

SHOWING YOUR CAT

General Information

When deciding to show your beloved pet, it can be a daunting prospect. You may feel guilty about taking them away from their comfortable bed on top of the wardrobe or on your computer's keyboard.



But don't despair, there will be lots of interesting smells for your cat to read. And you know how they love new scents!

Depending on the type of cat you wish to show will determine how much time it will take to groom and wash your cat. It is usually a good idea to give your cat a bath four (4) to five (5) days before the show. This will give the fur time to calm down and not be too fluffy.

Claws **MUST** be trimmed and there should be no fleas or flea dirt in the coat. Also clean the eyes, ears and nose.

For the cage you will need curtains, a litter tray and a water dish. The most suitable water dish is a bird dish, which can be hooked over the wire of the cage and is less likely to be tipped over. As for a litter tray, you will need a rectangular plastic one about an inch (2.5cm) high. The best places to look for these are in second-hand shops.

Curtains

The dimension of a single cage is 50cm square and the dimensions for a double cage are 50x100x50cm. Depending on whether the cage you need is single or double, you will need approximately 2 to 3 metres long by 60cm wide (allowing for the hems, top and bottom).

Elastic ties are needed at both ends and two places in the middle and two places in the middle. Section the long side into three and attach the ties (see *Diagram 1*).

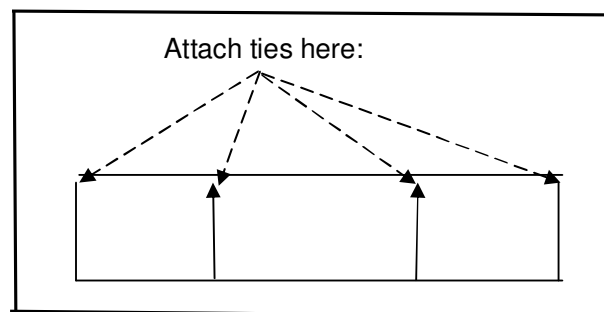


Diagram 1

Put the elastic in your top hem only and secure. A matching piece of fabric for the bottom of the cage will finish it off.

Arriving at the Show

Always give yourself plenty of time by arriving early at the venue. If you're not sure of what to do, there are a lot of really nice people in our association only too willing to help you out.

Usually there is a person sitting at a desk near the door. Just tell them your name and you will be handed a slip with your cat's cage and number marked on it. Advise them if there are any cats you decided not bring to the show then move into the hall and locate your cat's cage.

Most shows nowadays have what is called "in-cage" vetting so you have plenty of time to put your curtains up and ensure your cat is comfortable in its cage. However, there are some Clubs who have organised a vetting area BEFORE you move into the hall. If this is the case, join the queue and wait your turn for the vet to inspect your cat and mark the slip.

Kitty litter is usually available on the day as well as fresh water.



Vetting

When the vet checks out your cat they will be looking at your cat's mouth, body, nose and anal region. If your cat does not look well or is sneezing a lot, the vet may "vet" that cat out of the show and ask that you take it directly to your local vet.

As well as checking your cat's mouth, body, nose and anal region, the vet is also looking for signs of Ringworm, Cat Flu and sedation. You are not allowed to drug or sedate your cat in any way. Aggressive cats will not make it through the vetting process.

Additionally, if your cat is placed next to a cat obviously showing signs of sickness or distress, quietly report the matter to the Show Manager or Show Secretary immediately.

Judging

About five (5) minutes before judging is due to start the Show Manager will announce that the judges are going to start their assignments. Nowadays, most shows are "open" in that you can watch and listen to the judge informing you what to look for in a kitten or adult. Or how your breeding program is going according the particular standard.

Usually, you have one All-Breeds Judge per Ring at a show. But at other times, they are broken up into their Groups and judged by one particular judge as follows:

Group 1: Persians and Semi-Longhairs (including Exotics, Maine Coons etc)

Group 2: Siamese and Oriental Types (including Javanese)

Group 3: Other Shorthair and Other Foreign Shorthair (including Burmese, Russians, Abyssinians etc)

Group 4: Part-Pedigreed and Domestic

There is also what is called an "Owner-Handler" show where the owner of the cat takes it up to be judged. If you are unable to do this on the day or are unsure of handling your cat, there will be a Steward to assist you.

Awards and Titles

The ribbons and trophies awarded at cat shows signify that the cat conforms to the standard as close as possible. You may return to your cage and find certificates and a rosette or ribbons proudly displayed on your cage. This means your cat has been successful on the day!

At each show, FCCWA issues certificates to those cats that win their particular class. These certificates go towards the granting of your cat's title.

If your cat isn't desexed but is entire, they will be awarded what is called a *Challenge* certificate that counts towards them becoming a Champion.

If your cat is desexed, they will be awarded an *Award of Merit* certificate that counts towards them becoming a Premier.

You will need a total of six (6) *Challenges* from four different judges (in consecutive date order if possible) to become a Champion. The same applies to becoming a Premier – you will need six (6) *Awards of Merit*.

After you've reached Champion and/or Premier you then have to collect further certificates from four different judges to obtain:

- *Bronze Grand Champion or Bronze Grand Premier* (requires six (6) more certificates)
- *Silver Grand Champion or Bronze Grand Premier* (requires six (6) more certificates)
- *Gold Grand Champion or Gold Grand Premier* (requires a further six (6) certificates) and
- *Platinum Grand Champion or Platinum Grand Premier* (requires six (6) more certificates).

Challenges and Award of Merits awarded by other recognised bodies may be included and used for all titles up to and including Platinum Grand Champion or Platinum Grand Premier.

FCCWA also has a further title to be obtained and that is of *Supreme Grand Champion or Supreme Grand Premier*. **Please Note:** Only FCCWA certificates are used for this title.

And Remember: There are people at the Show who are happy to help you through your first day and beyond. You just have to ask them! Happy Showing!!!