

CFA'S SUGGESTED BEST PRACTICES FOR THE WELL-BEING OF CLUBS AND PARTICIPANTS AT CFA EVENTS

This document reflects the fact that different regions, states and countries have had widely disparate responses to the pandemic, from complete lockdown to business as usual. As a result, the document does not mandate any specific containment methods, such as mask wearing, and stresses that clubs follow "state, local and facility guidelines."

CFA supports each club's informed decision to reschedule, postpone or cancel their respective events, as well as supporting clubs ready to hold events in locations that are open and permit gatherings. As events resume across the country, people need to feel safe while enjoying their cat fancy activities. CFA urges clubs to take appropriate precautions for the benefit of their participants. Events need to be held in a manner that emphasizes the safety of participants and event officials over efficiency.

The following is a list of suggested best practices that may be helpful when planning or attending a cat show. Show locations, facilities and dates will differ. With a situation that is continually evolving, it is up to the clubs to determine the guidelines that best fit their event. In order to inform participants, specific guidelines established by the club or region should be published in the show flyer, club website and/or advertising, and posted on signage at their event.

General Practices

1. Clubs, officials and participants are required to follow state, local and facility guidelines that apply to the area and site where the event is held.
2. Practice social distancing consistent with guidelines in effect at the time of the event. Avoid congregating to the extent possible.
3. Consider wearing masks when in close proximity to others. Clubs should provide masks if desired for officials, judges and volunteers.
4. Consider wearing disposable or washable gloves.
5. Wash hands as frequently as possible. Have disinfecting spray at bathroom facilities for people to spray door handles (or anything else they touch). Consider hiring bathroom attendants to maintain maximum cleanliness.
6. Avoid shaking hands, hugging, or other physical contact.
7. Avoid touching cats that are not your responsibility.
8. Avoid sharing pens, pencils and cat toys – bring your own.
9. Disinfect surfaces in common use areas as often as possible (tables, chairs, doorknobs, etc.). Clubs and facilities may consider not providing chairs, and encourage exhibitors to bring their own portable chair.

10. Meals - Avoid or stagger group lunches/dinners if possible. Hospitality areas should avoid community items such as salt and pepper shakers, condiments, creamers, etc. Participants should consider bringing their own lunch/drinks.
11. Vendors should follow retail guidelines for the area.
12. Parking – Park with sufficient distance between vehicles if possible. If there is a parking fee, ask exhibitors to bring exact change.
13. Clubs should work with facilities to have as many entrance/exit points open as possible. Hand sanitizer should be available at every entrance to the site and at multiple locations within the site.

Event Practices

1. **Show Set-Up.** The size and layout of a show hall will determine the opportunities available to clubs.
 - Separate the rings if possible; otherwise, set-up buffers along adjoining sides to provide separation.
 - Avoid placing stewards and rosette racks next to those in neighboring rings.
 - Consider traffic patterns in the rings – one direction for cats entering and one for cats exiting.
 - Consider setting up cages with doors in the front and back (if available), and have cats placed in cages from the back of the ring.
 - Clerks and stewards should sanitize their hands frequently and consider wearing a face mask and gloves.
 - Clubs should consider not providing chairs. Private chairs should not be placed in higher traffic areas
3. **Scheduling.** With the efforts to make shows safer, the event may take longer. Modified scheduling may assist with congestion and provide a better experience for exhibitors. Work with the show scheduler to create a schedule that assists with the situation.
 - If possible, schedule each group (Kittens, Championship, Premiership, Household Pet) to be judged at the same time of day (morning, noon, afternoon), and allow exhibitors the option to leave for the day when judging of their exhibit(s) is completed.
 - As always, clubs may consider implementing entry limits.

4. **Exhibitors.**
 - Prepare to be self-sufficient: bring sanitizer, personal use masks and gloves, food and beverages if allowed by the facility.
 - Know your cat's number and exact ring before going to the ring.
 - Do not congregate at the ring.
 - While showing your cat, maintain social distances with other exhibitors.
5. **Benching.** Design the layout of benching areas and spaces to comply with the social distancing guidelines in place at the time. Marking off individual benching spaces is encouraged.
6. **Judging.** Judging is where the ability to socially distance becomes challenging. Taking care to protect the parties will require a concerted effort between the judge, clerk, steward and exhibitors.
 - Judges should consider wearing face masks if otherwise not required.
 - All classes should be called in catalog order to provide order and efficiency.
 - Judges must practice ring awareness, be conscious of spacing, and take appropriate measures to avoid crowding of exhibitors.
 - Judges should sanitize hands after examining each entry. Re-examining of cats should be minimized.
 - Judges are encouraged to personally pull ribbons and rosettes for placements. Coupled with frequent hand sanitizing, this will help mitigate contact exposure.
 - Equipment used to evaluate cats (table, pole, toys) must be sanitized after each use.

Participants are expected to follow country, state, local government, facility and event guidelines. Clubs should be prepared to enforce the guidelines that apply to their event. Show management should assist as always in an advisory capacity.

These Suggested Best Practices may be periodically updated. Please check CFA website for the most up-to-date version.

CDC - How to Protect Yourself and Others: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

For questions or additional suggestions, please contact Central Office.