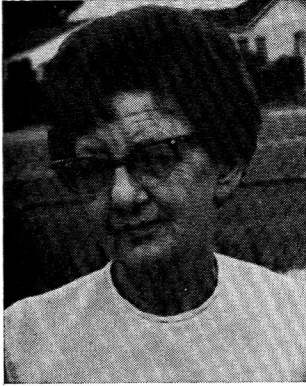


# SO YOU WANT TO SHOW YOUR CAT HOW TO LEARN WHEN AND WHERE THE SHOWS ARE

The Two Following Articles Are Selected from the Beginners Manual

Irene Buchan

**CATS Magazine** and **International CAT FANCY Magazine** carry schedules of the shows being held, both in your area and all over the United States. The name and address of either the show's entry clerk, or show secretary is given. You should write in and ask that you be sent an entry blank.



Mrs. Buchan

**Local newspapers** sometimes carry notices of the coming shows, though not nearly often enough. This is usually because they are not notified by the clubs giving the shows long enough in advance to fit it into their schedules. They usually require at least two months' advance notice.

**Fellow club members or other exhibitors**, if asked, will be glad to let you know of any current shows being held, but if you would like to make it easy for them, buy

some 5¢ postcards at the post office. Write the following on the message side of the card:

"Gentlemen: I would like to enter my cat in your show.  
Please send an entry blank to:

Name.....  
Address.....  
City, State, & Zip Code....."

In this way, you will receive entries to the current shows in plenty of time to enter your cat.

**Show Committees** compile mailing lists from catalogs of previous shows, so if you have already shown recently, the chances are good they will have picked up your name from the catalog of that show and will doubtless send an entry blank.

Entry blanks are normally sent out by the clubs two months before the show, and the deadline for accepting entries is usually set for a date three to four weeks before the show date or when available space is filled, whichever comes first.

## THE ENTRY BLANK AND INFORMATION SHEET

When you receive the entry blank and information sheet that goes with it, (most of us prefer to call them "idiot sheets"! ) read the information sheet through very carefully, decide which cat you want entered, and prepare to fill out the entry blank carefully **using your registration certificate** for accuracy. It is important to be absolutely accurate on the details about your cat because if the cat should receive a good win at the show, it could be disqualified by the Central Office if there is any discrepancy between the catalog and the registration records — and this would be heart-breaking,

wouldn't it? You will also receive a copy of the latest show rules. Study it carefully. Now you are ready to fill out the entry bank.

First, fill in the line that says "name of cat" with the **exact** registered name of your cat, using the correct titles "Champion" or "Grand Champion" **only** if your cat has already earned them in this association (CFA).

The breeder is the name of the individual who owned (or leased) the dam of your cat at the time of the breeding that produced it. This will be shown on your registration certificate. An agent is a person whom you wish to designate to take care of and show your cat in case you are not able to do so yourself. If you cannot be at the show and you are having someone else show your cat for you, then you must indicate this on the entry blank for the information of the show management. Otherwise, this person may be challenged as to his right to touch your cat.

Assuming that you are the registered owner of the cat being shown, your name, address, and telephone number comes next and you **must** sign the entry under the paragraph which declares responsibility, to make the entry valid.

Now look at the special section to the right titled "Cat to be entered in:". Check the copy of show rules you received with your entry. Starting at the bottom of page 5 and continuing through page 6, you will find the classes of cats to be entered. By studying it very carefully, you will be able to determine in which class your cat belongs. If you are in doubt, call the entry clerk and explain your problem to her. She will help you to determine the correct class.

Last, you will fill out the shows you wish the cat to be judged in, for instance: The two All Breed shows by club name, and the two specialties to which your cat belongs. If, for instance, you have a Silver Persian cat and there is a Longhair Specialty Show and a Shaded Specialty Show, your cat may be judged in each one plus the two All Breed shows, making four judgments in all, which is the maximum number of times your cat may be judged.

Most shows have two All Breed judgments and two Longhair Specialties, as well as two Shorthair Specialties, or the specialties may be Color or Breed Specialties. Each one has its own judge. However, the same judge who judges the Longhair Specialty will sometimes also judge one of the Shorthair Specialties. You **must** enter the All Breed. You may enter the appropriate specialty also, if you like, but you do not need to. Entry fees are approximately \$3.00 for each All Breed and \$2.50 for each Specialty, or there may be a flat fee for entering all four shows, usually amounting to \$10.00 per cat. The information sheet will give you the costs for each.

Most shows are for two days, usually a week-end. They start early Saturday morning and end on Sunday night. Your cat must be present for the entire time. You may leave him in his cage at the show on Saturday night, or you may take him home and bring him back the next morning. Be kind to your cat—take him home at night. Lately, some of the shows have been requesting that the cats be removed from the showroom on Saturday night. If this is

the case, then you must do so as they obviously have made no arrangements for a caretaker to stay on the premises overnight.

After the entry blank is completely and correctly filled out, (it is wise to keep a copy of it yourself — it has been known to happen that an exhibitor will forget which cat entered and bring the wrong one) it should be mailed to the entry clerk accompanied by a check or Money Order for the required amount **before or by the closing date for entries**. Do not expect or ask that your entry be accepted if you have sent it in after the advertised deadline, unless the entry date has been extended.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ENTRY**

The entry clerk will send you an acknowledgement of acceptance about a week before the show date. If you have not received it by then, do not get excited. Usually, no news is good news and, unless they have been in touch with you or have returned your entry to you, there is little reason to suppose that you have **not** been accepted. If, for instance, you have sent in 50¢ too much or too little with your entry, instead of notifying you of this prior to the show or returning your entry, you will no doubt receive your card of acceptance with a mention on it that you have overpaid or underpaid and, when you get to the show, you will be either reimbursed or expected to pay up. If the full amount of the entry fee is missing, however, you can expect to be notified pronto or have your entry returned.

### **PREPARATION FOR THE SHOW**

Now that you have sent in your entry, it is time to think about how you wish to present your cat.

Your cat should have been receiving regular care all year 'round and probably looks just about perfect to you right now, but it is seldom possible to pick up a cat as is and dash off to a show without giving it further attention. A bath has been known to improve the appearance of **any cat**, be it pedigreed longhair, a shorthair, or a household pet. Even if your cat is strictly an indoor cat, its coat is bound to become dusty or dingy and, on most longhairs, particularly the silvers, an almost invisible film of dirt adheres to the individual hairs which tends to coarsen the texture of the coat and dull its beauty. A bath will make the hair silky and glossy, and the skin will be healthily clean. With silvers especially, bathing takes much of the "body" from the hair and this is why it is necessary to plan well in advance of the show date. It takes time, once the cat is bathed, to build up the texture so that the coat will fluff out nicely.

For your own protection, and that of the judges who will be handling your cat, you should clip the cat's claws. You can learn to do this yourself or you can have your veterinarian do it for you.

The bathing and grooming of the various colors and breeds of cats is a subject much too lengthy to be covered completely at this time and will be taken up later in a much more detailed manner, dealing with the proper methods for each kind of cat.

## GROOMING KIT

Before the show you should assemble various articles which will be needed while you are showing your cat for the two days. Many exhibitors use an ordinary overnite or cosmetic case (like those you carry for overnite trips on planes or trains). This kit should contain the basic articles needed for your particular cat. A suggested list follows:

- Comb (or combs) for grooming
- Stiff bristle brush
- Small container of Q-Tips
- Package of pipe cleaners (these are great for wiring cages securely and, if lucky, for hanging rosettes!)
- Bottle of Alcohol and cloth (for cleaning and sterilizing the wires of cage before cat goes in)
- Extra curtain pins or small plastic clothespins or clips
- Can Opener—a can or two of your cat's favorite food
- Small pair of pliers (cages sometimes need repairing)
- Chalk and powder if needed as part of the grooming of your cat (silvers especially)
- Small jar of cornstarch (for quick clean-up if your cat has an accident)
- Small cake of soap (show restrooms are famous for being minus this commodity)
- Kleenex (for all sorts of uses)
- A small inexpensive First Aid Kit containing an anti-septic, cotton, bandage, and/or Band-Aids (Cats do let you have it occasionally!) If you do not carry a complete kit, at least carry some Band-Aids and a bottle of Iodine or Mercurochrome. (If you and your cat don't need it, someone else will)—If you want to do a really "bang-up" job on your First Aid kit, see article on "First Aid at the Shows."

You will no doubt think of numerous other things which you will need for the comfort of your cat and yourself at the show, but those listed above are basic for most grooming kits.

## CAGE DECORATION

Start planning your cage set-up. Decide what you want to use as curtains, flooring, decorations, etc. Decide what your color scheme is to be. Assemble all these things together in one place. Curtains look better if taken to show on a hanger. The cage you will use at the show is supplied by the show management and is included as a part of your entry fee. You do not have to bring a cage.

## THE SHOW BOX

It is not a bad idea to get yourself a nice, clean cardboard carton, preferably one with slot openings on the ends to serve as handles. The size depends upon what you intend to load into it to take to the show. Place your rugs, decorations, scale-size furnishings, if any, water and feed dishes, (a pan to hold litter if the entry information sheet does not say this is furnished). A couple of cans of your cat's favorite canned food is handy to have around in case

you do not wish to feed him the food which the show committee furnishes.

### **THE CAT ITSELF**

If possible, plan to take your cat to the show in a regular carrier made for the purpose. It is safer to have him confined and is less nerve-wracking for the cat.

### **ALL SET TO GO**

Now, collect your show box, your grooming kit and your carrier all together in one place and you are ready to take off for the show. Note what time, from the entry information sheet, the veterinarian will be at the show to examine the cats and plan to arrive during that time.

Put your cat in his carrier, all groomed to the hilt, load him and everything else in the car (don't forget the curtains) and take off—you're finally on your way!

### **NOW THAT YOU'VE ARRIVED AT THE SHOW**

At the entrance to the building in which the show is being held, usually just inside the door, there will be a table set up where one person (possibly the entry clerk) will be handing out the entry cards to the exhibitors as they come in. In your turn go to this person, tell her your name, and you will be handed an envelope with your name on it. This is the time, also, when you will have to pay up if you did not send in enough to cover your entry fee. You will no doubt be informed how much more you owe and you will be expected to pay it then. If you paid in too much when you sent in your entry, you may receive a refund. It works both ways!

The envelope you receive will contain a card with your cat's catalog number and name on it (which you should check as soon as possible with the catalog listing). There will probably be a small ribbon with a pin in it (this is your exhibitor's ribbon and should be worn by you during the two-day duration of the show). It entitles you to leave and re-enter the show whenever you wish without paying an admission fee. However, if the pin is a straight pin, it might be a good idea to discard it and replace it with a small safety pin or a cat pin. You might stick your cat accidentally while handling him, which occasionally activates him more than you were expecting!

Look around you for a line-up of people with cats that looks as if it isn't going anyplace in particular. That's probably the "vet" line. If you don't see one, ask the person at the front desk where it is and she will either direct you, or tell you what to do about having your cat vetted. No cat may be benched without a veterinarian's examination.

If, however, there is a "vet" line, hie yourself and your cat over to it pronto and take your place at the **end** of the line. No fair barging into the middle of it—those people may have been waiting a long time and will not be happy about it if you step in ahead of them! Some shows have more than one veterinarian in attendance. If you find yourself at the tail-end of a long, long line, look around for a second line. There may be a second one that is shorter and

it might be to your advantage to grab your cat and dash over there to get it in before everyone else gets the same idea! This is one of the advantages of getting to a show earlier than the advertised time—you can usually get through the “vet” line before the rest of the gang arrives, which they all seem to do at once!

When the line has moved up gradually so that it is **your** turn, the veterinarian will then examine your cat, usually indicating how he wants to do it. If you have been alert, you will have noted how the cat just ahead of you was examined and you can follow the same general procedure.

This examination by the veterinarian helps to prevent sick cats being brought into the show, thereby exposing all other cats. The veterinarian can seldom do as thorough a job of checking as we would like to have done, but they are usually very quick to spot sickness and seem to know instinctively when all is not well with the cats they examine.

When the veterinarian has gone over your cat and feels satisfied that it has nothing contagious, he will then stamp or initial the card which you received at the door.

You may now heave a great big sigh of relief—you are in!—and head for the rows and rows of cages set up on tables all over the show hall. Occasionally, the show committee has a floor plan of the show room on display which you can study until you locate the cage or cages reserved for you. If not, then there is nothing to do but set your cat down (assuming it is in a carrier) out of the general line of traffic and go down the aisles until you find a cage marked with your name or your cat’s number. That will be “home base” for you and your cat for the two-day period.

Leave your cat by the cage, still in his carrier, get your box of show equipment and your curtains from the car and get set to fix up your cage so that it will be a suitable and comfortable “home away from home” for your cat for the next couple of days.

Get out your bottle of alcohol and the cloth you brought for that purpose and wipe down the wires of the cage until you feel sure it is clean and sanitary. The cage can be lifted off the table onto the floor while you are working on it—that is, if the management hasn’t wired them fast to the table. If this is the case, leave it where it is, please! Sometimes the cages are secured to the table in this way, or they may be set firmly into boards that fit them tightly. This is to prevent your cat from pushing the cage to the edge of the table, dropping down through the bottom and taking off for the wide open spaces. It is **not** done to keep you from taking the cages home with you! If you do have to practically climb into the cage to put up your curtains, this may be a good time to note what everything looks like from the cat’s angle.

It is much more convenient to decorate if you can put the cage on the floor, of course, but please do remember that others will need to be passing up and down the aisle so try to keep it out of the main line of traffic as much as possible. The tops of the cages open up, which takes up still more space, so you no doubt will be spreading

out much more than you should. Also, try not to infringe on the spaces on either side of your cage space—those exhibitors have to do their cages, too, and will need all the space they are entitled to.

There are two main reasons why you should clean down your cages before decorating:

1. **Sanitation**—Most shows make every effort to sanitize the cages before setting up their show, but you do not know what measures have been taken in this respect.
2. **Cleanliness**—Even though the cages may have been steam-cleaned, which does an excellent job of sanitizing them, there is often a film or tarnish (or black substance) on the wires which could come off onto your cat's coat and mar his beauty

Now you are ready to hang your curtains or line your cage to your own taste, as planned. Place your cage floor covering on the table in **your** space only and, after closing the top of the cage and fastening it tightly with pipe cleaners, if necessary, so that your cat cannot escape that way, set the cage up on the table over the floor covering. Place whatever additional decorations inside the cage that you have decided upon, including a water dish which you have filled at the drinking fountain or in the restroom. If you cannot locate the supply of sand (litter) which is usually furnished by the show, just ask someone where it is and obtain a cardboard litter pan filled with sand, or if the show does not supply the litter boxes, take the one you have brought with you and fill that. Put it in the cage and you are now ready to put your cat in his temporary home.

Attach the card signed by the veterinarian to the wires of the cage so that it is visible to anyone interested.

According to association rules, ribbons won at previous shows may be displayed on the inside of the cage toward the back. Ribbons won at this current show may be displayed, as soon as you have won them, on the outside front of the cage. It is also usually permitted to display the All American or All Star rosettes or ribbons of the previous show season on the outside, but any All American or All Star ribbons won before that time must be on the inside. Try not to hide the cat. The paying public came in to see the cats primarily, even though they like to look at the ribbons too.

The next thing to do while relaxing (?), if you haven't already done so, is to check the way your cat is entered in the show catalog. See that all information given is correct—birthdate, registered name and number, class, etc. If there is any drastic error, now is the time to get it corrected—not after the judging starts. Be sure your cat is in the correct color class and that the sex is given correctly.

Some shows have a judging schedule in the catalog. This can give you some idea when your cat will be likely to come up for judging. Be alert and ready to go up when your number is called. Don't expect to groom your cat from the nose to the tip of his tail **after** the numbers are up and are called. This should all have been done well before that. All the cat should need now is a quick touch-up here and there. Lateness in getting your entry up to the judge's cage is the main reason many of the shows get out so late.