



A WCF Cat Show

How it works and what happens

Rev. 29.11.2014.

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Adapted from a magazine article

WCF Cat Show is first and foremost a beauty competition! Cats are groomed carefully, owners are washing, brushing, trimming their cats until the last moment to make them as beautiful as possible, hoping to win title all breeders and owners want - Best In Show!

Cat shows are where friends who all enjoy the pleasure of competition get to together and enjoy the time together whilst showing their cats. Many of us travel thousands of kilometers with our precious cats to spend a weekend in a nice hotel, enjoy evenings with other exhibitors, make new friends, and the competition during the day is part of the pleasure. Part of my circle of friends' tradition is the owner of the winner buys the drinks that evening!

The day starts with the vetting in. This means that each cat must go through a vet check to ensure that it is fully vaccinated against Rabies, Panleucopenia and Rhinotracheitis, visibly the cat is in excellent health and no external parasites can be seen. The microchip is also checked to ensure that the cat is actually the one registered and paid for in the show. The exhibitor then checks in, gets his cage number and is allowed into the show hall.

Some organizers provide metal cages to be decorated with the exhibitor's choice of curtains, some organizers allow people to bring their own cloth cages. No matter what cages are used, the exhibitors must provide comfort, a litter box and water for the cats during the day.

Once the cat is comfortably settled in his cage the exhibitors will then go to find out which judge their cat will be judged by. What is known as the "colour division" tells the exhibitor where their cat will be. The colour division is broken down into first the categories, breeds, and then the colours of the cats and divided between the judges, and what they are qualified to judge, keeping the number to approximately 40 cats each day for each judge.

Categories

Judges are qualified for one category at a time, some judges strive to become All Breed judges, others are happy to stay with one or two categories. The categories are broken down as follows:

- Longhair - LH
- Semi-longhair - SLH
- Shorthair cats – SH
- Siamese and Oriental cats - SOSH
- Hairless cats - HL

and there is a separate division for household cats, who compete separately.

EMS codes

Cats are “coded” with EMS (Easy Mind System) codes. The first 3 letters of the EMS code says what breed it is, then the numbers after gives the coat colour. Depending on the breed there are also extra EMS codes for eye colour, pattern, tail length where appropriate, ear types where appropriate, etc. An example: BRI ns 24 62. BRI=British Shorthair, ns=black silver, 24=spotted and 62=orange eyes. It is quite easy once you start to remember the codes.

Catalog

The catalog that is available to visitors and exhibitors (but not the judges until the show is finished), states the number of the cat, cat's name, sex, date of birth, EMS code, breeder, owner, and sometimes also which judge has which cat for the weekend.

Judges

The judges arrive in the show hall after the vetting in is complete. They are each give their own show ring, where they have a table, chair and some cages available to them for the cats waiting to be seen. They also each must have one assistant, known as a steward, who is responsible to make sure the cats come to the judge and to take care of the paperwork, and generally help both the judge and the exhibitors.

Judging

The judging starts! The cat comes, the judge examines the cat and judges it according to a standard for each breed. Each breed standard has a number of points, adding up to 100 points for the type, the eye colour, the body shape, coat colour, length and texture, etc. These standards can be found on the WCF site, and they are written specifically for each breed. The judge not only talks about the cat openly to the public, but also writes a report on the cat. Each cat is then awarded a number of points and only one cat may be awarded a certificate for each class (certificate) within the cats' breed, colour and sex and these are as follows:

- Good 61 Points (not high enough to compete further for the show day)
- Very Good 76 Points (not high enough to compete further for the show day)
- Excellent 88 Points. The starting point for a kitten 3-6 months or junior 6-10 months. Male and female kittens and juniors compete separately divided by breed and colour, sex to obtain the certificate.

Neuters and non-neuters do not compete against each other. All cats acquiring over 95 points may compete for Best in Variety (Best of Colour and Breed) and Best in Show.

Classes

For all classes the cats and kittens are separated by sex, and after 10 months alters/neuters compete separately in their respective classes. New cats will compete in one of starter classes:

- **CAC** Open Class – adult starter class, 10 months and more
- **CAP** Alter Class – neuter starter class, 10 months and more
- **CACJ** Junior Class – junior starter class, 6-10 months
- **CACP** Kitten Class – kitten starter class, 3-6 months

A full list of WCF show classes and titles is in Addendum.

BIV - Best in Variety

Best In Variety can only be awarded if there are three cats present of the same breed and colour irrespective of class or age, but again neuters and non-neuters compete separately for Best In Variety.

WCF Rings

The WCF rings are exciting and it is an honour if your cat wins!! The rings are broken down into adults, neuters and juniors/kittens. To hold a WCF ring there must be 10 adults, or 10 neuters, or 10 Juniors/Kittens. If there are not enough to hold a ring, the adults and neuters may be put together, or the Juniors/Kittens with the Adults. The judge then ranks the 10 cats, from 1 to 10, number 1 being the winner. Being the winner means that the cat has a life long qualification to participate in any Master ring.

To hold a Master ring a show organizer needs a minimum of 4 cats that have won WCF rings to participate.

Disqualification

There is a list of disqualifying rules, and if the cat is unfortunate enough to be disqualified it is a sad day, but most of these rules are for the protection of the cat or the people, nothing more. For example, a pregnant female will be disqualified, but that is to protect the female. An aggressive cat may hurt the judge, steward or owner. It is not fair to the cat, so it is better it just goes home.

BIS - Best in Show

Each judge will have approximately 35 to 40 cats to judge during the day. Then he/she will choose from each category he/she has judged that day the cats that achieved the highest levels of certificates to go

forward for the Best In Show. The judge may choose only one male, female, neuter male, neuter female, a junior male and female (6-10 months) and a kitten male and female (3-6 months) Best Baby male, Best Baby female per category for the Best In Show Panel. When this is done and judging is over there normally is a lunch break while the secretaries prepare the paperwork for the Best In Show.

Best In Show is what most exhibitors and visitors enjoy the most, as it is a time to see the best cats of the show being presented. The cats are presented to the judges and then the judge votes on which cat he/she thinks is the most beautiful cat in the panel. The voting is done openly and the majority vote wins. Each category is done, males competing against males, females against females, neuter males against neuter males, etc. The cat that wins is considered Best In Show and takes home an award, either a trophy, or some cat food, cat bed, or both if the show organizer can arrange this. This is the official WCF title, but quite often the show organizer can arrange some other fun things, like Best In Category, or Best of Best, which is not a WCF title, but fun for the exhibitors, and quite often comes with more prizes!

I hope you will come to a cat show to see beautiful cats, maybe even compete yourself, and enjoy the spirit of a fun weekend amongst friends!

Beverly Elian



Addendum: WCF Show Titles

Rev. 12/2016

In WCF competition system cats start with 10 months in Open Class, and compete for CAC certificates. For CAC certificate they must receive 93 points according to the standard. Cats are separated by breed, colour and sex. On each show day cat may receive one CAC certificate. After three CAC certificates cat will receive a Champion title and on next show will compete for CACIB certificate.

Neuters start with 10 months in Alter Class, and compete for CAP certificates. For CAP certificate they must receive 93 points according to the standard. Cats are separated by breed, colour and sex. On each show day cat may receive one CAP certificate. After three CAP certificates cat will receive a Premior title and on next show cat will compete for CAPIB certificate.

WCF show titles and abbreviations

1. Champion – Ch.

Cat has received CAC certificate in 3 international or national exhibitions of the WCF from 3 different judges. Cat has received 93 points according to the standard. On next show cat will compete for CACIB certificate.

Neuters: Premior – Pr.

Cat has received CAP certificate in 3 international or national exhibitions of the WCF from 3 different judges. Cat has received 93 points according to the standard. On next show cat will compete for CAPIB certificate.

2. International Champion – Int.Ch.

Cat has received CACIB certificate in 3 international exhibitions of the WCF in 2 different countries from 3 different judges. Cat has received 95 points according to the standard. On next show cat will compete for CAGCIB certificate.

Neuters: International Premior – Int.Pr.

Cat has received CAPIB certificate in 3 international exhibitions of the WCF in 2 different countries from 3 different judges. Cat has received 95 points according to the standard. On next show cat will compete for CAGPIB certificate.

3. Grand International Champion – Gr.Int.Ch.

Cat has received CAGCIB certificate in 3 international exhibitions of the WCF in 2 different countries from 3 different judges. Cat has received 97 points according to the standard. On next show cat will compete for CACE certificate.

Neuters: Grand International Premior – Gr.Int.Pr.

Cat has received CAGPIB certificate in 3 international exhibitions of the WCF in 2 different countries from 3 different judges. Cat has received 97 points according to the standard. On next show cat will compete for CAPE certificate.

4. European Champion - Eu.Ch.

Cat has received CACE certificate in 3 international exhibitions of the WCF in 3 different countries from 3 different judges. Cat has received 97 points according to the standard. On next show cat will compete for GCACE certificate.

Neuters: European Premior – Eu.Pr.

Cat has received CAPE certificate in 3 international exhibitions of the WCF in 3 different countries from 3 different judges. Cat has received 97 points according to the standard. On next show cat will compete for GCAPE certificate.

5. Grand European Champion – Gr.Eu.Ch.

Cat has received GCACE certificate in 3 international exhibitions of the WCF in 3 different countries from 3 different judges. Cat has received 97 points according to the standard. On next show cat will compete for CACM certificate.

Neuters: Grand European Premior - Gr.Eu.Pr.

Cat has received GCAPE certificate in 3 international exhibitions of the WCF in 3 different countries from 3 different judges. Cat has received 97 points according to the standard. On next show cat will compete for CAPM certificate.

6. World Champion – W.Ch.

Cat has received CACM certificate in 3 international exhibitions of the WCF in 3 different countries from 3 different judges, where one country must be in another continent. Cat has received 98 points according to the standard. On next show cat may receive the Prix d'Honneur (Prize of Honour) - P.H.

Neuters: World Premior - W.Pr.

Cat has received CAPM certificate in 3 international exhibitions of the WCF in 3 different countries from 3 different judges, where one country must be in another continent. Cat has received 98 points according to the standard. On next show cat may receive the Prix d'Honneur (Prize of Honour) - P.H.