



# The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.®

World's Largest Registry of Pedigreed Cats  
260 East Main Street • Alliance, Ohio 44601  
Phone: 330-680-4070 • Fax: 330-680-4633 • www.cfa.org  
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (eastern time)

## Rules for Registration© (Effective February 6, 2022)

*A vertical line next to a section indicates a change/addition. A double vertical line denotes a deletion.*

The following are basic general rules for registration. For more detailed instructions regarding each service, please refer to the information printed on each application and certificate. Please call the Central Office at the phone number above with specific questions and/or areas not covered in these rules. See CFA website for service pricing.

### ARTICLE I - REGISTRATION

**General:** a breed may have specific policies regarding allowable ancestry, import requirements, colors and other characteristics. Cloned cats are not eligible for registration with CFA. For complete registration information regarding a breed visit our website <http://www.cfa.org/Registration/OnlineIndividualRegistration.aspx> or contact CFA Central Office.

**Section 1 - Litter Registration:** A litter application MUST be completed and submitted by the breeder of the litter (see Section 11), with the following exceptions:

Exception #1: A litter application may be submitted by the new owner of record of the dam of the litter, provided the proper breeder information and signatures are completed on the application.

Exception #2: Someone other than the breeder may submit a litter application if a letter of permission and instruction, signed by the breeder, accompanies the litter application.

Both sire and dam must be registered or recorded with CFA. More than one sire can be recorded for any one litter (see Section 10).

Litter forms may be obtained at no charge from the Central Office.

CFA will question any litter where a parent cat is under the age of 7 months (210 days) at the time the litter is born.

Although there is no limit on the number of litters allowable per year from any one female, each litter must be at least 65 days apart.

The breeder of a litter is the registered owner of the dam at the time of mating, or the lessee of the dam.

**LEASES RECORDED:** A lease must be recorded with CFA if the owner(s) of record leases a sire or dam to an individual(s) with the intent the registered owner's name(s) be excluded from all transactions during the specified lease period. The lease recording fee and a copy of the lease agreement to include the name and registration number of the cat, name of lessee(s), lease period (from-to) and signatures of ALL registered owner(s) must be sent to CFA prior to or in conjunction with the processing of the first transaction.

**LEASES NONRECORDED:** Complete the lease section on the litter application form only, it is not necessary to file a formal lease for this purpose (no additional fee is required). All current registered owners of dam to be included.

**Section 2 - Individual Registration/Transfer:** The name of the owner of a cat is limited to 4 owners and a total of 35 spaces, including punctuation and blanks. Long names or more than one owner must be abbreviated as necessary.

The owner of a cat can be shown as actual persons only, no company names, Mr. and Mrs., or "and family." The designation "and/or" may not be used when there is a co-ownership.

A cat/kitten will be registered as a breeding cat ONLY if the pin number is provided by the breeder in the appropriate section of the blue and/or yellow slip. If the pin number is not present, the cat will be registered as "Not For Breeding" regardless of whether the breeder is also the owner. The pin number or the breeder's signed and notarized permission is required to remove a Not For Breeding restriction. The breeder's and a veterinary signed and notarized statement is required to change an altered cat (neutered or spayed) to unaltered.

To ensure the correct recording of the owner for a cat leaving the U.S., CFA recommends that the U.S. breeder/owner complete and submit any registration or transfer application. The cat will then already be registered to the new owner when the papers are sent overseas. The Central Office will send the completed Certificate of Registration directly to the overseas owner, if requested by the applicant.

**Section 3 - Registration via Certified Pedigree:** Under certain circumstances, a cat registered with another recognized association may be eligible for CFA registration

without prior CFA litter registration by the breeder. Application for registration can be made via certified pedigree from an approved organization\*\*\* with the appropriate number of generations included with the application.\* Note: these rules apply only to cats being transferred to CFA from other associations/registries recognized by CFA.

\*Except LaPerm and Selkirk Rex. LaPerm and Selkirk Rex registered in another cat registry are eligible for CFA registration. A copy of the registration certificate must be provided to CFA with the request for registration. The "registration via pedigree" fee applies. To obtain registration for cats eligible under this policy, a 5-generation certified pedigree with the required number of generations for the breed, (see "Note" for exceptions to the 5-generation requirement), issued by the registrar of the association in which the cat is currently registered, must be submitted for CFA files. Pedigrees used for this type of registration will be accepted only from previously certified associations. The parents of the cat to be registered are considered to be 'generation one.'

**Note:** these rules apply only to cats being transferred to CFA from other associations/registries recognized by CFA. Except LaPerm and Selkirk Rex. LaPerm and Selkirk Rex registered in another cat registry are eligible for CFA registration. A copy of the registration certificate must be provided to CFA with the request for registration. The "registration via pedigree" fee applies.

To obtain registration for cats eligible under this policy, a 5-generation certified pedigree with the required number of generations for the breed, (see "Note" for exceptions to the 5-generation requirement), issued by the registrar of the association in which the cat is currently registered, must be submitted for CFA files. Pedigrees used for this type of registration will be accepted only from previously certified associations. The parents of the cat to be registered are considered to be 'generation one.'

**RECORDED CATS:** Cats with one less generation of ancestry than required for the breed may be individually recorded for breeding purposes only. The requirements for recording are identical to those for individual registration via pedigree, except that one less generation of ancestry is required. Recorded cats may not be shown at CFA shows. The following breeds require the full number of generations for registration by pedigree (recording for breeding only does not apply): Abyssinian, Bengal, British Shorthair, Colorpoint Shorthair and Persian.

**NOTE** The following breeds require certified pedigrees for the number of generations indicated in parentheses after the breed name: Abyssinian (8), American Wirehair (4), Balinese\* (3 or 5), Chartreux (4), Colorpoint Shorthair (3 or 5\*), Devon Rex (3), European Burmese (8 from North American registries; 5 from all other registries), Japanese Bobtail (3), Khao Manee (proof of import), Korat (3), LaPerm (no pedigree required, see \* at beginning of Section 3), Lykoi (3, unknown permitted), Oriental (3), Persian (8), Ragdoll (3), Russian Blue (8), Scottish Fold (3), Selkirk Rex (no pedigree required, see \* at beginning of Section 3), Siamese (8), Siberian (3), Tonkinese (3), Toybob (3, unknown permitted) and Turkish Angora (3). All other breeds require 5 generations.

\*Only certain outcrossed Balinese/Javanese and certain Colorpoint Shorthairs are eligible to be registered using a 3 generation pedigree. Contact the CFA Central Office for details.

Individuals planning to import a cat or register a cat from a domestic association should contact the Central Office for information regarding requirements and documentation needed to begin the registration process.

Titles and awards won in other associations will not be recorded or shown on CFA records.

**Section 4 - Cat Names:** A cat's entire name, including cattery prefix and suffix (see Section 6), if any, letters, punctuation, spaces, numbers, and words such as "of," "de," "the," etc., may not exceed 35 spaces.

Changes to a registered cat's name may be made only if: 1) The cat has never earned a title (e.g. CH, PR, GC, GP, DM) or received a National/Regional award; 2) No national/regional points have been earned in the current show season; 3) No litters have been CFA registered listing the cat as a parent; 4) You are the current registered owner of the cat. If the cat was previously individually registered in the breeder's name, you must provide CFA with a signed statement of agreement from the breeder allowing the name change. The rules regarding changes to a cat's

name apply regardless of the method used for registering the cat, litter registered or registered by pedigree.

Exceptions: Addition or deletion of a cattery name suffix and, under certain conditions, when a correction is being made to a cat's sex and/or color.

The words "Champion" and "Champ" may not be used in a cat's name.

Profanity is not permitted.

CFA makes every effort to issue the first choice cat name whenever possible. The issuing of the second choice name, and/or changes made to the first or second choice name, is done only when the chosen cat name conflicts with CFA Rules For Registration regarding cat name and/or cattery name usage.

One (1) to four (4) owner names may be recorded for a cat's registration.

**Titles** – One or more official CFA titles, as outlined below, may appear as part of a cat's name.

**CH:** Champion, the title given to an adult cat which competed at CFA cat shows and received 6 winners ribbons/qualifying rings. This is the first title a cat can achieve.

**PR:** Premier, an altered (neutered or spayed) adult cat which received 6 winners ribbons/qualifying rings at CFA cat shows. Equivalent to the title of Champion. **GC:**

Grand Champion, the title awarded to an adult cat which continued to compete at CFA shows and received sufficient grand points in its competition category. **GP:**

Grand Premier, equivalent title to Grand Champion for an altered cat. **GCD or GPD:**

Grand of Distinction, any cat that achieves 30 or more top 10/top 15 finals per season in three separate seasons shall be eligible for the "Grand of Distinction" title. At least 20 of these finals in each season must be in Allbreed rings. These finals may be achieved in either championship or premierships class, or a combination, in each season. The "of distinction" suffix will be added to the title corresponding to the class in which the cat competed in the third season with 30 finals. Cats who have achieved this title will still compete in the regular Grand Champion/Grand Premier classes. **NW:**

National Winner, the highest and most prestigious title a cat (adult cat, kitten or altered cat) can achieve by competing at CFA shows. **NHW:** National Household Pet Winner, the highest title a Household Pet can achieve. **BWR:** Breed Winner in Regions 1-9, **BWC:** Breed Winner in China (ID-China), **BWI:** Breed Winner in the International Division (ID-ROW), all similar to the title of National Winner, but for adult cats which have achieved a best of breed win (not 2nd or 3rd). **RW:** Regional Winner, similar to the title of National Winner but at a regional level. **HRW: Household Pet Regional Winner**, similar to the title of National Winner but at a regional level. **DW:**

Divisional Winner, similar to the title of Regional Winner but reserved for cats competing only in the CFA International Division. **DM:** Distinguished Merit, the title given to a cat which has produced the required number of Grand Champions, Grand Premiers or Distinguished Merit Cats (5 for females and 15 for males; effective April 30, 2021, males qualify by producing 10, with at least one qualifying offspring achieving the title of Grand Champion or Grand Premier after January 1, 2016). **AC** (Agility Competitor), **AW** (Agility Winner), **AM** (Agility Master), **AG** (Agility Grand Master): levels of achievement in CFA Feline Agility competition. **GH:** (Grand Household Pet) the title awarded to an adult cat which competed at CFA shows in the Household Pet Class and received sufficient points in its competition category. Points must be won under at least six (6) different judges. **GHD:** (Grand Household Pet of Distinction) Any cat competing in the Household Pet Class that achieves 30 or more top 10/top 15 finals per season in three separate seasons and a minimum of 250 CFA award points in each of those seasons shall be eligible to claim the title GHD. This title replaces the title of Grand Household Pet (GH), when achieved, and as such a cat must already have won the GH title before it can earn the GHD title; however, the same show season may be used to qualify for both titles.

**Section 5 - Cattery Names:** The purpose of a cattery name is to identify the breeder and/or owner of a cat or kitten and to identify the line of breeding.

Cattery names will not be duplicated. A newly registered cattery name must be at least a minimum of two letters different from any existing registered cattery name. Double letters (tt, ee, ss, etc.) count as one letter. The use or non-use of an "s" indicating plural at the end of a word does not constitute a letter difference.

A cattery name, including punctuation and blanks, may not exceed 12 spaces.

An official CFA cattery name application form is required to apply.

A given name - Marie, John, Frank, Helen for example - cannot be used.

Titles, such as Princess, Earl, or Madam may not be used.

Award titles (see Section 4 - Titles) are not permitted.

A cattery name may not be the name of a recognized breed.

Words or names that have been used extensively in naming individual cats, such as "Ming" or "Pyewacket," may not be used.

Profanity is not permitted.

A cattery name may not be registered in the possessive, with 's at the end of the name.

Cattery names will be registered and shown on all certificates in capital letters, no lower case.

For cattery names issued on or after January 1, 1988: Once a cattery name is registered, a breeder(s) other than the original applicant(s) may be added to the registration upon submission of a new cattery application signed by ALL current registered owners of the cattery. Payment of the fee in effect for a cattery registration will apply. The registration period will extend for five years from the date of re-registration. For cattery names issued before January 1, 1988: A breeder(s) other than the original applicant(s) may be added to the registration upon submission of a letter signed by ALL current registered owners of the cattery. Payment of the fee in effect for a cattery registration will apply, however, the cattery will not be subject to renewal rules.

**Section 6 - Use of Cattery Names:** PREFIX: The breeder's registered cattery name, if any, is required as a prefix to a cat's name. At no time can a cattery prefix be removed or changed even with the permission of the breeder.

**SUFFIX ADDITION/DELETION:** The new owner of record of a cat may add his/her cattery name as a suffix (preceded by "of") provided that the cat's name will not then exceed the limit of 35 spaces. An already existing suffix will automatically be removed at the time the new suffix is added or if a new owner(s) is not the owner of the existing suffix.

No more than two cattery names (one prefix, one suffix) are permitted with any cat name.

An identifying word or name may not be used as either a cat name suffix or prefix unless registered with CFA as a cattery name.

Abbreviations or variations of a registered cattery name are not permitted. The word "of" must be used with a cattery name suffix, and cannot be shortened or changed to "de" or other foreign designations denoting "of." To avoid misinterpreting certain phrases as a cattery name suffix, dashes are used in conjunction with the word "of" in a cat's name (e.g. Duke-of-Earl).

When the dam of a litter is co-owned by two or more breeders each having a registered cattery name, only one cattery name prefix may be used in naming ALL kittens in any one litter.

**RENEWAL:** Cattery names issued after January 1, 1988, are subject to a renewal fee every 5 years. Cattery names not renewed by the required date will not be eligible for use as either a cat name prefix or suffix until the renewal fee has been received by the Central Office. Cattery names not renewed are subject to reissuance to another breeder. Application for a permanent cattery name can be submitted.

**PERMANENT CATTERY NAMES:** The owner(s) of an existing CFA registered cattery name can apply for permanent registration.

**Section 7 - Corrections/Duplicate Certificates:** When a certificate is issued that is incorrect due to Central Office error, or if the cat name issued is different than the two choices requested by the registrant, the certificate should be returned with corrections noted. If possible under the CFA Rules For Registration, the changes will be made and a new certificate issued. Request for correction should be made as soon as possible after the date of issue. Correction without incurring a fee cannot be guaranteed after 6 months from the date of issue.

Correction to an existing CFA record due to changes from the original application may be made by the applicant by contacting the Central Office detailing the changes to be made, returning the incorrect documents, submitting corrected documents and signatures where required, and paying the appropriate correction fee.

**DUPLICATE BLUE and/or YELLOW SLIP:** If lost or destroyed, a duplicate may be requested from the Central Office by the breeder at no charge. A duplicate will be issued to the breeder only and not sent to any other person, even with the permission of the breeder.

**DUPLICATE CERTIFICATE:** A duplicate cat certificate may be requested only by the registered owner of the cat accompanied by the appropriate fee.

When a request is submitted for a correction to a litter record, CFA will issue new blue slips only in the number of slips submitted to the Central Office for correction.

**Section 8 - Certified and Reverse Pedigrees/Cattery Offspring Reports:** A complete Certified Pedigree will be issued only when three or more generations of ancestry are registered or recorded with CFA.

A Certified Pedigree will be issued on an individually registered cat only, not on a litter. A Certified Pedigree can be issued to any applicant. The owner's permission is not required.

A Reverse Pedigree can be obtained for an individually registered cat only by the registered owner(s), unless signed permission of the owner is obtained.

Only the registered owner of a cattery may obtain a Cattery Offspring Report, except with signed permission of the registered owner.

**Section 9 - Signature Requirements:** LITTER REGISTRATION: Litter applications must be signed by both the owner of the sire and the owner of the dam. If a parent cat is co-owned, the signature of only one owner is required. When the sire of a litter is on lease, a copy of the lease agreement signed by all registered owners of the cat must be sent to CFA prior to or in conjunction with the processing of the litter application

TRANSFER: All owner signatures are required to effect the transfer of a cat.

CATTERY: The signatures of all current registered owners are required in order to add an owner to an existing cattery record. The written permission of the person being removed is required in order to remove an owner from the record.

In the case of a deceased person, CFA can complete a service at the signed request of the person handling the estate upon receipt of proof of authority to sign and/or proof of death, which can include:

1. A copy of the death certificate.
2. Public notice of death (newspaper).
3. A copy of the will detailing cat ownership and executor.

**Section 10 - Registration Screening:** Registration for a kitten of an accepted characteristic (such as color, pattern, coat length) for that breed, but occurring from parents whose genetic makeup would not be expected to produce that characteristic, will be issued a restricted Not For Breeding registration.

Registration requested for a kitten demonstrating a recessive characteristic not accepted within the breed will not be registered based upon the assumption that recessive characteristics demonstrate hybridization other than that permitted for that breed.

Registration requested for a kitten demonstrating a dominant characteristic which would not be expected to occur within a specific breed will not be registered. However, littermates with permissible characteristics within the breed will be registered, but those kittens will be registered with a Not For Breeding restriction.

Effective January 1, 2009 the CFA allows for the registration of litters with more than one sire. Parentage must be determined using an accepted DNA testing facility prior to registration. The procedure for the registration of a multiple-sired litter or for any litter with questionable parentage is as follows:

Once the DNA test results have been received and parentage has been determined, submit the DNA test results for the sires, dam and all kittens to CFA along with appropriate litter registration applications. Regular registration fees apply. If the litter has two or more sires, complete two different litter applications, listing the different sires on each application.

**Section 11 - General:** The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. reserves the right to cancel or correct any registration erroneously recorded or recorded in violation of these rules, together with any registrations that have been issued for any descendants of said cats.

Application for registration must be made on the official CFA application form. Other documents required for registration, such as export certificates, certified pedigrees, and lease agreements must be attached to the CFA application form. Keep a copy for your records. If you wish the return of an original document other than the CFA application, the original plus one photo copy should be submitted. Notarized photocopies will also be accepted.

CFA has made every effort to protect the purity of bloodlines through its system of registration, but the purity of bloodlines for cats registered by certified pedigree from other associations and their descendants cannot be guaranteed. The possibility does exist that a throw-back to another breed or color will occur. In such cases, the throw-back is non-registerable. The remainder of the litter that does conform to the accepted standard is registerable.

When the ancestry of a hybrid litter might permit registration of the kittens in more than one breed classification, the breeder must list the breed under which the kittens are to be registered, and all kittens in that litter and future litters will be registered under the originally designated breed.

Incorrect or incomplete applications or applications with insufficient fees will be returned uncompleted by the Central Office.

There are no rules against closely related breedings of any kind nor any restrictions on the pedigree relationship of the prospective sire and dam. This includes mother/son, sire/daughter, siblings, etc.

There is no rule pertaining to the maximum age allowable for breeding.

There is no time limit requirement for the submission of cat registration applications, litter applications, or transfer requests.

## ARTICLE II - BREED CLASSIFICATION

The word BREED is used in all these rules to mean natural breeds, established breeds, mutations, and hybrids.

**General:** a breed may have specific policies regarding allowable ancestry, import requirements, colors and other characteristics. For complete registration information regarding a breed, contact the CFA Central Office.

**Section 1 - Natural Breeds:** Both parent cats and all ancestors must be of the breed as the cat to be registered. The following natural breeds are recognized for registration: Abyssinian, American Shorthair, Chartreux, Egyptian Mau, Japanese Bobtail (shorthair and longhair), Khao Manee, Korat, Maine Coon Cat, Manx (shorthair and longhair), Norwegian Forest Cat, Persian, Russian Blue, Siamese, Siberian, Singapura, Turkish Angora, and Turkish Van.

**Section 2 - Established Breeds:** The result of the mating of two or more specified breeds that may be continued by breeding between specimens of the particular established breed. Both parent cats must be specimens of the established breed, and the pedigree may show only specimens of the established breed and/or breeds used to produce the established breed. The following established breeds are recognized for registration: Birman, British Shorthair, Burmese\*, European Burmese, Havana Brown\*\*, Khao Manee, Ragdoll and Tonkinese. \*Certain outcrossing is permissible – Tonkinese through December 31, 2021; imported Southeast Asian Cats; sable Bombay through December 31, 2021. \*\*Certain limited outcrossing is permissible for the Burmese and Havana Brown. Contact the CFA Central Office for details.

**Section 3 - Hybrids:** The result of the mating of two or more breeds specified or unspecified in the rules, whether mediately or immediately. The pedigree may show only the breeds used to develop the particular hybrid and/or specimens of the hybrid as listed in the breed-specific rules of registration which are available from CFA Central Office.

Balinese and Javanese, Bengal, Bombay, Burmilla, European Burmese, Colorpoint Shorthair, Exotic, Ocicat, Oriental (longhair and shorthair), Ragamuffin.

**Section 4 - Mutations:** The natural offspring of a natural breed showing definite characteristics that may be continued by breeding between specimens of the mutation and/or the natural breed from which it originated. A pedigree may show only the breeds listed in the breed-specific rules of registration (contact CO).

American Bobtail (longhair & shorthair), American Curl (shorthair and longhair), American Wirehair, Cornish Rex, Devon Rex, LaPerm (longhair and shorthair), Lykoi, Scottish Fold (shorthair and longhair, effective May 1, 2022 no folded ear to folded ear matings are permitted), Selkirk Rex (longhair and shorthair), Somali, Sphynx, Toybob.

## \*\*\*ASSOCIATIONS FOR REGISTRATION BY PEDIGREE

### WORLD CAT CONGRESS MEMBERS

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 1. ACF      | Australian Cat Federation              |
| 2. CFA      | The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.    |
| 3. CCC of A | Coordinating Cat Council of Australian |
| 4. FIFe     | Fédération Internationale Féline       |
| 5. GCCF     | Governing Council of the Cat Fancy     |
| 6. NZCF     | New Zealand Cat Fanciers               |
| 7. SACC     | Southern Africa Cat Council            |
| 8. TICA     | The International Cat Association      |
| 9. WCF      | World Cat Federation                   |

### ADDITIONAL REGISTRIES ACCEPTED

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1. ACA       | American Cat Association                          |
| 2. ACFA      | American Cat Fanciers Association                 |
| 3. ANCATS    | Australian National Cats, Inc. (formerly Waratah) |
| 4. ASC       | Association of Super Cats Russia                  |
| 5. CATZ Inc. | New Zealand                                       |
| 6. CCA       | Canadian Cat Association                          |
| 7. CFF       | Cat Fanciers Federation                           |
| 8. ICU       | International Cat Union Russia                    |
| 9. LOOF      | Livre Officiel des Origines Félines France        |
| 10. RUI      | Rolandus Union International                      |
| 11. WOC      | World Organisation of Cats                        |