KOI Fish Fact Sheet

What is a KOI Fish?

Koi are brightly colored varieties of the common carp (Cyprinus carpio) that are kept for decorative purposes in outdoor ponds or water gardens. They are known for their beautiful patterns and graceful swimming.

History

Koi originated in Japan over 1,000 years ago. Farmers began breeding them for their unique colors and patterns. They became popular worldwide as symbols of peace, perseverance, and good fortune.

Colors & Patterns

Koi come in many stunning colors: red, white, black, yellow, orange, and blue. There are over 100 varieties, each with its own pattern and name. Popular types include Kohaku (red and white) and Showa (black, red, and white).

Size & Lifespan

Koi can grow up to 2 to 3 feet long, depending on the environment and care. With proper care, koi can live 2535 years, and some have even lived over 100 years!

Diet

Koi are omnivores and eat a variety of foods including algae, insects, plants, and special koi pellets. They can even be trained to eat from your hand!

Fun Facts

KOI can remember people and even come when called.
The word “KOI” means carp in Japanese.
In Japan, KOI are a symbol of strength, because of their ability to swim upstream against strong currents.
KOI are popular in art, tattoos, and stories because they represent determination and transformation.
KOI swim in a graceful, gliding motion that makes them look like they’re dancing through the water.

Care Tips

Koi need clean, well-oxygenated water and plenty of space to swim. A pond at least 3 feet deep helps protect them from predators and extreme temperatures.

Courtesy of www.littlecountrygreenhouse.org