

Cats

New South Wales
i n c o r p o r a t e d



Cats NSW Show Rules and Procedures



Introduction

The **Cats NSW Show Rules and Procedures** bring together the requirements for organising and conducting Cats NSW sanctioned shows in one comprehensive document.

The requirements for Cats NSW shows were previously contained in two separate documents: the Cats NSW Show Rules and the Cats NSW Show Organisation and Procedures. A review of these documents identified a need to update and consolidate the information. While both documents served an important purpose, having related requirements contained in separate documents often led to duplication, inconsistencies and difficulty in locating applicable information.

The two documents have therefore been consolidated and reorganised into the **Cats NSW Show Rules and Procedures**. The purpose of the consolidation is to provide a single, comprehensive reference document that reduces duplication, improves consistency in terminology and structure and makes the requirements easier to find, understand and apply.

The new document has been organised to follow the general progression of a show:

Part A – Organising a Show

This section is particularly relevant to those involved in organising and running shows. It contains information on planning, show organisation, judges, classes, show formats, awards and show schedules.

Part B – Accepting Entries and Preparing for Show Day

This section is relevant to exhibitors and show organisers. It explains how to enter a show, how exhibit eligibility is assessed and how the show catalogue and judging notes/slips are prepared.

Part C – Show Day

This section covers the requirements that apply on show day. The information will be applicable to exhibitors, show organisers, Judges and other show personnel. It covers health and welfare, benching, grooming, judging, awards and titles, difficult-to-handle exhibits and exhibitor behaviour.

Part D – Following the Show

This section outlines what occurs after the show. It includes post-show reporting and Kitten/Cat of the Year awards.

Part E – Optional Show Components

This section contains requirements for additional components that may be included in a show.

A **Glossary of Terms** provides definitions for key terms used throughout the document.

This document provides a consistent and transparent framework for the organisation and conduct of Cats NSW sanctioned shows while allowing appropriate flexibility for individual shows.

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Cats NSW Show Committee

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Glossary of terms

The following definitions apply to terms used throughout this document.

Term	Definition
ACF	Australian Cat Federation
Affiliated club	A club that is affiliated with Cats NSW
ANCATS	Australian National Cats Inc.
Baby kitten	A kitten aged between 10 weeks and 6 months
Benching	The process of placing exhibits into their allocated cages prior to judging
Catalogue	The official list of exhibits entered in a show
Cats NSW sanctioned show	A show approved by the Cats NSW Committee.
Cats NSW	Cats NSW Incorporated.
CCCA	Co-ordinating Cat Council of Australia Inc.
Companion exhibit	An exhibit entered in the Companion section
Desexed cat	A desexed exhibit aged 9 month or older
Entire cat	An exhibit aged 9 months or older that has not been desexed
Kitten	An exhibit aged between 10 weeks and up to 9 months
Recognised body	Affiliate members of ACF, CCCA, ANCATS, Cats Australia
Registration pending	Applies to a kitten exhibit under 4 months of age that is yet to be registered or an unregistered Companion exhibit
Ring	A judge's allocated judging assignment
Show Manager	The person appointed by the Show Organisation Team to manage the operation of the show on the day.
Show Organisational Team	The team responsible for organising and conducting a Cats NSW sanctioned show in accordance with the Cats NSW Show Rules and Procedures.
Show Representative	The personal appointed by Cats NSW to monitor compliance at a Cats NSW sanctioned show.
Show schedule	The document approved by Cats NSW that sets out the details for a Cats NSW sanctioned show

Show year	Same as calendar year – January to December
Specialty ring	A ring limited to specific breeds or classes as published in the Show Schedule
Steward	Person assisting the Judge during judging
Unable to be handled (UTH)	An exhibit that is unable to be handled due to aggression, or which shows aggression (deliberate biting, attacking or threatening to attack).
Unable to be judges (UTJ)	An exhibit that unable to be taken from the cage to the judging table and or handled sufficiently to allow a proper assessment.
Vetting Inspector	The person that performs vetting at a show. The Vetting Inspector may be a Veterinarian, a Vet Nurse or another person appointed by the Show Organisation Team.
Vetting	Inspection of exhibits to determine eligibility to compete

Part A – Organising a Show

1.0 Show Organisation

- 1.1 All shows must be sanctioned by the Cats NSW Committee. This includes shows run by Cats NSW and shows run by Cats NSW Affiliate Clubs. These are referred to as Cats NSW sanctioned shows.
- 1.2 All Cats NSW sanctioned shows must run in accordance with the Cats NSW Show Rules and Procedures unless an exemption is approved by the Cats NSW Committee.
- 1.3 For each Cats NSW sanctioned show, a Show Organisation Team will be appointed. This team will include a Show Manager and Show Secretary and may include other such personnel as deemed appropriate.
- 1.4 The Show Manager and Show Secretary must be current financial members (excluding Associate Members) of Cats NSW.

2.0 Definition of Classes

2.1 Kitten Class Open

Open to kittens 10 weeks of age and under nine months on the day of the show.

2.2 Entire Cat Open Class

Open to entire male and female cats nine months of age and older. All entire cats must be entered in this class in at least one Ring of a show, unless Cats NSW Committee approval is sought and granted for special circumstances such as a Veteran / Golden Oldie class.

2.3 Desexed Cat Open Class

Open to all neuter and spay cats nine months of age and older. All desexed cats must be entered in this class in at least one Ring of a show, unless Cats NSW Committee approval is sought and granted for special circumstances such as a Veteran/Golden Oldie Class.

2.4 Companion Class

Open to any desexed kitten or cat that cannot be entered into any class other than Companion/Domestic pet classes. Companion classes are judged against the ACF Companion Pet Standard.

2.5 Litter Class Open

A litter shall comprise all the living progeny under the age of four months of one kitting of a Brood Queen. A litter is defined as being two or more kittens.

2.6 Specialty rings

The Show Organisation Team may choose to include Specialty Rings where kitten, cat and desexed exhibits compete together. They may be related to Breed/s, for example, a Birman and Ragdoll Specialty Ring or related to a theme, for example, All Black and/or White exhibits.

2.7 Baby Kitten Class Open

At least 10 weeks of age and under six months on the day of the show.

2.8 Any Other Colour/Any Other Variety

Exhibits which are registered but do not comply with the pattern or colour standards of their breed may not be shown at Cats NSW sanctioned shows in the pedigreed cat classes unless they form part of a litter class entry or from a breed development programme.

Breed development programme kittens and cats can be entered “On Exhibition Only” for the purpose of being assessed by the judges.

2.9 Veteran Class

Cats aged between seven years and up to ten years on the day of the show.

2.10 Golden Oldie Class

Cats aged over 10 years on the day of the show.

2.11 Side classes

May include: Best eye colour, Best coat, Best purrsonality, etc at the discretion of the Show Organisation Team.

3.0 Judges

3.1 All Judges officiating at Cats NSW sanctioned shows must be licensed with Cats NSW, ACF, or to an organisation whose Judge’s credentials are recognised by ACF.

3.2 All Judges from overseas organisations must be licensed or accredited to an organisation whose Judge’s credentials are recognised by ACF.

3.3 The Show Organisation Team must issue each invited judge a contract that contains the negotiated details of the judging assignment, other than late notice changes due to exceptional circumstances. An example template is available on the Cats NSW Website. Upon acceptance of the terms, the Judge must sign and return the contract.

3.4 Local judges are defined as those that reside within a reasonable driving distance to the show venue and do not require travel or accommodation arrangements to be made. Local judges must be offered a minimum payment of \$50.00.

3.5 Out of Area Judges may include International, Interstate and Intrastate Judges that do not reside within a reasonable driving distance to the show (i.e. it is not reasonable to drive to and from the show, and judge on show day). These judges are to be offered travel-related expenses (such as airfares, petrol, tolls etc.), accommodation, meals and other out of pocket expenses (e.g. airport parking, transfers etc.), as required. These arrangements are to be negotiated and detailed in the Judge’s contract.

3.6 A ratio of 1 Judge per 100 exhibits per day is recommended.

3.7 The Show Organisation Team reserves the right to replace contracted Judges, appoint additional Judges or vary the judging assignments if required. The Show Organisation Team is to notify exhibitors of any judging alterations prior to the commencement of

judging or as soon as practical should a situation arise which necessitates a change to judging assignments during the show.

- 3.8 Any Judge appointed to judge at a Cats NSW sanctioned show may not judge an exhibit bred by them unless a period of six (6) months has elapsed since the exhibit left their residence.
- 3.9 Any Judge officiating at a Cats NSW sanctioned show may exhibit in any ring other than the one in which they are judging. Judges are permitted to bench their own exhibits but should bench early and leave the cage area immediately.
- 3.10 Judges may act as a steward at Cats NSW sanctioned shows but must complete any judging assignment first.
- 3.11 An officiating Judge is not permitted to stay at or visit an exhibitor's place of residence in the five (5) days prior to a show, unless that exhibitor's exhibits are not entered in any classes which the officiating Judge is judging or is likely to judge.

4.0 Show Format and Awards

- 4.1 All Cats NSW sanctioned shows shall be Australian Open Style Shows, unless the Show Organisation Team requests and gains approval from the Cats NSW Committee.
- 4.2 Exhibits are benched in their cages in judging bays and then brought to a judging table by either the Judge or Steward.
- 4.3 The Show Organisation Team can decide the number of rings for each show.
- 4.4 Australian Open Style Shows may have up to six (6) rings, plus Specialty Rings.
- 4.5 When 2 or more Affiliate Clubs agree to hold a combined show, the maximum number of rings shall be six (6), plus Specialty Rings, except where the Cats NSW Committee has given approval to vary this condition.
- 4.6 The Show Organisation Team may nominate how breeds are arranged into groups for the purpose of judging. The following options are available:
- 4.7 Groups 1, 2, 3 and 4 – according to the grouping of breeds provided by ACF.
 - Group 1 - Birman, Exotic, Maine Coon, Nebelung, Neva Masquerade, Norwegian Forest Cat, Persian, Ragdoll, Siberian, Turkish Angora & Turkish Van.
 - Group 2 - Balinese, Foreign White Shorthair, Foreign White Longhair, Oriental Shorthair, Oriental Longhair, Peterbald, and Siamese
 - Group 3 - Abyssinian, American Curl Longhair, American Curl Shorthair, American Shorthair, Australian Mist, Bengal, Bengal Longhair, Bombay, British Shorthair, British Longhair, Burmese, Burmilla Longhair, Burmilla Shorthair, Cornish Rex, Cymric, Devon Rex, Donskoy, Egyptian Mau, Japanese Bobtail Longhair, Japanese Bobtail Shorthair, Korat, La Perm Longhair, La Perm Shorthair, Lykoi, Mandalay, Manx, Munchkin, Ocicat, Pixiebob Longhair, Pixiebob Shorthair, Russian, Scottish Fold Longhair, Scottish Fold Shorthair, Scottish Longhair, Scottish Shorthair, Selkirk Rex Longhair, Selkirk Rex Shorthair, Singapura, Snowshoe, Somali, Sphynx, Tonkinese, Toyger
 - Group 4 – Desexed Companion Kittens and Desexed Companion Cats.

4.8 Longhair, Shorthair, Companions

- Longhair – includes all the breeds listed in Group 1 above.
- Shorthair – combines the Group 2 and Group 3 breeds listed above into a single group.
- Companions – as per Group 4 above.

4.9 The Show Organisation Team must determine the awards to be given at the show. This may include the number of placings (for example, Top 5/10/15, Kittens, Cats, Desexed, Companions) in each ring, Best in Group awards (if applicable) and Supreme awards. These awards may be revised based on entry numbers. It is recommended that Show Schedules include the phrase 'Subject to entry numbers'.

5.0 Vetting Options

- 5.1 At Cats NSW sanctioned shows, the requirement for each exhibit to be vetted, prior to being benched, is optional, and at the discretion of the Show Organisation Team.
- 5.2 The Sydney Royal Agricultural Society Show and the National Australia Cat Show may have additional rules in relation to vetting that will need to be considered.
- 5.3 Vetting (if applicable) may be performed by a Veterinarian, a Vet Nurse or other qualified person/s appointed by the Show Organisation Team.
- 5.4 A ratio of 1 inspector per 100 exhibits is recommended.

6.0 Show Representative

- 6.1 For all Cats NSW sanctioned shows, the Cats NSW Committee shall appoint one or more members of the Committee (where possible) to act as the Cats NSW Show Representative. If a member of the Committee is not available, the Cats NSW Committee may appoint another suitably qualified financial member of Cats NSW (excluding Associate Members).
- 6.2 The Show Representative may be consulted by the Show Organisation Team and give advice regarding the Cats NSW Show Rules and Procedures.
- 6.3 The Show Representative must be noted on the Show Schedule.

7.0 Show Schedule

- 7.1 Not less than sixty (60) days prior to the Show date, the Show Organisation Team shall submit a draft show schedule to the Cats NSW Committee (or delegated person/s) for review and approval.
- 7.2 The Show Schedule should include the following information:
- a) Show date
 - b) Name and address of the show venue

- c) Estimated start and finish times for entry, vetting (if applicable), benching and judging
 - d) The number of rings, including specialty rings
 - e) A list of judging assignments. Judges are to be identified by their governing body.
 - f) Closing date for entries
 - g) Details of how exhibits are entered (paper-based or electronic). If applicable, entry forms should be included with the Show Schedule.
 - h) Details of all awards to be given including the process by which the Supreme Pedigree Exhibit and Supreme Companion Exhibit are decided.
 - i) All relevant entry fees. This may include the cost to enter the entire show, and/or the cost per ring, a benching fee, hire cage fees, relevant discounts etc, if applicable. Entry fees for Cats NSW shows are determined by the Cats NSW Committee. Affiliate clubs may determine their own fee structure.
 - j) Name of the Cats NSW Show Representative
 - k) A statement that the show is conducted according to the Cats NSW Show Rules and Procedures.
 - l) Conditions of Show Entry – one page document to be prepared
 - m) Vetting procedures (if applicable)
 - n) Name and contact details for the Show Secretary and/or Show Manager.
 - o) Details of stewards and other show personnel (if applicable). This may include members of the Show Organisation Team, card writers, ring co-ordinators, etc, if known.
 - p) The cut-off date for establishing kitten class eligibility. For example, 'Kittens to be born on or before 1st March 2025'.
- 7.3 Additional information may be included in the Show Schedule at the discretion of the Show Organisation Team.
- 7.4 A copy of the signed Judges' contracts must be submitted with the draft schedule.
- 7.5 The Cats NSW Committee may delegate the approval of Show Schedules to one or more committee members as required. Approval may take up to 14 days.
- 7.6 The Show Schedule approval team is primarily responsible for ensuring the Show Schedule complies with the Cats NSW Show Rules and Procedures. The Show Organisation Team is responsible for ensuring the Show Schedule has been checked for spelling and other errors before submitting for approval. If the Show Schedule approval team notices any spelling errors, they may suggest correction of these to the Show Organisation Team.
- 7.7 Once approved, the Show Schedule approval team will inform the Show Organisation Team and forward the approved schedule to the Cats NSW Secretary and the Webmaster who will upload to the Cats NSW Website.

- 7.8 If a schedule needs to be updated after it has been uploaded to the website, the Show Organisation Team should forward the updated schedule to the Cats NSW Secretary and they will arrange with the Webmaster to have it uploaded.
- 7.9 All Judges and the Show Representative are to be issued a copy of the approved Show Schedule as soon as it is approved.

Part B – Accepting Entries and Preparing for Show Day

8.0 Entering a show

- 8.1 The Show Organisation Team may choose to accept entries via electronic means (e.g. Catshowsonline or similar) or via Entry Forms included in the Show Schedule (e.g. show entry form, benching slip, registration pending form, summary sheet, etc).
- 8.2 It is the exhibitor's responsibility to ensure that all details regarding entries are complete, up to date and accurate. The Show Organisation Team may contact exhibitors to provide additional information if required.
- 8.3 For each exhibit, a legible copy of its current Certificate of Registration must be provided. The Certificate of Registration must be in the name of the exhibitor and must be issued by a recognised Registering Body.
- 8.4 New exhibitors will be permitted to show 3 times as a non-member provided their exhibits satisfy the requirements of Clause 8.3.
- 8.5 Kitten exhibits under 4 months of age that are yet to be registered, may be entered as 'Registration Pending'. All relevant details (name, date of birth, sex, name of Sire and Dam, breed, colour and/or pattern, breeders name, etc) must be provided.
- 8.6 Companion exhibits that have not previously been shown are permitted to be shown for the first time without classification. A panel consisting of three Judges (including at least one Pedigree Judge and a Companion Judge) will determine in which category and colour section a companion exhibit is to be registered.
- 8.7 Unregistered Companion exhibits may be entered as 'Registration Pending' up to three times. All relevant details (name, date of birth or estimated date of birth sex, colour and/or pattern, etc) must be provided. Prior to the 4th show, a Companion exhibit must be registered.
- 8.8 All entries must be accompanied by payment in full. Payment is only refundable where an entry is withdrawn in writing prior to the nominated closing date for entries.
- 8.9 Payment will not be refunded for any exhibits that are not shown.
- 8.10 The Show Organisation Team reserves the right to reject any entry at its discretion.
- 8.11 All reasonable care will be taken of exhibits. Cats NSW and its affiliate Clubs, their officials and members cannot accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to any person, feline or property.

9.0 Eligibility of exhibits

- 9.1 The Show Organisation Team is responsible for ensuring that all exhibits are eligible to enter a Cats NSW sanctioned show. The Show Organisation Team may contact exhibitors to provide additional information if required.
- 9.2 All entries must be checked against the ACF lists of recognised breeds to ensure they conform to ACF breeding programmes.

- 9.3 The minimum age for entry in a show is 10 weeks. The age of each exhibit will be calculated to be the actual age on the day of the show or the first day of a multi-day show.
- 9.4 All Companion exhibits must be desexed.
- 9.5 Each kitten exhibit must have had at least one Feline 3 vaccination not less than 14 days prior to the show. Documentary evidence i.e. a valid vaccination certificate from a veterinarian must be provided. Vaccination certificates should be checked by the Show Organisation Team prior to the show or before the exhibit is benched on the day of the show.
- 9.6 It is highly recommended that all kittens have at least their 2nd vaccination not less than 14 days prior to the show.
- 9.7 Each adult exhibit must have a current vaccination certificate. The certificate must indicate that the exhibit has received a valid vaccination 12 months from the last kitten vaccination then at least once every 3 years after this. Vaccination certificates should be checked by the Show Organisation Team prior to the show or before the exhibit is benched on the day of the show.
- 9.8 Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchids over the age of nine (9) months (unless competing in neutered class), vasectomised males, or females which had undergone tubal ligation, must not be shown.
- 9.9 Female cats obviously in kitten will not be judged. Lactating queens shall not be benched without their litters.
- 9.10 All exhibits must have all their claws clipped prior to entry to the show hall and must be brought to the show confined in an appropriate container.

10.0 Show catalogue

- 10.1 The Show Organisation Team shall prepare a Show Catalogue that must contain at least the following information:
 - a) Show date
 - b) Name and address of the show venue
 - c) Number of rings, including specialty rings
 - d) A list of judging assignments. Judges are to be identified by their governing body.
 - e) Details of all awards to be given including the process by which the Supreme Pedigree Exhibit and Supreme Companion Exhibit are decided.
 - f) Name of the Cats NSW Show Representative
 - g) A statement that the show is conducted according to the Cats NSW Show Rules and Procedures.
 - h) Vetting procedures (if applicable)
 - i) Name and contact details for the Show Secretary and the name of the Show Manager.

- j) Details of stewards and other show personnel (if applicable). This may include members of the Show Organisation Team, card writers, ring co-ordinators, etc, if known.
 - k) Details of each exhibit entered including: the exhibit's name, date of birth, sex, registration number (unless entered with Registration Pending), names of sire and dam (if applicable), and the name of the exhibitor and breeder (if applicable).
- 10.2 Additional information may be included in the Show Catalogue at the discretion of the Show Organisation Team.

11.0 Preparing judging notes/slips

- 11.1 Judging notes/slips may be digital (e.g. tablet-based) or paper-based, or a combination of both.
- 11.2 Judging notes/slips shall be prepared so each judge can complete their assignment, and the awards indicated in the Show Schedule can be given.
- 11.3 The breed, colour, sex and date of birth (if known) of each exhibit must be shown on the judging notes/slip.
- 11.4 Depending on the judging assignments, some or all of the following judging stages may apply:

Pedigree Exhibits

- 11.5 Best in Section - each separate Pedigree breed and colour compete for the award of 'Best in Section' for Kittens and 'Challenge awards' for Cats. Exhibits may be ranked if required.
- 11.6 Best of Breed - Best in Section winners compete for the award of 'Best of Breed' for Kittens, Entire Cats and Desexed Cats. Exhibits may be ranked if required.
- 11.7 Best in Ring Placings – Kittens, Entire cats and Desexed cats in each Ring are placed in order. The number of placings is determined by the Show Organisation Team and may be Top 5, Top 10, Top 15, or based on the number of exhibits.
- 11.8 Best Exhibit in Group – the Judge selects between their Best Kitten, Best Entire Cat and Best Desexed Cat to award their Best Exhibit in Group.
- 11.9 Best Kitten/Entire Cat/Desexed Cat in Show – the Judge selects between their Best Kitten in each group to award their Best Kitten in Show, between their Best Entire Cat in each Group to award their Best Entire Cat in Show and between their Best Desexed Cat in each Group to award their Best Desexed Cat in Show.
- 11.10 Supreme Exhibit in Ring – the Judge selects between their Best in Group winners to award their Supreme Exhibit in each Ring.
- 11.11 Supreme Pedigree Exhibit in Show may be judged by an individual Judge, a Panel of Judges or by the counting of points accrued during the show.

- a) Individual Judge – A licensed All-breeds judge is assigned to specifically judge the Supreme Pedigree Exhibit in Show. This judge must not have judged any of the Open Rings at the show.
 - b) Panel – A Panel shall comprise of two or more (preferably an odd number) licensed All-breeds judges.
 - c) Points – To be eligible for a Supreme Exhibit in Show award, an exhibit must have received a Supreme Exhibit in Ring award. The points will then be allocated as follows:
 - Best in Group - 10 points
 - 1st Place Top 5 - 5 points
 - 2nd Place Top 5 - 4 points
 - 3rd Place Top 5 - 3 points
 - 4th Place Top 5 - 2 points
 - 5th Place Top 5 - 1 point
 - d) In the event of a tie between more than one exhibit, an independent All-breeds judge shall assess the tied exhibits and decide their best exhibit and the Supreme Exhibit in Show.
 - e) If an Independent All-breeds judge is not available, the tie will be broken by a countback based on ring judging results, in the following order: highest number of 1st placings in the Top 5; if still tied, highest number of 2nd placings; then 3rd, 4th, and finally 5th placings in the Top 5.
- 11.12 Overall Top 5/10/15 Exhibits in Show – the judge ranks all the exhibits they have judged to award their Top 5/10/15 Exhibits in Show. The number of places is determined by the Show Organisation Team.
- 11.13 The number of kittens entered in each litter in a Litter Class is to be specified on the Judge's notes/slips.

Companion Exhibits

- 11.14 Companion Best in Section – Companion exhibits compete in colour classes for the award of Best in Section for Kittens and Award of Merit for Cats.
- 11.15 Companion Best in Ring placings – All Companion exhibits compete for Best in Ring placings. The number of placings is determined by the Show Organisation Team and may be Top 5, Top 10, Top 15, or based on the number of exhibits.
- 11.16 Supreme Companion in Show - The Show Organisation Team may decide whether or not a Companion Exhibit must have won a Best in Ring award to be eligible for the Supreme Companion Exhibit in Show award. Points are allocated as follows:
- 1st Place Top 5 - 5 points
 - 2nd Place Top 5 - 4 points
 - 3rd Place Top 5 - 3 points
 - 4th Place Top 5 - 2 points
 - 5th Place Top 5 - 1 point

- 11.17 Specialty rings – Judging notes/slips for each Specialty ring are to indicate which exhibits are eligible for entry into the ring and what awards will be given. Breed specific Specialty rings, where exhibits are judged to their respective standards and by a qualified judge, may be eligible for Challenge points.
- 11.18 If the Show Organisation Team has elected to conduct the show according to the Longhair/Shorthair/Companions format, separate award slips must be completed for Group 2 and 3 Kittens, Entire cats and Desexed cats for the purpose of awarding COTY points.

Part C – Show Day

12.0 Health, Safety and Welfare of Exhibits

- 12.1 If the Show Organisation Team elects to include Vetting, the following procedures may apply.
- 12.2 All cats and kittens entering the show venue, regardless of whether they are entered in the show or not, must be Vetted before being benched in their show cage.
- 12.3 Any exhibit showing symptoms of any contagious disease or not in show condition, may be disqualified by the Vetting Inspector.
- 12.4 If an exhibit is disqualified by the Vetting Inspector, a Vetting Inspector Notification form must be completed (see Attachment B). A copy of the form shall be given to the exhibitor, a copy retained by the Show Manager and a copy given to the Show Representative for inclusion in the Show Representative Report.
- 12.5 If an exhibit is disqualified under Part A of the Vetting Inspector Notification, a 'One-Out-All-Out' rejection shall apply, and the exhibitor will be required to remove all their exhibits from the show.
- 12.6 In the case of a Part A disqualification (One-Out-All-Out) a compulsory twenty one (21) day quarantine period shall apply. During the quarantine period, the Exhibitor is not permitted to exhibit ANY exhibits at any Cats NSW sanctioned shows.
- 12.7 A Part A disqualification (One-Out-All-Out) and the compulsory twenty one (21) day quarantine period shall also apply to ANY exhibit that has been domiciled at the same cattery as the rejected exhibit. This applies regardless of the health of the other exhibits or whether they were entered or shown at the show where the vetting rejection occurred.
- 12.8 An exhibit that has been disqualified and/or quarantined under Clause 12.5, 12.6 or 12.7 may be cleared by a veterinarian prior to completion of the twenty one (21) day quarantine period. The exhibitor is required to submit a copy of the Veterinary clearance to the Secretary of Cats NSW prior to being permitted to enter any Cats NSW sanctioned show.
- 12.9 A Part A rejection (One-Out-All-Out) by the Vetting Inspector shall not automatically apply to other exhibits that travelled to the show in the same vehicle.
- 12.10 If an exhibit is rejected under Part B of the Vetting Inspector Notification, then the exhibit is vetted out of the show however any other exhibit can be shown. The rejected exhibit may be removed from the show (if applicable) or may be placed in the show isolation area for the duration of the show.
- 12.11 Where the Show Organisation Team has elected not to include Vetting, they still have the authority to inspect exhibits and request the removal of any exhibits that is deemed not to be in show condition.
- 12.12 In the event the committee of Cats NSW becomes aware of a feline communicable illness following a cat show, an email notice advising all show exhibitors is to be sent within 24 hours, where practicable.

13.0 Benching exhibits

- 13.1 All exhibits must be benched within the time advertised in the schedule. If an exhibitor arrives after the advertised time and judging has commenced, then the exhibitor must forfeit that ring and wait until the judge has left the ring before benching their exhibits.
- 13.2 All exhibits must be caged in a safe, secure metal/wire enclosure that is large enough for the exhibit to be comfortable with a single door that allows sufficient access for the judge or steward. Cages may be up to a maximum of 80cm wide, unless prior approval is given by the Show Manager. The door must face into the judging bay (or toward the judging table).
- 13.3 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.
- 13.4 Unmarked litter trays may be left in cages during judging. Litter trays must not identify ownership.
- 13.5 Only one exhibit per cage, except if the exhibit is entered as a litter or with the consent of the Show Manager.
- 13.6 Exhibitors must keep their exhibits' cages clean both prior to and during judging. No advertising material shall be displayed until all judging is complete. No food is to be left in the cage until judging is complete for the day. Drinking water may be provided.
- 13.7 Feline waste and litter must be disposed of appropriately according to instructions from the show manager. Under no circumstance is feline waste or litter to be placed in rubbish bins on judging tables or in the vicinity of the ring.
- 13.8 All exhibitors are responsible for keeping the area where their exhibits are benched in a clean and hygienic manner. Failure to clean up after an exhibit or to leave any mess behind at the conclusion of the show may result in a cleaning fee being applied. Further incidents may result in additional penalties being applied.
- 13.9 All cages must be fitted with suitable solid barriers (ie corflute or water-resistant material) on both sides and the back to prevent direct contact between benched cats.
- 13.10 Coloured curtains may be used in all shows.
- 13.11 Exhibits cannot be removed from the Show or from the cage designated by the show personnel without the consent of the Show Manager.
- 13.12 An exhibitor may request that their exhibit be withdrawn from a ring prior to the commencement of judging in that ring. All requests are to be made to the Show Manager.

14.0 Grooming in the show hall

- 14.1 No powder, aerosol sprays, bleach or methylated spirits are allowed in the vicinity of the cages. Dettol and other coal tar derivatives must not be used as a disinfectant.
- 14.2 Exhibitors must not use talcum powder or other like substances on an exhibit while it is caged or in the vicinity of cages.

- 14.3 Judges shall be instructed to disqualify any exhibit upon which there is colouring matter or powder residue.
- 14.4 Exhibits cannot be groomed during judging while the judge is in the ring. Stewards or exhibitors who are cleaning up after an exhibit's mishap are not included in this rule.

15.0 Judging

- 15.1 All exhibits (unless entered with Registration Pending) must be entered into the show as detailed on their registration certificate and must be judged according to this information.
- 15.2 Exhibits entered with Registration Pending must be judged according to the information provided in the show entry.
- 15.3 Exhibits will be judged under the standards provided by the Australian Cat Federation Inc.
- 15.4 Judges are not permitted to ask owners to remove their exhibit from the show cage, whilst judging is occurring.
- 15.5 A Judge may withhold any award in any class or special award if in their opinion the exhibit does not possess sufficient merit. The Judge's decision is final.
- 15.6 In the event of a withheld challenge in an open class or first place is withheld in a kitten class, then such exhibit is not entitled to any higher award by the withholding Judge.
- 15.7 Identifying tattoos or microchips under the skin will not penalise an exhibit.
- 15.8 Kitten exhibits (under 9 months) may be reclassified for colour and/or pattern and/or sex, on the day of a show. The kitten owner or Judge should notify the Show Manager so the Judges notes/slips can be amended. Following the show, the kitten owner must complete the Cats NSW Application to amend a Kitten or Cat Pedigree form, pay the appropriate fee and send the original pedigree and the form to the Cats NSW Registrar.
- 15.9 Adult exhibits (9 months and over) cannot be reclassified for colour and pattern prior to judging or during judging on the day but only after judging is completed. Reclassification may then be made after examination and agreement by three (3) licenced judges and the completion of the 'Application to amend Colour and/or Pattern for a Cat over 9 months' form. Alternatively, a DNA test result may be used to inform a reclassification.
- 15.10 Breeds and/or colours and or patterns not recognised by Cats NSW cannot be entered into a Cats NSW sanctioned show unless they are entered as companion cats.

16.0 Challenge awards and titles and ACF awards

Challenge awards and titles

- 16.1 Challenge awards will be awarded to the Best Male, Best Female, Best Neuter and Best Spay in each recognised colour section of each recognised breed (including experimental generations where ACF has applied no special requirements to their

- acceptance as a recognised breed) if, in the opinion of the Judge, the exhibits reach the required standard.
- 16.2 Breed specific Specialty Rings when judged by a qualified judge may be eligible for Challenge points. They are not eligible for ACF Awards.
- 16.3 Challenge points awarded shall be 10 points plus 1 point for each cat entered and present in the section, to a maximum of 20 points.
- 16.4 A Best in Group Entire Cat and Best in Group Desexed Cat is awarded a 20-point Challenge.
- 16.5 UTH and UTJ exhibits are to be regarded as being present in ALL rings of a show.
- 16.6 When a Challenge award has been withheld in a ring, the exhibit is ineligible for any higher award in that ring, including Best of Breed.
- 16.7 Cats NSW Inc. Championship Awards are:
- a) Champion, Grand Champion, Double Grand Champion for each level:
 - Male Cats – 70 challenge points,
 - Female, Neuter and Spay Cats – 60 challenge points.
 - b) Bronze, Silver and Gold Double Grand Champion for each level:
 - 100 challenge points.
 - c) Platinum, Sapphire, Ruby, Emerald & Diamond Grand Champion:
 - 10 Best in Group (20 point) challenge certificates for each higher title.
- 16.8 Applications for all titles must include a majority of challenge points gained at Cats NSW sanctioned shows or at the National Australia Cat Show. Members who reside more than 200km radius from Sydney GPO must include at least one (1) Cats NSW challenge with each title update. They can include challenges from interstate ACF bodies and intrastate CCCA shows in their majority of challenges.
- 16.9 Challenge points in excess of the total for a level may be carried over to the next level.
- 16.10 Challenges awarded by a judge licenced by a non-recognised governing body may not be used for Cats NSW Inc. titles.
- 16.11 Challenge points won as an entire cat may be counted for awards as a desexed cat.
- 16.12 After gaining a title, if a cat is desexed (or is subject to a colour change) the cat may retain the title and proceed to a higher award status.

ACF Awards – Refer to the ACF Website for details

- 16.13 ACF Award of Excellence Certificates may be awarded in the following manner, according to the show format:
- a) Best Male, Best Female, Best Neuter and Best Spay in each of Groups 1, 2 & 3; or
 - b) Best Male, Best Female, Best Neuter and Best Spay in each Longhair and Shorthair Group.
- 16.14 All entries in an adult group are entitled to compete for this award whether titled or not.

- 16.15 To achieve the ACF Award of Excellence the exhibit must achieve 95% of the standard points.
- 16.16 Companion exhibits will compete in colour classes for Desexed Kittens, Neuter Cat and Spay Cat only.
- 16.17 ACF Award of Honour Certificates may be awarded in the following manner:
 - a) Awarded to the Best Adult Companion Neuter and Spay in Show.
 - b) Where the cat is the highest placed adult Companion Neuter and Spay in the top three (3) awards.
 - c) In the case of multiple ring shows each ring is considered as a separate show and certificates to be awarded accordingly.

17.0 Difficult to handle exhibits

- 17.1 No exhibit is to be entered in any Cats NSW sanctioned shows if it has a history of fractious behaviour. It is the Exhibitors' Duty of Care not to expose any judge, steward, Vetting Inspector (if applicable), or official to injury by any exhibit. Judges are not required to restrain or judge any exhibit showing any signs of aggression.
- 17.2 An exhibit that is unable to be handled due to aggression or which shows aggression (deliberate biting, attacking or threatening to attack) whilst being handled must be marked Unable to be Handled (UTH) at that show.
- 17.3 Judges cannot choose to not issue UTH in such circumstances.
- 17.4 Any exhibit marked UTH, is automatically withdrawn from any further judging in the show. A card identifying the exhibit as "UTH" will be secured to its cage and the Show Manager notified.
- 17.5 The Show Manager must complete the UTH/UTJ Incident Report Form which must be signed by the Judge (or Steward/Show Personnel), the Exhibitor and the Show Manager. A copy of the report shall be given to the Exhibitor, a copy retained by the Show Manager and a copy given to the Show Representative for inclusion in the Show Representative Report.
- 17.6 No award shall be made in that ring.
- 17.7 An exhibit marked UTH will be suspended from entering any Cats NSW sanctioned show for a period of three (3) months from the date of the incident. If the exhibit is marked UTH again following the suspension, it will be banned for life. No appeal will be considered.
- 17.8 An exhibit that is unable to be taken from the cage to the judging table and/or handled sufficiently to allow a proper assessment is deemed to be Unable to be Judged (UTJ).
- 17.9 An exhibit marked UTJ, will be disqualified from that ring only and may continue to be judged in other rings at the show. A card identifying the exhibit as "UTJ" will be secured to its cage to alert subsequent judges to be cautious, and the Show Manager notified.
- 17.10 The Show Manager must complete the UTH/UTJ Incident Report Form which must be signed by the Judge, the Exhibitor and the Show Manager. A copy of the report shall be

given to the Exhibitor, a copy retained by the Show Manager and a copy given to the Show Representative for inclusion in the Show Representative Report.

- 17.11 An exhibit that is issued three (3) UTJ notices will be banned from entering any Cats NSW sanctioned shows for life.
- 17.12 The Cats NSW Secretary shall advise all relevant parties (including ACF, Cats NSW Affiliate Clubs, etc) of any exhibit that is suspended or banned from entering Cats NSW sanctioned shows.

18.0 Exhibitor behaviour

- 18.1 Exhibitors are expected to behave in a polite and courteous manner and should be respectful to judges, show personnel, venue staff (where applicable), other exhibitors and members of the public.
- 18.2 Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated. The comfort of all exhibits, the exhibitors, Judges and show personnel is of paramount importance.
- 18.3 Any person who, by their actions or words, behaves in a manner that may be identified as rude, disrespectful, intimidating or bullying to any judge, steward, show personnel, or any other person, at or in the vicinity of the show hall, are liable to disciplinary action.
- 18.4 Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, expulsion from the show by the Show Organisation Team, the forfeit of any awards gained at the show, banning from future Cats NSW sanctioned shows and reporting to the exhibitors' governing body.
- 18.5 Mobile phones may be used but must be switched to silent mode during judging. No flash photography is to be used within the show hall without the express permission of the Show Manager.
- 18.6 Judges and stewards have the right to request that videos and photos are not taken during judging. Before any photos and videos are taken, exhibitors must seek permission from the judges and stewards involved.
- 18.7 Videos are only intended for the personal use of the exhibitor. Additional permission must be given by the judge or steward to post videos and/or to livestream on social media.
- 18.8 No awards or award cards are to be displayed during judging.
- 18.9 All complaints regarding a show must be submitted in writing and must be in the hands of the Show Organisation Team within seven (7) days following the Show. Complaints regarding the running of a Show will not be considered by Cats NSW unless lodged in accordance with this rule.

Part D – Following the Show

19.0 Show Reports

- 19.1 Following all Cats NSW sanctioned shows, the Show Representative shall complete the Show Representative Report form (available on the website) and forward it to the Cats NSW Secretary within 7 days of the close of the show. Where applicable, the Show Representative Report shall include copies of Incident Reports for any exhibit marked UTH or UTJ and copies of Vetting Inspector Notification forms for any exhibit that was disqualified.
- 19.2 The Show Organisation Team shall forward a copy of the marked Show Catalogue to the Cats NSW Secretary within 7 days of the show.
- 19.3 The Show Organisation Team shall forward a copy of the marked Show Catalogue, showing the Top 5 results, Best in Group winners and Supreme Exhibit/s, to the Cat of the Year Point Scorer within 14 days of the show with the exception of a show held in November, where the results must be forwarded within 7 days.
- 19.4 The Show Organisation Team shall retain (paper based or electronic) relevant show documents (e.g. entry forms if applicable, judging notes/slips, etc) until the end of the Show year or for at least four months (whichever is longer).

20.0 Kitten/Cat of the Year (COTY) Awards

Eligibility

- 20.1 Eligible kittens and cats may accumulate points in the Cats NSW Members' or Associate Members' Kitten/Cat of the Year Awards.
- 20.2 To be eligible, kittens and cats must be in the ownership of a financial Member or Associate Member of Cats NSW. Kittens and cats must be registered with the organisation where the owner is a member.
- 20.3 To be eligible for a COTY Top 7 award, an exhibit must have attended a minimum of 2 Cats NSW sanctioned shows in the show year.
- 20.4 Points will be counted from the date the membership is accepted.
- 20.5 Only points gained at Cats NSW sanctioned shows and the National Australia Cat Show when held in NSW or the ACT will be counted.
- 20.6 Exhibits entered with registration pending are not eligible for COTY points.
- 20.7 Specialty Rings are not eligible for COTY points.

Points Allocation

- 20.8 Points will be awarded as per the following:
 - 1st Place Top 5 - 5 points
 - 2nd Place Top 5 - 4 points
 - 3rd Place Top 5 - 3 points

- 4th Place Top 5 - 2 points
- 5th Place Top 5 - 1 point
- Best in Group - 5 points
- Supreme Exhibit - 5 points

Cats NSW Members' Awards

20.9 The following awards shall be presented to Members' Pedigreed exhibits as follows:

- a) Top 7 Kittens in Group 1, 2 & 3
- b) Top 7 Entire Cats in Group 1, 2 & 3
- c) Top 7 Desexed Cats in Group 1, 2 & 3
- d) Highest Point Scoring Exhibit Group 1

Awarded to the Group 1 exhibit that scores the highest number of points as a Group 1 exhibit. This includes kittens or entire cats that move into another class during the year.

- e) Highest Point Scoring Exhibit Group 2

Awarded to the Group 2 exhibit that scores the highest number of points as a Group 2 exhibit. This includes kittens or entire cats that move into another class during the year.

- f) Highest Point Scoring Exhibit Group 3

Awarded to the Group 3 exhibit that scores the highest number of points as a Group 3 exhibit. This includes kittens or entire cats that move into another class during the year.

- g) Pedigree Exhibit of the Year

Awarded to the exhibit who achieves the highest number of points throughout the year, as an aggregate of points won in all sections. This includes kittens who move into the entire or desexed cat section during the year and entire cats who move into the desexed cat section during the year.

- h) Prefix of the Year

Awarded to the highest scoring prefix in Groups 1, 2 and 3. This is only for prefixes held by full financial Members of Cats NSW. Points will be calculated by adding all points of any exhibit that holds that prefix. The prefix with the highest number of points will be awarded prefix of the year in each group.

- i) Baby Kitten of the Year

Awarded to the overall highest scoring baby kitten (10 weeks – 6 months) owned by a Cats NSW member.

- j) Veteran Cat of the Year

Awarded to the overall highest scoring Veteran cat (aged 7 years – 10 years) owned by a Cats NSW Member.

- k) Golden Oldie Cat of the Year

Awarded to the Overall Highest scoring Golden Oldie (aged over 10 years) owned by a Cats NSW Member

20.10 The following awards shall be presented to Members' Companion exhibits:

- a) Top 7 Companion Exhibits

Cats NSW Associate Members' Awards

20.11 The following awards shall be presented to Associate Members' Pedigreed exhibits as follows:

- a) 1st Place Kitten in Groups 1, 2 & 3
- b) 1st Place Entire Cat in Groups 1, 2 & 3
- c) 1st Place Desexed Cat in Groups 1, 2 & 3
- d) Highest Point Scoring Associate Members' Exhibit

Awarded to the exhibit who achieves the highest number of points throughout the year, as an aggregate of points won in all sections. This includes kittens who move into the entire or desexed cat section during the year and entire cats who move into the desexed cat section during the year.

20.12 The following award shall be presented to Associate Members' Companion exhibits:

- a) 1st Place Companion Exhibit

Cats NSW Member and Associate Members' Combined Awards

20.13 The following awards will be presented to Cats NSW Members and Associate Members combined:

- a) Best of Breed

Awarded to the best of each breed recognised by Cats NSW. Each judge will be asked to award an overall Best of Breed at each Cats NSW sanctioned show. One point will be awarded for each Best of Breed an exhibit receives. The exhibit with the highest number of points will be awarded Best of Breed. This award is open to all Cats NSW Members and Associate members combined.

- b) New Exhibitor of the Year

An award made to the highest scoring new exhibitor. Eligibility for this award is only for those Cats NSW Members and Associate Members who are showing cats for the first time in any registering body.

- c) Returning Exhibitor of the Year

An award made to the highest scoring returning exhibitor of the year. To be eligible an exhibitor must be a Member or Associate Member of Cats NSW and not have shown in any registering body for a minimum of 5 years before the current show year.

20.14 The following award will be presented to an exhibit regardless of their body of registration:

a) Exhibitor's Choice

Awarded to the exhibit with the highest number of votes received from exhibitors. Each exhibitor will be provided with a voting slip and asked to vote for their best/favourite exhibit. Exhibitors will be asked not to vote for their own exhibit, but this will be an honesty-based system. This award is open to all exhibits, regardless of their body of registration. Voting will occur at shows run by the Cats NSW Show Committee but is optional for Cats NSW Affiliate Clubs. Votes will be counted by the Show Representative and one other person and the results forwarded to the COTY Points Scorer.

20.15 The following awards shall be presented in the Junior Development Program:

- a) Top 3 participants in the 5 – 12 years age division
- b) Top 3 participants in the 13 – 17 years age division

Part E – Optional Show Components

21.0 Junior Development Program

22.0 Exhibitions

23.0 Lucky 8