

KORAT REGISTRATION POLICY INFORMATION

At a full meeting of Governing Council on 20th June 2000 an amended Korat registration policy was passed with immediate effect. It is of particular importance for breeders, and buyers who are intending to breed.

The Korat Breed Advisory Committee formulated the policy, its principles were approved at the Annual General Meetings of the clubs representing Korats, and it was accepted by the GCCF Executive Committee. Much careful planning was given to take account of the Korat breeding situation in Britain, according to GCCF guidelines.

Its principle objectives are:

- a) to protect the breed**
- b) to acknowledge the variants born to Korats and give them an identity**
- c) to provide information on genetic possibilities, thus providing breeders with knowledge by which to make choices in their breeding programme**

Protection

The policy ensures that the offspring of any breed other than the Korat and its variants, whether pedigree or not, cannot ever be registered as Korat. The only unregistered cats to be allowed onto the register are Korats imported directly from Thailand, where there is no registration system that corresponds to that in the west. Importers of such cats will have to provide information to KBAC and GCCF on the breeder, pedigrees and import papers. Thus the breed is able to continue in its ancient, natural form.

Acknowledgement

Kittens that are not blue are born to Korat parents, from time to time. These have been given the separate identities of Thai Pointed and Thai Lilac. *“Breeders must not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed”*, is now a principle enshrined in the GCCF ethics. To ignore the variants and not inform new breeders of their possibility could contravene this. The KBAC also felt that it should take responsibility for all progeny of Korat parents.

Information and choice

By asking for the over stamping of the registration papers of Korats who do, or may, carry recessive colour genes informs breeders of possibilities when matings are planned. Those aiming for genetic purity will be able to do this by avoiding cats with over stamped papers. At the discretion of breeders test matings may be carried out to determine genetic make-up further. Those with evidence to satisfy the Genetics Committee may apply to have over stamping removed.

Note:- those not interested in breeding, but wishing to own a Korat to show, or solely as a pet, need not be concerned with its genetic make-up. Whether or not your Korat carries recessive colour genes makes absolutely no difference to its health, colour, character, type or temperament.

GM1/GM2 GANGLIOSIDOSIS TESTING SCHEME

Gangliosidosis is a genetic disease, which has been diagnosed in Korats* in two forms (GM1 and GM2). It has **NEVER** been seen in UK. In 1998 DNA was collected from many of our Korat breeding stock to be tested to determine if there were carriers of the diseases. A few more were tested in the following years. **All tested were found to be clear for both forms of the disease.**

To ensure that neither GM1 nor GM2 can be introduced unwittingly into our Korat breeding stock the Korat BAC worked with GCCF to use the GCCF registration system as an independent record of the results of the genetic screening so that the results from one generation could be carried forward to the next. This can be done because a cat who is tested and found to be free of the defective gene cannot pass anything to its kittens. So if father and mother are clear they can only ever have offspring who are free from that disease. The parents may be clear because they were both tested and found to be unaffected, or because they were born from parents or grandparents who were.

If you are buying a Korat kitten as a pet or as a show neuter, this is to reassure you that your Korat will not develop Gangliosidosis. Everything possible has been done to prevent this happening. If you are buying a kitten for breeding you must make sure you have discussed this with the breeder so that your kitten is registered on the GCCF Active Register.

Active registration will NOT now be given unless your kitten, its parents, or ancestors (as defined in the Korat Registration policy) **has been tested clear for Gangliosidosis (GM1 and GM2).** The aim is to separate the clear cats from any carriers that may be found in the future, and from the non-tested cats, any of whom could be a carrier and therefore possibly pass on this hereditary disease.

As most UK Korats have been cleared by testing, KCA Committee and KBAC (the Breed Advisory Committee) **most strongly recommend that new buyers intending to breed should purchase a kitten who is on the Active Register and not the Genetic Register.**

Genetic Register

It is the intention that cats registered on the Genetic Register are cats **'at risk' as far as breeding is concerned.** For Korats these are cats who may be proven to be carriers of GM1 or GM2, and Korats that have not been tested. It could be that such cats are still required for breeding, to maintain a line or a particular quality, but should only be used in these special circumstances, and by breeders intending to test the progeny.

Litter Registrations and Declarations

Breeders should be aware that kittens you do not register can be registered by the new owner. KCA Committee believes it is the responsibility of the breeder to register all Korats, making use of the non-active register whenever the kitten is not intended for breeding. Contracts of sale should be used in addition to registration, not as a substitute for it.

*In these notes 'Korats' refers also to cats of Korat type, the Thai Bluepoint and Thai Lilac, as these are all descended from Korats