

All About Showing

Showing can be an extremely rewarding event and gives you the opportunity to meet a wide variety of people and their cats as well as promoting the LaPerm. Although at first it can seem quite daunting working through the schedule deciding on classes and even preparing your cat for 'Show Day' it is also tremendous fun. Hopefully we have covered all of the information you need here but do remember June Gilles - Show Support will also provide you with additional help as will all of the members who show.

The First Step

Once you have decided on which show you want to exhibit at, write to the show manager, enclosing an A5 stamped self-addressed envelope, for a schedule and entry form. This will need to be done about two to three months before the show. See our page on future shows.

Once the schedule arrives you will find information about any extra club rules, explanations about the different types of classes, a list of classes as well as the time to arrive, the equipment you will need and the name and telephone number of the Show Manager. If you have any queries about the entry form or the show please call the show manager they are always more than willing to advise.

In order to complete the entry you will need your GCCF registration or transfer certificate - if you find the pink slip you were given by your cat's breeder is headed TRANSFER APPLICATION this means that the cat is not registered in your name and you must complete the form and send it back to the GCCF with the transfer fee as soon as possible - no later than 21 days before the show.

Note: *the effective date of all registrations and transfers is the first date of valid receipt by the GCCF, and if you enclose your own stamped addressed acknowledgement card with your application form this will be stamped with the GCCF Office date of receipt.*

The entry form requires information about you and your cat. First fill in your name and address - as the Exhibitor you must be the registered owner of the cat 21 days before show day. If you the cat is jointly owned then both names must be entered onto the form.

Next the details of your cat are needed and these should be copied from your GCCF papers:

Registration Number - Cat's Name - Breed number - Sex - Date of birth

Name of sire - Name of dam - Name of breeder - Classes to be entered.

If your cat has not yet been registered or the certificate has not been returned from GCCF put RAF or TAF (reg/transfer applied for) in place of the registration number and make sure you do apply or you will be disqualified from the show!

The name of the cat and all of the details required will be on the GCCF certificate or failing this on your pedigree. Always take a copy of your form so that you can check it against your official paperwork when it arrives. Should you make a mistake you must notify the Show manager **IN WRITING**.

Decide on the correct classes - if your cat is an adult neuter you can only enter neuter classes and you should enter its sex as MN or FN. The definition of classes is as follows;

OPEN CLASS: Open to all of the specified breed. (Must be GCCF Registered)

CATS: Not less than 9 calendar months on the day of show.

KITTENS: Not less than 14 weeks and under 9 calendar months on the day of the show. Since 1 June 2001, neuter kittens are entered in kitten Open & Miscellaneous classes and compete for BIS Kitten. Neuter kittens of Preliminary Breeds should be included in Kitten Assessment classes where separate classes for Adult, Kitten and Neuter are scheduled.

NEUTER ADULTS: Neuter adults may only enter Neuter Classes and may not compete with entire cats or kittens except in Club Classes which are scheduled to include Neuters. Where Best in Show is held, the best Neuter shall be considered against the best Entire Adult and Kitten for Best Exhibit in Show.

NOVICE: Exhibits that have not won a First Prize in any class at a show held under GCCF Rules.

LIMIT: Exhibits that have not won more than four First Prizes in any class at a show held under GCCF Rules.

DEBUTANTE: Exhibits that have never been shown at a show held under GCCF Rules. (If Debutante Adult and Neuter classes are offered at a show, entry as a Debutante Kitten does not count when the exhibit is shown as an adult or neuter and entry as a Debutante Adult or Kitten does not count when the exhibit is neutered and shown)

MAIDEN: Exhibits that have not won a First, Second or Third Prize in any class at a show held under GCCF Rules.

BREEDERS: Exhibits bred by exhibitor/s. Cats originally registered in the Breeder's joint ownership but changed to single ownership of one of the Breeders can still be entered in this class. Cats originally registered in the Breeder's single ownership and changed to joint ownership with the Breeder should be entered in the Non-Breeders Class.

JUNIOR: Cats over 9 calendar months of age and under 2 years on the day of the show.

SENIOR: Cats 2 years and over on the day of the show.

If in doubt about classes check. Next work out your entry fees, make out your cheque and make sure that it is signed and correct. On the form you will find a declaration that you and your partner, if the cat is jointly owned, must read and sign. Finally double check everything before you post it.

Pre-Show Preparation

Your cat must be fit and well to go to a show. No fleas, no ear mites, no runny eyes, no bare or scabby patches of skin, no snuffles and sneezes and all vaccinations up to date. If in doubt see your Vet. Do remember to clean ears and eyes and trim the sharp tips of the claws with proper clippers. Do not cut anything but the tip or you will damage the skin and make your cat bleed. If you are going to bath your cat ensure that you leave sufficient time for the coat to settle down.

Make sure that you have a good top opening box or basket to take to the show. You will also need a couple of clean plain white blankets (in case of accidents), a non tip water bowl, a feeding bowl and litter tray - all white. Ensure that you take a cloth to wipe out the pen, with a little disinfectant suitable for cats.

Check that your cat is vaccinated up to date and that the vaccination certificate describes the cat correctly: it should show the cat's full name as well as its correct breed, colour, sex and age. If it has the breeder's name and address on it you should add your own name and address. You will need to show this certificate at vetting-in.

On the Day

Final Check

Before you leave, check ears and eyes again as well feeling for any small scratches that may have occurred overnight (particularly if you have a multi cat house-hold). Most exhibitors will withdraw a cat from the show if a scratch is found as they may be refused entry to the show. As in most cases at vetting in a vet will err on the side of caution and could view it as a possible infection. This could require all cats in your household to be tested and a certificate produced to verify that your household is clear of the suspected infection.

Travelling

Leave yourself plenty of time to get there and ensure that your cat is comfortable, warm and secure in their carrier. Be prepared for minor soiling accidents, although they seldom happen it is better to be equipped than panicking on the M6! Also the GCCF do not allow the use of any drug or homeopathic remedy used as a calming or sedative influence. Also be aware that on arrival you will have to walk from the car park to the show hall, with your cat, show equipment and any other items you are taking with you so sensible packing before you leave home is essential.

Vetting In

Check your show entry form for the times of vetting in and try to ensure that you arrive well within the time limit. On arrive at the show hall follow the signs to Vetting In where you will usually find a queue of exhibitors. When you arrive at the table you will usually be given an envelope which will contain: Pen No. and Classes Entered (on outside of envelope, ensure you retain this as it may be needed for claiming Rosettes).

Also look for a notice which will tell you of any last minute judge changes - this is important as if you already have a merit from your open class judge you can ask the Show Manager to arrange for a countersignature if the change would duplicate an existing merit.

Paperwork at shows varies but you will be given some form of vetting in card for the vet to sign, have this, and your vaccination certificate, ready to give to the vet. If you have prepared your cat carefully all should be well; if unhappily your cat is refused entry to the show make sure that the Duty Vet explains why your cat has been rejected and what you must do next.

Off to the Pens

Once inside the hall find your pen, disinfect it, place your blankets, litter tray and water bowl in a suitable spot and get your cat settled in. As judging normally starts at 10am so you should have time to offer a little food if your cat is hungry but you must take the bowl out before judging, leaving only the water bowl. If you have given your cat a toy this must also be removed before judging commences. As a tip it often pays to keep the best blanket until the last minute or you may find it covered with the contents of the litter tray or food.

When leaving the hall for judging always check your pen to make sure it is clean and tidy as well as remove food containers and any toy that may be in the pen. On departure you will be able to buy your catalogue - check your entry details carefully and go to the Show Manager at once if anything is incorrect.

What Happens Now?

Once all of the exhibitors have left the hall the judges' move round the hall with their stewards, taking the cats out of their pens, one at a time to be judged. Judges do not speak to the exhibitors or the public until they have finished their judging and it is important to know that you **MUST NOT** approach a judge until they have finished judging for the day, usually after 4pm . The results are written into a book and slips from the books appear on the results board later in the day; you will see the boards surrounded by exhibitors excitedly searching for their cats results.

Generally you are not allowed to return to the show hall until 12:30pm, most people settle themselves down in the refreshment area and get to know their fellow exhibitors or catch up with friends.

Results and Rosettes

At some shows a separate results room is available and as results come in from the judging they are posted up for you to check how your cat is doing. At others you will not be able to see the results board until you return to the hall. However excited you are to see the results do visit your cat first, feed them, give them a cuddle and make sure that they are comfortable and happy before going in search of the results boards. The Open Class results are usually posted first and you will receive a pink slip of paper with the judges comments, so that you will know what they thought of your cat.

The side class results will go up throughout the day and at some shows may still be being judged after you return to the hall. Please do not be too impatient if yours have not appeared however if by 4pm you still have no results up go and ask at the show manager's table.

Your rosettes will either be placed on the pen or you will be left a card to collect them.

Going Home

Most exhibitors by 4pm are eager to start preparation for home, however under show rules you are not allowed to remove your cat from their pen until the Show Manager announces that the show is closed. This may not be until the published time of 5pm but in many instances will be slightly earlier. Should you remove your cat without permission you will be disqualified!

Home at Last

Once you get home make sure your cat is comfortable, it will have been a hard day for you all. It is a wise precaution not to allow all your cats to mix with the show cat for a few days until any danger of infection is past.

Also for our club records we will now need you to let us know how you did so that any merits and placings can be recorded and your results will be posted in our results section.

Good Luck!