

Koi Health Advisor Program  
Participation Requirements for Hobbyists (non-Professionals)  
Updated May 2010 - By Bill Story

- All non-professional (hobbyist) enrollees in the Koi Health Advisor (“KHA”) program (the “Program”) must:
1. Start the Program knowing all the requirement and with the intention to complete the Program. Note: you will need to study; you cannot get by on what you know already. Historically only 50% of those who start the course actually finish. However, no one who has stuck with it has failed to graduate.
  2. KHA program enrollees will be required to subscribe to Koi USA, the publication supporting the AKCA, which funds the KHA program. It is requested that you maintain a subscription for two years minimum.
  3. Have regular access to, and knowledge of, the Internet and email.
    - a. Check your email at least once every 7 days, daily is better.
    - b. Check the KHA Forum (bulletin board) at least once every 7 days
    - c. Comply with all requests to become authorized by Spam Arrest or other spam filtering device – currently one instructor subscribes to SA and your emails will not get thru to him if you do not become authorized.
  4. Have the capacity and the knowledge to work with MS Word files – open, modify, save and send via email.
  5. Be willing to travel to and attend the hands-on lab course. The general location of which will be at the annual AKCA Seminar held the year following the start of a class.
  6. Not be a professional in Koi or a goods or services business related directly to Koi and/or their keeping – see non-pro statement.
  7. Agree that participation in the Program does not make you an employee of the Associated Koi Clubs of America (“AKCA”) or its affiliates. Those who are ultimately certified by the Program will be volunteers and members of an AKCA committee.
  8. Be a member in good standing of an AKCA associated club
  9. Agree that, while a member of the KHA program, they will not charge a fee for any Koi related service (i.e., advice or assistance) rendered to others.
  10. Not give others the answers to test questions, or copy another person’s answers yourself. The purpose of this course is to learn the material, not just pass the tests. It’s alright to give and get help from others, but please do not in any way GIVE or COPY the answers.

In order to graduate, students must:

1. Pass all section tests based on the criteria set by the instructors of the various sections. Note: not all instructors have the same criteria. If you are unsure of the criteria, please ask the relevant instructor. Plus:
  - a. Submit tests in the manner requested by the individual instructors. Not complying with their requirements places undue hardship on them and may result in your test being returned un-graded.
  - b. Put your name on your tests.
  - c. Save copies of all your submitted work as well as copies of the instructors’ reviews and comments. This applies to both emails and other documents. Instructors are human, can make errors and in the event that you are not given credit for your work, it will be your responsibility to provide copies to substantiate any claims.
  - d. Note: the KHA/Hobbyist Interface section material is not posted on the site. When you are ready and have taken all other six section tests, e-mail Karen Pattist for the material and test.
2. Attend and pass one officially designated KHA lab class
3. Have submitted to the appropriate instructors all seven section tests on or before May 1 of the same class period. Note: No grace period will be given. Don’t bother to ask. In years when the Seminar is not held in June, a different deadline will be announced.
4. Finish (pass) all tests on or before June 1 of the same class period. Note: No grace period will be given. Don’t bother to ask. In years when the Seminar is not held in June, a different deadline will be announced.
5. Agree to become knowledgeable of, and not violate, applicable local, state or federal laws pertaining to your activities as a KHA

All students must have access to:

1. An adequate microscope and associated materials (slides, cover slips, etc.)
2. The water testing materials including minimum (“must have”) test kits suggested by the course instructor.
3. Any and all other materials required by the course instructors, e.g., text books

The following are considered highly desirable: That each graduate KHA be willing and able to:

1. Speak at club meetings and do other things to promote good Koi husbandry particularly in the KHA’s home area.
2. Travel a reasonable distance to visit troubled ponds - this means having adequate transportation.
3. Make a reasonable number of pond visits if requested to do so, particularly in times of high need, e.g., in the Spring time
4. Gain sufficient continuing education credits as may be required by the Program in order to maintain certification in the Program.

Note: While it is the intention of this program to train Koi hobbyists so that they may assist and/or advise others in the Koi community as allowed by law, no student or graduate of the Program is ever obligated to help anyone with Koi or Koi-related problems. Conversely, no student or graduate is barred from legally helping anyone of their choosing.

Out of consideration for the instructors and others, all students, should:

1. Look for answers to questions in the posted or emailed material before emailing an instructor or posting on the Forum. If you get a reply of “RTM” (read the manual), it means that the information has already been given to you.
2. Again, please put your name on your tests.
3. Identify yourself by name on emails – it is very inconvenient for most folks (instructors included) to try to determine your identity from only your email address.
4. Be patient, all instructors involved in the KHA core program is doing this for the love of the hobby. They have other careers and commitments which must be met also.

Any student wishing to transfer to the next or another class must:

1. Retake all section tests if the transfer is not to the very next class – old tests may be used in the preparation of new tests but note that some material and questions may change. If the instructor updates their material and test you will be required to retake the test.
2. Also retake the lab if the transfer is not to the very next class.

### **Sponsorship**

It is suggested that individual clubs consider sponsoring their KHA candidates as they may well provide a highly desirable service to the club upon successful completion of the Program. This sponsorship could take the form of funding some or all of the required and/or desirable course materials and textbooks. This might also include some or all of the KHA’s phone and/or Internet and/or travel and/or necessary replacement of supplies.