

Judging (cont'd)

The procedure is a bit different in the Household Pet ring. Each HHP that meets the basic standards of health and condition receives a Merit award. The judge then awards first through third place in each division. There are no breed placements in the HHP and HHPK classes.

Finals

When a judge has finished judging all of the cats within a particular classification, s/he will select their top 10 cats to receive "finals." Often, a judge will explain why they chose the particular cats as the final awards are being presented. Be sure to watch at least one finals presentation during your visit to the show!

Looking for a Cat?

If you are interested in buying a pedigreed kitten, a cat show provides a good opportunity to speak with breeders. Most breeders will ask you as many questions as you ask them. This shows that they care about the kittens they have bred, and raised, and want to be sure they are placed in good homes.

Responsible breeders will guarantee the health of the kittens they sell in a written contract. You will probably be required to sign a spay/neuter agreement when you buy a companion quality kitten. This is to ensure the cat is not used for breeding when it matures.

If a household pet is what you want, then contact a shelter or rescue organization. Many wonderful cats are waiting for the good home you can provide.

Why spay and neuter?



- Reduces pet overpopulation; our streets and shelters are full of homeless cats and dogs.
- Unneutered male cats are more likely to get in fights. Cat fights are a common way to spread feline leukemia (FeLV) and FIV.
- Eliminates the risk of infections or cancer of the uterus; reduces the chances of testicular or mammary tumors.
- Usually stops spraying behavior in males.
- Eliminates sexual frustration.

Myth	Fact
Spaying and neutering will make my pet fat.	Too much food and not enough exercise are the main causes of obesity. Being spayed/neutered will not make your cat fat or lazy.
She should have one litter or "heat" first.	The cat does not benefit from having a litter. It is healthier for her not to have a litter or heat before being spayed.
I will find homes for my puppies or kittens.	Will they be good homes? Are you willing to take the puppy or kitten back if the adoption doesn't work out? For each animal you place from your litter, a shelter animal may be killed because there was no home for him.

Spectator's Guide to a Cat Show

Sanctioned by
The International
Cat Association



TICA
P.O. Box 2684
Harlingen, TX 78551
956-428-8046
information@ticaeo.com
www.tica.org

Welcome to our show!

What you need to know...

The Cats

Championship (Pedigreed) Cats

TICA recognizes nearly 50 breeds of cat. At a cat show, these felines are divided into three groups: Championship Kittens (4-8 months of age), Championship Cats (over 8 months of age), and Championship Alters (spayed or neutered adult cats.)

Each breed of pedigreed cat has a written standard which describes the perfect cat of that breed. The standards are established by the breeders who raise that breed. Judges undergo extensive training and testing before they are licensed so they are knowledgeable about all the breeds and the standard for each one. When a judge handles a cat, s/he is evaluating how well that cat fits the standard for its particular breed.

Household Pets (HHPs)

Household Pets are cats of random, or unknown, breeding. Many of the HHPs entered in the show were adopted from shelters or rescued from the streets. HHPs are divided into two groups: Household Pet Kittens (4 to 8 months of age), and Household Pet Adults (over 8 months of age). All HHP Adults must be spayed or neutered. HHPs and HHPKs are judged on overall condition, health, grooming, personality, and beauty.



Preliminary New Breed, Advanced New Breed, New Traits Classes

These classes are for experimental or developing breeds of cats, or new traits within established breeds. The cats exhibited in these classes have not yet attained Championship status. In these rings, exhibitors and judges are encouraged to discuss the characteristics of the cats being judged.

Show Etiquette

Please remember that cats do not like loud noises or sudden movements. If you have children with you, please impress upon them that they must not run or shout.

Cats are susceptible to a range of easily transmittable diseases which can be carried from cat to cat on your hands. Please do not pet any cat without asking the owner first. If the owner says yes, he or she may ask that you disinfect your hands first.

Judging Ring

Please do not ask the judge questions while the cats are being judged. You will find that most exhibitors will be glad to answer any question you may have.

Please do not walk behind the judging table to look at the cats in the judging cages. This is the only off-limits area at the cat show.

Please watch out for people carrying cats and allow them to pass. If you hear anyone yell "Cat Out!" stand still and let the owner catch the cat. If you are near an open door, please quietly and quickly close it.

Judging

Cat show competition is structured like a pyramid. First, the entries are divided into classes of kittens, adults, alters, HHPs, HHPKs, New Breeds, and New Traits.

Within each of these classifications, all cats of the same breed, division, and color compete against each other. The judge will award the Best of Color through 5th Best of Color for each group. Once the color judging is completed, the judge will judge cats of the same division against one another. (For example, brown tabby Persians and red tabby Persians would all be judged in the Tabby Division of the Persian Breed.)

Once the judge has selected their First of Division through the Third of Division cats, they will select the Best of Breed through Third Best of Breed.

Specialty/Allbreed

Some judges are classified as "Specialty" (SP), which means that they only judge longhair breeds against other longhair breeds, and shorthair breeds against other shorthair breeds. Other judges are designated "Allbreed" (AB). Allbreed judges judge all of the cats against each other.