

Amend Show Rules 212.3, 212.4 – Top 10 Allbreed Alters

Rationale:

The entries in the Alter class have changed over the last 5 to 10 years. So much so that the judges are constantly commenting that the Alter class has now become one of the most competitive classes in TICA due to the number of high quality of Alters in the show ring today. Alter exhibitors have changed over the years as well. There is an increase of Alter-only exhibitors (non-breeders) competing. As a result, the HHP and Alter classes appeal to the TICA members who do not breed, do not consider the shows as part of a cattery business and simply show as a hobby and out of a love for our cats. It is widely known that many TICA breeders started out by showing HHPs and Alters and then gradually made the transition to becoming breeders. Changing the current Alter Finals rule would provide more incentive for the hobby exhibitor, especially the new or first time exhibitors, as the HHP and Alter classes are where TICA needs to be enticing exhibitors to eventually consider breeding in the future.

TICA already splits the Alters into LH and SH Speciality classes and offers a Top 5 regardless of count. As a result, this should not be a stretch to offer a Top 10 Alter Allbreed class regardless of count.

By increasing the AB Alter finals to equal the number of cats competing up to a maximum of 10, this also helps increase our show counts. Currently, the more competitive TICA exhibitors are concentrating on supporting the shows that have a minimum count of 25. Since the economy took a down turn in 2008, the shows with a routine count of 18 to 20 Alters have suffered as a result of Alter exhibitors choosing to attend shows known for having larger counts. By increasing the number of finals, this gives the TICA hobby exhibitor more incentive to support the smaller shows and helps increase entries and revenue for those shows. Again, keeping those exhibitors participating in the TICA show world and eventually increasing our breeders.

Pros:

Provides an incentive to support smaller shows

May increase cat counts in Alter class

Cons:

Means that different final award systems are in place within TICA's pedigree classes

May not encourage additional Alter entries (similar HHP changes had no real effect)

Judges may be forced to award Finals to alters that are, in their opinion, not worthy of them

Proposed rule change:

Amend, 212.3, add new 212.4.2, renumber and amend existing 212.4.2 and 212.4.3

212.3 If there are FEWER THAN 10 cats, **or** kittens, ~~alters~~ competing, judges in either allbreed or specialty rings shall present the top five. However, if there are fewer than five entries in any class, the club is required to provide rosettes for the number of entries competing.

212.4 Number of Rosettes Awarded

212.4.1 Household Pet Adults and Household Pet Kittens - The number of rosettes awarded in the HHP adult class and Household Pet kitten class shall be equal to the number of cats competing up to a maximum of 10.

212.4.2 Alters - The number of rosettes awarded in the Alter allbreed rings shall be equal to the number of cats competing up to a maximum of 10. If there are FEWER THAN 10 alters competing in specialty rings, judges shall present the top five.

212.4.~~23~~ Top 5 Format - 20 or Fewer Cats Present: When 20 or fewer cats, **or** kittens, ~~alters~~ are present, the judge shall award Best through Fifth Best final awards.

212.4.~~34~~ Top 6 to 9 Format - 21 to 24 Cats Present: When 21 to 24 cats, kittens, alters or household pets or household pet kittens are present, the judge shall award final awards as follows:

When 21 cats are present, Best through 6th Best, except **Alters**, HHP Adults and HHP Kittens, See 212.4.1 **and 212.4.2**.

When 22 cats are present, Best through 7th Best, except **Alters**, HHP Adults and HHP Kittens, See 212.4.1 **and 212.4.2**.

When 23 cats are present, Best through 8th Best, except **Alters**, HHP Adults and HHP Kittens, See 212.4.1 **and 212.4.2**.

When 24 cats are present, Best through 9th Best, except **Alters**, HHP Adults and HHP Kittens, See 212.4.1 **and 212.4.2**.