

**FELINE CONTROL COUNCIL
VICTORIA
INC.**



**BY-LAWS GOVERNING MEMBERS
AND AFFILIATED BODIES**

DECEMBER 2016

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1. MEMBERSHIP:

The Committee of Management must vote on all requests for membership. Applications may be rejected if the applicant/s are regarded as not being of good character or have a previous history of non-compliance with the Council By-laws or Victorian Government Legislation, Domestic Animals Act 1994 and Amendments April 2013.

Prospective members must complete and sign an Application for Membership form and agree to:

- Be bound by the Rules, Bylaws, Code of Practice (Ethics) and decisions made by the FCCV (Inc) Committee of Management.
- Abide by the Applicable Organisation Conditions of Application – member requirements.
- Give an unconditional undertaking not to hold membership with any other Feline Registering Body in Victoria or participate in any show or exhibition not sanctioned by the FCCV (Inc).
- Read and comply with the FCCV (Inc) Code of Practice and Victorian Government Legislation, Domestic Animals Act 1994 and Amendments April 2013. (FCCV website downloads). Hard copies can be provided upon request.
- The FCCV (Inc) requires members to ensure that all their cats are registered with their local Council.
- All members must abide by their Council's By-laws regarding the number of cats permitted on the property and apply for an excess animal permit if required.

2. MICROCHIPPING:

- Under Victorian State Law all cats born on or after January 1st 2012 and that are three months or over must be microchipped and the microchip number registered with the appropriate body listed below.
- The FCCV (Inc) as an applicable organisation in Victoria, is obliged to ensure that government regulations concerning microchipping are complied with.
- Only vets and vet nurses, who have completed the required training to become authorised implanters, can insert microchips. The FCCV (Inc) recommends that all microchipping is done at a veterinary clinic.

A microchip is a prescribed permanent identification device which:

- Complies with the Australian Standards as shown on the DEDJTR website <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/registration-legislation-and-permits/Microchipping-of-Dogs,-Cats-and-Horses/permanent-identification-technology>
- Is able to be permanently implanted in an animal.
- Is designed to transmit stored information when activated by a reader.

As of 1 January 2014 the following registries are licensed to provide domestic animal registry services in Victoria:

- Australasian Animal Registry
 - Central Animal Records
 - National Pet Register
 - Petsafe Register
 - Homesafe ID
 - Global Micro Animal Registry
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- Implanters operating in Victoria must register any microchip implanted in a cat, along with the required information, with one of the above identified registries within two days of implantation.
 - Litters can only be registered if a microchip sticker for each kitten is attached to the litter registration application form.
 - No cat can be individually registered without being microchipped and the microchip sticker must be attached to the registration application form.
 - No cat being transferred into the FCCV (Inc) will be registered until it has been microchipped and the microchip sticker is attached to the incoming paper work.
 - No cat being transferred out of the FCCV (Inc) will be processed without first being microchipped and the microchip number recorded on the FCCV (Inc) pedigree.
 - No cat being transferred within the FCCV (Inc) will be processed without first being microchipped and the microchip number recorded on the FCCV pedigree.
 - Exhibits may be randomly checked at FCCV shows, by the visiting vet, to ensure compliance with existing microchip laws.
 - All pedigrees for exhibits from outside organizations, that were born on or after January 1st 2012 must display the exhibit's microchip number to enable them to enter FCCV (Inc) shows.
 - The FCCV (Inc) is required to provide microchip information to local councils when requested.

3. BREEDING:

All members of the FCCV (Inc) who intend to breed must first obtain a breeding Prefix by completing an Application for the Registration of a Breeders Prefix.

A prefix will only be granted once the applicant has completed the Breeder Training course located at

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/community-and-education/breeder-training-course>

- Members may only breed with cats owned or leased by that member and that are currently registered with the FCCV (Inc).
- Members must use only stud cats that are registered with the FCCV (Inc) or a Governing Body recognized by the FCCV (Inc).
- Owners of stud cats must not allow their studs to be used with females that are not registered with the FCCV (Inc) or a Governing Body recognized by the FCCV (Inc).
- Breeding mates must not be closely related to one another. They must not be first degree (for example, father and daughter, mother and son, brother and sister).
- The FCCV will not recognize/register first degree matings. Kittens who come from such matings from interstate or overseas will continue to be recognized.
- All kittens bred by members must be registered with the FCCV (Inc) using the appropriate litter registration form. Litters can only be registered if a microchip sticker for each kitten is attached to the litter registration application form.
- All owners of stud cats must sign a litter registration form for any kittens sired by their stud cat to ensure that the kittens are registered with the FCCV (Inc) or a Governing Body recognized by the FCCV (Inc).
- All pet kittens must be desexed before they are sold unless the breeder has a veterinarian exemption, which must be in writing. The written copy of the exemption should be included with the documents required by the Code Of Practice of the FCCV (Inc).

4. CONDUCT OF SHOWS

These By-laws shall apply to all Shows held under the regulations of the FCCV (Inc) and all bodies conducting and all exhibitors and persons attending such Shows.

4.1 Permission

Any affiliated body desiring to hold any Show must submit a schedule to the Secretary of the FCCV (Inc) in writing for approval by the Committee of Management .

All schedules are to be on an approved schedule form and all judges' contracts must be signed and returned the Show Manager.

4.2 Show Schedule And Catalogue

The Show Schedule as approved and the catalogue must contain the name of the Judge for each group of breeds. The show committee has the right to appoint judges or change assignments if numbers warrant and this should be noted on the schedule. There must be an independent All Breeds Judge to judge Supreme in Show (unless the Show is a speciality show where an independent 'group' judge will suffice .

A notification to the effect that the club is affiliated with the FCCV (Inc) and that the Show is held under the By-laws and Rules of the FCCV (Inc) and *that a copy of the Rules and Procedures may be inspected at the address of the Club Secretary or at the Feline Control Council(Vic)Inc. Offices, 3 / 15 Newcastle Road, BAYSWATER A copy may be inspected at this Show on request to the Club Secretary.*

The conditions and particulars set out in the approved draft of the Show Schedule must be strictly adhered to in the published Show Schedule and the catalogue and shall not be altered unless the special permission of the Committee of the FCCV (Inc) is obtained, in which case exhibitors shall be given the option of withdrawing their exhibits and receiving a refund of entry fees paid.

No groups or classes other than those defined in the "Recognised Breed & Colours" and "Classes For Events" listings shall be permitted without the special permission of the Committee of the FCCV (Inc).

Desexed exhibits, excluding kittens, are not to compete against entire exhibits in any class except for Special Awards. Side Classes are at the discretion of the show committee.

The name of the exhibitor and the name of the exhibit including date of birth, breeder, sire and dam must be published in the catalogue of every show, except in the case of companion cats where only the owner's name, name of exhibit, sex and date of birth if known shall be included.

No obligation is placed on the Show Secretaries to correct any entry, which is incorrect or illegible.

The Secretary of the show shall forward to the Secretary of the FCCV (Inc) within seven days of the closing of the Show, a Master catalogue containing a full and correct list of all entries and with all the awards and absentees correctly marked.

4.3 Show Entries

The entry fee for each exhibit as stated in the Show Schedule must be paid at time of entry, exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Show Manager.

The entry shall be made on a special form provided for that purpose.

Any person entering a show, whether personally or through an agent, shall be liable for the fees payable whether or not the exhibit/s entered is exhibited.

This entry form must reach the Secretary not later than the date on which entries close as indicated in the Show Schedule. The exhibitor shall be responsible for the correctness of the particulars contained in the entry form.

Kittens must be at least 12 weeks of age before the date of the show.

All Kittens must have received 1 vaccination at least 14 days prior to show. Certificates to this effect must be presented at time of Vetting.

The following must appear on entry forms and be signed by the Exhibitor (including electronically).

"I the undersigned, hereby certify that by entering this cat in the show, I have agreed to the following terms and conditions:

- The above exhibit is owned or leased by me and is registered with the FCCV Inc. or an approved governing body.
- The exhibit is eligible for the classes entered.
- I enter the exhibit at my own risk.
- I agree to observe and be bound by the regulations and decisions of the show and of the FCCV (Inc) Committee and accept their decision as final.
- I am a financial member of the FCCV (Inc) or the Governing Body as stated by me above on this entry form.
- I have read the Regulations regarding Veterinary Services on the FCCV (Inc) website.
- I agree that all other CCCA member bodies will be notified if this cat is judged UTH.
- To the best of my knowledge and belief the exhibit or exhibits have not been exposed to the risk of any infectious or contagious disease since the date which is fourteen (14) days before that of this Show.

- I will not exhibit them at this Show if on or between now and the day of the Show they incur such risk, or otherwise become ineligible.“

A copy of pedigree must be supplied with entry for all exhibits not registered with the FCCV (Inc).

Entries for shows shall close not less than twenty-one clear days before the opening dates of the shows as published in the Show Schedules.

In cases where the information supplied on the entry form for a show differs from that on the certified pedigree., the latter shall be regarded as correct for the purpose of the show.

Any exhibit over the age of five months must be individually registered or it will not be accepted.

Exhibitors must advise Show Manager of the Registration number of the exhibit immediately they receive the certified pedigree.

The Committee of Management or the committee of any affiliate (whichever is applicable) holding any Show under these By-laws shall have the right to refuse or return any entry.

Notification of decision to be forwarded to the intending exhibitor within five business days of receipt of entry.

An exhibit, when entered for a show, must either be the property of or leased by the exhibitor. Cats which are bought and sold between the closing date of entries and day of show may only be exhibited provided that the actual transfer is not effected until after the show.

4.4 Veterinary

Each exhibit shall be examined on arrival at every Show by a Veterinary Surgeon No exhibit is to be benched before being examined and approved by the Veterinary Surgeon. Any exhibitor so doing will be disqualified from that competition and all entry fees forfeited.

Exhibits which are unfit for exhibiting will be removed from the Hall immediately and if, in the opinion of the Veterinary Surgeon it is so desirable, all other exhibits from the same exhibitor and the exhibitor thereof shall be debarred from attending the show. All entry fees will be forfeited.

The Veterinary Surgeon should sight vaccination cards for all exhibits under 9 months of age on the day of the show.

Exhibits must have clean ears and coats free from pests and all claws clipped.

Any exhibit found to be suffering from the effect of drugs on entry or detected with any other disqualifying defect at any time during the show, will be subject to expulsion from the show on authority of the Veterinary Surgeon, or in his absence the FCCV (Inc) representative and/or any other appointed responsible person. After consultation with the Show Manager, the exhibits' cage shall be marked "Out of Show Condition". (O.S.C.)

Veterinary Surgeons appointed by Clubs to inspect exhibits must be instructed not to admit exhibits which are obviously in kitten, nor male cats which are either monorchids or cryptorchids (kittens excepted); nor must they admit exhibits which show evidence of the following heritable defects; entropion; umbilical hernia (kittens excepted), or other obvious congenital defects.

Owners of exhibits which contract any infectious or contagious disease must immediately notify the FCCV (Inc) The affected exhibit, together with all other exhibits belonging to that owner or residing in that cattery must remain in quarantine until fourteen days after the cattery has been declared disease free. A Veterinary Certificate to this effect shall be produced on demand. The FCCV (Inc) shall be notified when the certificate is issued by the Veterinary Surgeon.

A person who has a contagious or infectious disease on their property cannot attend cat shows until such time as they have a veterinary clearance for their cat/s.

The Representative of the FCCV (Inc), after consultation with the Show Manager can appoint themselves or another responsible person to act in the Veterinary Surgeons absence, until they arrive or to deal with permitted late arrivals.

Exhibits which are brought to a show after the specified time for Veterinary examination shall not be permitted within the precincts of the show unless the Show Manager or Assistant Show Manager of the body conducting the Show is satisfied that there is a reasonable excuse for late arrival.

All exhibits after passing Veterinary inspection must be placed in their cages in readiness for judging, there shall be no interior or exterior decoration or distinguishing object.

At every show non-pressurised containers of disinfectant approved by the FCCV (Inc) against contagious or infectious disease and a towel or paper towel, shall be provided for the use of all veterinary surgeons, judges and stewards.

4.5 Benching

Exhibitors supplying own cage must notify show manager of dimensions of cage at time of entry. 'Sturdi' cages are not permitted.

Curtains to be of any white and/or coloured fabric without added decorations during judging. Cages may be decorated at conclusion of judging.

The benching of exhibits shall be in the various groups and breed colours as set out in FCCV (Inc) Breed Colour Chart.

The adjacent benching of stud males shall not be permitted.

When in the opinion of the Show Manager and the FCCV (Inc) representative, the exhibitor has neglected his exhibit so as to cause distress, the exhibitor shall be dealt with under the appropriate By-law.

No exhibit shall be absent from its cage to which it has been allotted except for the purpose of being judged, or by permission of the Show Manager. A penalty may be imposed by such Committee for breaches of this By-law.

Exhibits benched in wrong cages automatically disqualify the exhibit for that ring but this can be rectified by the show manager for the next ring.

Litters will be provided with a double cage at no extra cost to the exhibitor.

If room permits, double cages to be made available upon request at a cost as determined by the Show committee.

Non-Pressurised disinfectant may be used by the exhibitors to wipe-down the cage in which their exhibit is to be placed.

4.6 Trays

Plain litter trays must be provided by exhibitors, which may be left in the cage for the duration of show.

4.7 Damage

Any body holding a show under these By-laws of the FCCV (Inc) will not be responsible for any accident that may be caused through or by any exhibit and it shall be a condition of entry that each exhibitor shall hold the body harmless and indemnify it against any legal proceedings arising from such accident.

All affiliates must provide a First Aid Box available at all fixtures.

Any body holding a Show under these By-laws of the FCCV (Inc) shall not be held responsible for any loss of exhibits at the Show or any damage.

4.8 Exhibits Only

No other animal, other than an exhibit, is allowed within the precincts of a show unless permitted by the Show Manager. No such permission shall be granted by the Show Manager unless the exhibit concerned is passed by the Veterinary Surgeon as being free from any communicable disease.

4.9 Stewards

FCCV (Inc) qualified stewards should be used where possible. No person may act as a Judge's steward in a section where they are exhibiting exception Australian bay style judging format. No person may act as a steward if they have had their exhibits rejected for contagious disease or evidence of external parasites.

4.10 Judging

The Judge's decision on the merit of the exhibit shall be final unless such decision is contrary to the By-laws and/or Regulations of the FCCV (Inc).

Judges are not required to give any award to an exhibit, which they consider is not of sufficient merit.

Alterations made by the Judge, in the Judge's book or card, must be initialled by him/her at the time of making such alterations.

A Judge shall not place two or more separate exhibits equal for any award.

After the Show Manager has given word to the Judge to proceed with the judging of a competition, no other exhibit shall be allowed to be benched.

At the time of judging no person shall be allowed in the immediate judging area except the Judges, the properly appointed officials and stewards.

A Judge shall not re-judge any competition because of the absence from the cage of any exhibit at the time of judging that competition. Any exhibit which cannot be taken out of its cage by the Judge or steward will not be judged.

A properly compiled and separate judging book must be provided for each Judge. Such book must be signed by the Judge and retained for at least three months. Judges must personally indicate their awards in the book.

The signed judge's slips shall be placed on a notice board which shall be freely open to inspection by exhibitors and public. This requirement may be waived if it is a Bay Style show where the exhibitors and public can watch the judging.

The slips marked "Card Room Slip", as they are completed by the Judge, shall be sent to the Card Room for processing and posting on the Result Board.

Judging of Supreme Exhibit must be undertaken by an independent judge, who has not previously judged the exhibits or a panel or no less than three all-breeds judges.

On completion of Judging each Judge will retain "Judges Book Copy" for three months.

It is expressly provided that should an error occur in the judge's book, due to the fault of the Show Manager, the judge's book may be amended, prior to 3 pm on the day of the show and the class may be re-judged.

Where an exhibit is outclassed by the Judge, the Judge shall be required to report the facts to the FCCV (Inc) Representative and Show Manager and the Committee may order re-classification of the exhibit in question by three judges (not necessarily at a show) whereupon the exhibit shall be registered in its correct section by the FCCV Office.

Kittens can only be not awarded, not outclassed. Owner and/or breeder may reclassify the colour of a kitten once up until 9 months of age and this reclassification may be affected on the day of a show.

Judges may mark judging slips as follows:-

OSC meaning "Out of Show Condition"

UTH meaning "Unable to Handle"

UTJ meaning "Unable to Judge" –

OC meaning "Outclassed" pending the Judge's submission for reclassification of the exhibit .

NA meaning "No Award"

NE meaning "Not Eligible"

At any Show, once a Judge has determined that an exhibit is unable to be handled that Judge must immediately report the incident to the Show Manager and FCCV (Inc) Representative.

4.11 UTH

Any cat which shows aggression towards people, especially any cat that bites or deliberately scratches someone, is automatically declared UNABLE TO BE HANDLED (UTH). There is to be no further judging of the cat on the day and a readable sign will be displayed and the owner notified. Any cat that is ruled UTH must not be removed from its cage until it is transferred to its carry cage to go home.

Any cat declared UTH at an FCCV (Inc) show or at any other show and officially notified to FCCV (Inc) which shows any aggressive drawing of blood is automatically given a life ban even if it is the cat's first offence.

Any cat declared UTH at an FCCV (Inc) show or at any other show and officially notified to FCCV (Inc) which doesn't draw blood, is suspended from the show bench for three (3) months. If the cat is declared (UTH) again at any cat show, it will be permanently disqualified from FCCV (Inc) shows for life. The Secretary of the FCCV will inform the Secretary of CCCA of any such lifetime bans. All CCCA member organisations will then be informed.

4.12 UTJ

At any show, a judge may take an exhibit from its cage and/or handle it, but may determine that the exhibit's behaviour or manner is such that it cannot be fully or fairly assessed.

There is to be no further judging of the cat on the day and a readable sign should be displayed on the cage.

Once an exhibit has been UTJ on more than four occasions that the Committee must inform the owner and other recognised bodies that the exhibit can no longer be shown.

The disqualifying judge must complete either the UTH or UTJ form and it should also be signed by the owner (or their agent) of the exhibit. Ensuring completion of this form is the responsibility of the FCCV (Inc) representative or a member of the committee of management present on the day.

The Representative of the FCCV (Inc) will report the matter to the committee and the Registrar will keep a record of exhibits so reported.

4.13 Challenge, Award Of Merit And Award Of Excellence Certificates

F.C.C.V. Inc. Challenge and Award of Merit Certificates may be awarded only at shows for which the Committee of the FCCV (Inc) has granted the title of "Championship Show".

They awarded at the discretion of the Judge. Those eligible to compete for a Challenge, Award of Merit or Award of Excellence Certificate shall be exhibits nine months of age A Judge shall not award a Challenge, Award of Merit or Award of Excellence Certificate to any exhibit which s/he considers lacks sufficient merit to qualify for higher awards, including Grand Champion and Grand Premier.

F.C.C.V. Inc. Challenge Certificates may be awarded to the winning entire entries in the Open, Champion and Grand Champion Classes at the discretion of the Judge, irrespective of the number of entries.

F.C.C.V. Inc. Award of Merit Certificates may be awarded to the winning Desexed entries in the Desexed Cat, Premier and Grand Premier Classes at the discretion of the Judge.

F.C.C.V. Inc. Award of Excellence Certificates may be awarded to the winning entries in the Companion Cat Classes at the discretion of the Judge.

In the Open and Champion Classes only one Challenge, Award of Merit or Award of Excellence can be awarded. However in the Grand Champion or Grand Premier classes, one award is available for up to three cats, two may be awarded if there four, five or six entered. If there are seven or more exhibits entered in a Grand class then three awards may be given.

Only titled cats are eligible for the CCCA award. A cat titled as an entire but not yet titled as a desexed cat is still eligible for the Desexed CCCA award.

4.14 FCCV (Inc) Representative

An FCCV Representative is to be appointed for all shows not run by the Committee of Management.

It is the responsibility of the Representative to ascertain that the venue and the arrangements made by the affiliate are of a satisfactory standard so as to ensure exhibitors and the general public can enjoy their day.

Duties of the FCCV (Inc) Representative:

- Obtain Show catalogue from Show Manager and attend Veterinary inspection. Record Veterinary Surgeons names and note any rejections. Have the Veterinary Surgeon sign the rejection slip and advise the exhibitor with rejection letter for completion. Ensure exhibitor and exhibits leave the premises immediately.
- List exhibits to be checked for withdrawals by counting all cages and noting absentees, include total number of entries and amount of surcharge to be noted on report sheet.
- For any exhibit which is Unable To Be Handled (U.T.H.) the cage is to be marked accordingly, signed and witnessed after consultation with the Judge and Show Manager. The details to be included in the Show Report.
- Hear complaints and report them to the Committee of Management.
- Assist the Show Manager when called upon to interpret By-laws where required.
- Assist members with any inquiries and promote the aims and objectives of the FCCV (Inc) to the general public.
- Report on the show to the next meeting of the Committee of Management.

5. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The Committee of Management may receive:

- Complaints from members or visiting judges, which may include, but not restricted to behaviour at shows. Any person causing annoyance by loud comments on a decision of a Judge, or being guilty of unsportsmanlike or unseemly actions should be reported to the Committee of Management within seven days and to supply such Committee with all possible evidence of the actions. The responsibility of investigating and taking appropriate action in connection with cases of unsportsmanlike or unseemly actions at a show shall rest with the Committee of Management who shall deal with the matter and impose such penalty as it deems fit.

- Complaints from public regarding a particular member. This may include but not be restricted to, matters concerning kitten sales.
- Complaints or inquiries from local by-laws officers.

The member/s concerned must be notified in writing of the nature of the charge and the date of hearing of the charge by the Committee, such notification being no less than seven days prior to the date of the hearing.

The member must be given an opportunity to be heard at the hearing of the charge and the Committee shall give due consideration to any written statement submitted by the member/s. However, should the member/s fail to appear at such hearing, the Committee may determine the charge in their absence.

If, after hearing the charge, the Committee finds the member/s guilty of the charge then, acting under the by-laws, the Committee shall have power to impose any one or more of the following penalties:-

- To suspend or terminate the membership of the person so charged.
- To suspend or disqualify any member/s from taking part in and/or having any connection with shows held under these By-laws or being associated with any affiliated body.
- To suspend or disqualify from competition all or any cats registered in the member/s name at the date the charge was confirmed.
- To cancel the registration of any cat or cats registered in the member/s name for such time as the Committee sees fit.
- To refuse to register any litter bred from any cat registered in the member/s name.

All penalties imposed and/or endorsed by the Committee of Management shall be observed and enforced by all bodies affiliated with the Association.

Any member suspended or disqualified by the Committee of Management shall not be entitled to the return of any portion of his annual subscription or fees.

5.1 Right Of Appeal

Any person penalised by a decision of the Committee of Management may, within fourteen days of the imposition of such penalty, give notice of appeal against such decision, stating the grounds of the appeal.

The Committee of Management shall hear every such appeal made to it as soon as possible but no later than 30 days after the imposition of the penalty.

If, after hearing the appeal, the Committee of Management has affirmed its decision then the Secretary of the Committee shall record such decision and it shall be final and binding on the party or parties concerned, all bodies affiliated with the Association and at all shows held under these By-laws.