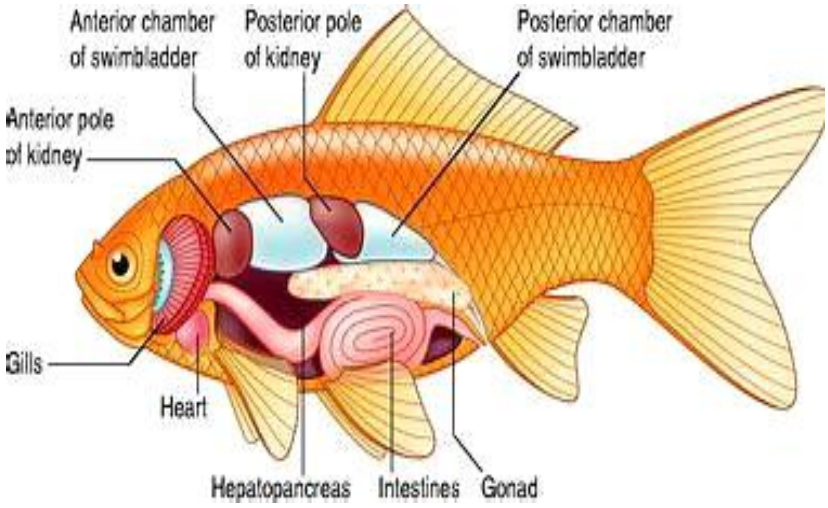
Fish Rescue & Welfare

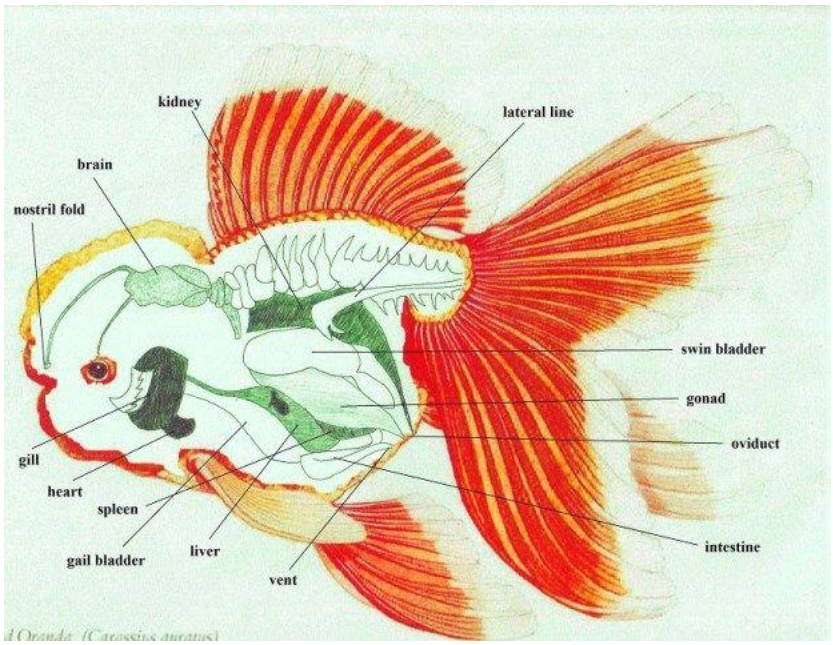
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Swim bladder Disorder

Goldfish Anatomy



Fancy Goldfish Anatomy



Symptoms

Look for common symptoms of swim bladder disorder. Swim bladder disorder occurs when a fish's swim bladder, which normally inflates and helps the fish stay properly afloat, becomes compromised. No matter what's causing the problem, the symptoms are usually the same. When you see your fish belly-up, don't assume it's dead; if it's still breathing, it probably has swim bladder disorder. Here are symptoms to look for:

The fish keeps floating to the top, upside-down

The fish keeps sinking to the bottom of the tank

The fish swims with its tail higher than its head (note: this is normal for head standing fish species)

The fish has a swollen belly

What is Swim bladder Disorder?

Swim bladder disease, also called swim bladder disorder or flipover, is a

common ailment in aquarium fish.

The swim bladder is an internal gas-filled organ that contributes to the ability of a fish to control its buoyancy, and thus to stay at the current water depth without having to waste energy in swimming.

Fancy goldfish aren't great swimmers, due to their double tail fins and short, fat bodies. Within their bodies the swim bladder, which controls buoyancy, is bent, so doesn't work as well as it should.

Feed them foods that contain air, like flake, floating sticks or floating pellets, and the fish take in air as well as food. The result is a fish looking as if it has a giant air bubble as it floats to the surface and then can't right itself.

The swim bladder explained. The Swim Bladder Regulates Buoyancy and Balance

The swim bladder (or bladders as there are two) are air filled organs that are used to regulate buoyancy and balance.

The larger rear swim bladder has an opening directly into the gut. This is used by the fish to inflate or deflate the swim bladder slightly depending on its buoyancy. This is why after a heavy meal goldfish will often go to the surface and take a gulp of air to slightly inflate the swim bladder to maintain close to zero buoyancy.

Small bones at the back of the scull are attached to the front air bladder and are used for hearing and balance.

Swim bladders are normally long sausage shaped organs. As the body shape of some fancy varieties has become shortened and more rounded, so have their swim bladders. This has made them more susceptible to disorders.

What causes it?

The main cause of swim bladder is overfeeding, which leads to constipation. Another cause is gulping air when they grab food from the surface of the water. Always feed under the water surface never floating foods on top.

Poor quality food. Food that is stale, of poor quality or unsuitable for Goldfish will cause gas in the gut. If there is enough gas this alone will cause the fish to lose balance. Often some of this gas will find its way into the swim bladder causing the fish to become too buoyant. The fish can't

release the gas if it is constipated.

Sudden temperature changes. Round bodied Goldfish are particularly susceptible to chills.

Infection. A bacterial attack of the swim bladder can cause loss of balance.

Water conditions. It has been suggested that high nitrate levels in the water can affect the swim bladder.

Swallowing air. Some aquarists only feed sinking pellets to their goldfish in the belief that floating food causes Goldfish to swallow air. Some fish are predisposed to swallowing air, but I haven't found it to be a big problem.

Enlarged organs and infections can also cause swim bladder disease.

Treatment

Treating Swim Bladder Disorder

Check the maximum temperature for your fish species. This is vitally important. Raise the water temperature in the tank very gradually to 70–80 °F (21–27 °C). Depending on the species.

Increase very slowly up a degree up every few hours to a maximum of 80 -26c . Always add extra oxygen as the increase in temperature will take oxygen out of the water.

Cold water temperature can slow digestion and lead to constipation. The warmer water may help with digestion if constipation is causing the problem.

Let the fish fast for three days. ...

Prepare cooked peas for the fish. ...Cook fresh or frozen peas but remove the shell before feeding and feed on this only for the next three days.

Feed the fish by hand if necessary. ...

To put the fish in more shallow water often helps the fish stay upright and helps with buoyancy. You can add silk or real plants to let the fish rest on and this often helps keep the fish upright.

Monitor the fish's symptoms.