

## What Koi Clubs Need to Know about Insurance

By Nellie Hawley, Senior Commercial Lines Multiperil Insurance Underwriter, 2022



As a Koi Club member do you know if your club is adequately covered should it be involved in a lawsuit? What happens if someone should trip and fall over a cord for a projector at a meeting and break their hip, and decide to file suit? What would you do if planning a show or another event at a location where you would be required to provide liability insurance and possibly have the owner of the premises added as an additional named insured?

The above can be answered very easily. Contact a local Commercial Lines Insurance Agent. Insurance for a club or special event is handled as a business, as opposed to a personal policy such as your private auto or homeowners' policy. A Commercial Lines Insurance policy will provide coverage against client lawsuits, customer or employee injury, property theft or damage as well as other unexpected events. This policy provides coverage for officers and members of the club while acting within the scope of their duties. If a club member tripped and fell there would be no coverage as the member is part of the named insured. Should a guest fall, the policy would protect against their lawsuit. Note if a meeting were being held at a member's home, that member's homeowners' insurance would be primary in any lawsuit filed by a guest. That is one reason some members refrain from hosting a location for a club meeting or pond tour.

The Club would purchase the Liability Insurance in their name at the limits requested by the owner/lessee or whatever and have the owner/lessee named as an Additional Named Insured. In other words. The Insured would be XYZ Koi Club with the additional named insured being ABC City.

## Questions you may be asked when approaching the agent.

- Is the club a non-profit organization (501C-3)?
- How many members are in the club?
- How often does the club meet? Keep in mind that some clubs meet monthly while others may meet only during certain months.
- Where are meetings held? Many clubs meet at members' homes while others meet at other locations such as libraries and or community centers. This can affect the limits required by the policy. A prime example is a club holding meetings at members' homes may agree to a limit of \$500,000, but a club holding meetings at municipality-owned premises such as a library might require a \$1,000,000 or higher limit.
- Should the club only wish to provide needed coverage for an event such as a Koi show the same local Commercial Lines Agent can be approached. Typically, you will be asked questions such as location, date (or dates), hours, expected attendance, and any special requirements such as limits, security, or being named as an additional named insured. You may also be questioned whether or not there will be an admission charge.

Does your club provide alcoholic beverages for meetings and or events? If so, please mention this to your insurance agent in discussing coverage. There is such a thing as Host Liquor Liability. This coverage may vary from state to state, but in some states, the party providing the beer, wine, etc. can be held to account for the results of the spirits. A prime example is the automobile accident, which resulted in a fatality of a person killed on the way home after a meeting and having had one too many drinks provided by the host. Coverage can be provided at a cost. It is far better to ask than assume.

In closing, you may ask if there is a ballpark figure to anticipate when requesting a quote for Liability Insurance. Liability Insurance rates are based on several things, such as location, exposure, frequency, etc., and vary from state to state, and even by territory within a state. Rates vary widely by region. Get competitive bids from several agents in your area of operation to determine which plan best suits your needs.

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Nellie Hawley was in the insurance industry for 43 years. She has been involved with the Koi Hobby for about 15 years and was a member of the North Florida Koi Club as well as the First Coast Koi Club. She was honored to be the NFKC Koi Person of the Year in 2008. As a KHA, she was proud to be one of the workers behind the highly successful AKCA Seminar held in Jacksonville, FL. Nellie happily joined K.O.I. shortly after its inception and continues to support and recommend the organization to friends and fellow Koi Hobbyists.

And a personal note by Nellie: "My favorite fish in our pond is a 29" Matsuba, which I raised from an egg." If you have more detailed questions, or questions about insuring your club's Show supplies, Nellie can be reached at: [finsandferns@comcast.net](mailto:finsandferns@comcast.net).