



**The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy  
Australia & Victoria Inc**

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## **Member Education Series**

### **Heritable Diseases**

Breeder Members must ensure they comply with current Federal and State Government legislation and Local Government regulations regarding heritable diseases in cats. ACF (Inc) requires breeders to DNA test for all known genetic disorders in their breed. It is also recommended that breeders keep themselves informed of any new knowledge of genetic diseases in their breed/s.

Cats should not be bred if they carry genetic disorders with a high or low heritability that will be detrimental to the animal's health or welfare. Selective breeding involving a health and welfare issue should be overseen by a veterinarian.

All breeding cats should be tested for the following defective genes:

- Polycystic Kidney Disease
- Cardiomyopathy
- Hip Dysplasia
- Folded ears associated with osteochondrodystrophy (eg. Scottish Folds)
- Aplasia or hypoplasia of long bones (eg. Munchkin cats or Twisty Cats)

### **DNA Testing**

The use of DNA testing for inherited diseases; radiology and veterinary advice can assist breeders with identifying suitable healthy cats for breeding programs. DNA tests are available through testing agencies such as Orivet. A DNA swab must be collected from a veterinarian, who will record the cats details such as breed, sex, DOB, microchip no etc on the paperwork. Once the DNA test results have been received, a copy of these should be provide to GCCFV to be recorded on the registrars database against that cat, and the original should be retained by the breeder against that cats records maintained by them.

Veterinary care must be sought for any cats and kittens that display health and/or welfare issues. This includes the risk of passing on genetic faults/anomalies. Breeders must make themselves aware of the nature of the characteristics they wish to promote or avoid, whether these are due to a dominant gene (which will always be expressed when present, even if only from one parent) or a recessive gene (only expressed when inherited from both parents).

Cats imported for breeding are required to be tested prior to importation. They must be DNA tested for known genetic disorders in that breed. No cat is to be imported for breeding if it returns positive DNA test results for currently known diseases of that breed. Selective breeding involving a health and welfare issue should be overseen by a veterinarian so that new owners can be appropriately counselled.

Please refer to the **Member Education Series Handout – Heritable Defects – Genetics** for additional information

### **Scottish Folds,**

Any GCCFV breeders of these cats are required to comply with specific requirements under the ACF Breeding Policy for the Scottish Fold.

ACF Inc By-Laws – Part 2. Breeding Policy for the Scottish Fold

All breeding must only be done under an GCCFV Approved Breeding Program, and such plan will be reviewed every 3 years by GCCFV, in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Breeding of Animals with Heritable Defects that Cause Disease

Copies of the specific health declaration and annual health checks must be held by the breeder against the cats record files and be produced on request.

### **Munchkin, Manx & Cymric**

GCCFV does not currently have any registered breeders of these cats. If you are considering commencing a breeding programme for any of these breeds, please refer to the following publications:

ACF Inc By-Laws – Part 2. Breeding Policy for the Munchkin

ACF Inc By-Laws – Part 2. Breeding Policy for the Manx and Cymric Cat.

Approval to commence an Approved Breeding Program with these breeds must be obtained by the member from GCCFV Committee before commencing breeding.