



Thinking of buying a pedigree kitten?

ADVICE FOR PURCHASERS - Questions to ask

Is the cattery registered?

There are new laws in place which require all breeders to have a current Breeder Registration Number (BRN) and agree to abide by basic rules – you can check BRN's at www.dogsandcatsonline.com.au Breeder registration on this site does not imply that the breeder meets particular standards or complies with any codes of practice. If the listing for the breeder shows as "no association", then they may not be complying with the codes of practice set down by the breed registering bodies and the onus is on the buyer to thoroughly check the conditions under which the animal is bred, the temperament & health of the animal, and the ongoing support offered by the breeder.

Buy only from a registered breeder.

Can I visit and see the kittens in their own environment with no obligation?

Yes. Shop around. Make it clear you are looking and taking your time.

Make the right decision, not an impulse buy which could disappoint you later.

Does the cattery appear **clean**, with no undue odour (there may be some smell where a stud cat is housed).

Do all the cats and kittens appear **healthy, happy and active**? There should be no more cats/kittens than the breeder can effectively care for.

Do the kittens appear to be **well handled** and **socialized**?

Are they raised in an environment that offers them physical and mental stimulation?

Kittens should only be placed in homes where the breeder genuinely believes the new owner will provide a life-long commitment of responsible pet ownership.

How old will the kitten be when I can have it?

Kittens must not go to new homes unless they are in good health and are at least 12 weeks of age.

What am I getting for my money?

Kittens will have had a veterinary health check and be immunized and micro-chipped. They may be desexed - or must be within 28 days of purchase unless there is a breeding agreement. (SA State legislation applies).

Microchipping kittens is compulsory at point of sale (SA State Legislation applies).

All breeders should offer ongoing support to new kitten owners.

New owners will be sent a registration/pedigree issued by the Feline Association in due course.

Has the kitten been vaccinated?

The kitten must have had at least 2 vaccinations; generally, one at 8 weeks and one at 12 weeks.

The Core Vaccination is for Feline Enteritis, Feline Herpesvirus and Feline Calicivirus (known as 'F3'). There are also vaccines available for Chlamydia, Feline Immunodeficiency virus (FIV or Feline Aids) and Feline Leukemia Virus.

Upon the sale of the kitten the new owner must be provided with current vaccination certificates for that kitten signed by the veterinary surgeon who carried out the vaccinations & health checks. The breeder should ensure that the 12-week vaccine is given.

Will the kitten be desexed before I get it?

Breeders are encouraged to desex kittens prior to sale, otherwise desexing must be carried out within 28 days of purchase (unless purchased by a registered breeder - State Legislation applies).

The Breeder should be prepared to give ongoing advice and support to the new owners, not just at the time of sale.

The new owner should be provided with:

Written details of all dietary requirements, especially what the kitten is being fed currently; Vaccination & microchip certificates; Information on responsible cat ownership, which will include: identification; desexing; confining; housing, information on mental & physical stimulation for the cat; litter box training, integrating with other

household pets and common behavioural problems; and any other information that will ensure the cat/kitten fits into its new environment with minimum stress.

Have you considered how you will introduce your current pets and children to your new kitten? The breeder should discuss this and offer suggestions for your situation.

A **sales contract**, which will detail:

requirement that the kitten be desexed within 28 days of taking ownership (if not already desexed) and not be allowed to produce any offspring (unless a breeding arrangement has been entered into); whether the kitten or cat is being sold as a neutered pet, neutered show cat, or intact breeding cat. New owners should sign the DESEX section on the FASA registration form.

A **Pedigree**: (when the kitten is registered the FASA pedigree will be posted to the new owner by the FASA Registrar); FASA & club **membership forms** and other available **information pamphlets** on showing, etc. or be directed to the FASA website.

Does the breed I am looking at have any genetic/health problems?

Ask this question. If yes, have the parent cats been tested as free of the problem (if possible, to do so)?

Could either parent cat be a carrier?

All health-related problems should be referred to your veterinarian for advice.

What else should the new owner expect from their breeder?

If the kitten refuses to settle & rehome. How will the breeder help me?

If the kitten gets sick, what are my rights?

There should be a veterinary statement that the kitten/cat is in good health at the time of sale.

If the kitten contracts any illness within 7 days, the breeder will discuss options which may include agreeing to contribute to veterinary bills (breeders may insist on their own vet), or even taking the kitten back and providing a full refund of purchase price.

The breeder will ensure that the purchaser of a stud male is made fully aware of the care, responsibility and the standard of facilities required to keep an entire male cat. Purchasers of a stud cat must be a registered breeder, sign a code of conduct and have facilities that will enable the stud to be domiciled in conditions that meet guidelines.

The breeder has signed a Code of Conduct and must not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise cats nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of any cat or kitten. If you feel there is a problem, contact the breeder in the first instance, or FASA, or the Dog & Cat Management Board.

Is a Pedigree included?

Yes, the FASA registration papers include a full 4 generation pedigree with the colours of all cats included & will be posted to you. Registration will be noted on the form as Breeding/Non-Breeding.

Non-Breeding/PET means that the cat is to be desexed and should the cat produce kittens, none of its progeny can be registered. The new owner must **sign the agreement on the registration form**. Breeders may also state Show/Not for Showing on registrations and explain the significance. Any other agreements are between the two parties and both parties should have written signed copies.

The breeder should encourage the purchaser to make contact if he/she has any questions or concerns, and the breeder should respond in a timely manner.

What are the Government Legislation requirements regarding cats?

The SA Government manages the Dog & Cat Management Board which requires breeders to be registered on an annual basis. Breeders on payment of a fee receive a DACO number which allows them to advertise kittens for sale and through which prospective buyers are able to check up on through their local Council or the website - (dogandcatboard.com.au).

Your local Council also has Rules concerning times during which cats are to be kept indoors. When purchasing your kitten, it would be advisable to contact your Council for their regulations. The Feline Association and its breeders strongly advocate keeping your cat/kitten indoors at all times – many owners find that an outdoor enclosure provides your cat with fresh air and stimulation without them roaming and causing neighbourly disputes. There are companies which can work with you on designing such enclosures.

Further enquiries can be directed to the FASA Secretary, Refer to the FASA website www.felineassociationsa.com for current contact details and information.

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