

Definition of Cat Shows

There are three types of GCCF shows:

1. Championship.
2. Sanction
3. Exemption

There is also the GCCF's own Championship show - The Supreme Show - to which entry is restricted to cats and kittens who have qualified at other Championship shows.

Types of Show

Championship

A Championship show is the ultimate status of show which may be held by a GCCF affiliated cat club. The GCCF Rules apply in full and GCCF Certificates may be awarded where applicable, if the judges consider their exhibits warrant them. They are regarded as the serious shows and may be all-breed shows, in which case they have classes for each breed which is recognised by the GCCF, or specialist shows with classes for a breed section or sometimes for a single breed.

At a Championship show each breed has its own Open Classes: there are separate classes for Male Adults, Female Adults, Male Neuters, Female Neuters and Kittens. Kitten classes are for kittens with a minimum age of 14 weeks up to nine calendar months old when they become adult; these kitten classes may be split by sex or age at larger shows, or even both ways if there is a big entry. Adult and Neuter Open classes are not split further, no matter how big the entry. The cats in these classes are placed in order of merit, from 1st to 4th; in big classes 5th, 6th, Very Highly Commended, Highly Commended and Commended may be given if the show offers cards for these placings and the judge wishes to give them.

Cats of Provisional status breeds also have their own Open classes, the certificate on offer being an Intermediate Certificate. Preliminary status breeds compete in Assessment classes, each cat being judged against its standard of points and being awarded a Merit Certificate if it is good enough. Again, these help the breed to progress.

Many shows offer Best of Breed awards for the best Adult, Kitten and Neuter of each breed, but these do not count towards a title of any kind. Some shows, especially specialist breed shows, hold a Best in Show but, again, winning this does not count towards any official title although it is a great honour for the winner.

It is at Championship shows only that cats can gain GCCF Challenge Certificates (entire cats) and Premier Certificates (neutered cats) which go towards their gaining Champion and Premier titles and Intermediate Certificates (Provisional breeds) which go towards the promotion of the breed to Championship status. All Open Class entries placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd and Merit winners are checked by the office for errors. The Adult and Neuter Open Class placings and any certificates awarded are recorded on the cats' show histories.

Sanction

These shows really are rehearsals for Championship shows. Although no Challenge, Premier or Intermediate Certificates can be awarded, all the same classes have to be provided and the rules are just as strict as for a Championship show. Sanction shows do put on Assessment classes so Merit Certificates can be awarded. The GCCF Rules apply in full but no GCCF Certificates are awarded other than Merit Certificates for Assessment breeds, if these breeds are included in the show, which go towards the promotion of the breeds to Provisional Status. All Open Class entries placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd are checked by the Office for errors and the Merits awarded in the Assessment Classes are recorded on the cats' show histories.

Exemption

These are "fun" shows. Some are cat shows held in conjunction with Agricultural shows, others are the "rehearsal" shows held by new Cat Clubs, gaining them the experience to run Sanction, then Championship shows. The shows are usually small and they do not have to put on separate classes for all breeds. This means that they may have a single Open class for all colours of Persian, or the Siamese and Burmese might find that they are competing against one another.

There are no Assessment classes, so new breeds compete against the established breeds, often in the same class. As with almost all GCCF shows there are also miscellaneous classes - for cats bred by the owner, cats which have had a limited number of previous wins etc. - and often club classes, put on by other supporting Clubs for their own members to enter.

There are no certificates to be awarded, no titles to be won, but you will often see Champions or even Grand Champions supporting an Exemption Show, especially if it is being run by a specialist breed club, just to enjoy the relaxed fun atmosphere.

The Supreme Show

The Supreme Show does not have Miscellaneous or Club Classes as in other shows as it is basically a 'knock out' competition to choose the best Adult, Neuter and Kitten in the Pedigree section. These winners gain the title of Supreme Adult, Supreme Neuter, and Supreme Kitten (the Supreme Kitten title is not a permanent one) and then compete against each other for Supreme Exhibit (no extra title).

Provisional Status Breeds

Cats of Provisional status breeds also compete at the Supreme Show, but as they cannot win titles their classes are not divided into Champion and Pre-Champion. The Intermediate Certificate winners and Kitten class winners are considered for Best of Breed, as with the Championship status breeds, and the BOB winners go forward to compete against the Championship status breeds for Best of Variety.

Preliminary Status Breeds

As at other Championship shows, there are Assessment classes at the Supreme Show, with Merit Certificates on offer. These cats, however, do not progress any further in the show as they are always (except in miscellaneous or club classes at ordinary shows) judged against their standard of points and not against each other.