Code of Conduct for Judges of Household Pets at GCCF Shows

The overall consideration for Judges in this section, whether judging non-pedigrees or pedigree pets is the exhibit's overall condition, wellbeing and temperament; in addition, the way it has been presented at the show by the exhibitor is also a very important criteria. Friendliness, physical condition and the fact the cat is enjoying being shown and judged is essential.

1. Judges and Exhibits

a) Judges shall make the care, comfort, health and safety of the cat their priority at all times.
b) Judges must personally handle all exhibits entered under them to assess muscle tone and weight for their size.
c) Cats should be handled gently and not scruffed unless it is absolutely essential either to prevent the cat from escaping, or in self-defence. The priorities of condition, presentation, temperament and personality are the criteria for judging with no consideration of eye colour, bite, tail fault etc. that may preclude a cat in the Pedigree Section from gaining a first prize or certificate. Appealing, with expressive, clear eyes and a pleasing overall appearance because of condition and grooming, together with a friendly personality are the criteria for the judge to assess.
d) If using aids to attract the attention of cats, judges and stewards should ensure that these do not come into contact with the cats' mouths, to avoid the risk of infection being passed in saliva to other exhibits.
e) If a cat is unwilling to be handled after a reasonable attempt, it should not be judged.
f) Any cat not removed from its pen must be marked "Not judged".
g) In the event of the cat causing an injury to a judge or their steward, great care should be taken to cover wounds quickly to prevent spillage of blood until such time as the wound can be thoroughly washed in soap and hot water and treated appropriately. All incidents of biting and/or serious scratching MUST be reported to the Show Manager. Medical attention should always be sought for a serious bite or scratch. Show Managers can provide a letter from the GCCF to give information to nurses/doctors when the injury is assessed.

2. Judges and Show Management

a) Judges should not solicit judging engagements at specific shows.
b) Judges in the Household Pet Section should reply promptly to invitations to judge and make it clear whether hotel accommodation and/or travel costs are required. Any changes to requirements should be notified to the Show Manager as soon as possible.
c) Once an engagement has been accepted, a contract exists between the Judge and the Club concerned which should only be altered by mutual agreement. In the event of a cancellation becoming inevitable, the other party should be notified immediately. The Judge should also notify their Steward.
d) All queries on the day of the Show should be addressed to the Show Management and not table workers.

3. Judges and Exhibitors

a) Judges should not travel to shows in a private vehicle with exhibitors who have entered under them in Colour, Grand, Imperial Grand, Olympian Classes or for Best of Colour etc.

b) Judges should not accept invitations to judge the same Colour, Grand, Imperial or Olympian classes too frequently or in similar catchment areas, as that can impact on show entries and is unfair to show managers and exhibitors. This is particularly important in more remote regions such as the Devon, Cornwall, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. Judging the same classes two weeks in succession is allowed. Failure to comply with these guidelines causes great disappointment. It is the responsibility of the Judge to keep an accurate diary to prevent bookings overlapping
c) A Judge must remember that he or she represents the GCCF in the eyes of the public and must behave at all times in such a manner as to be above reproach. A Judge must behave diplomatically at all times, especially in dealings with other judges, show officials and exhibitors. Dress should be suitable for a judging engagement, including a clean white coat and no articles should be worn that might alarm or harm cats.
d) A Judge should discourage conversation with exhibitors before his or her judging engagement is completed, but should normally be available at the end of judging to answer questions from exhibitors.
e) Mobile phones should be on 'silent' and not used in the show hall.

4. Judges and Stewards

a) Judges shall participate in the training of stewards and those interested in judging in the Household Pet Section by imparting their knowledge, expertise, advice on handling different cats and points of judging etiquette etc.

5. Judges and their Fellow Judges

a) Judges undertaking side classes should always ask permission to proceed if a Colour/Grand/Imperial Grand/Olympian or BOV judge requires the cat at that time.
b) Judges should not offer unsolicited opinions to fellow judges.
c) Judges should not confer with other judges whilst judging Best in Show.

6. Judges and the GCCF

a) Judges must know and comply with the GCCF Byelaws and Rules and should keep themselves informed of any changes to the rules and the requirements for the Household Pet Section. They should be aware of which colours/patterns belong in each Colour Class and inform the Show Manager if they consider a cat is entered in the wrong class as soon as possible in the day, in order for the matter to be dealt with in the best way for the exhibit and the show.
b) Judges are expected to subscribe to updates on the GCCF website.
c) Judges should submit reports to the GCCF Webmaster within 28 days of a show (or as agreed by Council). The show report must be submitted to the website prior to copying elsewhere. The cats should be named together with the name of their owner(s), their colour, sex and age. The report should indicate why the given placing was made with reference to condition, temperament, presentation and personality etc.

7. Certificates

Certificates in the Household Pet Section should only be awarded if the cat is considered to be of sufficiently high quality for that level with regard to its overall condition, wellbeing, presentation and temperament.
a) **Master Cat Certificates**

After placing the cats in a Colour Class, the Judge should consider whether the 1st placed cat is of sufficient overall quality, condition and temperament and has been presented sufficiently well to warrant the title Master Cat before awarding a certificate.

d) **Grand Master Cat Certificates**

To be awarded a Grand Master Cat Certificate, a cat should be of even higher overall quality than the expectation for a Master Cat.

NB. A Reserve certificate winner should also be worthy of the title “Grand” in its own right as it will move up should the Grand winner be disqualified.

e) **Imperial Grand, Reserve Imperial Grand and UK Grand Certificates**

An Imperial Grand/UK Grand Certificate should only be awarded to cats of exceptional quality with superb temperaments, shown in excellent condition and presented to perfection.

NB. A Reserve certificate winner should also be worthy of the title Imperial Grand Master Cat in its own right as it will move up should the winner be disqualified.

f) **Olympian Certificates**

An Olympian Certificate should only be awarded to cats of outstanding quality as far as condition, presentation, temperament and personality is concerned. It should virtually be a perfect example of a Pet Cat at its very best, with the additional “star quality” and “show presence” that would deserve a “Best in Show” award.

NB. A Reserve Olympian certificate winner should also be worthy of the title in its own right as it will move up should the winner be disqualified.