SACC FELINE HEALTH POLICY

The Southern Africa Cat Council encourages all breeders to have the health of their breeding cats as a priority in their breeding programmes. When health issues are identified, breeders should determine, with the help of veterinary experts and research whether a health issue arose from an environmental, genetic or medical/ congenital problem. Once the problem has been identified, a breeder should immediately work towards correcting the problem.

The following rules support this philosophy:

1. **MEDICAL HEALTH ISSUES**
   - 1.1 Kittens must not go to a new owner (home) before they are 12 weeks old and have been fully vaccinated against feline panleukopenia, feline calici virus and feline herpes virus, unless otherwise advised by a veterinarian. If the rabies vaccine was not part of the booster vaccinations, the new owner must be advised to have it done.
   - 1.2 When a medical issue has been identified in a breeding cattery, the onus is on the breeder to immediately act, with the support of his/her vet or any other expert, to deal with, and work towards correcting the problem. This may be genetic, viral, bacterial or fungal or any other health issue that may be encountered.
   - 1.3 If a medical issue is contagious, the environment should be treated to ensure any pathogens that may cause re-infection have been eliminated.

2. **GENETICS**
   - 2.1 If the health issue has a genetic basis, DNA tests, if available, should be done to identify whether cats are affected or carriers or clear.
   - 2.2 Depending on the type of health issue, a breeder may "breed the problem out" or should spay or neuter an affected cat if the prognosis for heathy offspring is poor.
   - 2.3 When DNA tests are done, and verification of results are required, the test must be based on a blood sample (as opposed to a buccal swab), which blood sample must be taken and submitted by a Vet.

DEAFNESS in BLUE EYED WHITES and CATS PATCHED WITH WHITE

1. There is a high likelihood that blue eyed white and blue eyed patched-with-white cats are deaf. The exceptions are whites masking pointed cats (i.e. with **2** genes for point restriction).
2. No **white-to-white** matings may be done in any breed, irrespective of eye colour.
3. Except for pointed cats (Siamese, Birmans, Colourpoint Persians, Ragdolls, etc.), no **Blue eyed** and/ or **odd eyed cat** may be bred to another **blue eyed** and/or **odd eyed** cat.
4. Any **blue eyed** white or **blue eyed** patched-with-white cat must have its hearing tested to ensure the cat can hear before they may be used for breeding. A BAER test (Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response) should be done to determine whether a potential breeding cat is deaf or not.
5. **Pointed cats** masked by white do not have to have this test done. If there is any question that a potential breeder Blue Eyed White cat might be a Colourpoint carrier and not have 2 copies of the c^s gene, a BAER test should be done as well. The registrar and breeder will be guided by the pedigree, or by a DNA test for the presence of 2 copies of the pointed (c^s) gene.
6. Once the cat has passed the hearing test, the result of the BAER test together with the cat's microchip number, the cat's name and registration number must be submitted to the SA Cat registrar who will provide the owner with a **breeding number.** (Breeding numbers will be allocated to cats cleared by DNA test, BAER test or other medical screening tests; where required.) [Similar to a stud number]
7. Deaf cats of any breed, colour or pattern may NOT be bred with.