

National Koi Show

Committee Statement

Fish Transport in Hot Weather Conditions

Ahead of this year's National Koi Show, the committee has reviewed the current weather conditions, forecast temperatures and fish welfare considerations relating to the safe transport of koi to the event.

This statement is intended to reassure exhibitors, clarify the committee's position, and set out the welfare-led approach being taken to support safe transport and appropriate conditions throughout the show.

Temperature Context

The Met Office Red Extreme Heat Warning is in effect for Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th June, covering central and southern England. By the weekend, the Met Office forecast a notable reduction in temperatures, with conditions dropping towards the high twenties Celsius on Saturday and falling further on Sunday.

On current forecasts, the highest temperatures are expected before fish movements for the show begin on Friday, and the committee will continue to monitor any changes closely.

Water Temperature Considerations

Current water temperatures at the showground are approximately 24°C, which is consistent with temperatures being experienced in many ponds across the country following the current warm weather.

As the National Show is held outdoors, vat water temperatures may vary during the day with ambient conditions, sunlight and overnight cooling. This is expected, and conditions will be monitored throughout the event.

From a welfare perspective, the key consideration is avoiding sudden and significant temperature changes. Current indications suggest that pond and show vat temperatures should be reasonably aligned for most exhibitors, helping to reduce temperature-related stress during transport and acclimatisation.

Dissolved Oxygen and Transport Best Practice

Warm water carries less dissolved oxygen than cooler water, so exhibitors are reminded to follow standard transport best practice:

- Bags should be double-bagged and charged with adequate oxygen
- Journey times should be kept as short as practically possible
- Bags should be kept out of direct sunlight during transit
- Showground vat aeration will be running continuously prior to fish arriving

Proactive Welfare Measure - Vat Point Reduction

The National Koi Show operates a **vat point** system, which controls the stocking density of each show vat and is central to maintaining water quality parameters - including pH, ammonia (NH₃), and dissolved oxygen (O₂) - throughout the event. Each vat has an assigned point limit determined by its size (2.5 or 2.8 metre) with points allocated to each fish based on size.

As a precautionary measure in response to the current weather conditions, the committee has the option, exercisable up to and including Friday, to reduce vat point limits across the show. This would lower stocking density, reduce the biological load on vat water, and provide additional headroom in water quality parameters at a time when thermal stress on fish may be elevated.

The committee will confirm its decision on this matter no later than **15:00 on Thursday 25th June** notifying exhibitors accordingly.

Conclusion

Based on the current forecast, showground water temperatures and the welfare measures in place, the committee considers that koi can be transported to the National Koi Show safely, provided standard transport protocols are followed.

The committee will continue to monitor conditions closely and will issue any further guidance, including confirmation on vat point limits, later this week.

National Koi Show Committee

June 2026