**Quarantine**

***Save not only the life of your new fish, but your current fish as well!***

Quarantine (QT) is used to observe a fish prior to adding it to the Display Tank (DT). Fish are monitored for disease and stress levels. QT is used to ease the stress of an incoming fish and protect the current fish from deadly disease. It is not a hospital tank, but can be used as one if need arises.

Basics of the Quarantine System

1. Equipment needed will vary slightly with the type of fish you are keeping in QT. These are the basics.
   1. Tank 10-50 gallons with cover – fish size and activity will determine best size of tank.
   2. Darkened sides (paper or other cover). Keeps the outside stresses to a minimum.
   3. Mechanical/Biological Filtration. Using filter floss, carbon, and a preset biological ring/sponge (keeping one in the DT works great to have the biological already in place). However, if you need to medicate, remove the biological filtration and any carbon filter you may have.
   4. No live rock or live sand. Use PVC and fake décor for the fish to hide. A few exceptions to this rule are those that need sand to bury or feed. Use a tub of sand placed in the tank so it can be removed easily. Use dry sand, not live.
   5. Test Kits: Ammonia (Ammonia badges work the best), pH, Temp, SG, Nitrate
   6. Medications (Praziquantel, Gram-negative antibiotic, Formalin) – these are your basic hospital needs.
   7. Net designated for QT only.
   8. Logbook to record parameters and behaviors, any other observations
   9. Air pump and stone. Especially needed if using any medications or DT filter.

Note: Lights are not required for a QT. Ambient lights are enough. Keeping it dark for the first couple days is best.

1. Do not give any medications for the first 24 hours. Observe only. Of course, there are always those situations that call for immediate action, but generally speaking, leave the fish alone for the first 24 hours.
2. Do not give medications without seeing and diagnosing the problem first. The one exception is Praziquantel can be given as a de-wormer after the fish has settled into QT and is showing no signs of illness.
3. If you see any signs of disease and must treat, decide whether a hospital tank is needed or whether treating in QT will work. If you have multiple fish in the QT, I would separate the disease fish into a separate hospital tank to treat. However, treatment of all fish will be necessary.
4. Keep in a minimum of 4 weeks but ideally 45days. Time will start over from the date of any signs of disease.
5. Hypo salinity (1.010-1.013) is a general rule with QT. It eases the osmoregulation of the fish and reduces the parasitic load too. This is especially true with highly stressed fish.
6. Monitor the fish daily at a minimum. Make sure it is eating, active and no lesions, spots, swim issues, etc.
7. If all goes well, you will have another healthy fish to add to your display. If signs of disease are present, find the best method of treatment (a good disease book or resident knowledgeable person).

Transitioning to the Main Display

1. After the quarantine period is finished and the fish is healthy enough to go to the DT, begin slowly bringing the QT parameters in line with the DT.
2. Bringing parameters in line will take a few days or more. The key parameters are pH, specific gravity, and temperature. The parameters should only change by small amounts: and 1) pH .2-.4 per day 2) specific gravity 0.002 per day 3) temp should be moved up only 1 degree per day.
3. Always acclimate the fish from QT to DT. (See Acclimation Procedures: 3. Drip Acclimation)