

The “HOW TO” of CAT World



A guide for people interested in being owned by a cat
and/or are considering Breeding, Registering and
Showing Cats

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	page
Title	1
Table of Contents.....	2
1. <i>How to RESEARCH a BREED FOR YOU</i>	3
2. <i>How to PURCHASE A KITTEN/CAT</i>	3-4
3. <i>How to VISIT A CAT SHOW</i>	4
4. <i>How to JOIN A CAT ASSOCIATION</i>	4
5. <i>How to TRANSFER MEMBERSHIP FROM ANOTHER ASSOCIATION</i>	4
6. <i>How to BECOME A REGISTERED BREEDER</i>	5
7. <i>How to TRANSFER BREEDERS PREFIX FROM ANOTHER ASSOCIATION</i>	5
8. <i>How to REGISTER A KITTEN</i>	5-6
9. <i>How to DNA TEST</i>	6
10. <i>How to REGISTER A COMPANION KITTEN or CAT</i>	6
11. <i>How to REGISTER WITH NSW PET REGISTRY</i>	6
12. <i>How to UPDATE REGISTERED DETAILS OF KITTEN or CAT</i>	7
13. <i>How to ADVERTISE YOUR CATTERY</i>	7
14. <i>How to ADVERTISE KITTENS YOU HAVE FOR SALE</i>	7
15. <i>How to ENTER A CAT SHOW</i>	7-8
<i>What you WILL need to bring on Show Day</i>	8-9
<i>References</i>	9
<i>Checklist for Show Day</i>	10
<i>Checklist for At the Show Venue</i>	10

1. How to **RESEARCH a BREED FOR YOU**

- If you know what breeds you are interested in do your research to ensure that you are able to commit to their needs and that they will fit with your family's lifestyle
- Search the internet making sure that you only communicate with a breeder from a registered cat association (see below information on recognised registering bodies)
- Search the internet for a kitten or cat from a rescue or adoption organisation in your area i.e. RSPCA, PAWS, A Safe Place for Meow, Darwin Animal Rescue Group, Breed specific clubs and rescues
- Make sure you understand the health and care needs or lack thereof of your breeds of interest
- A good way to view different breeds is to visit a cat show or exhibition. Information including Show Calendars can be found on registering body websites and social media pages.

2. How to **PURCHASE A KITTEN/CAT**

- Research then decide on the breed that is best suited to your home & family. Consider things such as grooming needs, activity levels, allergies etc
- Consider if you would prefer a kitten or a cat as some breeders will rehome adult cats
- Having decided on the breed best suited to your family, again research on what health testing should have been done on the parents of your kitten/cat. Request confirmation that your breeder is doing these tests and is happy to show you the results. These tests may be by DNA, ultrasound (e.g. heart scan), Xray (Hips), noting that not all breeds need to be tested.
- If possible, visit the cattery where your kitten/cat comes from. If not possible due to distance or if the breeder does not want strangers in their home, ask for some video evidence of the parents and the cattery or environment in which they are housed.
- Decide on Pet Only (not to show) or a quality to Show &/or Breed
- Find a reputable, registered breeder of your chosen breed. You are encouraged to look for a breeder who is a member of a recognised registering body. Your breeder should be happy to advise who they are registered with, however if you are unsure, you can contact the registering body to confirm that they are a current member.

for intrastate, the following links will provide details of member bodies/affiliates:

CANT(Inc.) cantsecretary@gmail.com

for interstate, the following links will provide details for member bodies/affiliates:

Australian Cat Federation (ACF) <https://www.acf.asn.au>

Cat Co-ordinating Council of Australia (CCCA) <https://www.ccofa.com.au>

ANCATS <https://www.ancats.com.au>

Cats Australia <https://www.catsaustralia.com.au>

- Commit to purchase a registered kitten or cat from a breeder who is registered with one of the above organisations
- At time of receiving kitten or cat ensure you receive or are to be forwarded:
 - Certificate of Registration with kitten or cat detailing you as the owner and that kitten or cat is able to be shown (should you choose to enter in a cat show)
 - Evidence that kitten or cat has been vaccinated
 - Evidence (vet certificate) that kitten/cat has been desexed (if not for breeding)
 - Verifiable proof of DNA tests taken for heritable genetic diseases

3. How to **VISIT A CAT SHOW**

- Search the internet for cat shows in your area. Recognised associations each have a website with a Show Calendar detailing when, where and times where you can view many different breeds and talk with breeders and cat enthusiasts to assist with your research.
- You may even find a breeder with an older cat to rehome which may better suit you
- There will be show rules to which you will be asked to comply i.e. no fingers in cages without asking owner, no entering show ring whilst judging is in progress, keep mobile phone on silent

4. How to **JOIN A CAT ASSOCIATION**

If you are intending to become a registered breeder or you want to enter a cat show with your kitten or cat you must become a member of a reputable, recognised cat association in your State. Note: some member bodies/affiliates will allow you to show for 2 – 3 shows before becoming a member. Check with the association/member body you are considering joining to confirm its rules.

To assist, ACF, CCCA, ANCATS, Cats Australia websites will detail associations/member bodies/contact persons in your State. You will then be required to complete:

- Application for Membership
- Application for Breeders Prefix (only if intending to breed), noting that some applications may include a detailed questionnaire to be completed as part of the application.
- **NOTE**: Once you have joined an association/member body you need to transfer your Kitten/Cat to your new association/member body. They will have a form that you need to fill in and send to their registrar.
- If the kitten or cat is registered with the organisation you have joined and is already in your name, this step will not be needed.

In some instances, applications may take weeks to process, so please be patient as processing is via volunteers who give freely of their time.

5. How to **TRANSFER MEMBERSHIP FROM ANOTHER ASSOCIATION**

- You cannot transfer membership. You must apply with new chosen association then show evidence that you have resigned from previous association.
- You are, in most cases, permitted to be a member/associate member of more than one association.

6. How to **BECOME A REGISTERED BREEDER**

- Make sure you do your research on what is required to be a registered breeder. There are local and State government requirements that breeders of companion animals are required to adhere. Make sure you check with your local council and also look at the following legislation:
- City of Darwin Animal By-Laws. (Animal Management Policy.)
- [City of Palmerston Animal Management By-Laws 2024](#)

It is also strongly recommended that you have a mentor who can help you along in your breeding journey. If you do not have a mentor, contact your registering body and they will be able to put you in contact with a mentor.

7. How to **TRANSFER BREEDERS PREFIX FROM ANOTHER ASSOCIATION**

- Complete an Application for Transfer of Breeders Prefix Form which is available by either downloading from your chosen registering bodies website or by contacting its Secretary or President (details on website).
- Application can often include completing a multi-page questionnaire
- In support of your application, you will be required to supply copies of Certificates of Registration and Pedigrees of all breeding cats.
- Once approved by its committee, you will receive formal notification and be asked to forward applicable fee.

8. How to **REGISTER A KITTEN**

- Complete an Application for Litter & Kitten Registration Form which is available by either downloading from your chosen registering body's website or by contacting its Registrar, Secretary or President (details on website) or your mentor.
- Only the registered breeder can make this application
- Some registering bodies have a checklist to assist you in best ensuring form and all required documents are forwarded at time of applying
- Each of the living progeny from a litter **must** be registered
- Microchip numbers are required at time of making application with some organisations, so please check your registering bodies rules
- Certificates of Sterilisation (desexing certificates) are required at time of making application unless being sold to a registered breeder
- In some instances, should you not own the stud, you will be required to provide a stud service certificate or declaration
- Note that most registering bodies have timeline requirements for registrations. Please refer to your chosen registering body to learn its requirements.
- Should you have known heritable genetic diseases in your breed, & DNA testing is available for such disease, it is recommended that you test for them with a reputable DNA testing laboratory. When you receive a verifiable test result then forward the details with your application to register as some registering bodies will record in its database and include on your certificate of registration.

9. How to **DNA TEST**

- This is a valuable tool to assist breeders bring out the best in animal genetics which better ensures that pets can live happy, healthy lives.
- Recognised suppliers/laboratories of DNA testing are Orivet (Australia), UC Davis (USA), Langford (UK)
- In general, there are approximately 60+ tests for breed specific genetic diseases and traits. Do your research to see what needs to be tested for your chosen breed. Many of the suppliers/laboratories will have breed packages to assist you in not having to work out what to test for.
- You do not need a Vet to collect samples but rather collect mouth swabs yourself or locate a nominated authorised collection agent. Swab kits are ordered online then delivered to your address. Once swabs are taken, documentation completed, pre-addressed return to sender envelope posted, then you wait for confirmation of receipt after which verifiable results will be emailed to you.
- Consider having results of testing recorded by your registering body's registrar should they provide this service

10. How to **REGISTER A COMPANION KITTEN or CAT** (Not currently required by the CANT(Inc.))

- Complete an Application for Companion Kitten or Cat Registration Form which is available by either downloading from your chosen registering body's website or by contacting its Registrar, Secretary or President (details on website) or your mentor.
- Microchip numbers are required at time of making application
- Certificates of Sterilisation (desexing certificates) are required at time of making application
- If you are not sure what colour and/or pattern your kitten/cat is referred, you can contact your registering body for assistance.
- Once you have registered your kitten/cat, you will be supplied with a Certificate of Registration. Unlike a purebred cat. the section detailing family history/parentage will be blank.

11. How to **REGISTER WITH NSW PET REGISTRY (NOT REQUIRED IN N.T.)**

- As a responsible breeder and/or pet owner you **MUST** register your pet in NSW. This is done via your MyServiceNSW account by either creating or logging in to a NSW Digital Pet Registry account
- Should you not be able to transact electronically, you can download a paper form from the NSW Pet Registry website and transact manually via your local council
- Note that late fees and fines are applicable if registration is not paid when required
- Should assistance be required please contact either your seller, NSW Pet Registry support or your local council

12. **How to UPDATE REGISTERED DETAILS OF KITTEN or CAT**

- Complete the relevant Application Form i.e. colour, pattern, sex, title which are available by either downloading from your chosen registering body's website or by contacting its Registrar, Secretary or President (details on website) or your mentor.
- For Australian Cat Federation (ACF) title upgrades i.e. Award of Excellence, Companion Award of Honour, ACF National Title, download the relevant form from your chosen registering body's website or by contacting its Registrar, Secretary or President (details on website) or your mentor.

13. **How to ADVERTISE YOUR CATTERY**

- Most registering bodies provide the service of advertising breeds and breeders on their websites. Contact your Secretary or President (details on website) or your mentor.
- A Breed Club/Organisation (i.e. Siamese Cat Society of NSW, Burmese Cat Society of Australasia) usually advertise its member breeders on its website as a part of its membership fee.
- Other social media platforms can also be helpful to advertise and promote

14. **How to ADVERTISE KITTENS YOU HAVE FOR SALE**

- A Breed Club/Organisation (i.e. Siamese Cat Society of NSW, Burmese Cat Society of Australasia) usually advertise kittens available from its member breeders on its website as a part of its membership fee.
- If you do not have a website, consideration should be given to either designing one or having one designed/built for you.
- Other useful advertising outlets are available, each of which usually require detailing your accreditation or membership of a recognised registering body.

15. **How to ENTER A CAT SHOW**

Entering a Cat Show is usually not an easy process for beginners. You are encouraged to either make contact with your mentor (if you have one), the show's secretary or your registering bodies secretary.....each of whom should provide assistance.

Importantly:

- Read the show's schedule which will have all the rules, requirements, times etc
- Have a copy of your exhibits Certificate of Registration
- Ensure your exhibit is up to date with vaccinations
- If you do not have a show cage you can usually hire one....details will be on show schedule or contact show's secretary
- Show cages can be sourced from various outlets i.e. Vebo cages
<https://www.vebopet.com.au> Check with your mentor or association secretary as to approved dimensions
- Bring with you Show curtains that can be fitted to the show cage

- Usually, your kitten or cat will not have been offered its morning meal prior to leaving for the show, so please remember to bring a small meal, water, small bowl, utensils, cat litter that the exhibit is used to as it may need the litter tray.

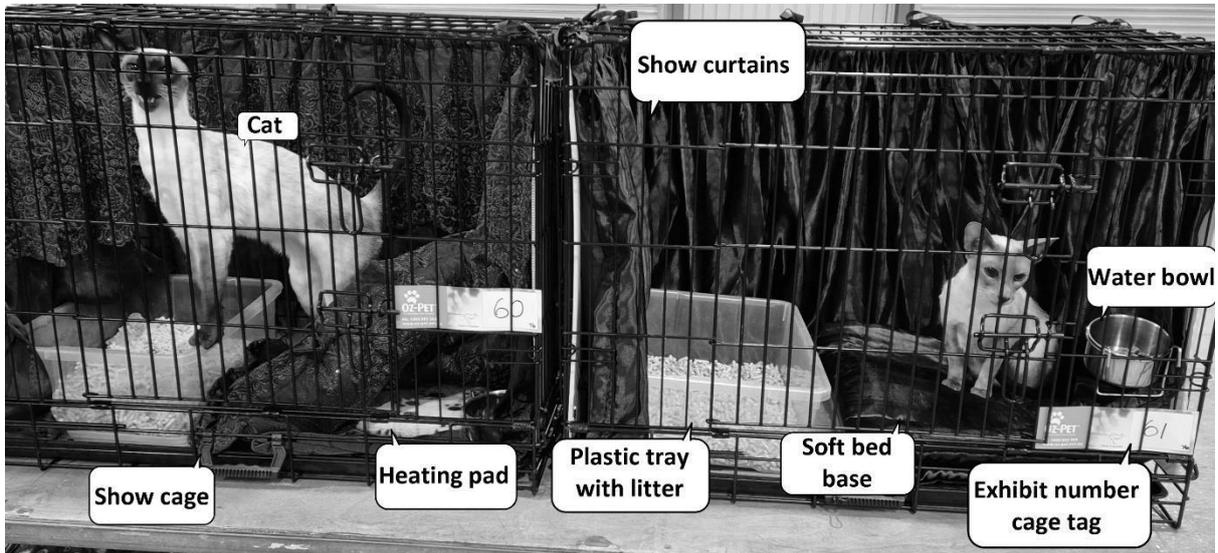
Most Importantly:

- Ensure your kitten or cat is of a temperament which will enjoy the long shows days, travel to and from and the handling during assessing on the show bench.
- **A happy cat at home is so much better than an upset, unhappy or cranky one at a show!!**

What you WILL need to bring on Show Day

SHOW CAGE, SUPPLIED BY CANT(INC.) AT THEIR SHOWS. supply your own or can be hired. Please refer to show's schedule for hire pricing and cage dimension specifications. Please contact your mentor or show secretary for any assistance. **Note:** that some association's show rules require they be fitted with suitable solid barriers (i.e. corflute) on both sides and back.

CURTAINS, white or coloured, can be borrowed or purchased on Show Day should you not have your own. Please check with your mentor or show secretary for any assistance.



Remember to bring your **CURRENT VACCINATION CERTIFICATE** as issued by your Vet. This document will be checked for its compliance either upon entry or at the Vetting In table upon your arrival and prior to setting up your exhibit in the Show Ring.

To assist with enjoying your show day experience, please refer to Show Day Checklist on page 9

ARRIVE HAPPY! LEAVE HAPPY!

References:

Animal Welfare Code of Practice - For Breeding Cats and Dogs in NSW

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/animal-welfare/animal-care-and-welfare/other/companion-animal-files/animal-welfare-code-of-practice-breeding-dogs-and-cats>

NSW Animal welfare regulations

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/animal-welfare/animal-care-and-welfare/animal-welfare-regulation>

How to sell or giveaway a cat or dog pamphlet

https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1316806/How-to-sell-or-give-away-a-cat-or-dog.pdf

Introduction of annual permits for non desexed cats

<https://www.petregistry.olg.nsw.gov.au/non-desexed-cat-and-dog-fees>

Pet Registry NSW New and Improved <https://www.petregistry.olg.nsw.gov.au>

NSW Companion animals act - Companion Animals Act 1998 No 87 - NSW Legislation

<https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/current/act-1998-087>

NSW The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act - View

<https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1979-200>

Cats NSW – Code of Ethics for Registered Breeders

<https://catsnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Cats-NSW-Code-Of-Ethics-for-RegisteredBreeders-updated-March-2023.pdf>

Compiled by Tony Hurry with the assistance of Peta Sperduty and Fiona Cooper

SHOW DAY CHECKLIST

- Show Cage **SUPPLIED BY CANT(Inc.)** (hire or own)
- Cage curtains and base (it is a good idea to bring a spare base just in case of accidents)
- Vaccination certificate
- Certificate of Registration
- Litter tray
- Cat litter
- Cat Food
- Small food/water bowls, utensils **WATER BOWLS SUPPLIED BY CANT(INC.)**
- Garbage bag for rubbish, cat excrement
- Water

AT SHOW VENUE

- Collect Vetting slip or Benching slip, noting some shows will email this to you the night before the show.(allows entry to show)
- Collect show catalogue (if you ordered one with show entry)
- Present exhibit to vetting station (if the show has vetting, if not skip this step)
- Move exhibit to its benching area (this is where you set up your cage)
- Set up show cage and curtains in exhibits allocated space (Your cats number will be on your vetting/benching slip)
- Place exhibit in its show cage
- Complete any last-minute grooming

- If watching the judging, locate a seat. Check show schedule as some shows require you to bring your own seat.
- Reminder to NOT call out to your cat or comment to the judge whilst your exhibit is on the show bench under assessment
- Collect prizes, certificates, award card (show manager will announce how this is being done)
- Leave show hall ONLY when show has been announced as CLOSED

Page