

Is Your Koi Pond Thriving or Just Surviving?

THE POND HEALTH SCORECARD SYSTEM



Pond Health Scorecard

Self-Assessment Tool for Koi Pond Owners

Rate each category from 0-20 points based on the criteria below. Add your scores for a total out of 100 points.



How to Use This Scorecard

1. Read each category description carefully
2. Honestly assess your pond against the criteria listed
3. Record your score (0-20) for each category in the score column



Category 1: Water Quality Stability

Score: _____ / 20

Measures the consistency and safety of your water chemistry.

- Ammonia and nitrite levels consistently at 0 ppm
- pH remains stable between 7.0-8.5
- KH (carbonate hardness) maintains buffering capacity
- Dissolved oxygen levels adequate (6+ mg/L)
- No sudden chemistry swings or unexplained changes

Scoring guide: 20 points = All parameters stable and optimal | 15 points = Mostly stable with minor fluctuations | 10 points = Some instability or borderline readings | 5 points = Frequent swings or concerning levels | 0 points = Dangerous levels or complete instability

Category 2: Fish Health Status

Score: _____ / 20

Evaluates the visible health and behavior of your koi.

- Fish show bright, vibrant colors and clear skin
- Gills appear healthy (no redness, swelling, or rapid breathing)
- No visible parasites, lesions, or abnormal growths
- Fish are active, social, and respond to feeding
- Consistent appetite with no refusal of food

Scoring guide: 20 points = All fish thriving with excellent health | 15 points = Generally healthy with minor concerns | 10 points = Some fish showing stress or health issues | 5 points = Multiple fish affected or serious symptoms | 0 points = Disease outbreak or fish losses

Category 3: Filtration & Circulation

Score: _____ / 20

Assesses your mechanical and biological filtration systems.

- Filter capacity matches or exceeds pond volume and fish load
- Water circulates completely (no dead zones or stagnant areas)
- Mechanical filtration removes debris effectively
- Biological media supports beneficial bacteria colonies
- Adequate aeration and surface agitation

Scoring guide: 20 points = Optimal filtration and circulation throughout | 15 points = Adequate with room for improvement | 10 points = Undersized or inefficient in some areas | 5 points = Significant deficiencies affecting water quality | 0 points = Inadequate or failing filtration system

Category 4: Stocking & Feeding Load

Score: _____ / 20

Evaluates whether your pond can handle its current biomass and feeding intensity.

- Total fish biomass appropriate for pond volume
- Feeding amounts match fish needs without excess waste
- Minimal uneaten food or organic buildup
- Fish growth rate healthy but not overly rapid
- System handles current load without stress

Scoring guide: 20 points = Perfect balance of stocking and feeding | 15 points = Slightly heavy but manageable | 10 points = Approaching capacity limits | 5 points = Overstocked or overfeeding causing issues | 0 points = Severely overloaded system

Category 5: Management & Biosecurity

Score: _____ / 20

Measures your preventative care practices and maintenance consistency.

- Regular water testing and record keeping
- Consistent maintenance schedule (cleaning, filter checks)
- Quarantine protocol for new fish additions
- Seasonal preparation and adjustments
- Proactive monitoring rather than reactive crisis management

Scoring guide: 20 points = Comprehensive preventative care program | 15 points = Regular maintenance with some gaps | 10 points = Inconsistent or reactive approach | 5 points = Minimal maintenance or poor biosecurity | 0 points = No structured management practices

Your Total Score

Category	Your Score
Water Quality Stability	_____ / 20
Fish Health Status	_____ / 20
Filtration & Circulation	_____ / 20
Stocking & Feeding Load	_____ / 20
Management & Biosecurity	_____ / 20
TOTAL SCORE	_____ / 100



What Your Score Means

Score Range	Status	Recommendation
80-100	● Thriving ecosystem	Maintain current practices with regular monitoring
60-79	● Stable But Vulnerable	Address weak areas before problems develop
40-59	● At Risk	Professional assessment recommended
0-39	● Crisis Management	Immediate expert intervention needed

Ready for a professional assessment? Headwaters Aquatic Veterinary provides comprehensive pond health evaluations with detailed scoring and actionable recommendations.



Headwaters Aquatic Veterinary | www.headwatersaquaticvet.com | Professional Pond Ecosystem Management