

The Burmese Cat Club

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PACK



Burmese Cat Club Benevolent Fund Registered Charity No 1094488

The Burmese Cat Club

Chairman: Mrs Maureen Smith • Bremhill House • Bremhill • Calne • Wilts SN11 9HN • Telephone: 01249 760235
Hon Secretary: Mrs Sue Chase • Beulah Cottages • 21 High Street • Flitwick • Beds MK45 1DX • Telephone: 01525 714380
Hon Treasurer: Mr Guy S F Wilkin • 11 Sandown Grove • Tunbridge Wells • Kent TN2 4RW • Telephone: 01892 822399

Website: www.burmesecatclub.com

***From the Membership Secretary
Mrs Elisabeth Amies.
57 Bridge Street, Pershore. Worcs WR10 1AL
phone : 01386 561326***

Thank you for enquiring about membership of the Burmese Cat Club. This package contains an application form, some guidance on completing your application, some general information about the Club, and a copy of the Code of Ethics for intending breeders of Burmese.

The names of applicants are submitted to the Committee on the last day of each month, and I am usually able to write to confirm membership approval two to three weeks later. Applications, however, will be acknowledged only on receipt of a stamped, addressed envelope.

Please do not hesitate to contact either the Hon Secretary or myself if you need any further information on the Club's activities and services.

I look forward to receiving your application.

***Mrs Elisabeth Amies
Membership Secretary***

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Affiliated to the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy and the Feline Advisory Bureau

The Burmese Cat Club

Completing the Application Form:

Please use Block Capitals. Forenames and signatures of **both** applicants are required if you are applying for joint membership. Please remember to include your Postcode and telephone number, especially if the latter is ex-directory, and specify if your number is a mobile or any other.

You require a Proposer only, who must be either a fully paid up member of this Club (eg the breeder of your cat) or your veterinary surgeon if you do not know any members.

Please remember to enclose your cheque, and make sure it is signed!

The Application Process:

On the last day of each month a list of current applications is prepared for the Committee. After ratification, the items listed below will be posted to successful applicants (2nd Class post) on the 17th of the following month:-

<i>Acceptance letter</i>	<i>BCC Rules</i>
<i>Direct Debit Instruction Form**</i>	<i>Price List/Order form for BCC Publications</i>
<i>Copy of the current BCC News</i>	<i>Regional List</i>
<i>Receipt</i>	

Annual Subscription:

Subscription renewal is due on 1st January each year and may be by direct debit if instructions** are received by the Treasurer before 1st November. Individual reminders are not sent, but renewal forms for those continuing to pay by cheque/PO are enclosed in the *Winter News*.

All subscriptions should be sent to the Hon Treasurer, Mr G S F Wilkin, 11 Sandown Grove, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 4RW.

(Those who have not renewed by the end of February will be suspended and will cease to receive benefits of membership until they have paid. Those who have not paid by 31st December will become lapsed members and must pay a re-entry fee in addition to the current subscription.)

Change of Address:

Any change in personal details should be notified to the Hon Treasurer.

Application for GCCF Prefix:

Prefix application forms are obtainable from the GCCF, 5 King's Castle Business Park, The Drove, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 4AG, and, when completed, should be sent for counter-signature, with a stamped, addressed return envelope, to the Hon Secretary, Mrs Sue Chase, Beulah Cottages, 21 High Street, Flitwick, Bedford MK45 1DX.

Additional information is printed on the inside covers of the BCC News and is available on our Website www.burmesecatclub.com

The Burmese Cat Club

Founded in 1955

Affiliated to the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy and the Feline Advisory Bureau

Some General Information about the Club:

The Burmese Cat Club is one of the largest cat clubs in the British Isles. We have a membership of around 1,400, national and international. We exist to safeguard the wellbeing of Burmese cats and the purity of the breed; and to work for a wider appreciation of the breed amongst members and non-members alike, through our information services.

To ensure effective countrywide communication eleven regions have been formed, each one having two Regional Advisers and a liaising Committee member.

Services for Members:

The Club holds an annual Championship Show under GCCF rules, sponsors classes at shows held by other GCCF-affiliated clubs, and offers cups and rosettes for winning cats and kittens.

The Club's magazine, the *BCC News*, is published three times a year. It includes up-to-date information on health and welfare, articles by members on the pleasures of owning Burmese, photographs, poems, illustrations and lists of Trophy and Club Class winners.

A comprehensive selection of publications, including the definitive book "The Burmese Cat", a Stud List and our own pedigree forms, are available for purchase from Club Tables at Shows or by mail order from our Publications Secretary.

Regional Kitten Lists are compiled on a monthly basis and members are invited to register details of litters on the relevant List. This data is given to telephone enquirers seeking to purchase kittens.

Welfare Activities:

Welfare of the Burmese cat is the Club's prime concern. We have a regionally structured rehoming service which helps around 400 needy cats each year. The Burmese Cat Club Benevolent Fund, which depends entirely upon private donations, is a Registered Charity and provides the financial support to care for distressed cats in emergency situations, and to pay for boarding and veterinary costs for cats awaiting new homes. Suitable accommodation is available by means of a series of "safe houses" established across the country. These may be held by Regional Advisers, or by any other members of the Club who can offer an appropriate environment for, and the necessary time and devotion to, the cats in our care.

Lost and Found Register:

We have a centrally co-ordinated Register for lost, found and abandoned Burmese cats, whose fearless and friendly nature inclines them to explore open vans and cars. They can therefore find themselves "hitching a lift" which may take them far away from home. This national Register increases the chances of matching lost and found cats.

Rehoming Service:

Cats which are not claimed, or which are released into the Club's care by their former owners, are rehomed (with their non-Burmese companions where applicable!) by means of the waiting lists of people wishing to give a home to an adult Burmese. These lists are compiled by Regional Advisers and great care is taken to match cats and homes as closely as possible.

Liaison with other Organisations:

Communication with other rescue organisations - pedigree and non-pedigree - is encouraged. Some groups know of the Club's work and will contact local BCC members if they take a Burmese cat into care; and every opportunity is taken to initiate or improve communications with other groups.

In conjunction with the Feline Advisory Bureau, to which the Club is affiliated, educational events are organised on a regular basis, and we maintain strong links with the University Veterinary Schools, particularly with Bristol, in pursuit of information on veterinary issues in general, as well as those specifically relating to Burmese.

The Burmese Cat Club

CODE OF ETHICS FOR BREEDERS AND STUD OWNERS

The Club's prime concern is the welfare of the Burmese cat, and the Committee has laid down some positive guidelines for members, to indicate the standards which will protect our breed. Membership of the Club is taken to imply acceptance of this Code:

Owners of queens should

Properly house and feed all cats in their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention when required.

Keep only as many cats as can be cared for adequately.

Breeders should

Breed only from queens and studs which are healthy and have no obvious hereditary defects.

Allow a queen to have no more than three litters in any two-year period. (This is in line with the GCCF recommendation that queens should have a minimum period of nineteen weeks between litters.)

Where there is more than one queen in the household, consider carefully the total number of litters to be reared in a year.

Be available at the time the litter is expected, and rear the kittens in a warm, safe, stimulating and loving environment to facilitate socialisation and normal, healthy growth.

Check the suitability of prospective homes and new owners and sell kittens only to homes where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life.

Sell only fit, healthy and house-trained kittens, registered individually with Governing Council of the Cat Fancy. They should not be allowed to go to their new homes before thirteen weeks of age and at least seven days after completion of a full course of vaccination for FIE (Feline Infectious Enteritis), FVR and FCV ("cat flu") including a health check, given by a Veterinary Surgeon or by a listed Veterinary Nurse under the direction of a Veterinary Surgeon.

Provide new owners with written details of all dietary requirements.

Follow up the progress of the kittens, especially when those not sold for breeding have reached the age for neutering and, in the event of health problems occurring after sale, be prepared to advise and support the owners as necessary.

Assume moral responsibility for each kitten during its lifetime and be willing to assist with the rehoming of a cat if the initial circumstances change.

ETHICODE.1/2

Never sell cats or kittens to commercial wholesalers, retailers or dealers; and never allow cats to be offered as a prize or a donation in a contest of any kind

Represent the characteristics of the breed, and the quality of a cat or kitten, honestly and accurately.

Ensure that, when selling or transferring a cat to another person, all relevant documents are provided to the new owner.

Stud owners should

Only consider keeping a stud when they have been breeding for at least three years, and have acquired adequate knowledge of the characteristics of the breed, pedigrees, the housing and handling of other people's cats, and the mating procedure.

Keep the stud in large, safely constructed, adequately heated and well ventilated accommodation. This should include a separate compartment within the stud house to provide seclusion for visiting queens, but designed to allow sight and scent of the stud. The cost of erecting and maintaining this accommodation is considerable, but it is essential since the stud cat will spend all his working life in this area.

Spend sufficient time with him every day.

Supervise courting and mating activities, particularly whilst he is a novice, and also with maiden queens, since they often require encouragement and reassurance.

Only accept GCCF registered queens on the Active Register, with correct transfer certificates and up-to-date vaccination certificates.

Advise the queen's owner on all aspects of breeding, kitten rearing and aftercare.

Share with the breeder responsibility for the kittens sired by the stud.

Please read this Code in conjunction with the following BCC Leaflets:

***Taking Home a New Kitten
Breeding from Burmese
Selling a Kitten
Foreword to the Stud List***

ETHICODE.2/2