

## **Guppy Genetics does it really matter**

Before you form an opinion or say this question has been put by others in the past please read on.

I know now it matters to me. When I took up breeding Guppies the first time most breeders that I spoke too paid no attention to the Genetics of any fish Guppies or otherwise they did however discuss conditioning breeding stock, water quality and feeding fry. All very important points in their own right.

I attended many fish clubs in my youth hungry for information and never did any member or committee person ever mention Genetics. I returned to breeding Guppies some time back with hope of producing Show Quality specimens.

I would say I took the approach of Lou Wasserman on **How to Raise Show Guppies**. Lou describes him self in the way of a Stock-man choosing breeders by visual selection. It would be difficult to say Lou was wrong as he was a prolific showman in the USA. To many breeders this was the only way they knew. Choosing breeding Stock by visual selection this is still a big part of the process I agree. However there are many other attributes to consider and this is when Genetics comes into its own.

Today's modern stock-men leave nothing to chance. If you wish work with your Guppies on a more scientific level then the choice is yours, with use of the Internet and books written on the subject there has never been so much detail available to the Guppy breeder at any time in the past. It will open a whole new side to the hobby and your Guppy breeding project.

I have been around the UK Guppy scene long enough now to be able to say here in the UK. We are only scratching the surface and not one breeder knows that much more than the other on the subject of Genetics. We all know a little, Its time to come out and share these snippets of information with each other. Some of this knowledge you have had passed down to you may be myths past on by another breeder.( Not to worry this happens to me as well ). At least get the facts right so you don't pass on the same misguided information.

With the plethora of detail available to the Guppy breeders today this information was not around in the 60s and 70s.

While I accept you can breed from establish strains set or fixed by other breeders. Can you really call yourself a Guppy Breeder by visual selection alone. No because the first time something goes wrong you need to know how to fix it. You can of course go back to the original

breeder you purchased the stock from and buy in more breeding stock. Is that really the way forward.

I hope this has stimulated one or two of you to think on the subject of Genetics. Then we can learn together.

Thanks for taking the time to read this Cheers. Malcolm Clarke.

**Malcolm Clarke**