



# CAT SHOW GUIDE



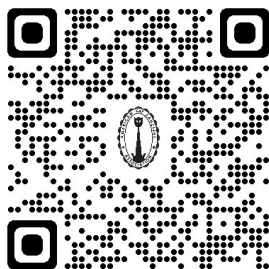
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# Welcome

Welcome to the cat show!! We hope you will enjoy looking at all the wonderful cats we have on display. We have pedigreed cats and household pets being exhibited at our show. These cats are judged by our professional judges who are licensed with ACFA. Originating in 1955, ACFA is known as the *Fairest*, *Friendliest* and most *Fun* feline association! Our goal is to promote the welfare, education, knowledge and interest in all domesticated, purebred and non-purebred cats, to breeders, owners, exhibitors of cats and the general public.

## Our Mission

ACFA provides efficient, accurate, professional quality services to our members and customers. We provide all services in a friendly and respectful manner befitting the integrity of our Association, and we support our most valued asset, our Members.

## Our Goals for the Cats

Promotion of the best interests of purebred and non-purebred cats and of breeders, owners and exhibitors of cats; and promotion of education, knowledge and interest in all domesticated cats, purebred and non-purebred, for the general public.





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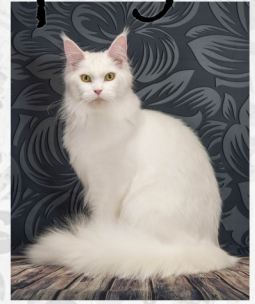
# The Breeds

ACFA, recognizes 70 breeds for championship competition. Each breeds has a written standard, which every judge is familiar with and by which they evaluate the cat.

Abyssinian  
American Bobtail Longhair  
American Bobtail Shorthair  
American Curl Longhair  
American Curl Shorthair  
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Aphrodite Longhair  
Aphrodite Shorthair  
Australian Mist  
Balinese  
Bengal  
Birman  
Bombay  
British Longhair  
British Shorthair  
Burmese  
Burmilla Longhair  
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Cymric  
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Havana  
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Oriental Shorthair  
Persian  
Peterbald  
Pixiebob Longhair  
Pixiebob Shorthair  
Ragamuffin  
Ragdoll  
Russian Blue  
Russian Shorthair  
Scottish Fold Longhair  
Scottish Fold Shorthair  
Selkirk Rex Longhair  
Selkirk Rex Shorthair  
Siamese  
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Singapura  
Snowshoe  
Somali  
Sphynx  
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# The Show

Cat shows are typically held on weekends. Each day there will be four (or more) rings running concurrently and each ring acts as a separate show. Each judge works independently of the others. They are not allowed to compare notes. Every cat entered is judged in every ring. A cat may win Best Cat in one ring but may not always win the same award in another ring.

Our rings are divided into ALLBREED and SPECIALTY. In an Allbreed Ring, all cats compete for the various awards. In the Specialty Ring, the cats of like coat length, either longhair or shorthair, compete for the various awards. Our cats are judged in five different classes:

**KITTEN** (1-90) class is for pedigreed kittens between the ages of 4 to 8 months.

**New Breed/Color** (91-99) is for 1) pedigreed cats, whose breed or color is not yet accepted for the championship class or 2) cats who are either in the experimental or probationary status of working toward being accepted as a championship breed.

**CHAMPIONSHIP** (100 Longhairs/200 Shorthairs) class is for unaltered pedigreed cats over 8 months.

**ALTER** (300) class is for the Spayed/Neutered pedigreed cats over 8 months.

**HOUSEHOLD PET** (400) class is for mixed-breed cats or pedigreed cats who do not meet the breed standard for their breed. There is no “breed” standard for Household Pets. They are evaluated according to health, cleanliness and “purr-sonality”. All household pets must be altered by the age of 8 months.







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# COLORFCAT MAINE COONS

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# The Awards

All classes of cats (except for NBC's) compete for year-end awards. These awards are recognized at the Inter-American and Regional levels. A cat must compete in at least 16 rings to be eligible for a Regional Award and 24 rings to be eligible for an Inter-American award. The top 24 rings are scored, unless the cat has competed in fewer than 24 rings, in which case the top 16 rings are scored.



In the Championship class, adult cats and alters compete for champion and grand champion titles. Each cat starts at the OPEN class level, where s/he compete against other cats of the same sex, color and breed. If he/she places **FIRST**, s/he receives a blue ribbon, **SECOND** is a red ribbon and **THIRD** is a yellow ribbon.



The **WINNERS** ribbon, (a red/white/blue ribbon), will be given to each first place awarded in the open or champion class. A cat must receive four Winners Ribbons for each championship claimed.



After all cats of one color are judged, a **BEST OF COLOR** award is given, which is a black ribbon, and a **SECOND BEST OF COLOR** is given, which is a white ribbon.



After each breed is judged, a brown **BEST OF BREED** and an orange **SECOND BEST OF BREED** ribbon is awarded.







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Once a cat receives 16 winners ribbons and receives six (6) final awards of Best Champion or higher, under six (6) different judges, of which two (2) awards must be 10th Best Allbreed Cat or higher, the cat qualifies for the title of GRAND CHAMPION.

After a judge handles and evaluates all the cats in a class, s/he presents his/her top cats. In the Allbreed ring TOP TEN is awarded. In the Specialty ring, if there are less than 25 longhair or shorthair cats then TOP FIVE is awarded. The Class win, BEST CHAMPION, is also presented. In the event there are more than 25 cats entered by class, then TOP TEN is awarded and no Class win is awarded.

KITTENS compete with other kittens of the same sex, color and breed for first, second and third place. They also compete for best and second best of color and breed. Kitten wins are for year-end awards; they do not earn titles.

HOUSEHOLD PETS are all judged together regardless of color, age, and sex in the Allbreed rings. They are divided by hair length in the Specialty rings. There is no written standard for HHPs, but they receive a merit award if the cat reflects good health and condition. Allbreed judges award TOP 10, if less than 40 catalogued entries and TOP 15 if there are more than 40 catalogued entries. Specialty judges award TOP 5 if less than 25 catalogued entries and TOP 10 if more than 25 catalogued entries. All judges award Class Wins: Best and 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Royal, Best and 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Supreme. The points that a HHP wins go toward year-end awards and titles.



# SO YOU WANT TO SHOW YOUR CAT, HERE'S HOW:

If you own a pedigreed cat, kitten, or alter, or a loveable household pet, you too can become part of the excitement of an ACFA cat show. Be sure to check out the Show Calendar at <http://www.acfacat.com> for upcoming shows in your area. After you locate a show in your area, you might want to contact the cat club to answer any questions that you may have. If you decide that you would like to show your cat or kitten, read the next page for helpful information.

## PREPARING FOR THE SHOW:

Contact the cat club to find out how to enter and when entries are due. Usually, you can enter on line at <https://myacfaonline.com/eclerk/>. Payment and entries must be received in advance and are non-refundable. If you are confused, call the entry clerk.

On the entry form or on the eClerk site, you will be asked for your information and your cat's information. You need to know your kitty's birthdate, color registration number (if there is one) and sex. You automatically receive a single cage with your entry. A single cage is 22"x22"x22". You might want to purchase an extra space to give your kitty more room which will make the cage space 45" in length.

Get your kitty accustomed to being handled by strangers, being put into a carrier and being groomed. Bathe your cat several times prior to the show and then do a "show bath" closer to the time of the show. Clip nails and clean ears. Make sure that your cat is current on his/her vaccinations.



The club provides a wire cage for you to use in your “benching area” when your kitty is waiting to be judged. You need to provide cage curtains for your benching cage. You need to cover the top, back, sides and under the cage. Sheets or towels work well. Bring safety pins and binder clips to secure your cage curtains to the cage.

When packing for the show, you should pack food & water dishes, cat food, a litter pan, your cage curtains, grooming supplies (a comb/cotton swabs/nail clippers/lint brush), a pen, your entry confirmation and directions to the show hall and hotel. Get kitty used to a certain bed or blanket. If your kitty has a favorite toy, plan to pack it in your show bag too.

Transport your cat in a cat carrier. You may not simply carry your kitty into the show hall in your arms.

### **AT THE SHOW:**

Plan to arrive at the show hall during the “check-in” times listed on the show flyer. When you arrive at the show hall, you will check in with the entry clerk who will give you your catalog and direct you to your benching area. Note your cat's number in the catalog.

Set up your cage. Don't be afraid to ask for help! Everyone has been a first-time exhibitor and cat people are always willing to help a new exhibitor.

Check your cat's information as it is printed in the catalog. If there are any errors, you need to make corrections with the Master Clerk. Ask someone where they are located and make the necessary corrections.







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Note the location of each ring and the judging schedule which is usually located on the back cover. Listen for your cat's class and your cat's number to be called. When your cat's number is called, carry your cat to the ring and place in the cage with you cat's number. The chairs in front of the rings are for exhibitors and spectators. You might want to sit and watch some of the judging. Do not talk to the judge unless they speak to you. Never identify your cat to the judge. That would be unacceptable.

When your cat's number is turned face down, you can take your kitty back to the benching cage. Be patient and wait until there is room for you to enter the ring. You do not want to bring your cat face to face with another kitty.

After the entire class has been judged, that is when the finals occur. That is when the judge picks what s/he believes to be the top cats in that class. You will hear the announcer say "Finals in Ring \_\_\_\_\_. Check your numbers". You need to go to the ring and see if your cat's number is up. If so, go get your kitty and put him in that cage. If not, you should sit and watch the finals to be a polite exhibitor. Be a gracious winner and a gracious loser. There will be another ring soon and that judge may have a different opinion. When finals are complete, if your cat is in the final, be sure to thank the judge when you pick up your cat.

Your cat will be judged in all of the rings each day. Sometimes your cat will be judged in two rings before finals are called in the first ring. Schedules change so be alert. Make sure not to leave the show hall until all of the rings are completed. If there is a special situation and you need to leave early, be sure to find the show manager and ask for their permission. This is a show rule.

Showing cats can be a very enjoyable hobby. Have fun. Meet new people. Learn about different breeds. Enjoy yourself!



## **What Color Is That Cat?**

Cats come in many different colors. ACFA recognizes over 4,000 different colors and patterns. Some you will see at almost every show. For example – Brown Tabby and White. Others are very rare. For example – Cinnamon Golden Shaded Van. Each Breed Standard describes the colors which are allowed for that breed which may be one color or all of them.

The names for cat colors which are used by Breeders and Exhibitors are not always the same as the common names for those colors. Here are some of the common color names with their cat fancy equivalent to help you understand what you are seeing and hearing about at the show.

<b>Common</b>	<b>Cat Fancy Name</b>
Orange	Red
Beige	Cream
Grey	Blue
Tiger	<b>Tabby</b> – There are 3 forms of Tabby. Mackerel Tabby has straight stripes on the sides like fish bones. It is usually written as McTabby. Classic Tabby has big swirls on the sides and shoulders. Spotted Tabby has random spots instead of stripes. There is also a Ticked Tabby which has almost no stripes.
Grey Tabby	<b>Brown Tabby or Silver Tabby</b> – Both of these Tabbies have Black stripes. Brown Tabbies have light brown color between the stripes. Silver Tabbies have silvery color between the stripes. All other Tabbies get their color name from the color of the stripes themselves. For example Blue Tabbies have Blue stripes, Red Tabbies have Red stripes, Chocolate Tabbies have Chocolate stripes, etc.
Calico	<b>Tortoiseshell and White.</b> This color has big spots of both Black and Red combined with any amount of White. A cat that has big spots of Blue and Cream combined with White is called Blue-cream and White.
Torbie	<b>Patched Tabby.</b> Big patches of both Brown Tabby and Red Tabby. Can also be big patches of any other Tabby colors plus either Red Tabby or Cream Tabby.

## **Bathing 101**

Always use products that say that they are safe for cats. First thing I do is cut toenails on all four feet. Next, I use degreasing shampoo. I put it on the coat dry. Hit the greasy areas behind the ears and base of the tail especially. Shampoo the body with your choice of products. I use baby shampoo around the eyes. Pay attention to front of ears and ear openings. This works well on the chin area also. Use a cotton swab **gently** inside the ears. Now rinse and do a second wash. On the second and last rinse, you must rinse-rinse-rinse. I do not use conditioner as it weighs the coat down. This is a choice according to what works best for your cat's coat. I use a ShamWow to remove all the water. Try different shampoos on your cat but not the week of the show!

If your cat is a longhair, you need to blow the cat from wet to totally dry. **THE SECRET IS EVERY HAIR IS BONE DRY!!!!** I use forced air dryers and blow the hair up towards the head. This will blow the dead hair out and straighten the coat. Use a **metal** comb, combing down to the skin through the coat. If you have an extra oily coat, you can baby powder the coat with baby powder (talcum not cornstarch). I put it on a wet coat and blow it out as it dries. Yes, it does make a mess but it will silken every hair. If your cat is black or a dark color only do this between shows.

Shorthair cats need bathing also. If you see dandruff, it usually is an oily coat that needs to be bathed more often. Show bathing is done at least every 10 days or weekly. Follow all the above directions except the blowing dry.

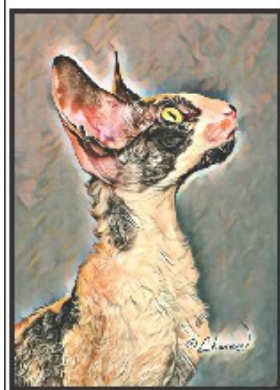
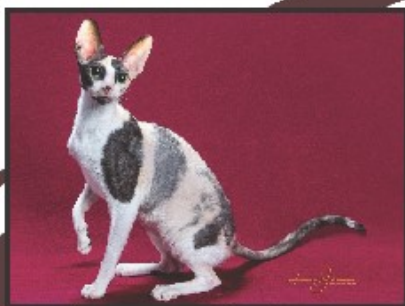
This is a short overview of show bathing. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about grooming. Start your cats as babies and get them used to show bathing and handling and you will find that bathing will be much easier.

Jan Rook,  
ACFA Allbreed Judge  
Professional Groomer





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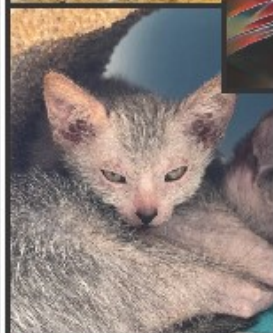
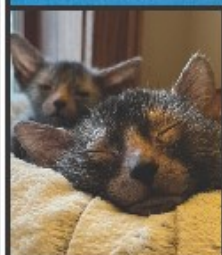
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