



WCF Animal Welfare Commission

Our perspectives and commitments to Animal Welfare

Why an Animal Welfare Commission in WCF ?

Why now, and what for?

To safeguard the future and the diversity of our breeds, protect our cat shows, and adapt to a changing feline world, the World Cat Federation (WCF) must actively work to safeguard animal welfare. The Animal Welfare Commission was created to build this constructive framework – bridging science, experience, and responsibility together with our members.

A journey started in 2024

Established in 2024, the WCF Animal Welfare Commission has begun its work through initial educational efforts, including two webinars and regular newsletters. A comprehensive review of historical and current regulations for pedigree cats has conducted and practical guidelines for breeding best practices and cat show welfare are being developed as reference tools for everyone.



Educational efforts

Two webinars and regular newsletters



Review and research

Historical and current regulations for pedigree cats



Practical guidelines

Development of breeding best practices and cat show welfare



A growing foundation

For benefit of all WCF members and cat owners

Our roles

EDUCATE

- Focuses on providing recommendations and guidance over restrictions
- Providing accessible knowledge on feline health, husbandry, stress reduction at shows, breeding, and welfare – empowering our members with useful supportive tools.

COLLABORATE

- Working closely through a collaborative approach with judges and pedigree commission and show commission, following overall guidance and directives of the WCF Board to ensure a unified vision

PROTECT

- Navigate regulations and defend our feline heritage through a balanced advocate
- The commission helps the WCF stay compliant with evolving national and international laws, while actively defending the interests of our breeders and heritage when disproportionate or unrealistic restrictions are proposed.

SUPPORT

- Listening and supporting breeders, clubs, and judges with provisions of evidence-based resources.
- To be truly effective, it warmly welcomes field feedback, questions, and ideas from the entire WCF community to address real-world needs

REPRESENT

- Representing WCF at the World Cat Congress (WCC)
- A global impact: the commission includes representatives serving within the World Cat Congress Animal Welfare Commission. This international dimension elevates our work beyond individual federations, fostering global unity to defend breed diversity, and responsible pedigree cat breeding worldwide.

MAINTAIN

- Strengthening and maintaining WCF's credibility and public standing
- Proactive ethics: As societal standards evolve, having an active welfare focus demonstrates our proactive commitment to cat health, helping protect the federation's reputation and credibility worldwide

PREVENT

- Prevent extremes by supporting healthy breeding
- Constructive expertise: by offering scientific and ethical insights, the commission can help guide discussions around breed standards to prevent health issues linked to extreme traits while supporting breeder's dedication.

CONNECT

- Building bridges with external institutions
- Representing our values: facing increasingly complex animal protection laws globally, a specialized welfare body helps ensure WCF's voice and experience are constructively represented before legislative bodies and veterinary institutions.

ADVANCE

- Enhance and safeguard the cat show experience
- Comfort and protection: by gradually refining cat show conditions, transport guidelines, and handling practices, we can protect our cat shows and ensure WCF events remain safe, positive, and stress-free environments for all participants.

Protecting the future together

By combining scientific knowledge, practical experience, education, dialogue, and collaboration, we can help ensure that WCF remains a place where responsible breeding, healthy cats, breed diversity, and positive cat shows can thrive together.

Commission members

A diversified and experienced team

Behind the work of the WCF Animal Welfare Commission are people who share a deep respect for cats and a desire to make a meaningful difference. To carry out this long-term effort, the commission gathers a balanced panel of passionate individuals including veterinarians, international judges, and long-standing federation figures – all committed to responsible pedigree cat breeding. In this special feature, our members share what animal welfare means to them, what inspires their work, and the hopes they carry for the future of our cats and our community.



"Responsible breeding is the cornerstone of pure pedigree cats and our strongest defense against hidden, profit-driven breeding. Authentic purebred cats stand out not only by their official pedigree, but also through proper early socialization and familiarization. Today, as for years, the WCF drives continuous action for ethical breeding—notably through its "Breeder of Excellence" seminars. The WCF Animal Welfare Commission proudly supports dedicated breeders who prioritize health, quality, genetic diversity, and animal well-being. In an evolving regulatory landscape, cat shows remain essential hubs for expert evaluation, sound selection, and public awareness—securing a sustainable future for our cats."

Fabrice CALMES

Chairman – WCF Animal Welfare Commission
Member of the WCC Legislation Commission
International WCF Allbreed Judge
Press Officer | Master's in Sustainability & CSR



"As a veterinarian who works daily with cat breeders, shelters, and owners, I see and deal with real medical and welfare challenges firsthand. I believe my experience and knowledge can contribute to promoting healthy and responsible breeding as one of the fundamental principles of WCF. I have also been breeding Maine Coons since 2008. Cats and everything related to them are not just my profession and passion – they are way of my life and protecting them is my main commitment."

Ines Gulic, dr.vet.med.

Member – WCF Animal Welfare Commission
Member of CSAVS, FECAVA, WSAVA, SCIVAC, iCatCare,
Member of WCC Health and Welfare Commission
Breeding Commission in KMFC Felis Croatia



"Love for cats drives responsible breeders, judges, clubs and federations. Protecting this miraculous creature, the cat, is perceived differently by governmental and non-governmental organizations, moreover, by all those who claim to love the cat. Finding a way between Scilla and Haribda, a way to join efforts in making cat lives better can be implemented with the help of WCF Animal Welfare Commission. My personal strengths lie in educating people of different countries and languages and using linguistic skills in bringing together ideas of cat welfare and standard beauty."

Dr Irina Sadovnikova

Advisor of WCF Animal Welfare Commission
Former Siberian breeder and standards co-author,
WCF Diamond Judge,
Retired Head of Interpreters Training Departments of English and German



"It is a great honor for me to support the WCF community in the future as an Animal Welfare Advisor, working for the well-being of the cats living among us. "The protection and welfare of animals is not just a duty, but a cornerstone of a civilized society." I see each cat as a unique, sentient being. My work is guided by empathy, patience and unconditional respect for the dignity of cats. What is my main mission in this position? Support: Using my experience as a breeder and judge, I help WCF breeders ensure that their cats enjoy the highest possible level of physical and mental well-being. I form a bridge between legal regulations and everyday, conscientious care. I facilitate and simplify communication between breeders, owners, exhibitors, clubs and authorities. My goal is to create a community and culture where animal welfare is a natural priority for all of us. Let's work together to ensure that WCF breeders excel when it comes to breeding healthy, well-socialized, and breed-standard cats."

Kálmán Éva

Advisor WCF Animal Welfare Commission
WCF Int. All-Breed Judge
Economic & Animal Husbandry Engineer



"Love for cats knows no borders, and neither should our commitment to their welfare. Regardless of country, culture, breed, or background, every cat deserves a healthy, safe and good quality of life. As a representative from Asia, I hope to help bring together different perspectives and experiences within the global cat community. Our challenges may differ from one region to another, but our responsibility toward the cats we care for is shared. With my background in medical science and animal biology, I believe in promoting evidence-based approaches to health and welfare while also making scientific knowledge practical and accessible to all. Education, open dialogue, and cooperation are essential if we want to turn knowledge into meaningful change. I believe the strongest progress comes when we listen to one another, respect different experiences, and work together toward a common goal: putting the well-being of cats at the heart of everything we do."

Sirada Oratanachai (Jan)

Advisor of WCF Animal Welfare Commission
President of WCF Thailand by FUR (TH-0386)
Animal Biology Graduate from The University of Queensland, Australia
Medical Science Graduate from Chulabhorn International College of Medicine, Thailand



"Having spent over 15 years rescuing and caring for street dogs and cats in India, I have learned that animal welfare is not just about words, but about compassion, responsibility, and taking action. I believe every animal deserves dignity, protection, and a life free from unnecessary suffering. Through my work with the WCF, I hope to help strengthen animal welfare awareness and encourage meaningful change for cats worldwide."

Kelly Johnson

WCF Secretariat, delegated by the Board
Animal Activist
Owner - Blacky's BnB, Dog & Cat Boarding, India

Together, for Every Cat

At the heart of animal welfare is something beautifully simple: every cat deserves to be understood, respected, and cared for throughout its life. Our perspectives may come from different countries, professions, and experiences, but our purpose brings us together. Meaningful progress can only happen when we work together – with other WCF Commissions, judges, clubs, breeders, exhibitors, veterinarians, researchers, and organizations that share our commitment to cats. By opening dialogue, sharing knowledge, listening to different perspectives, and learning from one another, we can turn compassion into meaningful action and build a stronger culture of welfare throughout our community. The future of cat welfare belongs to all of us. Together, let us create a world where every cat is not only valued and protected, but given the opportunity to live a healthy, safe, and fulfilling life – to truly thrive.