



GUIDANCE FOR BREEDERS: RESPONSIBLE CAT BREEDING

About:

This document is a shorter version the [Responsible Cat Breeding Guidelines](#), produced in 2020.

This guidance will be regularly reviewed, for updates and more information view: [Eurogroup for Animals Cats & Dogs](#).

Related guidance:

Supplementary guidance for cat breeders on the socialisation of kittens.



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1. Introduction

Poor breeding practices have profoundly detrimental effects on cat welfare and on the well-being of owners; the consequences of poor breeding practices may lead to a lifetime of suffering, through poor health and poor suitability as pets, resulting in an untimely death, abandonment or relinquishment. Breeders, legislators, competent authorities, veterinarians, and owners have an ethical responsibility to work together to ensure cats live a good quality of life.

Cats and kittens have the same need to live a good quality of life regardless of breeding context and all breeders are required to act responsibly and with compassion to meet those needs. Good welfare results when cats' experience positive physical and mental states, they are thriving – they are physically healthy, and living in a complex and interesting environment where they have choice over what they do and when they do things; they feel comfortable and secure; they have access to all necessary resources.

Breeders have a duty of care, to keep all cats in a state of good welfare, and to ensure kittens have a good start in life. Breeders are obliged to find responsible homes for kittens they have bred; ensuring new owners are a good match and understand their lifelong duty of care to their new cat. Breeders are required to take life-long responsibility for caring for kittens that do not sell, and queens and studs that are no longer used for breeding or home them to a responsible owner. Cats that are no longer used for breeding should be neutered.

Breeders should be subject to legal controls by the local competent authority, including registration and where appropriate, licensing and inspection to ensure they meet the welfare needs of animals under their care.

2. Good breeding

- **Breeders must avoid breeding from banned breeds and their hybrids, animals that are closely related, or with inherited disorders, or exaggerated features that compromise welfare; they should also avoid breeding cats with temperaments that may produce kittens that will be unsuitable pets (e.g., reactive, fearful, or aggressive towards people or other animals).**

	Guidance on what you should do
Breed-type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibited breed-types (including their hybrids) must not be bred.
Age & frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cats should not be mated before they are fully grown (reached sexual and skeletal maturity) or before 12 months of age. • Queens and studs should not be bred over 7 years old. • Queens must not have more than 1 litter a year or more than 4 litters in her lifetime.
Avoid inbreeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid breeding from individual cats that produce a high coefficient of inbreeding (greater than 20%). A coefficient below 10% is recommended. • Avoid overusing stud cats; studs should not sire more than 5% of the total kittens in the specific pedigree population during a 5-year period.
Physical health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cats must be certified by a veterinarian as functionally fit and physically healthy before breeding. • Cats should receive prophylactic health care under the direction of a veterinarian – regular clinical examination, treatment for internal and external parasites, and vaccinations. • Cats with extreme conformation (or those who have had corrective surgery) must not be bred from. • Avoid breeding for extremes of physical types.
Disease screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cats should be screened for feline leukaemia (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) by regular blood testing. • Studs should be tested annually; queens should be tested prior to visiting stud cats. • Use all validated genetic screening tests relevant to the breed in conjunction with veterinary advice to inform on suitability for breeding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ avoid breeding from affected individuals, and do not breed with two ‘carrier’ cats, that are unaffected by the disease but carry the mutated gene.
Vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cats should be vaccinated according to national animal health guidelines by a veterinarian before mating. • Homeopathic vaccinations are not acceptable. • An up-to-date vaccination certificate signed by a veterinarian should be kept for each cat/kitten. • Where appropriate a national health certificate or European passport should be provided.
Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cats used for breeding should be friendly and confident around people and be comfortable with being handled. • Cats that are fearful or aggressive towards people should not be bred from.
Caesarean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queens should be able to give birth naturally. • Queens that have had a caesarean section must not be bred from unless certified by a veterinarian that it is safe to do so. • Queens that have had 2 litters delivered by caesarean section must not be bred.
Mating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forced matings must not take place. • Both parents must be able to mate naturally.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stud cats must only mate with one queen at any one time. • Queens must only mate with one stud cat per oestrus cycle. • Introductions between queen and stud cats must be carefully planned and closely monitored to avoid injury, escape, or disease. • Incompatible cats must not be mated (e.g., due to mismatch in physical size or temperament). • Mating pairs should be physically separated from other animals, in accommodation large enough to meet their individual needs. • Both cats should be carefully checked for signs of injury after mating. • Stud accommodation must be thoroughly cleaned before housing another visiting queen.
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Artificial insemination (AI)

- Must not be used as a default or to overcome problems due to the inability of cats to mate naturally. It may **ONLY** be considered under exceptional circumstances, with strict justification, where:
 - it is demonstrated that it will lead to an improvement in the welfare of potential offspring through increased genetic variation;
 - parents have bred naturally without intervention before;
 - only manual semen collection methods can be used
 - Electroejaculation methods are NOT permitted.
 - surgical AI is not permitted.
 - only a suitably qualified, competent veterinarian, trained in semen collection and AI can be used.

3 Good carers

- Carers should be competent and treat animals well in all circumstances.

	Guidance on what you should do
Animal care competency	Demonstrate evidence of competency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cat welfare – recognise the signs of poor and good welfare. • Disease control. • Up-to-date understanding of breed-related disorders (where appropriate). • Recognition and first aid treatment of sick animals. • Cat behaviour, early development, and socialisation. • Welfare-centred cat handling and training. • Environmental enrichment. • Cleanliness and hygiene. • Feeding and food preparation.
Animal care qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed breeders should undertake a recognised cat-appropriate animal care qualification and regular continuing professional development.
Carer-to-animal ratio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have enough competent adult carers during the day (and where necessary night) to meet all care requirements for cats and kittens: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ at least 1 full time carer per 10 cats kept during normal working hours, 7 days a week ○ the effectiveness of carer-to-animal ratio must be demonstrated in the delivery of animal care.

4 Good feeding

- Cats and kittens must be properly fed and supplied with water to avoid prolonged hunger and thirst to meet their need for a suitable diet.
- To ensure their needs are being met, regularly monitor cats and kittens' food and water intake, body weight and body condition¹.

Guidance on what you should do	
All cats	
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed a high-quality complete diet suitable to their individual needs.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give <i>ad-libitum</i> access to clean water. • Provide additional access to fresh drinking water in water fountains.
Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep food and water fresh and uncontaminated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Store food in a hygienic location in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and away from vermin. ○ Remove uneaten wet food by time of next feeding and replace dried food every 24 hours.
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide one food and one water bowl per cat. • Place in multiple locations and at different heights to avoid competition. • Present food to allow cats to follow natural feeding patterns – cats prefer frequent meals throughout the day.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor food and water intake each day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seek veterinary advice promptly if cats do not eat or drink normally.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor cats body weight and body condition regularly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seek veterinary advice promptly for any unexplained changes in body weight or condition.
Adult cats	
Frequency of feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed twice a day, approximately 8 hours apart, as appropriate for the individual and follow veterinary advice.
Pregnant and lactating queens	
Diet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed a high-quality diet, appropriate to stage of pregnancy, lactation, and body condition.
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide queens with food and water separate to her kittens.
Kittens	
Nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kittens are dependent upon their mother's milk for the first 3 weeks of life. • Supplementary feeding, with a milk formula and bottles designed for kittens, will be required if the queen is unable to nurse her kittens.
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe nursing to ensure kittens are feeding. • Weigh kittens daily for the first two weeks after birth, and weekly up to 6 months of age. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Body weights should be recorded. ○ Seek veterinary advice promptly if kittens are not feeding or gaining weight normally.
Weaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kittens should be gradually introduced to solid food from 3-4 weeks of age; weaning is generally completed by 6-8 weeks of age. • Kittens should be weaned onto a good quality, kitten food, that is specifically formulated for weaning. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on quantity and frequency of feeding.
Frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kittens under 12 weeks old must be fed 4 times daily.

¹ Body condition scoring guide: <https://wsava.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Cat-Body-Condition-Scoring-2017.pdf>
 Short version of the responsible cat breeding guidelines which were endorsed on 3 November 2020 -
 DOC/2020/11982 Rev1.



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Presentation	Water should be provided in a receptacle that is shallow enough to prevent injury but large enough to allow kittens to drink at the same time.
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5 Good housing

- **Cats and kittens must be housed in an environment that provides them with freedom of movement, physical comfort, and choice over access to resources without fear, risk of injury and illness to meet their need for a suitable environment.**
- **To ensure their needs are being met, regularly monitor the health, behaviour and activity of cats and kittens.**

	Guidance on what you should do
Light	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep cats under natural lighting conditions. • Natural daylight should be provided. • Artificial light sources should be the same intensity as natural daylight. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ lights should follow a 10-12h light cycle. ○ lights must be switched off overnight for 8 hours minimum.
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid excessive or continuous noise.
Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide adequate ventilation to avoid build-up of airborne pathogens, noxious odours, and damp.
Humidity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoors should be maintained at 55% ± 10% relative humidity.
Temperature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult cats: Indoor temperature range: 15-26°C; optimal: 18-21°C. • Kittening box: Temperature range: 18-27°C. • Additional heat sources must be used safely to prevent burns and fire risk. • Provide a temperature gradient. • Check animals are not too hot or too cold. • Queens and kittens should be kept draught free.
Type of accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid housing cats long-term in cattery style pens. • Provide cats in a home environment with at least one room that exceeds minimum space allowances. • Cats must not be housed in tiered or stacked pens.
Quality of space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an enriched, complex physical environment with safe access to 3-dimensional space, large enough for cats to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ walk, run, play, turn around, stand, stand erect on hind legs, hold their tail erect, climb, jump and leap between elevated platforms, and lie fully stretched out without touching another cat or walls of accommodation. ○ house multiple resources (e.g., food, water, toileting and scratching areas, elevated rest areas and areas to hide). • Provide soft, warm bedding. • Group living cats should have access to resources without sharing with other cats and must be able to avoid seeing other cats if they wish to do so.
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation should exceed the following minimum space allowance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Height: ≥ 2.0m ○ Length: ≥ 2.0m ○ Floor area: ≥ 4.0m² – for each additional cat increase by 2.0m². ○ A larger floor area is preferable: ≥ 8m² – for each additional cat increase by 2.0 – 3.0m².
Litter trays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide at least one per cat plus one extra for indoor or confined cats.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a litter of kittens require at least 2 litter trays. ● Site litter trays at least 60cm away from resting and feeding areas. ● Size: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ at least 1.5 x length of the cat's body – large enough for the cat to turn around. ○ at least 3cm deep to contain enough litter to permit digging and raking.
Safe construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All areas, equipment and furnishing must be safe, non-toxic, robust, durable, impermeable, kept in a good state of repair and suitable for disinfection.

6 Good health

- Cats and kittens must be cared for in such a way as to keep them in a state of good physical health.
- Cats and kittens must be treated well in all circumstances by their carers to meet their need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury, and disease.
- To ensure their needs are being met, regularly monitor the health of cats and kittens and their behaviour towards their carers.

	Guidance on what you should do
Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Handling must not cause suffering, pain, injury, fear, or distress or pose and increased disease risk. ● Aversive training methods must never be used. ● Scruffing cats must not be used unless as a last resort in a veterinary emergency. ● Interactions with people should be positive, consistent, and predictable and not forced. ● Perform husbandry with minimum disturbance to animals.
Regular inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Observe animals regularly throughout the day as often as necessary to protect their welfare, at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ at the start and end of each working day, and every 4 hours. ● Animals must not be left alone for more than 8 hours overnight. ● Promptly address any abnormalities and follow advice provided by a veterinarian.
Surgical mutilations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Are not permitted unless deemed necessary and certified in writing by a veterinarian for medical purposes.
Veterinary care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Register with a veterinary practice and ensure access to out-of-hours emergency veterinary care. ● Follow a comprehensive veterinary health plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ regular clinical examination and vaccinations ○ treatment for internal and external parasites ○ keep certified health records. ● Kittens should be microchipped (by a veterinarian or certified individual) and registered to the breeder before homing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the transponder must comply with ISO standards 11784 & 11785. ● Kittens should be examined and vaccinated by a veterinarian before homing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a veterinarian should certify kittens' health status and identification in writing.
Safe and responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use and safely dispose of medicines according to veterinary or the manufacturer's instructions.



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use of medicines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medication must be prescribed or authorised for use in the individual animal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a record of medicine use should be kept for each animal. • Store medicines safely and securely, and at the correct temperature.
Euthanasia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When deemed necessary, euthanasia must be performed humanely and only by a veterinarian. • Euthanasia records must be kept detailing: animal, reason for euthanasia, date, and name of veterinarian. • Animals must not be euthanised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ because they do not meet a prescribed breed standard, or they cannot be sold, or they are retired from breeding. ○ when they have a conformational defect that does not affect their welfare or under veterinary advice the defect can be corrected without compromising animal welfare.
Cleaning and hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep accommodations, furnishings, bedding, or equipment, clean, dry and parasite free. • Perform effective daily spot cleaning. • Thoroughly clean and disinfect accommodation, equipment, and furnishings between different cats. • Avoid over cleaning and with strong-smelling/scented products to maintain the scent profile of the environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ avoid, where possible, cleaning areas that the cat has facially marked and scratched (deposited scent). ○ wash, clean and disinfect bedding and toys when needed and on rotation. • Do not remove animals from accommodation during routine cleaning unless necessary or to perform wet cleaning (e.g., power hosing or disinfection). • Avoid disturbance and maintain the queens' scent by only cleaning soiled areas and bedding, when necessary, in the kittening accommodation.
Waste disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide facilities for proper collection, storage, and disposal of waste. • Follow special arrangements for handling hazardous waste according to local or national guidelines.
Food and water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean food and water receptacles daily and disinfected at least weekly. • Keep food preparation and storage areas clean and free from dirt and dust, and minimise risk from rodents, insects, and other pests.
Cat litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide absorbent, non-toxic, and unscented litter. • Litter trays should be impermeable, easy to clean and disinfect. • Replace litter and clean litter trays at least daily and disinfect at least weekly. • Dispose of used litter away from food preparation and storage areas. • Use gloves or frequently and thoroughly wash hands after handling litter trays. • Pregnant or immunocompromised individuals should not handle soiled cat litter.
Safe cleaning products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use products that are non-toxic to cats and the environment. • Do not use Phenolic disinfectants or products containing Benzalkonium Chloride. • Store and dispose of products safely away from cats.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure cleaned areas are fully dry before cats have access.
Isolation facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide self-contained, isolation facilities to care for sick, injured or potentially infections animals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ an attending veterinary practice, with 24-hour care may provide isolation facilities for sick or injured animals. • Isolation facilities must be sited at least 5m away from other cats. • Use separate feed and water receptacles, litter trays, transport box, bedding, cleaning utensils and products for animals in isolation. • Follow good hygiene and biosecurity practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ only use designated protective clothing and equipment in the isolation facility ○ use a separate carer for isolated cats or attend to isolated cats after all other cats have been attended to ○ change clothes and wash hands in an appropriate disinfectant before handling other cats ○ completely disinfect the isolation facility between different cats. • Follow veterinary advice on quarantining new cats. • Cats imported from abroad must be health tested by a veterinarian before they are introduced to other cats.
Emergency planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep a fully stocked and maintained animal first aid kit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ consult a veterinarian on the contents of the first aid kit. • Have a practical and usable emergency evacuation and contingency plan in place for animals and care staff.

7. Appropriate behaviour

- **Cats and kittens must be provided with a complex and stimulating environment, and opportunities for positive human-animal interactions, that supports normal behavioural development and where appropriate company of their own kind to meet their need to perform appropriate behaviour.**
- **To ensure their needs are being met, regularly monitor the behaviour and activity of cats and kittens, including their interactions with people.**

	Guidance on what you should do
Meet cats' environmental needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a safe, enriched environment that meets the needs of animals. • Regularly evaluate the safety and effectiveness of enrichment.
1. Safe places for resting and hiding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide elevated areas for hiding and resting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ perches and shelves must be wide enough, and long enough to comfortably accommodate cats when they lie fully stretched out. ○ provide safe access to vertical space to prevent falls. ○ provide soft bedding for comfort.
2. Free access to environmental resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide cats with at least two areas for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ eating, drinking, toileting, scratching, playing, and resting ○ cats prefer not to share resources with other cats ○ multiple sturdy scratching areas should meet individual needs for (i) substrate (e.g., carpet, rope, wood or cardboard), (ii) orientation (vertical vs. horizontal) and (iii) type (tall vs. short with more than one accessible level).
3. Opportunities to perform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities to perform natural hunting behaviours, through appropriate toys, interactive play with people and outdoor access:



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instinctive behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ rotate toys to prevent boredom ○ use interactive toys, never encourage hands and feet as targets for play with cats ○ toys must be non-toxic, indestructible, and size appropriate to prevent injury to cats ○ toys should be checked daily for safety ○ use puzzle feeders and scatter feed (dried kibble) to encourage natural feeding patterns (e.g., small frequent meals).
4. Positive human-cat interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide positive, predictable, consistent, and frequent interaction with people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ at least 3 x 10 minutes of daily interaction with people throughout the working day ○ cats must not be forced to interact with people.
5. Respect the cat's scent profile	<p>Cats deposit scent within their environment through facial rubbing and scratching, creating a scent profile that makes them feel secure, and helps them to manage their environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Avoid using strongly scented cleaning products and over cleaning areas that have been facially marked and scratched by the cat.
Behavioural problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promptly address behavioural problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ seek and follow advice from a certified veterinary behaviourist or applied animal behaviourist.
Social interaction with other cats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cats that cannot live with other cats should be housed alone, under conditions that meet their environmental needs. ● Compatible cats, housed together, should be provided with enough resources, sited separately to reduce competition between them.

8. Good rearing

- **Queens must be provided with a choice of kitting places that meet her preference for seclusion and shelter.**
- **Kittens should be reared with their littermates and mother until at least 8 weeks of age (preferably 12 weeks) and must be well socialised and habituated to experiences they will encounter in a domestic home environment.**
- **To ensure their needs are being met, regularly monitor the behaviour and activity of cats and kittens, during socialisation and habituation to the household environment.**

	Guidance on what you should do
Kitting area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10-14 days prior to birth, provide the queen with a quiet, safe area away from other animals, include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ all the resources the queen needs until kittens are homed ○ a sleeping area large enough to nurse her kittens at full stretch ○ access to perches or shelves to retreat away from her kittens when they are older. <p>Note: Litters of kittens from different queens must not be housed together, unless queens are already housed in compatible social groups and their litters choose to mix.</p>
Regular inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Queens and kittens in the kitting area must be checked more frequently than non-breeding adult cats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ find a balance between too much interference vs. not being able to identify the queen and her kittens in distress ○ use video cameras for remote monitoring if appropriate



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ kittens should be checked soon after birth and their details recorded.
Socialise kittens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● See <u>Supplementary guidance for cat breeders on the socialisation of kittens.</u> ● Follow a socialisation plan and dedicate additional carer time to ensure kittens are well socialised and habituated to the home environment. ● Ensure that the queen and her kittens can cope with interactions. ● Use appropriate infection control measures when introducing kittens to new experiences.
Rear kittens with their littermates and mother	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To reduce the risk of developing abnormal behaviour later in life, keep kittens with their mother and littermates until they are at least 8 weeks old, 12 weeks is preferable.
Hand-rearing kittens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seek veterinary advice on the welfare considerations and appropriateness of hand-rearing kittens: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ kittens must not be hand-reared unless it is deemed absolutely necessary (e.g., if the mother is unwell or unable to nurse). ○ kittens must be kept with other kittens in their litter or with kittens of a similar age. ○ carefully plan the early experience of hand-reared kittens to mitigate for the deficits in social learning in the absence of their mother.

9. Good record keeping

- **Keep accurate and complete records for cats and kittens. Records should provide a complete account of the cat or kitten's life history with the breeder, and include:**

Owner/breeder details

- Unique registration number
- Name and address of where the cats or kittens are kept.
- Name and address of the owner if this is different to the keeper.

Animal details

- Name and date of birth.
- Permanent identification number - cats should be permanently identified by a microchip before rehoming, both the microchip number and date of implant should be recorded. Cats and kittens should be registered to the breeder (as the first owner) on the official or recognised microchip database.
- Breed (or known breed cross) where appropriate.
- Sex, colour, and other distinguishing marks.
- If cats are registered with a breed association these numbers must also be recorded.
- Date of acquisition.
- Body weight.
- Date and reason for death (if not euthanised).

Details of veterinary treatment

- All veterinary treatment, including regular clinical examination, vaccination, deworming and flea treatment, any other routine or emergency treatment received, any surgery to correct exaggerated conformations, date and reason for euthanasia and the name of the veterinarian who performed the euthanasia.

Breeding information

- Results of all performed tests for inherited disorders and dates of the tests.
- Details of animals mated (as above).
- Date of mating and outcome.
- Date and time of kitting.



- Number of kittens born, sex, colour, distinguishing marks, weight and other significant events, identification.

Rearing information

- Date and age of weaning.
- Outline of early rearing conditions and socialisation process. Include details of any periods spent isolated from mother and siblings, and reasons for isolation (e.g. disease, injury, treatment etc).

Homing/sale details

- Cat/kitten identification.
- Cat/kitten age.
- Leaving date.
- Name and contact details of the new owner.
- Breeders/new owners must ensure that the kittens microchip number are registered to their new owners as required by national legislation.

Licensed breeders, who care for several cats, should keep additional records of:

- All care and husbandry provided.
- All daily checks on the animals.
- Body weight and body condition score of cats and kittens on a monthly basis for cats and weekly for kittens (body weight should be checked against annual veterinary records kept for each cat/kitten).
- The oestrus dates of each queen.
- Studs – the number of visiting queens/queens visited, number of matings, number of successful pregnancies.
- The number of breeding queens and studs that are retired, their identification and fate after retirement (including rehoming details).
- Details of any isolation cases and the management regime in place.
- Specific information must be recorded for cats that have come from abroad in-line with animal health legislation (e.g. obligatory blood tests and vaccinations).

All breeders should regularly review their records to inform breeding practices and ensure good welfare of cats and kittens.

For new owners

Provide new owners with a written copy of all relevant records of the cat or kitten, including:

- Treatment records.
- Vaccination certificate (if the kitten has received vaccinations with the breeder) or European Pet Passport if this is appropriate.
- Veterinary health check results, including the results of health and genetic screening tests.
- Microchip certificate and instructions for changing ownership details on the register.
- Breed association registration certificate (when applicable).
- Five-generation pedigree information (when applicable).
- Details of the breed of each parent where different breeds have been crossed.

Written information must also be provided on cat/kitten care:

- The cat's/kitten's feeding regime.
- Cat litter type/preferences.
- Temporary health insurance in countries where this is available.
- Advice on habituation, training, and socialisation.
- Advice on integration into the new household.
- Advice on animal welfare needs.
- Contact details of the breeder – for advice and warranty.



10. Responsible homing

- **Breeders have an obligation to protect the future welfare of kittens by finding good homes with responsible owners. They should:**
 - make reasonable efforts to ensure the new owner is a good match for their kittens; that the new owner understands and can meet the future welfare needs of the kitten and requirements for lifelong care. Breeders must not home a cat or kitten to anyone under the age of 18 years.
 - make reasonable efforts to ensure that the prospective new owner is not acting on behalf of a third party.
 - microchip and register each kitten or cat in the official or recognised database before homing. The breeder should be registered as the first owner of the kitten.
 - provide prospective new owners with accurate and comprehensive written information about the welfare needs of kittens, including the results of parental genetic health screening, conformation issues and breed predispositions to disease/disorders.
 - provide information about neutering to prevent unwanted litters in the future.
 - provide a two-weeks supply of the kitten's current diet to the new owner to allow a gradual change over of food by the new owners.
 - prospective new owners are required to visit kittens with their biological mother, and littermates in the environment where they are kept.
- All breeders must include their unique registration codes on all advertisements, and sale or transfer documentation, so that it is clearly visible to prospective new owners.

Warranty

- Breeders should provide new owners with a written warranty, about the kitten:
- The breeder warrants that the kitten:
 - is at least 8 weeks (preferably 12 weeks) of age when homed;
 - has received good care and been socialised;
 - is in good health unless otherwise stated;
 - is microchipped and registered in the official or recognised database.
- Where appropriate, the breeder warrants that the pedigree information/breed registration is correct.
- Assured breeders are required to demonstrate that they meet all the requirements of assured breeder schemes as outlined by the governing breed association.

The breeder warrants to reduce or avoid distress and inconvenience caused to the new owner in the event that the kitten suffers poor welfare as a result of poor breeding practices.

The breeder is required to use information about any health or behavioural issues of kittens/cats to inform future breeding, rearing and socialisation practices.

- The new owner warrants that:
 - they will take the kitten to their veterinarian soon after homing for a clinical examination and advice on preventative health treatments;
 - they will register their details as the new owner of the kitten in the official or recognised database;



- they will be able to meet the kitten's future welfare needs based upon the information they have received from the breeder;
- they are not purchasing or obtaining the kitten on behalf of a third party;
- if they find themselves unable to provide for the welfare needs of the kitten, they will contact the breeder for advice including the option to return the kitten to the breeder.