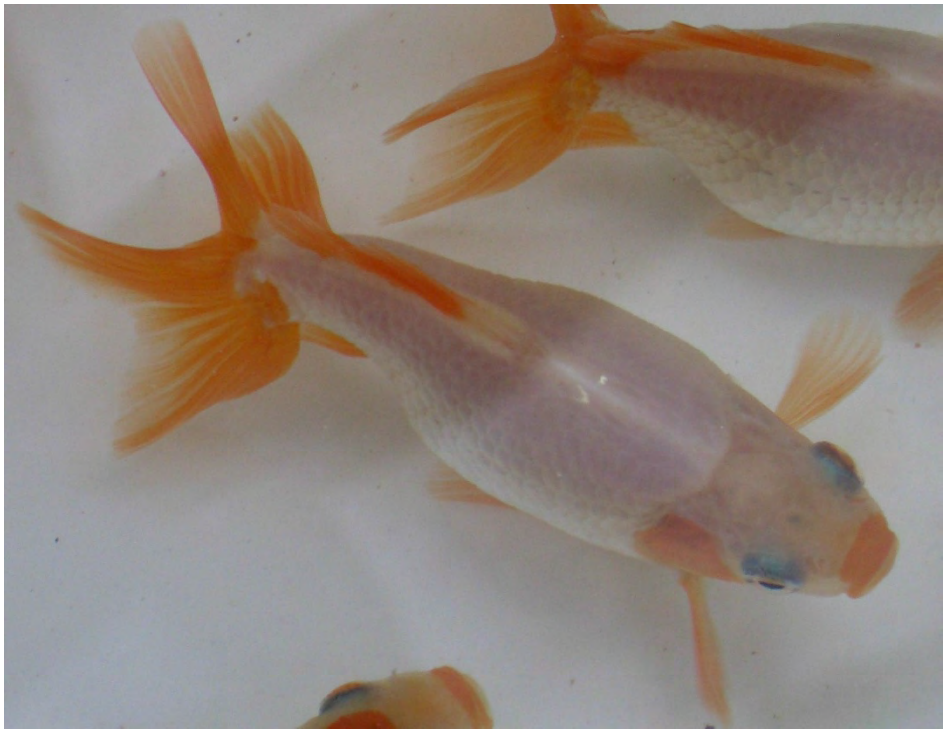
- The ideal Jikin color pattern is white with twelve points of red (red on the nose, gill opercula and all fins). The less there is on the rest of the body, the better.

- 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.

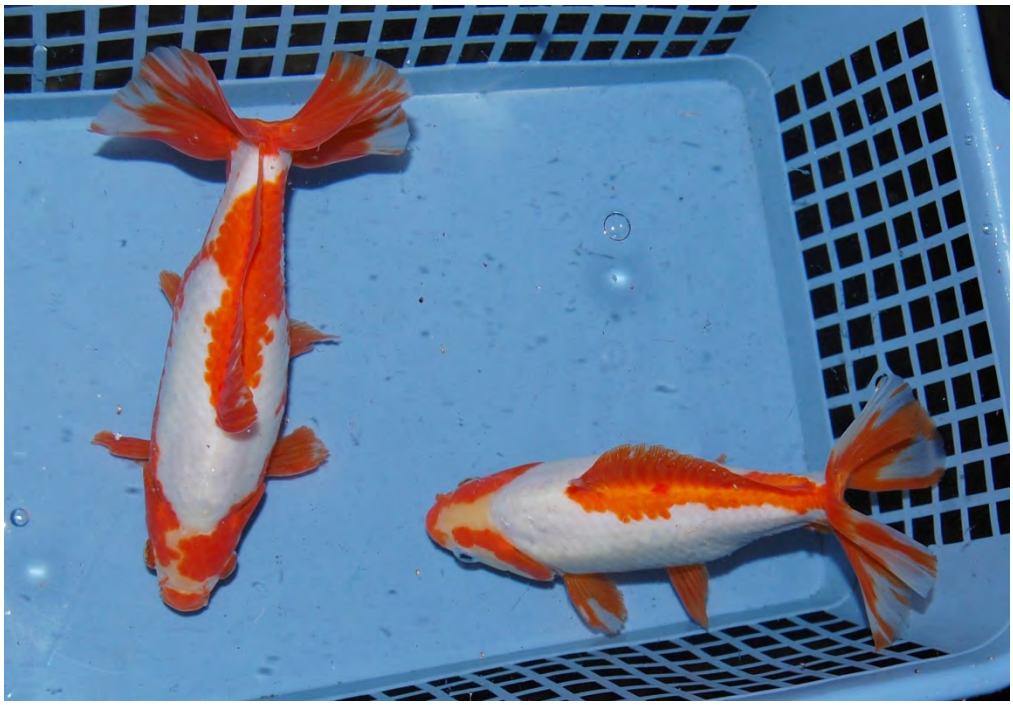
American Goldfish Association
2014 Goldfish Standards
Variety Name: Jikin
Dorsal Fin: Y/N, Y
Tail Type: Double
Special Characteristic: "X' type tail: body conformation; coloring

Description	Points
Body Style	20
Coloration	25
Deportment and Condition	15
Finnage	20
Special Characteristics – "X' type tail; body conformation; coloring (extra points)	20
Total	100



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.

American Goldfish Association
2014 Goldfish Standards
Variety Name: Phoenix
Dorsal Fin: Y/N, N
Tail Type: Double
Special Characteristic: Flowing fins, curved back

Description	Points
Body Style	20
Coloration	20
Deportment and Condition	20
Finnage	20
Special Characteristics – flowing fins, curved back (extra points)	20
Total	100

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

Other Varieties

Tosakin

Tosakin – photo courtesy of Dan Young

- 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.

American Goldfish Association
2014 Goldfish Standards
Variety Name: Tosakin
Dorsal Fin: Y/N, Y
Tail Type: Double
Special Characteristic: Double "curlicue" tail; body shape

Description	Points
Body Style	20
Coloration	20
Deportment and Condition	20
Finnage	20
Special Characteristics – double "curlicue" tail, body shape (extra points)	20
Total	100

Tosakin, photo courtesy of Dan Young

Tosakin – photo courtesy of Dan Young

Other Varieties

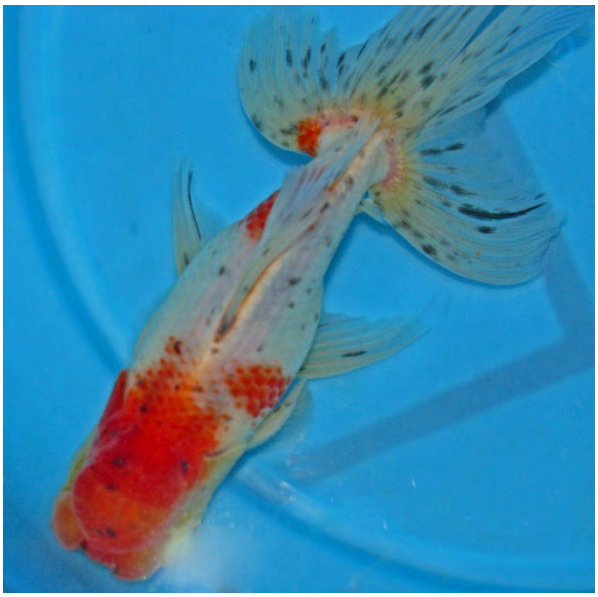
Azumanishiki

The Azumanishiki is the Japanese form of a calico Oranda. It is listed separately from the traditional Oranda which can also occur as a calico color phase due to its distinctive body shape and headgrowth.

- The body of the Azumanishiki is longer than that of a traditional Oranda and is somewhat rectangular.
- The headgrowth should cover the entire head, cheeks and operculum of the fish. Unlike traditional Oranda, the Azumanishiki should have a well-defined cheek area, known as the futon, which is a similar feature found on Top-View Ranchu.
- The Azumanishiki must be calico in coloration, and should possess white, red, black and blue and may be nacreous or matte scaled.
- Azumanishiki have been bred to be viewed from the top; judges should therefore view and judge these fish both from the top and the side.

American Goldfish Association
2014 Goldfish Standards
Variety Name: Azumanishiki
Dorsal Fin: Y/N, Y
Tail Type: Double
Special Characteristic: Body shape, headgrowth with futon

Description	Points
Body Style	20
Coloration	20
Deportment and Condition	20
Finnage	20
Special Characteristics – body shape; headgrowth with futon (extra points)	20
Total	100



Young Azumanishiki viewed from the top

Azumanishiki, photo courtesy of Tun Tun Win

Azumanishiki viewed from the side

Deficiencies and Defects of Fish

The fish pictured in the standards discussion are considered to match the requirements for fish in that variety. People frequently have questions about whether or not their fish meet the standard, both in terms of raising fish, and in terms of show participation. The following discussion is intended to describe fish that do not meet the acceptable standards due to some deficiency or defect in the fish, and to explain the reasons why the fish do not meet the published standard.

For the purposes of raising and showing fish, a deficiency is defined as a flaw in an important aspect of fish physiognomy which would cause the fish to not fully meet the standards for a particular variety. A defect is characterized as a major fault in fish physiognomy that would result in the fish failing to meet a criteria for the standard for that variety. At shows, deficiencies will usually result in the fish being allowed to compete in a show. A defect in a fish (examples of which are missing fins, eyes, active disease condition, etc.) which would result in a fish being unable to compete in a show. It is the responsibility of the judge to notify the show chairman of any fish which have defects, and the show chairman should remove these fish from the show.

Please note that fish entered in the "Other" and "Miscellaneous" categories in goldfish shows technically may not meet the standards for fish, but do not have defects or deficiencies, as described above, which would either prohibit a fish being shown, or require the fish to be marked-down in a category.

Critique of Non-Standard Fish

Fish do not always meet the standards for varieties described above. The following discussion is added to assist goldfish breeders and fanciers to develop a sense for why fish do not meet the standards. The discussion is not meant to be comprehensive, but to provide guidance to those who wish to develop their appreciation for goldfish.

Generally speaking, single tail fish have a better chance of meeting the standards, than do the "fancy" varieties. Although generally true, this is not always the case. Pictured below is a fish which is a Bristol Shubunkin. While the fish seems to meet the standard, it does not for the following reasons:

- The body conformation is incorrect – note the deep belly which protrudes towards the front end of the fish. In this case, the fish suffered from a tumor.
- Note the tail fin, which has two distinct lobes, but the bottom lobe droops and is not carried erect.
- The fish lacks a distinct blue area; the white portions of the belly may turn blue, but in this picture, the blue has not yet developed.

Fancy goldfish, usually defined as anything other than a single tail fish, present more problems for the breeder. Pictured below are a number of fish, along with a critique of why they do not meet the standard for the variety.

Red cap Oranda are popular fish, but because of their simplicity, the requirements for judging are difficult to achieve. The primary shortcomings of these fish are the presence of red on parts of the body, the over-development of the hood, and fins which are not proportional to the body. Shown below are examples of each type of deficiency.

Red cap Oranda with over-developed hood as well as un-proportional fin development

Red cap Oranda with red scattered on body

In the case of the Red cap Oranda shown above, the fish may be entered in the "Oranda" category, where it might place well in the competition. Fancy goldfish can suffer from improper fin development and placement. Pictured below are examples of fish with finnage problems.

Red Oranda with tail and dorsal fin problems

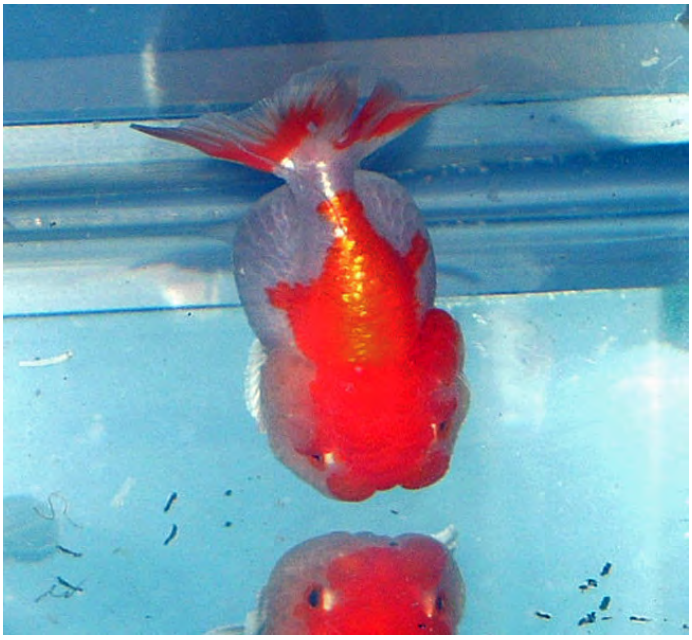
Closely allied to fin development problems is the case of fins not being proportional to the size of the body, particularly in the case of short-fin Ryukins, where the fin development does not keep up with the development (size) of the body.

Ryukin with un-proportional fin size

As mentioned in the section on Ryukin, crosses between Ryukins and Veiltails sometimes result in a fish that does not conform to either standard. In many cases, the fish are quite attractive, but should not be entered in the Ryukin nor the Veiltail category. In such cases, the fish may be entered in the "Other" or "Miscellaneous" category.

Although an attractive fish, this is neither a Veiltail, nor a Ryukin

Lionhead and Ranchu are difficult fish to raise and breed. As a result, these fish tend to produce a number of fish which do not meet the requirements of the standard. Shown below are examples of these types of fish which do not meet standard, along with explanations.



An example of a Lionhead with a caudal peduncle that is too short, causing the fish to "headstand"

Lionhead goldfish with improper body conformation and caudal peduncle

An example of a Top View Ranchu which does not meet the requirements of the variety – the body shape is incorrect, as is the headgrowth

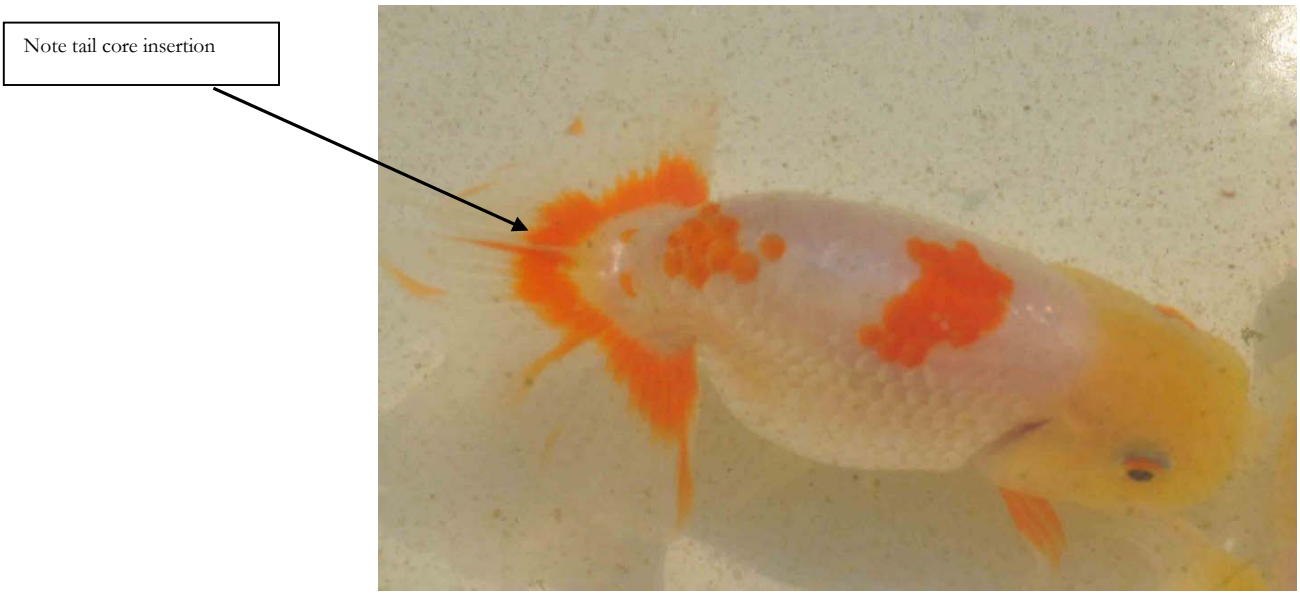
It is often difficult to gauge when a special characteristic of a fish goes from being acceptable to being "too much." In cases of judging fish, the overall criterion should be: "is the fish proportional in all aspects of development"? If not, then the fish is said to be dis-proportional in some way. Shown below are fish where the special characteristic has gone from being proportional to becoming dis-proportional.

Here is an example of a Ryukin whose body shape has become too deep, causing the fish to become dis-proportional

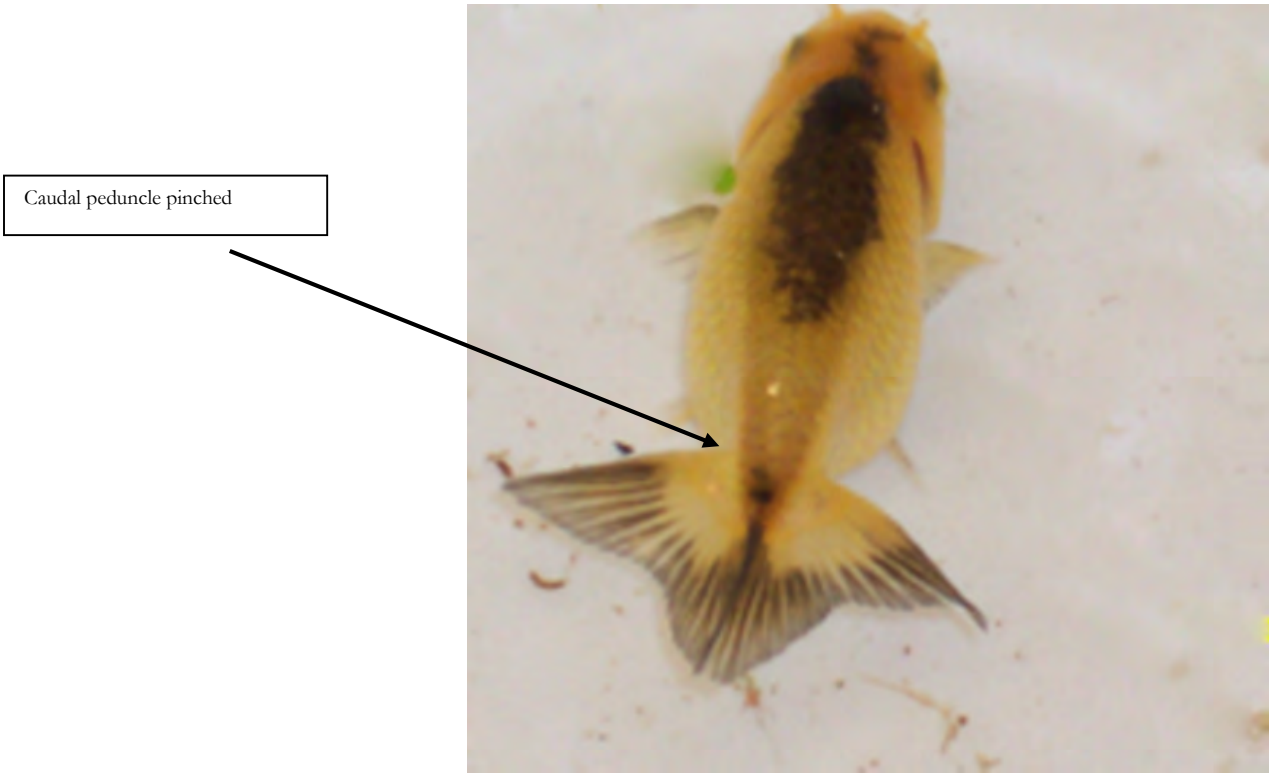
Here is an example of an Oranda with headgrowth that is disproportional to the body

Top View Ranchu are among the most difficult fish to breed and show. As a result, there are many types of deficiencies that occur with these fish. Following is a discussion of the types of deficiencies commonly seen with Top View Ranchu.

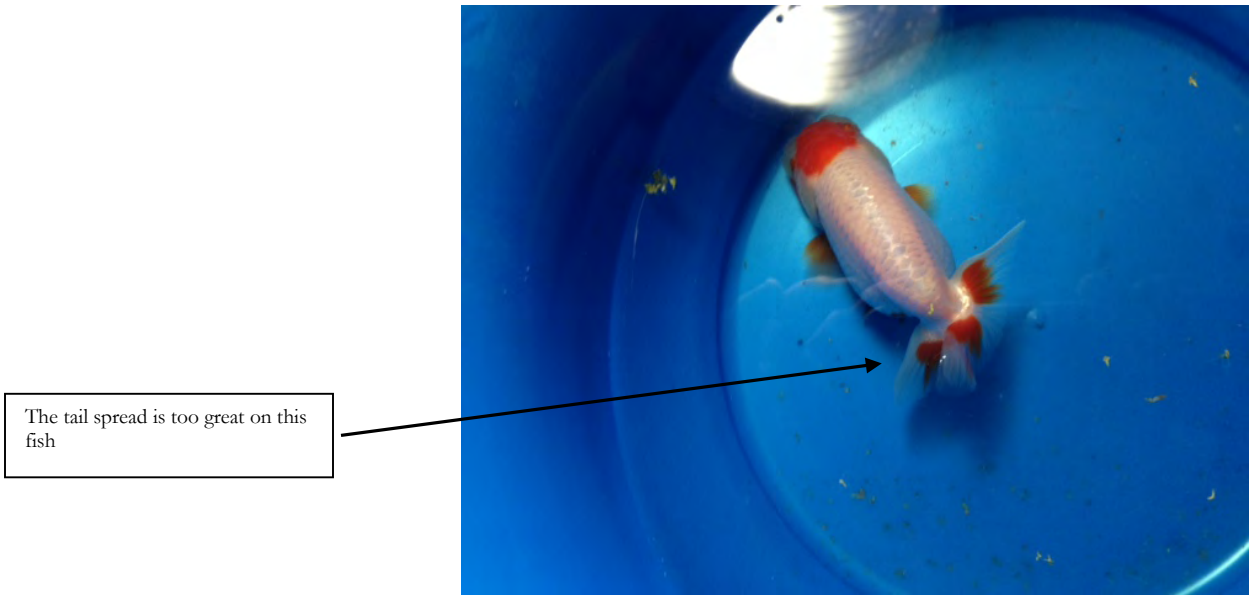
Top View Ranchu with weak Tail Shoulder – Photo courtesy of Gary Hater



An example of a Top View Ranchu with insertion of tail core into tail area; photo courtesy of Gary Hater



Here is an example of a pinched caudal peduncle, photo courtesy of Gary Hater



Tail spread too great; photo courtesy of Gary Hater

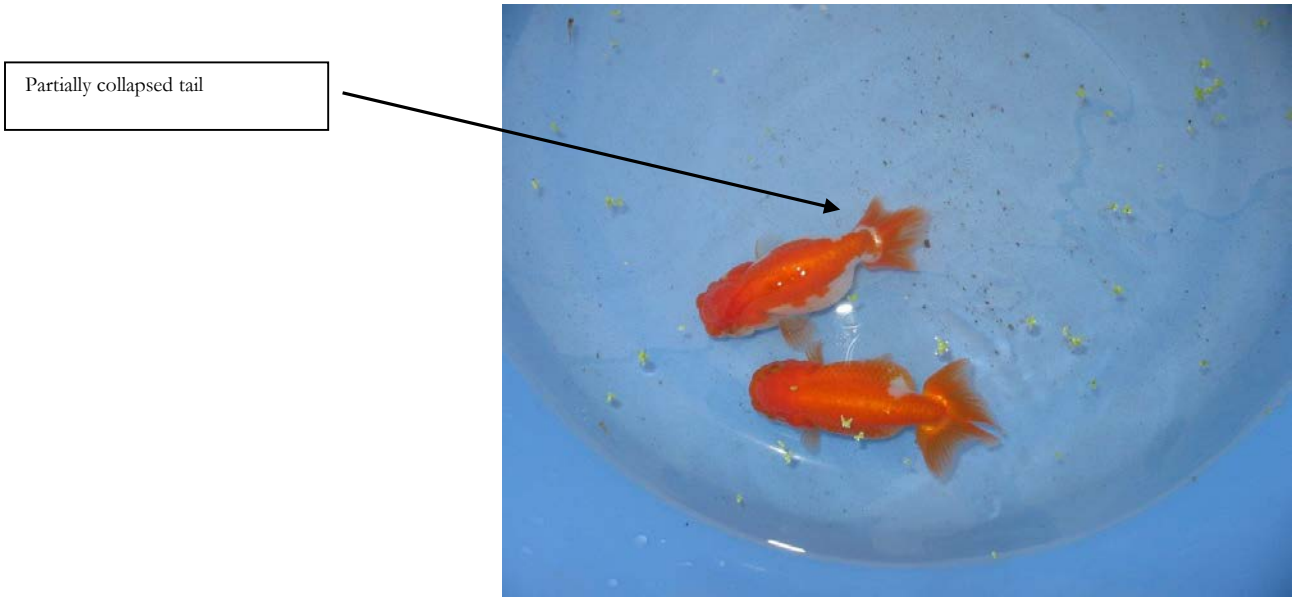


Photo of partially collapsed tail; courtesy of Gary Hater

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, Bubbleye, 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.