



# Breeder's Code of Conduct

## Cat and kitten day-to-day care and welfare

1. I will ensure that my cats and kittens are housed in clean, sound, weatherproof (cool in summer, warm in winter) accommodation, being mindful that different breeds may have different requirements.
2. I will ensure that my cats have sufficient space for exercise, with clean food and water bowls and access to clean water at all times, clean litter trays, clean bedding, and are well groomed, as required.
3. I will take precautions to minimise the spread of disease in my cattery if infection occurs, and seek prompt veterinary attention if they show signs of being unwell or injured.
4. I will ensure that the numbers of cats and kittens in my care do not exceed my ability to provide adequate care.
5. I will ensure I am aware of local government and national legislation regarding the care and welfare of cats and kittens.

## Sale of cats or kittens

1. I will adhere to NZCF rules and regulations about the sale of cats and kittens:
  - a. No kitten will leave my home to go to a new owner at less than 10 weeks of age and will have had at least one vaccination.
  - b. I will register all the kittens I breed with the NZCF by the age of four months.
  - c. I will transfer all kittens or cats not intended for breeding within two weeks of pick up (if already desexed) or within two weeks of receiving proof of desexing (if sold with a desexing contract).
  - d. I will transfer all kittens or cats intended for breeding within two weeks of pick up.
  - e. I will not sell or rehome a kitten or cat showing signs of infection or unhealed injury (kittens or cats with congenital or hereditary conditions may be rehomed with full disclosure regarding any condition affecting them).

- f. I will refund all sums paid towards the purchase price in the event of the death of, or diagnosed terminal illness in, a cat or kitten prior to pick up by the new owner.
2. I will ensure that all kittens not intended for breeding are desexed, either by desexing prior to leaving my home, or by selling with a desexing contract and following up to ensure this is complied with.
3. I will ensure that kittens leaving my care are fully weaned, socialised, and litter trained.
4. I will provide new owners with information about diet, grooming, and any other care requirements for my breed, and I will provide kitten or cat's vaccination certificate. I will encourage the new owner to contact me if they need any help or advice, and I will respond promptly.
5. I will only place kittens or cats in homes where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life for the animal.
6. I will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed, nor falsely advertise or mislead any person regarding the pedigree or performance of any cat or kitten on the show bench.
7. In the event of a complaint or a concern about a kitten or cat that I have sold, I will endeavour to reach an amicable resolution of the issue with the new owner.
8. I will provide advice and support if needed, to new breeders to whom I sell kittens or cats intended for breeding.
9. In the event that an owner is unable to keep a kitten or cat previously owned or bred by me, I will offer to assist with rehoming.

## **Breeding practices**

1. I will breed only with stock registered with the NZCF or with a cat association recognised by the NZCF (with the exception of domestic outcrosses).
2. I will ensure my queens have no more than two litters per 12 month period, except where the queen's welfare requires more frequent mating.
3. Except for queens who have frequent hard calls from an early age, or under veterinary advice, I will not mate my queens before the age of 9 months.
4. I will not allow my entire cats to roam in circumstances that might lead to mismatings or the risk of disease.
5. I will ensure that I am well informed about the genetic conditions that my breed is subject to and what tests are available to minimise the risk of breeding cats that will be affected by those conditions.
6. I will adhere to NZCF policies regarding compulsory testing for genetic conditions in my breed.
7. I will desex all retired breeding cats that I rehome, prior to rehoming.

## Mating and breeding agreements

1. I will ensure that if I make my stud(s) available for stud service, I will put any conditions that apply in writing and ensure that the other breeder has seen, understood, and indicated their agreement in writing before the mating takes place.
2. When I sell, give, or exchange a kitten or cat for breeding, I will ensure that I put any conditions that apply in writing and ensure that the other breeder has seen, understood, and indicated their agreement in writing prior to completing the transaction.
3. When I send my queen(s) to another breeder's stud for stud service, I will enquire whether any conditions apply, and if they do, will ensure they are put in writing for me and that I have seen, understood, and indicated my agreement in writing.
4. When I am offered a kitten or cat for breeding, whether a sale, gift, or exchange, I will enquire whether any conditions apply and if they do, will ensure they are put in writing for me and that I have seen, understood, and indicated my agreement in writing.
5. I will abide by all conditions that I have agreed to, unless the stud owner/breeder has given me permission, in writing, to depart from them.

## General

I will complete all NZCF related paperwork in a correct and timely manner.

## NZCF Recommendations

These recommendations indicate best practice.

1. That breeders sell directly to owners, thereby enabling the breeder to assess the match between owner and kitten, and also enabling the owner to communicate with the breeder in the event of any concerns.
2. That breeders ensure all breeding cats are tested for genetic conditions that occur in their breed (where there is an available test), and follow any NZCF recommended breeding policies for that breed.
3. That breeders ensure that their catteries meet the NZCF Minimum Cattery Standards.
4. That breeders microchip all kittens (and rehomed retired breeding cats) and register them on the NZ Companion Animal Register, including their details as a secondary point of contact.

NZCF breeders who do not adhere to the provisions of this code of conduct (other than the recommendations section) may be subject to NZCF disciplinary procedures, including non-renewal of membership **or** suspension until asked requirements of the breeders are fully met.