



SHOW GUIDE

Stage 1 : Preliminary Recognition

In 1990 Ragdolls were recognised by the GCCF in the original colours of seal, blue, chocolate and lilac and were eligible to be shown in the Assessment class. The cats were judged individually and a merit certificate was awarded if in the judge's opinion the cat conformed to the Standard of Points. A written critique was placed on each pen once judging had been completed.

Stage 2 : Provisional Recognition

On 1 June 1996 Bicolour Ragdolls in the original colours of seal, blue, chocolate and lilac were promoted to Provisional status and on 1 June 1998 Colourpointed and Mitted Ragdolls moved up to join them.

Ragdolls were eligible to compete against each other in the Open Classes for an Intermediate Certificate (IC) and Best of Breed (BOB). Two classes were available in each section; one for Bicolours and the other for Colourpointed/Mitted; if numbers permitted, classes were split male/female. The same applied in the Adult Neuter Open Classes. Kitten classes did not qualify for a certificate, but could compete for Best of Breed and 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings. What we were aiming to achieve was at least 3 Intermediate Certificates for each Ragdoll from 3 different judges.

Stage 3 : Championship Status

From 1 June 2001 all three patterns of Ragdolls in the original colours of seal, blue, chocolate and lilac have been eligible to be shown at Championship status.

Ragdolls compete against each other in the Open Classes for a Challenge Certificate (CC) and Best of Breed (BOB). There are two classes available in each section; one for Bicolours and the other for Colourpointed/Mitted; if numbers permit, classes are split male/ female. The same applies in the Adult Neuter Open Classes. Kit- ten classes do not qualify for a certificate, but can compete for Best of Breed and 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings. Each cat on gaining 3 Chal- lenge Certificates from 3 different judges becomes a Champion.

Champions can then go on to compete for 3 Grand Challenge Certificates, again from 3 different judges, to become a Grand Cham- pion. At this stage cats have to compete in the Champion of Cham- pion classes against other Semi Longhair breeds.

It is therefore much harder to achieve a Grand Challenge Certificate and only the "creme de la creme" of the breed will ever achieve this award.

Grand Champions are eligible for the final accolade at the Supreme Show - a UK Grand Challenge Certificate; two UK Grand Challenge Certificates are required before a cat is titled UK Grand Champion.

Miscellaneous + Club Classes

Since 1 June 1992 Ragdolls in the original colours of seal, blue, chocolate and lilac have been eligible to compete in Miscellaneous and Club Classes along with other semi longhair breeds, eg Maine Coons, Norwegian Forest Cats, Birmans, Turkish Vans, etc.

GCCF BREED NUMBERS FOR RAGDOLLS

Colourpointed Ragdoll

Seal Point

66

Blue Point 66a
Chocolate Point 66b
Lilac Point 66c

Mitted Ragdoll

Seal Point 66w
Blue Point 66aw
Chocolate Point 66bw
Lilac Point 66cw

Bicolour Ragdoll

Seal Point 6631
Blue Point 6631a
Chocolate Point 6631b
Lilac Point 6631c

Red Series & Tabby Ragdolls

From 1 June 2003 Red Series and Tabby Ragdolls will be eligible to be shown at Championship Status alongside their traditional colour counterparts.

Miscellaneous + Club Classes

Red Series & Tabby Ragdolls will also be eligible to compete in Miscellaneous and Club Classes alongside their traditional colour counterparts.

GCCF BREED NUMBERS FOR RED SERIES & TABBY RAGDOLLS

Effective from 1 June 2003

Colourpointed Ragdoll

Red Point 66d
Cream Point 66f
Seal Tortie Point 66e
Blue Tortie Point 66g
Chocolate Tortie Point 66h
Lilac Tortie Point 66j
Seal Tabby Point 66t
Blue Tabby Point 66at
Chocolate Tabby Point 66bt
Lilac Tabby Point 66ct
Red Tabby Point 66dt
Cream Tabby Point 66ft
Seal Tortie Tabby Point 66et
Blue Tortie Tabby Point 66gt
Chocolate Tortie Tabby Pt 66ht
Lilac Tortie Tabby Point 66jt

Mitted Ragdoll

Red Point 66dw
Cream Point 66fw
Seal Tortie Point 66ew
Blue Tortie Point 66gw
Chocolate Tortie Point 66hw
Lilac Tortie Point 66jw
Seal Tabby Point 66tw
Blue Tabby Point 66atw
Chocolate Tabby Point 66btw
Lilac Tabby Point 66ctw
Red Tabby Point 66dtw
Cream Tabby Point 66ftw
Seal Tortie Tabby Point 66etw
Blue Tortie Tabby Point 66gtw
Chocolate Tortie Tabby Pt 66htw
Lilac Tortie Tabby Point 66jtw

Bicolour Ragdoll

Red Point 66 31d
Cream Point 66 31f
Seal Tortie Point 66 31e
Blue Tortie Point 66 31g
Chocolate Tortie Point 66 31h
Lilac Tortie Point 66 31j

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Seal Tabby Point | 66 31t |
| Blue Tabby Point | 66 31at |
| Chocolate Tabby Point | 66 31bt |
| Lilac Tabby Point | 66 31ct |
| Red Tabby Point | 66 31dt |
| Cream Tabby Point | 66 31ft |
| Seal Tortie Tabby Point | 66 31et |
| Blue Tortie Tabby Point | 66 31gt |
| Chocolate Tortie Tabby Pt | 66 31ht |
| Lilac Tortie Tabby Point | 66 31jt |

HOW TO APPLY FOR SHOWS

To obtain a copy of the full Show List which gives details of all GCCF Shows held from June 2002 to May 2003, including Show Managers' names and addresses to send for schedules, please send a £6.00 cheque or postal order to the GCCF Office :

GCCF

**5 King's Castle Business Park
The Drove
Bridgwater
Somerset
TA6 3PG**

Having decided that you want to enter a show, you should write to the Show Manager requesting a show schedule. You will need to enclose a stamped, addressed C5 envelope. Detailed information on showing is available on the GCCF web site at www.ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/GCCF_CATS.

A word of warning - many of the Championship Shows get booked up very quickly, so it is wise to send for your schedule, complete your entry form and send it back a couple of months in advance.

All Show Reports are published approximately 6-8 weeks after the show in "Our Cats" magazine, which can be ordered from your newsagent or online at www.ourcats.co.uk.

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HOW TO FILL IN THE ENTRY FORM

Before you begin to fill in your entry form, you will need to check that you have all the relevant documentation. You will need:

1. Your cat's pink transfer of ownership documentation – please ensure that your cat is transferred into your name at least 3 weeks prior to the show. If you are applying a long time in advance and you haven't sorted out your transfers, write TAF (transfer applied for) in the relevant box.
2. The GCCF registration number for your cat and the full names of its parents. If your cat is not registered, you should write RAF (Registration applied for) in the box provided for registration number.
3. The GCCF breed number for your cat.
4. Your cat's date of birth.

If you don't have any of this information, check with your breeder; it may be that they are waiting for registration documents to come back from the GCCF - summer is a particularly slow time for this.

WHICH CLASSES DO I ENTER?

Now comes the confusing bit.... the classes you should enter. Fol-

low these steps and you may find life a little easier:

1. Go to the Semi Longhair Section in the Show Schedule.
2. Look under the section headed Champion Adults – Kittens – Neuters. Go to the section which applies to your cat or kitten.
3. You should find a listing which reads something like this:

160 Bicolour RagdollMrs Double-Barrell

162 Colourpointed/Mitted Ragdoll..... Mrs Double-Barrell

The number is what you should enter on your form where it reads "Open Class".

MISCELLANEOUS & CLUB CLASSES

There are a number of miscellaneous classes in which you can enter your Ragdoll and have it compete against other Rags and other breeds in the Semi Longhair Section. There is often a minimum number of classes you need to enter (usually the Open + 3 side-classes) and a maximum allowed (often between 6 and 8). Details are printed in individual show schedules.

1. Go to the Semi Longhair Miscellaneous Section of the schedule where you will find as in the Open Classes, that the sections are split into Adult, Kitten and Neuters. Select the section that applies to your cat and then read the following summary of what the classifications mean.

Adults: 9 months old and over on show day.

Kittens: 14 weeks - 9 months old on show day.

Neuters: Neutered adults, male or female, may only enter classes specified for neuters.

Neuter Kittens: 14 weeks - 9 months old on show day

Note: Kittens may enter Open Neutered Kitten class and suitable Miscellaneous and Club classes for kittens.

Breeders For exhibits bred by the exhibitor(s).

Novice Exhibit that has not won a 1st prize in any class at a GCCF show.

Maiden Exhibit that has not won a 1st, 2nd or 3rd prize in any class at a GCCF show.

Limit Exhibit that has not won more than four 1st prizes in any class at a GCCF show.

Debutante: Exhibit that has not been shown before under GCCF rules.

Adolescent 9-15 months old on show day.

Junior 9 months-2 years on show day.

Senior 2 years and over on show day.

Veteran 7 years and over on show day.

Abbreviations

| | | | |
|-----|------------------|---|----------------|
| AV | Any variety | A | Entire Adult |
| AC | Any colour | K | Entire Kitten |
| AOC | Any other colour | N | Neutered Adult |
| M | Male | F | Female |
| NK | Neutered Kitten | | |

- Select the section (Adult, Kitten or Neuter) that is specific to your cat and then you can choose the classes in which you wish to enter your cat. For instance, if you have a female kitten aged 5 months which hasn't been shown before, you could enter it for any of the following miscellaneous classes:

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| AV Kitten | AV Non Breeders |
| AV Novice | AV Maiden |
| AV Limit | AV Debutante |

Make a note of the numbers alongside the listings for the classes you wish to enter and then write them down in the Miscellaneous Classes box on your entry form.

- Fill in the "breeders" box with the full name of your cat's breeder, or if you bred the cat, write "Exhibitor".
- Check your form thoroughly for spelling errors, or wrong information as you can be disqualified for not providing the correct details. It is always wise to copy the cat's details from your transfer certificate.
- Sign the form in the relevant spaces. Remember if your cat is jointly owned both must sign. Write a cheque for the correct amount and send the form back to the Show Manager. It is wise sending a stamped addressed postcard with your entry so that you have an acknowledgment of your entry, and you should keep a photocopy of your entry for your own records.

CLUB CLASSES

You are also entitled to enter your cat in "Club Classes" for Cat Clubs that you are a fully paid up member of. To enter these, go to the section in your schedule titled "Club Classes" and follow the same procedure as before. **Remember to check the schedule for The British Ragdoll Cat Club Class and do enter this class if available.**

WHAT CAN MY CAT(S) WIN?

At Championship status, your cat will be judged against other Ragdolls of a similar pattern and if in the judge's opinion the cats are worthy of a Challenge Certificate (CC), this will be awarded + a rosette to the male and/or female cat judged to be the best exhibit in their respective classes. The judge may then choose between the two CC winners which cat merits the Best of Breed award.

In Miscellaneous and Club Classes where your Ragdoll will be judged alongside other Semi Longhair breeds, placings are normally given from 1st - 6th or from 1st - 4th + VHC or HC placings and if your cat has been placed, an appropriate card will be put on the pen at some stage in the afternoon. There is usually a tear-off section on the card which you take to the Show Table to obtain your rosette. Rosettes are usually only awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th placings.

THE BRITISH RAGDOLL CAT CLUB TROPHIES & AWARDS

All members' Ragdolls who are shown at GCCF shows are eligible to win a lovely array of trophies and cups which members of the Club have kindly donated. **To qualify, after each show please record your cat(s) results for all the classes entered at shows on the Club Show Results Form and send the form(s) to the Show Sup-**

port Secretary.

All Trophy Points Forms must be returned to the Show Support Secretary by the 31 January each year so that the trophies can be presented at the AGM, which is usually held in March.

SHOW EQUIPMENT



- A carrying box - preferably not wicker and definitely not cardboard.
- A standard show kit is available by mail order or purchase the necessary items at the show:
 - Plain white blanket or vet bedding with plain edging, no distinguishing marks or colours are allowed, neither is the cellular type.
 - Plain white litter tray.
 - White feeding bowl (**must be removed before judging**).
 - White water dish (**do not remove during the show**).
 - Cat litter + scoop and toilet/kitchen roll.
 - Cage wipes or a suitable mild disinfectant for cleaning the inside of the pen - **aerosols are forbidden**.
 - Grooming kit - brush and comb. You are not allowed powder in the show hall.
 - Thin white ribbon for the tally (your cat's number for the show). In the show schedule it advises you to put the tally round the cat's neck, but this can be quite dangerous if the cat is distressed and most exhibitors tie it onto the front of the pen instead.
 - Food and water for the day.

PREPARATION OF YOUR CAT

- If you decide your cat really does need a bath, make sure this takes place at least a week before the show, otherwise the coat will not lie properly. Alternatively, a couple of days before the show you could apply a little talcum powder (preferably non-scented) **but you must make sure that no trace of the powder is left in the coat before you leave for the show as your cat could be disqualified.**
- Ears. Be very careful to remove all signs of wax from the ears as this is a favourite reason for rejection at vetting in.
- Check that the eyes are bright and clear.
- NEVER take a cat to a show with the smallest skin lesion as this will almost certainly be considered as indicative of ringworm. You will be rejected at vetting in and you and all cats resident with you will be barred from shows and showing until clearance is obtained.
- NEVER take a cat that is slightly "off colour" to a show. Your cat should be in 'tip top' condition.

THE BIG DAY

- Make sure you leave home in plenty of time. Do not feed your cat before leaving as this can cause travel sickness. Check that you have your bag with all your show kit, food and water for the day and, of course, your cat. **Remember to take your cat's current vaccination certificate as you**

will be asked for it at vetting-in.

2. When you arrive at the show hall you will be given an envelope containing your vetting-in slip, tally and admission sticker.

3. Vetting-in. This usually takes place between 07.30 am and 09.30 am - check your schedule. There is always a queue.

A vet and his/her steward will carefully examine your cat's ears, eyes, coat, feet and under its tail. It is possible to ask the vet to allow you to open your cat's mouth in order that it may also be examined. Provided everything is okay, your vetting-in slip will be signed and you will move into the Show Hall. Don't lose your vetting-in slip - it is irreplaceable and may be needed to claim those cherished rosettes.

If you are unfortunate enough to be rejected (heaven forbid) you will be given a form by the Show Manager stating the reason for rejection and telling you what you need to do to obtain clearance.

4. When you have found your pen, check it for security; for example, door not shutting properly. If you have any problems with your pen contact the Show Manager at once. When you are satisfied that your pen is secure, wipe it down carefully with disinfectant. Place your food and water bowls in the rear right hand corner of the pen and your litter tray between them and the front of the pen. Now introduce your cat to its home for the day and let it have some breakfast. Keep fussing him/her to help them settle. When your cat is finished eating, remove the food dish and lightly groom him/her whilst in the pen, give him a final groom and cuddle, check that you have removed the food dish and that you have a clean litter tray. Where is puss's tally? Most shows allow it to be secured to the front of the pen with white ribbon or elastic; some shows, the Supreme in particular, require it to be hung round the cat's neck on white ribbon.

5. Judging starts about 10.00 am and it is then necessary for all exhibitors to leave the hall for that well-earned cuppa, a gossip and to purchase the show catalogue. You should check you entries in the show catalogue and if you find an error immediately go and rectify it with the Show Manager. You will be allowed back into the hall once the Open Class judging is completed - check time in the schedule - usually 1 pm. Judging of the Miscellaneous Classes continues well into the afternoon - be sure that you stay away from your pen if you see a judge or steward handling your cat.

6. Results Board - By 12 noon the Open Class results may be up on the board and it is worth having a look to see how your cat has got on. The results are listed by class number and then you check down the list for your pen number to see whether your cat has been placed.

Below are some of the Abbreviations used by Judges on the Results Slips:

CC - Challenge Certificate
GC - Grand Challenge Certificate
BOB - Best of Breed
CNH - could not handle
Disq - disqualified
W/H - Withheld
A - absent.

7. Collecting your rosettes. Your Open and Best of Breed rosettes should automatically be placed on your pen by an official of the Show. Towards the end of the show, your Challenge Certificate or Grand Challenge Certificate, which is a card bearing your cat's name and signed by the judge will also be placed on your pen.

If you have been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in either Miscellaneous or Club Classes you are entitled to a rosette. A card will have been put on your pen with your placing and there is usually a tear-off part on the card which you have to sign and take to the Rosette Table to claim your prize, although at some shows all rosettes are placed on the pens by show officials.

HAVE A GREAT DAY, BUT REMEMBER, WINNING, THOUGH GREAT, ISN'T EVERYTHING, BE A GENEROUS LOSER, THERE'S ALWAYS ANOTHER SHOW AND ANOTHER JUDGE.