

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NEW ZEALAND CAT FANCY

FLASH CATS

3RD ISSUE 2013

NATIONAL SHOW
GALLERY 2013

EARLY ALTERING

DNA TESTING,
WHAT, WHERE & HOW

CORONAVIRUS/FIP
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

NEWSY TIT BITS

HOW THE CORNISH GOT IT'S CURL



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Flash Cats

The Official Publication of the New Zealand Cat Fancy Inc.

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COVER PIC

*Petals Gentian True Blue
Supreme Winner,
National Show 2013
Bred by Marion Petley.*

*I believe cats to be spirits come to earth. A cat, I am sure,
could walk on a cloud without coming through.
Jules Verne*

2013 SUBSCRIPTION APPLICATION

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Chair Chat

We are more than half way through the year now and are on track with our budget - heading to a small surplus at the end of the year.

I'm really delighted that we are managing our income and outgoings better although there is still work to do to ensure our financial situation is sustainable - and allow us to keep improving our services to our membership. Because of this, the EC has made the uncomfortable decision to reduce honoraria across the board by 10% starting with the last quarter payment of this year (and will review honoraria levels for next year which may entail a further reduction). This was a tough choice to make because we know just how hard our officers and officials work and we appreciate the time and effort they put in. However if we do NOT reduce the % of our income taken up by honoraria, we struggle to meet our other costs and still stay within budget.

Our goal is to bring this percentage down to around 33% of our overall income. Of course we need to continue to be mindful of other ways to reduce costs, and also think about ways to bring in more income - especially ways of attracting new members, offering services that our members want at a fair price, ensuring potential advertisers are aware of Flashcats, and looking for opportunities for sponsorship agreements that may benefit the NZCF or its members.

Work is underway on most of these areas already and our business plan, while still a work in progress, is helping to keep us on track. .

Zena Pigden
NZCF Chair

EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello to all,

Our third issue this year is away, the year has flown by.

National Show has come and gone and we have some great photos to show of it. Congratulations to all the winning cats and their owners this season.

Clubs! send in your pics, and we will be happy to publish.

I must thank Christine Yeong for her contribution this issue, it doesn't happen very often but it is wonderful to receive articles from our breeders and members.

It's not a walk in the park, trying to find and think up new subjects to write about and we are always keen to research something you may have experienced and are willing to share it with the rest of us.

I am always looking for an Editor's choice photo to publish, so send in cute pics of your babies and the pic that takes the Editor's fancy will be published.

Always remember, the articles we publish on health, are all to keep you informed on some of the problems we all face from time to time. They are by no means instructions on what to do in these cases, your vets are the people to diagnose and treat your cats. See them first if you are concerned about your cats well being.

Best wishes for the rest of the show season.

Gaynor Saxon
Editor

Flash Cats Close-off Dates for Contributions

December Issue - 15 October 2013

March Issue - 15 January 2014

June Issue - 15 April 2014

September Issue - 15 July 2014

Contact Gaynor Saxon (Editor)

flashcatseditor@gmail.com



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IT Portfolio Update

By Zena Pigden

Online registrations will be up and running by the time you read this. We don't have an online payment facility yet, but people who prefer to do most things online can now go onto our website, click on the appropriate link for their registration (Shorthair, Longhair, or Provisional) and fill out their litter registration online. If the breeder is not the owner of the sire, an automatic email is sent to the sire owner to ask them to confirm the mating. This is just the start of a process that will ultimately enable most NZCF forms to be completed (and in the next stage, paid for) online.

Work on the show application continues, the excellent feedback we received from clubs using the programme this year has guided the improvements that are currently being added. Unfortunately we have not yet figured out a way to generate a marked catalogue (or set of results) that is user friendly for the Honours Registrar (but will keep trying). And we have not yet started work on getting the show application to assign cage numbers automatically. However other requested changes will be in place for the next show season:

- Show secretary does not have to enter class numbers on the original spreadsheet, these will be automatically generated
- Judges names appear on judges sheets
- Judges sheets print out one ring at a time rather than (eg) Persian judges sheet for each ring printing, then the Exotic judges sheet for each ring, etc thereby simplifying collating for judges folders
- AOC cats appear correctly on judges sheets
- Caramels appear correctly on judges sheets
- Catalogue contains heading for each section (ie Entire LH, Entire Neuter Spay etc)
- Several improvements to the catalogue as owners' names were not appearing correctly, long breeder names were cut short, exhibitor names not sorted alphabetically, etc.

Clubs using the show application service next year will be required to pay a modest fee of \$115 (for each show that they use it for). The NZCF has invested thousands of dollars in developing this application which is linked in to our database, thereby ensuring that cats are correctly entered, and that catalogue information relating to the cats no longer needs checking when sent to the Honours Registrar. Any income we receive for use of the show application service will enable us to continue developing our online and IT related services. Instruction manuals are supplied and back up support will be available from myself and Joan Hill to help ensure that everything goes smoothly for clubs using the application.

Show Report

National Show- A Great Success

I would like to thank the Sacred Temple Cat Club for running the 2013 National Show so successfully. The feedback has been great for the Club, as well as the NZCF.

Special thanks are due to Brian and Shirley Hammond for their generous donation of posters advertising the Show and everyone who contribution to the Show's success. Our thanks, also, to the Judges and to Mr Whippy and the Bristol coffee who were very popular on the day.

The 2012 National Awards dinner was held on the Sunday evening and was enjoyed by all.

In this issue of Flash Cats we have some great photos of the National and exhibitors and of course the star of the Show, the overall Supreme Winner "Petals Gentian True Blue" a Blue British Shorthair Male Kitten owned and bred by Marion Petley.

In Ring one, our National Ring, all the Judges did a presentation of their Top Ten this which was well received by the public and exhibitors.

We hope for another great show next year and I am very happy to help any Club wanting to hold the Nationals in their area.

Janice Davey
Shows Portfolio Manager

NZCF Message

2013 Meeting Dates
EC Meeting 23-24th November 2013
(Wellington)

2014 Meeting Dates
AGM 2014 Queens Birthday
(31/5 May 2014 Auckland)
EC Meeting 15-16th February 2014

Early Altering

Early-age spaying and neutering (also known as “altering”) are surgeries performed on kittens before the conventional ages of six to eight months. Typically, these early-age operations take place between the ages of eight and 16 weeks.

Early-age altering has been practised for over 25 years in North America. Attention has primarily been focused on animal shelter and rescue pets before adoption. However, today’s pedigreed cat breeders are increasingly requesting early-age altering from veterinarians, so kittens destined for pet homes can be altered before sale. Breeders who do so are ensuring any kittens they sell will not contribute to the tragedy of pet overpopulation.

In the U.S., it is estimated that four to 15 million healthy cats are euthanized every year because they do not have homes. Figures are not readily available for Canada, but the magnitude of the problem may not be any less daunting. We do know the leading cause of death for healthy unwanted cats in Canada is euthanasia. In some shelters, between 50 and 90 per cent of cats taken in are euthanized, simply because no one wants them.

Studies have shown that, despite economic incentives such as low-cost spay and neuter services, many cats and dogs adopted from shelters have one litter before they are sterilized or are never sterilized at all. Shelter-mandated spay and neuter programs are often poorly supported by adoptive owners, despite pre-payment of surgery fees, good screening of potential adoptive owners and altering contracts.

In turn, about one-third of cats and dogs are relinquished to shelters because they are from unwanted litters. Early-age altering is therefore a valuable tool in the fight against pet overpopulation and the needless euthanasia of healthy homeless pets. People working to reduce the problem of surplus dogs and cats in the U.S. pioneered the concept of early altering. Surgical sterilization is the most effective means of population control, but delaying the surgery until after sexual maturity defeats the purpose. Animal shelters advocate mandatory altering, but many adopted cats and dogs either are never altered or have at least one litter first.

Until recently, veterinarians worried earlier altering would predispose pets to more risks during surgery, more post-surgical complications and more health problems during the rest of their lives. However, several scientific studies have now shown these concerns are unwarranted. For example, it has been shown that early-age altering of cats:

- does not cause stunted growth in cats
- does not contribute to increased surgical and anesthetic risks or post-surgical complication rates
- does not cause serious behaviour problems in cats
- does not contribute to feline lower urinary tract disease
- does not cause obesity

In fact, a large-scale study from Cornell University of over 1,600 cats—adopted from a humane society in New York State and followed for up to 11 years—showed early-age altered cats had less risk of certain health problems—including gingivitis, asthma and abscesses—than cats altered at traditional ages. The study concluded early-age altering provides more benefits than risks, especially for male cats, where decreased rates of urine spraying and aggression were seen.



Taking care

Certain guidelines must be observed for anesthesia and surgery in kittens, as they have special needs compared to those of adult animals. These young patients should have a complete examination before surgery and be vaccinated and de-wormed. Any external parasites such as fleas or ticks should also be treated. Kittens must be weighed accurately, so anesthetic drug doses can be carefully calculated. Certain drugs are most appropriate for animals in this young age group and this information is readily available to your veterinarian. Generally, kittens under four months of age are not fasted for very long before surgery; usually only for three to four hours. This prevents them from suffering from low blood sugar (hypoglycemia). They are also encouraged to eat a small meal within one hour of recovery from surgery, for the same reason.

When a litter is scheduled for surgery on the same day, the kittens are kept together in a quiet area before surgery. Separating them can cause anxiety and distress. As soon as possible after surgery, the litter is reunited.

During surgery, precautions are taken to ensure the kitten’s body temperature does not drop too low (hypothermia). Generally, kittens can be discharged from the hospital the same day as their surgery. Veterinarians who perform these procedures say surgery and recovery times are shorter and easier than with older animals.

Wider acceptance

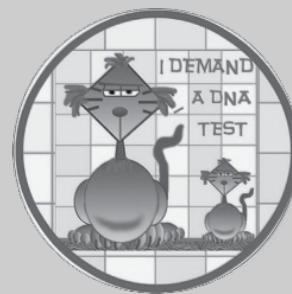
As we learn more about the benefits of early-age altering for kittens, it may become more widely applied. Although its main use at this time is to alter pets from shelters or rescue organizations before they are adopted, there may also be benefits to encouraging pet owners to choose altering earlier rather than later.

For example, by the time kittens have been fully vaccinated, de-wormed and treated for other parasites, most are 12 weeks of age or slightly older. It may be reasonable to schedule spay or neuter surgery within the next few weeks, rather than waiting until the kitten is over six months of age as is often done. This will provide the kitten with the benefits of earlier surgery and reduce the risk of an unplanned litter—given that cats can start reproducing as early as four months old.

Susan Little, DVM, is an Ottawa-based veterinarian board-certified in feline practice. For more information about early-age spaying and neutering, she recommends consulting your veterinarian and visiting the following organizations’ websites (www.americanhumane.org) and the Winn Feline Foundation (www.winnfelinehealth.org/health/early-spay-neuter.html).

DNA Testing

What, How & Where to go..



What is available...

Genetic testing is becoming increasingly common in veterinary medicine and offers many opportunities for breeders and pet owners alike. Coat colour and length testing allows breeders to anticipate the phenotypes (physical characteristics) of potential offspring, maximising the potential to produce the most desirable coat types.

Genetic testing can help breeders ensure the health of a litter by screening for genetic disorders in apparently healthy animals prior to mating (many feline genetic disorders are recessive, meaning that a cat can be a carrier of a potentially devastating disease and not show any signs). DNA 'profiling', the characterisation of an individual animal's DNA, enables accurate identification and parentage determinations to be made.

There is now a comprehensive range of feline tests avail from several Laboratories including:

- Agouti (Colour)
- Recessive black (AGOUTI)
- Blood Group DNA Testing
- B blood type (BLDAB) (not valid in Turkish Angoras and Ragdolls)
- Chocolate Cinnamon
- Collection Procedure
- Dilute (Colour)
- DNA Profile
- DNA Storage
- Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM)
- Long Hair / Short Hair for Cats
- Mucopolysaccharidosis
- Parentage Verification
- Sex determinate markers
- PKD Disease Testing
- Points (Colouration)
- Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA)
- Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA)
- Burmese GM2 Gangliosidosis
- Familial Episodic Hypokalaemic Polymyopathy
- Glycogen Storage Disease Type IV
- Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency

Where To Go...

Many of our breeders have used Animal DNA in Australia and it has been very satisfactory. They have a very quick turnaround once they receive the swab. They do offer a discount of 10% to NZCF members provided they include NZCF 12 in the appropriate part of the submission form.

www.animalsdna.com

UC Davis in America is also widely used, are recommended as quick and efficient, and are slightly cheaper against other Laboratories charges. They also allow you to save time by using your own 'Johnson' cottonbuds (recommended by them) rather than waiting for test kits to be sent to you.

www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/cat/

Not all Laboratories carry out all the tests above so you will need to shop around.

The powerful tool of DNA testing now addresses questions relating to the true identity of cats.

The "DNA profile", or "DNA fingerprint" of a cat is unique (except for identical twins). The same technology is used by law enforcement agencies throughout the world to accurately identify suspects of crime.

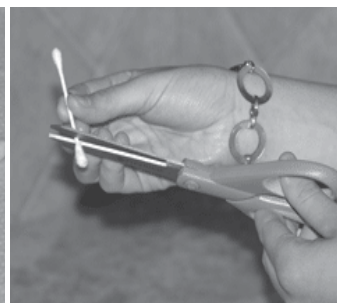
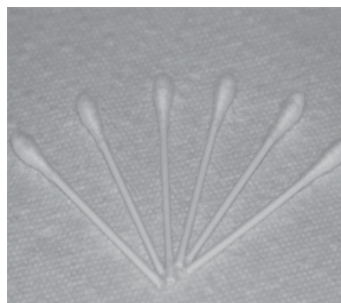
How To take a Swab...

Purchase a package of cotton swabs - the brand or type does not matter. You will need 4 cotton swabs per cat.

When removing the swab from a package, grasp only the stem and pull the swab out, avoid touching the cotton tip of the swab.

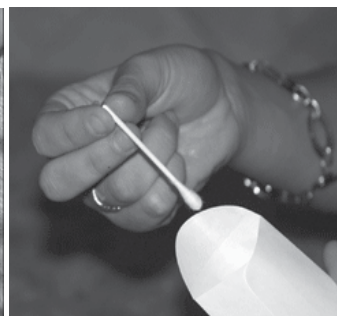
Using sharp scissors, cut the swab to remove the cotton tip at one end, or purchase the longer length single tips.

You will need 4 swabs for each cat to be tested.



Open the cat's mouth and rub the inside of the cheek vigorously with the cotton swab to collect the cheek cells, not just saliva. Repeat, using the other 3 swabs - take samples using 2 swabs on each side of the cheeks.

Young kittens have a small area inside their mouth for taking buccal swabs. We suggest you do two swabs one day and the other two swabs the second day.



Set the swabs that have DNA on them on a paper towel to dry. Do not allow the swabs to touch one another.

The samples should be air dried and placed in paper envelopes and NEVER in any sort of culture media.

NEVER PLACE THE SAMPLES IN A PLASTIC BAG, IIT WILL DESTROY THE SAMPLES!!

Coronavirus/FIP

Peritonitis is an inflammation of the linings of your cat's abdomen. When it is due to a specific coronavirus of cats, we call it FIP (= feline infectious peritonitis = FIPV). Over time, the term became used to describe all forms of lethal coronavirus disease in cats. This virus is very unpredictable. Sometimes it prefers to cause inflammation of the cat's chest and lungs, other times it causes chronic inflammation of its other body organs, sometimes it causes a little of all of these problems and sometimes (most of the time) it causes no serious health problems at all in your cat.

As of 2011, FIP may be the most common infectious cause of death in cats in the developed countries of the World. It gained that number-one status because vaccines have greatly reduced both panleukopenia of cats and feline leukemia and, as importantly, because the ways that groups of cats tend to be managed in the last 60 years favor its spread.

Feline Infectious Peritonitis occurs when a normally insignificant coronavirus of cats (FCoV) goes rogue. It affects only cats, wild and domestic. In its lethal form, it is what we call a sporadic disease - striking here and there - rarely twice in the same household unless cats are grouped there in large numbers. In its non-lethal intestinal form, it is extremely common in domestic cats. In some urban areas, up to seven out of ten cats had been exposed to it at one time or another. This number can go up in multiple cat situations.

The majority of cats that contract FIP are young, usually between three and sixteen month of age with over half being less than a year old. That said, very occasionally, the disease is discovered in an older cat.

Some Things About Corona Virus and Corona Virus of Cats

Many viruses are naturally unstable in their composition. This shape-shifting ability allows them to avoid the body's natural defenses by assuming novel, unrecognized forms. Coronavirus are notorious in this ability. The way they often do this is by forming a "hybrid" with a "cousin" virus that lives in some other animal species.

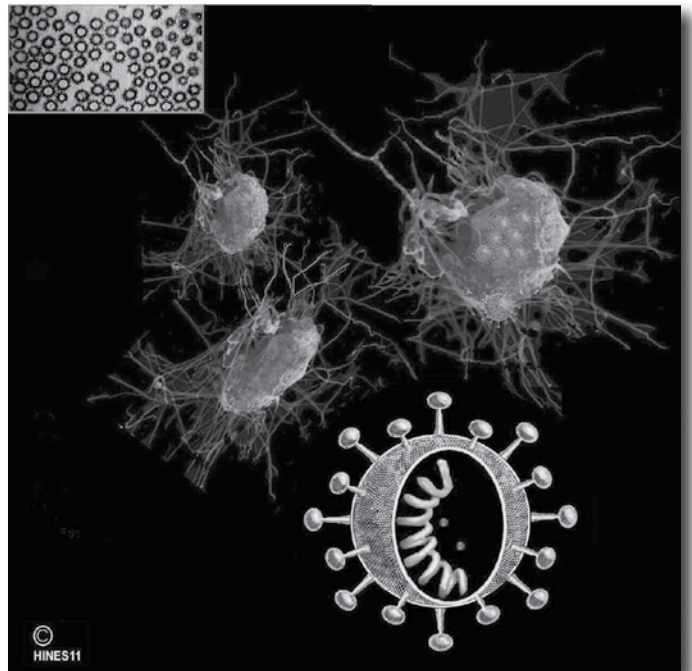
How Is FIP and Coronavirus Transmitted Between Cats - Where Did My Cat Catch It ?

First off, most veterinarians do not believe that FIP is transmitted between cats. At least we do not believe that it is common for one cat to catch FIP from another. That assumption is based on the fact that FIP-infected cats appear to shed very little virus. Remember, we think that FIP is caused only by a mutated coronavirus. Once the virus mutates, under natural home conditions, it seems to lose its ability to move from one cat to another.

Coronavirus is not a very tough or resistant virus when it is outside of the body. A little sunshine and warmth quickly destroy it and most common disinfectants readily inactivate (kill) it as do many detergents.

Experimentally, it can persist longer and be carried about when shoes, hands or clothes are contaminated with feces, but indirect environmental contamination is not how this virus usually moves about.

The spikes that cover Feline coronavirus have a predilection for compounds found on the surface of the cells that line your cat's lower intestine (colon). Once in these cells, coronavirus multiplies and escapes back into the cat's intestine, appearing in high concentration in its feces. It is that infected stool that is



the pic above is what coronavirus actually look like when seen through a Transmission Electron Microscope, (magnified about 200,000 times). The virus' jeweled crowns (coronas) give them their name. The spiked blue oval to the lower right of your screen, with a corkscrew strand of RNA within it, is my fanciful conception of what one of those coronavirus might look like. The spikes are the receptors that these virus uses to attach to and enter, their targeted cells. It appears that the proteins that form these spikes must mutate in order for feline corona virus to cause FIP.

the source of infection for other cats. The more likely a cat is to come in contact with the stool of cats carrying feline coronavirus, the more likely that cat is to also become infected. The virus enters the new cat through its mouth or nose. If infected stool is present in the same environment as a susceptible cat, in a home, shelter or cattery environment, the virus will likely spread to all susceptible cats no matter what precautions are taken. The greater the exposure, the quicker and more likely that is to happen. The vast majority of cats that are passing coronavirus in their stool do not appear ill in any way. Those cats can only be identified through laboratory tests that detect the virus in their stool.

How Common Is Feline Coronavirus ?

Almost every species of animal, from mice to whales, have their own form of coronavirus.

Detection of exposure to a virus through antibody tests does not necessarily mean that the virus is still present, and lack of antibody could occur early in infection, the numbers are soft. Whatever the true number, the virus is considerably more common than we would like.

When cats are not concentrated closer together than Nature intended, feline coronavirus is not a significant problem. Only 4% of your cats' wild European relatives show evidence of having met coronavirus.



How Does An Ordinary Unimportant Coronavirus Infection Develop Into A Case of FIP ?

Only a very small percentage of coronavirus-infected cats go on to develop FIP.

Veterinarians are still uncertain as to how much, FIP depends on changes in the cat, how much FIP depends on changes in the virus and how important virus dose and timing is to development of the disease. We all do agree on one thing, once a cat shows FIP symptoms that have been positively associated with coronavirus, nothing veterinarians can currently do will save that cat's life.

All infectious disease is a battle between the strength of invading disease organisms and the body's defense mechanisms. Much like a battlefield, FIP occurs when the strength of the virus invaders is greater than the strength of the body's defenders (the cat's immune system).

The common explanation for that is that the coronavirus changed into a lethal form after it entered your cat. Some change has occurred in the virus in your cat that altered the type of cells it prefers to live in.

coronavirus seem to be in constant change. Not all cats that form mutant virus will go on to develop FIP.

As of today, your veterinarian has no test that can distinguish between ordinary intestinal coronavirus and lethal FIP coronavirus. We must locate the virus in tissue or fluid where it should not be - outside of the intestine - to diagnose FIP with certainty. That can be very difficult - or impossible in a living cat. If we knew what the important molecular change(s) in this virus were, we could design an effective diagnostic test for the disease. More distantly into the future, if we understood the critical changes in the virus' docking process, perhaps we might design drugs or vaccines that prevented it from happening.

Occasionally, chronic diarrhea is attributed to the non-lethal, intestinal form of coronavirus. It is still unclear if

the coronavirus is the true cause or if these cats have multiple intestinal problems related to their genetics or concurrent diseases. So many cats are coronavirus positive that it is likely that cats with non-related intestinal problems also carry it.

Breeders

Commercial cattery have the highest rate of FIP. The cat breeding community, and veterinarians who assist them see that some breeds and breeders of purebred cats have more of an FIP problem than others. Since FIP is a battle between cat genes and virus genes, it seems logical to assume that some breeds of cat or strains (bloodlines) within breeds of cats will be more likely to develop FIP than others. Many veterinarians suspect that this is one of the many negative effects of inbreeding. When you breed for a visible trait of any kind, you both concentrate and loose other traits that are not visible. Robust immunity can be one of these non-visible traits. Cats that repeatedly produce FIP+ offspring should not be bred. If they must be bred, they should be bred to a different tom.

One ought not be too fast to jump to conclusions. It can be extremely difficult - and sometimes impossible - to sort out why disease occurs in clusters. The environment in no two cattery are identical and it is quite easy to mistake environmental causes for genetic causes. Behavior also influences disease susceptibility.

- Within a group, is one cat more likely to come in contact with coronavirus than another?
- How about nutrition and the strain of too frequent breeding ?
- what about other diseases present in certain facilities and cat stocks?

We already know that FLV+ cats are more likely to develop FIP. It is even possible that the presence of other virus in the cats make them resistant to FIP. Cats have their herpes virus, mice have their own. Mice infected with their herpes are transiently more resistant to other infections, possibly due to continual stimulation of their immune system. Could similar things be going on in cats? No one, as yet, knows.

Can other cats catch FIP from a sick kitty?

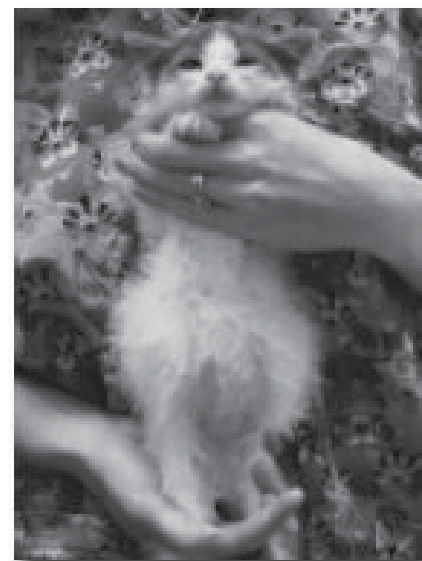
That probably will not happen. When feline coronavirus loses its interest in living in the cat's intestine (a change in tropism) and moves deeper into the cat's body causing FIP, much less virus is shed in the cat's feces. Although it is theoretically possible, we just don't see Much cat-to-cat transmission of coronavirus in its

dangerous FIP-form in the real World. Recent studies in the Netherlands confirmed this.(ref) When more than one cat in a household develops FIP, each is likely to have had a mutation event of its own, not transmission from one cat to another.

What Signs Will I See If My Cat Had FIP And What Signs Might My Veterinarian Notice On The Initial Examination ?

Early signs of FIP are subtle and can be easily missed. Lethargy, rough coat and poor appetite are often the signs that first bring these cats to the animal hospitals. Weight loss and a cat that just seems worn out might be all that alerts you. But that can be due to so many things. During the exam, it's common for those cats to be running low-level fevers. Your vet might suspect a bacterial infection and treat the cat with antibiotics. But antibiotics do not make these fevers go away.

When these cats have struggled with FIP longer, they are often anemic (non-regenerative anemia) as well. If the effusive form of FIP, the form where organ surfaces (polyserositis) and blood vessel inflammation (vasculitis) cause liquids to accumulate, is centered in their chest,



they will show breathing difficulties (dyspnea). When the problem is centered in their abdomen, a bloated, pear-shaped or pot-belly is a typical finding. Manipulating the tummy of these cats does not cause them any pain.

Learning that your cat has FIP is simply horrible and it devastates most cat owners.

No disease - not even feline leukemia - is as frustrating to deal with, as is FIP.

For more information and the entire report on this disease visit www.2ndchance.info/fip.htm

Papillomaviruses

Article submitted by Christine Yeoung.

Papillomaviruses are viruses that infect the skin and mucous membranes of a wide range of animals including cats and people. There are over a hundred different types that infect people and generally infection is asymptomatic or the viruses induce warts that are eventually resolved by the immune system. Research over the last couple of decades has shown however, that a couple of human papillomavirus types cause almost all of cervical cancer in women, and a proportion of other cancers in people. Because of this in 2008 the New Zealand government funded a large scale vaccination programme for year 8 girls to prevent these cancers in the future. This raises an interesting question: do papillomaviruses cause any of the tumours that we see in cats? If so, there may be an opportunity to prevent these cancers or find better ways to treat them.

For a long time we didn't even know if papillomaviruses could infect cats at all, as warts on cats are very rare. Rather, cats occasionally get a kind of flat wart called a viral plaque. As the name suggests, it turns out that these plaques are caused by a feline papillomavirus. So cats are susceptible to papillomaviruses but do any of the feline papillomaviruses give rise to cancer? The first clue that they possibly do was the observation of a group of snow leopards that experienced an outbreak of viral plaques¹. In two of the big cats, viral plaques became squamous cell carcinomas- a common type of skin cancer. But in our pet cats, these skin cancers don't start off as viral plaques rather they tend to occur on thinly haired areas such as the nose, eyelids and ear tips which suggests these cancers are caused by sun damage to the skin.

This issue was revisited in 2008 when a researcher at Massey tested 20 squamous cell carcinomas (SCCs) using a test he had developed to detect small amounts of papillomavirus DNA². Seventeen out of the twenty tumours had detectable viral DNA compared to only three out of seventeen other skin samples. This prompted more research that found that almost all of the SCCs that occurred in areas protected from sun had papillomavirus DNA compared to a smaller proportion of those that occurred in areas with lots of sun exposure. In total around half of the cancers contained papillomavirus DNA. So could there be two things causing skin cancer in cats- sun damage and the papillomavirus? Or was the presence of the virus merely a co-incidence? To further investigate, researchers at Massey looked for p16 protein in the cancers. In humans, oral cancers caused by papillomaviruses have increased p16 protein, which does not occur in cancers that are not caused by papillomavirus infection. Sure enough, the cat skin cancers that had papillomavirus DNA also had increased p16 protein and the ones with no papillomavirus DNA had normal p16 protein levels³. This strongly suggests that the virus may be playing a role in the cancer development but further research is needed.

Additionally, if the papillomavirus (Felis catus papillomavirus type 2) is causing some of the skin cancers in cats, what could we do about it? So far we suspect that about half of adult cats have the virus⁴, and in the vast majority it will be completely harmless, only in a very few might it cause cancer. Also it is worth noting that once the cancer is initiated, it grows of its own accord and removing the virus (even if that were possible) at that later stage will not cure the cancer. Again we turn to human medicine for the answer, vaccination before kittens become exposed to the virus poses the most promising way to prevent these cancers, as it is in women and cervical cancer. So when do cats become exposed to the virus then? Well again we do not know and this question is being address by current research at Massey which involves testing kittens at various ages to investigate for the presence of the virus.



A typical looking squamous cell carcinoma (a type of skin cancer) on the nose.



Back and neck of a hairless cat with multiple plaques some of which are progressing to cancer. Hairless breeds seem to be prone to developing this condition.

Any questions or comments about this research are most welcome. The majority of the research has been on biopsies of tumours removed by local veterinarians with just a few studies using cotton skin swabs and/or hairs from pet cats. These later studies caused no harm to the cats and were approved by Massey's Animal Ethics Committee. Sometimes we do require clinical cases and if you see a case that you think could be useful for these investigations we would love to hear from you. As is the case with most research investigating disease in companion animals, we are always looking for money to continued research that could lead to the development of an effective feline cancer vaccine.

If you would like to contact us, please email Neroli or John: N.Thomson1@massey.ac.nz or J.Munday@massey.ac.nz

Reference

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2. Munday, J.S., Kiupel, M., French, A.F., Howe, L., 2008. Amplification of papillomaviral DNA sequences from a high proportion of feline cutaneous in situ and invasive squamous cell carcinomas using a nested polymerase chain reaction. *Veterinary Dermatology*.
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NEWSY TIT BITS

Cat on dialysis after eating lily triggers lawsuit against florist!

The story starts off sweet: As he often did, Charley Gee picked up flowers for his wife while grocery shopping.

On this particular day in February 2012, he chose "Love Story Lily." The flower was packaged with a warning about not being for human consumption and about the risk of staining clothing, but there was nothing about potential harm to cats, said the Portland lawyer.

In the next 24 hours, Gee and his wife, Kara Bredahl, would rush their 8-year-old cat, Boogaloo, to the Emergency Animal Hospital. There, doctors flushed the cat's kidneys, put him on kitty dialysis and kept him for four days after the cat chewed on the leaves of the lily, which is highly toxic to cats.



Now, Gee is suing the Florist and its floral supplier, alleging product liability and negligence because they failed to label the flower with a animal-specific warning.

The lily was "unreasonably dangerous," according to the complaint, filed last week in Multnomah County Circuit Court. Gee argues that the responsibility lies entirely on the retailer and wholesaler to disclose the risk -- not on cat owners to know it themselves.

"When you have a consequence as high as that, it's up to the retailer or a manufacturer -- who are making money off this product -- to warn of these potential high consequences of buying the product," he said.

In addition, Animal Lawyer, Johnson noted that the companies did label the flower with the not-for-human-consumption warning and the staining alert.

Those warnings could actually lull buyers into a "false sense of security," Johnson said. The buyer would not realize there are other hazards.

In addition to seeking \$1,500.00 in veterinary bills, Gee wants the florist and flowersellers to specifically label lilies as highly toxic to cats. He said he filed the lawsuit after both companies declined to pay the vet bills and add labeling.

Boogaloo has made a full recovery, Gee said. His flower shopping, however, has not.

Now, if he buys flowers, he doesn't bring them home, he said. They go directly to his wife's office.

LILY TOXICITY

What is it?

Numerous houseplants can be toxic to our pets, with virtually all species of lilies causing acute kidney failure in cats.

Other pets, such as dogs and rabbits, do not seem to be affected.

Examples of these plants are the Easter Lily (*Lilium longiflorum*), Tiger Lily (*Lilium tigrinum*), Asiatic lily (*Lily asiatic* spp.) and Rubrum Lily (*Lilium rubrum*).

Lilies usually have smooth, linear, leathery green leaves that grow in a clump at the base of the plant or that arise along a tall stem.

The toxic principle within the plant is unknown, but all parts of the plant, including the leaves, stem and flower, appear to be toxic.

Clinical Signs

After a cat has eaten part of a lily plant, signs of stomach upset (vomiting, lack of appetite, or lethargy) may be present.

In approximately 2-4 days after ingestion of the plant, signs of kidney failure may begin which can include loss of appetite, depression, vomiting, and lack of urination.

Diagnosis

Laboratories will check for kidney failure through blood urea nitrogen (BUN), creatinine, and phosphorus. A urine analysis will also be performed to look at the concentration of the urine (specific gravity) and any abnormal cells that may be identified under the microscope that can indicate kidney failure.

Treatment

Treatment must be performed early in order to be successful, and focuses primarily on emptying the stomach within 4 hours of ingestion of the plant, and administering medications to prevent absorption of the toxin from the gastrointestinal tract. It is also essential to provide intravenous fluid therapy for diuresis for at least the first 24 hours to make sure that the kidneys continue to function appropriately.

If the stomach is not emptied, and if medications are not given to prevent absorption of the toxin, kidney failure usually begins within 2-4 days. At that point there are few treatment options, and the mortality (death) rate from lily toxicity is high.

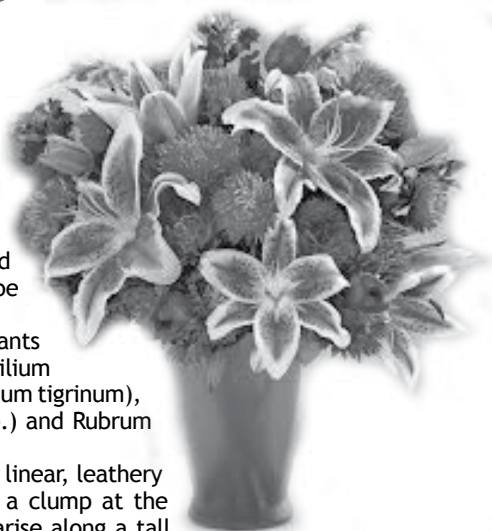
Prognosis

If emptying the stomach and administering medications to prevent absorption of the toxin are effective, the prognosis for recovery is excellent.

If enough toxin is absorbed to lead to acute kidney failure, then the prognosis is guarded to poor, and the mortality rate is high. This makes it essential to seek emergency care immediately after ingestion of the lily plant.

References

If you would like to read more on \ Lily toxicity, or seek information on other plants that may be toxic to your pets, please visit the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) web site at www.aspcanet.org/NationalAnimalPoisonControl.



World Cat Congress



World Cat Congress 2013
Hosted by GCCF
(Governing Council of the Cat Fancy)
www.worldcatcongress.org

Delegate: Chris M Lowe

By way of sponsorship the WCC made it possible for an NZCF delegate to attend the World

Cat Congress which was held in Cambridge in the UK and I was honoured to be the

Delegate. I would like to share with you some notes taken from the Seminar and also

the photographs taken at the GCCF World Championship Show & Norfolk Cat Club show both

of which I was asked to judge at. Just imagine the Judges rooms which had almost

60 judges, I had difficulty getting my head around the share logistics of organising that many

judges to officiate at a championship 2 ring show with just under 500 entries. The show is a

closed show with the judges moving around the venue with a small trolley it was fun even

though at times it would have resembled a trolley derby to the untrained observer. It was a

wonderful opportunity to judge alongside a large contingency of judges which included I

believe the oldest officiating judge in the world Grace Denny at the age of 95 who judged the "best of the best".

Seminar Topic:

ETHICAL AND RESPONSIBLE CAT BREEDING

All delegates in attendance were asked to present a paper "How my organisation promotes ethical & responsible breeding". I was able to report that the membership of NZCF at their AGM 2013 had voted to adopt changes to our constitution and among the changes included a long term vision & strategic Flash Cats

plan which would ensure a renewed focus on 'best practice' breeding.

(Speaker) Prof Sir Patrick Bateson "The welfare aspect of breeding cats" Professor Bateson has dedicated his life to animal behaviour how genetics and environment affects behaviour - he commended all the members of WCC who are working towards beneficial changes to ensure that there are responsible cat breeders. Breeders should optimally breed for temperament. Breeders must continue to assess the consequences of inbreeding which is likely to cause:

- Less survival rate
- Less likely to reproduce
- Lower birth rates
- Spontaneous abortions
- Expressed genetic disorders
- Reduced immune system function (indirect genetic affect leading to health problems)
- Most cats are much more line bred than their pedigrees suggests this has undoubtedly assisted in the change of confirmation of breeds very quickly using the 'apple head' Siamese as an example compared to the new look Siamese of today. Persian - the newer version suffering from serious health issues. The Scottish Fold - by selective breeding the folded ear has become so tightly folded that the cat does not have the ability to hear.
- Cats are often inbred on the wrong traits - if we are interested in the health problems then you should preserve the breeds by less inbreeding.
- Evidence of maternal genes - genes of the father are very dominant - mothers are suppressed - temperament affected primarily by the fathers.

Future Reading Reference: "The Domestic Cat the Biology of Behaviour" - DC Turner & Patrick Bateson

Royal Canin - Royal Canin is the proud sponsor of the WCC and the partnership is a valuable one. The first step has been taken to build an updated cat encyclopaedia. Members of WCC have agreed to support this project and with this in mind I have contacted the Breed Representatives to assist with the completion of the breed sheet and to source photographs - this will definitely give NZCF cats the profile they deserve on the world stage.

Speaker - Prof. Tim Gruffydd-Jones (Professor of Feline Medicine Bristol Veterinary School) Topic: "Health Issues in pedigree cats, past, present & future."

With rescue organisations frowning on people who choose to deliberately breed cats when there is a huge population of unwanted cats is only one issue that breeders around the world face. It is really important that breeders strive to produce:-

- The healthiest animals.
- Phenotype health
- Resistance to infection/disease
- Temperament
- Reproductive health

Dystocia Frequency: A further study had been made on dystocia (being difficult births that could lead to caesarian sections). They had looked at this in terms of the head construction of the cat, mesocephalic breeds (2.3%) that is those of average head shape such as the Abyssinian or the Korat had less frequency, the brachycephalic breeds (7.3%) being cats with flatter faces such as Persians, Exotics and to a lesser extent, British shorthairs had a higher percentage but the fact that they were breeds having larger heads, which were less likely to go through the birth canal easily, and also smaller litters, with proportionately large kittens, had to be taken into account.

However, there was a striking difference in the frequency of dystocia between those head types. They had also looked at cats with extended heads dolicocephalic breeds such as Siamese and Orientals and found that they had an even higher proportion of dystocia sitting at 10.0%. This could be explained by the larger litters in these breeds that could lead to uterine inertia, which can

occur after a queen has had four or five kittens and is too tired to continue.

With the litter sizes averaging 3.5 kittens the viability starts to increase - you can select for litter size, a queen from average litter size, the sire does not influence the size of the litter but will influence the ovulation of his daughters. It however is recommended that you choose a stud from a litter of average size.

Turning to the present, he thought schemes such as the GCCF accredited breeders scheme and similar schemes in other organisations, were to be applauded. In some organisations there was a system of mentoring where an experienced breeder would mentor a novice breeder. GCCF Breeder Scheme www.breederscheme.gccfcats.org

Looking at the future, the cat fancy needed to be aware of the fact that there was a real focus on health and welfare. In the UK a new Animal Welfare Act with a requirement for individuals to take responsibility for the animals they owned and to ensure that their requirements were met, had promoted awareness of this issue. There had been television programmes on dog breeding which led to reports from the British Kennel Club and an independent enquiry had been produced by Sir Patrick Bateson. This he thought could also focus attention on cat breeding and breeders could not be complacent about their position. He considered it essential that breeders ensured that their 'house was in order' as it was inevitable that it would be the subject of scrutiny in the future.

He then mentioned measures being taken currently and cited GCCF's General Breeding Policy which he considered to be an excellent document and listed some of the most well known genetic tests which were currently available and which were effective to enable breeders to eliminate certain diseases from their cats. He cited the test for PKD which had been developed by Professor Lyons at UC Davis. Since this test was first used in 2005 when the incidence of PKD was about 30%, it had now dropped to under 5%. He considered that breeders had welcomed and used the test, which was something for which they could be proud.

He showed a photograph of a Burmese suffering from Hypokalaemia which was a condition seen not only in this breed. It is a hereditary condition associated with a low level of potassium in the blood. It produces muscle weakness that can affect the cat holding its head up properly and in some instances also in walking around. Professor Lyons had researched this and there was now a diagnostic test available. This was a good example of where breeders had identified a problem and had approached Professor Lyons' laboratory for help in sorting it out.

Taking of DNA Swabs: Were there advantages in having an independent body record the results? The other way was to rely on the honesty of breeders. Nowadays bucal swabs were used and the majority of samples which were sent came from breeders themselves. Alternatively, vets could be used to collect the swab and they would be able to read the microchip on the cat at the same time, however there would be charges involved. It had also been suggested that these records should be maintained by registering bodies, which had been done in the case of Gangliosidosis in Korat cats in the GCCF. The spread of infectious diseases was dependent upon the number of cats which were being kept in one place. Respiratory virus infections were very difficult to control, despite vaccinations, and these were particularly prevalent where cats were kept in large groups. Tests had been taken on healthy cats and it was found that about a quarter of pedigree cats were carrying caliche virus whilst being perfectly healthy themselves. Two surveys had been done, one before the vaccines had been available and another when they had been around for some time. It was clear that vaccination made no difference at all to the prevalence of the caliche virus. The other big problem was FIP and the more cats being kept together in one place, the more likelihood there was of FIP developing. It was generally said that if numbers increased beyond about six or seven in a group, the chances of having FIP escalated dramatically.

The other issue was extremes of conformation, although a big issue in the dog world, it was less so in the cat world. If the Press were to focus on the cat fancy, they would only look at the

extremes which led to problems, they would not look at the good things.

Referring to breeds which were based on genetic mutations, he mentioned the Scottish Fold, which was not registered in the GCCF although the Manx cat was; however recognition of the Manx had taken place a long time ago. There were new breeds coming along such as the Japanese Bobtail, which is a breed based on a defect. If one of the accepted breeds had such a tail, it would be considered a defect so he questioned the wisdom of accepting a breed that was based on a defect. Whilst individuals may not have an interest in these breeds, the public perception would be that these defective breeds were accepted in the cat fancy.

He finished on a cheering note with the announcement that FIP research at Utrecht University appears to have identified a specific mutation associated with FIP. Whilst this did not address the problem of prevention, this could lead to a reliable diagnostic test, which would be a big step forward.

Prof Leslie Lyons (Professor of Genetics) "Genetic test to maximise ethical breeding and quality health of cats" Professor Lyons is leaving UC Davis and moving to Missouri but the co-operation with UC Davis will continue and she will be a Professor emeritus, remaining on the faculty.

Matter of Ethics: The genetic point of view where taillessness and PKD are severe mutations, so severe that with two copies of them they are lethal in utero so from a genetic point of view they are bad.

However PKD could survive through the cat if there was only one copy and some cats do not get kidney disease at all, which showed it to be a tricky mutation. Where to place others is a problem. Where, for example, should Scottish Folds, Brachycephaly or Polydactyly be put? She did not have a problem with polydactyly, she did not accept that it was better for these cats to walk on the snow as Siberian Tigers, Lynx and Snow Leopards did not have extra toes, so there was no truth in that assertion. Her criteria as a geneticist were what would happen if they were all turned loose in the wild. Anything that had to be done for a cat, such as wiping its eyes

or helping it to deliver kittens was not natural and should not be necessary so all those things should be taken into account. All that was required of a cat was the ability to procure energy by utilizing its food properly and to be able to produce offspring. Mutations affect reproduction. Mutations leading to death in utero were obviously not good. Some mutations affected a cat prior to its breeding life but others didn't appear until later in life, at which point it was too late to do anything about it. It was not easy to decide which mutations should be eliminated. They could prevent hypokalaemia and polycystic kidney disease and this was saving thousands of cats. She pointed out that once the knowledge was there, it brought with it the ethical responsibility of using it properly.

Genetic Diversity: One of her recommendations was that the Burmese all over the world should work together, irrespective of whether they were from Europe or Australia or were traditional or contemporary American Burmese. She recommended that they be mixed up in the interests of saving the breed from extinction. Also some of the Asian cats could be used as they could be genetically tested.

Taillessness: There were actually several different mutations of the same gene which did not correlate. If there was one copy, it might be a rumpy, a stumpy or a rumpy riser. She recommended that, to be safe, a rumpy should only be mated with a long tailed cat.

The Pixiebob had the same tailless mutation as the Manx, as well as the Japanese Bobtail. Japanese Bobtails were also missing a thoracic vertebrae otherwise there were no health issues and the lack of a thoracic vertebrae evidently created no problems. She had no issues with the Japanese Bobtail. The other thing that was important was to know the frequency of the mutation in a population before it was possible to decide to get rid of it or how to manage it. To do that unbiased data was needed. If a group of cats had been tested for PKD and then needed to know whether they had another condition, the unbiased set of samples was already available.

Was it necessary to be very careful with Burmese with Hypoleukaemia and Head Defect and now there was the mutation for oral facial pain as well - the answer



was a definite yes. Overall testing gave the possibility to make good decisions and it could be used as a marketing tool, which would give peer pressure.

She congratulated the breeders who had used the test for hypokalaemia and commented that the American Burmese breeders were, sadly, not using the test for the head defect, indeed half the testing was coming from Europe. This showed that European breeders and also Australian breeders had the head defect. She strongly recommended outcrossing although she knew this was controversial and pointed out that it was now possible to swab for a DNA test and also to get a DNA fingerprint.

Breeders should be using testing as a marketing tool it allows them to make good decisions - DNA testing does however, not predict severity - we need to be able to define all the genetic variations that are already there and to do this we need to have a big database to give us a variance that might mean something.

Future Readings:

GCCF Breeder Scheme www.breederscheme.gccfcats.org

CFA - Why do we need breeders?
CFA Breeder Code of Ethics & Breeding Strategies for the Management of Genetic Disorders (winn@winnfelineheath.org)

GCCF website - www.gccfcats.org
Future Reading Reference: "The Domestic Cat the Biology of Behaviour" - DC Turner & Patrick Bateson



Grace Denny, a wonderful lady, oldest Judge at 95 years.



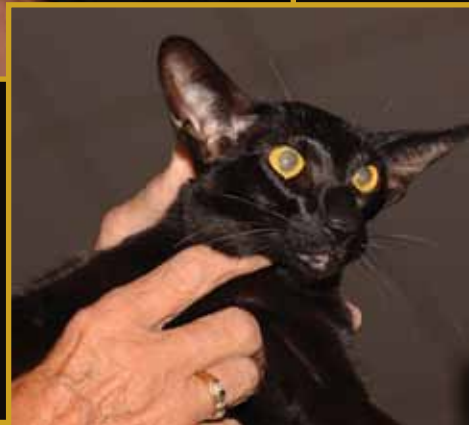
WCC Show Gallery



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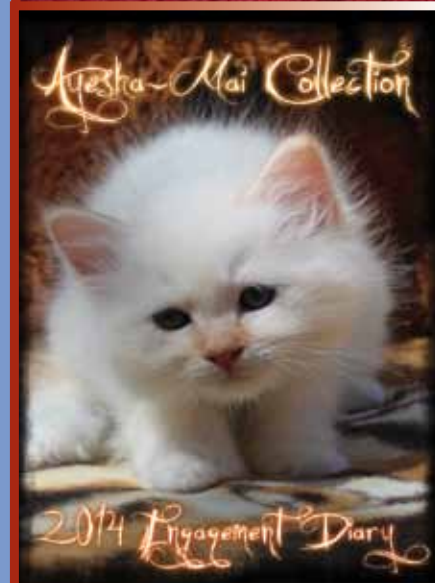
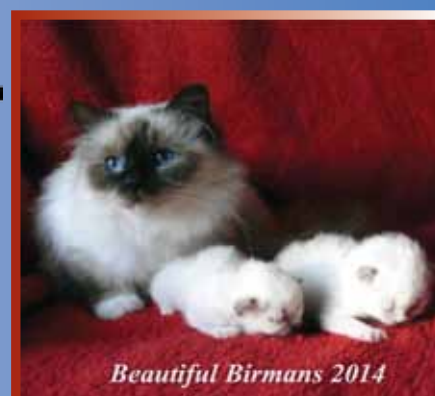
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For further information and photo specifications please contact me as above.

If anyone is interested in a calendar or diary of their particular breed/s or just want a
calendar for their cattery, I would be happy to discuss terms etc.



HOW THE CORNISH *Got It's Curl*

Pelage, or a mammal's coat, consists of hair, fur, wool, or other soft covering. Pelage provides body temperature regulation and protection against injury and the environment. It also provides camouflage, recognition within a species, and sexual allurements to promote courtship and mating. In addition, cat breed pelage has aesthetic value to humans. The Cornish Rex have a rexoid (curly/wooly) coat consisting of a wavy coat that falls in washboard-like waves known as marcel waves. The coat lies close to the body and is very soft due to the lack of guard and various awn hairs. The majority of Cornish Rex also have bent and twisted whiskers.

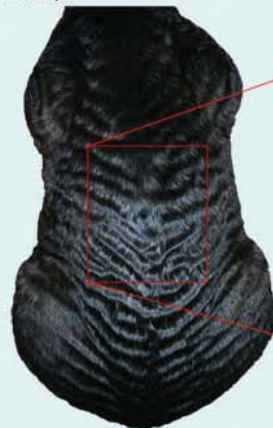
Hair follicles have a complex structure dependent on hundreds of gene products. The Cornish Rex coat variant is inherited as an autosomal recessive single gene trait. Researchers from University of California, Davis and their colleagues used genome-wide analyses to identify the gene locus controlling the rexoid hair texture in this breed. Approximately 63,000 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) were included in the analysis of the Cornish Rex breed, 11 phenotypically diverse breeds, and two random bred cat populations. A candidate gene was located on chromosome A1, and led to the identification of a 4 base pair deletion mutation in the lysophosphatidic acid receptor 6 (LPAR6) gene causing complete loss or reduction of the receptor function. Lysophosphatidic acid and its receptor are expressed in the inner root sheath of the hair follicle and

are involved in structural integrity of the hair shaft. Mutations in this lipid-signaling pathway are associated with hypotrichosis (loss or reduction of hair growth) and woolly hair syndromes in humans. This is the first characterized mutation within LPAR6 associated with curly hair in an animal other than humans.

Standard and magnified view of the coat of a perfectly groomed adult Cornish Rex cat. The coat has been stroked from head to tail creating a tight ripple effect that results in such a high gloss that the coat almost looks wet.

Good quality Rex coat, showing depth of ripple and high gloss along spine from neck to rump.

Magnified view of the ripples showing exquisite sheen, depth of the perfectly formed waves, and density of awn hair coverage in a typical full rex coat



The silky fineness of the hair strands and light reflection along the crest of each wave formation is clearly visible.

HOW THE SCOTTISH *Got It's Fold*

The story of the Scottish Fold takes place in the Tayside Region of Scotland in 1961 when a shepherd named William Ross spotted a white barn cat named Susie with ears folded forward and downward at a neighbor's farm. She looked like a cuddly owl. He adopted a white kitten from Susie's litter and later bred that cat to local farm cats and British Shorthairs. These litters led to the foundation for the Scottish Fold breed.

Since the 1960s, Great Britain's Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF) banned Scottish Folds due to unfounded concerns about ear health and deafness. Even though it has been determined that this breed is not more prone to deafness than any other white cat with blue eyes, the Scottish Fold is not recognized as a breed in Europe.

Now ranked 17th in popularity among the CFA-recognized breeds, the Scottish Fold was granted championship status in 1978.

The Look of a Scottish Fold

Breeders describe the Scottish Fold as an "owl in a cat suit" due to its folded back ears, big, expressive eyes and smiling grin.

Scottish Folds are round in many ways: face, body shape and whisker pads. Their thick, resilient coat comes in both



shorthair and longhair lengths. This breed comes in virtually every color and pattern except solid lilac, chocolate and color pointed.

All Scottish Fold kittens born with straight ears and in a month, some evolve into folded ears. To obtain the folded ears, one parent must carry the folded-ear gene because straight-eared folds do not carry this gene.



The Breeds Standards Advisory has been busy with a large number of issues under review and consideration.

There has been some confusion with exhibitors over whether the Seal and Black tipped and shaded Burmilla should be judged collectively. There has been an unintentional change in the layout of the Breed Codes which will be changed back to insure that these colour patterns continue to be classed together.

Japanese Bobtail colour descriptions will be aligned more closely with the CFA breed standard at a request from the JBT breeders

An Experimental Breeding Program with Classic Pattern Tabby Tonkinese has been approved. Another EBP that is developing the Tonkinese gene-pool within a specific colour range (red and cream).

We have recently checked and aligned all of the Breed Standards to insure both electronic and printed publications are identical.

Continuing work on:

- The alignment of the 4 Breed Standards (Siamese Oriental Balinese and Javanese), to clarify that these cats all have the same type. Coat length and coat colour will differ for the individual breeds.
- Caramel classifications for Ch Status with Siamese Oriental Balinese and Javanese.
- Consideration of compulsory testing for Hypokalemia for importing Burmese.
- The responsibilities of Breeder Mentors
- Developing the list of colour codes in the Standard of Points for the 2014 Show season.
- Develop protocols for DNA testing requirements for NZCF.
- Membership knowledge and feedback of New Breed Acceptance.
- Tiffany Schedule of Breed Codes

Listed below are the items that the BSAC will be taking to the Executive Council to consider.

- Foreign Whites: There has been a request from the breed group to consider the Foreign White in relation to moving them back to Oriental Breed.
This is so that they will be judged with Orientals (breeding rules - what constitutes a Foreign White - will not change).
- Better Clarity of Intermateability Terms of Reference.
- Intermateable Breeds and their recognised Colours.
- Experimental Programmes in Developing Breeds.
- Russet Burmese/Mandalay Ch Status.
- Mandalay Silver Tabby CH Status.
- Tiffany Burmilla re-registering proviso removal from prior to 2010.
- Tasman Rex SH and LH and we are recommending a change in breed name.
- Changes to the Bengal standard to resolve some issues with silver and Snow Bengals.
- New breed Cashmere;

We look forward to moving ahead on these matters.

Roy Griffiths
BSAC PM



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KITTEN CONTRACTS REVISITED

By Zena Pigden

If you've bought a cat for breeding, especially if you've bought from someone who doesn't know you well (but often even if it is from a friend), chances are there was some agreement between you about whether you could sell or transfer progeny for breeding (or perhaps where you could sell kittens to - eg an overseas breeder might require no progeny to be sold back to their country), whether you could make a male available to others for stud service, etc. Sometimes there are requirements about providing good care to the cat. There may have also been some agreement about what the breeder will do if the cat proves unsuitable for breeding or is not able to breed successfully. That agreement might have been verbal, an exchange of emails or a formal written contract that both parties signed. All of these are contracts although verbal contracts can be very hard to enforce or refer to - memories fade over time and there is no objective evidence to confirm exactly what was agreed. If you have sold kittens for breeding, you may also have experienced the process from the other side. So what are the pros and cons of having a breeding contract? On the plus side, this is what one breeder said: "I think contracts used sensibly protect the cat and give assurances to the owner. It also helps the genepool often as a cat sold with no restrictions is quite often over used and the genepool is flooded."

Restrictions are seen as a way of avoiding popular sire syndrome (where a sire is very widely used and it later emerges that he has some genetic issue that has, as a result, become widespread in the breed) and related issues (such as everyone wanting to purchase progeny of a new import). In this sense they are seen as beneficial to the breed as a whole. However it must be said that a significant motivator for many breeders is the fact that they've invested time, energy, and money into developing their breeding programme. They feel it's unfair if someone buying a breeding cat from them then profits from that by being able to freely sell progeny of that cat for breeding (when they haven't put the same amount of investment). They'd rather people come to them for a breeding cat and they can then choose whether or not they feel happy selling to them.

As one breeder summed it up:

"I know I have spent thousands bringing in studs from overseas - I wouldn't want someone to give those lines out to others for a small stud fee when I have paid throughout teeth to get them and I would like to choose whom gets the lines as well. I don't really let my lines out often so I wouldn't want someone else to give them out."

Often people also feel that having a contract will protect the welfare of the cat (for example ensure that it is desexed and given a pet home when no longer needed by that breeder rather than being passed from breeder to breeder).

But it's not all good. Restrictions on what progeny can be kept or sold, make things very difficult for new breeders and indeed can be frustrating for any breeder. Buying breeding stock is expensive and having the freedom to (for example) do a kitten swap with another breeder can be a good way to bring new blood into a cattery. Or alternatively being able to sell a kitten for breeding can provide the cash needed to invest in a new breeding kitten. Moreover the breeder purchasing may feel that the kittens they

produce are just as much a tribute to their breeding skill (and the time and money they've put into their breeding programme) as that of the person they purchased from. Especially so if they've been breeding for a while.

Restrictions that carry on down several generations are even more limiting - and I have to say, questionable. Once the cat under contract is a grandparent, they have only contributed one quarter of the genes in their grandchildren. As a great grandparent, they have only contributed one eighth of the genes in their great grandchildren... so it's hard to see the justification for restrictions still applying - 7/8 of the breeding has come from other cats.

As a purchaser, being able to make a stud boy you've bought available for stud service not only generates income (and since most of us don't make a profit, any income is a plus, and generally gets invested right back in the cats), but also enables a breeder to help out fellow breeders by giving them the option of another male to use in their programmes.

But besides all that, restrictive contracts have wider repercussions on breeds as a whole in our tiny country. Restrictions on sale of progeny for breeding essentially confines particular lines to few (sometimes very few) breeding catteries. This is a double edged sword - on the one hand it may mean the development of a number of relatively unrelated small gene pools that could subsequently, if made available to other breeders, benefit breeding programmes by providing 'new blood'. But if they are never available to other breeders or only with significant restrictions, they do not benefit the breed as a whole... and there's a real risk that lines can be lost completely and all that investment of time, money, and breeding skill goes to waste...

As one breeder commented, "I know in the Birmans, lots of the wonderful old lines have disappeared due to breeders not allowing progeny to be on sold."

Another consequence of the practice of having closed catteries and not sharing lines can result in inbred cats within a breeding programme as has happened in some breeds in America. A Burmese breeder wrote "....while I see the point of those who pay to import breeding cats and do not want to share their lines, I am very aware of what is happening in USA with some breeds - American Burmese in particular - where the genetic diversity is decreasing rapidly. I am on a Burmese Genetic forum and I am shocked to read of folk who have had closed catteries for years and are now experiencing small, (2-3) light weight (under 70g) -litters where many of these kittens do not survive."

Long time breeders who remember the early history of breeding in New Zealand talk of a very different culture in the old days and feel that much of the development of breeds here could not have happened without breeders who imported being willing and able to share their lines with others. They speak of the generosity of breeders such as Bon Moran whose imported Siamese studs were made available for stud service (without restrictions) and made a major contribution to the breed.

Here's another consideration.... Generally speaking breeders who are ethical will breed with care, provide for the care and welfare of their cats, and respect the preferences of the breeders who have sold them kittens. They will do this whether or not there is a written contract in place. Breeders who are less ethical will probably not feel constrained to abide by a contract - so even

Kitten Contracts continued...

though the seller may have done their best to exert some control over what happens to the cat they have bred or its progeny, it may not do a bit of good - as another breeder commented:

....."contracts" or agreements and so on are probably a waste of time in most cases, The ethical breeders will honour them or at least do what is right whether they have a contract or not, the unethical ones will ignore the contract anyhow. "

Have we gone too far in our desire to control what happens to cats of our breeding and their descendants? Are we making it too hard for new breeders to get established by restricting what can be kept from a stud service? Are we contributing to a breeding culture where everyone protects their own patch (for financial or other reasons) but the wider breed does not benefit from what we have created? A culture where restrictive contracts prevent breeders from making the best choices to advance their own breeding programmes? Perhaps we have to make a leap of faith and put more trust into the people we sell our breeding kittens to, or permit to use our studs (or don't sell or allow stud service, if we can't give them that trust).

Of course there is a role for contracts and if there are to be any conditions (including ones such as offering the cat back to the breeder if no longer needed, or desexing at a certain age) it is much better that they be written down to clearly refer to. But restrictions which severely limit the sharing of lines may do more harm than good to our breeds and breeders in the long run.

It has been suggested that the NZCF generate some examples of standard contracts that breeders may (or may not) choose to use. It's also been suggested that the NZCF provide some means by which breeders can register contract provisions (for a fee) covering breeding progeny of a specific cat, so the seller's permission is required to be able to register or transfer progeny from that cat 'for breeding'. This has yet to be discussed at EC level (it was agendaed for August but we ran out of time). Comment on either of these ideas is very welcome, please send your thoughts to the NZCF secretary Chris Lowe at secretary@nzcfc.com

For more than just grooming

Do you remember the very first time you were licked by a cat? If you had been used to the smooth sensation of a dog's tongue then it was probably quite surprising to experience the rough feel of a cat's tongue. If, however, you've lived with cats for many years, you probably don't even think twice about that sandpaper sensation. Here are some facts about the cat's tongue:

The Tongue is Covered with Papillae

The tongue of a cat has tiny, backward-facing barbs (papillae) on it and they're the things that create that rough sensation. The barbs serve several important functions. They make it easier for a cat to rasp the meat from the bones of his prey. The barbs also aid in grooming as they collect dirt, debris and loose hair from the cat's coat. The downside to the backward-facing barbs though is that anything the cat collects on her tongue will usually end up getting swallowed and that's how your cat may end up with lots of hairballs. The barbs on the tongue also make it dangerous should your cat get some yarn, string or tinsel in his mouth because he won't be able to spit it out.

Grooming for Survival

After a cat has eaten his prey he will groom to remove all traces. This is an important survival strategy because he doesn't want to alert any other prey in the area to his presence. Additionally, a cat is small enough so he is not only a predator but potential prey as well. Removing traces of a fresh kill would be very important to his own safety as well. cat mouth closeup Your Cats Tongue

Grooming for Comfort

Your cat will also use his tongue to groom himself to help keep cool through evaporation.

Grooming for Behaviour

Grooming is also a displacement behavior and your cat may use his tongue to groom areas of his body if he feels stressed or

anxious. Repeated grooming in the same area can actually cause bald patches. A cat will also use his tongue for social grooming. You may notice this if you have a multicat environment and you see two cats engaging in allogrooming.

Taste Buds

The cat's tongue has fewer taste buds than a human has and interestingly, the cat, in general doesn't have a taste for sweets. We probably create that habit and desire in our cats by feeding inappropriate foods.

Food Texture Preference

The texture, size and shape of food are important to the cat and he may like or reject a certain food based on how it feels on his tongue.

Drinking Water

It used to be that experts thought the cat laps up water by curling the tip of the tongue into a makeshift spoon but recent research has shown that the cat actually drinks by curling the upper side of the tongue downward and then darts it across the surface of the water at a remarkably fast speed. This causes a column of water to rise up and the cat closes his mouth just in time to collect it before gravity allows the water to fall back down.

This research was done by a group from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Princeton.



Worlds Furriest Feline

Colonel Meow is the furriest cat in the world!

An American cat with its own website, Facebook page and YouTube channel now has another achievement to add to the list: A world record.

'Colonel Meow' has earned a place in the Guinness World Records 2014 for the longest hair ever measured on a cat.

The two-year-old feline from Los Angeles has hair that measures nine inches.



He proudly displays his certificate:

Owners Anne Marie Avey and Eric Rosario say they are delighted by the world record.

"We already knew that he was the best cat in the world, but to be recognised in the Guinness World Records book takes it to the next level," says Ms Avey.

However, owning the world's furriest cat does have its downside.

"Literally everything in the house has hair on it," she says, "including us! I feel like I'm always vacuuming!"

Maintenance of Colonel Meow's epic mane can also be a herculean task, the couple say.

He needs brushing up to three times a week and it takes two people to complete the job.

Ms Avey and Mr Rosario adopted the Himalayan-Persian cross-breed from a cat rescue centre.

Colonel Meow found fame earlier this year when his owners posted footage of him on YouTube (see below) which has racked up millions of views.

<http://weeklyworldnews.com/headlines/57513/worlds-furriest-cat/>



Gamble pays off & Saves Rory

A gamble to give a transfusion of Labrador dog blood to a rapidly deteriorating cat has paid off with a quick recovery by the feline that had been at death's door.

It was realised that six-and-a-half-year-old ginger cat Rory needed a transfusion late on a Friday evening. There was not enough time to find his blood type by sending a sample to a laboratory before it closed.

Giving a cat just a millilitre of the wrong type of cat blood would kill it, vet Kate Heller of Tauranga Vets said. It was suspected Rory, who had bled internally, had eaten a poisoned rat or got into someone's rat bait.

"Rory was going to die before we were going to get his blood type," Heller said. "He was really dying before our eyes."

She talked to Rory's owners about the risks of giving the cat a blood transfusion from a dog and they decided to give it a go. Cat-to-dog transfusions were given at times, although she had never done one before, Heller said.

"There are some significant risks of doing what we did. He could have died because of it. He would have died without it." Rory's owner Kim Edwards knew someone with a Labrador, and the dog was rushed to the vets.

After starting the transfusion, Heller monitored Rory for an hour, then went home to have some dinner.

"I came back to check him after about an hour, and he was sitting up eating and purring. He responded really quickly to the transfusion.

People aren't the only ones who may need a life-saving blood transfusion in the event of an emergency.

Dogs too are donating blood at animal hospitals for fellow canines in need of a transfusion. The need can arise for the same kinds of medical problems that lead animals to need blood, including car accidents, anemia or because they're undergoing surgery.

So this was indeed a lucky day for Rory.

For more information visit: <http://www.natureworldnews.com>



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- Establishing animal welfare codes and standards.
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- Establishing the Animal Welfare Trust - providing funding to worthy groups/individuals working in the field of animal welfare.
- Encouraging interaction between Animal Welfare Agencies.
- Influencing Legislation.

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1/4 Page B/W	\$25.00

MEETING NOTES FROM EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

MEETING NOTES: 17-18th August 2013

This Executive Meeting was definitely more memorable not so much for the decisions made on the weekend but more the shaky ground underneath - experiencing a number of significant earthquakes. I am sure that these did not affect the decisions made by your Executive Council.

Gareth Morgan Foundation - a letter is to be sent advising that NZCF do not endorse their anti cat policies and request that an initiative to facilitate support of desexing programmes and also acknowledging support being provided by SPCA & NZ Veterinary Association.

NZCF Show Day Representatives - a feasibility study is to be carried out prior to the next meeting to establish terms of reference. This initiative is all about NZCF having a higher profile with our Affiliate Clubs and supporting them on show day.

Recognition of ANCATS Judges - After taking into consideration all correspondence the ANCATS Judges have been accepted on the same basis as all other overseas organisations.

Health & Safety Club Compliance: Health & Safety Act requires NZCF to have a policy in place - Clubs are required to endorse the policy. Any Club that chooses not sign the NZ Cat Fancy's Health & Safety agreement will not be included on the NZ Cat Fancy Combined Liability Insurance policy.

NZCF Annual General Meetings - all future AGM will be held in Wellington including the 2014 meeting.

Foreign White - will no longer be judged in the Siamese, Balinese breed section but they will be with the Orientals, Javanese. There has been no change to the intermateability rules.

NZCF Policy for Bilateral and Multilateral Intermateability - was accepted on recommendation by the BSAC.

Key Features of Bilateral and Multilateral Intermateability

- Off-spring registered on phenotype
- No variants
- Not subject to generation stripping

"Unilateral and bilateral intermateable breeds will automatically have the same colours and patterns accepted. When colour restricted patterns differentiate between breeds within a breed group, (e.g., Siamese/Oriental/Balinese/Javanese or Burmese/Mandalay), the appropriate changes to the colour and pattern standards will be made.

Permitted Outcross -

A beneficiary breed is permitted to outcross to specified breeds with no requirement for an approved experimental programme. Identical type is not required and generation stripping is applied.

Key Features of Permitted Outcross

- Off-spring registered in beneficiary breed only
- May produce variants
- Always requires generation stripping

Experimental programmes - in Developing Breeds shall follow the Developing Breeds generation progression.

Challenge Status - approved for Russet Burmese and Russet Mandalay

Approved for Silver Tabby Mandalay

Tiffany registered before 2010 - that have a Burmilla parent may be re-registered as Burmilla Longhair at no charge.

Renaming of Tasman Rex - Tasman Rex Shorthair become Tasman Isle of Man Shorthair and the Tasman Rex Longhair become Tasman Isle of Man Longhair, with both breeds retaining the current breed codes (TRS and TRL, respectively).

Updated Bengal Standard of Points has been adopted

Cashmere Breed (Longhair Bengals) have been granted preliminary status as the Cashmere breed, which will have bilateral intermateability with the Bengal breed.

Officers Honoraria - all Officers receiving an honorarium will have a 10% reduction from the 4th quarter of 2013. Expression of interest for all appointed positions will be called for in October.

Judging Promotions - Janice Davey Senior All Breeds

Rosemary Wilson - Senior Longhair Judge

Please note: Change of Date for 2014 AGM - to 26th April in Wellington

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Note: Contact details correct at time of publication but may change from time to time.
For latest contact information visit www.nzcf.com



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Note: * denotes Fee \$ changes from 2012

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Pro-rata fees apply for new Full/Family members only at 9, 6, & 3 mths

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Late Payment Fee from 01/02/13 (Existing Members)	* \$	20.00

All memberships each receive 4 x Issues of Flash Cats

OTHER FEES

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Cattery Accreditation (Bi-Annual)	* \$	50.00
Complaints - NZCF Members only	\$	51.00

Governance Documents (downloads available fm NZCF Website)

Constitution	* \$	10.00
Registration Rules	* \$	10.00
Schedule of Breed Codes	* \$	10.00
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Standard of Points - SH with cover	poa	
Standard of Points - LH without cover	poa	
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Payable to Treasurer (on receipt of debtors invoice)

Flash Cats Advertising - Refer to rates listed separately in Flash Cats		
Flash Cats Breeders Directory - 4 Issues (invoiced)	* \$	24.00

Payable to Executive Secretary

Flash Cats Folders - incl postage	* \$	20.00
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REGISTRATION FEES

Payable to LH, SH & PR Registrars

Registrations: per Litter		
Per Litter - up to 4 months of age	\$	26.00
Per Litter - over 4 months of age	* \$	52.00
Imported Cat/Kitten Registration	\$	41.00
Penalty Fine for Non-Registration of Litter	* \$	50.00

Transfers: per Cat/Kitten	* \$	6.50
Breeding Cats & Kittens (incl certified 4-Generation Pedigree)	* \$	32.50
Non-Breeding Cats & Kittens	* \$	6.50
Penalty Fine for Non-Transfer - per cat/kitten	* \$	10.00

Certified Pedigrees:

3 Generation	\$	21.00
4 Generation	\$	26.00
5 Generation	\$	41.00
6 Generation	\$	77.00
7 Generation	\$	100.00
8 Generation	\$	150.00
Colour or Sex, or Name Change	* \$	6.50
Export Documentation	* \$	5.50
Leasing Fee: New for 1st year (incl certified 4-Gen.Pedigree)	\$	38.50
Leasing Fee: Renewal for 2nd & final year	\$	12.50

SHOW FEES

Payable to Treasurer (through Clubs)

Benching Fees:		
Pedigree - per exhibitor per ring (1st exhibit)	\$	4.00
Domestic/Companion - per exhibitor per ring (1st exhibit)	* \$	4.00
Penalty Levy for late receipt of marked catalogue to Honours Registrar	\$	5.00 per day
Penalty Levy for late receipt of Benchng Fees to Treasurer	\$	5.00 per day

Payable to Executive Secretary or Treasurer

Applies to fees payable by 31 December 2012 for 2014 Show Year

Clubs - Show Booking Fee (non-refundable & payable 2 years-in-advance)	\$	50.00
Clubs - Show Application Fees - per ring - less Show Booking Fee credited against 1st ring fee (payable in December 1 year-in-advance)	\$	50.00
Clubs - Show Late Application Fee - for fees received after 31/12/12	\$	25.00

Note: Co-operatively held shows attract separate show booking fees

STATIONERY

Payable to Executive Secretary

Desexing Contracts (per 50) - incl \$2.10 for postage	* \$	14.00
NZCF Badges (Gold on Blue) - incl .70 cents for postage	* \$	6.70

The following forms are available as downloads from the NZCF website, as well as being available for sale. All prices include .70 cents postage.

Application for Registration (per 10)	* \$	4.00
Leasing Advice Notices (per 10)	* \$	4.00
Transfer Forms (per 10)	* \$	4.00
Pedigrees - standard (per 10)	* \$	4.00
Pedigrees - colour (per 10)	* \$	6.00

2013 NZCF Show Calendar

Sat 15th September 2013	Burmese NZ - Northern	1	To be advised
Sun 15th September, 2013	Canterbury All Breeds	4	Canterbury
Saturday, 21st Sept 2013	Wellington & Pedigree Persian Supreme	4	Cancelled

2014 NZCF Show Calendar

Sunday 2nd March 2014	Shorthair Cat Breeders (Pedigree SH Domestic & Companions)	3	Canterbury TBA
Saturday, 15th March 2014	Burmese NZ Central (All SH) (1 specialist & 4 All Shorthair Breeds)	5	Palmerston Nth
Sunday, 16th March, 2014	Canterbury All Breeds	4	Canterbury
Saturday 22nd March, 2014	Metropolitan SHCC(All Pedigree SH)	3	Auckland
Sunday 30th March 2014	Southern Cross LHCC	4	Dunedin
Saturday, 5th April 2014	Dominion Shorthair (All Breeds)	4	Wellington
Saturday, 5th April 2014	Otago Siamese & SH Pedigree CC (All SH)	4	Dunedin
Saturday, 12th April 2014	Central Districts Cat Fanciers (All Pedigree Breeds + 3 rings Domestic/Companions)	4	Masterton
Sunday 13TH April 2014	Auckland Cat Club (All Breeds)	3	Auckland
Saturday 19th April 2014	NZ Siamese - All Shorthair (3 rings) Domestic & Companions Siamese specialist - (1) ring	4	Christchurch
26th April 2014	NZ Cat Fancy AGM		Wellington
Sat & Sunday 3rd & 4th May 2014	Palmerston North (All Breeds)	6	Palmerston Nth
Saturday 10th May 2014	TOSCA (Specialist & SH Guest breeds)	3	Auckland
Sunday 11th May 2014	Longhair Cat Breeders (LH Pedigree/Domestic & Companions)	5	CHCH
Saturday 17th May 2014			
Sat 24th May 2014	NZ Burmese (SOUTHERN) All SH	5	Christchurch
Sat 24th May 2014	Mid Island Cat Club (All Breeds Domestic & Companion & Club ring for children this is a Dinner Show)	4	Te Awamutu
Saturday 31st May 2014	Birman Cat Club & Companions	4	Hamilton
Sunday, 8h , June 2014	Geyserland Cat Club (All Breeds)	4	Tauranga
Sunday, 15th June 2014	Canterbury All Breeds	4	Canterbury
Sunday, 15th June, 2014	Wellington Cat Club (All Breeds)	4	Wellington
Sunday 22nd June 2014	Auckland Cat Club Inc	4	Auckland
Sunday, 29th June 2014	NATIONAL - NELSON		
	1 Ring National/3 Rings All Breeds	4	Nelson
Saturday & Sunday 5th-6th July 2014	Alpine SH Cat Club - 5 rings Saturday & 3 rings Sunday (All Breeds)	8	Christchurch
Saturday 5th July 2014	Taranaki & Sacred Temple (combined show) Taranaki (All breeds 3 rings) + domestics & Companions - Sacred Temple (Birman 3 rings) & Companions	6	New Plymouth
Sunday, 13th July, 2014	Hamilton Cat Club (all breeds)	4	Hamilton
Saturday 19th July, 2014	Pedigree Persian Cat Fanciers (All Longhair Pedigree & Companions)	6	Wellington
Sunday 27th July 2014	Geyserland Cat Club (All Breeds)	4	TBA
Saturday 9th August 2014	Abyssinian & Somali Cat Club (All SH)	3	Auckland
Sunday, 10th August 2013	Shorthair Cat Breeders (Pedigree SH Domestic & Companions)	3	Canterbury TBA
Saturday, 16th August 2013	Hutt Feline (All Breeds)	4	Lower Hutt
Saturday 23rd August 2014	Southland Cat Fanciers All breeds Domestic & companions	4	Invercargill
Sunday 7th Sept 2014	Kapiti-Horowhenua	4	Kapiti
Saturday 13th Sept 2014	Patches & Pointed Inc.(3 rings All Breeds) 1 ring specialist	4	TBA
Sun 14th September, 2014	Canterbury All Breeds	4	Canterbury
Saturday, 20th Sept 2014	Wellington & Pedigree Persian Supreme (All Breeds)	4	TBA
Sun 28th September 2014	Burmese NZ - Northern All SH	4	Auckland

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