



THE FELINE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC

www.felineassociationsa.com

Updated JLP 10/1/2011

CAT BREEDING BASICS

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR BREEDERS & ADVICE FOR PURCHASERS OF PEDIGREE KITTENS

BREEDING

- ☞ The cattery should have registered prefix.
- ☞ The cattery will appear **clean**, with no undue odour (there may be some smell attached where a stud cat is housed). Cats and kittens will appear **healthy, happy and active**. There will be no more cats/kittens than what the breeder and their family can effectively care for.
- ☞ The cats/kittens will be raised in an environment that offers them physical and mental stimulation, and **kittens will appear to be well handled** (not timid).
- ☞ Kittens should only be placed in homes where the breeder genuinely believes the new owner will provide a life-long commitment of responsible pet ownership.
- ☞ The breeder breeds with the intention of improving or maintaining the standard of the breed, and not for commercial purposes.
- ☞ The reputable breeder does not knowingly sell any cat/kitten to a commercial cat wholesaler, retail pet dealer or directly or indirectly allow cats/kittens to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind.
- ☞ Female cats under the age of 10 months of age will not usually be mated (unless veterinary advice has been sought).
- ☞ Matings should be spaced such that no queen will deliver a litter more than twice a year.
- ☞ No cat, male or female, will be mated to a cat of a different breed unless it is part of a recognized experimental program.
- ☞ The breeder will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed, nor falsely advertise, or mislead any person regarding the performance of any cat.
- ☞ Any kitten that is to be sent interstate or overseas will be a minimum of **14** weeks of age.
- ☞ The breeder will not knowingly breed from a cat, male or female, known to exhibit or carry any genetically transmitted trait or defect that will affect the health of the breed.
- ☞ *(Breeders of Persians and Exotics are strongly encouraged to test their breeding cats for Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD). Buyers of these kittens are strongly recommended to check that they are buying from stock that has been tested PKD free.)*

SALES OF KITTENS

- ☞ **Kittens should not go to new homes unless they are: vaccinated, are in general good health and are at least 12 weeks of age.** The kittens should have had at least 2 vaccinations; generally one is given at 8 weeks and one at 12 weeks. The Core Vaccination is for Feline Enteritis, Feline Herpes virus and Feline Calicivirus known as 'F3'. There are now vaccines available for Chlamydia, Feline Immunovirus (FIV or Feline Aids) and Feline Leukemia (FeLV). Any cat that has access to the outdoors should be vaccinated against FIV.

Upon the sale of the kitten the new owner must be provided with a current vaccination certificate for that kitten issued and signed by the veterinary surgeon who carried out the vaccinations. The breeder should ensure that the 12 week vaccine is given.

- ☞ Breeders are encouraged to have their kittens desexed prior to sale to a new owner. This procedure is safe, and has no long-term adverse effects on the cat. Consideration should be given to microchipping the kitten before sale to the new owner.



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- ✔ **Breeders should be prepared to give ongoing advice and support to the new owners, not just at the time of sale.**
- ✔ The new owner should be provided with:
 - ✚ **Written details of all dietary requirements**, especially what the kitten is being fed currently;
 - ✚ **Vaccination certificate**;
 - ✚ **Pedigree**: a properly completed and signed pedigree showing at least 3 generations, colours, and the breeder's name and address;
 - ✚ **Information** on: Responsible pet ownership, which includes:
 - ☞ Identification
 - ☞ Desexing
 - ☞ Confining, at least at night
 - ☞ Housing, including mental stimulation for the pet
 - ☞ Any other information that will ensure the cat/kitten fits into its new environment with minimum stress;
 - ✚ **A sales contract**, which will detail:
 - ☞ a guarantee that the kitten/cat is in good health at the time of sale (If the kitten contracts any illness within 7 days, the breeder will take the kitten back or pay the veterinary bills of the new owner), (breeders may insist on their own vet);
 - ☞ requirement that the kitten be spayed or neutered by five months of age (if not sold already neutered) and not be allowed to produce any offspring (unless a breeding arrangement has been entered into);
 - ☞ whether the kitten or cat is being sold as a neutered pet, neutered show cat, or intact breeding cat. (New owners should sign the DESEX form);
 - ✚ And may offer a FASA & club **membership forms** and other available **information pamphlets** on showing, etc.
- ✔ The breeder will ensure that the purchaser of a stud male is made fully aware of the care, responsibility and the standard of facilities required to keep such a cat.
- ✔ The breeder will encourage the purchaser to make contact if he/she has any questions or concerns, and the breeder will respond in a timely manner.
- ✔ The breeder will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise cats nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of any cat or kitten.

REGISTRATION

- ☞ All litters should be litter registered.
- ☞ If the individual cat/kitten is to be registered to the new owner, the paperwork should be sent to the Registrar as soon as practicable, and certainly within 2 months of sale to a new owner. (Forms are available from the FASA website).
- ☞ Registration may be noted on the form as "Breeding" or "Non-Breeding". "Non-Breeding" means that the cat is to be desexed and should the cat produce kittens, none of its progeny can be registered. It is the responsibility of the breeder to explain to the new owner the meaning of "Non-Breeding" status, and to get the new owner to **sign the agreement on the registration form**. Breeders may also state "Show" or "Not for Showing" on registrations, and must explain the significance to the new owner.

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