

**THE TRADITIONAL CAT ASSOCIATION, INC. ©<sup>1987</sup>®™**

**THE TCA REGISTRY MANUAL ©**

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**THE IMPORTANCE OF REGISTERING YOUR CATTERY NAME**

Breeding Traditional and Classic Cats involves dedicated, hard work extended toward loving and caring for extremely valuable cats. The broad scope of this endeavor extends beyond the breeding, feeding, health, bonding, and maintaining of each cat and kitten. It expands to customer contacts, house cleaning, keeping records, answering the phone and e mail messages, preparing for customer visits to choose their next fur family member, advertising and book keeping (just to name a few!). This sometimes-exhaustive activity is a valuable objective as each breeder overcomes obstacles to achieve the desired result.

Adding to the significance of this sustained effort is the very rarity of the Traditional and Classic Cat Breeds. Due to abuse and baseless persecution by all of the other cat associations all over the world for over 100 years, the Traditional and Classic Cat Breeds languished. Then I came along, discovered they were nearly extinct, and I set out to stop the destructive tide against them. From the humble beginning of looking for a Traditional Siamese to enjoy, came my many years of influencing the future of these treasures. Immediately I recognized their numbers were terribly low. Even after years of what I consider my duty to help breeders and enthusiasts, the supply has not reached equilibrium with the demand. Purebred breeding stock is still difficult to locate. Therefore the task of breeding these distinctive Traditional and Classic Cats is an uncommon privilege.

The actual process of breeding Traditional and Classic Cats, following their individual Breed Standards, is an art form all its own. Memorizing the Breed Standard of the breeders chosen breed and using it to create a vision of the most perfect specimen is a necessity. Each generation of kittens is a molding of that “minds eye” sculpture. Like a sculptor each breeder creates a living representation, as close as possible, to that perfect specimen. Breeding is a challenge, because there is never total satisfaction with the results. Perfection can't be achieved. There in lays the fascinating invitation to continue seeking that goal. So it is that breeders seek what ever their bloodline is weak in. Maybe their bloodline needs darker eye color, so breeding decisions are made using a Traditional or Classic Cat with dark eye color. There is a warm, wonderful feeling when such a specific goal is reached. Breeding achievements are done one step at a time.

Coupled with all of this energetic labor comes the necessity of being recognized for it. When breeders have their Cattery Names Registered with TCA, INC. they no longer exist in unidentified obscurity. Their energies are recognized and solidified into a single identity, which is your Trademark. Each and every cat and kitten produced by a cattery is consolidated to one Cattery Name. Once Registered with TCA, INC. the individual Cattery Name precedes the cat's name on each Registration Certificate. Therefore, each breeder receives acknowledgement for all breeding stock and for each kitten produced from her cattery. This builds creditability, establishes reputation, provides customer confidence, gives credence to those individual cats who are reproducing the generations who preserve the breeds, and develops a data base of irrefutable records. The most famous catteries of the past have always had a Cattery Name, which gave instantaneous recognition to them. Say one of the old Cattery names and a certain “look” or personality of their cats comes to mind. It is an identity, and definition for the breeder and her cats. It is as valuable as your signature.

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With all of this in perspective, the reasons why The Traditional Cat Association, Inc. requires each new breeder to register her Cattery Name with us are evident. Even more valuable is the fact that there is a one-time fee of \$30.00 for a lifetime of use. In other words you don't have to pay each year, as other cat associations require. Each Cattery Name is "sacred" to the owner. Only the owner can use it, unless there are signed documents addressing other circumstances, such as a lease or co-ownership. Cattery Names are never re-used unless there is a signed document turning the use of a Cattery Name over to a chosen benefactor. A will would be an example.

## **HOW TO REGISTER A CATTERY NAME**

Bearing in mind the requirement of a limit of 15 letters, characters and spaces for a Cattery Name and the limit of 35 letters, spaces, apostrophes and hyphens for the cats name, INCLUDING THE CATTERY NAME, it is advisable to keep the Cattery Name short. This allows for the name of the cat.

Let's say your Cattery Name is "Spectacular Mountain View". Of course this is too long. You can shorten it several ways. Dropping the word "Spectacular" and just using "Mt. View" would work. Using initials on your Registration Certificates such as SMV, still allows you to use the full name in your advertising.

In the rare instance that someone else has already registered your chosen Cattery Name, I have some suggestions. Let's say your choice of a Cattery Name is "Rose Petal". A spelling variation would work and still have the same pronunciation. Examples are: "Roze Petal", "Rose Pettal", "Roz Petal", "Rose Petall" or the initials "RP". A little imagination comes up with a viable solution.

## **THREE SECTIONS TO THE TCA, INC. REGISTRY**

Why did I create the TCA, INC. Registry the way I did? As I've mentioned earlier the Traditional and Classic Cats were badly rebuffed by all of the other cat associations. Their breeders justifiably left the associations because of it and went off by themselves to breed them for their own joy.

I set out to provide a place of pride and support for those breeders who kept their bloodlines pure, but had no Registration Papers. To avoid any denigrating comments from the other cat associations, I created a proving process, so breeders can re-establish documented proof of purity of their bloodlines. This is the FOUNDATION STOCK Section of the TCA, INC. Registry. Three photos of the applicant are required at this stage because we need to see the physical features of cat. We ask for views of the front and both sides. All kittens from any Foundation Stock cat will be registered as a Foundation Stock.

The next step is the PURE FOUNDATION STOCK Section. After breeding true to their Breed Standard through Registered breeding records, and production of pure bred litters, Foundation Stock cats are moved to this section and issued a new Registration Certificate reflecting their advanced status. This is the highest level that the Foundation Stock registered breeding cat can achieve through our proving process.

The third section is the CHAMPIONSHIP STOCK SECTION, where cats registered with the other cat associations, that TCA, Inc. recognizes, are Registered. Only Foundation Stock cats whose

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The New Owner is responsible for filling out the right side of the form with their name as it will appear on the Registration Form (especially important for breeders), the owners mailing address where the form will be returned to, the TCA Registered Cattery Name (important for breeders), a contact phone number to call and an email address to write to if there is anything missing, unreadable, or in question.

The next area is the first and second choice for the name of the cat. If a Cattery Name appears on the certificate after First choice or Second choice, then that is automatically part of the name, according to the registration rules. Do not attempt to scratch it out, as the Head Registrar must add it back in. The breeder's cattery name (example above is "Applecater Acres") becomes the prefix of the name that is chosen by the new owner. So that if the name selected was Mr. C, then his registered name would become Applecater Acres Mr. C.

If the new owner had a TCA, Inc. registered cattery name, it would appear under the new owner section "TCA Cattery", and could be added after the name selected. If the new owner cattery name was for example "Tullycrine", then the complete name would be "Applecater Acres Mr. C of Tullycrine". This is only one character short of the maximum number of letters (35 characters).

The last activity to complete the registration is to have the Breeder and the new owner sign the Kitten Registration Application form. This then becomes a document of the actual transaction, but does not include what the cost of the animal was to the new owner. This is not required to get your cat registered.

Finally, include your payment for the registration, or use Paypal to prepay the registration prior to or at the same time that you send the documents to the Head Registrar. It usually takes less than three weeks to send register, and receive the new registration form for your cat or kitten.

Questions can be sent to the head registrar at any time regarding the current status, and response time is typically the same day. Hopefully, this information will eliminate any possible misunderstanding of the Kitten Registration Application,

## **ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

TCA, Inc. does not share contact information, or membership lists with others, so our members and customer's privacy is respected and secure.

Three photos (2 sides and front views) can be provided with any Registration Application for inclusion in our Stud Book.

We can use digital pictures via e-mail.

All purebred Traditional and Classic Cats without Registration Certificates can apply for Registration as Foundation Stock. See the procedures outline previously.

If your adult cats were not registered and were sold, but you still have a litter of kittens from them, each kitten can be registered with TCA, Inc. as Foundation Stock. It is your choice to register the entire litter or only the kittens you plan on keeping. That decision is entirely up to you.

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Cats Registered as Foundation Stock can be sold. There is no limitation connected with their level or Registration. Since they are entered in the TCA, Inc. database, they can advance toward Pure Foundation Stock Status for their new owners.

Kittens produced from Foundation Stock parents are registered as Foundation Stock until their parents produce three litters proving purity. At that time, and at the request of the owner, their parents are advanced to the Pure Foundation Stock and issued new registration certificates. Then the kittens produced (including the first three litters) from those Pure Foundation Stock parents are eligible to be registered as Championship Stock. The pivot point is providing proof of purity by breeding three litters to provide that proof. The TCA, Inc. database does this work for the breeder. As the applications for Registration of the kittens come in, the TCA, Inc. Co-Head Registrars issues the new certificates reflecting the new status.

A breeder doesn't have to keep any of the kittens from Foundation Stock parents to upgrade their parents to Pure Foundation Stock. The kittens can be all sold, if the breeder wishes. Again, however, the breeder needs to send TCA, Inc. the registration applications for the litters to prove purity of their parents. We need to have all of that in our database, which becomes our permanent record. The advantage of keeping kittens from Pure Foundation Stock to further a breeding program is that they can become registered as Championship Stock.

If a breeder is uncertain about what breed a cat is, that section can be left blank and our Genetics Committee can decide what "breed name" to give to the cat, using the photos provided. Registration is not denied, if this section is not filled in.

We are always willing to answer any questions and offer all the help we can provide. Please feel free to send your questions by mail to the address given above, or by email to [info@traditionalcats.com](mailto:info@traditionalcats.com) .

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