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Koi Fish: A New Beginning

Have you ever wondered how koi fish create new life? Koi fish have fascinating ways of reproducing, and their journey to create a new generation is an important part of their life cycle.

Koi fish reproduce through a process called spawning. This usually happens in the spring when the water temperature is warm, around 68 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit. Male koi chase female koi around the pond, often nudging them to encourage them to release their eggs. Female koi can lay thousands of eggs at one time! After the eggs are released, the males fertilize them by spreading their sperm over the eggs in the water.

Koi eggs are very tiny and sticky, attaching to plants, rocks, or other surfaces in the pond. The gestation period—or the time it takes for the eggs to hatch—is very short, lasting only about four to seven days. Once the eggs hatch, tiny baby koi, called fry, emerge. These fry are only a few millimeters long and must fend for themselves right away.

Interestingly, koi fish do not care for their young. In fact, adult koi might even eat the eggs or fry if they come across them! This is why koi owners often place special nets or plants in the pond to protect the eggs and give the fry a safe space to grow. As the fry grow, they slowly develop the bright colors and patterns that koi fish are known for.

The process of reproduction for koi is all about creating as many eggs as possible to ensure that at least some of them survive. While koi parents might not stick around to help their young, they still play an essential role in keeping their species alive. Watching koi fish during spawning season is a unique and exciting experience that shows how life begins for these beautiful creatures.