



In keeping with the Mission and Policy Statements of TICA, the Outstanding Cattery Program has adopted the **Cattery Evaluation Program** and the **Outstanding Cattery Code of Ethics** as requirements for achieving the TICA Outstanding Cattery certificate. The goal is to provide education, information, and guidance to breeders so that they are aware of proper husbandry and cattery management techniques.

### **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 prior to 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 complete and score the form in the presence of the breeder. Complete the form by ticking the appropriate box against each of the criteria. 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 as the total score. 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 a **TICA Outstanding Cattery** certificate.

Once the problems in the cattery have been rectified, the breeder may resubmit to TICA another **Cattery Evaluation Form** and have the cattery evaluated again.

### **The Cattery Certificate**

The signed **Cattery Evaluation Form** and the **Outstanding Cattery Code of Ethics** is to be submitted by the breeder to TICA together with the \$30.00 fee. Upon receipt of the forms and the fee, the Executive Office will provide the **TICA Outstanding Cattery** certificate and send a copy to the Licensed Veterinarian who performed the Cattery Inspection. These certificates must be renewed on an annual basis.