



Code of Ethics for Registered Breeders

Adopted – 16th July 2014

Amended – 16th September 2015

Amended – 8th May 2017

Amended – 1st November 2018

Amended – 15 March 2023

Amended - 9th September 2025

CODE OF ETHICS FOR REGISTERED BREEDERS

The following comprises a declaration of intent by Registered Breeders to follow the Code of Ethics of Cats NSW Inc.

By applying for membership or membership renewal, all breeder members are deemed to have read and agreed to the Cats NSW Inc. Code of Ethics for Registered Breeders.

NSW resident breeder members must comply with the following NSW legislations:

- Companion Animals Act 1998, Companion Animals Regulation 2008,
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979,
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (General) Regulation 2006,
- Animal Welfare Code of Practice - Breeding cats and dogs, and the
- Local Government Act 1993

ACT resident breeder members must comply with the following ACT legislations:

- Animal Welfare Act 1992,
- Animal Welfare Regulation 2001,
- Domestic Animals Act 2000, and the
- Domestic Animals Regulation 2001

AMENDMENTS

DATE	CLAUSE	DESCRIPTION
08.05.2017		Added clause numbers
08.05.2017	6.1	Vaccination rules and health checks for kittens
15.03.2023	1.8	Amended to include microchip requirements
15.03.2023	5.7	Amended to include microchip requirements
15.03.2023	5.9	Amended to include requirement for desexing certificate with transfer application.
09.09.2025	5.9	Amended to include additional information about the requirements of this clause

1.0 INTRODUCTION

CATS NSW Inc member Breeders shall:

- 1.1 maintain meticulous records of all breeding cats to enable members to provide true and accurate records of the pedigrees of any kittens sold;
- 1.2 provide mating certificates for all outside stud services at the time of the service. Where a mating is registered the mating certificate must specify any conditions including but not limited to the sale or transfer of any progeny of the mating. They shall be true and correct and matings witnessed where possible. Where it proves difficult to witness a mating, breeder members shall ensure that there is no question of paternity of a litter of kittens;
- 1.3 Certificates of Registration will be transferred by the breeder into the new owner's name when the cat/kitten has been sold for show and/or breeding;
- 1.4 Each member shall accept reasonable financial responsibility for the health status of kittens for 7 days after the date the new owner takes possession of the kitten. It is recommended that kittens are veterinary inspected within 48 hours of arriving at their new home.
- 1.5 No kitten shall be offered as a prize or be raffled;
- 1.6 No kitten shall be sold to a commercial pet wholesaler or pet shop;
- 1.7 Breeder members shall breed to improve the standard of the breed and not solely for the pet market;
- 1.8 Breeders **must** register all kittens **in each and every litter** with Cats NSW Inc. Every kitten and cat **must** have a microchip at the time of application for registration;
- 1.9 Where a cat is leased to or from another breeder, a copy of the leasing contract, including any restriction, if any, of the sale or transfer of any progeny of the leased cat.
- 1.10 Kittens sold as breeding stock shall be sold ONLY to REGISTERED BREEDERS. No kittens will be transferred entire unless to a registered breeder.
- 1.11 No cat may be transferred entire more than three (3) times. The number of transfers will be noted on the pedigree.
- 1.12 Catteries will be placed in quarantine when evidence is presented to the Cats New South Wales Inc committee that a communicable disease is present, or if a breeder self identifies such a disease in their cattery.
- 1.13 While a cattery is in quarantine, no person either owning or residing at that cattery shall attend any cat related event without prior knowledge and permission of all persons likely to attend that event, or visit any other cattery or the home of any other exhibitor without the prior knowledge and permission of all the persons concerned.

- 1.14 While a cattery is in quarantine, no kittens or cats can be sold, or otherwise transferred without the written permission of the Cats New South Wales Inc committee.
- 1.15 A veterinary clearance will be required to lift the quarantine. Such veterinary clearance must encompass all cats/kittens resident at the affected cattery.

2.0 BREEDING PROGRAM

Breeder members shall plan and implement a breeding program which addresses the following issues:

- 2.1 preservation and protection of the breed/s involved;
- 2.2 health and freedom from congenital disease and deformity;
- 2.3 conformity to the standards of the breed as set out by the Australian Cat Federation Inc

3.0 CARE OF CATS

Breeder members shall maintain a high standard of health and care, including providing for each cat and making advance preparations for the care of their cats should they not be able to care for them, Breeders must:

- 3.1 not allow an entire cat to run loose outdoors (i.e. confined within a cat-proof area);
- 3.2 provide any outdoor runs with security from weather, other animals, and parasites;
- 3.3 observe show rules by protecting their cat/s and others by not exposing at shows, cats which are ill;
- 3.4 adequate room for exercise;
- 3.5 regular handling and grooming;
- 3.6 clean and comfortable quarters;
- 3.7 adequate ventilation and light;
- 3.8 a balanced diet and clean water;
- 3.9 regular vaccinations and veterinary care and
- 3.10 love and affection.

4.0 CARE OF STUD MALES

Breeder members shall:

- 4.1 only offer external stud service to breeders with an established cattery registered with a recognised association.
- 4.2 allow stud males adequate time between successive matings.

5.0 CARE OF BREEDING FEMALES AND KITTENS

Breeder members shall:

- 5.1 be mindful that females are to be over 10 months old at the time of their first mating. Exceptions are made when recommended by a veterinarian where prolonged calling by a young female jeopardises her fertility or health;
- 5.2 ensure females are not overbred – no more than twice in any 12 month period; not repeatedly breed a dam who has severe and persistent birthing difficulties;
- 5.3 provide proper care for the safe and healthy delivery of kittens, and shall, whenever possible, be available to assist the queen, if necessary, without undue interference with natural parturition. If unable to be present at the expected time of birth, then should ensure that another responsible and experienced person is available to attend the birth. A veterinarian shall be consulted at the first sign of life-threatening difficulty;
- 5.4 agree to have euthanised, any kitten born with a deformity which a veterinarian deems incompatible with a healthy or comfortable life. In the case of genetic defects, breeder members should consult a veterinarian or geneticist as soon as possible and report all findings to purchasers of kittens from the same breeding stock, and to the owner/breeder of the sire and/or dam;
- 5.5 not allow kittens under the age of 10 weeks of age to leave their home;
- 5.6 ensure **all** kittens have received a **health check** by a **Practicing Registered Veterinarian and have received a Feline 3 vaccination administered by a Practicing Registered Veterinarian** at least two weeks prior to being sold;
- 5.7 have all kittens and cats microchipped at the time of application for registration or transfer and apply for transfer to the new owner;
- 5.8 wean, litter-train and socialise all kittens prior to leaving for their new home;
- 5.9 ensure that all cats and kittens are desexed before being transferred from the breeder, unless the new owner is a registered breeder.

The only exception is when a Registered Veterinarian provides a letter of exemption to the desexing procedure based on the health and safety of the animal. Before leaving the breeder, an agreement between the breeder and the new owner must be signed, which outlines the conditions of sale and specifies when the kitten will be desexed.

The letter of exemption from the Veterinarian and the signed agreement must be submitted to the Registrar when the kitten is registered and/or transferred.

Once the animal has been desexed, the breeder will send a copy of the Sterilisation Certificate to the Registrar.

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- 5.10 provide to new owners all vaccination records, micro-chipping records, dietary requirement information sheets and pedigree. These records are rightfully the property of the new owner
- 5.11 when selling entire pedigree breeding kittens or cats, member breeders will not transfer the said cat before the buyer has been granted a breeding prefix from a recognised body affiliated with Australian Cat Federation Inc.(ACF), Co-Ordinating Cat Council of Australia Inc.(CCCA) or Australian National Cats Inc.(ANCATS).