



CODE OF PRACTICE

JULY 2010

PREAMBLE

*Members of the FCCV Inc obtain special privileges under two Acts which apply to the keeping/breeding of cats. These are the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986, and Domestic Animals Act 1994. This is because the FCCV, along with other Breeding Cat and Dog Bodies is recognised as an **Applicable Organisation** under these Acts. Being an Applicable Organisation means that we are both expected and required to set and enforce our own standards of Care and Breeding at a standard to be at least as high as the minimum standards required under these Acts, as for example, laid out in the CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE PRIVATE KEEPING OF CATS (2007), an Advisory code under POCTA, while we are empowered to require higher standards in some areas which pertain particularly to breeding cats.*

The following Code of practice is based on the CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE PRIVATE KEEPING OF CATS (2007), with elements selected from the MANDATORY Code, under the Domestic Animals Act, which applies to anyone including FCCV Members, who holds a Domestic Animal Business Licence (Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Establishments). Further elements have been carried over from the previous FCCV Inc Code of Practice.

This Code is based on the premise that our Members are aware of and conforming to State Legislation as enshrined in the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (eg Mandatory Microchipping of kittens at 12 weeks of age). In the process of obtaining from their Councils the available concessions in terms of numbers of cats kept, and reduced annual Registration Fees for Entire Cats, it is assumed that they have investigated their Legal responsibilities under Local Laws within their own Municipality, and have acquired all the requisite Planning Permits and Licences to enable them to pursue their hobby of breeding cats.

The FCCV is required to report on the manner in which they have resolved infringements of this Code by their Members

COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE

Each Member, upon signing an application for membership or renewal of membership of the FCCV Inc, and being duly elected to General Membership of the FCCV Inc, shall, in addition to agreeing to be bound by the constitution, rules and regulations of the FCCV Inc., also be bound by the Code of Practice relating to responsible cat ownership, including the keeping, welfare, breeding, selling and disposing of cats by members to the effect of the terms and conditions set out below.

PURPOSE OF THIS CODE

- ◆ This Code of Practice is intended to provide the standards of accommodation, management and care appropriate to the physical and behavioural requirements of cats to be exercised by FCCV Inc Members.
- ◆ This Code of Practice reflects current knowledge and opinion and aims to promote best practice in cat welfare by providing required standards for cat owners/breeders.

MINIMUM STANDARDS are the same as those in the *CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE PRIVATE KEEPING OF CATS (2007)* and must be maintained by FCCV Inc Members.

FCCV INC REQUIRES THAT BEST PRACTICE standards must also be adhered to by their Members

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986** sets out the offences for failing to properly care and provide for your cat. This Act also covers offences such as deliberate cruelty, ill treatment, causing unnecessary or unreasonable pain or suffering, and abandonment.

The **Domestic Animals Act 1994** sets out requirements such as registration, confinement and identification of cats and the powers of local councils to ensure these requirements are met.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this code the following definitions apply:

- ◆ **'Domestic animal business'**: means
- ◆ (b) a cat breeding enterprise that is run for profit in which: (1) the enterprise has more than 10 fertile female animals;
- ◆ **'Owner'**: includes any person who owns, has care or custody of, or keeps or harbours, a cat for the time being whether the cat is at large or in confinement.
- ◆ **'Queen'**: means an entire female cat of breeding age.
- ◆ **'Stud'**: means any entire male cat of breeding age.
- ◆ **'Veterinarian'**: means a registered veterinary practitioner.

MINIMUM STANDARDS

- ◆ Owners must provide their cat with proper and sufficient food, water, shelter and veterinary treatment.
- ◆ Cats must be treated humanely.
- ◆ Owners must ensure that they abide by legislative requirements including:
 - Cats must be registered with, and identified as required by, the local council.
 - Cats must not be allowed to create a nuisance problem.
 - Cats must be microchipped where required by legislation.

BEST PRACTICE REQUIRED BY THE FCCV INC

- ◆ All cats should be microchipped to ensure they are permanently identified. Owner contact details need to be kept up to date with the microchip registry.
- ◆ Cats must be kept indoors at night (house, enclosure, shed or garage) and must be confined to the property at all times both for the cat's welfare, to prevent

nuisance problems occurring (for instance, trespassing and spraying on private property) and to protect native wildlife.

OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES

MINIMUM STANDARDS

- ◆ Owners are responsible for the health and welfare of their cat(s) and must provide both the basic necessities and a good quality of life for their cat(s).

BEST PRACTICE REQUIRED BY THE FCCV INC

- ◆ Choose a cat breed most suitable to your lifestyle and circumstances. When selecting your breed consider:
 - activity level of cat (some breeds are more active than others)
 - grooming requirements (long compared to short hair)
 - breed temperament
 - colour of nose and ears (if white or non-pigmented they will be predisposed to skin cancer and need to be kept inside)
 - other breed characteristics, eg some breeds are highly vocal
 - known breed problems (eg breed associated genetic disorders that may develop later in life) – ensure parents have been tested for such disorders where possible
 - degree of human socialisation
 - cost of care (housing, hygiene, health) and feeding

NUTRITION

MINIMUM STANDARDS

- Cats must be fed at least once a day.
- Cats must be fed a diet that provides proper and sufficient food to maintain good health and meet their physiological needs.
- Cats are carnivores and must not be fed a purely vegetarian diet.
- Cats must not be fed a diet consisting purely of fresh meat (including fish).
- Kittens from 6 weeks to 6 months of age must be fed a minimum of 2 meals per day.
- Cats must not be fed solely dog food as it lacks nutrients that cats require.

BEST PRACTICE REQUIRED BY THE FCCV INC

Cats need to be fed a well-balanced diet to maintain health, vitality and body weight in the correct range for their breed and age. Regularly monitor a cat's body condition to ensure its diet is adequate

- Cats must be fed at least once daily. However it is recommended that cats are fed twice daily (to avoid overfeeding divide the daily feed into two smaller meals) as their feeding habits are more for small frequent meals rather than one large meal. Diets composed entirely of vegetable matter are not nutritionally adequate for cats, even if such diets are sufficiently palatable to be readily eaten. Nor should cats be fed a diet solely of fresh muscle meat (including fish), as the required minerals and other nutrients provided by edible bone and organ meats will not be provided.
- A balanced diet is important as cats have specific nutrient requirements and sensitivities; eg excessive feeding of liver will cause Vitamin A toxicity problems. If not feeding a commercial cat food to your cat, seek advice from breeders to ensure a properly balanced diet is being provided for your cat.
- Cats have differing nutritional requirements depending on their stage of life, amount of exercise and physiological needs, eg during growth (kittens), pregnancy, lactation (kittens suckling), old age and cold weather. They may require food of differing nutritional value rather than just a greater or lesser volume. As a guide, the feeding instructions on the can or pack can be followed.

- It is important that the body condition of pregnant or lactating queens is maintained within the ideal body weight range to avoid the development of metabolic diseases. Lactating queens usually have increased nutritional requirements to enable them to maintain body weight while feeding kittens and need to be carefully monitored.
- Kittens have special feeding requirements and require more food (per kilogram of body weight) because in addition to requiring energy for maintenance and activity they need extra nutrients for growth. A number of small meals need to be provided daily as their daily requirement of food is greater than their stomach can accept in one feed. Ideally kittens up to 12 weeks of age should be fed 3–4 meals a day, from 12 weeks to 6 months 2–3 meals a day and from 6 months 1–2 meals a day.
- Kittens should be fed on commercial kitten food or a balanced diet specially formulated and discussed with breeders to ensure all nutrient requirements are being met. Poor nutrition during this growth stage can create health/skeletal problems in later life.
- Cats and especially kittens can be lactose intolerant so feeding cow's milk is not recommended. If giving milk to a cat it should be lactose free milk designed for cats.
- Cats should be provided with raw bones regularly for good dental health (eg raw chicken wings, lamb off cuts).
- Cooked bones should not be fed as they are likely to splinter and may lodge in the cat's throat or intestine causing serious health problems. If cats have trouble with bones they need to be provided with an alternative chewing item in order to maintain good dental health (seek advice from your breeder).
- An adequate number of food bowls needs to be provided to enable each cat to eat freely without intimidation. Bowls must be washed after each meal.

WATER

MINIMUM STANDARDS

- Cats must have ready access to clean drinking water at all times.
- Water containers must be checked daily and maintained in a clean condition.

BEST PRACTICE REQUIRED BY THE FCCV INC

- Water should be provided in a container that is not easily tipped over. The container should be large enough or refilled often enough to provide access to water twenty-four (24) hours a day.
- Water containers should be of a design that is easily cleaned and does not cause injury to the cat.
- If kittens are present, the container should not be so large or deep that they can fall in and drown.
- As a general guide the amount of water needed daily by an adult cat is 50 ml water per 1 kilogram of body weight (more for a lactating queen).
- An individual cat's daily water requirement varies depending on factors such as daily temperature, amount of exercise, water content of diet (ie greater water requirements if fed dry food compared to wet food), age etc.

HEALTH AND DISEASE

MINIMUM STANDARDS

- A cat's health and welfare must be checked daily.
- Veterinary advice must be promptly sought for cats showing signs of parasites, injury, ill health or distress.
- Cats must be treated regularly for internal and external parasites and vaccinated against common diseases.

BEST PRACTICE REQUIRED BY THE FCCV INC

When checking daily for health problems: examine the cat's physical condition, check for signs of ill health and make sure that the cat is eating, drinking, toileting and behaving normally.

- It is important to present sick or unwell animals for examination early in the course of a disease as this gives the veterinarian the best opportunity to quickly return the animal to good health.
- Cats should receive an annual health check by a veterinarian. More frequent checks may be needed for older cats or those with health problems.
- Regular vaccinations for the control of contagious diseases, as well as preventative treatments for internal (ie worms) and external (ie fleas) parasites must be provided to safeguard the general health of cats. Frequency of treatment depends on the product used and life stage of the cat.
- Kittens must be vaccinated (at least one vaccination at least 14 days prior to rehoming), and wormed before going to a new home. They require a course of vaccinations commencing at 6 –8 weeks of age. Kittens also require more frequent worming than adults, may start at the time of the first vaccination. Kittens intended as pets should be desexed. Seek veterinary advice regarding vaccination and worming regimes.
- Cats should receive regular check ups of their teeth for dental problems and be fed raw bones or other appropriate chewing/teeth cleaning substitutes to help prevent dental problems from occurring. Talk to a veterinarian for advice on dental health.
- Provision must be made within the establishment for the immediate isolation of any cat, kitten or litter which shows signs of contagious disease (particularly upper respiratory symptoms). This may be simply a collapsible pen which can be erected in an otherwise cat free room, or a dedicated isolation room. Large groups of cats can readily pass along such infections to one another. This is the most effective method of restricting spread, in combination with the exercise of meticulous hygiene when handling the infected animals.
- Cats should be groomed regularly particularly if they have a long coat. Severe matting of the coat is not acceptable and requires a veterinarian or experienced groomer to correct this problem. To avoid this matting long-haired cats will require regular grooming and may require clipping (this should be done by a veterinarian or experienced person).
- Scratching posts should be provided for cats. Clipping of nails should be done regularly by an experienced person.
- White or light coloured cats, particularly those with white or non-pigmented ears, eyelids and noses, are prone to sunburn and skin cancers. Precautions, such as use of sunscreen, should be taken to protect the vulnerable areas or alternatively keep white cats indoors especially during the heat of the day or provide seasonal shade.
- Some animal diseases and parasites are transferable to humans (zoonoses). It is important that those handling cats practice good personal hygiene, particularly when cleaning out litter trays. Due to the risk of miscarriage or foetal abnormalities through contracting toxoplasmosis pregnant women should practice extra care around cats and never handle litter trays or faeces without wearing gloves and following strict hygiene guidelines.
- Cats can appear quite resilient to pain and may just go quiet or hide as a response to injury or disease. This does not mean that they are not in pain or injured. Abnormal behaviours can indicate underlying health problems and a veterinarian should be consulted.
- Human medicines must not be given to cats except on veterinary advice, as they can be harmful.
- Keep any poisons used in the house, garden or work place stored away from any areas which your cat may have access to. Any products, including cleaning products which are coal tar derived, contain polyphenols, xylol or pine oil are poisonous to cats. Several popular house plants are also poisonous.

BREEDING AND REPRODUCTION

MINIMUM STANDARDS

- A breeding cat must be free of disease, and be fit and healthy.
- Cats with a known history of physical or genetic defects (that will affect the cat or its progeny's quality of life) must not be used for breeding.
- Female cats should not be bred before 9 months of age except on Veterinary advice.
- Veterinary advice must be sought immediately there are any concerns about a pregnancy or labour.
- Kittens must not be separated from the mother before 7 weeks of age (except under Veterinary advice) and not rehomed before 10 weeks of age.

BEST PRACTICE REQUIRED BY THE FCCV INC

- If it is not intended to use a male or female cat for breeding purposes then they should be desexed by a veterinarian. Desexing can be done safely from 8 weeks of age and preferably before puberty (around 4 months of age).
- Both male and female kittens if not required for breeding purposes should be desexed prior to rehoming.
- Before breeding, cats should be health-checked by a veterinarian. This will include checking for any known breed genetic defects (that will affect the cat or its progeny's quality of life). Inherited defects may detract from the cat's overall health and cause pain or discomfort which cannot be cured and animals with such defects must not be bred from. ***It is an offence*** (POCTA Mandatory Code of Practice for the Responsible Breeding of Animals with Heritable Disease 2008) ***to breed animals with known heritable defects*** other than under a prescribed breeding programme as outlined in this legislation/laid down or supervised by the FCCV Inc
- Females must not be bred before 9 and preferably not before 12 months of age (except under Veterinary advice). Although female cats (queens) can physically produce 2 or 3 litters per year, breeding should be restricted to a maximum of 2 litters in any one year.
- Cats shall be bred only for the purpose of improving the standard of the breed, not for the pet market or any other commercial purpose.
- Unregistered pure bred cats must not be bred by Members of the FCCV Inc. Registered pure bred cats must not be mated with unregistered cats of the same breed without specific permission of the FCCV Inc. No pure bred cat may be mated to a cat of a different breed unless within a recognised intermating group laid down by the FCCV Inc or unless under an Experimental Breeding Programme as approved by the FCCV Inc.
- All litters born where at least one kitten survives to the age of ten weeks, must be litter recorded with the FCCV Inc

REHOMING OF CATS AND KITTENS

- ♦ All cats and kittens rehomed, sold or given away must have a current vaccination certificate signed by a veterinarian stating that the animal has been vaccinated in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturers of the vaccine used. Kittens must be vaccinated at least once, with at least one vaccination at least 14 days prior to rehoming. Kittens must be vaccinated against: Feline Infectious Enteritis and Feline Respiratory disease (Herpes & Calici virus cat flu). The vaccination Certificate must indicate the next date for further vaccination and any obvious physical defect.
- ♦ No animal with a potentially life threatening defect apparent at the time should be sold.
- ♦ The vendor/breeder of animals of breeds with prevalence of a known heritable defect/s, must inform the buyer of this problem, and advise the buyer of any test

results/action taken by the breeder to minimise the likelihood of the occurrence of this problem in their animal. It is an offence to fail to so advise the buyer (POCTA Mandatory Code of Practice for the Responsible Breeding of Animals with Heritable Disease 2008).

- ◆ Minimum age for rehoming (selling or giving away) kittens is 10 weeks of age.
- ◆ No cat or kitten shall be sold or auctioned to commercial wholesalers, retail pet dealers, or directly or indirectly allowed to be given as a prize or donation to a contest of any kind.
- ◆ No cat or kitten may be rehomed as a gift to a third party, unless that third party has been informed in sufficient time to allow them to consider the responsibilities incumbent upon acceptance, and to prepare for the arrival of the animal.
- ◆ No animal suspected of being sick, injured or diseased may be rehomed. animals must be free of external parasites, and kittens must have been treated for internal worms with a suitable antihelminthic according to the manufacturers instructions.
- ◆ New owners must be provided with instructions on the care of their new animal, feeding, grooming, housing, and responsible pet ownership. They must be encouraged to seek veterinary advice about their pets from a veterinarian, including procedures for emergency treatment during the guarantee period.
- ◆ Advice on responsible pet ownership, including desexing, microchipping and registration with their Local Council must be provided. As a minimum, they should be provided with the Vaccination certificate, a sheet of instructions on feeding and general care, and a copy of the animal's pedigree.
- ◆ In addition, cats or kittens sold entire with the intention of being bred from, must be accompanied by an FCCV Inc registration/Pedigree Certificate transferred into the name of the new owner.
- ◆ The vendor/breeder must not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed, nor falsely advertise, nor mislead any person regarding the performance of any cat or kitten.

GUARANTEE

*If the animal proves unacceptable to the new owner, the following guarantee provides guidance on the behaviour and obligations of the vendor: This guarantee is taken from the mandatory Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding & Rearing Establishments as issued by Department of Primary Industries, June 2004, and is the **minimum standard required of all FCCV Inc members.***

- ◆ If an animal is unacceptable to a new owner **because of health**, or other reasons that are **supported by a statement from a veterinarian, within seven days of purchase**, the vendor/breeder must take the animal back and **refund all monies** or offer a replacement animal of the same breed and comparable quality with the same guarantee.
- ◆ If an animal is **returned within three days for any other reason**, the vendor/breeder will refund **75% of the purchase price**, or offer a replacement animal with the same guarantee.
- ◆ If the animal **dies or is euthanased from a disease that is traceable to the point of sale**, the vendor/breeder **must refund the purchase price** or offer a replacement animal of the same breed and comparable quality with the same guarantee.

DEPOSITS

The taking of deposits on kittens & cats secures the right of the buyer to purchase a chosen animal, or to be placed in a queue to select and purchase a kitten, or to be advised of kittens becoming available to purchase . Buyers should be made aware of the Vendor/Breeder's Policy on deposit refunds at the time of making their booking.

- ◆ Should the **vendor/breeder** for any reason be unable or unwilling to continue with a sale, the deposit must be returned in full if there is no cat or kitten of comparable quality available which would suit the requirements of the buyer.
- ◆ Should the **buyer** wish to withdraw from the arrangement the deposit should be returned in full if the cancellation takes place up to six weeks before the agreed collection date. The portion of the deposit refunded between 6 and 2 weeks prior to the collection date may diminish, and should cancellation take place AFTER the cat or kitten has been desexed for the buyer, or within two weeks prior to the collection date, no refund need be made.

HOUSING & HYGIENE

MINIMUM STANDARDS

- Cats must be provided with access to adequate shelter from sun, wind and rain.
- If not kept in the house, a cat must be provided with access to a weather-proof sleeping area with a bed.
- Adequate ventilation must be provided if cats are housed in enclosed areas or buildings to prevent build up of stale air and odours that can cause respiratory problems in cats.
- Cats must not be tethered at any time.
- Enclosures for cats must provide at least 2 square metres floor space per cat unless otherwise stated by an applicable code of practice under the Domestic Animals Act 1994. The main section of such an enclosure must be 1.8m high and should contain sleeping quarters, feeding area and provision of a litter tray (away from feeding/watering area). Cats may also be multiple housed in colony pens provided that the minimum area required/cat is provided.
- All housing areas for cats must be maintained in a safe, clean and hygienic condition at all times.
- When confining cats there must be no dangerous items or sharp edges used in the structure or fencing.
- Cat litter must be cleaned daily to remove urine and faeces.
- Disinfectants derived from coal tar (containing phenol) and pine oil must never be used around cats.

BEST PRACTICE REQUIRED BY THE FCCV INC

- Cats must be confined to the owner's property at all times, for the protection of the cat's welfare.
- Cats are generally sedentary animals and can be confined at all times without a risk to their welfare providing environmental needs are met (including exercise eg through play).
- Cats kept inside/in enclosures on a permanent basis, must be provided with a litter box placed well away from the cat's eating and sleeping areas. Litter must be cleaned daily to remove urine and faeces for hygiene reasons.
- Enclosures must be cleaned at least once a day, after removing used litter, dirty bedding and uneaten food and dirty food bowls. Housing may be swept or vacuumed, followed by mopping/wiping or hosing down. All surfaces must be left in a dry condition. Restore cleaned water bowls, litter trays and clean dry bedding at completion of cleaning. Adequate provision must be made to allow excess water resulting from hosing to drain away, and soak into the ground/be collected into sewerage system or septic tank so that none of it escapes onto adjoining

properties. Dispose of uneaten food and dirty litter hygienically, through domestic/commercial waste disposal services, or through composting. Wastes must not be incinerated.

- Cats require some exposure to sunlight to ensure good health. If they are kept indoors for long periods access to sunlight through a window or fly screen is usually sufficient.
- Care should be taken to protect cats from hazards within the household such as electrical appliances, power cords, household poisons, poisonous indoor plants and water sources such as toilets or swimming pools.
- Suitable accommodation and carers must be provided for cats when owners go away on holidays eg a boarding cattery that is registered with the local council or a responsible person is providing the necessary daily care of the cat.
- Cats can be contained by keeping them in the house at all times; building or buying cat enclosures. These can be separate or connected to a cat door into the house; enclosing verandahs; or cat modules/enclosures can be created either separately or linked to the house and can be a great way to provide an interesting environment while containing cats to the property. Such cat housing needs to be easily cleaned and maintained; human access points must be provided in case of emergencies.
- Cat enclosures must be lockable, and locked when there are no people on the property, to prevent access to the cats by other animals and unauthorised persons.
- An important aspect of cat enclosures is the complexity of the environment. Cats require regular exercise. Environmental enrichment and exercise needs can be met through the use of platforms at different heights in the vertical space connected by walkways (static and swinging), climbing frames and an interesting visual outlook. Constant confinement without stimulation for exercise and play can lead to a dull, apathetic cat or to the development of destructive behaviour. Scratching poles need to be provided for confined cats.
- In a group enclosure a number of hiding and escape areas should be provided to create a refuge from other cats and humans. Group housing pens should have a scratching pole and at least two levels joined by a climbing plank. When cats are group housed they should be socially compatible.
- It is recommended that desexed cats and/or female cats are group housed, entire male cats generally require individual housing to avoid conflict or else to be housed only with desexed cats provided they are compatible.
- Cats respond to visual stimulation so enclosures for solitary cats, particularly stud males should be situated where the cat can see other activities. This reduces the likelihood of the stud cat becoming noisy, or developing behavioural problems.
- Queens should be provided with a safe, warm individual kittening pen/room at least 2 weeks prior to the expected birth date. This space should provide protection against interference from other animals or people, and be safe and spacious enough for kittens up to at least 6 weeks of age. Enclosures used for kittening queens must be thoroughly disinfected prior to the introduction of a pregnant queen.
- Kittens from different litters, even if in apparent good health, should not be combined until at least 10 days after their first vaccination.

TRANSPORT

MINIMUM STANDARDS

- Cats must be confined in a secure, escape-proof, well-ventilated container when travelling.
- Travelling containers/cages must enable cats to comfortably stand, turn around, lie down and act normally but not so large that the cat may be hurt by being thrown around the container in case of sudden braking or turbulence.
- Adequate ventilation must be provided in the vehicle and travelling container/cage. For containers/cages this means multiple holes on at least three sides of the container/cage.
- Travelling containers must not have any projections that may cause injury to the cat.
- Travelling containers must be secured or restrained in the vehicle.
- Cats must not be transported in the boot of a car or a restricted volume of unventilated space.
- Cats must not be left unattended in the car if there is a possibility of heat stress occurring or in situations of extreme cold.
- Cats in travelling containers must be protected from direct sunlight at all times.
- Sufficient travelling containers/cages must be available to contain all the cats on a property in case of emergency evacuation.

BEST PRACTICE REQUIRED BY THE FCCV INC

- Cats should be adequately restrained when travelling inside a vehicle for the safety of both the cat and human passengers. Unrestrained cats can cause accidents and should never be allowed in the vicinity of the driver. In the case of an accident, an unrestrained cat may become a projectile and can damage itself and/or the occupants of the vehicle.
- If a cat must be left in a parked car, lock all doors, park in a shady area and open windows wide enough to provide ventilation (without enabling the cat to escape or get its head caught). Leave water available in a container that will not tip over. Be aware that the interior of a car can rapidly become hot enough to cause heat stress and even death in a cat, even on mild days.
- If being transported long distances, cats should be given regular opportunities to drink. Temperature and transporting conditions should be taken into account when determining the frequency of provision of water. The best way to provide water is via a container within the cat's basket that can be filled without opening the basket. If the basket has to be opened caution should be taken to ensure the cat does not escape.
- When cats are being transported by air the international air transport association regulations will apply.
- Cats should also be fed at least once every 24 hours and have regular access to a litter tray and water if these are not provided in the travelling container.

TRAINING AND SOCIALISATION

MINIMUM STANDARD

Training methods used with cats must be humane and not cause pain or distress.

BEST PRACTICE REQUIRED BY THE FCCV INC

- Cats should be trained to fit in with the life of their owners (eg trained to not jump onto tables).
- Cats do not require obedience training but do require familiarisation/training with any new experience (eg being shown) or environment and socialisation with other cats, animals and humans.
- It is important that from birth kittens are regularly handled by a human carer. Cats need plenty of stimulation (both mental and physical) so toys and a stimulating

environment need to be provided. Teach family, friends and children how to properly interact with cats.

- Cats must be toilet trained to use a litter tray.
- If a collar is to be worn, it should be elasticised or 'quick release' so the cat will not choke if the collar gets caught. Collars need to be snug fitting to ensure paws, or the lower jaw can not get caught up in them but not so tight that they rub or choke the cat. Collars should be checked daily for any sign of rubbing or injury.
- Collars, travel/carry cages and harnesses used for leading should be introduced gradually. Where a cat is trained to lead, the lead should be attached to a harness and not to a collar.
- Care is needed when introducing a new cat into a household with existing cats or dogs. Introduce a new cat slowly and under supervision to ensure any conflict over territory or hierarchy is minimised.
- Young children should not be left unsupervised around cats.