

NSW CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

OWNING AND SHOWING CATS AND KITTENS

So you've decided to buy a pedigreed kitten from a breeder. Congratulations, and welcome to the exciting world of owning a cat. We hope you will have many years of pleasure from it.

Before You Pick up Your Kitten you will need to buy a secure cat carry box to take your new kitten home in. Do **not** rely on a cardboard box. Having paid good money for your kitten you would hate to have it jump out the car window or door.

When You Pick up Your Kitten the breeder should give you the following information.

1. A pedigree showing at least the parents and grand parents, but a 4 generation pedigree is the norm.
2. Most Important. A vaccination certificate confirming that the kitten has had at least one vaccination (usually administered by a vet at 8 to 10 weeks of age). A second vaccination is due at 12 - 14 weeks of age, and a third is recommended at 4 months of age.
3. Details of worming treatment. Recommended at 6 weeks of age and then every month.
4. The breeders' notes regarding feeding and care.
5. Paperwork confirming that the kitten has been microchipped in accordance with the NSW Companion Animals Act.
6. If you are buying the kitten for breeding and showing, you will need to obtain a NSW CFA Certificate of Registration for the kitten as either:-
 - a Certificate of Registration in your name as the owner; or
 - a Certificate of Registration in the breeder's name and with the transfer of ownership details completed on the rear of the certificate so you can then submit the form to NSW CFA to transfer the registration into your name.

Health Of Your Kitten The NSW CFA requires its breeders to comply with the association's Code of Ethics, and supply you with a strong and healthy kitten, but remember kittens are like young children and pick up and throw off some illnesses as part of their growing up. If you are not happy with the health of your kitten after getting it home or after a few days, discuss it with the breeder straight away, and if necessary take it to your Vet. You will need to take your kitten to your Vet anyway for its second or third vaccination, so get the Vet to check your kitten for any signs of health problems at the same time. Only as a last resort should you contact the association in regard to health or other issues regarding your kitten. The Association may intervene if circumstances warrant, but as the Association was not a party to the purchase of your kitten, it cannot resolve monetary disputes between a breeder and a purchaser. These are matters which should be referred to the NSW Office of Fair Trading.

Showing/Breeding

If you intend to show your kitten and/or breed with it, you will need to become a member of the NSW CFA. Membership forms can be obtained from the NSW CFA office or downloaded from the website.

Breeding

To become a registered breeder you must be a member and hold a Breeders' Prefix. Contact the NSW CFA office to obtain a Breeder's Brochure and the necessary forms.

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Showing

So, you have decided to show your kitten. The following will be useful tips.

Show Dates

A calendar of show dates and show contacts is available from the office or website.

How to Enter a Show

Show Schedules (with entry forms) will be mailed to you on request to the Club contact (listed on the calendar), or can be downloaded from the website.

An information sheet giving details on how to complete the necessary show entry forms can be obtained from the office. The breeder of your kitten should also be able to help you with this.

Sexes of Cats: Male (entire male); Female (entire female);
Neuter (castrated/desexed male); Spay (castrated/desexed female)

Ages of Cats: Kitten – up to 9 months of age: Cat – 9 months of age and over

What You Need for Showing

1. A secure cat carry box to use to carry your cat into the show hall.
2. A set of show curtains (plain white cotton or similar) and a white towel or base for your cat to sit on (or hide under) during the show.
Show cages are either Single or Double of the following dimensions;
Single – 460 wide x 460 deep x 460 high (18" x 18" x 18")
Double – 690 wide x 460 deep x 460 high (27" x 18" x 18")
Usually cats and older kittens of the larger breeds require a double cage, and there is an extra charge for a double cage.
3. A clear or white plastic litter tray and litter such as Breeders Choice or OzPet Animal litter NOT clay litter. Litter trays may be left in the cages during judging if you so desire.
4. Some favourite food to give to your cat after judging is completed. It is recommended that you do not feed your cat on the morning of the show - this will lessen the risk of "accidents" during judging.
5. A spare set of curtains and base just in case your cat soils its cage.
6. A water dish with back hooks so you can hang it off the wire door of the cage, as your cat will probably tip over the water bowl if it is just placed in the cage.
7. Grooming comb, brush, or soft cloth for a last minute touch up before judging. Please note that you are not permitted to use talcum or grooming powders on your cat in the vicinity of the cages.
8. A bag to carry all your show gear.

Pre-Show Grooming

Showing a cat is like entering it in a beauty contest. Your cat must be well presented and groomed. Most shorthaired cats require little grooming, just regular brushing or stroking with the hand or a damp chamois. However, longhaired and semi-longhaired cats require bathing, blow drying, and grooming before each show to ensure their coats are in tip top show condition. Check with your breeder, and other longhair exhibitors, as to the best way to do this, and what shampoos or conditioners to use.

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On Show Day

1. Check the location of the show hall, and arrive during the advertised times for vetting.
2. Take your cat into the show hall in a secure cat carry cage.
3. Enter the hall and proceed to the Registration Table where you will receive your benching/vetting slip which will show your cat's name and its allocated cage number.
4. Join the vetting queue and then place your carry box on the vetting table. Take your cat out and present it to the veterinary officer who will examine your cat and pass or reject it as fit and well for showing. Don't be scared about this procedure, as veterinary inspection is a precautionary measure and less than 1%, if any, cats are rejected at vetting at a show.
5. After vetting, find your cat's show cage – it will have a numbered cage card on the front door of the cage. Set up your curtains and base, tie on the pipe cleaners to secure the door (if you're not sure how to do this ask a steward or another exhibitor – tell them you're new at this and need help). Then put your cat in the cage and secure the door. You may stay with your cat until an announcement is made to clear the floor just prior to the commencement of judging.

Types of Shows

There are 2 types of shows – Closed Judging or Open Judging.

Closed Judging – Exhibitors are required to leave the hall during judging, and return once judging has been completed, usually around 12.30 -1.00pm.

Open Judging – Exhibitors are permitted to sit on chairs at the front of each judging bay and watch the cats being judged and listen to comments the judge may make on each exhibit.

Usually there are 2 or 3 rings of judging – each cat is judged 2 or 3 times by a different judge. Between each ring of judging at open shows exhibitors may check their cats and do some touch up grooming if needed.

Judging of Cats

Each breed of cat has an agreed Australia wide written standard, and judges will assess and place the cats according to these standards. First of all your cat is judged in its colour class, then against other colours in the breed, and then the best of breed is judged against the other breeds to decide the Best in Show.

To become a judge, a person has to attend a lengthy course and pass written and practical examinations. Qualified stewards assist the judges and handle cats during judging.

Once Judging has been Completed

You may return to your cat, and you may then feed and offer water to your cat.

An Award Card giving details of your cat's results will be placed on top of the cage together with any ribbons or prizes. You do not have to remain with your cat all afternoon, but some time should be spent at the cage to answer questions from the public. You may also talk to the judges who assessed your cat to get their opinion on the good and not so good features of your cat. Also talk to other exhibitors (tell them you're new at showing) and pick up a few tips. A show usually finishes at around 3.3pm – 4.00 pm when you can pack up and go home, hopefully with a smile on your face.

Show Catalogue

This is normally an A4 printed booklet giving

- List of all exhibits' names and cage numbers.
- Names and addresses of exhibitors.
- List of Judges, their assignments, and their stewards.
- List of prizes and awards.

Note If you want a Show Catalogue you will need to order and pay for it with your entry.

We hope these notes will be of assistance to you.

NSW CFA contacts

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