

Code of Ethics for FCCQ Breeders

All FCCQ breeders must sign and agree to be bound by the Feline Control Council of Queensland Inc. Breeders Code of Ethics. To implement this aim each member/breeder shall adhere to all of the items listed below and to the requirements of all relevant State and local legislation.

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| 1 | Ensure at all times that all cats and kittens are hygienically housed, properly fed, watered and groomed and receive prompt veterinary attention if and when required |
| 2 | Observe the rules and regulations of t 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 no more than 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 | Breed cats 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, thus allowing vaccination to be commenced before date of sale. Ensure that a kitten does not leave before that kitten is fully weaned, healthy, vaccinated, litter-trained, and that all kittens are microchipped. It is highly recommended that all kittens are checked by a veterinarian prior to leaving the breeder's premises |
| 9 | Provide all purchasers of cats/kittens sold or placed by a member with all dietary, grooming techniques, and immunisation certificates. |
| 10 | If kittens have not been checked by a veterinarian prior to leaving he breeder's premises then a member shall accept reasonable financial responsibility for the health status of kittens for at least one week after the date the new owner takes possession of the kitten. |
| 11 | The sale of cats/kittens to commercial wholesalers or retail pet dealers is strongly not recommended. A member shall not directly allow a cat/kitten to be given as a prize or donation to a contest of any kind. |
| 12 | A member must not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed, nor falsely advertise or mislead any person regarding the pedigree or performance of any cat/kitten on the show bench. |
| 13 | Ensure that, when selling or transferring a cat/kitten to another person, all documents required by FCCQ regulations will be provided on completion of condition of sale to the purchaser or the transferee. The vaccination certificate MUST be given to the new owner with a minimum one vaccination given. |
| 14 | Ensure that the Certificate of Registration is transferred by the current owner to the new owner's name when the cat/kitten has been sold for show and/or breeding. |
| 15 | Ensure that all of the requirements of relevant local and State legislation relating to altering (desexing) and microchipping have been met prior to allowing kittens/cats to leave the breeder's premises. |

Recommended Breeding Practices

Selection of breeding stock

Animals should be:

- o healthy
- o of good temperament
- o of lines free from any known genetic fault
- o not displaying any generally accepted genetic fault.

General care of breeding stock

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

Minimum dietary requirements

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

Minimum housing requirements

- o Outdoor units must protect cats from rain, wind, and extreme heat and cold, and must be partially enclosed to provide a sheltered sleeping area.
- o Units must be designed and maintained to avoid injury and/or escape.
- o The structure must be non-porous or coated with non-toxic materials to facilitate easy cleaning.
- o Units must be kept clean.
- o 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 is/are allowed to return, as some solutions can be absorbed through the skin and paw pads. PHENOLS, PINE OIL, EUCALYPTUS OIL must not be used.
- o The minimum cage size for a single cat confined at night time only, or for no longer than eight hours, is approximately 1.2m long x 1.2m wide x 1.8m high.

- o 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.
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.
- o Animals housed in units within homes, garages, etc. must have access to sunshine and such areas must be well ventilated at all times.
- o 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.)

Care of the pregnant queen and kitting

- o Queens shall not be over-bred. A maximum of two litters every 12 months is recommended.
- o All breeders must familiarise themselves with the kitting process prior to breeding a litter.
- o 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.
- o Provide a clean, adequately-sized box and bedding at least one week prior to the expected kitting.
- o Assist the kitting process where necessary.
- o 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.
- o Once all kittens are born, replace bedding and/or box and change bedding at least every two days.
- o Queen and kittens must be kept in a draught-free, but well ventilated, area.
- o Check the queen daily for undue bleeding and signs of mastitis.
- o Check all kittens daily for weight gain.
- o Seek veterinary advice on sickly or deformed kittens.
- o Small kittens' eyes should be checked daily and, if eye infections occur, veterinary treatment should be sought immediately.

Kitten care and weaning

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

Sale of kittens

- o No kitten may be sold or given away under 10 weeks of age.
- o Animals advertised for sale must be healthy, fully weaned, litter tray trained, microchipped and have at least one vaccination. The microchip number must be transferred into the new owners name.
- o The breeder shall provide purchasers with diet, grooming and care information.
- o It is highly recommended that all pet kittens be altered (i.e. neutered or spayed) before going to their new homes and definitely by no later than six months of age.
- o The breeder must meet all of the requirements of relevant local and State legislation relating to altering (desexing) and microchipping of kittens and cats prior to sale.
- o Any website should recommend meeting the seller before purchase. The age or date of birth of kittens advertised for sale must be included.
- o It is strongly recommended that cats and/or kittens 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.
- o Sales of pets should be from a legitimate fixed address and not at markets or temporary locations.
- o 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.
- o Kittens sold as breeding stock must only be sold to registered breeders.
- o Breeders shall keep record of the names and addresses of all purchasers.
- o All surviving kittens in a litter must be registered with FCCQ.

Stud quarters and care

- o 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.
- o Quarters shall be kept clean in order to keep the odour to a minimum.
- o Climbing and scratching facilities must be provided, plus a high shelf for the stud to retreat to after mating.
- o Studs require plenty of companionship, both human and feline. On a daily basis, 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.
- o Each stud must have individual quarters.
- o Current vaccination certificates must be sighted before accepting a visiting queen.
- o It is recommended that certificates for FIV, FeLV, PKD and any breed-specific conditions be sighted before accepting a visiting queen.
- o Visiting queens should be examined for cleanliness and state of health prior to introduction to the stud.
- o Matings shall only be accepted from cats owned by registered breeders.
- o 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.

Disposal of breeding stock

- o 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 must be a registered breeder.
- o Pregnant and lactating animals must not be offered for sale
- o It is the owner's responsibility to neuter or spay all stock no longer required or unsuitable for breeding.
- o Altered breeding stock may be found homes, if necessary, to avoid overcrowding in the cattery.

Guidelines For Advertising

- o Animals advertised for sale must be weaned and independent of the dam, and their age or date of birth must be included in the advertisement.
- o A unique microchip number must be made available to the purchaser, and a recent picture of the animal should be included.
- o Ideally, the medical history, including vaccination status, and pictures of the sire and dam should be available to view on request.
- o Where a permit or licence is required to keep or breed an animal, a copy of the permit (with personal identifiers removed for public viewing if necessary) should be displayed. The full permit should be available on request.
- o The advertisement should state whether the sale is from a private seller, commercial establishment or a rehoming centre or shelter.
- o Sales of pets should be from a legitimate fixed address and not at markets or temporary locations.

Registration of breeders

- o All breeders must be registered with an approved Governing Cat Control Body (Council)
- o No person may knowingly cross-breed two breed groups without having applied to a recognised Council and being granted an experimental licence to do so.