

The American Cat Fanciers Association

The Friendly Association

The Beginning

A group of forward-looking cat fanciers formed The American Cat Fanciers Association (ACFA) in 1955 because they were dissatisfied with the existing cat associations and wanted an organization that would give members a greater voice in shaping policies.



ACFA fosters a fun show hall atmosphere that illustrates its democratic principles at work.

A major tenet of this new, democratic organization was: Board policies cannot be incorporated into the bylaws, show rules or registration rules without the approval of the membership at large. ACFA's founders also established a second fundamental principle: Breeders determine the Standard of Perfection for their breed by working through their breed section and must approve any modifications to their breed standard.

Innovation

ACFA has introduced many innovations. For example, ACFA . . .

- Established the first championship class specifically for alters (spays and neuters).
- Introduced Grand Championships, followed by Double, Triple, and Quadruple Grand Championships for both alters and whole cats.
- Created written exams and mechanics training for prospective judges.
- Designed a hands-on training program for trainee judges.
- Instituted regular required judging schools for all judges.



ACFA created a championship class for spays and neuters

- Encouraged breed seminars.
- Organized a household pet registry and scoring for year-end awards at regional and Inter-American levels.
- Rewarded multiple levels of household pet achievement, from Royal to Quadruple Supreme.

Today, most associations practice these ACFA innovations.

ACFA Today

Here are a few of the reasons ACFA members think theirs is the best service-oriented association in the cat fancy today:

Superior Scoring System

At the end of the show year, each cat's 24 best ring scores determine annual awards at both regional and Inter-American levels. Since ACFA does not use a total-point system, every exhibitor has a chance to win top awards without the expense of showing a cat every weekend, as required by other associations' scoring systems. Furthermore, ACFA awards a specific number of points to each winning cat placement in a show ring, rather than awarding points that vary from show to show as in other associations.



Judges' schools, training programs and exams are all innovations ACFA has made to ensure excellence in judging.

Informative, Attractive Publications

The *ACFA Bulletin*, published seven times each year, provides ACFA members with the latest information about their association. It includes, but is not limited to, reports on new policies and actions taken by the Board of Directors; a current show schedule; articles of interest to members; a directory of judges and clerks; a list of breed section and committee chairs; and more. The *ACFA Parade of Royalty* is a high-quality yearbook that displays the top winning cats for the previous show year, not only at the Inter-American level but also for each of ACFA's regions. Both the *Bulletin* and the *Parade of Royalty* are included with membership.

Comprehensive Web Sites

The ACFA web site, www.acfacat.com, contains a wealth of information, from feline articles by experts to breed standards to show schedules to organizational rules and forms. Several regions of ACFA support regional web sites that complement the ACFA web site with more local information.

Fair Representation and Excellent Service

Non-members can register cats with ACFA, but joining brings benefits beyond the registry. ACFA members belong directly to the international organization and have a direct vote in all key matters; other organizations only allow clubs to vote,



Even judges have fun at ACFA shows. Many are also exhibitors when not judging.

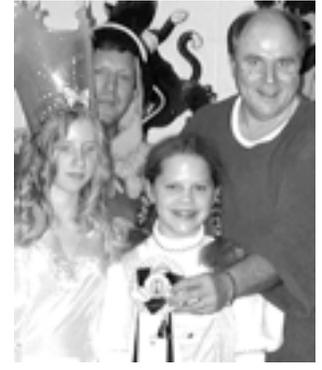
thereby thwarting the one-person-one-vote idea of a true democracy. In addition, ACFA members receive discounts on pedigrees, cattery registrations, yearbook advertising, and other services. The personal touch of the friendly, efficient staff at ACFA's Central Office ensures excellent service to all cat fanciers.

Fun, Friendly Cat Shows

Finally, there's the camaraderie you find at ACFA shows. Our members welcome new exhibitors and provide informal mentors to coach them on grooming and showing. Themed shows and special events—costume contests, “meet the breed” seminars, and much more—add to the fun and complement the friendly competition in the judging rings.



Informal mentors are glad to help new exhibitors learn the ropes of showing cats in ACFA.



Fun at shows includes costume contests (top, left), contests for young people (top right), and dressing to fit the theme of the show (below).



**For concerned, friendly service,
camaraderie, fun at shows,
and a goal you can believe in . . .**

Our goal is to promote the welfare,
education, knowledge and interest
in all domesticated, purebred and
non-purebred cats, to breeders,
owners, exhibitors of cats
and the general public.

**. . . Shouldn't ACFA be YOUR
Association?**