

American Cat Fanciers Association

Helpful Hints for the New Exhibitor

Going to the First Show

So you finally decided to enter your first show. Whether your cat is a lovable household pet or a stunning pedigreed cat, his chances are equal to win in his class. You are about to enter a world of interesting sights, new people, and lots of fun for both of you.

CARRIER! You must have a carrier to transport your cat to and from the show. Airline approved carriers are the best. They are sturdy and will keep your cat safe while traveling. These carriers are available in pet stores and are sold by companies who advertise in cat magazines. Cardboard carriers are not recommended for this type of travel.

CAGE CURTAINS! These curtains are used to line the inside of your show cage. They will prevent your cat from seeing his neighbors and will ensure privacy and a secure place for your cat to rest between rings. Cage curtains can be as fancy or as plain as your wish. There should be three pieces. One for the floor, one to cover both sides and back, and the last one for the top. The material should be washable, and easy to fasten to the cage. The approximate size of the cage is 22 x 22 x 22. You will be getting your cage ready before the show starts. To make your cat comfortable you may want to include a shelf, bed, and his favorite toy.

OTHER NEEDS! Your show cage will need a food and water bowl and a litter pan. Usually the show will have litter and food available. But is always wise to check. If your pet is finicky on what he eats it is better to bring his favorite food.

To keep your cat looking good you will need a comb and/or brush. Combs work great for longhairs and a chamois for shorthairs. Claw clippers are essential for keeping your cat's nails clipped. All shows demand that the claws are clipped, and the judges appreciate not having a frightened cat with long claws. To clip the claws properly you need to clip as far down as possible without cutting the quick (that is the pinkish area before the claw). Remember to do front and back.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST! You may want to bring paper bags to dispose of your garbage. Don't forget a pen to mark your catalog with. You will need a small suitcase to carry all your paraphernalia.

NOW WHAT! You should arrive at the show at least an hour before starting time. When you arrive you must check in with the entry clerk and they will give you your entry number. Usually a benching chart is on display and you locate your number and proceed to the assigned cage. Set up your cage as we explained before, locate the judging rings, so you will know where to go, and check your catalog entry for any possible errors. Listen for your number to be called to each judging ring. Be prompt so not to keep the judge waiting. Between rings visit the vendors, meet the other exhibitors and have fun.

GOOD LUCK AND WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF CAT EXHIBITORS!!!

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