



The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy

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Member Education Series

Breeding and Retirement of the breeding cat

Under a breeders Health Plan, breeders should detail exactly what factors might determine that a particular cat may be retired, or what changes may necessitate such an occurrence. It may for instance be necessary where a cat may have shown it is not suited to breeding, either for behavioural or health reasons, that the breeder may need to reduce numbers in the cattery or simply that the cat is no longer required for breeding. Whatever the reason, by having a strategy in place ahead of time, this makes the process straightforward.

Legislation

Under the legislation, where either:

- queens have reached their maximum number of litters; and/or
- cats are no longer suitable for breeding or no longer required, and the cat is suitable for rehoming and a breeder is unable to keep it themselves

then every effort must be made to rehome that cat to an appropriate home.

Rehoming

All retiring breeding cats must be de-sexed before going to their new home (unless advised otherwise by a veterinary practitioner for health reasons, and in which case a copy of the veterinary certification must be kept on the cats record by the breeder).

The cats should then be rehomed to a suitable home - where the health and temperament of the cat have been assessed as suitable for rehoming, and the home found is suited to the cat – it may be, for instance that the cat may need to go into a home where no other cats are present; or kept as a desexed pet by the breeder. The breeder should take care to ensure that the home chosen will match the temperament and needs of the cat.

Any advertisement or listing for the cat must include their microchip number and the members source code number issued by the Pet Exchange Register

Euthanising

There may however be the exceptions where, when dictated by health and/or behavioural problems, it may be necessary for the cat to be euthanised rather than rehomed. The euthanasiation must be done via lethal injection only by a veterinary practitioner, and a copy of the vet certificate must be kept on the cats record by the breeder.

All changes to the cats ownership status should then be updated within the Breeders cat records for that cat with details of the new owner – where they have been euthanised a copy of the vet certificate should also be attached. Breeders are reminded that they must hold the records for 5 years after the cat has either left them due to an ownership change or has been euthanised / deceased.