



Southern Africa Cat Council eNews

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HELLO AGAIN

Cat shows are done and dusted for 2024 and cat breeding is in full swing. Lots of beautiful kittens that will grace the show bench in 2025.

SACC has a new International Relations Liaison, Ingrid de Wet was appointed to the position at the AGM in November. Our own Jan van Rooyen was re-elected to the Vice President position of the World Cat Congress. The WCC AGM will take place in

Hong Kong shortly after SACC's 2025 COTY.

In order to assist Johan, our Registrar, emails were sent out to every listed SACC breeder asking if they would be prepared to assist, guide or explain the pros and cons of being a Registered Breeder (non breed specific) to any person interested in breeding cats. The deadline given for responding has now passed but Johan has a list of extremely knowledgeable and ethical breeders who he can consult or pass on to a potential newbie.

So everyone, have a great Xmas, a happy holiday season and a brilliant 2026. But above all, be safe.

Some special thanks from the President to :

Royal Canin– for your ongoing support of SACC and the valued friendship.

Cat Clubs- for doing what you do for SACC. It is a thankless “job”

GC– thanks for making the difficult decisions.

Breeders– for your passion and ethics.

Exhibitors– without you the world would be a sad place.



SAY GOODBYE TO FIParanoia

Special thanks to Aurora Lamprecht for this article.

FIP, or more correctly Feline Infectious Peritonitis, is an ubiquitous disease affecting felidae of all kinds – domestic cats, big cats, purebred cats, even the street corner special cat. FIP was long feared: an awful disease that killed quickly and that all felt totally helpless to treat. There just was no treatment that worked! That has all changed for the good in recent years. First though, let's unpack what FIP is.

FIP or FIPV is Feline Infectious Peritonitis. A disease caused by Feline Coronavirus. FIP is an immune mediated disease affecting cats of all ages, but mostly the young (under two years of age) and senior cats. This is due to an aberrant immune response – an immune system that is either immature, or not functioning correctly.

The resultant is either a wet form of the disease, a dry form, neurological, ocular, or mixed FIP. Each is signified by very particular symptoms. The difficulty though with FIP is that it is often mimicked, or itself mimics other diseases, so correct diagnosis is key.

What is the pathogenesis of the disease? This is something that many either get wrong or do not have a clear understanding of. It is important to understand that FIP is rare. It also takes a number of factors in order for FCoV (feline coronavirus) to mutate to FIPV. Feline coronavirus is found across the globe – there are different serotypes in different countries, but that will take this discussion to a much more complicated level, and it is generally accepted that the important factor is the coronavirus itself. The majority of cats, a figure greater than 95%, will be exposed to feline coronavirus at least once, more often, throughout their lives. Most will be asymptomatic – that means they will show no signs of any illness. Some will have mild symptoms, and a small percentage will go on to develop FIP. This percentage varies depending on the environment from 4% to 9%.

FCoV is an enteric virus – that means it is a virus affecting the gut. Its mode of transport or infection is via the faecal/oral route. This is where it now becomes important to understand that at least 5 factors are needed for FCoV to develop in to FIP. The factors required are:

- Presence of an active feline coronavirus infection
- A gene defect (Dr Niels Pedersen has done a study on this)
- A stressor such as recent vaccinations, sterilisations, rehoming, etc.
- An aberrant immune response
- Poor gut health.

Imagine an old fashioned safe, with a huge handle and various tumblers. Each tumbler represents one of the five factors, and the handle is FIP. In order to open the safe, all five tumblers must line up, the handle turned and the safe opens. In the same way all factors must be present at the same time in order to “unlock” the disease.

When a cat has an active infection it will shed FCoV in its faeces. The viral particles will then be tracked, and during picked up by other cats, and ingested when grooming. The viral particles will then target the gut lining and either cause mild diarrhoea, or the cat will be asymptomatic. At this point an FCoV antibody titre test can be done – but this test only shows the presence, OR the exposure, to feline coronavirus. The body mounts an immune response by releasing antibodies, which relates to the antibody titre count reflected as a ratio of 1:xxxx. The higher the second number the more recent the exposure. A high number will only indicate FIP if other blood values are present, and the cat is manifesting the symptoms of FIP.

A high titre value does not necessarily = FIP. At this point the cat is contagious and any cats within the same environment can be infected with FCoV. Any person who is in contact with the infected cat can also carry viral

particles in fomites and cross contaminate with other cats. Luckily the virus is a fragile virus and cannot survive long outside, and is very susceptible to the sun's rays.

If there is an active infection, and the other factors are present, the virus will cross from the gut into the blood system. At this point the virus is no longer contagious – think of it as now being in an enclosed system with no way of getting out. At this point the health of the immune system determines the form of FIP. Once feline coronavirus crosses the gut/blood barrier it takes 14 – 21 days to mutate. It's also crucial to state at this point that kittens are covered by maternal antibodies up to the ages of 5 – 7 weeks. The earliest, therefore, that anyone can expect to see FIP in a kitten is a minimum of 7 – 10 weeks for wet FIP. If there is no immune mediated cell response, the virus will start attacking the blood vessels themselves causing lesions, which results in fluid leaking into the surrounding cavities – this is the condition of wet FIP. This fluid is usually very proteinaceous. This form of disease is very aggressive and life expectancy at this stage is usually an average of 9 days.

If the cell mediated immune response is developing, and can mount some form of response, it takes longer for the virus to take hold. The virus can then reach the organs, where it shows as pyogranulomas (think tumorous-like growths) along the blood vessels of the organs. Various organs are more likely to be affected, namely, the kidneys, the liver, the intestines, the eyes and the brain. This process can take months to even over a year before the first symptoms are visible; once symptoms present average life expectancy is 28 days. The symptoms vary for each of the different forms of the disease.

In wet FIP, due to fluid accumulation, the kitten/cat will present with a typical pot belly. The belly will feel like a water-filled balloon, not hard. This is accompanied by a low-grade fever (39.8°C), loss of weight, loss of appetite (although initially appetite will be voracious), poor coat condition, third eyelid showing, poor activity levels. Wet FIP can be easily diagnosed by drawing off fluid. The fluid has a classic pale yellow colour, froths, and is sticky like raw egg white. The fluid should be sent for an FCoV RT-PCR. A positive result confirms FIP. In dry FIP the symptoms are much more easily confused with other disease so it is vital to know what all to look for. The mesenteric lymph nodes will be swollen, accompanied by a low-grade fever, muscle loss, lack of activity, anorexia, jaundice, poor coat health and the third eyelid visible. Ocular FIP is characterised by uveitis (looks like bleeding in to the eye), nystagmus, irregular shaped pupils. In neurological FIP the kitten/cat will present with seizures as well as the symptoms of either dry FIP or ocular FIP, or even all symptoms. Often both wet and dry FIP are present but in different proportions. This is a very complex disease and no clear-cut characteristic is present. Blood work forms a crucial part of the diagnostic process as well, as various of the parameters will be either elevated, or lowered. In all forms of FIP anaemia will be present and this needs to be aggressively treated, as often cats decline more quickly to anaemia than to the disease itself.

This is not a disease that should carry any stigma. No one environment can be said to be the cause of the disease. Hygiene practices are key, as is a good, feline-centric diet, well-balanced immune system and good, gut health – each area can be given attention and, therefore, lower the risk of the virus crossing the gut/blood barrier.

What happens if your kitten/cat does develop FIP? In the past FIP was fatal. Treatments started many years back with the development of Polyprenyl Immunostimulant (PPI) –effective in older cats with the dry form of FIP. To date there are a large number of longterm survivors that were put on to PPI. One such is a cat named Oliver McKinnon, who has celebrated over 14 years of life after diagnosis, and treatment with PPI. The disadvantage with PPI is that it is costly, and that in South Africa a Section 21 permit does need to be obtained.

Human disease can prove beneficial to the development of treatments for diseases in animals. The Ebola outbreak in Africa was a serious issue, and saw the development of a treatment, however this treatment was ineffective against Ebola and so was “shelved”. The value of the treatment though was seen, and so it was used in its purest form, in trials for both wet and dry FIP. This treatment became known as GS441524. It was very effective in treating wet FIP, however the success rates for dry FIP were less. At this time, there was no legal access to it as it was a trial drug. This resulted in a massive illegal trade being set up, which had its own issues. The onset of the pandemic, however bad it was, had a silver lining for FIP. Remdesivir is developed from GS441524 by adding in phosphates. This is a kinder drug in the injectable form and was more readily accessible legally. As medical technology develops so too do the drugs and currently the best treatment for FIP is Molnupiravir. This drug needs to be sourced using a Section 21 Import permit. It is considerably cheaper than any of the other treatments, it’s a new age drug so safer, and its efficacy means that treatments often do not need more than 6 weeks. The ‘go-to’ treatment in South Africa is still GS441524. This has been refined by a compounding pharmacy legally. Initially it was obtainable in injectable form, later refined to a pill, and now available as a very palatable paste!

The development of treatments for FIP has been remarkable. As someone who lost 3 very precious souls to this awful disease, my heart jumps for joy with each cat that is now saved.

Over the course of 14 years I have been an active advocate for FIP, first through the only Facebook group of the time, then through an affiliation with international cat organisations, direct communications with top FIP researchers from around the world, and establishing our own Facebook group and webpage. Two years ago myself and my co-founder stepped back from actively running our Facebook group. I do, however, still remain accessible to anyone who needs information on this disease, and how to access the treatments within South Africa.



PROJECT FIGHT FIP
FOR SOUTH AFRICA

**GIVE OUR CATS
A FIGHTING CHANCE
AGAINST FIP!**

FELINE INFECTIOUS PERITONITIS KILLS.
It strikes any kitten or cat and brings untold
heartache to their families. No treatment or cure
exists

[facebook.com/
groups/FIPcare/](https://facebook.com/groups/FIPcare/)

ngel

The poster features a map of South Africa with the national flag colors (red, white, green, yellow, black, and blue) overlaid on it. To the right of the map is a close-up profile of a ginger and white cat's face, looking upwards. The background is dark, making the text and the cat's face stand out.

Photo courtesy of “Project Fight FIP in South Africa”

JENNA & MIA

Special thanks to Jan van Rooyen and his colleague, Jenna's mother.

As you can imagine diabetic treatment can be extremely scary for anyone but must be way worse for a toddler and her parents.

So, let's tell the story of Jenna who is sixteen and her cat, Mia, a 12-year-old bicolour female.

Jenna was diagnosed with Juvenile Diabetes at the age of 3 years old and had to endure all the tests, stress and treatment which that entails – but together with her loving parents she has blossomed into a beautiful 16-year-old teenager.

Jenna was given a cat by her parents at the tender age of four- and what a blessing that turned out to be for both Jenna and the family.

Mia is a beautiful Seal Bicolour female with white gloves and socks. Her aqua coloured eyes almost look directly into your soul.

Although Mia sleeps in bed with Jenna, this intelligent cat knows instinctively that her Jenna needs undisturbed rest so when she needs to go outside to do "cat business" she wakes up Jenna's parents to open the door and then Mia runs to the door for her nightly ablutions.

Except on certain nights Mia doesn't go outside but runs directly back to Jenna's bed alerting the parents that something is wrong with Jenna.

Jenna is woken up and her sugar levels checked and every time, without fail, Jenna needs an insulin injection to rectify her abnormal sugar level.

Mia, the heroine, doesn't only love Jenna – she is also her guardian angel, her protector and her health monitor.

We salute Mia for being a live saving cat in a million and hope that the bond Jenna and Mia share continues for many more years.



The lovely Jenna with her "guardian angel" Mia.

RULE CHANGES FOR 2025

SHOW RULE 9c has been changed and now reads:

If a cat has been entered, judged and awarded in the incorrect class, and this is only noticed by the SACR after the show, the award/s may be changed from a Supreme Challenge/Premier certificate to a Grand Challenge/Premier certificate, or from a Grand Challenge/Premier certificate to a Challenge/Premier certificate, on condition that:

- i) There **were no cats** entered, and present at the show, in the relevant Grand/Open class, as the results of the cats entered in the correct class takes preference and may NOT be changed.
- ii) The judge concerned has not awarded the cat in the relevant class before.
- iii) The judge is prepared to change the award.

SHOW RULE 25(2)- addition of a new paragraph which reads:

All participants in SACC activities, shows and events should conduct themselves in such a manner that SACC and its members and affiliated members are not brought into disrepute. Such harmful actions might be but are not limited to: verbal attacks or maligning of exhibitors, judges or other people at SACC shows, exhibitions or events; or written attacks or scathing comments on persons in public email lists, in cell phone messages or any electronic media.

SHOW RULE 7(h)- remove the following sentence:

The breed numbers must be included in class headings.

SHOW RULE 8.1 (m): Amended to read:

Exhibitors may not choose a specific judge to judge their exhibits but may exercise the right to request a specific judge not to judge an exhibit provided that the reasons are solely show related and do not cast aspersions on the said judge. A written request for a change of judge including reason to be brought to the attention of the Show Manager who may, at her/his discretion, allocate another judge.

SHOW RULE 12- Add point (iv) to the rule to read:

Maine Coons to be judged in the following classes:

1. Self
2. Self and White
3. Patterned (All tabby patterns, exclude silver tabbies)
4. Patterned and White (All tabby patterns, exclude silver tabbies with white)
5. Shaded (Include all silvers that are tabby, tipped, smoke & shaded)
6. Shaded and White (Include all silvers that are tabby, tipped, smoke & shaded)

Maine Coons with white will not be judged according to the minimum and maximum white requirements for Bi-colours, Harlequins and Vans.

SHOW RULE 14—Add point (iv) to the rule to read:

1. Self, Self and White
2. Patterned, patterned and White (All tabby patterns, exclude silver tabbies and silver tabbies with white)
3. Shaded, Shaded and White (Include all silvers that are tabby, tipped, smoke & shaded)

SOP CHANGES FOR 2025

MAINE COON

Cats will now be judged in colour classes. 6 different classes for Open championship/Premiership titles and 3 different classes for Grand titles.

Maine Coons must use the same colour/pattern codes as other recognised SACC Breeds which are judged to colour and pattern.

Patched Maine Coons must use the same colour/pattern codes with the addition of “& W”.

i.e. they will not be judged according to proportion rules for Vans, Harlequins and Bicolours.

Scale of Points has been amended to read:

Head	25
Ears	10
Eyes <i>(including shape, size and set)</i>	5
Body, Tail, Legs & Paws	25
Coat Texture <i>(including length, texture and frontal ruff, ear feathering and tufting, tail & paw furnishings)</i>	20
Colour & Pattern	5
Condition	5
Temperament	5
Total	100

BENGAL

The following colour descriptions have been added to the SOP:

- Blue Tabby
- Blue Silver Tabby
- Blue Snows (BEN06TpTr /Ts)
- Blue Sepia (BEN 06 SeTr/Ts)

Description for the charcoal effect has also been added to the SOP.

RUSSIAN

The body description has been amended to reflect the size differential between males and females.

The colour descriptions for Black and White coats have been amended.

MUNCHKIN

Allowable outcross section now includes “Any Registered Breed”.

The statement “Cats over 1/16 of a recognized breed are not eligible for championship competition” has been removed from the last paragraph of the current SOP.



PLANTS TOXIC TO CATS

1. Autumn Crocus

The autumn crocus (*Colchicum autumnale*), also known as meadow saffron or naked lady, is a common ornamental flowering plant that blooms in the fall. While also poisonous to dogs and horses, the plant is especially toxic to cats because of its alkaloid colchicine (a natural compound that disrupts cell division) content. All parts of the plant are highly toxic.

Cats who ingest autumn crocus might have the following symptoms:

Gastrointestinal (GI) signs, like drooling, vomiting, and bloody diarrhea
Breathing difficulties; Seizures;
Kidney & Liver damage;
Death.



2. Azaleas

Azaleas are a species of flowering shrubs and small trees that are toxic to cats. There are more than 1,000 species in this family of plants, and the degree of toxicity varies from moderate to severe, according to the Pet Poison Helpline®. The toxic component of these plants is a type of neurotoxin called a grayanotoxin. Grayanotoxins disrupt sodium balance, negatively affecting your cat's muscles, including the heart. All parts of the plant are toxic, and ingesting a tiny amount of the plant can result in a cat being poisoned.

Symptoms of azalea or rhododendron poisoning include:
GI signs, like drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, and lack of appetite.
Heart arrhythmias: Weakness; Tremors; Temporary blindness; Seizures; Coma; Death



If you have this plant in your yard, don't allow your cat to come into contact with it, and avoid bringing flowers or plant clippings into the house.

3. Chrysanthemum

Chrysanthemums (*Chrysanthemum spp.*) belong to the Compositae family of plants. Commonly called "mums," these flowering plants include about 40 different species.

The leaves and flowers of chrysanthemums contain many different compounds that can be toxic to cats, including:

Sesquiterpene: A specific terpene (a naturally occurring compound often responsible for plant scents) that can cause toxicity or allergic reactions in cats

Lactones: Metabolites (substances produced or used during metabolism) of sesquiterpene that can also cause toxicity

Pyrethrins: Natural pesticides that deter insects but can be toxic to cats (these are sometimes used to make flea and tick medication)

Even just a small amount of these toxic compounds can cause several signs of poisoning, including: Vomiting; Diarrhoea; Reduced appetite; Excessive saliva/drooling; Unsteadiness; Skin inflammation.



4. Cyclamen

Cyclamen (*Cyclamen spp.*), also known as Persian violet and sowbread, is a genus of more than 20 species of perennial flowering plants that are often kept indoors.

The tubers and roots are the most toxic parts of cyclamen, but all parts of the plant contain the toxic components, called saponins.

Signs of cyclamen toxicity involving small amounts of the plant include:

Drooling; Vomiting; Diarrhea

If a cat ingests large quantities of cyclamen, they can experience: Abnormal heart rate and rhythm; Seizures; Death.



5. Daffodils (Narcissus)

Most plants that fall into the genus *Narcissus*, including the daffodil (also called jonquil, paperwhite, or narcissus), are flowering spring perennials.

All parts of the plant contain the poisonous agent lycorine, but the bulbs are the most toxic. Lycorine causes: Drooling; Vomiting; Diarrhea; Abdominal pain.

In some cases, cats who ingest daffodils and other plants in the genus *Narcissus* experience: Cardiac arrhythmia; Extremely low blood pressure; Breathing difficulties; Convulsions

Do not keep daffodils or related plants in the house, and do not plant daffodils in the yard if your cat has access to them.

Gardeners must take care to keep daffodil bulbs away from cats.



6. Dieffenbachia

Dieffenbachia (*Dieffenbachia spp.*), also known as charming dieffenbachia, dumb cane, exotica perfection, giant dumb cane, gold dieffenbachia, spotted dumb cane, tropic snow, and variable dieffenbachia, is part of a genus of tropical flowering plants in the Araceae family.

This common houseplant contains insoluble calcium oxalate crystals, which cause oral irritation, including: Burning feeling in the mouth; Drooling; Vomiting; Difficulty swallowing.

Although it's generally not deadly, exposure to this plant can be extremely painful for cats, so these plants should not be kept in homes with cats.



7. English Ivy

English ivy (*Hedera spp.*) is a flowering perennial that's fast-growing and invasive. It also goes by the names common ivy, European ivy, glacier ivy, and sweetheart ivy. Both the leaves and the berries of the plant are toxic to cats, although they're considered a mild toxin. English ivy plants also contain toxins called pentacyclic terpenoids, which can cause: Drooling; Vomiting; Diarrhoea.

If your cat ingests English ivy, the signs typically resolve themselves quickly with no need to visit a veterinarian. However, if your cat has persistent vomiting or diarrhoea, go to the vet.



8. Hyacinth

Hyacinths belong to the same plant family as tulips (Liliaceae).

While all parts of the plant are toxic to cats, the toxins, which are allergenic lactones or alkaloids, are very concentrated in the bulb, the underground stem from which the plant grows.

Chewing on the bulb can cause irritation in your cat's mouth and esophagus and potentially induce an allergic reaction, which can cause the following clinical signs: Drooling; Nausea; Vomiting; Diarrhea; Stumbling or uncoordinated walking; Hives; Facial swelling; Difficulty breathing; Rapid breathing; Increased heart rate.

If you think your cat has ingested hyacinth, take it to the Vet.



9. Jade Plant

The jade plant (*Crassula ovata*) is a resilient, easy-to-grow succulent that's a favourite among people who have trouble keeping plants alive. Also called a dwarf rubber plant or a friendship plant, the jade plant is considered mildly toxic to cats.

If your cat nibbles on any part of the plant, they might experience: Vomiting; Decreased (or no) appetite; Lethargy; Stumbling.

Often, these signs will resolve on their own, but if your cat doesn't seem to be getting better, seek veterinary attention. Because the jade plant is only mildly toxic, you might be able to keep it in your home away from your cats, but if your feline likes to nibble, you're better off choosing a non-toxic plant instead.



10. Kalanchoe

The flowering houseplant kalanchoe (*Kalanchoe spp.*) is also known as the mother-in-law plant, devil's backbone, mother of millions, and chandelier plant.

All parts of this plant contain toxins called bufadienolides (steroid hormones), which generally cause GI signs, including: Drooling; Vomiting; Diarrhoea.

Though rare, if cats ingest large quantities of kalanchoe, they might experience more severe symptoms, including: Heart arrhythmia; Collapse; Seizures.



11. Lilies

Lilies are extremely dangerous to cats.

Although many plants contain the word "lily" in their name, certain species are the most dangerous to cats, including Asiatic lilies, Easter lilies, Japanese show lilies, rubrum lilies, stargazer lilies, red lilies, tiger lilies, Western lilies, wood lilies, and daylilies.

Easter lilies are very dangerous for cats; ingestion of any part of the plant, or even the pollen, can cause kidney failure. Cats need only ingest a tiny bit of the aforementioned lilies (for instance, chewing on one or two petals or leaves) to take in enough toxin to cause death. Even just licking the pollen from the flowers or drinking water from the vase of lilies can cause toxicity.

Never keep lilies in the house.



12. Monstera

The monstera, also called the split-leaf philodendron or Swiss cheese plant, is a household (and Instagram) favourite with more than 50 different species. But if you have cats, you should avoid it in your home.

That's because all parts of the plant contain insoluble calcium oxalate crystals that can irritate the mouth and digestive tract. This can cause: Drooling; Pawing at the mouth; Oral pain; Decreased appetite; Vomiting

In rare cases, the upper airway can swell, causing breathing difficulty. Because of the potential of serious complications, you should seek emergency veterinary care if you think your cat has ingested any part of the monstera plant.



13. Oleander

Oleander (*Nerium oleander*), also known as white oleander or rosebay, is a popular outdoor flowering shrub found in warm climates.

Oleander contains cardiac glycoside toxins, which adversely affect the heart muscle. Symptoms of oleander ingestion in cats include: Drooling; Diarrhoea; Lack of coordination; Tremors; Seizures; Fatal heart abnormalities.

All parts of the oleander plant are toxic, including the water in a vase of these flowers.



14. Pothos

All parts of the pothos plant (*Scindapsus spp.*) contain insoluble calcium oxalate crystals that are toxic to cats.

The Pet Poison Helpline classifies the pothos as having mild to moderate toxicity, saying it can cause mouth and GI irritation that shows up in cats as: Drooling; Pawing at the mouth; Decreased appetite; Vomiting; Mouth pain.

In the rare severe cases, the crystals can cause swelling of the upper airway that makes it difficult to breathe.

If your cat eats any part of a pothos plant, seek immediate veterinary care.



15. Rhododendrons

Rhododendrons (*Rhododendron spp.*) are woody, rounded shrubs that typically grow pink or mauve flowers. There are more than 1,000 rhododendron species. Rhododendrons are considered severely toxic to cats due to compounds called grayanotoxins, also found in azaleas.

Apparently all parts of the plant are toxic, and your cat ingesting an amount of rhododendron totalling just 0.2% of their body weight can cause poisoning. Clinical signs of rhododendron poisoning in cats include: Drooling; Vomiting; Diarrhoea; Stomach pain; Reduced appetite; Abnormal heart rate; Weakness; Low blood pressure; Tremors; Temporary blindness; Seizures; Coma

If your cat ingests rhododendron, seek emergency veterinary care immediately. If you act quickly and get treatment swiftly, your cat is likely to recover, so don't delay!



16 Sago Palm

Sago palm (*Cycas revoluta*), also known as coontie palm, cardboard palm, cycad, and zamia, is a common plant found outdoors in tropical and subtropical areas. Certain sago palms are also kept as houseplants.

All parts of the sago palm plant are toxic, but the seeds are the deadliest.

The main toxic compound is cycasin, which causes severe liver damage.

Symptoms of sago palm poisoning in cats include: Vomiting and diarrhoea; Black, tarry-looking stool; Bruising; Increased thirst; Lethargy; Liver failure; Death.

If you suspect your cat has chewed on any part of a sago palm, seek immediate treatment.

Even with quick and aggressive veterinary treatment, the prognosis for survival is only 50%, according to Pet Poison Experts. So it's best to avoid having this plant in your home or yard.



17. Snake Plant

The snake plant (*Sansevieria trifasciata*) is a resilient, low-maintenance houseplant with tall, snake-like leaves that grow straight up (hence its name). It's also called a good luck plant, golden bird's nest, or mother-in-law's tongue.

All parts of the plant are toxic to cats and can cause digestive upset and symptoms such as: Drooling; Decreased appetite; Vomiting; Lethargy.

Snake plants have a bitter taste, so your cat is unlikely to ingest a huge amount. That said, if you suspect your curious kitty has nibbled on any part of the plant, you should call the veterinarian.



18. Tulip

Popular in bouquets and gardens, tulips (*Tulipa spp.*) are part of the Liliaceae family, which also includes the deadly lily species.

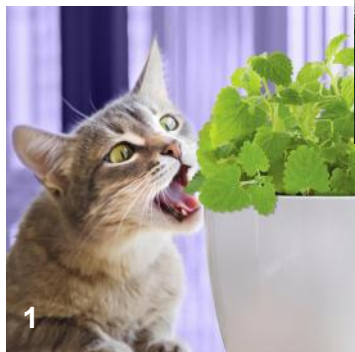
Tulips contain the allergens tulipalin A and tulipalin B. And although all parts of the plant and flower contain these dangerous compounds, they are most concentrated in the bulbs.

Signs of tulip poisoning in cats include: Drooling; Nausea; Vomiting; Diarrhoea; Difficulty breathing; Increased heart rate.



If you suspect that your cat may have ingested a toxic plant– always take a photo of the plant with you to help your veterinarian with a diagnosis and the correct treatment protocols.

Safe plants are catnip (1), Valerian (2), Silver Vine (3) or Tartarian Honeysuckle(4)and your cat will thank you!



TO STEWARD or NOT?

Stewards: Stewarding is an integral part of the whole cat showing scene as well as being essential for the growth and prosperity of the cat fancy as a whole. Why, you may ask?

Generally, it is through stewarding that a more profound interest develops for all things “cat”- whether it be breeding or showing more competitively or becoming more involved in the workings of the fancy or after a few years, training as a judge. How is this achieved?

By being involved: Being part of a team can reduce stress by creating a safe environment for the steward instead of sitting alone next to his/her cat’s cage. It offers a feeling of belonging through a sense of camaraderie as well as gaining support from other involved cat people. It aids personal growth by gaining new skills and giving confidence. Stewarding opens doors to new friendships and perceptions by working with a variety of people from different backgrounds and it is good fun to be able to share stories with like minded others.

By Handling: Those who choose to steward become aware of the subtle – or at times, not so subtle- differences in cats ie they learn to assess the body language, verbal utterances, coat textures, musculature and bone formation.

By seeing: The eyes are invaluable “tools” for assessing cats and those who choose to steward learn about the breeds through this sense ie the complexity of coat colours and patterns and the differences between these depending on the breed being handled; the many varying cat head shapes; the overall cat proportions and balance and the size differential between the different body parts of each breed- leading to a deeper understanding of Standard of Points descriptions eg medium sized ears, large eyes etc.

By listening: Judges often verbalise what they see and those who choose to steward hear the wording as used in the SOP and although it may only be words, the human brain filters and absorbs and thereby important key phrases/words are committed to memory if heard often enough.

SACC has some wonderful stewards and if you are interested to get to know them or maybe you would like to hear more about this aspect of a cat show contact:

Cape Town- Andrew at wpcatclub@gmail.com

Gauteng- Athylle or Lisa at tcsshows@gmail.com

Contact FOR the SACC Cat Clubs in the other provinces:

Kimberley– ncfscatclub@gmail.com

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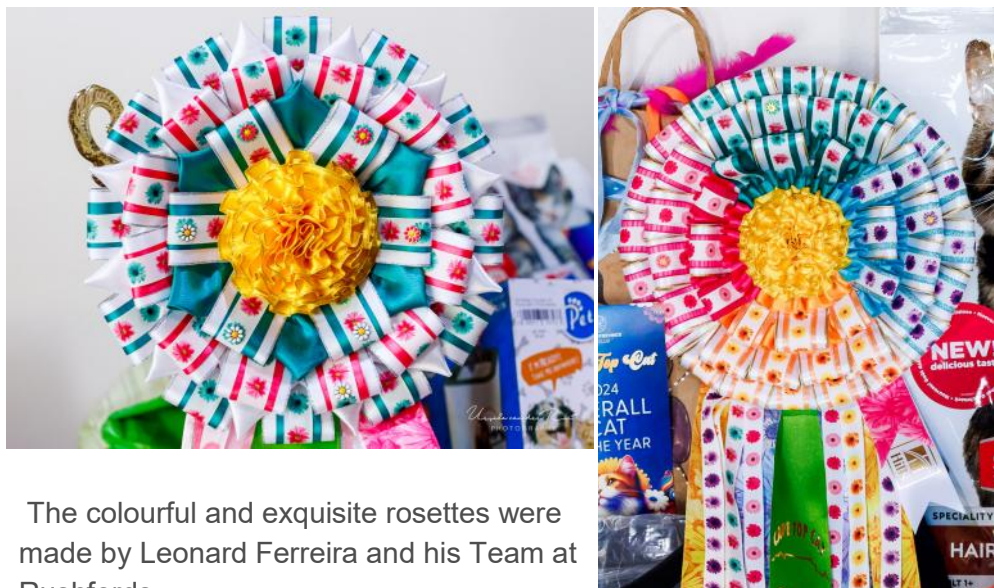
CAPE TOP CAT

2024 ended with the very successful and popular Cape Top Cat Competition.

Adri Swart and her team once again presented the line-up of top show winning Cape cats which were judged this year by 2 SACC Judges, a WCF and an Independent Judge.



Ursula van der Riet, camera always at the ready, recorded the event with lots of beautiful images for all to enjoy. All images are courtesy of Ursula.



The colourful and exquisite rosettes were made by Leonard Ferreira and his Team at Rushfords.

Cape Top Cat Domestic for 2024 was Master Fresh Prince of Belhar owned by Marcus Leach.



Cape Top Cat Kitten 2024 is an Abyssinian, Abyzula Kitty Pride, owned and bred by Adri Swart.



Cape Top Cat Neuter 2024 is a Burmese, Lilac Time Playboy of Chic-Katz, owned by Charlene du Toit and bred by Jacqui Dawson.



Cape Top Cat Entire 2024 is a Siamese, Muttis Ribbons, owned and bred by Marlene van Dyk.



Ribbons is also the Cape's Best SA Bred Cat.

These 3 cats then competed against each other for the coveted CAPE TOP CAT Trophy.



A wonderful moment for an owner and breeder– a one very happy Marlene.

Congratulations to Muttis Ribbons for taking the top honours at the Cape Top Cat event 2024



CAT OF THE YEAR 2025

Cat of the Year 2025 will take place on the 26 July in Gauteng.

The event will be hosted by Transvaal Cat Society (TCS). There are no venue details or any other pertinent information at this time.

SHOW CALENDAR 2025

JAN	4	11	18	25	
FEB	1	8	15	22	
MARCH	1	8 RCC	15	21/22 PET EXTRA- GANZA (TCS)	29 SAASA (WPCC)
APRIL	5 TCS PROVISIONAL	12	19	26	
MAY	3 CFC	10 PCS ECCC	17	24	31 WPCC
JUNE	7 NCFS	14	21 TCS	28	
JULY	5	12	19	26 COTY GAUTENG TCS	
AUG	2	9	16 CFC GAUTENG TOP CAT	23	30
SEPT	6	13	20	27 WPCC	
OCT	4	11	18	25 CAPE TOP CAT (WPCC)	



HEY HOOMAN!

I IS READY FOR SHOW
SEASON- GET THE
SHOW BAG PACKED!

TRIVIA

It's all about the "wild cats"!

1. Common name for the Felis Nigripes?
2. What is the average length of a male Siberian Tiger's Tail?
3. How many teeth does an adult lion have?
4. What is the difference between a Mountain Lion and a Puma?
5. Are Caracals only found in Africa?
6. Which wild large wild cat has the strongest bite?
7. The Pallas Cat has a feature which is different to other small wild cats—any idea what it is?
8. Which small Asian wild cat was mated to a domestic cat to create first generation Bengals.
9. The Margay mated to a domestic cat created which experimental breed of domestic cat which "died" out in the 1990s?
10. What is thought to be the most endangered big cat in the world?

ANSWERS

1. Blackfoot Cat
2. 99cm
3. 30 teeth
4. Nothing—they are the same cat with different names.
5. No—they are also found in the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent.
6. Jaguar—it is able to slice through crocodile skin and tortoise shell.
7. It has round pupils not slit pupils.
8. Asian Leopard Cat.
9. Bristol
10. Amur Leopard found in Russia and China—less than 200 worldwide.



HAVE A GREAT NEW YEAR'S EVE!