

SACC NEWSLETTER



Southern Africa Cat Council eNews

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HELLO AGAIN

I am sure by now there are many beautiful and ethically bred kittens just waiting for their first cat show experience.

This year started with the usual depressing world news—disasters, war and poverty but our show season is well under way with happy exhibitors and cats.

COTY 2024 is in Cape Town and the only way to qualify your cat is to show him/her—there is no other way.

Remember even Supreme Cats can continue to be shown and gain titles—Qualify for Silver, Gold and Platinum Merit Awards and be presented with a certificate for these achievements.

Breeders show your Breeding cats’ progeny to achieve Distinguished Merit Titles.

New exhibitors are nervous—make them feel welcome, assist if you can, give them “show” tips— in other words “share the love of cats”

Be enthusiastic during Best in Show and be gracious and happy for the winners— maybe it will be your turn at the next show. So treat others as you would wish to be treated.

Some member quotes:

“I showed my 16 year old and she won Cape Top Cat in 2019” Irene Sommerfeld

“Congratulations Beverly” Vida van Dyk

“Wow, so well done to all”. Andre Vosloo.

“Thank you for the update”. Leonard Ferreira



The lovely Lynel du Toit from the Cape Panel of Judges whispering sweet words to a Tortie beauty at the SAASA Show

SEASON CALENDAR 2024

APR	6	13	20	27	
		Curls & Twirls (RCC)	ECCC	TCS	
MAY	4	11	18 & 19	25	
		CFC	PCS BRS(PCS)	WPCC	
JUN	1	8	15	22	29
	NCFS			TCS	
JUL	6	13	20	27	
	RCC			COTY	
AUG	3	10	17	24	31
			CFC Gauteng Top Cat		
SEP	7	14	21	28	
				WPCC	
OCT	5	12	19	26	
				Cape Top Cat (WPCC)	



GAUTENG TOP CAT 2023

The Legends Moonwalker

Owner: Beverly Smullen

Breeder: Petra Smith

SACC CAT of the YEAR 2023

Delilla Stanlee the Avenger

Owner: Delene Botha

Breeder: Karen Labuschagne



CAPE TOP CAT 2023

Kamdeboo U-Me

Owner: Leonard & Susan Ferreira

Breeder: Leonard & Susan Ferreira



COCCIDIOSIS in CATS

By Ryan Llera, BSc, DVM; Debbie Stoewen DVM, MSW, RSW, PhD; Amy Panning, DVM; Ernest Ward, DVM

What is coccidiosis?

Coccidiosis is an intestinal tract infection caused by a one-celled organism (protozoa) called coccidia. *Isospora* species are the most common type of coccidia and are sometimes called *Cystoisospora*. Because coccidia live in the intestinal tract and can cause diarrhoea, they are often confused with intestinal worms, but coccidia are not worms. They are microscopic and act as parasites that live within the cells that line the intestine.

How did my cat become infected?

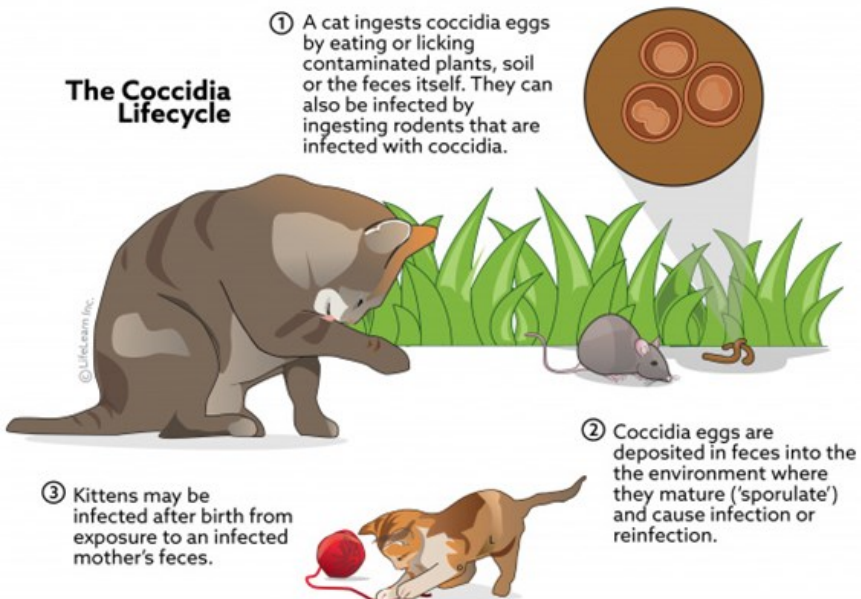
Your cat most likely became infected with coccidia from swallowing oocysts (immature coccidia) that are found in cat faeces and any environment contaminated with faeces. Oocysts are passed in the stool of an infected cat. They live in the environment and eventually mature into more developed oocysts that can cause infection or reinfection. This maturing can occur in as little as eight hours but usually takes seven to ten days. The more mature form of oocysts is infectious to other mammals, such as mice, as well. If your cat swallows the oocysts, they mature in the intestine to complete the life cycle. If a mouse swallows the oocysts, they encyst in the mouse's organs, and your cat may become infected by eating the infected mouse.

Kittens are commonly diagnosed with coccidiosis, not born with it. After birth, kittens can become infected by their mother from exposure to her faeces, especially with the tendency of kittens to explore.

Coccidiosis is of particular danger for kittens since their immune system is underdeveloped. If the mother is shedding oocysts, her babies can ingest them during nursing.

Since young kittens (less than six months of age) have no immunity to coccidia, the organisms can reproduce in great numbers, which may have serious consequences. It takes about 3-11 days for illness to develop after the kitten first ingests coccidia. Consequently, kittens that become sick from a coccidia infection are at least two weeks old.

Although most cases are the result of infection from the mother, this is not always the case. Any infected kitten is contagious to other kittens. In breeding facilities, animal shelters, kennels, and other areas where numerous pets may come into close proximity with one another, it is wise to isolate infected animals from those that are not.



What are the clinical signs of coccidiosis?

Many cats who are infected with coccidia do not have diarrhoea or any other clinical signs. When the oocysts are found in the stool of a cat without diarrhoea, they are generally considered a transient, insignificant finding. However, in kittens and debilitated adult cats, coccidiosis can cause severe watery or mucousy diarrhoea, dehydration, abdominal distress, loss of appetite, and vomiting. In severe cases, death may occur.

How is coccidiosis diagnosed?

Coccidiosis is diagnosed by performing a microscopic examination of a stool sample. Infection with some of the less common coccidial parasites may be diagnosed with a special blood test.

How is coccidiosis treated?

The most common drug used to treat coccidiosis is a sulfa-class antibiotic, sulfadimethoxine. It is typically administered for 5-20 days. Some formulations of this medication are pleasant tasting and most cats will readily accept them. If the sulfa drug is not effective, other treatments are available, including sulfa antibiotics combined with another drug, amprolium or off-label use of ponazuril or toltrazuril. Additional supportive treatments may be needed if diarrhoea and dehydration occur.

"Cats are frequently reinfected from the environment..."

Cats are frequently reinfected from the environment, so disinfection is important. The oocysts are very resistant to environmental conditions and disinfectants. The use of diluted chlorine bleach, one cup (250 ml) of bleach mixed with 4.0 L of water, is effective. Be sure to test clean a small area of any affected materials since bleach can damage many surfaces. Steam cleaning may also be used to destroy oocysts. Be sure to remove any faeces as quickly as possible from the environment to prevent reinfection.

Can I get coccidiosis from my cat?

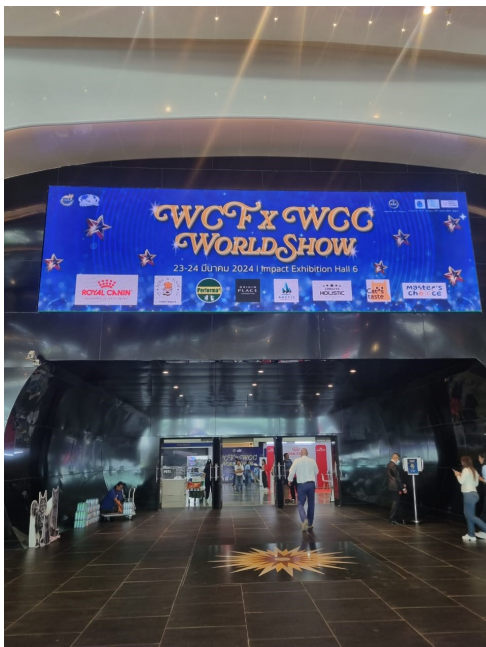
The most common species of coccidia found in cats do not infect humans. Some of the less common species, however, are potentially infectious. One of these organisms, *Cryptosporidium*, may be transmitted by cats to people, especially those with compromised immune systems.

Good hygiene and proper disposal of cat faeces are important in minimizing the risk of transmission of all feline parasites to humans. Although there is a risk of the cat transmitting these two parasites to humans, it does not warrant removing the cat from a home except in very rare instances, since transmission can be prevented by practicing good hygiene.

WORLD CAT CONGRESS

Photos by Wendy Welham 2024 Delegate for SACC

Bangkok, Thailand



Wendy represented SACC at the WCC AGM and Seminar and attended the Cat Show run by the WCF Club. She has shared some photos of her Thai adventure with us.



It seems as if all exhibitors bring their cats in baby push prams!





The Host Club ARC—solely owned by the extremely wealthy Thai lady below.





The Gala Dinner following the show had traditional Thai Dancers as part of the entertainment. And the Exhibitors (below) certainly embraced the glitz, colour and glamour of the event.





The Gala Dinner which took place in a 5 star hotel. must have been spectacular.

PANLEUCOPENIA

By VETIC Editorial, India 2024

What is cat parvo or feline panleukopenia?

Feline panleukopenia or feline parvo is a deadly and highly contagious viral infection in cats. Kittens are generally worst affected by feline parvo. Fatality due to FPV (feline panleukopenia virus) infection is the highest among kittens.

Although feline panleukopenia (FP) is infrequent in most developed countries, it is quite common in 3rd World countries.

Feline panleukopenia virus (FPV) infects and destroys the fast-growing cells in the cat's body – cells of the digestive tract and bone marrow.

If the cat is pregnant, FPV infection can cause abortions or severe deformities in the kittens. Kittens from mothers infected by FPV often show constant tremors due to cerebral ataxia (lack of movement coordination).

If you think your cat is behaving abnormally or showing lethargy and loss of appetite, rush them to the veterinarian near you immediately

What are the symptoms of feline panleukopenia virus in cats?

The signs of feline panleukopenia or feline parvo can vary significantly depending on the cat's age, coexisting health complications and vaccination status.

Feline panleukopenia or cat parvo in young kittens – signs & symptoms

Young kittens who have just stopped drinking their mother's milk and haven't been vaccinated yet are the ones worst affected.

Since their immune system isn't fully developed yet and maternal antibodies are decreasing in number, they may not initially get a fever (*peracute cases contribute to the fading kitten syndrome*). The symptoms of panleukopenia in kittens include –

- ✦ Vomiting
- ✦ Diarrhoea
- ✦ Severe lethargy
- ✦ Low appetite
- ✦ Severe dehydration
- ✦ Sudden drop in temperature

Which cats are susceptible to cat parvo or feline panleukopenia?

Almost all cats are exposed to feline panleukopenia (FPV) during their lifetime. Any unvaccinated cat or kitten can get panleukopenia. However, kittens are most susceptible to cat parvo due to their weak immune system. Death from FP is more common in kittens between the ages of 3 to 5 months.

Cats with chronic illnesses or immunodeficiency disorders are also highly susceptible to feline panleukopenia or parvo.

Cats and kittens who stay in shelters, boarding facilities, catteries and pet shops are highly susceptible to FP.

How does cat parvo or panleukopenia virus spread?

Cats can shed the cat parvovirus (feline panleukopenia virus) in –

- ✦ Stool
- ✦ Urine
- ✦ Vomit
- ✦ Nasal secretions

When uninfected or healthy cats come in contact with these secretions, they can get panleukopenia. Uninfected cats can also get panleukopenia from fleas that have previously bitten an FPV infected cat or kitten.

Feline panleukopenia virus is very difficult to destroy or eliminate from environments. Any surface or object that has come into contact with the FPV infected cat can carry the virus for months (up to a year).

In fact, even human skin and clothes can carry the virus for a short period of time, which is enough to infect healthy cats. Common household disinfectants cannot kill feline panleukopenia virus. All infected cats should be quarantined. There should be no exchange of bowls, beddings, toys or clothes between the infected and healthy cats.

How does cat parvo or FPV affect the cat's body and health?

The feline panleukopenia virus primarily targets the fast-growing cells, such as the intestines and bone marrow.

Once the virus reaches the digestive tract, it damages the cells and causes severe gastric distress. This typically includes foul smelling diarrhoea, vomiting and bloody diarrhoea.

As a result, a feline parvovirus infected cat almost always stops eating within 24-48 hours of the first signs of the disease. Infected cats are typically taken off oral food and medication, and given intravenous fluid therapy and supportive treatment.

So, what is feline panleukopenia? As the feline panleukopenia virus reaches the cat's bone marrow, it damages the production of white blood cells (WBCs) and compromises the immune system. WBCs are also known as leukocytes, and since the virus causes the suppression of the entire immune system the disease is called 'panleukopenia'.

A cat suffering from feline parvo will be susceptible to other infections (typically, secondary bacterial infections) due to a compromised immune system.

How is cat parvo or feline panleukopenia diagnosed?

Feline panleukopenia diagnosis can be done via kit tests. It uses stool samples of the infected cats. However, kit tests can return false positive results if the cat has been vaccinated within 5 to 12 days of the test.

So, for panleukopenia diagnosis, your veterinarian will also take into account

- ✦ Your cat's history of exposure to FPV
- ✦ Vaccination status
- ✦ Blood test reports
- ◆ Apparent signs of sickness

The signs of feline parvo can seem very similar to Salmonella infection, pancreatitis, or feline coronavirus. Hence, treatment depends upon the confirmed diagnosis by a veterinarian.

What is the treatment of feline panleukopenia or cat parvo?

There is no standardised treatment for feline parvo. Treatment of feline parvo depends on the signs the cat is showing. There is currently no medication that can specifically target the panleukopenia virus. Supportive treatment and intensive care is mandatory so the cat remains healthy and strong to fight off the virus.

Feline parvo almost always demands IV fluids along with medication to manage vomiting and nausea, and diarrhoea or bloody stool.

Although antibiotics cannot kill viruses, your cat will receive them so they don't catch a bacterial infection while their immune system is compromised by the FPV infection.

What are the survival chances of cats and kittens infected with cat parvo?

Without proper supportive care and treatment more than 90% of kittens do not recover. The prognosis for kittens infected with FP is poor to grave.

If a cat survives at least 5 days on supportive care and symptomatic treatment, their chances of survival become high.

Once a cat recovers from FPV they are likely to have immunity against feline parvo. Nonetheless, you need to isolate a cat who has just recovered from parvo since they can shed viral particles in their stool and urine for up to 7 days.

Can you prevent cat parvo or feline panleukopenia (FP)?

The only way to prevent feline parvo is by vaccinating your cat on time and as per schedule. Typically, kittens or newly adopted cats will receive 3 doses of the CRP vaccine, which will protect them from Feline Rhinotracheitis, Calici and Panleukopenia (FP) viruses. Since the virus is resistant to multiple disinfectants, it is important to keep your indoor cats away from outdoor cats. Keep your indoor cats free from fleas. Give them flea-repellents to prevent flea bites. If you have new kittens, **get them vaccinated ASAP.**

SAASA CAT SHOW

The Abyssinian and Somali Breed Group held it's annual cat show in Cape Town with over 100cats on show. The show was held under the auspices of the WPCC. Well done to Adri Swart and her team.

All images are by kind courtesy of Ursula van der Riet Photography.



CAT of the DAY & ENTIRE of the DAY Muttis Ribbons Chocolate Tabby Point Siamese owned and bred by Marlene van Dyk.



KITTEN of the DAY Valkyrie Casanova Kid of Highlanders Tabby and White Maine Coon owned by Carol Middleton and bred by Bernice Rossouw (nee Venter).



NEUTER of the DAY Wide Skies Ciara of Java Black Devon Rex owned by Tracy Naim and bred by Colin Bubb and Russell Spargo.



DOMESTIC PET of the DAY Lego Blue Calico Shorthair owned by Christelle Rossouw



JOELENE DRAPER, Russian Breeder and Student Judge assessing a beautiful domestic pet.



Guest WCF judge, THEA LAMPRECHT, presenting a gorgeous Ragdoll to the public.



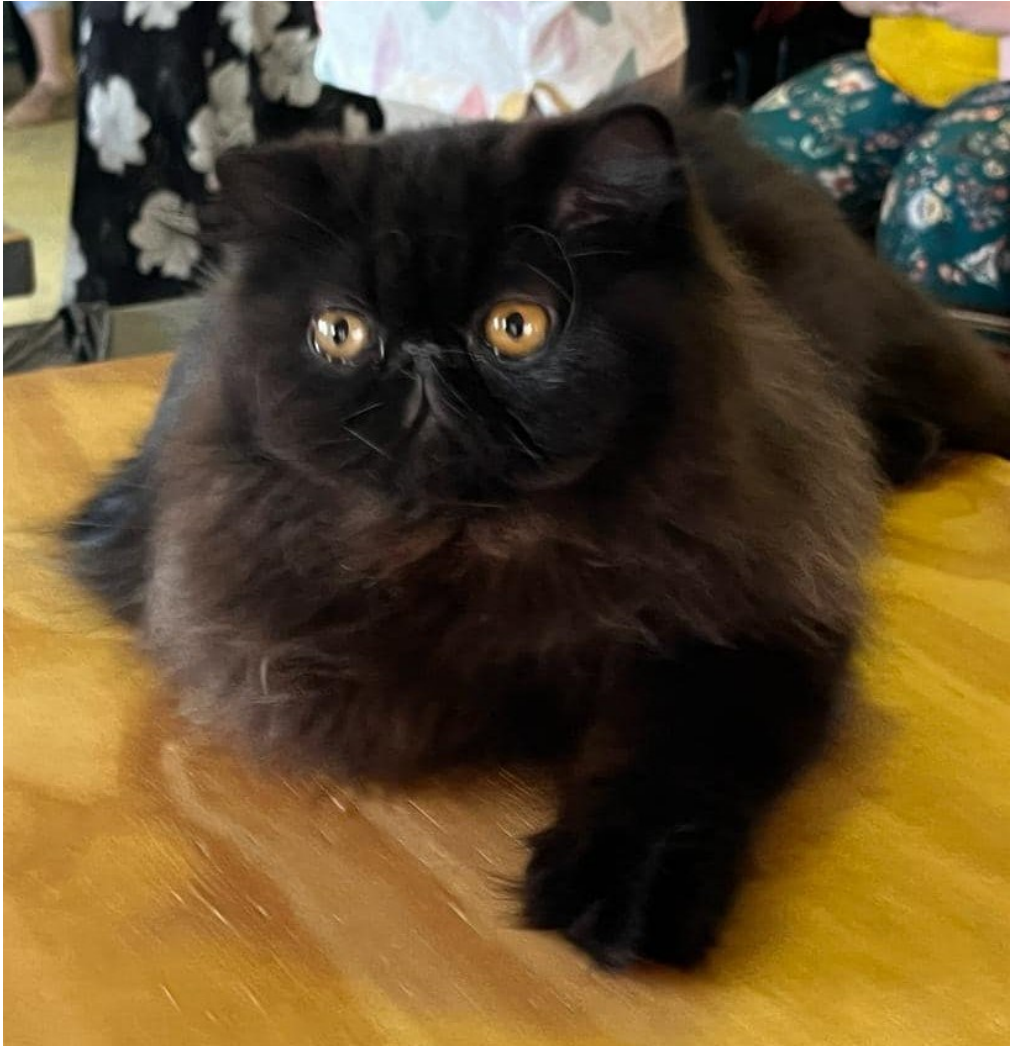
Thanks Ursula and SAASA for bringing the show to the SACC Newsletter.



RAND CAT CLUB CAT SHOW

Congratulations to Karen Labuschagne for managing her first Cat Show and to Jan van Rooyen for his guidance and assistance on show day.

All images are by kind courtesy of Natasha Greaves.



CAT of the DAY & ENTIRE of the DAY Welcome Latin Lover of L'Exquisite Black Persian owned by Brenda Neukircher and bred by F Ballari- Imported cat.



NEUTER of the DAY Incatique Mice-Tro of Purrbridge Seal Point Persian owned by Rindi & Clint Fourie and bred by Ingrid de Wet



KITTEN of the DAY Little Giants Anya Blue Tabby with White Maine Coon



PET of the DAY Naartjie Red Tabby Point Short Hair owned by Karen Pepler



Thanks Natasha
and RCC for
bringing the show
to the SACC
Newsletter.



SACC INFORMATION

Just a few information tidbits to help you see that few people actually understand the workings of the organisation.

Our Registrar is entitled to have annual leave and tea breaks away from “the job” as per the labour legislation of this country.

Yes, so maybe you get frustrated when your registrations are returned later than you would like but there are also many other reasons for this!

No Proof of Payment being supplied with your paperwork, payment without paperwork, details missing from the paperwork, submitting 3 generation pedigrees when the Registration Rules are very clear that SACC only accepts 4 generation pedigrees, sending paperwork for a cat after the show's closing date has passed, load shedding— the list is endless.

It is so easy to criticise those who are actually working for this hobby without knowing what goes on behind closed doors.

The same can be said for those people out there who feel that they can **call breeders disreputable** or attempt to damage reputations or believe that naming and shaming is the way to go— this minority group generally are non breeders who believe they are the saviours of a certain cat breed.

Complaints—at present a Maine Coon Breeder is under investigation and the outcome will be released shortly. For some reason, even though we have been transparent about this, the minority have now decided that SACC is not doing enough when registering new catteries! But does the minority offer advice or a solution to try, no of course not, that means they would have to do some work. On the other hand if SACC started to police breeders or potential breeders it would be accused of having too many rules or interfering. Quite frankly, it is becoming apparent that SACC can't win in the eyes of the minority.

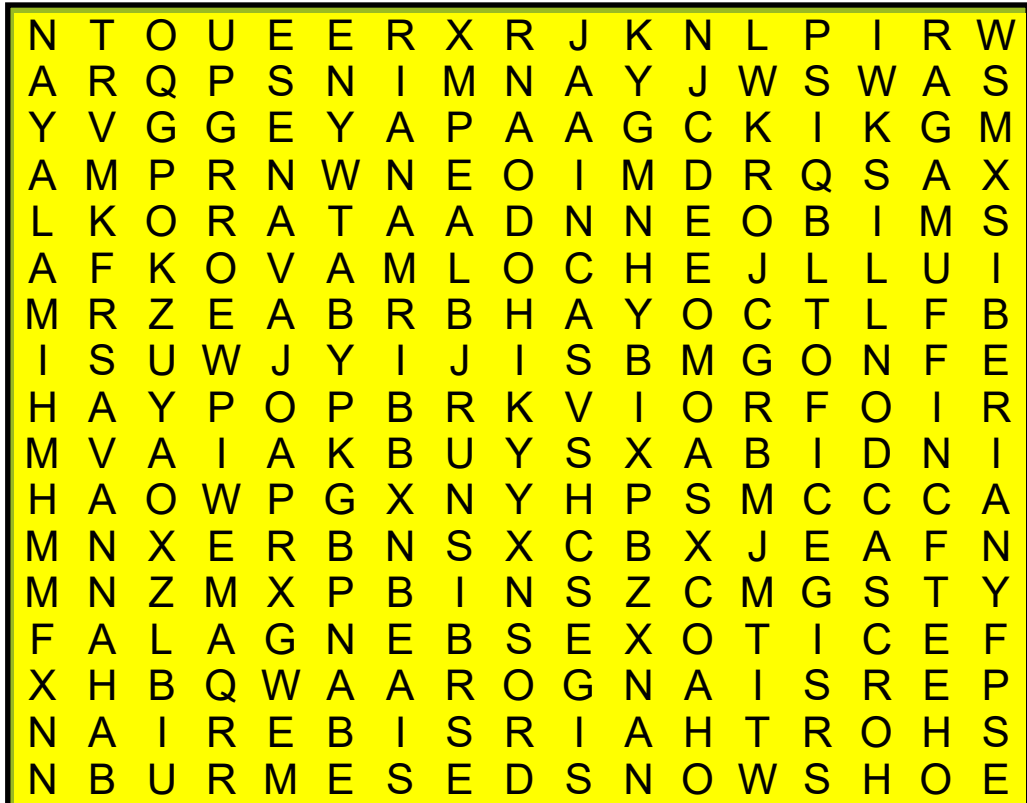
COTY—this is an annual event which is not confined to any one Province but every year it is the same story— why is it in that province or its too expensive or I'm not paying R xxx for dinner or I don't like venue etc etc— the list is extensive.

The solution is pretty simple— as I said it is an annual event, so if you plan to campaign put money aside every month and even if your cat doesn't qualify you will have a little nest egg which you can use to spoil yourself. The dinner price is to offset the venue extras not covered by sponsorship—such as décor, disc jockey/live music, VIP meal tickets etc. And lets be honest— hotel/venue food is more expensive than the café down the road— perhaps you would rather pay R50 and have a burger! Tell me, how long do you think it would be before sponsorship totally dried up? Again most of the negativity comes from those who don't give back to the fancy— which is sad considering we do it for you.

Governing Council— No one is paid and everyone does it on a voluntary basis. Each decision maker on GC is a Delegate from each Cat Club. The management ie President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer administer the day to day running of SACC and have no vote when it comes to decision making. The Representatives for Breed Council and the Judges likewise have no voting rights and neither does the Registrar. So if you choose to lay blame on someone's shoulders— make sure you choose the right person or people.

Legal aspect of SACC— SACC is a legal entity in its own right. Because positions are voluntary you cannot demand the addresses of GC members or threaten court action against individual members of SACC GC, unless you have proof that one of them has committed fraud. A crime or is cruel to animals etc. In this country everyone is deemed to be innocent until proved guilty so naming and shaming is to all intent and purpose calling someone guilty without having proof— and this could land you in hot water.

Name that Cat!



WIREHAIR

SPHYNX

SNOWSHOE

SINGAPURA

SIBERIAN

SIAMESE

SHORTHAIRESIBERIAN

SAVANNAH

REX

RAGDOLL

RAGAMUFFIN

PERSIAN

MANX

MAINECOON

KORAT

JAVANESE

HIMALAYAN

EXOTIC

CYMRIC

BURMESE

BIRMAN

BENGAL

BOBCAT

ANGORA



Image by Freepik

Got places to go and things to do!

See you soon.