

Moscow, Russia – 4th & 5th July 2020
Edelweiss Cat Club – trial virtual live CFA show

Important note: This was trial virtual live CFA show – the show was NOT scored – NO points registered for any cat!

The concept:

Edelweiss Cat club got the unique opportunity to represents CFA at a virtual multi system cat event called “Summer Cat Show”. The concept for the Summer Cat Show 2020 was taken from the very successful 'Winter Cat show' in Moscow 2019. Five cat organisations were invited to participate in the trial run of the very first virtual multi cat organisation competition, while WCF, AFC (Russia), CFA and ICU (Russia) finally were present at the event. The main goal of Summer Cat show 2020 was to see the technical as well non-technical issues of a multi-tier live video conference with different actors and their new roles. The event organizer was in charge of the technical setup and provided multiple technicians and main video conference moderators.

CFA judges – Controller:

Kit Fung from HongKong GMT+8

Irina Kharchenko from Russia GMT+3

Kenny Currle from Virginia GMT-4

Kathy Black from Oklahoma GMT-5

It is called a virtual CFA show, but there must be real work duties to fulfil! Please honor the extra commitment of our US CFA judges Kathy Black and Kenny Currle who had a real early morning shift due time difference of (-7) and (-8) hours, when the live video conference started at 10:00am local Moscow, Russia time zone. The judges were in a new setup - the judges no longer can handle the cats themselves! Still the judges demand to see, to know, to control all details of the cats - as we expect them to do. The CFA judges are CFA judges and they know their duties towards the cat owners, the audience and the CFA rules & standards. To find the quality of the cat only seen on a computer screen, without physical contact, still demands to see all angels of the cat while sitting in front of a computer with headphones on is a complete new situation! It was a long day too for our CFA judge Kit Fung who took the CFA place in the TOP winners judge panel to finds the all organization winners!

Clerk – Moderator:

This virtual ring setup pushes the ring clerk into a new situation too! Maybe happy no cages to clean the ring-clerk needs to perform the new role of a ring-moderator. Less physical work with the hands - but still multitasking talents are required to translate judge's instructions to the exhibitor at live speed while listening to the exhibitor. The show moderator tries to help by finding the next cat, better say next connection to establish and the virtual clerk finds himself again in a major key position to make a CFA show, a CFA ring run smooth and perfect!

The interaction between a CFA judge and the cat exhibitor is much more intense and exclusive on a verbal dimension, it is simply essential that the judge and exhibitor communicate in the same language. Not only the cat body parts need to be

known but also to present the cat in a specific position as well as to execute detailed instructions to show the thickening of the fur or the flexibility of the cat's tail. The ring moderator is in full charge to translate different languages, guide the exhibitor with helpful commands while the judges are expecting to see this required specific attribute of the cat on his screen. At a virtual ring with simple video conferencing, the absence of cat numbers, absence of ribbons, only one cat at specific time on the screen, only spoken language as tool to direct exhibitor, judge and to provide information to the audience is a total new job description for a ring clerk!

Exhibitor – Cat handler:

Beside the clerk who became moderator also the cat exhibitor runs through a transformation: now the cat exhibitor himself has to handle the cat, keep the cat in the focus of the camera, while listening to instructions. The exhibitor no longer can sit & relax in front of the ring and keep watching - now the exhibitor herself / himself are in the camera focus too! There is a reason it is called a CFA show: to a real show the exhibitors care very well about the dress to wear, ladies have light makeup - the same is important in a real live video presentation. Before the show begins the exhibitors are welcome to think about the location they choose to present their cats - the kitchen might be a clean & cozy place but the background contains too many objects for distraction. Details matter - the cat will be seen most of the time in front of the exhibitor with the exhibitors hand visible - clean hands and plain clothes are the judges' new favorites!

Feedback - Outlook:

With the current COVID-19 situation at different states in different countries an uniform competition with classic CFA shows looks to be a faraway hope. Live virtual CFA shows - live judged CFA shows with virtual presence of judges, club officers and cat exhibitors could be refreshing alternative events at current time. We, Edelweiss Cat club, keep working with local event planners, regional director Pam Delabar and CFA board to further develop CFA and to keep the CFA community strong and united.

Kathy Black:

I enjoyed the live feed to evaluate the cats. Image was difficult with some of the cats - grainy or the owner was too quick in movements. Appreciate the club having me judge in this new format.

Kenny Currie:

Wonderful show, I've always admired the Russian involvement and cat fancy and has a new venue this Club did a great job. Thank you for having me invited.

Kit Fung:

Now your show is high tech and interactive - in future, it's good for some people they can't attend the show hall but they like to show.

Irina Kharchenko:

This was my first experience to take part in a virtual live CFA show - the technical level was great - the live videos of the cats were at high quality. It is a true sad unusual situation not to feel the cat with own hands & an exciting moment to see when the breeders handling their cats correctly. Breeders liked it - this is most important - I hope CFA can learn & improve for future virtual live shows.

Edelweiss Cat club, R9
Ipatova Alla, Gfeller Natalia, Gfeller Reto

CFA specific application would massive increase the 'CFA feeling' - virtual ring to see cats of same color class at same time - 'click' to hang graphic-ribbons visible for all exhibitors - graphic background for judge and even more important for exhibitors for true uniform presentation.