



# Aquarium Society of Winnipeg Bowl Show

## April 2014 Bowl Show Category – *Fish - 4" and under.*

Remember that the fish that you bring will need to be able to be on display for the duration of the show and meeting. We would prefer that only hardier types of fish be shown as we would not want to have any of your special prized fish experience undue hardship due to the show.

Aquarium Society of Winnipeg (ASW) accepts no responsibility for losses or damage sustained during the show.

### RULES:

#### 1. CONTAINERS

- 1.1. A tank or container with at least one flat side may be used to allow an undistorted view of your fish. It must have a suitable lid to prevent fish from jumping out, preferably one that can be removed if needed for judging. (*Cling or saran wrap is not an acceptable lid.*) Size should allow enough room for the fish to comfortably move around. Max. size to be 10 gallon. Container is to be filled to 2/3 full. Please note - you are responsible to bring enough water to fill it to 2/3 full, and at the temperature your fish will require. Please remember that there will be no heaters allowed, so fish must be able to tolerate room temperature for the duration of the show and meeting.
- 1.2. Each entry must be shown separately.
- 1.3. A divider may be used to show two entries in one tank.
- 1.4. Containers may have gravel, rocks, plants, backgrounds, painted back, etc. One flat side to remain clear for judging & viewing. If container only has one flat side to it, this should be the side left clear so that front/flat side to remain clear for judging. Remember that the decorations should be of a nature that will make your fish comfortable but not allow it to hide away where it cannot be judged.
- 1.5. Entries will be shown under available light only.
- 1.6. No coloured water allowed.
- 1.7. **No** teardown until after the awards are presented please (approx 4:00 p.m.)!

#### 2. ENTRIES

- 2.1. Entries must be the property of the entrant for at least 30 days prior to being shown.
- 2.2. Entry forms must be filled out entirely prior to the start of judging. Attempt to list the scientific name for each entry. If not available use a common name. Entry forms will be available at our March meeting or online at <http://asw.ca/forms/>.
- 2.3. Any member who is in good standing (membership fees paid up to date) may enter the competition.
- 2.4. Categories will be based on entries the day of the show, and will be divided up accordingly the day of the bowl show.
- 2.5. BEST DECORATED TANK - a new class open for 2014 Bowl Show! This is the only category **exempt** from the rule of having to have one flat side on a tank. Also for this entry, you do not have to have fish in your tank to qualify – so for example snails, assorted *decorations* plastic or otherwise, live plants etc. can be used for your entry. Use whatever you need to create a decorated tank; we leave this open for your creative enjoyment.

Winning tank will be based on our members' vote on which tank they believe to be the best decorated tank of the day! Good luck!

### 3. JUDGING

- 3.1. Fish are judged on standard criteria – basically: size, finnage, colour, and deportment. (Please see last page for more information on judging)
- 3.2. The decision of the judges is final. Please note that a judge(s) may decline to place a fish based on judging criteria noted above. For example: sick or deformed fish will not be judged.

### 4. SETUP

- 4.1. Exhibitors must be present to set up their own entries.
- 4.2. Entries are to be set up by 1:00 p.m. Doors will be open around 12:00 noon, which will give you approx. 1 hour setup time.
- 4.3. Please store all nets, pails etc., under the table or beside yourself for the duration of the auction and show.
- 4.4. Once this is done, please register your entry with Steve Bansee or Theresa Saboraki.
- 4.5. Please do not move other people's entries. If there is a need to have one of the entries moved please speak with one of the executive members.

### 5. FEES

- 5.1. The fee for each entry will be \$2.00 per entry. After 3<sup>rd</sup> entry fee will drop down to \$1.00 per entry thereafter.

### 6. AWARDS

- 6.1. The decision of the judges is final. Please note that a judge may decline to place a fish (i.e. sick or deformed fish will be disqualified at the judge's discretion).
- 6.2. Ribbons & prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place for each category and 1 award for the Best Decorated Tank.

1st place                      \$15.00 + item prize\*

2nd place                      \$10.00 + item prize\*

3rd place                      \$5.00 + item prize\*

Best Decorated Tank    \$20.00

*\* More information to follow on what items will be awarded as prizes.*

- 6.3. Auction Bucks may be used at any regular auction – expiry November 2014 auction (last auction of the year)
- 6.4. The Best Decorated Tank award will be voted on by the membership at the meeting. Ballots will be provided.

## HOW FISH ARE JUDGED

The fish are judged on standard criteria, basically: size, finnage, colour, and deportment.

Size is the best single indicator of the conditions in which the fish has grown—bigger size suggests more optimum food, filtration, and water conditions.

Intact fins with full extensions are desirable and often quite difficult to retain if the fish are nippy or combative. Keeping your show fish separate can really help. A minor rip in the fin of a normally nippy and aggressive tetra will be penalized less than bent, rays in an angelfish—the one is almost impossible to avoid in normal conditions, but the other may suggest a fish kept in a too-small tank or a poorly healed injury to a young fish.

Healthy, well-fed fish will show better colour. Exposure to sunlight, or better yet, a natural diet outdoors, can really make them bloom. A female who is unusually bright for her species can beat a brighter male who is nevertheless drab for his kind.

Deportment is the most variable thing, because it will vary by the natural temperament of a particular species, as well as by the individual fish's ability to cope with being isolated in a small bowl. The judge is looking for a fish that is not hanging out in a corner with clamped fins. A fish of a more outgoing or pugnacious species should be aggressive; a fancy guppy should show off those long, flowing fins; a loach may sit quietly on the bottom of the bowl but will not be penalized if it is alert and appropriate. Permanent defects like bent spines will count more against your fish than temporary things like one or two missing scales or washed-out colour.

If you have questions about the judging, just ask! (*Before the judging starts!*).