

Fish Adoption Contract



Animal Shelter Inc - 17 Laurelwood Road - Sterling MA 01564
 (978) 422-8585 phone - www.SterlingShelter.org - staff@sterlingshelter.org
 Updated 04/20/2021

Thank you for deciding to adopt from our organization. Construction of our 65,000 gallon pond began in 2016. The original goal was to improve a neglected containment pond at the entrance of our shelter. This turned into an extensive three year project. We never thought about rescuing fish until we were contacted in May of 2019, about rescuing some abandoned fish that were left at a foreclosure property. We decided to pack up some nets and buckets, rounded up the abandoned fish, and Fish Rescue was born.

While we have a good group of volunteers, there are still a lot of expenses incurred in maintaining the pond and continuing to offer services to rescue the fish. Sometimes we get donations when owners surrender their fish, most of the time we do not. So we do ask for help on the adoption side to help offset our expenses. These costs are discounted from retail prices, and it helps us continue our Fish Rescue operations.

Effective June 2020 - Subject to change without notice and our discretion.

Fish / Size	Qty 1-5	Qty 6-10 (10% Disc)	Qty 11-15 (20% Disc)	Over 15 (30% Disc)	Enter Qty	Total
Goldfish 1"- 6"	\$10	\$9.00	\$8.00	\$7.00		
Goldfish 6"-12"	\$20	\$18.00	\$16.00	\$14.00		
Goldfish > 12"	\$30	\$27.00	\$24.00	\$21.00		
Koi up to 6 in.	\$30	\$27.00	\$24.00	\$21.00		
Koi 6-12-in	\$50	\$45.00	\$40.00	\$35.00		
Koi 12-18 in.	\$125	\$112.50	\$100.00	\$87.50		
Rare Exotic	TBD					
Plastic Tub	\$10					
5 Gallon Bucket	\$7					
Misc					Total	\$

My signature below acknowledges the following:

1. Animal Shelter Inc makes no guarantee of the health of the fish being adopted.
2. I will follow all quarantine and acclimation procedures before adding the fish to my pond.
3. Any costs charged might not be tax deductible. Any donations made above and beyond the set costs might be tax deductible. I will check with a qualified accountant for any clarification.

Name:	Steet:
Phone:	City:
Email:	State: Zip:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Fish Adoption Procedures and Recommendations

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When you arrive at the shelter (by appointment only) we will show you the fish that are available. If you decide there are fish that you want to adopt we will prepare your containers, or the containers that we have for sale. We will fill the containers about half way, net your fish, then move the containers to your vehicle. Then we will add more pond water. We may also add some salt to the water, which helps reduce the stress on the fish.

Our staff and volunteers will determine a safe amount of fish per container based on the size of the fish and container, and the distance you will be traveling. If the containers that you brought are deemed insufficient we usually have containers for sale.

In an ideal world you will have a separate holding area at your pond to quarantine the fish for up to two weeks before adding them to your pond. This is really the only way to minimize the risk of the adopted fish from contaminating your pond, if they have any disease, fungus or parasites.

If a 2 week quarantine in a separate holding area is not realistic, we recommend the following. Understand there are always risks that you may introduce a disease, fungus or parasites into your pond. It's just the reality of dealing with living organisms.

These are only our recommendations, and we do not guarantee the health or well being regardless of the procedures that you follow to introduce your adopted fish to your pond:

1. Probably the most important consideration is temperature. If nothing else, use a thermometer, and check the temperature of your pond, and the temperature of the water in the fish container.
2. If the temperature of your pond and the container are within 5 degrees of each other, then remove about half of the water from the container, before removing it from your vehicle. Move the container close to your pond or wherever you can safely store the container. Then refill the container with your pond water.
3. If the temperature difference is more than 5 degrees, we recommend removing 1 gallon from the container, then adding 1 gallon from your pond. If the container is too heavy to remove from your vehicle, then leave the container in your vehicle, or use another container and slowly move the water and fish to the new container one gallon at a time, moving the fish at the halfway point. Continuously monitor the temperature of the container water, and try to maintain a temperature acclimation rate of 1 degree per hour. So after adding one gallon of your pond water, check the temperature in the container after one hour. If the temperature has moved 1 degree closer to your pond temperature, then remove another gallon, and add another gallon from your pond. Do this over several hours until you are as close as you can get.
4. After the temperature acclimation is completed, we recommend adding xxxx of pond salt (do not use table salt) to the container and holding the fish for a 24 hour period. We also recommend adding air with a pump and diffuser. Salt does a lot of things, it reduces stress, and helps give the fish a good slime coat. During this time make sure no predators can get to the fish. Cover the container, or store it in a garage.
5. After the 24 hours, move the container as close as you can to the pond, net the fish and release into the pond. Do not dump the water in your pond. Dispose of the water in a separate area where it will not run back into your pond.