



Welcome to the TICA Voluntary Responsible Breeder Program!

This packet is designed to assist you in becoming a designated TICA Voluntary Responsible Breeder. Contained within this packet are the:

TICA *Voluntary* Code of Ethics Form

Letter of Intent

Cattery Evaluation Program

TICA Cattery Evaluation Form

Questions and Answers about Spaying and Neutering Brochure

Are You Looking for a Kitten Brochure?

(Please contact the Executive Office for the original Cattery Evaluation Form.)



THE INTERNATIONAL CAT ASSOCIATION, INC.
VOLUNTARY CODE OF ETHICS



I am a member in good standing of The International Cat Association (TICA) and have a TICA registered cattery.

I will breed discriminately, and only if I can find appropriate homes for my kittens.

I will place kittens only in homes that I believe will provide a life-long commitment of love, appreciation, and responsible care.

Any kitten or cat sold as a pet/companion will be sold under the following conditions:

- I will guarantee that the kitten/cat is in good health at the time of sale.
- I will urge the purchaser to have the kitten/cat examined by the purchaser's own veterinarian within a few days of purchase to confirm its good health.
- I will require that the kitten be spayed or neutered **NO LATER THAN 12 months of age** and not be allowed to produce any offspring.
- I will explain to the purchaser the dangers of an outdoor environment.
- I will provide a written sales agreement that describes all the terms of the sale. I will abide by my own sales agreement.
- I will provide the TICA registration application form and/or pedigree for the kitten/cat **ONLY** after I have received written evidence from a licensed veterinarian that the kitten/cat has been altered.
- I will encourage the purchaser to contact me if the purchaser has any questions and I will respond in a timely manner.
- I will not release a kitten until it has been inoculated at least twice against the following: Panleukopenia, Feline Rhinotracheitis, and Calicivirus. I also may choose to give other vaccinations.

I have read and agree to abide by the above *Voluntary Code of Ethics*.

Breeder's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Breeder's Address: _____ Membership #: _____

Phone: _____ Region: _____ (For Office Use Only)

Cattery Name/Number: _____ DOE: _____ (For Office Use Only)

E-Mail: _____

COMPLETE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10.00 US TO TICA.



THE INTERNATIONAL CAT ASSOCIATION, INC.
VOLUNTARY RESPONSIBLE BREEDER PROGRAM



LETTER OF INTENT

The first step in becoming a TICA *Voluntary* Responsible Breeder is to complete and submit to the TICA Executive Office the enclosed copy of the *Voluntary* CODE OF ETHICS. You must also submit a one-time fee (per individual) of \$10 (US Funds ONLY). Upon receipt of your completed, signed *Voluntary* Code of Ethics, the Executive Office will return to you a personalized copy of the code. This copy will NOT disclose your membership number, however, it will contain your cattery number as an identifier, therefore, this information is required on the form you submit to the Executive Office. Although the Code of Ethics is a voluntary program, it is mandatory that you agree to abide by the Code in order to proceed through the program. The Code of Ethics is a statement of minimum requirements for the breeder; it is hoped that all TICA breeders will surpass the Code of Ethics in their own catteries.

The Cattery Evaluation Program is delineated for the breeder and evaluating veterinarian, along with the TICA Mission and Policy Statements. The documents contained in this packet explain the philosophy of the cattery evaluation, its intention and hopeful outcome. It is imperative that the breeder share these documents with the evaluating veterinarian of his/her choice. It is the breeder's responsibility to inform the veterinarian of breed requirements, the set-up of the cattery/home, and to answer any questions the veterinarian may have as they pertain to the cattery evaluation. It is also the breeder's responsibility to reimburse the evaluating veterinarian for his/her services.

The breeder is urged to perform his/her own self-evaluation utilizing the Cattery Evaluation Form before the actual evaluation takes place. It is required that the breeder be a member of TICA for the duration of the time that the cattery is validated as a "Outstanding Cattery" or "Cattery of Merit". Membership dues must be paid through the following year, and membership forms are available from the Executive Office. The veterinarian who is the best informed about your own breed and cattery situation is, in all likelihood, your own veterinarian. It is therefore probable that she/he is the best evaluator for you. The identifying information on the Cattery Evaluation Form MUST be completed by the breeder before the evaluation. This includes your TICA membership number and TICA Cattery Name and Number. Your cattery name and number will appear on the "Outstanding Cattery" or "Cattery of Merit" document. Please be certain that all the information is clear and legible.

The Cattery Evaluation forms are provided on NCR paper in triplicate. Upon completion of the evaluation, the breeder must submit the white copy to the Executive Office together with the \$15 fee; the yellow copy is for the breeder's records and the pink copy is for the evaluating veterinarian. Upon receipt of the white copy and the fees, the Executive Office will furnish a laminated document that designates your cattery to be a "Outstanding Cattery: or a "Cattery of Merit". It is hoped that you will proudly display your cattery designation at TICA shows and to the people who come to your home/cattery.

It is anticipated that in the near future, members of the TICA Voluntary Responsible Breeder Program will have the option of insurance for their catteries. In order to qualify, the breeder will be required to sign and agree to abide by the code of Ethics and have their cattery evaluated by a licensed veterinarian. Other benefits for TICA *Voluntary* Responsible Breeders are in the planning stages.

Code of Ethics: One-time fee per individual - \$10

Cattery Evaluation: Annual fee - \$15



CATTERY EVALUATION PROGRAM

In keeping with the Mission and Policy Statements of TICA, the Voluntary Responsible Breeder Program has adopted the Cattery Evaluation Program and the Voluntary Code of Ethics. The goal is to provide education, information, and guidance to breeders so that they are aware of proper husbandry and cattery management techniques. The Cattery Evaluation Program will recognize TICA Outstanding Catteries and TICA Catteries of Merit.

EVALUATOR

The actual cattery evaluation must be done by a licensed small animal veterinarian. The breeder may engage his/her regular veterinarian for this task. It is important for the veterinarian to place emphasis on the overall impression of health and well-being of the cats in the cattery during the evaluation and decision making process. Often cattery set-ups involve the entire household. For example, bedrooms and bathrooms may be utilized for birthing and/or isolation areas of the cattery. In addition, it is important for the evaluator to allow for the odor of any whole male cat in residence. However, it is not allowable to experience the stale odor of cats permeating the residence. It is hoped that the dialogue between the veterinarian and breeder will be an educational experience.

BREEDER

The breeder is encouraged to use the Cattery Evaluation Form as a guide for self-evaluation of his/her cattery contacting a veterinarian. It is hoped that this method will allow the breeder to correct any deficiencies before the actual evaluation. The breeder must be present during the evaluation and scoring process. All fees charged by the veterinarian for this service are to be paid by the breeder.

SCORING METHOD

The veterinarian is to score the form in the presence of the breeder. Each individual rating of "Excellent" receives 2 points, each "Satisfactory" receives 1 point, and each "unsatisfactory" rating receives 0 points. Any Not Applicable (N/A) rating receives a score of 2 points. Multiply the total number of "excellent" ratings plus "N/A" ratings by 2, and enter this figure on the line following "Excellent". Add the total number of "Satisfactory" ratings and enter this figure on the line following "Satisfactory". Add the two figures together and enter the sum in the appropriate space. The best possible score is 88 points. A total score of 75 points or more receives an overall "Outstanding" rating and the breeder will be sent an "Outstanding Cattery" certificate. A total score of 58-74 points receives an overall "Satisfactory" rating and the breeder will be sent a "Cattery of Merit" certificate. A score below 58 points results in a failed rating. Once the problems in the cattery have been rectified, the breeder may resubmit a request to TICA for another Cattery Evaluation Form and have the cattery evaluated again.

THE CATTERY CERTIFICATE

The original (white copy) of the Cattery Evaluation Form is to be submitted by the breeder to TICA together with the \$15 fee. The yellow copy is for the breeder's records, and the pink copy is for the veterinarian's records. Upon receipt of the white copy of the form and the fees, the Executive Office will furnish the breeder the appropriate certificate. These certificates must be renewed on an annual basis.



THE INTERNATIONAL CAT ASSOCIATION, INC.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT SPAYING & NEUTERING



Today, more people are having their cats spayed and neutered than ever before. Why? Because people who live with cats are discovering the many benefits of spaying and neutering. This brochure outlines the benefits and answers commonly asked questions about spaying and neutering. If you have other questions, ask your veterinarian.

I've heard of the pet Overpopulation Problem. What exactly is the problem?

Simply speaking, there are more pets being born than there are homes for them. For this reason, over 10 million dogs and cats in the United States are put to death (euthanized) each year in animal shelters because no one wants them. The vast majority of animals being destroyed are not old, injured, sick or unfriendly. They are young, attractive, healthy, friendly and playful. Some appear to be purebred cats. No figures exist for the number of animals who die each year due to abandonment, neglect, abuse, starvation or cruelty because they are unwanted. Because of the pet overpopulation problem, care should be taken to prevent pets from breeding. One solution is to spay/neuter your pet.

What is spaying and neutering?

Female cats are spayed. Male cats are neutered. Spaying or neutering removes an animal's ability to reproduce. Spaying involves surgical removal of the uterus and ovaries. Neutering involves surgical removal of the testicles. Both operations, done under general anesthesia, are safe, routine and relatively painless. Typically, a spayed or neutered cat is up and about within a day of the operation.

What are the benefits of spaying and neutering?

- Spayed and neutered pets are less distracted by sexual instincts. They can be more responsive to family members.
- Spayed and neutered pets are less likely to roam the streets and become lost or injured in search of a mate. (Male cats can smell a female in heat over great distances.)
- Spayed and neutered cats are less likely to fight with other cats, thus saving themselves much pain and saving their owners high veterinary bills.

Isn't neutering expensive?

Most veterinarians try to keep charges for spaying and neutering affordable, but prices can vary. We suggest you call several veterinarians and spay/neuter clinics to check on costs for your cat. Remember, the one-time cost of spaying or neutering is minimal compared to the costs of repeated veterinary treatments for pets injured when roaming or fighting. Additionally, paying for a mother cat's proper health care, including possible cesarean delivery, along with feeding, worming and vaccinating litters of kittens can result in excessive veterinary bills.

How much time does it take to have a cat spayed/neutered?

Most clinics and veterinary hospitals will accept your cat during morning hours, and the cat is usually available for pickup later that day or the next day. Finding the time once is easy compared to the time involved in repeated veterinary visits to treat sick or injured unaltered cats, or for caring and finding homes for kittens.

Will spaying/neutering change my cat's personality?

The majority of cat owners notice no change in their cat's personality. If a change is noticed, it is typically a decrease in their cat's desire to roam, fight with other animals, or exhibit anxious, aggressive behavior. Instead, they become more affectionate.



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Spaying or neutering a cat, contrary to popular belief, does not make them fat or lazy. Rather, the metabolism of a cat changes after spaying and neutering and the cat requires less food. This can save on cat food bills. Spayed and neutered cats are cheaper to license.

My cat never leaves my yard. Why should I spay/neuter my cat?

You have already read about the health benefits of spaying/neutering. A female spayed before her first heat is 200 times less likely to develop breast cancer. Also, accidents do happen frequently to backyard cats, as interested suitors usually find a way into the yard. Remember, spayed/neutered cats can be calmer, easier to care for and more attentive to you.

For Those with Female Cats:

- Spayed female cats are less likely to develop cancer or pyometra, a common uterine infection in unaltered females.
- Female cats in heat spray and defecate in inappropriate places and stain carpets and furniture. Additionally, they attract noisy, fighting and bothersome males. Spaying eliminates these problems.
- Pregnant female cats eat more both when pregnant and after offspring are born. Health care for pregnant females is expensive.
- Raising kittens is expensive, and it is time consuming to feed, worm, vaccinate, advertise and place them into homes.

For Those with Male Cats:

- Neutered male cats are less likely to suffer infections or disorders in the reproductive or prostate glands, or develop lower genitourinary problems. These conditions can lead to kidney disease, the most common problem in unaltered males over five years old.
- Unaltered male cats typically spray urine to mark territory both inside and outside the home. This spray has an obnoxious, unmistakable odor. Neutering, at a young age, helps eliminate this problem.

But, I know I can find a good home for each kitten in my cat's litter.

Many animals in animal shelters are brought in by owners who were unable to place them in homes. It's like musical chairs...there are just so many chairs and when the music stops, those that get left out are euthanized.

I want my children to experience the miracle of birth.

Public television and your library are two highly informative sources available to teach children about reproduction of animals. For millions of cats, however, the "miracle of birth" is closely matched with the increasing number of cats euthanized due to pet overpopulation.

But, I want to breed my purebred pet to make money.

Professional breeding of purebred animals is a science involving years of study of desirable breed characteristics. For the novice, little money, if any, can be made when the mother cat is properly cared for and kittens are fed, wormed vaccinated, advertised and sold.

Is my pet too old for spaying/neutering?

Cats are safely spayed and neutered every day. Unless your cat has health problems, spaying/neutering is safe and routine. Your veterinarian or low-cost spay/neuter clinic will examine your cat before the operation to determine if any health problems are present. Owners of mature cats enjoy spay/neuter benefits too!

Used by permission.
King County Animal Control
King County, Washington



Welcome!



Thank you for taking the time to visit a TICA show in your search for the perfect feline companion. Today, you will see some excellent representations of some of the more than 40 breeds of cats recognized by TICA.

Bringing a new pet into your family involves a long term commitment of time, energy, and money. Buying your kitten from a responsible breeder is one step in getting off to the best possible start with your new family member.

What can I expect from a responsible breeder?

When you buy a kitten from a responsible breeder, you can expect the breeder to:

- Guarantee that your kitten is in good health and free from Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV).
- Strongly urge you to have your own veterinarian examine your kitten within a few days of purchase to confirm its good health.
- Require that you have your kitten neutered or spayed at the appropriate age.
- Provide a written sales agreement that describes all terms of the sale, including the breeder's health guarantee and the neuter/spay agreement.
- Be intensely interested in the welfare of every kitten they produce, and encourage you to call whenever you have questions or concerns about your kitten.

How can I tell if my kitten is healthy?

Handle the kitten. It should have good muscle tone, a clean coat, and bright, clear eyes. The kitten should not be sneezing or sniffing. Its eyes should be free from discharge and its ears should be clean and pink inside. There should be no bald patches or signs of dry, flaky skin. Check behind its ears, low on its back and at the base of the tail for flea dirt (which looks like black sand).

How can I tell if a kitten is well socialized?

Play with the kitten using a non-threatening toy, such as a feather or ribbon. After a period of normal caution toward strangers, the kitten should relax into a friendly, active and playful attitude. Many perfectly friendly kittens would rather play than be held; however, after becoming acquainted with you, the kitten should let you hold it for a short time.

When can I take my kitten home?

Most responsible breeders allow their kittens to go to new homes at 12 weeks of age or older. If you're used to seeing barely-weaned kittens in pet stores, this might seem odd; but it's actually a good age to make the transition to a new home. At 12 weeks, a kitten is weaned, litter box trained, and has been vaccinated at least twice. And, it still has plenty of comical, lovable kitten-hood to go.

Will I receive my kitten's papers?

When you get your kitten, you'll receive its health/vaccination record and a written sales agreement. After you have the kitten altered and send the breeder a veterinarian's certificate of neutering or spaying, the breeder will send you the kitten's TICA registration form. To register the kitten, you must fill out the registration form and send it, with the proper fee, to TICA.

What should I do after I bring my kitten home?

When you bring your kitten home, make sure you follow the breeder's instructions carefully. Making the transition to a new home can be very stressful for any cat. Changes in food, water, litter, and overall environment can cause minor ailments, even in healthy cats. (For example, dairy products usually cause diarrhea, so don't give you kitten milk unless instructed to do so by the breeder.)

Why is the breeder asking me questions?

Don't be offended if the breeder asks you questions (for example, whether you have other cats, whether your current cat has been tested for Feline Leukemia, etc.) The breeder is not trying to embarrass or intimidate



THE INTERNATIONAL CAT ASSOCIATION, INC.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A KITTEN?



you; they are simply trying to determine whether their kitten will have the home they want for that kitten. (Remember, to a responsible breeder, a kitten is not a commodity; it is an individual to be loved.) A responsible breeder strives to find the best possible home for each kitten.

Why buy from a responsible breeder?

While no one can guarantee that your kitten will never have a medical problem, a responsible breeder's commitment to ethical, responsible breeding increases your chances of getting a healthy, well adjusted kitten.

What about the pet overpopulation problem?

A responsible breeder is acutely aware of the vast numbers of unwanted cats and kittens, and breeds for quality rather than quantity. Breeding a cat with less than ideal "show conformation" adds to the pet overpopulation problem and degrades the overall quality of the breed. Don't think you can "offset the cost of the kitten by having just one litter" - have all your pets altered!

How do I decide on a breed?

While you're visiting the show, take the opportunity to talk to breeders of various breeds. Be sure to find out how much grooming each breed requires, and whether the breed has any special needs or characteristics. Cat books, cat magazines and the internet are other good sources of information. If you haven't decided on a breed, or if the expense of a purebred kitten is beyond your current budget, please consider adopting a cat or kitten from a local shelter. There are many lovely and loving cats in need of good homes.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

What are the characteristics of this breed?

A responsible breeder will be happy to discuss a breed's characteristics and special requirements with you. For example, some breeds require a lot of grooming, others typically have loud voices; and still others are relatively aloof. Be sure you discuss the breed's characteristics with the breeder and decide whether they are right for your lifestyle and personal preferences.

Do you provide a written sale agreement that includes a health guarantee?

A responsible breeder sells a kitten only with a written contract that includes a health guarantee.

What diseases and conditions does your health guarantee cover?

A responsible breeder will vaccinate the kitten at least twice against Panleukopenia (Feline Distemper), Calicivirus, and Rhinotracheitis.

How are the kittens raised?

A responsible breeder puts careful thought and much care into raising healthy, outgoing kittens, and will be happy to discuss their methods with you.

Can you provide references from people who have purchased kittens from you?

A responsible breeder will be able to provide references upon request.