

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Can I touch the cats at the show?

No, we're sorry, and we realize that it is very tempting. The cats are being groomed for the judging rings when they are not in their cages. A lot of work has been involved in the bathing and combing of the cats in preparation for the show and exhibitors would prefer that the cats not be touched by spectators. And if you watch the judging, you will notice that the judges wash their hands with a disinfectant after handling each cat to avoid accidentally passing germs from one cat to another. We ask that spectators not touch the cats without the owner's permission. Occasionally, if you are lucky, a breeder may have an "ambassador cat" on display that you are welcome to touch. Ask the breeders if one is available for petting.



Can I take photos of the cats at the show?

Yes, you may take photos at the show. However, please ask permission of the owner of the cat, especially if you will be close to the cat and using a flash with your camera.

Why won't a breeder talk to me?

A cat show is an extremely busy environment. Breeders are often pre-occupied with listening for their cat's number to be called to a judging ring, grooming their cat, or taking the opportunity to speak with other breeders regarding their specific breed. Unless they are otherwise occupied, the majority of breeders will be delighted to speak to you. If a particular breeder is unable to answer your questions immediately, please revisit them at a less-busy time.

Who can I ask questions?

If a judge is not engaged in the handling and evaluating of cats, they will be pleased to answer any questions you might have. Please remember, though, that their first priority is the evaluation of the cats presented to their ring for judging. You can also look for blue and gold "ASK ME" buttons worn by exhibitors. They will be happy to answer your questions.

How do I know when a particular breed is being judged?

If you listen to the announcements, the breed is often called by name to a judging ring. It is difficult to set an exact time for each breed to be judged as the judges will work at varying speeds, but you could ask a show committee member to see a copy of the printed judging schedule.

Welcome to this CFA Cat Show!



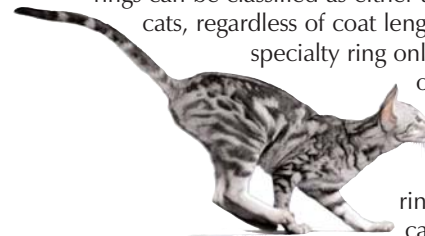
Spectator Guide

The Cat Fanciers' Association currently recognizes 39 pedigreed breeds for showing in the Championship Class, with one breed in Provisional status - the RagaMuffin. Each breed has a set standard that is updated as the breed progresses. From time to time, each breed council also updates its breed profile, which is a more informal introduction to the breed. You can find a breed profile, for each breed listed below, on the CFA web site at www.cfa.org/breeds.html.

Abyssinian	Devon Rex	RagaMuffin*
American Bobtail	Egyptian Mau	Ragdoll
American Curl	European Burmese	Russian Blue
American Shorthair	Exotic	Scottish Fold
American Wirehair	Havana Brown	Selkirk Rex
Balinese	Japanese Bobtail	Siamese
Birman	Korat	Siberian
Bombay	LaPerm	Singapura
British Shorthair	Maine Coon	Somali
Burmese	Manx	Sphynx
Chartreux	Norwegian Forest Cat	Tonkinese
Colorpoint Shorthair	Ocicat	Turkish Angora
Cornish Rex	Oriental	Turkish Van
	Persian	

SHOW FORMAT

A cat show is composed of a number of separate, concurrently running, individual shows held in the various judging rings throughout a show hall. Each "show" is presided over by a different judge, who presents his or her own awards independent of the decisions of other judges. Hence, a cat that is chosen "Best" by the judge in Ring 1, may not always be given the same award by the judge in Ring 2. Individual rings can be classified as either allbreed or specialty. In an allbreed ring all cats, regardless of coat length or type, compete for various awards. In a specialty ring only those cats of similar coat length, longhair or shorthair, compete for awards. The cards on top of the cages will correspond to the cat's entry number in the show catalog and on its benching cage. In the judging ring, blue cards are used for males, and pink cards for females.



COMPETITION CLASSES

- * **KITTEN** competition is for unaltered or altered, pedigreed kittens between the ages of four and eight months.
- * **CHAMPIONSHIP** competition is for unaltered, pedigreed cats over the age of eight months.
- * **PREMIERSHIP** competition is for altered, pedigreed cats over the age of eight months.
- * **PROVISIONAL** competition is for those breeds that have not yet achieved championship status.
- * **MISCELLANEOUS** competition is for those breeds not yet accepted for Provisional status, but accepted for registration and showing in the Miscellaneous Class.
- * **VETERAN CLASS** is for any male or female, altered or unaltered, not younger than seven years on the opening day of the show that if the owner chose to, could otherwise be shown in the championship or premiership classes.
- * **HOUSEHOLD PET** competition is for all randombred or non-pedigreed cats. Entries must have all their physical properties, and must not be declawed. Kittens must be older than four months on the opening day of the show and those entries older than eight months must be neutered or spayed. Pedigreed cats with disqualifying features are eligible to be entered in the Household Pet Class.
- * **JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP** is for young people from 8 years of age to 15. Youngsters who learn about good sportsmanship, cat care, breed standards, presentation and cat shows will be valuable to the sport in the future. Junior Showmanship classes are held so that young people can: experience winning and losing among those who are similar in age; learn the correct way to present and handle the breed they own; practice presentation skills in competition; improve their knowledge about their breed and others; and, prepare to show in regular classes in the future. More information on the Junior Showmanship program can be found on CFA's For Kids ... About Cats web site at kids.cfa.org/js.html.
- * **FELINE AGILITY** is for cats that love to run and jump! Cats are definitely trainable and most are willing to follow a feather or dangling toy anywhere! It's amazing how they can climb up and down those high steps and race through those weave pole areas with such ease and speed. Agility is a pre-entered competition, open to any cat, so a household pet could be the overall winner as easily as could a top winning grand champion. Additional info is available at agility.cfa.org.

RIBBONS & AWARDS

Spectators at cat shows are often confused about the ribbons that are awarded by the judges. Here's a full explanation of how the ribbons are awarded in the Championship and Premiership classes. The procedure is the same for Kittens, except they are not awarded the Winners Ribbon nor the Best Champion or Premier of Breed ribbon.

When a kitten turns 8 months of age, it is considered to be an adult and begins its adult show career in the OPEN class in either the Championship or Premiership Classes. A judge will handle and evaluate all of the OPEN cats in a color grouping, first the males and then the females. He will award a **First Place (Blue)** ribbon in the Open class to one male and one female and also **Second Place (Red)** and **Third Place (Yellow)** ribbons (depending upon the number of Open cats of that color). First place in the OPEN class is usually accompanied by a **Winners Ribbon (Red/White/Blue)**. Once a cat has been awarded six Winners Ribbons, it becomes a CHAMPION. If in the Premiership Class, it will become a PREMIER.

After the judge has handled the OPEN cats, he judges the CHAMPIONS (or PREMIERS) in that particular color group, and awards first, second and third ribbons to the best three males and the best three females. He then moves on to the GRAND CHAMPIONS (or GRAND PREMIERS) and repeats the process. When all the cats in a color group have been appraised, the judge awards **Best of Color Class (Black)** and **Second Best of Color Class (White)**.

Once the judge has evaluated all of the cats in a breed or color division within a breed, he will award the **Best of Breed or Division (Brown)** and **Second Best of Breed or Division (Orange)**. The judge will also choose the **Best Champion of Breed or Division (Purple)** from all of the Champions competing in that breed or division. The cat receiving the Best Champion ribbon will receive one point toward its Grand Championship title for each Champion it defeated in that breed. Cats with the title of Premier in the Premiership Class also are awarded this ribbon and the recipient will receive one point toward its Grand Premiership title for each Premier it defeated in that breed.

Upon completion of judging all of the cats in a class (i.e. Kittens, Championship or Premiership), the judge will hold a FINAL during which they will present rosettes to their choice for the Top awards. Remember, though, that each ring is basically an individual show so a cat that is chosen Best in Show by the judge in Ring 1, may not always be given the same award by the judge in Ring 2.

Household Pets are judged in one group without regard to sex, age, coat length or color. There is no written standard for Household Pets and they are judged simply for their uniqueness. Each Household Pet reflecting good health and vitality receives a **Merit Award (Red/White)**.