



SHOWING YOUR KORAT

Korat Cat Association

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Showing can be great fun. It's a day out, you get the opportunity to see many other cats, and talk to their owners, and maybe bring some prize cards and rosettes home too. It must be thought as a hobby though, there is an entry fee and little or no prize money.

When BUYING your Korat it may well be useful to have thought about the possibility of your wanting to enter shows. If you choose a Korat and it is sold to you as pet quality the breeder will probably have placed this kitten on the inactive register as they will not want it to be bred from. It may be the case that the kitten has only been declared. - Please DO NOT attempt to show kittens when you have been asked not to by the breeder as you will be going against their trust and they have good reasons when deciding whether or not a kitten/cat is show quality. Also if it is not on the active/inactive register, but has only been declared, it will be disqualified and you will forfeit all show fees. So ask first !!

Thinking about showing your cat may fill you with trepidation as well as excitement. It is not something to be entered into without a lot of thought. showing can be a marvellous way of making new friends and sharing your interest in cats with other cat-lovers. You will also gain an objective assessment of your cat and on a good day it is exhilarating to go home laden with rosettes and prize cards. However, there is the not so good side to consider. Showing is an expensive hobby. the travelling can also be costly and remember also that someone has to lose ... if you cannot swallow your pride, be happy for those exhibitors who have won, and still decide to carry on showing ... DON'T do it, you won't fit in !!

It is helpful to visit a cat show 'before making the big decision. You can get an idea of what you and your cat will be going through and also be able to talk to other exhibitor/breeders and ask their advice. If you have

decided to take the plunge you can buy your basic show kit at the show.
This consists of:-

WHITE BLANKET ... plain, non-cellular, non-edged
WHITE LITTER TRAY
WHITE WATER BOWL
WHITE FOOD BOWL
WHITE RIBBON ... for cat's tally number
DISINFECTANT ... Formula H wipes are convenient
SMALL BRUSH & PAN ... FOR SPILLED CAT LITTER

Now that you have your kit you can think about which shows to enter. A list of shows can be obtained from the GCCF and it may be useful to send for a copy of the 'Show Rules' booklet as well. About 3 months before the show date write to the show manager for a show schedule and remember to enclose an SAE (9'x5"). In the meantime check that your cat is registered by the breeder, and you have completed and sent off the transfer form, with the correct fee, at least 21 days before the show date.

THE SCHEDULE ARRIVES

When the schedule arrives you may open it, flick through it and think ...HELP! Honestly, it isn't really that complicated when you sort out the relevant sections. At the front is a list of entry fees, some of the show rules, guidance notes for exhibitors, rules and regulations and definitions of classes. The rest of the schedule is then split into lists of classes for Long Hairs, Semi-Longs Hairs, British, Foreign, Burmese, Siamese and Orientals. It is also divided into Open, Miscellaneous and (sometimes) club classes. You need the FOREIGN section and must look for the Open Class of your adult, kitten or neuter, depending on the age and status of your Korat.

KITTEN 3- 9 months old
ADULT.... over 9 months and entire male or female

NEUTER over 9 months and neutered male or female

Please note that the kitten classes are for entire kittens only. Look in the Neuter classes for an Open Class particularly for neutered kittens.

Normally the entry fee will cover four classes, the OPEN CLASS (which ALL MUST ENTER...the only exception being Champion or Premier cats entered into the GRAND OPEN) and three other classes. You then decide which other classes to enter by looking at the list of CLASS DEFINITIONS. It is useful to underline the classes you wish to enter with coloured felt pen or biro. If in doubt contact the show manager as an incorrect class entry will lead to disqualification.

FILLING IN THE ENTRY FORM

Remember to fill in the form carefully and check all details otherwise you could be disqualified and lose your prizes. Get someone else to check the following detail on the form after you have filled it in and, if possible, get a photocopy to keep.

1. All details of your cat EXACTLY as they appear on the registration or transfer certificate.
2. If you have not received a registration certificate put RAF (registration applied for) in the space provided. If the form arrives before the show, contact the show manager as soon as possible or take it to the appropriate section table when you get to the show.
3. Ensure that the class numbers are correct and that your cat is eligible to enter the classes chosen.
4. Ensure the correct entry fee has been sent
5. Sign and date the entry form ... then RECHECK EVERYTHING one more time.

6. Send your entry form and cheque/PO to the right section manager. Send a SA postcard so that the manager can acknowledge receipt of your entry form (take it with you to the show in case of any queries).

Now you can begin to prepare your cat for the show. Luckily Korats do not need intensive grooming but hand stroking every day can greatly improve the coat. Rubbing them over with a silk cloth or chamois leather will really enhance the silver sheen. Clean the ear very gently and check coat for fleas etc. If possible, trim the sharp ends of the claws. Check that you have a strong, warm roomy carrier to transport your cat to and from the show,

Think about your own clothes for the day ... it is not a fashion show! Your cat is being judged for its beauty, not you, so dress comfortably and wear your flat comfy shoes as a show day can play havoc with your feet.

It is a good idea to pack a picnic, and flask of tea/coffee. There are usually drink/food facilities, but it can work out expensive. A pack of baby wipes can be useful if you need to 'freshen up' or for those 'little accidents'.

THE NIGHT BEFORE

1. Check your cat and give him a final groom. Give him an easily digested meal and try to have an early night (if you can sleep that is)

2. Get your show equipment ready and the bag you intend to take it all in: white blanket, white litter tray, white food and drink bowls, white ribbon for tally, wire fasteners (to repair the pen if necessary), brush and comb, silk or chamois cloth, litter, food (don't forget the can opener or, if you can get it SHEBA), a hot water bottle in a cover, if it is likely to be cold, a bag for rubbish, disinfectant (non-phenolic).

3. Put your vaccination certificate, acknowledgement and schedule in an easily accessible place ... your handbag for example (but don't forget it the next day).

4. Pack your picnic so that most of it is ready.

5. Check the route to the show, work out the mileage and travel time, and decide what time you will have to leave home (allow yourself 30 minutes extra in case of delays).

6. Fill the car with petrol ... you may not find a petrol station open in the early hours of the morning).

THE MORNING ARRIVES

1. DON'T PANIC. Check your show bag etc, pack it together with the picnic.

2. Find the cat! Get it in its carrier and put it in the car. It has been known for exhibitors to be halfway to the show when they realise they have forgotten the cat!!

3. Time to go ... drive carefully and look forward to your day out.

VETTING IN

This usually starts about 7.30 to 8.00 and will continue to 9.45. Try to arrive as early as possible which will give your cat time to settle down when you get into the show hall. You will also be able to grab some breakfast and calm down as well!! When you arrive at the hall join the queue for your vetting in card, your tally and any other bits and pieces. You will then be shown to the vet when he becomes available. He will examine your cat and hopefully pronounce him fit and well to enter the hall.

PENNING YOUR CAT

Look for the pen number that corresponds to your tally number. Check that the pen is secure and cat proof. Disinfect the pen, put the litter tray in at one side to the front. Place the water and food dishes to the rear of the pen (it has been known for unscrupulous persons to attempt to 'nobble' cats by poisoning them). Fold the blanket and place it flat on the base of the pen. Now put your cat in the pen and let him get used to it for a while. Tie the tally number around your cat's neck with the white ribbon (this is set out in the rules although many exhibitors fasten it to the pen). Store your carrier and bags tidily under the bench and then go and relax. Have a look at the stalls.

Judging normally begins at 10.00 so about 30 minutes before go back and check your at, tidy up the demolished pen if necessary, give him a final groom and cuddle, and remove food and toys but leave the water. If the catalogues are now on sale buy one and check all your cat's details. If there are any errors go and inform the relevant section manager immediately.

Once judging has started you may not return to your cat until the show is open to the public, at 12.30 normally. You may now feed your cat and stay with him, but be ready to move away quickly if you see a judge and steward approaching.

During the day, hopefully, prize cards and rosettes will appear on your cat's pen. At some shows you must take the prize card and your vetting-in card to the section table to get your rosettes. Judging slips will also start appearing on the tally board where you will no doubt be hovering with great expectancy.

AFTER THE SHOW

Most shows close at 5.00pm. Pack up your belongings as quickly as possible, leave the pen as you found it, put your cat in its carrier and

away you go. When you eventually get home you will probably be shattered and your Korat will decide to have a 'mad two hours' after being penned all day.

Some books recommend isolating any cat that has been shown from any other cats in the house. This is not always practical, but do keep an eye on your cat for the next few days just in case he has picked up any infection, though this is unlikely.

Put your show clothes and the cat's show blanket into the wash and then have a nice relaxing bath yourself. Fill the bath with disinfectant and soak the litter tray, food and water dishes etc overnight. Finally spray the carrier with a suitable disinfectant.

A show report for your cat's classes will probably appear about two weeks later in 'CATS' magazine. Make a note of all your wins, judges, shows, etc and inform the Show Support Secretary. This will enable her to compile a points league for the yearly presentation of club trophies and rosettes.

We hope that this leaflet serves well as an introduction to showing your Korat and that you enjoy your show days. We all look forward to seeing you at shows in the future. Any queries and requests for further information should be sent to the Show Support Secretary.

KCA – Korat Cat Association
<http://www.koratworld.com/kca.html>