

# SACC NEWSLETTER



## Southern Africa Cat Council eNews

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## HELLO AGAIN

Well the end of 2025 is just around the corner!

Our Breeders are welcoming the pitter patter of healthy tiny paws. We encourage our breeders to make use of the genetic testing available for their breed because it is the ethical thing to do. Being a pedigree cat breeder is more than just putting a male cat with a female cat and then waiting 63-67 days for the offspring to be born. Improving the health and type of the breed is paramount. Thankfully, as part of World Cat Congress, SACC is involved with the Royal Canin Choose Health Coalition which is already actively engaged in addressing critical issues related to low welfare

### *Reaction to relocated SACC Judges:*

*"Sharing excellence across the world" - Joy Gunter*

*"SACC's loss is GCCF's gain. Love that you were all able to be at the same show." - Jane Goble*

*"What a reunion! We miss you guys!." - Lenka Hendriksz*

*"One big happy family! Just goes to show- it is possible!." Daniel Germishuys*

pet production and extreme conformation.

It is only through working together that health of small animals and their environment can be improved.

SACC is so lucky to have experienced and sensible cat breeders/owners who care about the future of their breeds plus our very own Jan van Rooyen, the WCC President, is passionate about all cats and the cat world that he will definitely be a driving force behind the Choose Health initiative.

Wishing you all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

Let's make 2026 the Year of the Cat!

## COTY 2026

Next year's annual COTY event will take place in Cape Town at the end of July.



Western Province Cat Club



Imari Narzil CZ of Muttis (Imp)  
Photo by: Ursula van der Riet

### Cape Town here we come!

Thanks to Marlene van Dyk and Ursula van der Riet for this stunning photo of imported Siamese: Imari Narzil CZ of Muttis.



# President's Message

Dear SACC Members,

As another year draws to a close and many of us begin preparing for a well-deserved pause during the festive season, I would like to take this opportunity to deliver my first address to you in the SACC Newsletter.

I wish to begin by paying tribute to our outgoing President, **Ngaio Crawley**, and to acknowledge the dedication, integrity, and selfless commitment with which she has served SACC over many years. Ngaio led by example and consistently ensured that every matter brought before the Governing Council was addressed with fairness, diligence, and the highest ethical standards. When one reflects on the countless hours she devoted to safeguarding the reputation of SACC and ensuring equitable treatment for all parties, her contribution becomes all the more evident.

While we wish Ngaio a well-earned period of rest, we are fortunate that she remains an active part of SACC. She will continue in her roles as Newsletter Editor and Webmaster, and we will also continue to see her fulfilling duties as a judge and show manager.

Reflecting on **2025**, I can say with great pride that it has been a year of significant achievement, particularly in terms of the exceptional quality of cats bred by our dedicated breeders. The standard of cats presented on our show benches stands favourably alongside those seen in the leading cat organisations worldwide. Furthermore, during our visit to the **World Cat Congress in August 2025**, it was especially gratifying to hear the high praise given to the quality and professionalism of SACC judges. This recognition reinforces my confidence in the rigorous and comprehensive judges' training programme followed within SACC. Our judges have consistently upheld the reputation of SACC internationally, and I extend my sincere thanks to them for doing so.

To our breeders, I wish to encourage the continued breeding of top-quality kittens that are properly socialised and raised in accordance with best-practice principles of responsible pet ownership. I urge all breeders to study and adhere closely to the official Standard of Points for their specific breeds and to avoid breeding according to personal preference rather than established standards.

Our hobby faces increasing pressure from ill-informed groups seeking to influence policymakers to ban the breeding of pedigreed animals, both cats and dogs. It is therefore essential that breeders take responsibility for understanding health-related traits within their breeds and actively work to breed away from these concerns wherever possible. History has shown that this can be achieved, as demonstrated by the cooperation of Korat breeders worldwide in successfully eradicating a serious health issue within their breed. There are several other such examples. I also encourage all breeders to familiarise themselves with the concept of **brachycephalism**, which has become a focal point for those opposing pedigreed animal breeding. Addressing these challenges is not solely the responsibility of the Governing Council; it begins with each individual breeder.

On a more positive note, **2026** marks a very significant milestone in the history of SACC. I encourage all members to follow our social media platforms closely, as an important announcement will be made in due course—one that I trust you will find both exciting and worthy of celebration.

In closing, I wish all members, including the Executive Office and delegates, and their families who celebrate Christmas, a blessed and joyous festive season. To those who do not, I wish a peaceful and restful period. May **2026** be a year in which your hopes and aspirations are fulfilled. I look forward to seeing you at the shows.

Yours faithfully,  
Jan

# Watch this Space

**South Africa's number 1 cat fancy has something exciting and big bubbling that will be ready for release in January.**



**I has a big secret!**

**It's a celebration! It's a party! It's amazing! It's news worthy!**

**We want everyone to share our secret and be part of 2026 with our amazing cat fancy.**

**A mini Newsletter will be released in January revealing our news- so watch this space!**

Did you know that SACC has 24 All Breeds Judges, 9 Speciality Judges, 5 Judges Panels, 7 active Cat Clubs, 6 Breed Groups all striving to improve their breeds, a Breed Council Secretary who is a genetic whizz-kid and a knowledgeable and extremely pleasant Registrar.

Our cat clubs all hold at least one show per year and the 5 regions all have representation at our flagship event, Cat of the Year. This event is desired by the majority of exhibitors, whether their home is with SACC or not.

Our SACC trained judges are well respected world wide and keep up to date with modern trends worldwide. Those judges who trained with other organisations soon become part of the SACC family.

We are also the only cat organisation in Southern Africa which belongs to World Cat Congress- this is so beneficial to those breeders who import and export cats because our pedigrees are accepted worldwide.

Judges Council holds an AGM and presents at least two informative breed presentations, SACC Judges also have a Whatsapp Group where ideas and new world cat info is shared and discussed.

The Governing Council of SACC holds an AGM where proposals are considered and voted on plus other matters pertaining to our cat world are discussed and decided on. All in all a very active cat fancy!

# GC AGM Feedback

Once again, the AGM took place via ZOOM on the 1<sup>st</sup> November.

As this was a voting year for SACC in regard to the Managerial Office Bearers, your ballots had to be counted and audited before revealing the incoming incumbents.

The Management members for the next 2 years are President Jan van Rooyen; Vice President Karen Pepler; Secretary Joelene Draper and Treasurer Jan van Rooyen.

It was unanimously agreed by GC that Ingrid de Wet be appointed International Liaison Officer and Johan van Rooyen be appointed WCC Delegate.

The Breed Council Secretary and Registrar remain unchanged, namely Ingrid de Wet and Johan van Rooyen.

There were a few Breed ballots to be counted, the changes to the **SOPs** are:

The following preamble will be added to the Smoke Colour description in the “Detailed Colour and Pattern Descriptions” Standard.

At first glance, a shorthair smoke in repose should appear self-coloured with some smoke showing through as subtle clown markings on the face. In the ideal smoke, the silver/ smoke undercoat will be visible only by opening the coat; expressing the lowest grade of silver shading where the majority of hair shaft is coloured from the tip end. In longhair breeds, the initial impression of the ideal smoke should be of a solid or near- solid coloured coat, while the silver/ smoke undercoat will show in the ear tufts, facial “clown markings”, ruff, underparts, trousers and underside of the tail. The smoke roots/ undercoat will become more obvious, the longer the coat grows.

The following change was made to the “Relevant to All Breeds: Undesirable Features in all breeds: Skeletal Defects” of the General Section of the SOP.

Undershot, overshot or skew jaw - penalise at the discretion of the judge.

The following changes were made to the “Relevant to All Breeds: Disqualify” of the General Section of the SOP. These changes are to keep the SOP in line with the Show Rules Disqualifications thereby avoiding confusion.

Point 1 will now read: “If it is obvious that the cat has been improperly prepared for show. That is, if any dye, colouring, lightening or darkening substance, any oils or greasy preparation and cleaning preparations, or any foreign matter remains in the cat’s coat during exhibition.”

Point 3 will now read: “If it is obvious that the cat’s eyes have been artificially treated so that the pupils do not show a normal reaction to light.”

Point 2 will now read: “If it is obvious that the cat’s coat has been cut, clipped, singed, or rasped down by any substance; if any of the new or fast coat has been removed by pulling or plucking in any way.”

Point 7 will now read: “It is obviously pregnant, a nursing mother or a queen with kittens less than eight weeks of age on the day of the show”

NB There were 2 proposals to add defining descriptions to the Burmese SOP – these proposals, despite having sufficient votes, could not pass because the required 50% Breeder vote was not met.

The delegate from the Judges Council informed GC of what was happening in our judging world.

Some of our judges have judged internationally and 2 have relocated to the UK and have accepted GCCF assignments.

We welcomed 3 Judges from other organisations who have joined GPJ and IJN.

Sadly we lost one judge this year, Dina Freitas.

The ECKZN Panel has 2 groups of Siamese/Oriental Students and will be starting a second Colour and Pattern Course in December.

CJI is also teaching the Colour and Pattern Course; they also have 1 student on Study Leave and one on maternity leave.

Johan van Rooyen presented his 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Registrar's Report to GC and indicated that SACC is growing.

**SHOW RULES:** There were 2 proposals for changes to the Show Rules. Both were accepted.

#### Show Rule 16- the Imperial Class.

The whole rule has been replaced and now reads:

- a) Cats that have attained the title of Supreme Champion or Supreme Premier prior to the commencement of a championship show are eligible to be entered into the Imperial Supreme Challenge or Imperial Supreme Premier Class.
- b) Each eligible cat may be entered into two classes per show: the standard Supreme Class, in accordance with Rule 15, and the Imperial Supreme Class. The fee to enter a cat into this class, will be determined by each club.
- c) Only one ring of Imperial Supreme Classes shall be judged per show.
- d) All-Breeds Judges shall evaluate all entries submitted in both the Entire and Neuter categories within the Imperial Supreme Class. Two judges may be used to judge the Entire or Neuter sections.
- e) Cats entered in the Imperial Supreme Class shall not compete against others based on breed, colour, or pattern. Instead, each exhibit shall be assessed exclusively against its respective breed standard. Only one Imperial Supreme certificate shall be awarded, and it will be granted to the exhibit that most closely exemplifies the ideal standard of its breed.
- f) The judge may, at their discretion, award one certificate in the Entire section and one in the Neuter section. The judge also reserves the right to withhold certificates in either or both classes if, in their expert opinion, no exhibit sufficiently meets the standard.
- g) A cat that has been awarded six Imperial Supreme certificates under six different judges shall be conferred the title of Imperial Supreme Champion (Entire) or Imperial Supreme Premier (Neuter), as applicable.
- h) Upon attaining the Imperial Supreme title, a cat becomes ineligible for further competition in this class.
- i) If a cat originally entered in the Entire category is subsequently neutered, it shall retain all Imperial Supreme certificates it previously earned.



## Show Rule 35 Non-Championship Shows – this is a new rule.

- a. Non-Championship Shows affiliated with or conducted under the auspices of SACC shall be organised in accordance with official SACC rules and standards. Although these events do not necessarily confer titles or certificates, they must uphold the same level of integrity, welfare standards, and judging protocols as Championship Shows. All participating clubs and organisers are required to ensure that the show environment, procedures, and classifications meet the expectations set by SACC. This ensures consistency, transparency, and fairness across all SACC-linked feline events, regardless of competitive status.
- b. Non-Championship Shows are events in which cats compete outside of the standard championship structure, provided that prior approval has been granted by the Governing Council. These events may include, but are not limited to, regional competitions, exhibitions, and shows limited to kittens or domestic cats.
- c. Approval to host a Non-Championship Show requires a simple majority vote by the Governing Council.
- d. Judges appointed to officiate at these events must be approved by the Judges Council.
- e. At least 50% of the officiating judges at a Non-Championship Show must be members of a SACC-affiliated judges' panel.
- f. A judge may not officiate in any section of the event if a cat owned or bred by the judge, or by a member of their household, or by a first-degree relative, is participating in the competition.
- g. The hosting club shall be responsible for the organisation and execution of the event, including securing sponsorship and managing publicity.
- h. Show results must be determined using a transparent and fair system and must be audited by an independent party to ensure integrity.
- i. At regional shows, cats—excluding kittens and domestic cats—that qualify for the finals will entitle their owners to use the suffix RQ (Regional Qualifier) after the cat's registered name.
- j. Cats that win the finals at regional events will entitle their owners to use the suffix RW (Regional Winner) after the cat's registered name.
- k. No additional titles or designations, including those resulting from special classes presented at the event, shall be awarded or recognised by SACC.

## **CONSTITUTION CHANGES**

Clauses 28.5.1; 28.5.2 & 28.5.3 have been amended to reflect the correct name of the complaints document which was changed in 2024.

## **COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE CHANGES**

Paragraphs 3 and 5 have been amended to reflect the correct name of the complaints document which was changed in 2024.

Paragraph 21(Appeals) has been amended to read:

A respondent may lodge an appeal against the findings of an investigating committee within 30 days of receipt of the outcome and providing that further concrete evidence in support of the claim is included together with the lodged appeal.

21.1 Appeals against the findings/ decisions of a Judges' Panel shall be lodged with Judges' Council.

21.2 Appeals against the findings/ decisions of a club committee or ad hoc committee shall be lodged with Governing Council.



## **SACC FEES**

Proposals to adjust the SACC Fees were accepted unanimously- SACC has not increased fees for many years despite the increase in general costs. The increases are as follows:

1. Registration per cat or kitten under 15 weeks of age: from R45-00 per kitten to R50-00 per kitten
2. Registration per cat or kitten over 15 weeks of age: from R90-00 per kitten to R100 per kitten
3. Pedigree per cat or kitten, compiled by the Breeder and e-mailed to the Registering Office (printing & processing) – In addition to the registration fee: from R25-00 per kitten for a colour printed pedigree to R40 per kitten and from R15-00 per kitten for a black and white printed pedigree to R30-00 per kitten.
4. Pedigree compiled by The Registering Office (on request) – In addition to the registration fee. Applicant to furnish copies of the Sire & Dam official pedigree): from R25 per pedigree to R50 per pedigree.
5. Registration of an imported cat: from R150 per cat to R250 per cat. This includes creation of the new pedigree for an imported cat on our system.
6. Registration of a cat registered with another S.A. Association: from R75 per cat to R120 per cat.
7. Transfer of ownership per cat / kitten: from R45 per kitten to R50 per kitten.
8. Addition of new breeder suffix (only on transfer from one authorised SACC Breeder to another) – in addition to the transfer fee: from R25-00 per cat to R50-00 per cat.
9. Application for Title Certificate: from R25-00 per certificate to R50-00 per certificate.
10. To implement a fee of R50 per certificate for the following applications, since these certificates are printed on board with an appropriate coloured seal stamped on the certificate: a. Application for D.M. Status  
b. Application for Multiple Supreme Title Certificates
11. Listing of an additional breed on the SACC website. To be renewed annually: from R20-00 per breed to R50 per breed
12. Linking of cattery website on SACC website. To be renewed annually: from R50-00 per cattery to R100 per cattery.

**“Fees may be adjusted annually” will be added to Form SACR D2.**

## **SHOW CALENDAR**

The following Show Dates have been approved:

March 7 - Rand Cat Club

March 28 - SAASA

April 26/26 - Transvaal cat Society -Cat Extravaganza

May 23 - Cat Fanciers Club & Provincial Cat Society

May 30 - Western Province Cat Club

June 6 - Northern Cape & Free State Cat Club

June 13 - Transvaal Cat Society

June 27 - Rand Cat Club

July - Cat of the Year

August 15 - Cat Fanciers Club & Gauteng Top Cat

September 26 - Western Province Cat Club

October 31 - Cape Top Cat

## **COTY 2026**

The event will take place in Cape Town and will be hosted by the Western Province Cat Club. The cut-off date for qualifiers is to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

**COTY 2027** will take place in Gauteng.

# Feline gut microbiome 101

Author(s) [Renea Creech Senior Specialist, Scientific Communications Hill's Pet Nutrition](#) . Thanks to Jane Goble for the articles.

*Research into the feline gut microbiome continues to evolve, revealing the complex relationship between microorganisms in the gastrointestinal tract and overall health.*

*Sponsored by Hill's Pet Nutrition*

The feline gut microbiome, a collective term that refers to the communities of microorganisms residing in the gastrointestinal tract of cats, has become an area of growing interest and research in veterinary medicine. Felines possess several unique gastrointestinal traits distinct from other companion animals. Cats are obligate carnivores and their taste buds are responsive to amino acids, but not sugars. They have a shorter digestive tract relative to their body length and lower food retention time than dogs, as well as a less-developed cecum. The pH of a cat's stomach is highly acidic, ranging from 1 to 2, which is important for the breakdown of proteins and the eradication of pathogens. Cats also possess higher levels of proteolytic enzymes, such as pepsin, which optimize protein metabolism. They are notably deficient in amylase, rendering carbohydrate digestion less efficient when compared with canines and other animals with higher amylase activity.<sup>5</sup> However, multiple studies have shown that cats are capable of digesting properly processed carbohydrates with over 90% digestibility. Further research into the ability of a cat to metabolize different macronutrient compositions has shown that cats, like other mammals, can adapt their nutrient metabolism in response to dietary changes.

Although they are obligate carnivores, cats still possess a rich gastrointestinal (GI) microbiome capable of fermenting nutrients, such as carbohydrates, in their hindgut. This article will explore the role of some of the different bacterial species of the cat GI microbiome and their role in feline health and disease.

## Composition of a Healthy Microbiome

A healthy feline gut microbiome is diverse and balanced. Key bacterial phyla include Firmicutes (36% to 50%), Bacteroidetes (24% to 36%), Actinobacteria (4% to 7%), and Proteobacteria (11% to 12%). The abundance and function of each of these phyla are influenced by multiple factors, including age, breed, diet, living environment, and other

environmental exposures. Below are some specific genera and their functions within the feline gastrointestinal tract:

### Firmicutes:

- *Lactobacillus*: These bacteria are known for their role in fermenting lactose to produce lactic acid, thus helping to lower the pH of the gut, which inhibits harmful bacteria. They also contribute to the overall health of the intestinal lining and support the immune system.
- *Clostridium*: This genus includes both beneficial and pathogenic species. Beneficial *Clostridium* species help in fermenting complex carbohydrates and producing short-chain fatty acids (SCFAs), like butyrate, which are crucial for colon health.

**Bacteroidetes:**

- *Bacteroides*: *Bacteroides* species are efficient at breaking down complex molecules like polysaccharides. They produce SCFAs, primarily propionate and acetate, which serve as energy sources for colonocytes and have anti-inflammatory properties.
- *Prevotella*: Known for their role in carbohydrate metabolism, *Prevotella* species help break down dietary fibers as well as produce SCFAs.

**Actinobacteria:**

- *Bifidobacterium*: These bacteria are essential for the fermentation of dietary fibers, leading to the production of SCFAs like acetate. They also play a pivotal role in modulating the immune system and preventing the colonization of pathogenic bacteria.

**Proteobacteria:**

- *Escherichia (E coli)*: While often associated with pathogenic strains, nonpathogenic *E coli* strains are part of the normal gut flora and contribute to vitamin K synthesis and the competitive exclusion of harmful bacteria.

**Verrucomicrobia:**

- *Akkermansia muciniphila*: This species degrades mucin, playing a significant role in maintaining the gut barrier and immune modulation.

**Role in Feline Diseases**

The balance of these bacterial populations is crucial for maintaining gut health. Dysbiosis, or the imbalance of gut microbiota, is linked with various diseases in cats, including:

**Chronic inflammatory enteropathies (CIE):**

- CIE is a chronic inflammatory condition characterized by persistent GI symptoms. Studies show that cats with CIE often exhibit a reduced diversity of gut microbiota, particularly a decrease in beneficial firmicutes, lactobacilli and bifidobacteria, and an increase in pathogenic genera staphylococci spp, streptococci spp, *Escherichia* spp, *Critobacter* spp, *Klebsiella* spp, *Proteus* spp, *Pseudomonas* spp microorganisms, as well as the fungi *Candida*. The altered microbial composition can contribute to chronic inflammation, diarrhea, and malabsorption.

**Diarrhea:**

**Chronic kidney disease (CKD):**

- Cats with CKD had a significantly decreased fecal microbial richness and diversity as well as increased uremic toxin production. These disturbances further worsen renal dysfunction and increase systemic inflammation.

**Obesity:**

- Like in other species, the gut microbiota in obese cats tends to differ from their lean counterparts. Obese cats have a significant reduction in microbial diversity as well as a decreased ratio of firmicutes to Bacteroidetes. Pathways related to fatty acid synthesis are significantly more prevalent in the microbiomes of obese cats compared with those of normal-weight cats, which may influence nutrient absorption and fat storage.

The GI microbiome of cats, primarily consisting of firmicutes, bacteroidetes, proteobacteria, and actinobacteria, plays a vital role in health and disease. Understanding these microbial populations holds significant promise for treating various feline diseases, particularly those involving chronic GI inflammation and metabolic disorders.

## Microbiome Research: What Makes a Healthy Cat?

May 21, 2021 [Dee Shore](#) NC State University



*Molly Kittson is doing most of the study's legwork, including collecting samples from cats in the Wake County Animal Center.*

Research suggests that the trillions of microbes living in a person's gut can prevent and treat many diseases, and the colony of microbes – known as the microbiome – is influenced by a number of factors, including diet. But what about cats? What factors affect the types of microbes in their gut? And how does that relate to their health?

A new study from NC State University aims to shed light on these questions by exploring the differences between the gut microbes of cats living in shelters and those that have owners.

Kimberly Ange-van Heugten is the project's principal investigator, and Shweta Trivedi is the co-PI. Both are teaching associate professors in the Department of Animal Science.

### A First-of-Its-Kind Study

Ange-van Heugten has studied the gut microbiome in chimpanzees, gorillas and rhinos, but she's new to studying the microbiome of a companion animal species. And the feline research is unlike any that's come before, she said.

"There's not a lot known about the microbiome in cats at this point," Ange-van Heugten said. "This project will be the largest and longest feline microbiome collection known to date. It will allow us to learn more about how the domestic cat's microbiome is altered by a range of factors."

Those factors include a cat's age, body condition, diarrhea and other disease states, gender, genetic relatedness and time.

The research should give scientists a better idea of what the microbiome looks like for a large number of cats from one area – Wake County – and whether it looks different for healthy and unhealthy ones.

## A University and Private Industry Collaboration

The project is a collaboration between NC State and Nom Nom, a subscription-based pet health company that formulates and delivers cutting-edge healthy pet foods and supplements.

Nom Nom’s Director of Microbiology Ryan Honaker is helping with the research design, data analysis and graduate student training, while the company is funding the microbiome sequencing analyses of the fecal samples and some of graduate student Molly Kittson’s tuition and travel expenses.

Honaker noted that he and others with Nom Nom “are excited to be partnering with such a great program to help advance the understanding of the role of the microbiome in feline health.”

The study’s long-term goal, Ange-van Heugten said, is to explore whether there might be ways to improve cats’ health, perhaps by providing them with prebiotics and probiotics in their diet. Probiotics are beneficial bacteria contained in food, while prebiotics are types of fiber that feed healthy gut bacteria.

## Involving Students and Others

Kittson, a master’s student studying animal science and nutrition, is carrying out much of the study’s legwork, visiting Wake County’s animal shelter three days a week to collect fecal samples as well as data about each of the factors she’s studying. She’s also sending collection kits to allow personal cat owners to collect and submit samples.

Kittson plans to collect samples and information from 300 shelter cats and 50 owned cats by the end of the summer.

Shweta Trivedi said a shelter medicine pre-veterinary internship partnership with the Wake County Animal Center helped greatly in getting the large number of samples needed for the study. The center’s chief veterinarian, Sandra Strong, who will soon join an Orange County shelter, has also provided significant assistance.

As Trivedi added, “The ongoing companion animal microbiome research serves to train graduate students, while also providing potential hands-on experience for undergraduates.”

## Helping Shelter Cats and Owned Cats Stay Healthy

In the end, Ange-van Heugten said, the research team hopes to know more about ways they can help shelter animals remain healthy or get healthier once they get to the shelter, because that can influence how quickly they are adopted and ensure they stay in their new homes.

“Sick animals don’t always get adopted very fast, and if we can find the weaknesses in the microbiome then maybe we can help address them so cats can go into homes healthier,” she said.

Kittson agreed, adding that the results should also have implications for cats with owners.

“My long-term goals are to have healthier cats, whether they are owned or in shelters, and to keep more cats in homes,” she said.



# Jackson Galaxy's Core Philosophy

Jackson Galaxy, the “Cat Daddy” from the TV Show *My Cat From Hell*, focuses on a behavioural philosophy for living with cats.

This must not be confused with the book “Feline Philosophy- Cats and the Meaning of Life” by author John Gray which is a philosophical explanation of how cats can offer insights into human happiness- the core philosophy suggesting that humans should look to cats as models for living well. You can download the E version of the book here:

**#DOWNLOAD PDF = <https://bookkitutrepq.firebaseio.com/idebook/b08hj2mz7r>**

But back to Jackson Galaxy's Core Philosophy:

Jackson's entire approach rests on one idea:

Cats need to feel they own territory.

Every cat is the hero of their own story. The goal is to make both cats feel secure and respected — not forced to share before they're ready.

## **Phase 1: The Sanctuary Room (a.k.a. New kitten's safe zone)**

Duration: 5–7 days minimum

Set up a closed-off room (bedroom, bathroom, or study) for new kitten only. Include: litter box, food, water, toys, scratching post, bed.

Let her settle completely before they meet — she must smell like her own space.

Spend time in there calmly, play with her, but don't carry her around the house yet.

Let Resident cat smell under the door. You can even rub each cat gently with the same cloth and swap them back and forth — “scent swapping.”

Goal: each cat gets used to the idea of the other without face-to-face contact.

## **Phase 2: The Scent Game**

Duration: 3–5 days

Swap bedding, blankets, or towels between rooms daily.

You can also switch their spaces for short periods — e.g., put Resident cat in New kitten's room while New kitten explores the rest of the house (alone).

Feed both cats on opposite sides of the closed door — positive association: “I smell this new cat → food happens!”

Tip: You can use Feliway diffusers or Jackson's own “Spirit Essences” sprays (basically pheromone-based) to reduce tension.

## **Phase 3: Visual Introduction**

Duration: a few days

Crack the door open or use a baby gate (you can stack two).

Let them see each other while still physically separated.

Keep it short and end on calm energy — no hissing, no lunging.

Reward both with treats or playtime when they're chill.

**If anyone growls, close the door and go back a step. Don't rush this.**

## Phase 4: Controlled Contact

Duration: several sessions over 3–7 days

Use short, supervised meet-and-greets. Open the door fully, but keep toys and treats ready to distract.

Let them set the pace — ignore low growls or tail puffing unless it escalates.

Never pick them up mid-tension. Instead, redirect with wand toys or play near each other.

Keep sessions brief (5–10 min). End positively with food or play.

Goal: curiosity without conflict.

## Phase 5: Free Access

Once they can be together calmly for several short sessions in a row:

Allow free movement around the house but keep multiple “resources” — more litter boxes (rule of thumb: one per cat +1), more scratching posts, multiple feeding spots.

Give vertical territory (cat trees, shelves) so no one feels trapped.

Maintain routine and individual attention — especially Squeak. Don’t make her feel replaced.

## Troubleshooting

Growling/Hissing: normal early on. Only intervene if there’s physical contact or intense staring.

Chasing/Fighting: separate immediately, give 24 hours apart, and regress one step in the process.

Food aggression: always feed separately until peace is consistent.

Scent reset trick: if there’s a setback, dab both cats with the same lightly scented towel or brush — they’ll smell “like one group.”

## Bonus Jackson Tips

- Play = diplomacy. Daily 10–15 min wand toy sessions for each cat reduces tension.
- Use “cat mojo”: reward calm energy, never fear.
- End every interaction on a good note (treats, play, or affection).



# Guideline for Pet Adoption

By [Catbehavioursolutions.org](http://Catbehavioursolutions.org)

## “It doesn’t happen overnight”!

The 3/3/3 rule is a general guideline for the adjustment period of a pet after adoption.

Every pet is unique and will adjust differently. Please have patience and allow your new pet time to settle.

**3days** to decompress.

*Image courtesy of Catster*



- Feeling overwhelmed
- May feel scared or unsure of what’s going on
- Not yet comfortable to be “himself”
- May not want to eat or drink
- Shuts down and/or hides under furniture
- Tests the boundaries.

**3 weeks** to learn your routine.

*Image courtesy of Royal Canin*



- Starts settling in
- Feels more comfortable
- Realises this could be his forever home
- Figures out his environment
- Gets into a routine
- Lets his guard down; beginning to show his true personality
- Behaviour issues may appear

**3 months** to start to feel at home



*Image courtesy of Reader's Digest*

- Finally feels completely comfortable in his home
- Begins to build trust and a true bond
- Gains a complete sense of security with his new family
- Sets into a routine

## WPCC Cat Show

WPCC held it's final show of 2025 on the 27th September. Adri and her team put together the show with the theme "Sun, Sand and Sea" and once again the lovely Ursula van der Riet took the stunning photos to make this a memorable last show.

Entire of the Day was Muttis Ribbons owned and bred by Marlene van Dyk.



Neuter of the Day was Lilac Time Playboy of Chic-Catz owned by Charlene du Toit and bred by Jacqui Dawson.



Kitten of the Day was Luxury Felines Yulio of Aristocub owned by Yusuf Dawood and bred by Asmaa Ennamar El - Alaoui.



PET of the DAY was Grand Master Bea owned by Christelle Rossouw.



And CAT of the DAY was Muttis Ribbons owned and bred by Marlene van Dyk.



Such a bright and happy occasion- just love the whole seaside vibe!

# Cape Top Cat

On the 25th October at the Vredenheim Wine Estate and Big Cat Park in Stellenbosch. The qualified cats and their owners were ready to see which cat would be judged Cape Top Cat and Cape Top Pet.

Cape Top Entire was Muttis Ribbons, owned and bred by Marlene van Dyk and Runner up was Ascent Simba of Gentle Giants (Imp) owned by Elizabeth van Dyk and bred by Lyudmila Seregina.



The lovely RIBBONS.



The handsome SIMBA

Cape Top Neuter was Lilac Time Playboy of Chic-Katz, owned by Charlene du Toit and bred by Jacqui Dawson and Runner up was Muttis Whisper I'm Original owned and bred by Marlene van Dyk.



The good looking PLAYBOY aka GATSBY



The pretty I'M ORIGINAL

Cape Top Kitten was Feline Retreat Simba (ASAA) owned by Ishtiaque Mohammed and bred by Abdul Baseer Khan and Runner up was Rock 'n Purr Seven Nation Army owned by Stuart Seaton and bred by Lynelle and Gideon van Aarde.



The sweet SIMBA



The cute SEVEN NATION ARMY

CAPE TOP DOMESTIC was Supreme Master Gabriella owned by Irene Sommerfeld and Runner up was Supreme Master Bea owned by Christelle Rossouw.



The gorgeous lady GABRIELLA



The good looking BEA

CAPE TOP CAT & TOP CAPE SA BRED



GATSBY aka PLAYBOY took top honours for 2025.

Special thank you to Ursula van der Riet for the stunning photos and to Charlotte van der Riet and Ingrid van Eck Gain for scorekeeping and of course to Adri Swart and the Western Province Cat Club for presenting the event for their members.

# Trivia

1. Who is the President of the GCCF in the UK?
2. Name Japan's 3 main tourist "Cat Islands".
3. Who owns a Maine Coon called Kitty Purry?
4. Which movie features cat villains Si and Am?
5. What is the name of the cat villain in the movie Cinderella?
6. Which scientist used a cat in an example to illustrate principles of quantum mechanics?
7. What was the name of President Gerald Ford's Siamese Cat?
8. What do the girls in England get when there is a black cat in the house?
9. Stable feral cat colonies live in what sort of society?
10. Humans and cats belong to which class of animals?



1. John Hansson

2. Aoshima; Tashirojima & Manabeshima

3. Katy Perry

4. The Lady and the Tramp

5. Lucifer

6. Erwin Schrödinger

7. Shan

8. Lots of male admirers

9. Matriarchal

10. Mammals