

PRESENTATION TO WCC SEMINAR 2013 (Cambridge United Kingdom)

“How my organisation promotes ethical & responsible breeding”.

At our Annual General Meeting last month the membership voted to adopt changes to our constitution and among the changes included

The Purpose of the NZCF

The New Zealand Cat Fancy Inc is a proactive and vibrant organisation that promotes the best practices for the breeding of registered pedigree cats while supporting quality care of all cats in NZ.

NZCF Long Term Vision

“That all pedigree cats are registered and best care practices ensure excellent health and welfare to all domesticated cats in New Zealand.”

NZCF Strategic Ends (Goals): NZCF will deliver on its Purpose, Vision and Mission by:

- a) Providing assistance to promote, foster and encourage best practices in the breeding of cats registered with the organisation.

- b) Promoting improvement in health and welfare of NZCF member’s pedigree, companion and domestic cats.

Therefore there is a renewed focus in the current strategic plan on 'best practice' breeding – were the goal will be to encourage all breeder members to:

- Provide excellent care for their cats and kittens
- Ensure all cats and kittens not intended for breeding are desexed
- Carry out appropriate testing for genetic conditions in their breed
- Deal fairly with kitten buyers
- Register and transfer all kittens

How do we do this?

- Breeder's code of ethics - sets out expectations for breeders, required to sign agreement to adhere to this when applying for breeding prefix.
- Cattery Accreditation scheme (revamped a couple of years ago)
- Proactive handling of complaints from kitten owners - attempting to resolve issues quickly and effectively through mediation wherever possible. Majority of complaints are resolved satisfactorily.
- Education via articles both local and overseas sourced published in our flagship quarterly magazine Flashcats re all aspects of breeding, including health and reproductive issues, information about genetic conditions and testing, care and rearing of cats and kittens.
- List of mentors to be (or by the time you speak, will be there) published on the NZCF website to enable breeders to access advice from experienced breeders.
- Mandatory testing for HCM gene in Ragdolls - only clear cats can be bred from. Initiated by the breed section but supported by NZCF who have incorporated this into the registration rules for this breed

The Ragdoll breed section initiated the mandatory testing for HCM of breeding stock – there is the opportunity for other breed sections to look at diseases that are affecting their gene pool. NZCF funded research at Massey to look at the incidence of HCM within the Oriental/Siamese breed.

- Approval process and supervision of experimental breeding programmes by Breeds Standards Advisory Council.