

Selecting Breeders

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It is fairly easy to pick out a male for your future breeding program, but it can also be a learning process. It is at this point that I would emphatically recommend that you ask the breeder a ton of questions about the guppies that you are about to purchase. What males to use or discard for breeding, what females to use or discard for breeding. Ask the question "Is there anything else I should look out for when selecting my next set of guppies as breeders?"

Personally when I am looking for my next set of breeders, I look for the overall shape of the caudal, then the dorsal and finally the nice body size. In general you have to select the best overall combined features of the male. This is a male with a matching dorsal to the caudal and once you have made this selection go with it... If you are not sure then set up two sets of breeders (your second choice) if you have the extra tank space.

If you are looking for a specific quality in one or more of your males that you would like to enhance, then that is another route to go and is and was the way that many new guppy strains were developed. So in general this is totally a visual process. I personally look for a clean overall looking guppy with the emphasis on a nice caudal (color and shape). The next thing I look for is a nice dorsal (color and shape). One word of caution about the dorsal, the dorsal can be one of the hardest parts of a guppy to fix when there is a problem, so pay special particular attention to the dorsal when selecting male breeders. When I say a clean caudal and dorsal,

1: I mean no spikes in either.

2: The angle of the caudal comes off of the peduncle evenly (not having too much of the caudal on the bottom part of the triangle shape of the tail).

Selecting females for you breeders can be tricky if working with solid colored male caudals. In general you need to select females that basically have solid colored caudals and dorsals or a clear / non pattern caudal and dorsal. In picking a female with a pattern in the caudal or dorsal you have a great chance of having offspring with a pattern in both the caudal and dorsal (this is very useful when working with Bi-Color / Multi guppies). There are however exceptions to this but not many.

Sometimes when working with Green, Blue or Purple guppies the females tend to make it hard to see the true coloration of the females. A way to find out the true coloration of the female is to place her in a plastic hanging viewing container and turn off the lights. After 15 minutes come back into the room with the lights still off and examine the female with a flash light. When the flashlight is shined on the female you will see her true colors. There however may be females that produce Green, Blue and Purple males. Not working with solid color guppies, I would venture to say this may be a trait from the male, female or both.

When working with Black females they may have caudals and or dorsals that are Black but really have a heavy presence of a secondary Green, Blue or Purple coloring. I always have tried to take the blackest caudal without much of those colors being present. So in short you have to place these females in the viewing container and inspect them in the dark with a flashlight too when selecting breeders.

When selecting Half Black bodied females, you might run into another problem. This problem is that if you wait too long to breed your Half Black bodied females they won't be able to get impregnated (ruin a line very quickly), so you might be forced to select your female breeders much sooner. There are several ways to avoid this problem.

1: Do not keep virgin females. When you have selected your male then take two of his sisters and breed them.

You should wait until the third drop of young to collect the young. The odds are in your favor that the sperm from your selected male is the sperm that has fertilized that drop of young.

2: Breed your selected male to younger females from another later drop.

Thanks for reading my article GUPPY BRIEFS # 23 , I hope that this could be of some help to you in your quest to make better guppies or maintain your guppy line.