

FCCQ Breeders Code of Ethics

All Feline Control Council of Queensland Inc. breeders sign and agree to be bound by the FCCQ Rules of Association, By-laws, Breeders Code of Ethics, Social Media Policy and the ACF by-laws. To implement this each member/breeder shall adhere to all the items listed below and to the requirements of all relevant State and local legislation.

1. Always ensure that all cats and kittens are hygienically housed, properly fed, watered, and groomed and receive prompt veterinary attention when required.
2. Observe the rules and regulations of FCCQ pertaining to any outbreak of infectious disease.
3. Take care not to mate a female under 10 months or to over-breed a queen, ensuring that she has a maximum of two litters each 12 months, except under exceptional circumstances.
4. Do not allow any entire cats under a member's care to roam free except under supervision, to prevent mis-matings and spread of disease.
5. Ensure that a pedigreed cat is not mated to a pedigreed cat of another breed unless the FCCQ approves such mating or the ACF Standards list allowable outcrosses (e.g. for the Scottish Fold and Manx breeds).
6. Matings shall only be accepted between cats owned by registered breeders
7. The primary purpose of breeding cats should be for the purpose of improving the standard of the breed and not primarily for the pet market.
8. A kitten shall not leave the breeders premises under the age of 10 weeks.
9. Provide information regarding diet, vaccinations, and grooming requirements. immunisation certificates.
 - a. Provide purchasers with
 - i. Registration Certificate in the purchaser's name
 - ii. Vaccination Certificate in the purchaser's name
 - iii. Desexing Certificate (Pet cats/kittens)
 - iv. Microchip registration in the purchaser's name
 - v. Information regarding proper care of the cat/kitten such as diet, health, and grooming requirements.
10. Cats and/or kittens must not be sold to commercial cat wholesalers, retail pet dealers, given as a prize or donated for a contest of any kind, or be advertised as a give-away
11. A breeder shall not misrepresent the characteristics of the breed, nor falsely advertise or mislead any person regarding the pedigree or performance of any kitten on the show bench or as a pet.
12. Ensure the requirements of relevant local and State legislation have been met.

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FCCQ BREEDING PRACTICES

1. SELECTION OF BREEDING STOCK

Animals should be:

- a) healthy
- b) of good temperament
- c) of lines free from any known genetic fault
- d) not displaying any generally accepted genetic fault.

2. GENERAL CARE OF BREEDING STOCK

- a) Entire female cats must not roam free unless under supervision.
- b) Calling females must be confined.
- c) Entire male cats must not roam free.
- d) Cats must be groomed regularly and handled daily.
- e) Cats must be given facilities for climbing and scratching.
- f) Cats must be given a balanced and varied diet.
- g) Cats must be housed in hygienic conditions.
- h) Cats must be provided with hygienic toilet facilities that are kept clean and disinfected regularly.
- i) Food and water bowls are to be changed daily.
- j) Cats must receive prompt veterinary attention if, and when, required.
- k) Cats must be vaccinated in accordance with the current veterinary advice.
- l) Cats must be treated on a regular basis for internal and external parasites, in accordance with current veterinary advice on various Parasitic Cycle controls.

3. MINIMUM DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

- a) Cats should be fed a varied diet, except on veterinary advice to the contrary.
- b) Adult should be offered food twice a day.
- c) Fresh water must always be available.
- d) The following guidelines for suitable meals should be followed:
 - i. raw meat (no preservatives)
 - ii. kidney, heart, raw liver (not more than once weekly)
 - iii. tinned food
 - iv. cheese, cottage cheese, egg yolk (not egg white)
 - v. dried food.

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4. MINIMUM HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

- a) Outdoor units must protect cats from rain, wind, and extreme heat and cold, and must be partially enclosed to provide a sheltered sleeping area.
- b) Units must be designed and maintained to avoid injury and/or escape.
- c) The structure must be non-porous or coated with non-toxic materials to facilitate easy cleaning.
- d) Units must be kept clean.
- e) Cleaning and disinfecting agents should be used only in the recommended concentrations. Where a disinfectant solution has been applied, the area should be allowed to dry before the animal/s can return, as some solutions can be absorbed through the skin and paw pads. PHENOLS, PINE OIL, EUCALYPTUS OIL must not be used.
- f) The minimum cage size for a single cat confined at nighttime only, or for no longer than eight hours, is approximately 1.2m long x 1.2m wide x 1.8m high.
- g) The minimum permanent unit size for a single adult cat is approximately 2.4m long x 1.8m wide x 1.8m high or equivalent area.
- h) The minimum permanent unit size for two to four cats is approximately 3.6m long x 2.4m wide x 1.95m high. No more than four cats to be housed on a permanent basis in a unit this size, as cats are territorial animals and over-crowding causes undue stress.
- i) Animals housed in units within homes, garages, etc. must have access to sunshine and such areas must always be well ventilated.
- j) Where cats are permanently confined to units, adequate scratching posts and high-level shelving for exercise must be provided. (Also see Section 8: Stud Quarters and Care.)

5. STUD QUARTERS AND CARE

- a) Stud quarters must be as roomy as possible with the minimum size being approximately 2.4m long x 2.4m wide x 1.8m high with an area set aside within the enclosure for the introduction of visiting queens.
- b) Quarters shall be kept clean to keep the odour to a minimum.
- c) Climbing and scratching facilities must be provided, plus a high shelf for the stud to retreat to after mating.
- d) Studs require plenty of companionship, both human and feline. Daily, sometime should be spent grooming and handling the stud. A feline companion such as an altered (i.e. neutered or spayed) cat is usually beneficial.
- e) Each stud must have individual quarters.
- f) Current vaccination certificates must be sighted before accepting a visiting queen.
- g) It is recommended that certificates for FIV, FeLV, PKD and any breed-specific conditions be sighted before accepting a visiting queen
- h) Visiting queens should be examined for cleanliness and state of health prior to introduction to the stud.
- i) Matings shall only be accepted from cats owned by registered breeders.
- j) Queens should be permitted to remain with the stud for a reasonable time after mating and not be removed from the Stud Quarters before a minimum of three matings have been witnessed.

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6. CARE OF THE PREGNANT QUEEN AND KITTENING

- a) Queens shall not be over-bred. A maximum of two litters every 12 months is recommended.
- b) All breeders must familiarise themselves with the kitting process prior to breeding a litter.
- c) Food amounts to the queen must be increased as pregnancy progresses and/or as the queen requires. Ensure that the queen receives adequate calcium supply during pregnancy and lactation.
- d) Provide a clean, adequately sized box and bedding at least one week prior to the expected kitting.
- e) Assist the kitting process where necessary.
- f) Queens must not be left unattended for lengthy periods during labour and, when labour is deemed to be unproductive, veterinary advice must be sought immediately.
- g) Once all kittens are born, replace bedding and/or box and change bedding at least every two days.
- h) Queen and kittens must be kept in a draught-free, but well ventilated, area.
- i) Check the queen daily for undue bleeding and signs of mastitis.
- j) Check all kittens daily for weight gain.
- k) Seek veterinary advice on sickly or deformed kittens.
- l) Small kittens' eyes should be checked daily and, if eye infections occur, veterinary treatment should be sought immediately.

7. KITTEN CARE AND WEANING

- a) Kittens shall not be taken away from their mother until such time as they are fully weaned.
- b) Between four and six-weeks kittens should be introduced to suitable foods, such as:
 - i. cereal
 - ii. baby food (chicken, fish, beef broth)
 - iii. specially prepared commercial kitten food
- c) **Fresh water must always be available**
- d) Between six and 12 weeks, or when ready, kittens may be introduced to:
 - i. finely chopped or minced meat, chicken, and rabbit
 - ii. grated cheese, cottage cheese, egg yolk
 - iii. tinned food.
- e) Provide shallow litter trays suitable for kittens as soon as they are mobile.
- f) Kittens must be fed a minimum of three times a day until three to four months of age, after which they may be fed twice daily.
- g) Kittens' quarters must be safe, to avoid injury from falling.
- h) Kittens shall be vaccinated in accordance with the current veterinary advice.
- i) Kittens must be treated on a regular basis for internal and external parasites, in accordance with current veterinary advice on parasite cycle controls

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8. SALE OF KITTENS

- a) No kitten may be sold or given away under 10 weeks of age.
- b) Animals advertised for sale must be healthy, vet checked, fully weaned, litter tray trained, microchipped and have at least one vaccination. The microchip number must be transferred into the new owner's name.
- c) Kittens under 12 weeks cannot be fully vaccinated, and it is the breeder's responsibility to ensure that the new owners are provided with current vaccination records and fully informed of the requirements.
- d) The breeder shall provide purchasers with diet, grooming and care information.
- e) It is required that all kittens be altered (i.e. neutered or spayed) before going to their new homes unless being sold to a registered breeder.
- f) The breeder must meet all the requirements of relevant local and State legislation relating to altering (desexing) and microchipping of kittens and cats prior to sale.
- g) Any website should recommend meeting the seller before purchase. The age or date of birth of kittens advertised for sale must be included.
- h) Cats and/or kittens must not be sold to commercial cat wholesalers, retail pet dealers, given as a prize or donation for a contest of any kind, or be advertised as a give-away.
- i) Sales of pets should be from the breeders fixed address and not at markets or temporary locations.
- j) A breeder shall not misrepresent the characteristics of the breed, nor falsely advertise or mislead any person regarding the pedigree or performance of any kitten on the show bench or as a pet.
- k) Kittens sold entire must only be sold to registered breeders.
- l) Breeders shall keep record of the names and addresses of all purchasers.
- m) All surviving kittens in a litter must be registered with FCCQ.

9. DISPOSAL OF BREEDING STOCK

- a) No breeding cat shall be excessively passed around, leased, loaned, or sold in total more than three times in its breeding life before being altered (i.e. neutered or spayed). It is the owner's responsibility to ascertain the acceptability of the premises and standard of care of the prospective owner before the cat is relocated. The prospective owner of any cat sold entire must be a registered breeder.
- b) Pregnant and lactating animals must not be offered for sale
- c) It is the breeders' responsibility to neuter or spay all breeding stock no longer required or unsuitable for breeding.
- d) Altered breeding stock may be rehomed as pets.
- e) All ex-breeding stock must be microchipped prior to sale or re-homing.
- f) No breeder may advertise a cattery sell-out.

10. GUIDELINES FOR ADVERTISING

- a) The medical history, including vaccination status, and pictures of the sire and dam should be available on request.
- b) Where a permit or licence is required to keep or breed an animal, the breeders licence or permit number should be advertised.
- c) Sales of pets should be from the breeders fixed address and not at markets or temporary locations.