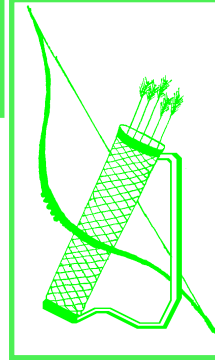


# Robin Hood Aquarists

Founded 1992

This booklet contains full details of our Code of Practice and Terms and Conditions for the sale of items at auctions that we hold.



Pages 2 & 3 contain our commitment to the **Welfare of the Livestock** that we sell.

Pages 4 & 5 contain our **General Terms and Conditions of sale**.

Pages 6 & 7 contain **Useful Tips** and information with regard to buying and selling at auctions and shops.

Page 8 contains a **Glossary of Terms** used during our auctions.

## **Important message to sellers**

Written confirmation must be submitted to the show secretary via email that the content of this booklet have been read, understood and that the exhibitor/seller will comply, before a lot number can be issued

Please note new or revised conditions in this edition:-

### **Buyers:-**

We will NOT sell any livestock that needs to be kept in warm conditions if you are not in possession of a thermal box with a lid or a sealable thermal bag, so you will not be able to bid on such items.

### **Sellers:-**

Along with the common or scientific name of the livestock please also include on the label the water type that they have been kept and reared in.

Other amendments have also been made.

To enter a lot & be given a lot number you must have read and agree to the contents of this booklet, in writing to the Show Secretary.

**FISH WELFARE IS OUR NUMBER 1 PRIORITY.**

To ensure the highest standards of care, these are our fish bagging, labelling and transporting rules. We are going to be rigid in implementing them. Entries not meeting these criteria will be rejected. There will be **NO** exceptions.

Please read **CAREFULLY** the following:-

**1.** No entries will be accepted for auction which are in a distressed state. By this we mean fish looking sickly, showing signs of disease or failing to maintain a normal swimming position. This applies to lots on display or in holding boxes.

**2.** There have been a few recent auctions where pairs of aggressive fish have been bagged together. It is not unknown for one half of a pair to kill the other when bagged together.

ALL pairs of aggressive species must be bagged separately. This includes cichlids (especially Rift Valley species), killifish and Bettas. If in doubt check with us for advice in advance of the auction or just bag them separately anyway.

**3.** WITHOUT EXCEPTION, no entries will be accepted where a fish has died in the bag in transit. This includes entries bagged separately & tied together as a pair/trio and applies to lots on display or in holding boxes. These bags will be returned to the owner for immediate re-bagging. Any surviving fish from these entries will not be auctioned after the affected fish has been removed.

**4.** Bags should be of sufficient strength to remain inflated.

No deflated bags will be auctioned. These will require re-bagging by the owner. If a bag loses air it will be returned to you for attention & not sold. Fish should be bagged with the internal volume being a minimum of 2/3 or more of air. It is acceptable to use food grade plastic containers and buckets or glass food jars for large fish. In these cases, the 2/3 air recommendation does not apply as the lid can be periodically opened to allow air exchange.

**5.** Where possible bags should be double bagged with the 2nd outer bag inverted so the neck goes into the outer bag first. This 'rounds off' the corners & strengthens the bag. This is essential for fish with spines, such as cichlids and catfish. For other fish, single bags are OK if they are of sufficient thickness. Single bags should have the corners taped up or be of the type that are manufactured with rounded corners. Fish do get trapped in these corners & this is a simple step to avoid this area of stress.

**6.** We will not knowingly accept for auction any species that are included on any CITES endangered or at risk listing. This also includes plant species that are known to endanger the native natural environment and invasive species identified by DEFRA and which are prohibited for trading or resale.

**7.** The auction team reserves the right to refuse to sell any fish deemed to be a 'tank-busting' species. These are defined as species that grow too large and not suitable to be kept in aquaria.

**8.** If a lot contains multiple contraventions of these rules, the whole lot, on the decision of the auctioneer or club chairman, will be removed from the auction and handed back to the owner. The decision of the auctioneer or chairman is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

**9.** If you are NOT in possession of a thermal box with a lid or a thermal bag that has a sealable opening, then we will NOT be able to sell tropical livestock to you that need to be kept in warm conditions.

These rules are designed to maintain the highest levels of care for the fish being sold.

By entering fish into our auction for sale, you agree to comply by them, many thanks.

**The following should be read in conjunction with the Fish Welfare content on page 2 of this Code of Practice for sale of items at Robin Hood Aquarists Auctions.**

**General Rules of Sale.**

A commission of 15% will be deducted from all sale prices.

The minimum starting price for an item will be £1.00, so please present your items within the lot appropriately.

Sellers ***MUST*** be in the auction room at the time of sale of their lot. In the case of a Robin Hood Aquarists member then either they or an appointed agent, who has knowledge of the items within the lot may act on their behalf. The name of the seller will be announced prior to the commencement of each lot, as it comes up for sale.

A member of the auction team ***MUST*** immediately, be made aware of any errors at ***THE POINT OF SALE***, as they cannot be corrected afterwards.

A lot may only contain a ***MAXIMUM*** of 10 items of equipment and/or consumables. Equipment is defined as, tanks/cabinets, ALL types of pumps and filters, heating equipment and all forms of lighting with a further 5 items of just dry goods/consumables defined as foodstuffs, water treatments, filter media. So, it is possible to have up to 15 items of consumables, but ***NO MORE THAN 10*** items of equipment.

***All*** livestock for sale ***MUST*** be labelled, individually, with either the ***COMMON*** or ***SCIENTIFIC*** name & the water type they are kept in.

Items of equipment ***MUST*** display the ***NAME, TELEPHONE NUMBER and/or ADDRESS*** of the seller, if not; the item will be sold as spares or repairs only.

Any member of the viewing public ***WILL NOT*** tamper with lots placed behind the auction desk in any way shape or form.

If a lot is withdrawn, for any reason, then that lot number becomes dormant and will not be reissued for the duration of the event. Lot numbers are ***NOT*** transferable to another seller. It is requested that sellers do not 'hog' a lot number, if you have something to sell book a lot, if you don't please don't book one 'just in case'. Your right to a future lot may be compromised if this rule is abused.

Only **ONE MEMBERS** lot per household can be allocated using the members' preferential draw scheme.

Items that have reserve prices placed on them will be offered **ONCE** at the reserve price, if the reserve is not met immediately, then the item will be put back, if a seller wishes to reduce the reserve price, they **MUST** contact a member of the auction team immediately, the item will then be offered at the reduced price **ONE MORE TIME** at the end of the lot.

Lots will only be viewed when they come up for sale. An item will be considered sold when the gavel strikes the table.

There will be a limit of **75 items** per lot at this point the lot will be **STOPPED** & further items within the lot will be given the next available number at the end of the auction. This rule applies to ALL lots entered.

**The auctioneer's decision is final.**

**Robin Hood Aquarists' will not accept any responsibility what so ever for any item in any of the lots to be sold.**

Robin Hood Aquarists will not knowingly sell products that have been given to clubs as *sponsorship* from manufacturers that should have been given as class or raffle prizes and will actively seek to eradicate this practice. The sale of products *owned* by an individual is acceptable.

It is strongly recommended that sellers do enter more than 5 of the same item as any more can clog the auction up and the lot then gets 'Stuck' and the prices fall dramatically as the item reaches saturation point. This item is not compulsory but we do strongly advise it.

**To pre book a lot or for information email us at**

**[rhaqua@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rhaqua@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Pre-booking of lots can only be accepted at this email address and by no other form of communication.**

## **Caring for your fish**

### **Bringing fish to an auction:**

1. Always put your fish in a sturdy bag(s) or container(s) big enough for their wellbeing.
2. Use water that they normally live in. (from the aquarium.) Please label the bags with the type of water the fish are kept in, e.g. **Tap, R.O., Soft/Rain, Brackish etc.**
3. Put a couple of drops of 'Stress Coat' or similar into the water. (It has a calming effect)
4. Always transport tropical fish in a polystyrene box with a lid. (It's dark and subdues the fish.)
5. Place a bag of warm water in the box of tropical fish. (This will help maintain temperature.)
6. Don't feed the fish the day before they are to be transported. (It will reduce the amount of toxins in the water.)
7. Only transport fish in the box. (Do not include stones, rocks or sharp objects in the same box.)
8. Pack the box securely in the vehicle. (This is for your safety too.)
9. Give consideration to, that when you wish to apply a reserve price, that sometimes setting a lower price can actually get the item off and running a lot quicker, with a likelihood of achieving your expected price or even better!

### **Buying fish from an auction or shop:**

1. You **MUST** be in possession of a polystyrene box with a lid or a sealable thermal bag for us to be able to sell fish to you.
2. In an ideal world you will prepare yourself in advance and have a tank set up with nothing in it but mature aquarium water so that you can quarantine them before introducing new stock into your aquarium.
3. Make sure that the fish you want to buy are compatible with the original occupants of your home aquarium(s). (At this auction, the auctioneer will normally tell you if the fish are 'species', 'community' or other descriptions. if you are not sure please ask BEFORE you buy.)
4. Please make yourself aware of the needs of any new species you are considering to keep. (Water conditions, tank décor, dietary requirements etc.)
5. Don't forget attitude! (Of any new species)

### **Taking fish home from an auction or shop:**

1. Always transport tropical fish in a polystyrene box with a lid.
2. Place a bag of warm water in the box of tropical fish to help maintain temperature.
4. On arrival home float the bag into the aquarium they are to live in. (This will equalise the temperature between the fish and the aquarium.)
5. After a few minutes make a small hole in the bag and allow a small amount of aquarium water to enter the bag. (This will help to equalise minor differences between the water they are in and the water they are going to live in.)
6. Repeat step 5 every few minutes over a period of time say about an hour or so. (This procedure reduces shock between any minor differences in the water.)

7. Immediately before releasing the new fish, either turn off the aquarium light or feed the host aquarium.

(This distracts the original inhabitants from the introduction of the new ones.)

8. Closely watch your new arrivals to check for 'bullying' and or disease over the next few days.

It is widely considered that by following this Code of Practice that you will continue to enjoy your new arrivals and existing stock and help maintain them in good health in your aquarium, whilst travelling to and from and whilst buying and selling at auctions and shops.

### **A Guide to Bidding at an Auction**

1. If you wish to bid for an item please hold your hand up high so that the auction team can see you clearly. A nod or a wink or a slight of hand movement can be missed this will be deemed as no fault of the auction team.
2. Set yourself a limit that you wish to pay for an item and withdraw your hand when your limit is reached.
3. There is no requirement to register to make a bid.
4. Items will be offered for sale at a minimum bid of £1 and will go up in increments 50 pence between £1 & £10; £1 between £10 & £20 and £2 between £20 and £30. This is subject to the discretion of the auctioneer and other increments may be initiated where the auctioneer considers fitting. There is no commission charged to buyers.
5. If you submit the successful winning bid you may be offered additional identical items for the same price, before they are offered to the other bidders.

### **Glossary of Terms**

Here is a list of some of the terms you may hear used during the auction and a brief explanation as to their meanings: -

#### **Pair**

Used to describe what can **easily** be identified as one male and one female fish.

#### **Breeding Pair**

Used to describe what can **easily** be identified as one male and one female fish that have bred together.

#### **Trio**

Used to describe what can **easily** be identified as one male and two female fish.

#### **Inverse trio**

Used to describe what can **easily** be identified as two male and one female fish.

#### **Spares or Repairs**

Usually attributed to electrical or mechanical equipment that the seller cannot guarantee is in a fully functioning condition at the point of sale.

#### **Guaranteed in Working Order, Name & Telephone Number Supplied**

This is attributed to a fully functioning electrical or mechanical piece of equipment that was tested by the seller and was working at the point of sale and will work when you get it home. After this point, the guarantee expires. The name of the seller will be announced prior to the commencement of each lot, as it comes up for sale. It will be the responsibility of the buyer to make note of the name of sellers of any equipment purchased.

(Any recourse is to be made direct with the seller and **NOT** Robin Hood Aquarists)