



THE AUSTRALIAN CAT FEDERATION (INC.)

BY-LAWS - PART 6.2 NATIONAL SHOW RULES

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1. Entries must be made on the appropriate entry form and must be in the hands of the Show Manager by the stated closing time. All entry fees must accompany the entry form. Entry fees will not be refunded under any circumstances.
2. All exhibits, local and interstate, excepting unpedigreed, must be registered and issued with an approved registration number by a recognised controlling body and be eligible under By-Law Part 1 either Clauses 3, 4 or 5¹. Each exhibit, excepting unpedigreed, must be accompanied by a pedigree issued from its recognised controlling body.
3. Unless otherwise stated on the Show Schedule, no litters will be accepted for competition.
4. All exhibits must be vaccinated as per current veterinary protocols. Vaccination certificate for all kittens must be available for inspection.
5. 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).
6. No cat obviously pregnant may be exhibited. No cat obviously nursing a litter may be exhibited. No vasectomised cat may be exhibited. No female cat desexed by tubal ligation may be exhibited.
7. The age of all exhibits shall be computed from the day of their birth to the first (1st) day of the show:
 - (a) Kittens - exhibits twelve (12) weeks (84 days) and under nine (9) months (270 days) of age; and
 - (b) Cats - exhibits nine (9) months (270 days) of age and over on the day of the show.
8. 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.
9. The Show Manager 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 ACF (Inc.) Secretary.
10. 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.
11. 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 (Inc) 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 show hall is the owner's responsibility.

¹ 2021: Amended: Clause references to that updated in By-Laws Part 1

- 12.** No cat or other animal, other than exhibits, shall be allowed within the precincts of the show hall for the duration of the show.
- 13.** 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.
- 14.** 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.
- 15.** All inspected exhibits must pass the veterinary inspection.
 - (a) A 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 their 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 their 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 exhibits, all the exhibitor's entries may also be rejected. Exhibits of another exhibitor whose exhibits travelled with the exhibitor whose exhibits were rejected, may also be rejected. Refer to Form in By-Laws Part 6.1 National Show - Administration Clause 14.
- 16.** Member Bodies hosting a National Show may elect to have no vetting at shows.
 - (a) Whether vetting is to be conducted or not will ²be shown on the Show Schedule.
 - (b) The Show Manager 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.
- 17.** If an adult male cat entered as an entire male is found to be monorchid or cryptorchid it will be disqualified.
- 18.** If, during the show, an exhibit should be found to be ailing or distressed through any cause, the Show Manager may at their discretion request that the exhibit be removed from the show hall.
- 19.** Exhibitor Owned Cages:

All cages brought by exhibitors must comply with the approved standards and sizes.

 - (a) The small cage will have a maximum size of 62.5cm Wide x 46.0cm Deep x 52.0cm High³
 - (b) The large cage will have a maximum size of 78.9cm Wide x 48.3cm Deep x 56.0cm High.
 - (c) The cage shall be of a wire mesh type construction with one or two doors. No top opening cages will be permitted. There must be a door at the front.
 - (d) 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.
- 20.** 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.
- 21.** No foodstuffs are allowed in cages prior to and/or during judging but drinking water may be provided.
- 22.** Litter trays may be provided by exhibitors.

² 2021: Amended: Clause 16 to be advice as to whether vetting is in or out.

³ 2021: Amended: Clause 19 to AU legal units of measure.

23. 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.
24. All exhibits entered for competition shall have all claws clipped.
25. Carry-boxes, etc. must be placed out of sight after the exhibit is benched.
26. 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.
27. No exhibits may be removed from the vicinity of its cage without the permission of the Show Manager.
28. No exhibit may be removed from the show hall before completion of prize-giving without the permission of the Show Manager.
29. The Show Manager reserves the right to amend prize lists and to alter judging assignments if necessary.
30. All exhibits at the ACF (Inc.) National Show are judged according to the Standards of the ACF (Inc.). All breeds, colours and patterns will be fully written.
31. The ACF (Inc.) National Show will contain the following sections for competition:
 - (a)
 - GROUP 1:* Aphrodite Longhair, Aphrodite Shorthair, Birman, Exotic, Maine Coon, Nebelung, 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:* Abyssinian, American Burmese, American Curl, American Shorthair, Australian Mist, Bengal, Bombay, British Shorthair, Burmese, Burmilla, Burmilla Longhair, Cornish Rex, Cymric, Devon Rex, Egyptian Mau, Japanese Bobtail Shorthair, Japanese Bobtail Longhair, Korat, LaPerm, LaPerm Longhair, Lykoi, Mandalay, Manx, Munchkin Shorthair, Munchkin Longhair, Ocicat, Pixiebob, Russian, Scottish Fold Shorthair, Scottish Fold Longhair, Scottish Shorthair, Scottish Longhair, Selkirk Rex Shorthair, Selkirk Rex Longhair, Singapura, Snowshoe, Somali, Sphynx, Tonkinese, Toyger.
 - GROUP 4:* Companion cats.
 - NOTE:* Refer to Clause 43 for exhibits competing from a Breed Development Programme.
 - (b) Member Bodies hosting a National Show may elect to use the following sections: Longhair (Group 1), Shorthair (Groups 2 & 3) and Companion Cats (Group 4).⁴
 - (c) The sections for competition to be used will be shown on the Show Schedule.
32. 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.
33. Award Certificates
 - In each ring:
 - (a) 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

⁴ 2021: Added: Clause 31 (b) Member Body hosting National Show may elect to Group Sections as Longhairs/Shorthair/Companions

or where special regulations apply – see Rule 43) irrespective of the number of entries, provided the exhibits reach the required standard.

- (b) Challenge and Award of Merit certificates awarded to exhibits from Breed Development Programs must be marked with the “generation Level (i.e., GEN 1 etc.)”. However, the generation level status will not be indicated on the judges’ slips.
 - (c) Award of Excellence (AoE) will be awarded for the Best Male, Best Female, Best Neuter and Best Spay in each Group provided the exhibits reach the required standard.
 - (d) Companion Merit Awards will be awarded for Best Neuter and Best Spay Companion Cat provided the exhibits reach the required standard.
 - (e) Award of Honour (AoH) will be awarded for Best Neuter and Best Spay⁵ Companion Cat in Show provided the exhibits meets the required criteria.
- 34.** 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 their opinion, of sufficient merit.
- 35.** Judges are instructed to ignore tattoo marks and other similar forms of identification (e.g., reaction to microchip insert) in show cats.
- 36.** 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.
- 37.** Any exhibit which is unable to be handled by the judge will not be judged. Any exhibit found to be sedated will be disqualified.
- a) 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.
 - b) 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.
- 38.** 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 if any exhibit owned by such judges should be presented to such panels.
- 39.** Panel judging may be used at the discretion of the Show Manager. Panel should be of an odd number.
- 40.** 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.
- 41.** 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.
- 42.** No cards or ribbons, other than those won at the show, may be displayed.

⁵ 2021: Amended: Companion Cats of each sex are entitled to AOH (treated equally to pedigree cats)

43. Breed Development Programme:

- (a) Exhibits from a Breed Development Programme 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.
- (b) Exhibits from a Breed Development Programme are eligible for Best of Breed/Variety and Best in Show Awards.
- (c) 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.⁶

44. It is the responsibility of exhibitors to ensure exhibits' certification is correct before the show.

⁶ 2021: Deleted Clause 44 Listing National winners in catalogue and moved By-Laws Part 6.1 and renumbered rest