FELINE CONTROL COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC)
Trading as

CatsWA

MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT & BREEDERS CODE OF ETHICS

Promoting Responsible Cat Ownership,
Ethical Breeding and the
Physical, Behavioural and Social Welfare
and Wellbeing of All Cats

Approved by Governing Council:	APPROVED BY GOVERNING COUNCIL
Effective Date:	8th September 2026
Version:	4

Integrity • Knowledge • Care • Respect

TOGETHER FOR THE CATS WE LOVE

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1 Purpose of the Code of Conduct

1.1 To provide members of the Feline Control Council WA (Inc) trading as CatsWA with a framework for appropriate conduct. This includes behaviour towards other CatsWA members, judges, general community members and cats.

1.2 The core principles that underpin the organisation must be the welfare of all cats that fall within the scope of CatsWA and the protection of the integrity of CatsWA pedigrees.

1.3 CatsWA promotes responsible cat ownership, ethical breeding practices and the physical, behavioural and social welfare and wellbeing of all cats. Members are expected to provide standards of care that support the health, safety, comfort and normal behavioural needs of cats in their ownership or care, and to promote responsible practices that extend beyond minimum legislative requirements where this is necessary to protect and enhance cat welfare.

1.4 Incorporated in this Code of Conduct is a Code of Ethics for all members who wish to be recognised as Registered Breeders. All CatsWA Registered breeders must agree to uphold and respect this Code of Ethics in their actions and dealings within the Cat Fancy.

2 General Principles of Conduct

2.1 General principles to guide the behaviour of CatsWA members include that all members must:

a) Act with reasonable care and diligence.

b) Act with honesty and integrity.

c) Act lawfully.

d) Avoid damage to the reputation of the CatsWA.

e) Treat others with respect and fairness.

f) Abide by any rules, regulations or guidelines as determined by CatsWA including Breeding, Showing, membership of Governing Council or any other activity. Such regulations will be available on the CatsWA website.

g) Comply with the Cat Act 2011 (WA), associated regulations, applicable local government local laws and any other relevant legislation relating to the ownership, breeding, registration, microchipping, sterilisation, transfer, housing and welfare of cats, subject to any lawful exemption, approval, permit or breeder-specific provision that applies.

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3 Rules of Conduct

All members of the CatsWA will abide by the following:

3.1 They **WILL**:

a) Act appropriately and treat people with respect, never being derogatory in their speech or manner.

b) Act in the best interests of the Association (CatsWA) and not seek to gain any advantage for themselves, their family or friends.

c) Act in a way that is fair and unbiased.

d) Seek to resolve any conflict or dispute amicably in the best interests of the CatsWA.

e) Declare or avoid (where practical) any conflict of interest whereby an individual may gain an unfair advantage at the expense of other CatsWA members, show participants or the organisation.

f) Desex all non-pedigree cats and any pedigree cat that they intend to keep that is not part of a breeding program.

g) Microchip all cats and kittens as soon as practical.

h) Provide information and access as required by Governing Council to resolve issues and/or complaints.

i) Comply with applicable Western Australian legislation and relevant local government requirements concerning cat numbers, registration, microchipping, sterilisation, housing, enclosures, breeder approvals and multiple-cat or cattery permits. Where a lawful exemption, approval, permit or breeder-specific provision applies, members may operate in accordance with it and must comply with any conditions attached to that approval or authorisation.

3.2 Housing, Care and Welfare for Cats:

a) Provide all cats in their ownership or care with safe, secure, clean and appropriate housing and sufficient space to support their health, welfare and normal behaviour.

b) Cats must have access to appropriate food, clean drinking water, suitable sleeping and toileting areas, adequate ventilation and lighting, and protection from weather and temperature extremes.

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c) Housing and care arrangements must provide appropriate opportunities for exercise, rest, environmental enrichment, play and social interaction, having regard to the age, health and individual needs of each cat. Appropriate separation or isolation must be provided where required for health, welfare, breeding or veterinary reasons.

d) Members must keep only the number of cats for which they can provide appropriate housing, hygiene, individual care, enrichment and veterinary attention.

e) Members must comply with applicable Western Australian legislation and applicable the local laws, approvals, permits and conditions of their relevant local government concerning the number of cats that may be kept and any requirements relating to cat housing, enclosures or facilities.

f) Where a member holds an exemption, approval, breeder permit, multiple-cat permit or other authorisation issued by their local government, the member must comply with any conditions attached to that approval or authorisation.

3.3 They WILL NOT:

a) Act , write or speak in a way that may be perceived as bullying, intimidation, abusive, discriminatory or derogatory

b) Use any confidential information for their personal advantage or the advantage or disadvantage of any CatsWA member

c) Use confidential information to disadvantage or discredit the CatsWA

d) Bring the CatsWA into disrepute by their actions, decisions or behaviour

e) Speak or claim to speak or give the impression that they speak on behalf of the CatsWA or claim to be representing the CatsWA unless duly authorised by the Governing Council

f) sell or dispose of cats or kittens to or through pet shops or agents, markets or animal shelters, or allow any cat or kitten to be given as a prize or donation of any kind, nor act as an agent; for a third party in the sale or disposal of cats or kittens EXCEPT when participating in the rescue of cats or kittens.

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4 Breeders Code of Ethics

All members who wish to be recognised as Registered Breeders must agree to uphold and respect this Code of Ethics in their actions and dealings within the Cat Fancy

Legislative Requirements for Registered Breeders: CatsWA Registered Breeders must comply with the *Cat Act 2011 (WA)*, associated regulations and applicable local government local laws.

Registered Breeders must comply with applicable requirements relating to the breeding, microchipping, sterilisation, registration, keeping, sale and transfer of cats and kittens.

Where an exemption, approval, permit or other breeder-specific provision is available under legislation or through the relevant local government, a CatsWA Registered Breeder may operate in accordance with that exemption, approval, permit or provision.

It is the responsibility of the Registered Breeder to obtain and maintain any approval, permit or exemption required by their relevant local government and to comply with any conditions attached to it.

"Note: Registration as an CatsWA *Registered Breeder does not replace any approval to breed cats required under the Cat Act 2011 (WA) or by the member's relevant local government".*

4.1 CatsWA. Breeders shall maintain comprehensive records of all cats owned by them, all litters bred and the names and addresses of new owners of kittens sold by them.

4.2 The Breeder shall breed for the health, quality, temperament and the betterment of the breed. It is the responsibility of the Breeder to ensure that a prospective new owner who wishes to either breed or show the cat/kitten is provided with the best potential show or breeding cat/kitten available. Cats/kittens with breed faults or sub-standard animals SHOULD NOT be sold for breeding and showing.

4.3 Breeders shall maintain the best standard of health and care for their cats and keep only the number of cats which can properly be cared for and protected from illness and stress related problems.

Registered Breeders must provide housing, enclosures and facilities appropriate to the number, age, breed, reproductive status and individual needs of the cats in their care. Housing must provide sufficient space for exercise, rest and normal behaviour and must be maintained in a safe, secure, clean and hygienic condition.

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Breeders must provide appropriate environmental enrichment and must ensure that breeding cats, kittens, retired breeding cats and other cats in their care receive appropriate individual attention, socialisation, exercise and veterinary care.

Registered Breeders must comply with applicable local government requirements concerning cat numbers, breeder approvals, multiple-cat permits, catteries, enclosures and associated housing requirements.

Where approval or a permit is required to keep cats in excess of the number ordinarily permitted by the relevant local government, the Registered Breeder is responsible for obtaining and maintaining that approval and complying with any conditions imposed by the local government.

4.4 Breeding cats shall receive appropriate preventative health care, vaccination and veterinary assessment having regard to their age, health, breeding status and individual needs.

4.5 It is the responsibility of the Breeder to ensure that the animal will be given a permanent home and not passed on without due consideration for its welfare.

4.6 It is the responsibility of the Breeder to ensure, as far as possible, that the prospective new owner/s know how to care for the cat/kitten.

4.7 Breeders should make themselves available to novice Breeders or Owners for advice and guidance, especially those who have purchased cats/kittens from them.

4.8 No cat or kitten shall be sold to, or through, an Agent who in turn will sell them on to new Owners. (e.g. Pet Shops) Cats and kittens may be offered for sale at a Show but must not be sold and removed from the Show by new owners. All sales of cats and kittens should be conducted at the Registered Breeders premises. Any Members breeding and/or selling to the export market will have their membership revoked.

4.9 The Pedigree, Veterinary Immunisation Certificate and Certificate of Registration are the birthright of the cat or kitten and are not to be withheld for extra payment. The price must include these whether the animal is sold for breeding, showing, or as a pet.

4.10 Transfer of ownership of the cat/kitten must be effected within 30 days of the gift or sale to a new Owner. Any sale, gift or transfer must also comply with applicable requirements of the Cat Act 2011 (WA), associated regulations and relevant local government requirements, subject to any lawful exemption, approval, permit or breeder-specific provision that applies.

Breeders must ensure that required ownership, registration and microchip records are updated following the transfer of a cat or kitten within the timeframes required by legislation.

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4.11 Transfer may be made for "Breeding" or "Non-Breeding". "Non-Breeding" means that should the cat produce kittens, none of the progeny can be registered. The kitten is to be desexed. It is the responsibility of the Breeder to explain to the new owner the meaning of the "Non-Breeding" status. It is also important to point out to the new owner that, by signing the transfer application form, they are signing a contract to have the cat/kitten desexed.

4.12 Matings: Agreements between the parties should be made regarding the costs and re-mating if applicable. The owner of the queen should make these arrangements well in advance and forewarn the owner of the stud of the impending visit of the queen. It is the responsibility of the stud's owner to witness at least three matings during the time that the queen is at stud. The stud service fee is payable and the completed certificate of service is to be provided at the time of service unless other terms have been agreed between the two parties.

4.13 The owner of a stud male will not accept unregistered females for service and will ensure that the female is owned and registered in the name of a financial member of a recognised registering Body.

4.14 Owners of queens will not use unregistered males for service and will ensure that the male is owned and registered in the name of a financial member of a recognised cat registering Body. Progeny of matings between unregistered animals or animals belonging to unregistered Breeders **WILL NOT BE REGISTERED.**

4.15 All kittens of a litter must be registered with CatsWA

4.16 The cat/kitten should be in the best possible health and condition before it goes to a new home.

4.17 As far as possible it should be free from internal and external parasites, e.g. ear mites, fleas and intestinal worms.

4.18 No kitten should be sold until at least 10/12 weeks of age and the Breeder must ensure that the kitten is of sufficient maturity to cope with the move to a new home. Before a kitten is sold, given away or transferred, the Breeder must ensure compliance with applicable microchipping, sterilisation and transfer requirements under the Cat Act 2011 (WA), associated regulations and relevant local government requirements.

Where a lawful breeder exemption, approval, permit or other breeder-specific provision applies, the Breeder may act in accordance with that provision and must comply with any conditions attached to it.

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Where a cat or kitten is transferred unsterilised, the Breeder must ensure that the transfer is permitted under the Cat Act 2011 (WA), including where applicable through a lawful exemption, transfer to an approved cat breeder for breeding purposes, or provision of a sterilisation voucher in accordance with the Act

4.19 All cats/kittens should be immunised against Feline Infectious Enteritis, Feline Rhinotracheitis and Feline Calicivirus (F3 Vaccination)

4.20 Kittens or Cats sold or placed in a breeding program will be tested for known heritable genetic defects/diseases by DNA tests available at the time. The purchaser must be made aware of the test results and if a cat/kitten is identified as a carrier or affected the breeder/purchaser must provide CatsWA with a signed statement that they are aware of the results if they wish to proceed with the purchase/placement.

a. Collection of Bucal Swab for DNA testing

i. Cat/kitten being tested must be microchipped PRIOR to sample being taken

ii. Cat/kitten name, registration number and microchip number must be noted on test results from the DNA Laboratory

iii. Person taking the swabs must sign a declaration stating the date, name , registration number and microchip number of the cat/kitten

iv. Test results and the declaration may be forwarded to the CatsWA so that the results are recorded on the health file of the registered cat/kitten

v. Breeders found to have falsified DNA results will be immediately suspended

5 Breaches of the Code of Conduct

5.1 Disciplinary action in accordance with the Disciplinary Policy may be taken against any person who breaches this Code of Conduct.

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6 Revision and Approval History

Date	Revision No.	Author and Approval
13.11.2011	1	L Horton, approved by Governing Council 21.11.11
15.09.2013	2	Insertion of clause 4.20 as approved by Governing Council 19.08.2013
20.10.2014	3	Insertion of clause 3.1 i as approved by Governing Council 18.08.2014
08.09.2026	4	Updated legislative compliance, responsible ownership, breeder exemptions, local government requirements, cat housing, adequate space, welfare and wellbeing provisions. Creation of Front Cover and Contents page Insertion of 1.3 in Scope 1.3 in now 1.4, Expansion of 2 g), 3.1 remove g) replaced with 3.2, 3.1 i) Insertion of Statement prior to 4.1, Expansion on 4.3, 4.4, 4.10, & 4.18 Reference to FCCWA now changed to CatsWA

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