

KHV and Spring Viremia of Carp
Excerpts from a Seminar presented by
Dr. Myron Kebus at the Northern
Midwest ZNA Seminar
April 8, 2006

Myron's lecture was focused on the Koi Herpes Virus and other emerging diseases in koi and goldfish. Myron was instrumental in highlighting the outbreak of KHV in the United States in the mid nineties, and has been in the forefront of detection, diagnosis, and prevention of KHV since then.

Myron's talk focused on the following points.

- Prior to now, there have been few resources in the U.S. for research on diseases of koi and goldfish
- The discussion of fish disease has usually been assigned a secondary role, after the primary roles of pond construction, fish acquisition, and fish products
- Hobbyists often focus on fish disease after an outbreak occurs
- Original onset of disease led to less desire to restock ponds, or upgrade fish
- Pond environments (even properly managed ponds) provide ideal conditions for bacteria to grow and flourish
- Prior to the identification of KHV in the mid-nineties, most disease outbreaks in koi were diagnosed as aeromonas, or one of the related aeromonas bacteria
- Earlier positive identification of KHV was stymied by the common wisdom that koi can't contract viral infections
- Once it became accepted that koi can contract viral infections, recognition of KHV proceeded
- Recently, an outbreak of SVC (spring viremia of carp), and SCMS (spring carp mortality syndrome) have been observed
- It appears that a separate form of KHV has been observed in fancy goldfish in certain parts of the world
- What can hobbyists do to prevent/be aware of these diseases?
- The alternative are:
 - Do nothing
 - Regulate
 - Educate
- The "Do Nothing" approach is clearly not viable

- The government has acted in regulating commercial fish farms, due to the possibility of introduction of these diseases into native habitats
- The government may begin regulating importation of fish if they determine that the situation warrants further safety measures
- Obviously, the need for further education is important, and the AKCA is considering an educational program as part of their KHV efforts
- The development of a KHV vaccination, while a good idea, is not very feasible, given the sums of money involved in the development of such a vaccine
- The role of animal veterinarians is vital in helping educate hobbyists in proper quarantine procedures