



HOW TO BECOME A REGISTERED BREEDER WITH GCCFV



Before you rush out to find that adorable kitten, take a deep breath and "STOP." Becoming a registered breeder is a journey that requires careful planning and consideration, and acquiring a kitten shouldn't be the first step. Think about your motivations: Are you prepared for the long-term commitment of owning and caring for a cat, even if breeding doesn't pan out? Have you thoroughly researched the responsibilities and costs associated with breeding, including health testing, vaccinations, stud fees, and potential complications during pregnancy and birth? Have you established a relationship with a reputable mentor or breeder who can guide you through the process?

To become a registered cat breeder With The Governing Council of Cat Fancy Victoria, you need to follow a series of steps and meet certain legal and ethical requirements. Here's an overview of the general process:

1. UNDERSTAND THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In Victoria, all cat breeders must comply with the following.

Domestic Animals Act 1994 and Domestic Animals Regulations 2015.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (POCTA Act)

2. OBTAIN THE NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

- **Cat Breeding Experience/ mentor:** Gain experience with cats. It's essential to understand their genetics, behaviour's, health, and specific needs. You may consider working with an experienced breeder who can mentor you on your selected breed.

- **Learn about Genetics & Health testing:** To breed healthy cats, especially if you're working with specific breeds, you'll need a solid understanding of genetics to avoid inherited health problems.
- **Veterinary Care:** Build a relationship with a good veterinarian who is familiar with breeding and can help with health screenings, vaccinations, and any other medical needs.
- **Attend cat shows:** Cat shows are an excellent way to learn more about different cat breeds, their temperaments, history, and care requirements. You can meet breeders and ask questions to get expert knowledge.

3. COUNCIL PERMITS

Permits are required to breed cats and can vary depending on your location, so it's important to check with your local council to ensure compliance with local laws. However, some common permits and requirements you may need to consider include:

- **Excess Animal Permit:** Is typically required when a person or household has more animals than are allowed under local laws or regulations. These laws are designed to prevent overcrowding and ensure that animals are cared for in a safe and healthy environment. If you are breeding cats and plan to have more than the standard limit for pets in your area, you may need to apply for this permit
- **Planning Permit:** Planning permits for breeding cats typically refers to a permit required for operating a cat breeding business or undertaking breeding activities at a property, depending on local zoning and land use regulations. In some cases, a planning permit is needed because breeding activities can be classified as a business or a special use of land.



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4. JOIN AN APPLICABLE ORGANISATION

- The Governing council of cat fancy Victoria (GCCFV) will enhance your reputation as a responsible breeder. Our organizations offer support, advice, and certification for ethical breeding practices

[https://www.catsgccfv.org.au/images/notices/forms/Member%20Application%20Single%20\(2024\).pdf](https://www.catsgccfv.org.au/images/notices/forms/Member%20Application%20Single%20(2024).pdf)



5. CHOOSE AND APPLY FOR A BREEDING PREFIX

- The prefix is the Cattery name that will be associated with your breeding program. It must be unique and not already in use by another breeder.
- Members of GCCFV may create their own prefix (cattery name) and submit it to GCCFV for approval. New members when signing the form are agreeing to an inspection of their cattery 6 months from the date of their prefix approval and a second inspection 12 months from the date of their first inspections.

6. OBTAIN REQUIRED CERTIFICATES AND REGISTRATIONS

The Governing council of cat fancy Victoria (GCCFV) require breeders to undergo training or certification to ensure they understand animal welfare and responsible breeding practices.

- Course 1:
<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/animal-welfare-victoria/community-and-education/breeder-training-course>
- Course 2:
<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/animal-welfare-victoria/community-and-education/responsible-cat-ownership-course>

In Victoria, breeders need to be registered with the Victorian Pet Exchange Register (PPER). This applies to anyone who sells or rehomes cats or kittens. You'll need to apply for a breeder registration number, (source code) which is required when selling animals.

https://per.animalwelfare.vic.gov.au/users/sign_up

7. UNDERSTAND THE FINANCIAL ASPECT

- Costs: Consider the financial investment required for breeding, which includes veterinary care, food, equipment, and registration fees. Breeding cats requires ongoing financial and time commitments.
- Pricing: Understand how much you can charge for your kittens. The price can vary depending on the breed and quality, but ensure it's ethical and aligns with the costs you incur.

8. CONTINUOUS LEARNING

Keep up with new developments in cat breeding practices, including health research and genetic advancements. Attend breed-specific seminars, workshops, and conferences to expand your knowledge.

By following these guidelines, you can start your journey as a responsible cat breeder with GCCFV. Always prioritize the well-being of the cats you breed, and ensure you meet legal and ethical standards in your breeding practices.