

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BETTA CONGRESS

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IBC PET ISSUE

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT
KEEPING BETTAS AS PETS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PERCEPTIONS OF
THE PET BETTA TRADE

AN INTERVIEW WITH
SANDY MOORE
VP OF SEGREST FARMS

KEEPING BETTAS AS PETS
FROM A PET BETTA KEEPER'S PERSPECTIVE



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PHOTO BY MO DEVLIN



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SAMPLE ISSUE

This is a sample copy of the IBC publication FLARE! This issue may be distributed for educational purposes only. Regular issues of FLARE! are published six times a year exclusively to members of the IBC. For more information, please contact kayla.griffin@tulsacc.edu

HELLO IBC MEMBERS!



My name is Kayla Griffin. My passion for bettas began in 2009 when I attended my first IBC convention in June of that year.

This was just one week after Gerald and I had got married and it was not my idea of the perfect honeymoon. My views changed by the end of that weekend though. It is now a tradition for us to spend our anniversary at IBC convention.

I had never seen a betta before, (other than the sad little fishes in the cups at the local chain store where I purchased items for my dogs). When I walked into that showroom the first time my breath was taken by the beauty of these creatures. I leaned over and whispered to Gerald, "They look like butterflies in jars!" That weekend is when I decided that I wanted to become a breeder.

More than my new found infatuation with the bettas, I met some really wonderful people. The folks of the IBC that I met that weekend truly changed me. I was welcomed into their group like a long lost family member and I have considered them my extended family ever since.

I am excited to be a part of the IBC and editor of Flare! I am also a member of the Oklahoma Aquarium Association and have held the office as president of the local chapter. I am the co-chair of the education committee for the IBC, an IBC certified judge, and I was the New Breeder Grand Champion of 2012-13.

If you have any questions or would like to see anything specific please do not hesitate to let me know and I will see what I can do.

Yours truly,

Kayla Griffin

FLARE! Editor
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FLARE!

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FLARE! Submission Guidelines

Articles:

Please submit all articles in electronic form. We can accept most popular software formats and fonts. Email to kayla.griffin@tulsacc.edu. Photos and graphics are encouraged with your articles! Please remember to include the photo/graphic credits. Graphics and photo files may be submitted in any format, however uncompressed TIFF, JPEG or vector format is preferred, at the highest resolution/file size possible. If you need help with graphics files or your file is too large to email, please contact me for alternative submission info.

Chapter Reports:

All chapters are encouraged to submit news and chapter items. It is a great opportunity to attract new club members in your area. If you are a new chapter, we will also highlight you in the Welcome to the IBC section. Photos and graphics are encouraged with your articles! Please remember to include the photo/graphic credits. See the previous information on submissions.

Show Information:

Show Chairs are responsible for submitting Show Information and Show Results. Please submit results in the electronic format approved by the Judging Board Registrar. Show Ads cannot exceed ½ pages in length. The IBC Convention Ad cannot exceed two pages in length. If you need help in creating an ad please contact the editor at kayla.griffin@tulsacc.edu.

Art Submission:

Graphics and photo files may be submitted in any format. However, uncompressed TIFF, JPEG or vector formats are preferred. Please submit the highest resolution possible.

**Next deadline.....
January 31st, 2014**

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dancing with veils



GERALD GRIFFIN
IBC PRESIDENT

IT IS WITH THIS ISSUE WE HAVE SOME SAD CHANGES TO ANNOUNCE. TONYA GARRISON HAS HAD TO STEP DOWN AS THE EDITOR OF FLARE! DUE TO TIME ISSUES.

In the meantime Kayla and I are stepping in to make sure that FLARE! gets done and we are going to do the best job we can. The biggest problem with this is that Tonya set the bar so high we will probably not be able to get close to what she accomplished. If this edition is half as good as hers then we will have made progress. We hope that in time her time issues will work themselves out and she could return as editor. We all understand that this is a volunteer position and all of us have busy lives and working on anything in the IBC is a major time constraint. I would like to say Thank You to all who volunteer their precious time doing things for the Congress that make the IBC what it is today, The absolute best organization dedicated to all information on the Genus Betta!

Love them or hate them there has been a lot of discussion about Veiltails in the IBC lately and all things considered they are not going to disappear anytime soon. In a discussion with a friend from Thailand I asked, "With all of the different tail types why are the Betta farms still breeding Veiltails?" His reply was, "We consider the Veiltail to be like our Grandmother, no matter how old it might be we can never throw her out!" It was an interesting analogy and one that makes the point quite elegantly.

It is also with this issue we are exploring Bettas as pets. When Angelique first proposed a Pet issue I honestly thought she was crazy. This is the IBC what business do we have with "Pet" Bettas? After some time it actually sunk in, we all start somewhere and it is almost always with the standard "Pet shop Veiltail" that all so many of us first bought because we thought it looked pretty. Then sometime along the way we see our first "Show Betta" and then we get hooked unless you take the route I did and fall in love with the "Wild Betta Species". However no matter what you like it is very difficult to beat a "Show Betta" for beauty, ease of care or just down right attitude. For a fish they can make great pets and are capable of owner recognition. All of that in a single package. That is why the Betta is the second most common fish pet right after the Goldfish which is so often mistreated they are so often abused to death.

So with that we give you the "Pet Edition" of Flare which was the brainchild of Angelique who is a new comer to the IBC and has been working her tail off for the members of the IBC to make it Betta for us all!

So tune in for the Next Issue of FLARE! Same Betta Time.....Same Betta Channel!

“ WE ALL STARTED SOMEWHERE AND FOR MANY OF US IT WAS WITH THE HUMBLE VEILTAIL

ready set show



LARISSA WILLIAMS
JUDGING BOARD CHAIR

Hi All

We've made it through the first half of the show season! The showing break we have right now should be used for selecting the next set of show fish you'll want to have ready for the second half of the year and keeping an eye on them to make sure they're in good condition. You don't have to have them show-ready until March, but it's always a good idea to keep them trained with regular carding and flaring so they don't lose their edge.

This is also the time to be setting up your next set of spawns. Pick your lines carefully, and think about what winners you had, and how much competition there is in the various classes. Look over the class results and see if there are areas that you might want to be showing in and pick your spawning pairs. Don't forget that we like *symmetry*! A lovely oval should be formed by fins on the fish (a wide oval for short-fins and more of a circle for long-fins). In general, we like to see wide dorsals, half-moon tails (over half-moon is *not* required and sometimes puts the fish out of proportion), and anals that don't drop too low. We've seen a lot of long anal fins these last couple of years, which is partly due to the over half-moon tails, and we're thinking about starting to fault those more in the future. Be careful on your breeders and think about the overall appearance of the fish.

In March, we have a very special event coming up. The VERY FIRST Area 2 European IBC Convention is going to be held in Friedrichshafen, Germany. This is exciting and a wonderful advancement for the betta hobby in Europe. It is going to be hosted by Kampffischfreunde (KFF), March 7-9, 2014. There will be 300-400 bettas at the convention, a general membership meeting, an Area 2 Judge's meeting, and the awards ceremony. Check out their website at <http://www.kampffischfreunde.de> to find out more about the upcoming convention, and also see pictures and videos from shows in previous years. If you come to KFF in March, I'll see you there!

Smiles,

Larissa

“ PICK YOUR LINES WITH CARE AND ASSESS THE COMPETITION

beginner's guide

Bettas originated in the slow moving fresh waters in Thailand formerly known as Siam, Cambodia and other parts of South-East Asia. Because of their labyrinth organ that permits them to breathe air from the surface and take oxygen they have been most commonly found in small puddles of water, slow moving rivers and drains. This has led many to believe that these beautiful fish can live in small volumes of water but this is just not so. For any type of betta to survive both in the wild and especially in captivity may it be bred for show, pet, or breeding they need at least a minimum of 2.5 gallons or more for them to be able to thrive and prosper.

There are over 95 wild species of Bettas! With more being found and described. From *Betta imbellis*, *Betta mahachaiensis*, *Betta livida*, *Betta bellica*, *Betta enisae* and lots more in different categories from the Splendens Complex, Bellica Complex, Coccina Complex, Picta Complex, Pugnax Complex, Waseri Complex, Akarenis Complex, Foerschii Complex, Albimarginata Complex, and lots more that are not in any Complex yet or are still being formalized.

You may find out more about Wild Bettas in our IBC Species Maintenance Program that strives to ensure these Wild Bettas species still exist for generations to come.

Bettas in the wild feed voraciously whenever they can find food, from living worms, to larvae of mosquitoes to any other type of small insects.

The Veiltail Betta

Originally having been bred in Thailand for the sport of fighting from the wild form of *Betta splendens*, selective breeding developed the long veil form of this Betta. Needless to say it quickly gained the hobbyist interest for its beautiful colors and display. This Betta was and still is the most common form sold in pet shops today around the world and it was the first to be bred for its color, personality and its tail type.

The Veiltail is a longed finned betta that flows when it swims. The dorsal fins and the tail have been elongated by selective breeding to have that flowing look to the fins. Veiltails are easy to breed for their long fins. When a Veiltail flairs it has a beautiful display of puffing out his tail and other fins to look bigger than he is. He also has the

same display for an intruder as he does for a potential mate.

While the Veil Tail is not currently shown in the IBC standards it is the pioneer Betta for all the current acceptable Bettas shown in shows today.

Choosing a Pet Betta

Betta Keeping is a fun hobby but also a big responsibility from choosing a betta to keeping them healthy. A Bettas needs are basic in order to thrive. They need at least 1.5 gallons, a heater to keep their temperature between 72-82 degrees Fahrenheit and they also need a varied diet of betta pellets, frozen foods and freeze-dried foods. If the air temperature is lower than the water temperature then their tank should be covered.

While there are many ways in which one could acquire a pet betta, we will be discussing the way in which most first pet owners select a betta, from a pet shop or pet fish store. In selecting





your first fish look for liveliness, color, fins, gills. Healthy male Bettas may make some bubbles like they would for building a bubble nest. Also look at the eyes of the Betta so that are not protruding or have any visible parasites like Ick or deformities. The colors and scales should be clean and vibrant; he/she should be an active fish willing to flare at the sight of another Betta. Make sure to pick between two to three Bettas of your liking and somehow hold them against each other to see their natural display to take a good look at their fins, color, eyes and aggression. This should be a good indicator of how healthy your new pet fish will be, however this does not replace the quarantine tank with a Betta heater for a month if putting the Betta in a community tank or female Betta in a sorority tank.

Aquarium Set Ups

A proper aquarium set up for a Betta is a minimum of 1.5 gallon to 2.5 gallons, ideal 2.5 to 10 gallons or more planted with live aquarium plants and/or artificial plants.

Bettas are tropical fish meaning they need water temperatures between 76 degrees to 82 degrees Fahrenheit with a submersible heater. A Betta can also take up oxygen from the surface but still desires volumes of water to swim and thrive in. The usual Betta set up, or Betta bowls are not suitable for a Betta to live and thrive in without meticulous care.

Water changes are also important depending on how big or small the aquarium/tank it is will determine how often you will need to change water. You will also need water conditioner to take out any unwanted chlorine, chloramine or heavy metals from the tap water used.

If the Betta's tank is a five gallon or even a one gallon tank, a filter is a good idea to cycle the tank. With just a few of

water changes per week and cleaning out some of the derbies from the bottom will ensure your Betta a healthy life. Cycling a tank will help foster good bacteria in the filter and keep the fish healthy by keeping Ammonia and Nitrate levels down which are harmful to your fish.

If you're housing one Fish

1-1.5g 100% water every other day.

2.5 50% and 100% water change once a week.

3g 50% and 100% once a week.

4g-5g 50% and 100% once a week.

10g 25% once a week and 100% once a month.

For small tanks use a Turkey Boaster to remove debris from the bottom and for a five gallon tank and up use a Gavel Cleaner, it is a sucking tube that helps with cleaning gravel from waste and any uneaten food.

Small Tank Set Ups

We all know that the bigger the tank a betta fish is the better chances of that fish will thrive and prosper. We all have read that a 5g tank is about the smallest you should go for a Betta, in fact this is very true in the sense that the fish will have a lot of water to swim around in, the water quality will be better taken care of, because it will have space enough for a heater, a filter, decorations, and gravel and the betta will still have plenty of room to swim.

This article is for those that must have a smaller tank setting, say; you're renting a room, are in college at the dorms or they are the only pet allowed to have where you live.

Well here is the good news, from what has been read, researched and from others experiences with Bettas, you can keep a betta in a smaller two gallon tank up to a four gallon tank with a heater and perhaps a filter with low current since your betta likes slow moving waters. Below are some examples of a small enough yet allowed betta tanks. However do not use the bubbler for your Betta as they get their oxygen by going to the surface and breathing from their labyrinth organ which allows them to breathe air like us as well as get oxygen from their water.

The important thing to keep in mind is that you will need to do more frequent full complete water changes in smaller tanks so the bigger you go the less water changes you will have to do a day or a week. For example if it's a two gallon tank you will have to change the water every other day. If it's a three gallon tank it's twice a week. The reason for this is because of the ammonia and nitrites. (Ammonia is a compound of nitrogen and hydrogen with the formula NH_3 . It is a colorless gas with a characteristic pungent smell.) That

pungent smell is the food and poops that is decomposing in the water which is part of why we must change the water frequently once a week, at least, to prevent this smell and ammonia burns on the fish. Also the fish will secrete ammonia from its gills. So keep it clean by feeding your betta twice a day but only the amount they will eat in three minutes. Have a skip day once a week also, you can also make this day your cleaning day as well.



Also keep in mind not to add too much gravel or too many decorations to a small tank because if you do it will make the water volume even smaller. Use a few Betta approved plants, maybe some aquatic pebbles for gravel, and perhaps a small other decoration or small Betta cave. As the tank size increases you can increase the size or amount of decorations but not by too much as you still want the fish to have room to swim, exercise and enough volume of water all around.

Keeping one fish per small tank period does not make it a community tank by any means. It is a single fish tank and that beautiful fish is your Betta. So keep him happy and healthy and give him enough room to swim, clean dechlorinated water with a betta heater or adjustable heater that are now available for small tanks from two to five gallons. Also a small filter that is slow current, a varied diet of Betta Foods like betta pellets like New Life Spectrum, Betta Flakes, Frozen Baby Brine Shrimp, Freeze Dried Blood Worms and keep up with those water changes.

The Importance of Quarantine

While Bettas are mainly a single fish in a tank all to its own it is still just as important to keep a one gallon hospital tank with heater for all your bettas, in order to address any illness as quickly and effectively as possible. It is also of utmost importance to quarantine any new fish for a month before

introducing them to an already established aquarium or even a tank of their own, for in this time period you can assess whether the new fish has any parasites or illness that could damage their health or the health of other fishes.

Aquarium Décor

Bettas need hiding spots so we provide them by using aquarium approved plants that are not hard plastic because of the delicate fins of the betta. Silk plants are always good. Live water aquarium plants are also good.

Caves that come in any of the various forms that are not sharp that allow access into and out of are great for the bottom of the tank or hung in the tank. This makes sure the fish still has enough space to swim and explore.

Feeding Bettas

You can feed your betta a variety of foods that include Betta Pellets, Betta Flakes, Frozen Blood Worms, Frozen Brine Shrimp and Freeze-Dried Blood Worms and Brine Shrimp. All of these must be fed in small quantities like two small pellets once a day and then Betta Flakes once a day adding a skip day once a week to ensure proper digestion. The Frozen Blood Worms and Frozen Brine Shrimp can be fed as occasional treats.

Tank Mates for Bettas

First off Bettas are perfectly fine being alone in a tank. Secondly you should never ever house two male Bettas together unless you use a divider. Now female Bettas can be placed in a sorority in a ten gallon tank or larger with four or more females. A pecking order will be established and if one female seems to be too aggressive be prepared to remove her to her own aquarium. Also if you have a sorority tank have a one gallon hospital tank available in case one or more fall ill.

You can also house one Male or one Female Betta in a ten gallon tank with water shrimps (though they might eat those), White Clouds or Water Snails or other peaceful aquarium companions.

Female Bettas

Female Bettas unlike Male bettas can coexist together in a sorority tank in a ten gallon tank of no more than five females per ten gallons. They will establish a pecking order in which one or two of the females are the Alpha female. In order for there not to be too much damage inflicted upon on each other while establishing dominance, is to have enough hiding spots in the forms of caves, aquatic plants or other objects to break line of sight.

In order to introduce them, start with the more passive females first then add them two by two and then the most aggressive female last. Remember that before you introduce any new fish to any aquarium quarantine the females in a one gallon tank for each one. Female bettas can be as lovely as their male counterparts and can bring even more activity and liveliness to your aquarium so check out those females; you might be surprised what they do!

Betta Colors

Truly the Betta is like having a piece of the rainbow, they come in various different colors from red, blue, yellow, green, purple and just many other types of combinations and patterns. Bettas also come in the Butterfly pattern, Bi-Color and even Koi Patterns. With even more types of combinations, patterns and colors to be made!

Bettas Need Access to the Surface

Unlike most fish that only require oxygenated water for their gills Bettas also have a labyrinth organ that helps them get oxygen from the surface; this is why Bettas always need to have access to the surface. This fact however has brought many people to believe bettas just need a bit of water volume in order to survive for they think they obtain all their oxygen from the air they breathe but this is just not so. Bettas need just as much water and space in their tanks and aquariums in order to have good water and oxygenation for them to survive and thrive! Do your Betta friend a favor and get at least a two to five gallon tank with a Betta heater. They will love you for it and you will can have them possibly for at least four to five years if given the proper conditions to live and thrive.

Exercise for Your Pet Betta

For your betta to live a longer happy life they need some exercise we can provide it by showing them their reflection with a small mirror so they can flare at themselves for a



minute or two and then let them rest, at least once to twice a week, You can also help them by showing them a piece of string for them to chase around their tank.

There are just two simple ways of giving exercise to your lovely pet betta.

Teaching Tricks to Your Betta Pal!

Do you know how smart your Betta really is? You can teach him/her tricks. Yes that's right you can teach your Betta tricks, like getting him or her greeting you with kisses by mimicking you over the glass of their tanks. Jumping through hoops for food and anything you can teach your betta so as long it does not hurt them. Simple little tricks work just fine but you have to keep at it with the training by repetition and giving them something to strive for like a yummy treat!

Quick Medical Remedies for Your Betta

While we're not veterinarians and we don't hold animal doctorates or degrees there is such a thing as quick medical remedies for our pet fish if we find them with some type of illness or disease. While I won't get into each and every illness imaginable under the sea and sun I will say that there are a few good methods to take care of some illnesses. One of the most important things to do for your betta is to keep it's water temperature between 76 degrees and 82 degrees Fahrenheit and higher than 82 when the fish is sick. Also always do a complete water change when you see your fish is inactive and lethargic. If a complete water change and higher temperature does not do the trick, use Aquarium Salt as directed for the number of gallons you have. However to make it easier on you and the fish recovery I recommend using a 1 gallon hospital tank that is bare for an easy and speedy recovery. Make sure to clean all aquarium plants, gravel and ornaments to insure there is no more spreading of the disease or a relapse.



dealing with the betta skeptic

BY ANGELIQUE VASSILIOU

PHOTO BY PETER BÄRWALD

Has anyone ever told you you're too obsessed with fish? That Bettas are just boring and not interesting? That you're fishy nuts?!

Well the thing is, no one gets it like we do; no one gets the passion we have for these little, colorful, charismatic fish filled with spunk and personality. They fill our lives with joy and entertainment for hours on end and they give us something to care for and do with our lives. They give us attention and affection through the glass of their home all the time.

Others not as interested in bettas might not understand their alluring personalities, finnage, and colors. There really are so many types of bettas; from Veiltails, Half Moons, Plakats, Dragons and wild types like Imbellis, Raja, and Rubra and so much more! There's really an urge like with Pokémon cards, you just have to collect them all! Or in this case, keep them all.

So how does one deal with the non betta enthusiast? Well there's nothing you can really do about it. You just keep with your passion, your hobby, your love a beautiful fish called the betta for those people are the ones missing out on the joys of this beautiful hobby. Thank goodness there are wonderful organizations like The International Betta Congress available to us all so we can get together with other likeminded people who share the love for keeping, breeding, and showing Bettas!

Personally, I'm having an issue with my boyfriend. While he supports my love for Bettas, he doesn't understand my love, passion, and obsession for them. He is willing to support my idea of rescuing Bettas, but not breeding them because right now we are not in a suitable place economically to start a breeding project. But I do have a passion and love for these little fish and as much as my boyfriend loves me, he just does not get. He doesn't understand when I go gaga over Betta pictures, when I must go to the Betta section at

pet stores, the reason why I spend hours on end on the internet looking for information on Bettas. Why I have two books about them and want more books about them. Why I have so many types of different foods for my Bettas and am completely crazy about them. He just doesn't, though he does support me to an extent and for that I'm truly grateful. He even bought me one of those Betta books: *The Betta Handbook*, by Dr. Robert J. Goldstein, and he lets me have at least the three Bettas I currently own. Perhaps one day, once we have our own house, he might even let me have a fish room.

The important thing to remember is that even though people may not understand your passions they are almost always willing to support you no matter what their personal views are. If they love you they will be there for you in every way they can so give everyone the chance to at least show their support for your hobby, but also try to include them so they can understand how much fun betta keeping can actually be. These little fish can bring everyone together if we just let them swim into our hearts.



THE KAMPFFISCHFREUNDE

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betta splendens: mystery and myths

BY GERALD GRIFFIN
PHOTOS BY PETER BÄRWALD

The Betta also known as the Siamese Fighting Fish has earned a lot of notoriety in the pet trade for over 100 years now however it is still one of the most misunderstood fish in the aquarium



market. The Betta commonly kept is Betta splendens and is one of about 80 species of fighting fish found in South East Asia. Bettas get their name from the word "Bettah" which derives from the Thai word "Ikan Bettah" which means fighting fish. The Thai also use a word "Pla kad" which translates to "biting fish" to describe the Betta as well.

Betta splendens first came to the United States in 1910 and have been popular ever since. Since that time a number of myths have come about to be accepted by a number of people. A search on Betta Myths will not only

bring some of these to light but often times the "truth" is also wrong. So what are you to believe?

Myth One: Bettas come from fields and rice patties and live in the depressions created by large hoofed animals so therefore can live in small water cups. If not kept in these cups they would have too much room and suffocate because they cannot reach the surface.

Truth: Because of their anatomy Bettas are classified as labyrinth fish. This labyrinth organ allows the Betta to absorb oxygen directly from the air and gives them ability to live in small containers of oxygen poor water. Although this means that can be placed in little cups this is not conducive to long term care. Each Betta needs a minimum of two and one half gallons to thrive unless regular massive water changes are given on a regular basis.

Myth Two: Bettas can live in vases and eat the material on the roots of plants placed in the vases.

Truth: Bettas are carnivores and need to have protein in their diet. If they have nothing to eat they will pick at the roots of these plants. It would be similar to a person living in a forest trying to survive off of eating bark. It

might put something in the stomach but will cause starvation in the long run.

Myth Three: Bettas are Siamese Fighting Fish and will fight to the death when put together. In fact the species is so violent males will kill females instead of spawning.

Truth: Although they have been used for fighting the vast majority of fights only end up with a few torn scales and ripped fins. The fight normally ends when one of them backs down and submits. The only problem that can arise is when the two fighters are so evenly matched that neither will submit then a death can occur.

Myth Four: Bettas do not need to have their water changed.

Truth: This probably came from pet shops with very bad management of fish or lazy employees. Bettas need clean water or else they will suffer ammonia burn on their fins and gills shortening their lives.

Myth Five: Bettas only live about a year and a half.

Truth: A Bettas life span will be determined by how they are kept. If given the best conditions they can live up to ten years and I have had a pair of wild Bettas live fourteen years. However most Bettas live about two and one half years.

Myth Six: Bettas need special water.

Truth: Talk about a marketing gimmick. Bettas are highly adaptable like most aquarium fish and do fine in water from pH 5 to pH 9 from almost no hardness to very hard. As long as the Bettas are adapted to your water they will do fine. The only requirement is that they have clean water.

Myth Seven: Bettas do not need a heater.

Truth: That is true if you keep your air temperature around 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Bettas are tropical fish and require temperatures of 74 to 84 F to be in optimal health. One



problem is that they require their air temperatures to be close to water temperatures. If not then when they gulp atmospheric air they can catch "pneumonia". The easiest way to accomplish this is to tightly cover their tank.

Myth Eight: Feed a Betta as much as he can eat in three minutes.

Truth: This might work in a regular fish tank but in the confined space of a Betta bowl this will not work at all. Bettas if given foods too rich in protein and not enough fiber are prone to constipation. This will look like a swelling in their stomach and can be fatal. Feeding a Betta a pea can help. If this does not then mineral oil may need to be administered. After feeding your Betta for a while you will probably get some idea of how much food they need. The higher the temperature the more food they do need.

Bettas come in a wide range of colors and assorted fin shapes which add to their appeal in the Pet Industry. The domestic Betta is probably the number one fish sold in the pet trade. Bettas are the second oldest species kept as pets, only the gold fish has a history longer than Bettas. Bettas range in their behaviors which also help endear them to their owners. Some are flashy and aggressive; others are



more timid and free spirited. Like many animals each can have their own behavior. But why so much variation?

The modern Betta is a compilation of about 26,000 genes. They have multiple alleles for color alone on top of alleles for fin shape. Bettas can be solid color, multiple colors, patterned or marbled. This variation alone intrigues so many breeders across the world and has led to the creation of the International Betta Congress for the promotion and showing of Bettas. The showing of Bettas has led to the development of new varieties and new colors that will eventually find their way to the pet shop. Examples of these are crowntails, half-moons and double tails that were once only found in breeder stocks are now common in pet shops.

Veil Tails are the common pet shop type tail and the first of the mutations that occurred in Betta breeding. The first veil tails appeared over 100 years ago. The tail is long and droops downward. This is considered a fault in the IBC show circuit. This mutation is also dominant over the short finned.

Crowntails are defined as any Betta that has reduced webbing of the fins so that the rays extend past the fins. IBC standards are specific as to how far they should extend however a number of fish fall outside the standards. Ideally the webbing should only extend to about half of the length of the rays.

Halfmoons are defined as any Betta that has a tail spread of 180 degrees. The tails edge should be crisp and look like a half circle. These can appear in both long finned and short finned varieties. Any spread over 180 degrees is commonly

referred to as Over Half Moon (OHM). There are many fish out there that are claimed to be half-moon that are clearly not. Also beware of stocks claiming half-moon geno. Half Moon is a phenotype so either the fish is or is not.

Plakats (Pla Kad) are the short finned version which is the preferred form in Asia. Both males and females have short fins which is recessive to long finned. Female plakats are very difficult to distinguish between their long finned sisters. Plakats can come in any of the other tail types except veil tail.

Delta Tail is defined as a tail spread of 120 degrees forming a triangle. Fin margins should be crisp and well defined.

Super Delta Tail is defined as a tail spread of over 120 degrees but less than 180 degrees. The majority of IBC show stocks fall into this category. These fish can produce half-moon stocks.

Round Tails are defined as any fish having a circular tail. There will be varying degrees of how round the tail is but for the most part the margins will be rounded with no sharp edges.

So if you are looking for a "Pet" fish then a Betta is the right pet. They can be found in almost any color. They are relatively easy to care for given the right environment. They are pretty immune to disease and can be quite entertaining and each can have its own personality. These are the qualities that many Betta owners love and the reasons why they are the most common pet fish in the United States. Note, more goldfish are sold than Bettas but they are housed incorrectly and die horrible deaths.



perceptions *of the* betta pet trade

Since this is the Pet Betta edition I decided to take a look at IBC members opinions on Pet Shop Bettas and then take a look at how the Bettas end up in the Pet Shop and what they go through to end up in the Pet Shop. I conclude this article with an Interview with Sandy Moore who is the Vice President of Segrest Farms.

In a poll of the IBC Facebook Group 66 respondents answered with the following question.

How confident are you in buying Bettas at your local pet shop?

- 13 Very Confident
- 9 Somewhat Confident
- 33 Not that Confident
- 11 Would never consider this at all



That means that exactly half of the respondents would not consider and that over 16% would never buy a pet shop betta. While in contrast over 19% have no issue with

buying one. Why is there so much variance in how IBC members view pet shops? Well let's take a look at how some of them replied. A good number of the respondents were concerned about the health of the Bettas in the local pet shops. Rebecca reports "all of the Bettas at our local shop are usually pretty sick, but I rescue them anyways. They don't deserve to be stuck there." Sherolyn reports "Because a pet shop does not sell what I want and I am anal about disease. I have seen too many sick fish in the last few years." Again these are opinions although they sound bad. As too the Not Confident folks they expressed their concerns in not being to find what they were wanting. Jamie reports "I don't buy fish from pet stores, buy my breeding partner does IF they are close to the standard. She has found me some really lovely CT females that way. I prefer to buy from breeders or get them from my Betta friends!" Martin points out "It takes skill, time, patience and some luck when purchasing from a pet shop. For those just starting out in the hobby or still learning about show, I recommend going to an established breeder who can help you select quality pairs while discussing the pros and cons of each fish." Martin also goes on with "For me the real answer is between not so confident and somewhat confident. Finding a good one is like finding a needle in a haystack and with a good eye it can be done over time (same can be argued with Aquabid). I'm not so confident in finding a genetically related mate at the same store and breeding it to what is already at home is a gamble in terms of quality offspring the first generation." One can totally see Martin's points. On the other end of things we have over 13% Somewhat Confident. Ephie reports "For me it

depends on the store, some of them are awesome while others...not so much. But I love how every once in a while you can find some really good fish." Christine reports "My Petsmart seems to take pretty good care of their Bettas, but they mostly have the quality of the fish you'd find at Wal Mart." Almost 20% of the respondents fell into the very confident category. For them disease was not an issue and it was the availability of good fish without having to try to import themselves. Kim reports "I have noticed a lot of negativity in the various groups/forums/boards when it comes to pet store Bettas. I can appreciate the concern for disease but at a fraction of the price of imports, the fact that they generally come with a warranty more than live arrival, you can see it before you buy it, and no shipping costs...seems less risky to me." Kim also goes on "It's my understanding that they hand pick the best of the best for outlets like aquabid and the rest are bulk shipped to distributors to supply pet stores. If that is true, then it seems very likely to find some quality fish." The case being is that that is actually true.

Richard reports "It's not about pet store Bettas as a whole. I might go in the local Petco 10 or 15 times before I actually buy one Betta. If I think it's something that would improve on a line I already have or a color I don't have."

As to my experiences I have been around fish and fish events for the vast majority of my life. I know fish! However honestly I had never considered places like Petco or Petsmart for quality Bettas. One day Kurt Bihlmayer and I were running around town and he wanted to check out Petco for their latest imports. I figured why not and I was a bit surprised when I went in there. I was expecting the "Wal Mart" quality Veiltails and was very shocked they had Plakats, Halfmoons and Doubletails. As with any fish you want to breed you have to look for quality however we found quality stock. Granted, as an IBC member who goes to several shows I have access to huge supplies of quality fish however surprisingly enough I find Bettas at Petsmart and Petco that I would not even think twice about putting into my breeding programs. When Kayla was going for New Breeder of the Year her Crowntail line originated from Petsmart and her Halfmoon lines were a combination of Petco stocks crossed in with Karen MacAuley and Sieg



Illig's lines. They made for some very interesting crosses. As a "Fish Speaker" at many events Kayla and I travel the US and we often times like to look at the local pet shops to see what they have. Sometimes when its not Bettas that capture our attention is "OMG will we be able to get them home alive?" To OK we can pass. When its Bettas there is no issue getting them home alive. In our travels looking at the Bettas we have encountered some very interesting experiments and as experienced breeders we can see where the fish came from and what they were trying to do

with that line. We have encountered Veiltail Crowntails, Doubletail Crowntails, and Crowntail Plakats. Granted they were not the best of the best but they would have been enough to give a new breeder a good start.

I am also going to point out that for a chain store both Petco and Petsmart do a good job keeping their stores clean and keeping healthy stocks. It is their business, if they do not do this then they go out of business. The vast majority of times when a store is not looking like it should it is

because of the employees not doing what they should. It could be the manager not doing what they should or the subordinates not doing what they should. I will use Tulsa as a good example. We do not hesitate to buy fish from 5 out of the 6 Petcos/Petsmarts here. There is one store that is not up to standards. We have been told they are working on it. In one Petsmart in particular we are friends with the Manager and several of the employees. They take their job serious and do their best to maintain their pets in the best conditions possible and to educate people buying pets. I have seen this time and time again across the US. So for us, we don't think twice about buying in one of these places. You could argue that in buying one of these fish you don't know the background of the fish. Well that is true however I can say the same thing for Aquabid, unless you know who you are really dealing with some of them will tell you anything you want to hear to make the purchase and then you discover the truth. I can say in all the time we have been breeding Bettas we have never had a disease come from a Petco/Petsmart Betta. In the end it is all up to the consumer and my best advice is let the buyer beware! Know the standards and look for fish that fit the standard and what you want to accomplish.

a look inside *the* betta pet trade

In the conclusion of our examination of the Pet Betta I look into Segrest Farms as a large number of the Bettas in the pet trade in the US originates from Segrest Farms. Sandy Moore, the Vice President of Segrest Farms has agreed to speak with me on some questions and perceptions that members of the Betta Community have regarding Pet Shop Bettas.

For those that do not know Sandy Moore she is the Vice President at Segrest Farms. She is familiar with every facet of the operation of Segrest and often travels to events promoting Segrest Farms. Her knowledge of fish as well other animals is quite comprehensive. She is a joy to talk too as well as having a wonderful sense of humor.

GERALD:
How do you safeguard the health of your Bettas?

SANDY:
The fish are visually inspected upon arrival at the consolidator, and upon arrival to each of our facilities.

We are keenly aware of the stressors that shipping and holding, at the consolidators in Thailand, in transit to our facilities, and at our facilities. We take every precaution to make sure the fish are handled in a sanitary and safe manner during each transition.

GERALD:
Where do your Bettas come from?

SANDY:
We buy our bettas from Thailand, from farms that I have visited/inspected on a bi-annual basis. Our vet team works with each of our vendors on proper husbandry and treatment protocol.

Bettas from a pet store and bettas sold over internet sites by and large all come from the same sources. It's in the consumers' best interest to know what kind of control over the supply chain their source has.

GERALD:
I have heard from some sources mainly managers at one of the large chains that you are thinking about raising your own Bettas on site at Segrest, is there any truth to that?

SANDY:
We don't raise bettas in the US because the cost of real estate and the cost of labor would price bettas out of the market, possibly a 100% increase in cost. That kind of increase would significantly lessen the volume of these fish sold, with no significant benefit to the husbandry and welfare of the fish. We do, however, raise quite a number of other fish at our farms in Florida.

“**SEGREST FARMS IS THE INDUSTRY LEADER FOR WHOLESALE ORNAMENTAL FISH, SUPPLYING PET STORES, PUBLIC AQUARIUMS, AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS SINCE 1961. PREMIUM QUALITY AND UNMATCHED VARIETY OF FRESHWATER TROPICAL & COLDWATER FISH, GLOFISH®, SALTWATER SPECIMENS, AQUATIC PLANTS, AND REPTILES, SUPPORTED BY FIRST CLASS CUSTOMER SERVICE AND DISTRIBUTION.**”

GERALD:

There are some in the Betta Community that would consider a Pet Shop Betta as unsafe. What would you say to that?

SANDY:

I really don't have any idea why someone would draw the conclusion that pet store bettas are in some way unsafe. Other than if someone was trying to market their own bettas over what is available through pet stores?

GERALD:

What would you say to someone who was considering buying a fish at a Pet Shop?

SANDY:

I think that your constituency should make their buying decisions based upon the quality of fish in the store, not about which store it is. The quality of the fish has a great deal to do with how they are handled and cared for upon arrival.

GERALD:

What kind of Bettas are available?

SANDY:

We carry a wide variety of bettas, and do special orders for retailers that have something specific in mind. I've been a betta snob for years and pride ourselves as carrying some of the nicest commercially available fish on the market. There will always be a market for smaller, cheaper fish, and there will always be a market for quality fish. We always put quality first.

On behalf of all our members, sincere thanks to Sandy for to speaking with me on the Pet Shop Trade of Bettas. Her insights have been interesting and informative.



Two big chain Pet Shop finds, the one on the top found by Kim Hood and the one below found by Christina Oldham. This just goes to show that if you look hard enough you will find that "Diamond in the Rough".



*Above and left, Segrest Farms house their bettas in a flow through device that keeps the fish in those containers in a continual supply of fresh water
Photos by Mo Devlin*



IBC JUDGES

Area	Judges Name	Country/State
1	Amit Pandya	US, California
1	Christine Tanner	US, California
1	Gilbert Limhengco	US, California
1	Larissa Williams	US, California
1	Linda Olson	US, Colorado
1	Phil Dorr	US, Colorado
1	Leo Buss	US, Connecticut
1	Rich Creighton	US, Connecticut
1	Amy Becerra	US, Florida
1	Connie Emery	US, Florida
1	Joe Becerra	US, Florida
1	Paul Ogles	US, Florida
1	Kendra Watson	US, Georgia
1	Kurt Bihlmayer	US, Illinois
1	Dan Young	US, Indiana
1	Gene Lucas	US, Iowa
1	Jeff Hiller	US, Kansas
1	Damian Garcia	US, Nevada
1	J. D. Ewtuch	US, New Jersey
1	Joe Cooper	US, New Mexico
1	Rich Christman	US, New York
1	Robert Plenge	US, New York
1	Carolyn Hanlon	US, Ohio
1	Gerald Griffin	US, Oklahoma
1	Kayla Griffin	US, Oklahoma
1	Siegbert Illig	US, Pennsylvania
1	Eryn Rosenbaum	US, Texas
1	Igor Prpic	US, Texas
1	Walden Nida	US, Texas
1	Bob Dozier	US, Virginia
1	David Spector	US, Washington
2	Josip Kevari	Austria
2	Charles Baille	France
2	Patrice Delaroche	France
2	Florent Philipot	France
2	Yvan Perre`	France
2	Manuela Baerwald	Germany
2	Patrick Hans	Germany
2	Joachim Menz	Germany*
2	Peter Baerwald	Germany*
2	Claire Pavia	Switzerland*
2	Jean-Michel Jeannerat	Switzerland*
2	Rajiv Masillamoni	Switzerland*
2	Sabrina Dichne	Switzerland*
6	Ferdinand Dominikus	Indonesia
6	Jeanine Heisye (Eto) Atmadjaja	Indonesia
6	Joty Atmadjaja	Indonesia
6	Martinus Johan Mosi	Indonesia
6	Onnys F. Sundaka	Indonesia
6	Hermanus Haryanto	Indonesia*
6	Hiroki Ishizu	Japan**
6	Bobby Chua	Malaysia
6	Emerson Sy	Philippines
6	Eric Tiu	Philippines
6	Gary Ching	Philippines
6	Mark Lester Hao	Philippines
6	David Poh Bun Chuan	Singapore

Area	Judges Name	Country/State
6	Dr. Hsu Li Chieh	Singapore
6	Edwin Lim	Singapore
6	Joseph Ong	Singapore
6	Robin Wong Chi Wah	Singapore
6	Thomas Lim	Singapore
6	Widy Kiswanto	Singapore
6	Jesda Attavichitchanyarak	Thailand
7	Jessica Brett	Australia***
7	Jodi Lea-Matheson	Australia***
7	Michael Chang	Australia***
7	Paul Yeo	Australia***
7	Todd Knight	Australia***
7	Vanessa Flett	Australia***

* For all areas certified
 ** certified areas 3 & 6
 *** certified areas 6 & 7

IBC APPRENTICES

Area	Apprentice Name	Country/State
1	Jonathan Limhengco	US, California
1	Gianne Souza	US, California
1	Joe Green	US, Texas
1	Lori Green	US, Texas
1	Rick Mallett	US, Florida
1	Cecilia Mallett	US, Florida
1	Stacy Fenhaus (née Deaton)	US, Arizona
1	Sherolyn Craig	US, Texas
2	Eugenio Fornasiero	Italy
2	Alberto Montalbetti	Italy
2	James King	Czech
2	Sven Wagner	Germany
6	Elmer Manansala	Philippines
6	Sahal Abdul	Indonesia
6	Jimmy Nallas	Indonesia
6	Piwi Huang	Indonesia



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM EVERYONE AT THE IBC

MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE SAFE AND JOYOUS

becoming a new member of the IBC

BY ANGELIQUE VASSILIOU

PHOTO BY PETER BÄRWALD

We have all been there in fact we must have in order to be where we are today, we were all and are new members of the IBC. But what drove us to becoming an IBC member varies for everyone, though one thing rings true for us all, Bettas are the fish that drove us to becoming a part of the IBC in one point in time.

I myself just recently joined the IBC, in fact it was in April 1, 2013. Now the thing about it though is that, I have been pondering on joining the IBC for almost 1 year and a half, yes, you read correctly one year and a half. Why you ask? Well the reason I pondered for so long in joining the IBC was because I have never gotten into breeding bettas and even now I simply don't have the place, money or the equipment for breeding them, nor showing them. But I figured if anything else I can get a lot of valuable information on how to keep betas healthy and happy.

Well it wasn't long that after fighting it for so long, I decided to take the plunge and join The International Betta Congress. I have visited the site so many times over the year 2012 and I just could not wait any longer. So I sent my payment, logged to the IBC Forums, BetterBettas Yahoo Group and made myself known. Boy have I ever made myself known and I'm super glad I have too!

I quickly contacted Jeremy in order to join the Flare! Committee I even gave a few ideas for new articles, one is the Pet Bettas Issue! Yes one of my ideas became a full issue! Then Cecilia contacted everyone for Blog post and I happily volunteered to be of service the best part was she actually posted one of my blogs on the IBC Website! Wow! All of this in a couple of months of being here too! This is really only the tip of the tail really I have also volunteered to

translate some things for the IBC to Spanish, since I'm both fluent in Spanish and English This is just my own way of being part of the IBC and being able to make a positive impact to this organization even in a small way.

A few months ago I think around June, Gerald Griffin posted on our Yahoo Group about the Species Maintenance Program and I simply fell in love with the idea of being able to preserve wild species for generations to come. In having read all the SMP is about I have decided that when I do start breeding I want to be breed for the Species Maintenance Program while also doing a line of Fancy Bettas. Knowing such a wonderful program exist has fueled my passion for breeding and getting into it even more now.

This of course is in the future hopefully the near future but for now I'm happy to be of service in some small way. My point is even if you cannot breed and show bettas there is still a lot to do for **your** International Betta Congress and there is more than one way to be part of this organization.



So take the time if you can and volunteer it's really worth it. It has been for me at least. I thought there was no point in joining, but now it's there is no point in **not** joining.

In joining the IBC not only have I learned a lot about bettas and gained valuable knowledge I have also gain great friends too who also understand the wonders and beauty of bettas as well! I have made truly great betta friends while chatting on the forums, yahoo groups and Facebook, Joe Becerra, Kayla and Gerald Griffin, Jeremy, Cecilia and Rick Mallet, Peter from Germany, Larissa, Lori, Richard A, Tonya Garrison, Sherolyn Craig, Mike McBrien and so many more I simply cannot name all of you, I would but I'd have a full page! But simply knowing you all have made joining and being part of the IBC an incredible wonderful experience, I'm hoping that I'm able to save enough money for next

year's IBC Convention in San Jose, California because I want to meet each and every one of you in person and also be able to finally witness an IBC Betta Show!

While it's hard to start as a new IBC Member not knowing what to do, what everything means and how it all works is worthwhile joining it, everyone is new to something at one point or another that's why we have mentors and teachers to help us along the way, here at the IBC we have wonderful experienced breeders and volunteers to help us learn and educate ourselves about bettas and everyone is friendly and willing to help so jump in the water is fine here at the IBC and make your mark, after all us new members of the IBC are the future of the IBC.

Hope to meet you all at the 2014 IBC Convention!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO THE IBC!

Preecha Ammara
Noppakorn Ammara
Kayla Anderson
Lomlaw Anucha
Jessica Arel
Jack Armstrong
Dean Bambino
Tony & Jeanette Benjamin
Ian Blixt
Lee Yong Fook Boey
Marc Brown
Chris Brown
Heidi & Andrew Burkle
Tanadol Chattong
Sirinut Chimplee
Samuel Chin
Jun Hong Choong
Dennis Clow
Hayden Conner
Tri Dam
Pamela Eggleston
Shannon Ellis
Kara Ellison
Pedro Emilio
William Gibson
Robert Goldstein
Rafael Guerra

Kurt Hodelmann
Kimberly Hood
Stephanie Hui
Phaithun Iamsrisuwan
Sherwin Jabines
Kanravee Jaruwatmontree
Vitoon Karvibush
Danai Kengprathomporn
Holly Kizewski
Narisa Laungcharoen
Laddayu Limprasert
Jennifer Loyd
Derek Manns
Arnat Matakko
Alisha Meyer
Simon Moss
Anthony Mundy
William Nesmith
Jeanie Parnprome
Natasha Patten
Nathan Payne
Chainarin Phuengwattanapanich
Nina Marie Pointinger
Mike & Betty Posey
Apiwat Prangkaew
Chamchan Pronpat
Natee Rattanapichet

Sornkanchat Roong-Intra
William Russell
Alejandro Salloum Fernandez
Thitipong Sangkarin
Yuttanawee Sangsawang
Ponpal Sanya
Jill Scharmann
Aaron Schultz
Kelly Dawn Schultz
Elizabeth Sgrillo
Robin Shemela
Mark & Anita Simich
Wannaweak Siwat
Andrej, Damir & Jugoslava Smailagic
Alyshia Smith
Maryann Suttie
Jin Lim Tiong
Bonnie van Delft
Robert Virnig
Billie (Aryia) Wang
Kitti Watcharaworatham
Andrea Weis
Tracey Westbrooks
Gary Williams
Richard Wright
Nopporn Yadbantoong
Samantha Zahn

SHOW SCHEDULE

JANUARY–JUNE 2014

AREA 1 – NORTH AMERICA				
Date	Chapter	Show Chair	Location	Website
April 5	St.Louis Betta Society	Steve Christian	TBD, Missouri	
April 19	Golden State Bettas	Yvonne Chaban	TBD, Southern California	
May 3	Midwest Betta Club	Tracy Benson	Chesterfield, Indiana	
May 17	First Coast Bettas of Florida	Connie Emery	TBD, Florida	
June TBD	AREA 1 IBC CONVENTION hosted by California Betta Society	Jeremy Waugh	San Jose, California	

AREA 2 - EUROPE				
Date	Chapter	Show Chair	Location	Website
March 7-9	AREA 2 IBC CONVENTION, hosted by Kampffischfreunde	Peter Baerwald	Friedrichshafen, Germany	www.kampffischfreunde.de

AREA 6 - SOUTHERN ASIA				
Date	Chapter	Show Chair	Location	Website

AREA 7 - AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND				
Date	Chapter	Show Chair	Location	Website
April 6	Betta Australis		Caboolture, Queensland	www.bettaaustralis.com
May 18	Victoria Betta	Madeline Kiel	Clifton Hill, Victoria	www.victoriabetta.com

PHOTOS BY PETER BÄRWALD



AREA 1 SHOW POINTS STANDINGS

Entrant	Total Division Points	Warren Young Memorial Points	Show Year Points Total	Rank
Sherolyn Craig	1110	340	1450	1
Mike Cuaresma	410	100	510	2
Sieg & Judy Illig	385	80	465	3
Yvonne Chaban	410		410	4
Richard Laughery	350		350	5
Elizabeth Hahn	220	100	320	6
Gianne Souza	210	100	310	7
Karen MacAuley	285		285	8
Leo Buss	135	80	215	9
Bobbi Walters	185		185	10
John Leach	125		125	11
Kendra Watson	100		100	12
Patrick Henry	90		90	13
Daniel Young	80		80	14
John Metzger	80		80	14
Phil Dorr	75		75	16

CODE OF ETHICS

The International Betta Congress (IBC or The Congress) welcomes everyone who is interested in bettas, whether new at owning and/or raising bettas or an old pro who has raised thousands. The IBC feels there is room for all betta enthusiasts, be it young or old, new or experienced, individuals, families, teams or commercial breeders. The IBC is a club of individuals, families, teams, and commercial breeders who support the keeping, breeding, and/or the showing of bettas bred by our members; the research into the genetics of the betta species, and support of the preservation of the wild species through the Species Maintenance Program.

It is IBC policy that members who sell, trade or give bettas to others must represent the description of such bettas in a proper manner, so as to assure that the buyers, consumers or recipients are not misled. An intentional misrepresentation would be a violation of the IBC policy and Code of Ethics. Moreover, it is the policy of the IBC, that when bettas are entered in a show, all such bettas should be raised and bred by the entrant or exhibitor unless clearly stated otherwise. Failure to comply with this policy would be contrary to the IBC Code of Ethics.

The IBC does not participate in the fighting of fish for any reason and does not condone the fighting of bettas by others; nor does it support any individual or organization that does.

The IBC expects all members to conduct transactions with all parties in a responsible, fair and ethical manner, in all dealings concerning the purchase and sale of betta stock and supplies. While we hope that all disputes be amicably resolved among the parties, the Congress, however, is not an enforcement agency for the transaction of betta stock and/or supplies, nor can the IBC mediate disputes involving members or any individuals over said transactions. In the interest of fairness, the IBC does not endorse individual business enterprises, and does not allow the promotion of those enterprises in posts on the IBC website, its forums or discussion lists, whether they are personal testimonials or commercial advertisements.

The IBC believes that if all members abide by these simple guidelines we will have a happy, fun and stimulating club.



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Member-at-Large	Jeremy Waugh	ebmember2@ibcbettas.org
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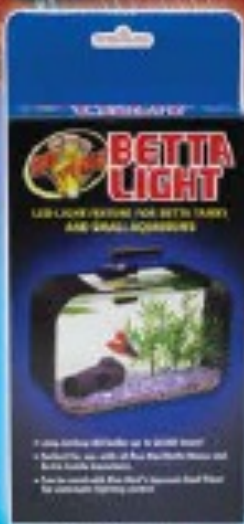


IBC CHAPTERS

AREA 1	CHAPTER	CONTACT PERSON	LOCATION
District 1	Arizona Betta HEAD's	Stacy Fenhaus	Arizona
District 1	California Betta Society	Nelson Snook	San Francisco, California
District 1	Golden State Bettas	Christine Tanner	Los Angeles, California
District 2	Lone Star Betta Club	Lori Green	Midlothian, Texas
District 2	Oklahoma Betta Breeders Association	Gerald Griffin	Tulsa, Oklahoma
District 2	Texas Betta Society	Igor Prpic	Dallas, Texas
District 2	Betta Enthusiasts of South Texas	Sherolyn Craig	San Antonio, Texas
District 2	SCUBA	Kayla Griffin	Texas and Oklahoma
District 2	Betta Habari Society		Houston, Texas
District 3	Midwest Betta Club	Dan Young	Andersonville, Indiana
District 3	St. Louis Betta Society	Steve Christian	St. Louis, Missouri
District 4	Central New York Betta Club	Carlos Pereyra	New York
District 4	Connecticut Betta Club	Dan Maldonado	Connecticut
District 4	Mid-Atlantic Organized Betta Breeders	Bob Dozier	Virginia
District 4	Eastern Betta Society	Anthony Looney	West Virginia
District 4	Pennsylvania Betta Association	Bill Snyder	Pennsylvania
District 4	Pennsylvania Betta Society	Joanna Taylor	Pennsylvania
District 5	First Coast Bettas of Florida	Connie Emery	Northern Florida
District 5	Georgia Betta Breeders Association	Dick Houston	Georgia
District 6	Betta Breeders Canada	Heather Caseley	Canada
AREA 2	CHAPTER	CONTACT PERSON	LOCATION
	Associazione Italiana Betta	Roberto Silverii	Italy
	Associazione Mediterranea Bettofili Italiani	Butera Massimo	Italy
	Betta Svijet	Josip Kevari	Croatia
	European Betta Friends	Joachim Menz	Germany
	Kampffischfreunde	Peter Baerwald	Germany
	Swiss Betta Club	Claire Pavia	Switzerland
	Splendenspower CZ	James King	Czech Republic
AREA 6	CHAPTER	CONTACT PERSON	LOCATION
	Asian Betta Alliance	Emerson Sy	Philippines
	Betta Club Singapore	Dr. Li Chieh Hsu	Singapore
	Betta Club of Indonesia	Hermanus Haryanto	Indonesia
	Indo Betta Splendens InBS	Joty Atmadjaja	Indonesia
	Betta Society of Malaysia	Colin Chin	Malaysia
	Singapore Betta Congress	Alfur Tan	Singapore
	Team Xtreme Singapore	David Poh	Singapore
	Team Betta Buddies	Bobby Chua	Malaysia
AREA 7	CHAPTER	CONTACT PERSON	LOCATION
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	Victoria Betta	Michael Chang	Australia
	Sydney Splendens Society	David Lo	Australia



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FLARE!?

Email kayla.griffin@tulsacc.edu

Last Month's Cover



I hope you have enjoyed this issue and that more of
you feel like contributing to FLARE! Next Year!

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