

## **Breeding - what it takes.**

So what exactly does it take to breed pedigree cats.

Well a lot ... firstly your heart and soul, more money that you will ever get back from the sale of your kittens and a HUGE amount of responsibility and time.

As a breeder you are taking on not only the work of many breeders before you but also the future of the breed. Your decisions will effect blood lines that may be over 100 years old and have been preserved by many breeders before you. What you do will affect the look and health of those that may come after you. A breeder is only there to preserve the future of the breed, so becoming a breeder will mean a huge amount of time, study, effort and commitment.

The costs will come in the form of importing new blood lines to retain the health of the breed and giving genetic diversity as well as improving on looks. As a breeder one should be constantly looking to improve on the next generation and working to the Standard of Points. This may mean having to keep the next generation while then having to spay and re-home breeding cats that you have come to love. Health is one of the most important factors, one must be willing to spend the money on testing for communicable illness and genetic diseases then have the heart to remove cats from your breeding program that are not "right". One has to keep in mind limiting numbers with in a cattery, the health and happiness of breeding cats is definitely related to the amount of cats that you can comfortably house.

Do you have the space on your property to house stud male cats who require very large cat runs to contain them, keep them comfortable, disease free and happy. Are you able to put up with the noise that breeding cats, both male and female, make during breeding season?

Do you have the time that it takes to breed? Are you able to spend 24/7 with your cats to oversee that the birthing process and the raising of the babies. If kittens are to be raised with out-going, laid back loving temperaments you are going to have to spend MANY hours with them. If kittens are born with problems or their mothers reject them will you have the time to hand raise babies having to feed them every two hours around the clock.

Will you take the responsibility of having your kittens ENS'ed, inoculated, micro-chipped and then find the perfect homes for them?

Do you have the patience and attitude to show your breeding cats and encourage your pet owners to show, are you willing to take criticism and then use the advice of judges to improve on the breed whilst still keeping the breed strong and healthy. Do you have the drive that it takes to promote your breed?

**An ethical breeder is a responsible breeder that never stops learning and is willing to listen to and act on the advise of others.**