

World Cat Federation



Rules for Stewards – Judge's pupils - Judges

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Table of changes

Date of change	Concerned article	Short description of change
01.02.2011	Judge's pupil certificates	In a country divided into regions, a judge's pupil certificate from another continent is obligatory
01.01.2009	Certificates of judge's pupils	Exotic Shorthair also required for LH
	Examination panel	Deleted: at least one WCF/FIFe exam
	Course of the examination	SLH, SH: minimum 35 cats present LH, SOSH: minimum 20 cats present
	Practical examination	SLH, LH: minimum to judge 30 cats LH, SOSH: minimum to judge 20 cats

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Rules for the activity as steward as precondition for the admission to the judge's examination

1. The applicant will have completed ten assignments as a steward at national or international shows at home and abroad over a period of at least two years. He should have a valid tetanus vaccination. The activity as steward will be certified in form of steward certificates, which contain information on the cat breeds, which have been carried each time, as well as the aptitude for this job. The certificate will be signed by the judge to whom the candidate was assigned as a steward. Merely carrying notes with numbers does not entitle to a steward's certificate.

2. During his activity as a steward the applicant is to help the judge in accordance with the following rules: He has to wear a coat and has to take care of a careful disinfection of the table of the judge, the cages, his coat and his hands.

He must be able to take the cat correctly out of the cage.

He is not allowed to leave the judge before the end of the judging and has to be available for the Best in Show.

He is not allowed to give any comment, whether it is his opinion of the carried cat nor its identity.

He is not allowed to inform the exhibitors of the results of the judgement, except in case the judge allows it expressly and/or his help with translation is required.

He must inform the Head Steward if a cat is absent.

He is never allowed to present his own cat to the judge. In this case a substitute has to be appointed as steward by the organiser.

3. The steward has to be at least 16 years old at the beginning of his activities.

Preconditions for the activity as judge's pupil

1. Experience in Breeding

The applicant must have had breeding practice for at least 2 years at the time of the beginning of his activity as a judge's pupil.

2. Knowledge in language

The official languages for writing judge's reports, for the training seminars and international conferences are German, English and French.

The applicant must have knowledge of at least one of the other official judging languages, besides his capability of his native language, including spelling, grammar and punctuation.

3. Membership in a WCF-club

At the beginning of his activity as a judge's pupil the applicant must have been a member of a WCF-club for at least 2 years without interruption.

4. Application for admission to the activity as judge's pupil

To be admitted to the training the candidate has to write an application in a free form to the club whereof he is a member. Certificates for his activities as a steward, for his breeding practice and his membership in a WCF-club must be enclosed.

The hair category, for which the judge qualification should be acquired has also to be indicated. The training takes place only en bloc for every complete hair category, where the applicant can choose between

- Longhair (LH)
- Semi-longhair (SLH)
- Shorthair (SH)
- Siamese/Oriental Shorthair (SOSH)

Simultaneous training in two hair categories is possible, however only in the combinations Longhair with Semi-Longhair and Shorthair with Siamese/OSH.

The decision on the application has to be sent to the applicant by his club at least 4 weeks after receipt. If the application is rejected, valid reasons have to be given. In this case the applicant must have the opportunity to repeat the application to be admitted to the training.

5. Preliminary Examination

The applicant is admitted automatically to the preliminary examination for the career as a judge when he gets a positive decision on the application.

The preliminary examination is theoretical and contains 25 answers, which have to be given written, to the questions of the catalogue of the preliminary examination, of which 10 are of general nature and 15 refer to the chosen hair category.

The selection of the questions for applicants for two hair categories contains also 10 questions of general nature as well as 15 questions to each hair category chosen.

The preliminary examination is held by the responsible body of the club whereof the applicant is a member.

The preliminary examination lasts at most 60 (one hair category) or 90 (two hair categories) minutes. The examinee must have a separate place which he is not allowed to leave for the duration of the exam.

The preliminary examination is to be regarded as passed if the examinee has answered at least 75 % of the questions correctly. The result of the theoretical exam has to be presented in writing, it has to be announced to the examinee on the same day and to the Chairperson of the Judges' Committee of the WCF within 4 weeks.

The successfully passed preliminary examination entitles the applicant to start his activity as a judge's pupil. If the preliminary examination had not been passed, a repetition for the relevant hair category is possible once.

The official catalogue of questions for the preliminary examination, produced and published by the Judges' Committee, will be given to the applicant by his club on a written request that he has enough time for preparation.

Activity as a judge's pupil

1. Certificates for judge's pupils

The applicant has to provide the following certificates for judge's pupils:

- Category Longhair: at least 20 certificates only for this category
- Category Semi-langhair: at least 30 certificates only for this category
- Category Shorthair: at least 30 certificates only for this category
- Category Siamese/OSH: at least 15 certificates only for this category

For the better understanding of the Oriental Semi-Longhair (Balinese, Javanese and Mandarin) the Semi-Longhair training requires the acquisition of at least one judge's pupil certificate in the category Siamese/OSH and for the better understanding of the Somali, Tiffany and Cymric the acquisition of at least one certificate in the category Shorthair.

For the better understanding of the Exotic Shorthair the Shorthair training requires the acquisition of at least one judge's pupil certificate in the category Longhair.

The Longhair training requires the acquisition of at least one judge's pupil certificate, in which the Exotic is listed.

For each hair category two foreign assignments as a judge's pupil must be carried out.

If a judge is processing his All Breed education in a country which is divided in regions, he must acquire obligatory a judging pupil's certificate from another continent.

For each activity of the applicant as a judge's pupil the training judge issues a certificate which comprises the following:

Information on all breeds and colours which the judge's pupil got acquainted with during the judging.

Information on skills, behaviour and general demeanour of the judge's pupil.

The certificate is only valid with the signature of the training judge as well as the stamp and signature of the club which organised the show. The certificate will be handed over to the judge's pupil.

Every judge's pupil must have received at least one certificate from a member of the Judges' Committee or a member of the Board. This certificate is to be obtained for the first WCF examination and is included into the required number of certificates.

The applicant is allowed to exhibit his own cats only out of competition at the shows where he takes part as a judge's pupil. This is applicable also to cats living in his household.

Applications for participation as a judge's pupil at a show have to be addressed by the applicant to the organising club at the latest 4 weeks before the beginning of the show.

The organising club is allowed to assign a pupil only to judges licensed by WCF in the relevant hair category. Exceptions must be permitted by the Chairperson of the WCF Judges' Committee.

Members of WCF clubs can act as judge's pupils at WCF exhibitions free of charge.

2. Participation in judge's pupil seminars

Acquisition of up to 5 judge's pupil certificates for each hair category is also possible through the participation in special judge's pupil seminars, which are held by the WCF for training purposes.

A 1-day seminar is valid for 2 judge's pupil certificates, a 2-3-days seminar for 5 certificates.

3. Genetics seminar

Participation in a genetics seminar is recommended. For every day of the seminar the judge's pupil will get 1 judge's pupil certificate.

4. Period of training

The period of training of a judge's pupil must not exceed 4 years from the day of the successfully passed preliminary examination.

If this happens, a preliminary examination has to be taken once more again. After a successfully passed repetition the applicant has the obligation to apply for the judge's examination within 6 months. During this time the applicant is obliged to proof the acquisition of 2 further judge's pupil certificates from exhibitions or training seminars.

If the period given expires, the applicant will be irrevocably withdrawn.

5. Application to take the Judge's examination

The applicant has to send the admission for the examination to the club whereof he is a member. The informal application has to include all documents of his activities as a judge's pupil, the indication of the hair category for which the qualification should be acquired, date and place of the exhibition where the examination should take place and the names of the examining judges.

The application has to be forwarded by the club to the WCF office within two weeks after the receipt for the purpose of its approval.

6. Admission to the Examination

The WCF Judges' Committee is obliged to admit the applicant to the examination, if the documents he sent do not give any reason for objections and if the applicant has reached the age of 25 on the day of the examination.

The judge's examination can only be taken for one hair category on one date of an examination. The examinee is not allowed to perform any other official functions at the exhibition on this day.

7. Examination Panel

The examination panel consists of two international WCF judges, of which at least one must be an Allbreed judge. Both judges (must have passed at least one WCF or FIFe examination and) must have been active as WCF judges since at least 3 years.

If one of the judges chosen by the candidate rejects to give the exam, the candidate may choose one of the other judges present at the exhibition, provided that he possesses the necessary qualifications for the exam. If no one of the present judges matches the requirements, the examination has to be postponed. The examination panel alone is entitled to award the title "judge".

8. Course of the Examination

The judge's examination can only take place during an international exhibition. At least 35 cats of the examined category for Semi-longhair and Shorthair, and at least 20 cats of the examined category for Longhair and Siamese/OSH must be registered, and the total number of the present cats must not be less than 80.

The examinee may choose one of the official judging languages, which has to be stated in the application.

9. The theoretical examination

The theoretical examination consists of 40 questions of the official question catalogue to be answered in writing, of which 15 will be chosen from the general part and 25 refer to the examined hair category. Of the 25 questions of the relevant hair category 15 have to be chosen with short answers and 10 with long answers.

The theoretical examination lasts at most 105 minutes and starts – except when technical difficulties prevent this – at the latest at 8.30 a.m. on the first day of the exhibition. The examinee should have a separate place which he is not allowed to leave for the duration of the exam.

The theoretical examination is to be regarded as passed if the examinee answered at least 80 % of the questions correctly. The result of the theoretical examination has to be written down and has to be announced to the examinee at least until 11.00 a.m. of the same day.

If the necessary percentage of correct answers in the theoretical examination is not reached, the entire examination is regarded as not passed. A repetition of the theoretical examination on another date is possible once.

The “official catalogue of questions for the theoretical judge’s examination”, produced and published by the Judge’s Committee, will be sent to the applicant by his club on a written request that he has enough time for preparation.

10. The practical examination

The practical examination consists of judging of at least:

- 20 cats for Longhair (including 1-5 Exotic Shorthair)
- 20 cats for Siamese/OSH
- at least 30 and at most 35 cats for the category Semi-longhair
- at least 30 and at most 35 cats for the category Shorthair,

which can be distributed by the organising club in case of two one-day-shows on both days of the exhibition. The practical examination includes the selection of Best of Breed winners and proposals for the Best in Show.

The practical examination starts – except if technical difficulties prevent this - at the latest at 11.00 a.m. of the first day of the exhibition and has to be finished before the beginning of the voting for Best in Show (if necessary on the second day of the exhibition).

The practical examination is to be regarded as passed if at least 80 % of the required points have been reached. The result of examination has to be presented in writing and has to be announced by the examining judges to the examinee on the last day of the examination, at the latest by 16.00 p.m., and to the Judge’s Committee within 4 weeks.

If the necessary percentage of points is not reached, the practical part of the examination can be repeated once at the occasion of another exhibition.

During the whole duration of the practical examination the organising club has to provide 2 stewards for the examinee, if possible, as well as regular judging conditions (working place, light, cages, etc.). Carrying by the owner is not allowed.

The examinee must be informed of the class, colour and sex of the cats which he has to judge. It is forbidden to change these details in any way. The examinee is not responsible for mistakes in these details.

If the applicant has passed the judge’s examination in all parts, he is considered to be an “International judge” and receives a WCF judge’s diploma, which has to be signed by the president and the chairperson of the Judges Committee.

11. Examination Fee

The candidate has to pay a one-off examination fee of 105 Euro at the time of the application for the admission to the judge’s examination. The payment has to be in the account of the WCF at the latest before the beginning of the examination.

Rights and duties of the WCF judge

1. A WCF judge cannot be obliged to give a certificate (title), neither by the organising club nor by other persons.
2. A WCF judge is not obliged to accept a judge's pupil at an exhibition, but he should give sound reasons for the rejection. However, the assignment of more than one judge's pupil should be rejected.
3. A WCF judge is only allowed to vote in the Best in Show for the cats of the categories for which he is licensed.
4. A WCF judge is not allowed to award CACM and CAPM at other exhibitions than those of WCF members.

Licensing procedure

WCF judges

1. The judge's licence is valid for 3 years (decision of the General Assembly from 06.12.1997). The first issue is free of charge, as it is included in the examination fee. For an extension a fee of 20 Euro is charged currently. In case of a late application for the extension of the licence the fee is 40 Euro. The owner of the licence is obliged to watch the expiration date by himself. A proof of payment, a new passport photo and the expired licence have to be attached to the application for extension. WCF judges are obliged to have the application for extension stamped by their club and to present the documents as in case of a first application.

2. The owner of the licence will be displayed at the website of the WCF with complete address, tel./fax number, e-mail address, hair category and period of validity of the license. After expiration he will be shown for 2 months at most with the note "expired". If there is no application for extension by that time, the address will be deleted.

3. WCF judges get a refund at the exhibitions for the costs for hotel, catering and travel as well as normally a present at the discretion of the club. The job as a judge at exhibitions is refunded with 75,00 euros for each day of the exhibition. It is forbidden to demand further charges for every cat. Violations of these rules will be reported by the organisations to the WCF and the judge in question will be suspended. The inviting clubs are obliged to refund the costs of the officiating judges before the Best in Show on the first day of the exhibition, at the latest before the Best in Show on the second day.

Guest judges

4. Licensing is also possible for a judge who is not a member of a WCF club but in another registered organization. The licensing procedure corresponds to that of a WCF judge.

Examination regulations for WCF judges

According to the decision of the General Assembly August 1996, the following regulations are applicable to all WCF judges (judges having the WCF examination and/or licensed judges), without exception:

An examination after WCF regulations can only be held for a judge's pupil if there is a written confirmation of the Chairperson of the Judges' Committee. The latter presumes a correct application for the examination, including the date of the examination and the names of the examining judges. The application is forwarded to the office of the WCF.

Judges with WCF examinations give examinations only according to WCF rules. Exceptions are possible only by permission of the office of WCF.

Judges with WCF examinations give examinations only for judge's pupils who are full members of a WCF club on the date of the examination.

WCF judges (judges having the WCF examination and/or licensed judges) judge at WCF exhibitions exclusively according to WCF standard.

Licensed judges keep absolute loyalty to the WCF.

Licensed judges having a recognised non-WCF examination give examinations in WCF clubs only for WCF judge's pupils and only according to WCF rules. The membership of the candidate in a WCF club has to be certified by the office of WCF.

Examination certificates, with all required documents attached, will be sent to the Chairman of the Judges' Committee in order to confirm the regularity of the examination. The Committee issues the certificate and the WCF licence provided that the judge's pupil is a member of a WCF club and the examination has taken place according to WCF rules.

Any violation of these regulations, which have been passed in order to improve the reputation of our judges compared to other independent judges, will result in disciplinary proceedings according to the statutes of the WCF. Check before giving an examination if the requirements have been complied with. If not, you must refuse to give the examination.

We ask for your attention. The licensing procedure of the WCF has been published, and we presume that you know all the decisions.

Additional qualifications for judges

1. If a trained judge applies for an additional hair category, he has to work as a judge's pupil at international exhibitions before he can take a further examination. Between the examinations in the hair categories LH/SLH, on the one hand, and SH/SOSH, on the other hand, a waiting period of at least 24 months is required.
2. If a judge takes an examination for an additional hair category, he is not allowed to officiate at the same time as a judge or to perform other activities at the same exhibition. This is also valid for two one-day-exhibitions.
3. For an additional qualification (i.e. an examination for a further hair category) a period of training of no more than four years is valid as well.
4. In further WCF-examinations the 15 general questions are not applicable. In such cases the theoretical examination consists of 25 questions of the examined hair category. The time at the disposal of the examinee is 75 minutes.
5. For the number of judge's pupil certificates for the additional qualification of an international judge the following is valid:
 - Longhair (LH) 15 certificates only for this category
 - Semi-longhair (SLH) 20 certificates only for this category
 - Shorthair (SH) 20 certificates only for this category
 - Siamese/OSH 10 certificates only for this category

That means, regardless the previous qualification of the judge, the afore mentioned judge's pupil certificates have to be presented.

6. Special regulation for Longhair judges

Longhair judges are allowed to judge Exotic Shorthair cats at exhibitions without a special additional qualification, provided that this is requested by the organising club.