

Proposal by the Havana & Oriental Lilac Cat Club and Shropshire Cat Club

The above named clubs would jointly like to propose that the formal "Vetting In" of all exhibits as it stands at present be discontinued.

The alternative being that each show has a Duty Vet available for most of the day as at present and a random number of exhibits are checked by the Vet at their discretion to keep exhibitors on their toes. All vaccination certificates to be checked on arrival by a show aide.

RATIONALE

1) It would reduce another layer of stress for the cats which is a major welfare issue and generally unnecessary in the majority of cases.

2) It would reduce the risk of cross infection.

i) Judges generally don't look down a cat's throat they only check if the bite is level which generally only means gently lifting the lips.

ii) Judges pick up most problems if an animal is unwell while judging yet they have passed "Vetting In"

iii) In these very uncertain times when clubs are struggling to survive financially it would reduce a very significant financial burden.

iv) We know that cats can and do carry Corona Virus but it can't be seen with the naked eye however good the Vet may be. However the stress of the "Vetting In" process can trigger something that is may be lying dormant to reactivate and cause greater issues for the cat concerned and any in close proximity.

v) Would reduce lengthy "Vetting In" queues especially in poor weather conditions which again increases the likely hood that cats which for the majority of their lives are cosseted in a warm centrally heated home, will develop an infection stood out in the cold and wet for long periods of time at the end of a long journey which may have already proved stressful for them.

Again a welfare issue.

3) There is a national shortage of Vets and clubs often struggle to find enough to do "Vetting In" efficiently increasing all the risks to our cats as stated above.