

CAT LOVERS SHOW[®]

Sat 4 & Sun 5
June 2022

Melbourne Convention
& Exhibition Centre



ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP)

The Cat Lovers Show (CLS) places animal welfare and the safe interaction of cats and people at its highest priority.

This Animal Management Plan (AMP) has been prepared to ensure the highest level of welfare is provided for all Cats that are presented and cared for on-site during the show, in what is a very unique environment.

The conditions outlined in this AMP are applicable to any persons or company bringing Cats to the show including but not limited to all Exhibitors, Sponsors and Presenters.

Cat Lovers Show Pty Ltd (CLS) as the Organiser of the 2022 Cat Lovers Show, along with the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, are committed to providing an environment that is safe and healthy for the venue and event staff, contractors, members of the public and in particular event exhibitors and their animals.

All persons and cats are required to comply with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2008, The Domestic Animals Act 1994 including the Domestic Animals Amendments that apply to the DAA 1994 (Act) that came into effect in 2017 and the Domestic Animals Regulations 2015, and the Victorian Codes of Practice for Animal Welfare made under those Acts. (Yes these all apply to Cats)

Further helpful information can be found at: <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/animal-welfare-victoria/domestic-animals-act/codes-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-the-private-keeping-of-cats>

The local government council is Melbourne City Council and the relevant legislation they administer is the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and the Regulations 2015. The council publishes their requirements on their website and they can be found here <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/residents/pets/pages/domestic-animal-management-plan.aspx>

All exhibitors bringing a Cat into the venue/show have an obligation to familiarise themselves and comply with all of the above legislations and advisories.

The Organisers do not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage, financial or otherwise, resulting from any incident (including injury to persons or animals) arising from any animal interactions during the 2022 Melbourne Cat Lovers Show.

An exhibitor who brings any Cat into the venue/show is the "competent person in effective control" of the animal, and this person holds the relevant duty of care for their Cat(s) and to the community. This includes, but is not limited to the control, comfort, safety and welfare of their animal and the interaction of any animal under their control, and with any other person or animal, at any time, whilst on-site at the Cat Lovers Show.

For the purpose of this AMP, all Cats are treated equally regardless of size or breed. Consequently the burden of care is placed upon the competent person in effective control for the control, comfort, safety and welfare of their animal and CLS has prepared this Animal Management Plan to assist exhibitors in contributing to an enjoyable environment where both exhibitors and the public can celebrate their love of Cats in a safe and positive environment.

It is a mandatory requirement that all exhibitors who are bringing Cats to the show, must read, fully understand and agree to this Animal Management Plan or entry will be refused. CLS will be uncompromising in enforcing the conditions and rules outlined in this 2022 Melbourne Cat Lovers Show Animal Management Plan.

1. Making the right decision about having your cat on your stand

The Cat Lovers Show can be a very busy, noisy, stressful and demanding environment for animals. Are you absolutely confident that your particular cat will cope?

It is a mandatory requirement that any cat brought into the 2022 Melbourne Cat Lovers Show is in peak condition (physical and mental) and good health. Any Cat showing symptoms of Cat Flu will NOT be allowed entry.

Reaching large numbers of cat owners is the main reason you are exhibiting, but it's also why you need to think very carefully about whether it's the right environment for any Cat you want to bring in to the event.

Large crowds, continual loud noise, constant audio-visual demonstrations, repetitive stranger interaction, along with the presence of hundreds of other Cats is an incredibly stressful and unprecedented environment for most cats and the majority will not be used to handling this sort of pressure.

If your Cat does not cope in stressful situations or you do not know if the Cat you are bringing to the show is capable of coping, it must not attend.

Just because your Cat is happy within its normal 'comfort zone' environment at home, smaller events etc, that does not mean they will react the same way at the Cat Lovers Show.

For example many Cats have difficulty dealing with stressful situations like fireworks, thunderstorms, huge crowds and uninvited visitors. If your cat has problems with any of these conditions in their known environment, you can be confident that they are not able to handle the stress presented by spending two days at one of the biggest Cat shows in the world. And the majority of the time you will be too busy to effectively monitor their well-being.

First and foremost, you must consider your Cat's welfare and the welfare of the staff and visitors your Cat may interact with and put that consideration ahead of your desire to have a Cat on your stand. If there is any doubt whatsoever please do not bring the Cat(s) to the show.

2. General Control

CLS will have Animal Welfare Officers patrolling the show at all times to monitor the condition of all cats on-site and to ensure that all conditions of the Animal Management Plan are always being adhered to.

CLS reserves the right and full authority to demand the immediate removal of any Cat from the show if it considers that the Cat is showing any ongoing signs of stress or believed to be suffering any negative effects from its presence at the show.

All exhibitors must immediately comply with any warning or direction given by Animal Welfare Officers, CLS management, security personnel or other authorised CLS representative. Documented warnings or directions may be issued if deemed necessary and non-compliance with any written warning or direction will result in a demand to remove the cat from the show.

All exhibitors bringing cats to the show should have contingency plans in place to allow for the removal of their Cat.

This means not having to leave your stand unattended during the removal, having a second person to take the Cat home or having someone on call to collect your Cat.

Removal from the show does not include taking your Cat outside and leaving locked in your vehicle - it means taking your Cat home.

Any Cat found unattended in a vehicle will be immediately reported to the Melbourne City Council, Venue Security, the RSPCA Inspectorate and the Victoria Police.

3. Risk Management and keeping the show safe

During the 2022 Cat Lovers Show, the competent person in effective control holds absolute responsibility for the control of their animal, and must take all possible actions to minimise any risks associated with having a cat at the show.

CLS has set the following rules as the minimum conditions that must be maintained at all times when on-site (including pre and post opening hours).

- a.** When bringing a Cat/s to and from the show, including the movement of a Cat to another section of the show, the Cat must be confined in a secure, escape-proof and well ventilated container - as per the 'Code of Practice For the Private Keeping of Cats'. Containers must enable Cats to comfortably stand, turn around, lie down and act normally. At no time is a Cat to be carried from one location to another outside of an exhibitor's stand no matter how small the distance.
- b.** On any stand where a Cat(s) is present, it is mandatory that a minimum of two people are present on the stand at all times and that one person is designated as the competent person in effective control and there is a limit to no more than two Cats per competent person in effective control. Exhibitors' who are to be identified as the competent person in effective control must notify CLS staff at the information desk on immediate arrival at the show so you can be provided with a special sticker that must be displayed on your exhibitor pass/badge at all times.
- c.** At no time may a Cat be left with only one person on the stand. This is to ensure that at no time a Cat is left unsupervised because you are busy with a visitor and that there is always someone available to closely monitor your cat.
- d.** It is important to avoid Cats having a direct line of sight to other Cats at the show wherever possible. Exhibitors must consider displaying the Cat at the back of the stand or in a manner that reduces the likelihood of the Cat visualising another Cat at the show.



- e. All animals on stands are to remain under direct supervision and at all times and must be restrained in a cage with a covered top, as Cats will escape from open-topped crates or wire pens.
If the Cat is calm and the Exhibitor is confident to have them out of the cage, then the Cat must be buckled into a secure harness attached to a lead, which is to be held at all times by the competent person in effective control. CLS actively discourage the use of collars as Cats can easily slip out of them if not appropriately fitted, as well as potentially become injured as a result of trying to escape from the collar.
At no time may a cat be left unattended on any stand even if the Cat is restrained.
- f. If a Cat is restrained with a harness and a lead, it must be held at all times by the competent person in effective control. At all other times, Cats must be restrained in a secure cage.
- g. CLS will provide a freestanding sign to all stands where Cats are present and this is for your Cat's wellbeing and protection whilst advising visitors. It is a mandatory requirement that this sign be displayed next to your Cat at all times and it will state that "You must ask for permission and supervision by the person in effective control prior to approaching any cat on this stand".
- h. Additional signs will be located at each entry as well as at other prominent positions around the show to repeat the key safety messages (as per point 'f' above). These messages will also be included in general PA announcements throughout the show during open hours.
- i. All Cats can be territorial and sometimes react aggressively or defensively. For this reason all Cat(s) are to remain in their designation areas and are not to roam the venue at any time throughout the day.
- j. All Cats should have a designated igloo, bed (with cooling mat if needed) or similar to lie on. No Cat should be accommodated on the bare concrete or carpeted floor. Cat beds, rugs or similar items must be located away from the edge of stands so that Cats (including their tails) don't get stood on or cause a trip hazard. Please ensure you have booked a stand large enough to comfortably accommodate a Cat within the perimeter of your stand area.
- k. It is your responsibility to schedule regular breaks for your Cat to be physically removed from the public for rest, relief and downtime. There is dedicated Cat Chillout Zone for this purpose. Cats should be moved from the stand to the chillout area in a suitable transport cage/cat carrier.) Exhibitors should be aware of encountering other Cats in the Chillout area and take effective action to ensure the Cat's welfare, e.g. keep visual barriers in place. There will be fans and air conditioning provided in the Cat Chillout Zone along with a fridge to re-cool/re-freeze cooling aids.
- l. All Cats must be provided with easy access to fresh drinking water and it is your responsibility to ensure this is regularly replenished so Cats are kept well hydrated.
- m. If there is any chance a Cat may suffer from heat stress, Exhibitors are responsible for providing cooling mats, ice packs and fans where necessary.
- n. All Cats must have access to clean kitty litter and it is your responsibility to remove waste immediately. There are dedicated Cat Waste Bins located behind the Breed Showcase stand and Cat Adoption Zone for this purpose. You must provide your own waste bags to dispose of the contaminated litter/waste.
Exhibitors should consider placing the litter tray(s) in a private location of the stand, ideally out of sight as Cats are very private animals when it comes to toileting. If exhibitors are bringing more than one Cat they should also have the appropriate number of litter trays, e.g. two litter trays for two Cats.
- o. Strictly no Cats are allowed on-site during the load-in day (Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd June) or during load-out after 5pm on Sunday 5th June and Monday 6th June. (This is regardless of a cage/carrier being used).

4. Minimum Age of Cats/Kittens to participate

Kittens participating at the show must be 10 weeks of age or older and must have received their full course of kitten vaccinations.

Exhibitors will be required to provide a vaccination certificate documenting that their F3 vaccination is up to date (protecting against Feline herpesvirus-1, Feline calicivirus and Feline panleukopaenia).

If you're unsure if your Kitten is adequately protected to participate, please consult with your veterinarian prior to the show.

Guidelines:
<https://wsava.org/global-guidelines/vaccination-guidelines/>



5. Incident reporting

Any observed, uncharacteristic aggression, severe biting and/or scratching where skin is punctured, will be treated as an incident and you may be directed to immediately remove your Cat from the venue. Notwithstanding this removal, if a third party (public or staff member) has been affected, in any way by the incident, they may exercise their rights and report the incident to the Melbourne City Council via phone on (03) 9658 9658.

You will be required to assist any third parties in the exercise of their rights.

The competent person in effective control will be required to provide the following information to the Melbourne City Council:

- time and date of the incident
- where it happened
- name of the cat owner
- cat registration number
- a description of the Cat
- a detailed description of the incident.

Any incident that results in an injury requiring medical treatment as defined under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic), Part 5, Duties Relating to Incidents, will be treated as a reportable injury and advised to WorkSafe (Victoria). This will be done immediately via telephone and then in writing within 48 hours of the incident and you will be required to assist in the completion of an Incident/Injury Report available from the organiser. You may also have a duty under to preserve the incident site. This would be confirmed as a requirement, or not, as a result of immediate phone consultation with WorkSafe. Any third party will be advised of their rights immediately.

In the case of a reportable injury the Melbourne City Council will also be notified and you may be considered guilty of an offence under the Domestic Animals Act 1994.



7. Interaction between your cat and members of the public

We appreciate that an important part of the visitor experience is interaction with cats.

Exhibitors, as the competent person in effective control, are required to fully supervise any interactions between any persons or other Cats, and their Cat. This primary rule is set to avoid injury or distress to cats or people.

It is important to remember that members of the public may have been touching other Cats throughout the venue, and may carry the scent of other cats on them. This may cause distress to some Cats, and exhibitors should be wary that Cats can change their mood very quickly when confronted with another Cat's scent. CLS Management recommend that members of the public wash their hands in between petting different Cats.

Hand sanitizer will also be readily available at various points at the Cat Lovers Show, but Exhibitors are also required to make hand sanitizer available to persons handling their animals, and to ensure that no biohazard is passed from animal to animal via human interaction.

Exhibitors not wishing for their Cat to be handled by members of the public should provide a physical barrier such as a rope line, fencing or keep their Cat in an appropriate Cat enclosure or Cat carrier.

In order to ensure the safety and welfare of all people at the Show, all exhibitors must ensure their Cat is suitably controlled when approaching, or being approached, by any person.

8. Cat-to-Cat interaction

With the large number of Cats at the show and an extensive range of breeds present, Cat-to-Cat aggression is a possibility.

In order to ensure the safety and welfare of all animals participating at the Show, all exhibitors must ensure their Cat is suitably controlled when approaching or being approached, by any other Cat.

Always ask for permission from other cat handlers before allowing your Cat to approach any other Cat.

The use of visual barriers and Feliway spray may help keep Cats calm.

9. Health and protection

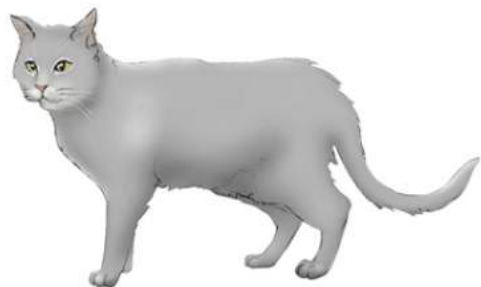
To ensure the direct safety of all exhibitor Cats, other Cats participating in the show, staff and members of the public attending the show, all exhibitors are required to confirm that prior to entry to the event, their Cat has received all recommended vaccinations and we advise all exhibitors to ensure their Cat has received recent worming and flea treatments as per treatment manufactures guidelines. Any Cats with Cat Flu will NOT be allowed entry to the Show.

Female Cat's that are in season or expecting to come into season are not to be brought into the venue or show under any circumstances and should a Cat unexpectedly come into season during the show then the Cat must be removed from the venue immediately.

6. Feline Body Language

It is essential that you visually monitor your Cat and “listen” to what they are telling you. Following are some common behavior and what they look like but remember your Cat is a unique individual and may not display all of these traits. But you can use this information to get an idea of what to look for in your Cat and what feelings they are displaying to you.

CALM



Ears will be up, pupils normal size, whiskers relaxed, tail hanging in a relaxed manner with no erect hairs.

FEARFUL



Ears will become flattened, pupils dilate, their whiskers become flattened to their face, tail tucked underneath their body.

AGGRESSIVE



Ears will move backward, pupils dilate, arched back, tail held erect or lashing from side to side, and may growl / scratch / strike.

It's important to note that a cat can escalate between being calm and aggressive within a matter of seconds. If you have any doubt or concern about how your Cat is feeling, place them in a secure cage where they can hide and is out of sight of people and other Cats.

10. Vetting In Procedure Prior to Show Entry

As part of the Cat Lovers Show (CLS) commitment to ensure that the highest level of welfare is provided for all Cats being displayed as part of the 2022 CLS, it is a mandatory requirement that all cats are to be inspected and cleared at a Veterinary Inspection prior to their admission into the venue on each day of the Show.

Access to the Cat Vetting area is via the concourse in between Door 7 and Door 8. This vetting in will be done at the entry to the venue prior to the Show opening on both Saturday and Sunday morning. Exhibitors are to handle their own Cats at the vetting table for this inspection.

VETERINARY INSPECTIONS: each Cat must be inspected by and be cleared by the Veterinary Officer's inspection before being admitted to the show. Vetting in will commence at 7am and all Cats must be presented for vetting no later than 8.30am on each day. A registered Veterinarian, Vet Nurse or final year Veterinary student will carry out all veterinary inspections

Cats arriving after the advertised vetting in times may be refused entry

CLAWS: all claws (front and back), of all Cats must be trimmed

VACCINATION RECORDS: all Cats and Kittens must be vaccinated. Exhibitors must produce documentary evidence (vaccination card / certificate), for each Cat at vetting in, and the date of the last vaccination must be no less than 14 days before the show. Kittens must have had at least one F3 vaccination no less than 14 days before the show, and it is highly recommended that they have had at least 2 vaccinations. Adult Cats must have had at least F3 vaccination no less than 2 years prior to the show.

REJECTION: the Veterinary Officer may reject any Cats who display signs of contagious or infectious disease, have external parasites of any kind, are lactating, are of obviously poor condition, are more than 4 weeks or obviously pregnant or display signs of having been drugged.

Where the reason for rejection has been determined as a contagious condition, all other Cats / Kittens domiciled with or that have traveled to the CLS in the same vehicle will also be rejected irrespective of whether or not they are displaying the same condition. In this instance, all Cats must be removed immediately from the venue and taken home. Cats cannot simply be locked in a vehicle.

Should the exhibitor request a second opinion, the Veterinary Officer may call over another Veterinary Officer for such opinion. The exhibitor is not to join another vet queue. The opinion of the officiating Vet is final.

VETERINARY LETTERS: a veterinary letter may be presented to the Veterinary Officer for a Cat with a non-contagious or non-infectious condition (eg shaved area following surgery). Such letter must be dated no more than 48 hours prior to the CLS.

To ensure the safety and welfare of all Cats at the CLS, where a Cat has been exposed to an infectious condition within 30 days of the CLS, it is requested that the Cat not be brought to the CLS for exhibition.

Following clearance at the veterinary inspection, Cats are to be benched as soon as possible in their appropriate display area (i.e. Breed Showcase, Rescue, Exhibitor Stand or Feature Area)

11. Toileting and kitty time out

It is a requirement of participation at the 2022 Cat Lovers Show that all Cats use a litter tray.

Exhibitors are responsible for bringing the necessary cleaning implements, ie. litter tray, scoops, bags and clean litter that must be refreshed on a regular basis. Cat waste access bins have been allocated for the exclusive use of disposing of contaminated litter and cat waste. The bins are located behind the Breed Showcase and Cat Adoption Zone.

If an animal relieves itself within the building, the exhibitor is required to secure the immediate area for slip or biohazard and contact the event organiser, info desk, security or cleaning staff immediately.



12. Feeding and Hydration - dealing with heat

With Cats on-site for the duration of the show, exhibitors are required to provide all the food and water required for their Cats at the event and make suitable preparation for storage.

Take great care to ensure your Cat remains well hydrated, and help avoid the possibility of heat stress by providing cooling aids such as ice packs or cooling pods.

Water will be available within the venue for you to fill containers and bowls.

Exhibitors are required to provide a water bowl on their stand for the Cats' welfare, but must place the bowl where it will not present a trip hazard or be in danger of coming into contact with live electrical equipment.

As per normal Cat etiquette, food and water should be kept away, as much as possible, from litter trays.

13. Veterinary support

CLS has arranged for a veterinary surgeon to be on duty during show open hours. The scope of duties of the veterinary surgeon will include emergency assistance and Cat 1st aid, in addition to providing oversight and direction relating to animal welfare, including directing exhibitors to remove Cats if deemed necessary.

14. Animal Evacuation

In the event of an incident that requires emergency evacuation from either building, all exhibitors, contractors, event staff, members of the public and other persons shall follow the directives of the appointed emergency evacuation wardens and proceed to the nominated emergency evacuation point and await further instruction.

Exhibitors should consider the welfare and safety of their animal during an emergency evacuation event.

All animals shall be under the direct supervision and restraint of the competent person in effective control, at all times. Consideration should be made to whether animal carriers or crates are required for animal evacuation.

Storage and use of such items must be kept within your stand's footprint, not block emergency aisle ways or pose obstruction to persons exiting the building for the purposes of emergency evacuation.

15. Cat Registration

It is a condition of participation that all Cats must be currently registered and wearing their council issued identification tag as per the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and local council regulations.

If a Cat doesn't wear a collar for showing reasons then further proof of registration may be requested at any time prior to and during the Show period, ie, the Certificate of Registration issued to you by the authority may be requested.

Any exhibitor who has not met this prerequisite must advise CLS management before attending the Show and each Cat will be assessed on a case by case basis.

16. Cat Bites and Scratches

CLS Management will have signs visible around the show informing the general public in the event of a Cat scratch or bite to visit the onsite First Aid Attendant IMMEDIATELY for sanitisation and appropriate treatment, no matter how mild it may seem.

Bites

For anyone that has been bitten by a Cat - wash immediately with betadine (alcoholic) or chlorhexidine (alcoholic) and then present immediately to the emergency department for appropriate management.

Scratches

For anyone that has been scratched by a Cat - wash immediately with betadine (alcoholic) or chlorhexidine (alcoholic). Scratches at high risk of an infection should be examined by a medical practitioner including: wounds on the hands or face, wounds overlying prosthetic joints, and in people who are immunocompromised (including the young, the elderly and people with conditions such as diabetes). If there's any concern about the nature of the wound, always recommend presentation to the emergency department.

Additional useful information - <https://www.racgp.org.au/download/Documents/AFP/2009/November/200911dendle.pdf>

It has been documented that 28 - 80% of cat bites may become infected. In 75% of these cases, a bacteria called *Pasteurella multocida* is isolated.

Another bacteria, *Bartonella henselae*, is the causative organism of "cat scratch disease" and can be transmitted via a scratch or a bite from an infected cat or cat flea. Approximately 30% of Australian cats are bacteraemic with this organism, meaning the bacteria is present circulating in the blood stream.

In healthy individuals, infection with this bacteria is usually asymptomatic or a self-limiting lymphadenitis (inflammation of the lymph nodes in the affected area) but can be a life threatening disseminated infection in an immunocompromised host.





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Your agreement and commitment to the Animal Management Plan

All participants bringing a Cat into the show must complete and return this page and by doing so it confirms that you have read, understood and will abide by all conditions of the Animal Management Plan (AMP). It also confirms that you are responsible for any and all Cat/s that you intend to exhibit as part of the 2022 Cat Lovers Show.

You also agree to abide by any and all warnings and directions given directly or via signage and announcements posted by CLS or its representatives, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, authorised event staff, security personnel, and other authorised staff, and/or their appointed officers in the interests of maintaining animal welfare, public safety and occupational health and safety, and accept that failure to comply to these and other legislative requirements may result in the demand for removal of dog/s from site, and/or being reported to relevant authorities.

All persons bringing Cats into the event must remain fully compliant with every condition of the AMP at all times. It is your responsibility to ensure that all staff on your stand are aware of and comply with the entire Animal Management Plan and to ensure that they have read and understand their obligations and responsibilities during the show.

By signing below, I..... acknowledge that I have read and agree to all the terms, conditions and regulations stated in all 8 pages of the 2022 Cat Lovers Show Animal Management Plan for participants.

Company or Participant name.....

Stand number / Stage Name:.....

Name of nominated competent person(s) in effective control:

.....

Signed.....

Date.....

Signed agreements (only this last page is needed) must be returned to CLS.

Return the AMP via:

Scan and email to: Trudi@eventmi.com.au