

SPECTATOR'S GUIDE TO A CAT SHOW

Welcome to Our Show

This cat show is sanctioned by The International Cat Association (TICA). Founded in 1979, TICA has grown to be the world's largest genetic registry of pedigreed cats. TICA has clubs, members and cat shows all over the world.

Wherever you are, you're in TICA's world!



The Cats

Championship Pedigreed Competition

TICA recognizes more than 50 breeds of cats. At a cat show, these cats are divided into three groups for judging: Championship Kittens (pedigreed cats 4 to 8 months of age), Championship Cats (8 months of age and older), and Championship Alters (spayed or neutered adult cats.)

Each breed of pedigreed cat has a written standard which describes the ideal cat of that breed. The standards are established by the breeders who raise that breed. Judges undergo extensive training and testing before they are licensed so that they are knowledgeable about all the breeds and the standard for each one. When handling a cat, a judge is evaluating how well that cat fits the standard for its particular breed.

You may see a judge use toys and feathers to help evaluate how well a cat meets the standard for such things as eye shape, ear size and placement, and overall balance.

Household Pet (HHP) Competition

This is a competition of non-pedigreed cats, referred to as Household Pets (HHPs). Household Pets are cats of random or unknown breeding. Many of the HHPs entered in the show were adopted from shelters or rescued from the streets. HHPs are divided into two groups: Household Pet Kittens (HHPK) (4 to 8 months of age) and Household Pet adults (over 8 months of age.) All HHP Adults must be either spayed or neutered. HHPs and HHPKs are judged on overall condition, health, grooming, personality, and beauty.



Advanced and Preliminary New Breeds

These classes are for developing new breeds. These breeds have not yet been accepted into Championship competition. They are presented primarily for evaluation and education and do not earn titles. In these classes, exhibitors and judges will often discuss the characteristics of the cats being judged.

New Traits

There are times when an accepted Championship breed displays a trait not currently called for in its standard. This might be a new color, pattern or coat length, for example. Cats exhibiting a new trait may be evaluated in the New Traits class. The Breed Group may ask that this trait be accepted as an amendment to the breed's standard.

Judging

Cat show competition is structured like a pyramid. First, the entries are divided into classes of kittens, adults, alters, HHPs, HHPKs, New Breeds, and New Traits. Within each of these classifications, cats are called to the judging rings according to breed, division, and color/pattern.

Best of Color (BOC): The judge will first award the Best of Color through 5th Best of Color for each group. **EXAMPLE:** Seven black Persians present; the judge will select and rank five of the seven competing.

Best of Division (BOD): From the Best of Color winners, the judge will select the Best, Second and Third Best of Division. **EXAMPLE:** Our seven black Persians belong to the Solid Division. Other solid colors of Persians, (white, blue, red, etc.) may also be entered in the Solid Division.

Best of Breed (BOB): Once a judge has selected their First of Division through the Third of Division cats, they will select the Best of Breed through Third Best of Breed from all the divisions.

The procedure is a little different in the Household Pet competition. Each HHP that meets the basic standards of health and condition receives a Merit award or a Best of Color award.



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Cat Show Etiquette

Cats do not like loud noises or sudden movements. If you have children with you, please impress upon them that they must not run or shout in the show hall.

Cats are susceptible to a large range of diseases, which can be carried from cat to cat on your hands. Please do not pet any cat without asking the owner first. If the owner says "yes," you may be asked to disinfect your hands first.

Watch for people carrying cats and allow them to pass. If you hear anyone yell "Cat Out!" please stand still and let the owner catch the cat. **DO NOT TRY TO CATCH THE CAT!** If you are near an open door, please quietly and quickly close it.

Do not ask the judges questions while the cats are being judged. You will find most exhibitors will be glad to answer any questions you may have. Please do not walk behind the judging table to look at cats in the judging cages. This is the only off-limits area at the cat show.

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Are You Looking for a Kitten?



If you are interested in buying a pedigreed kitten, a cat show provides a good opportunity to speak with breeders. Most breeders will ask you as many questions as you ask them. This shows that they care about the kittens they have bred and raised, and want to be sure they are placed in good homes.

Responsible breeders will guarantee the health of the kittens they sell in a written contract. You will probably be required to sign a spay/neuter agreement when you buy a companion quality kitten. This is to ensure that the cat is not used for breeding when it matures.

If a household pet is what you want then consider contacting a shelter or rescue organization. Many wonderful cats are waiting for the good home that you can provide.



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