

Breeders Code of Ethics.

31 July 2023

International Cats Australia Inc



INTERNATIONAL CATS AUSTRALIA INC

1. General Conditions

- 1.1. A Member of Cats Australia commits to compliance of, including the need for an annual attestation of ongoing compliance, the Cats Australia Breeders Code of Ethics.
- 1.2. A Member of Cats Australia commits to compliance with all Commonwealth, State, Territory or Local Government laws and requirements.
- 1.3. A Member, or their Agent, shall, at all times, ensure that all cats under that Member's control are properly housed, fed, watered, and receive proper veterinary attention, as and when required.
- 1.4. A Member, or their Agent, shall not allow any cats which are registered in that Member's name, to roam at large and must ensure that they are always kept fully enclosed or under effective control.
- 1.5. A Member of Cats Australia shall not register a cat with a Pedigree Cat Registration Body not recognised by Cats Australia.
- 1.6. A Member of Cats Australia shall ensure that all persons acquiring cats or kittens, receive and agree to a Pet Ownership Contract that clearly outlines their responsibility for the care and welfare of the animal. The conditions set out in such Contract, must adhere to the minimum requirements as defined by Cats Australia.
- 1.7. A member of Cats Australia shall ensure that all breeding cats are subject to a DNA (genetic) test for all known genetic disorders to ensure such breeding cats are in the healthiest condition possible. See section 4 for further details and requirements.

2. Record Keeping

- 2.1. A Member must keep records for at least five years and make those records available to any person authorised, in writing by Cats Australia pursuant to resolution of the Committee as follows:
 - 2.1.1. All registration papers for all cats owned, co-owned or leased or where applicable, copies of the same
 - 2.1.2. All vaccination certificates or evidence of current vaccinations for all cats owned or controlled by the Member
 - 2.1.3. All microchip records for all cats, owned or controlled by the Member
 - 2.1.4. All records of current annual health checks
 - 2.1.5. All breeding records for all litters bred by the Member
 - 2.1.6. All records of all stud services of the Members Stud Cats
 - 2.1.7. All records of animals sold or leased or deceased
 - 2.1.8. A record of all cats owned or controlled by the Member not residing at the Members nominated address
 - 2.1.9. Records of parasite control
 - 2.1.10. A care and management plan which includes nutrition, healthcare records, breeding, exercise, enrichment, socialisation, handling and housing. including protocols for:
 - 2.1.10.1. appropriate diet, hygiene, disinfection and disease prevention
 - 2.1.10.2. vaccination programs
 - 2.1.10.3. parasite prevention and treatment programs (both internal and external parasites)

2.1.10.4. health assessment and certification of kittens for sale

2.1.10.5. birthing protocols

2.1.10.6. housing

2.1.10.7. enrichment and socialisation

2.1.10.8. an emergency plan which includes easily accessible status of your cats by emergency service.

3. Breeding Conditions

3.1. A Member of Cats Australia should breed only for the objective of improving the standard of the Breed and must ensure the health and welfare of their cats having regard to the following: -

3.1.1. By striving to eliminate hereditary diseases within their cats and their breed.

3.1.2. That the health, physical welfare and fitness for function of cats is of prime importance, and

3.1.3. That a Member shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that cats bred by them do not suffer from any disorder that impedes their sight, breathing or ability to move freely or which is otherwise detrimental to their comfort and wellbeing.

3.2. A Member of Cats Australia must hold a valid Breeder Membership, including having a registered cattery Prefix/Suffix.

3.3. A Member shall adhere to all Breeder Qualification requirements of Cats Australia, including at minimum the following requirements:

3.3.1. Successful completion of the Breeder Training Course, both at time of joining Cats Australia as a Member and at minimum on 3 yearly intervals. Refer <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/animal-welfare-victoria/community-and-education/breeder-training-course>

3.3.2. Breeders must attend at least two Cats Australia training courses per annum.

3.4. All Members must register all living kittens from all litters bred by them, either alone or jointly with another, with Cats Australia within 3 months of birth.

3.5. A queen shall not be bred from unless she is, registered with an organisation recognised by Cats Australia, and has achieved a minimum age of 12 months. If a queen is advised by a suitably qualified veterinarian to be bred earlier, a suitably qualified veterinarian must certify the queen is in good health and has reached adequate maturity.

3.6. All studs and queens must have an annual check by a suitably qualified veterinarian confirming that they are in good health and in suitable condition for breeding and this confirmation must be recorded on their health record /vaccination certificate.

3.7. A Member shall not conduct or permit breeding between cats that are first degree relatives (such as father and daughter or mother and son or brother and sister). Such conduct will result in the Member being referred to the Cats Australia Conduct Committee, unless prior permissions have been approved by Cats Australia.

3.8. A Member shall not knowingly permit the mating of any stud cat or queen which is not registered with Cats Australia or with an organisation not recognised by Cats Australia.

3.9. A Member shall not knowingly permit any of that Member's pure-bred cats to be mated to a cat of a different breed, to a cross-bred cat, or to any unregistered cat of the same breed or to a cat not registered unless: -

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- 3.9.1. Such mating is for the health, welfare and/or the development of a breed and under an approved Cats Australia Breed Standards Council and
 - 3.9.2. Is in compliance with the Cats Australia Breed Standard for that breed.
 - 3.10. A queen must not have more than 3 litters in a 24-month period (with a maximum of 2 litters in any 12-month period within that timeframe). A queen must have no more than 6 litters in her lifetime, after which she must be retired (unless otherwise approved by a suitably qualified veterinarian, in which case 8 litters in her lifetime).

4. DNA (Genetic) Testing

- 4.1. A Member of Cats Australia is required to research the known genetic defects in their particular breed, including researching the available DNA tests and testing services.
- 4.2. All breeding cats must be DNA tested for all known genetic disorders prior to any mating.
- 4.3. Breeding is not permitted from any cats that carry genetic disorders, where there is risk of heritability that will be detrimental or that will severely compromise the cat's health or welfare.
- 4.4. A Member of Cats Australia can apply for selective breeding involving a health and welfare issue. Approved must be sought from the Cats Australia Management Committee and should be overseen by veterinarian so that owners can be appropriately counselled re appropriate breeding strategies.

5. Breeding Care and Management

- 5.1. Pregnant queens (lactating queens and their litters) can be housed individually or in pairs, on the basis such queens are compatible and collective housing presents no risk of harm or aggression. Each queen requires an area of at least 2 square metres, with a vertical height of at least 1.8 metres.
- 5.2. Each queen must be provided with a separate sleeping area for resting and privacy during birthing.
- 5.3. Each queening must be housed at a temperature between 14C and 32C at all times.
- 5.4. As soon as the queen shows signs of contractions, she must be monitored every 30 minutes until birthing is complete.
- 5.5. Veterinary advice must be immediately sought if:
 - 5.5.1. the queen displays excessive or consistent contractions with no effect; and/or
 - 5.5.2. there are prolonged intervals between the birth of each kitten; and/or
 - 5.5.3. there is excessive bleeding; and/or
 - 5.5.4. there are any other abnormalities observed during the birthing process.
 - 5.5.5. Contractions become prolonged without the appearance of a kitten.
- 5.6. After birth is complete, the queen must be monitored every 6 hours until contractions have ceased. If contractions do not stop, veterinary advice must be sought, and treatment provided as advised.
- 5.7. The birthing area must be completely cleaned, and all bedding changed within 24 hours of the completion of birthing (allowances should be made based on queen's response to interference).
- 5.8. Queens and their kittens must be monitored every 6 hours until lactation and feeding is established. This must include visual observation of all kittens feeding and confirmation that the queen is lactating. If weight gain in kittens is not observed during the first 48 hours of life, veterinary advice must be sought, and action taken as directed by the veterinary practitioner.

5.9. For the first week post birth, queens must be examined twice daily for mastitis and treatment provided immediately upon diagnosis.

5.10. Post birthing, soiled bedding must be removed, and clean bedding provided on a daily basis.

5.11. Kittens must have a health check by you within 12 hours after birth.

5.12. Daily handling of kittens must begin within 7 days of birth.

5.13. Kittens must have a health check by a suitably qualified veterinarian within 8 weeks of birth.

6. Transfer of Cats and Kittens

6.1. A Member shall not sell or otherwise transfer from that Member's care any kitten under twelve (12) weeks of age. All kittens must be micro-chipped, vaccinated and de-sexed (unless being transferred to another Registered Breeder as a potential breeding stud or queen) prior to leaving that Member's care.

6.2. A Member shall ensure cats or kittens sold or given away are in the best possible state of health.

6.3. No cat or kitten may be sold or transferred in a state of ill health.

6.4. A Member shall ensure that all persons acquiring cats or kittens from that Member clearly understand their responsibility for the care and welfare of the animal.

6.5. A Member must provide to all new owners of cats or kittens sold or placed by that Member, at the time of or prior to the transfer:

6.5.1. Written details of all dietary and immunisation requirements and/or appropriate publications relating to such requirements as microchipping, responsible cat ownership and breed specific information.

6.5.2. Health Statement from a veterinary practitioner stating the cat or kitten is in good health and condition

6.5.3. Current vaccination certificate signed by a Veterinary Surgeon evidencing that the cat has been immunised along with microchip documentation and signed desexing certification

6.6. Notwithstanding documentation required to be provided at point of sales or transfer (per clause 5.5), a Member shall ensure that pedigree registration papers and/or any of relevant documentation required by Cats Australia, are provided within 14 days of the sale or transfer

6.7. A Member shall effect the microchip transfer of the cat within a 2 week period after sale, unless agreed otherwise.

6.8. A Member shall ensure all cats or kittens sold are accompanied with a health declaration and guarantee as follows:

6.8.1. Accept a returned animal and refund 75% of the purchase price within three days of sale for any reason not supported by a veterinary practitioner.

6.8.2. Accept an animal returned within 21 days of sale and refund 100% of the purchase price if accompanied by a veterinary practitioner statement that the animal is unacceptable for health reasons.

6.8.3. Refund 100% of the purchase price where the cat or kitten is diagnosed with, suffering from, dies of, or is euthanised because of a physical defect or disease that is traceable to the point of sale within 3 years of purchase where the owner provides supporting evidence from a veterinary practitioner (which will be verified by an appropriately qualified independent veterinary practitioner).

6.9. Any cat or kitten with a previous history of ill health and/or is a known or potential carrier of a hereditary defect should only be sold or transferred with full disclosure of the previous health condition/defect.

Consent for the purchaser to talk to the treating veterinarian shall be given and copies of any DNA or other test results provided.

- 6.10. A Member shall include their Cats Australia Membership Number in an advertisement placed in any form of media, or on any sign whatsoever, that advertises cat/s or kitten/s for sale whether for payment or not.
- 6.11. A Member shall comply with any relevant State or Territory Law, as it relates to the display of information required for the sale or transfer of a cat or kitten (such as identification numbers, microchip numbers, source numbers etc)
- 6.12. A Member shall not:-
- 6.12.1. Supply any cats or kittens to commercial cat wholesalers or retail pet dealers both within and outside Australia.
- 6.12.2. Allow a cat owned by that Member to be given as a prize or donation in a contest of any kind.
- 6.12.3. Offer a cat for sale by auction through any form of media.
- 6.12.4. Offer for sale a non-Cats Australia registered cat or kitten.
- 6.13. A Member shall undertake reasonable endeavours to facilitate the rehoming of any cats or kittens acquired from them (bred and/or transferred from the Member to a person) by all persons.

7. Vaccinations Requirements

- 7.1. Kittens must be vaccinated against and treated for the following, in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations, (except where a veterinary practitioner advises and records that treatment would prejudice the animal's health):
- 7.1.1. Infectious Feline Enteritis
- 7.1.2. Feline Respiratory Disease (Feline Calicivirus and Feline herpes virus)
- 7.1.3. Internal and external parasites (for example fleas and ticks).
- 7.2. Vaccination certificates, including dates of treatment, details of the treatment required, and a record of who administered the treatment, must be signed by the person administering the treatment at each vaccination.

8. Euthanasia

- 8.1. Euthanasia of any cat or kitten must be performed by a vet. If there is an emergency situation, you must follow the direction of your vet and have the vet complete a report as to the circumstances and advice given. Any method of emergency euthanasia must be humane. Blunt force trauma is not considered a humane form of euthanasia for cats.

9. Transportation and Export

- 9.1. Cats being transported must be fully contained and secured in the vehicle and transport must be carried out at the very minimum, in accordance with the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines - Land Transport of Livestock, the relevant Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals or the equivalent state or territory code. Cats and kittens being transported by air must conform to IATA Live Animal Regulations.
- 9.2. At a minimum, Members must transport animals in a safe and secure manner. This includes:
- 9.2.1. No transport of animals in the boot of a sedan type car.

9.2.2. No transport of animals on the back of a ute or trailer except in emergency evacuation situations where no alternative transport is available.

9.2.3. Provide animals with adequate ventilation and temperature control when travelling.

9.3. A member exporting a cat or kitten must comply with all current requirements of the Australian Department of Agriculture. Whilst kittens can be exported at an age that is permitted under the relevant livestock import regulations of the country to which they are being imported, they must be weaned and have received a full set of kitten vaccinations as recommended by the treating veterinarian prior to export.

10. Cattery Housing (in home)

10.1. A Member shall ensure ongoing hygiene to prevent build-up of disease-causing organisms including bacteria, viruses and parasitic worm eggs.

10.2. All cages and modules used to house animals must be cleaned of soiled litter, soiled bedding and toys at least once per day (or more often as required) by appropriate means.

10.3. Soiled litter must be removed daily and litter trays disinfected weekly using a hospital grade disinfectant.

10.4. All uneaten food must be removed daily.

10.5. Each cat must be provided with a minimum area of 2 square metres which has a height of at least 1.8 metres and has 2 levels.

10.6. When cats or kittens are housed together, each cat older than 12 weeks of age must be provided with a separate bed/hide/nest of sufficient bedding material so that all animals can sleep comfortably.

11. Cattery Housing (indoor external cattery)

11.1. A Member shall ensure the indoor external cattery has natural daylight during daylight hours must be provided and temperature, humidity and ventilation must be managed.

11.2. Ventilation must be adequate to keep animal housing areas free of dampness, noxious odours and draughts and must provide access to natural daylight during daylight hours.

11.3. Where the external cattery is full closed (or within fully enclosed sections), a Member must ensure:

11.3.1. there is an air change rate of 8 -12 changes per hour to prevent the build-up of foul odours

11.3.2. installation of ventilation devices that avoid draughts and distribute fresh air evenly to all of the living areas.

11.4. Where forced ventilation is the only form of air, all of the following are required:

11.4.1. air recirculation units incorporating effective air cleaning and filtration to ensure the removal of infectious organisms and chemicals

11.4.2. a back-up and alarm system in case of power failures or breakdown of ventilation and temperature control mechanisms must be maintained

11.4.3. temperature must be maintained in the range of 10 –32C.

12. Cattery Housing (outdoor external cattery)

12.1. A Member shall ensure that an outdoor external cattery has weatherproof housing each cat and that sleeping areas meet the following minimum standards:

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- 12.1.1. beds/hides/nests must be protected from the weather (wind, rain, sun and extremes of climate), vermin and harassment from other animals.
 - 12.1.2. beds/hides/nests must not be made of concrete or metal and must be raised off the ground to prevent draughts
 - 12.1.3. soft, warm bedding must be provided in all housing and changed weekly or more often if required
 - 12.1.4. materials must be selected for ease of maintenance and cleaning, durability and non-toxicity
 - 12.1.5. bedding must be able to be kept dry at all times
 - 12.1.6. housing must be cleaned daily and disinfected weekly.
 - 12.1.7. One litterbox per cat, cleaned daily and disinfected weekly

13. Cattery Cage Construction (modular)

- 13.1. A Member shall ensure that walk-in cage modules must have a minimum floor area of 1.5 square metres, a width of 0.9 metres and a height of 1.8 metres and contain at least two levels including draught-free sleeping quarters. This size is for one cat only and an additional one square metre floor space is required for a second cat.
- 13.2. No more than two cats may be housed together in this type of accommodation.
- 13.3. Cats housed in module cages must have access to an external exercise cage, similar to a colony cage in size and dimension, for at least half a day. The exercise cage can be connected to exercise areas via tunnels or doors and may serve up to 8 compatible cats at any one time.
- 13.4. There must be one exercise cage for every 8 cats, 16 weeks or older, housed at the premises.

14. Cattery Cage Construction (colony cage)

- 14.1. Cats may be multiple housed in colony cages.
- 14.2. A colony cage must be a minimum height of 1.8 metres with a minimum width of 2 metres. Each cat housed must have a minimum floor area of 2 square metres and an individual raised sleeping area.
- 14.3. A maximum of 8 cats may be housed in each colony cage.

15. Inspection of Premises

- 15.1. A Member shall permit any person authorised in writing by Cats Australia, to enter and inspect any premises owned or occupied by the Member for the purpose of investigating compliance of this Code of Ethics and during the conduct of the inspection the Member will permit the authorised person to record any necessary details by tape, video or photographs.
- 15.2. Where a cat/s is/are kept at premises other than the address nominated by the Member and where the consent of another person or entity is required for an inspection to be undertaken, the Member must obtain consent for such inspection from the person or entity in possession or control of the premises at which the cats being used for breeding pursuant to the Members are kept.

16. Misrepresentation

- 16.1. A Member shall not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed.
- 16.2. A Member shall not engage in false or misleading advertising, or communication in connect to a sale or transfer of a cat or kitten
- 16.3. A Member who provides or makes available a cat or kitten for use in a film, advertisement, promotion, any media or public display must use reasonable care to ensure that:

- 16.3.1. The cat is portrayed in a fashion consistent with its breed characteristics and temperament as described in the Standard for the breed; and
- 16.3.2. The cat is presented in a fashion that is unlikely to create a negative reaction to cats generally or that breed in particular and that if there is any likelihood of a negative impression, this is at the same time corrected through the development of a story line that presents the cat or the breed (as appropriate) in a balanced fashion.

17. Non Compliance

- 17.1. Non – compliance with the regulations in this Code may be deemed to be misconduct
- 17.2. Investigation into a Complaint against a Cats Australia Breeder will be referred to the Conduct Committee and be investigated in accordance with the Disputes and Discipline Procedure of Cats Australia.
- 17.3. A Member found guilty of misconduct or to be in breach of any section of the Code of Ethics, after investigation by Conduct Committee, may be subject to a penalty ranging from temporary Membership suspension to a total Membership Ban within Cats Australia.
- 17.4. This Breeders Code of Ethics may be updated from time to time.