

CAT CHAT



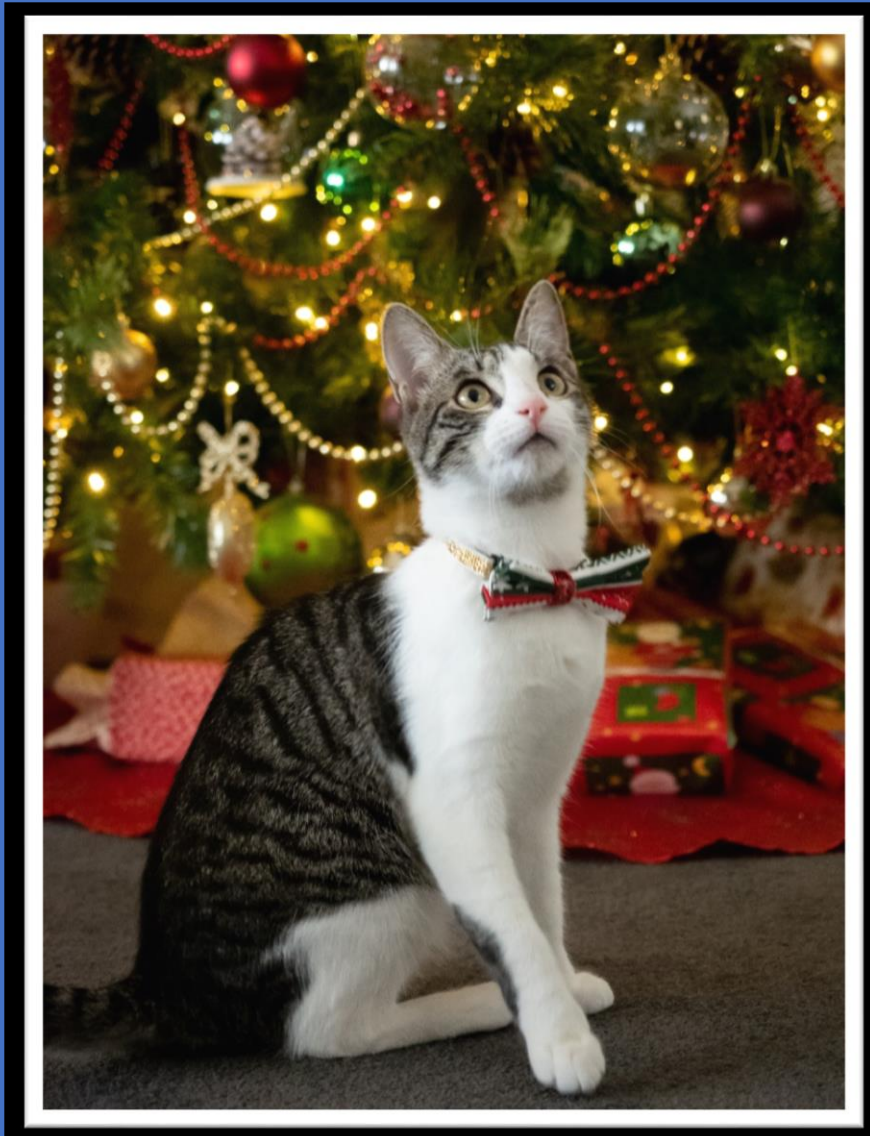
Cats
New South Wales
Incorporated

THE ALL-BREED MAGAZINE FOR THE BREEDER, EXHIBITOR & CAT FANCIER

All about: eye problems in cats/kittens

Breed focus: DEVON REX & MAINE COON cats

Plus the winners of the '*Christmas in July*' photo competition



Cats NSW Incorporated

About CATS NSW

CATS NSW is a cat governing body in New South Wales and the ACT and proudly affiliated with the Australian Cat Federation Inc.

Our Committee:

- President: Helena Sugar (email: president@catsnsw.com.au)
- Senior Vice President: Tony Hurry
- Junior Vice President: Di Stokes
- Secretary: Alison Moore (email: secretary@catsnsw.com.au)
- Membership Secretary: Di Stokes (email: membership@catsnsw.com.au)
- Treasurer: Crystal Maher (email: treasurer@catsnsw.com.au)

Committee members:

Renee Bont, Peta Sperduty, Wendy Hamilton, Sandra Sweetman & Jenny Weekes.

Registrar: Fiona Cooper (email: registrar@catsnsw.com.au)

Delegates:

A.C.F. : Fiona Cooper, Peta Sperduty

Affiliate Delegates: Elizabeth Robinson, Rosemary Rogers, Joanne Greentree, Suzette Greentree & Sharon Black

Cat Chat Editor & Designer: Sandra Sweetman (email: catchatmagazine@gmail.com)

Highlights of this issue:

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Results: Photo Competition	pages 14 to 17
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Around the Shows including Cats NSW Ten Year Anniversary	pages 32 to 37
Upcoming news about our next issue	page 38
Possible accommodation for the Cats NSW ACF National Cat Show	pages 39 & 40

Front cover: 1st place overall winner of the 'Christmas in July' dress up your cat/kitten/litter photo competition. **Lady Fern Miller Group 4: Companion.** Owned by Danielle & Thomas Clewett-Dang.

Note: the views & opinions expressed in CAT CHAT are not essentially those of Cats NSW, any of its Committee members or the Editor. Content contributed has been accepted in good faith and without prejudice and Cats NSW accepts no responsibility as to its validity.



WELCOME READERS: to our third issue of 'Cat Chat'

Once again there is a great deal happening in this issue: the focus being on cats/kittens eye problems with some educational and informative articles contributed by:

◆ Conjunctivitis in Cats: Dr Ngaire Dixon, Chair of the New Zealand Cat Fancy, Veterinary Surgeon, Director, Board Member, ◆ Common Eye Problems In Kittens: the National Kitten Coalition, USA, and ◆ Your Quick Guide To Cat Vaccinations: the Feline Health Research.

Our three prize package winners are announced with our first place winner's photograph on our front page. Once again a BIG thank you to our two Competition Judges: Marion Anstis and our own Di Stokes along with the sponsors of the three prize packages.

Our breed focus in this issue: the Devon Rex and the Main Coon. Thank you to our President: Helena Sugar and our Cats NSW Judge: Fiona Cooper for these two articles.

Please make sure you check out the '*recent updates from Cats NSW*' page and the article about '*scams*' which we hear more about every day.

If you would like to contribute an article, story, photo of your kitten/cats/litters etc or if you have any suggestions for future articles for '*Cat Chat*' magazine please do not hesitate to contact me.

I take this opportunity to wish all our readers a safe and happy Christmas.

Please enjoy!

Sandra



Editor: Sandra Sweetman
Email: catchatmagazine@gmail.com



Recent Updates from Cats NSW Committee



As members may be aware, vets are reporting a possible shortage of feline vaccine supply over the coming months. Owners and breeders are encouraged to discuss this with their vets to confirm stock availability and to make early bookings for kitten vaccinations where possible. (*Further details refer to: Appendix at the end of this publication*).

CONCERNING REGISTRATIONS:

MICROCHIPS FOR REGISTRATION

Every kitten and cat must have a microchip at the time of application for registration.

DESEXING CERTIFICATES FOR TRANSFERS

All kittens or cats being transferred from a breeder to an owner who is not a registered breeder must be desexed. A sterilisation certificate or letter of exemption from a registered veterinary surgeon is to be provided with the transfer application.

Please note: the Cats NSW Registrar's postal address has changed. Members should also be aware that the details on the reverse side of any pedigrees issued prior to February 2023 may have the old postal address on them.

The new postal address for the Cats NSW Registrar for all cat/kitten registrations, title updates etc is:

Cats NSW Registrar
PO Box 5033
South Tamworth, NSW 2340

all changes for pedigrees, title updates etc need to be mailed there.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING: CATS AUSTRALIA

The Australian Cat Federation Inc has decided not to recognise Cats Australia.

Breeders are reminded that as per ACF by-law Part Two sub clause 5.16:

'All kittens bred in Australia must be first be registered with a Cat registering body in the state where the kittens are born, which is affiliated with an ACF (Inc.) Affiliate, a CCCA body or ANCATS.'

Note: Cats NSW has no affiliation with Cats Australia.

CATS NSW BANK ACCOUNT:

Current bank account details are:

Commonwealth Bank
Cats NSW Inc. Show & Fundraising Account
BSB: 062 572
Account No: 1019 6375

Please ensure that you clearly add on the bank transfer full payment details.



ENTRY FOR CAT SHOWS is made electronically via:

<https://www.catshowsonline.com>

But note: that provision has been made for hard copy entries. If you experience difficulties entering through catshowsonline or would like to enter via a manual entry which can be done on your behalf please email Helena Sugar: arolena6@bigpond.com

CHALLENGES FROM ACF AFFILIATES USED AS PART OF MAJORITY FOR CATS NSW TITLES

Members who reside more than 400km from Sydney GPO are able to include challenges from interstate ACF bodies in their majority of challenges. They are able to use NSW CFA and/or other CCCA affiliate challenges but only as a minority for any one title upgrade.

CHECK YOUR EMAIL SPAM FOLDER FOR REPLIES FROM CATS NSW

Recently, our members have reported have reported an increase on security for their incoming email, with trusted Cats NSW emails going to Spam and not their Inbox. If you have submitted a form to Cats NSW, are waiting on a reply and have not seen the mail in your inbox, check your email Spam folders.

If you find a Cats NSW email in your spam:

1. Open your Junk Email folder and select the message you want to keep.
2. Depending on the email client, from the menu or right click, select Not Junk (or Not spam).
3. If you've blocked an email by mistake, open your Blocked senders list, select the email and unblock it.
4. Add the sender to your Safe senders list.

VETTING OF ALL CATS/KITTENS

All cats and kittens entering the show venue, regardless of whether they are entered in the show as an exhibit/on exhibition or not entered, must be examined by a Vet before being benched in their show cage. Any cat or kitten not entered in the show will need to be benched in a cage or container approved by the Show Manager, in the designated quarantine area.



For all membership enquiries:

Please contact our Membership Secretary:

Di Stokes email: membership@catsnsw.com.au

RESOLVING DISPUTES BETWEEN CAT BREEDERS AND KITTEN/CAT BUYERS

Sometimes disputes between breeders and buyers of kittens/cats can arise and a member might refer the matter to Cats NSW. This could be, for example about the sale of a cat/kitten or the return of a deposit. These are, however usually a private contractual matter between the member and the buyer.

A dispute such as these should be resolved by the relevant government body e.g. Department of Fair Trading, Consumer Claims Tribunal rather than individually to Cats NSW.

Members should be aware that buyers may refer disputes to their local state based Consumer Tribunal, please refer to your local Consumer Group for information on the process.

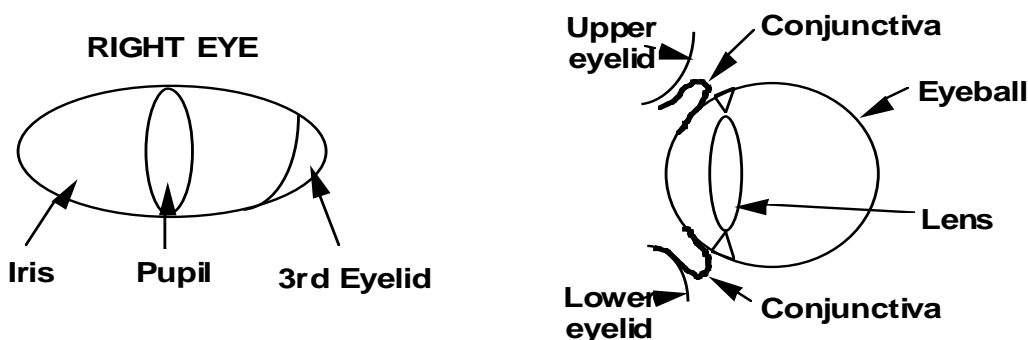


CONJUNCTIVITIS IN CATS

Dr Ngaire Dixon

Chair of the New Zealand Cat Fancy
Veterinary Surgeon, Director, Board Member

The conjunctiva is a mucous membrane, similar to that of the mouth and nose, that surrounds the eyeball forming a seal with the inner surface of the eyelids. The third eyelid is also covered by conjunctiva. In normal cats the conjunctiva is not readily visible and has a pale, salmon pink colour. **Conjunctivitis** is an inflammation of this membrane which becomes swollen and reddened often making it more visible. Conjunctivitis can affect one (unilateral) or both (bilateral) eyes.



How do I know if my cat has conjunctivitis?

Cats with conjunctivitis tend to have a discharge from their eye(s) which can be clear or thick and purulent. The conjunctiva is often more visible and reddened particular in the corner of the eye and can be swollen, partially covering the eye. Frequently the eye(s) are held half closed and the third eyelid is more prominent.

What are the causes of conjunctivitis?

A number of different conditions will cause conjunctivitis, many are sudden in onset and easily treatable others cause a more chronic disease which can be more difficult to control.

1. Mechanical and chemical irritants, trauma (*e.g. cat fights*) and foreign bodies tend to cause sudden onset (*acute*) conjunctivitis. In most cases treatment is rapidly effective once the exciting cause has been removed.
2. Immune based diseases including some allergies can cause conjunctivitis. These diseases are rare in cats but can be difficult to treat, sometimes management of the symptoms is the only realistic option.
3. The most common causes of conjunctivitis in cats are infectious agents. There are several feline infectious diseases that can cause conjunctivitis (*basically all the agents that contribute to feline upper respiratory infection also cause conjunctivitis*). Frequently they are present in combination. The most common causes are viruses (*usually feline herpes virus type 1*), and bacteria (*most commonly Chlamydia*).



Feline Herpes virus Conjunctivitis:

Feline Herpesvirus is widespread in cat populations, especially in multi cat households. Transmission is typically from cat to cat, and the virus replicates in the conjunctiva (*amongst other places*). Effective vaccines are available.

Clinical signs:

Herpes virus causes conjunctivitis and eye ulcers. Herpes virus can also be associated with lethargy, decreased appetite, fever, sneezing and nasal discharge.

Diagnosis:

Diagnostic testing is of limited value and challenging because:

- ▶ -50% of “normal” cats will shed herpes virus.
- ▶ no test will differentiate between the vaccine virus and the actual disease virus (*the vaccine can interfere with the tests*),
- ▶ infected animals will only shed the virus intermittently.

Therefore, the tests will give you both false positive and false negative results. However, in more chronic cases biopsies of the conjunctiva is required for viral assessment

Treatment:

Local administration using drops or ointments (idoxuridine or cidofovir) work best, but they are very expensive and really sting and need frequent application (5-8 times daily), therefore they are not frequently use.

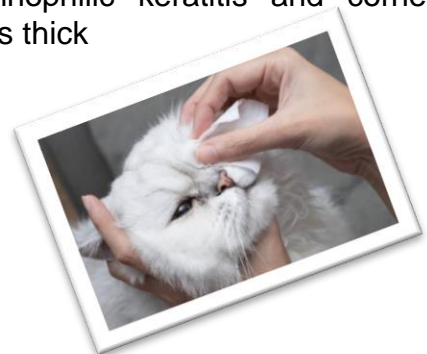
Systemic treatment involves antivirals – famciclovir is given twice daily for 6-12 weeks. Doxycycline antibiotics have also been found to have some anti-viral properties and is useful in the treatment of herpes virus.

Supportive treatment involves antibiotics to prevent secondary infection Interferon (an anti-viral immune modulator), can be used in diluted form to aid in Herpes virus treatment as this inhibits viral replication. Probiotics have a place in supportive treatment as does general nursing care to ensure the eyes are kept open by bathing and the cat continues to eat.

Previous treatments such as lysine have been provided to be ineffective.

Herpes virus particles can remain in the optic nerve and, in times of stress, (*pregnancy, shows, infection, boarding catteries*) the infection can be reactivated.

Chronic Herpes virus infection can result in Eosinophilic keratitis and corneal sequestrum formation. **Eosinophilic keratitis** involves thick white plaques forming on the surface of the eye. **Corneal sequestrum** occurs when a section of the cornea dies and turns black, this will often need surgical intervention.



FELINE CHLAMYDIA CONJUNCTIVITIS:

(Previously called chlamydophilia)

Clinical signs:

Chlamydia is a highly contagious intracellular bacteria that causes both acute and chronic conjunctivitis with swelling around the eyes and less redness compared with herpes virus. Respiratory signs can also develop, but are less common than with other respiratory infections.

Diagnosis:

Diagnosis of Chlamydia is beneficial and can be done by an antigen test or a more specific and sensitive PCR (*polymerase chain reaction*) assay. Diagnostic testing for chlamydia is more accurate and reliable compared with the other respiratory virus tests.

Treatment:

Systemic treatment involves using doxycycline or azithromycin antibiotics for 4-6 weeks. These are antibiotics with high efficacy against chlamydia.

Azithromycin should be used to treat all the cats in a cattery if a positive result is obtained in any cats in the cattery.

Supportive treatment involves the use of interferon, probiotics and general nursing care.

Environmental Management

Chlamydia is readily inactivated by detergents, so using good hygiene, disinfection and quarantine any new cats will help minimise the transmission of chlamydia in cattery and shelter situations.

A vaccine is available for chlamydia, it does not entirely prevent the disease, but it does minimise replication of the bacteria and therefore it will reduce clinical signs.

Dr Ngaire Dixon is a highly experienced Veterinary Surgeon who has a passion for cats. She breeds and shows Devon Rex cats and is dedicated to ensuring the health and welfare of her cats is at the centre of all she does. Dr Dixon is a well respected Director, sitting on the Board of numerous companies. She is the current Chair of the New Zealand Cat Fancy and as such is a strong advocate for responsible breeding practices; she works tirelessly to ensure that all cats receive the care and attention they deserve.



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Check out the website www.eyeenvy.com.au



COMMON EYE PROBLEMS IN KITTENS

Eye problems in kittens can be acquired through infection or injury in the first weeks and months of life or be congenital and caused by being born with an abnormality.

To properly function, eyes must be kept moist. Because it can take several weeks for tear production to begin, the kitten's upper and lower eyelids are fused at birth to protect their eyes. A kitten's eyes typically open between 10-14 days. NEVER try to pry open a kitten's eyes as this can lead to serious side effects and even loss of vision.

Although many kittens may acquire mild eye infections or injuries living outside or being in an animal shelter, most kittens will not have significant eye disease. However, it's important to contact the shelter, rescue or a veterinarian because even mild eye infections and injuries can quickly worsen. Severe infections and injuries during kittenhood commonly cause permanent eye damage and can lead to surgical removal of the eye, known as ocular enucleation.

Acquired Disorders of the Eye:

Corneal Trauma

The cornea is the transparent layer forming the front of the eye. Kittens are prone to painful trauma of the cornea, including corneal laceration and corneal ulceration.

Corneal laceration is the most common trauma resulting from direct injury to the eye from a claw, bite or foreign object. Mild lacerations can be treated with topical eye medications, while more serious lacerations may require surgery or even enucleation.

Corneal ulceration is the erosion of the cornea resulting from the following:

- Blunt trauma.
- Chemical burn, for example, from an irritating shampoo.
- Viral infections.
- Bacterial infections.
- Entropion: inwards rolling of the eyelids allowing eyelashes to irritate the cornea.
- Ectropion: outward rolling of the eyelids allowing foreign matter to irritate the cornea.
- Extra or misplaced eyelashes emerging from the underside of either the upper or lower eyelids.

Corneal trauma is a very painful condition and is considered a veterinary emergency. A kitten showing any signs of corneal trauma, such as squinting or pawing at their eye, should be evaluated by a veterinarian immediately.



Conjunctivitis and Secondary Eye Infections

Conjunctivitis is an inflammation of the conjunctiva, the thin mucous membrane that lines the inside of the eyelids and extends over the sclera, the white portion of the eye. The primary causes of conjunctivitis are feline herpesvirus type-1 (FHV-1), Feline Calicivirus, Chlamydomphila felis and Mycoplasma. Viral infections are often complicated by secondary bacterial infections caused by streptococci and/or staphylococci species.

The most common symptoms of conjunctivitis include:

- Discharge of various colours and consistency from one or both eyes with or without crusting.
- Redness of the tissues surrounding the eyes.
- Abnormally elevated and easily observed third eyelids.
- Excessive blinking or squinting, known as blepharospasm.

Discharge will often initially be clear and then change to yellow or green once a secondary infection is present. If the infection spreads to inside the eye, then the eye can enlarge and be at risk for rupture. Sneezing and/or nasal discharge can also occur if an upper respiratory tract infection is present.

Kittens with conjunctivitis and/or eye infections should be seen by a veterinarian as soon as possible so that treatment can begin to prevent pain and complications. Although a veterinarian may recommend further testing to determine the cause of the conjunctivitis and/or eye infection, treatment typically includes antibiotic suspension or ointment in the eye and oral antibiotics or antiviral medications.

Topical and oral anti-inflammatory medications may also be indicated in severe cases. During treatment for conjunctivitis and eye infections, supportive care includes daily moist compresses to clear crust and discharge from around the eyes.

Neonatal Ophthalmia

Neonatal ophthalmia (*also known as ophthalmia neonatorum or neonatal conjunctivitis*) is an eye infection that occurs behind the fused eyelids within the first weeks of life. Neonatal ophthalmia can be caused: by a delay in the opening of the eyelids, known as pathologic ankyloplepharon; infections, including Feline Chlamydomphila (*Chlamydomphila felis*) and feline herpesvirus type-1 (*FHV-1*); and bacterial infections with staphylococci or streptococci species that can be transmitted to the kittens from infected vaginal secretions at the time of delivery.

Treatment requires a veterinarian to open the fused eyelids, flush the eyes and prescribe topical and oral medications.



Other less common acquired eye problems include:

- Blepharitis: eyelid inflammation.
- Keratitis: corneal inflammation.
- Uveitis: eye inflammation affecting the middle layer of tissue in the eye wall, which can be secondary to Feline Infectious Peritonitis.

Congenital Disorders of the Eye

Congenital disorders are defined as structural or functional abnormalities that occur during fetal development. Congenital abnormalities of the eyes may be noted shortly after birth or may spontaneously appear within the first 6-8 weeks of life. If a queen is exposed to toxic compounds, suffers from a lack of nutrients and/or has a systemic infection or uterine inflammation during pregnancy, her kittens may develop congenital eye abnormalities. Certain pedigreed cats are also at an increased risk for congenital abnormalities of the eye.

A veterinarian needs to determine the best treatment for congenital abnormalities, which include:

- Microphthalmia/Microphthalmos: one or both eyes are abnormally small
- Retinal dysplasia: an abnormal development of the photoreceptor cells (*rods and cones*) of the retina, which leads to an early onset of blindness.
- Eyelid coloboma: full-thickness defect of the eyelid margin.
- Glaucoma: increased pressure within the eyeball, causing pain and gradual loss of vision.
- Buphthalmos: an abnormal enlargement of the eyeball.
- Cataracts: an opacity of the lens, resulting in blurred vision.
- Absence of the iris or pupil.
- Absence of the tear duct openings.

When it comes to a kitten's eyes, it's best to seek veterinary advice as soon as possible for any of the symptoms noted above.



<https://kittencoalition.org/>

Mission

To increase kitten survival rates and transform their lives through the power of education.

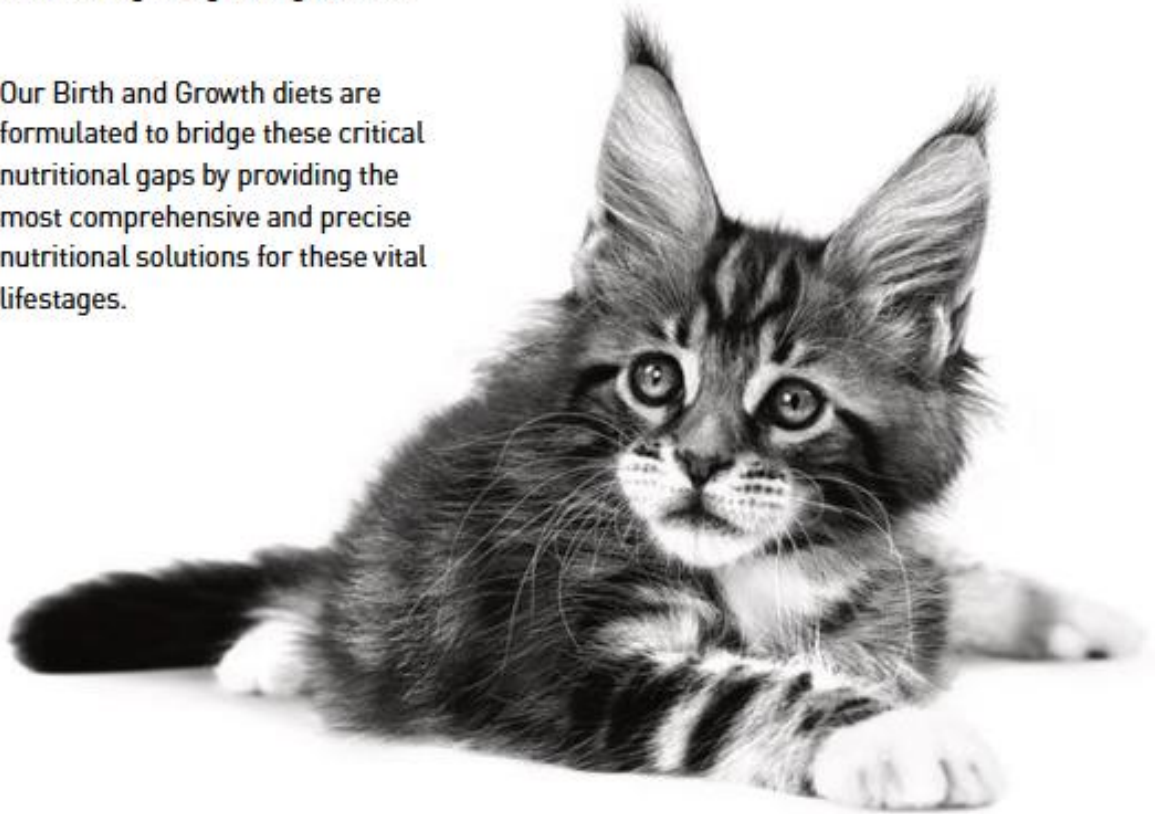
We accomplish our mission by:

- Educating and training animal shelter and veterinary staff, rescue groups, volunteers and fosters to provide high-quality, cost-effective care;
- Providing outreach and educational materials to animal welfare professionals and the public; and
- Promoting cooperation and information sharing within the animal welfare community.

A HEALTHY START TO LIFE

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RESULTS: PHOTO COMPETITION



We received many excellent entries for the 'Christmas in July' dress up your cat/kitten photo competition that was judged on 15th September 2023 by our two Judges, both Photographers: Marion Anstis: Editor of Felis (*Siamese Cat Society of NSW*) and Di Stokes, Jnr Vice President & Membership Secretary, Cats NSW. The competition was judged on: **cuteness, originality, creativity and festive appeal.**

1st place & front cover winner: Lady Fern Miller

Group 4: Companion. Owned by Danielle & Thomas Clewett-Dang.

Danielle & Thomas state that:

Her full name is Lady Fern Miller and she is 2.5 years old. The name Lady Fern is a homage to her cat brother Pepi's mother, Lady Fawn who sadly passed away and Miller was the name given to her by the Cat Rescue organisation, after the suburb she was captured in as a stray kitten.

She had a tough start to life, but with a lot of love and patience, her confidence is growing every day. Lady Fern is a curious, gentle, playful cat with a heart full of love. She loves to stare out of windows watching birds, play fetch with little balls, and muck around with her cat brother. She is also very affectionate and loves to cuddle and head bop with her humans. **Lady Fern's story is a reminder that even the toughest of starts to life can have a happy ending.** With a little love and care, any cat can blossom into a loving and cherished companion.



Family photo from L & R of Santa Claus:
Danielle Clewett-Dang holding Pepi (*Pepito Tuxedo*).
& Thomas Clewett-Dang holding Lady Fern.



2nd place winner: Shiloh Kahili MacGyver

Group 2: lilac point Siamese kitten.

Owned by Joanne Nash. Breeder Sandra & Ross Sweetman



MacGyver or as he is known: *Mac Attack, Steve or Mini Cat* very first Cat Show was Cats NSW 'Merry May Days' on 13th May '23. Joanne bought him as she was looking for a kitten that she could show but one with a good show temperament. At the time she was thinking of a blue point Siamese as her previous seal point Siamese had passed away at 16 years of age. She met the kitten at the Federal Kitten Show and it was 'love at first sight' although she watched his temperament being judged in the four ring show. *Jo states that:*

'MacGyver's best trick is to jump and climb up on the stair case banister and then walk along the edge of it without falling off giving all the family a near heart attack. His second trick is that he puts his front paws on the door handle in the bedroom door and then he makes an awful noise. He can open any door in the house. MacGyver resides with a ragdoll called: Fluffy or Hallie. She is named after the Joker's girl friend: *Aberlady Harley Quinn*.

3rd place winner:

Edapusrex Penny Doesn't Doubt

Group 3: Devon Rex

Owned & bred by: Helena & Aaron Sugar

Edapusrex Penny Doesn't Doubt is a Devon Rex Chocolate Tortie Bicolour.

Helena is Cats NSW President and has served on the Committee in various positions since 2013. This is Helena's fourth term as Cats NSW President. She is looking forward to serving Cats NSW, their Committee and all the members in 2024.





Photo shows from L to R: Corinne O'Connell, Coco Red Nut Creations, Joanne Nash (2nd place), Helena Sugar (3rd place), Danielle & Thomas Clewett-Dang (1st place) & Sandra Sweetman, Editor 'Cat Chat'. Photographer: Di Stokes, Jnr VP & Membership Secretary.

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https://www.facebook.com/groups/1035249013975678/?ref=share_group_link

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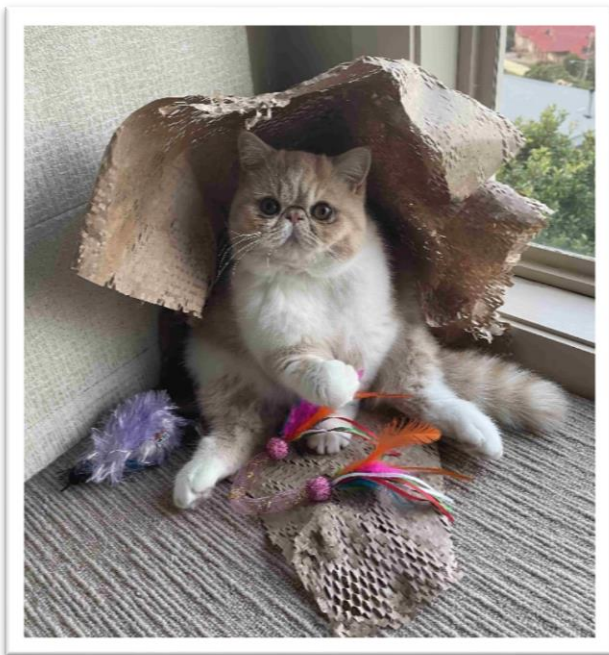
some of the **RUNNERS UP ARE:**



BEAU (NAREIRA BEAUREGUARD)
Tawny Abyssinian variant. Breeder & owner:
Deborah Thomas.



KIMSUKI TALLULAH BLUE.
Burmese. Breeder: Margaret Walker.
Owner: Valda McDermott



Left: **BANDIT.**

His owner Libby Kerr states:

‘Bandit is part of a twosome, his brother is Smokey and Bandit is a character. Always playing, getting into trouble & laughing it off. He is totally spoilt. We are constantly laughing at his antics. He still loves to get under his camouflage tent.’

Bandit is a cream spotted tabby bicolour exotic bred by Joanne Greentree, Jaygee Cattery



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PRA (Progressive Retinal Atrophy)

by: Sandra Sweetman

WHAT IS PRA?

PRA (Progressive Retinal Atrophy) is an inherited disease of the retina that can be found in some cat's bloodlines. It affects the cat's eyes and they can be genetically programmed to lose their sight over a period of time.

This particular disease can cause various degrees of eye sight loss and can result in some cases with total loss of sight. Unfortunately, at this time, there is no effective treatment or cure.

This disease is caused by what is termed a recessive gene and some cats can just be carriers only.

PRA is not something new but now there is a simple genetic test to identify affected (*Homozygotes*), carrier (*Heterozygotes*) and clear normal lineage cats. These tests are based on DNA collected from the cats cheek swabs and can be used as 'tool' to make informed breeding decisions and also by owners and vets to confirm a diagnosis of PRA in cats showing signs of the disease.

Background:

The retina of the eye contains cells called '*photoreceptors*' that absorb the light focused on them by the eye lenses and then they convert these into electric signals. These electric signals are then passed through the optic nerve to the brain. The brain will then interpret these signals and they are then perceived as vision.

If a cat has PRA, the '*photoreceptors*' degenerate over time and ultimately cause blindness. The sight then of a cat with PRA can gradually get worse and eventually can lead to blindness. This has even been known to happen at around 4 to 5 years but there are even reports of total blindness not being diagnosed until much later in the cat's life.

Can you breed a PRA carrier?

The **rdAc** mutation is a recessive gene that is thought to cause total blindness in cats when present twice in a cats DNA (*homozygous for the rdAc mutation*). Carriers never develop PRA. It is just a mutation that will be passed on from breeding to breeding. If a carrier is bred to a carrier, there is a strong probability that affected animals will be produced. Care therefore needs to be undertaken along with selective breeding: PRA has the potential to be eliminated as a heritable condition.

<https://www.affinitydna.eu/pr-prcd-dna-test-progressive-retinal-atrophy-progressive-rod-cone-degeneration/>

Petersen-Jones, Simon M. (2003). "Progressive Retinal Atrophy: An Overview". *Proceedings of the 28th World Congress of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association* from WSAVA 2003 Congress

<https://www.orientalcatassociation.org/2015/02/progressive-retinal-atrophy-in-cats/>

Yuill, Cheryl. (2017). *Progressive Retinal Atrophy in the Cats* from VCA

<https://www.uvsonline.com/progressive-retinal-atrophy>

<https://fcrsa.org/progressive-retinal-atrophy>

<https://icatcare.org/advice/progressive-retinal-atrophy/>





Scott Metzger Cartoons
<https://www.facebook.com/ScottMetzgerCartoons>



All about: VACCINATIONS

YOUR QUICK GUIDE TO CAT VACCINATIONS

Common vaccinations provide protection from major cat diseases such as enteritis (*feline panleukopaenia*) and cat flu (*feline calicivirus* and *feline herpesvirus*). Vaccinations are usually given by an injection under the skin, and they are designed to provide protection against specific infectious diseases. This vaccination combination is commonly known as **the F3 vaccination**. Cats with an unknown vaccination history and all kittens should be vaccinated.

Kitten vaccination starts when they are 6 to 8 weeks of age. Kittens require a series of vaccinations, every 2 to 4 weeks until they are around 16 weeks of age. If an adult feline has an unknown vaccination history or is having vaccinations for the first time, they will usually require two injections around 3 to 4 weeks apart. Currently, first-year kitten vaccines will cost you \$170 to \$200 and average annual cat vaccines are between \$60 to \$80 for the F3 vaccine.

While vaccinations are generally safe, some cats may experience mild side effects such as temporary soreness at the injection site or slight lethargy. Serious adverse reactions are rare but can occur. Monitor your cat after vaccination and inform your vet if you notice any concerning symptoms.

There are two types of vaccines, sometimes referred to as **core and non-core**. Core vaccines are those that all unvaccinated cats and cats with an unknown vaccination history should receive to protect them against key diseases. This is the the F3 vaccination.

Non-core vaccines are those that should only be given to cats in specific risk categories based on an individual assessment, lifestyle, and risk of exposure to the infection of the individual cat. Examples of non-core vaccines include those for feline leukaemia virus (*FeLV*), feline immunodeficiency virus (*FIV*), and *Chlamydia felis*.

It's worthwhile to consult with your vet who can provide guidance tailored to your cat's specific needs. They will consider factors such as your cat's age, lifestyle, and overall health to determine the most appropriate vaccination protocol.

Deciding on whether it is worth vaccination beyond the F3 can depend on factors like location and lifestyle. For example *FeLV* and *FIV* are more common in Western Australia. Diseases can enter the cat's system via bodily fluids or injection into the bloodstream via bites so if your cat roams freely they are more prone to contracting *FeLV* and *FIV*.

Cats entering your household with an unknown vaccination history should be considered a risk and they, and your other cats, should be vaccinated accordingly. There are other benefits too. Some local councils and boarding facilities may require proof of vaccination before admitting cats so keeping your cat's vaccinations up to date will make sure you have the necessary documentation when needed.

Vaccination not only protects your cat but also contributes to all of our efforts to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. It helps maintain herd immunity and protects vulnerable cats that may be unable to receive vaccines due to health reasons.



To get cat health stories direct to your email or to support cat health research in Australia, go the

[Feline Health Research Fund website](#)



It's all about: CAT GRASS

THE MYTHS AND BENEFITS OF CAT GRASS

by: Sandra Sweetman

Cat grass is actually a name used to describe several different types of grass which are popular with cats. Cat grass sometimes gets confused with 'catnip' which is a perennial herb from the mint family labiatae. (For further details about cat nip refer to July issue 'Cat Chat').

Catnip, but not cat grass, contains an essential oil 'nepetalactone' that can make some cats 'high'. Cats are known to sometimes respond to catnip by sniffing, chewing and licking it plus head shaking, followed by chin, cheek, and body rubbing on it. Cat grass however does not induce this 'high' feeling in cats and can be beneficial to them.

Some different types of cat grass:

There are several types of cat grass for cats to consume. Cats much prefer the young grass shoots as these are sweeter and softer compared to a more mature grass that is not as soft and could go to seed.

Some varieties of cat grass include:

- Orchard grass or cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*)
- Common oat, cat oat (*Avena sativa*)
- Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*)
- Wheatgrass (*Triticum aestivum*)

Cats eat grass for several reasons and these can include:

To supplement their diet:

Grass juice contains folic acid (*vitamin B9*) that can help support the cat's growth and increase the oxygen levels in their blood. If your cat is chewing on grass then it might mean that they need a vitamin boost in this area or they might have a dietary deficiency.

To help anxiety:

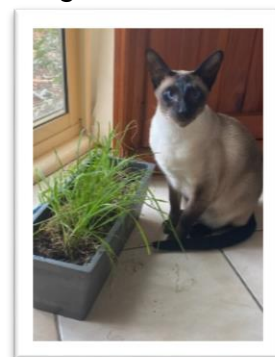
Some cats are known to engage in what's termed as 'stress or emotional eating' which causes the cat to eat, and this is not to reduce the hunger pangs, but to relieve anxiety. The cat might also be showing signs of 'displacement' behaviour which is an out of context or an irrelevant response to prolonged or repetitive behaviour that serves no apparent useful purpose. The normal behaviours then becomes excessive and when stress hits they need an outlet. Some cats can over groom themselves, become excessively vocal or engage in some sort of activity to soothe themselves such as eating.

If you notice that your cat is chewing on grass excessively or displaying any signs of stress or anxiety then get in touch with your Vet who can help your cat with this psychological issue.

Parasites:

A common theory is that cats eat grass because they feel unwell and ingestion helps them to vomit, which may help the cat to feel better.

Some Researchers though conclude that this is unlikely and that the grass consumption is just an instinctive behaviour to help purge their stomach tract of parasitic worms.



Fur or Hairballs:

Cats are clean animals and are often seen grooming themselves: as the cat grooms itself to remove the loose hair from their coat this can then get caught up in their tongue and swallowed. Most of the hair will pass through their digestive tract with no problems but some can stay in the stomach and form what is called the '*fur or hair ball*'. Usually this is vomited and coughed up and it can then look like a rather unpleasant thin, tube like blob of fur where the name comes from. It has been stated that cat grass can also simply relieve an upset stomach.

Outside grass:

Be careful if your cat eats outside grass to ensure that it hasn't been treated with pesticides or fertilizers. If it has then its best to keep your cat well away from it as it would be poisonous. A safe alternative is to grow your own grass indoors for your cat. You can purchase a cat grass kit or cheaper still, grow your own. Most garden stores and major Hardware stores sell pots of cat grass or you can purchase a packet of seeds and grow your own.

How to grow your cat grass:

Cat grass is very easy to grow. You will simply just need:

- a small pot to grow it in
- a packet of organic potting soil (*this is safer as your cats could be digging in it and you don't want any fertilizer mixed in with it*)
- a packet of cat grass seeds
- some plastic cling wrap
- and water

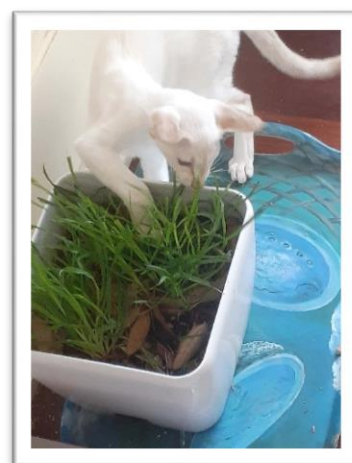
1) Start by filling your pot with the soil stopping about 25 to 50 mm from the top of the pot and then simply scatter a handful of cat grass seed over the top of this in a thin layer.

2) Add a few handfuls of the soil over the top of the seeds so that they are covered with the soil.

3) Water the seeds in with about half a cup of water as you want the soil to be moist.

4) Cover them with the plastic cling wrap that's not too tight as you still want an airflow to come through. Place them in a warm, dark place for a couple of days until the little spouts will start appearing. Still check every day though that the soil stays moist.

5) When the spouts appear you can take off the plastic cling wrap and then keep them in a nice sunny position. When your grass is about 100 to 150 mm it is ready for the cat to eat.



An alternative way to grow cat grass without using potting mix:

You will need:

- a glass jar with a wide opening or a bowl
- some decorative stones available from a garden shop, major Hardware stores or a 'bargain' type shop
- Some unbleached Paper towels or even a coffee filter
- Grass Seeds
- Water

- 1) Simply fill your jar or bowl with the stones: to about 2/3 full.
- 2) Place on top the paper towel or coffee filter and arrange your grass seeds on top of this. If you want to speed up the process you can pre-soak your seeds beforehand overnight in water.
- 3) After a couple days your seeds will begin to sprout and then when they have grown to about 100 to 150 mm they are ready for the cat to eat.
- 4) Remember though to keep the stones watered and not to let them dry out.

To summarise: cat grass can be highly beneficial to your cat's health and wellbeing and by preparing this yourself you can make it an inexpensive indoor gardening exercise for both yourself and your cat.

Article written by: Sandra Sweetman: first published in the Siamese Cat Society of NSW Felis August 2020.

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Profile on a Breed: THE DEVON REX

Are Devon Rex Cats Hypoallergenic by: Helena Sugar

No, the Devon Rex is not an hypoallergenic cat. They are low allergenic and may still affect those with severe allergies to cats. Please see further down the page for more information.

Does the Devon Rex Coat Fall Out?

The short answer to this is yes, some kittens are born with lots of curly coat that falls out during maturity, some kittens are born with little coat and it grows during maturity. FEAR NOT, your kitten will have a curly coat once they have reached maturity. Desexing usually helps as this takes away the hormonal urge to get rid of the fur. Sometimes in summer your Devon Rex Coat will thin out around the side of the neck and body.

The Devon Rex Cat

The Devon Rex, the Pixie of the Cat Fancy, sports oversized ears on an elfin face with large impish eyes. This adorable combination only hints at the mad-cap personality within – a cross, some say, between a cat, a dog, a monkey, and Dennis the Menace. They are a fun and fun-loving breed with a relaxed and social attitude rarely associated with cats. Delightfully silly in both appearance and antics, Devons are interested in everything and everyone around them. Their playful nature means Devons easily learn tricks and are always up for a game of hide-and-seek, tag, or fetch.

This unique breed possesses intensely loyal, human-loving, dog-like qualities. A person must be prepared to be owned by a Devon. A Devon will eat with you, sleep with you, and perch cosily on your shoulder while you are on the computer or reading. They will follow you around the house, sit at your feet, or jump on your lap the minute you sit down. A Devon will accompany you on your household chores, happily trilling, cooing, and chirping as they look for ways to help. Children and Devons are naturals as best friends and tireless playmates.

Family members will frequently find a Devon nestled in their laps or cradled in their arms. You should not be surprised to find a Devon tucked in bed with you or another family member, snuggled underneath the covers or firmly settled onto a pillow.



Devons remain kittens at heart forever, and their loving nature connects them deeply with every family member.

The social nature of the Devon makes them unsuited to spending long periods of time without companionship. Devons do not discriminate in terms of the company they keep. They do very well with people, other Devons (*often creating a “Devon pile”*), cats, dogs, and even the occasional bird, ferret, or rabbit.

Photo of Stella. ACF SILVER Award of Excellence, CATS NSW PLATINUM DGC, TFA GL PN, ACT BZ TGC, ANCATS BZ DGC & NATIONAL CHAMPION **EDAPUSREX DON'T DOUBT ME.**

Stella will be 13 years old in September.



Words of caution: Devons are food hounds. Whether it is the traditional burger and chips or the more unusual asparagus tips or olives, be prepared to guard your dinner plate from the fast and crafty Devon in the house. They never turn down a meal and would be happy to assist you with yours. Do not be taken in by the pleading or the heartbreakingly pitiful expressions that would suggest they have not had a meal in weeks.

The appearance of the Devon Rex is far from ordinary, given their long skinny necks, oddly shaped heads, ridiculously big ears, and coat that can range from wildly curly to a soft suede like down. They really are 100% feline, even if they seem to be 99% personality and 1% cat. Adult Devons are midsized cats, averaging 2.5 to 4 kgs, with males heavier than females. The coat may vary over the life of the cat, with some kittens dropping much of their coat (*molting*) during their development, and some adult coats changing seasonally. Devons are low maintenance, wash-and-wear companions. Despite popular myth, Devons are not hypoallergenic. They do shed, although their unique coat may make the shedding hair less obtrusive than that of many cats. While some people with animal allergies tolerate Devons very well, anyone with allergy issues should arrange to handle a Devon before considering acquiring one.

They may look like they have just arrived on Earth on an alien spaceship, but they are a natural mutation. They originated in Devon, England, in the late 1950s when a Miss Cox found that a stray cat in her care had given birth to a rather odd looking curly-haired kitten. Delighted with the kitten's elfin features and wavy curls, she named him Kirlee – the founding father of this unique breed.

Allergies

Allergic people are encouraged to visit an only Rex household/breeder to determine their own tolerance for the breed.

While no cat can be truly hypoallergenic the Devon Rex cats can lower the risk of allergic reactions. The Devon Rex cat sheds the least, so they deposit less allergen laced hair around the house.

Many people who are allergic to cats can tolerate a Rex.

Some people can also have a reaction to the Rex coat. The very short hair does not hold dust, dander and saliva as well as normal coats do. Whether or not a reaction occurs depends a great deal on the type and severity of the allergy. Some allergies are from the coat (*hair*) some others are from the saliva of the cat.



To Lessen These Reactions:

- Keep your bedroom a cat free area.
- Bathe your cat regularly: having another person bathe the cat can prevent a mild reaction.
- Wipe your cat with a wet cloth every few days to remove saliva and dead hair out of the coat.
- Try to reduce other allergens in the environment as they may have an additive effect.
- Keep your Rex's skin healthy by feeding high quality natural foods.
- Wash your hands immediately after petting your cat or touching toys and bedding and do not rub your eyes.
- Vacuum up allergens with a high-grade vacuum cleaner twice weekly.
- See your physician and discuss possible immunotherapy or medications.

By adopting some good management strategies you can lower the risk of an allergy reaction. Grooming can be a pleasant experience for both of you if the rex is trained to tolerate grooming when still young. Rex's will come to expect and even enjoy grooming sessions with you. A regular grooming program is also good for a cat's health. Grooming removes dead hair that can form hair balls in a cat's stomach, gets rid of dead skin and dander, stimulates the skin, tones muscles, and encourages blood circulation. A simple session of hand grooming when your Rex comes and sits on your lap will do the trick.

Bathing is hardly ever required unless your Rex got into something she/he wasn't supposed to. The coat can be damaged by too-frequent bathing or too harsh a shampoo, so be very careful in what you choose.

Some Rexes have excessive earwax because they do not have the longer hair protecting their inner ears. It is a good idea to clean the outer ear of the Rex at least once a week, with a damp tissue or ear bud, but be careful not to poke too far in.

If you decided to own a lighter coloured Rex, be careful of the sun. You have several options, let your Rex out under supervision when the sun isn't in full shine or put sun tan cream on the nose and ears of your rex to prevent skin cancers. Rexes are drawn to the sun; just remember you might have to be cruel to be kind.

Helena Sugar is the President of Cats NSW and an accredited ACF Steward. She breeds Devon Rex's under '**EDAPUSREX**' Cattery: <https://www.edapusrex.com/>



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Profile on a Breed: **THE MAINE COON**

written by: *Sandra Sweetman & Fiona Cooper*

a 'rags to riches' story



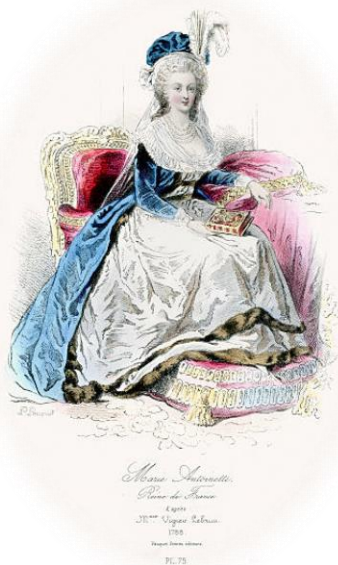
Maine Coons are among the oldest and most natural breeds of cats to originate from North America: it is the official state cat of Maine.

A lot of respect was accorded to these cats by the locals due to their '*mousing*' talents, and special competitions were held over the years to award the best '*Coon Cats*' among them.

Adaptable to America's harsh winters, they developed into a sturdy working-class kind of cat. In spite of the Maine Coon's solid, rugged appearance, it still retains a sense of the past with its uneven, shaggy coat with three distinct lengths and a long tail that is proudly held high for all to see.

This is a large and social breed of cat which could be the reason that it is referred to as the '*gentle giant*' of the cat world and is often cited as having '*dog-like*' characteristics.

The breed was popular in Cat Shows in the late 19th Century but then the Maine Coon became threatened when long-haired breeds were introduced in the early 20th Century but now have made a comeback. Today they are the third most popular breed of cat in the world.



There is a famous legend about the Maine Coons dating back to when Marie Antoinette was Queen of France. Marie tried to escape France with the help of Captain Samuel Clough of Wiscasset just before she was executed in 1793.

The Captain arrived at the French port of Havre with a load of timber aboard his ship the '*Sally*'. Marie Antoinette loaded all her prize possessions aboard his ship including six Turkish Angora or Siberian cats.

She never made it to the United States but it's said that all of her pets reached the shore of Wiscasset, Maine safely and bred with the local short-haired breeds of cat from which the modern-day Maine Coon originates.



This breed of cat is known for being gentle and affectionate and they make excellent pets. A Maine Coon can take approximately three to four years to achieve full growth, with males averaging 6 to 8 kilos and females a little smaller: 4 to 6 kilos.

They have a medium-wide head with high cheekbones, and a squarish muzzle with a strong chin. The eyes can be usually green or gold but sometimes even copper in colour.

Maine Coons have large ears that are wide at the base tapering to a lynx-tipped point set high on the head. A feature of Maine Coons is the prominent, tufts that curl out to the sides of the head from within the ears.

Although a semi long haired breed they are low maintenance as the coat does not have a large amount of undercoat and the large frontal ruff is quite short over the shoulders, becoming heavy and shaggy down the back and sides, ending in beautiful '*pantaloons*' on the cat's hind legs.

Maine Coons come in a variety of patterns and colours and have a sweet nature. They can be very playful and friendly plus enjoy human company. They are noted for the quiet '*chirping*' sound they make.



Fiona Cooper is a Cats NSW all breeds Judge. She has judged in all states of Australia and internationally in New Zealand, South Africa and China.

She breeds Maine Coon under the Coolcoons prefix and started breeding them in 1999. In the 24 years since she started breeding, there has many Cat of the Year and Kitten of the Year wins, along with Supreme All Breeds Exhibit in Show awards at both Sydney and Brisbane Royal Shows as well as shows all over NSW.

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SPAM ALERTS & PET SCAM LIST

Perfect Pets: <https://perfectpets.com.au/pet-scam-alert>

FIGHTING ONLINE PET SCAMS - PET SCAM LIST

The growth of online pet scams is a troubling trend that has affected countless pet lovers worldwide. In a proactive response to this issue, **Perfect Pets** has partnered with an experienced team of local and international scam busters to provide a searchable list of pet scam websites. Together, we are committed to protecting pet lovers by offering an up-to-date list of confirmed fake sites, as well as an avenue to report suspicious ones.



SEARCH OUR LIST OF VERIFIED SCAM WEBSITES

Use keywords to sort through our database of fraudulent sites. Our Pet Scam List is updated weekly, and contains websites confirmed fake by our international team of scam busters. Note that while we keep this as up-to-date as possible there are countless unreported sites and new sites being created daily.

REPORT A SUSPECTED PET SCAM

Have you come across a suspicious site? Please take 2 minutes to report the site here (<https://perfectpets.com.au/pet-scam-alert/report-a-scam>) and provide details to our team who will investigate. This can potentially prevent hundreds of pet lovers from being scammed. This is a real community effort that requires that we all do our part and letting us know about suspected sites is key to ensuring we can maintain the most current and comprehensive list possible.

Last year (2022) Australians lost over 3.5 million dollars to online pet scams as three intersecting threads of pandemic culture resulted in the perfect storm: A huge increase in demand for pets; lock downs - which prevented people from meeting breeders in person and relying on a third party to deliver their pet; and more fraud. Add to that the fact that the price of pets skyrocketed and scammers were looking for new and better ways to cash in. They needed to fool even the most cautious puppy or kitten buyers - those who might look for and check credentials – so breeder identity theft also hit new heights.

What the scammers learned during this time won't be unlearned, so whether you're a pet buyer or a breeder, it's important to know how you can protect yourself, your money, and your identity.

THE TRAGIC IMPACT

A staggering \$45 million was reported lost by Australians in 2022 to non-delivery related fraud, up from \$34 million in 2021 (*across all industries*). When it comes to pets, it's not just fake breeder websites that are the issue; but also pet couriers, and even fake vet and groomer sites have been spotted. The criminals behind these schemes employ intricate tactics, including using Australian bank accounts, to deceive and manipulate consumers.

Article used with permission: more information available from: <https://perfectpets.com.au/>



Cats NSW SHOW DATES for: 2024

<i>Date of show:</i>	<i>Organisation:</i>
 Sunday 11 th February	Cats NSW Inc.
 Saturday 9 th March	Cool Country Cat Club
 Friday 29 th March (<i>Good Friday</i>)	Cats NSW Inc. the Sydney Royal Easter Show
 Saturday 13 th April	Ku-Ring-Gai Himalayan Cat Club
 Saturday 11 th May	Cats NSW Inc.
 Saturday 8 th & Sunday 9 th June	ACF 52 nd National Cat Show venue: Sydney Hosted by ACF & Cats NSW
 Saturday 29 th June	Western Districts Cat Society
 Saturday 27 th July	Tamworth and District Cat Society
 Saturday 31 st August	Borderline Cat Club
 Sunday 15 th September	Cats NSW Inc. including 'pure' Siamese Speciality Ring
 Saturday 12 th October	Cats NSW Inc.
 Saturday 2 nd November	Cats NSW Inc.
 Saturday 23 rd November	Cats NSW Inc. AGM & COTY (<i>Cat of the Year awards</i>)

Note: these are the proposed date for next year: possibly subject to change.

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TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Cats NSW Anniversary Cat Show 2023: 15th Oct 2023

Four ring Open Championship Cat Show proudly presented by Cats NSW incorporating a 'pure' Siamese Specialty Ring



Above: L Cats NSW President Helena Sugar & R Jnr Vice President & Membership Secretary Di Stokes cutting the 10 year Anniversary cake.



Above: L Cats NSW President Helena Sugar & R International Judge: Hisae Tasaki (TICA Japan) drawing the winning ticket for the National Cat Show prize: per L.



Db Gd Ch
**COOLCOONS
SECRET BUSINESS**
Black Classic Tabby
Bicolour male Main
Coon. Breeder: Fiona
Cooper & Mary Jo
Bailey Winning
Supreme Exhibit in 3
Rings.





ACF award winner:
CHAINOPONDS SUZIE Q. Owner &
 Breeder: Rosemary Rogers. Accepting the
 award: Suzette Greentree



Above: Suzie Q with Judge
 Roy Griffiths (NZCF) photo at
 Borderline Cat Show



SIAMESE CAT SOCIETY OF NSW



Speciality Ring Judge:
Ian Honour, CQI

SUPREME 1st place
 'pure' Siamese:
SHILOH KAHILI
MAGYVER.

Owner: Joanne Nash.
 Breeder: Sandra &
 Ross Sweetman.
 Lilac point neuter.



Above: **RESERVE 2nd place** 'pure' Siamese:
 ACF Gold AoE Platinum DGC CCA Ch
ASTRAXALOTTE AKONI GEM.

Owner: Sandra & Ross Sweetman.
 Breeder: The Gallagher Family. Blue point entire male cat.
 Photo: L Owner & R Steward Rene Bont.

R: **THIRD**
 place 'pure'
 Siamese:
KALINYA LP
SAPPHIRE.
 Owner &
 Breeder: Tony
 & Bev Hurry.
 Seal point
 entire female
 kitten.



Photographer: Di Stokes, Jnr Vice President Cats NSW.



Around the shows

'Tamworth & District Cat Club' 29th July 2023
48th Championship Pedigree & Companion Cat Show: 5 ring spectacular

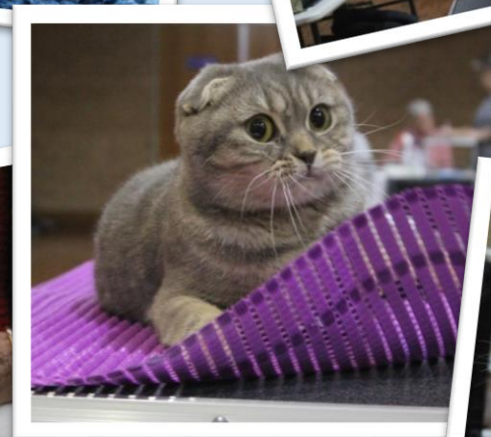
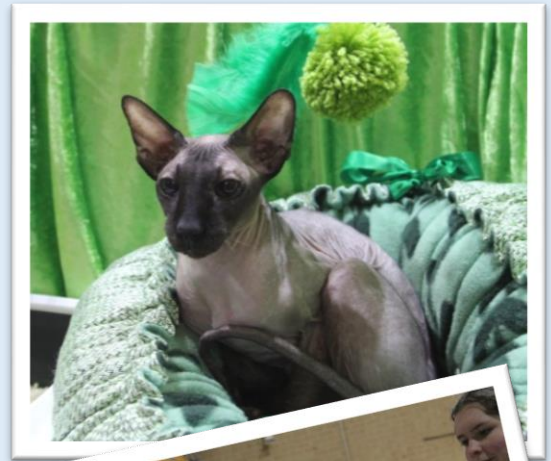


Photographer: Di Stokes, Jnr Vice President Cats NSW.



Tamworth & District Cat Club started in 1986 with only 6 members. Rosemary Rogers: Rosie as she is known, joined in 1989 and has served on the Committee ever since in a variety of positions. She is currently the Secretary and the Show Secretary. This year's highly successful 5 ring spectacular show had 73 all-breed Exhibits entered, some travelling as far as Sydney, Canberra and Qld.

Tamworth & District Cat Club always welcomes new members and you don't have to reside in the Tamworth area to join. If you are interested in joining a friendly, country style Cat Club, open to all breeds of cats then contact: Rosie: email: rogers1949@bigpond.com or phone: 02 6760 3639.



'Borderline Cats Inc' 26th August 2023

'Goodbye Winter Blues' Annual Cat & Kitten Cat Show: 4 rings

And the
SUPREME WINNERS ARE:



Left: Judge: Roy Griffiths (NZCF),
Supreme Ring 1:
BELSHOGAR BRANDY CREME
Exhibitor: Marisa Thistlewaite



Right: Judge Jenny Weekes (Cats NSW),
Supreme Ring 2:
CH COOLCOONS SECRET BUSINESS
Exhibitor Fiona Cooper (displayed by
Barbara La Rocca)



Left: Judge: Peta Sperduty (Cats NSW),
Supreme Ring 3:
CH ABYSROK JINX MONSOON
Exhibitors: Cherrise Mangin & Amanda Ashby

fido's By Mavlab





Left: **Judge: Jo-anne Frank (QFA),
Supreme Ring 4:
BD GD CH CHAINPONDS U LOVE ME3**
Exhibitor: Rosemary Rogers

Right: **ACF AoE: Judge Jenny Weekes,**
Recipient Marisa Thistlewaite



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are very excited
to announce that
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have entered into
a partnership
with us
for 2024.



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Photographs were taken by Russell and Joanne Clarke.



UPCOMING NEWS for next issue



If you would like to contribute an article, story, photo of your kitten/cats/litters etc or if you have any suggestions for future articles for 'Cat Chat' magazine please contact the Editor: Sandra Sweetman email: catchatmagazine@gmail.com
Note: updated email address

Our next issue will be out next year: March 2024 and along with all the regular features and stories we will feature:



Winners of the 2023 COTY (Cats NSW Cat of the Year) AWARDS



Group 1: RAGDOLL cats

Photo: **AFFINITY LORD TYSON**
Lilac point. Breeder: Rebekah Darmody

This issue's focus will be on:

TRITRICHOMONAS DIARRHOEA IN CATS AND KITTENS
ANXIETY IN CATS and HEARTWORM IN CATS plus all
the usual stories and surprises.

BREEDERS: please make sure your details are correct/up to date on your Cats NSW Breeders listing on the Cats NSW web site:
<https://catsnsw.com.au/breeders/>.

For all changes/updates: please email the Web Master:
webmaster@catsnsw.com.au



Possible ACCOMODATION FOR THE:

Cats NSW ACF National Cat show: 8th & 9th June 2024

HIDDEN VALLEY RETREAT COTTAGES

Cabbage Tree Road Grose Vale

Phone: 0416 165 646 email: hiddevallycottages@gmail.com

Distance approx: 25 mins away.



GATEWAY MOTEL

Cnr Windsor Road & Boundary Road Vineyard

Phone: 02 9627 6022 email: reception@gatewaymotel.com.au

gatewaymotel.com.au

Distance approx: 25 mins away.



INGENIA HOLIDAYS AVINA

217 Commercial Road Vineyard

Phone: 02 96271847 email: avina@ingeniaholidays.com.au

ingeniaholidays.com.au/avina

Distance approx: 25 mins away.



INGENIA HOLIDAYS NEPEAN RIVER

Mackellar Street Emu Plains

Phone: 02 4735 4425

email: nepeanriver@ingeniaholidays.com.au

ingeniaholidays.com.au/nepeanriver

Distance approx: 30 mins away.



INGENIA HOLIDAYS SYDNEY HILLS

269 New Line Road Dural

Phone: 02 9651 2555

email: sydneyhills@ingeniaholidays.com.au

ingeniaholidays.com.au/sydney-hills

Distance approx: 40 mins away.



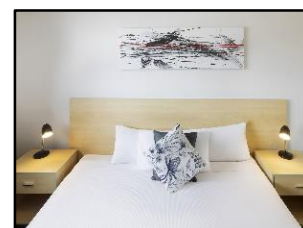
MANTRA CASTLE HILL

8 Gladstone Road Castle Hill

Phone: 02 8072 6600 email: info@mantracastlehill.com.au

<https://all.accor.com/hotel/C1E3/index.en.shtml>

Distance approx: 45 mins away.



KURRAJONG TRAILS & COTTAGES

Kirkwood Road Blaxlands Ridge

Phone: 02 4576 1417 email: kurrajongtrails@gmail.com

kurratrails.com

Distance approx.:30 mins away.



HERMITAGE COTTAGE

112/112A Horan Lane, Grose Vale

Phone: 0427 721 121

email: hermitagecottage@ozemail.com.au

hermitagecottage.com.au

Distance approx: 20 mins away.



MADISON'S MOUNTAIN RETREAT

1880 Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights

Phone: 4567 7398

email: Facebook@MadisonsRetreat.com.au

MadisonsRetreat.com.au

Distance approx: 30 mins away.



Various other pet friendly accommodation can be found in the local Hawkesbury, Penrith or the Hills areas per:

- **Booking.com:** <https://www.booking.com/>
- **Airbnb:** <https://www.airbnb.com.au/>
- **Wotif:** <https://www.wotif.com/>
- **Tripadvisor:** <https://www.tripadvisor.com.au/>
- **Expedia:** <https://www.expedia.com.au/>



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for over 10 years**



**Australian owned
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PET SUPPLIES

CALL VEBO on: 02 9029 9385 **email:** info@vebopet.com.au

<https://www.vebopet.com.au/>

A cat carrier is one of the safest and most efficient methods for transportation for your cat or pet. Need a cage for a cat show? Our collapsible metal cat cage is one of the most common cages used for cat shows around Australia. Our multiple level cat cages are also extremely popular amongst cat rescue groups, breeders and foster carers in Australia. Whether you are an average cat owner looking for a carrier for use in a car or plane or a cat breeder looking for a show cage, you'll find something to suit your requirements here.



**Affordable Cat Cages & Enclosures -
Australia Wide Shipping!**

**You are more than welcome to visit our
Sydney store to view our range.**





**Meowy Christmas from the
Cats NSW Committee!**

**May your holiday season be
filled with purr-fect moments
of joy, cozy cuddles and
plenty of treats.**

**Wishing you and your furry
friends a good time this
holiday season!**

APPENDIX

KITTENS GET PRIORITY IN THE FACE OF VACCINE SHORTAGE

MALCOLM DOWNES: Feline Health Research

24 November, 2023

There is a shortage of feline vaccines in Australia due to supply problems triggered by the COVID outbreak.

Kittens and previously un-vaccinated adult cats are at most risk.

The annual F3 vaccination, which protects cats from **parvovirus, feline herpes virus and feline calicivirus**, is in short supply across the country triggering fear of an outbreak of these preventable diseases.

On the plus side, cats that have previously been vaccinated as kittens and have had boosters are at lower risk of disease because they have an extended duration of immunity. Vets may decide to give kittens two vaccines rather than three and keeping them in a safe environment until they receive a final vaccine in 16 weeks.

One result has been that shelters may stop accepting strays and relinquished cats. Another difficulty has been that catteries may choose not to accept un-vaccinated cats and, in some jurisdictions, are forbidden to by mandatory codes of practice.

It is expected that vaccine supply should return to normal early in 2024.

In the meantime, the key message from the Australian Veterinary Association is to **“prioritise kittens and delay adult boosters if possible.”**

To get the latest advice about your own situation, contact your vet.



To get cat health stories direct to your email or to support cat health research in Australia, go the

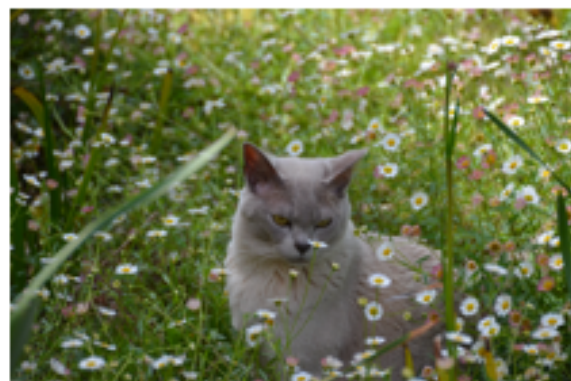
[Feline Health Research Fund website](#)



Feline Health Research Fund

Supporting feline health research so that no cat suffers from preventable disease and to ensure effective treatments are developed to keep cats well.

Some Grants previously funded:-



- Feline Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) – exploring what influence the micro-organisms which live in cats' bladders (their urinary microbiome) may have on CKD – Dr Mary Thompson, Murdoch University. This study could open up new areas of research and treatment for CKD (2019)
- Development of a rapid diagnostic method for feline infectious peritonitis – Dr ~~Seyed Ghorashi~~, Charles Sturt University. The value of a quick response diagnostic test would be highly significant. (2018)

These grants are possible because of the support given by many generous cat lovers and groups from within the Cat Fancy. The cats of Australia thank you!

You can help us to continue this important work
by donating to the Fund:

By Direct Debit

FHRF Gift Account: BSB: 032-713; Acc No 186 171

By PayPal

<https://www.fhrf.org.au/make-a-donation/>

For more information see the website at: www.fhrf.org.au

Our contacts: FHRF Secretary: Helen Radoslovich
email: felinehealthresearchfund@yahoo.com.au