

SUGGESTED BEST PRACTICES FOR THE WELL-BEING OF CLUBS AND PARTICIPANTS AT ACFA 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 all “state, local, and facility guidelines.” However, the ACFA Board does ask that every club considering or hosting a show follow all those guidelines that are reasonable for the show location.

ACFA 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. ACFA 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. Event management also must understand and support individual rights but recognize no one has the right to force their respective decisions on others.

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 guideline 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.

MANDATORY PRACTICES

All attendees (exhibitors, judges, show management, clerks, spectators, and vendors) are expected to follow the mandatory requirements, local, county, state, national, and event facility regulations and guidelines. Those entering the show hall are welcome to wear a mask. As always, we respect everyone’s right to protect their health, and to do so without fear on intimidation or derogatory comments or actions.

1. Clubs, officials, and participants are required to follow the ACFA mandatory requirements, state, local, and facility guidelines that apply to the area and site where the event is held.
2. Clubs must implement entry limits that can be supported by social distancing and the size of the show hall.
3. Clubs are required to publish their intent to allow spectators in the show hall if they elect to open the show to spectators.
 - a. In regard to exhibitors, this communication must be published on the show flyer, club website, any club social media, advertising, and the entry confirmation sent to exhibitors.
 - b. In regard to judges, or other show officials, this communication must be included in the judge’s invitation.
 - c. If the status of a show (mask vs no mask or spectators vs no spectators) changes during the lead up timeline to the show, the club is required to contact all contracted judges to ensure they know of the change. Note: A judge may withdraw their intent to judge and is allowed to do so since the environment for judging has changed. The club is required to contact all exhibitors who entered their event and understand the exhibitor may elect to withdraw from the show and receive a full refund of their entry fees. All vendors and other contracted groups involved with the show must be notified as well. The club is welcome to notify other social media or email lists and let the public know of the change as well.
4. Vendors should follow retail guidelines for the area.

RECOMMENDED GENERAL PRACTICES

1. Avoid congregating to the extent possible.
2. Wash hands as frequently as possible. Have disinfecting spray at the bathroom facilities for people to use.
3. Hand sanitizer should be available at every entrance to the site and at multiple locations within the show hall.
4. It is recommended that individuals not fully vaccinated wear a mask,

RECOMMENDED EVENT PRACTICES

1. **Show Set-Up.** The size and layout of a show hall will determine the opportunities available to the club.
 - 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 adjoining rings.
 - Consider traffic patterns in the ring – one direction for cats entering and exiting the ring.
 - If available, consider setting up cages with doors in the front and the back, and have cats placed in cages from the back of the ring.
 - Clerks and stewards should sanitize their hands frequently and consider wearing a facemask and gloves.
 - Clubs should consider not providing chairs in the judging ring. Chairs should not be placed in higher traffic areas. However, where space permits, chairs can be provided in rings if they are spaced apart from each other.
2. **Benching.** Design the layout of the benching areas and spaces to comply with the local, city, state, national or facility guidelines in place at the time.

The licensed Club, its show managers, club offices, and show committee members are required to follow the ACFA Mandatory requirements as well as any local, city, county, state, national, or event facility regulations. Where standards differ, the club MUST adhere to the more restrictive requirements.

Show managers are responsible for the enforcement of all ACFA mandatory requirements, local, city, county, state, national, and event facility requirements on the day(s) of the show.

These minimum requirements will be updated periodically, with the most up-to-date version available on the ACFA website Forms page.

For more information refer to “How to Protect Yourself and Others”: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html> and “COVID-19 Considerations for Animal Activities at Fairs, Shows, and Other Events”: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/events-animal-activities.html>

For questions or additional suggestions, please contact the Central Office.

American Cat Fanciers Association

***** CAUTION *****

COVID-19 ATTENDEE ADVISORY

- By entering this show/event, you acknowledge that you and anyone with you are risking potential exposure to COVID-19 by being in any place where people are present.
- ACFA reminds you that there are health and safety risks in every activity.
- Please protect your own health and safety by following national, local, and event location guidelines.