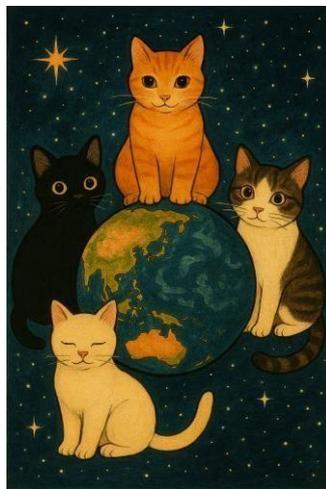


The “HOW-TO” of the CAT World



A guide for people interested in being owned by a cat and/or is considering Breeding, Registering and Showing Cats in New South Wales, Australia.

- by Tony Hurry with the assistance of Peta Sperduty and Fiona Cooper

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1. How to RESEARCH a BREED FOR YOU

- Research the breed you are interested in to ensure you can commit to your cat or kitten's needs, and that they will fit with your family's lifestyle.
- Search the internet making sure that you only communicate with a breeder from a registered Cat Association (see below information on recognised registering bodies)
- Search the internet for a kitten or cat from a rescue or adoption organisation in your area i.e. RSPCA, Animal Welfare League, PetRescue, Breed specific clubs and rescues.
- Understand the health and care needs (or lack thereof) of your breeds of interest.
- A great way to view different breeds is to visit a Cat Show or exhibition. Information including Show Calendars can be found on registering body websites and social media pages.

2. How to PURCHASE A KITTEN/CAT

- Research, then decide on the breed that is best suited to your home and family. Consider things such as grooming needs, activity levels, allergies etc.
- Consider if you prefer a kitten or a cat as some breeders will rehome adult cats.
- Having decided on the breed best suited to your family, again research on what health testing should have been done by the Breeder on the parents of your kitten/cat. Request confirmation that your Breeder is doing these tests and is happy to show you the results. These tests may be by DNA, Ultrasound (e.g. Heart Scan), Xray (Hips). Note: Not all breeds need to be tested.
- If possible, visit the Cattery where your kitten/cat will come from. If not possible due to distance or the breeder doesn't want strangers in their home, ask for some video evidence of the parents and the cattery or environment in which they are housed.
- Decide on Pet Only (not to exhibit at shows) or a quality to Show and/or Breed.
- Find a reputable, registered Breeder of your chosen Breed. You are encouraged to look for a breeder who is a Member of a recognised Registering body. Your Breeder should be happy to advise who they are registered with, however if you are unsure, you can contact the Registering body to confirm that they are a current Member.

- For intrastate, the following links will provide details of Member bodies/affiliates:

Cats NSW <https://catsnsw.com.au>

NSW CFA <https://nswcfa.asn.au>

ANCATS <https://www.ancats.com.au>

Cats Australia <https://www.catsaustralia.com.au>

- For interstate, the following links will provide details for Member bodies/affiliates:

Australian Cat Federation (ACF) <https://www.acf.asn.au>

Cat Co-ordinating Council of Australia (CCCA) <https://www.ccofa.com.au>

ANCATS <https://www.ancats.com.au>

Cats Australia <https://www.catsaustralia.com.au>

- Commit to purchase a registered kitten or cat from a breeder who is registered with one of the above organisations.
- At time of receiving kitten or cat ensure you receive or are to be forwarded:
 - Certificate of Registration with kitten or cat detailing you as the owner and that kitten or cat is able to be shown (should you choose to enter in a Cat Show)
 - Evidence that kitten or cat has been vaccinated.
 - Evidence (Vet certificate) that kitten/cat has been desexed (if not for breeding)
 - Proof of lifetime registration with NSW Pet Registry (NSW only)
 - Verifiable proof of DNA tests taken for heritable genetic diseases.

3. How to VISIT A CAT SHOW

- Search the internet for Cat Shows in your area. Recognised Associations each have a website with a Show Calendar detailing when, where and times that you can view many different breeds and talk with breeders and cat enthusiasts to assist with your research.
- You may even find a breeder with an older cat to rehome which may better suit you.
- There will be show rules to which you will be asked to comply i.e. no fingers in cages without asking the owner, no entering show ring whilst judging is in progress, keeping mobile phone on silent.

4. How to JOIN A CAT ASSOCIATION

If you are intending to become a registered breeder or want to enter a Cat Show with your kitten or cat you must become a Member of a reputable, recognised Cat Association in your State. Note: Some Member bodies/affiliates will allow you to show for 2 to 3 shows before becoming a Member. Check with the Association/Member body you are considering joining to confirm its rules.

To assist, ACF, CCCA, ANCATS, Cats Australia websites will detail Associations/Member bodies/contact persons in your State. You will then be required to complete:

- Application for Membership
- Application for Breeders Prefix (only if intending to breed), noting that some applications may include a detailed questionnaire to be completed as part of the application.
- **NOTE**: Once you have joined an Association/Member body you need to transfer your Kitten/Cat to your new Association/Member body. They will have a form that you need to fill in and send to their registrar.
- If the kitten or cat is registered with the organisation you have joined and is already in your name, this step will not be needed.

In some instances, applications may take weeks to process, so please be patient as processing is via volunteers who give freely of their time.

5. How to TRANSFER MEMBERSHIP FROM ANOTHER ASSOCIATION

- You cannot transfer Membership. You must apply with new chosen Association then show evidence that you have resigned from previous Association.
- You are not permitted to be a full Member of more than one Association in NSW (other States are different). You are, in most cases, permitted to be an associate Member of more than one Association.

6. How to BECOME A REGISTERED BREEDER

- Make sure you do your research on what is required to be a registered breeder. There are local and State government requirements that breeders of companion animals are required to adhere. Make sure you check with your local council and read the following legislation:
 - NSW Animal welfare code of practice breeding - [Animal Welfare Code of Practice - Breeding dogs and cats \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
 - NSW Code of practice Boarding NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No 5 - [Dogs and cats in animal boarding establishments](#)
 - NSW Animal welfare regulations - [Animal welfare regulation \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
 - NSW Companion animals act - [Companion Animals Act 1998 No 87 - NSW Legislation](#)
 - The prevention of cruelty to animals act - [View - NSW legislation](#)

It is also strongly recommended that you have a mentor who can help you along in your breeding journey. If you do not have a mentor, contact your registering body and they will be able to put you in contact with one.

7. How to TRANSFER BREEDERS PREFIX FROM ANOTHER ASSOCIATION

- Complete an Application for Transfer of Breeders Prefix Form which is available by either downloading from your chosen registering bodies website or by contacting its Secretary or President whose details should be on their website.
- Applications can often include completing a multi-page questionnaire.
- In support of your application, you will be required to supply copies of Certificates of Registration and Pedigrees of all breeding cats.
- Once approved by its committee, you will receive formal notification and be asked to forward applicable fee.

8. How to REGISTER A KITTEN

- Complete an Application for Litter & Kitten Registration Form which is available by either downloading from your chosen registering body's website or by contacting its Registrar, Secretary or President (details on website) or your mentor.
- Only the registered breeder can make this application.
- Some registering bodies have a checklist to assist you in best ensuring form, and all required documents are forwarded at time of applying.
- Each of the living progeny from a litter **must** be registered.

- Microchip numbers are required at time of making application with some organisations, so please check your registering bodies rules.
- Certificates of Sterilisation (desexing certificates) are required at time of making application unless being sold to a registered breeder.
- In some instances, should you not own the stud, you will be required to provide a stud service certificate or declaration.
- Note that most registering bodies have timeline requirements for registrations. Please refer to your chosen registering body to learn its requirements.
- Should you have known heritable genetic diseases in your breed, & DNA testing is available for such disease, it is recommended that you test for them with a reputable DNA testing laboratory. When you receive a verifiable test result then forward the details with your application to register as some registering bodies will record in its database and include on your certificate of registration.

9. How to DNA TEST

- This is a valuable tool to assist breeders bring out the best in animal genetics which better ensures that pets can live happy, healthy lives.
- Recognised suppliers/laboratories of DNA testing are Orivet (Australia), UC Davis (USA), Langford (UK)
- In general, there are approximately 60+ tests for breed specific genetic diseases and traits. Do your research to see what needs to be tested for your chosen breed. Many of the suppliers/laboratories will have breed packages to assist you in not having to work out what to test for.
- You do not need a Vet to collect samples but rather collect mouth swabs yourself or locate a nominated authorised collection agent. Swab kits are ordered online then delivered to your address. Once swabs are taken, documentation completed, preaddressed return to sender envelope posted, then you wait for confirmation of receipt after which verifiable results will be emailed to you.
- Consider having results of testing recorded by your registering body's registrar should they provide this service.

10. How to REGISTER A COMPANION KITTEN or CAT

- Complete an Application for Companion Kitten or Cat Registration Form which is available by either downloading from your chosen registering body's website or by contacting its Registrar, Secretary or President (details on website) or your mentor.
- Microchip numbers are required at time of making application.
- Certificates of Sterilisation (desexing certificates) are required at time of making application.
- If you are not sure what colour and/or pattern your kitten/cat is referred, you can contact your registering body for assistance.

- Once you have registered your kitten/cat, you will be supplied with a Certificate of Registration. Unlike a purebred cat. the section detailing family history/parentage will be blank.

11. How to REGISTER WITH NSW PET REGISTRY

- As a responsible breeder and/or pet owner you MUST register your pet in NSW. This is done via your MyServiceNSW account by either creating or logging in to a NSW Digital Pet Registry account.
- Should you not be able to transact electronically, you can download a paper form from the NSW Pet Registry website and transact manually via your local council.
- Note that late fees and fines are applicable if registration is not paid when required.
- Should assistance be required please contact either your seller, NSW Pet Registry support or your local council.

12. How to UPDATE REGISTERED DETAILS OF KITTEN or CAT

- Complete the relevant Application Form i.e. colour, pattern, sex, title which are available by either downloading from your chosen registering body's website or by contacting its Registrar, Secretary or President (details on website) or your mentor.
- For Australian Cat Federation (ACF) title upgrades i.e. Award of Excellence, Companion Award of Honour, ACF National Title, download the relevant form from your chosen registering body's website or by contacting its Registrar, Secretary or President (details on website) or your mentor.

13. How to ADVERTISE YOUR CATTERY

- Most registering bodies provide the service of advertising breeds and breeders on their websites. Contact your Secretary or President (details on website) or your mentor.
- A Breed Club/Organisation (i.e. Siamese Cat Society of NSW, Burmese Cat Society of Australasia) usually advertise its Member breeders on its website as a part of its Membership fee.
- Other social media platforms can also be helpful to advertise and promote.

14. How to ADVERTISE KITTENS YOU HAVE FOR SALE

- A Breed Club/Organisation (i.e. Siamese Cat Society of NSW, Burmese Cat Society of Australasia) usually advertise kittens available from its Member breeders on its website as a part of its Membership fee.
- If you do not have a website, consideration should be given to either designing one or having one designed/built for you.
- Other useful advertising outlets are available, each of which usually require detailing your accreditation or Membership of a recognised registering body.

15. How to ENTER A CAT SHOW

Entering a Cat Show is usually not an easy process for beginners. You are encouraged to either contact your mentor (if you have one), the show's Secretary or your registering bodies Secretary, each of whom should assist you.

Importantly:

- Read the show's schedule which will have all the rules, requirements, times etc.
- Have a copy of each of your exhibit's Certificate of Registration
- Ensure each of your exhibits are up to date with vaccinations.
- If you do not have a show cage you can usually hire one. Details will be on the show schedule. If not, contact the show's Secretary.
- Show cages can be sourced from various outlets i.e. Vebo cages <https://www.vebopet.com.au> Check with your mentor or Association Secretary as to approved dimensions.
- Bring with you Show curtains that can be fitted to the show cage.
- Usually, your kitten or cat will not have been offered its morning meal prior to leaving for the show, so please remember to bring a small meal, water, small bowl, utensils, cleaning items and cat litter that the exhibit is used to as it may need the litter tray.

Most Importantly:

- Ensure your kitten or cat is of a temperament that will enjoy the long show's days, travel to and from, and the handling during assessing on the show bench.
- **A happy cat at home is so much better than an upset, unhappy or cranky one at a show!**

What you WILL need to bring on Show Day

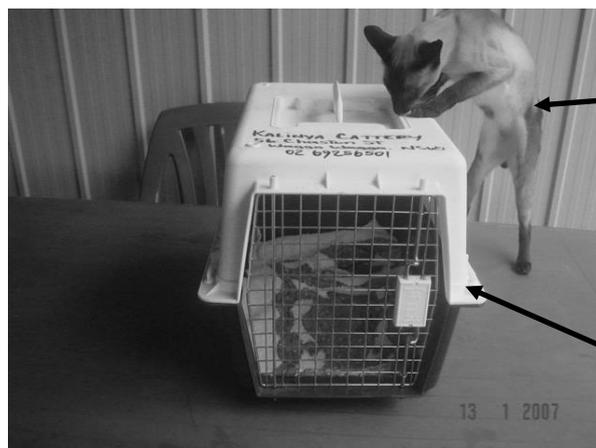
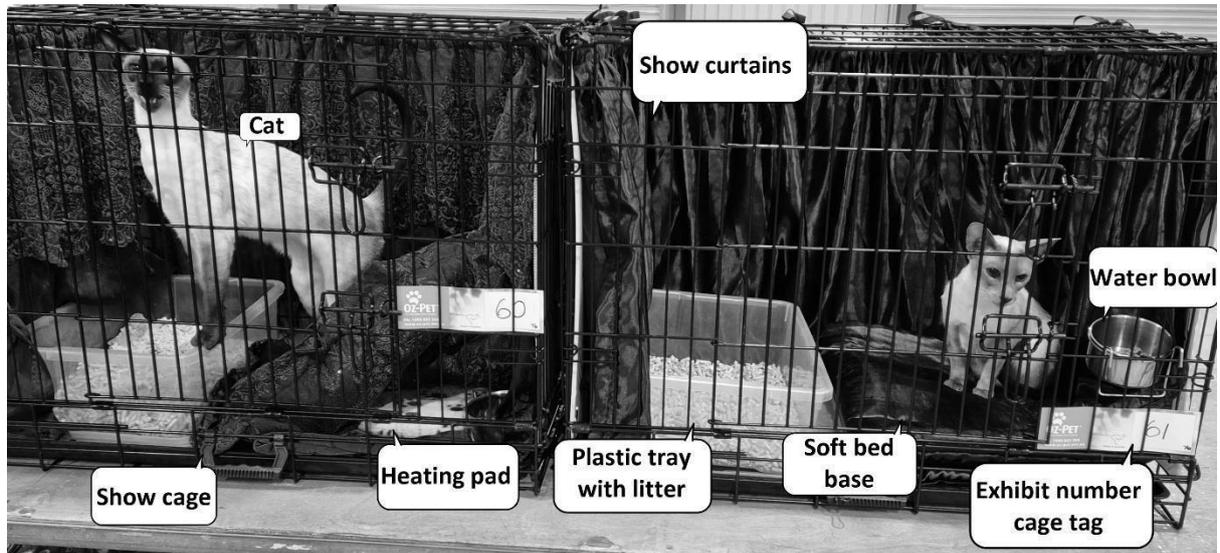
SHOW CAGE

Supply your own or can be hired. Please refer to show's schedule for hire pricing and cage dimension specifications. Please contact your mentor or show Secretary for any assistance.

*** Note that some Association's show rules require they be fitted with suitable solid barriers (i.e. corflute) on both sides and back.**

CURTAINS

White or coloured, can be borrowed or purchased on Show Day should you not have your own. Please check with your mentor or show Secretary for any assistance.



Remember to bring your **CURRENT VACCINATION CERTIFICATE** as issued by your Vet. This document will be checked for its compliance either upon entry or at the "Vetting In" table upon your arrival and prior to setting up your exhibit in the Show Ring.

To assist with enjoying your show day experience, please refer to the Show Day Checklist on page 11

ARRIVE HAPPY! LEAVE HAPPY!

References:

Animal Welfare Code of Practice - For Breeding Cats and Dogs in NSW

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/animal-welfare/animal-care-and-welfare/other/companion-animal-files/animal-welfare-code-of-practice-breeding-dogs-and-cats>

NSW Animal welfare regulations <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/animal-welfare/animal-care-andwelfare/animal-welfare-regulation>

How to sell or giveaway a cat or dog pamphlet

https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1316806/How-to-sell-or-give-away-acat-or-dog.pdf

Introduction of annual permits for non desexed cats

<https://www.petregistry.olg.nsw.gov.au/non-desexed-cat-and-dog-fees>

Pet Registry NSW New and Improved <https://www.petregistry.olg.nsw.gov.au>

NSW Companion animals act - Companion Animals Act 1998 No 87 - NSW Legislation

<https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/current/act-1998-087>

NSW The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act - View

<https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1979-200>

Cats NSW – Code of Ethics for Registered Breeders

<https://catsnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Cats-NSW-Code-Of-Ethics-forRegisteredBreeders-updated-March-2023.pdf>

Compiled by Tony Hurry with the assistance of Peta Sperduty and Fiona Cooper

SHOW DAY CHECKLIST

- Show Cage (hire or own)
- Cage curtains and base (it is a good idea to bring a spare base just in case of accidents)
- Vaccination certificate
- Certificate of Registration
- Litter tray
- Cat litter
- Cat Food
- Small food/water bowls, utensils
- Garbage bags for rubbish, cat excrement
- Cleaning items such as sanitary wipes
- Fresh water

AT THE SHOW VENUE

- Collect Vetting slip or Benching slip, noting some shows will email this to you the night before the show. (These allow entry to the Show)
- Collect show catalogue (if you ordered one with show entry)
- Present exhibit to vetting station (if the show has vetting, if not skip this step)
- Move exhibit to its benching area (this is where you set up your cage)
- Set up show cage and curtains in exhibits allocated space (Your cats number will be on your vetting/benching slip)
- Place exhibit in its show cage
- Complete any last-minute grooming
- If watching the judging, locate a seat. Check show schedule as some may require you to bring your own seat.
- Reminder to NOT call out to your cat or comment to the judge whilst your exhibit is on the show bench under assessment.
- Collect prizes, certificates, award card (Show Manager will announce how this is being done)
- Leave Show venue ONLY when Show has been announced as CLOSED