

GUPPY BRIEFS #19

Trimming Ragged Edged Guppy Tails

Frank Schulterbrandt 2/27/2017

Sometimes there is a need to trim the tails of your guppies. This is just one method of trimming the tails for showing the male at shows or to trim the tail for breeding purposes. What is needed for this project is a single edge razor blade, a sheet of glass (not plastic or plexi-glass), paper towels, Mercurochrome (or some form of an aquarium antibiotic), Q-Tips and a quarantine tank/container.

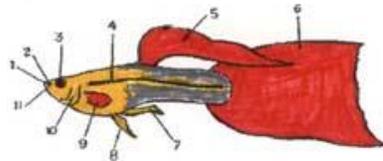
Step 1: Saturate the paper towel with water from the tank where the guppy came from.

Also wet one or two Q-Tips with the same water

Step 2: Net your male guppy out of the tank and place him in the center of the glass.

Step 3: Place the saturated wet paper towel on the guppy covering the guppy from the mouth to the end of the peduncle area of the guppy (the end of the grey area in the guppy diagram below).

You will be holding the guppy down in place by slightly holding down the paper towel on the guppy.



(1) mouth, (2) nostril, (3) eye, (4) lateral line, (5) dorsal fin, (6) caudal fin, (7) gonopodium, (8) ventral fin, (9) pectorial fin, (10) operculum covering gills, (11) chin

Step 4: With the wet Q-Tip gently spread the tail out, with short smooth strokes (from left to right).

When you get the tail spread out to form somewhat of a triangle, you are now ready to make the cut.

Step 5: So imagining a straight line on the edge of the tail of the guppy you are now ready to make the cut.

Make this cut without cutting too much of the tail away just enough to get rid of some of the more obvious ragged edges.

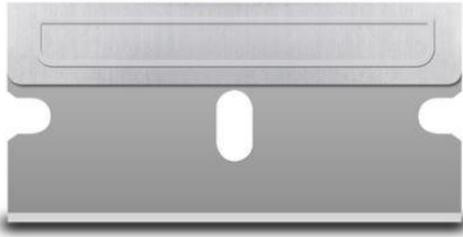
Step 6: Slowly place the blade over the portion of the tail that you want to cut, and go straight down with the razor pressing hard. Do not use a sawing motion. Once this is done, still pressing down, slide the blade away from left to right.

Step 7: Still holding the guppy down with the paper towel, now using another Q-Tip apply the Mercurochrome to the edge of the tail. Do not let any of the Mercurochrome get into the mouth, eyes or gills of the guppy.

Step 8: Place the guppy into a separate container with water from the tank he was taken out of.

Let the male stay in the container for about 30 minutes, then he can be placed back into the original tank.

I once did this for someone and they won Delta Tail Male Best Of Show at an IFGA Guppy Show in the Mid West.



Single Edge Razor Blade (Box of 5)



12" x 12" x 3/16" Any Glass Panel



Paper Towels



Bottle of Mercurochrome



Q-Tips Swabs

Lee's Specimen Container Small



Some form of a container