History
The IBC is a worldwide union of Betta-lovers and breeders. It was founded in the United States in 1966 by Dr. Gene Lucas (known as the father of the IBC) and others as a charitable association with the goal of promoting bettas and researching them. The first international betta show took place in 1967 with a large participation of 60 IBC members and another 150 interested breeders. At that first show, there were over 200 fish judged.

A year later, there were 120 members and a team of 12 directors. The organization’s magazine FLARE! was brought to life, and a Class Standards was developed to allow fair and equal judgment during shows.

Today, the IBC exists in all parts of the world, with the largest memberships being in the United States (Area 1), Europe (Area 2), and Asia (Area 6). We have over 50 certified judges who are represented in every continent, and almost every month there is an IBC sanction international show taking place somewhere around the globe. At the prime of betta showing, there were over 600 bettas shown and judged at the annual IBC Convention.

Aims - Tasks - Projects
The aims of the IBC are:
• To organize betta fanciers throughout the world
• To promote and establish betta shows
• To establish and conduct training courses for the certification of judges, to define and establish standards for judging bettas, and to promote betta shows (these items are the direct responsibility of the official IBC Judging Board)
• To sponsor research and investigation of the betta genus and to publish the findings in the official publications of the IBC. For this, there are several different scholarships.
• To provide technical assistance in the breeding, raising, and keeping of bettas
• To build up an extensive collection of information about bettas and to maintain it (the complete collection is known as the Technical Article Library and is available in the IBC shop as a CD or download)

The IBC offers to betta fanciers and breeders a treasure in knowledge, enthusiastic members to help whether you have pet bettas or are a breeder of them, and the possibility of breeders getting to send their fish to International Shows and to compete against other bettas.
A worldwide organization dedicated to advancing the hobby for the Genus Betta and Betta Splendens.
Species Maintenance Program

The bettas most people know about are betta splendens - the show bettas that come in long or short fins, with a variety of tail types and all different colors and patterns. In addition to those most recognizable bettas, there are over 60 other recognized species in the genus, and others still be discovered to this day.

Within the IBC, the Species Maintenance Program (SMP) works to promote the keeping and preserving of these other species, cataloging and maintaining their lines, in much the same manner other species maintenance programs do, such as with Killifish. There is an online database of all known species, their characteristics, breeding patterns, and general keeping of the fish. The SMP also has a Maintenance Award Program to give points to breeders for breeding, showing, and distributing the ‘wild’ species so more people can breed and maintain them.

The ‘wild’ species are both bubble-nesters (like the splendens) and mouth-brooders. They can be large and relatively dull in coloration (such as betta pugnax or betta raja), or small and brightly colored (such as betta brownorum or betta albimarginata). The IBC is devoted to these species as well as the show splendens and offers encouragement and help for anybody wanting to keep and breed them.

Official IBC Code of Ethics

IBC members welcome everyone who is interested in bettas, whether new at owning and/or raising betta or an old pro who has raised thousands. The IBC feels there is room for all betta enthusiasts, young or old, new or experienced, individuals, families, team or commercial breeder.
The IBC is a club of individuals, families, teams, and commercial breeders who support the keeping, breeding, and or the showing of betta bred by members, the research into the genetics of the betta, and support of the preservation of the wild species through the Species Maintenance Program.

It is the policy of the IBC that members who sell, trade or give bettas to others must represent the description of the betta in a proper manner so as to assure that the buyers, consumers or recipients are not misled. An intentional misrepresentation would be a violation of the IBC policy and Code of Ethics.

Moreover, it is the policy of the IBC that when bettas are entered in a show, the fish should be raised and bred by the entrant or exhibitor unless clearly stated otherwise. Failure to comply with this policy would be contrary to the IBC Code of the Ethics.

The IBC does not participate in the fighting of fish for any reason and does not condone the fighting of bettas by others; nor does it support any individual or organization that does.

The International Betta Congress expects all members to conduct transactions with all parties in a responsible, fair and ethical manner in all business dealing concerning the purchase and sale of betta stock and supplies. While we hope that all disputes be amicably resolved among the parties, the Congress, however, is not an enforcement agency for the transaction of betta stock and/or supplies nor can the IBC mediate disputes involving members or any individuals over said transactions.

In the interest of fairness, the IBC does not endorse individual business enterprises and does not allow the promotion of those enterprises in posts on the IBC weblist, whether they are personal testimonials or commercial advertisements. The IBC believes that if all members abide by these simple guidelines we will have a happy, fun and stimulating club.

International Betta Congress Contacts

Website: http://www.ibcbettas.org

Facebook:

Emails:
Executive Board: president@ibcbettas.org
Judging Board (Shows): jbcchair@ibcbettas.org
Chapters: chapters@ibcbettas.org
Membership: membership@ibcbettas.org
Species Maintenance: smp@ibcbettas.org

Membership

Electronic Membership - Includes electronic full color FLARE! - You will be invited to join the IBC Members-Only BetterBettas Mailing List in order to access FLARE! and other IBC documents.
- $20 Individual
- $22 Family 1
- $14 Junior (under 16 - all areas)

Paper FLARE! Membership - Includes black & white mailed paper FLARE!
- $35 Individual (North America only)
- $37 Family 1 (North America only)
- $40 Individual (all other areas)
- $42 Family 1 (all other areas)
- $29 Junior (under 16 - all areas)
- $50 Associates (Includes fish hobby organizations and commercial entities)

Lifetime Rate: Available to individuals & families at a one-time fee of $500.
We are looking for you!
Please come and join us. 😊

(flyer provided by the Kampffischfreunde, an IBC Chapter)