

# Code of Ethics



<b>Policy Number</b>	B01
<b>Policy Area</b>	Breeding
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<b>Related Documents</b>	B02 Breeder Code of Conduct

## **INTRODUCTION**

All UMCFA Breeder members are required to sign a declaration of intent to follow the Code of Ethics of the United Maine Coon Fanciers of Australia as outlined in this document.

By applying for membership or membership renewal, all breeder members are deemed to have read and agreed to the Code of Ethics of the United Maine Coon Fanciers of Australia.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this document is to provide a guiding framework for UMCFA Breeder members in the management of their breeding program, the responsibilities to the cats in their care and their ongoing responsibilities to the kittens they have bred and their owners.

## **CODE OF ETHICS**

### **BREEDING PROGRAM**

- Breed primarily for the purpose of improving the standard of the breed and not for the pet market;
- Protect the Maine Coon cat from obliteration or distortion of any of its naturally evolved features. To encourage selective breeding towards the standard of perfections, without hybridization involving other breeds;
- Comply with all State and Registering body legislation applying to the keeping and management of cats and take responsible action to reduce heritable disease by having an active health testing program;
- Do not sell, lease, gift or give away an undesexed kitten or cat to a person who does not have a breeding prefix registered with a recognised control body and who is not a financial member of such a body;
- Do not sell, lease, gift or give away an undesexed kitten or cat to a person who is not actively health testing their breeding cats in order to reduce heritable diseases;
- Not allow any cat to be mated to an animal that is not registered with a recognised control body or owned by a person who is not a financial member of such a body;
- Not allow any cat to be mated to a cat of another breed;
- De-sex any cat the breeder wishes to keep but not use in a breeding programme;

### **CARE OF BREEDING CATS**

- Care properly for all cats the breeder owns or is responsible for, providing proper housing, love, enrichment, food and veterinary care, and not permitting them to roam at large;
- Ensure that all cats and kittens follow an approved vaccination programme and are on effective control programmes for internal and external parasites;
- Not allow a female to be mated before she is 9 months of age; preferably after 12 mths of age and after their DNA testing, heart and hips health testing;

### **ONGOING RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Not part with possession of a kitten before it is 10 weeks old and has commenced its vaccination programme and is microchipped;
- Provide new owners with written information for the care and welfare of the cat or kitten including parasite control, diet, grooming and vaccination requirements;
- Provide official paperwork including vaccination records, microchip details, de-sexing certificate and pedigree;
- Provide a kitten contract that outlines breeder and owner ongoing responsibilities, health guarantee and clearly stated terms for any refund or replacement;

- Be available to provide ongoing help and advice to new owners regarding their kitten for the kitten's lifetime;
- Breeders are responsible for the welfare and happiness of all their cats, not just kittens, but also those being retired from their breeding program. Careful care and consideration when rehoming must be undertaken by the breeder.

## **BREACHES OF THE CODE OF ETHICS**

Breaches of the Code of Ethics is considered to be very serious.

Where the Committee, by majority, is of the opinion that any member of UMCFA has persistently refused or neglected to comply, wilfully breached the Code of Ethics; or acted in a manner prejudicial to the interest of The Association; the Committee may, at a Committee Meeting, decide to have the matter heard by a Disciplinary Subcommittee, under Division 2 of the UMCFA Constitution.

Any resolution will take effect immediately on the resolution being passed by the Disciplinary Subcommittee.

A member may appeal to the Committee in writing against a resolution passed within 48 hours, under Rule 23 of the UMCFA Constitution, from the conclusion of the Disciplinary Subcommittee, by lodging with the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Subcommittee or Secretary a written appeal. The written appeal must include evidence that the member did not breach the Code of Ethics. The resolution served on the member is not affected by the member lodging an appeal and remains in force. The Appeal Disciplinary Subcommittee will be conducted under Rules 23 and 24 of the UMCFA Constitution within 21 days of the appeal being submitted.

This Code of Ethics forms part of the UMCFA By-Laws and is authorised under the UMCFA Constitution.