

Showing your kitten / cat.

I do indeed encourage my kitten buyers to show their kittens. The Russian in South Africa is rather rare and very few are seen on the show bench country wide.

The breed is incredibly beautiful and really should be shown off. I have poured my heart into this breed and I am very proud of the accomplishments of the breeders that have or are contributing to the breed here in South Africa, the new owners should be just as proud to own a pedigree cat. How better than to show off your child than at a cat show.

Unless specifically stated as “pet only quality” due to perhaps a slight standard of points fault your new Russian should be able to hold her own at a cat show. This does not mean that your Russian will beat 150 cats on show and become a show winner. The competition at cat shows is very high and providing you and your cat have the temperament to cope with a show it can be a wonderful fun hobby.

I always warn those wanting to show their babies to take showing with a huge bag of salt. A judge will be judging your kitten and it is his or her “job” to find fault with your baby. If your Russian has the patience to be handled by strangers and you have the “this is for fun” attitude then showing will be a wonderful experience and a great opportunity for you to show off your precious Russian.

Preparing for a show:

If your kitten needs to be bathed, do so a week or two in advance, I suggest Secta that can be bought from your vet. This will give the coat time to re-condition with its natural oils. These natural oils are what give the Russian coat a very special feel, described as soft but with the sticky feel of a silk scarf. The Russian coat does not need to be brushed, just simple hand stroking to remove excess hair is required, over zealous brushing can strip the coat and make it flat.

On the morning of the show you can wipe your kittens face with a soft damp face cloth to remove the sleep from her eyes and clean her nose and ears. Clip her nails, back and front, no judge wants to be left with scratches even un-intentionally.

Make sure you have a show bag. Pack this with two soft polar fleece blankets - one for in the cage and a spare just in case of an accident. A face cloth and a roll of paper towels in case of an accident. A Tupperware container with a lid - filled with kitty litter, large enough that your cat can use it as a toilet but small enough that it does not take up too much space in the 50cm X 50cm show cage. A water bowl and a small bottle of your home water. A few special toys to keep your kitten busy. A bottle of rescue remedy - more than likely for yourself and probably not for your kitten.

I will guide you through how to enter your kitten and if in Cape Town ... hold your hand through out the show ... just remember to take it all with a big bag of salt, don't stress, don't expect your baby to win and just enjoy the day!