

Introduction to the GCCF Breeders Scheme

What is the GCCF Breeders Scheme?

The scheme is intended to help direct kitten buyers to those breeders who follow best breeding practice, who conduct health testing for known inherited health conditions in their breed/s and who offer ongoing support and advice to new owners. Every Scheme breeder is inspected by GCCF, to ensure that their facilities and practices meet the welfare requirements set out in the scheme standard.

How does the Scheme help kitten buyers?

Potential kitten buyers are directed to Scheme members through our Find a Kitten and Find a Breeder services. For both occasional and regular breeders, this is an important badge that shows your commitment to the health and welfare of your cats.

What are the scheme requirements (a summary)

You can read the [scheme standard in full](#), or view the fundamental requirements of the scheme below:

1. Ensure that all breeding cats are registered with GCCF and that kittens are registered and transferred to new owners at the time of sale.
2. Make sure that health of breeding stock and kittens produced is a particular priority and [make use of health testing, relevant to their breed](#)
3. Allow the premises to be inspected and are assessed by a trained GCCF assessor to ensure compliance with the scheme standard
4. Commit to operate to high standards and duty of care and comply with all relevant laws including the Animal Welfare Act (2006) and microchipping legislation
5. Only sell kittens bred by the breeder themselves and raised in their own safe and secure environment, which meets all the requirements of the Breeders scheme
6. Socialise the kittens and provide written advice on continuation of socialisation
7. Take all reasonable steps to ensure that purchasers are able to provide a suitable home and that they are committed to caring for the cat for the whole of its life and provide reasonable after-sales advice
8. Allow any purchaser to be able to view the kittens with their mother and siblings, in the environment that they were born and raised
9. Commit to help, if necessary, with the rehoming of any cat that they provide within the scheme, throughout the cat's lifetime, for whatever reason
10. Issue a kitten pack for each cat sold containing up-to-date written information

Breeder Assessment visits

The purpose of visiting breeders is simply to ensure compliance of the scheme, to offer information on how the scheme can benefit the breeder. On joining the scheme, every breeder agrees to allow an Assessor access to visit their premises.

How much does it cost?

An annual fee of £65 is payable. This includes the cost of an assessment visit every three years.

Information you will need to offer your kitten buyers

One requirement of the scheme is that members must provide advice to new owners on the following topics:

Topics to cover in your kitten pack

- The Scheme breeder's contact details
- Breed club contact details
- Written advice on socialisation, feeding, exercise, worming regime and immunisation measures, as well as copies of any health or other relevant certificates
- Pedigree certificate
- Registration documents
- Insurance cover note
- Microchip registration details

Owning a stud cat

Scheme breeders must offer help and advice to owners of queens who are accepted into stud.

Ready to join the scheme?

Now that you've read through all the details about the scheme*, these are the steps you need to take to apply:

*Please make sure you have read through all of the details about the scheme prior to submitting your application. Membership application fees are non-refundable, so applicants should check to make sure that they are able to meet the application criteria in order to ensure their application is successful.

1. Please ensure that:
 - Your breeding cats are GCCF registered
 - You have read and comply with the Scheme standard
 - The cats you are applying with are registered in the applicants name(s)
2. Submit your application on-line
3. Prepare your kitten pack for your assessment visit. It is used by scheme breeders to provide detailed advice to new owners on a variety of important topics, such as diet, health etc.
4. We will contact you to arrange a breeder assessment visit

Please note that applications may take up to 28 days to process.