

New Exhibitors Guide to Showing Your Cat in The International Cat Association (TICA)



TICA 
CATS

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	I
Table of Figures.....	II
Welcome.....	1
Chapter 1: How to Enter Your Cat in a Show	2
Chapter 2: Health.....	3
Chapter 3: Supplies.....	3
Chapter 4: Clip Those Claws	4
Chapter 5: Grooming.....	5
Grooming at the Show.....	6
Chapter 6: The Night Before the Show	8
Chapter 7: So What Happens At the Show?.....	8
Judging Rings and Schedules.....	9
Types of TICA Judging Rings	10
The Judging Process	11
Best of Color	12
Best of Division.....	12
Best of Breed	13
Finals.....	13
Chapter 8: Titles and Awards.....	15
Cats Not Registered in TICA.....	15
TICA Titles.....	16
Chapter 9: The TICA Scoring System.....	17
Regional/International Awards.....	19
Chapter 10: Show Rules and Etiquette	20



Table of Figures

Figure 1: How to Cut Your Cat's Claws	4
Table 1: Placement in Best of Color and Respective Ribbons	12
Table 2: Placement in Best of Division and Respective Ribbons	13
Table 3: Title Requirements	16
Table 4: Points for Placement in Finals	17
Table 5: Points for Placement in Best of Color and Best of Division.....	17
Table 6: Example for Show Results of a Cat.....	18
Table 7: Calculating Points.....	18



Welcome....

To the fun and exciting world of exhibiting cats in The International Cat Association (TICA).

Do you want to enter a TICA cat show? Are you wondering what to expect? Do you want to know how to groom your cat, what to bring to the show and how to make your cat a star? Do you want to know how your cat will be judged and what kind of titles and awards it might aspire to? If so, you've come to the right place.



Chapter 1: How to Enter Your Cat in a Show

The easiest place to check the show schedule <http://tica.org/show-calendar>.

For most shows, you will find a link to the show flyer on the show calendar. Between the listing in the show calendar and the show flyer, you should find all of the information you need to enter your cats. If not, you can contact the entry clerk for assistance. By the way, many shows also offer the option to enter your cats online.

You should receive a confirmation of your entry within 10 days after receipt by the Entry Clerk. Check the information carefully and call the Entry Clerk if there are any errors.

TICA members are very friendly and helpful. Don't be afraid to ask questions—we are all here to help.



Chapter 2: Health

- Make sure your cat's vaccinations are up to date. All Clubs in Germany require that each cat be vaccinated against rabies, distemper and upper respiratory infections. When you enter the show hall, you will be required to show your cat's vaccination book to the veterinarian as evidence that your cat has the required immunizations. Though permitted in European judging, kittens are not allowed to be shown in TICA until 4 months of age.
- Make sure that your cat does not have fleas, ear mites, or a communicable disease. If your cat does have fleas, shampoo with flea shampoo a week before the show and again a day or two before the show. If found to have fleas when checked by the veterinarian, your cat will not be allowed to enter the show hall. Registration fees are not refundable in the event that your cat is determined to have fleas by the veterinarian and not allowed to enter the show hall.

Chapter 3: Supplies

You will need the following supplies. Check in advance to make sure you have everything you need.

- A secure carrier. Do not bring your cat without a carrier.
- Food and water dishes. Bring something your cat will not be able to knock over easily; there is not much room in a cage.
- Food your cat is used to eating.
- Water from home. If you are traveling to a show in a different locale, the change in water may cause diarrhea.
- A litter pan small enough to fit in the cage. At most shows a number of vendors are present from whom you may purchase litter.
- Curtains, sheets or towels to cover the sides and bottom of the cage. The cage dimensions are 70 x 70 x 70 cm for a single cage, and 140 x 70 x 70 cm for a double cage. People make all sorts of fancy cage curtains, but for a first or second show, towels or sheets held in place with safety pins are just fine. Generally, vendors at the show offer a variety of cage curtains and decorations for sale.
- Grooming supplies, such as shampoo, nail clippers, a brush and comb, chamois (for shorthair cats).
- Optional: Something warm and comfy that smells like home such as a blanket or towel; paper towels; a pen or pencil for marking the catalog; a toy; a "Do Not Touch" sign (well meaning spectators can inadvertently transfer germs from cat to cat by petting or touching them). Most exhibitors do not allow people to touch their cats for this reason. It also scares some cats to have people grabbing at them. If your cat likes to be petted by strangers and it does not bother you, bring some disinfectant in a plastic spray bottle and let people who are willing to disinfect their hands first, pet your cat.



Chapter 4: Clip Those Claws

All TICA shows require that you clip your cat's claws, front and back, before entering the show hall. This helps to protect the judges, you, and your cat from injury. TICA regulations state that if your cat scratches or in any way, harms the judge, you can be held liable for the judge's medical expenses. It is also prudent to clip your cat's claws before bathing. You can use a people or animal nail clipper. Here are some tips for clipping the claws:

- Sit in a well-lighted chair with the cat held securely in your lap. If your cat is feeling particularly uncooperative, have a helper sit and hold the cat while you kneel next to them. If you don't have someone to help, wrap the cat in a large towel so that all of the paws, except the one you are clipping, are captured by the towel. Hold the paw (or have your helper hold it) firmly in your left hand (if you are left handed, hold it in your right hand).
- To extend a claw from its sheath, squeeze the toes and claw vertically between your left thumb and forefinger (use your right thumb and forefinger if you are left handed).
- Before the cat can snatch its paw away, clip off the sharp white portion of the claw. Be sure not to cut into the quick (the pink part).

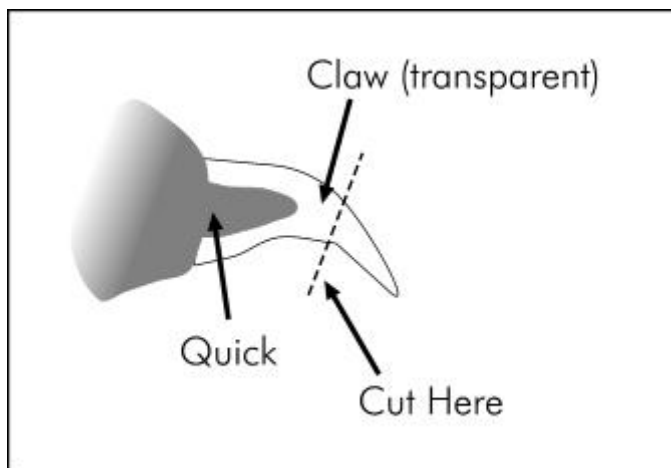


Figure 1: How to Cut Your Cat's Claws

- Don't forget about the cat's thumb (dewclaw), which is partway up the cat's front paw on the inside edge of the wrist.
- Work quickly; most cats get restless after a paw and a half. For some cats, you may have to do two paws, then take a break before doing the other two.
- It is usually more difficult to clip the back claws than the front claws. If you do not have a helper and cannot handle the back claws by yourself, try the "Intimidation" trick. Clip the front claws, then bathe the cat. When your cat is thoroughly drenched and intimidated, clip the back claws. You will find it is much easier now.



Chapter 5: Grooming

It is customary that cats competing in TICA are freshly washed and groomed. While it is not essential that your cat be washed, it is highly recommended. TICA judges are accustomed to handling bathed cats, and grooming your cat might provide that extra advantage when the judge is deciding between your cat and another! We offer the following tips for bathing your cat.

The best place to bathe your cat is in the kitchen sink. A spray hose is helpful so that you can direct the water, but the faucet will be fine also. Before you get your cat in the sink: clip the claws, make sure the room is warm, remove rings and watches as claws can catch these, get 2-3 towels ready, and have the shampoo and other supplies ready and open. Although special shampoo and color enhancing shampoos are available, a baby shampoo or dishwashing detergent works fine. If you have a white cat, do not use any shampoo or detergent, which is green or yellow, it will discolor the coat. Use a clear, white or blue product. If you use dishwashing detergent, dilute it first with 2 to 3 parts water to one part shampoo. A dishwashing detergent is a particularly good choice if your cat has an oily coat. Avoid shampoos and detergents, which contain perfumes. Some flea shampoos smell like medicine and are not ideal for a show as they can be harsh on a coat, leaving it rough and dry and smelling like chemicals. However, several flea shampoos work well for show grooming. You might ask your veterinarian or experienced exhibitor.

If your coat is very oily or portions of its coat are oily and clump together (such as around the bib, behind the ears, or the tail), apply Goop or a dishwashing detergent while the coat is still dry. Rub it in and then rinse it out. If your cat has stud tail (a waxy, oily substance at the base of the tail), you may have to leave the Goop on for 5 minutes before you rinse it out and repeat the process several times. Be careful not to let your cat lick the detergent or Goop, as it may make the cat ill.

Run the water until it is quite warm but not hot. Leave the drain open so there is no standing water in the sink. Before placing your cat in the sink, put a towel or plastic mat down so the cat will not slip. Once you have placed your cat in the sink, wet the coat thoroughly. Most cats are somewhat to very water repellent. Wet the coat, add shampoo, rub it in, then wet the coat again and rub it until the soap begins to suds. Suds the cat with the shampoo of your choice. If you are using a combination of a flea shampoo and a show shampoo, use the flea shampoo first. Be sure to get the greasier areas behind the ears and on the belly (especially the lower belly). Be careful not to get shampoo or water in the cat's ears or face. To clean the ears and face, take a small cloth and wash carefully not getting soap or water in the eyes or ears.

Rinse thoroughly, then shampoo again. One shampoo is generally not enough because the cat is not thoroughly wet until you have gotten shampoo into every bit of the coat. Then rinse, rinse, rinse, and don't stop rinsing until the water runs clear -



then rinse some more! Rinsing is the most important part of the bath - if there is any residual shampoo, the cat will not look clean. After a final rinse, squeeze the water out of the cat's fur, and then run your hand backwards up the fur to make sure there is no more soap. Remove the cat from the sink and wrap in a towel. Towel dry. You may need 2-3 towels depending on the hair length. Make sure your cat's ears are clean. Swab out any earwax with a cotton ball dipped in a little mineral spirit. With a damp cloth or your finger, remove any "sleepers" from your cat's tear ducts and at the corners of the nose. If there are tear stains, wipe with a damp cloth.

If your cat will tolerate it, blow dry (or at least damp dry) so that he won't get cold. Keep the drier moving; hot air concentrated in one area may hurt your cat. Try out the setting on your own arm before directing it at your cat, and hold the dryer about a foot away. There is no need to use a brush or comb, but using one (carefully), will help dry the fur faster. If the cat will not tolerate being blown dry, be sure to keep him in a warm room.

While the information outlined above is basic for washing and preparing any breed of cat for a show, many breeders often use special procedures and products for certain breeds of cats. If you would like more specific information for your breed of cat, contact TICACats for further information.

Grooming at the Show

When you first get to the show hall and have set up, give your cat a thorough grooming session. In general, this initial grooming should carry you through the day with only minor touch ups.

- Brush or comb your cat's coat thoroughly, get out any remaining tangles or mats. Do not use a plastic comb or brush; plastic can cause problems with static. Combs are great for removing mats, detangling and general grooming. Stainless steel combs resist bending, won't break, are easy to disinfect and won't rust. Make sure the teeth have rounded ends so they will not damage your cat's skin or coat. Flea combs have very fine teeth, and are great for combing out dirt, fleas and dandruff. Depending on your cat's coat length, you may want to use a pin brush or bristle brush, as well. Pin brushes have sparse, stiff pins with ball ends. A pin brush fluffs up the fur, so it works best with longhairs. A bristle brush has many closely spaced, fairly soft bristles (natural bristles tend to be softer, and they damage the coat and skin less). Many shorthair cats do well with a bristle brush as it can help shed dead fur without damaging the rest of the coat.
- Make sure your cat's eyes, ears and nose are clean.
- To fluff up a longhair cat, use grooming powder and a pin brush. Grooming powder absorbs oil. Use either specialized grooming powder, which you can



usually obtain from a vendor at the show, or cornstarch baby powder. Do not use kitchen cornstarch as it leaves the coat feeling greasy. Talc baby powder is also not recommended as the cat may become ill after grooming itself. Once you have selected a powder, shake a fair amount on the area you want to fluff and rub it in with your hand. Then, by brushing and blowing on the powdered fur, remove as much of the powder as possible. Do not powder a black cat - it will turn gray. Also, be careful when powdering other dark colors, such as brown tabby, as powder will lighten these colors also.

- Double check the cat's back end for cleanliness. If you have a shorthair cat, you can remove any residual feces or urine with a damp cloth. However, this can be a major problem with longhair cats. If your cat thoroughly messes up its back end, you will have to take it into the bathroom and clean it in the sink. An alternative is to pack the rear end with powder, wait for it to dry and brush it out.
- Use a grooming powder or one designed for oily fur to remove oil from a greasy coat. Rubbing alcohol is a good "emergency" treatment for stud tail in the show hall. Apply it with a cotton ball and dry it well before your cat is scheduled to be judged.
- If the show hall is carpeted, static can cause a real problem. The coat will stick together and grooming powder will not brush out. Find a vendor that sells antistatic spray. Just squirt a little into your hands, rub them together and then pat the cat and rub the stuff well into the coat. Don't spray directly on the cat. Another alternative is the fabric sheets that you place in the dryer. Wipe your cat with this sheet.
- When you have finished this initial grooming, ask another exhibitor who has a cat with a similar coat type to critique your work and offer suggestions.
- Before each ring, you should do a quick touch-up grooming. Make sure the cat's eyes, ears, nose and bottom are clean. Comb or brush the cat so that it looks its best. Re-fluff your longhair cat with a pin brush. Fluff a fluffy tail by powdering it, then back brushing it thoroughly while holding onto the tip. Brush out all powder.
- For a cat with a close-lying or glossy coat, you can give the coat a finishing shine by stroking with a chamois cloth.



Chapter 6: The Night Before the Show

Before you go to bed the night before the show, check the show flier to find out the show hours. In general, plan to arrive about one half hour before the end of the announced registration times. Put your confirmation sheet with the show flier and take both to the show. You will also need to include each cat's shot record, which will be presented to the veterinarian when you enter the show hall. Check the directions and make sure you know how to get to the show hall. Pack all the things you will need to bring to the show. Besides the supplies you will need for your cat, you might bring lunch or a snack. Most show halls are generally located near a restaurant and once you check the show schedule, it is recommended that you make reservations for lunch to ensure you will be finished at the end of the lunch break.

Chapter 7: So What Happens At the Show?

Upon arrival at the show hall, you will first go to the registration desk where you will receive a folder containing your cage number, a show catalog and other Club information. Any outstanding fees must be paid at this time. At this time, you should also notify the club official of any incorrect information regarding your cat, or if your cat is absent that day. Next, you will then be directed to a veterinarian who will assess your cat's overall health status before entering the show hall. You will need to give the veterinarian your cat's shot record and place the cat upon the table. He will examine the ears, nose, and eyes, palpate the abdomen, check to ensure that claws have been clipped, and make sure the cat is free of fleas. In many Clubs, evidence of fleas will prevent your cat from entering the show hall.

You will then proceed to your cage and set up your cage curtains. Many exhibitors choose to first spray their cage with a disinfectant that they have brought to the show. If you have a single cage, securely close the wire panel between the two cages to prevent your cat from coming into contact with the cat in the neighboring cage. Some exhibitors choose to place a clear, plastic curtain over the front of their cage to prevent spectators from reaching into the cage and touching their cat. Often, vendors at the show will have these plastic covers available for sale.

Fill your litter box, set up the food and water dishes. Do not take your cat out of the carrier until the cage is completely set up. When ready, introduce your cat to the cage. He will probably be upset at first, but will soon settle down. Most cats are initially a little upset when first placed in the cage, but will quickly settle down when stroked or spoken to in a soft voice. Though your cat has food and water, it is not uncommon for many cats not to eat or drink while at the show. Many also choose not to use their litter boxes during the show.



While your cat is calming down in the cage, take a look at the catalog. There should be a judging schedule, which tells you where you will need to take your cat at specified times. Then check your cat's entry to make sure it is correct. If there are any errors, notify the Club Secretary or Master Clerk as soon as possible to notify them of the changes, which need to be made.

Judging Rings and Schedules

At a TICA show, there are generally 225 cats each day. Typically, there are four to six rings, each with its own judge. Judges are limited by TICA regulation to seeing 225 cats per day. Some shows may allow more than 225 cats per day, with the number above 225 going to an overflow judge. An overflow judge is an extension of one of the rings, not an extra ring. Each judge has a separate schedule and his or her own judging ring. A judging ring consists of ten to twelve undecorated cages behind a standing judge. The rings are referred to by number; so for example, you might hear the announcer say "All Longhaired Household Pets to Ring 2".

Your cat will visit each judging ring in the course of the day. On Saturday, for example, your cat could see four different TICA judges as well as a European judge. Your cat will be taken to each ring once, and may be called back for Finals. It is a busy day for the cat who is used to only being removed once from their cage. The same procedure is also followed on Sunday. In addition, your cat may be entered in a Congress, or special show, and will be taken to the Congress rings for which you have registered.



Types of TICA Judging Rings

There are two types of TICA rings: Allbreed (AB) and Specialty (SP). Cats in either type of ring will all be classified as either a Longhair or Shorthair cat. Cats, which typically compete in the European category of Semi-Longhair will be placed in the Longhair category for TICA judging. In European judging, cats compete for award based on gender. This is not true in the TICA ring, and males and females will compete together, not separately for awards. A TICA ring represents a number of different shows. There is a show for Kittens, Alters, Adults, Household Pets, Household Pet Kittens, and New Breed and Color.

In a Specialty (SP) ring, Longhair (LH) cats compete against other Longhair (LH) cats, and Shorthair (SH) cats compete against other Shorthair (SH) cats. After seeing all the Longhair (LH) cats, the judge will have the LH Finals. During the LH Finals, the top Longhair cats are called back to the ring and then, depending upon the number of cats present, receive an award of 1st through 10th place Best Longhair Specialty Cat. This same procedure is then repeated with the Shorthair cats. Therefore, for example, there are two separate kitten judgings in a Specialty ring, each with its own Final: Longhair kitten judging with a LH Kitten Final; and a Shorthair kitten judging with a SH Kitten Final. The same is true for Adults, Alters and the other categories, with there being two separate judgings (LH and SH) and two separate Finals (LH and SH).

In an Allbreed ring, Longhairs (LH) and Shorthairs (SH) are first judged separately. But then all of these cats compete together for the top Finals. For example, an Allbreed ring has two kitten judgings, LH Kittens and SH Kittens, and then a single Allbreed Kitten Final, which awards the top kittens. In the Allbreed Adult Finals, all adults regardless of hair length, compete against one another for the top places after being judged separately as a LH or SH.

A Congress is the equivalent of the Sonderschau offered in European judging. Congresses may take a number of different formats, depending upon the interest of a particular club, and must, by TICA regulation, include a minimum of 20 cats. There may be a Congress where cats of the same breed compete against one another for awards. Alternatively, a Club may sponsor a Congress of all brown tabby cats, where all brown tabbies, regardless of breed compete against one another. Other possible formats might include a solid color kitten Congress, a female Congress, black longhair adult Congress. There are a number of possible combinations a Club may sponsor.



The Judging Process

Listen to the announcer, and keep an eye on the judging ring in which you expect your cat to compete next. Make sure your cat is groomed and ready to go. When you see your cat's number being put on the cage in the ring, or when your cat's number is called, carry your cat to the judging ring and put him into the cage with your number. Then sit down, or stand, in front of the judging stand and watch the fun. Feel free to ask your fellow exhibitors questions about what is going on, but do not speak to the judge unless she speaks to you first; and do not comment on any cat within the judge's hearing. The judge will remove each cat from the cage and examine it carefully. The judge may stretch the cat out, feel the head, and run her hand over the tail, etc., depending upon the breed standard for the cat she is judging. The judge will also look at each cat's color and markings, and may check out the personality or ear set by offering it a cat toy to play with. When the judge has finished judging your cat, the judge will take down your cat's number. THEN YOU SHOULD REMOVE YOUR CAT FROM THE CAGE AND RETURN HIM TO HIS "HOME" CAGE. If your cat is unwilling to let the judge take him out of the cage, the judge may hold up the cat's number or verbally call for the owner. You should then take your cat out of the cage and place him in the judging stand for the judge. Some judges may ask you to stay and distract the cat while being judged; others will tell you that you can sit down again.

Your cat will be entered into and compete in one of six categories: Adult, Kitten, Alter, Household Pet (HHP), Household Pet Kitten (HHP Kitten), or New Breed and Color (NBC). In all classes, both males and females compete together for awards and points. Entries in the Household Pet and Household Pet Kitten categories must be neutered to be eligible for competition. The New Breed and Color (NBC) category is reserved for those breeds and colors which have not yet been fully approved by TICA. For example, the Abyssinian is a breed already recognized by TICA but breeders have petitioned TICA to accept the color "blue-silver". This means that those Abyssinians, which are blue-silver on color, may be shown and receive awards, but cannot earn points toward championship until this color achieves full status. Generally, new colors or breeds are placed in this category for a short time until acceptance. They may be entered in the New Breed and Color (NBC) category and receive awards, but are not eligible to compete for championship points until May 1997, when the breed achieves full status.

In every ring, cats in each category (Adult, Kitten, HHP, HHP Kitten, and NBC) will compete for the awards of Best in Color, Best of Division, and Best of Breed. For example, when judging the Kitten class, the judge will first call all kittens of a particular color class in each breed to the ring. So all Maine Coon kittens, who are for example, solid black, will be brought to the ring. These black Maine Coon kittens then compete with one another for the awards of Best of Color. Following this judgment, the judge will award Best of Division. Following our example of the kittens, the judge



then groups all the Maine Coon kittens into categories by Division, or by color and coat pattern such as solid, tabby, etc. After seeing all the solid color Maine Coon kittens, the judge will then award Best of Division to the top solid color kittens. The judge will then proceed to judge the kittens in the remaining divisions such as tortie, particolor, etc. Once the judgments for Best of Color and Best of Division are determined, the judge will award Best of Breed. Therefore, your cat then has the potential to win in three separate areas: Best of Color, Best of Division and Best of Breed. The only exception to this judging is Household Pets and Household Pet Kittens. Instead of receiving Best of Color, all HHP and HHP Kittens receive a merit award, which is the same as Best of Color for scoring purposes. After awarding Best of Color and Best of Division, the judge will choose the top kittens to compete in the Finals. Many judges often prefer to name Best of Breed when presenting the Finals to keep owners and spectators in suspense and raise the excitement. Below is a detailed description of each area of judging.

Best of Color

All cats in the same breed, division and color compete against one another. For example, all brown classic tabby Maine Coon Adults compete against all other brown classic tabby Maine Coon Adults for the Best of Color, much like Best Variety in European judging. The judge will award Best (or 1st) through 5th place Best of Color by hanging a ribbon on the cage. Depending upon the Club, these ribbons may be plastic (which you cannot remove), or paper. The colors for Best of Color are:

Placement	Color of Ribbon
Best of Color	Blue
2 nd Best of Color	Red
3 rd Best of Color	Yellow
4 th Best of Color	Green
5 th Place Best of Color	White

Table 1: Placement in Best of Color and Respective Ribbons

Best of Division

Each breed of cat is then placed into one of 20 possible divisions, determined by their coat color and pattern, for which there is no equivalent example in European judging. Some breeds will have only one division. For example, all Abyssinians and Somalis are ticked tabbies and, therefore, only have one division, which is tabby. Whereas, some breeds have five divisions. For example, both the Maine Coon and Persian breeds have five divisions: solid, tortie, tabby, silver/smoke, and particolor (any color with white). To continue our Maine Coon example, the judge will first judge all solid color Maine Coons, awarding Best of Division through 3rd Best of Division to these solid color Maine Coons. She will then judge all Maine Coon torties, awarding Best through



3rd Best of Division. This same process is repeated until all divisions have been judged. So for example, if your cat is a tabby and won Best of Division, your cat earned more points than any other tabby Maine Coon whether blue, black or red. Remember, cats in Best of Division are competing by coat pattern and color. Therefore, in the tabby division, Best of Division could be awarded to a red tabby Maine Coon, 2nd place to a brown tabby Maine Coon, and 3rd place to a blue tabby Maine Coon. The colors for the Best of Division awards are:

Placement	Color of Ribbon
Best of Division	Black
2 nd Best of Division	Purple
3 rd Best of Division	Orange

Table 2: Placement in Best of Division and Respective Ribbons

Best of Breed

Once the judge had chosen cats for Best of Division in each of the divisions, she will select 1st through 3rd Best of Breed. In our illustration with the Maine Coons, the judge might decide that her best cats are the Best of Division solid blue, Best of Division brown tabby, and Best of Division tortie. These cats will then compete for the award Best of Breed to 3rd Best of Breed. Although the show rules require each judge hang the Color and Division ribbons, ribbons for Best of Breed are generally not awarded by a Club. During Finals, the judge will generally announce which cats have received the Best of Breed awards.

Finals

The event you have been waiting for! Which cat will win? Will it be yours? Finals are held in both the Specialty and Allbreed rings. After judging all cats in a particular category (Kittens, HHPs, HHP Kittens, Alters, Adults, NBC), the judge will select what she feels are the top ten cats in that category. After doing this, the lucky cats' numbers go up on the cages in that ring. A steward may notify you to bring your cat to that particular ring, or more often you will hear the announcer say something like "Longhair Alter Finals in Ring 3, please check your numbers". (Cat's numbers are not allowed to be announced over the loudspeaker so that other judges will not be influenced by another judge's choices). Go look at the ring announced to see if your cat's number is on the cage. If it is posted, you need to bring your cat to the ring and place him in the cage. There's usually no need to groom your cat again, but you should make sure that he is presentable. Then sit down and wait for the Finals to begin. The judge will then select and present her top then cats. Even if your cat



didn't make the Finals with this judge, you will want to watch and clap for your fellow exhibitors - they will be there to applaud for your cat when he finals in another ring.



Chapter 8: Titles and Awards

Cats Not Registered in TICA

Cats may only be shown once in TICA without a registration number. All points and/or wins for titles acquired by the unregistered cat in the second, or subsequent shows, will be irrevocably lost. The exhibitor can apply for a registration number for their cat by submitting an official 4-generation pedigree along with the required fee to TICA. In return, your cat will receive a "blue slip" indicating pertinent information about your cat as well as the cat's registration number. With this "blue slip", future litters can easily be registered with TICA. Unlike most of the European clubs, this "blue slip" is the cat's official document, not the generation pedigree. A 4, 5 or 6-generation pedigree may be obtained from TICA for an additional fee once your cat has been registered.

In order to obtain credit for any points or wins received at your first show where your cat was shown as "unregistered", you must notify the TICA Executive Office in writing to request that the first show be credited. You must include the name, date and location the show, and the name, breed and entry number of your cat.

Registering your cat in TICA does not mean you become a member of TICA. It simply means that your cat is registered with TICA. For an additional nominal fee, an exhibitor may apply to become a member of TICA. As a member of TICA, you will be granted full membership privileges as in any other Club, and receive the publication, TICA TREND.

If you plan to apply for registration at a TICACats show, you will need to bring a copy of your cat's official 4-generation pedigree, which will be submitted, to TICA along with appropriate fees for each cat you wish to register.



TICA Titles

Cats in the Adult, Alter, and Household Pet classes can earn the following titles:

Adult Cats

Title	Requirements
Champion	300 points from 4 different judges and placement in one Final
Grand Champion	1000 points and placement in 6 Finals (with 4 different judges)
Double Grand Champion	2000 points, plus one Final after achieving Grand Champion status
Triple Grand Champion	3000 points, plus one Final after achieving Double Grand Champion
Quadruple Grand Champion	4000 points, plus one Final after achieving Triple Grand Champion
Supreme Grand Champion	6000 points, plus one Best Cat (1 st place) after achieving Quadruple Grand Champion

Table 3: Title Requirements

Altered Cats

The requirements for alters are the same as for Adult Cats but the titles are *Champion Alter*, *Grand Champion Alter*, *Double Grand Champion Alter*, *Quadruple Grand Champion Alter* and *Supreme Grand Champion Alter*.

Household Pets

Household pets compete for the same points as above, but the titles are *Master*, *Grand Master*, *Double Grand Master*, etc., in up to *Supreme Grand Master*. The point requirements are the same as those stated above.

Outstanding Dam and Outstanding Sire

Cats, which have produced outstanding offspring, may earn the title of Outstanding Sire or Dam. A male cat which has sired ten Grand Champions is entitled to apply for the prefix "Outstanding Sire". A female which has given birth to five Grand Champions is entitled to apply for the prefix "Outstanding Dam". The titles earned by altered offspring shall count toward these requirements.



Chapter 9: The TICA Scoring System

Cats in the Adult, Alter and Household Pet categories are eligible to win points toward championship titles. Basically, cats can earn points three ways: by earning Best of Color, Best of Division, and by placing in a ring Final. Scores are calculated ring by ring, with different points for an Allbreed, Specialty and Congress ring. The points for these wins are as follows:

Finals

<i>Allbreed Ring</i>		<i>Specialty Ring</i>	
1 st	200 Points	1 st	150 Points
2 nd	190 Points	2 nd	140 Points
3 rd	180 Points	3 rd	130 Points
4 th	170 Points	4 th	120 Points
5 th	160 Points	5 th	110 Points
6 th	150 Points	6 th	100 Points
7 th	140 Points	7 th	90 Points
8 th	130 Points	8 th	60 Points
9 th	120 Points	9 th	50 Points
10 th	110 Points	10 th	40 Points

Table 4: Points for Placement in Finals

Congress Rings can be considered either a Specialty or Allbreed ring depending upon the types of cats competing. If the judging involves all cats of one breed, such as Persians, or all cats of the same hair length, it is scored as a Specialty ring. If the judging includes both shorthair and longhair cats, it is scored as an Allbreed Ring.

<i>Best of Color</i>		<i>Best of Division</i>	
1 st	25 Points	1 st	25 Points
2 nd	20 Points	2 nd	20 Points
3 rd	15 Points	3 rd	15 Points
4 th	10 Points		
5 th	5 Points		

Table 5: Points for Placement in Best of Color and Best of Division



For Example: Your cat goes to an 8 Ring show with a Maine Coon Congress and wins the following:

Ring	Placements
Ring 1:	5 th Allbreed
Ring 2:	Best Cat Allbreed, Best of Division, Best of Color
Ring 3:	2 nd Allbreed, 2 nd Best of Division, Best of Color
Ring 4:	No Final, 3 rd Best of Color
Ring 5:	10 th Specialty
Ring 6:	Best Cat Specialty, Best of Division, Best of Color
Ring 7:	5 th Best of Color
Ring 8:	4 th Specialty, 3 rd Best of Division, Best of Color
Adult Maine Coon Congress:	2 nd Specialty, 2 nd Best of Division, Best of Color (points are awarded as a Specialty ring in the Congress because all cats competing have the same hair length)

Table 6: Example for Show Results of a Cat

What is your cat's score? It works out like this:

Ring	Points earned
Ring 1:	160 points
Ring 2:	$200 + 25 + 25 = 250$ points
Ring 3:	$190 + 20 + 25 = 235$ points
Ring 4:	15 points
Ring 5:	60 points
Ring 6:	$150 + 25 + 25 = 200$ points
Ring 7:	5 points
Ring 8:	$120 + 15 + 25 = 160$ points
Adult Maine Coon Congress:	$140 + 20 + 25 = 185$ points

Table 7: Calculating Points

Congratulations! Your cat has earned a total of 1270 points and is now a Grand Champion. To become a Grand Champion, your cat had to score 1000 points with 6 finals from four different judges and place 5th Best or better in an Allbreed or Specialty ring. Your cat did very well, placing 5th or better in 5 rings!

Kittens and Household Pet Kittens: Kittens do not earn points for championship status until they enter the novice class at eight months of age. Like the adults, kittens earn points for ring Finals, Best of Color, and Best of Division, which are calculated for Regional and International awards.



Regional/International Awards

TICA is comprised of 13 regions in North America, South America, Asia and Europe. Europe is divided into two regions, Northern and Southern Europe. Germany, Belgium, Austria, Russia, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Holland and Scandinavia comprise the Northern Europe Region, while the Southern Region includes France, Portugal, Spain, Italy and Switzerland.

Each year TICA presents International and Regional awards to cats accumulating the highest scores. The TICA Executive Office records the scores of each registered Adult, Kitten, Alter, Household Pet and Household Pet Kittens from the marked catalogs from all sanctioned TICA cat shows throughout the world from May 1 to April 30 (show year). At the end of the season, your cat's points from his highest scoring 50 rings are totaled to determine final international and regional standing. With kittens, only points from their best 30 rings will be counted. Points for color and division wins will not be calculated in their total for regional or international awards; only those points earned for placement in ring Finals. All points earned in ring Finals, whether inside or outside of the region are accumulated toward the total points for regional and international awards.

At the end of the show year, Regional Awards are presented to the Top 20 Adults, Kittens, Alters, Household Pets, and Top 10 Household Pet Kittens at the Regional Awards Banquet. The Top 10 Adults, Kittens, Household Pets, and the Top 5 Household Pet Kittens in each region are featured in the TICA Yearbook in color, free of charge. In addition, the Regional Top 20 Longhair and Shorthair Cats, and Breed Award winners are honored at the Regional Awards Banquet. All winners are notified by letter from the Regional Director. The Top 2 Adults in each color (in their respective breeds) receive a color win certificate by mail from the Regional Director.

International awards are presented to the Top 20 Adults, Kittens, Alters, Household Pets, and the Top 10 Household Pet Kittens at the Annual International Awards Banquet. These top winners are featured in slide presentations at the Annual Awards Banquet and in the TICA Yearbook in color, free of charge. In addition, the Top 20 Longhair and Shorthair Adults, and the Best Cat in each breed are honored at the Annual Awards Banquet.

The TICA Executive Office is responsible for the International Awards. After Regional Directors' lists are furnished, notification letters are mailed to International award winners. In order to be eligible for Regional or International awards, the owner must be a member of good standing in TICA as of April 30 of the year in which the award is presented. In addition, to be eligible for regional awards, the owner must have shown their cat once during the show year in that particular region.



Chapter 10: Show Rules and Etiquette

The following rules are set forth by TICA regulation, not following these rules may result in disqualification of your cat and being barred from future shows.

- Do not stand or sit in the ring holding a cat prior to or during the judging without the explicit permission of the judge.
- Do not, in any way, make known to the judge which entry belongs to you or where your entry has placed in any other ring.
- Do not request that your entry be judged separately from the regular classes for the entry.
- Do not groom your cat while it is in the judging ring.
- Do not play with your cat or talk to your cat while it is in the judging ring.
- If the information in the catalog is incorrect, ask another exhibitor or the ring clerk if it is the type of information that needs to be communicated to the judge before the cat is judged (for example, if the age, sex or color classification is incorrect). If so, inform the ring clerk or the correction before the cat's number is called.

When your cat is not in the judging ring, sit in a ring and watch the judging to learn more about the procedure. Ask your fellow exhibitors - they will be happy to answer any questions and give advice. Now is the time to ask for some expert grooming tips for your breed. Learn, relax, but most importantly, have FUN!

We, the members of TICACats and TICA, encourage you to become part of the future of the cat world by participating in the most innovative and progressive association in the cat fancy. TICA is a service organization dedicated to the advancement of cats, both pedigreed and non-pedigreed. Location of certain breeds of cats, registration rules, genetic questions, etc., are some of the services provided by TICA, and their owners are encouraged to become members of the Association.

To join TICA, contact TICACats or TICA at TICA Executive Office:

TICA Executive Office P.O. Box 2684 Harlingen, Texas 78551 USA	Tel.: +1 956 428 8046 Fax: +1 956 428 8047
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Membership is renewable on May 1 of each year. Your annual membership entitles you to become a member of one breed section, or the household pet section. You should indicate which breed section you would like to join when you remit your membership fees.



This New Exhibitors Guide for showing Your Cat in TICA has been adapted from the original pamphlet authored by Leigh Polli. This brochure contains much original information, and additional or modified information, which is unique to showing a cat in Europe. These modifications and translations were prepared for TICACats by Laura Gluhm and Martina Golfer for TICACats German American Cat Club.