

Cat Owners' Association of Western Australia Inc.

PO Box 135, Claremont WA 6910

Tel: (08) 9384 2500 Fax: (08) 9384 3000

E Mail: coawa@bigpond.com



Guide & Ethics for COAWA Cat Breeders

1. **Kitten Age** - A kitten should be no less than 10 weeks of age when the new owners take it home.
2. **Health** - A cat or kitten should be in the best possible health before it goes to a new home and as far as possible free of external and internal parasites such as fleas, ear mites and round worms.
3. **Kitten Care** - It is the responsibility of the breeder to ensure as far as possible that the new owner knows how to care for and feed the cat or kitten. Written information covering the main points and a diet sheet should be provided.
4. **Early Problems** - The new owner should be advised to contact the breeder immediately should there be any problems within the first week or two of their taking the cat or kitten home.
5. **Vaccination** - A first vaccination injection should have been given between six and eight weeks of age if the kitten is to go to its new home at 10 weeks. It must be explained to the owner that the kitten is not fully vaccinated and must have further injections at 12 weeks and 16 weeks to protect it against Feline Infectious Enteritis (panleucopaenia), Feline Rhinotracheitis and Feline Calcivirus (cat flu).
6. **Registration** - All kittens must be litter recorded but need not be individually registered if they are intended as companion pets only. A cat must be fully Registered and transferred to be shown.
7. **Transfer** - Transfer of an individually registered cat or kitten must be done within 30 days of the gift or sale. Transfer of ownership may be for breeding", non-breeding (but eligible for exhibition in pedigree shows) or companion pet only (eligible to be shown without the breeders prefix in companion shows or the companion section of pedigree shows). It is the responsibility of the breeder to send the completed forms to the COAWA office.
8. **Status** - The breeder must explain the status of the cat or kitten in relation to breeding or non-breeding to the prospective new owner before the gift or sale.
9. **Papers** - The pedigree, vaccination card and the transfer of ownership (if individually registered) are the birth right of the cat or kitten and should not be withheld for extra payment. A companion pet should be given its four generation pedigree on which the litter record is prominently displayed.
10. **Desexing** - It is the responsibility of the breeder to ensure that the new owner understands that a non-breeding or companion pet is to be desexed at the appropriate age and as far as possible follow up that this has been done.
11. **Breeding Male** - An entire male cat used as a stud must be registered as a breeding cat and the owner must be a member of a recognised registering body. Unregistered female cats or registered cats owned by a person who is not a registered breeder should not be accepted for mating services.
12. **Breeding Female** - A female cat used for breeding must be registered as a breeding cat and the owner must be a member of a recognised registering body and they must have a registered Cattery Prefix. A registered female should not be mated to an unregistered stud male.
13. **Mating Service** - The price and any conditions attached to the mating service should be discussed and agreed upon by the stud owner and the owner of the female before she is brought to the stud.
14. **Mating Arrangements** - The owner of the female should notify the stud owner of the impending visit and should not just arrive without warning.
15. **Actual Matings** - It is usual for a stud owner to record at least three observed matings when a female is presented for mating service.
16. **Conception** - The responsibility of the stud owner ends when the female goes home. The stud owner is not obliged to offer a second visit of the same female free of charge if she has not conceived. The owner of the female should not expect a free service for a different female.
17. **Number of kittens in a litter** - The number of kittens in a litter is generally determined by the female. The stud owner is not obliged to offer a free mating service for a female who has still born kittens or only one or two kittens in the litter.