



Australian National Cats
Incorporated

BREEDERS CODE OF ETHICS

10 October 2021

- 1) A Member of ANCATS commits to compliance with all Commonwealth, State, Territory or Local Government requirements.
 - 2) A Member, or their Agent, shall, at all times, ensure that all cats under that Member's control are properly housed, fed, watered, and receive proper veterinary attention, as and when required.
 - 3) A Member, or their Agent, shall not allow any cats which are registered in that Member's name, to roam at large and must ensure that they are always kept fully enclosed or under effective control.
 - 4) A Member of ANCATS shall not register a cat with a Pedigree Cat Registration Body not recognised by ANCATS.
- internal parasite prevention and treatment programs
 - birthing protocols
 - health assessment for kittens for sale
 - housing
 - enrichment and socialisation
 - an emergency plan which includes easily accessible status of your cats by emergency service.

Breeding

Record Keeping

- 5) A Member must keep records for at least five years and make those records available to any person authorised, in writing by ANCATS Secretary/Registrar pursuant to resolution of the Committee as follows:
 - a) All registration papers for all cats owned, co-owned or leased or where applicable, copies of the same
 - b) All vaccination certificates or evidence of current vaccinations for all cats owned or controlled by the Member
 - c) All microchip records for all cats, owned or controlled by the Member
 - d) All records of current annual health checks
 - e) All breeding records for all litters bred by the Member
 - f) All records of all stud services of the Members Stud Cats
 - g) All records of animals sold or leased or deceased
 - h) A record of all cats owned or controlled by the Member not residing at the Members nominated address
 - i) Records of parasite control
 - j) A care and management plan which including nutrition, healthcare records, breeding, exercise, enrichment, socialisation, handling and housing, including protocols for:
 - appropriate diet
 - hygiene, disinfection and disease prevention
 - vaccination programs
 - external parasite prevention and treatment programs
- 6) A Member shall breed only with the intent of maintaining and/or improving the standard of the Breed and the health and welfare of their cats having regard to the following: -
 - a) By being the holder of a financial ANCATS Registered Prefix/Suffix¹; and
 - b) By striving to eliminate hereditary diseases within their cats and their breed.
 - c) That the health, physical welfare and fitness for function of cats is of prime importance, and
 - d) That a Member shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that cats bred by them do not suffer from any disorder that impedes their sight, breathing or ability to move freely or which is otherwise detrimental to their comfort and wellbeing.
- 7) A queen shall not be bred from unless she is, registered with an organisation recognised by ANCATS, and is in good health and has reached adequate maturity.
- 8) All studs and queens must have an annual check by a suitably qualified veterinarian confirming that they are in good health and in suitable condition for breeding and this confirmation must be recorded on their health record /vaccination certificate.
- 9) A Member shall not conduct or permit breeding between cats that are closely related to one another. They must not be first degree (for example, father and daughter, mother and son, brother and sister). A member is fully aware that unless prior permission has been sought from the Breeds & Standards Council for such a mating, kittens resulting from such non- approved matings will not be registered on the Main Register.
- 10) A Member shall not knowingly permit the mating of any stud cat or queen which is not registered with ANCATS or with an organisation recognised by ANCATS.
- 11) A Member shall not knowingly permit any of that Member's pure-bred cats to be mated to a cat of a different breed, to a cross-bred cat, or to any unregistered cat of the same breed or to a cat not registered unless: -

¹ All registered breeders have a unique word, used either as a suffix or prefix, which forms part of the registered name of every cat that they breed. Right to use this unique suffix or prefix is retained by regular payment to the registering body

- a) Such mating is for the health, welfare and/or the development of a breed and under an approved Breed Standards Council breeding programme;² and
 - b) Is in compliance with the ANCATS Breed Standard³ for that breed.
- 12) All Members must register all litters bred by them, either alone or jointly with another. Registration of a litter must be affected within 6 months of the date of kitting. For the purposes of this clause "litter" includes all living kittens there-from at the date of registration of the litter. A Member shall register all kittens in a litter at the same time and on one form of application for Registration of Litter.
- 13) A female cat must not have more than 2 litters in a 12 month period. A female must have no more than 8 litters in her lifetime, after which she must be retired

Transfer of Cats and Kittens

- 14) All Members are encouraged to include their ANCATS Membership Number in an advertisement placed in any form of media, or on any sign whatsoever, that advertises cat/s or kitten/s for sale whether for payment or not. Where required by State or Territory Law, the microchip numbers of each kitten and/or any further identification such as PER (Pet Exchange Register) number supplied by them, MUST be displayed.
- 15) A Member shall not sell or otherwise transfer from that Member's care any kitten under twelve (12) weeks of age. Kittens must be micro-chipped, vaccinated and de-sexed (unless being transferred to another Registered Breeder as a potential breeding stud or queen) prior to leaving that Member's care.
- 16) A Member shall ensure that all persons acquiring cats or kittens from that Member clearly understand their responsibility for the care and welfare of the animal.
- 17) A Member must provide to all new owners of cats or kittens sold or placed by that Member, at the time of or prior to the transfer of the animal, written details of all dietary and immunisation requirements and/or appropriate publications relating to such requirements as microchipping, responsible cat ownership and breed specific information.
- 18) Upon the sale or transfer of a cat, a Member shall supply the new owner with a current vaccination certificate signed by a Veterinary Surgeon evidencing that the cat has been immunised along with microchip documentation and signed desexing certification (exceptions as in Clause 14).
- 19) A Member shall effect the microchip transfer of the act within a two week period after sale, unless agreed otherwise.

- 20) Ensure all cats sold are accompanied with a breeder health declaration and guarantee as follows:
- a) Accept a returned animal and refund 75% of the purchase price within three days of sale for any reason not supported by a veterinary practitioner.
 - b) Accept an animal returned within 21 days of sale and refund 100% of the purchase price if accompanied by a veterinary practitioner statement that the animal is unacceptable for health reasons.
 - c) Refund 100% of the purchase price where an animal is diagnosed with, suffering from, dies of, or is euthanised because of a physical defect or disease that is traceable to the point of sale within three years of purchase where the owner provides supporting statements from a veterinary practitioner which will be verified by an ANCATS approved veterinary practitioner.
- 21) Ensure animals sold or given away are in the best possible state of health.
- 22) A Member shall not:-
- a) Supply any cats to commercial cat wholesalers or retail pet dealers both within and outside Australia.
 - b) Allow a cat owned by that Member to be given as a prize or donation in a contest of any kind.
 - c) Offer a cat for sale by auction through any form of media.
 - d) Offer for sale a non-ANCATS registered or recognised cat or kitten using their ANCATS Breeder's membership number.
- 23) A Member shall ensure that within 28 days of the date of sale or transfer of a cat or kitten to another person that documents additional to those provided at point of physical transfer (clause 17) , as required by ANCATS are provided to the new owner of the cat or kitten. These include pedigree registration papers for entire and show stock, a copy of the registered pedigree for pet stock, and a certificate of Quality Assurance or a Health Statement from a vet stating they are in good health and condition.
- 24) No cat may be sold or transferred in a state of ill health.
- 25) Any cat with a previous history of ill health and/or is a known or potential carrier of a hereditary defect should only be sold or transferred with full disclosure of the previous health condition/defect. Consent for the purchaser to talk to the treating veterinarian shall be given and copies of any DNA or other test results provided.

Transportation and Export

² To have progeny from any matings other than those within an individual breed recognised and registered by ANCATS, permission must be sought from ANCATS through a subcommittee, the Breeds & Standards Council whose brief is to consider such applications and make recommendations to the Management Committee.

³ A Breed Standard is a detailed description which sets out the parameters of each pedigree breed towards which each breeder is striving, and which is used as the basis for Judging which cats are closest to achieving the description.

- 26) Cats being transported must be fully contained and secured in the vehicle and transport must be carried out at the very minimum, in accordance with the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines - Land Transport of Livestock, the relevant Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals or the equivalent state or territory code. Cats and kittens being transported by air must conform to IATA Live Animal Regulations.
- 27) At a minimum, Members must transport animals in a safe and secure manner. This includes:
- No transport of animals in the boot of a sedan type car.
 - No transport of animals on the back of a ute or trailer except in emergency evacuation situations where no alternative transport is available.
 - Provide animals with adequate ventilation and temperature control when travelling.
- 28) A member exporting a cat or kitten must comply with all current requirements of the Australian Department of Agriculture. Whilst kittens can be exported at an age that is permitted under the relevant livestock import regulations of the country to which they are being imported, they must be weaned and have received a full set of kitten vaccinations as recommended by the treating veterinarian prior to export.

Misrepresentation

- 29) A Member shall not KNOWINGLY misrepresent the characteristics of the breed.
- 30) A Member shall not engage in false or misleading advertising.
- 31) A Member who provides or makes available a cat or kitten for use in a film, advertisement, promotion, any media or public display must use reasonable care to ensure that:
- The cat is portrayed in a fashion consistent with its breed characteristics and temperament as described in the Standard for the breed; and
 - The cat is presented in a fashion that is unlikely to create a negative reaction to cats generally or that breed in particular and that if there is any likelihood of a negative impression, this is at the same time corrected through the development of a story line that presents the cat or the breed (as appropriate) in a balanced fashion.

Inspection of Premises

- 32) In pursuance of compliance with this Code of Ethics, a Member shall permit any person authorised in writing by the ANCATS Secretary or President, pursuant to a resolution of the Committee to enter and inspect any premises owned or occupied by the Member for the purpose of investigating compliance with Clause 2 of this Code and during the conduct of the inspection the Member will permit the authorised person to record any necessary details by tape, video or photographs.
- 33) Where a cat/s is/are kept at premises other than the address nominated for the breeder's prefix and where the

consent of another person or entity is required for a Cattery inspection to be undertaken, pursuant to Clause 27 of this Code, the Member must obtain consent for such Cattery inspection from the person or entity in possession or control of the premises at which the cats being used for breeding pursuant to the Members prefix/suffix are kept.

Breeder Qualification Required

- 34) Breeder Training Course: must renew their competency at a minimum of 3 yearly intervals. Refer <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/animal-welfare-victoria/community-and-education/breeder-training-course>
- 35) Breeders must attend at least two ANCATS training courses per annum.

Euthanasia

- 36) Euthanasia of any kitten or adult must be performed by a vet. If there is an emergency situation, you must follow the direction of your vet and have the vet complete a report as to the circumstances and advice given. Any method of emergency euthanasia must be humane. Blunt force trauma is not considered a humane form of euthanasia for cats.

Vaccinations

- 37) Kittens must be vaccinated against and treated for the following, in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations, (except where a veterinary practitioner advises and records that treatment would prejudice the animal's health):
- Infectious Feline Enteritis
 - Feline Respiratory Disease (Feline Calicivirus and Feline herpes virus)
 - Internal and external parasites (for example fleas and ticks).
- 38) Vaccination certificates, including dates of treatment, details of the treatment required, and a record of who administered the treatment, must be signed by the person administering the treatment at each vaccination.

Queening

- 39) Compatible pregnant females (lactating queens and their litters) can be housed individually or in pairs.
- 40) Each queen must be provided with a separate sleeping area for resting and privacy during birthing.
- 41) As soon as the queen shows signs of contractions she must be monitored every 30 minutes until birthing is complete.
- 42) Veterinary advice must be immediately sought if:
- the queen displays excessive or consistent contractions with no effect; and/or
 - there are prolonged intervals between the birth of each kitten; and/or
 - there is excessive bleeding; and/or
 - there are any other abnormalities observed during the birthing process.

- e) Contractions become prolonged without the appearance of a kitten.
- 43) After birth is complete, the queen must be monitored every 6 hours until contractions have ceased. If contractions do not stop, veterinary advice must be sought and treatment provided as advised.
- 44) The birthing area must be completely cleaned and all bedding changed within 24 hours of the completion of birthing. This time frame for changing of bedding should be determined on an individual basis allowing for the queen's response to interference.

Lactating

- 45) Queens and their kittens must be monitored every 6 hours until lactation and feeding is established.
- 46) Monitoring of lactating queens must include visual observation of all kittens feeding and confirmation that the queen is lactating.
- 47) If weight gain in kittens is not observed during the first 72 hours of life, veterinary advice must be sought and action taken as directed by the veterinary practitioner.
- 48) For the first week post birth, queens must be examined twice daily for mastitis and treatment provided immediately upon diagnosis.
- 49) Soiled bedding must be removed and clean bedding provided on a daily basis during lactation.
- 50) Kittens must have a health check by you within 12 hours after birth.
- 51) Daily handling of kittens must begin within 7 days of birth.

Housing – In Home

- 52) Maintenance of hygiene will prevent build-up of disease-causing organisms including bacteria, viruses and parasitic worm eggs.
 - a) All cages and modules used to house animals must be cleaned of soiled litter, soiled bedding and toys at least once per day (or more often as required) by appropriate means.
 - b) Soiled litter must be removed daily and litter trays disinfected weekly using a hospital grade disinfectant.
 - c) All uneaten food must be removed daily.
 - d) Each cat must be provided with a minimum area of 2 square metres which has a height of at least 1.8 metres and has 2 levels.
 - e) When multiply housed, each cat older than 12 weeks of age must be provided with a separate bed/hide/nest of sufficient bedding material that all animals can sleep comfortably.

Housing – Cattery

- 53) Where cat housing is constructed indoors, but not inside a place of residence (such as a cattery building), natural daylight during daylight hours must be provided and temperature, humidity and ventilation must be managed.
- 54) Ventilation must be adequate to keep animal housing areas free of dampness, noxious odours and draughts and must provide access to natural daylight during daylight hours.
 - a) Fully enclosed cattery areas must:
 - b) have an air change rate of 8 -12 changes per hour to prevent the build-up of foul odours
 - c) have ventilation devices that avoid draughts and distribute fresh air evenly to all of the living areas.
- 55) Where forced ventilation is the only form of air, all of the following are required:
 - a) air recirculation units incorporating effective air cleaning and filtration to ensure the removal of infectious organisms and chemicals
 - b) a back-up and alarm system in case of power failures or breakdown of ventilation and temperature control mechanisms must be maintained
 - c) temperature must be maintained in the range of 10 – 32C.

Housing - Queening / Kitting

- 56) Kitting/queening facilities, separate from general housing, must be provided for each queen and her kittens. Compatible queens and their kittens may be housed in pairs.
- 57) Each queen requires an area of at least 2 square metres, with a vertical height of at least 1.8 metres, containing two levels joined by a non-slip climbing plank or pole. Care must be taken in the construction of these areas to prevent young kittens from climbing to higher levels and falling.
- 58) Queening and lactating housing must be maintained at a temperature between 14°C and 32°C at all times.

Housing – Outdoors

- 59) Where sleeping areas are outdoors the following minimum standards must be met:
 - a) weatherproof housing must be provided for each cat
 - b) materials must be selected for ease of maintenance and cleaning, durability and non-toxicity
 - c) beds/hides/nests must be protected from the weather (wind, rain, sun and extremes of climate), vermin and harassment from other animals
 - d) beds/hides/nests must not be made of concrete or metal

- e) beds/hides/nests must be raised off the ground to prevent draughts
- f) soft, warm bedding must be provided in all housing and changed weekly or more often if required
- g) bedding must be able to be kept dry at all times
- h) housing must be cleaned daily and disinfected weekly.
- i) One litterbox per cat, cleaned daily and disinfected weekly

This Breeders Code of Ethics may be updated from time to time.

Module Cage Construction

- 60) Walk-in modules must have a minimum floor area of 1.5 square metres, a width of 0.9 metres and a height of 1.8 metres and contain at least two levels including draught-free sleeping quarters.
- 61) This size is for one cat only and an additional one square metre floor space is required for a second cat.
- 62) No more than two cats may be housed together in this type of accommodation.
- 63) Cats housed in module cages must have access to an external exercise cage, similar to a colony cage in size and dimension, for at least half a business day.
- 64) The exercise cage can be connected to exercise areas via tunnels or doors and may serve up to 8 compatible cats at any one time.
- 65) There must be one exercise cage for every 8 cats, 16 weeks or older, housed at the premises.

Colony Cage Construction

- 66) Cats may be multiple housed in colony cages.
- 67) A colony cage must be a minimum height of 1.8 metres with a minimum width of 2 metres.
- 68) Each cat housed must have a minimum floor area of 2 square metres and an individual raised sleeping area.
- 69) A maximum of 8 cats may be housed in each colony cage.

Non Compliance

- 70) Non – compliance with the regulations in this Code may be deemed to be misconduct
- 71) Investigation into a Complaint against an ANCATS Breeder will be conducted in accordance with the Disputes and Discipline Procedure of ANCATS.
- 72) A Member found guilty of misconduct or to be in breach of any section of the Above Regulations, after investigation by The Disputes Committee, may be subject to a penalty ranging from temporary Membership suspension to a total Membership Ban within ANCATS.