

Cats Australia

Public Statement: Scottish Fold Breed Ban



Cats Australia is aware that another association has adopted a blanket ban on Scottish Folds.

Cats Australia don't support the blanket bans of breeds, without following a robust and carefully considered process based on current research and direct engagement with genetic experts. Most importantly, as a member driven association, any such proposal would be presented to our membership for discussion and consideration prior to making any decision.

As a Charter Club of The International Cat Association ("TICA"), Cats Australia follow the advice of the leading medical and research insights of the TICA Genetics Committee ("Committee"). This committee consists of leading experts in the field, including many individuals who hold a Ph.D in the field of genetics and biological science.

Cats Australia and TICA have not adopted a ban on Scottish Folds. Cats Australia do have a stringent breed policy for Scottish Folds that breeders must follow, which aligns with requirements of state governments across Australia. We also have technology to enforce and control these requirements.

Fundamentally, a blanket ban doesn't fix the issues within the breed, this can only be done through complex health testing. Breed bans have occurred in the dog world through legislative change, such an approach simply created other unintended consequences and led to unmonitored and unregistered breeding.

In otherwords the breeds go underground given they are not illegal breeds and prices are driven up and there is no regulation or monitoring. We know that puppy and kitten farmers vaccinate and microchip their own animals, they do not add these to any registry so remain virtually faceless. They frequently change Facebook pages and phone numbers giving the public and authorities no way to trace them. Another concerning fact is that they sell these animals entire allowing the potential for more unregulated breeding.

When you consider recent genetic research across all cat breeds, its clear many breeds either suffer from or have exposure to health issues such as Amyloidosis, Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy, PRA, Hip Dysplasia, PKD, Chronic Kidney disease, FIP and BOAS. What is important is leadership and active management of associations through strict protocols and mandatory health testing by breeders to eradicate such issues (through selection).

Each Cat organisation should have mandatory health testing in place, we know many but not all do. This would have far reaching benefits. The general public would be assured of purchasing healthier cats , weeding out unsavoury breeders who do not comply, better relationships with state governments because of the regulated sustainable breeding processes.

There is a big push in this country to stop the breeding of pedigree animals altogether. Cats Australia are working with specialists to ensure best practice health testing not just for Scottish Folds but other breeds that may be targeted in the future.

Members need to lobby their cat organisations and ask for their position on this subject, don't just sit back and wait till your breed is banned. The easiest way is to do nothing at all and hope that someone else will, the hard way is to fight for the breed you love.

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International Cats Australia Inc (Cats Australia) is an official charter club of The International Cats Association (TICA).

Cats Australia is an inclusive not for profit association focused on our passion, promoting the wellbeing of all cats in our community and ensuring the highest ethical standards of pedigree cat breeding.