

Members Code of Practice.

5 December 2022

International Cats Australia Inc



INTERNATIONAL CATS AUSTRALIA INC

1. General Conditions

- 1.1. A member of Cats Australia upon application for membership or renewal of their Cats Australia membership agree to abide by the Cats of Australia Members Code of Practice and shall in addition also agree to be bound by the Cats Australia Constitution, including all rules and regulations pertaining to Cats Australia.
- 1.2. A Breeding 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.
- 1.3. A Member of Cats Australia commits to compliance with all Commonwealth, State, Territory or Local Government laws and requirements.
- 1.4. 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.
- 1.5. 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.
- 1.6. A Member of Cats Australia shall not register a cat with a Pedigree Cat Registration Body not recognised by Cats Australia.
- 1.7. Cat Australia members are required to respect the right of individuals and conduct them themselves in a professional manner with integrity and courtesy whilst representing Cats Australia.
- 1.8. All Cats Australia members are required to sign acceptance and compliance with the Exhibitors Code of Ethic to be eligible to enter their exhibits for the show rings.

2. Legal Responsibilities

- 2.1. Owners must provide their cat with proper and sufficient food, water, shelter and veterinary treatment.
- 2.2. Cats must be treated humanely
- 2.3. Owners must ensure that they abide by legislative requirements including – cats must be registered with, and identified as required by the local council, casts must not be allowed to create a nuisance problem.
- 2.4. Found or stray cats in the possession of a person, other than the owner, must be handed over to the local council as soon as possible.
- 2.5. All Cats must be microchipped where required by legislation.

3. Owner Responsibilities – Minimum standard

- 3.1. Owners are responsible for the health and welfare of their cat(s) and must provide both the basic necessities and a good quality of life for their cat(s).

4. Nutrition – Minimum standards

- 4.1. Cats must be fed at least once a day.
- 4.2. Cats must be fed a diet that provides proper and sufficient food to maintain good health and meet their physiological needs.
- 4.3. Cats are carnivores and must not be fed a purely vegetarian diet.
- 4.4. Cats must not be fed a diet consisting purely of fresh meat (including fish).
- 4.5. Kittens from 6 weeks to 6 months must be fed a minimum of 2 meals per day.

4.6. Cats must not be fed dog food as it lacks the nutrients that cats require.

5. Water – Minimum Standards

5.1. Cats must access to clean drinking water at all times.

5.2. Water containers must be checked daily and maintained in a clean condition.

6. Health and Disease - Minimum Standards

6.1. A cat's health and welfare must be checked daily.

6.2. Veterinary advice must be promptly sought for cats showing signs of parasites, injury, ill health or distress.

7. Surgical Procedures – Minimal standards

7.1. All Surgical procedures (such as desexing) must be performed by a registered veterinarian.

7.2. Cats must not be de-clawed except be a registered veterinarian and then only for therapeutic purposes.

8. Housing (Minimum Standards)

8.1. Cats must be provided with access to adequate shelter from sun, wind and rain.

8.2. If not kept in the house, a cat must be provided with access to a weather-proof sleeping area with a bed.

8.3. Adequate ventilation must be provided if cats are housed in enclosed areas of buildings to prevent the build-up of stale air and odours that can cause respiratory problems in cats.

8.4. Cats must not be tethered at any time.

8.5. Enclosures for cats must meet the minimum standards as set out set in the Cats Australia Breeders Code of Ethics sections 8-12 inclusive.

8.6. All housing areas for cats must be maintained in a safe, clean and hygienic condition at all times.

8.7. When confining cats there must be no dangerous items or sharp edges used in the structure or fencing.

8.8. Cat litter must be cleaned daily to remove urine and faeces.

8.9. Disinfectants containing phenol must never be used around cats.

9. Transport – Minimum standards

9.1. Cats must be confined in a secure, escape proof, well ventilated container when travelling

9.2. Travelling containers or cages must enable cats to comfortably stand, turn around, lie down and act normally.

9.3. Travelling containers must be secured or restrained in the vehicle.

9.4. Cats must not be transported in the boot of a car.

10. Training and socialisation – Minimum standard

10.1.1. Training methods used with cats must be humane and not cause pain or distress. ...

11. Injury and other welfare risks for cats - Minimum standard

11.1. Injured or ill cats must be promptly taken to a registered veterinarian or an animal shelter with a veterinary clinic for examination and treatment.

12. Euthanasia – Minimum standards

- 12.1. Euthanasia must be humane.
- 12.2. Cats and kittens must not be killed by being poisoned, drowned or gassed.

13. Inspection of Premises

- 13.1. 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.
- 13.2. 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.

14. Non Compliance

- 14.1. Non – compliance with the regulations in this Code may be deemed to be misconduct
- 14.2. 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.
- 14.3. A Member found guilty of misconduct or to be in breach of any section of the Code of Practice, after investigation by Conduct Committee, may be subject to a penalty ranging from temporary Membership suspension to a total Membership Ban within Cats Australia.
- 14.4. This Members Code of Practice may be updated from time to time.