

SHOWING YOUR CAT

Applies to Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF) Shows

This information applies to GCCF shows only. Your pedigree cat must be registered with the GCCF, properly transferred and fully vaccinated. You should look up your breed Standard of Points and be aware of the 'withholding faults' for your breed. (Available from the GCCF along with dates and venues for all the shows.)

Show schedules and entry forms are usually available on club web sites or |GCCF web site. Paper copies can also be sent by contacting the club show manager by sending a large SAE. Help with entry forms is available from the show manager but basically you enter the pedigree class according to status and colour (shown on your cats registration certificate), and three other miscellaneous (side) classes that you feel are appropriate. Pet classes are also in the schedule and on the entry form.

Not all cats have the right temperament to make a happy show cat. Some enjoy all the attention and others are afraid or bored. Getting your cat used to a pen can help, as can handling in the manner of a judge. Remember to discourage people from touching your cat as it can spread disease.

Show preparation is important to ensure your cat is looking in perfect condition and the best way to find out what's required is to go along to a show as a spectator and speak to some of the exhibitors.

Coats must be in good clean condition. Check your cat's coat is free of any flea infestations or scratches, which will see him rejected at 'Vetting In'. Ears and eyes must be clean and claws should be trimmed. (If you have never trimmed your cat's claws before seek advice from someone who knows how to do it before you try.)

Requirements for showing are:

White Litter Tray, White Food Bowl, White Water Bowl, White Blanket or Vet Bed, Cat Food, Water and the Vaccination Certificate. Show kits are available at shows and on-line.

Showing can be an expensive hobby, particularly if you have several cats. The average entry price is around £30, which allows entry to the Open and three side classes. Further costs include £5 catalogue, £3 -4 entry fee for partner, travel costs, plus food and beverages for the day. Joining our club can make minor savings.

Shows are held from 8am - 5pm. You must be at the Show between 7.30am and 9.30am for the 'Vetting In'. This is where a vet will inspect your cat to make sure he is fit to be shown and check your vaccination card to make sure it is up to date. All being well, they will sign your entry card and you can proceed to your pen, the number of which will be clearly marked on your entry envelope. Judging starts around 10am and you should remove food but leave water for your cat.



From 10am until around 12 noon no exhibitors are permitted in the hall as the Open judging is going on. After 12 noon, you can go back to the show hall and see how your cat is getting on and give him some food, but as the Miscellaneous Class judging may still be going on, try to be unobtrusive, particularly when the judges are handling your cat. This is a good time to check the results. The results are written on slips of paper and are placed on boards with the Class Number at the top, under which is a list of entrants by pen number, as in the catalogue.

You must remain in the show until official closure at around 4.30 to 5pm. As the miscellaneous classes can take some time to display results, the afternoon is frequently spent shopping at the stalls surrounding the hall and enjoying chatting and viewing all the other exhibits. It's best to treat the show as a day out and a chance to talk to like-minded people. Every cat has its day, and you can't win 'em all!





CAT SHOW CHECKLIST

Use this checklist to make sure you have everything you need for the show



1. VITAL TASKS/THINGS TO REMEMBER AND THINK ABOUT BEFORE SHOW DAY

- Clip claws (usually do on the Wednesday or thereabouts before show day)
- Groom/bath (depending upon breed/colour) – if bathing usually a few days before the show to allow coat to settle
- Ensure inside of ears are clear of any wax (gently wipe with cotton buds or commercial ear wipes)
- Ensure bottom clean and hocks if a pale coloured cat (particularly in the case of males)
- Keep eyes clear of any “sleepy eye” with moistened tissue, cotton wool etc
- Work out departure time in order to arrive in good time on the day (aim to arrive 9.00 am latest)
- Fuel up car day before/arrange travel etc
- Work out routes whether by car or public transport
- Pack a suitable carrier(s) with show kit (listed in next section) night before
- Prepare secure cat carriers near exit (hidden if your cat/kitten may fear them!)
- Buy water, picnic food etc and get relevant carrying cases together for all your bits and bobs

2. VITAL ITEMS TO PACK AND TAKE ON THE DAY

- Put comfy absorbent bedding in cat carrier(s) – for comfort and just in case of accident during the journey
- Ensure something to cover carrier in case of bad weather if queuing outside at vetting in (rare but can happen)
- Umbrella/Raincoat (see above!)
- Spare bedding for carrier plus old towel or similar (just in case of accident)
- WHITE SHOW LITTER TRAY
- WHITE HOOK-ON SHOW WATER BOWL
- WHITE SHOW FOOD DISH
- WHITE SHOW BLANKETS (preferably take a spare again in case of accident or mess)
- CURRENT VACCINATION CERTIFICATE for flu & enteritis including note of full pedigree name of cat/kitten

- Cat litter (usual type used at home)
- Litter scoop
- Bottle(s) of water (spring or whatever cat/kitten is used to at home)
- Cat Food – take her/his favourite or a treat and don't worry if they don't eat during the day – they often don't
- Fork + plastic bag or similar if taking fresh/tinned food or similar
- Grooming aids etc – very much depends on the breed
- Plastic bags (e.g. supermarket ones for rubbish and soiled litter etc)
- Non-toxic wipes or disinfectant for cleaning pen before putting cat in plus for any accidents during the day!
- Show Schedule + copy of original entry + confirmation of entry
- Pink transfer slip but only if kitten entered into the show before transfer fully completed
- Map and directions to the show venue
- Mobile/landline telephone contact numbers for fellow exhibitors (in case of delay)
- A pen and preferably a highlighter pen to mark your cat/kitten in the show catalogue

3. OTHER SUGGESTED ITEMS (DEPENDENT UPON VENUE) AND THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

- Milton/Dettol cleaner wipes
- Cool bag/ Cool blocks
- Cat toy
- Flask of tea/coffee etc + soft drinks etc although most venues do sell drinks
- Lunch – again most venues do offer refreshments but some are better than others and some pricey – check beforehand
- Wear comfy shoes and clothing unless you are used to tripping around on high heels etc. It's a long and tiring day!
- Give yourself plenty of time in the morning – get up half an hour earlier than you think you need to!

