



THE INTERNATIONAL CAT ASSOCIATION, INC.
OFFICIAL COMPLAINT FORM



NOTE TO COMPLAINING PARTY: COMPLAINTS THAT ARE INCOMPLETE, DO NOT INCLUDE THE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION, OR ARE NOT ACCOMPANIED BY THE CORRECT FILING FEE (\$50), WILL BE RETURNED.

HAVE YOU ATTEMPTED TO RESOLVE THIS MATTER THROUGH YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR?

COMPLETE THIS SECTION FOR ALL COMPLAINTS AND PROTESTS:

COMPLAINING PARTY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ COUNTRY: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ EMAIL: _____

TICA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER: _____ IF NOT A TICA MEMBER CHECK HERE _____

COMPLETE THIS SECTION IF YOU ARE ALLEGING A RULE VIOLATION IN CONNECTION WITH A SHOW (SHOW PROTEST):

RESPONDING PARTY: _____

TITLE (EXHIBITOR, SHOW MANAGER, ETC.): _____

NAME OF CLUB: _____

DATE OF SHOW: _____ LOCATION OF SHOW: _____

COMPLETE THIS SECTION IF YOU ARE ALLEGING A RULE VIOLATION NOT IN CONNECTION WITH A SHOW (COMPLAINT):

RESPONDING PARTY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ COUNTRY: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ EMAIL: _____



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Complete the balance of this form for all protests and complaints:

Violation of: _____ By - Laws _____ Show Rules _____ Registration Rules

Rule violated (include article and section number, if more than one rule violated, attach an additional sheet for each rule):

State, in detail, the facts which support your complaint or protest, and attach complete documentation. It is the obligation of the complaining party to provide this documentation, even though related records may be maintained at the TICA office:

Have you attempted to resolve this matter through your Regional Director? _____ YES _____ NO

I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the United States of America, that the foregoing is true and correct, and that all documents attached are true and correct copies of such documents.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

For Office Use Only:			
Date Received:		Date forwarded:	
Forwarded to:	Legal	Welfare	Other

THE TICA STANDING RULES STATE:

903.4 Legal Committee Guidelines.

903.4.1 All complaints and protests must be made on the official protest/complaint form as adopted by the Legal Committee. The Legal Committee may revise that form as needed.

903.4.2 The Executive Office shall forward to the Legal Counsel any protest or complaint that is received in the proper format and with the appropriate fee, and which is not a feline welfare complaint.

903.4.3 The Legal Counsel shall furnish a copy of the complaint or protest and all attachments to the Responding Party. The Responding Party shall be provided with an opportunity to reply to the complaint or protest. Such a reply must be received by the Chairman of the Legal Committee within 21 days.

903.4.4 Upon receipt of a response, or upon the expiration of 30 days, Legal Counsel shall forward the complaint or protest and the response, along with any accompanying documentation, to the rest of the Legal Committee.

903.4.5 Legal Counsel shall provide the Complaining Party with a copy of any response and accompanying documentation.

903.4.6 The Legal Committee may request further documentation and conduct whatever further investigation as it may deem appropriate.

903.4.7 The Legal Committee shall report its findings and opinions to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may then schedule a hearing, determine that no cause exists to conduct a hearing, or request further investigation or documentation.

903.4.8 In the event the Board of Directors schedules a hearing, Legal Counsel shall then notify the parties of the date, time and place of the hearing, and that the parties may appear in person or through an attorney and present evidence and documents in support of their positions, or may submit a written response to be presented at the hearing.

903.4.9 Any hearing shall be held in closed session.

903.4.10 The Legal Committee may revise these procedures as necessary to manage complaints and protests efficiently.

1022 Discipline. (By-Laws, ARTICLE TWENTY-TWO)

1022.2.1 The fee for filing a complaint or protest shall be based upon the number of single-sided pages submitted, including the complaint form and any attachments and documentation. All fees shall be payable by cash, credit card, certified check or money order.

1022.2.1.1 The filing fee for ten pages or less shall be \$50.

1022.2.1.2 The filing fee for more than ten pages shall be \$50, PLUS \$2 for each page over ten.

1022.2.1.3 There shall be no fee for filing a response of ten pages or less. For each page over ten, the fee shall be \$2 per page.

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding TICA Complaints

The following is general information regarding the TICA disciplinary process, and is not intended to provide specific advice.

Q: How do I file a complaint or response with TICA?

A: It is your obligation to be familiar with the TICA rules regarding complaints and disciplinary actions prior to submitting a complaint or response. Complaint forms are available from the TICA office or on www.tica.org. Neither the TICA office or the legal committee can assist you in determining what information or documentation to submit in support of a complaint or response.

Q: Is there a fee for filing a complaint or response with TICA?

A: The fee for filing a complaint is \$75.00, plus \$5.00 for each page over 10 pages. The response fee is zero for up to 10 pages, plus \$5.00 for each page over 10 pages. You may not reduce pages or text to reduce the number of pages you submit.

Q: My complaint is regarding a TICA judge; how would such a complaint be handled?

A: You may file either a **formal** or **informal** complaint against a judge. An informal complaint may be sent directly to the Judging Administrator. There is no filing fee for such a complaint, and TICA will take no direct action based upon a informal complaint, however, this information is placed in the judge's file and is reviewed when the judge seeks advancement. A formal complaint may be filed against a judge using the general complaint guidelines and by paying the appropriate fee. Such a complaint is handled as provided in this FAQ.

Q: What is the proper format for a complaint or response?

A: Your complaint or response, and all attachments, must be submitted on 8 1/2 x 11 paper (or standard size paper for those from outside North America), single sided. No post-its, small pieces of paper, or other under or oversized attachments are allowed. The text must be clearly legible. Your complaint must contain the specific TICA rules that you contend were violated.

Any supporting documentation and information must comply with the applicable rules. Any person providing supporting documentation that is not a party must be identified by full name, address and telephone number. The location of the originals of any documents submitted must be provided. Government records submitted by complaining parties must be certified.

Q: TICA rules require sworn statements. How should those statements best be submitted?

A: All supporting declarations, as well as the complaint, should be sworn before a notary public.

Q: Can I submit further information or documents later?

A: You should submit all the pertinent information with your complaint or response. Please do not submit supplemental documentation or information after you have filed your complaint or response, as it will not be considered.

Q: Can I telephone or email the office or the legal committee regarding my complaint?

A: All communications regarding pending complaints must be in writing. Email is not accepted.

Q: What is the status of my complaint?

A: Neither the TICA office or the legal committee provides status reports of any kind regarding pending complaints. If you have received a receipt from the TICA office for your filing fee, your complaint is being processed.

Q: When will I know the outcome of my complaint?

A: If your complaint was filed less than 120 days prior to a meeting of the board of directors (held three times per year - in January, May and the week before Labor Day), it is likely that your complaint will not be reviewed at that meeting, but at the following meeting. You may expect information of the initial action taken on your complaint approximately four to six weeks following the board meeting at which your complaint is reviewed.

Q: What action will be taken on my complaint?

A: Each complaint is reviewed individually, and therefore it is impossible to indicate what the outcome will be until that complaint is reviewed. Generally, however, TICA does not take any action on disputes between breeders or get involved in any sort of contractual disputes. However, if a written agreement provides that a TICA registration will be provided with a pet cat, generally the breeder is expected to comply with that agreement.

If you have a dispute with a breeder, some breeds have breed-specific organizations which may deal with those types of disputes, for example, MCBFA (the Main Coon Breeders and Fanciers Association) and TIBS (The International Bengal Society).

The initial action taken by the board of the directors is usually either no action, at which point the complaint is closed, or the matter is set for hearing at the next board meeting, however, other action can be taken at the initial review.

Q: Did TICA receive a response to my complaint?

A: If a response to your complaint is received, a copy will be forwarded to you.

Q: A response to my complaint was received; can I submit further information or documents?

A: Please do not submit a rebuttal to that response without a request by the legal committee that you do so.

Q: Can I provide information or documentation that will not be disclosed to the other party to the complaint?

A: Information provided in complaints and responses is not confidential; the entire complaint is forwarded to the responding party, and the entire response is forwarded to the complaining party.

Q: I have filed a complaint with TICA. Can I distribute that information?

A: TICA cannot generally control statements made by individuals, however, TICA does not consider that it is in the best interest of TICA, the cat fancy as a whole, or to be to the benefit of cats in any way for complaints or allegations against TICA members, exhibitors or breeders to be posted to email lists or otherwise distributed.