

CatsWA

CatsWA Policy on Inbreeding and Line Breeding

1. **Inbreeding** is defined as 'the mating of closely related cats'. Closely related means brother to sister, father to daughter, mother to son and similar. It is used by cat breeders (as it is with all purebred animal species) as a way to produce kittens with predictable and uniform physical traits'.
2. However there are also problems with inbreeding cats in that as identifiable improvements occur so do undesirable genetic traits. These include immune deficiencies, major and minor congenital abnormalities, small litters, reduced growth and decreased survival rates of kittens.
3. Inbreeding is discouraged but not banned by CatsWA members, however breeders are strongly encouraged to research their pedigree lines for signs of negative genetic traits (which may be enhanced through inbreeding) before proceeding.
4. **Line breeding** is the process of breeding cats that are less closely related, grandparent to grandchild, cousin to cousin. It is a slower to produce kittens with desirable traits, but also has a slower rate of producing non-desirable traits, which enables breeders to take action on non-desirable matings.
5. CatsWA allows line breeding by breeders as a means of limiting the occurrence of negative genetic traits.
6. **Out-cross breeding** is the breeding of totally unrelated cats, or unrelated within five generations. The male and female are chosen to complement each other's good quality, type and temperament, and most importantly to introduce genetic hybrid vigour.
7. 'CatsWA strongly encourages outcrossing as a means of improving health and hybrid vigour in all breeds'.