



CODE OF ETHICS

(as of 20th November 2004)

Article 1. Code of Ethics

- 1.01 Member breeders shall breed their Norwegian Forest Cats only with other Norwegian Forest Cats that conform to the FIFe Standard of Points.
- 1.02 Member breeders should try to ensure, when selling cats or kittens for breeding, that only breeders of integrity and responsibility become the owners. Members should not knowingly sell breeding cats to a kitten mill.
- 1.03 The breeder should do his/her best, when selling a show or breeding quality kitten, to make an honest evaluation of that kitten's quality, based on the kitten's age and development at the time of the sale. Cats with disqualifying faults should not be sold for show.
- 1.04 The breeder should inform the buyer as to the proper veterinary care, diet, and all history of the animal being sold. Full records should be provided.
- 1.05 It is recommended that the breeder retain the right of first refusal should the new owner decide to go out of cats at some future date. This helps ensure that the cat will find a home.
- 1.06 It is recommended to members that all agreements made among themselves, with regard to buying and selling animals, stud fees, etc., be put in writing for the protection of both parties.
- 1.07 In the case of cats and kittens sold as pets, buyers and sellers should have a clear understanding, in writing, that the animal will be neutered.
- 1.08 It is recommended that only show and breeding quality cats be kept entire, and that animals that are clearly pet quality be neutered. Members must not flood our market or contribute to the pet overpopulation problem.
- 1.09 Kittens must be immunized against rhinotracheitis, panleucopenia, and calici virus before being sold. It is recommended that cats with access to the outdoors be immunized against Feline Leukaemia. Buyers should be given accurate data on whatever shots have been given.
- 1.10 It is recommended that all kittens be microchipped.

- 1.11 A breeder should not knowingly sell a kitten that has fungus, ear mites or parasites. A breeder should not knowingly sell a kitten that is showing clinical symptoms, or a positive test, for a serious disease at the time.
- 1.12 It is recommended that the buyer have the new cat or kitten thoroughly examined by his/her own veterinarian 48 hours within taking possession of the animal. Should the vet find that the animal is in ill health, or should death result within two (2) weeks, the buyer should provide the breeder with a written vet's report. If it is determined that the cat's condition can be traced to the breeder's cattery, the breeder should be responsible for any related vet bills. Should the cat die, the breeder should replace the cat with one of equal value, or if agreed upon, refund the purchase price. The breeder shall not be made liable for any health problems that the cat or kitten contracts in the new owner's cattery.
- 1.13 Both buyer and seller should familiarize themselves with the strict regulations that govern the shipping of live animals, and they should adhere to these regulations to the letter. It is recommended that the kittens not be shipped by air until at least thirteen (13) weeks of age. If the carrier violates any regulation, the shipper should report the violations to the authorities immediately, to ensure that all carriers treat animals humanely.
- 1.14 Breeders should consider the health and welfare of their animals at all times. Catteries should be kept reasonably clean. Adequate health and veterinary care should be provided. Animals should not be overcrowded.
- 1.15 A breeder should not knowingly offer at stud a male that has a serious infectious or contagious disease. Likewise, a breeder should not send out for stud service a female that has a serious infectious or contagious disease.
- 1.16 Members should not agent cats to shows if they are aware of a serious health problem of a contagious nature in their own cattery.
- 1.17 Any genetic defects suspected in member cats will be thoroughly investigated and if found to have standing then that cat will not be used for breeding purposes and any breeders who may own progeny of that cat duly notified.

- 1.18 A member should refrain from attending cat shows if there is any serious health problem of a contagious nature in their cattery whose treatment is not yet complete by the date of a given show. In particular, a member should not knowingly show any cat that is a carrier of a serious contagious disease.
- 1.19 Members should not show cats that have given ample proof of their unmanageability in the show ring. It is recommended that cats with bad dispositions not be used for breeding.
- 1.20 In case of death, a breeder should make provision for the care and welfare of his or her animals in a last will and testament. The cat owner should also make provision for the transfer of their legal and registered ownership to a responsible living person, in case of death. It is recommended that every cattery provide for the accurate identification of all cats in it, by microchip or other means.
- 1.21 Competition among breeders in the show ring should be friendly and gracious.
- 1.22 Breeders and owners shall not falsify registration or pedigrees in any way whatsoever.
- 1.23 Breeders shall not publish dishonest or fraudulent advertising of their catteries or cats.

Article 2. Amendments

- 2.01 Proposed amendments to the Code of Ethics should be forwarded to the Committee for consideration at the next Committee meeting.
- 2.02 The Viking Cat Club Code of Ethics may be amended by an absolute majority of the Committee.
- 2.03 Any changes implemented by the Committee between AGMs must be ratified at the next General Meeting.