

Sanctions Policy



As an entirely voluntary scheme we expect that those of you hobby breeders signing up to the scheme will either already be following the Breeder Scheme Code of Ethics or will adopt these as standard best practice once you have joined. The Code Ethics is all about our relationships as breeders, with our cats, the public, the GCCF and with each other as fellow breeders. We know that many breeders already exceed the standards and offer an outstanding level of care to the cats in their households.

Naturally, if a breeder doesn't follow this code of ethics there must be consequences. As with most voluntary schemes, sanctions are limited to suspension and removal from the scheme. Whilst, suspension can be time based, i.e. until something is fixed or until the start of a new period of membership, removal from the scheme may be permanent.

An example of where a breeder might be suspended from the scheme until something is fixed or changed might be where club subs are due. In this case the breeder will be re-instated to the scheme as soon as the club lets us know when the payment is received (set up fees will not normally be levied).

An example where breeders may be suspended until they re-apply (note set up fees will be payable) will be where breeders sell kittens that are not fully vaccinated or not registered.

Removal from the scheme is the sanction of last resort and not one that we wish to take. This will happen immediately in the event of any serious breach of code 2.1 Health and Welfare. Note, that the responsibility of the Breeder Scheme administrators will end with the removal of any breeder from the Scheme.

Agencies such as the RSPCA and local Environmental Health authority operating under the Defra Animal Welfare Act, and/or the GCCF Investigation/Disciplinary process may direct other penalties. The scheme does not remove an owner's right to consult Citizens Advice and/or refer a breeder to Trading Standards. Also be aware that in a claim to the Small Claims Court suspension or expulsion from the Scheme may be cited as evidence in support of recompense.

Because this is a voluntary scheme we will not want to have to deal with serial or repeat offenders; there is little point in joining something you cannot commit to. If, despite our best endeavours any breeder receives consistent worrying feedback and/or is constantly being suspended, we reserve the right to refuse an application to re-join

Finally, the Codes are about our relationship with other breeders. Code 4.2 is one where breeders may not agree, but many breeders register kittens as non-active for very good reasons. Any breeder in breach of 4.2 will be removed from the scheme unless and until the Investigations/Disciplinary committee directs the Scheme administrators to allow the breeder to re-join the scheme.

We have made a decision to enable novice prefix holders to join the scheme. We understand that novice breeders may need extra guidance and will hope that senior breeders will help in a mentoring capacity

GCCF

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