

AUSTRALIAN CAT FEDERATION (INC.)
BY-LAWS PART 6.2 - NATIONAL SHOW RULES

1. All exhibits, local and interstate, excepting unpedigreed, must be registered and issued with an approved registration number by a recognised controlling body or be eligible under By-laws 1.3 and 1.4
2. All litters must be recorded with the recognised controlling body and must be a minimum of 12 weeks of age on the day of the show.
3. Kittens will not be eligible for individual kitten classes below the age of 12 weeks on the day of the show.
4. Litter is all living progeny of one birth.
The number of kittens in each litter must be stated on the entry form. The show secretary must be notified prior to the show date if any kitten(s) included in the litter has died since the entry.
5. All cats and kittens must be vaccinated as per current veterinary protocols.
6. All adult cats entered for competition, including titled cats, must compete in their appropriate Open class (whether entire or desexed). Kittens must be entered in their individual age classes (under 5, 7 and 9 months) unless entered as a litter only (under 4 months).
7. No cat obviously pregnant may be exhibited. No cat obviously nursing a litter may be exhibited without her litter. No vasectomised cat may be exhibited. No female cat desexed by tubal ligation may be exhibited.
8. Entries must be made on the appropriate entry form and must be in the hands of the show committee by the stated closing time. All entry fees must accompany the entry form. Entry fees will not be refunded under any circumstances.
9. The show committee reserves the right to refuse or return any entry or entries. Exhibitors whose entries are refused are to be notified in writing by registered mail within seven (7) days of close of entries. Copy of such letter is to be forwarded at the same time to the Secretary of the ACF (Inc.)
10. The age of all exhibits shall be computed from the day of their birth to the first day of the show:
 - (a) Kittens - exhibits under nine months of age; and
 - (b) Cats - exhibits nine months of age and over on the day of the show.
11. An exhibit must be the bona fide registered property of the owner or lessee in whose name it is entered. If owned by more than one person, the names of all part-owners must be shown on the entry form.
12. One free pass will be issued to the exhibitor. These passes are not transferable. Where the exhibitor is a partnership, whether owner or lessee, additional free passes may be issued, at the discretion of the Show Manager/Show Secretary.
13. While ACF (Inc.) takes every care of animals entered in a show, all exhibits are entered /exhibited at the owner's/lessee's risk. It must be strictly understood by all exhibitors, and all other persons, that ACF will not accept responsibility for the loss of or damage to any exhibit or property, whether arising from accident or other causes by its officers, agents or any other person. All personal property left in the hall is the owner's responsibility.
14. No cat or other animal, other than exhibits, shall be allowed within the precincts of the exhibition for the duration of the show.
15. All exhibits must be brought to the hall in suitable carry-boxes or containers. No exhibits will be accepted if on leads, wrapped in towels, etc.
16. No exhibit or exhibitor (other than veterinary professionals) may enter the hall if, at any time during the period of 30 days immediately preceding the day of the show, they have been in contact with or affected by a disease infectious to cats.
17. All inspected exhibits must pass the veterinary inspection.
 - (a) A duly qualified veterinary surgeon may examine each cat, whether entered for competition or exhibition only; or
 - (b) A veterinary surgeon shall be present at the show from 7:00 am until midday, inspecting animals of his/her selection during that period. Entry to bays during judging is not permitted except at the Show Manager's request. The veterinary surgeon shall order any cat to be removed from the show if, in his/her opinion, it is suffering from any infectious or contagious disease or has external parasites. Their decision in this regard will be final. Should the veterinarian reject one of an exhibitor's cats or kittens, all the exhibitor's entries may be rejected.
18. Member bodies hosting a National may elect to have no vetting at shows.
 - a. This must be shown on the Show Schedule
 - b. The show committee may remove an exhibit from the show if, in their opinion, the exhibit is not in show condition. Their decision in this regard will be final
19. If an adult male cat entered as an entire male is found to be monorchid or cryptorchid it will be disqualified.
20. If, during the course of the show, an exhibit should be found to be ailing or distressed through any cause, the Show Manager may at his/her discretion request that the exhibit be removed from the hall.
21. Exhibitor Owned Cages:
All cages brought by exhibitors must comply with the approved standards and sizes. The small cage will have a maximum size of 24.5 +/- 1inch on its longest side (front). The large cage will have a maximum size of 36 +/- 1inch on its longest side (front). The cage shall be of a wire mesh type construction with one or two doors. No top opening cages will be permitted. The cage must be fitted with suitable waterproof and opaque (non-see through) solid barriers on both sides and back to prevent direct contact between benched cats. There must be a door at the front.
22. Curtains (if used) and a towel or blanket must be in cages prior to the commencement of judging. No other objects are allowed until judging is completed, except for devices used for warmth. Nothing in cages shall identify owner.
23. No foodstuffs are allowed in cages prior to and/or during judging but drinking water may be provided.

24. Litter trays may be provided by exhibitors.
25. Grooming of exhibits benched may be continued until exhibitors are requested to leave the judging area prior to judging. No sprays or powders used to groom exhibits are to be used in the show hall. Transgression will result in the disqualification of the exhibit.
26. Carry-boxes, etc. must be placed out of sight after the exhibit is benched.
27. Late arrivals will only be accepted at the discretion of the Show Manager but exhibits not in their cages when the judges are called to the floor will automatically be disqualified from that ring.
28. No cat or kitten may be removed from the vicinity of its cage without the permission of the Show Manager.
29. No exhibit may be removed from the hall before completion of prize-giving without the permission of the Show Manager.
30. The Show Committee reserves the right to amend prize lists and to alter judging assignments if necessary.
31. All exhibits at ACF (Inc.) shows are judged according to the Standards of the ACF (Inc.). All breeds and colours and patterns will be fully written.
32. The ACF (Inc.) show will contain the following sections for competition:
 - GROUP 1:* Aphrodite Longhair, Aphrodite Shorthair, Birman, Exotic, Birman, Maine Coon, Neva Masquerade, Norwegian Forest Cat, Persian, Ragdoll, Siberian, Turkish Angora, Turkish Van
 - GROUP 2:* Balinese, Foreign White, Foreign White Longhair, Oriental Shorthair, Oriental Longhair, Peterbald, Siamese
 - GROUP 3:* Other Shorthairs and, Cymric, LaPerm Longhair, Pixiebob Longhair, Scottish Fold Longhair, Scottish Longhair, Selkirk Rex Longhair, Somali and other breeds as listed in ACF Standards.
 - GROUP 4:* Companion cats
- EXPERIMENTAL/ASSESSMENT*
All new and developing breeds/varieties.
33. Desexed exhibits shall not compete against entire exhibits except where special regulations apply as in side classes such as eye colour, etc. or for Supreme Exhibit. For Top 5/10 Kittens, desexed and entire kittens will compete together.
34. Challenge and Award of Merit certificates will be awarded for Best Male, Best Female, Best Neuter and Best Spay in each colour (A.O.C. and non-pedigreed exhibits excepted or where special regulations apply – see Rule 42) irrespective of the number of entries, provided the exhibits reach the required standard. Challenge and Award of Merit certificates awarded to Supplementary Register exhibits must be marked with the letters "S.R.". However, Sub-register status will not be indicated on the judges' slips. Companion Merit Awards will be allowed for Best Neuter and Best Spay Companion Cat.
35. A judge's decision on the merit of an exhibit shall be final unless such decision is contrary to the rules under which the show is conducted. Judges shall be empowered and instructed not to award any prize, Challenge or Award of Merit Certificate or Companion Merit Award to any exhibit which they consider is not of sufficient merit. The judge may award a second place

- and may withhold a prize altogether where the exhibits are not, in his opinion, of sufficient merit.
36. Any exhibit which is unable to be handled by the judge will not be judged. Any exhibit found to be sedated will be disqualified.
If an exhibit behaves in an aggressive manner, or injures a handler, it will be marked UTH (Unable to be Handled) and disqualified from further competition in the show.
If an exhibit is less aggressive but is unable to be taken from the cage to the judging table or be handled sufficiently to be effectively judged/assessed, it will be marked UTJ (unable to be judged) for that ring.
 37. Officiating judges may enter exhibits in competition, but not judge their own exhibits. Such judges are excluded from conferring with judges of cats in sections in which they are exhibiting and from sitting on any panel including for Supreme Exhibit in the event that any exhibit owned by such judges should be presented to such panels.
 38. Panel judging may be used at the discretion of the Show Committee. Panel should be of an odd number.
 39. In the event of a split decision during panel judging, the panel will be instructed to determine between two of the exhibits, and then between the winner and a third exhibit and so on until and overall winner is established.
 40. Any complaint regarding the management of the show must be made in writing to the ACF (Inc.) Secretary together with a fee determined by ACF (Inc.), within two days of the show. The fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
 41. No cards or ribbons, other than those won at the show, may be displayed.
 42. Supplementary register exhibits shall compete against full register exhibits in their appropriate classes if they are, or have been, part of an approved program aimed at producing cats of an established breed/variety and standard in the Open Classes where Challenges and Award of Merit certificates are awarded. Exhibits of an unrecognised variety (colour, marking, or coat quality) of an established breed shall compete in Open Classes for AOC/AOV exhibits. The proposed standard of points must be forwarded with the entry. Supplementary Register exhibits are eligible for Best of Breed/Variety and Best in Show Awards.
 43. All cats entered for competition shall have all claws clipped.
 44. Judges are instructed to ignore tattoo marks and other similar forms of identification (e.g. reaction to microchip insert) in show cats.
 45. A list of all past Supreme Exhibit winners will be recorded in each national show catalogue.
 46. It is the responsibility of exhibitors to ensure exhibits' certification is correct before the show.
 47. If a judge is of the opinion that colour or pattern is incorrect, and entry form is checked and error is confirmed to be by exhibitor, then that judge will withhold.

Updated June 2016