

**VETERINARY
RULES**
(March 2005)

1. General rules relating to the health of cats belonging to Felis Britannica members

- 1.1 The Felis Britannica Veterinary rules apply to all members of Felis Britannica member clubs.
- 1.2 All Felis Britannica member clubs are responsible for applying the Felis Britannica Veterinary rules.
- 1.3 Should any cat owned by, or living with the exhibitor, be diagnosed with an infectious disease at any time (other than ringworm, Feline Leukaemia virus [FeLV] or Feline Immunodeficiency virus [FIV]), **no cat from the household must attend shows**, until all cats have been declared free of all symptoms of the disease by the exhibitor's veterinary surgeon. Cats that have tested positive for FIV or FeLV must not be shown.
- 1.4 Should ringworm be diagnosed by a veterinary surgeon in any cat owned by, or living with a Felis Britannica member, the Breeding, Health and Welfare Commission Veterinary Clearance Officer **must be informed by the member**. It will be necessary to impose quarantine to prevent spread of disease.

- 1.5 A veterinary clearance certificate provided by Felis Britannica must be completed and signed by the veterinary surgeon responsible for the care of the member's cats, confirming each cat is free of all symptoms of ringworm. The completed certificate must then be returned to and acknowledged by the Clearance Officer, in order for quarantine to be lifted.

2. Veterinary Rules Relating To Cat Shows

2.1 Vaccinations

- 2.1.1 Exhibitors must read and abide by FIFe Show Rule 2c, in respect of the minimum vaccination requirements for cats entered into shows.
- 2.1.2 A cat's vaccination certificate must show the registered name of the cat as given on the Show Entry Form. Non-pedigree cats must show the same name on the vaccination certificate as on the Show Entry Form. If the cat is microchipped, the chip number should be given on the vaccination certificate. If necessary, the microchip number may be used to positively identify a cat.
- 2.1.3 Booster vaccinations required should be given according to the manufacturer's recommended intervals. If this has not been indicated on the vaccination certificate by the issuing veterinary surgeon, the maximum booster period will default to two years (730 days) immediately prior to the show date.
- 2.1.4 If a booster vaccination has been given within fifteen days of the show, the affected cat will be refused entry to the Show and to the Show Hall and all fees will be forfeit.

2.1.5 If a vaccination certificate is not produced at vetting-in, the affected cat is liable to be refused entry into the show and show hall unless the exhibitor undertakes to provide proof of vaccination, valid for that show, by sending the original certificate to the Veterinary Clearance Officer within seven days of the show. Failure to do so will lead to disqualification from the show and the cat's name will be placed on the rejection list until proof of vaccination is received by the Veterinary Clearance Officer.

2.2 *Veterinary Examination*

2.2.1 Only cats that have successfully passed through 'vetting-in' may enter the show hall; any cat(s) found to be in the show hall that were not examined or were rejected, **may lead to disciplinary action** against the exhibitor.

2.2.2 A cat may not be shown if it has a skin lesion or an unhealed injury. The examining Show Veterinary Surgeon must be satisfied that a scar or or a patch of shortened hair is not caused by an infectious condition.

2.2.3 The examining veterinary surgeon's decision is final and cannot be challenged.

2.3 *Rejection From Shows*

2.3.1 Exhibitors must read and abide by FIFe Show Rules; Articles 15a, 16 and 18.

2.3.2 Any cat rejected for lesions, injuries, skin parasites may be placed in isolation for the duration of the show if the exhibitor wishes to show other cats. Cats rejected for poor condition may be penned as normal but must be withdrawn from competition.

2.3.3 In the event that a cat is rejected for ear mite infestation, suspected ringworm or a symptom of an infectious disease every cat entered by the exhibitor being rejected. The exhibitor's cats will not be allowed into the show hall to be shown and all fees will be forfeited.

2.3.4 Cats rejected for any reason other than poor condition must be examined by the exhibitor's own veterinary surgeon within seven days of the show date. **Failure to do so without good reason will result in disciplinary action.**

2.3.5 In the event that the exhibitor's own veterinary surgeon does not make a diagnosis for the reason the cats were rejected, the veterinary surgeon must clearly state that these cats are free of any symptoms of the reason stated on the rejection form. The completed form must be returned and acknowledged by the Veterinary Clearance Officer, at which time quarantine will be lifted.

2.3.6 Where a confirmed diagnosis is made by the exhibitor's veterinary surgeon in cats rejected as in 2.3.3 above, the rejection form must be returned to the commission clearly stating the diagnosis. Quarantine will be maintained until the veterinary surgeon responsible for treating the exhibitor's cats can complete a Felis Britannica veterinary clearance certificate, confirming all cats owned by, or living with the exhibitor, are free of all symptoms of the disease diagnosed. The completed certificate must be returned to and acknowledged by the Clearance Officer before quarantine can be lifted.

2.3.7 Repeated rejections of cats belonging to an exhibitor may invoke an enquiry into their management of the health and welfare of their cats.

3. Quarantine

- 3.1 Quarantine refers to all cats or kittens belonging to, or living with a member. Whilst quarantine is in place, no cat or kitten may attend shows, queens cannot visit studs outside of the member's household, nor may queens from other breeder visit studs within the member's household. No kitten or cat may be sold, or leave the household unless approved by the Breeding, Health and Welfare Commission.
- 3.2 Any person in close contact with any quarantined cat must take precautions to avoid carrying the infection to other cats.
- 3.3 If the Breeding, Health and Welfare Commission is satisfied that a cat which is registered as being owned by a member whose cats are under quarantine, but which is resident elsewhere, has not been in contact with the member's other cats, the Commission may release that cat from quarantine restrictions.
- 3.4 In order to be given veterinary clearance, the member has to provide evidence that every cat and kitten is free of all symptoms of the infectious disease diagnosed.

Depending upon the nature of this disease, the evidence required may be by negative test results and/or by clinical examination of each cat. The clearance certificate must be completed by the veterinary surgeon responsible for the care of the cats during quarantine. The completed certificate must be returned to and acknowledged by the Clearance Officer for quarantine restrictions to be lifted.

- 3.5 A member may apply to the Health, Breeding and Welfare Commission for permission to permanently remove a cat or kitten from their household whilst in quarantine. This will depend upon the individual circumstances relating to the reason for quarantine at the time.

Advice to Exhibitors concerning vaccinations

It is the responsibility of the owner of the cat to ensure that the vaccinating veterinary surgeon completes, on the vaccination record, the date on which the booster is due.

Manufacturer's recommendations vary and the veterinary surgeon should be made aware of the undesirability of over-vaccinating.