

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP COMPETITION

Guidelines, Regulations and Practical Information for the JS EXHIBITOR



A vertical rule next to a section indicates a revision.

(Effective September 1, 2002)

Junior Showmanship (JS) is a CFA program that provides the opportunity for young people aged 8 through 15 to be involved in an educational and meaningful competition focusing on the pedigreed cat. The program is designed to foster knowledge of CFA pedigreed cats and their written standard, general feline health considerations, grooming and care of the cat, as well as to develop qualities such as self-confidence and sportsmanship in young people.

Junior Showmanship (JS) classes are judged on the ability of the exhibitor to handle his/her cat and the knowledge of his/her breed. The quality of the cat is not judged. Handlers will be asked to: present their cat to the judge in a manner that emphasizes its best attributes; answer basic questions on the breed standard; answer questions on general care of cats; answer questions on the CFA's rules and regulations. Junior Showmanship competition is intended to introduce and encourage JS exhibitors to participate in the sport of pedigreed cats. The program provides a competition in which they can learn, practice and improve in all areas of handling skills and sportsmanship. It is intended that JS competition will educate in the care of cats including feeding, vaccinations, habitat, and to also educate about breeds and their standards.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. APPROVAL OF CLASSES. Any club that is approved to hold a CFA licensed allbreed show may also offer a Junior Showmanship (JS) competition.

2. STANDARD FOR JUDGING. Junior Showmanship is judged on the JS exhibitor's knowledge of breeds and general CFA rules and regulations and the ability and skill of the exhibitor in presenting their cats in the show ring. Although the cat must be CFA registered, the show qualities of the cat shall not be considered. The judge must be prepared to excuse any JS handler who, in his/her opinion, cannot control the cat.

3. AGE. The age of exhibitors in Junior Showmanship range from 8 through 15.

4. CLASSES AND DIVISIONS. The Junior Showmanship Classes are:

a. Novice. This class is for boys and girls 8 – 15 who at the time entries close have NOT competed in three Novice classes at licensed shows.

b. Junior and Senior Divisions. The Junior

division is for JS exhibitors who have completed three Novice classes and who are between ages 8-11. The Senior division is for JS exhibitors who have completed three novice classes and who are between ages 12-15.

d. Regular Cat Show Participation. JS participants may compete in the regular cat show competition held in conjunction with the JS ring and the JS judge may handle and judge the cat in regular competition.

5. CAT ENTRY. The cat must be CFA registered and have all its physical properties (with noted exceptions) as outlined in the CFA show rules. Declawed cats are not permitted.

6. CAT OWNERSHIP.

a. Novice Division: The cat must be owned individually or co-owned with another adult, as long as the cat resides in the home of the JS exhibitor and the JS exhibitor is the primary person responsible for the well being of the cat. It is recommended that the same cat be used throughout the Novice level and up to a year if the exhibitor advances to the Junior/Senior level. The young person should be responsible for all aspects of the cat he/she is showing, including feeding, grooming, and all other care and presentation for the ring. Exceptions from this rule may be made on a case by case basis, but each case must be presented in writing for a review of the circumstances by the Junior Showmanship Committee.

b. Junior & Senior Divisions. It is strongly suggested that after the first year in the program, the junior exhibitor select another breed of cat to work with and exhibit. Since it is not always feasible for the cat to live in the home of the JS exhibitor, the JS exhibitor is encouraged to form a relationship with a breeder/exhibitor who can provide mentoring as well as the use of a cat for JS competition. In this way the JS participant can help care for and learn about the breed.

7. ENTRIES. The entry fee is \$5.00 (a double cage is included in this fee). The special Junior Showmanship entry form, available from the club, CFA Central Office or on the web (www.cfainc.org), must be used. Entries for Junior Showmanship close at the same time entries close for the regular show. Confirmation of the entry should be received from the entry clerk as for a regular show entry. If a confirmation is not received prior to the show, it is the exhibitor's responsibility to contact the entry clerk and confirm the entry was received.

GUIDELINES & PRACTICAL COMPETITION INFO FOR JS EXHIBITORS

8. CATALOG. The names and ages of JS exhibitors and the age, breed, sex, neuter/spay status of the cat must be included in a section of the catalog specifically for Junior Showmanship. Participants are numbered consecutively starting with the #1, regardless of competitive category. Classes should be listed in the following order: novice, junior, senior. Each JS exhibitor shall be referred to by this number for the purposes of the show.

9. RIBBONS AND AWARDS. Each participant will receive a participation ribbon or an award ribbon as applicable.

Juniors and Seniors will be scored and awarded Best Junior, Second Best Junior, Best Senior and Second Best Senior, where appropriate, regardless of the number of participants in these classes. Juniors or Seniors not receiving a best or second best will receive a participation ribbon. Novice participants will not be ranked and will receive a participation ribbon.

10. SCORING/SHOW SEASON. Effective May 1, 2003, the JS season will coincide with the regular CFA show season (May 1 - April 30). The JS season for 2002/2003 will be abbreviated and run from September 1, 2002 through April 30, 2003. The Best and Second Best Junior and Best and Second Best Senior from each region (1-7) will be given a cash award (\$200 for Best, \$100 for Second Best) and encouraged to attend and compete in the JS competition at the CFA International Cat Show held in November. The JS program will provide recognition mementos to all participants at the regional level and a complimentary dinner to those JS exhibitors who attend the regional award banquet. The scoring will be based on the judges' averaged numerical scores, rankings and comments as well as the number of JS competitors defeated to obtain a best or second best award.

JS exhibitors whose level changes from Junior to Senior during the show season will be scored and be eligible for awards in both classes.

11. EVALUATION FORMS. Each exhibitor's performance will be scored on a CFA form used by the judge exclusively for that purpose. The first copy is sent to the Central Office with the regular cat show scoring records, the exhibitor will receive the second copy for his/her records and information, and the third will be retained by the judge.

13. THE CFA INTERNATIONAL CAT SHOW. The JS competition is open to anyone eligible to participate in the JS program at any level (Novice, Junior or Senior). Monetary awards will be given as follows: Best Junior/Senior-\$750.00 each; 2nd Best Junior/Senior-\$400.00 each; 3rd Best Junior/Senior-\$300.00 each; 4th Best Junior/Senior-\$200.00 each; 5th Best Junior/Senior-\$100.00 each.

- Junior Showmanship is a three-part interaction between the judge and the young exhibitor. It reflects the exhibitor's speaking ability, presentation skills and knowledge of cats. It is a dialogue exchange. Neither the judge nor the exhibitor should have free range to talk at length on any topic.

- The judge's purpose is to bring out the finest qualities of the exhibitor through questioning and guided modeling. This is particularly applicable to the initial part of this competition, the novice level.

- The exhibitor's purpose is to demonstrate their abilities in handling and presenting a cat, and fielding questions relating to the cat, its health and breeding, and the general rules and regulations of The Cat Fanciers' Association. Exhibitors are expected to present themselves properly, speak clearly and with poise and at all times display sportsmanship and good conduct.

- Although Junior Showmanship is a competitive sport, involving both winning and losing, the emphasis is on **sportsmanship**. Winners are expected to be gracious and supportive of those who place under them. Those who do not win are provided with two opportunities: one, the chance to learn how to handle defeat in an objective and gracious manner and; two, the occasion to learn how to improve their performance. Sportsmanship is essential to this competition, and any evidence of unsportsmanlike behavior is grounds for immediate disqualification.

- First names should NOT be used at any competition level and every effort should be made on the part of the judge and the exhibitor to not use first names. Although the exhibitor is being judged, the attention is to be focused on the presentation of the cat, and there should be no familiarity between the exhibitor and the judge. Familiarity can easily be construed as partiality, and every effort must be made on the part of the judge to avoid any appearance of partiality. JS exhibitors must use restraint so as to not appear to be influencing the judge by use of their name or the cat's name or titles.

- JS exhibitors are important to the sport of pedigreed cats. Exhibitors who learn about good sportsmanship, cat care, breed standards, presentation and cat shows will be valuable to the sport in the future. Junior Showmanship classes are held so that young people can: experience winning and losing among those who are similar in age; learn the correct way to present and handle the breed they own or work with; practice presentation skills in competition;

improve their knowledge about their breed and others; be encouraged to show in regular show classes.

- The cat must be appropriate for the abilities of the exhibitor. Experienced exhibitors competing in the Junior and Senior classes should be able to handle all phases of the care and grooming of his/her cat. Younger and/or inexperienced JS exhibitors may require some assistance with show preparation grooming. **HANDLERS MUST BE ABLE TO CONTROL THEIR CATS AT ALL TIMES.** Any handler who cannot control his/her cat will be excused by the judge.

- Appearance and Conduct: JS exhibitors should be clean, neat and well-groomed. They should wear clothing that is comfortable to present the cat in and appropriate for a cat show. Clothing should not distract, limit, or hinder the judge's view of the presentation of the cat.

- Cats should be groomed as they would be for the regular show ring. Cats should NOT be groomed in the ring to gain attention.

- JS exhibitors should appear confident, prepared, business-like and attentive. They should be courteous to both the judge and other participants. Exhibitors should be alert to the demands of their cats. They should use firm but thoughtful hands in controlling and presenting their cats. Juniors should not be impatient or heavy-handed.

- JS exhibitors will be judged on their ability to present their cats in the same way the cat would be properly presented by the judge in the regular ring. They will also be judged on their ability to make their individual cat look its best. During all parts of the competition exhibitors should handle their cats in a quiet, smooth manner. The handler should strive to make the cat stand out as the most important part of a team effort. Participants should concentrate on the cat and not on the judge, but always be aware of what is going on in the ring.

- There are many ways that participants can advance their knowledge about Junior Showmanship outside the ring. Obtain a copy of the breed standard for your breed and learn it thoroughly. Seek the advice of breeders of your breed to learn about presentation, grooming and general cat care. Read books on cat care, and on other breeds, and obtain videocassettes and pamphlets from CFA on breeds and the care of cats. Observe the regular rings, and ask questions on presentation when the judge is free. All of these will enhance the performance of the JS exhibitor in the Junior Showmanship competition, and help him/her to enjoy the experience of the sport of pedigreed cats.

NOVICE LEVEL OF JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

Novices are questioned on basic care/health of the cat, and

very basic breed information.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR THE NOVICE LEVEL

1. Why do you bathe a cat?
2. Why should you clip a cat's nails?
3. How often do you feed your cat?
4. Does your cat stay indoors, and why?
5. How would you explain to someone who has never heard of this breed what it looks like?
6. Where does your breed come from?
7. Do all cats need vaccinations? Why do our cats get vaccinated?
8. Can you tell if your cat is pregnant? How?
9. Do you train your cat to be a show cat? How?
10. How does a cat become a grand champion? A grand premier?
11. How does a cat become a champion? A premier?
12. How does a cat get into a final?
13. Why do judges spray the table after each cat is on it?
14. What does a ring steward do?
15. Explain what sportsmanship means to you.
16. Demonstrate how the judge will examine the head of your cat.
17. Demonstrate how the judge will examine the body of your cat.
18. What is the judge looking for when looking at your cat's head?
19. What is the judge looking for when looking at your cat's body?
20. What is the difference between a pet and show cat in your breed?
21. How do you prepare your breed for a show? (The exhibitor should answer by explaining how often the cat is bathed, what else is done such as trimming claws, ear hair, etc., and any other preparation being used.)
22. Explain how this breed is groomed before the ring.
23. Why do you like your breed? What makes it interesting or unique to you?

JUNIOR/SENIOR LEVEL OF JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

A Novice that has competed in three (3) JS competitions advances to the Junior or Senior level. Juniors are aged 8-11 and Seniors are aged 12-15. Exhibitors at this level are supposed to be more at ease with the competition. They should be able to answer more difficult questions. This is the first time exhibitors will be ranked. This level is intended to be more formal than the Novice level, and it is important that both the judge and the exhibitor maintain a respectful distance. Exhibitors must remember to not introduce either themselves or their cats by name or title. Any exhibitor that does so will not be ranked in the present competition and the reason for not being ranked will be noted

in the comment section of the evaluation.

At this level, the participant presents their own cat and answers specific questions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of that cat when compared to the breed standard. The exhibitor should be able to directly relate that particular cat's features to the standard and be able to explain not only whether the feature is correct for the breed, but also how much weight the standard places on it.

Presentation is very important at the Junior/Senior level. The cat should be emphasized in the presentation, not the handler. The exhibitor should strive to show the best of the cat while being able to verbalize the areas of the cat that do and do not meet the breed standard. His or her skills will be demonstrated by the cat's response and cooperation. The key is for the participant to develop a method that allows them to assess the cat in a smooth flowing manner that moves with the cat's natural movement. The focus is how smooth yet discerning the handling of the cat appears to be.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR THE JUNIOR/SENIOR LEVEL

1. Should cats be neutered/spayed and why?
2. What vaccinations does a cat need?
3. How many points are on this breed's head (or coat, color, etc.)?
4. What are the most important attributes of this breed?
5. Explain what a regional award is. Explain what a national award is.
6. Explain what the "Distinguished Merit" title means (or grand champion, etc.)
7. Why do people breed pedigreed cats?
8. Why do people show pedigreed cats?
9. Explain the role of a responsible breeder.
10. Some people don't understand why we house multiple cats. How would you explain the need for this?
11. Should all cats grand?
12. Should all cats be shown?
13. Who should make the decision that allows a cat to grand?

14. What does involvement in an organization like CFA teach young people like yourself?
15. Explain what sportsmanship means to you.

FAQ

*** Does the cat have to be a show quality, CFA registered cat?**

The cat must be a CFA registered cat, but not necessarily show quality. The important thing is that the JS exhibitor understands both how the cat does and does not fit its written breed standard. The exhibitor should be able to compare his/her cat to the standard and describe to the judge exactly what qualities make it a distinct breed, and how each part of the cat meets or doesn't meet the standard.

*** Is the cat being judged?**

No. It is the presentation of the cat by the handler that is being judged. The young person should be able to present the cat in the same manner as a regular CFA judge would, emphasizing the best qualities of the cat. The handler's poise, presentation skills and knowledge of the breed all contribute to his/her final score.

*** What does it cost to enter a Junior Showmanship class?**

The cost for entry into a Junior Showmanship ring is five (\$5.00) dollars. There is a special entry form for Junior Showmanship that can be obtained from the show entry clerk or CFA.

*** How does a club sponsor a Junior Showmanship ring?**

The club should contact the CFA Central Office with their plans to hold a Junior Showmanship ring. A pamphlet prepared especially for the show committee is available from CFA. In most cases a club can accommodate this extra ring, regardless of space or personnel considerations. Clubs interested in holding a JS ring that are unsure of whether they have enough space or time available can contact the Central Office for help in planning the ring so that it fits the individual club needs.

*CFA Junior Showmanship
program sponsored by:*



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