



## Cat Showmanship

The goal of cat showmanship is to demonstrate your speaking abilities, presentation skills, as well as your overall knowledge on cats. You will be judged on your appearance, attitude, ability to answer questions about cats, and how you handle the cat. You will need to keep yourself poised, neat, and remain professional at all times. Stay calm yet alert and always be mindful of the judge as well as other participants. To learn more about how to show cats find project members and leaders to further assist you.

### Handling Cats

Cat showmanship requires a harness that should fit the cat in a comfortable manner, not slip off, and be clean. A clean, light weight leash will also be needed. Never wrap the leash around your wrist or hand, rather keep it looped over your wrist. When carrying the cat you should hold it in the safety carry. The safety carry involves holding the cat so one hand is grasping the forelegs with one or two fingers between the front legs while your palm supports the chest. The hind legs and rump of the cat should rest on your hip, under your elbow, or hip with your other hand grasping the hind legs in the same manner as the forelegs. Hold your cat in the safety carry to the judges table when called to allow the judge to examine you, your cat, and the interactions between you and your cat. Be sure to keep control of your cat and have the leash looped around your wrist at all times.

### Posing & Examination of Cats

Once you reach the judge's table, place your cat down in a standing or sitting position. You will present the cat's head shape, followed by the body type, coat texture, and tail to the judge. Depending on whether your cat has a long or round face will depend on how you present the face. A round face will be held in an oval shape with both hands while a long face will be held in a triangle shape. Body type of the cat will also determine the presentation of the cat. If your cat has a long body, try to stretch the body to emphasis the length. If the cat has a cobby body type, show the cat in a blocked position to show its compact body. Depending on your cat's tail, run your hand from the base of the tail to the tip of the tail to demonstrate your cat's tail. When showing the coat texture place your cat so the side of your cat is presented to the judge. Run your hand against the hair and back again to lay it flat. Next the judge will examine the cat. Face your cat between you and the judge so the cat is facing the judge. You will present the cat, show the mouth, nose, eyes, ears, paws and claws, and grooming. You may be asked to hold your animal or place it back in the cage during the interview part of showmanship. Face the judge and answers all questions while also continuing to communicate and talk throughout the entire presentation and examination.

**To contact an expert in your area, visit [msue.anr.msu.edu/experts](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/experts) or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464)**

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## Showmanship Questions and Answers

### Questions:

1. How many breeds does the CFA recognize?
2. What are house cats judged on?
3. What are characteristics of a cobby body?
4. How many bones does a cat have?
5. How old is a kitten when it opens its eyes?
6. What is the normal temperature of a cat?
7. What causes feline leukemia virus (FeLV)?
8. What state has rabies not been reported in?
9. What amino acid is important for heart function, vision, and reproduction?
10. What is a common problem in cats that may also lead to diabetes?

### Answers:

1. 42
2. Physical condition, cleanliness, temperament, presentation, and appearance
3. Short-legged, compact, and broad-chested
4. 230
5. 7-10 days
6. 100.5-102.5 °F
7. RNA retrovirus
8. Hawaii
9. Taurine
10. Obesity

