

# So, you want to be a judge? Follow me on the journey!

Teresa Sweeney

We have some very exciting news to share with our wonderful members of CFA. The Judging Program Committee (JPC) has updated the requirements for the Judging Program. We not only have requirements for breeders but have expanded requirements to exhibitors (non-breeding individuals) with extensive exhibiting experience.

Applying to the judging program is a journey. Follow the high-level requirements below to start your journey. Meet and exceed those requirements in preparation for submitting your application. Start your journey by joining a club, obtaining your clerking license, and keep exhibiting cats. We recognize that some of you may be just starting and some may be further along in meeting the requirements. The JPC wants to provide awareness of what it takes to get to the finish line of submitting your application! There is no time like the present to take the first steps that lead to the goal while enjoying your journey of meeting the requirements.

So, what are the requirements to become a CFA Judge you ask? Below is a high-level overview:

- Hold a Master Clerk License **or** have a current Clerking License and pass a test on show mechanics and rings management.
- Have a registered cattery name for at least five years **or** provide proof of active CFA exhibiting for seven years.
- Have breeding or exhibiting experience:
  - **Breeding** - Five years of breeding experience within 10 years immediately prior to the application.
  - **Exhibiting** - Seven years of active exhibiting withing 10 years immediately prior to the application and:
    - Pass a course on Breeding Management
    - Provide a Grand Certificate for your first Grand Champion or Grand Premier
    - Exhibit a minimum of 15 cats to CFAS Grand Champion or Grand Premier Status
- Be a member of a CFA Club and have no less than five years being an active member **or** three years of show production within the prior three consecutive years prior to application.
- Provide details of Custodial Care and Exhibiting Experience.
- Have “Breed Focused Experience’ in the form of one or more of the following:
  - Cattery Visits
  - Independent breed handling at a show
  - Judge supervised breed handling

- Online breed specific classes

With all the changes made to the program, it allows many more CFA members to meet the requirements. If you are interested in learning more, contact the new Recruitment Chair, Teresa Sweeney at [tsignore@att.net](mailto:tsignore@att.net). We want to hear from YOU!