

How To Bag a Koi for Shipment

Highlights from the July Guest Speaker, Michael Hernandez. He gave a demonstration with the help of his wife, Gleci, and Tom Wright.

Materials required:



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Several Sturdy Plastic Bags• Sturdy Cardboard Box• Several Strips of Styrofoam (As long as inside of box by ½ the height of the box)• Elbagin: A koi stress eliminator• Salt (Pure salt not table salt) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Packing Box Tape• Rubber Bands• Fresh water that has had chlorine removed and has been aerated for 48 hrs• Oxygen Tank• Fish |
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Mike recommends that all fish for transport should be at least double bagged with triple bagging preferred. Fill a tub with the fresh water and add the proper amount of salt to bring the salt level to no greater than 0.18 percent and then add the recommended amount of Elbagin. Transfer the Koi into the tub without adding any of the pond water to the tub. After putting your two or three plastic bags together scoop the bag through the tub getting the Koi into the bag with a small amount of water. Place two or three of the Styrofoam strips on each side of the box with the strips on edge. Now place the bag with Koi into the box. Add water to the bag until the water just covers the top of the gills. Keeping the amount of water to a minimum both increases the amount of oxygen that can be added to the bag and reduces the weight of the box, thereby reducing the shipping costs. Add oxygen to the inner bag and then secure bag with a rubber band. If the Koi is to be shipped by air, remember that the bag will expand some in the air as the plane is only pressurized to approximately 5,000 ft. Therefore, don't overfill the bag or it will burst in the cargo bay. Secure the second and then the third bag with rubber bands. Seal box with tape and make sure that the box is marked well with which side is up and that a live fish is enclosed. Properly bagged, the Koi can survive for approximately 40 hrs.

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