

How To Mess Up A Good Strain Of Guppies

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Once you have acclimated your newly purchased guppies in their new home the fun starts now. This is one of the most important stages of your newly purchased guppies, so don't mess this part up. I would also at this time do one of the following two things, either cover your tank so your guppies won't end up on the floor or lower that water to a level where the guppies can't jump out of the tank.

Here is one of the things that I don't understand. You have paid a good price for your guppies. Why not ask the breeder as many questions about the line of guppies that you have purchased. For example: Is there any other line that you cross to maintain the line? What females to use for breeding? What males to use for breeding? What males or females to toss? Do you run one line for certain qualities and another line for different qualities. Are there any additional things to look out for in the newly purchased guppies. Why re-invent the wheel. The seller knows his guppies and can guide you in the right direction without you having to learn about your new guppies from scratch..... The breeder has been there and done that.

Here is another thing that I don't understand. The first thing that the purchaser of these newly purchased guppies wants to do, is to cross these guppies that they just brought. Run the line of guppies first then later make the desired cross. Some breeders may buy the line of guppies with the advanced idea of crossing the guppies into a line that they already have (This group of hobbyist I am not referring to). It is the newbie whose idea is to cross the fish as a first thought as opposed to running the line first. This is the fastest way to **"MESS UP A GOOD STRAIN OF GUPPIES"**.

Another way to mess up a strain of guppies is to let the new born guppies run amuck in the same tank. The worst of the lot is usually the fastest and most likely will impregnate the females. This will definitely set your breeding program back two steps... So separate the males from the females after a month.

Once you have picked out a male or two for future breeding, now you can pick out about 4 or five females. On some Half Black guppy lines you cannot wait too long to set up your breeders. Take it from me, this happened to me when I first joined the South Jersey Guppy Group. After working a line of Black guppies, I also set up additional tanks to make a cross with another black line of guppies that I got from a pet shop. I crossed a male that I had and a female from the pet shop. I got real good Black young from the cross. I had separated the males from the females. The South Jersey Guppy Group's show was now upon my doorsteps. I would then show the young at my first IFGA show. I took all four places in delta and a first in tank. There were three prior IFGA Black color champions competing in that class as well.

Now that I did well at the show, I was ready to cross the best male to the virgin females.... No luck.. I waited too long to cross to the females. The female guppies could not be impregnated.... So on some Half Black lines you have to select your breeders early or wait about three months until the non-virgin females(if kept in the same tanks with males) starts producing young from the best males that she has been put with to breed.

The rest of your maintenance procedures are a must to insure that your guppies have the best chance to become winners on the IFGA show benches. Then you should incorporate a line breeding system for your gups... But that is another story for another time.

GOOD LUCK and hope to see your guppies on the show bench.