



THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY OF IRELAND

GENERAL CODE OF ETHICS FOR BREEDERS AND OWNERS

Owners of all GCCFI registered kittens/cats accept the jurisdiction of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy of Ireland and undertake to abide by this general Code of Ethics

1. Owners should think carefully and be advised before getting a kitten. A breed should be chosen which is suitable to the lifestyle of the new owner. Only keep as many cats as can be cared for properly.
2. Warm and comfortable housing must be provided for cats and kittens allowing ample opportunity and space for exercise and play. Fresh clean drinking water must be available at all times and cats must be fed regularly and adequately. This would mean twice each day for adults and four times a day for new kittens (up to 3 months) reducing to 3 meals at 4 months and at 6 months two meals for the rest of their lives. Breeders will supply written details of all dietary requirements and will also give advice and guidance concerning responsible ownership when kittens/cats are moving to their new homes.
3. Some cats need more grooming than others do and this will keep the coat in good condition and will be a check for fleas and other parasites. Longhair cats need daily grooming to prevent the formation of knots and matted fur which can cause the cat considerable discomfort. Prospective buyers of Longhair cats should be made fully aware of the need for grooming.
4. If a kitten/cat shows signs of illness it is imperative to seek Veterinary assistance.
5. Cats bought as pets, not for breeding, should be neutered at the age recommended by your Veterinary Surgeon. Some cats are registered on the Non-Active register which means that in no circumstances should they be bred from. It is not possible to register the progeny of such cats with the GCCFI. Only the breeder may request a change from Inactive to Active register.
6. Breeders agree only to sell cats where there is a reasonable expectation that they will have a happy and healthy life. **Breeders should make an offer at the time of sale to help with the re-homing should future circumstances require that a new home has to be found for the cat. A reputable breeder will always give this commitment.**
7. Owners should not sell any cat to commercial cat wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow cats to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind.
8. Breeders must not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise cats nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of the cat and must draw the attention of purchasers to the implications of the Non-Active register when selling pet kittens.
9. When kittens are sold on the Active register, the breeder should be willing to offer advice and support to the new owners. Owners should not breed cats in any way that would be deleterious to the cat or the breed.
10. Owners should give some consideration to finding the best means to identify the cat in case it should become lost. A microchip can be inserted painlessly by a Veterinary Surgeon, which will give the cat a number, which can be registered and checked if the cat is found. Collars with identification can be worn but are not altogether safe as they may become entangled or break or come off over the cat's head so there is no means of identification.
11. The GCCFI requires that no kitten be permitted to go to a new home before 13 weeks of age. **At least seven days prior to this, the kitten must have completed a full course of vaccinations, including a health check, given by a Veterinary Surgeon.** The Breeder must ensure that kittens are house-trained, inoculated and in good general health.

12. In order to protect the person purchasing a pedigree kitten/cat the Council requires that all kittens/cats are registered when being offered for sale as pedigree kittens/cats. Breeders/Owners when selling or transferring a kitten/cat must provide the new owners with a full set of papers including all GCCFI documents as listed in item 13. Breeders/Owners must not deface GCCFI documents in any way.
13. Council rules state that new owners, when collecting their kitten/cat, should receive the following:-
 - (a) **Pedigree Form** When a kitten/cat is advertised as a pedigree kitten or cat, the Breeder/Owner shall at the time of sale provide the purchaser with a properly completed pedigree signed by the Breeder carrying three generations at least, showing all the breed numbers, if available, and registration numbers of all cats named on the pedigree, including the registration number and the breed number of the kitten/cat being offered for sale, also the Breeder's name and address. If the vendor is not the breeder the pedigree must additionally be signed by the vendor and include also the vendor's name and address.
 - (b) **Transfer of Ownership Form (pink)** This should be signed by the breeder/present owner who should also fill in the name and address of the new owner in the space provided. In doing this the kitten is protected from being passed on to another party without the breeder's knowledge. The new owner should sign the Transfer Form and return it with the relevant transfer fee to the Registrar of the GCCFI to complete officially the Transfer of Ownership.
 - (c) **Vaccination Card** signed by the breeder's/owner's Veterinary Surgeon confirming that the kitten/cat has been fully vaccinated and states the date the last vaccination was completed. If the kitten/cat has been microchipped, the number should also be supplied.
 - (d) **A copy of the Code of Ethics for Breeders and Owners.**
14. The GCCFI reserves the right not to register/transfer a kitten/cat at its discretion.
15. Should the new owners have any further questions or problems, the GCCFI Officers may be contacted through the website – www.gccfi.com