The Judging Program

Welcome and thank you for your time to judge our Junior Exhibitor ring today. Here is some information to guide you through the process of the Junior Exhibitor ring:

The TICA Junior Exhibitor Program is associated with TICA and provides the opportunity for young people under the age of 18 to participate in the TICA experience and learn about feline husbandry. Junior Exhibitors will be exposed to both competition and a continuing educational process as they work their way through the Levels of Achievement. The Junior Exhibitor Program desires to promote sportsmanship, self confidence and foster an ever growing knowledge base of feline husbandry, breeds, grooming, and show participation and production.

In the Junior Exhibitor ring, the cat is not judged. The junior will be judged on: their ability to handle and present their cat; answer basic questions according to their age and Level of Achievement about basic feline husbandry and their breed; presentation of their cat including attitude of both during showing; grooming; and basic TICA rules. Juniors should present their cats in perfect condition, meticulous groomed and understand how to present the best qualities of their cat to the judge. Although there is not a written dress code, the juniors should be neat and clean. The purpose of the program is to encourage youth to be interested in feline competition, welfare and husbandry, and TICA. The program hopes to inspire a better understanding to participating youth in the workings of a TICA club. Our purpose is to mentor and encourage our youth to learn about showing as an exhibitor, the responsibilities of a club, TICA membership, and to understand the planning and execution of a TICA show.

Once again, judging in our Junior Exhibitor ring will consist of an appraisal of ability of the junior to handle the cat and knowledge of his/her breed/HHP and basic cat care. The cat WILL NOT BE JUDGED, but rather the junior will.

The point system below has been proposed and will best cover the basics and be a guideline for the judges to follow.

Handling Skills (20 points)
Junior/cat interaction - observable in the ring as well as through questions asked about the responsibility of caring totally for his/her cat. The judge should take into consideration the appropriateness of the cat chosen by the junior (such as a small 8 year old attempting to handle a large full grown Maine Coon, or a junior attempting to handle an uncontrollable cat would not be conducive to long term success).

Presentation (40 points)
The quality of the cat is NOT judged. Juniors are observed keeping in mind age/level appropriateness. The judge will ask questions at the end of the presentation. 20 points for demonstration and presentation such as a judge would do to a cat during a final - telling about each significant feature on the cat (breed/HHP, color, pattern, size, body part shapes, etc). 20 points for knowledge of the breed or basic HHP knowledge, cat care, grooming, and ring readiness - judge asks impromptu questions that are relative to the cat the child is presenting in the ring.

Testing (20 points)
20 points for pre-assigned questions related to the cat, health, rules and regulations, scoring, titles, etc.

Overall Presentation (20 points)
Judge assesses the appearance, demeanor, conduct, comfort level, confidence in the ring and with handling the cat of each junior.

Thank you once again and I hope you enjoy your time being a part of the TICA Junior Exhibitor Program.

Sincerely,

TICA's International Junior Exhibitor Program Liaisons

Junior Novice Level Questions

This information can be obtained from experience, mentors, other exhibitors, parents, and online sources.

BASIC HUSBANDRY
Should cats be bathed for a show and why?
Why do you comb or brush your cat/kitten?
Why are nails clipped?
How often do you feed your cat?
Does your cat stay indoors, and why?
Is there a difference in the life span of indoor cats verses cats that are outdoors?

BASIC INFO ON BREED
Demonstrate how the judge will examine the head of your cat.
Demonstrate how the judge will examine the body of your cat.
What is the judge looking for when looking at your cat's head?
What is the judge looking for when looking at your cat's body?
If this is an HHP, the judge is still looking at the head and body, but for a pleasing cat not comparing it to a written breed standard.
Why does the judge check the ears of an HHP?
Why does the judge check the nails of an HHP?

BASIC SHOWING QUESTIONS
What is a second and third call?
Know the basic job of the clerk, steward and judge.
Why do judges spray the table after each cat is on it?
What does a ring steward do?
Should you thank the judge after getting a ribbon?
Should you draw attention to yourself and your cat?
Should you let the judge know which cat is yours before or during judging?

BASIC TICA INFORMATION
Who is your Regional Director?
Who is the TICA President?
What does TICA stand for?

BASIC SHOW ETIQUETTE
How should you care for litter boxes and wastes at the show and show hotel?
What does "Cat Out" mean? What should you do?
Why does it seem there is a "no touching cat" rule at the show?
How should you behave during cat judging?

BASIC SHOW ETIQUETTE (continued)

Do you carry rosettes won in one ring to another ring along with your cat?
Do you run inside a show hall? Why not?
Do you congratulate the other winners in your class?
Do you carry your cat to a ring before it has been called and sit in the ring?
What is sportsmanship?

Junior Intermediate Level

Do not forget that the questions are comprehensive from the previous levels. You are responsible for the information learned on the previous levels.

BASIC HUSBANDRY

Describe how you bathe and groom your cat? How do you dry your cat?
Is there a difference in types of cat food?
What are the differences between "premium cat foods" and "cheap store brands"?
What is declawing?
What does the term "spay" mean?
What does the term "neuter" mean?
What does the term "whole cat" mean?
Why do we alter?
Should "pet quality" kittens be altered? Why?

BASIC INFO ON FELINE STRUCTURE

Be able to identify the following on a cat: shoulder blades, chin, trunk or torso, flank, thigh, forehead/brow, front feet, back feet, head, ears, nose, whisker pads, neck, paws, eyes, back, tail, ribs, limbs, and abdomen.

Be able to define the following problems in structure

Jaw: overshot, undershot and wry mouth

Eyes: Entropian and Epiphora

Nose: Reduced Nostril Aperture

Spine/Tail: Kink and stiff tail

Limbs: Hip Dysplasia, Polydactyl, and Cow-hocked legs

BASIC SHOWING QUESTIONS

Do you train your cat to be a show cat? How?
What is the age for the kitten class?
When does a kitten become an adult in a show class?
What is a final?
What age can a kitten be brought (not shown) to a TICA show?
Is there a class for pregnant cats?
What ring should you go to first if a final ring is called and a judging ring is called at the same time?

BASIC TICA INFORMATION

What is the TICA website address?
What is a TICA Junior Member?
What rights and privileges does a TICA Junior Member have?

BASIC SHOW ETIQUETTE

Is good sportsmanship only about winning?
Why should you go promptly to a ring when your number is called?
What should you do if you have an emergency that delays you taking your cat to a ring when called?
Is there an acceptable excuse for making derogatory (negative) comments about an exhibitor's cat at ringside?
What is the correct way to communicate something to a judge at ringside?
If you know a cat is present, and you know where they are benched and they are late for their ring call what should you do?
Should you visit with the judge during a show?
Why should you keep your litter box clean at the show hall?
What should you do if your cat soils the show cage?

Junior Advanced Level Questions

Do not forget that the questions are comprehensive from the previous levels. You are responsible for the information learned on the previous level/s.

BASIC HUSBANDRY

Do all cats need vaccinations?
Why do our cats get vaccinated?
What vaccinations do you give your cat and why?
What is Feline Rescue?

BASIC INFORMATION ON FELINES

Describe ear size?
What is ear set?
What ear size and set does your cat have?
Describe at least 3 different eye shapes?
What eye shape best describes your cat's eyes?
What is a break in the nose?
Does your cat have a break?
Describe your cat's nose?
Describe at least 3 body types.
What body type best describes your cat's body?
Describe 3 tail types.
Describe your cat's tail?

BASIC SHOWING QUESTIONS

How many finals and points does it take to be a Champion or Master?
How many finals are needed to be a Grand Champion? Can a kitten be a champion?
What are the 6 titles starting with Champion that a cat can earn?

BASIC TICA INFORMATION

Why is TICA considered to be a Genetic Based Registry?

Senior Novice Level Questions

Do not forget that the questions are comprehensive from the previous levels. You are responsible for the information learned on the previous levels.

BASIC SHOW ETIQUETTE

Describe show hotel room care.
When agreeing to clerk, should you assume that the club will handle all the items you might need to clerk? Explain.

What should you have in a clerking kit?

What should you do as a clerk prior to the judge arriving?

Once the judge has arrived, what should you do?

Is it important to listen and write the absentees and transfers?

Once the absentees and transfers are called out what should you do?

What else does a clerk do besides marking the catalog?

Why do you initial the bottom of each yellow slip?

When the judge determines his final, do you call out or announce those numbers? What do you do?

What do you do with the yellow slips?

Why is it important to know the exact count of cats in each class?

Do you mark the clerking catalog with the yellow slips? Why or why not?

At the end of the day, should you give the master clerk the catalog you marked?

At the end of the day, what should you do?

What do you do with the cards at the end of the day?

Senior Intermediate Level

Sample Questions and Information

Do not forget that the questions are comprehensive from the previous levels. You are responsible for the information learned on the previous levels.

**No questions or test are required at the Senior Intermediate Level due to the rigorous testing involved in getting licensed as a Head Ring Clerk.

Senior Advanced Level

Sample Questions and Information

Do not forget that the questions are comprehensive from the previous levels. You are responsible for the information learned on the previous levels.

**No questions or test are required at the Senior Advanced Level due to the rigorous testing involved in getting licensed as a Head Ring Clerk.

The International *Cat* Association
Junior Exhibitor Evaluation Form

Date:

Junior Exhibitor Name:

Age: Cat Entry Number:

Show: Judge:

Level: (Please tick) JN ☐ JI ☐ JA ☐ SN ☐ SI ☐ SA ☐ Home State/ Region:

Communication Considerations: (Autism, Asperger, Deaf, etc)

Scoring: 20 -16 (Excellent) 15- 11 (Good) 10 - 6 (Fair) 5- 1 (Needs Improvement)

Note: The quality of the cat is not judged. Juniors are observed keeping in mind age, level and communication considerations.

Handling Skills
Junior/Cat interaction: Observable in the ring as well as through questions asked about the responsibility of caring for the cat they are presenting. The judge should consider the appr6priateness of the cat chosen by the junior (size of cat vs child, uncontrollable or unhappy cat) and if the cat would be conducive to future success. **Score out of 20:**
Comments:

Presentation skills:
The judge will ask questions throughout the presentation or at the end of presentation depending on child's ability and level. Can be done through presentation such as a judge would do during a final, or by answering questions about significant features on the cat (breed/HHP, color, pattern, size, body and head shape, etc) **Score out of 20:**
Comments:

Husbandry Knowledge:
Knowledge of the breed or basic **HHP** knowledge, cat care, grooming and show preparedness: Judge asks impromptu questions that are relative to the cat the child is presenting.
Score out of 20:
Comments:

Association Knowledge:
Questions related to health, show etiquette, TICA rules and regulations, scoring, titles, etc. (20 points)
Score out of 20:
Comments:

Showmanship:
Demeanor, conduct, comfort, confidence in the ring and handling cat with consideration given for age, level and communication considerations. **Score out of 20:**
Comments:

Total Score:

Additional Comments:

Judge signature: