



## Southern Africa Cat Council eNews

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## HELLO AGAIN

Cat show season has started for 2025! Exciting times ahead for all—hopefully our exhibitors and Judges are enjoying the new Imperial Supreme Class and the colour/pattern classes for Maine Coons.

This year Jan van Rooyen will be attending the World Cat Congress in Hong Kong because he is the Vice President of Congress which means he can't attend as SACC Delegate. Governing Council has

### *Some special cat captions:*

*Every day should be Saturday..*

*Love is a four legged word.*

*If there are no cats in heaven-I don't want to go.*

*Cats are like chocolates— you can't have only one.*

*The cat's in charge— I only pay the rent.*

*I made artistic changes to your sofa— believe me it's an improvement!*

chosen our Registrar, Johan van Rooyen to be the 2025 Delegate to WCC. The van Rooyen family will fly to Hong Kong immediately after COTY.

The Show Calendar has been published but remember the dates are not carved in stone – life happens, so changes may occur. Just ensure you keep your eyes on our social media platforms for updates.

So everyone, have a great Show Season— enter the shows because your entries are important but above all be happy and congratulate the winners because there can only ever be one winner per show and it may be your cat next time.



# Moducare™ and the immune system

The topic of immune support for FIP cats often comes up. L-lysine is not recommended for cats with FIP. L-Lysine interferes with arginine intake, an essential amino-acid. Also, recent publications and research are questioning the claims that Lysine is effective at all. However, one supplement that has been formulated for use both for humans and animals alike is Moducare™.

Moducare™ is the only clinically tested plant sterol/sterolin product that has been found to be effective in modulating the immune system. Research into Moducare™, one of the Essential Sterolin Products (EPI), has been effective since the 1980s. What sets Moducare™ aside is that numerous research studies on sterolins and sterols, including placebo-controlled, double-blind studies, have been published in international medical journals and attracted attention worldwide. Moducare™ is a unique, patented blend of plant sterols and sterolins that have been extensively researched for their powerful immune regulating effects and is an affordable and effective treatment that keeps natural resistance functioning optimally.

The plant sterols and sterolins in Moducare™ help promote a balanced immune system. How does it exactly work? To understand this we need to look into how plant sterols and sterolins function. "Plant sterols – phytosterols and their glycosides (also known as phytosterolins) – are fats that are present in fruits, vegetables, and medicinal plants. Beta-sitosterol (BSS) and its glycoside (BSSG) are the most abundant of these plant sterols. BSS and BSSG, even at very low levels, have been shown to enhance the activity of various cells in the body recognized as having positive immune system activity". Moducare™ works to enhance immunity on a cellular level and down-regulates an overactive immune response. It is an immune regulator, so it works where and how the body needs it to.

**To understand how best Moducare™ can be used, consider some questions that are often raised.**

## ***What are sterols and sterolins?***

Sterol is a plant fat found in all plant-based foods. Sterolin is its glucoside, a molecular structure joined to the sterol. Sterolin is easily destroyed, and without it, the sterol does not have the same immune- enhancing benefits. Moducare™ uses a proprietary process to preserve the ideal combination of sterols and sterolins.

## ***Is there any research behind this product?***

Research on sterols has been underway since the 1920s, and Professor Bouic and his team have been researching the exact combination of sterols and sterolins found in Moducare™ for over a decade. The work of Professor Bouic and his team, and others have been published in prestigious, peer-reviewed international journals.

## ***Why is the "sterolin" such an important part of the Moducare™ formulation?***

In nature, plants never contain sterols only. The sterols are always associated with their glucoside "sterolin" (a glucose molecule attached to the sterol molecule). Research has shown quite clearly that the blend of sterols/sterolins in a 100:1 ratio exhibits the best immunomodulatory activity.

## ***Are there any side effects?***

Long-term studies involving 25,000 humans found no significant side effects. In addition, standard toxicology studies, pre-clinical testing and clinical observations have found no adverse effects.

## ***Are there any contraindications?***

Recipients of foreign organs and tissues, including bone marrow and corneal transplants, are cautioned not to take any immune regulating nutritional supplements. Therefore, sterols and sterolins are NOT recommended for transplant patients. People with synthetic replacement/reconstruction will not be affected, eg. hip, knee, breast, pacemaker.

Diabetics should monitor their blood sugar closely as many have experienced a reduction in insulin requirements. They should start with one capsule daily to ensure a gradual increase in sterols and sterolins. This data can be extrapolated to include cats being treated with Moducare. Care should be exercised if your cat is diabetic and continuous ongoing assessment needs to be done.

### ***Can Moducare™ be given with other medication or other supplements?***

There are no known interactions with Moducare™ and any prescribed (human) medication or natural supplement. However, concurrent treatment with Moducare and Polyphenyl Immunostimulant™ (PI) is not necessary or even recommended. For feline immunotherapy, PI, a veterinary biologic, is the gold standard. In addition, Moducare may incorrectly interfere with Polyphenyl Immunostimulant's activity.

### ***What about allergic reactions?***

An allergic reaction is extremely unlikely, as Moducare™ contains no artificial colouring, preservatives, sweeteners or salicylates. It also contains no soy, sugar, acacia, barley, wheat, corn, millet, dairy, lactose, yeast, gluten or other common allergens.

### ***Are sterols the same as steroids?***

Sterols, including cholesterol, are in the same large classification family of steroids but they do not have the negative effects that are often associated with steroids. Every member of the steroid family has a different activity and only a few have negative effects.

### ***Is Moducare™ an immune "booster" like Polyphenyl Immunostimulant?***

Moducare™ is a plant-based supplement designed to balance the immune system, "upregulating" or boosting an underactive response and "downregulating" an overactive one. Polyphenyl Immunostimulant™ (PI) is a veterinary biologic designed specifically for cats to repair and restore their innate immunity. Moducare™ and PI are two different products that can't be compared.

### ***Should Moducare™ be taken for a few months and once the immune system is balanced, stop taking it?***

Moducare™ is considered a daily supplement and should be taken as long as it is required for it to aid the immune system to be balanced. Its blend of sterols and sterolins do not "fix" the immune system but give it nutrients to help balance it. However, it is suggested that periodic breaks be taken as to avoid the body's natural immune system from becoming lazy. Exact protocols should be discussed with either a medical professional or pharmacist.

### ***How should Moducare™ be given?***

Cats: the recommended dosage is one capsule per day, preferably split half in the morning and half in the evening. It can be safely fed with meals as the dosage is high enough to remain effective. A loading dose of 2 capsules a day can be given (kittens are dosed at half the adult dose) if appropriate..

### ***Can you take too much?***

No. It is impossible to overdose on Moducare™. The body has a limited capacity to absorb these plant fats, and any excess is excreted harmlessly in the intestine.

### ***What if there is an allergy to pine? Since Moducare™ is extracted from pine, is there anything in the supplement that would cause a similar allergic reaction?***

Moducare™ contains only the isolated molecules of the sterols and sterolins which have been extracted from pine trees (*Pinus Maritima* and *Pinus Pinaster*). There is none of the original plant in the final product. If you looked at these plant fat molecules in a laboratory, you would not be able

to tell if they had been extracted from oranges, peas, almonds, etc.

***Is Moducare™ the same as Pine Bark extract?***

No. Pine bark is an antioxidant and works differently in the body from the plant fats. Both are phytonutrients, meaning they are derived from plants.

***How long before results can be seen?***

As with many natural supplements, it can take a period of time before an improvement is noticed.

**Veterinary applications for Moducare™**

Yes, many veterinarians use the product in their practice. **Suggested amounts for cats and dogs:**

One capsule per day for cats and small dogs

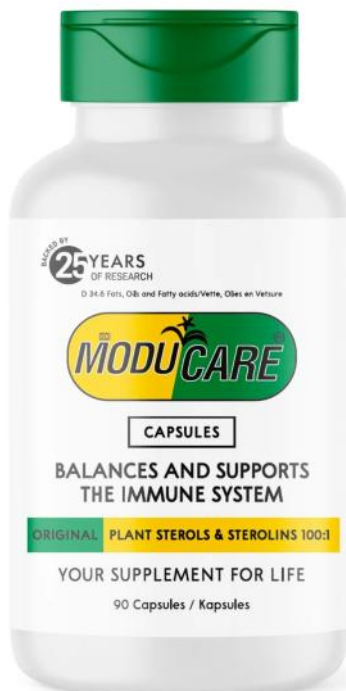
One capsule twice per day for dogs  
over 50 pounds / 22 kgs Half the  
dose for kittens and puppies

A loading dose of 2 capsules per day may be given if appropriate.

There is a ModucareVet available from ThorneVet in \$US—it is a soft chewable tablet shaped like a little bone.



Human grade Moducare can be bought in South Africa at Dischem and many Health Stores in local currency.



# Foods Your Cat Should Never Eat

Medically Reviewed by [Zilpah Sheikh, MD](#) on August 28, 2023

## Dangerous Foods?

Because they're such picky eaters, we sometimes think cats know what's best for them when it's time to eat. But the fact that they'll walk away from a piece of bad meat doesn't mean they'll bypass an open can of tuna. And that can of tuna can be just as dangerous. In fact, you may be surprised to learn some of the common foods your cats should never eat.



## Tuna

Cats can be addicted to tuna, whether it's packed for cats or for humans. Some tuna now and then probably won't hurt. But a steady diet of tuna prepared for humans can lead to malnutrition because it won't have all the nutrients a cat needs. And, too much tuna can cause mercury poisoning. Remember the saying, "Honest as a cat when the meat's out of reach." Your cat will see an open can of tuna next to the sink as a dinner invitation.

## Onions, Garlic, Chives

Onion in all forms -- powdered, raw, cooked, or dehydrated -- can break down a cat's red blood cells, leading to [anemia](#). That's true even for the [onion](#) powder that's found in some [baby](#) foods. Eating a large quantity once or eating smaller amounts regularly can cause onion poisoning. In addition to onions, garlic, which is 5 times as potent as onions, and chives can each cause major health and potentially life threatening problems.



## Milk and Other Dairy Products

What could be wrong with offering your cat a saucer of milk or a piece of cheese? Most cats are lactose-intolerant. Their digestive system cannot process dairy foods, and the result can be digestive upset with diarrhoea.



### **Alcohol**

Beer, liquor, wine, foods containing alcohol -- none of it is good for your cat. That's because alcohol has the same effect on a cat's liver and brain that it has on humans. But it takes far less to do its damage. Just two teaspoons of whisky can cause a coma in a 5-pound cat, and one more teaspoon could kill it. The higher the proof, the worse the symptoms.

### **Grapes and Raisins**

Grapes and raisins have often been used as treats for pets. But it's not a good idea. Although it isn't clear why, grapes and raisins can cause kidney failure in cats. And, a small amount can make a cat ill. Repeated vomiting and hyperactivity are early signs. Although some cats show no ill effects, it's best not to give your cat any grapes and to keep grapes and raisins off countertops and other places accessible to your cat.

### **Caffeine**

Caffeine in large enough quantities can be fatal for a cat. And there is no antidote. Symptoms of caffeine poisoning include restlessness, rapid breathing, heart palpitations, and muscle tremors. In addition to tea and coffee -- including beans and grounds -- caffeine can be found in cocoa, chocolate, colas, and stimulant drinks such as Red Bull. It's also in some cold medicines and painkillers.



### **Chocolate**

Chocolate can be lethal for cats. Although most cats won't eat it on their own, they can be coaxed to eat it by owners and others who think they are giving the cat a treat. The toxic agent in chocolate is theobromine. It's in all kinds of chocolate, even white chocolate. The most dangerous kinds, though, are dark chocolate and unsweetened baking chocolate. Eating chocolate can cause abnormal heart rhythm, tremors, seizures, and death.

### **Fat Trimmings and Bones**

Table scraps often contain fat trimmed off of meat and bones. Both fat and bones may be dangerous for cats. Fat, both cooked and uncooked, can cause intestinal upset, with vomiting and diarrhea. And a cat can choke on a bone. Bones can also splinter and cause an obstruction or cut the inside of your cat's digestive system.

### **Raw Eggs**

There are two problems with giving your cat raw eggs. The first is the possibility of food poisoning from bacteria like salmonella or *E. coli*. The second is rare problem in which a protein in raw egg whites, called avidin, could interfere with the absorption of the B vitamin biotin. This can cause skin problems as well as problems with your cat's coat.



### Raw Meat and Fish

Raw meat and raw fish, like raw eggs, can contain bacteria that cause food poisoning. In addition, an enzyme in raw fish destroys thiamine, which is an essential B vitamin for your cat. A lack of thiamine can cause serious neurological problems and lead to convulsions and coma.

### Dog Food

An occasional bite of dog food won't hurt your cat. But dog food is not a substitute for cat food. They do have many of the same ingredients. But cat food is specially formulated for a cat's needs, which include more protein as well as certain vitamins and fatty acids. A steady diet of dog food can cause your cat to be severely malnourished.

### Liver

Small amounts of liver are OK, but eating too much liver can cause vitamin A toxicity. This is a serious condition that can affect your cat's bones. Symptoms include deformed bones, bone growths on the elbows and spine, and osteoporosis. Vitamin A toxicity can also cause death.

### Too Many Treats

Eating too much too often can do the same thing to cats that it does to humans. It can lead to obesity and even diabetes.



### Yeast Dough

Before it's baked, bread dough needs to rise. And, that's exactly what it would do in your cat's stomach if your cat ate it. As it swells inside, the dough can stretch the abdomen and cause severe pain. In addition, when the yeast ferments the dough to make it rise, it produces alcohol that can lead to alcohol poisoning.

### Your Medicine

Ingesting a drug prescribed for humans is one of the most common causes of poisoning in cats. Just as you would do for your children, put all medicines where your cat can't get to them. And never give your cat any over-the-counter medicine unless advised to do so by your vet. Ingredients such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen are common in pain relievers and cold medicine. And they can be deadly for your cat.

### Kitchen Pantry: No Cats Allowed

Many other items commonly found on kitchen shelves can harm your cat. Keeping food items where your cat can't get to them and keeping pantry and cupboard doors closed will help protect your cat from serious food-related illness.



# CAT OF THE YEAR 2025

The Transvaal Cat Society (TCS) will be the host for COTY 2025.

Gail Nel and her team are hard at work organising the event which will take place on the 26 July in Gauteng.

No further details are available at present.

If you would like to sponsor prizes or offer assistance in any way for the event kindly contact Gail at [tcsshows@gmail.com](mailto:tcsshows@gmail.com).

## DARWIN'S CATS RESEARCH

### Darwin's Cats Invites Cat Lovers to Help Decode Feline DNA with a New Breakthrough in Genetics Research

Join the movement to solve the mysteries of cat genetics with the first fur-based DNA sequencing method for pets

March 19, 2025 8:00 AM

EDMONDS, WA -- Cats may be cherished companions in nearly 50 million U.S. households, but their genetics remain a mystery. Darwin's Cats, a pioneering research initiative from the nonprofit Darwin's Ark, is working to change that and calling on cat lovers everywhere to take part in the largest community-powered feline genetics study to date. With its innovative fur-based DNA sequencing method—a first in pet science—Darwin's Cats is making it easier than ever to contribute to genetics research to improve the health and well-being of cats everywhere.

Unlike traditional DNA collection methods, which require saliva swabs or blood draws, fur-based sequencing offers a stress-free way for thousands of cat owners to take science into their own hands—literally. With just a simple brush of their cat's coat, an easy process that most cats already enjoy, participants can help build the most comprehensive feline genetic database ever assembled to catalyze important scientific discoveries.

"Cats are one of the least-studied companion animals in genomics, and as a result we are missing out on all that genetics can tell us about their ancestry, behavior, and health," said Dr. Elinor Karlsson, Chief Scientist at Darwin's Ark, Associate Professor at UMass Chan Medical School, and Director of the Vertebrate Genomics Group at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. "I'm excited about Darwin's Cats' fur-based DNA collection because it is easy on the cat and easy to scale, making it possible for us to level up cat genetics research."

### Breaking Barriers in Feline Genetics with a Simple, Cat-Friendly Approach

Launched last year, Darwin's Cats is a community science initiative that brings together cat owners, leading researchers, and innovative genomic technologies to solve the mysteries of cat genetics. To advance this research, scientists at Darwin's Ark developed a novel method for sequencing DNA using fur. This game-changing approach to DNA collection is cat-friendly, cost-effective, and scalable, setting the stage for Darwin's Cats to advance large-scale genetics research.

By combining genetic data with owner-provided information on appearance, behavior, and health, Darwin's Cats researchers will be able to investigate:

- **Genetic Diversity:** Mapping feline ancestry and genetic variation across breeds and populations.
- **Trait & Behavior Analysis:** Understanding how genetics influence behavior, personality traits, and physical characteristics.
- **Health & Well-Being:** Identifying genetic risk factors for health conditions like kidney disease, allergies, and cancer.



“This is an exciting opportunity for cat lovers to play a pivotal role in scientific discovery,” said Jill Simmons, Darwin’s Ark CEO. “By harnessing the passion and unmatched expertise of thousands of cat owners, we can transform what we know about cats and help them live healthier, happier lives.”

## Inviting Every Cat Lover to Take Part in Scientific Discovery

With 5,000 cats enrolled, Darwin’s Cats is the world’s largest feline community science initiative. And now, thanks to its innovative fur-based approach to DNA sequencing, it is ready for cat lovers everywhere to take part in this groundbreaking study, aiming to enrol 100,000 cats and sequence 5,000 DNA samples in the next year.

Interested cat owners can become community scientists by registering for free and sharing insights about their cat through research surveys. Those wanting to help expand science’s understanding of feline genetics will receive a DNA kit with a \$150 tax-deductible donation that supports the cost of sequencing and analysis. Participants will get regular research updates, and once 1,000 cats are sequenced, they will also receive ancestry and other insights about their cat’s genetics.

Enrollment is now open at [darwinsark.org](https://darwinsark.org).

## About Darwin’s Ark

Darwin’s Ark is a community science nonprofit that catalyzes groundbreaking genetics research by engaging pets and their people in scientific discovery. By uniting pet lovers with leading scientists and cutting-edge genomic technology, Darwin’s Ark explores the genetic foundations of health and behavior—advancing scientific discoveries that improve health and well-being for both pets and their people. Learn more and join the journey of discovery at: <https://darwinsark.org>.

## Media Contact

Hannah

Colwell

[PR@darwinsark.org](mailto:PR@darwinsark.org)

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<https://eznewswire.com/newsroom/darwin-s-cats-invites-cat-lovers-to-help-decode-feline-dna-with-a-new-breakthrough-in-genetics-research>

# CLOUDED TIGER-CAT

## Leopardus pardinoides

### Meet the Clouded Tiger-Cat Nature's New Marvel Exciting News for Cat Lovers!

Big Cat Rescue is thrilled to share groundbreaking news with our community of Big Cat Rescuers. The recent discovery of a new species, the Clouded tiger-cat (*Leopardus pardinoides*), has set the scientific world abuzz. This elusive feline, with its striking appearance and unique behaviors, is a testament to the rich biodiversity still hidden in the wild. A team of researchers, including Dr. Jim Sanderson and Jose Ramirez-Fernandez, have just announced the discovery of a new cat species, the Clouded tiger-cat (*Leopardus pardinoides*), and we couldn't be more thrilled to share the details with you.

### What Makes *Leopardus pardinoides* Special?

This fascinating feline is a long-tailed cat with short, round ears and weighs about 5 pounds. It looks a lot like a margay, but with its own unique style. Its fur is dense and incredibly soft, showcasing a mix of rich reddish, orange, and yellow tones. The cat's coat is decorated with striking, cloud-like spots that sometimes merge together, making it a real beauty in the wild. One of the most unique features of the Clouded tiger-cat is that it has only one pair of mammae (teats). This is quite unusual compared to other cats.

## Where Can You Find It?

The Clouded tiger-cat lives in the cloud forests of southern Central America and the Andean mountain ranges. These forests are sadly disappearing, making the discovery even more critical. You can usually spot this cat above 5,000 feet (about 1,500 meters) in areas with cool temperatures and lots of rain, especially where ocelots are scarce or absent. This cat is so rare that these four images from Jose Ramirez-Fernandez are all I have.

## Home Sweet Home

This new species roams across 11 mountain ecoregions. In Central America, it's found in Costa Rica and Panama, specifically in the Tilarán, Central Volcanic, and Talamanca mountain ranges. These regions are known for their lush, high-altitude forests.

## Why This Matters

The discovery of the Clouded tiger-cat is a reminder of the incredible diversity of life on our planet and the importance of preserving it. With habitats under threat from deforestation and climate change, every new species we find underscores the urgent need for conservation efforts.

Join us in celebrating this remarkable discovery and help spread the word about the Clouded tiger-cat. Together, we can make a difference in protecting these beautiful creatures and their homes.

## Unveiling the Clouded Tiger-Cat

The Clouded tiger-cat, *Leopardus pardinoides*, has been a mysterious presence in the dense cloud forests of Costa Rica and Panama. This species, named for its cloud forest preference and cloud like fur patterns, resembles a blend of the clouded leopard and the traditional tiger-cat. The intricate markings and the elegant form of this cat are truly mesmerizing.

## Habitat and Distribution

The Clouded tiger-cat has been primarily found in the remote regions of the Tilarán, Central Volcanic, and Talamanca mountain ranges of Panama and Costa Rica, where dense foliage and challenging terrain have kept it hidden from human eyes for centuries. The discovery of this species underscores the importance of preserving these untouched habitats, which are critical for the survival of such rare wildlife.

## Behavior and Ecology

Unlike many of its feline cousins, the Clouded tiger-cat is primarily nocturnal and arboreal. It spends most of its time in the trees, leaping from branch to branch with agility. This cat's diet consists of small mammals, birds, and insects, highlighting its role as a crucial predator in maintaining the balance of its ecosystem.

## Conservation Significance

The discovery of the Clouded tiger-cat is a beacon of hope for conservationists. It emphasizes the incredible biodiversity that remains to be studied and protected. However, it also brings attention to the urgent need for conservation efforts. Habitat destruction and climate change pose significant threats to this newly discovered species. Protecting its habitat is essential for its survival and the health of the ecosystem it inhabits.

## Big Cat Rescue's Role

At Big Cat Rescue, our mission is to ensure that wild cats live free and thrive in their natural habitats. The discovery of the Clouded tiger-cat reinforces the importance of our work in conservation, research, and education. We are committed to supporting efforts to study and protect this remarkable species through collaborations with scientists, local communities, and international conservation organizations.

## Get Involved

You can play a vital role in the preservation of the Clouded tiger-cat and other wild cats. Here are a few ways you can help:

**Donate:** Your contributions help fund essential research and conservation projects.

**Spread Awareness:** Share information about the Clouded tiger-cat with your network.

**Volunteer:** Join our team in sharing these various conservation activities on social media. Search for @BigCatRescue on all platforms.

## Conclusion

The discovery of the Clouded tiger-cat is a reminder of the wonders that nature still holds. It inspires us to continue our efforts to protect these magnificent creatures and their habitats. Together, we can ensure that the Clouded tiger-cat and other wild cats have a future where they roam freely and flourish.



Clouded tiger-cat-HenryBarrantes-LasTablas-oncilla

**The clouded tiger cat was officially recognized as a new species in January 2024.**

**CAN YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MARGAY AND THE CLOUDED TIGER CAT?**



Courtesy of Big Cat Rescue– Margay



Courtesy of NationalGeographic– Clouded Tiger-Cat

# CREATE A CAT HERB GARDEN

Creating a Cat Friendly herb and grass garden is a winning solution all round.

The herbs can be used for culinary use or decoration in your kitchen.

Incorporating these cat-friendly plants is a great way to enrich your cats' environment, offering them safe, natural options to explore and enjoy. Plus, having your own herb garden filled with these plants allows you to provide fresh, healthy treats for your cats right from your backyard.

1. **Catnip:** Cats love catnip due to the compound nepetalactone, which induces playful and euphoric behaviors. While not commonly used in cooking, catnip can be brewed into a mild tea for humans.



2. **Cat Grass (Wheatgrass, Oat Grass, Barley Grass):** These grasses are safe for cats and help with digestion and hairball prevention. They are also rich in vitamins and minerals, making them a healthy addition to your cat's diet. For humans, wheatgrass is popular in smoothies and juices, both oat grass and barley grass can also be used in smoothies, juices or salads



3. **Basil:** Cats may be attracted to the mild scent of basil, though it doesn't have the same strong appeal as catnip or cat grass. This herb is safe for cats and widely used in cooking, adding flavor to dishes like pesto, salads, and sauces.



4. **Rosemary:** Rosemary is safe for cats and is a versatile culinary herb perfect for seasoning meats and vegetables. Cats are generally indifferent to rosemary, but nonetheless it's nontoxic and safe for them to explore. While it has a strong scent that can be appealing to humans, it doesn't particularly attract cats. Including rosemary in your cat-friendly herb garden adds aromatic interest and practical culinary uses, but don't expect it to captivate your cats like catnip does.



**5. Lemon Balm:** Cats may enjoy the calming scent of lemon balm. This herb contains compounds that can help reduce stress and anxiety in cats, making it a good addition to a cat-friendly herb garden. Lemon balm is also safe for cats and useful for humans, as it can be used to make soothing teas and add a citrusy flavor to dishes.



**6. Thyme:** Cats may find the aromatic qualities of thyme attractive. Thyme is safe for cats and can be a pleasing addition to your herb garden. It's commonly used in cooking for its earthy flavor, ideal for seasoning soups, stews, and meats. Both regular thyme and lemon thyme can provide sensory enrichment for your cats while serving as versatile culinary herbs.



**7. Sage:** Cats are generally indifferent to the smell of sage, but it's also nontoxic for them. Sage can be a good addition to your garden for its culinary uses and aromatic properties, but don't expect it to draw your cats' attention in the same way that catnip or cat grass might.



**8. Cilantro (Dhania, Coriander)** is a cat-safe herb that offers a fresh, citrusy flavor to dishes like salsa and guacamole, making it a versatile addition to your culinary herb garden and a safe, enjoyable plant for your cats to explore. Curry isn't curry without Dhania!



## CFA'S TOP PEDIGREE CATS

Every year, cat enthusiasts eagerly anticipate the grand reveal of CFA's top pedigreed cat breeds, and 2025 (based on calendar year registrations in 2024) is no exception! Results as of March 2025.

- ⇒ 10th: Russian Blue: A cat that sparkles.
- ⇒ 9th: Sphynx: Charm without the fur.
- ⇒ 8th: Siberian: Adventurous and Agile.
- ⇒ 7th: British Shorthair: A loyal and gentle friend.
- ⇒ 6th: Abyssinian: An ancient beauty.
- ⇒ 5th: Devon Rex: Mischievous and loving.
- ⇒ 4th: Exotic: The plush teddy bear.
- ⇒ 3rd: Persian: Regal and Affectionate.
- ⇒ 2nd: Ragdoll: An affectionate flopper.
- ⇒ 1st: Maine Coon: The majestic winner.

# RAND CAT CLUB SHOW

RCC always hold the first show of the new season and March 8th 2025 was the date of the show, held at Oewerspark Recreational Centre, Bashewa, Pretoria East.

Jan van Rooyen managed the show with fellow committee member, Karen Labuschagne's assistance.

9 SACC Judges officiated at the show which featured the first ever Imperial Supreme Class and the new class divisions for Maine Coons. There was a good representation of breeds present on the day.

The Imperial Supreme Certificates were awarded to :

**Entire: Siamlove Missy of Delilla** - a seal point Siamese female owned by Karen Labuschagne and bred by Elizabeth van Renen.

**Neuter: Awesome Bengals Alula Labe** owned and bred by Lorraine Kennard.



Top Entire was Siamlove Missy of Delilla- Sealpoint Siamese owned by Karen Labuschagne and bred by Elizabeth van Renen.

Top Neuter was Tres Jolie Jon Snow- a white Persian owned by Gail Chirnside and bred by Charmaine Danziger and Daniel Viviers.

Top Kitten was Purrbridge Hamilton- a Red Tabby Harlequin Persian owned and bred by Rindi & Clint Fourie.



MISSY



HAMILTON



JON SNOW

**Pet of the Day** was the pretty **Lientjie** owned by Karen Labuschagne.



LIENTJIE

**CAT OF THE DAY** was won by the Neuter of the Day, **Tres Jolie Jon Snow**.



Well done to owners and breeders for starting the year off with an amazing array of very beautiful felines.

# TRANSVAAL CAT CLUB SHOW

All the South African Organisations joined forces to present a Cat Extravaganza in Gauteng on the 21st/22nd March.

Friday the 21st was a busy day for the exhibitors starting with the NCS (CFSA) 3 Ring show followed by the TCS 3 Ring Show.

Both clubs Best in Show line-ups took place after lunch.

On Saturday the Independent Organisation held three one ring shows followed by the Best in Show line-ups. After lunch the Top 4 cats (determined by each clubs unique Best in Show process) from each organisation were judged to determine the countdown.

The results for TCS were as follows:

IMPERIAL SUPREME CLASS - certificates awarded to:

Entire



Geedee's Easy on the Eye

Owned by Athylle Caw

Neuter



L'Exquisite Incroyable (ASAA)

Owned by Brenda Neukircher

Best in Show Results



Best Entire on Show  
GeeDee Easy on the Eye  
Owned by Athylle Caw



Best Neuter on Show  
Tres Jolie Jon Snow  
Owned by Gail Chirnside



Best Kitten on Show  
Pearl Tinkerbelle  
Owned by Penny Steyn



**CAT of the DAY** was won by the Entire, **Geedee's Easy on the Eye**.



**PET of the DAY** was won by **Pearl Oopsie Daisy**, owned by Penny Steyn.



The Top Entire, Neuter and Kitten along with the Pet of the Day progressed to the TOP 12 Finale.

Pearl Oopsie Daisy placed 12th.

Geedee's Easy on the Eye placed 7th.

Tres Jolie Jon Snow placed 4th.

Pearl Tinkerbelle placed 3rd.

A very successful weekend for TCS and it's exhibitors.

# SAASA SHOW

The first Cape Show was presented by the South African Abyssinian and Somali Association. This long standing Breed Group has been hosting shows for many years under the auspices of the Western Province Cat Club.

Although the member's are passionate about the Abyssinian and Somali Breeds they do allow all breeds of cats to enter the show which was managed by Adri Swart and her team- the theme this year was Egypt.

Members of the Cape Panel of Judges and Anthony Aldum, an Independent Judge, officiated on the day and there was a wonderful turn-out of cats, owners, breeders and public.

Photography was, once again, in the capable hands of Ursula van Der Riet Photography.

## IMPERIAL CLASS WINNERS

### Entire



Sherada Sunrise VIC Thor of Abyzula  
Owned by Adri Swart

### Neuter



LilacTime Playboy of Chic-Katz  
Owned by Charlene du Toit

## BEST KITTEN ON SHOW



MAVERICK RED DRAGON  
Owned by: Jacqui Taylor

## BEST NEUTER ON SHOW



LILAC TIME PLAYBOY of CHIC-KATZ  
Owned by Charlene du Toit

BEST ADULT ON SHOW



SUPERPOLLY MICKEY of ATLANTIC

Owned by: John Frith & Jaco Horak

CAT of the DAY



MAVERICK RED DRAGON.

Owned by Jacqui Taylor and Bred by Natasha & Simon Greaves

PET of the DAY



CHAISE

Owned by Irene Sommerfeld

# IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR

The Norwegian Forest Cat Breeders have got a lot to be proud of!

Between Athylle Caw and Beverly Smullen and their cats it was a truly family affair at the Cat Extravaganza.

4 cats were nominated for the Medium Hair Neuter Sections of both the NCS (CFSA) and the TCS (SACC) shows -4 generations of one family.

**So, it all starts with the matriarch, Crescendo Odine**



A pretty Black Tortie Harlequin Norwegian Forest Cat. Odine is 8 years old and owned by Beverly.

Odine falls in love with Athylle's stud boy, S\*Just Catnaps Lotus of Geedee, and a future generation of show cats is born.....

**Her son, Crescendo Fascinating Rhythm**



Fascinating Rhythm, bred by Beverly, is owned by Daniel Viviers and Charmaine Danziger.

Then Odine's daughter Crescendo's Spice Girl has a fling with S\*Just Catnaps Lotus of Geedee and we have a Granddaughter, Crescendo Magenta, appearing on the same show bench.

## Odine's Granddaughter, Crescendo Magenta



Magenta, bred by Beverly, is owned by Bronwyn Ardendorff

Then one of Odine's granddaughters, Crescendo Love Grows where my Rosemary Goes, gives us the 4th Neuter in the line-up.

So we have Odine's Great Grandson, Crescendo Macavity.



Macavity is owned by Penny Risely.

BUT it doesn't stop there!

Remember the stud boy, **S\*Just Catnaps Lotus of Geedee**, he fathered 5 of the 12 Norwegian Forest Cats that competed in the TCS Show, including the **TCS Cat of the Day Geedee Easy on the Eye**- she was also one of the TOP 4 females in the CFSA shows. And another sexy stud, **Mephisto Soci-eres\*BE of Crescendo**, aka Enzo also fathered 5 of the 12 cats including the winning Litter from the Independent Shows whose mother just happened to be Geedee Easy on the Eye! He was also one of the Top 4 Males in the CFSA Show.

The Norwegian Forest Cat “Y” litter bred by Athylle Caw,



Yasmine, Yaslyn of Elegant Skogkatt owned by Eleonore Smith and Yuki.

Yuki was Best Kitten at the OSRBG Independent Shows, Judges Favourite at both the Sacats and AICA Independent shows, Cat of the Day at the CFSA Show, Best Medium Hair kitten at the TCS Show and placed 2nd in the overall TOP 12!

All in all a fantastic weekend for Norwegian Forest Cats and the Breeders of these lovely cats, Athylle Caw. Beverly Smullen and Eleonore Smith and of course the Owners.

## HCM CLINIC DAY

Article by : Bernice Rossouw

On 10 & 11 January 2025, an exciting milestone in feline health care was achieved with the first-ever HCM Clinic Days held at Vetworld Somerset West. This initiative was spearheaded by Bernice Venter from Valkyrie Maine Coons and Dr. Omar Mehtar (BVSc) from Vetworld Somerset West, with Dr. Ryan Friedlein (BSc, BVSc (Hons), MMedVet (Med)) travelling from Gauteng to conduct the heart screenings.

This clinic provided a much-needed opportunity for breeders and pet owners to screen their cats for **hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM)**, one of the most common heart diseases in cats, particularly in breeds such as Maine Coons, Sphynx, and Ragdolls. A total of **17 cats**; 13 Maine Coons and 4 Sphynx cats; underwent echocardiograms, offering valuable insights into their heart health and providing peace of mind to their owners.

### **Why HCM Screening is Essential**

HCM is a serious heart condition that can develop at any stage of a cat's life. While DNA testing can identify known genetic markers linked to HCM, it is not enough. Many cases of HCM occur due to other mutations or develop independently of genetics. This is why echocardiograms remain the gold standard for diagnosing and monitoring heart health, as they provide a full view of the heart's function and structure.

### **Making a Difference**

This HCM Clinic aimed to provide an affordable opportunity to provide valuable screening tests needed for these breeds. Thanks to the dedication of Dr. Omar and Dr. Ryan, the event was a great success, with affordable, high-

quality scans made available to the participating breeders and owners.

### **A Community Effort**

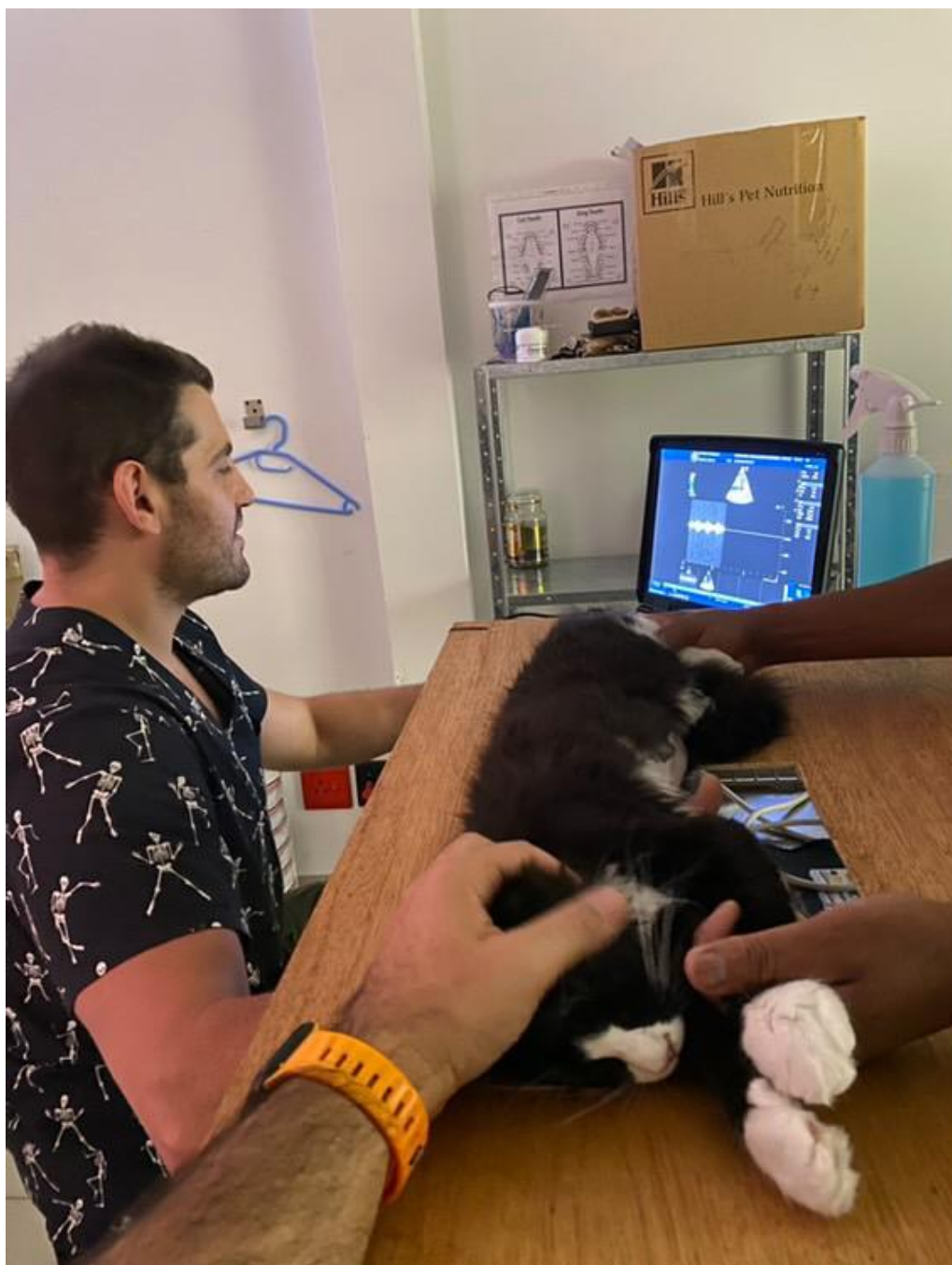
The event highlighted the power of collaboration within the breeding and pet community. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing interest in future HCM Clinics. There were also suggestions to involve additional high-risk breeds, such as Ragdolls and Bengals, and collaboration with SACC and other registries to increase awareness and participation.

### **What's Next?**

With such a positive response, discussions are already underway to organise another HCM Clinic Day in the near future. The importance of screening breeding cats cannot be overstated, and we hope this event will encourage more breeders to prioritise regular heart health checks.

We strongly encourage all breeders and owners, especially those of predisposed breeds, to consider routine echocardiograms. Proactive screening can save lives, protect breeding programs, and ensure a healthier future for our feline companions, and should be discussed with your veterinarian.

A huge thank you to Dr. Omar, Dr. Ryan, and the team at Vetworld Somerset West for their incredible efforts in making this clinic a success. Your dedication to feline health is truly appreciated!



# CALENDAR 2025

APRIL	5	12	19	26	
MAY	3 CFC & PCS	10 ECCC	17	24	31 WPCC
JUNE	7 NCFS	14	21	28	
JULY	5	12	19	26 COTY (TCS) Gauteng	
AUG	2	9	16 CFC- Gauteng TOP CAT	23	30
SEPT	6	13	20	27 WPCC	
OCT	4	11	18	25 Cape Top Cat WPCC	

## REMAINING QUALIFYING SHOWS

Are you in the running to qualify for COTY 2025? There are still a few shows left until closing date.

**GAUTENG:** The final show for this year will be on the 3rd May and will be presented by CFC. Show Manager Elizabeth van Renen. Entry Forms have already been sent out and the closing date of 14 April is not too far off.  
Contact: elizabethvre@gmail.com

**KZN:** PCS will be presenting a show in Gauteng on the 3rd May (in the same venue as CFC). This will be the only show for KZN people/friends to qualify for COTY. The show entries have been sent out- closing date 14 April. The show will run according to KZN Best in Show and COTY Point Rules. All exhibitors, regardless of locale, may qualify for all the different COTY Sections.  
Contact: provincialcatsociety@gmail.com (Ngaio Crawley)

**Eastern Cape:** The ECCC will present a qualifying show on the 10th May. The show manager is Colin Bubb and all exhibitors are welcome. There are a few COTY places reserved for ECCC members but not all. No entry forms as yet.  
Contact: colin.bubb1@gmail.com

**Western Cape:** WPCC will present a qualifying show on 31st May. Show manager will be Adri Swart. The Capetonians cannot afford to miss this last opportunity to qualify for COTY. No entry forms as yet.  
Contact: wpcatclub@gmail.com

**Kimberley:** The NCFS will host its show on the 7th June in Kimberley. The show manager will be Wendy Welham assisted by Carol Kotze. This is the only show for NCFS and they welcome all exhibitors to enter and be part of a great day. There are a few restrictions placed on visitors for COTY places.  
Contact: ncfsclub@gmail.com



# TRIVIA



## Cat colours and patterns

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

S F M T B V N B O V K F O D E T T O P S  
O E A T N M C Y S N R E V L I S U N L N  
P U N M L A L H G E C X Z D S H E L L U  
S L T I J R A O A H C O A J B P L M O R  
B B L V E B S T C E K A V Q O F G J Y M  
R A E M O L S H X B B T L J A E V R B A  
C Q R S H E I X N L R S J K L I G T B C  
H R U I I U C O A E U E F S C Y Z R A K  
A W O L A J M C U K O P N R G E M D T E  
R H L S C A K U U O L I S A I G N E I R  
L V O D N A C U O M O R I B V N V K P E  
E G C N C V R H W S C T G Y W I J C P L  
Q J I B I B U A O C I S T K L L S I I R  
U C T S W R L N M C B D H N E D M T N G  
I D R H K U L O I E O I P T R N I F G Q  
N J A A N D M W T V L L B V R I I A L I  
L Y P D O D J H L C O Z A G O R T W F O  
M I T E Z Y N I E B H M M T S B V N Y Y  
S Q I D I Z L T Z X D E I K E L E X Y F  
N E D L O G F E Z Z Y R D I A G O U T I

### Word Bank

- |               |                |               |              |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. bars       | 2. particolour | 3. ticked     | 4. classic   |
| 5. necklaces  | 6. chocolate   | 7. shaded     | 8. lilac     |
| 9. ruddy      | 10. fawn       | 11. black     | 12. caramel  |
| 13. van       | 14. sorrel     | 15. golden    | 16. marble   |
| 17. white     | 18. mantle     | 19. harlequin | 20. tabby    |
| 21. bicolour  | 22. smoke      | 23. stripes   | 24. silver   |
| 25. agouti    | 26. spotted    | 27. shell     | 28. tipping  |
| 29. blue      | 30. blotched   | 31. cinnamon  | 32. mackerel |
| 33. brindling |                |               |              |



SEE YOU SOON!