



The International Cat Association, Inc.

Judging Program

The International Cat Association, Inc. (TICA)

Judging Program

PREFACE

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CAT ASSOCIATION SHALL EXPRESSLY RETAIN THE RIGHT AND FULL DISCRETION TO CONSIDER FACTORS NOT LISTED WITHIN THIS PROGRAM IN MAKING ITS DETERMINATION REGARDING ACCEPTANCE INTO, OR ADVANCEMENT WITHIN THE JUDGING PROGRAM.

Acceptance into, or advancement within The International Cat Association's Judging Program will be considered only at regularly scheduled Board Meetings and will be considered only upon applicant furnishing proof of having met all requirements at each level as set forth in the TICA Judging Program.

Meeting or exceeding the minimum requirements listed in the Articles within this program are not to be considered a guarantee of acceptance or advancement in the TICA Judging Program.

The Board of Directors will consider each new applicant's showing and club activity, experience in breeding, exhibiting, clerking and show management, personal appearance, deportment, reputation, ethics and attitude, reports from TICA members, and may consider the applicant's activities in TICA beyond the program requirements, the variety of breeds bred, maintained and shown, titles earned and any other pertinent factors it deems applicable and may grant the applicant's entrance into the program, may reject the applicant, or may require additional work.

In reviewing applications for advancement to Probationary Specialty Judge, the Board will consider the applicant's knowledge, ability, training, club activity, personal appearance, deportment, ethics, attitude, reports from TICA members, and willingness to abide by the TICA By-Laws, Show Rules, Registration Rules, the TICA Standards, the TICA Mission and Policy Statements and the Rules and Codes as set forth in the Judging Program, as well as any other pertinent factors it deems applicable, and may grant or reject the application or may require additional work.

In considering applications for further advancement in the Judging Program, the Board will review the applicant's knowledge, personal appearance and demeanor, ethics, attitude and reports from TICA clubs, members, and/or exhibitors, the ability to abide by the Judging Program rules and requirements, the timeliness of Judge's Books received at the Executive Office and the number of mechanical errors, and/or the habitual repetition of either late books or numerous errors, timely payment dues, fees, and/or fines, the providing of a professional photograph for the Yearbook, no smaller than 5"x7" (12.5cm x 18cm), as well as any other appropriate factors it deems applicable and may grant the applicant's request for advancement, may reject the application, or may require additional work.

If the applicant is denied acceptance or advancement, s/he may reapply at a later date. This will not be automatic. The applicant must reapply in accordance with the Rules as set forth in the Articles of the TICA Judging Program.

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TRAINING MANUAL 49

Fee Schedule

Application Fee	\$40
Processing Fee	\$15
Advancement from Trainee to	
Probationary Specialty Judge-License Fee	\$25
Processing Fee	\$15
Advancement from Probationary Specialty Judge to	
Approved Specialty Judge	N/A
Annual License Fee-Probationary Specialty Judge	\$25
Annual License Fee-Approved Specialty Judge	\$25
Advancement from Approved Specialty Judge to	
Provisional Allbreed Judge:	
Processing Fee	\$20
Annual License Fee-Provisional Allbreed Judge	\$25
Advancement from Provisional Allbreed to	
Approved Allbreed:	
Processing Fee	\$35
Annual License Fee-Approved Allbreed Judge	\$35
Application of Judges from Other Cat Associations for TICA:	
Application Fee	\$40
Processing Fee	\$15
Appropriate License Fee	
Reinstatement:	
Application Fee	\$40
Processing Fee	\$15
Appropriate License Fee	
Leave of Absence:	
Application Fee	\$40
Processing Fee	\$15
Appropriate License Fee	
Household Pet Judging Program:	
License Fee	\$15

ARTICLE ONE - *The Role of the Approved Allbreed Sponsor*

41.1 The Approved Allbreed Sponsor plays an important role in the participation of an individual in the TICA Judging Program and in the advancement of the individual through the levels of the Judging Program from Trainee to Approved Allbreed Judge.

41.2 The Sponsor must have been an Approved Allbreed Judge for at least 3 years, have some knowledge of the applicant's background and current activities and ideally reside in the same Region. In isolated areas or regions where there are no Approved Allbreed Judges available, a neighboring region may be considered. Judges Emeriti shall not accept sponsorship of any new applicants.

41.3 The Sponsor shall provide the applicant with the Endorsement of Approved Allbreed Sponsor Form and shall be prepared to write letters of endorsement for each level of the participant's advancement through the Judging Program.

41.4 The Sponsor shall review the participant's Application Forms, for the verification of fulfillment of requirements for acceptance into or the advancement within the Judging Program.

41.5 The Sponsor must be able to establish a good rapport with the applicant and work closely with them, enabling each to discuss openly and frankly any concerns or situations that may arise during the advancement period, and shall serve as a confidant to the participant, being aware that special needs may exist, and be of assistance where needed.

41.6 A training plan shall be discussed and implemented that will provide the most benefit to the Trainee. It shall be the responsibility of the Sponsor to discuss all Training Evaluations *with* the Trainee during the training period.

41.7 The Sponsor shall monitor ring training or judging when possible to enable better assessment of the progress of the participant.

41.8 The Sponsor must receive the Monthly Report from the Trainee by the first of each month. The critiques and the evaluations contained in the report shall be reviewed by the Sponsor, discussed in depth with the Trainee and any concerns addressed immediately.

41.9 The Sponsor must be willing to address any negative feedback with the Trainee, the Training Judge, the Trainee Coordinator or the Judging Administrator.

41.10 The Sponsor acts as an advisor, mentor, guide and confidant to the participant and must be able to devote time and effort to accomplish this.

41.11 The Approved Allbreed Sponsor shall be available to assist in other areas; checking examinations, refresher tests, additional training and any other areas where the Sponsor's expertise would be beneficial in helping the participant reach their goal.

41.12 Should it become necessary that the Approved Allbreed Sponsor drop the Sponsorship of an applicant, trainee or judge he/she must inform the Judging Administrator of the reason. He/she shall notify the applicant, trainee or judge in a formal letter with a copy to the Judging Administrator.

ARTICLE TWO - *Trainee*

Requirements for Application for Admission into the Judging Program:

42.1 Names of applicants MUST be published in two issues of the TREND. Notices must be sent to the **Judging Administrator** and received by April 15th for application at the Annual, August 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or December 15th for application at the Spring Meeting. The **Judging Administrator** will then place the notices in the TREND. TICA members shall be invited to send comments, favorable and/or unfavorable, to the Judging Administrator/Designee and to the applicant's Regional Director.

42.1.1 At the time of sending notice of intent to the Judging Administrator, an applicant to the judging Program must send a photograph to the TICA TREND Editor for publication with the notice in at least one issue of the TREND prior to the Board meeting at which the applicant is being considered.

4.2.2 General Requirements. Applicants must meet the following requirements:

42.2.1 Be 21 years of age or older.

42.2.2 Be a member of TICA in good standing.

42.2.2.1 Be a TICA member for a minimum of 4 years prior to the effective date of a TICA Probationary Specialty Judging License.

42.2.3 Have a TICA registered cattery.

42.2.4 Be a working member of an active TICA club which hosts TICA shows in resident region.

42.2.5 Be a licensed TICA Head Ring Clerk and a licensed TICA Master Clerk.

42.2.5.1 Must have served as a Head Ring Clerk in at least ten TICA shows.

42.2.5.2 Must have served as Master Clerk in at least five TICA shows.

42.2.6 Have an Approved Allbreed Judge as sponsor.

42.2.7 Have attended one TICA judging school, one breed seminar and one TICA genetics seminar within 1 year of application.

42.2.8 Have actively served at least two times as a TICA show manager (may be "co-show manager" only once).

42.2.9 Have served two times as a TICA entry clerk. (Additional activity is encouraged.)

42.2.10 Be familiar with and agree to abide by the TICA By-Laws, TICA Show Rules, TICA Registration Rules and TICA Standards.

42.2.11 Prior to being granted a Probationary Specialty License, breeder applicants must have been breeding cats for 4 years AND non-breeder applicants must have been actively showing cats in TICA for a minimum of 4 years. (See 42.2.2.1.)

42.3 Breeding and/or Showing Requirements.

42.3.1 For Breeders. Prior to application, must:

42.3.1.1 Have bred a minimum of five TICA registered litters.

42.3.1.2 Have shown in at least 25 TICA shows (back-to-back shows will be considered as one show).

42.3.1.3 Have shown to TICA Grand Champion status **a minimum of four cats**, as follows:

42.3.1.3.1 Three of the four must be unaltered.

42.3.1.3.2 One of the four must have been bred by the applicant; any cat not bred by the applicant must be acquired by 5 months of age and **must live with the applicant from the time the cat is acquired until the requisite title is achieved.**

42.3.1.3.2.1 For developing areas of TICA where quarantine or equivalent restrictions exist, the requirement to acquire a kitten at 5 months of age or younger may be waived by the Board as follows:

- Proof that the kitten cannot come out of quarantine until it reaches a specified age up to one year;
- The kitten/cat has not been shown as an adult or earned any titles prior to the applicant's showing of the cat as part of the Judging Program requirement.

42.3.1.3.3 One of the three unaltered cats must have achieved the title of Supreme Grand Champion.

42.3.1.3.4 One of the three unaltered cats must have received a Regional Win in the Top 20 Allbreed Cats.

42.3.1.3.5 One of the four must be a cat of opposite body type and coat length. **Selection of the breed of cat of opposite body type and coat length must be approved by the Judging Administrator.**

42.3.2 For Non-Breeders. Prior to application must:

42.3.2.1 Have acquired all qualifying cats at 5 months of age or younger.

42.3.2.2 Have shown a minimum of five cats from both longhair and shorthair breeds to TICA Grand Champion or Grand Champion Alter status with no fewer than three from one body type and coat length.

42.3.2.2.1 Three of the five Grand Champions or Grand Champion Alters must achieve the title of Supreme Grand Champion or Supreme Grand Champion Alter.

42.3.2.2.2 One of the Supreme Grand Champions or Supreme Grand Champion Alters must be a different body type and coat length from the primary body type and coat length.

42.3.2.3 Have achieved a minimum of three Regional Wins in the Top 10 Allbreed Cats or Alters.

42.3.2.3.1 One Regional Winner must be in the opposite body type and coat length from the primary body type and coat length.

42.3.2.3.2 Have shown in 25 TICA shows (back-to-back shows will be considered one show).

42.4 Consideration may be given for Regional and International Top 20 wins, to include kitten, cat, alter and household pet awards. However, all requirements in 42.2 and 42.3 must be met.

42.5 Applicant must submit a \$40 dollar application fee to the TICA Executive Office, and an official Application to the Judging Program to the Judging Administrator/Designee, together with:

42.5.1 A personal resume.

42.5.2 Letter of recommendation from the club in region of residence, in which the applicant is an active member.

42.5.3 Copy of Head Ring Clerk and Master Clerk License.

42.5.4 A letter of sponsorship from one TICA Approved Allbreed Judge who must review the applicant's complete packet and sign where indicated on the check-off list that the application has met all requirements.

42.5.5 A recent professional 5"x7" (12.5cm x 18cm) color photograph.

42.5.6 Documentation verifying fulfillment of all requirements as listed above.

42.6 When the applicant has an Allbreed Sponsor and up to 1 year prior to the anticipated date of application, the applicant may request a comprehensive written open book examination covering TICA By-Laws, Show Rules, Breed Standards, Ethics and the cat fancy, in general,. The applicant must score 95 percent or higher on the examination, and all questions missed must be answered correctly. If the applicant fails to complete the examination within the time allowed, application may not be resubmitted for 6 months.

42.6.1 Application and examination must be received NO LATER THAN May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting and January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting.

42.7 Upon successful completion of the examination, the Judging Administrator will submit the applicant's name for consideration by the Board for acceptance into the TICA Judging Program.

42.7.1 The Board of Directors will consider the applicant's knowledge, ability and experience in breeding, showing, clerking, show management, and club activity. The Board will also consider the applicant's personal appearance, deportment, attitude and any other factors it deems appropriate. The Board may approve the applicant upon any appropriate terms or conditions, deny the applicant or require additional work.

42.7.2 If the applicant is denied admission to the Judging Program, s/he may not reapply for 1 year.

42.8 Upon acceptance by the Board of Directors, the applicant must send a recent professional color photograph, no smaller than 5"x7" (12.5cm x 18 cm) scanned at 300 dpi, to the Yearbook Editor.

ARTICLE THREE - *Training Program*

43.1 The applicant may begin ring training when the following requirements have been met:

43.1.1 All requirements set forth by the Board of Directors and the Judging Administrator/Designee.

43.1.2 Paid a \$15 processing fee to the Executive Office.

43.1.3 Received permission from the Judging Administrator/ Designee to proceed with ring training.

43.2 Trainee Responsibilities. A 15 months training period is required before a trainee can apply for a Probationary Specialty License. The trainee must be actively involved in writing breed critiques, attending schools, conferences and seminars, ring training, solo training, and sending the required monthly reports to the Trainee Coordinator outlining all activity for each month.

43.2.1 During the training period the trainee must attend one of each of the following:

43.2.1.1 TICA Judging School.

43.2.1.2 TICA Judges Conference.

43.2.1.3 TICA Breed Seminar.

43.2.1.4 TICA Genetics Seminar.

43.2.2 During the training period, the trainee may:

43.2.2.1 Show a cat only through the use of an agent until all training sessions for the weekend are complete.

43.2.2.2 Write breed critiques and breed comparisons in the benching area of the show hall, NOT in proximity to the judging rings.

43.2.2.3 Be in the show hall prior to training or doing solos, but may not be in proximity to the judging rings EXCEPT during the training/solo sessions.

43.2.2.4 Have NO access to the show catalog until all training is complete for the weekend.

43.2.2.5 Send the Judging Administrator/Designee a statement commenting on the type and quality of training received from any instructor.

43.3 Training. The trainee must obtain written permission from both the club hosting the show and the training judge. The trainee must complete a Permission to Train Form for each show at which s/he wishes to train. This

form will indicate the type of training agreed upon. Permission to Train Forms must be signed by all parties prior to the day(s) of training. Copies must be sent to the Judging Administrator/Designee and the trainee's Allbreed sponsor at the trainee's expense.

43.3.1 Training will consist of:

43.3.1.1 A minimum of 40 ring training sessions.

43.3.1.2 A minimum of four solo judging sessions. Solo judging cannot be started until all ring training sessions have been completed.

43.3.1.3 For developing areas of TICA which are isolated or remote (such as, but not limited to, South America, Russia, Korea) a Trainee must complete the requirements of 43.3.2, 43.3.3, 43.3.5 and 43.3.6 WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:

- ▶ **Must complete 20 training sessions, 5 of which must be completed with Licensed Ring Instructors**
- ▶ **Must complete 2 solo sessions, both of which may be completed in the Trainee's region of residence with any Approved Allbreed Judge.**

Upon completion of these requirements, the Trainee may apply for a Probationary Specialty License in (Country, Region). See 44.2.

43.3.2 Ring Training.

43.3.2.1 Ring training consists of handling a minimum of 40 kittens, cats, alters, household pets or new breeds. The selection of the cats for training is at the training judge's discretion. Training may consist of handling full classes (such as championship cats, etc.) or handling full breeds or breed groups (such as the Persian Breed Group or Maine Coon kittens, cats and alters, etc.). The trainee is expected to handle his or her own cat(s) during the training session without calling attention to the ownership of the cat. The trainee is expected to remain in the judging ring until dismissed by the instructor. During the final five training sessions, the trainee must stay with the training judge the entire day handling cats as designated by the judge.

43.3.2.2 Training sessions are limited to two training sessions per show weekend, except when training overseas. When training overseas, three training sessions are allowed per show weekend. A "show weekend" is defined as 1-day, 2-day or 3-day shows. Only one training session is permitted per day, except when training overseas. When training overseas up to two training sessions per day are permitted not to exceed three sessions per weekend.

43.3.2.3 The trainee may train with any Approved Allbreed Judge. At least ten of these judges must be Licensed Ring Instructors.

43.3.2.4 Trainees residing in North America must train in at least six North American regions. Trainees residing on either the East or West Coast must train on an opposite coast at least once. Trainees located centrally must train on both coasts.

43.3.2.5 ALL trainees are strongly advised to train at least once overseas. (For example, a trainee in North America is advised to train in Europe or Asia; a trainee in Europe is advised to train in Asia or North America;

a trainee in Asia is advised to train in North America or Europe; a trainee in South America is advised to train in Europe, Asia or North America.)

43.3.3 Solo Training.

43.3.3.1 Solo judging consists of handling no fewer than 20 entries (or of handling the entire class if fewer than 20 cats are present,) as directed by the instructor, marking the judge's book correctly, hanging ribbons and presenting final awards. Trainees must furnish their own rosettes for their solo finals.

43.3.3.2 A solo training session may not be done on the same day as a ring training session. Solo judging may take place before the show begins, during the show or after the completion of the show, under the direction of the instructor.

43.3.3.3 At least two of the four solo training sessions must be done outside the region of residence or beyond 500 miles from the trainee's residence.

43.3.3.4 At least three of the solo judging sessions must be with Licensed Ring Instructors.

43.4 The Training Sessions. These are **minimal guidelines**. The instructor should at all times evaluate the level of experience and development of the trainee and plan training accordingly.

43.4.1 Sessions 1 -5.

43.4.1.1 Removing cats from and returning to the judging cages.

43.4.1.2 Learning to handle different body types.

43.4.1.3 Developing a routine for judging each cat no matter what breed.

43.4.1.4 Developing confidence.

43.4.1.5 Practicing basic mechanics.

43.4.1.6 Learning how to bend properly.

43.4.1.7 Learning when and how to use teasers.

43.4.1.8 Assessing cat "body language".

43.4.2 Sessions 6 - 10.

43.4.2.1 Developing a routine for checking for "faults".

43.4.2.2 Learning to keep track of large classes.

43.4.2.3 Developing a method of keeping track of "final worthy" cats.

43.4.2.4 Finding the essence of each cat.

43.4.2.5 Marking a judge's book.

43.4.2.6 Completing Breed Comparison reports.

43.4.2.7 Selecting cats for finals.

43.4.3 Sessions 11 - 20.

43.4.3.1 Learning to manage time in a large show.

43.4.3.2 Learning to manage time in a small show.

- 43.4.3.3 Learning to make a structural assessment of the cat.
- 43.4.3.4 Signing judge's book and giving goldenrod copy to clerk.
- 43.4.3.5 Applying skills - hanging judge's flats, marking book, cleaning table, etc.
- 43.4.3.6 Comparing features within a breed and between breeds.
- 43.4.3.7 Applying knowledge and principles of genetics to the cats.

43.4.4 Sessions 21 - 35.

- 43.4.4.1 Developing showmanship.
- 43.4.4.2 Presenting finals.
- 43.4.4.3 Dealing with mediocrity in a class.
- 43.4.4.4 Seeing the whole cat.

43.4.5 Sessions 36 - 40.

- 43.4.5.1 Refining the art of judging.
- 43.4.5.2 Making own decisions and sharing with exhibitors.

43.4.6 Solo Sessions.

- 43.4.6.1 Making independent decisions.
- 43.4.6.2 Dealing with the clerk.
- 43.4.6.3 Staying focused.
- 43.4.6.4 Loving what s/he's doing.

43.5 Written Requirements.

43.5.1 The trainee must submit 50 written critiques based on the breed standard for a minimum of 75 percent of the breeds recognized for championship. Critiques are to be sent to the trainee's Allbreed Sponsor and to the Judging Administrator/Designee.

43.5.2 The trainee must write Breed Comparison reports. These may be assigned by a training judge OR the trainee may visit a cattery to write reports on select cats. Reports must be signed by the training judge or the cattery owner and returned to the trainee, who will send to the appropriate persons. Cattery reports must be reviewed and signed by the Allbreed Sponsor prior to being forwarded to the Trainee Coordinator. A minimum of 15 Breed Comparison Reports are required.

43.5.3 The trainee must make a set of judge's books if not furnished by the club. These books must be made from another judge's book, NOT from a show catalog.

43.6 Clerical Requirements.

43.6.1 The trainee must provide the instructor with a stamped self-addressed envelope. It is the responsibility of the instructor to complete the evaluation and mail copies to the trainee NO LATER THAN 7 days after the

close of the show. It is then the responsibility of the trainee to send copies of the evaluations to the Trainee Coordinator and the Allbreed Sponsor.

43.6.2 The trainee is responsible for sending trainee/solo evaluations, breed critiques, and breed comparisons to the Trainee Coordinator and the Allbreed Sponsor on a monthly basis with the Monthly Report.

43.6.3 The trainee is responsible for sending the Quarterly Report to the Judging Administrator and the Regional Director at the end of March, June, September and December,

43.7 Other Requirements.

43.7.1 Any time during the training period, the Judging Administrator/Designee may make recommendations for, or require, additional training in particular breeds and/or colors. The trainee must submit proof of any additional required training to the Judging Administrator/Designee and the trainee's Allbreed sponsor.

ARTICLE FOUR - Probationary and Approved Specialty Judge

Advancement from Trainee to Probationary Specialty Judge:

44.1 Names of applicants **MUST** be published in two issues of the TREND. Notices must be sent to the **Judging Administrator** and received by April 15th for application at the Annual, August 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or December 15th for application at the Spring Meeting. The **Judging Administrator** will then place the notices in the TREND. TICA members shall be invited to send comments, favorable and/or unfavorable, to the Judging Administrator/Designee and to the applicant's Regional Director.

44.2 When the training portion of the program has been completed, the trainee shall send the completed Application for Advancement to Probationary Specialty Judge to the Trainee Coordinator, the Allbreed Sponsor and the Judging Administrator to be received by May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting.

44.2.1 Trainees in developing areas completing the requirements outlined in 43.3.1.3 may apply for a Local Probationary Specialty License in (Country, Region). This license will allow the individual to judge **ONLY** in the specific area noted on the license.

44.2.1.1 Upon completing 20 judging assignments + one judging assignment or training assignment outside of the country licensed in, the individual may apply to the Judging Administrator for an unrestricted Probationary Specialty License. In order to advance to Approved Specialty the unrestricted Probationary Specialty judge must judge an additional 20 shows. See 44.6

44.2.2 The Board shall consider the applicant's knowledge, ability, training, experience, show and club activity, personal appearance, deportment, attitude and any other factors it deems appropriate and may grant the probationary specialty license, deny the applicant, or require additional work.

44.5 If applicant is denied advancement, s/he may reapply, for consideration at the next scheduled Board meeting. Copies of reapplication form must be sent to the Judging Administrator/Designee and to each Board member to be received **NO LATER THAN** May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting. Applications received after the deadline will be presented at the following scheduled Board meeting.

Advancement from Probationary Specialty Judge to Approved Specialty Judge

44.6 The probationary period shall be for a minimum of 1 year, and a minimum of 20 shows judged. The Probationary Specialty Judge shall submit the Application for Advancement to Approved Specialty Judge to the Judging Administrator/Designee for advancement to Approved Specialty Judge, which shall include a list of shows judged during the probationary period and which shall be signed by the Allbreed Sponsor. If no problems have arisen during the probationary period the Judging Administrator/Designee shall inform the Probationary Specialty Judge that they have completed probation and shall grant an Approved Specialty License.

ARTICLE FIVE - *Provisional Allbreed*

Advancement from Approved Specialty Judge to Provisional Allbreed Judge:

45.1 Names of applicants **MUST** be published in two issues of the TREND. Notices must be sent to the **Judging Administrator** and received by April 15th for application at the Annual, August 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or December 15th for application at the Spring Meeting. The **Judging Administrator** will then place the notices in the TREND. TICA members shall be invited to send comments, favorable and/or unfavorable, to the Judging Administrator/Designee and to the applicant's Regional Director.

45.2 The applicant must have completed the following before applying for advancement:

45.2.1 Have judged at least 30 TICA shows as Approved Specialty.

45.2.2 Obtained a letter of endorsement from his/her Approved Allbreed Sponsor stating his/her approval of advancement.

45.2.3 Passed the advancement examination (95 percent correct answers is considered a passing grade; however, all questions missed must be answered again correctly).

45.2.4 Met any special requirements as set forth by the Board, Judging Administrator or Judging Administrator Designee.

45.2.5 Paid a \$20 processing fee to the Executive Office NO LATER THAN May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting.

45.2.6 The Application for Advancement to Provisional Allbreed Judge must be completed and received by the Judging Administrator NO LATER THAN May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting. Applications received after the deadline will be presented at the following scheduled Board meeting.

45.3 A judge may request an examination anytime within 1 year of the time planned for advancement.

45.3.1 Examination must be completed and returned within 4 months of receipt of examination and NO LATER THAN May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting and January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting.

45.3.1.1 If the examination is not completed by the above stated deadlines, and/or if all other requirements have not been met by June 15th for application at the Annual, November 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or February 15th for application at the Spring Meeting, the applicant must reapply for advancement at a following scheduled Board meeting.

45.3.2 Upon reapplication, all advancement requirements must be met, including successfully passing the advancement examination and payment of all fees.

45.4 The Board shall consider the applicant's knowledge, ability, training, experience, show and club activity, personal appearance, deportment, attitude and any other factors it deems appropriate and may grant the Provisional Allbreed License, deny the applicant, or require additional work.

45.5 If applicant is denied advancement, s/he may reapply, for consideration at the next scheduled Board meeting. Copies of reapplication form must be sent to the Judging Administrator/Designee and to each Board member to be received NO LATER THAN May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting. Applications received after the deadline will be presented at the following scheduled Board meeting.

45.6 The license fee of \$25 shall be sent to the Executive Office NO LATER THAN May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting.

ARTICLE SIX - *Approved Allbreed*

Advancement From Provisional Allbreed to Approved Allbreed:

46.1 Names of applicants **MUST** be published in two issues of the TREND. Notices must be sent to the **Judging Administrator** and received by April 15th for application at the Annual, August 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or December 15th for application at the Spring Meeting. The **Judging Administrator** will then place the notices in the TREND. TICA members shall be invited to send comments, favorable and/or unfavorable, to the Judging Administrator/Designee and to the applicant's Regional Director.

46.2 Before applying for advancement, applicant must have:

46.2.1 Been a licensed Provisional Allbreed judge for at least 2 years and judged at least 60 TICA shows as such (60 LH and 60 SH or 60 AB or any combination thereof).

46.2.2 Obtained a letter of endorsement from his/her Approved Allbreed sponsor stating his/her approval of advancement.

46.2.3 Passed the Approved Allbreed examination (95 percent correct answers is considered a passing grade; however, all questions missed must be answered again correctly).

46.2.4 Met any special requirements as set forth by the Board or the Judging Administrator/Designee.

46.2.5 The processing fee of \$35 shall be sent to the Executive Office **NO LATER THAN** May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting.

46.2.6 The Application for Advancement to Approved Allbreed Judge must be completed and received by the Judging Administrator **NO LATER THAN** May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting. . Applications received after the deadline will be presented at the following scheduled Board meeting.

46.3 A judge may request an examination anytime within 1 year of the time planned for advancement.

46.3.1 Examination must be completed and returned within 4 months of receipt of examination and NO LATER THAN May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting.

46.3.1.1 If the examination is not completed by the above stated deadlines, and/or if all other requirements have not been met by June 15th for application at the Annual, November 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or February 15th for application at the Spring Meeting, the applicant must reapply for advancement at a following scheduled Board meeting.

46.3.2 If the examination is not completed and returned prior to 90 days before the next scheduled Board meeting, and if all other requirements have not been met, 60 days prior to the Board meeting, the applicant must reapply for advancement at a following scheduled Board meeting.

46.3.3 Upon reapplication, all advancement requirements must be met, including successfully passing the advancement examination and payment of all fees.

46.4 The Board shall consider the applicant's knowledge, ability, training, experience, show and club activity, personal appearance, deportment, attitude and any other factors it deems appropriate and may grant the Approved Allbreed license, deny the applicant, or require additional work. The Board shall take into consideration the number of out of region shows the applicant has judged.

46.5 If applicant is denied advancement, s/he may not reapply for 1 year. Copies of reapplication form must be sent to the Judging Administrator/Designee and to each Board member to be received NO LATER THAN May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting.

46.6 The license fee of **\$35** shall be sent to the Executive Office NO LATER THAN May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting.

ARTICLE SEVEN - *Application for Instructor*

47.1 Names of applicants **MUST** be published in two issues of the TREND. Notices must be sent to the **Judging Administrator** and received by April 15th for application at the Annual, by August 15th for application at the Winter Meeting and by December 15th for application at the Spring Meeting. The **Judging Administrator** will then place the notices in the TREND. TICA members shall be invited to send comments, favorable and/or unfavorable, to the Judging Administrator/Designee and to the applicant's Regional Director.

47.2 An Approved Allbreed judge may apply for instructor after having been a licensed Approved Allbreed judge no less than 2 years and having judged no fewer than 50 TICA shows as an Approved Allbreed judge (50 LH and 50 SH or 50 AB or any combination thereof).

47.3 An Approved Allbreed judge may apply for ring instructor and/or school instructor.

47.3.1 Duties of a ring instructor: teach trainees, completing and returning Trainee Evaluation Forms to the Judging Administrator/Designee and the Allbreed Sponsor within 48 hours of close of show.

47.3.2 Duties of a school instructor: teach trainees, completing and returning Trainee Evaluation Forms to the Judging Administrator/Designee and the Allbreed Sponsor within 48 hours of close of show; conduct judging schools, breed seminars and judge's conferences sending attendance list and subject matter covered to the Judging Administrator/Designee within 30 days following any session conducted.

47.4 The applicant shall send the completed Application for Instructor to the Judging Administrator to be received **NO LATER THAN** May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting. This applies to all applicants, including those outside of the United States or Canada.

47.4.1 Applications for Ring Instructor only must be accompanied by a narrative stating how the instructor proposes to work with a trainee, including, but not limited to, what the trainee can expect of the Instructor and what the Instructor will expect of the Trainee.

47.4.2 Applications for School Instructor must include an outline and a lesson plan for a judging school and for a breed seminar.

47.5 All other requirements must be completed by **June 15th for application at the Annual, November 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or February 15th for application at the Spring Meeting.** If all requirements have not been met by the deadline date, the applicant must reapply for instructor at a following scheduled Board meeting.

47.6 The Board shall consider the applicant's knowledge, ability, training, experience, show and club activity, personal appearance, deportment, attitude and any other factors it deems appropriate and may grant instructor status, deny the applicant or require additional work.

47.7 If applicant is denied advancement, s/he may not reapply for 1 year. Copies of reapplication form must be sent to the Judging Administrator/Designee and to each Board member to be received **NO LATER THAN May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting.** Applications received after the deadline will be presented at the following scheduled Board meeting.

ARTICLE EIGHT - *Acceptance of Judges from Other Cat Associations*

48.1 Names of applicants MUST be published in two issues of the TREND; notices must be received by the Judging Administrator by April 15th for application at the Annual, by August 15th for application at the Winter Meeting and by December 15th for application at the Spring Meeting. Notices must be sent to the Judging Administrator. The Judging Administrator will then place the notices in the TREND. At the time of sending notice of intent to the Judging Administrator **a new applicant** to the Judging Program must send a photograph to the TREND Editor for publication with the notice in at least one issue of the TREND prior the Board Meeting at which the applicant is applying. TICA members shall be invited to send comments, favorable and/or unfavorable, to the Judging Administrator/Designee and to the applicant's Regional Director.

48.2 Any judge who is or has been licensed by another domestic or international association, who has at least 5 years of judging experience with one association, and who has judged at least 25 cat shows before applying to TICA, may apply to the Judging Administrator/Designee for a TICA judge's license NO LATER THAN May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting. The highest level for which application may be made is Approved Specialty. Any such application shall include a detailed description of prior training and education and shall be evaluated on a case by case basis. Applications received after the deadline will be presented at the following scheduled Board meeting.

48.3 Payment of a \$40 application fee, a \$15 processing fee and the appropriate license fee shall be forwarded to the Executive Office.

48.4 Applicants must meet ALL of the following requirements prior to submitting their application for a TICA Judging License:

48.4.1 Must be a member of TICA in good standing at the time of application.

48.4.2 Must be a working member of an active TICA club.

48.4.3 Must be a licensed TICA Master Clerk.

48.4.4 Be familiar with TICA By-Laws, Registration Rules, Show Rules and Breed Standards.

48.4.5 Successfully complete the applicant examination.

- 48.4.6 In the 2 years prior to applying, must
- 48.4.6.1 Attend a TICA judging school.
 - 48.4.6.2 Attend a TICA genetics seminar.
 - 48.4.6.3 Attend a TICA breed seminar.
 - 48.4.6.4 Must have an Approved Allbreed Judge for a sponsor.
 - 48.4.6.5 Must resign their current Judge's License prior to applying,
- if applying from an association within the United States or Canada.**
- 48.4.6.6 Must provide documentation in the application packet verifying fulfillment of all requirements as listed above.

48.5 The Board shall consider the applicant's knowledge, ability, training, experience, show and club activity, personal appearance, deportment, attitude and any other factors it deems appropriate and may grant the license in the appropriate status, deny the applicant or require additional work.

48.6 All applicants must meet the basic requirements of 48.4; however, as the individual circumstances in each case are different, in considering applicants from regions/countries other than the United States and Canada, it is recommended that each applicant be considered separately for any additional requirements. The Board may approve the applicant at an appropriate level, require additional work, or deny the applicant. With the approval of the Board, the Judging Administrator may designate someone residing in a particular country/region to act as an assistant in that country/region.

48.7 If the license is granted, the applicant shall enter the Judging Program at the level approved by the Board, but no higher than Approved Specialty.

48.7.1 An applicant who is a licensed allbreed judge in his/her current association at the time of application shall be granted a license **ONLY AFTER** the applicant has trained with TICA Instructors, handling all cats and kittens in a minimum of six different TICA shows. Prior to licensing, the applicant shall do one solo training session handling a minimum of 30 cats, kittens or alters. The applicant shall write breed critiques on all breeds not recognized in the association in which the applicant previously judged.

48.7.1.1 An applicant who is licensed less than Allbreed in another domestic association (i.e. an Association headquartered in the United States or Canada) must complete the requirements of 43.3 and a minimum of half the training requirements in Article Three of the Judging Program (43.7 through 43.9).

48.7.2 An applicant not currently licensed to judge all breeds of cats from a non-domestic association where licensing is by Group shall be granted a license **ONLY AFTER** training a minimum of 10 shows with licensed TICA Approved Allbreed Judges, six of which must be licensed Instructors, handling those breeds not currently licensed to judge, handling all applicable entries. In addition, the applicant shall do three general training sessions handling all cats and kittens in three different shows. The applicant will stay in the judging ring

the entire day for ALL training sessions handling any additional cats the Instructor requires. Prior to licensing the applicant shall do two solo training sessions handling a minimum of 30 cats/kittens or alters. The applicant shall write breed critiques as assigned by the Judging Administrator.

48.8 If applicant is denied advancement, s/he may not reapply for 1 year. Copies of reapplication form must be sent to the Judging Administrator/Designee and to each Board member to be received NO LATER THAN May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting. Applications received after the deadline will be presented at the following scheduled Board meeting.

48.9 Advancement to Provisional Allbreed.

48.9.1 Must have judged a minimum of 10 shows as a TICA Approved Specialty Judge

48.9.1.1 Any additional shows required shall be determined by the Board upon recommendation of the Judging Administrator, based upon the judge's background, experience, knowledge of mechanics and overall performance.

48.9.2 Must have successfully completed the examination for Advancement to Provisional Allbreed Judge.

48.9.3 Must have met the requirements of 49.1.

48.9.4 Completed Application for Advancement to Provisional Allbreed, with any attachments, must be received by the Judging Administrator and the Allbreed Sponsor NO LATER THAN May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting. Applications received after deadline will be presented at the following scheduled Board Meeting.

ARTICLE NINE - Guest Judges

49.1 International Guest Judge: Approval of International Guest Judges is delegated to the Judging Committee.

49.1.1 International Guest Judge. A club may apply to the International Judging Committee for approval for a licensed Allbreed judge from a cat association outside of the United States or Canada to judge a TICA show. Application shall be made on the official TICA Application for Invitation of International Guest Judge.

49.1.2 An International Guest Judge must be licensed in the formats and/or breeds to be judged. The International Guest Judges should be licensed as an Allbreed Judge, however, exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

49.1.3 Included with the application, the club must furnish documentation of the international judge's qualifications on the form provided to the Judging Administrator/Designee, with a translation to English if the original documents are in a language other than English. Documentation shall consist of one or more of the following:

49.1.3.1 A copy of the judge's license.

49.1.3.2 A page from the licensing association's yearbook or newsletter which lists judges with their current status.

49.1.3.3 Other documentation or correspondence from the office of the licensing association which indicates the judge's current status.

49.1.4 If the judge is approved by the Judging Committee, the club is responsible for furnishing the International Guest Judge copies of TICA Show Rules and Standards, and working with said judge on interpretation and clarification.

49.1.5 A judge may serve as a Guest Judge no more than two weekends per TICA show season except as stated in 49.1.6.1.

49.1.6 There shall be no more than two Guest Judges per show weekend or 50 percent of the rings whichever is less except as stated in 49.1.6.1.

49.1.6.1 The number of Guest Judges allowed to judge shows in isolated areas shall be considered on a case by case basis. Exceptions to 49.1.5 and 49.1.6 shall be considered on a case by case basis.

ARTICLE TEN - *Reinstatement*

410.1 Names of applicants MUST be published in two issues of the TREND. Notices must be sent to the **Judging Administrator** and **received by April 15th for application at the Annual, August 15th for application at the Winter Meeting and December 15th for application at the Spring Meeting.** The **Judging Administrator** will then place the notices in the TREND. TICA members shall be invited to send comments, favorable and/or unfavorable, to the Judging Administrator/Designee and to the applicant's Regional Director.

410.2 Any judge formerly licensed as a TICA judge may apply to the Board for reinstatement at the appropriate level NO LATER THAN May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting. Payment of a \$40 application fee, a \$15 processing fee and the appropriate license fee shall be forwarded to the Executive Office to be received NO LATER THAN May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting. Applications received after deadline will be presented at the following scheduled Board meeting.

410.2.1 Reinstatement as Provisional or Approved Allbreed.

- 410.2.1.1 Must have met the requirement of 410.1
- 410.2.1.2 Must have paid all appropriate fees.
- 410.2.1.3 Must have passed the current Master Clerk Exam
- 410.2.1.4 Must meet any training requirements deemed necessary by the Board or the Judging Administrator, assigned on a case by case basis.

410.2.2 Reinstatement as Probationary or Approved Specialty.

- 410.2.2.1 Must have met the requirement of 410.1
- 410.2.2.2 Must have passed the current Master Clerk Exam
- 410.2.2.3 Must be a Licensed Master Clerk.
- 410.2.2.4 Must successfully complete the Reinstatement Exam NO LATER THAN May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting.

410.2.2.5 The approved applicant shall train with TICA Instructors, handling all the kittens and cats at a minimum of four (more may be required) different TICA shows, before their license shall be granted. In addition, the applicant shall write breed critiques on any breeds required by the Judging Administrator/Designee.

410.3 Each application for reinstatement shall be considered on a case by case basis including circumstances surrounding the former judge's resignation, any changes in those circumstances, knowledge, ability, training, experience, show and club activity, personal appearance, deportment, attitude and any other factors the Board deems appropriate. The Board may grant reinstatement at the appropriate level, deny the applicant, or require additional work.

410.4 If a license is granted, applicant shall enter the Judging Program at the level approved by the Board.

410.5 Any judge demoted by the Board may, after a period of 1 year, apply to the Board for reinstatement to his/her previous level of certification NO LATER THAN May 15th for application at the Annual, October 15th for application at the Winter Meeting or January 15th for application at the Spring Meeting. Applications received after the deadline will be presented at the following scheduled Board meeting.

410.6 Based on present performance, the Board may grant the reinstatement, require additional work, or deny the advancement to previous certification level.

ARTICLE ELEVEN - *Leave of Absence*

411.1 Any TICA judge requiring a leave of absence must notify the Judging Administrator/Designee, giving the effective date of the leave.

411.2 All dues and license fees shall be paid and all refresher tests shall be successfully completed during the leave of absence.

411.3 If the leave of absence extends for less than 1 year, the judge shall request reinstatement from the Judging Administrator/Designee.

411.4 If the leave of absence is more than 1 year, the judge must make application to the Board to be reinstated. Any requirements for reinstatement established by the Board shall be completed.

411.5 If dues or license fees lapse, or if refresher tests are not satisfactorily completed during the leave of absence, the judge shall be required to reapply for acceptance into the Judging Program.

411.6 The Board shall consider the applicant's knowledge, ability, training, experience, show and club activity, personal appearance, deportment, attitude and any other factors it deems appropriate and may grant reinstatement at the appropriate level, deny the applicant, or require additional work.

ARTICLE TWELVE - *Continuing Education*

412.1 With the permission of the show management and the officiating judge, anyone participating in the Judging Program is encouraged to handle breed(s) and/or color(s) as a training session for the purpose of gaining more knowledge.

412.2 A CEU is a Continuing Education Unit. One hour of instruction equals one CEU. No more than six CEUs shall be granted for any session.

412.2.1 Six annual CEUs must be accumulated earned by attending one or more of the following during each show season: judging school, breed seminar, genetics seminar, judges' conference or workshop. The Judging Administrator may award CEUs for other cat fancy activities at his/her discretion (such as, but not limited to, writing articles in feline publications, translating TICA material, or attending feline health seminars).

412.3 Judges and trainees must earn CEUs.

412.3.1 A Judge Emeritus (JE) is exempt from the CEU requirement.

412.3.2 A Distinguished Judge must lead a judges' conference or breed seminar, or conduct a judging school or genetics seminar (if qualified) at least once every 2 years. No further CEUs shall be required for this time period.

412.3.3 A Judge of Merit is encouraged to lead a judges' conference or breed seminar, or conduct a judging school or genetics seminar (if qualified) each show season. If he/she does so, no further CEUs shall be required for that year show season. Otherwise, the Judge of Merit must earn 6 CEUs.

412.3.4 Licensed Ring Instructors may receive earn 1 CEU credit for conducting a ring training session. (1 hour CEU for each completed training session, with

412.3.4.1 A maximum of three CEUs may be earned in this manner annually each show season).

412.4 Conducting or moderating any of the above schools, seminars, conferences or workshop sessions satisfies the requirement of attendance.

412.4.1 Licensed School or Licensed Genetics Instructors shall earn 1.5 CEU's for each hour of instruction in a Judging School/Workshop or a Genetics Seminar.

412.4.2 All senior Allbreed Judges are encouraged to participate by conducting seminars.

412.4.3 The instructor or moderator shall send a typed/printed attendance list along with attendees signatures and summary of what was covered to the Judging Administrator/Designee within 1 month following the session.

412.5 Any judge may earn CEU credit for conducting a Clerking School. A maximum of two CEU's may be earned in this manner annually.

412.5.1 Judges are encouraged to clerk at TICA shows; however, no CEUs are earned by clerking.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN - *Schools, Seminars and Workshops*

413.1 A minimum of 2 working hours is required to earn attendance credit for a breed seminar, genetics seminar, or judges' conference. A minimum of 3 working hours is required to earn attendance credit for a judge's school. Mini-seminars may be 1 working hour in length. A maximum of 6 hours credit will be given for any one school, seminar, or symposium.

413.2 Schools, seminars and workshops can be held at any time or any place convenient to organizers, instructors and attendees, with arrangements made by a club or individual directly with the instructor. Formal/organized schools, seminars and workshops are **STRONGLY** encouraged, rather than informal, impromptu gatherings.

413.2.1 "One-on-One" sessions are allowed **ONLY** in special circumstances; i.e., when a trainee has been given prior approval by the Judging Administrator/Designee to gain additional knowledge regarding a specific breed (or breeds) and/or if an Approved Allbreed Sponsor requests that a trainee participate in a "one-on-one" session. Only one CEU per show season may be earned by any judge or trainee for a "one-on-one" session.

413.3 Schools, seminars and workshops do not need to be advertised in advance. It is, however, suggested that the proposed date and location be sent to the Judging Administrator/Designee well in advance of the session.

413.4 The organizers may charge a reasonable fee for attendance.

413.4.1 A \$50 honorarium should customarily be offered to the instructor, conductor or moderator.

413.5 Attendance at judging schools, breed seminars or genetics seminars is open to anyone.

413.5.1 Attendance at judges' conferences is restricted to those in the Judging Program.

413.6 Judging schools are conducted by licensed school instructors.

413.6.1 Topics addressed at judging schools can be anything related to procedures, techniques, standards and rules of judging. Upon request, the Judging Administrator/Designee will provide suggested guidelines for conducting a school.

413.7 Genetics seminars are conducted by licensed genetics instructors.

413.8 Credit may also be given by the Judging Administrator on a case by case basis for schools, seminars, courses or symposia hosted by other organizations. Advance approval from the Judging Administrator/ Designee is required.

413.9 Breed seminars are moderated by any Approved Allbreed judge. Upon request, the Judging Administrator/Designee will provide suggested guidelines for conducting a breed seminar.

413.10 Judges' conferences are moderated by any Approved Allbreed judge. Upon request, the Judging Administrator or Judging Administrator Designee will provide suggested guidelines for conducting a conference.

413.10.1 Judges' conferences shall be considered a private gathering, a meeting ground where participants may speak openly and freely among themselves without consequences.

413.10.2 The minutes or summary of a judges' conference are not to be published or sent to anyone other than the Judging Administrator or Judging Administrator Designee. The Judging Administrator may publish in the Judges Newsletter subject matter from the judges conference which, in the opinion of the Judging Administrator, would be of constructive interest to participants in the Judging Program, but participants' privacy will be protected.

413.10.3 No more than two CEUs may be earned for a Judges' conference in any show season.

413.11 Workshops are conducted by any Approved Allbreed judge who has obtained advance permission from the Judging Administrator/ Designee or the Board of Directors.

413.11.1 The purpose of a workshop is to provide in-depth, intensive training to all applicants and participants in the Judging Program.

413.11.2 Workshops may be several days long, and must consist of a minimum of 6 working hours per day.

413.11.3 Workshops may be arranged with the help of the Judging Administrator/Designee or the Board of Directors, which may appoint a Workshop Coordinator.

413.11.4 Topics addressed should be breed standards, Show Rules, By-Laws, Registration Rules, clerking, genetics, colors, patterns, divisions and/or any other information that would be beneficial to the attendees.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN - Requirements for Annual Renewal of Judging License

414.1 All judges actively engaged in judging, including Distinguished Judges, Judges of Merit, any Judge Emeritus still judging, and all trainees shall be required to take an annual refresher test, which must be returned to the Judging Administrator/Designee with a postmark, fax or email date NO LATER THAN June 30th of each year. The test must be passed with a score of 95 percent or higher.

414.2 All judges and trainees must accumulate six CEU's each show season, with the exception of Judges Emeritus. Once every 2 years Distinguished Judges must lead a judges' conference or breed seminar, or conduct a judging school or genetics seminar (if qualified). Each year Judges of Merit who lead a judges' conference or breed seminar, or conduct a judging school or genetics seminar (if qualified), shall be considered to have met the annual CEU requirement.

414.2.1 Judges failing to accumulate six CEU's in one show season must earn twelve CEU's in the next show season.

414.3 Each judge must be a working member of an active working TICA club in resident region.

414.4 Each participant in the Judging Program must agree to and abide by the TICA Code of Ethics.

414.5 TICA membership dues and judge's license fee for the year following must be paid to the Executive Office by October 30th of each year. Judges Emeriti and Distinguished Judges are exempt from license fees.

414.6 The completed annual Judge's Record Form must be sent to the Judging Administrator/Designee with a postmark, fax or email date NO LATER THAN June 30th of each year. The annual Record Form lists a judges's activities (shows, CEU's, etc.) for the previous show season (May 1st - April 30th). Judges Emeriti are exempt from the Record Form requirement.

414.7 Judges shall be licensed each year at the Semi-Annual Meeting. Judges with a current license will be listed in the appropriate publications.

414.8 If the Board votes not to renew a judge's license for the upcoming show year, based on missing requirements, it may advise the Judging Administrator to issue a license when the missing requirements have been met. The license has not been revoked, it has expired; it may be renewed upon meeting requirements for renewal.

414.9 A judge's license shall not be renewed if that judge has any outstanding fines. However, the Board may instruct the Judging Administrator to renew the license when the fine(s) has/have been received in the Executive Office.

414.10 A current professional color photo must be submitted to the TICA Yearbook Editor every 3 years. Photographs must meet the following specifications set by the Yearbook Editor:

414.10.1 5"x7" (12.5cm x 18cm).

414.10.2 Scanned at 300 dpi.

414.11 Applications for acceptance into the Judging Program and for advancement within the Judging Program shall be considered only at scheduled Board meetings.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN - *Penalties for Failure to Fulfill Judging Requirements*

415.1 Failure to fulfill judging requirements shall include failure to comply with the Bylaws, Show Rules and other rules, including the Judging Program, specifically ARTICLE SIXTEEN, of this Association.

415.2 The penalty for failing to fulfill judging requirements shall be assessed by the Board of Directors on a case by case basis, and may include a fine, suspension, demotion or any other penalty.

415.3 The following penalties shall be automatically assessed, unless the judge is an Approved Allbreed Judge, in which case the Judging Administrator shall notify the judge that a hearing shall take place at the next meeting of the Board of Directors:

415.3.1 Penalties shall be assessed for failure to:

415.3.1.1 Satisfactorily complete the Annual Refresher Examination by June 30th.

415.3.1.2 Pay membership dues and/or license fees by October 30th.

415.3.1.3 Forward a complete Judge's Yearly Record form by June 30th.

415.3.1.4 Forward judges books to the Executive Office within 48 hours.

415.3.1.5 Properly notify the Executive Office, show committee and the appropriate exhibitors, upon notification by the Executive Office that a mistake which requires correction has been made in a judge's book, of the correction within 10 days.

415.3.1.6 Provide the Yearbook Editor with a new picture every 3 years.

415.3.2 Penalties:

415.3.2.1 First offense - \$25 fine and letter of reprimand from the Judging Administrator.

415.3.2.2 Second offense (within any 12 month period) - \$50 fine.

415.3.2.3 Further offenses - may include, but are not limited to, fine, suspension, demotion or any other penalty, except that an Approved Allbreed Judge may not be demoted without a hearing.

415.3.3 Extenuating circumstances, when applicable, shall be taken into consideration.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN - Code of Ethics

416.1 All participants in the TICA Judging Program shall abide by the TICA By-Laws, Show Rules, Registration Rules, Judging Program, all Board rulings, the Code of Ethics and Judge's Contracts as written, and as employees of the club shall act accordingly.

416.2 Judges should be aware that they are being honored by being asked to judge a show.

416.3 Participants in the Judging Program are representatives of TICA at all times, and shall conduct themselves as such.

416.4 Participants in the Judging Program shall act in a professional manner by displaying a considerate and caring attitude and courteous behavior whether verbal, written and/or as demonstrated by physical actions.

416.5 Participants in the Judging Program shall support the TICA Mission Statement, and the Position Paper on Pet Overpopulation.

416.6 Judges, whether judging, exhibiting or visiting a show, shall not cause disruption during a show.

416.7 If a judge shares a room with a cat, for any reason or at any place, that cat must be Presentation Only in that judge's ring for the next 6 months.

416.8 If there is a conflict between a written contract and a verbal contract by a judge, the written contract shall prevail. A change in the written contract voids the contract.

416.8.1 Any judge who has signed a contract to judge a show shall not accept another contract to judge a different show on that same date unless the original contract is canceled by the club. In the event that, inadvertently, more than one contract has been signed, the earlier date of signing will determine the applicable contract.

416.9 A judge may judge a show 1-day in one location, and judge a different show at a different location on a subsequent day of the same weekend only if:

416.9.1 Both clubs agree in writing to this arrangement;

416.9.2 The judge can make travel arrangements that do not require him/her to leave the show hall during the advertised hours; and

416.9.3 Neither club is required to pay more than the lowest available round-trip air fare from the judge's home.

416.10 A judge shall make every reasonable effort to keep travel, meal and other incidental expenses as low as possible for the hosting club.

416.11 No person residing in the same household as a judge or trainee may serve as Entry Clerk for a show at which the judge is officiating or the trainee training.

417.16 No action may be taken against an Approved Allbreed judge or an Instructor without full documentation of charges against that judge and a hearing before the Board of Directors except as provided in ARTICLE SEVENTEEN, 417.3 and By- Laws 122.4.

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN - *Discipline*

417.1 The Board shall assess an appropriate penalty for:

417.1.1 Failure to comply with any provision of the Judging Program, Show Rules and/or By-Laws.

417.1.2 Conduct unbecoming a TICA judge.

417.1.3 Any judge against whom a complaint is filed which could evoke a reprimand shall be notified in writing by the Judging Administrator of the specifics of the complaint and given an opportunity to respond. Complaints regarding judges are to be sent to the Judging Administrator. Protests against judges are to be sent to the Executive Office for forwarding to the Judging Administrator.

417.2 The Board may instruct the Judging Administrator to issue a Reprimand to any participant in the Judging Program. Such reprimand shall be considered notice to the participant that a problem exists and further action may result.

417.3 If a judge is not an active member of an active TICA club, a current judging license may not be issued or an advancement may not be granted. The Board may, however, take into consideration other contributions made by the judge to the cat fancy in general.

417.4 No person may judge a show without a valid judging license.

417.5 If the Board votes not to renew a judge's license for the upcoming show year, it may advise the Judging Administrator to issue a license when missing requirements have been met. The license has not been revoked, it has expired; it may be renewed upon meeting requirements for renewal.

417.6 If a judge's license is not renewed at the Semi-Annual Board Meeting, the judge may continue to judge until April 30. After May 1st, the judge does not have a valid TICA judging license and may not judge TICA shows until a valid judging license has been issued.

417.7 In the event a judge's license is not renewed, and there are extenuating circumstances of which the Board is unaware, the judge may ask the Board for a hearing. However, the Board is under no obligation to grant the hearing.

417.8 A judge whose license has not been renewed becomes a non-participant in the Judging Program on the effective date of the non-renewal.

417.9 If a judge's license is not renewed, the judge will be immediately dropped from the official TICA Judge's List, which is maintained by the Judging Administrator and published in the TICA TREND.

417.10 All hearing notices will be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested.

417.11 Upon receipt of notice of non-renewal of judge's license, the judge shall provide the Judging Administrator a complete list of shows contracted within 10 days. The Judging Administrator shall notify the clubs affected by this non-renewal.

417.12 The non-renewal date may be delayed for a show for which the affected judge has a contract and has purchased a non-refundable plane ticket prior to the Semi-Annual Board Meeting. License shall expire on completion of said show. It is understood that the affected judge will not accept additional assignments to judge shows taking place during this extended period.

417.13 A Probationary Specialty judge is on probation in the Judging Program. S/he may be dropped from the Judging Program, or denied advancement within the program, at any time upon demonstration of just cause. A hearing is not necessary.

417.14 An Approved Specialty Judge is on probation in the Judging Program. S/he may be dropped from the Judging Program, or denied advancement within the program, at any time upon demonstration of just cause. A hearing is not necessary.

417.15 A Provisional Allbreed judge is still on a trial basis in the Judging Program. S/he may be dropped from the Judging Program, or denied advancement within the Judging Program, or demoted, at any time upon demonstration of just cause. A hearing is recommended.

417.16 No action may be taken against an Approved Allbreed judge or an Instructor without full documentation of charges against that judge and a hearing before the Board of Directors except as provided in ARTICLE SEVENTEEN, 417.3.

ARTICLE EIGHTEEN - *Household Pet Judging Program*

(NOTE: Any judge who holds a Household Pet judging license on May 1, 2004 may retain his/her license by continuing to fulfill the annual requirements for relicensing of all judges as stated in the Judging Program, ARTICLE FOURTEEN.)

ARTICLE NINETEEN - *Judge's Newsletter*

419.1 The Judging Administrator shall prepare and send, no less than bi-annually, a newsletter to all persons participating in the Judging Program, all Board members and the Executive Office.

419.2 At some point during each year, to be determined by the Judging Administrator, s/he or his/her Judging Administrator Designee shall send to each participant in the Judging Program a copy of the annual judge's record form, the judge's refresher examination and a reminder of dues and judge's license fees to be paid by October 30th of each year.

TERMINOLOGY AS IT APPLIES TO TICA BREED STANDARDS

Interpretation by Marge Hanna

Nose: The area, with its underlying cartilage, from the top edge of the nose leather up to the bottom of the bridge of the nose.

Bridge of the Nose: The bony area on the top of the nose below the eyes.

Area from the bridge of the nose to the brow line: Examples can be:

- a. A straight level plane
- b. A gentle rise
- c. A slightly concave rise or dip
- d. A stop or change of direction; may be very slight or pronounced, or
- e. A break or indentation at about eye level or between the eyes

Brow line: The protective bony area across the face at the top of the eye aperture

Forehead: The frontal area between the brow line and the inside bottom edge of the ear, generally about a thumb's width above the brow line on an average adult domestic feline

Top Head area to Occiput: The uppermost boning of the skull to just before the head turns onto the upper neck. Can be viewed best by gently holding the ears along the side of the head and looking across the head while viewing the profile.

Jaw line: The line from the front tip of the chin back along the mandible (lower jaw) to the back angular point (a) of the jaw.

Chin: The part of the jaw containing the lower incisors and canines. Should be padded to some extent in all breeds and all lower teeth shall be in correct alignment with upper teeth and shall be neither:

- ▶ Overshot: The upper jaw, and teeth, protruding in front of lower jaw and teeth, nor
- ▶ Undershot: The lower jaw and teeth protruding out in front of the upper teeth and jaw, nor
- ▶ Wry mouthed: Viewed from the front, the mouth parts, either upper or lower and sometimes both, are abnormally twisted or bent, either down or to one side. The lower jaw aligned outside the line or to the side of the upper mouth. This is the worst of the abnormal bites.

Chin and nose profile: A straight line, viewed from the side, from end of nose (11) to the chin (8). In some cases allowance should be taken into account for the soft upper lip (9) appearing to be outside the line.

Muzzle: The lower area of the face, or head, from under eye aperture to the lower end of the head or nose, containing the jaw, lips, incisors and canines, the whisker pads and nasal area and nose leather.

Nose Leather: The bare nose pad that contains the nostrils.

Muzzle/Whisker Break or Whisker Pinch: The change of direction between the muzzle and the lower cheekbones under the eye or at the side of the face.

Cheekbone: The arched bone that starts under the eye area (malar) and curves up and out past the eye aperture (zygomatic arch) to slightly past the line of the angular point (a) of the jaw, protecting both the eye as well as keeping the top point (b) of the jaw that extends into the skull area (behind the eye orbit) in line. In most breeds the angle of the eye aperture follows the angle of the cheekbone.

Whisker Pads: The muscular pads on the side of the muzzle that cover and protect the nasal and upper canine area and control the movement of the whiskers.

Profile: The lines, viewed from the side, from the tip of the nose (1) up to the top of the head (6), from the tip of the nose (11) to the chin (8) and back along the jaw line (7).

Wedge: The line, viewed from the front, from the lower muzzle, past the canines (10), up along the side of the cheek (13) to the outer bottom edge of the ear (16). In some breeds the ears are to be a continuation of the wedge.

Upper throat or hyoid area: The top of the neck where it meets and turns into the soft under-part of the jaw.

Front point of the Shoulder: The joint at the upper end of the humerus (upper arm) where it fits into the lower structure of the scapula (shoulder blade).

Anterior (front end) of the sternum: The sternum runs from the anterior (19) back and under the body between the front legs and along the chest to (25) the lower sternum.

Long bones of the front legs: the radius and the ulna that join at the lower end of the humerus at the elbow.

Carpels: The tiny bones that correspond with the human wrist at the lower end of the radius and the ulna.

a. **Carpal pad:** The small pad on the back of the carpal area. Has no padding feature in the human.

Metacarpal: The small longish bones above the toes that correspond to the bones on the top of a human hand.

Toes (phalanges) of the front paw : Four are jointed to a metacarpal at the top of the paw (third joint) and ending in a claw system at the front of the first phalange or digit. The fifth metacarpal bone on the inside part of the "hand" is shorter and supports the fifth toe or "dew claw". Corresponds to the human thumb.

Elbow: The joint of the lower end of the humerus and the top of the radius and ulna.

Sternum or breast plate: With the exception of the thirteenth, or floating rib, the sternum anchors the lower ends (cartilage) of the ribs and supports the rib cage.

Flank: Muscular lower part of the body between the last rib and the knee, or thigh areas on either side of the body. Depth of flank is measured from this area (a) to the top of the torso (b).

Knee: The joint of lower end of the femur and the top of the long bones of the back of the leg (two), the tibia and the fibula. The joint is protected by a small bone, attached by cartilage to upper and lower boning, called the knee cap or patella.

Thigh: The heavily muscled area covering the femur. The thigh and the rump (33) are normally the heaviest part of any feline.

Tarsals: The small bones that correspond with the human ankle at the lower end of the tibia and fibula.

Metatarsals: The small longish bones above the toes on the back leg that correspond with the bones of the flat part of a human foot.

Toes (phalanges) of the back paw (four): Each structured as in the front paws. (23) The fifth toe on the back paw no longer exists.

Hock: The flat area on the back side of the metatarsals from the point of the heel down to the back of the back paw. Corresponds with the arch on the bottom and the heel of the human foot.

Rump: The muscular rear end of the torso covering the back tip of the pelvic structure.

Tail or caudal vertebrae: Normally has 14 to 28 tapering vertebrae.

Base of the tail: The area where the tail meets the body directly in line above the rump and behind the sacrum.

Croup: The area from the base of the tail (35) to the top of the hip vertebrae.

Hip bone (ilium): The top of the hip bone lies in front of the hip vertebrae (3) at the sacrum. The lower end holds the top of the femur as a ball and joint system at the pubic girdle.

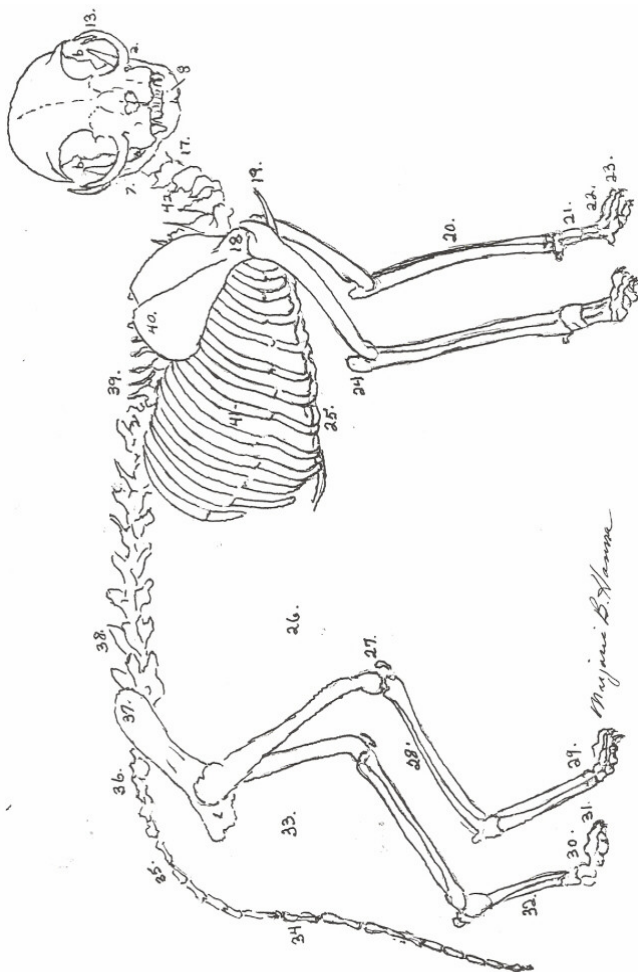
Back or lumbar region of the back bones: Seven vertebrae between the top of the hip (37) to the top of the last rib just behind the shoulder blade. Extremely flexible.

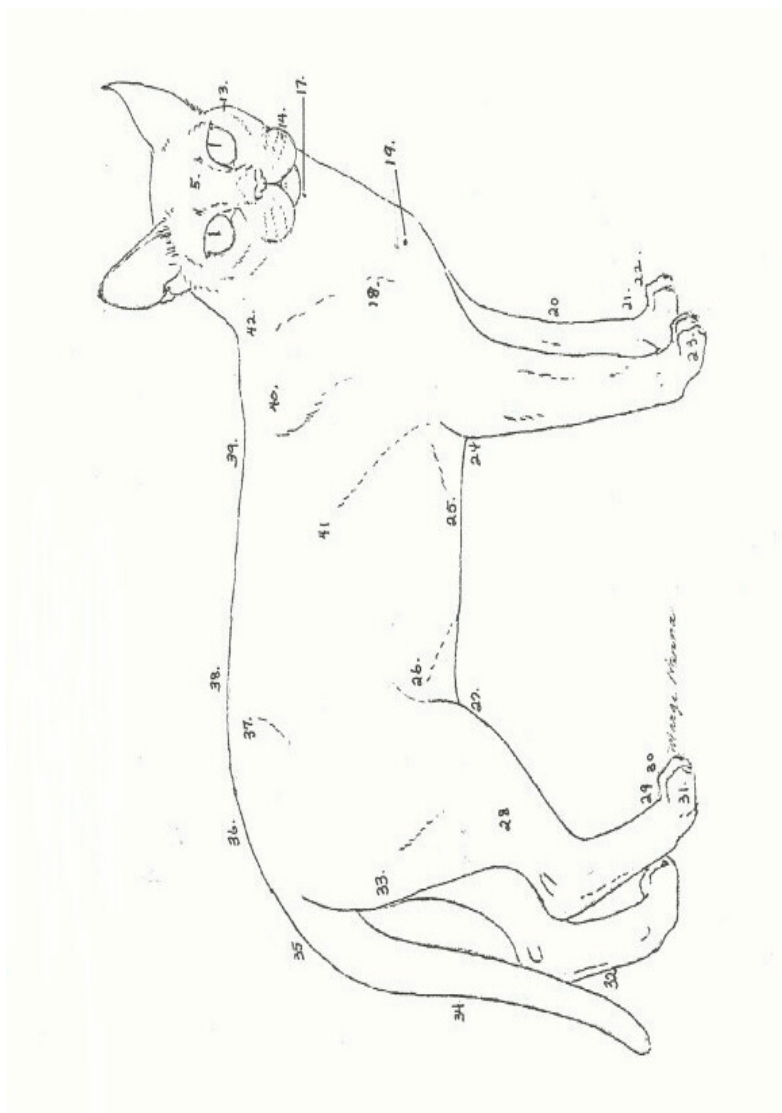
Thoracic vertebrae: Upper chest, 13 vertebrae go from the lumbar vertebrae, between the shoulder blades, at the withers, to the seven cervical, or neck, vertebrae and support the top 13 sets of rib bones.

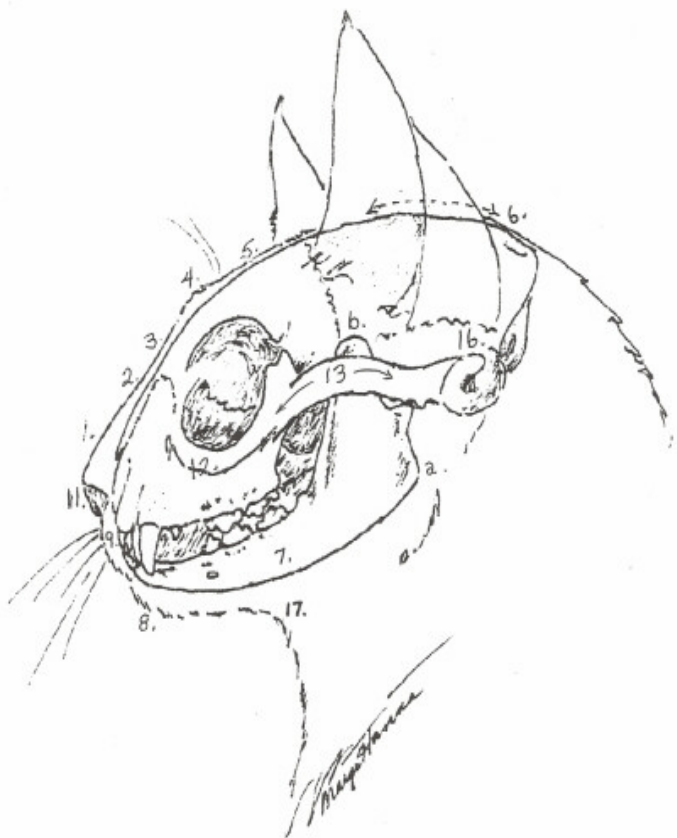
Shoulder blade or scapula: Upper part attached only by muscles and tendons at the thoracic region. Lower end is a ball and cup joint system at the top of the humerus.

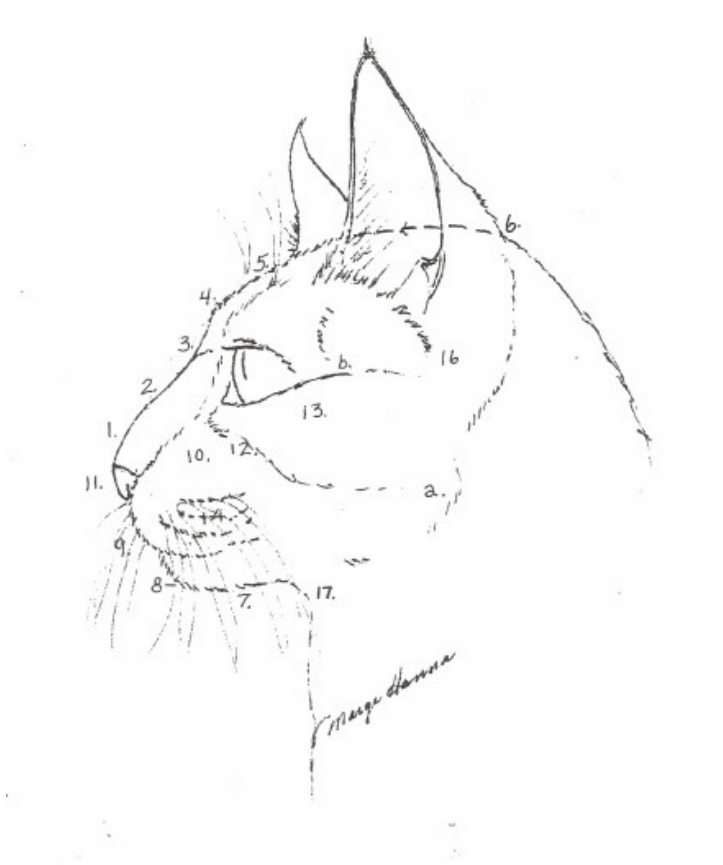
Rib cage: Bowed out and slightly expandable, rib (thirteen) are bone where each is joined at the back bone at the thirteen thoracic vertebrae. Approximately three quarters of the way down each rib they are attached to the cartilage part of each rib which extend slightly forward and are attached to sternum, at the lower part of the torso.

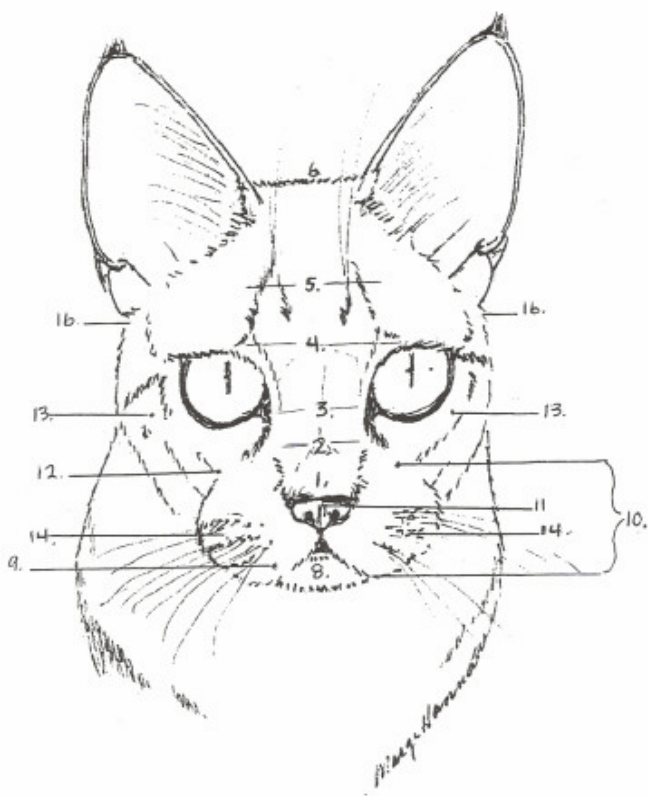
Neck bones: Cervical vertebrae (seven) support the skull and mandible structure.











TRAINING MANUAL

Introduction

One of the most important duties we assume as TICA Allbreed judges is the responsibility of training new judges. This manual has been developed to provide guidance to judges conducting ring-training sessions. Its purpose is to ensure that the expectations of both the trainee and TICA are met. At the end of the trainee's formal ring training, we would hope to be adding a new judge with a well-rounded knowledge of the expectations of exhibitors, spectators, clubs, and TICA.

Please remember that the trainee will soon be your peer and will represent TICA, just as you are doing now. Training judge and trainee should have respect for one another at all times!!! Your job is to help mold the best TICA has to offer – and that comes through positive attitude and constructive criticism.

The Preliminaries

In accordance with the requirements of the Judging Program, trainees shall complete the Permission to Train Form for each show at which s/he wishes to train, obtaining written permission from both the club hosting the show and the instructor giving the training. These forms shall be signed by all parties PRIOR to the day of training.

Training Sessions are limited to two training sessions per show weekend, except when training overseas. When training overseas, three training sessions are allowed per show weekend. A “show weekend” is defined as 1-day, 2-day or 3-day shows. Only one training session is permitted day, except when training overseas. When training overseas up to two training sessions per day are permitted not to exceed three sessions per weekend.

Ring training consists of handling a minimum of 40 kittens, cats, alters, household pets or new breeds. The selection of the cats for training is at the training judge’s discretion. The trainee may train with any Approved Allbreed Judge, ten of which must be different Licensed Ring Instructors. Trainees residing in North America must train in at least six North American Regions. Trainees residing on either the East or West Coast must train on an opposite coast at least once. Trainees located centrally must train on both coasts. All trainees are strongly advised to train at least once overseas.

The trainee is expected to handle his or her own cat(s) during the training period, but without calling attention to the ownership of the cat(s). The trainee shall not leave the judging ring and may not have access to a show catalog until s/he has completed training and been dismissed by the instructor.

The trainee shall provide the instructor with a stamped self-addressed envelope. The instructor shall complete the evaluation form and review any Breed Comparison Reports, mailing copies to the Trainee no later than seven days after the close of the show.

Ready, Set: When you agree to work with a trainee, you might ask them to contact you about a week in advance of the session. This gives the two of you the opportunity to discuss the trainee’s requirements, what session you will be working on with them, what the trainee has previously worked on and what help they might require. As a result you AND the trainee will arrive at the session with some expectation of what will be worked on.

GO!

Beginning the Ring Training Session

Be prepared: Make sure you have a copy of the breed standards and the uniform colors descriptions. It is also useful if you have photos or drawings of breeds you've agreed to work on to refer your discussions to. Remember, the Standards were written from cats, not cats from Standards. The old saying, "a picture is worth a thousand words," comes into play here.

Pick the correct "level": It is important to determine how far along a trainee is with their ring training so that you can determine how to conduct the session. Obviously, your expectations should be different, depending on whether this is the first or the last training session for the trainee. You WILL have the superior knowledge and expertise, so don't try to prove it by making the session so difficult that learning is hampered by "intimidation."

Mutual expectations: Discuss with the trainee your mutual expectations. Your trainee may be somewhat nervous, if this is their first session with you, so let them know how you'd like to conduct the session and what to expect. Gear the session to the level of knowledge or expertise you'd expect. On the flip side, have the trainee tell you their expectations, concerns, topics or breeds they'd like to pay particular attention to. (Hopefully, you've had an opportunity to discuss this prior to the session.)

Stages of training: The trainee shall have a minimum of 40 ring training sessions handling approximately 40 kittens, cats, alters or household pets. The first 35 of these training sessions shall consist of handling full classes (i.e., championship cats, alters, etc.) or handling full breeds and/or breed groups (i.e., the Persian Breed Group; Maine Coon kittens, cats and alters; etc.). The selection of cats for training shall be at the training judge's discretion, but should complement the training needs of the trainee. Trainees shall make a set of judge's books, if not furnished by the hosting club. These books shall be made from another judge's book and NOT from a show catalog.

At the end of a training session, the instructor may ask the trainee to write a Breed Comparison Report on a breed or breed group designated by the instructor. This report will be handed in to and reviewed by the instructor who will then send it to the appropriate persons. A minimum of fifteen Breed Comparison Reports are required during the training period.

The following pages contain suggested topics to include at different stages of the trainee's ring training experience. While you are certainly free to tailor your sessions with your trainee, it is important that you include these topics. It is important to your trainee to have the benefit of our collective "wisdom" and experience in order to develop their own organization and style.

And don't forget: Thank the exhibitors for their patience during the conduct of ring training sessions. Having a quality ring training session and a well-trained judge will surely benefit them in the end. Let spectators in on what's going on, too. So much is a mystery to them, already, besides seeing two people in the ring instead of one! Explain your process.

One suggestion was to post a "Ring Training In Progress" sign in front of the judging table.

**Beginning
Sessions 1-5
Introduction to TICA, The Business
The Judge's Many Roles
Handling Basics**

INTRODUCTION TO TICA - THE BUSINESS

What is the business of TICA?

TICA is a registry of cats. But to support that business, TICA does a whole lot more. Probably the most important activity supporting the business of *registering* cats is the whole collection of activities and programs which support *exhibiting* cats—licensing of shows, judges and clerks, and maintaining a multi-level system of titles and awards.

What are the Vision and Mission of TICA?

It is important to understand what TICA, the business, is trying to accomplish. As judges, we have an important role in ensuring that TICA accomplishes its goals so that it remains strong and continues to grow.

The ***Vision*** of TICA is:

- “To be the cat fancier’s choice for registration, exhibition, comradery, and guidance on feline care and welfare and genetically sound, responsible breeding.”

TICA’s ***Mission*** is:

- To be the most accurate and comprehensive feline registry in the world
- To encourage and sanction cat shows that are both enjoyable and educational

How does TICA intend to fulfill its Vision and Mission?

TICA has adopted certain “strategies” which it pursues in order to encourage cat fanciers to participate in TICA. These ***Strategies*** are:

- Conduct judging without known titles.
- Maintain the unique show format.
- Encourage a friendly show atmosphere
- Membership entitles an individual vote.
- Integrate business processes in order to deliver timely and professional service to customers.
- Support the development of new clubs in order to increase the number of show opportunities for current members and as a way to encourage more interest in the cat fancy.
- Preserve and expand the cat fancy.
- Deliver a quality recognition program
- Maintain the genetic-based registry.

- Register Household Pets; recognize and honor them on an equal basis with pedigreed cats.
- Collaborate with other registries in order to support feline welfare efforts.

In addition, the organization has adopted a set of “values” which guide its decisions and the conduct of its business. You might consider these as ethical statements or “guiding principles”. They are:

- Conduct judging without known titles.
- We respect, honor, and promote the welfare of all cats
- We maintain an accurate and comprehensive genetic registry
- We foster comradery and good sportsmanship
- We provide friendly, efficient customer service

The essence of TICA is captured in its “**Motto**”:

- “TICA for *fabulous felines, fun and friendships!*”
- “Wherever You Are, You’re in TICA’s World”

How does TICA know when it is successful?

The following are the *key success indicators* that the organization chooses to track as indicative of its success in fulfilling its **Vision** and **Mission**:

- Conduct judging without known titles.
- Growth in cats exhibited in TICA shows
- Growth in registrations
- Satisfaction of clients with services provided by TICA

THE JUDGE’S MANY ROLES

Remember, the business of TICA promises “Fabulous Felines, Fun and Friendships.” It’s a “given” that the organization, exhibitors and spectators all expect us to exercise our professional training and make our best judgment regarding the quality of the cats presented to us. But our role is greatly expanded.

From the Exhibitors’ perspective.

- Handling. While many of our exhibitors are extremely competitive, many others just enjoy showing their beloved cats and socializing with their friends and fellow cat fanciers. Perhaps the most important thing we can do as judges is reduce the concern that substantially ALL exhibitors have over how their cats are handled. Most exhibitors will forgive us our choices of the cats we recognize, but NO ONE will forgive us if we don’t handle their cats with respect. A show is definitely not “fun” if the exhibitors are worrying about how we will handle their cats. Much weight is given to this skill in both written evaluations and complaints/feedback from exhibitors.

- Demeanor/Appearance. When we are “behind the table,” we have to remember that we are professionals, being paid for a professional job. It is important that we look and act professional. While we can still be “fun” and “friendly”, we shouldn’t forget that the most important job that we have is to judge cats, not spend time socializing with friends.

From the Spectators’ perspective.

- Education. Spectators are paying money to visit our shows. They are important not only from the revenue they generate for the club, but also as potential exhibitors. While they may be quite happy to see all the beautiful cats and visit with the breeders, they are DELIGHTED when we can take some time to talk about the cats and provide a little education.
- Obviously, how much of this that we can do is often dependent on the amount of time and number of cats we have to handle. Encourage trainees, as they begin judging and feel comfortable in doing so, to be on the watch for a building spectator crowd and an opportunity to exhibit some “showmanship.”

From the Club’s perspective.

- Organization/*Timeliness*. As we all know, much goes into putting on a cat show. From the clubs’ perspective, our job is not only to judge the cats to the best of our professional ability, but also to do so within a time frame set by the club. While those time frames may often times seem unrealistic, it is still incumbent on us to try our best to honor them. It is important to remember that this commitment is not only in the case of trying to judge many cats in a short time frame, but also in the case of handling a few cats within advertised show hours. The clubs depend on exhibitors and you ARE THE SHOW!

HANDLING BASICS

Build Confidence! It is important in the early sessions of ring training that the trainee begin to develop confidence in handling the cats. After our many years of experience, we hardly think about our handling “routines.” We’ve developed our own styles and handling the cats is second nature to us. For the beginner, it can be an intimidating experience.

You are encouraged to let the trainee either remove the cats from or return them to the judging cages. The harder task, but the one which requires the most skill is the removal from the cage. It is suggested that you allow the trainee to do this, at least for some portion of the session. It is this way that the trainee learns how to approach a strange cat and properly remove it without hurting either themselves or the cat. Share with them your techniques. E.g., what do YOU do when a cat is difficult to remove; when it’s shy, frightened,

aggressive, or wants to come out its own way! Remind the trainee that you don't need to be a hero and try to drag out a reluctant cat. They can always call for the handler and ask them to remain at the table and soothe the cat.

How do you bend properly to protect your back.? When and how do you use teasers? Discuss cat "body language."

Discuss with your trainee that their attention should be on the cat at all times. Distraction from the cat (talking to clerks or the audience) can be a good way to get hurt or for a cat to escape the ring. Treat each cat gently and kindly and with respect. Always "be aware"!

Stress that the trainee must be gentle with the cats. Relaxed cats will show themselves off. Don't over handle.

Discuss how you approach the responsibility of judging kittens and the impact you might have on their future show career. Are you extra gentle with them? Do you take a little more time and use a few more toys? Spectators love to watch kittens play!!

Let your trainee handle the cat on the table in order to begin developing the judging routine. This will be very awkward at first for the trainee, as they are handling strange cats of many different breeds—plus, they will tend to be nervous and unsure of themselves. Offer pointers but let them build their confidence.

Handling the Breeds. Emphasis should be on handling the different breeds and body types. The judge should help the trainee in basic handling techniques for each breed or breed group (e.g., not stretching PS when taking them out of the judging cage, but definitely stretching BG), help them find a routine in how they will handle each cat (no matter what the breed – maybe checking body, then head, then pattern, etc.), disinfecting the table and hands after handling each cat, and practicing basic mechanics (each HHP gets a Merit ribbon), etc. If the judge sees a solid foundation in handling the cats, and the trainee has not passed out from the pure stress of being in their first training sessions, then perhaps more advanced techniques can be added to these sessions.

Please be receptive to specific questions asked by the trainee regarding the breed standards and other issues – even though these sessions focus on handling. The trainee is very nervous at this point, and it is your duty to help them build confidence and poise. Constructive criticism only, PLEASE!

Beginning II
Sessions 6-10
Handling, Handling, Handling
Mechanics- judging large classes, selecting cats for finals
Knowledge of Breeds

HANDLING

Continue to help the trainee develop the handling routine. Help them refine the judging routine—how do you do it? Body, head, tail, etc.? Discuss with the trainee your routine for checking for “faults.”

MECHANICS

It's time for you to share how you approach judging a large class of cats. What is your secret for keeping track of cats when you can't even leave your top color or division winners in your ring?

How to do keep track of the cats that you think are worthy of a final? Do you make lists or do you have your own “shorthand” in the margins of your judge's book?

Share your tips!

KNOWLEDGE OF BREEDS

Time to start getting to the nitty-gritty regarding breed standards, finding the essence of each cat, marking a judges' book, and selecting cats for finals. The trainee may or may not be comfortable in initially providing their opinion to the judge. Therefore, the judge should help “bring out” the opinions from the trainee (asking what they think about the length of the muzzle, rather than simply asking “what do you think about this cat”). This will help the trainee develop confidence while providing focus points for each breed (very important at this point!). But essentially, the **flow of information is from judge to trainee.**

Assigning breed comparisons. You might consider assigning a Breed Comparison Report to your trainee. Remember, this must be completed and returned to you for your review.

Since these reports pertain to cats being shown the day of the show and it is time consuming for trainees to find the cats and owners, you might help out your trainee by letting the exhibitors know that a breed comparison has been assigned and the trainee will be looking for those cats later that day or weekend. Encourage them to seek out the trainee.

The judge should not assign more than one Breed Comparison Report per session. The judge can flip through the judging book and assign classes in advance of handling those cats or ask the trainee to suggest cats or breeds for comparison.

**Intermediate
Sessions 11-20
Time Management
Handling
Mechanics
Knowledge of Breeds**

TIME MANAGEMENT

We are often faced with the dilemma of judging the cats in the time allotted by the show committee. We often times have more rather than fewer entries to judge in a timely manner. Discuss with the trainee how you approach your time management first thing in the morning. What decisions do you make from the very beginning? What impact does the experience of your clerk have on your timing?

If you have few entries and a lot of time, what do you do? What opportunities do you take given an excess of time? On the other side of the coin, how do you manage to judge twice as many cats in the same period. What “shortcuts” do you take? How do you make up time?

HANDLING

Continue to watch for the development of a smooth handling and judging routine. You might sit in the audience and observe the trainee handling some cats and give feedback to them. (In private, of course.)

Discuss and demonstrate how you make a structural assessment of the cat your judging. What are your techniques? How do you interpret your findings and what impact does it have on your awards?

MECHANICS

Ask the trainee to turn in their goldenrod sheets to the ring clerk for review. This is part of developing a routine and should be started as soon as possible in the training program. If the trainee is comfortable enough, ask them to start hanging flats. Do NOT have them hang “their” flats for you to come along and change. You do not want the audience discussing whether the trainee or the judge was “correct.”

KNOWLEDGE OF BREEDS

The flow of information should be equal between judge and trainee. You should be sharing opinions with the trainee. It is very helpful to spend this time discussing the essences of the cats and of judging.

Start challenging the trainee a bit more. Discuss and compare specific features as they relate within and among the breeds. Ask them to compile SP and AB finals. Ask them WHY they chose those cats. Feel free to refer to the Standards or photos and sketches to help interpret the written word and compare to the cats being judged.

Try a little “exercise.” Ask the trainee to make a quick, overall assessment of each class. Then for each cat, ask your trainee to name the best attribute of the cat. If they had a magic wand, what would they change?

Watch for examples of cats which would make a good subject for a genetics lesson. Talk about eye colors, coat patterns, ghost markings, black skull marks on white kittens. Look at paw pads and nose leather. Household pets can make an interesting basis for genetics discussions!

**Advanced
Sessions 21-35
Handling - Showmanship (present finals)
Knowledge of breeds - Selections**

HANDLING - SHOWMANSHIP

Consider letting the trainee present your finals for you. You should sit quietly in the audience and observe. Remember, constructive criticism only!!

KNOWLEDGE OF BREEDS - SELECTIONS

Flow of information is from trainee to judge. Give the trainee time to think about their decisions, and then let them convey that information to you. The majority of the conversation should be initiated by the trainee. Do not simply give your opinion to the trainee and go on, without discussing the cat (assuming the cat warrants a discussion). There will be times when the cat is simply not a good example of the breed, and you move on quickly. But most of the time, the cat warrants **SOME** kind of discussion (every cat has something good about it!). Ask the trainee exactly what they think of the cat (or group of cats) and how they would rank it. Make sure the trainee is seeing the whole cat, and not just the individual pieces. Discuss how to make decisions based upon the points contained in the standards.

Discuss how you make decisions when the class has no outstanding example, when the class is uniformly “mediocre.”

LISTEN to what your trainee has to say – and make sure it is correct. Any misleading information at this point could easily be engrained in the trainee's head. And so these sessions are some of the most crucial in the development of the trainee. The trainee is feeling anxious about finishing ring training sessions, and may think they know it all – so challenge them softly. Find out what they know – and they will hopefully surprise you positively!!

The Final Five Sessions 36-40

The trainee shall stay with the training judge the entire day, handling cats as designated by the judge

The art of judging should be refined here. The judge should tell the trainee exactly what will happen that day. The trainee is extremely excited at this point and will hardly be able to contain themselves. So put them to work! Have the trainee hang all of your flats, present your finals, handle as many cats as you have time for, etc. Don't forget to let your audience in on the plan for the day! It's still your ring and your decisions.

If the trainee is sitting in the exhibitor's area for part of the time, have them mark their book as they see the cats on the stand. It is interesting to see how a trainee would rank the cats simply by "sight" and not being able to put their hands on the cats or see them up close.

At this point, ask the trainee to take responsibility for their opinions. Ask them to announce their breed or perhaps discuss with exhibitors some of the points the trainee brought up. DON'T embarrass them.

To the greatest extent possible, let them show their true judging style. Ask them to judge a large class of MC or BG. The judge could sit in the chairs and watch them, as would an exhibitor. Then have a discussion about what the judge observed. Hopefully it will be a positive experience for both judge and trainee.

Information flow is from trainee to judge.

The Solo Ring. Solo judging shall consist of handling no fewer than 20 entries (or of handling the entire class if fewer than 20 cats are present.). A solo training session may not be done on the same day as a ring training session. Trainees shall furnish their own rosettes for their solo finals.

Solo judging may take place before the show begins, during the show or after the completion of the show.

This is it! Well, your trainee has been through lots of learning and lots of training. Now, it is time to put it “all together” in the Solo Ring/s. The solo ring is like a final exam. This is where the trainee will synthesize everything they have been studying, training and practicing for. They should be able to efficiently run the ring, working with the clerk and (where appropriate) with show management and exhibitors. They should be able to reach the conclusion of their performance, the presentation of their Best Cat, all done with confidence, authority, and most of all respect for the cat.

This will be the time that the trainee will need to make decisions for themselves. Up till now they have used the set up in the ring and judge’s table that you’ve used. Now, THEY get to decide if the flats go on their right or left. Where does the judge’s book, the spray bottle paper towels and trash go? It might take a ring or two to decide where to put everything so that they are comfortable with it. Watch their routine, i.e. clean table, judge cat, hang ribbons, mark book, clean table-etc. See how well they have defined their “flow”.

Before your trainee begins, discuss with them your expectations and answer their questions or anxieties. Be sure you are comfortable with the clerk; we all know what impact either a “good” or “bad” clerk can have on our own performance. If you are uncomfortable with the clerk, you might talk to the show management about either reassigning someone else temporarily or “drafting” someone for the task.

Also, have the trainee think about how they will present their finals - short comments per cat, taking the cats out, etc. Remind them to stay focused on the cats and not the audience. This will help with the nerves.

One thing that should be stressed is, to keep a feeling of love for the process and to stay in perspective. This is not rocket science or life or death decision making...it’s a cat show! Enjoy yourself and so will the cats and so will everyone watching.

So Your Trainee Thinks They're Ready To Be a Judge! Have License, Will Travel

Discuss with your trainee the “ins and outs” of traveling. It won't take them long to become “the expert” traveler. In the meantime, here are some helpful hints to keep your “new judge” prepared. Add your own tips!

Be Comfortable. Shoes are the most important thing to keep you “on your toes” all day. Make sure and have comfortable shoes. If need be, keep a super comfortable extra pair in your briefcase to change into.

Nourishment. Let's face it, you can't always depend on the airplanes to be on time. They certainly don't serve any food. At some point you will be stuck in the boonies with no food in sight. If you have special dietary needs, be prepared. Eat breakfast and don't count on the cat show lunch to be “Atkins Friendly.” Have a protein bar handy!

Judging Supplies. Especially in the winter, be prepared for static. Certain parts of the country (and world) are especially problematic when it comes to winter static. You might carry along a can of Static Guard. You can spray the bottom of your shoes to keep you from shocking the cats.

Most of the time, you can find some odor neutralizer in the show hall, but it's always wise to carry a small bottle of X-O, just in case.

Carry an expense form with you, as the clubs rarely have one available. Obviously, a pad of paper will suffice.

Speaking of which, make sure to carry along a note pad or scratch paper (for notes and determining finals). If you like to use rings to keep your judging pages together, take an extra along as not all clubs use them. Don't forget a pen and extra finals pages.

First Aid. The clubs are supposed to have a first aid kit as part of their standard show requirements. You might consider taking along your own first kit, including antibiotics.

Don't be Stranded! Sometimes you might find yourself stranded at the airport when that “promised ride” doesn't show up. Make sure that, before you leave home, you know the location of the show hotel and have the address and telephone number.

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