



Guidelines when you are using another breeder's sire.

The majority of Sire Confirmations typically proceed without a hitch. It provides a very convenient means of introducing new bloodlines into your breeding programme without having another stud in your cattery long term. While most breeders already have one or more studs in their care, complications may arise once a kitten is kept from the stud for future breeding purposes.

There are three options available to expand the gene pool:

- buying a new stud (or queen),
- leasing a cat for a year or
- sending your queen to another breeder's stud for mating.

Leasing is particularly advantageous if you intend to use the stud with multiple queens or for an extended duration, or if the stud's location makes regular visits impractical. By leasing you can select the most promising kitten for your breeding programme. NZCF employs a leasing agreement that spans one year, although it can be extended for an additional fee, for another 12 months. As part of the lease cost, the lessee receives a certified 4 Generation Pedigree.

If you live close enough to the stud, you can arrange for regular visits, and have the stud's owner sign the Sire Confirmation once the mating and resulting litter is born. Before matings take place, it is important to discuss various aspects and ensure that all agreements are documented on paper and signed by both parties to protect everyone involved.

Prior to the mating

- Agree on the stud to be used & record the intention to use him for the matings
- Agree on the cost for this service – commonly it is a kitten of the stud owner's choice or the value of one kitten when sold. If being paid - agree on the time the payment is made (especially if it will be after the kittens are sold)

- Discuss any restrictions the stud owners want placed on the kittens. A common restriction is that no 1st Generation kittens are to be sold leased or gifted to other breeders without the written permission of the stud owner. If any restrictions are to be added, this must be confirmed in writing by both the breeders and ensure the Registrar concerned is also informed of these restrictions at the time of registration.
- Once you have everything agreed on, write everything down, date it and all parties should sign them. If it isn't written down, it will be extremely hard to prove anything if it goes wrong for you. Text and Facebook messages are not considered adequate proof.
- Agree on housing of the queen if she will stay with the stud for the time she is on heat – who provides the food, litter etc, and who pays for any vet visits if she becomes ill while she is away.
- Who is responsible for dropping the cat off / picking up etc and when?

It is important for both parties to hold a copy of this document, and no alterations should be made to it.

Effective communication is crucial throughout the process. Regularly communicate with each other: when the queen is coming on heat, once the matings have started (this information can be useful when signing the form later on).

Ensure your queen is fully vaccinated, free of fleas and worms, and in good health! The stud owner should be able to produce evidence that the stud meets these requirements. Sometimes, it's safer to consider quarantine periods before the cats are introduced to reduce the risk of illness or disease, and again after the cat returns home.

For the stud owner, be prepared to sign the litter registration form once the kittens are born. Signing forms before the litter is born (at mating time) can be ok, but only sign one, date it, preferably with both cats' names and details filled out. Obviously, date of birth and kitten details will have to be added later.

NZCF is not able to be involved in contractual disputes. In the event that issues arise, breeders will need to utilise legal pathways such as Disputes Tribunals NZ www.disputestribunal.govt.nz However, without a written agreement containing signatures and dates that clearly outline the agreed-upon terms, it becomes difficult to substantiate claims. It is strongly advised that all agreements be reviewed by a legal professional to avoid straining relationships with friends or family due to minor misunderstandings. It is better to take precautionary measure than to risk damaging personal connections.