



The Junior Exhibitor Program INTRODUCTION

TICA's International Junior Exhibitor Program provides the opportunity for young people under the age of 18 to participate in the TICA experience and learn about feline husbandry. Participants are exposed to both competition and a continuing educational process as they work their way through Levels of Achievement. The program promotes sportsmanship and self confidence and fosters an ever-growing knowledge base of feline husbandry, breeds, grooming, and show participation and production.

The goals of the program are to:

- *Educate junior exhibitors on feline health and care*
- *Mentor junior exhibitors as they build their self confidence*
- *Inspire and honor Junior Exhibitors with trophies and awards as they learn about competition and good sportsmanship.*
- *Grow the number of TICA Junior Members.*

ARTICLE ONE – The Role of the Junior Exhibitor Mentor

- 81.1** The Junior Exhibitor Mentor plays an important role in the successful participation of a Junior Exhibitor in this program and the advancement through the levels. The Mentor is required to be guide, counselor, and coach.
- 81.2** Qualifications to be a Junior Exhibitor Mentor
- 81.2.1** Must be a TICA Member
 - 81.2.2** Must be a working member of a TICA Club
 - 81.2.3** Must be familiar with the Junior Exhibitor program
- 81.3** Other considerations in accepting a mentorship are whether it is possible to attend the same shows and be available for support and counseling.
- 81.4** Responsibilities of a Junior Exhibitor Mentor are:
- 81.4.1** Making sure the Junior Exhibitors are completing their levels and requirements.
 - 81.4.2** Helping the Junior Exhibitor accomplish their goals.
 - 81.4.3** Be a role model. Show and lead by example.

ARTICLE TWO – Eligibility for Participation

- 82.1** Participation in the Junior Exhibitor Program is open to anyone under the age of 18.
- 82.2** Applicants must meet the following requirements:
- 82.2.1** Be a junior member of TICA in good standing.
 - 82.2.2** Own or co-own a TICA registered kitten, cat, alter, household pet kitten or cat.
 - 82.3.3** Have a Junior Exhibitor Mentor
 - 82.3.4** Complete the annual application and parental/guardian permission for participation form

ARTICLE THREE – Programs

83.1 The Junior Exhibitor Showmanship Program and Excellence Award.

This program is for Junior Exhibitors that desire to show their cats, enjoying the TICA experience from an exhibitor perspective. Junior Exhibitors may qualify yearly for a Junior Exhibitor Excellence Award. To qualify, a Junior Exhibitor must exhibit in 4 shows a year and provide a letter of endorsement from their Regional Liaison. To receive the award, the junior exhibitor must adhere to TICA rules and forward copies of the catalog cover pages and the pages that name the junior exhibitor as the owner or agent to the Regional Liaison or Regional Director. The Regional Director shall forward the list of names to the Executive Office.

83.1.1 The Junior Exhibitor Excellence Award shall be awarded annually at the Regional ceremonies.

83.2 The Junior Exhibitor Program and Achievement Award.

This program is a long-term, comprehensive program that encourages and challenges the Junior Exhibitor. A Junior Exhibitor may elect to complete some or all the levels, receiving recognition for graduating from each level sequentially. Completion of each level of the program earns the Junior Exhibitor an Achievement Award.

83.2.1 The individual level of achievement certificates shall be awarded, as earned, with a certificate, by the Regional Liaison.

83.2.2 Regional and International Recognition and Awards are described in Article Twelve.

83.3 The Junior Exhibitor Program and Achievement Award, with Distinction

Additional requirements may be met by Junior Exhibitors who are interested in pursuing the TICA Judging Program when they reach the age of 18. Upon completion of the Junior Exhibitor Program and those additional requirements which would qualify a Junior to apply for entrance to the TICA judging program, a Junior Exhibitor is recognized as having completed the Junior Exhibitor Program, with Distinction.

83.3.1 The Extra Requirements Checklist is available through the Regional Liaison or Director and can also be found on the TICA Website

ARTICLE FOUR – Levels of Achievement

84.1 The Junior Exhibitor Program is comprised of a series of levels, each containing progressively more complex learning and requirements, participation in Junior Exhibitor Rings, and completion of individual projects.

84.2 The program levels and recommended ages are:

84.2.1 Junior Novice: Members that have enough knowledge of TICA and their breed or household pet to compete in this level up to age 8

84.2.2 Junior Intermediate: 8 to 10 years of age

84.2.3 Junior Advanced: 10 to 12 years of age

84.2.4 Senior Novice: 12-14 years of age

84.2.5 Senior Intermediate: 14-16 years of age

84.2.6 Senior Advanced: 16-18 years of age

84.2.7 Members entering at an older age must complete all previous level assignments and must compete in at least one Junior Exhibitor ring, but no more than three, at each level until their appropriate age level is reached

84.2.8 Age limits are a recommendation and members may compete at higher levels than recommended providing they complete all requirements for each level

84.3 All requirements for one level must be met before advancement to the next level is considered. Each level is considered an accomplishment.

84.4 Junior Exhibitors who desire to complete the program, with Distinction, must complete those remaining requirements which qualify the Junior Exhibitor to pursue the TICA Judging Program. These requirements may be worked on throughout the program.

ARTICLE FIVE – Junior Novice Level

85.1 In order to participate at the Novice Junior Level, all requirements of eligibility must have been met and application completed and submitted.

85.2 Requirements for completion of the Novice Junior Level are as follows:

85.2.1 Show in at least 4 TICA Shows

85.2.2 Participate in a Fund Raiser for the Junior Exhibitors or your cat club or donate a service/time to the Junior Exhibitors or your club

85.2.3 Participate in 2 Junior Exhibitor Rings at the Novice Junior Level.

85.2.4 Complete the following project.

85.2.4.1 Writing Assignment. Each Junior Novice must submit to their mentor at least two written paragraphs (photos encouraged) which include information about their name, age, grade in school, where they live and hobbies. It should also include information about their cat, including its name, age, breed, and what makes him or her special.

85.2.4.2 This project can be accomplished on paper or printed from a computer project, such as a website, or PowerPoint presentation.

85.2.5 Create a personal notebook which will contain copies of personal projects, educational materials and other requirements during the Junior Exhibitor Program.

85.2.6 Complete the Junior Novice Test.

ARTICLE SIX - Junior Intermediate Level

86.1 To participate at the Junior Intermediate Level, all requirements of the Junior Novice Level must have been completed.

86.2 The following are requirements to complete the Junior Intermediate Level:

86.2.1 Show in at least 4 TICA Shows after earning your Junior Novice level

86.2.2 Participate in a Fund Raiser for the Junior Exhibitors or your cat club or donate a service/time to the Junior Exhibitors or your club after earning your Junior Novice level.

86.2.3 Participate in at least 2 Junior Exhibitor Rings after earning your Junior Novice Level.

86.2.4 Attend at least one school, seminar or workshop after earning your Junior Novice level.

86.2.4.1 For purposes of this program, appropriate topics may include, but are not limited to, stewarding, clerking, TICA rules, and breed standards. The school, seminar, or workshop must be approved by the Regional Liaison.

86.2.5 Steward in at least 1 show after earning your Junior Novice Level. This does not need to be an entire show/day. It may be counted towards the service requirement as stated above in Article 86.2.2.

86.2.6 Complete the following project.

86.2.6.1 Display project. Each Junior Immediate participant must submit to their mentor, and display at a show, a poster project that uses a photo of a cat and labels the following on the photo: shoulder blades, chin, trunk or torso, flank, thigh, forehead/brow, front feet, back feet, head, ears, nose, whisker pads, neck, paws, eyes, back, tail, ribs, limbs, and abdomen.

86.2.6.2 Describe in writing, either on the poster or separate sheet of paper, the following problems in structure. Find and include photos of the structural problem, if possible.

Jaw: overshot, undershot and wry mouth

Eyes: entropion and epiphora

Nose: reduced nostril aperture

Spine/Tail: kinked and stiff tail

Limbs: hip dysplasia, polydactyl and cow-hocked legs

86.2.7 Complete the Junior Intermediate Test

ARTICLE SEVEN - Junior Advanced Level

87.1 To participate at the Advanced Junior Level, all requirements of the Junior Intermediate Level must have been completed.

87.2 The following are requirements to complete the Junior Advanced Level:

87.2.1 Show in at least 4 TICA Shows after earning the Junior Intermediate Level

87.2.2 Participate in a Fund Raiser for the Junior Exhibitors or your cat club or donate a service/time to the Junior Exhibitors or your club after earning your Junior Intermediate Level.

87.2.3 Participate in at least 2 Junior Exhibitor Rings after earning the Junior Intermediate Level.

87.2.4 Attend at least one school, seminar or workshop after earning your Junior Intermediate Level.

87.2.5 Obtain and read a copy of the TICA Clerking Program. Retain the copy in the personal notebook

87.2.6 Assistant Ring Clerk at 2 TICA Shows.

87.2.7 Obtain and read a copy of the TICA Show Hotel Policy and retain it in the personal notebook.

87.2.8 Complete the following project.

87.2.8.1 Display project. Each Advanced Junior must find photos of a Persian or Exotic, Oriental or Siamese, and their choice of breed (may be their own cat, whether pedigreed or HHP) and describe/contrast the ear size/shape and set, eye color and shape/size and nose type of each of the three cats. Photos are encouraged.

- 87.2.8.2** Submit to the mentor for review and display at one cat show.
- 87.2.9** Complete the Junior Advanced Test

ARTICLE EIGHT - Senior Novice Level

- 88.1** To participate at the Senior Novice Level, all requirements of the Advanced Junior Level must have been completed.
- 88.2** The following are requirements to complete the Senior Novice Level:
 - 88.2.1** Show in at least 4 TICA shows after earning the Advanced Junior Level.
 - 88.2.2** Participate in a Fund Raiser for the Junior Exhibitors or your cat club or donate a service/time to the Junior Exhibitors or your club after earning your Junior Advanced Level.
 - 88.2.3** Participate in at least 2 Junior Exhibitor Rings after earning the Junior Advanced Level.
 - 88.2.4** Attend at least one school, seminar or workshop after earning your Junior Advanced Level
 - 88.2.5** Refer to the TICA Clerking Program
 - 88.2.5.1** Complete the General Requirements of the Clerking Program
 - 88.2.5.2** Complete the first level of the Clerking Program as Trainee/Assistant Ring Clerk.
 - 88.2.6** Obtain a copy of both the TICA By-laws and the TICA Show Rules for your notebook.
 - 88.2.7** Complete the following project.
 - 88.2.7.1** Writing project. Each Senior Novice must submit to their mentor a written report on what they learned while attending a clerking school. This report should include a self-evaluation and a judge's evaluation.
 - 88.2.7.2** File the report in the personal notebook.
 - 88.2.8** Complete the Senior Novice Test

ARTICLE NINE - Senior Intermediate Level

- 89.1** To participate at the Senior Intermediate Level, all requirements of the Senior Novice Level must have been completed.
- 89.2** The following are requirements to complete the Senior Intermediate Level:
 - 89.2.1** Participate in a Fund Raiser for the Junior Exhibitors or your cat club or donate a service/time to the Junior Exhibitors or your club after earning the Senior Novice Level.
 - 89.2.2** Participate in at least 2 Junior Exhibitor Rings after earning the Senior Novice Level.
 - 89.2.3** Attend at least one school, seminar or workshop after earning the Senior Novice Level.
 - 89.2.4** Refer to the TICA Clerking Program and complete Level 2 requirements.
 - 89.2.5** Successfully complete the Head Ring Clerk Exam
 - 89.2.6** Complete the following project.
 - 89.2.6.1** Set up a clerking box with the supplies that are needed to clerk.

89.2.6.2 Ask your mentor, a judge, or Head Ring Clerk to review the clerking box and sign off on the project.

ARTICLE TEN - Senior Advanced Level

810.1 To participate at the Senior Advanced Level, all requirements of the Senior Intermediate Level must have been completed.

810.2 The following are requirements to complete the Senior Advanced Level:

810.2.1 Show in at least 4 TICA Shows

810.2.2 Participate in a Fund Raiser for the Junior Exhibitors or your cat club or donate service/time to the Junior Exhibitors or your club

810.2.3 Participate in 2 Junior Exhibitor Rings at the Senior Intermediate Level

810.2.4 Each Senior Advanced must visit a local animal shelter and submit to their mentor a short report on what was seen and felt. The report may include photos and pamphlets from the shelter or information gathered from the shelter's website. The report should also include an explanation of the impact of one unaltered male and female on the pet population and how a Junior Exhibitor can make a difference in the over population of pets. The report should be added to the personal notebook.

810.2.5 Obtain and read copies of the TICA By-Laws, TICA Show Rules, Standing Rules, TICA Judging Program and add to the personal notebook.

810.2.6 Show Management requirements.

810.2.6.1 Work with an experienced Show Manager as a Junior Show Manager and participate in the planning and execution of a show.

810.2.6.2 After completion of the Junior Show Manager requirement and while working on the Senior Level of the Junior Exhibitor Program, work with an experienced Show Manager as a Co-Show Manager and participate in the planning and execution of a show.

810.2.7 Mentorship. As a Senior Advanced participant, find a person working on any of the Junior Levels and help them accomplish one of their requirements.

810.2.8 Breeds and breeding.

810.2.8.1 Select 4 breeds of interest and prepare a report on the history of each of the breeds.

810.2.8.2 Prepare and conduct a breed specific or Household Pet presentation of approximately 15-25 minutes.

810.2.8.3 Show at least one cat, alter or Household Pet, owned or co-owned by the Junior Exhibitor, to a Supreme Grand Champion/Master Status

ARTICLE ELEVEN - Junior Exhibitor Rings

811.1 Junior Exhibitor Rings are conducted under the supervision of a TICA judge.

811.2 The Junior Exhibitor, rather than their cat, is evaluated in the Junior Exhibitor Ring. The Junior will be judged on and points awarded for:

811.2.1 Ability to handle and present their cat, including knowledge of their breed.

811.2.2 Ability to answer basic questions, according to their age and Level, about basic feline husbandry.

811.2.3 Grooming, health and condition of cat

811.2.4 Knowledge of TICA rules.

811.3 The following point system is to be used as a guideline for judges to follow in evaluating a Junior Exhibitor's performance in a Junior Exhibitor Ring.

811.3.1 Handling Skills (20 points)

Junior/cat interaction - observable in the ring as well as through questions asked about the responsibility of caring totally for his/her cat. The judge should take into consideration the appropriateness of the cat chosen by the junior (such as a small 8 year old attempting to handle a large full grown MC, or a junior attempting to handle an uncontrollable cat would not be conducive to long term success).

811.3.2 Presentation (40 points)

The quality of the cat is NOT judged. Juniors are observed keeping in mind age/level appropriateness. The judge will ask questions at the end of the presentation. 20 points for demonstration and presentation such as a judge would do to a cat during a final - telling about each significant feature on the cat (breed/HHP, color, pattern, size, body part shapes, etc). 20 points for knowledge of the breed or basic HHP knowledge, cat care, grooming, and ring readiness - judge asks impromptu questions that are relative to the cat the child is presenting in the ring.

811.3.3 Testing (20 points)

20 points for pre-assigned questions related to the cat, health, rules and regulations, scoring, titles, etc.

811.3.4 Overall Presentation (20 points)

Judge assesses the appearance, demeanor, conduct, and comfort level, confidence in the ring and with handling the cat of each junior.

811.4 Only registered cats competing in the show may be used in the Junior Exhibitor Ring.

811.4.1 No hybrid cats less than four generations away from the wild cat maybe used.

811.5 Exhibitors may compete only one time before entering the program and joining TICA.

ARTICLE TWELVE – Regional and International Awards and Scoring

Tabulating the Junior Exhibitor points for Regional and International ranking will be done in the following manner. Points are tabulated for each show season and each show season will start with zero points.

812.1 Scoring

812.1.1 Participation Points

Each time a Junior Exhibitor participates in a Junior Ring, the participant will receive 100 points.

812.1.2 Placement Points

1st place is awarded 30 points

2nd place is awarded 20 points

3rd place is awarded 10 points

812.1.3 Points for number of participants

1st place is awarded the number of competitors in the Junior Ring category minus one

2nd place is awarded the number of competitors in the Junior Ring category minus two

3rd place is awarded the number of competitors in the Junior Ring category minus three

812.2 Regional Awards. The Top Ten Junior Exhibitors will be recognized at the Regional Level with appropriate awards similar to those of the Top Twenty Cats, i.e. rosettes, plaque, etc. keeping in the theme of the awards being issued at that Regional Awards ceremony.

812.3 International Recognition. The Top Five Junior Exhibitors from each Region will be recognized in the program at the International Awards ceremony.

812.4 The Junior Exhibitor Program Achievement and Distinction Award: All Junior Exhibitors who complete the program or complete the program, with Distinction, will be honored at the Annual Convention with an appropriate award, featured in the visual media presentation at the Annual Awards Banquet and in the TICA YEARBOOK in color, free of charge. The list of recipients will be printed in the TICA TREND.