



## *Body* Male or Female Koi

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Often, you see the difference between male or female Koi in the body shape. The form of the anus/vent of koi is different for the sexes. With the males the anus/vent has an elongated shape, while with the female it is round. In the mating season, the gill covers on the males are rough, also the first fin ray and often all of the pectoral fin is rough and thickened. The males are faster in their development than the females, and mostly as small Koi, are also more colourful. In the mating season, you can check whether sperm comes out of the anus/vent by applying slight pressure from the stomach towards the anus/vent. With young Koi, it is much more difficult to recognise whether a koi is male or female. You must pay much more attention to different points on young koi than on adult Koi. I judge them according to the body form. The body is usually wider with the young females than with the males. Another thing that you can look at is the movement of the Koi. The movement of the male is less fluid

compared to the movement of the females. These characteristics are not one hundred percent reliable, so sometimes surprises do occur after the selection. Most of the the males are much slimmer than the females. Also a male is almost in all cases much more nervous than a female. This is often seen when they eat. Males tend to eat a few pellets and go down again whilst females stay on the surface and continue eating. Maybe the best way to describe this, is that the males are nervous eaters. Because of that, they also stay behind in development, due to there eating behavior. The females get most of the food. Just look in your pond whilst feeding. Often it becomes clear which the females and the males are. Only from the second year onwards can you speak of a much more confident sex determination. Below you can see the different characteristics of the sexes. With the females you can see that the opening curves outwards and is round, as with the male, it is more of a long line.

