

Sheridan Mall to host Cat and Kitten Show

On July 12, 1975, Sheridan Mall East will again be host to Centennial Cat Club's International Champion Cat & Kitten Show. For this, their sixth annual show, the judges will come from California, Chicago, Milwaukee and Toronto.

Gathered in the Auditorium at the Mall will be some of North America's finest felines with entries coming from as far afield as Maryland, Washington, Carolina and Chicago.

The entries include the ever popular Siamese, Persians and Himalayans, as well as the more rare Manx and Rex. There is a good entry of Abyssinians, American Shorthairs and Burmese and three Havana Browns. This rare hybrid cat was developed in England and is characterized by its short mahogany brown coat and unusual chartreuse green eyes.

The public is invited to come and visit the capacity entry of 175 purebred cats and kittens from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The entrance fee is \$1.00 for adults and 50¢ for children.

A special feature of all Centennial Cat Club shows is the Household Pet Show. This is for mixed breed, unregistered cats and many lovely rosettes trophies and prizes are awarded. If you would like to enter your pet, there will be a registration booth in the Mall Saturday, July 5. The entrance fee is \$5.00 and includes an examination by our vet and judging by a certified C.F.A. judge. There is of course no written standard for your pet and they are judged individually on their condition, grooming and beauty. Special awards are given for altered cats as part of Centennial Cat Club's continuing program to educate pet owners to neuter or spay their mixed-breeds. The pet population explosion is causing grave concern and it was noted recently that "Pet owners each year permit over 53,000,000 cats and dogs to mature. Permanent homes exist for only 35,000,000. The rest, 25,000,000 face abandonment—starvation—destruction."

Cat care products have become a multi-million dollar business over the years and now the pampered feline can demand not only his or her specially formulated food, but every type of special grooming aid, vitamins and even his own picture on his owner's notepaper. At the show there will be several booths selling pet products, disinfectants and deodorizers. For cat lovers there will be unusual jewellery, ceramics and notepaper.

Many precautions are taken at the show to prevent the spread of feline infections. All cats entered, including the Household Pets, are obliged to pass a strict Veterinary inspection before they are admitted to the show hall. Any cats showing signs of infection are excluded and their entries cancelled. Visitors will notice that the Veterinarians and Judges disinfect their hands after handling each cat. Signs on the cages ask visitors not to touch the cats without the owner's permission, as apart from the risk of transferring infection, it is confusing for the cats to be handled by too many strangers.

The show itself is actually four complete shows and at the end of the day the four judges will each pick their "Best Cat". Cats are not "gated" as in a dog show but are examined individually, and compared with a written standard. Disposition is taken into account but the judges will usually make allowances for feline "show nerves". However, a judge may disqualify and dismiss from his ring any cat that bites.

Kittens from four to eight months are judged against each other and have their own kitten finals. They are not judged against the adults.

The adult cats in the Novice and Open Classes compete for the coveted red-white and blue "Winners" ribbon. Six of these ribbons won under four different judges are required for a cat to become a Champion.

Once a cat is a Champion he will compete against the other champions in his Class for Grand Champion points. He is awarded one point for each champion defeated and requires a total of 150 points. An outstanding cat may earn enough points in one weekend to become a Grand Champion, but this is unusual.

The registered, altered purebred cats also have their own Finals and are not judged against the cats in Championship classes.

At this show Centennial is pleased to welcome a trainee judge who will be working under an Approved All Breed judge. This is one of the many steps in the stringent process of becoming a Judge licenced by the Cat Fanciers Association.

A feature of this year's show will be the silver dollars used for prizes. In the last few years there has been a welcome trend away from the familiar "winged victory" type of trophy. The Canadian silver coins are particularly treasured by our American exhibitors.

Hope to see you at the show next Saturday.

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