

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

To ensure the highest standards of care, these are our fish bagging 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 couple auctions in 2016 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.
- 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 sweet 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.** 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.

**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 1 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.

*All* fish for sale **MUST** be labelled with either the **COMMON** or **SCIENTIFIC** name. The name of the seller will be announced prior to the commencement of each lot, as it comes up for sale.

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.

Lots will only be viewed when they come up for sale. An item will be considered sold when the gavel strikes the table. The name of the seller will be announced at the commencement of each lot. **The auctioneer's decision is final.**

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.

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.

**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 big enough for their well being.
2. Use water that they normally live in. (from the aquarium.)
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 increases 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.)

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

1. Take with you a polystyrene box with a lid.
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.
3. Pack the box securely in the vehicle.
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 equalise the 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 the different water types.)
7. Immediately before releasing the new fish, either turns off the aquarium light or ideally 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.

### **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 is exhausted.

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

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