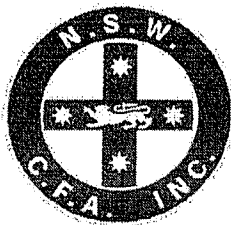


**Submission
No 301**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: NSW Cat Fanciers Inc.
Name: Ms Joanne Greentree
Position: President
Date Received: 15/06/2015



NSW Cat Fanciers Association Inc.

Submission by NSW Cat Fanciers Association Inc (NSW CFA) in relation to “Companion Animal Breeding Practices in New South Wales”

Closing Date 15 June 2015

Email to: CABPinquiry@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Context provided by the Parliament of NSW in relation to the proposed enquiry and report by a Joint Select Committee

A joint select committee to be appointed to inquire into and report on companion animal breeding practices in New South Wales, and in particular:

- a) The current situation in New South Wales in comparison with other jurisdictions*
- b) Proposals to limit the number of animals allowed to be kept by breeders*
- c) Calls to implement a breeders' licensing system*
- d) The implications of banning the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores*
- e) Any legislative changes that may be required*
- f) Any other related matter*

Submission

Introduction

A. Background:

New South Wales Cat Fanciers Association Inc ('NSW CFA'), the largest of the 3 recognised cat regulatory/registering bodies in NSW, is committed to the responsible ownership of pedigree and companion cats and kittens¹. By way of example, we refer to our:

- Website – “*Our Mission: to educate the members and the general public in all aspects of cat ownership. To promote, encourage and assist feline veterinary research*”²

¹ Refer for instance to statements on our website, our Code of Ethics and the various documents regulating our members.

² Web address: www.nswcfa.asn.au

- Constitution³ – the principal objects of our Constitution state relevantly as follows:

“2 (b) (i) to promote and raise the standards of breeding of pure bred cats...

(iii) to educate the members of NSW CFA Inc and the general public in all aspects of pure bred and companion cats; and

(iv) to propose and assist to make contributions to feline veterinary research and to create and endow scholarships and fellowships”...

As the largest of 3 recognised regulatory/registering cat bodies in NSW, we have been operating since approximately the late 1940's⁴ and currently have 32 affiliated clubs (including 13 breed specialty clubs) which conduct in excess of 20 shows per calendar year – shows which are a vehicle for breeders and exhibitors to showcase their breed and to educate the general public in relation to pedigree breeds and responsible pet ownership among, other things.

NSW CFA is governed by a Code of Ethics⁵, a Constitution and operating procedures – general and in relation to showing. Our management is by way of a Management Committee which meets monthly to supervise the operation of our organisation, facilitate continued improvement to ensure compliance with our rules and procedures (which includes adherence to our Code of Ethics, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 and the Companion Animals Act 1998 and their related Regulations as well as to the NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice – Breeding Dogs and Cats) and to discuss ways in which we can assist NSW CFA members to educate their kitten buyers about responsible pet ownership at point of sale and beyond. One example being generic information forms for kitten starter kits which can be downloaded from our website – one of our current projects.

Our Management Committee includes a number of professional members – including members with accounting qualifications and experience, a lawyer and members working in the community sector. This diversity of expertise and depth of experience enables our association to be appropriately responsive to community needs, operate effectively and keep abreast of legislative changes (including proposed changes) and animal welfare issues.

We also have affiliations with veterinary surgeons, such as [REDACTED], who assist us to keep abreast of important veterinary developments, supply articles for our journal⁶ and information which is displayed on our website, and provide veterinary assistance at our shows.

³ page 5 of that document annexed and marked “A”

⁴ Refer to our website under “About Us”

⁵ Attached as Annexure “B”

⁶ Our Journal “Catching Up ” – is published quarterly and provided to members in both online and hard copy form.

We also have strong affiliations with veterinary associations such as the Feline Health Research Fund⁷ and have links to similar veterinary and associated organisations, such as the RSPCA, the Cat Protection Society and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service on our website.⁸

In addition we provide information to members about cat related issues and in particular health and veterinary issues through our Journal "*Catching Up*", seminars and our website.⁹

B. Regulation of Members of NSW CFA by NSW CFA

Our association has an active registration fee for service model that through our membership fosters an adherence to rules and procedures related to:

- Responsible cat ownership;
- Breeding:
 - (a) Registration – every litter MUST be registered;
 - (b) Ethical breeding practises – which includes compliance with applicable state and national governing legislation, including the Companion Animals Act 1998 and a Code of Ethics that limits breeding of a queen;
- Membership and acceptable conduct – including rules providing for suspension and expulsion for breaches of rules and procedures, including being convicted for offenses of animal cruelty and bringing NSW CFA into disrepute;
- Showing and behaviour at shows for both feline exhibits and members; and
- Workers including: judges, stewards and other workers at shows

C. Additional Regulation by the NSW Government

Our breeder members currently pay a not insignificant annual fee for membership and prefix renewal. We strongly believe that any *additional* Fee for Service Models imposed on registered breeders to register their catteries, would have a significant negative impact throughout the cat and pet industry and in addition would not help ameliorate the situation with regard to the abandonment and euthanasia of cats and associated issues.

⁷ See link on our website under "*Feline Health*"

⁸ See links on our website under "*Feline Health*" and "*Links*" (sites of interest")

⁹ Refer to "*Association News*" on our website.

Cat shows and exhibitions sanctioned by the NSW CFA have seen significant reductions in entries, membership and patronage over the past 5 – 10 years. A number of our affiliated clubs have had to close due to reducing numbers of members and exhibitors related to increasing costs associated with pet ownership (including local council registration fees) and the regulation of the same, breeding, membership fees and exhibition costs.

As a responsible and committed regulatory/registering body and in response to community concerns about animal welfare, a number of measures that have been implemented, particularly in more recent years, to ensure best breeding practices are adhered to by our members. These include: the obligation of members to adopt and comply with NSW CFA rules and procedures, including a Code of Ethics; litter registration of all progeny from a litter; a limit to the breeding of female cats (with consequences for non-compliance, including non-registration of progeny in the absence of veterinary sanction); and, a stipulation that domestic cats and kittens must be de-sexed to be shown. In addition, NSW CFA members must answer any complaints lodged against them and disciplinary measures include suspension and expulsion¹⁰.

Specific responses to the enquiry's terms of reference:

a) The Current situation in NSW as compared with other jurisdictions

With regard to pedigree cats, the current situation in NSW is, essentially, self regulation by bodies such as NSW CFA Inc (the other recognised bodies being Cats NSW and ANCATS), as described above associated with compliance with applicable legislation (referred to and linked on our website) and registration with local councils – including micro chipping.

We are aware, from communications with fellow breeders and exhibitors in other states – in particular Victoria – that the legislation recently introduced into such areas is resulting in the decimation of breeders lines and the erosion and perhaps eventual death of the pedigree cat fancy in those areas – many responsible and dedicated breeders being forced out of their hobby, or, in some cases electing to re-locate rather than de-sex, re-home and lose valuable and perhaps irreplaceable lines.

We have not heard of or seen statistics supporting the position that such measures have resulted in any alleviation of the incidence of abandoned and euthanized cats. To the contrary, statistics that we have been able to locate support the view that such legislation, where it has been implemented, is not working.¹¹ We believe this is because pedigree breeders are not the cause of this problem – they are targeted because they are visible – precisely because they register and microchip their cats

¹⁰ Refer to Annexure "C" – being relevant sections of our Constitution.

¹¹ RSPCA Australia National Statistics 2013 – 2014 at page 5, show a reduction of 4.31% in NSW as compared to Victoria (0.72%), despite the draconian legislation introduced in that state with the objective of addressing the companion animal issue.

and kittens and are easily identifiable because they belong to organisations such as ours and microchip and register their cats with local councils.

Such legislation, by and large, fails to capture the back yard breeders and individuals who purchase from such breeders/pet shops, who are primarily responsible for issues of cat abandonment and euthanasia and the resultant costs to the community.

b) Proposals to limit the number of animals allowed to be kept by breeders

As stated above, NSW CFA has a fee for service breeders licensing system already in place governing members' practises such as: limiting the breeding of a queen; registration of ALL litters to monitor what members are breeding; minimum requirements regarding housing and care, disease control, the sale of kittens and the breeding and the sale of cats with genetic and other defects.

Although these rules and procedures do not include an identified strict limit on the number of cats kept by the members, there are rules and procedures with which members must comply that directly impact on the welfare of cats and kittens through housing and breeding compliance, as referred to above.

NSW CFA has already experienced (as noted earlier herein) a significant reduction in breeder numbers and people showing cats due to the costs associated with compliance with allowable practices.

Some local government areas already have restrictions on cat ownership for breeders and owners.

We believe that further restrictions could impact on legitimate breeding programs that ensure good practices in terms of outcross breeding lines to prevent inbreeding and associated health and genetic issues. We are of the view that the rules and procedures that we have in place are sufficient to and do achieve, to the extent that is reasonably possible for any regulation to achieve, manageable cattery numbers and practises. Such (further) restrictions would inevitably lead to:

- Loss of bloodlines – many breeders have spent significant amounts of time, effort, research and many thousands of dollars importing cats from around the world to supplement bloodlines and increase vigour in their chosen breed. Restrictions on numbers of cats would have a profound impact on many breeds in that it would lead to the erosion and eventual eradication of bloodlines, a likely decrease in vigour and increase in health problems associated with a shrinking gene pool and the possible eventual loss of breeds – as was seen during and after the last war; and
- Significant financial losses to breeders who have in good faith and in the interests of breed improvement, invested significant amounts of money in importing cats – some with return offspring conditions – which conditions they would not be able to fulfil.

Further negative commercial and community consequences of restrictions in numbers of cats able to be owned by registered breeders are:

It is well established that ownership of pets provides enormous physical and emotional health benefits to many individuals in the community – not least the elderly, ill and people living alone. On a wider basis, ownership of pets provides a vehicle for socialising – through a common interest and can help provide an important sense of community – through shared goals such as organising shows and exhibitions, events which provide both entertainment and education to the public. On a family basis, pets also teach living skills and of course provide companionship.

On an economic basis, pets – through the pet food and associated goods and services industries – are a significant source of employment and also fund raising for community organisations – such as the Scouts and volunteer Fire Fighters. Without such sources of fund raising, many of the events, opportunities and services provided by such organisations, would either not be able to be undertaken or would be reduced (this would again have a social impact).

In at least the medium and long term, the ramifications of implementing restrictions and further licensing (such as has been introduced in other states) are potentially enormous and extremely far reaching, not only to breeders and owners of cats and the bodies and affiliate bodies to which they belong, but to the entire community – on both an economic and social basis. Without limiting the probable areas or extent of this impact, some of the most obvious are:

A. Economic impact:

- Reduced income to the pet food industry, an industry that is already in decline as a result of factors such as restrictions on animals in rental accommodation. The reduction in the number of reputable breeders – an inevitable result of the additional financial burden brought about by the implementation of such restrictions, will lead to fewer pedigree cats being bred and available for ownership by the public;
- Reduced income to manufacturers and retailers of associated pet industry products such as: bedding, toys, cages, catteries and specialist foods;
- Reduced income to the veterinary industry: less breeding results in reduced need for all pet related checkups, vaccinations, veterinary assistance, operations and ongoing care of cats;
- Reduced income to the grooming/animal salon industry – less cats being bred and therefore owned, will reduce the need for such services;
- Decrease in employment as the impact in the above areas will reduce the need for staff – including veterinarians and veterinary nurses – therefore impacting on universities and colleges in addition to the above areas; and
- The further decline of cat clubs and associations. The impact of this trend will mean reduced opportunities to meet people and socialise and a further loss of income currently generated from the holding of shows and exhibitions by these clubs – by way of much needed funds derived by community organisations from hall hire, hall set up, catering, trophies purchased as prizes

etc. Further, it will mean reduced opportunities to educate the public about responsible pet ownership, (including general and veterinary care) one of the most significant ways of achieving objectives relating to the welfare of companion animals.

B. Social impact:

- Stories printed and shown on TV such as Best In Show (2012 Royal ECCA QLD Cat Show) about why people are involved in showing cats include comments about some of the benefits of involvement in this hobby, including: meeting new people, friendships, etc. Restrictions such as those implemented in other states will reduce the opportunity for pet ownership and also reduce opportunities for social contact and sharing a hobby with others;
- Reduction in pet ownership – a likely result of these recommendations – will reduce opportunities for breeders sharing best practices improving animal husbandry, general pet care, management of illnesses, grooming and managing animal behaviour. It will also reduce the gene pool with the likely result of increased illness and disabilities in pedigree cats;
- Reduction in cat associations/clubs will result in a reduction in cat shows – thus reducing the opportunities for professional breeders to chat with the public about responsible pet ownership, how to care and manage their pets, reduced opportunity to promote cat welfare and re-homing of lost/unwanted pets (some of these have come about due to people moving into accommodation where animals are not allowed);
- In households and nursing homes pets (are used to) provide companionship and peace for those who are old, frail or have disabilities. There is abundant research demonstrating a link between increased well-being of people as a result of animal companionship. The opportunity for such companionship and associated health and emotional benefits are likely to be impacted by the probable decline in pet ownership as a result of the implementation of restrictions; and
- The registering cat bodies – such as NSW CFA, TFA of NSW and ANCATS, have plenty of older people who are responsible cat owners who will no longer be able to afford this hobby. This will ultimately reduce their social contact, cat ownership and participation at shows. For many older people who have limited if any contact with family, having a purpose and a social outlet is essential for physical and mental health and well-being. Implementation of restrictions and additional licensing could see a rise in health related problems for older people who are no longer able to participate in the cat show industry due to additional costs/constraints. Similarly for many people on limited incomes. Already over the past decades as seen by a steady decline in cat registrations, people find it hard to own a pedigree cat. This also of course will place an additional financial burden on the community.

c) Calls to implement a breeders' licensing system

As stated above, under current NSW CFA rules and procedures, we have a fee for service breeders licensing system already in place.

To add an additional – external – licensing structure/layer, would simply add a further financial burden to the responsible sector of the cat breeding community, without addressing the real issue.

We believe that the primary objective – ie the welfare of companion cats – is best served by maintaining the visibility of breeders through membership of responsible regulatory/licensing bodies such as NSW CFA, CATS NSW and ANCATS rather than the implementation of measures that will foster an environment where responsible and committed breeders will be forced to give up their breeding due to the additional financial burden imposed (and the loss of lines built up through years of hard work and the input of significant financial resources) and where “backyard breeding” will flourish – such breeders being governed in effect by no-one.

We further strongly believe that the resources that would be required to properly implement and manage such a licensing/regulatory system, would be far more usefully and successfully spent on community education.

We believe that community education can best be achieved through a partnership between associations such as NSW CFA – who implement and support educational initiatives at no cost to the government or local councils¹², local councils, government bodies and organisations such as the RSPCA and the Cat Protection Society.

Some examples of education/information practises currently undertaken by NSW CFA:

- Holding companion cat and kitten competitions at shows – cats and kittens must be de-sexed to be eligible to be shown;
- Arranging animal welfare displays, including at our cat shows – dedicated to “*show-casing*” cats and kittens in care situations who need homes, sharing stories about their situations and attempting (often successfully) to find appropriate homes for these cats and kittens;
- Providing notifications on our website of news such as micro chipping days and breed days at TAFE’s (including providing information and support for these events);
- Supporting research organisations such as the Feline Health Research Fund; and

¹² At an organisational level, at affiliate club level – through the holding of dedicated pet rescue segments at their shows, which has resulted in the re-homing of abandoned and surrendered cats, and at the individual level – through membership of organisations such as the Cat Protection Society and associated voluntary welfare and rescue work.

- Provision of kitten care packs to new owners. Breeders support new owners to become responsible cat owners by: including fact sheets about their breed and how to care for a cat/kitten; the provision of food samples and toys; membership to join premium food companies and links to the NSW CFA web site and/or membership of the NSW CFA Inc as well as ongoing support – current project.

Some examples of possible joint initiatives:

- The NSW Government could, in partnership with governing (registering) cat bodies create a kitten/cat information pack that includes the entire requirements for responsible pet ownership. This information pack could then be available to be downloaded to ensure the dissemination of consistent information to all people who purchase a kitten/cat;
- Use our web site to promote new initiatives and remind cat owners of their responsibilities;
- Promote responsible cat ownership through the Catching Up Magazine that is sent (quarterly) to all NSW CFA members; and
- Hold stalls at one or more of the many NSW CFA cat shows to promote responsible cat ownership.

The value of and results obtained through community education, micro chipping and the work of rescue groups (including through commercial pet suppliers such as Petbarn and many veterinary practises), is demonstrated by the statistics provided by the RSPCA in relation to the continued downward trend of euthanasia and associated matters.¹³

d) The implications of banning the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores

NSW CFA supports the banning of such sales. Under our Code of Ethics, our members are prohibited from selling cats and kittens *"to commercial cat wholesalers, nor to non PIAA accredited retail pet dealers, nor allow a cat or kitten to be given as a prize or donation to a contest of any kind"* ¹⁴. In addition, members are not allowed to show at any unauthorised cat shows. These rules ensure that our members only show at shows sanctioned by organisations subscribing to responsible practises such as the Code of Ethics and the Companion Animal legislation and that have additional rules pertaining to the welfare of animals and people in such settings.

The implications for supporting the non-sale of cats and dogs to unauthorised pet shops limits the proliferation of puppy/cat farms and back yard breeders, by eliminating opportunities for the sale of these cats and dogs. Anecdotal evidence

¹³ Refer to annexure "D".

¹⁴ paragraph 7 – Sale of Kittens


through talk back radio demonstrates that despite efforts to manage this industry, there remain some back yard breeders who will supply such shops with animals that are not fit for sale. Such breeders do not follow good breeding practices nor do they ensure the welfare of the animal or buyer. If these shops were restricted in the sale of live animals, potential buyers would purchase from registered breeders who are governed by responsible breeding practises.

Good governance practices in regulatory/registering bodies such as NSW CFA, support responsible pet ownership with their rules and procedures, by promoting this at shows and in the Information packs provided to those purchasing new cats/kittens. Breeders become experts not simply in the care of cats/kittens (including breeding cats) but also in cat behaviour and further, have to behave in a manner that will protect and promote their reputation as a member of the NSW CFA. They are far more likely to be able to support a new owner through the life of their pet, providing advice or referring the person to a more experienced or qualified person, including a vet with specialist knowledge.

As an organisation we endorse placing a ban on the sale of cats through pet stores.

e) and f) Any Legislative Changes and Any Other related matter

Should any other specific concerns be raised by the joint select committee, we would request that we be given the opportunity to address any such issues and encourage consultation with our organisation and similar organisations in relation to any proposed changes to the status quo in NSW.



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"Annexure A"

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- (48) "supplementary register" means the cat register kept by the Management Committee for the purpose of recording therein cats used in or resulting from approved experimental breeding programs and from breeds not eligible for championship status.
- (49) "writing" includes printing, typing, email, photocopying, and any other like recognised means of written communication.
- 2 (a) In these rules:
- (i) reference to a function includes a reference to a power, authority and duty; and
 - (ii) reference to the exercise of a function includes, where the function is a duty, a reference to the performance of the duty;
 - (iii) the provisions of the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 and Regulations (as amended) apply to these rules.
 - (iv) reference to the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender and vice versa.
- (b) The principal objects of the NSW CFA Inc. are;
- (i) To promote and raise the standards of breeding of pure bred cats.
 - (ii) To promote and encourage the breeding of pure bred cats.
 - (iii) To educate the members of the NSW CFA Inc. and the general public in all aspects of pure bred and companion cats.
 - (iv) To promote and encourage the holding of exhibitions and shows of pure bred and companion cats.
 - (v) To train and accredit persons as judges to judge pedigreed and companion cats according to ruling standards.
 - (vi) To promote and assist to make contributions to feline veterinary research and to create and endow scholarships and fellowships.

NSW CFA Code of Ethics

Pursuant to rule 91 of the constitution the Management committee has amended the Code of Ethics effective 9 July 2013. This amended Code of Ethics is set out in the following and takes effect from 11 November 2014.

These guidelines are required to be upheld by all members of NSW CFA. Breaches of the Code may result in penalties according to the Constitution sections 19, 20 & 21.

A member will not be regarded as being in breach of the Code unless the breach is of a serious nature and has had, or is likely to have, a significant deleterious effect on a cat or kitten, or the member's or the association's reputation.

Each member shall

Ensure that all cats and kittens in their care are hygienically housed, properly fed, watered, groomed and receive prompt veterinary attention when required.

1. Observe the Rules and Procedures of the NSW Cat Fanciers' Association Inc and in particular the procedures pertaining to the treatment and control of infectious disease.
2. Not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of a breed, nor falsely advertise nor mislead any person regarding the pedigree or performance of any cat or kitten
3. Not allow any entire cats under the member's care to roam free, except under supervision, to prevent accidental matings.
4. Ensure that the Certificate of Registration is transferred to the new owner's name when a cat or kitten has been sold for showing or breeding in accordance with General Operating Procedures Section 5.
5. Not mate or breed pedigreed cats unless the member becomes a breeder member by obtaining a Breeder's Prefix issued by the association. The breeder's prefix will be noted on the member's membership card.
6. Ensure appropriate records are kept of each cat relating to vaccination, worming and general health checks.
7. Commit to compliance with both the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 and the Companion Animals Act 1998 and their related Regulations as well as to the NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice – Breeding Dogs and Cats.

Each Breeder member shall

1. Ensure all litters are registered on the NSW CFA Litter register in accordance with General Operating Procedures Section 4.
2. Not mate a female under 10 months of age unless the mating has the written approval of a qualified veterinary practitioner.
3. Not over breed a queen, ensuring that she has no more than 2 litters each 12 months. It is recommended that a queen not have more than 3 litters in any 24 month period. More than 3 litters in any 24 month period from the same queen will only be accepted for registration when the fourth mating has the written approval of a qualified veterinary practitioner.
4. Ensure that any cat to be bred from is free of disease and fit and healthy.
5. Ensure that a pedigreed cat is not mated to a pedigreed cat of another breed unless such mating is approved by the Association, or it is one of the approved outcross breeds in the CCCA Breed Standards.
6. Breed cats for the purpose of improving the standard of the breed and not primarily for the pet market.
7. Ensure that cats with a known history of physical or genetic defects (that may affect the cat or its progeny's quality of life) will not be used for breeding.
8. Not use unregistered cats for breeding, except where this has been expressly approved by the Management Committee in an experimental breeding programme.

Sale of Kittens

1. A kitten shall not be transferred or sold under the age of 10 weeks, and vaccination must be commenced at least 14 days before the date on which the new owner takes possession of the kitten.
2. The first vaccination must be administered by a qualified Veterinary Practitioner and the kitten health checked.
3. Before sale each kitten must be fully weaned, healthy, vaccinated, microchipped and litter trained. Unless agreed otherwise by the breeder and purchaser, breeders shall accept reasonable financial responsibility for the health status of a kitten for 2 weeks after the date on which the new owner takes possession of the kitten.
4. No kitten is to be sold or placed while suffering from any infectious disease.

5. Any kitten with a health defect must have this disclosed to the potential purchaser prior to sale.
6. All purchasers of cats and kittens shall be provided with written details of all dietary, grooming, worming, and vaccination requirements. The pedigree and vaccination certificate are the birthright of the cat or kitten and must be given to the new owner. Information to contact appropriate breed clubs should also be supplied.
7. Cats or kittens shall not be sold to commercial cat wholesalers, nor to non PIAA accredited retail pet dealers, nor allow a cat or kitten to be given as a prize or donation to a contest of any kind.
8. When selling or transferring a cat or kitten to another person for breeding or showing, the breeder shall ensure that all documents required by the NSW Cat Fanciers' Association Procedures are provided to the purchaser or the transferee on completion of the sale or as agreed by both parties. See also General Operating Procedures Section 5.
9. When selling or transferring a cat or kitten to another person for breeding, the breeder/owner shall ensure that the new owner is a member of a recognised controlling body and has, or intends to have, an approved breeder's prefix.
10. The breeder is to keep records of names and addresses of purchasers.
11. It is recommended that all kittens be desexed prior to going to Pet homes. If not, the breeder must instruct the purchaser to have this done by 6 months of age and follow up.

Kittens for Showing and Breeding

1. Commencing 1st January 2015 any kitten intended for showing or breeding must have its first vaccination administered by a qualified veterinary practitioner.
2. It is strongly recommended that any kitten retained by a breeder have its first vaccination administered by a qualified veterinary practitioner.

Minimum Standards for Breeding Establishments

1. All cats and kittens are to have a permanent supply of fresh clean water. Receptacles are to be kept clean.
2. All cats are to be fed a feline suitable meal at least once a day. However, it is recommended that cats are fed twice a day.
3. Weaned Kittens are to be fed a minimum of twice a day. Care is to be taken to account for their nutritional requirements according to their life stage. More frequent meals are required for young kittens.
4. All cats are to be kept in clean accommodation which is secure and weather proof. Suitable for varying temperature ranges to ensure comfort.
5. Hygienic toilet facilities which must be kept clean and disinfected regularly.
6. Provide stimuli such as toys and scratching poles.
7. Cats (and kittens) must be kept free of fleas and a suitable flea treatment used as needed.
8. Cats (and kittens) must be treated for intestinal worms as required.
9. Pregnant or lactating queens require increased food portions as well as higher nutritional values. Diet is to be adjusted accordingly.
10. Pregnant queens are to be given a quiet, clean kittening box days before her due date. She must be checked each day and given any veterinary attention as is required.
11. Kittening boxes must be kept clean with clean bedding provided at least every 2 days.
12. Kittens must not be separated from their mother until sufficiently weaned, unless under extreme circumstances for the health of the mother or kitten.
13. Stud quarters must be as large as possible and made of material suitable for frequent cleaning and disinfecting. A minimum size of 2100 x 1800 with weather proof protection to a warm, dry bedding area.
14. Stud enclosures are to be provided with plenty of climbing ledges, scratching poles and shelves to enrich his life and provide safety from visiting females.
15. It is the Breeders responsibility to desex all stock no longer required for breeding. Pet homes may be found for desexed cats suitable to be rehomed.
16. Provision must be made within the establishment for the immediate isolation of any cat, kitten or litter which shows signs of infectious disease. The requirements of the Infectious Diseases Procedure must be followed.
17. If accommodation is inside a building, some provision for regular exposure to sunshine must be allowed for health.

" Annexure C "

(h) A cat not meeting the aforesaid requirements in g) may be entered in the companion cat register as either a Household cat or a Domestic cat.

A Household cat is

- (i) a cat whose sire or dam, but not both, is registered; or
- (ii) a pedigreed cat which is ineligible to be registered under these procedures. or
- (iii) a unregistered pedigreed cat, being part of a registered litter, which has been sold as Pet Only.

Once registered as a Household cat the cat cannot subsequently be transferred back to the pedigreed register.

A Domestic cat is a cat whose sire and dam are unknown or are both not registered pedigreed cats.

(i) To be eligible to be entered in the companion cat register a cat over 6 months of age must have been desexed, and a certificate/statement of sterilization (desexing) signed by a qualified veterinary practitioner submitted with the application for registration.

(j) A person shall be entitled to register a cat in the companion cat register when that person is the owner of such cat and is a member of the association.

Prefixes for Breeders

3.2 Only full members of the association may apply to register a prefix on the prescribed form accompanied by the prescribed fee.

3.3 A breeder must hold an approved prefix to be eligible to register progeny from a registered dam and registered sire.

SECTION 4 – BREEDING RECORDS, LITTER AND PROGENY REGISTRATION

4.1 Breeding records

a) A breeder member shall keep proper records of his/her breeding activities. As a minimum these records shall include the date of birth of a litter, its sire and dam, the number of progeny and their breeds, sex and colours as far as it is known.

b) All such records shall be open to inspection by any person authorised by the Management Committee to inspect the same and that authorised person shall be at liberty to take extracts from those records.

4.2 Litter and Progeny Registration

a) A breeder shall Litter Register every litter by making application on the prescribed Litter Registration Form together with payment of the prescribed fee within four months of the date of birth of the litter, or, within twelve months of the date of birth of the litter by making application on the prescribed form together with payment of the prescribed (late) fee. The current prescribed litter registration fees (including the late fee) are;

Up to 4 months - \$10; 4 to 6 months - \$35; 6 to 12 months - \$50.

b) No litter may be litter registered later than twelve months from its date of birth, unless the late registration has been submitted to and approved by the Management Committee.

c) A breeder may make application to register further progeny from a litter registered litter within twelve (12) months of the date of birth of the litter by making application on the prescribed Kitten Registration Form together with payment of the prescribed fee, or within a further period of twelve (12) months (ie after 12 months and within 24 months) upon by making application on the prescribed form together with payment of the prescribed (late) fee.

d) No progeny from a litter registered litter may be registered later than twenty four (24) months from the date of birth of that litter.

4.3 Litter Registration Restriction

a) It is recommended that a queen has no more than 3 litters in any 24 month period. More than 3 litters in a 24 month period from the same queen will only be accepted for registration when the fourth mating has the written approval of a qualified veterinary practitioner.

SECTION 6 – CANCELLATION, SUSPENSION, VARIATION OF REGISTRATION OR PREFIX RECORDS

6.1 The Management Committee may cancel, suspend or vary the registration of any cat or the prefix of any member at any time for any reason which the Committee in its absolute discretion may consider sufficient.

6.2 During a period of suspension of registration of a cat it shall be deemed for all purposes not to be registered.

6.4 The Management Committee may upon the cancellation of or variation in the registration of a cat, cancel the registration of any descendant of such cat, or may allow the registration of the descendant to remain, and/or may make such correction in the registration or description of any such descendant as the committee may consider proper.

6.5 The owner of a cat, the registration of which has been cancelled or suspended, may make written application to the Management Committee for approval to be granted for re-registration of the said cat. When such approval is granted by the committee the said cat will be re-registered, but only in the name and registration number in which the said cat was originally registered.

6.7

f) In the opinion of the Management Committee it is in the interest of the particular breed of cat of which the cat is a member, that the registration be cancelled; or

g) The cat is exhibited at an unrecognised show; or

h) In the opinion of the Management Committee the cat has been subjected to any faking.

SECTION 8 – RECOGNISED BREEDS AND EXPERIMENTAL BREEDING

8.1 Restrictions to Breeding

The Management Committee shall publish and from time to time amend restrictions regarding breeding within the various breed groups and the intermating of cats of differing breeds. These restrictions may be published as attachments to these procedures.

Experimental Breeding Programs

The Management Committee may at its sole discretion grant approval for an experimental breeding program to establish a new breed. An application to conduct an experimental breeding program shall include the following.

Note - This section goes on to list 7 areas of compliance.

6. A nomination for membership may be accepted or refused by the Management Committee and consideration of a nomination may be deferred but only for a period not exceeding three months from the date of receipt of the nomination by the Secretary.

The Secretary must advise the nominee of the acceptance or rejection of the nomination, and if the nominee is accepted enter the nominee's name in the register of members and, on the name being so entered, the nominee becomes a member of the association.

Life Membership

7. The Management Committee may by resolution appoint a member to be a life member, and such appointment shall be conferred on the member at the next annual general meeting of members.

A life member shall enjoy all the privileges of membership but shall not be liable to pay any fees as required by rules 14 and 15.

Cessation of Membership

10. A person shall cease ipso facto to be a member of the NSW CFA Inc.:

(e) if he or she has been convicted of an offence under the Cruelty to Animals Act or any amendment thereof of the Act, or has been convicted summarily or on indictment for an offence committed at a show or exhibition. The publication in a newspaper or notification to

the NSW CFA Inc. from the appropriate authority that such conviction has been recorded

shall be sufficient evidence thereof for the purpose of this rule;

Obligations of Members

17. (a) A member shall observe and act in conformity (and not otherwise) with the rules, by-laws, and procedures of the association made under these rules.

(b) A member shall not conduct himself or herself in such a way as to bring the NSW CFA Inc. into discredit or to bring himself or herself as a member, breeder, or exhibitor into discredit.

Resolution of Internal Disputes

18. (a) Disputes between members (in their capacity as members) of the association, and disputes

between members and the association, are to be referred to a community justice centre for mediation

in accordance with the Community Justice Centres Act 1983.

(b) At least 7 days before a mediation session is to commence, the parties are to exchange statements of the issues that are in dispute between them and supply copies to the mediator.

Complaints and Investigations

19. (a) When the Management Committee receives a complaint against a member or becomes aware of circumstances involving misconduct by a member, the committee will advise the member accordingly

and request a response from the member within 28 days. The committee will consider the member's response and determine whether further disciplinary action will be taken.

(b) Where a member fails to respond within 28 days (as required by clause (a)) the committee may

impose a penalty of suspension of office services, judging licence, steward's accreditation, or similar

until such time as the member responds.

Disciplinary Action – Expulsion or Suspension

20. (a) A complaint, or report, may be made to the Management Committee by any person that a member (or affiliate) of the association:

10

(i) has persistently refused or neglected to comply with a provision or provisions of these rules, or

(ii) has persistently and wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the association.

(b) On receiving such a complaint, or report, the committee:

(i) must cause a notice of the complaint, or report, to be served on the member concerned, and

(ii) must give the member at least 14 days from the time the notice is served within which to make

submissions to the committee in connection with the complaint, or report, and

(iii) must take into consideration any submissions made by the member in connection with the

complaint or report.

(c) The committee may, by resolution, expel the member from the association or suspend the

member from membership of the association if, after considering the complaint and any submission

made in connection with the complaint, it is satisfied that the facts alleged in the complaint, or report,

have been proved.

(d) If the committee expels or suspends a member, the Secretary must, within 7 days after the action

is taken, cause written notice to be given to the member of the action taken, of the reasons given by

the committee for having taken that action, and of the member's right of appeal under rule 22.

(e) The expulsion or suspension does not take effect:

(i) until the expiration of the period within which the member is entitled to appeal against the

resolution concerned, or

(ii) if within that period the member exercises the right of appeal, unless and until the association

confirms the resolution under rule 22.

Disciplinary Action – Misconduct

21. (a) A complaint or report may be made to the committee by any person alleging misconduct by a

member (or affiliate) of the association.

(b) On receiving such a complaint, or report, the committee must proceed as per rule 20 (b).

(c) If after considering the complaint or report and any submission made in connection with the complaint or report, it is satisfied that the facts alleged in the complaint or report have been proved,

the committee may;

(i) suspend the member's right to use of the association's office services, or

(ii) suspend the member's judging licence, or

(iii) suspend the member's stewards accreditation, or

(iv) impose a monetary fine, or

(v) impose any such other penalty or restriction that may be appropriate to the circumstances.

Removal of a Member

47. (a) A member of the Management Committee may only be removed from the office of member

of the committee before the expiration of the member's term of office, by a special resolution of the

members in general meeting. And, at that meeting another person may by resolution be appointed to

hold office until expiration of the term of office of the member so removed.

(b) A member of the Management Committee to whom a proposed resolution in clause (a)

relates, may make representations in writing to the Secretary or President of the association, and the

member may attend in person or require

91. The Management Committee may make, rescind, alter, or add to procedures as it may think fit.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the committee may make procedures:

(a) General Operating Procedures governing;

(i) the maintenance and administration of the cat register, the companion cat register, and the

supplementary register;

(ii) registration, use, and transfer of prefixes;

(iii) the recording of matings and litters, and the registration of cats;

(iv) the recording of transfer of ownership of cats registered in the registers;

(v) the cancellation, suspension, or variation of registration or prefix;

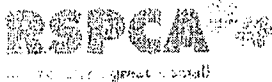
(vi) the amended registration, change of sex, desexing, and change of coat colour of a cat;

(vii) experimental breeding of new cat breeds;

(viii) the appointment and licensing of judges;

- (ix) the training and appointment of companion judges, stewards, and show representatives;
- (x) show awards, and NSW CFA and CCCA titles;
- (xi) application forms and scale of fees for office services;
- (xii) any other matter related to the day to day operations of the NSW CFA Inc.
- (b) A Code of Ethics setting out the recommended code of conduct for members and registered breeders.

91 (e) Procedures governing the control of infectious diseases and quarantining of catteries.



Annual Statistics

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Cats

More cats and kittens have been adopted by the RSPCA and reclaimed by their owners this year than in any previous year 56.73% (27,890) reflecting the success of new adoption approaches and programs (see figures 6, 7 and 8).

There has been an increase of 3,903 in the number of cats and kittens adopted by the RSPCA and reclaimed by their owners this year when compared to 2012-13.

An additional measure for monitoring change over time is the live release rate (LRR). The 2013-2014 live release rate for cats and kittens was 64.60% which is an increase of 7.79% compared to last year. The LRR is the percentage of cats that were adopted, reclaimed by their owner or transferred to a rescue group or other non-RSPCA facility as a percentage of the total number of cats received (not including those currently in care or categorised as 'other') for the 2013-2014 financial year.

This increase in adoptions has resulted in the lowest euthanasia rate to date. Unfortunately, 31.5% (15,491) of cats/kittens were still humanely euthanased (see figure 9).

With the increasing uptake of microchip identification for cats, we are hopeful to see an increase in the number of lost cats that are reunited with their owners over the coming years.

Help animals like Mirrhi



Support the RSPCA and help animals across Australia.

Donate today

Make a difference in under 5 minutes

Figure 6: Percentage of cats adopted, reclaimed and live release rate from the RSPCA 2008-2014

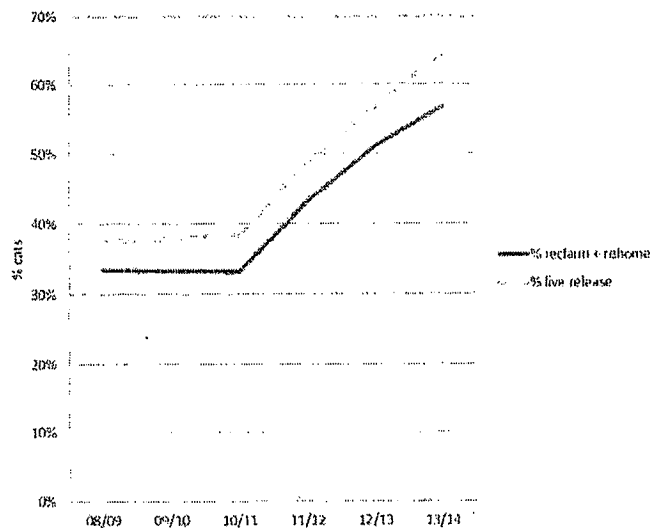


Figure 6: Cats adopted and reclaimed of total received 2008-2014

Figure 7: Outcomes for cats 2013-14

Figure 8: Outcomes for cats selected years 1998-2014

Figure 9: Reasons for euthanasia of cats 2013-14

Figure 7: Outcomes for cats 2013-14

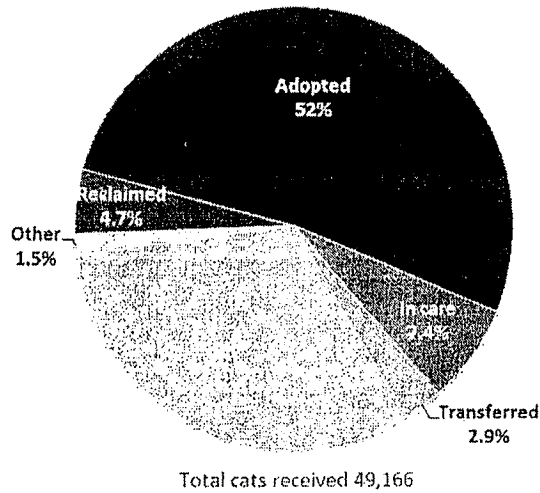


Figure 8: Outcomes for cats selected years 1998-2014

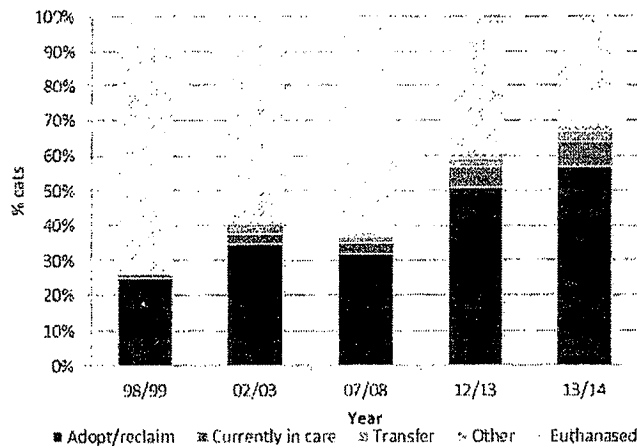
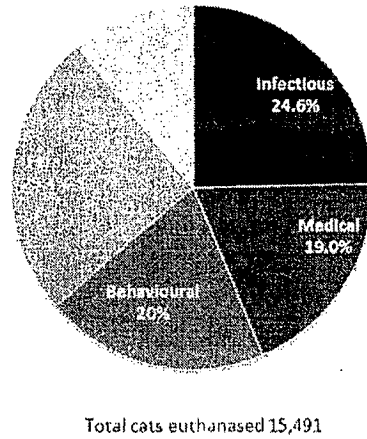


Figure 9: Reasons for euthanasia of cats 2013-14



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Good Egg Awards

Do you know a company s
leadership by sourcing or :
to cage-free eggs?

Janene's volunteering story:

"My family has always loved
animals. Helping to care for
them is so rewarding."

4. Ensure that any cat to be bred from is free of disease and fit and healthy.
5. Ensure that a pedigreed cat is not mated to a pedigreed cat of another breed unless such mating is approved by the Association, or it is one of the approved outcross breeds in the CCCA Breed Standards:
6. Breed cats for the purpose of improving the standard of the breed and not primarily for the pet market.
7. Ensure that cats with a known history of physical or genetic defects (that may affect the cat or its progeny's quality of life) will not be used for breeding.
8. Not use unregistered cats for breeding, except where this has been expressly approved by the Management Committee in an experimental breeding programme.

Sale of Kittens

1. A kitten shall not be transferred or sold under the age of 10 weeks, and vaccination must be commenced at least 14 days before the date on which the new owner takes possession of the kitten.
2. The first vaccination must be administered by a qualified Veterinary Practitioner and the kitten health checked.
3. Before sale each kitten must be fully weaned, healthy, vaccinated, microchipped and litter trained. Unless agreed otherwise by the breeder and purchaser, breeders shall accept reasonable financial responsibility for the health status of a kitten for 2 weeks after the date on which the new owner takes possession of the kitten.
4. No kitten is to be sold or placed while suffering from any infectious disease.
5. Any kitten with a health defect must have this disclosed to the potential purchaser prior to sale.
6. All purchasers of cats and kittens shall be provided with written details of all dietary, grooming, worming, and vaccination requirements. The pedigree and vaccination certificate are the birthright of the cat or kitten and must be given to the new owner. Information to contact appropriate breed clubs should also be supplied.
7. Cats or kittens shall not be sold to commercial cat wholesalers, nor to non PIAA accredited retail pet dealers, nor allow a cat or kitten to be given as a prize or donation to a contest of any kind.
8. When selling or transferring a cat or kitten to another person for breeding or showing, the breeder shall ensure that all documents required by the NSW Cat Fanciers' Association Procedures are provided to the purchaser or the transferee on completion of the sale or as agreed by both parties. See also General Operating Procedures Section 5.
9. When selling or transferring a cat or kitten to another person for breeding, the breeder/owner shall ensure that the new owner is a member of a recognised controlling body and has, or intends to have, an approved breeder's prefix.
10. The breeder is to keep records of names and addresses of purchasers.
11. It is recommended that all kittens be desexed prior to going to Pet homes. If not, the breeder must instruct the purchaser to have this done by 6 months of age and follow up.

Kittens for Showing and Breeding

1. Commencing 1st January 2015 any kitten intended for showing or breeding must have its first vaccination administered by a qualified veterinary practitioner.
2. It is strongly recommended that any kitten retained by a breeder have its first vaccination administered by a qualified veterinary practitioner.

Minimum Standards for Breeding Establishments

1. All cats and kittens are to have a permanent supply of fresh clean water. Receptacles are to be kept clean.
2. All cats are to be fed a feline suitable meal at least once a day. However, it is recommended that cats are fed twice a day.
3. Weaned Kittens are to be fed a minimum of twice a day. Care is to be taken to account for their nutritional requirements according to their life stage. More frequent meals are required for young kittens.
4. All cats are to be kept in clean accommodation which is secure and weather proof. Suitable for varying temperature ranges to ensure comfort.
5. Hygienic toilet facilities which must be kept clean and disinfected regularly.
6. Provide stimuli such as toys and scratching poles.
7. Cats (and kittens) must be kept free of fleas and a suitable flea treatment used as needed.
8. Cats (and kittens) must be treated for intestinal worms as required.
9. Pregnant or lactating queens require increased food portions as well as higher nutritional values. Diet is to be adjusted accordingly.
10. Pregnant queens are to be given a quiet, clean kitting box days before her due date. She must be checked each day and given any veterinary attention as is required.
11. Kitting boxes must be kept clean with clean bedding provided at least every 2 days.
12. Kittens must not be separated from their mother until sufficiently weaned, unless under extreme circumstances for the health of the mother or kitten.
13. Stud quarters must be as large as possible and made of material suitable for frequent cleaning and disinfecting. A minimum size of 2100 x 1800 with weatherproof protection to a warm, dry bedding area.
14. Stud enclosures are to be provided with plenty of climbing ledges, scratching poles and shelves to enrich his life and provide safety from visiting females.
15. It is the Breeders responsibility to desex all stock no longer required for breeding. Pet homes may be found for desexed cats suitable to be rehomed.
16. Provision must be made within the establishment for the immediate isolation of any cat, kitten or litter which shows signs of infectious disease. The requirements of the Infectious Diseases Procedure must be followed.
17. If accommodation is inside a building, some provision for regular exposure to sunshine must be allowed for health.

Current Practices of NSW CFA for Cat Breeders: Supporting evidence of NSW CFA Management of membership and Breeding/ Showing

Exerts from NSW CFA Constitution, Operating Procedures and Show Rules

- 2.1 (f) - A person shall be entitled to register a cat in the register when that person is the breeder and owner of such cat and is a resident of the State of New South Wales, and is a member of the association.
- 2.1 (g) - A cat born in New South Wales shall not be entered in the register unless
- (i) the litter of which it is a progeny has been litter registered,
 - (ii) its sire and dam are each registered, and
 - (iii) it is less than two years of age