

2026 Annual Meeting Minutes

Appendix

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Task - Public follow-up	Owner	Date Created	Status	Note
TICA's pedigree revision to include more genetic information	van Mullem	5/18/2020	ongoing	2024S - work in progress- beginning stages of bringing information over - wisdom health 2024A ongoing. 2025W work with Summit to get a quote on an estimate cost . 2025S on going we added ability to purchase genetic test in TFMS . 2026A ongoing
China	Adler/Wang	2024S	ongoing	Jeff will check to see if the current attorney office is still open and operating 2024A ongoing . 2026A working on the paperwork that needs apostille from Texas. Hire an agency/service to complete the paperwork needed to move forward. pretty much finished with all types of document and will submit all paperwork. 2026A ongoing
Feline Welfare committee narrow focus - REWRITE MISSION STATEMENT		2026S	ongoing	Feline Welfare committee and sub committees, feline assistance, programs for feline and responsible breeding. 2026A ongoing

TICA ENHANCED PEDIGREE PROJECT PLAN – 2026 ANNUAL UPDATE

SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

A project has been authorized by the TICA Board of Directors to explore the feasibility of offering an enhanced pedigree service to incorporate health information about the individual cat.

SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

TICA certified pedigrees currently exist as laminated paper documents containing an authorized signature and information about a cat that is limited to name, unique ID number, breed, color, eye color, date of birth, gender, breeder, owner, and date printed. Sire and dam information is limited to name, number (which incorporates DOB), breed, and color.

PROJECT DELIVERABLES

A recommended path forward for the progression towards enhanced pedigrees for the TICA Board of Directors to consider at the TICA Annual Board Meeting in September 2026.

TEAM MEMBERS

Lorraine Shelton – Project Manager

Liesbeth van Mullem – Board Liaison

Vickie Jo Harrison – TICA President

TBD – TICA COO

US rep – Harley DeVilbiss

European reps – Kim Volckaerts, Agata Kruszona-Zawadzka

Pedigree expert – Kris Willison

IT implementation – TFMS coding support

EO implementation – Frances Cardona (or delegate)

Genetics Committee rep – Nikki Crandall-Seibert

Rules Committee rep – Martin Wood

Legal Consultant – Susan Adler

COMMUNICATION PLAN

Next meeting: TBD

ACTIONS

UPDATE 08/21/2026

Benchmark against other associations/clubs and other species' registries: continuing.

- Various formats were examined, from expanding pedigrees into multiple pages to including test results directly on the printed pedigree.
- The team concluded that due to the continuously increasing volume of data, a link from the pedigree to an external database was the most feasible scenario, with that link provided by a reference number or QR/Zebra code. The Belgium cat club recently discontinued their use of QR codes, as it was accessed in only about 10% of pedigrees.
- CFA's recently implemented system of confirming a pedigree through verification via QR code access to their database was demonstrated to the team.

Compile a list of DNA laboratories with services offered (ID, parentage, diseases, colors, traits, etc.) and collect sample reports: in progress

Determine other potential health screening inputs (ultrasound, x-ray, immunoassay, etc.): in progress

Prepare a work-aid for the review of breed specific DNA test and health screening reports against breed committee recommendations: in progress. Input by Dr. Leslie Lyons received and feedback given to her based on TICA's permitted and historic outcrosses for each breed.

NEXT STEPS

Investigate report storage, data integrity, and security options (TFMS vs third party). Orthopedic Foundation of America (OFA) is interested in providing this service **at no charge to TICA** and hosting the data using their existing infrastructure, providing a file number (CHIC) that could be referenced on TICA's pedigrees through the simple addition of a short text box to our current format. They already provide this service to AKC. A contact has been established and they are ready to present an overview of their system to the team. If internal development is preferred, a detailed overview of this currently implemented system could help with the engineering of a similar system in TFMS.

Estimate resources and budget required for implementation

Design new pedigree format

Optimize internal and external TFMS workflow to incorporate these changes

RESOURCES REQUIRED

TBD

TIMELINE

05/26/2026 – Kick-off meeting between Lies and Lorraine

05/26/2026 through 07/24/2026 – Email discussion among the team, including benchmarking of other registries' pedigrees.

09/01/2026 – Update TICA Board of Directors

KEY DECISION POINTS

Report handling options:

- Hosting of DNA and health reports internally in TFMS
 - EO resources needed for accepting, review, and loading the reports into TFMS
 - OR
 - Owner loads reports directly into TFMS. Review against breed-specific guidelines still needed by a qualified individual
- Outsourcing options
 - OFA hosts an identical service for AKC, issuing a file number for each animal that participates in all breed-specific tests to be displayed on pedigrees
 - OFA receives data internationally, accepting reports directly from veterinarians and labs around the globe
 - Fees for review and hosting of each report are collected directly from the owner: DNA \$15, cardiac \$15, kidney \$15, hips (includes scoring by a radiologist) \$35.
 - Passing scores are stored in a public health database. Failing scores are released publicly only upon authorization of the owner.
- Microchipping of cats prior to testing: mandatory or just flagged?
- DNA sample collection by a veterinarian required or just flagged? Note that DNA testing at all labs includes identify tracing that can be used to ensure data integrity in subsequent generations.

ADDITIONAL INFO

Additional opportunities identified during discussion of project plan:

- EMS transition from historic color-coding system
- Inter-registry direct communication to prevent pedigree fraud; secure exchange of standardized electronic (CSV) data between registries – potential WCC action item
- Marketing and branding of TICA as a “Genetic Registry”
- European club support with pedigree issuance and compliance with local requirements
- Competitive pricing of TICA enhanced pedigrees compared to European clubs

TICA's Marketing Progress and Next Steps – September 2026

Start

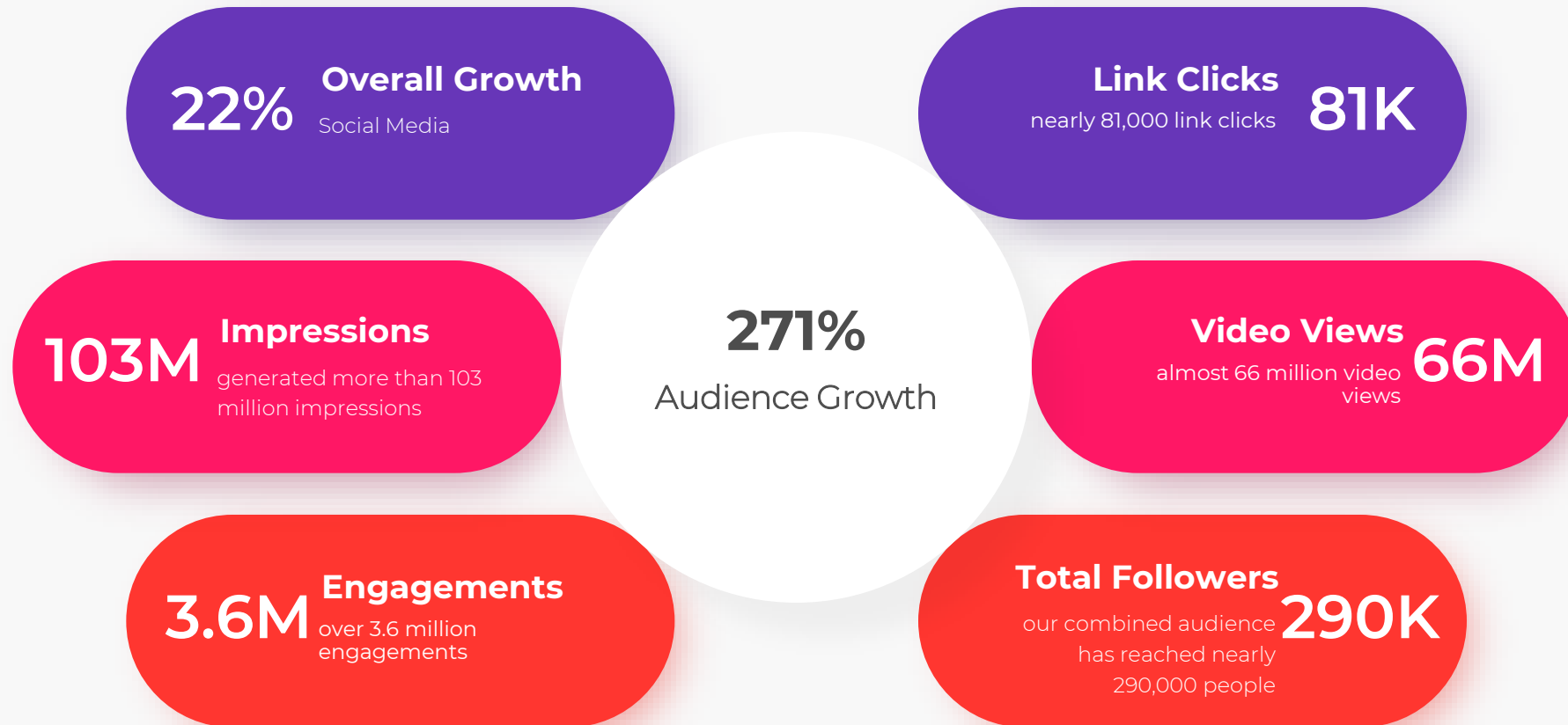


People don't buy what you do;

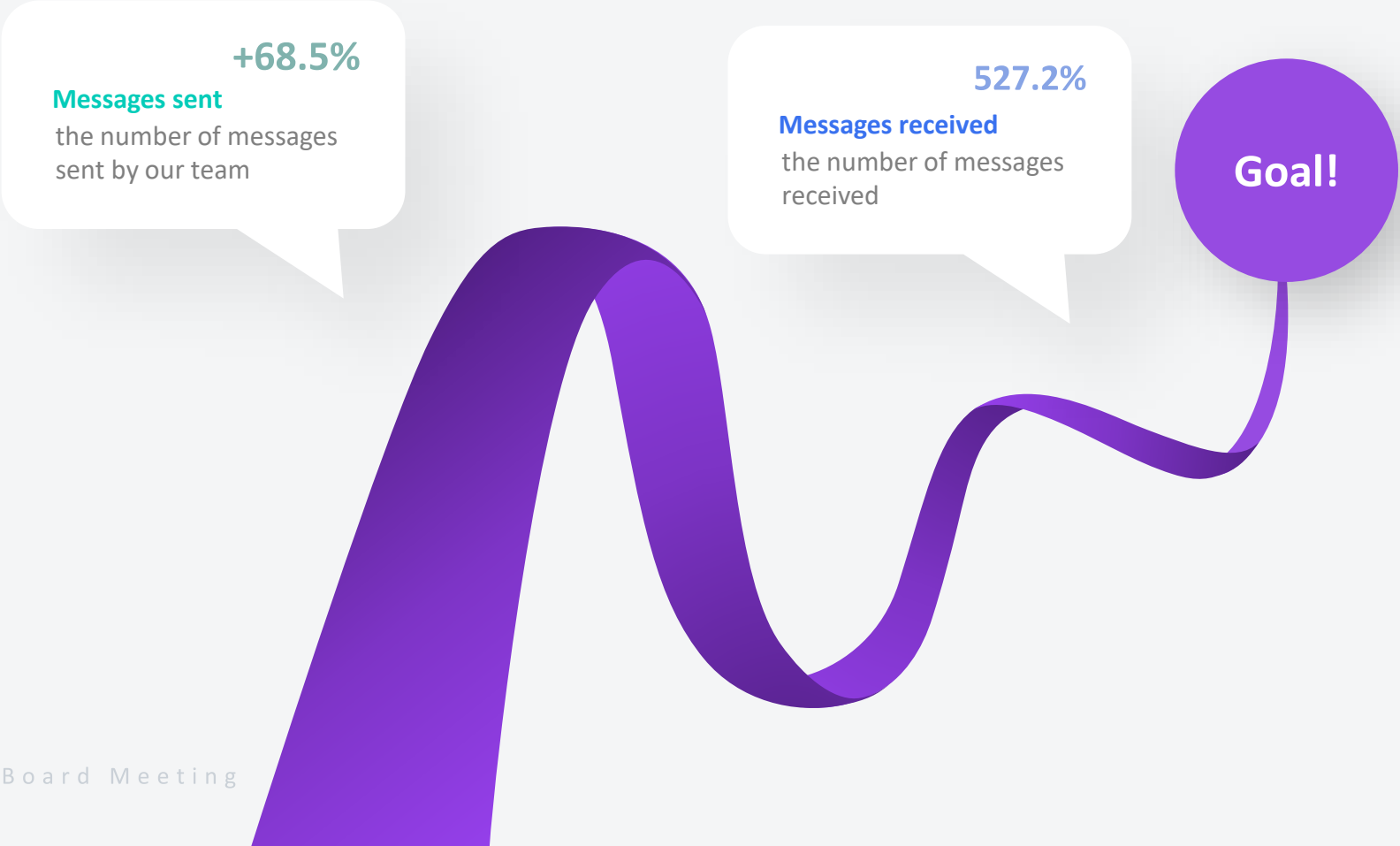
They buy why you do it!

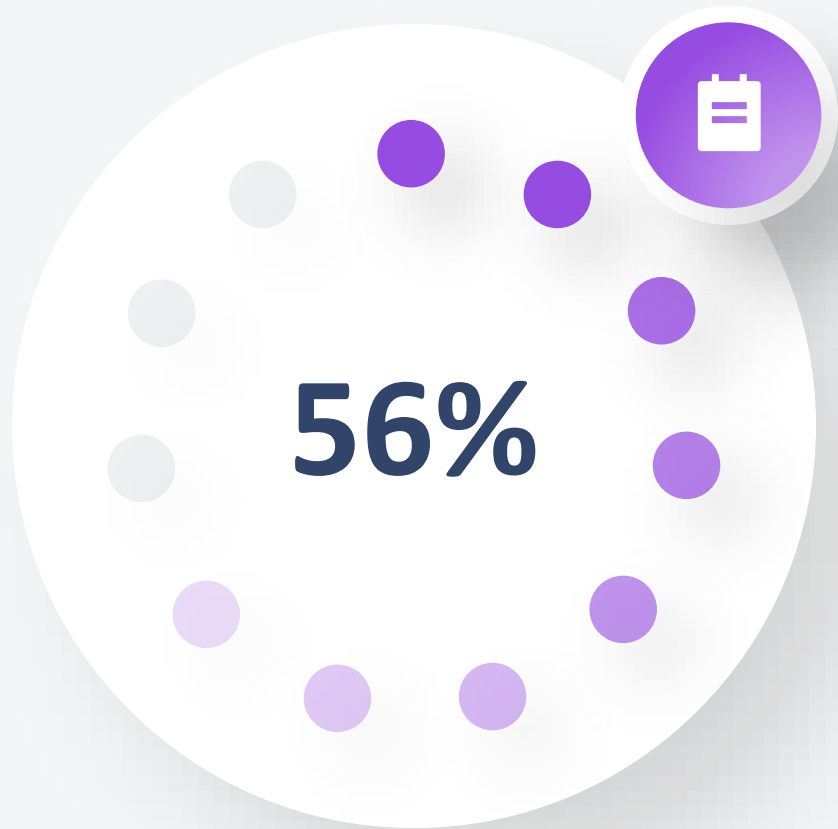
- Leadership expert and author Simon Sinek -

TICA Social Media



Direct Messages





— Email Newsletter

TICA Newsletter open rate

Our newsletter open rate has reached 56%, which is four percentage points higher than before.

- 4% growth

TICA Website

These numbers show that TICA already has a strong digital foundation. With the upcoming website improvements, we will also strengthen our content and the overall user experience.

Website visits

245,456

Engagement rate

59.11%

Visibility score

49.27

AI score

85/100

Home/	19.966	22.442
/find-a-cat/find-a-cat-breeder-listings/	10.417	14.842
/ticas-breeds/browse-all-breeds/	5.402	6.669

TICA Official Partners.

Sponsorship and affiliate partners



01

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02

Wisdom Panel

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03

Zymox

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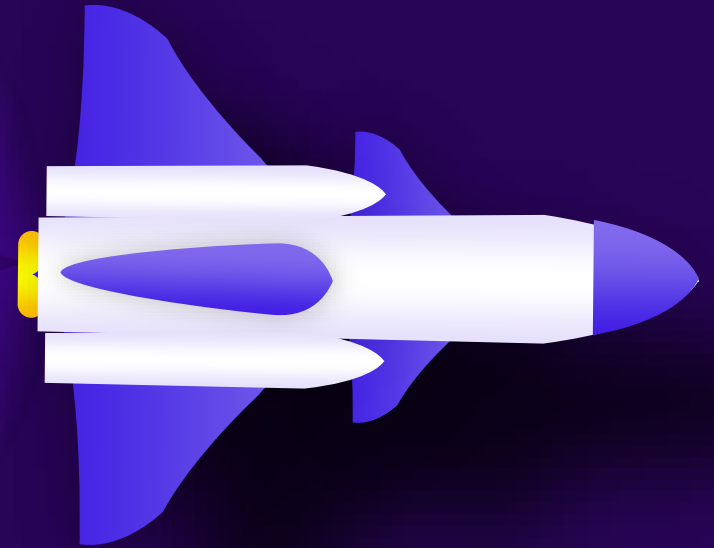


04

MiPet

Lorem Ipsum is simply dummy text of the printing and typesetting industry Lorem Ipsum is simply dummy text of the printing and typesetting industry

Together, the value of sponsorship agreements and additional grant support closed so far





Where do we
go next...?

PRACTICAL MARKETING WEBINAR FOR CLUBS AND SHOW MANAGERS

TICA WEBINAR



HOW TO MARKET YOUR TICA CAT SHOW

TICA is exploring a webinar
for show managers on how to advertise
and promote your cat shows
– from social media to local outreach.
Would you attend?

→ APPLY

Marketing Team
The International Cat Association

Email:
mvlahovic@tica.org

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FOR TICA SHOWS ADVERTISING PACKAGES

These packages will help clubs advertise through TICA's profiles and resources. They will also include practical materials such as flyer templates and ready-to-use social media content.



LEARN MORE



17800 Like
user comment [#post](#) [#insta](#) [#banner](#)

PROFESSIONAL SHOW PROMOTION

TICA SOCIAL MEDIA

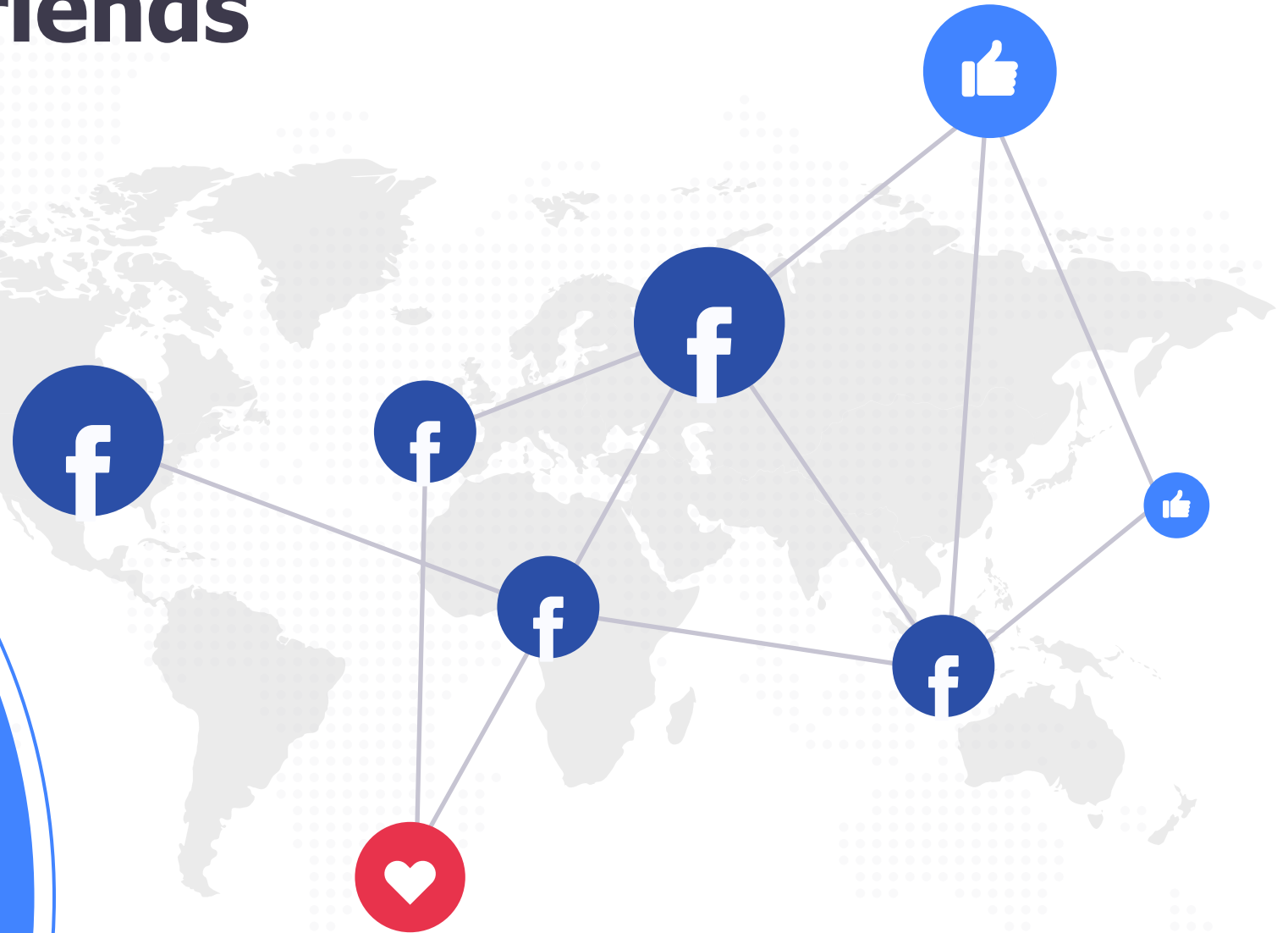
TICA Cats & Friends

TICA Official
**Facebook
Group**



7,7K followers

In just couple of months



TICA is growing!

04.

Our partnerships create value

03.

Our communication is more personal

02.

Our community is engaging

01.

Our reach is growing



Thank You.





TICA Fee Review

Fees Increase Committee Update — 2026



Presented by Brenda Russo, Committee Chair

Members

Ellen Crockett

Donna Maddox

Laurie Schiff

Kurt Vlach

Why We're Reviewing Fees



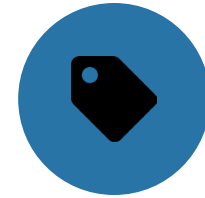
2011

Last membership fee
increase — 15 years ago



46%

Inflation since 2011 —
fees haven't kept up



2022

Last breeder listing
fee update

Bottom line: TICA's prices haven't kept pace with the cost of running the association.

What We're Proposing



Membership Dues

A modest increase — the first since 2011



Registration & Pedigree Fees

Updated to reflect today's costs



Breeder Listings

Members-only listing fee — up from \$80 to \$100/year



Breeder Classified Ads

Members-only classified fee — about 20% more across all durations



Cattery Registration

A new optional perpetual registration



Existing Catteries

Protected — no new fees on catteries you already own

What This Costs You

Member pricing — today vs. proposed

Fee	Today	Proposed
Membership (1-Yr Regular)	\$35	\$38
Blue Slip (Litter Registration)	\$10	\$15
Individual Registration (no litter)	\$20	\$25
Online Breeder Listing (members-only)	\$80/year	\$100/year
Breeder Classified Ads (members-only)	\$75–\$255 by duration	About 20% more, all durations
Cattery Registration	\$75 one-time	New optional perpetual tier: \$100–150

Online Breeder Listing and Breeder Classified Ads are already members-only today — non-members can't purchase either one.

Existing catteries keep today's fee forever under the new optional perpetual tier. Going forward, fees would be reviewed on a regular 2–5 year cadence, instead of waiting another 15 years.

How We Compare

Proposed TICA pricing vs. CFA (effective 5/1/2026)

Fee	TICA (proposed)	CFA
Litter Registration	\$15 / \$17	\$25 flat
Individual Registration (no litter)	\$25 / \$30–35	~\$48 (nets ~\$25 after refund)
Cattery / Perpetual Registration	\$100–150 one-time	~\$300 total to go permanent
Certified Pedigree (3-generation)	\$25	\$35–45
Show License Fee	\$10–15/ring	\$195–255/show (different structure)

Even with these increases, TICA's proposed pricing would still sit at or below CFA's in most categories.

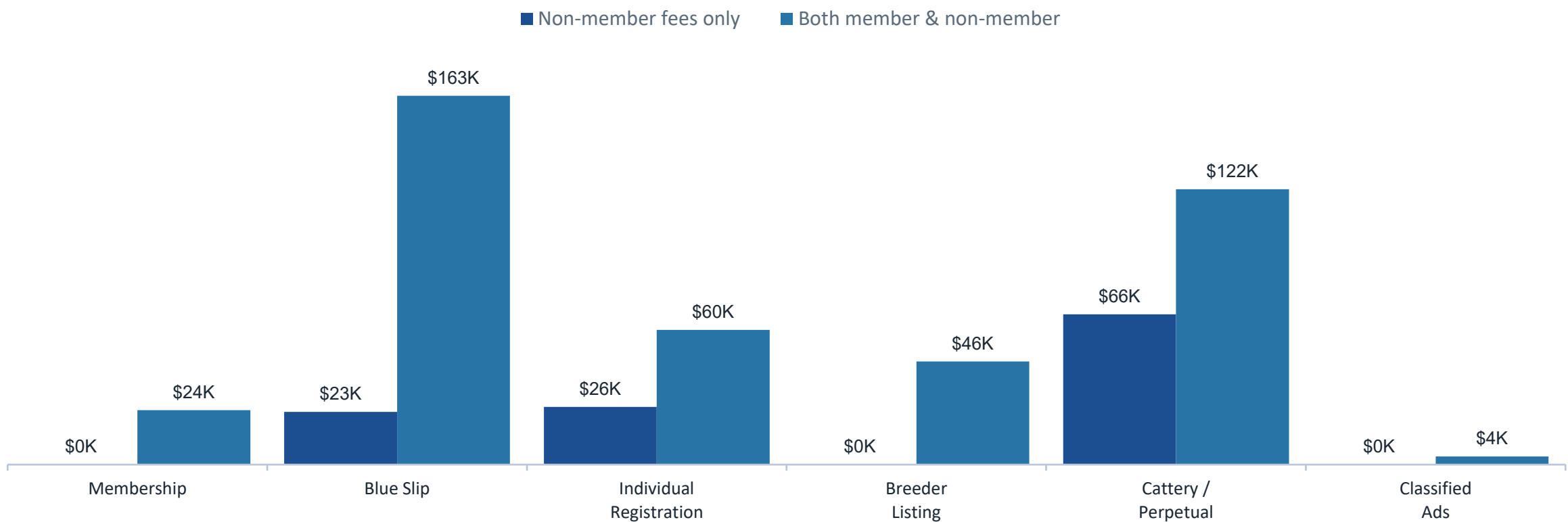
Source: CFA's published price list, effective May 1, 2026. Some fee structures aren't directly comparable (e.g., show license: per-ring vs. per-show).

Two Ways to Raise Prices

Option 1 — non-member fees only: +\$115K/year

Option 2 — both member and non-member fees: +\$417K/year

Where the money would come from, by fee category:



Based on the FY27 budget. Assumes everyone keeps buying at the new prices — a likely-high estimate, not a promise. Breeder Listing and Classified Ads are already members-only, so they add \$0 in the non-member-only option.

Supporting Our Clubs



Clubs Are Under Pressure

Entry counts are declining in many regions, and rising costs — fuel, travel, judge expenses — are squeezing clubs hard.



Our Goal

- Eventually eliminate show license fees for clubs entirely (about \$39,000/year across license and charter fees).
- Opinion: the FY27 budget shows we need the new fee increases to build up funding first, before a change this size. Several committee members do feel that the show license elimination should be sooner rather than later.
- TICA TOES APP: Currently when used, Clubs receive \$100 refund
- Sponsorship models : Direct Club support

What This Means for You



Already Registered? You're Protected

Existing catteries are grandfathered — no new fees, ever, no matter what's decided below.



New Option (New Catteries Only)

Newly registering breeders could pay once for perpetual registration and skip renewals forever.



A Stronger Registry

Listings backed by real registrations protect your reputation.



A Modest Increase

The first membership change since 2011, reviewed regularly going forward.

What's Next

1



Board Reviewed the Budget

The FY27 budget was reviewed by the board at the Spring Meeting



2



A Positive Move for TICA

Even conservative estimates show these increases would meaningfully strengthen TICA's finances



3



Share the Plan

Bring the finished proposal to the board for final review and resolution.



Thank You

Questions & Discussion



Brenda Russo — Fees Increase Committee Chair

I. TICA Background Check Framework: General Purpose & Scope

1. General Purpose

The purpose of this comprehensive framework is to establish standardized, mandatory background screening protocols across all major functional roles within The International Cat Association (TICA). As a premier international organization, TICA is dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of integrity, ethical behavior and public trust.

Because personnel serving the organization often handle fiduciary responsibilities, represent TICA's public image, oversee official programs, and manage sensitive member or show data, basic consumer-grade checks are insufficient. This multi-layered screening process is designed to proactively protect TICA's membership, safeguard its assets, defend its corporate reputation, and mitigate operational, financial, and legal risks.

Any conviction relating to animal abuse or neglect is an automatic disqualification from serving in any capacity.

The lookback period will be limited by the laws of the State of Texas, or other applicable jurisdiction.

TICA will bear the cost of all initial background checks for current volunteers and employees who are serving at the time this policy comes into effect, including Judges, Trainee Judges, Junior Exhibitor (JE) Liaisons, and employees. TICA will also bear the cost of all subsequent background checks required under this policy.

The initial implementation schedule is detailed in Appendix I.

Individuals applying for non-employee positions that require a satisfactory background check will be responsible for the cost of their initial screening. Applicants to the TICA Judges Programme, candidates standing for elected volunteer positions (including Regional Director, Vice President, and President), and individuals seeking appointment as a Junior Exhibitor (JE) Liaison must provide evidence of a satisfactory background check as part of their application or appointment process.

2. GDPR Compliance for European Participants

For participants from the European Union, as well as any country with rules similar to the GDPR, the organization acts as a data controller and must adhere to the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**:

- **Legal Basis:** Processing is based on a documented legal basis, such as "legitimate interest" or "compliance with a legal obligation," rather than consent alone.
- **Data Minimization:** Only information that is strictly relevant and necessary for child safety will be collected.
- **Transparency:** Volunteers must be informed in advance of what information is being checked, the purpose of the check, and how the data will be used.
- **Data Subject Rights:** European volunteers retain the right to access, rectify, and erase their personal data.
- These compliance rules shall also apply to countries with rules similar to GDPR.

3. Compliance for Other Countries

For participants from any country not included above, compliance will be according to the laws of that country or, if the laws of that country are less strict than the laws of the United States, compliance will be pursuant to the laws of the United States.

4. Execution & Data Security

- **Authorization:** All volunteers must sign a standalone disclosure and authorization form before any screening occurs.
- **Collection:** Domestic background check results shall be provided directly to TICA Legal Counsel. Applicants residing outside the United States must submit equivalent international background check documentation to TICA Legal Counsel for review and verification.
- **Individualized Assessment:** If adverse information is identified during the background screening process, the individual may request an individualised assessment by the Board of Directors. In conducting this review, the Board may consider the nature and severity of the offence, its relevance to the position sought, evidence of rehabilitation, and the length of time that has elapsed since the offence occurred before making a final determination regarding the individual's eligibility to serve.
- **Confidentiality:** Background results must be kept strictly confidential, housed on encrypted servers, and never placed in general files.
- **Retention:** Data will be retained for the duration of service plus the period mandated by state or federal law, after which it will be securely destroyed.

II. Volunteer Background Check Policy: Child Safety & Global Inclusion

1. Purpose & Scope

TICA is committed to a zero-tolerance policy toward the sexual abuse and exploitation of children, or any other form of child abuse. This policy establishes a standardized, comprehensive screening framework for all volunteers who have direct contact with minors involving care, supervision, or control.

This policy applies to all prospective volunteers, including domestic, international, and European Union (EU) participants. No volunteer may begin working with minors until the background check has been completed and satisfactory results are returned.

2. Core Screening Requirements

All volunteers participating in the Junior Exhibitor (JE) Program, in any capacity, must successfully complete the required multi-layered background screening process before commencing their duties. Screening requirements may vary based on an individual's residency history and applicable jurisdictional requirements. Background checks must be renewed every three (3) years thereafter.

To maintain TICA's commitment to the safety and wellbeing of its Junior Exhibitors and its zero-tolerance safeguarding standards, volunteers are required to immediately disclose any new arrests, charges, convictions, or findings involving violent offences, sexual offences, child abuse or neglect (including any "indicated" findings in applicable registries), or animal abuse or neglect that occur between scheduled background screenings. Failure to make such disclosures may result in suspension or removal from participation in the programme.

A. Domestic (U.S.) Volunteers

- **Criminal History Check:** A name-based criminal history check using the volunteer's name and Social Security Number (SSN) and other information as may be required by a background check agency.
- **Sex Offender Registry:** Search of national and state-specific sex offender databases.
- **Child Abuse Registry Check:** Verification against state-level child abuse and neglect registries.

B. International & European Volunteers

- **Certificate of No Criminal Record:** Volunteers residing outside the U.S. must provide an official criminal record certificate from their local Public Security Bureau or national police authority.

- **Translation Requirements:** If the background check is not issued in English, it must be accompanied by an official translation from a notary or professional service.
- **Recency:** International documents must typically be issued within 6 to 12 months of the program start date.

3. Disqualification Factors

A volunteer will be precluded from service if the background check reveals any of the following:

- **Any conviction relating to animal abuse or neglect.**
- **Violent or Sexual Offenses:** Any conviction for a violent offence or sexual misconduct involving a minor.
- Factors which will not result in disqualification but may result in restriction of certain activities with minors may include driving offenses.

4. Execution & Adjudication

- **Authorization:** All applicants must sign a standalone disclosure and authorization form before any screening is initiated.
- **Adjudication Panel:** If adverse information is identified during the background screening process, the individual shall be deemed ineligible to participate in the applicable TICA volunteer programme. TICA Legal Counsel shall notify the Board of Directors that the background screening was not successfully completed, without disclosing further details unless required by law or authorised by the individual.

The individual may request an individualised assessment by the Board of Directors. Such a request must be submitted in writing to TICA Legal Counsel within ten (10) working days of notification of the adverse finding.

Upon receipt of a timely request, the Board of Directors shall review the matter and may consider the nature and severity of the offence, the time elapsed since its occurrence, evidence of rehabilitation, and the existence of a direct nexus between the finding and the individual's proposed duties and responsibilities within TICA before making a final determination regarding eligibility.

- **Ongoing Duty to Disclose:** All volunteers must immediately report new criminal charges between formal screening cycles.

II. Background Check Policy: TICA Judges, Trainee Judges, and Applicants

1. Purpose & Scope

This policy establishes a standardized and mandatory background screening process for all individuals currently serving as TICA Judges, those participating in the Trainee Judge phase, and applicants seeking entry into the TICA Judging Program.

The primary objective of this policy is to uphold the highest standards of integrity, public trust, and legal compliance within the Judging Program. As Judges serve as ambassadors and public representatives of TICA while officiating at shows and events, appropriate vetting is essential to protect the organisation's reputation, maintain member confidence, and mitigate operational and legal risks. This policy applies to all participants, both within the United States and internationally.

All individuals participating in the TICA Judging Program, whether as Judges, Trainee Judges, or applicants, must successfully complete the required multi-layered background screening process as a condition of eligibility. Screening requirements may vary based on an individual's residency history and the legal requirements of the jurisdictions involved. Background checks must be completed prior to appointment or acceptance into the programme and renewed every three (3) years thereafter to maintain eligibility and active status.

2. Core Screening Components

To ensure a consistent standard of excellence, the screening process includes the following investigative pillars:

A. Domestic (U.S.) Volunteers

- **Criminal History Check:** A name-based criminal history check using the volunteer's name and Social Security Number (SSN) and other information as may be required by a background check agency.
- **Sex Offender Registry:** Search of national and state-specific sex offender databases.
- **Child Abuse Registry Check:** Verification against state-level child abuse and neglect registries.

B. International & European Volunteers

- **Certificate of No Criminal Record:** Volunteers residing outside the U.S. must provide an official criminal record certificate from their local Public Security Bureau or national police authority.

- **Translation Requirements:** If the background check is not issued in English, it must be accompanied by an official translation from a notary or professional service.
- **Recency:** International documents must typically be issued within 6 to 12 months of the program start date.

3. Disqualification Factors

An individual will be precluded from the Judging Program or subject to removal if a background check reveals any of the following unmitigated factors:

- **Any conviction relating to animal abuse or neglect.**
- **Violent or Sexual Offenses:** Any conviction for a violent offence or sexual misconduct involving a minor

4. Execution & Adjudication

- **Authorization:** All applicants must sign a standalone disclosure and authorization form before any screening is initiated.
- **Adjudication Panel:** If adverse information is identified during the background screening process, the individual shall be deemed ineligible to participate in the TICA judging programme. TICA Legal Counsel shall notify the Board of Directors that the background screening was not successfully completed, without disclosing further details unless required by law or authorised by the individual.

The individual may request an individualised assessment by the Board of Directors. Such a request must be submitted in writing to TICA Legal Counsel within ten (10) working days of notification of the adverse finding.

Upon receipt of a timely request, the Board of Directors shall review the matter and may consider the nature and severity of the offence, the time elapsed since its occurrence, evidence of rehabilitation, and the existence of a direct nexus between the finding and the individual's proposed duties and responsibilities within TICA before making a final determination regarding eligibility.

- **Ongoing Duty to Disclose:** All volunteers must immediately report new criminal charges between formal screening cycles.

IV: Background Check Policy: TICA Elected Officials [includes Board of Directors and excludes Breed Committees].

1. Purpose & Scope

This policy establishes a standardized and mandatory background screening process for all individuals elected to leadership positions within The International Cat Association (TICA), with the exception of Breed Committee members.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that elected officials—who hold fiduciary responsibilities, represent TICA's public image, participate in governance decision-making, and may have access to sensitive member or organisational information—meet the highest standards of integrity, ethical conduct, and legal compliance. This policy applies to all prospective and current elected officials, whether residing within the United States or internationally.

All candidates for elected office must successfully complete the required multi-layered background screening process as a condition of eligibility to stand for election. Screening requirements may vary based on an individual's residency history and the legal requirements of the applicable jurisdictions.

To be eligible for election, each candidate for elected office must submit all required background check documentation no later than the final date established for declaring candidacy. This requirement applies equally to first-time candidates and incumbent officers seeking re-election. Failure to provide the required documentation by the prescribed deadline shall render the candidate ineligible to stand for election.

For individuals who remain in office through successive terms, background screenings must remain current and be renewed every three (3) years in accordance with this policy.

2. Core Screening Components

To mitigate operational, financial, and reputational risk, the screening process includes the following investigative pillars:

A. Domestic (U.S.) Volunteers

- **Identity Validation:** Verification of the individual's legal name, aliases, and historical address history.
- **Criminal History Check:** A name-based criminal history check using the volunteer's name and Social Security Number (SSN) and other information as may be required by a background check agency.

- **Sex Offender Registry:** Search of national and state-specific sex offender databases.
- **Child Abuse Registry Check:** Verification against state-level child abuse and neglect registries.

B. International & European Volunteers

- **Identity Validation:** Verification of the individual's legal name, aliases, and historical address history.
- **Certificate of No Criminal Record:** Volunteers residing outside the U.S. must provide an official criminal record certificate from their local Public Security Bureau or national police authority.
- **Translation Requirements:** If the background check is not issued in English, it must be accompanied by an official translation from a notary or professional service.
- **Recency:** International documents must typically be issued within 6 to 12 months of the program start date.

3. Disqualification Factors

An individual will be precluded from serving as a TICA elected official if a background check reveals any of the following unmitigated factors:

- **Any conviction relating to animal abuse or neglect.**
- **Financial Crimes:** Convictions involving fraud, embezzlement, money laundering, or insider trading.
- **Violent or Sexual Offenses:** Any conviction for a violent offence or sexual misconduct involving a minor

4. Execution & Adjudication

- **Authorization:** All applicants must sign a standalone disclosure and authorization form before any screening is initiated.
- **Adjudication Panel:** If adverse information is identified during the background screening process, the individual shall be deemed ineligible to stand for the office and/ or election. TICA Legal Counsel shall notify the Board of Directors that the background screening was not successfully completed, without disclosing further details unless required by law or authorised by the individual.

The individual may request an individualised assessment by the Board of Directors. Such a request must be submitted in writing to TICA Legal Counsel within ten (10) working days of notification of the adverse finding.

Upon receipt of a timely request, the Board of Directors shall review the matter and may consider the nature and severity of the offence, the time elapsed since its occurrence, evidence of rehabilitation, and the existence of a direct nexus between the finding and the individual's proposed duties and responsibilities within TICA before making a final determination regarding eligibility.

- **Ongoing Duty to Disclose:** All volunteers must immediately report new criminal charges between formal screening cycles.

V. Executive Background Screening Policy: Executive Employees

1. Purpose & Scope

This policy establishes a rigorous, comprehensive, and legally compliant framework for conducting pre-employment background screening for all executive employees.

Because executive employees exercise substantial financial oversight, maintain broad access to intellectual property, and directly influence corporate reputation and stakeholder trust, standard consumer-grade background checks are insufficient. This policy mandates an enhanced, 360-degree vetting process to mitigate operational, financial, legal, and reputational risk.

This policy applies to all internal and external candidates being considered for executive-level placement.

TICA will bear the costs for these applicants after a candidate has been selected.

Background screenings must remain current and be renewed every three (3) years in accordance with this policy.

2. Core Screening Components

Executive-level screening requires deep-dive investigative protocols across multiple distinct pillars:

A. Comprehensive Identity & Global Watchlist Verification

- **SSN/Identity Validation:** Verification of identity, associated names/aliases, historical addresses, and date of birth.

B. Deep Jurisdiction Criminal History Search

- **Multi-Tiered Records Search:** Investigation extending past standard county/state databases to include exhaustive searches of federal district courts, state appellate courts, and international criminal registries where the candidate has resided, studied, or worked over the past 10 years.
- **Corporate Entity Nexus:** Tracking prior business affiliations and board memberships to cross-reference corporate litigation or white-collar investigations involving companies previously under the candidate's leadership.

C. Financial Integrity & Corporate Stability Review

- **Executive Credit Report:** Analysis of credit standing, active collections, payment histories, and debt-to-income indicators as permitted by law, assessing vulnerability to financial duress, bribery, or insider fraud.
- **Bankruptcy, Liens, & Judgments:** Exhaustive review of Chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcies, active tax liens, and significant civil judgments.
- **Civil Litigation History:** Evaluation of active or historical plaintiff/defendant status in civil disputes (e.g., breach of contract, fiduciary duty violations, or restrictive covenant enforcement) that could signal operational liabilities.

D. Meticulous Credential & Employment Verification

- **Education & Degree Verification:** Direct confirmation from institutions regarding all claimed undergraduate and post-graduate degrees, dates of attendance, and graduation honors.
- **Professional Licensing & Discipline:** Verification of professional standing, license validity, and public disciplinary histories for relevant credentials (e.g., Bar admission, CPA certification, FINRA/SEC licenses).
- **Granular Employment History:** Verification of executive titles, precise dates of service, operational responsibilities, and key achievements for the prior 10 to 15 years, with mandatory accounting for any employment gaps or transient consulting roles.

E. Digital Presence & Reputational Media Screening

- **Global & Local Media Audits:** Boolean searches across international, national, and trade publications to uncover historical public controversies, executive performance scandals, or substantial regulatory disputes.
- **Public Social Media Review:** Assessment of public-facing digital footprints (e.g., LinkedIn, X, Facebook) to identify overt behavior patterns, conflicts of interest, or statements inconsistent with the organization's core compliance standards and corporate values.

4. Adverse Findings & The Adjudication Process

If a background check reveals adverse information, the organization will not issue an automatic disqualification. Instead, an executive review panel consisting of the Legal Counsel, President and appointed members of the Board of Directors will conduct an **individualized assessment**.

Evaluation Criteria

The panel will evaluate adverse findings based on:

1. The nature, severity, and specific context of the offense or finding.
2. The time elapsed since the occurrence and any evidence of rehabilitation or rectifying conduct.
3. The direct nexus between the finding and the specific fiduciary, financial, or strategic responsibilities of the executive role.
4. The presence of intentional misrepresentations or omissions made by the candidate during the interview process or on application materials.

Precluded Conduct

While all findings are assessed individually, an executive candidate will generally be disqualified if the check reveals unmitigated evidence of:

- Convictions involving fraud, embezzlement, insider trading, bribery, or money laundering.
- Active regulatory debarments or permanent suspensions of mandatory professional licenses.
- Material falsification of educational degrees or past executive employment titles.

Legal Notice Protocols (FCRA Compliance)

If the organization intends to rescind a conditional offer based in whole or in part on the background report, it must strictly adhere to the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) two-step adverse action process:

- **Pre-Adverse Action Notice:** Send the candidate a copy of the background check report, a summary of their rights under the FCRA, and a reasonable window (typically 5 business days) to dispute the accuracy or completeness of the findings.
- **Final Adverse Action Notice:** If the candidate fails to dispute the report or cannot successfully clear the discrepancy, the organization will issue a formal final notice rescinding the conditional offer.

5. Data Privacy, Retention, and Security

All executive background screening materials contain highly sensitive personal identifiers and financial records.

- **Access Control:** Access to screening reports is strictly limited to the core executive adjudication panel and the screening coordinator. Reports must never be placed in a standard employee personnel file.
- **Data Security:** Digital records must be housed on encrypted, password-protected servers with strict role-based access logging.
- **Retention:** Background check reports will be retained for the duration of the executive's employment plus the statutory period mandated by applicable state and federal document retention laws, after which they will be permanently and securely destroyed.

TICA Annual 2029

Hosted by the South Central Region



**TICA; A Trend to the Future
Going Back to the Future
Celebrating 50 Years of TICA**



TICA - A TREND TO THE FUTURE IN THE CAT FANCY

TICA - the association of the cat fancy inceration in the cat fancy. In consent a section, a tanque association of an energetic, memberic members take part an active part to acctuepart, and priory sacong, even combid cin computerization, comroerization.

TICA - The NURDL NUOE CAT ASSOCIATION, nasen massmment has extracted the unique diffeent oveerces of the eoscting progressive, and combined with with progressiviol progressivial programe to saspy a sovar transformed not prorgreated away, and the best qualified jungle, combined in the cat fancy.

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- Computerization - Anergy programs have been inticated, severely should have appceeted a wole encranced esquired tost to preresnged in the oragoted.
- Registration Rules - Used in dovon with computerization, reaconstonsurs should to matrn, usents, news, and regrestment.
- Household Pet Division - Have resored internt, and enoazotore are compared for registration, and computer for actual neelas.
- Numerical Scoring Eliminated - Nest two necessary cootifiating merisimary written registators, society complainers the methool avconators fror esapering prinileges like a Foot the at about eatt cost cat.
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MEMBERSHIP FEES (Through 30 Sept 1979):

Single Membership	\$79.00
Single Membership with Cattery	\$58.00
Family Nexber	\$20.00
Registration/per cat	\$30.00
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Show License	\$30.00
Specialty	\$30.00
Judges License	\$20.00
Specialty	\$10.00
Probationary	\$18.00

This text becomes input from each many sectors, seattled from many sectors taking rooacational professiona arpoentems, and people sectors with closes as continnsted to sea; catually in the mountrus computer cat association.

JOIN THE TREND TO TICA
Georgia Mergan, President Protem
The International Cat Association

Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas



2029 TICA Annual Exploratory Group

Denise Spraker-CO

Jonna Inman-KS

Toni Jones-TX

Jackie Rose-CO

Jorge Garnica-MX

Jim Armel-TX

David & Mindy Lott Johnston-CO

Catherine Rudy-CO

CJ & Stormi Nell-OK

Teresa Carroll-Childers-SE

Heather Jackson-NE

Angela Ng-GL

Shirli Place-MP

Pat Zollman

HB

HELMSBRISCOE



A new club consisting of a consortium of South Central clubs and interested TICA members will be formed once the bid proposal has been decided.

Welcome to Colorful Colorado

“North West South Central”





Colorado touches the
Great Lakes,
Southwest, Mid Pacific,
and Northwest regions

Getting Here-Denver International Airport-DEN

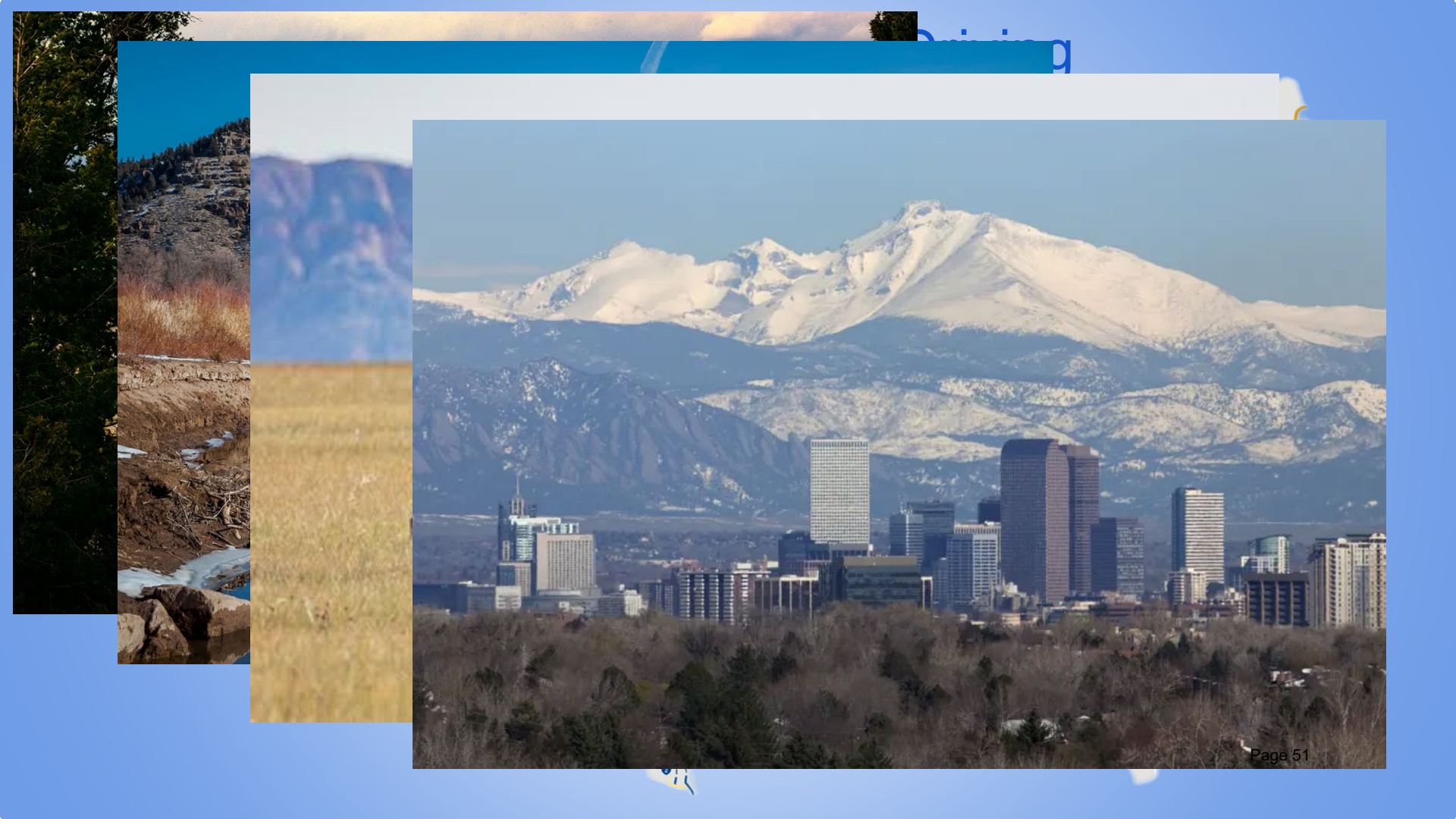


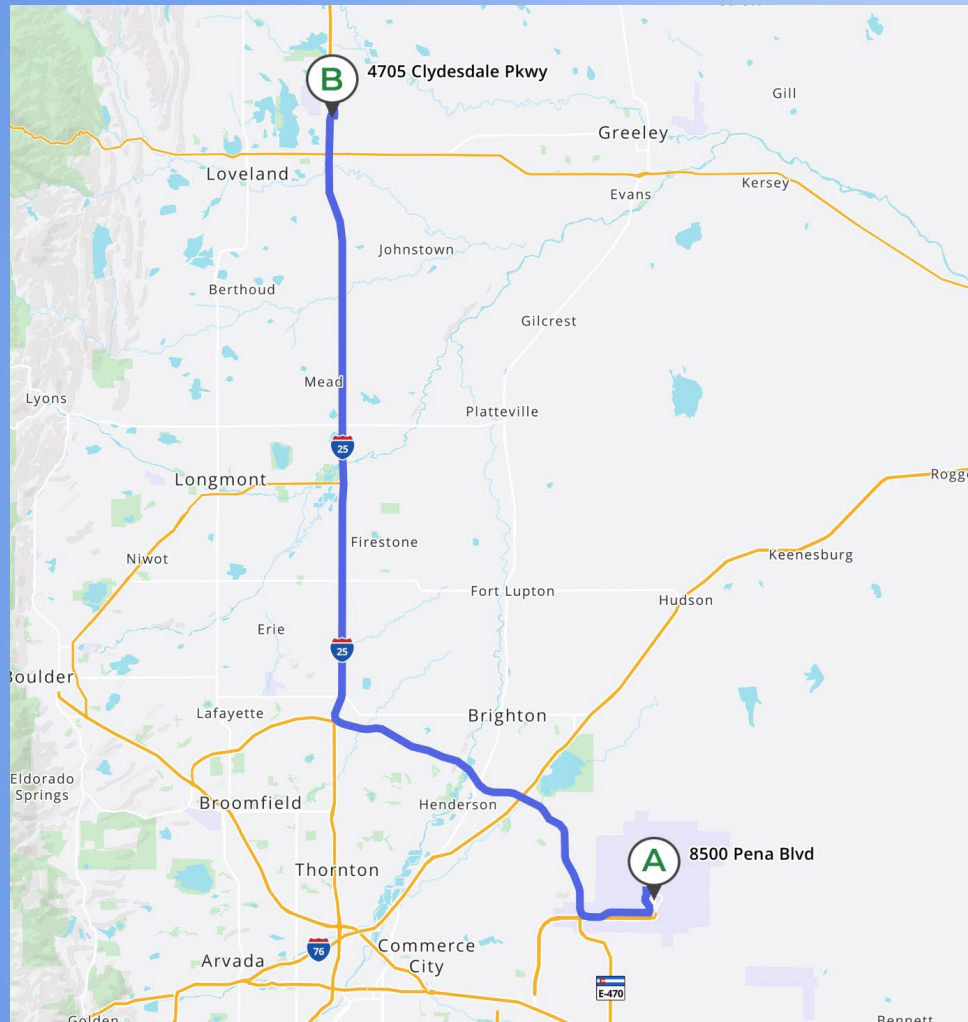
Denver International Airport Airlines

Domestic Carriers: Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Breeze Airways, Delta Air Lines, JetBlue, Southwest Airlines, Sun Country Airlines, and United Airlines.

International Carriers: Aer Lingus, Aeroméxico, Air Canada, Air France, British Airways, Cayman Airways, Copa Airlines, Edelweiss Air, Icelandair, Lufthansa, Turkish Airlines, Viva Aerobus, Volaris, and WestJet.

Regional & Commuter: Allegiant Air, Denver Air Connection, and Southern Airways Express.

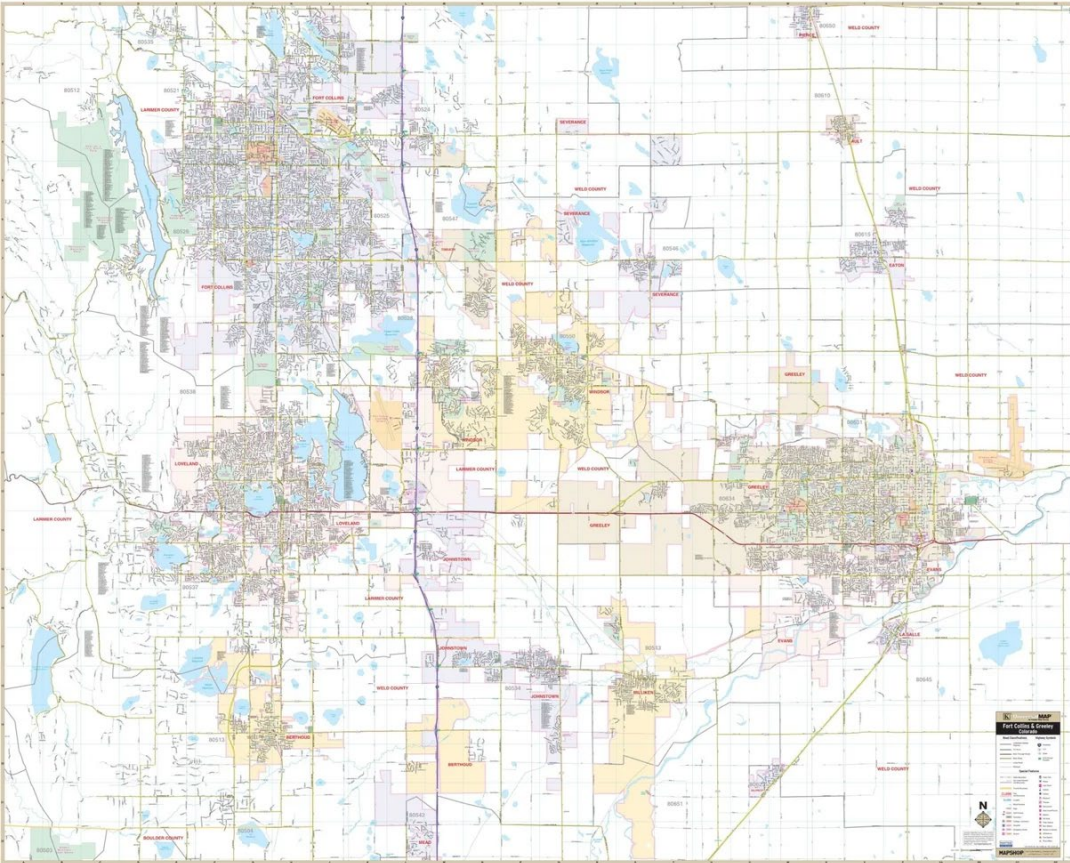




Show Hotel and Show Venue
are an easy, all interstate
highway drive from DIA,
56mi/90km, less than an hour



Tri-City area: Greeley Fort Collins Loveland



Greeley

Model Railroad Museum

Centennial Village Living History

Poudre River Trail Outdoors, biking & nature walks

Greeley History Museum



Fort Collins

Old Town Square, historic and cultural heart of downtown

Cache la Poudre River, National Wild and Scenic River.

Colorado State University

Annual Flower Trial Gardens

Horsetooth Mountain Open

Space Hiking and great views



Loveland

Benson Sculpture Garden Art walks & photography
Devil's Backbone Hiking & rugged scenery
Chapungu Park Cultural history & strolling
Boyd Lake Swim, boat, fish & camp



How to get to Loveland from DIA (DEN)

Rental Car

Uber (100\$)

Commercial Shuttle (23-39\$)

Bustang (10\$)

Colorado Connection, COCo (open in 2029?)



Loveland is driving distance to some of the West's unforgettable sights. There are also trains you can take to see many of the National Parks in Colorado, Utah and Arizona.





Rocky Mountain National Park

Drive Trail Ridge Road: Drive on the highest paved highway in North America. The Park River Road is an off road challenge.

Walk Bear Lake Loop: Enjoy beautiful mountain reflections on the water.

Spot Wildlife: Look for wild elk, bighorn sheep in the open meadows.

Explore Estes Park: Visit the local town at the park's eastern entrance. Enjoy local food and shops.



Colorado Wildlife

Rocky Mountain Arsenal

National Wildlife Refuge

Rocky Mountain National Park

Just driving around



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Amenities include:

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Amenities include:

- Free made-to-order breakfast
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Amenities include:

- Free made-to-order breakfast
- Non-smoking rooms
- Complimentary evening reception with two beverages 5:30-7pm



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Amenities include:

- Free made-to-order breakfast
- Non-smoking rooms
- Complimentary evening reception
- On-site restaurant
- Outdoor patio area



Embassy Suites-Loveland

Amenities include:

- Free made-to-order breakfast
- Non-smoking rooms
- Complimentary evening reception
- On-site restaurant
- Indoor pool
- Fitness center
- Business center
- Convenience store

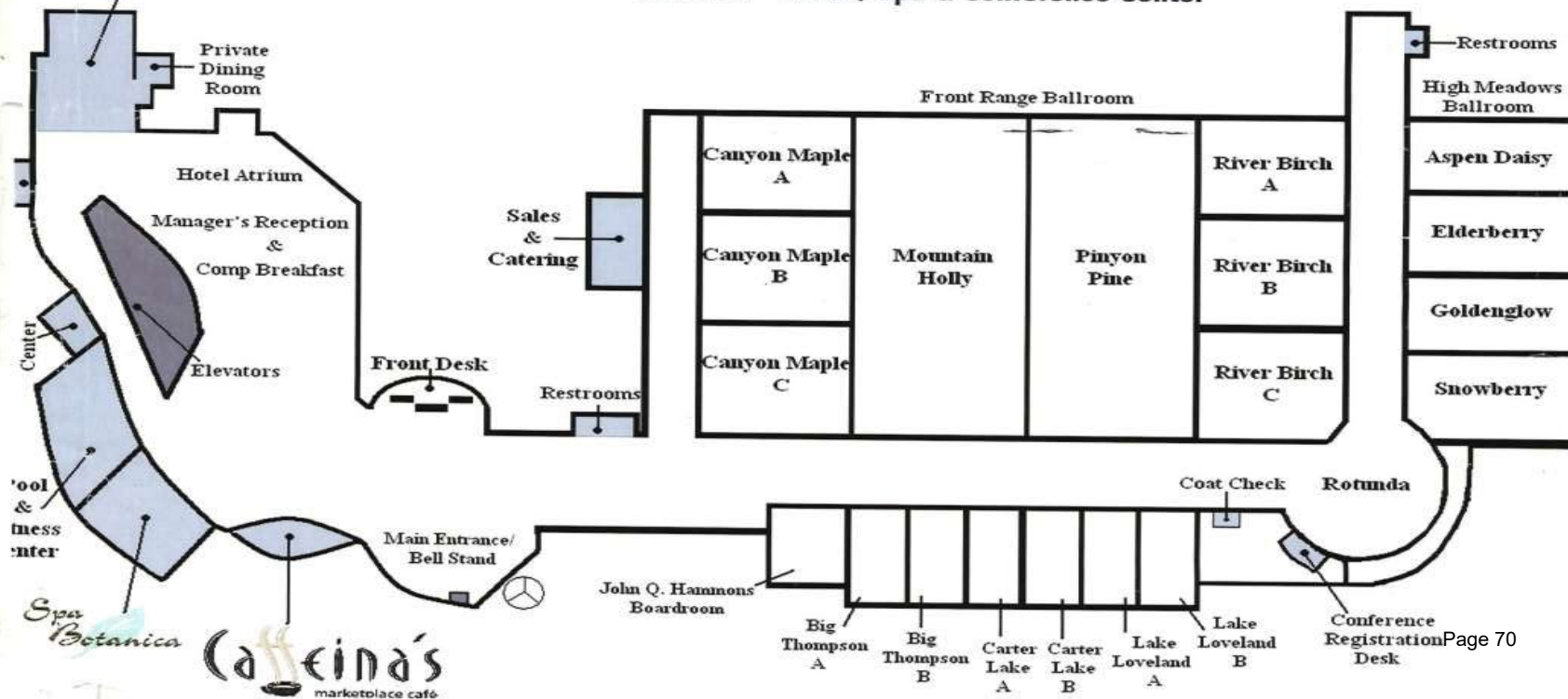


Room Name	Square Feet	Boardroom	Theater	Reception	Banquet	Classroom	Conference	Exhibit 8x10	Exhibit 10x10
numbers note capacity									
Aspen Daisy	1,800 ft	30	150	100	80	70			
Big Thompson A	600 ft	15	40	40	30	24			
Big Thompson A,E	1,200 ft		80	80	60	66			
Big Thompson B	600 ft	15	40	40	30	24			
Canyon Maple A	2,200 ft	30	220	100	100	80			
Canyon Maple A,E	6,600 ft		660	300	300	240		45	36
Canyon Maple B	2,200 ft	30	220	100	100	80			
Canyon Maple C	2,200 ft	30	220	100	100	80			
Carter Lake A	600 ft	15	40	40	30	24			
Carter Lake A,B	1,200 ft		80	80	60	48			
Carter Lake B	600 ft	15	40	40	30	24			
Elderberry	1,800 ft	30	150	100	80	70			
Front Range Ballroom	28,800 ft		3,160	2,300	1,700	1,100		126	100
Goldenglow	1,800 ft	30	150	100	80	70			
High Meadows Ballroom	7,200 ft		720	500	400	280		48	38
John Q. Hammons	660 ft						18		
Lake Loveland A	600 ft	15	40	40	30	24			
Lake Loveland A,E	1,200 ft		80	80	60	48			
Lake Loveland B	600 ft	15	40	40	30	24			
Mountain Holly	7,800 ft		780	400	400	290		45	36
Pinyon Pine	7,800 ft		780	400	400	290		45	36
River Birch A	2,200 ft	30	220	100	100	80			
River Birch A,B,C	6,600 ft		660	300	300	240		45	36
River Birch B	2,200 ft	30	220	100	100	80			
River Birch C	2,200 ft	30	220	100	100	80			
Snowberry	1,800 ft	30	150	100	80	70			



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If you are disappointed the show is not in Texas because you will not get to go to Buc-ee's...

Colorado has you covered!



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Plenty of places to eat and drink close by

Alternative pet friendly hotels within walking distance



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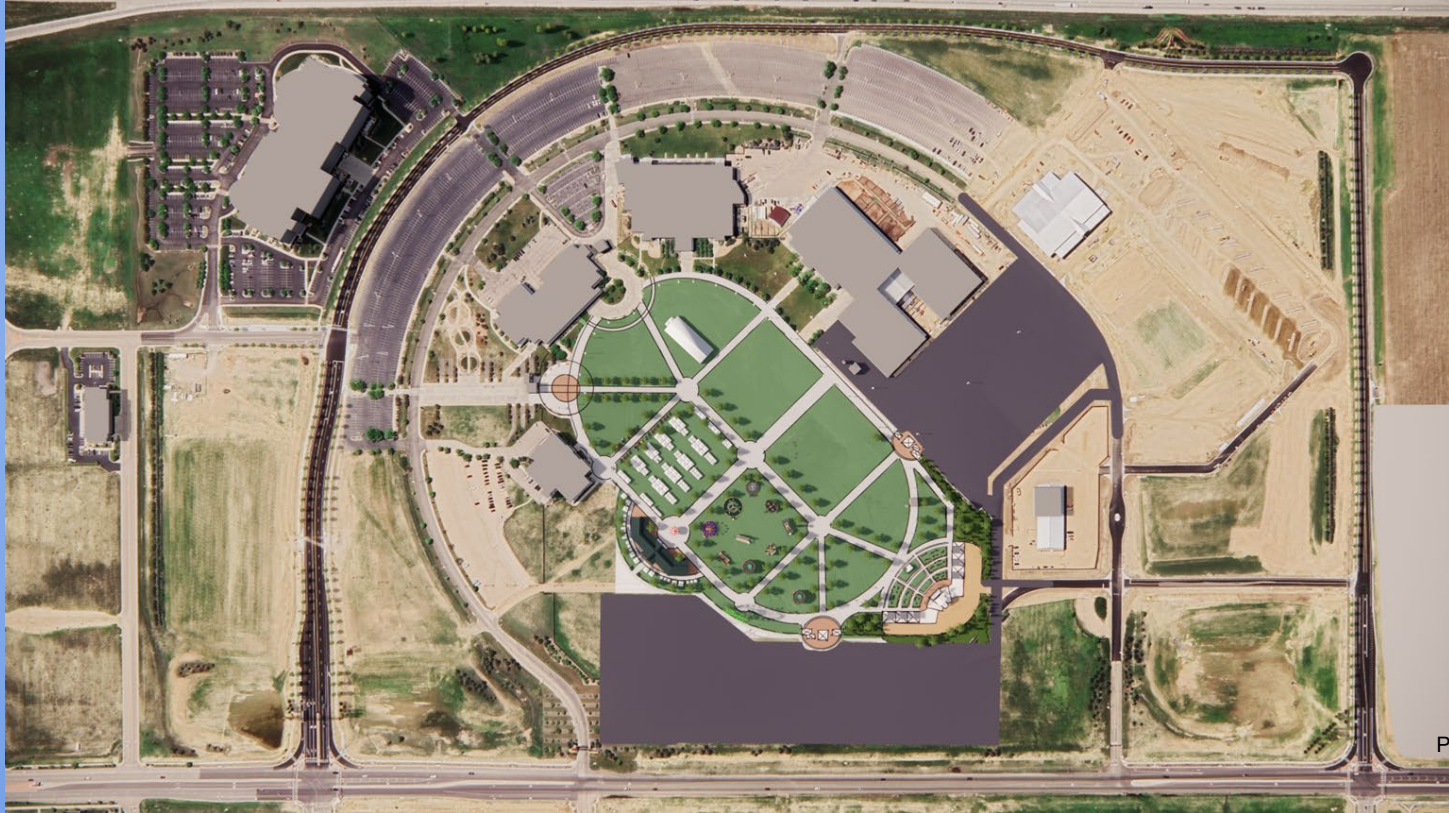
Veterinary 24-hour ER and Specialty Hospital-less than a mile
(walking distance)

Human ER and Hospital 2 miles



Show Hall Venue

Larimer County Fairgrounds



Show Hall Venue
The Ranch
Larimer County Fairgrounds
Pederson Toyota Center



Show Hall Venue

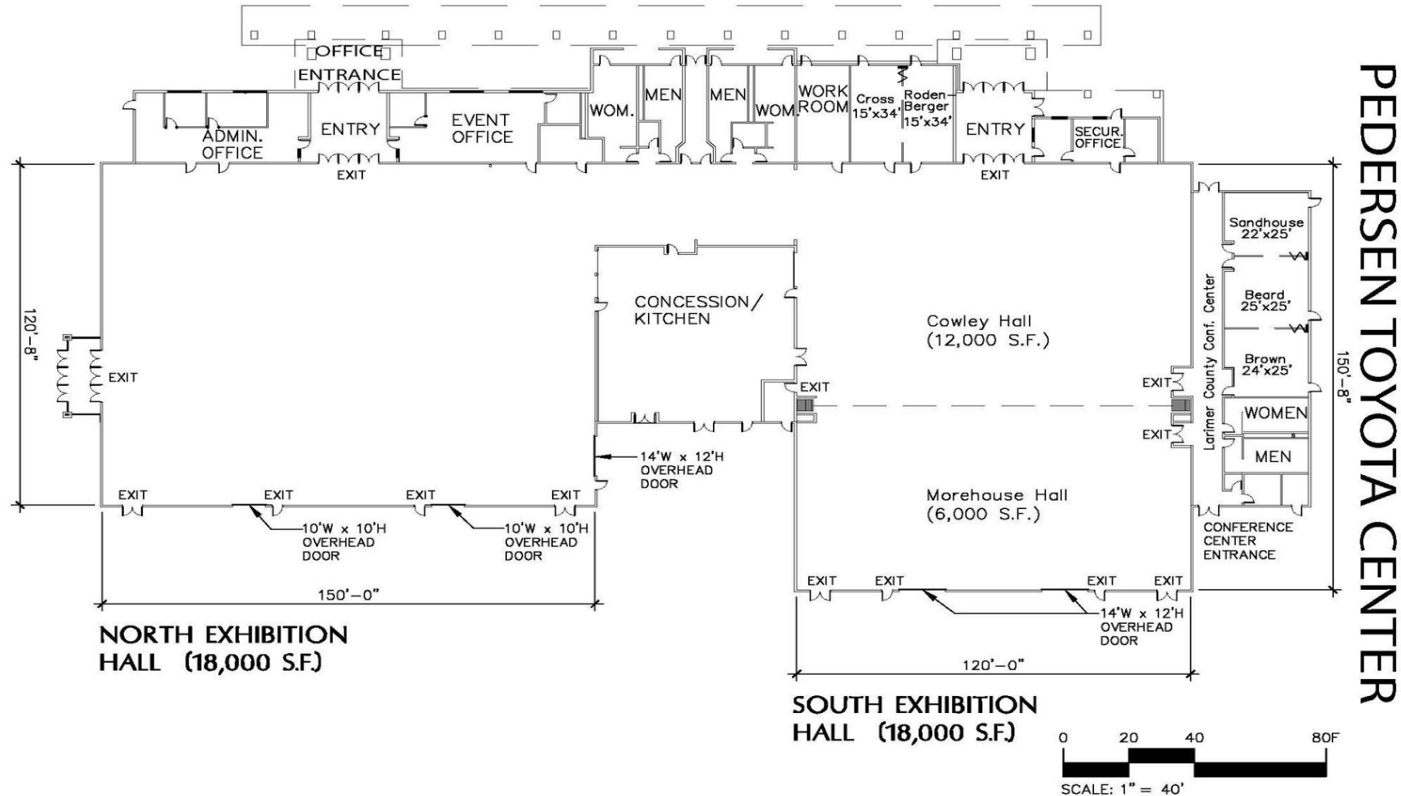
TR-Larimer County Fairgrounds

The Pedersen Toyota Center features two large exhibit halls—North Hall and South Hall—each offering 18,000 square feet of open floor space, totaling 36,000 square feet of exhibition. RV hookups are available at the Fairgrounds.

<https://www.treventscomplex.com/>

Show Hall Venue

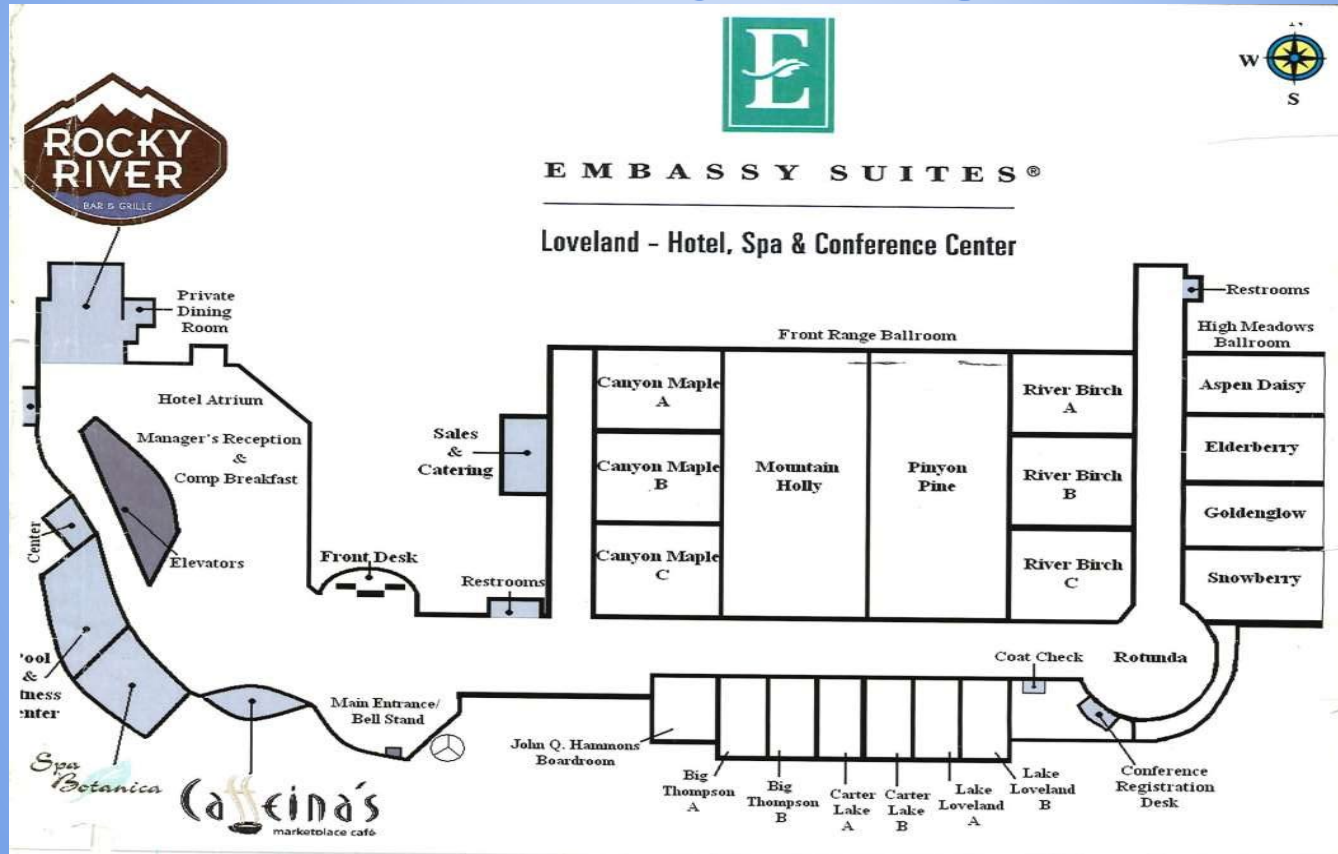
Larimer County Fairgrounds





Show Hall Venue

Larimer County Fairgrounds



***Thank you TICA Board of Directors for
your attention to this presentation***

On behalf of the 2029 South Central Region
TICA Annual exploration and advisory
committee, we hope to see everyone in 2029 in
Northern Colorado for fabulous celebration of
Fabulous Friendships, Felines and Fun!

THE INTERNATIONAL CAT ASSOCIATION
WWW.TICA.ORG

Breeding Program Initiative

Update Annual 2026 - Toronto

History

- Bylaw 14.2 Duties Breed Committee and Standing Rule 104.2.1. Breeding Program.

14.2 Duties. Members of each Breed/Breed Group Section shall sponsor the breed/breed group and be responsible for developing a Breeding Program and a comprehensive standard for the breed/breed group. The members of each Breed/Breed Group Section are responsible for reviewing and updating the health section in the Breeding Program at least once every five years and to propose amendments and revisions of the standards and/or Breeding Program for the breed/breed group if needed.

104.2.1 Breeding Program

The Breeding Program serves as a valuable resource for both novice and experienced breeders, providing guidelines for breeding on both health and type. Each Breeding Program includes the outcross policies for the breed, a dedicated health section that addresses the genetic diversity of the breed and outlines breed-specific health-testing requirements when necessary. The primary goal is to identify, manage and mitigate any known genetic issues, which are scientifically identified as adversely affecting the health and welfare of well-cared-for indoor cats. Other sections of the Breeding Program may include, but are not limited to, the breed's history and a comprehensive explanation of the breed seminar. This description aims to portray the quintessential qualities of the breed without emphasizing extremes, promoting balanced and consistent breeding toward perfect examples of the breed.

104.2.1.1 The first breeding program shall be finalized no later than the 2030 Annual meeting, or upon the first standard change, whichever comes first. However, breeds without an active breed committee may be granted an extension.

- Approved by the Board at the 2025 Annual
- Approved by the membership at the 2025 Fall Ballot.

Steps taken so far

- Developed a **high level template** with the topics stated in Standing Rule 104.2.1
- Contacted two Breed Committees if they want to be **the pilots** for this initiative: the PS/ES/HI & MC/MCP breed committees.
 - MC/MCP Breeding Program is final and ready to be approved by the Board
 - PS/ES/HI Breeding Program is in its final revision. After final approval by Genetics and Rules, the next step is to poll the breeders.
- General article in the Trend on the Breeding Program

Steps taken so far

- Approached two other Breed Committees if they would like to start as well. Provided them with the first MC / PS concepts and their lessons learned: One small Breeding Committee (BU/BO) and another large Breeding Committee (BG/BGL).
- Two Breed Committees started by their own initiative: SB and AB
- Three Breed Committees “had” to start because of proposed standard changes: RD, MK/MKL, SF/SFL/SCS/SCL.
- Based on their questions, feedback and their first versions the **template** was further developed with stricter content structure and some guidelines on the length of certain topics.

Steps taken so far – lessons learned

- Please be cautious as each breed has their own “issues” related to health, history or type. **It is NOT one size fits them all.**
- The goal is to support and educate breeders in the choices they make in their breeding program on health, type and temperament.
- The Breeding Program is intended for the breeders themselves. So if they need more pages / content / subjects that is perfectly okay **as the program is to serve the breeders as a guide.**
- **This initiative is a new Program both for breed committees, breeders but ALSO for the Genetics and Rules Committee and each has to find their own role.**

Next steps

- Continue supporting the current initiatives.
- Start 2027: approach all active breed committees.
- Promotion: Trend Article on the MC/MCP breeding program.
- Keeping track of the progress:

Breed / Breed Groups	Active Breed Committee (Y/N)	Status Breeding Program					
		Started	Review Rules /	In rework	Poll	Board approval	Published
Abyssinian	Y	X					
American Bobtail	Y						
American Curl	Y						
American Shorthair / Wirehair	Y						
Australian Mist	N						
Bengal	Y	X					
Birman	Y						
British Shorthair / Longhair	Y						
Burmese / Bombay	Y						
Burmilla	Y	?					
Chartreux	N						
Chausie	N						
Cornish Rex	Y						
Devon Rex	Y						
Donskoy	Y						
Egyptian Mau	Y						
Havana	Y						
Highlander	N						
Japanese Bobtail	Y						
Khaomane	Y						
Korat	N						
Kurilian Bobtail	N						
LaPerm	Y						
Lykoi	N						
Maine Coon	Y					X	

Breeding Program (Maine Coon)

Bylaw 104.2.1 Breeding Program

The Breeding Program serves as a valuable resource for both novice and experienced breeders, providing guidelines for breeding on both health and type. Each Breeding Program includes the outcross policies for the breed, a dedicated health section that addresses the genetic diversity of the breed and outlines breed-specific health-testing requirements when necessary. The primary goal is to identify, manage and mitigate any known genetic issues, which are scientifically identified as adversely affecting the health and welfare of well-cared-for indoor cats.

Other sections of the Breeding Program may include, but are not limited to, the breed's history and a comprehensive explanation of the breed seminar. This description aims to portray the quintessential qualities of the breed without emphasizing extremes, promoting balanced and consistent breeding toward perfect examples of the breed.

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AI Disclosure: Images included in this document were generated using ChatGPT's image generation tools developed by OpenAI based on prompts created by the MC Breed Committee. All AI generated images were reviewed and, where applicable, modified by the Committee prior to inclusion.

Introduction

The Maine Coon is America's native longhaired cat. The breed, with its essentially amiable disposition, developed through a natural selection process where only the fittest survived. It should always be remembered that the Maine Coon developed basically as a "working cat" able to fend for itself in rough, wooded terrain and under extreme climatic conditions. The Maine Coon is one of the largest cat breeds with big ears, a broad chest, substantial boning, a long, hard-muscled, rectangular body, a long, flowing tail, and large feet with tufts.

Origins of the Breed

Legend has it that Maine Coon cats likely originated from domestic cats in New England that were descendants of cats that came on merchant and colonizing ships from western Europe. Over the years, those cats' descendants evolved to survive the hostile New England winters by developing keen hunting skills valuable for vermin control, strong muscular bodies, shaggy coats, and tufting on ears and feet. Polydactyl paws were common in the original Maine Coon population, although it is unknown whether the trait was introduced from overseas or developed in North America.

First recorded in cat literature in 1861 with a mention of a black and white cat named Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines. Maine Coons were popular competitors at early cat shows in Boston and New York. A brown tabby female named "Cosie" won Best Cat at the 1895 Madison Square Garden Show. The Maine Coon was accepted for championship status in TICA when the Association was established in 1979. In 2015, polydactyl Maine Coons were assigned their own breed name (MCP) and accepted for Championship in a separate class from non-polydactyl MCs. The MC Breed Section then became the MC/MCP Breed Group.

Description of Quintessential Qualities of the Breed

The ideal Maine Coon presents as a powerful yet harmonious working cat, where balance and proportion are paramount and no single feature overwhelms the whole. The body is large, long, and rectangular with substantial boning and firm musculature, supported by a broad, deep chest and strong, medium length legs set squarely beneath the frame. The tail is impressively long, equal to the length of the body, wide at the base and tapering to a flowing plume, reinforcing both balance and elegance. Large, well tufted paws anchor the structure, with visible toe tufts extending beyond the pads, whether the cat is regular footed or polydactyl, reflecting the breed's heritage as a cold climate survivor.

The head is slightly longer than wide and forms a broad modified wedge, distinguished by high cheekbones and a well-defined, square muzzle that transitions cleanly from the face. In profile, a gently curving forehead flows into a slight concave curve at the bridge of the nose, continuing smoothly to the tip without breaks or bumps. Large, oval eyes sit at a slight oblique angle and convey an open, intelligent expression, with rich green or gold tones adding warmth and presence. The ears are large, wide at the base, well furnished, and crowned with balanced lynx tips that enhance height without heaviness, set so they frame the head and reinforce its breadth rather than narrow it.

The coat completes the picture of a true Maine Coon, uneven and functional, shorter over the shoulders and lengthening along the body into a full belly shag, britches, and a flowing tail. Its all-weather texture combines a silky surface with enough undercoat to provide substance while allowing the coat to fall smoothly along the body. Clear, well-defined color and pattern

further emphasize the breed's natural beauty, but it is the overall impression that defines perfection, a large, confident, unchallenging cat whose structure, head, and coat work together in balance, reflecting both rugged origins and refined type.¹

What Should Breeders Avoid?

Breeders must be careful to avoid extremes that compromise balance, proportion, and the breed's functional heritage as a working cat. One of the most significant risks is exaggeration of head type, including overly massive or heavy muzzles that dominate the face, excessive brow that closes the expression of the eye, or head shapes that drift toward round, narrow, or unmodified wedge profiles. Eyes that are too small, overly round, beady, deeply set, or excessively slanted detract from the open, intelligent expression that defines correct type. Similarly, ears that are too small, overly rounded, flared, upright, or lacking furnishings and balanced lynx tips break the essential harmony of the head and must be avoided.

Structural extremes are equally detrimental. Breeders should guard against cobby, tubular, foreign, or overly long bodies that disrupt the rectangular outline, as well as fine boning or weak musculature that cannot support the breed's substantial size. Excessive size without regard for proportion, particularly when type is sacrificed in favor of length or mass, is a serious fault. Faulty legs and feet such as cow hocking, toeing out, untufted paws, or toes not fully contacting the floor (excepting dewclaws and polydactyl thumbs) undermine both function and correctness. Tails that are too short, poorly furred, or significantly out of balance with the body length are also unacceptable, as the tail is a defining element of Maine Coon type.

Uniform coat length without shag, coats that are too short or lie too close to the body, or textures that are wooly or cottony detract from the breed's all weather purpose. Heavy tarnishing in silver colors, lockets, or patterns that obscure clarity and contrast are also penalized. Perhaps most importantly, temperament extremes are never acceptable, as any definite challenge or aggressive behavior results in disqualification. The ideal Maine Coon must remain approachable and manageable, reflecting the breed's amiable disposition alongside its impressive physical presence. Breeders who resist extremes and prioritize moderation, soundness, and balance preserve the integrity and long term health of the breed as defined by the standard.

¹ The International Cat Association (TICA), *Maine Coon Breed Group (MC/MCP) Breed Standard*, PDF, revised April 2025, accessed June 17, 2026, <https://tica.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/MaineCoonMCP.pdf>

Pictures of the Desired Head Shape and Overall Balance



Withhold All Awards

Conditions reflect serious deviations from the correct type that fundamentally disrupt balance or expression. These include a heavy, massive muzzle that overwhelms the head rather than remaining in proportion, or an excessively heavy brow that closes or obscures the eyes' open expression. Eyes that are small, beady, or deeply set also warrant withholding awards, as they detract from the breed's hallmark alert and friendly look. Ear faults at this level include a narrow ear base or an overly upright, parallel ear set, both of which disrupt the proper framing of the head.

Disqualifications

Address faults that are either genetically, structurally, or behaviorally incompatible with the breed standard. These include non-permissible colors, blue or odd eyes in cats that are not white or with white, fine boning, cobby body type, and tail faults such as missing portions or tail length significantly out of balance with the body. Markedly small size for age or gender is also disqualifying. Temperament is critical; any definite challenge, including aggression or intent to harm, results in immediate disqualification. While the Maine Coon may vocalize, complain, or show mild resistance, it must remain manageable and unthreatening. These strict provisions ensure the breed remains sound, functional, and true to its natural origins.

[Breed seminar](#)

Genetic Make-up

Genetic Diversity²

Genetic Diversity refers to the amount of variation (heterozygosity) in the genetic material within a breed's gene pool or within an individual animal.

For the individual, genetic diversity can be estimated by calculating the **Coefficient of Inbreeding (COI)** from the pedigree. A more accurate assessment would use direct DNA testing. Although a DNA-based COI is not available for cats as it is for dogs, **Wisdom Panel (Optimal Selection/MyCatDNA)** offers a genetic diversity score that can be compared to the average percentages for other Maine Coons (typically in the range of 32 to 37%, 33 to 38% for the Maine Coon Polydactyl).

A **higher COI** (indicating lower genetic diversity) can make the traits of offspring more predictable, but may also increase risk. Low genetic diversity can lead to:

- **Inbreeding Depression** – A decrease in fitness: smaller litter sizes, shorter lifespans, and weakened immune systems.
- **Genetic Bottlenecks** – When a small number of individuals dominate the gene pool, reducing overall genetic variation. In Maine Coons, the “clones” represented a significant bottleneck.
- **Hereditary Diseases** – Reduced diversity increases the likelihood that two carriers of the same recessive mutation will be bred together, producing affected offspring.

The Clones and “Top 5” Foundation³

In Maine coons, “the Clones” refer to a specific group of 17 siblings born in the late 1970s and early 1980s from the mating of **Heidi Ho Sonkey Bill** and **Tanstaafi Polly Adeline**. These siblings were so remarkably similar in appearance and successful in show rings that they were used extensively by breeders worldwide. While the Clones themselves did not have a particularly high COI (9.38%), their linebreeding and overuse led to a significant impact on the breed's genetic landscape – roughly 35-40% of a modern Maine Coon's pedigree is from these 17 cats.

While the Maine Coon breed was originally established from over a hundred animals, due to the impact of the clones, around 70% of the average pedigree is now heavily concentrated on a very small number of foundation ancestors – the same original 5 who formed over 90% of the Clone's pedigree. These top 5 Foundation cats by percentage are:

1. **Andy Katt of Heidi Ho** (approx. 20%)
2. **Bridget Katt of Heidi Ho** (approx. 20%)
3. **Dauphin de France of Tati-Tan** (approx. 15%)
4. **Tatiana of Tati-Tan** (approx. 8%)
5. **Whittemore Smokie Joe** (approx. 7%)

² PawPeds Genetic Education Resources, “Basic Genetics and Inbreeding,” PawPeds Database and Education Section.

³ Sprenger, D. (2020, January 31). The influence of the clones. Cattery Macadamia.
<https://www.catterymacadamia.com/en/klonen>

Decreasing the inbreeding coefficient in the Maine Coon is directly linked to decreasing the percentage of Clones in the pedigree.

Key strategies to genetic diversity, long term survival, and health in the breed include:

- **Use Pedigree Analysis Tools:** Utilize platforms like PawPeds to analyze the complete, long-term COI, as well as the percentage of Clones and Foundation.
- **Control Clone Percentage:** Minimize the percentage of popular "clone" ancestors as much as possible to maintain higher genetic diversity.
- **“Mix it up” on the top five:** Attempt a more even distribution of Foundation cats within a pedigree
- **Health and Genetic Testing:** Prioritize comprehensive genetic health screenings to ensure that (especially outcrossed) cats improve the breed's health.
- **Avoid Over-breeding:** Prevent the overuse of specific, fashionable studs (avoiding "popular sire syndrome").
- **Focus on Breed Standards:** Focus on the original, natural breed standard rather than extreme, fashionable traits
- **Incorporate New Foundation*:** Introduce cats from "New Foundation" lines—unregistered or foundation cats that are not closely related to the existing inbred population.

**A discussion of “New Foundation” is beyond the scope of these recommendations. Be aware that without DNA confirmation of outcross (which is currently unavailable), intake of unregistered cats into the breed may falsely lower the breed's pedigree COI. Given the breed's popularity, true outcross should be confirmed genetically. Inexperienced breeders should not attempt to introduce New Foundation.*

Although DNA testing provides the most accurate assessment of genetic diversity in an individual cat, **pedigree-based COI remains the best available tool for estimating the genetic diversity of potential offspring before a mating occurs.**

In general, a lower inbreeding coefficient is desirable, but the number by itself does not automatically mean the breeding is safe, just as a high COI does not automatically mean disaster. The purpose of monitoring Coefficient of Inbreeding (COI) is to preserve long term genetic diversity, fertility, vigor, and overall breed health while maintaining correct type and temperament. Pedigree analysis ideally includes ancestors back to the original foundation Maine coons.

Why the number of generations matter

- COI varies based on the generations in the calculation
- A five generation COI may look low.
- A ten generation COI may double.
- Complete COI often reveals hidden bottlenecks.

The important question is not: “Is the COI under 10 percent?” The important questions are:

- Over how many generations?
- What does the genome show?
- Does this mating strengthen long term diversity?

Pedigree Based COI (PawPeds Complete COI)

All proposed matings should be evaluated using PawPeds complete COI when possible.

Minimum standard: COI must be reviewed over at least ten generations.

Preferred standard: Complete COI (extended the pedigree).

Reference Guidelines for Complete COI

Metric	Ideal (Outcross)	Acceptable (Show Line)	High Risk	Not advised
5-Gen COI	0.00%	< 1.0%	2% - 3%	> 3.0%
10-Gen COI	< 1%	1% - 3%	5% - 9%	>10%
Complete COI	< 12%	13% – 16%	17% - 20%	> 20%
Clone %	< 20%	25% – 35%	40% - 45%	> 45%
Top 5 %	< 60%	65% – 70%	70% - 75%	> 75%

**Short five-generation COI values should not be used alone to approve a mating, as they significantly underestimate accumulated relatedness.*

Genomic COI (DNA-Based Diversity Assessment)

When available, genomic COI or DNA based diversity should be considered in conjunction with pedigree COI. Pedigree COI estimates probability of relatedness. Genomic COI measures actual genetic sameness in DNA.

Breeding decisions should aim to:

- Maintain or increase genetic diversity
- Avoid stacking identical genomic regions
- Protect long term fertility and litter viability

Three Required Layers of Breeding Evaluation

Layer 1: Desired traits and breed standard

Layer 2: Health testing and mutation management

Layer 3: Genetic diversity assessment using pedigree and genomic COI

All three layers must be considered before approving a mating.

Genetic Health Issues and Related Health Testing Advice

NOTE: Breeders should be providing copies of all essential health testing as described below (DNA, HCM screening results, and hip dysplasia) to all new owners, whether it be a pet buyer or another breeder.

Dominant Blue Eyes (DBE)

Dominant Blue Eyes (DBE)⁴ is a distinct phenotype resulting from various mutations in the PAX3 gene. It is characterized by the presence of blue eyes or heterochromia with minimal visible or invisible white spotting. Research conducted to date has revealed an association with deafness for some of these mutations, raising concern. Other unknown health implications are possible given the documented detrimental consequences of mutations in this gene in other species, including craniofacial malformations, neurological abnormalities, and reduced kitten newborn viability, particularly when inherited in homozygous form (PawPeds Genetics Education Resources; Lyons et al., feline pigmentation mutation studies).

Because of these documented risks, the breeding of cats with Dominant Blue Eyes phenotype is strongly discouraged under all circumstances. Ethical breeding practice requires prioritizing health, longevity, and functional soundness over cosmetic novelty. Furthermore, blue eyes not associated with accepted color patterns for the breed are a disqualifying fault under the breed standard, making DBE cats ineligible for competition⁵. The intentional continuation of this mutation undermines genetic stability and exposes kittens to preventable health issues.

Breeders are therefore strongly encouraged to remove DBE cats entirely from breeding programs and to avoid introducing any of the described PAX3 mutations into pedigrees. Long term breed integrity depends on maintaining genetic diversity while eliminating traits known to compromise welfare. Responsible breeding must always place the health of the cats and the future of the breed above visual appeal.

Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM)

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is the most common cardiac disease affecting ALL domestic cats. HCM is characterized by thickening of the heart muscle, especially the left ventricular wall, which can reduce cardiac efficiency and lead to heart failure, arrhythmias, blood clots, or sudden death. The disease can develop slowly over time and often is not detectable at birth or in younger cats, therefore ongoing screening throughout a cat's breeding life is essential for responsible breeding decisions.

⁴ Abitbol, M., Dufaure de Citres, C., Rudd Garces, G., Lühken, G., Lyons, L. A., & Gache, V. (2024). Different Founding Effects Underlie Dominant Blue Eyes (DBE) in the Domestic Cat. *Animals*, 14(13), 1845. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani14131845>

⁵ The International Cat Association (TICA), Current Breed Standards and Show Rules regarding eye color disqualifications. <https://tica.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/MaineCoonMCP.pdf>

What You Need to Know About HCM

Genetic Basis and Limitations of DNA Testing⁶

A DNA test exists for the *MYBPC3* A31P variant associated with HCM in Maine Coons, offered by [UC Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory](#)., [Optimal Selection \(TICA Wisdom Panel\)](#) for US-based owners, and [MyCatDNA](#) for International owners. Cats carrying this mutation are at increased risk for developing HCM. DNA testing alone cannot confirm a cat is free of HCM, because:

- Not all cats with HCM carry the A31P variant, and
- Not all cats with the variant will go on to develop clinical disease.
- Therefore, all breeding cats should undergo scanning, regardless of DNA test results.

Role of Echocardiography

Echocardiography (heart ultrasound) is the gold standard for HCM screening because it directly assesses heart structure and function. Only board-certified veterinary cardiologists (e.g., DACVIM or ECVIM specialists) should perform and interpret these studies for official breeding decisions. Echocardiograms provide real-time evaluation of ventricular thickness, atrial size, and other cardiac parameters that genetic tests do not capture.

Recommended Screening Schedule⁷

1. Pre-Breeding Screening (First Echocardiogram)

Ideally at **12–18 months of age**, before the cat's first breeding. If breeding must be done prior to 12 months, the screening must be done earlier as well. This baseline scan can identify early disease and establish a reference for future comparisons.

2. Annual Monitoring

Repeat echocardiograms annually through at least 4 years of age.

HCM may not emerge consistently until after sexual maturity, and repeat imaging catches late-onset changes that a single scan would miss.

3. Mid-Life Follow-Up

Additional scans recommended at ~5–7 years of age even if prior scans were normal, particularly for lines with known HCM history, carriers of risk variants, or equivocal prior findings. Because HCM can develop later in adult life, lifelong periodic evaluation is best practice. Annual scans through at least 4 years of age are required; further scans are recommended throughout the cat's breeding career and ideally, into retirement.

⁶ UC Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory — Maine Coon HCM (A31P): DNA test information and interpretation. <https://vgl.ucdavis.edu/test/maine-coon-hcm>

⁷ PawPeds HCM Program and Recommendations — PawPeds Health Programmes: HCM and screening guidelines. <https://www.pawpeds.com/cms/index.php/en/health-programmes/hcm>

How to Use DNA Testing and Echocardiograms Together

- **If a cat is DNA positive for A31P:** Treat as higher risk and avoid mating (spay/neuter).
- **If a cat is DNA negative:** This reduces risk associated with that specific variant but *does not* rule out other genetic or multifactorial causes of HCM. Echocardiography remains essential.
- **If echocardiograms show equivocal or early changes:** Follow-up scans at shorter intervals (e.g., 6–12 months) should be recommended. Do not breed until that follow-up scan can be completed and is confirmed as normal. Breed only with careful consideration and genetic counseling.

Documentation Requirements

Breeders should maintain a health file for each breeding animal that includes:

- DNA test certificate with date and laboratory credentials
- Echocardiogram reports signed by the cardiologist with measurement details
- Screening dates and notes on how results informed breeding decisions
- A future screening plan

Proper record keeping enables transparency and generational health tracking.

Heart Health— Key Rules

1. **No cat may be declared HCM-free based solely on DNA results.**
2. **All breeding cats must undergo cardiologist-performed echocardiography at the scheduled time above.**
3. **Annual scans through at least 4 years of age are required; further scans are recommended throughout the cat's breeding career.**
4. **Documentation of all tests and interpretations must be retained and provided upon request.**
5. **Breeding decisions must integrate DNA and echocardiographic data, never one without the other.**

Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA)

Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA)⁸ is a hereditary neurodegenerative disorder that affects skeletal muscles due to the loss of motor neurons in the spinal cord. In Maine Coon cats, the condition typically becomes apparent between 3–4 months of age as progressive hind limb weakness, tremors, and gait abnormalities. Affected kittens may show a distinctive swaying

⁸ PawPeds SMA Health Programme — information on SMA in Maine Coon cats and health programme adjustments. <https://www.pawpeds.com/cms/index.php/en/health-programmes/sma/info>

hindquarter gait, reduced ability to jump, and reduced muscle mass, though they are *not in pain* and often live comfortably as indoor pets for many years.

SMA is inherited as a simple autosomal recessive trait, meaning a kitten must inherit two copies of the mutated gene — one from each parent — to be affected. Cats with one copy (carriers) do not show clinical signs but can pass the mutation to offspring; carriers bred to carriers have a 25 % chance of producing an affected kitten.

Genetic Basis and Testing

A DNA test is available to detect the SMA mutation in Maine Coons and is routinely offered by veterinary genetics laboratories such as UC Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory, Optimal Selection, MyCatDNA, and other reputable services.⁹

Genotype interpretation:

- **N/N (clear/normal):** No copies of the SMA mutation present; cannot produce affected offspring with respect to SMA.
- **N/S (carrier):** One copy of the mutation; cat will not develop clinical SMA but can pass the mutation to 50 % of offspring.
- **S/S (affected):** Two copies of the mutation; cat will develop SMA.

Because the condition is recessive and SMA is rare within the Maine Coon population, PawPeds has adjusted its health programme to focus on testing only animals from known carrier lines and foundation cats when needed, rather than blanket testing every cat.

Breeding Recommendations¹⁰

Testing Strategy:

- **Test cats from known affected or carrier lines:** SMA remains very rare in Maine Coons, and testing is most critical in lineages with a documented carrier or affected cat.
- **New foundation lines:** Test when introducing new breeding stock to ensure clear status and avoid introducing the mutation into your program.
- **Known safe lines:** Routine testing of cats from lines where both parents and close relatives are clear for the SMA mutation is not generally required, though individual breeder judgement may vary.
- **Record results:** Submit clearances and carrier/affected statuses to your pedigree database (e.g., PawPeds) to support long-term breed monitoring.

⁹ UC Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory — SMA testing information, inheritance pattern, and genotype interpretation. <https://vgl.ucdavis.edu/test/maine-coon-sma>

¹⁰ PawPeds SMA Breeding Recommendations — guidance on when and how to test and use results responsibly. <https://www.pawpeds.com/cms/index.php/en/health-programmes/sma/recommendations>

Breeding Decisions:

- **Clear × Clear (N/N × N/N):** Produces all clear kittens; optimal for minimizing SMA risk.
- **Clear × Carrier (N/N × N/S):** Safe from producing affected kittens, but up to 50 % of offspring may be carriers; carriers may be used strategically if paired to clears.
- **Carrier × Carrier (N/S × N/S):** Not recommended, as this mating has a 25 % risk of producing affected kittens and should be avoided.
- **Affected cats (S/S):** Should **not** be used in breeding.

Inform buyers: If a kitten is a carrier, breeders must disclose carrier status to buyers, particularly if the kitten is not neutered, so future breeding choices can be made responsibly.

Clinical Impact and Management

Affected kittens typically show signs by 15–17 weeks of age, including hind limb weakness, tremors, difficulty jumping, and a swaying gait. While SMA is a **non-fatal condition**, it is progressive and can impact mobility; however, many affected cats live comfortably indoors with appropriate management and care.

There is no cure for SMA, but early identification through genetic testing allows breeders to avoid producing affected kittens and to manage carrier status responsibly in breeding programs.

Feline Hip Dysplasia (HD)

Feline hip dysplasia (HD) is an inherited orthopedic condition involving abnormal development of the hip joint, resulting in joint laxity and progressive degenerative changes that may lead to osteoarthritis and reduced mobility later in life. Maine Coons, as a large and heavy boned breed, demonstrate a higher prevalence of hip abnormalities than the general cat population. Because many cats compensate well and show few outward symptoms, **radiographic screening is essential** to identify affected individuals and guide responsible breeding decisions.¹¹¹²¹³

¹¹ Loder, R. T., & Todhunter, R. J. (2018). Demographics of hip dysplasia in the Maine Coon cat. *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery*, 20(10), 904–910. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11129213/>

¹² Low, M., et al. (2019). Demography, heritability and genetic correlation of feline hip dysplasia. *Scientific Reports*, 9, 18025. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-53904-w>

¹³ Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell Feline Health Center.

Hip dysplasia in cats.

<https://www.vet.cornell.edu/departments-centers-and-institutes/cornell-feline-health-center/health-information/feline-health-topics/hip-dysplasia->

Screening and Diagnostic Requirements

Hip dysplasia is evaluated through pelvic radiographs (X-rays), which are usually taken under appropriate sedation or anesthesia to ensure proper positioning and image quality.

Timing of Screening

- **Minimum age for screening:** 10 to 12 months of age (depending on program)
- **Required prior to first breeding**
- Preliminary films may be taken earlier for breeder information, but **should not replace official evaluations**, taken at 2 years of age.

Approved Evaluation Programs

Breeders may utilize **one of the following recognized hip screening programs**:

PawPeds Health Programme¹⁴

- Radiographs taken by the breeder's veterinarian and submitted directly to the PawPeds evaluation team
- Graded by trained specialists using a standardized feline HD scoring system
- Results contribute to an open, breed-wide health database
- Particularly valuable for Maine Coon population tracking

Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA)

- Veterinarian submits radiographs to OFA for official review
- Images evaluated by board certified veterinary radiologists
- Results entered into a public orthopedic registry

PennHIP

- Measures hip joint laxity using a specialized distraction technique
- Provides a distraction index indicating risk for future degenerative joint disease
- Must be performed by a veterinarian certified in the PennHIP method
- Can be useful for early risk assessment in younger cats, though long term feline specific data is still evolving

¹⁴ PawPeds Health Programme. Hip Dysplasia (HD) — Overview and screening programme.
<https://www.pawpeds.com/healthprogrammes/hd.html>

Interpreting Results for Breeding

Recommended Use¹⁵

- **Normal or excellent hips:** Suitable for breeding
- **Mild changes:** May be used cautiously with strong mates and family history considered
- **Moderate to severe dysplasia:** Not recommended for breeding

Breeders should avoid pairing two cats with any degree of hip abnormality and should prioritize improving joint quality across generations.

Repeat Screening and Monitoring

- One official evaluation prior to breeding is required
- Repeat imaging may be considered for:
 - Long-term breeding cats
 - Borderline or mild cases
 - Cats showing clinical signs later in life

Documentation and Transparency

Each breeding animal should maintain:

- Official hip evaluation certificate or report (PawPeds, OFA, or PennHIP)
- Date and age at screening
- Veterinarian or evaluating body
- Notes on how results informed breeding decisions

Open reporting is strongly encouraged to support breed wide improvement.

Hip Dysplasia – Key Rules

1. All breeding cats must undergo official hip screening before first breeding
2. PawPeds, OFA, or PennHIP are acceptable evaluation programs
3. Moderate or severe HD cats should not be bred
4. Results must be documented and retained
5. Breeding strategies should aim to reduce HD prevalence over time

¹⁵ PawPeds Health Programme. Breeding recommendations for hip dysplasia.
<https://www.pawpeds.com/cms/index.php/en/health-programmes/hd/recommendations>

Pyruvate Kinase (PK) Deficiency¹⁶

Pyruvate Kinase (PK) Deficiency¹⁷ is an inherited metabolic disorder affecting red blood cells and has been identified in Maine Coon cats. The condition results from a mutation in the PKLR gene, leading to decreased red blood cell lifespan and intermittent hemolytic anemia. Clinical signs may include lethargy, weakness, pale mucous membranes, or reduced stamina, although some affected cats may appear clinically normal for extended periods. Because expression can vary and anemia may be intermittent, DNA testing is the only reliable method to determine genetic status.¹⁸

PK deficiency is inherited in an autosomal recessive manner. Cats that inherit two copies of the mutation are genetically affected. Cats with one copy are carriers and typically show no clinical signs but can pass the mutation to offspring. Responsible breeding management requires that all breeding cats have known PK status through DNA testing.¹⁹

Breeding Recommendations

- Affected cats (two copies of the mutation) should **not** be used in breeding.
- Carrier cats may be bred to genetically clear cats to prevent affected kittens while preserving valuable genetics.
- Carrier to carrier matings should be avoided.
- All test results should be documented and, when possible, submitted to recognized databases to support transparency and long term breed health monitoring.

¹⁶ Wisdom Panel. Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency in Cats — Clinical overview. <https://www.wisdompanel.com>

¹⁷ Grahn, R. A., Grahn, J. C., Penedo, M. C. T., Helps, C. R., & Lyons, L. A. (2012). Erythrocyte pyruvate kinase deficiency mutation identified in multiple breeds of domestic cats. *BMC Veterinary Research*, 8, 207.

¹⁸ PawPeds Health Programme. Pyruvate Kinase (PK) Deficiency — Information and breeding recommendations. <https://www.pawpeds.com/cms/index.php/en/health-programmes/pkdef>

¹⁹ UC Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory (VGL). Erythrocyte Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency in Cats — Test description and inheritance. <https://vgl.ucdavis.edu/test/pk-deficiency-cat>

Structural Soundness and Temperament Concerns in the Breeding Program

TICA Show Rules Article 16 establishes the Breed Standard as the defining blueprint for all breeds and charges breeders, judges, and Breed Committees with preserving and advancing the breed in accordance with that standard. Preservation of breed type must never come at the expense of functionality. Features such as a strong chin, square muzzle, substantial bone, and large size should be selected in balance with sound structure, correct dentition, normal movement, and long term health.

Breeding decisions should therefore be guided not only by health testing, pedigree analysis, and genetic diversity, but also by careful evaluation of each cat's conformity to the Breed Standard. Cats selected for breeding should demonstrate the physical soundness, athletic movement, stable temperament, and overall balance expected of the breed. Whenever possible, breeding stock should be exhibited in TICA-sanctioned shows or otherwise evaluated by qualified judges and experienced breeders to obtain an objective assessment of breed type and structural quality.

Article 16²⁰ recognizes that Breed Standards are living documents intended to preserve each breed's essential characteristics. Consequently, breeders have an obligation to avoid perpetuating traits that diminish structural soundness, compromise temperament, or move the breed away from the characteristics described in the Maine Coon Breed Standard. Faults affecting movement, stability, handling, or overall functionality should be carefully monitored and considered when making breeding decisions.

The following conditions are specifically identified because they may negatively affect structural soundness, temperament, welfare, and adherence to the Maine Coon Breed Standard.

Oral Health, Dentition, and Bite Alignment

The Maine Coon Breed Standard calls for a strong, square muzzle and a firm chin in line with the upper lip and nose. While these characteristics are important components of breed type, breeders should exercise caution to ensure that selection for a strong chin, square muzzle, or exaggerated head features does not compromise the correct bite alignment or oral health.

Malocclusion, including undershot, overshot, and wry bites, may interfere with normal function, contribute to abnormal tooth wear, increase the risk of oral trauma, and, in severe cases, affect a cat's ability to grasp and process food. Undershot bites are of particular concern because minor deviations observed in kittens may become more pronounced as the cat matures.

²⁰ The International Cat Association (TICA). Show Rules, Article Sixteen — mandatory disqualifications including biting and challenging behavior. TICA Show Rules and Judging Procedures.

In addition to bite alignment, breeders should remain attentive to hereditary factors contributing to chronic gingival and periodontal disease. While environmental influences, diet, and dental care play important roles, some family lines appear predisposed to excessive gingival inflammation, early periodontal disease, or persistent oral health issues. These conditions can negatively impact long term welfare and quality of life.



MALOCCLUSION



IN THE MAINE COON

Malocclusion refers to a misalignment of the upper and lower jaws when the mouth is closed. Correct bite alignment is essential for proper function, oral health, and long-term well-being.

TYPES OF MALOCCLUSION

CORRECT BITE	UNDERSHOT (UNDERBITE)	OVERSHOT (OVERBITE)	WRY BITE
			
Upper jaw fits neatly over lower jaw. Upper canines are just outside the lower canines. Bite is level. ✓	Lower jaw extends beyond upper jaw. Fault: Undershot bite May cause abnormal wear, oral trauma, and difficulty grasping food. ✗	Upper jaw extends beyond lower jaw. Fault: Overshot bite May cause difficulty closing mouth properly and increase risk of oral trauma. ✗	Jaw is misaligned side to side. Fault: Wry bite Can lead to uneven wear, oral trauma, and jaw discomfort. ✗



BREEDING CONSIDERATIONS

Breeders should select cats with correct, functional bite alignment. Cats with malocclusion may experience long-term health issues and should not be used in breeding programs.



STRONG IN TYPE • SOUND IN BODY • TRUE TO THE STANDARD

Breeding Program Guidance

- Breeding cats should demonstrate a correct, functional bite with proper alignment of the upper and lower jaws.
- Kittens exhibiting underbites, overbites, wry bites, or other significant malocclusions should not be retained for breeding.
- Particular caution should be exercised when evaluating kittens with even mild underbites, as jaw development may exaggerate the condition with maturity.
- Selection for strong chin development and muzzle shape should never take precedence over maintaining correct dentition and jaw function.
- Breeders should monitor family lines for recurring oral health concerns, including chronic gingivitis, early periodontal disease, or excessive dental pathology.
- Cats affected by severe or persistent hereditary oral health issues should not be used for breeding.
- Veterinary dental examinations should be incorporated into routine health evaluations of breeding animals.

Cow Hocking

Cow hocking refers to a structural deviation in which the hind legs angle inward at the hock joints while the feet point outward. In Maine Coons, whose standard calls for straight, substantial legs supporting a long rectangular body, cow hocking compromises balance, movement efficiency, and overall soundness.

While mild postural deviations may occur temporarily during growth phases, persistent cow hocking in mature cats indicates structural weakness or poor joint alignment. This can predispose cats to joint stress, abnormal wear, and reduced longevity of sound movement. From a show standpoint, cow hocking is a structural fault that detracts from correct breed type and may be penalized by judges.²¹



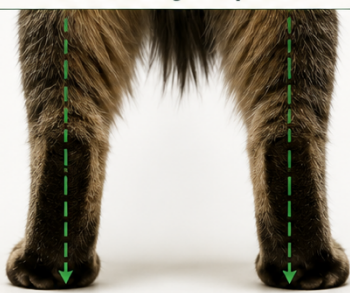
COW HOCKING

IN THE MAINE COON

Cow hocking refers to a structural deviation in which the hind legs angle inward at the hock joints while the feet point outward. This compromises balance, movement efficiency, and long-term joint health.

CORRECT

Hocks are straight and parallel.



The hind legs are straight when viewed from behind. Hocks are parallel and the feet point forward.

COW HOCKED

Hocks turn inward, feet turn outward.



The hock joints angle inward toward each other while the feet point outward.



BREEDING CONSIDERATIONS

- Cats displaying consistent cow hocking beyond juvenile development should not be selected as breeding animals.
- Particular caution should be used if the trait appears repeatedly within a family line, suggesting hereditary influence.
- Mate selection should prioritize straight rear leg structure and strong, balanced movement.

STRONG IN TYPE • SOUND IN BODY • TRUE TO THE STANDARD



Breeding Program Guidance:

- Cats displaying consistent cow hocking beyond juvenile development should not be selected as breeding animals.
- Particular caution should be used if the trait appears repeatedly within a family line, suggesting hereditary influence.
- Mate selection should prioritize straight rear leg structure and strong, balanced movement.

²¹ Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell Feline Health Center. Orthopedic conditions in cats: joint stability, limb alignment, and gait abnormalities.
<https://www.vet.cornell.edu/departments-centers-and-institutes/cornell-feline-health-center>

Patellar Luxation

Patellar luxation²² is a condition in which the kneecap (patella) moves out of its normal groove, causing intermittent lameness, abnormal gait, or reduced mobility. Though more commonly discussed in dogs, patellar luxation also occurs in cats and may range from mild (occasional slipping) to severe (persistent displacement).

In breeding cats, even mild forms can indicate underlying joint instability and increased risk of orthopedic problems in offspring. Repeated luxation can contribute to pain, cartilage damage, and arthritis over time.²³²⁴



Breeding Program Guidance:

- Breeding cats should receive routine orthopedic evaluations during veterinary exams, with specific attention to patellar stability and limb structure.
- Any cat diagnosed with moderate to severe patellar luxation should not be used for breeding.
- Cats with mild or intermittent luxation should be removed from breeding unless cleared by a veterinarian and no family history of the condition exists.

²² VCA Animal Hospitals. Patellar luxation in cats — clinical signs, grading, and long term implications. <https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/patellar-luxation-in-cats>

²³ Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell Feline Health Center. Orthopedic conditions in cats: joint stability, limb alignment, and gait abnormalities. <https://www.vet.cornell.edu/departments-centers-and-institutes/cornell-feline-health-center>

²⁴ PetMD Veterinary Reference. Luxating patella in cats: causes, diagnosis, and management. https://www.petmd.com/cat/conditions/musculoskeletal/c_ct_luxating_patella

- Breeders should track any occurrence within lines to avoid concentrating joint instability.
-

Toeing Out in the Maine Coon

Toeing out refers to a structural deviation in which one or both feet rotate outward away from the body's centerline when viewed from the front or rear. In the Maine Coon, the Breed Standard calls for substantial bone, straight legs, and balanced movement. Correct alignment allows the cat to move efficiently while supporting the weight and athleticism expected of the breed.

While mild variations may occasionally be observed during growth and development, persistent toeing out in mature cats represents a structural fault that can affect balance, gait efficiency, and overall soundness. Excessive outward rotation may place abnormal stress on joints, ligaments, and supporting structures over time.²⁵

Because the Maine Coon is intended to be a powerful, functional cat capable of smooth and efficient movement, proper limb and foot alignment is an important consideration when evaluating breeding stock. Toeing out may also detract from the overall appearance of strength and balance described in the Breed Standard and may be penalized in the show ring.

Correct alignment should demonstrate feet pointing forward with legs tracking straight beneath the body. Cats exhibiting significant outward rotation of the feet should be carefully evaluated for underlying structural issues and family history.

²⁵ Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell Feline Health Center. Orthopedic conditions in cats: joint stability, limb alignment, and gait abnormalities.
<https://www.vet.cornell.edu/departments-centers-and-institutes/cornell-feline-health-center>



TOEING OUT

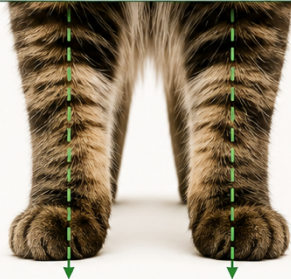
IN THE MAINE COON



Toeing out refers to a structural deviation in which one or both feet rotate outward away from the body's centerline when viewed from the front or rear. Persistent toeing out can affect balance, gait efficiency, and long-term joint health.

CORRECT ALIGNMENT

Legs are straight and the feet point forward.



Feet point forward and track directly beneath the limbs.

TOEING OUT

Feet rotate outward away from the body's centerline.



Feet rotate outward away from the body's centerline, affecting balance and movement efficiency.



BREEDING CONSIDERATIONS

- Select for straight limb alignment with feet pointing forward.
- Avoid breeding cats with persistent toeing out beyond juvenile development.
- Monitor family lines for recurring structural deviations.
- Evaluate movement as well as static structure.
- Prioritize sound movement and functional conformation.
- Avoid selecting for exaggerated bone or body size at the expense of proper structural alignment.



STRONG IN TYPE • SOUND IN BODY • TRUE TO THE STANDARD

Breeding Program Guidance:

- Breeding cats should demonstrate straight, balanced limb alignment with feet pointing forward when standing naturally.
- Cats displaying persistent toeing out beyond juvenile development should not be selected as breeding animals.
- Particular caution should be exercised when the trait appears repeatedly within a family line, suggesting a hereditary component.
- Breeders should evaluate movement as well as static structure, as toeing out may become more apparent during motion.
- Mate selection should prioritize correct front and rear limb alignment, balanced movement, and overall structural soundness.
- Breeders should avoid selecting for exaggerated bone or body size at the expense of proper structural alignment.

Biting and Aggressive Temperament

The Maine Coon is known for its amiable, manageable temperament, and unchallenging behavior is a requirement within TICA show standards²⁶. Biting or attempts to harm handlers,

²⁶ The International Cat Association (TICA). Maine Coon Breed Standard and Show Rules — structural faults, movement, and temperament requirements including disqualification for biting or aggressive behavior. TICA Official Publications and Breed Standards Manual.

judges, or other cats constitute a serious temperament fault and result in immediate disqualification in the show ring.

Aggressive behavior may have genetic, environmental, or handling components, but persistent biting behavior—especially when consistent across contexts—should be considered unacceptable for breeding.

Breeding Program Guidance:

- Cats exhibiting repeated aggressive behavior or biting in non-stressful handling situations should not be used for breeding.
- Temperament should be evaluated consistently from kittenhood through adulthood.
- Calm, confident, sociable behavior should be actively selected and reinforced in breeding choices.
- Breeders should avoid retaining breeding cats from lines where aggression is recurrent or normalized.

Program Principles for Soundness and Temperament

The breeding program prioritizes:

- Straight, balanced structural movement
- Strong joint stability
- Functional conformation supporting long term health
- Calm, unchallenging temperament consistent with breed character

Structural faults and aggressive behavior are not merely cosmetic or show concerns — they reflect deeper health and welfare implications that impact the longevity and quality of life of the cats produced.

Responsible breeding requires the breeder's best efforts to frequently handle and socialize kittens from a very young age, as well as the removal of unsound or behaviorally unsuitable animals from breeding programs and the intentional selection of cats that exemplify both physical integrity and the Maine Coon's gentle nature.

List for the 2026 Annual Meeting (5-year tracking ends November 16, 2026):

Full Name	Name	Brd Category	Brd Code	Brd Hair	Syr tracking ends
Experimental American Ringtail	EXP-XRT-SH-2021	EXP	XRT	SH	11/16/2026
Experimental Am Ringtail Lh	EXP-XRL-LH-2021	EXP	XRL	LH	11/16/2026
Experimental American Satin	EXP-XST-LH-2021	EXP	XST	LH	11/16/2026
Experimental Bramble	EXP-XBE-SH-2021	EXP	XBE	SH	11/16/2026
Experimental Caracat	EXP-XCA-SH-2021	EXP	XCA	SH	11/16/2026
Experimental Cheetoh	EXP-XCT-SH-2021	EXP	XCT	SH	11/16/2026
Experimental Cloudedjack	EXP-XCJ-SH-2021	EXP	XCJ	SH	11/16/2026
Experimental Helki	EXP-XHK-LH-2021	EXP	XHK	LH	11/16/2026
Experimental Hungarian	EXP-XHG-SH-2021	EXP	XHG	SH	11/16/2026
Experimental Jungle	EXP-XJG-SH-2021	EXP	XJG	SH	11/16/2026
Experimental Legend Leopard	EXP-XLL-LH-2021	EXP	XLL	LH	11/16/2026
Experimental Leopold	EXP-XLD-SH-2021	EXP	XLD	SH	11/16/2026
Experimental Maew Boran	EXP-XWB-SH-2021	EXP	XWB	SH	11/16/2026
Experimental Magnifelis	EXP-XMN-SH-2021	EXP	XMN	SH	11/16/2026
Experimental Marguerite	EXP-XMG-SH-2021	EXP	XMG	SH	11/16/2026
Experimental Mekong Bobtail	EXP-XMB-SH-2021	EXP	XMB	SH	11/16/2026
Experimental Nile Valley Egyptian	EXP-XNV-SH-2021	EXP	XNV	SH	11/16/2026
Experimental Sasquatch	EXP-XSQ-LH-2021	EXP	XSQ	LH	11/16/2026
Experimental Silverdust	EXP-XSD-SH-2021	EXP	XSD	SH	11/16/2026
Experimental Tibetan	EXP-XTN-SH-2021	EXP	XTN	SH	11/16/2026

2025 Annual Meeting motion:

8. Motion by van Mullem/Armel to terminate the experimental status of the Experimental Breeds that do not comply with Registration Rule 33.1.2.3. Motion carried unanimously. *This change goes into effect immediately.*

Experimental Bambino, Experimental Dwelf, Experimental Elf, Experimental Fantasy, Experimental Foldex, Experimental Foldex Longhair, Experimental Genetta, Experimental Imperial, Experimental Imperial Longhair, Experimental Jaguar Sphynx, Experimental Keetso, Experimental Kinkalow, Experimental Kinkalow Lh, Experimental Krinkle, Experimental Krinkle Shorthair, Experimental Lambkin, Experimental Scottish Kilt, Experimental Scottish Kilt Lh, Experimental Skookum, Experimental Skookum Shorthair.

Note – other Experimental Breed status will be terminated on November 16, 2026, per Registration Rules 33.1.2., 33.1.2.1, 33.1.2.2.

TICA should implement a standardized incident reporting process for all shows. In the event of litigation, a contemporaneously drafted incident report is the primary line of defense. It captures facts before memories fade and establishes that the event management acted with due diligence.

The following form is designed to be comprehensive, protecting the organization against claims from participants (exhibitors, spectators, vendors, and staff).

Incident Report Checklist for Show Management

To ensure this form serves its purpose, the following internal protocols should be used:

- 1. Immediate Notification: The Show Manager must be notified of any incident within 15 minutes of occurrence.**
- 2. No Admissions: Instruct all stewards and judges never to say "I'm sorry this happened" or "We should have fixed that," as these can be construed as admissions of negligence in court.**
- 3. Digital Backups: Scan and upload these reports to a secure cloud drive immediately. Physical copies can be lost or altered.**
- 4. Photo Documentation: Train staff to take 360-degree photos of the area where the incident occurred to prove the state of the facility at that exact moment.**
- 5. The "Sound Mind" Check: If a person appears disoriented, has lost consciousness, or is a minor, do not rely on the Refusal of Care form. Call emergency services immediately. Liability for "calling an ambulance unnecessarily" is virtually non-existent compared to the liability of failing to call one for a serious head injury or allergic reaction.**
- 6. Witness Separation: If there are multiple witnesses, separate them before they fill out the statements. This prevents "groupthink" and ensures the statements are legally robust.**
- 7. Minor Participants: If the witness or injured party is a minor, a parent or legal guardian must sign these documents on their behalf.**

Confidential Incident Report Form

Privileged and Confidential – Prepared at Request of Counsel

Note to Show Staff: This form should be completed immediately following any incident involving injury, property damage, or a significant behavioral dispute. Do not admit fault or promise compensation to any party. Stick strictly to observable facts.

1. General Event Information

- **Event Name:** _____
- **Venue Name/Location:** _____
- **Date of Incident:** //20__ **Time:** _____ AM/PM
- **Specific Location within Venue:** (e.g., Ring 4, Vendor Row B, Grooming Area)

2. Person(s) Involved

Name	Role (Exhibitor, Spectator, Vendor, Staff)	Contact Information (Phone/Email)

As your legal counsel specializing in liability mitigation, I cannot overstate the importance of a standardized incident reporting process. In the event of litigation, a contemporaneously drafted incident report is your primary line of defense. It captures facts before memories fade and establishes that the event management acted with due diligence.

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2. Person(s) Involved

Name	Role (Exhibitor, Spectator, Vendor, Staff)	Contact Information (Phone/Email)

3. Type of Incident

- ☐ **Bodily Injury:** (Slip/fall, cat bite/scratch, equipment related)
- ☐ **Property Damage:** (Damage to venue, vendor booth, or personal property)
- ☐ **Animal Incident:** (Cat escape, animal-on-animal aggression, health crisis)
- ☐ **Behavioral/Security:** (Physical or verbal altercation, theft, harassment)

4. Description of Incident

Provide a factual account of what happened. (Avoid assumptions or subjective language like "he seemed drunk" or "the floor was dangerously wet." Instead, use "Subject was slurring speech" or "Small puddle of water observed near Ring 2.")

5. Equipment/Environment Observations

- **Lighting conditions:** ☐ Excellent ☐ Fair ☐ Poor
 - **Floor surface:** ☐ Dry ☐ Wet ☐ Obstructed ☐ Uneven
 - **Signage posted?** (e.g., "Caution: Cats in Area," "Do Not Touch") ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - **Was specific equipment involved?** (Cages, grooming tables, electrical cords)
-
-
-
-

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- **Signage posted?** (e.g., "Caution: Cats in Area," "Do Not Touch") ☐ Yes ☐ No
- **Was specific equipment involved?** (Cages, grooming tables, electrical cords)

6. Witness Information

List all individuals who observed the incident. Note: Obtain statements on a separate sheet if possible.

Name	Role (Exhibitor, Spectator, Vendor, Staff)	Contact Information (Phone/Email)

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- Signage posted? (e.g., "Caution: Cats in Area," "Do Not Touch") ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Was specific equipment involved? (Cages, grooming tables, electrical cords)

6. Witness Information

List all individuals who observed the incident. Note: Obtain statements on a separate sheet if possible.

Name	Role (Exhibitor, Spectator, Vendor, Staff)	Contact Information (Phone/Email)

7. Response and Medical Treatment

- Was first aid administered on-site? ☐ Yes ☐ No By whom? _____
- Were emergency services called? ☐ Yes ☐ No (Time called: _____)
- Was treatment refused? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If yes, have party sign below or note refusal)
- Photos taken? ☐ Yes ☐ No (Always photograph the scene and any visible damage/injury)

8. Reporting Staff Member

- Name: _____ Title: _____
- Signature: _____ Date signed: 20____

Addendum A: Voluntary Witness Statement

Purpose: To capture an unbiased, third-party account of the incident.

Witness Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

Relationship to Event: ☐ Spectator ☐ Exhibitor ☐ Vendor ☐ Other: _____

Statement: (Please describe exactly what you saw, heard, or experienced. Be as specific as possible regarding locations, times, and individuals involved.)

Did you observe any hazards prior to the incident? _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** //20__

Addendum B: Refusal of Medical Assistance/Transport

Participant Name: _____

Nature of Incident/Injury: _____

Acknowledgment of Offer of Assistance: I, the undersigned, acknowledge that representatives of [Show Management Name] have offered me the following:

- ☐ First aid treatment on-site.
- ☐ Request for professional Emergency Medical Services (Ambulance/Paramedics).
- ☐ Transportation to a local urgent care or hospital.

Refusal of Care: I hereby decline the medical assistance or transportation offered above. I certify that I am of sound mind and am making this decision of my own free will. I understand that my symptoms or injuries may be more serious than they currently appear.

Release of Liability: I agree to hold [Show Management Name], the venue, and its staff harmless for any worsening of my condition or subsequent injuries resulting from my refusal of medical attention.

Participant Signature: _____ Date: //20____ Witness Signature
(Staff): _____ Date: //20____

TICA
Profit & Loss Budget Performance
July 2026

	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
01 Memberships	260,000.00
04 Additional Breed Sections	5,000.00
05 Cattery Registrations	210,000.00
06 Individual Registrations	170,000.00
07 Blue Slips	335,000.00
08 Litter Registrations	606,000.00
09 HHP Registrations	15,000.00
10 Transfers/Leases	112,000.00
11 Dup/Corr/Add or Delete Suff	58,000.00
12 Title Confirmations	36,000.00
14 Cert 3-Gen Pedigrees	185,000.00
15 Cert 5-Gen Pedigrees	310,000.00
16 Club Charters	1,000.00
17 Club Fees Renewals	6,000.00
18 Judges Fees	3,000.00
19 Show License Fees	32,000.00
20 Annual Awards Fees	40,000.00
21 Show Insurance Fees	18,000.00
23 TICA TREND	5,000.00
24 TICA Yearbook	30,000.00
25 Miscellaneous	25,000.00
26 COE/OSTD Cattery	7,000.00
31 OS/OD/LA	2,500.00
32 Annual Awards Dup/Frt	1,500.00
33 Website Breeder Listings	182,000.00
35 Website Classified Ads	18,000.00
37 Rush	35,000.00
40 Shipping Fees	1,500.00
41 Annual Awards Sponsorships	9,000.00
49 TOES	3,000.00
51 Certified Ancestral 5 Gen	2,000.00
52 Pet Insurance	5,000.00
53 Wisdom Optimal	7,000.00
54 Wisdom MyCatDNA	1,000.00
Total Income	<u>2,736,500.00</u>
Gross Profit	2,736,500.00
Expense	
ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM	
Annual Awards Program - Other	10,000.00
Banquet Expense	8,000.00
Freight and Postage	7,000.00
Plaques/Trophies	30,000.00

TICA
Profit & Loss Budget Performance
July 2026

	Annual Budget
Regional Rebate	60,000.00
Total ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM	115,000.00
BANK	
PayPal Fees	50,000.00
Service Charges	92,000.00
Total BANK	142,000.00
BOARD MEETING EXPENSE	
Annual Meeting	
Appointed Officials - Lodging	5,000.00
Appointed Officials - Per Diem	2,000.00
Appointed Officials - Travel	
Misc	0.00
Appointed Officials - Travel - Other	5,000.00
Total Appointed Officials - Travel	5,000.00
Board-Lodging	20,000.00
Board-Per Diem	8,500.00
Board-Travel	18,000.00
Room/Refreshments/Supplies	6,000.00
Total Annual Meeting	64,500.00
Spring Meeting	
Appointed Officials-Per Diem	0.00
Appointed Officials-Travel	0.00
Board-Lodging	0.00
Board-Per Diem	0.00
Board-Travel	0.00
Room/Refreshments/Supplies	500.00
Total Spring Meeting	500.00
WCC Meeting	7,000.00
Winter Meeting	
Appointed Officials-Lodging	1,500.00
Appointed Officials-Per Diem	1,000.00
Appointed Officials-Travel	1,000.00
Board-Lodging	13,000.00
Board-Travel	14,000.00
Board -Per Diem	6,000.00
Room/Refreshments/Supplies	3,000.00
Total Winter Meeting	39,500.00
Total BOARD MEETING EXPENSE	111,500.00
COMMUNICATIONS	
Telephone	19,000.00
Total COMMUNICATIONS	19,000.00
COMPUTER	

TICA
Profit & Loss Budget Performance
July 2026

	Annual Budget
Equipment	5,000.00
Programming	
Enhancements/Maintenance	275,000.00
Total Programming	275,000.00
Software	300,000.00
Supplies/Support	500.00
Website Support	10,000.00
Total COMPUTER	590,500.00
CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP	25,000.00
DEPRECIATION EXPENSE	
Database Amortization	21,800.00
Entry Program Amortization	114,000.00
DEPRECIATION EXPENSE - Other	6,000.00
Total DEPRECIATION EXPENSE	141,800.00
DUES/MISC/SUBS/GIFTS	12,000.00
FREIGHT AND POSTAGE	
Box Rent/Permits	500.00
Freight-Customers	2,000.00
Freight-Show Supplies	500.00
Freight - Marketing	3,000.00
Postage Meter	50,000.00
Total FREIGHT AND POSTAGE	56,000.00
INSURANCE	
Director's Liability Insurance	3,500.00
General/Administrative	2,000.00
Judge's Liability	1,300.00
Property	1,000.00
Show Liability	48,000.00
Total INSURANCE	55,800.00
INTEREST EXPENSE	0.00
MARKETING	
Advertising	30,000.00
Printed Materials	5,000.00
Professional Fees	27,000.00
Special Events	25,000.00
Supplies	1,000.00
Travel Expense	20,000.00
Total MARKETING	108,000.00
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	
Leases	6,000.00
Leases-Office Equip Amortizatio	0.00
Maintenance	1,500.00
Purchase	5,000.00

TICA
Profit & Loss Budget Performance
July 2026

	Annual Budget
Total OFFICE EQUIPMENT	12,500.00
OFFICE MAINTENANCE	
Repairs	1,000.00
Total OFFICE MAINTENANCE	1,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	
Laminating Supplies	4,500.00
Other	8,000.00
Paper	4,000.00
Toner	5,000.00
Total OFFICE SUPPLIES	21,500.00
PAYROLL	
Contract Labor	75,000.00
Employee Benefits	17,000.00
Ring Training Stipend	1,500.00
Salary/Wages	
Overtime	20,000.00
Salary/Wages - Other	872,200.00
Total Salary/Wages	892,200.00
Taxes	77,000.00
Total PAYROLL	1,062,700.00
PRINTING	
Other	10,000.00
Total PRINTING	10,000.00
PROFESSIONALS FEES	
Accounting and Audit	40,000.00
Balloting	22,000.00
Legal	40,000.00
Legislative Committee	20,000.00
Payroll Preparation	4,500.00
PROFESSIONALS FEES - Other	5,000.00
Total PROFESSIONALS FEES	131,500.00
REIMBURSEMENTS	
Judging Administrator	
Fees	1,000.00
Total Judging Administrator	1,000.00
Judging Committee	6,000.00
Total REIMBURSEMENTS	7,000.00
RENT AND UTILITIES	
Custodial	10,000.00
Rent	40,000.00
Rent Expense-Lease Amortization	0.00
Total RENT AND UTILITIES	50,000.00
SECURITY	750.00

TICA
Profit & Loss Budget Performance
July 2026

	<u>Annual Budget</u>
TAXES	
Federal	0.00
Property	2,000.00
Total TAXES	<u>2,000.00</u>
TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENTS	
Employee	15,000.00
Officers	5,000.00
Other	6,000.00
Total TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENTS	<u>26,000.00</u>
TREND EXPENSES	
Editorial Fees	18,600.00
Publishing and Distributuion	83,000.00
Total TREND EXPENSES	<u>101,600.00</u>
YEARBOOK	
Editorial Fees	16,500.00
Freight	10,000.00
Publishing	32,000.00
Reimbursed Expenses	500.00
Total YEARBOOK	<u>59,000.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>2,862,150.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	-125,650.00
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Capital Gains	0.00
Dividend Income	9,000.00
Interest Income	35,000.00
Unrealized gain/loss	0.00
Total Other Income	<u>44,000.00</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-81,650.00</u></u>

TICA Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2026

	Jun 30, 24	Jun 30, 25	Jun 30, 26
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
PayPal Account	10,346.98	1,899.63	2,396.57
RBC Investment Account	1,528,202.20	1,704,095.27	2,097,891.77
TSB-General	163,813.48	196,918.50	180,337.65
TSB-Payroll	26,827.40	25,262.51	24,622.03
Total Checking/Savings	1,729,190.06	1,928,175.91	2,305,248.02
Other Current Assets			
A/R Membership	7,367.00	1,800.00	1,242.00
Annual Advance Receivable	32,032.59	0.00	0.00
Interest Receivable	10,342.92	13,197.82	12,811.33
Inventory Yearbook	3,110.00	1,790.00	1,380.00
PrePaid Expenses	53,967.19	46,826.00	39,186.32
Total Other Current Assets	106,819.70	63,613.82	54,619.65
Total Current Assets	1,836,009.76	1,991,789.73	2,359,867.67
Fixed Assets			
capital lease improvement	104,715.10	104,715.10	104,715.10
Equipment/Machinery	178,800.89	187,682.79	187,682.79
Furniture/Fixtures	22,475.54	22,475.54	22,475.54
Recorded Depreciation	-285,065.44	-291,546.49	-297,243.26
Total Fixed Assets	20,926.09	23,326.94	17,630.17
Other Assets			
Database Upgrade Implementation	253,764.21	137,760.21	21,756.21
Entry Program Integration	437,105.33	323,105.33	209,105.33
Operating Leases - Right-of-Use			
Accumulated Amort of Oper Lease	-66,806.00	-100,209.01	-133,612.02
Operating Leases - Right-of-Use - Other	164,830.00	164,830.00	164,830.00
Total Operating Leases - Right-of-Use	98,024.00	64,620.99	31,217.98
Total Other Assets	788,893.54	525,486.53	262,079.52
TOTAL ASSETS	2,645,829.39	2,540,603.20	2,639,577.36
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable			
Accounts Payable	46,380.16	85,197.50	51,146.66
Total Accounts Payable	46,380.16	85,197.50	51,146.66
Other Current Liabilities			
Credits Payable Membership	112,401.60	113,179.71	113,179.71
Deferred Income	125,982.71	14,332.35	0.00
Payroll Liabilities	15,120.02	16,041.35	13,028.26
Payroll Payable	24,624.27	25,688.47	19,889.50
Total Other Current Liabilities	278,128.60	169,241.88	146,097.47
Total Current Liabilities	324,508.76	254,439.38	197,244.13
Long Term Liabilities			

TICA Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2026

	Jun 30, 24	Jun 30, 25	Jun 30, 26
Compensated Absences	34,824.45	42,013.70	42,013.70
Operating Leases - Liab - LTM	101,865.47	68,460.85	33,705.58
Total Long Term Liabilities	136,689.92	110,474.55	75,719.28
Total Liabilities	461,198.68	364,913.93	272,963.41
Equity			
Retained Earnings	1,759,109.32	1,719,475.47	1,711,034.03
Unrestricted Fund Balance	465,155.24	464,655.24	464,655.24
Net Income	-39,633.85	-8,441.44	190,924.68
Total Equity	2,184,630.71	2,175,689.27	2,366,613.95
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>2,645,829.39</u>	<u>2,540,603.20</u>	<u>2,639,577.36</u>

TICA
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July 2025 through June 2026

	Jul '25 - Jun 26	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
01 Memberships	274,479.00	275,000.00	-521.00	99.81%
04 Additional Breed Sections	4,910.00	5,000.00	-90.00	98.2%
05 Cattery Registrations	211,575.00	210,000.00	1,575.00	100.75%
06 Individual Registrations	163,620.07	170,000.00	-6,379.93	96.25%
07 Blue Slips	332,961.00	330,000.00	2,961.00	100.9%
08 Litter Registrations	580,471.15	590,000.00	-9,528.85	98.39%
09 HHP Registrations	13,529.00	15,000.00	-1,471.00	90.19%
10 Transfers/Leases	112,782.00	100,000.00	12,782.00	112.78%
11 Dup/Corr/Add or Delete Suff	54,508.00	55,000.00	-492.00	99.11%
12 Title Confirmations	33,283.00	40,000.00	-6,717.00	83.21%
14 Cert 3-Gen Pedigrees	178,498.00	180,000.00	-1,502.00	99.17%
15 Cert 5-Gen Pedigrees	306,765.00	290,000.00	16,765.00	105.78%
16 Club Charters	550.00	1,000.00	-450.00	55.0%
17 Club Fees Renewals	4,765.00	6,000.00	-1,235.00	79.42%
18 Judges Fees	4,205.00	3,000.00	1,205.00	140.17%
19 Show License Fees	28,235.00	34,000.00	-5,765.00	83.04%
20 Annual Awards Fees	36,085.00	43,000.00	-6,915.00	83.92%
21 Show Insurance Fees	15,310.00	18,000.00	-2,690.00	85.06%
23 TICA TREND	4,830.00	5,000.00	-170.00	96.6%
24 TICA Yearbook	30,011.00	30,000.00	11.00	100.04%
25 Miscellaneous	748.10	2,000.00	-1,251.90	37.41%
26 COE/OSTD Cattery	6,409.95	7,000.00	-590.05	91.57%
27 Election Filing Fees	1,385.00	500.00	885.00	277.0%
30 Clerking Fees	480.00	0.00	480.00	100.0%
31 OS/OD/LA	2,065.00	2,500.00	-435.00	82.6%
32 Annual Awards Dup/Frt	1,570.00	1,000.00	570.00	157.0%
33 Website Breeder Listings	220,249.00	140,000.00	80,249.00	157.32%
35 Website Classified Ads	15,250.00	20,000.00	-4,750.00	76.25%
37 Rush	43,962.00	35,000.00	8,962.00	125.61%
39 Complaint Fees	935.00	500.00	435.00	187.0%
40 Shipping Fees	1,656.00	1,500.00	156.00	110.4%
41 Annual Awards Sponsorships	2,850.00	9,000.00	-6,150.00	31.67%
42 Late Fees (Judges/Pstg Due/	690.00	500.00	190.00	138.0%
44 Return Check Svc/Handling	60.00	0.00	60.00	100.0%
45 Rtn'd Chks/Handling Fees	50.00	0.00	50.00	100.0%
46 Refunds	95.00	0.00	95.00	100.0%
49 TOES	1,891.71	7,000.00	-5,108.29	27.02%
50 Endorsement	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	100.0%
51 Certified Ancestral 5 Gen	2,140.00	2,000.00	140.00	107.0%
52 Pet Insurance	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00	0.0%
53 Wisdom Optimal	20,973.27	7,000.00	13,973.27	299.62%
54 Wisdom MyCatDNA	2,026.88	1,000.00	1,026.88	202.69%

TICA
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July 2025 through June 2026

	Jul '25 - Jun 26	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Corporate Sponsorships	14,332.35	25,000.00	-10,667.65	57.33%
Deposit	6,792.40	0.00	6,792.40	100.0%
Total Income	2,767,983.88	2,671,500.00	96,483.88	103.61%
Gross Profit	2,767,983.88	2,671,500.00	96,483.88	103.61%
Expense				
ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM	103,469.89	116,000.00	-12,530.11	89.2%
BANK	132,531.84	142,000.00	-9,468.16	93.33%
BOARD MEETING EXPENSE	102,580.36	95,500.00	7,080.36	107.41%
COMMUNICATIONS	17,597.93	19,000.00	-1,402.07	92.62%
COMPUTER	618,031.02	497,425.00	120,606.02	124.25%
CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP	3,250.00	25,000.00	-21,750.00	13.0%
DEPRECIATION EXPENSE	235,700.77	236,000.00	-299.23	99.87%
DUES/MISC/SUBS/GIFTS	13,837.00	10,000.00	3,837.00	138.37%
FREIGHT AND POSTAGE	56,525.99	51,000.00	5,525.99	110.84%
INSURANCE	52,370.30	47,300.00	5,070.30	110.72%
INTEREST EXPENSE	1,979.85	0.00	1,979.85	100.0%
MARKETING	89,354.42	88,000.00	1,354.42	101.54%
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	13,566.60	11,500.00	2,066.60	117.97%
OFFICE MAINTENANCE	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
OFFICE SUPPLIES	18,190.39	19,000.00	-809.61	95.74%
PAYROLL	940,435.46	1,042,426.00	-101,990.54	90.22%
PRINTING	7,777.75	7,000.00	777.75	111.11%
PROFESSIONALS FEES	112,902.44	128,500.00	-15,597.56	87.86%
REIMBURSEMENTS	941.76	1,000.00	-58.24	94.18%
RENT AND UTILITIES	38,505.83	49,000.00	-10,494.17	78.58%
SECURITY	525.01	700.00	-174.99	75.0%
TAXES	1,294.40	2,000.00	-705.60	64.72%
TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENTS	21,340.86	29,000.00	-7,659.14	73.59%
TREND EXPENSES	92,597.05	103,600.00	-11,002.95	89.38%
YEARBOOK	53,861.15	59,500.00	-5,638.85	90.52%
Total Expense	2,729,168.07	2,781,451.00	-52,282.93	98.12%
Net Ordinary Income	38,815.81	-109,951.00	148,766.81	-35.3%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Capital Gains	64,512.94	0.00	64,512.94	100.0%
Dividend Income	12,499.81	8,000.00	4,499.81	156.25%
Interest Income	40,631.90	35,000.00	5,631.90	116.09%
Unrealized Gain	34,464.22	0.00	34,464.22	100.0%
Total Other Income	152,108.87	43,000.00	109,108.87	353.74%
Net Income	190,924.68	-66,951.00	257,875.68	-285.17%

Article Ten: Investment Policy Statement

The fiduciary responsibility of the Board of Directors shall include establishing policy for the investment of funds and ensuring investment activity is in accordance with that policy. Following are the policies established by the Board for the investment of funds.

These policies should be periodically reviewed but it is expected that they will not change frequently.

General Guidelines

- The assets of TICA will be invested in accordance with all applicable laws.
- Invested funds should be maintained in an established investment bank and/or brokerage firm maintaining a high credit rating.
- The Board of Directors shall be advised by a qualified Financial Advisor.
- All decisions pertaining to changes in this Investment Policy will be made by the Board of Directors.

Primary Financial Objective

The primary objective of the Association's investment portfolio is to preserve and augment purchasing power while providing support for the stability and growth of The International Cat Association.

Asset Allocation Targets

Funds are diversified across multiple markets, including the global equity markets (US and Foreign Stocks), in an effort to diversify some of the risk effects of varying geopolitical, economic, and social developments. The asset allocation established by this Investment Policy Statement represents a long-term perspective. As such, rapid unanticipated market shifts or changes in economic conditions may cause the asset mix to fall outside of the policy range.

The Association's overall asset allocation target is as follows

	Minimum %	Target %	Maximum %
Equity (US)	20	30	50
Fixed Income	40	60	80
Foreign Equity (Non US)	0	10	30

Established Funds and Investment Guidelines

Fixed Income Funds. Provide operational stability and source of cash reserves when needed.

- **Cash Management Portfolio** – provide return on excess cash, easily transferring funds to and from TICA's general banking accounts in order to provide operational cash flow when required. Investments include Treasury notes, CD's (Certificates of Deposit), and bonds, with very short maturities so as to ensure access to cash when needed.

- **Bond Portfolio** – An Advisory account, comprised of Investment-grade bonds with competitive market rates, and laddered maturities for a period of no more than 10 years. This portfolio provides a source of interest income which is either available for operations or reinvested. The intent of laddering the maturities is to provide a predictable return of principal each year which can be used for operations, special projects, or reinvested. As bonds mature, if the principal is not needed for operations, the proceeds will be re-invested back into the long-end of the ladder (10 years). This is referred to as “rolling the bond ladder”.

Equity Funds. Investments that seek to provide long-term capital appreciation while potentially recognizing substantial fluctuations in year-to-year performance. The equity portion of the portfolio will be managed by outside Investment Managers recommended by the Financial Advisor. The Board of Director will approve all Investment Managers, and their allocation allotment. Allowable investments and strategies include:

- **US Equities** – Investment Managers may invest in stocks of companies domiciled in the United States.
- **Foreign Equities** – Investment Managers may invest in stocks of companies domiciled outside of the United States. Foreign equities may offer diversification to a well-diversified portfolio. Foreign equities may contain additional risks and added volatility.
- **Value Equities** – Value stocks tend to be lower-volatility stocks, having lower Price-to-Earnings ratios, Price-to-Book ratios, and a focus on higher dividend yields.
- **Growth Equities** – Growth stocks tend to be more volatile, higher Price-to-Earnings stocks with a main focus on capital appreciation, and little or no focus on dividend yield.

Risk Tolerance

The Association’s risk level is currently defined by the Financial Advisor as Moderate Risk. The portfolio may include exposure to both low volatility and growth/higher volatility assets and is considered as having a moderate risk tolerance and a medium-term investment time horizon.

Review of Investment Performance

The Board will seek reports from the Financial Advisor on a periodic basis and review investment portfolio performance at least annually with a focus on:

- Adherence to this Investment Policy
- Change in investment philosophy
- Review Portfolio Managers
- Asset allocation in line with goals or should the portfolio be rebalanced
- Long-term investment results in line with appropriate benchmarks and market returns

EveryCAT[®]

HEALTH FOUNDATION

The Future of Feline Medicine Starts Here



From Curious Cats to Cutting-Edge Science



Joan Miller and Dr. Niels Pedersen



**EveryCat Health
Foundation
is almost 60 years old**

EveryCat Health Foundation Grant Activity

- Last two years \$2.1million in EveryCat grants.
- 35% of grant dollars outside the U.S. – Canada, England, Scotland, Australia, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Thailand, Brazil



- **Gastroenterology:** Radiation as stomatitis treatment
- **Urology:** Early kidney screening parameters
- **Immunology:** Advancements in vaccine design
- **Oncology:** Treatments for different types of cancer
- **Virology:** Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP)
- **Behavioral:** Feline specific QOL scale
- **Heart Disease and Diabetes**



Cyprus FIP Response with Morris Animal Foundation

- To study the development of antibodies and point of care diagnostics against the FCoV-23 strain
- FCoV Biobank - International effort to collect, store, and study samples
 - 500 samples from the Cyprus outbreak have been archived
 - Resulted in numerous publications...
- Phase 2 proposals just approved. Broader scope
- Project cost – approximately \$1.5 million



EveryCat's Impact continues in Translational Medicine

Coronavirus -

- More than 70 FIP-related studies.
- Dr. Pedersen's research resulted in a foundation for human treatment options during the Covid -19 pandemic.

Cancer (oncogenetics) -

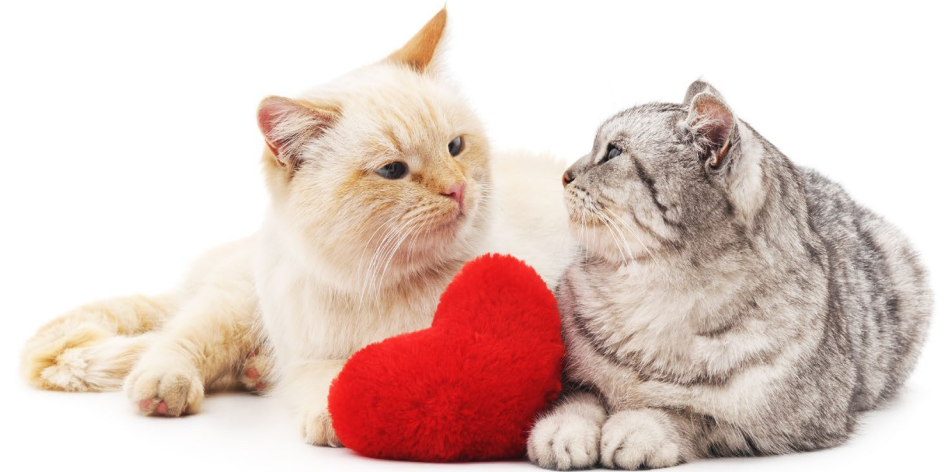
- Feline study results stand to benefit the treatment of (and potential screening for) mammary cancer in cats and breast cancer in women.



EveryCat's Impact continues in Translational Medicine

Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM)

- HCM affects an estimated 1 in 7 cats and 1 in 300 humans.
- Since 1997, EveryCat has funded over 30 studies (\$600,000) to understand and explore treatments for HCM.
- Two medications recently approved for use in humans - Camzyos™ (mavacamten) and Myqorzo™ (aficamten) – attributed to studies in feline health research.



Fueling New Opportunities!

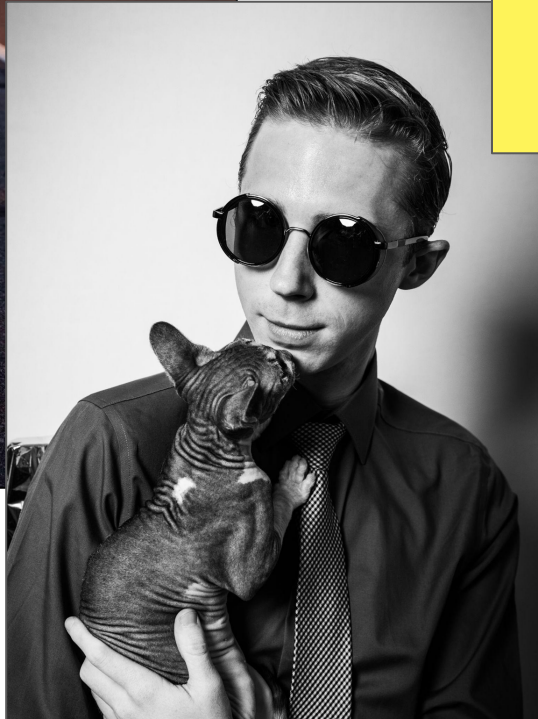
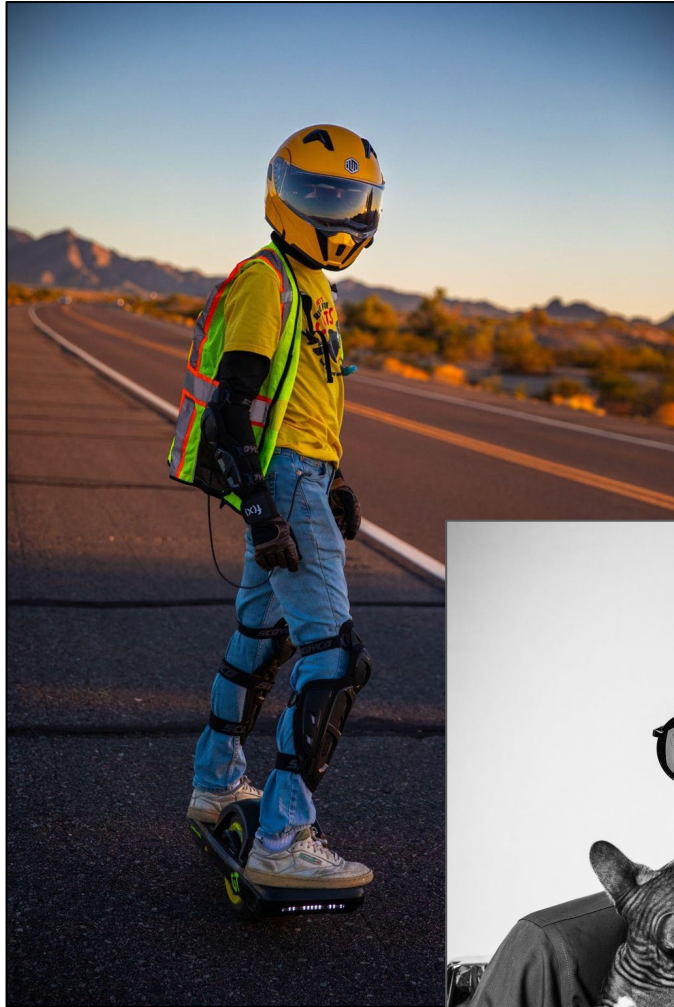
EveryCAT[®]
HEALTH FOUNDATION



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New Generations of Fundraising for Cats!



EveryCAT[®] AdvoCats

HEALTH FOUNDATION



- 20 US States
- Belgium
- Canada
- Azerbaijan
- Tunisia
- Nigeria
- Malawi
- China
- Argentina

2024: 500 hours

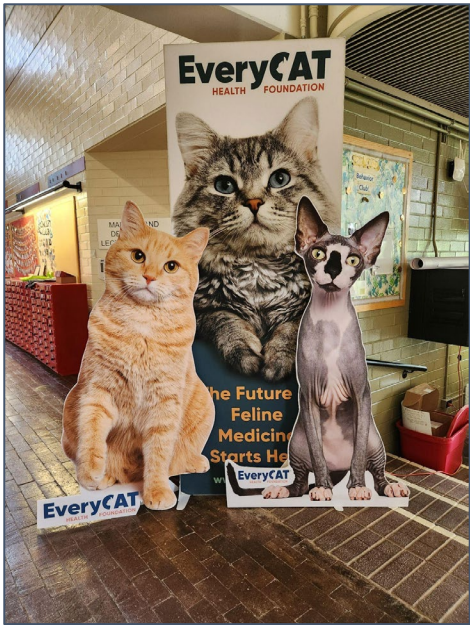
2025: 1,200 hours

2026: First 4 months - 1,145 hours

Events and Outreach
Content Creation
Admin Support
Program Oversight



Getting the word out - Education!



2026 Feline Symposium

Health
Breakthroughs for
Every Cat:
**Feline Healthy
Aging**

April 11th & 12th, 2026
Raleigh, North Carolina

PRESENTED BY
EveryCAT
HEALTH FOUNDATION
AND
NC STATE
Veterinary Medicine



2026 Webinars

- **National Kitten Coalition** "Understanding your kitten/cat: Recognizing pain and knowing when to seek veterinary help"
- **Joshua A. Stern, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (Cardiology)** - "The Rapidly Changing Landscape of Feline HCM"
- **Ellen Lowery, DVM, PhD, MBA** - Feline Periodontal Disease
- **Kara M. Burns, MS, MEd, LVT, VTS (Nutrition)** - "Recognizing and Managing Feline Acromegaly as a cause of Insulin Resistant Feline Diabetes"
- **Matthew Kornya, BSC, DVM, DVSc, DACVIM (SAIM)** - Feline Liver Diseases
- **Dr. Alexandre G. T. Daniel, MV, MSc, DABVP (Feline), FFABVP (CAPM)** – “Updates in the treatment of FIP”. Presented in Spanish



Webinars - Our New Learning Platform



Whether you're a veterinary professional, shelter staff member, cat fancier, or a passionate cat advocate, this platform was built for you. Moving forward, **you can watch our new webinars anytime, anywhere, and access CE-approved content on demand!**

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Happening Now!

August and September

CURES  CATS[®]

Chronic Kidney Disease

Pouncing Ever-Forward Thanks to You!

Vickie Fisher
EveryCat Health Foundation
Immediate Past President
vfisher@everycat.org

Jackie Ott-Jaakola
EveryCat Health Foundation
President/CEO
jjjaakola@everycat.org



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