

CFA-YOUTH FELINE EDUCATION PROGRAM

PRESENTATION TIPS FOR THE YFEP EXHIBITOR

YFEP presentations are interactions between the judge and the young exhibitor, reflecting the exhibitor's speaking ability, presentation skills and knowledge of cats. Although the presentation is a dialogue exchange, neither the judge/judge designee nor the exhibitor should have free range to talk at length on any topic.

The judge's official purpose is to bring out the finest qualities of the exhibitor through questioning and guided modeling.

The YFEP exhibitor should be able to demonstrate their abilities in handling and presenting a cat, and in fielding questions relating to the cat, its health and breeding, and the general rules and regulations of The Cat Fanciers' Association. Exhibitors are expected to present themselves properly, conduct themselves with poise, and at all times display sportsmanship and good conduct.

Although the judge is judging the exhibitor, his attention is to be focused on the presentation of the cat, and there should be no familiarity between the exhibitor and the judge. YFEP exhibitors must use restraint so as to not appear to be influencing the judge by use of their cat or the cat's name.

The cat must be appropriate for the abilities of the YFEP exhibitor. Experienced exhibitors competing should be able to handle all phases of the care and grooming of his/her cat. Younger and/or inexperienced YFEP exhibitors may require some assistance with show preparation grooming. **HANDLERS MUST BE ABLE TO CONTROL THEIR CATS AT ALL TIMES.** Any handler who cannot control his or her cat will be excused by the judge.

Appearance and Conduct: YFEP exhibitors should be clean, neat and well groomed. They should wear clothing that is comfortable to present the cat in and appropriate for a cat show. Clothing should not distract, limit, or hinder the judge's view of the presentation of the cat.

The YFEP exhibitor should groom their cat as he would for the regular show ring. Cats should **NOT** be groomed in the ring to gain attention.

YFEP exhibitors should appear confident, prepared, business-like, and attentive. They should be courteous to both the judge and other participants. Exhibitors

should be alert to the demands of their cats. They should use firm but thoughtful hands in controlling and presenting their cats. They should not be impatient or heavy-handed.

YFEP exhibitors will be judged on their ability to present their cats in the same way the judge would properly present the cat in the regular ring. They will also be judged on their on their ability to make their individual cat look its best. During all parts of the competition exhibitors should handle their cats in a quiet, smooth manner. The handler should strive to make the cat stand out as the most important part of a team effort. Participants should concentrate on the cat and not on the judge, but always be aware of what is going on in the ring.

There are many ways that participants can advance their knowledge about YFEP Showmanship outside of the ring. Obtain a copy of the breed standards for you breed and learn it thoroughly. Seek the advice of breeders of your breed to learn about presentation, grooming and general cat care. Read books on cat care, and on other breeds, and obtain pamphlets from CFA on breeds and the care of cats. Observe the regular rings, and ask questions on presentations when the judge is free. All of these will enhance the performance of the YFEP exhibitor in the YFEP Breed/Short Talk presentations.

Presentation Tips for Division for One and Two

In these divisions, the YFEP exhibitor is learning how to handle both himself and his cat in a public setting. Judges and Regional Representatives should be sensitive to the variety of comfort levels that these participants may have and conduct the presentation accordingly. These presentations should be fun and enriching experience for the participant – not something to be dreaded.

Presentation Tips for Divisions Three and Four

The next levels are intended to be more formal than Division One and Two levels, and it is important that both the judge and the exhibitor maintain a respectful distance. At this level, the participant presents his own cat and should be able to describe the strength and weaknesses of that cat when compared to the breed standard. The exhibitor should be able to directly relate that particular cat's features to the standard and be able to explain not only whether the feature is correct for the breed, but also how much weight the standard places on it. The emphasis is on the handler in the presentation, not on the quality of the cat. The participant should strive to show the cat to its best, while also verbalizing the areas of the cat that do and do not meet the breed standard. The participant should be

developing a discerning handling method that allows him to access the cat in a smooth flowing manner that moves with the cat's natural movements.

Sample Questions for the YFEP Exhibitor

YFEP members are questioned on basic care/health of the cat, and basic breed information. No more than five questions should be asked during a breed or Shot Talk presentation. The judge needs to be thoughtful and not ask some questions of the younger YFEP members.

Sample Questions for Division One and Two

1. Why do you bathe a cat?
2. Why should you clip a cat's nails?
3. How often do you feed our cat?
4. Does your cat stay indoors, and why?
5. How would you explain to someone who has never heard of your breed what it looks like?
6. Where does your breed come from?
7. Do all cats need vaccinations? Why do our cats get vaccinated?
8. Do you train your cat to be a show cat? How?
9. How does a cat become a Grand Champion? A Grand Premier?
10. How does a cat become a Champion? A Premier?
11. How does a cat make a final?
12. Why do judges spray the table after each cat is on it?
13. What does a ring steward do?
14. Demonstrate how the judge will examine the head of your cat?
15. Demonstrate how the judge will examine the body of your cat?
16. What is the judge looking for when they look at your cat's head?
17. What is the judge looking for when they look at your cat's body?
18. What is the difference between a pet and a show cat in your breed?
19. How do you prepare your breed for a show? (The exhibitor should answer by explaining how often the cat is bathed, what else is done such as trimming ear hair, face hair, clipping claws and any other preparation being used.)
20. Explain how this breed is groomed before the ring?
21. Why do you like your breed? What makes it interesting or unique to you?
22. How old is your cat?
23. Can you list the vaccinations your cat has had?
24. What breed is your cat?
25. If your cat is a Household Pet, where did you get your cat?

26. If your cat has a pattern, tell me what pattern your cat has?
27. What color is your cat?
28. What do you feed your cat?
29. Does your cat have companion cat?
30. What is your cat's favorite toy?
31. Do you like showing your cat?
32. Does your cat like to be shown?
33. Have you taken your cat to school or anywhere other than the vet? If so did you talk about your cat and how to take care of it?
34. Does someone help you take care of your cat?

Sample Questions for Divisions Three and Four

1. Should cats be neutered/spayed, and why?
2. What vaccinations does a cat need?
3. How many points are this breed's head (or coat, color, etc.)?
4. What are the most important attributes of this breed?
5. Explain what a Regional Award is? Explain what a National Award is?
6. Explain what the "Distinguished Merit" title means (or grand champion, etc.)?
7. Why do people breed pedigree cats?
8. Why do people show pedigree cats?
9. Explain the role of a responsible breeder/
10. Some people don't understand why we house multiple cats. How would you explain the need for this?
11. Should all cats Grand?
12. Should all cats be shows?
13. Who should make the decision that allows a cat to grand?
14. What does involvement in an organization like CFA teach young people like yourself?
15. Explain what sportsmanship means to you?

