The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy

Rule Section 1:3 - Litter Registration and Declarations

Breeders use GCCF's services to record the breed of their kittens and their ancestry, which means they can provide new owners with a registration card issued by GCCF and a validated pedigree. Registering kittens keeps records (GCCF's go back over 100 years) and authenticates breeds and breeding.

New owners can find out all about registration and the registers on this page.
https://www.gccfcats.org/Breeding/Registration-Explained

But what exactly is **'Declaration'** and what advantage and disadvantages are there?

Breeders should note that when the first kitten of any litter is registered if the others are not also to be registered then they **MUST be declared.**

This means a record of the entire litter is kept and any of them can be registered at any time in the future by the breeder or a new owner. The breeder does not pay for the kittens declared so there is a saving of cost at the time of the first registration.

It's very important to GCCF as it is a way of maintaining the integrity of the register if all the details of kittens in a litter are recorded. It prevents false claims about the parentage of unregistered kittens, and enables accurate records to be produced at any time they may be required in the future.

New Owners:

If you buy a kitten that has been **declared but not registered** you should be provided with:

- Your kitten's vaccination record
- A properly completed pedigree signed by the breeder, showing at least three generations of ancestors and breed and registration number. It should be signed by the breeder and show the breeder's name and address.
- A mating certificate for the parents of your kitten (even if they both belong to the breeder of your kitten).

Accept no excuses. You are entitled to all of this paperwork and need the pedigree and mating certificate to register your new kitten.

Breeders: you should note the following about 'Declaration'.

It may help you save a little and spread costs. It will also help you with your record keeping if you can see the breeding records of your adults. However be aware: **If you allow new owners to register a kitten, which they are permitted to do if it is unregistered at the time of sale, then it becomes the new owner's choice whether to give it active or non-active status. If you want to maintain control over that very important feature then YOU must register your kittens.**

AND FINALLY:

Breeders: when you place kittens in their new homes you are responsible for providing the paperwork and vaccinations for ALL of them whether they are registered, declared or the whole litter is unregistered. If you use GCCF's services then you must stick to the rules. You can't opt in and opt out.

Please read the Rules at Section 1:10 a), b) & c) carefully. The Investigations Committee has to deal with more complaints about unvaccinated kittens with missing paperwork than any for any other reason. New owners deserve your best efforts.