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Neon tetra breeding guide

John Robertson, a livestock specialist, describes how he raised neons, one of the most popular and recognizable tropical fish in the world. I hadn't kept a neon grouse for nearly 40 years. They were the first layers of eggs I ever had in my first 60cm/24 tank - and I hadn't kept them since. Yet I kept cardinal grouse several times while looking down at my nose at Neons. These cardinals have a lot to answer for ... However, I recently ended up with another tank of 24 and a dozen Neons. It was filled with rainwater and leaf litter and heavily planted with Java moss and Indian fern. Sitting in the darkest corner of my fish house with a dim light above, its murk makes these neon looks absolutely gorgeous! The reflective blue-green of this almost bright band got out of the red parts made for an amazing spectacle in the dim light that the little fish danced and darted. The tank had a DH of less than 1, a pH of 5.5 and a temperature of 24 degrees Celsius/75 degrees Fahrenheit. I later discovered that neon can reproduce from 12 weeks, which is about the age of most we see for sale. Every once in a while, a baby would survive and I would spot the smallest neon, which was just beginning to get its color, looking carefully from the undergrowth. I decided to try to raise them properly - and my first attempt was the lazy way that still works so well for me with killies and many other species. I just removed the adults and I waited! Of course I do. Within a few weeks, a handful of Neon babies appeared, but after three attempts, there never happened again. Going traditional The same I tried the traditional method of setting up a nude 30 x 20 x 20cm/12 x 8 x 8 tank with a natural mop of java moss and fresh rainwater. I darkened the tank, added a well-conditioned pair and settled back to observe. I have never seen them spawn and no fryng resulted from this first attempt. With subsequent efforts, I left the parents together for five to seven days and some fry were once produced, but they were nothing to write at home about. Frustrating, in the original tank, the adults had continued to spawn every day... I decided to set up a new tank; this time 75cm/30 long, again with rainwater, and with a deep layer of 2.5cm/1 of freshly collected oak leaves and a Java moss bush. I presented two pairs of adult neon and watched for about 14 days. Two things happened. First the water began to brown and more acidic than the oak leaves and the DH became less than 1, pH less than 5, the temperature was 26 degrees Celsius/78 degrees Fahrenheit. The fish took about a week to feel comfortable in the new tank, but then started spawning every morning as the room lights were turned on. The water, stained with tannins, became darker and darker and I removed the adults at 14 days and waited. After about a week later, I looked into the darkness and spotted a single fry moving hesitantly through the leaf litter. In the following days, I spotted more and more and I added newly hatched brine, which they satknow. After about a month, I was more than 30 fry, and in total this attempt produced about 100 young people. I'm not sure the pH is critical, but the darkness is. Eggs and fry are sensitive to light, but I believe that brown water and leaf litter also hid the eggs of hungry adults that I had fed sparingly in the breeding tank. Encouraged by my success, I decided to use a similar but larger set to try to spawn congo grouse, but within 24 hours of putting them in acidic conditions the adults were dead. The neon reservoir had become acidified for several days and the fish had acclimatized during this period. However, with the Congos, I foolishly left the ie tank for a few weeks and the fish succumbed when they were placed in very different conditions from their natural home. Young neon are coloured at about four weeks and, under good conditions, are large enough to be sold at 12 weeks, but your dealer won't thank you unless you gradually change the water to tap water. I did it for about four weeks and had no adverse effects. Do some babies grow faster? A reproduction observation still intrigues me. Up to eight weeks after spotting the fry in the breeding tank, tiny colorless babies continued to appear. Yet the first Neons babies were already old enough to return to their parents' tank and be part of the crowd. I don't think it's possible for older babies to reproduce already, because it had been an ongoing process, with a few tiny babies appearing every day or two. The only reasonable explanations are that some grow much faster than others, or that some eggs experience a delayed hatching - as do many killifish. The first theory is very likely, as the second would surely have been noted earlier by better observers. I speculate that in nature some neon babies remain small and undeveloped, hiding in leaf litter so that if their body of water becomes cut and evaporates, killing their fast-growing siblings, they can survive in small amounts of water until the rains come. I have noticed similar situations with Apistopoma and Ctenopoma, and can not think of any other explanation. Cost of a lookFancy breeding neon tetras? Here's what you'll need:24 aquarium: 30Small light: 25Small filter: 10Heater: 15Srainwater: FreeLeaves: FreepH test kit: 5Girls: 10Brineshrimp tailgate kit: 10Five Neon grouse: 5Total: 110 1 You'll need more than one tank in order to raise grouse, so get another one if you don't already have one. You can use a 12 x 8 x 8 tank (30 x 20 x 20 cm) to raise your grouse. You will use this tank to reunite a male and female grouse for breeding and also as a place to incubate baby eggs and grouse. You can set up this tank in the same way as setting up your normal tank. Just keep in mind that the water will have to be soft and maintained at a specific temperature and acidity in order for reproduction to occur. 2 Prepare the water. When raising neon grouse, water from your breeding tank must be conserved about 77 degrees Fahrenheit. [1] Water must also be soft (low in minerals) and slightly acidic (with a pH of 5-6) for neon grouse to thrive. This type of environment is what best mimics the natural environment of a neon grouse. If the water in your tank does not meet these requirements, you will need to: get a tank thermometer to monitor the water temperature. Test the pH of the water daily using pH test strips (available in pet stores) mix some of the tap water with three parts of reverse osmosis water to make fresh water for your tank OR use fresh rainwater[2] 3 Get a corner box filter for your tank. A filtration system can help remove waste and bacteria from the aquarium, which will protect the health of your grouse. A filtration system can also remove bacteria from the aquarium and keep it looking its best. Corner box filters are ideal for breeding tanks because they are soft. [3] 4 Place the tank in a dark or low light area. Grouse need a dark environment to thrive, so don't place your grouse near a sunny window or in any other place that gets a lot of light. Grouse do not need total darkness, but they need to be placed somewhere that gets only a small amount of light each day. You may even want to cover the back and sides of your tank in dark paper to block out excess light. 1 Sex of your grouse. It is not absolutely necessary to sex your grouse before you start to reproduce because you can put several in the tank together and reproduction should occur. [4] However, if you want to sexer your grouse, male and female grouse have some distinct differences that can help you distinguish them. Female grouse tend to be larger and larger than male grouse. Some breeders also claim that male grouse have a straight band and females have a twisted band. [5] 2 Place adult grouse in the tank. The evening is the best time to introduce your adult grouse into the tank, so plan to put your adult grouse in the tank after sunset. Keep in mind that the grouse you use for breeding will have to be at least 12 weeks old or reproduction may not be possible. Allow the fish to remain in the tank for a day or two. Grouse must spawn after being kept in the tank for about one to two days. 3 Adjust conditions if your neon grouse does not reproduce. If the breeding is not underway, then check the pH and water temperature, soften the water a little more, and adjust the lighting as needed. It can be some time and experiment to get the conditions just for your neon grouse to breed. Changing the softness of the water seems to trigger spawning because it mimics rain. Try adding a large amount of fresh water to the tank if your neon grouse does not spawn after a few days. 4 Remove adult grouse from the tank. Fish eggs are small and difficult to see because of their translucent color, but you may be able to see them in the gravel or on the plants in your breeding tank. [6] As soon as you notice eggs in the tank, be sure to remove the adult the adult tank where they can eat the eggs. 5 Wait for baby grouse to hatch. There may be between 60 and 130 eggs, but not all of them hatch. [7] Once the eggs are laid, they will take about 24 hours to hatch. You can expect about 40 to 50 baby grouse to hatch eggs. [8] Baby grouse will look like small shards of glass swimming around the tank. [9] 1 Keep the baby grouse in the dark. Grouse, also known as fryng, should be kept in the dark for about five days after hatching. Grouse are sensitive to light and need a dark environment to thrive. To keep the tank dark, you can cover the entire tank in dark building paper or use a piece of cardboard to block the light. [10] You can use a low flashlight to look from the top of the tank during power, but be brief when you do. 2 Feed your fry. You can't feed your baby grouse the same food that adult grouse eats, so you'll need to give them special food for baby fish. [11] These foods should be labelled as appropriate for fry. Ask your local pet store if you are unsure what foods are appropriate for your baby grouse. After a few days you can start feeding the baby tetras shrimp brine baby as well. You can buy baby brine shrimp in pet stores. 3 Introduce your baby neon grouse to your adult neon grouse. After about three months, you can place your new neon grouse in the tank with your adult neon grouse. Do not try to place them in the front tank because they can be eaten, injured or intimidated by adult fish. [12] Keep in mind that some of the grouse may die no matter what you do. Baby fish are more susceptible to disease and more susceptible to injury. 4 Limit your grouse to two inches of fish for every gallon of water. This is a general rule for fish tanks that can help you determine how many grouse you can keep in your tank at the same time. Adult neon grouse are about two inches long, so you can divide the gallon size of your tank to find the number of neon grouse you can keep in the tank. [13] For example, if you have a 50-gallon (190L) tank, then you can have 25 grouse in your tank. 5 Find homes for additional neon grouse. Since many neon grouse can be produced from a breeding attempt, you may end up with more neon grouse than you can accommodate. Ask your friends if they would be interested in having neon grouse. Make sure your have the equipment and resources to look after the fish. You can also try calling your local pet store to see if they are interested in buying some. Just keep in mind that pet stores only pay between \$0.11 and \$0.30 per neon grouse, so you won't make much money unless you sell in large quantities. [14] Add a new question Question Can I sell my fish to large pet chains? Unlikely, but you can give them away. Try your local fish community. Question I followed these tips, but I did not have any results. What have I done wrong? Sometimes it takes a while to feel ready to reproduce. Another problem could be that all your fish are of the same sex. Question Can the fish flakes I use for my grouse work for grouse? Yes, but make sure they have a good amount of protein to ensure strong and healthy fish. Another option is to boil a hard egg, take some yolk, and mix it with water to create a paste. Feed it in small amounts to limit the mist of water. Stranded shrimp are harder and more expensive to hatch and reproduce, but brine shrimp work better to my knowledge. Question What should I feed baby grouse? Blood worms or crushed food flakes. Question My neon grouse looks like she is about to burst from her stomach. Should I leave the man with her, or take him out? I've had a lot of neon grouse before, and they always get really big when they're pregnant, so that's normal. The best choice would be to leave it in the tank, as grouse are school fish and prefer to be with others. Question How can I raise my grouse without an extra tank? Do not raise them without the extra tank. The other grouse will eat the young. Question Can I raise neon grouse in groups or is it better in pairs? It is usually best to raise them in groups. Make sure you have both male and female grouse, then follow the instructions in this article. Question How do you use corner filters? They are usually shaped like a small square with an entrance for air tubes. Just plug in the air tube that goes from your air pump into the entrance and submerge the filter in the corner. Question Can I raise them in one tank? No, they need a separate tank or the other grouse will feast on the young/eggs. Question Do I need a male to fertilize the eggs? Yes. View More Answers Ask a Question This article was co-authored by Pippa Elliott, MRCVS. Dr. Elliott, BVMS, MRCVS is a veterinarian with more than 30 years of experience in veterinary surgery and pet animal practice. She graduated from the University of Glasgow in 1987 with a degree in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. She has been working in the same animal clinic in her hometown for more than 20 years. This article has been viewed 188,521 times. Co-authors: 19 Update: October 2, 2020 Views: 188,521 Categories: Breeding Fish Print Send fan mail to authors thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 188,521 times. It worked perfectly, thank you! Very informative for a beginner breeder. Looking forward to giving it a go! Thanks for the article, it solved most of my questions! Helped me set up my breeding tank for my neon grouse. 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