

GCCF SHOWING.

There are three levels of GCCF Show: Exemption Shows, Sanction Shows & Championship Shows. There is also a very special Championship Show - The Supreme Show is held in November and all cats entered have to be qualified. All GCCF shows are one-day shows.

Exemption Shows. These are the "rehearsal" shows held by new Cat Clubs, gaining them the experience to run Sanction and then Championship shows. These shows are usually small and they do not have to put on separate classes for all breeds. There are no certificates to be awarded, no titles to be won, but you will often see Champions or even Grand Champions supporting an Exemption Show, especially if it is being run by a specialist breed club, just to enjoy the relaxed, fun atmosphere and a great day out. A new Club must run three Exemption shows before it is allowed to progress to the next stage.



GCCF Show hall

Sanction Shows. These shows really are rehearsals for Championship shows. Although no Challenge, Premier or Intermediate Certificates can be awarded, all the same classes have to be provided and the rules are just as strict as for a Championship show. Sanction shows do put on Assessment classes so Merit Certificates can be awarded and in the Household Pet Section, Non-Pedigree and Pet Pedigree cats can compete for their GCCF titles. Household Pet kittens, either Pedigree or Non-Pedigree, must be neutered by the age of six months. A Club must run three Sanction shows, to the satisfaction of the GCCF, before being granted a licence to hold a Championship show.



Checking the spots

Championship Shows. These are the serious shows of the Cat Fancy. They may be all-breed shows, in which case they have classes for every breed which is recognised by the GCCF; or specialist shows with classes for a breed section or sometimes for just a single breed. The awards available for Adult Open Classes, if considered by the judge to be of sufficient quality, will be a Challenge Certificate. Similarly, the winners of Neuter Open classes are awarded Premier Certificates. Three Challenge Certificates/Premier Certificates awarded by three different judges make a cat a Champion/Premier, Premier. Champions and Premiers may be entered in the Grand Champion or Grand Premier class respectively. Three Grand Challenge/Grand Premier Certificates from three different judges makes the cat up to Grand Champion

or Grand Premier. Grand Champion/Premiers may enter the Imperial Class. Five Imperial Grand Challenge/Premier Certificates awarded by five different judges make the cat an Imperial Grand Champion or Premier. Cats of Provisional status breeds also have their own Open classes; the certificate on offer is an Intermediate Certificate. These cats of Provisional status may also enter a show to be considered for Best of Breed only. Those cats may also be considered for Best of Variety or Best in show.

Preliminary status breeds compete in Assessment classes, where each cat is judged against its standard of points and awarded a Merit Certificate if it is good enough. Again, these certificates help the new breed to progress. They also compete in Miscellaneous and Club classes against other Provisional or Championship breeds in their section which is very useful when applying for promotion as it is a clear indication of the viability of a new breed to succeed in general competition at a show.

At most shows there are Best of Breed awards for the best Adult, Kitten and Neuter of each breed, but these do not count towards a title of any kind. Many shows, especially specialist breed shows, hold a Best in Show but, again, winning this does not count towards any official title although it is a great honour for the winner as well as his or her breeder and owner.



Decision time

Supreme Show. The Supreme Show uses the “ring system for judging. Unlike most other shows the GCCF’s Supreme Show has no miscellaneous or club classes; it does, however, have classes other shows do not have. There are four Adult Open classes for each championship status breed: Champion Male and Female classes for full Champions, the winners being eligible for Grand Challenge Certificates and Pre-Champion Male and Female classes for cats with one or two Certificates or who have qualified as kittens, competing for Challenge Certificates. The same applies to the neuter classes which are split into Premier and Pre-Premier classes for males and females. Cats which are already Grand Champions do not compete in these classes but in special classes for Grand Champions, Imperial Grand Champions, UK Grand



Champions and UK & Imperial Grand Champions only, the winner being eligible for a UK Grand Challenge Certificate. Grand Premiers, Imperial Grand Premiers, UK Grand Premiers and UK & Imperial Grand Premiers compete for a UK Grand Premier Certificate. In these classes several breeds may compete together. UK Grand Certificates are only awarded at the Supreme Show; two such Certificates from different judges give the cat the title of UK Grand Champion/Premier or UK & Imperial Grand Champion/Premier if it has

additionally gained that title. There is no Reserve UK Grand Challenge/Premier Certificate. Cats of Provisional status breeds also compete at the Supreme Show. The

Intermediate Certificate winners and Kitten class winners are considered for Best of Breed, as with the Championship status breeds, and the BOB winners go forward to compete against the Championship status breeds for Best of Variety. The seven Best of Variety Adults (Persian, Semi-Longhair, British, Foreign, Burmese, Oriental and Siamese) compete for Supreme Adult, the seven kittens for Supreme Kitten and the seven neuters for Supreme Neuter. Finally, the Supreme Adult, Supreme Kitten and Supreme Neuter compete against each other for the honour of being judged Supreme Exhibit. The Adult and the Neuter can add the coveted word "Supreme" to their title, for the kitten, there is no title.

HOUSEHOLD PETS. Since June 1st 2009, the Household Pet Section can be divided into two groups. These operate independently and affiliated clubs are able to include one or both groups at their Sanction or Championship Shows. The Non-Pedigree Pet group is comprised of unregistered cats from unregistered or unknown parents as now. They would be of traditional "moggie" appearance either Long, Semi-Long or Shorthaired. The Pedigree Pet group for cats of pedigree appearance with known or unknown pedigree, full or half pedigree background.

MASTER CAT. The title Master Cat (MC) shall be attained by the awarding of three Master Cat certificates by three different judges at participating Championship or Sanction shows licensed by the GCCF.

GRAND MASTER CAT. The title Grand Master Cat (GMC) shall be attained by the awarding of three Grand Master Cat certificates by three different judges at participating Championship or Sanction Shows licensed by the GCCF.

IMPERIAL GRAND MASTER CAT. The title Imperial Grand Master Cat (IGM) shall be attained by the awarding of five Imperial Grand Master Cat certificates by five different judges at participating Championship or Sanction Shows licensed by the GCCF.

GCCF RULES & SHOW PROCEDURE. Many of the [rules](#) about showing are designed to protect the health and welfare of cats. For instance, you may not show your cat if you have recently had an infectious disease in your cat household or if the



cat is pregnant or had kittens within the last 12 weeks. All cats are examined by a veterinary surgeon on arrival at shows to make sure that they appear healthy: this is known as "vetting-in". Adult male cats that are Monorchid or Cryptorchid are not eligible to be shown at GCCF shows. If your cat is rejected by the veterinary surgeon, you will not be able to show again until you have got a "clearance" certificate. Many of the reasons why a cat might be rejected from a show are listed in the GCCF Rule book. At "vetting-in" all vaccination certificates are examined for accuracy, you must ensure that the vaccination certificate has the name of your cat on it, and this must

correspond with the show entry. It is in order to put both the pedigree name and pet name if preferred.

You may not show your cat or any other cats from your household or registered in your name, more often than once every thirteen days (the GCCF does not licence any two-day shows). This is so that cats may have a rest between shows and also to reduce the risk of a cat picking up an infection at one show and then, possibly, spreading it at the next show.

The judges move round the hall with their stewards, taking the cats out of their pens one at a time to be judged. The results are written into a book and slips from the books appear on the results board later in the day.



Judging the exhibit

Download detailed articles of the above from our website www.gccfcats.org

The relevant papers are –

Would you like to Show your Cat?
Can I Show My Cat at a GCCF Licensed Show?
GCCF Cat Shows and Classes.

Photos by Sean Farrell