



**The Junior Exhibitor Program
INTRODUCTION
2023**

TICA's International Junior Exhibitor Program provides the opportunity for young people under the age of 18 to participate in the TICA experience and learn about feline husbandry. Participants are exposed to both competition and a continuing educational process as they work their way through Levels of Achievement. The program promotes sportsmanship and self-confidence and fosters an ever-growing knowledge base of feline husbandry, breeds, grooming, and show participation and production.

The goals of the program are to:

- *Educate Junior Exhibitors on feline health and care;*
- *Mentor Junior Exhibitors as they build their self-confidence;*
- *Inspire and honor Junior Exhibitors with trophies and awards as they learn about competition and good sportsmanship; and to*
- *Grow the number of TICA Junior Members*

If provisions in the Junior Exhibitor Program conflict with local governing laws or regulations, local governing laws and regulations shall supersede those provisions.

ARTICLE ONE – Definitions and Responsibilities

81.1 Precedence – If any provision in this Junior Exhibitor Program conflicts with local governing laws or regulation, then local governing laws and regulations shall take precedence over that provision.

81.2 Junior Exhibitor Ring

81.2.1 A special ring conducted during a licensed TICA show where participants are judged solely on their ability to handle and present their cat, including:

- 81.2.1.1 Ability to handle and present their cat, including knowledge of their breed;
- 81.2.1.2 Ability to answer basic questions, according to their age and level, about basic feline husbandry;
- 81.2.1.3 Grooming, health and condition of cat;
- 81.2.1.4 Knowledge of TICA rules.

81.2.2 The Junior Exhibitor ring is open to all participants who are either enrolled in the Junior Exhibitor Program or are aged 18 or under and have written permission to participate from their parent/guardian. At the discretion of the Junior Exhibitor Liaison, exceptions to the age limit may be granted.

81.2.3 The Junior Exhibitor Ring is conducted under the supervision of a TICA judge who awards points (see Article 12) to each participant rather than to their cat.



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81.2.4 Only cats entered in the show may be used in the Junior Exhibitor Ring.

81.2.4.1 No hybrid cats less than four generations away from the wild cat may be used.

81.2.5 Participants may compete only one time before entering the program and joining TICA.

81.3 Regional Liaisons – Regional Liaisons are appointed by the area Regional Director and there can be multiple Liaisons per region as needed. The Liaisons are responsible for the overall guidance of the Junior Exhibitor Program in their region.

81.3.1 Responsibilities include ensuring Junior Exhibitor enrollment forms with parental/guardian signatures are completed; record keeping and scoring; maintenance of the various forms used in Junior Exhibitor Rings; assisting in facilitating Junior rings; and working with Junior mentors.

81.3.2 At the end of the season, provide a timely listing of Junior members and points to the appropriate Regional Director for Regional Junior Exhibitor Recognition and Awards.

81.4 Junior Exhibitor Mentor – The Junior Exhibitor Mentor plays an important role in the successful participation of a Junior Exhibitor in this program and the advancement through the levels. The Mentor is required to be guide, counsellor, and coach.

81.4.1 Qualifications to be a Junior Exhibitor Mentor

81.4.1.1 Must be an adult TICA member, who may or may not be, a family member.

81.4.1.2 Must be familiar with the Junior Exhibitor program.

81.4.1.3 Other considerations in accepting a mentorship are whether it is possible to attend the same shows and be available for support and counseling.

81.4.2 Responsibilities of a Junior Exhibitor Mentor are:

81.4.2.1 Making sure the Junior Exhibitor are completing their levels and requirements.

81.4.2.2 In areas/shows that do not have stewards or Assistant Ring Clerks, the requirements for stewarding/assistant ring clerking may be replaced at the discretion of and with the approval of the JE Liaison. Show management also needs to approve any Head Ring Clerk assignments. Examples of alternatives could include: putting in order and running judges slips to the master clerk, paper towel preparation and supplying the rings during the show writing a paragraph on steward duties, or a question/answer session with a Head Ring Clerk.

81.4.2.3 Helping the Junior Exhibitor accomplish their goals.

81.4.2.4 Being a role model. Showing and leading by example.

ARTICLE TWO – Eligibility for Participation

82.1 Participation in the Junior Exhibitor Program is open to anyone under the age of 18. A participant in the Program may remain in the Program until the close of the show season in which they turn 18 years old.



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- 82.2 Applicants must meet the following requirements to participate in all levels prior to Senior Novice:
- 82.2.1 Be a junior member of TICA in good standing
 - 82.2.2 Have a Junior Exhibitor Mentor.
 - 82.2.3 Complete the application and parental/guardian permission for participation form.
- 82.3 To progress to Senior Novice level and beyond, the following requirement is added to those in 82.2:
- 82.3.1 Own, co-own, or be lessee of a TICA registered kitten, cat, alter, household pet kitten or household pet.
 - 82.3.2 Normally, the cat should reside with the Junior Exhibitor while they are the owner/co-owner/lessee. If the cat is not residing with the Junior Exhibitor due to special circumstances, a note of those circumstances should be made and the dispensation approved by the JE Liaison. The JE Liaison will assign side tasks regarding feline care.

ARTICLE THREE – Programs

83.1 The Junior Exhibitor Program and Excellence Award. This program is for Junior Exhibitors that desire to show their cats, enjoying the TICA experience from an exhibitor perspective. Junior Exhibitors may qualify yearly for a Junior Exhibitor Excellence Award. To qualify, a Junior Exhibitor must exhibit in four (4) shows a year and provide a letter of endorsement from their JE Regional Liaison. To receive the award, the Junior Exhibitor must adhere to TICA rules and forward copies of the catalog cover pages and the pages that name the Junior Exhibitor as the owner or agent to the JE Regional Liaison or Regional Director. The Regional Director shall forward the list of names to the Executive Office.

83.1.1 The Junior Exhibitor Excellence Award shall be awarded annually at the Regional ceremonies.

83.2 The Junior Exhibitor Program and Achievement Award. This program is a long-term, comprehensive program that encourages and challenges the Junior Exhibitor. A Junior Exhibitor may elect to complete some or all the levels, receiving recognition for graduating from each level sequentially. Completion of each level of the program earns the Junior Exhibitor an Achievement Award.

83.3 The Junior Exhibitor Program and Achievement Award, with Distinction. Additional requirements may be met by Junior Exhibitors who are interested in various TICA related pursuits including the Judging Program. Upon completion of the Junior Exhibitor Program and additional requirements, the Junior Exhibitor is recognized as having completed the Junior Exhibitor Program with Distinction.

Completion of the Junior Exhibitor Program With Distinction is recognized in the following areas:

- Qualification to apply for entrance to the TICA Judging Program.
- Excellence in Information Technology (website, social media for shows/clubs)
- Excellence in Humanitarian Programs (shelters, TNR Clinics, fostering)
- Excellence in Exhibiting (showing to Lifetime Achievement or some assigned level)
- Excellence in Education (outreach of youth in feline education (Cat Care 101, TICA U)



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Excellence in Individual Distinction such as:

- Excellence in Regional Administration (show reporters, regional websites or newsletters)
- Excellence in Show Production and Administration (show management)
- Excellence in Breeding (producing one or more Outstanding Sires or Dams)
- Excellence in Science and Feline Health (genetics/veterinary sciences)

83.3.1 The Extra Requirements Checklist is available through the Regional Liaison or Regional Director and can also be found on the TICA website.

ARTICLE FOUR – Levels of Achievement

84.1 The Junior Exhibitor Program is comprised of a series of levels, each containing progressively more complex learning and requirements, participation in Junior Exhibitor rings, and completion of individual projects.

84.2 The program levels are:

- 84.2.1 Junior Novice: Members have enough knowledge of TICA and their breed or household pet to compete in this level.
- 84.2.2 Junior Intermediate
- 84.2.3 Junior Advanced
- 84.2.4 Senior Novice
- 84.2.5 Senior Intermediate
- 84.2.6 Senior Advanced

84.3 Members entering at an older age must complete all previous level assignments and must compete in at least one (1) Junior Exhibitor ring, but no more than three at each level.

84.4 Members may compete at higher levels providing they complete all requirements for each level.

84.5 All requirements for one level must be met before advancement to the next level is considered. Each level is considered an accomplishment.

84.6 Junior Exhibitor who desire to complete the program, with Distinction, must complete the requirements for the appropriate distinction.

ARTICLE FIVE – Junior Novice Level

85.1 In order to participate at the Junior Novice level, all requirements of eligibility must have been met along with the application completed and submitted.

85.2 Requirements for completion of the Junior Novice Level are as follows:

- 85.2.1 Show in at least four (4) TICA shows (either as agent or owner/co-owner/lessee)



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- 85.2.2 Participate in a fund raiser for the Junior Exhibitors or your cat club or donate a service/time to the Junior Exhibitor or your club.
- 85.2.3 Participate in two (2) Junior Exhibitor rings at the Junior Novice level.
- 85.2.4 Complete the following suggested project (Note: The JE Liaison can substitute age appropriate project at their discretion.)
 - 85.2.4.1 Writing Assignment – Each Junior Novice must submit to their mentor at least two written paragraphs (photos encouraged) which include information about their name, age, grade in school, where they live and hobbies. It should also include information about their cat, including its name, age, breed, and what makes him or her special.
 - 85.2.4.2 This project can be accomplished on paper or printed from a computer project, such as a website, or PowerPoint presentation.
- 85.2.5 Create a personal notebook which will contain copies of personal projects, educational materials and other requirements during the Junior Exhibitor Program.
- 85.2.6 Complete the Junior Novice test.

ARTICLE SIX – Junior Intermediate Level

- 86.1 To Participate at the Junior Intermediate Level, all requirements of the Junior Novice Level must have been completed.
- 86.2 The following are requirements to complete the Junior Intermediate Level:
 - 86.2.1 Show in at least four (4) TICA shows after earning the Junior Novice level (either as agent or owner/co-owner/lessee).
 - 86.2.2 Participate in a fund raiser for the Junior Exhibitors or your cat club, or donate a service/time to the Junior Exhibitors or your club after earning your Junior Novice level.
 - 86.2.3 Participate in at least two (2) Junior Exhibitor rings after earning your Junior Novice Level.
 - 86.2.4 Attend at least one school, seminar or workshop after earning your Junior Novice level.
 - 86.2.4.1 For purposes of this program, appropriate topics may include, but are not limited to: stewarding, TICA rules and breed standards. The school, seminar or workshop must be approved by the JE Regional Liaison.
 - 86.2.5 Steward in at least one (1) show after earning your Junior Novice Level. This does not need to be an entire show/day. It may be counted towards the service requirement as stated above in Article 86.2.2.
 - 86.2.6 Complete the following suggested project (Note: JE Liaison can substitute age appropriate project at their discretion)
 - 86.2.6.1 Display project. Each Junior Intermediate participant must submit to their mentor, and display at a show, a poster project that uses a photo of a cat and labels, as age appropriate, a few of the following on the photo: shoulder blades, chin, trunk or torso, flank, thigh, forehead/brow, front feet, back feet, head, ears, nose, whisker pads, neck, paws, eyes, back, tail, ribs, limbs or abdomen.
 - 86.2.7 Obtain and read a copy of the TICA Show Hotel Policy and retain it in the personal notebook.
 - 86.2.8 Complete the Junior Intermediate test.



ARTICLE SEVEN – Junior Advanced Level

87.1 To participate at the Advanced Junior Level, all requirements of the Junior Intermediate Level must have been completed.

87.2 The following are requirements to complete the Junior Advanced Level:

87.2.1 Show in at least four (4) TICA shows after earning the Junior Intermediate Level (either as agent or owner/co-owner/lessee).

87.2.2 Participate in a fund raiser for the Junior Exhibitors or your cat club, or donate a service/time to the Junior Exhibitors or your club after earning your Junior Intermediate Level.

87.2.3 Participate in at least two (2) Junior Exhibitor rings after earning the Junior Intermediate Level.

87.2.4 Attend at least one school, seminar or workshop after earning your Junior Intermediate Level.

87.2.5 Complete one of the following suggested projects (Note: JE Liaison can substitute age appropriate project at their discretion.)

87.2.5.1 Display project. Each Advanced Junior must find photos of a Persian or Exotic, Oriental or Siamese, and their choice of breed (may be their own cat, whether pedigreed or HHP) and describe/contrast the ear size/shape and set, eye color and shape/size and nose type of each of the three cats. Photos are encouraged. Submit to the Mentor for review and display at one cat show.

87.2.5.2 Describe in writing, either on a poster or separate sheet of paper, the following problems in structure. Find and include photos of the structural problem, if possible.

Jaw: overshot, undershot and wry mouth

Eyes: entropion

Nose: reduce nostril aperture

Spine/Tail: kinked and stiff tail

Limbs: hip dysplasia, polydactyl and cow-hocked legs

87.2.6 Complete the Junior Advanced test.

ARTICLE EIGHT – Senior Novice Level

88.1 To participate at the Senior Novice Level, all requirements of the Junior Advanced Level must have been completed.

88.2 The following are requirements to complete the Senior Novice Level:

88.2.1 Show in at least four (4) TICA shows after earning the Advanced Junior Level.

88.2.2 Participate in a fund raiser for the Junior Exhibitors or your cat club or donate a service/time to the Junior Exhibitors or your club after earning your Junior Advanced Level.

88.2.3 Participate in at least two (2) Junior Exhibitor rings after earning the Junior Advanced Level.

88.2.4 Attend at least one school, seminar, class or workshop after earning your Junior Advanced Level.

88.2.5 Obtain a read a copy of the TICA Clerking Program. Retain the copy in the personal notebook.

88.2.5.1 Assistant Ring Clerk at two (2) TICA shows.



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- 88.2.5.2 Set up a clerking box with the supplies that are needed to clerk.
- 88.2.5.3 Ask your Mentor, a Judge or Head Ring Clerk to review the clerking box and sign off on the project.
- 88.2.6 Obtain a copy of the TICA By-Laws and the TICA Show Rules for your notebook.
- 88.2.7 Complete the suggested project (Note: JE Liaison can substitute age appropriate project at their discretion.)
 - 88.2.7.1 Writing project. Each Senior Novice must submit to their Mentor a written report on what they learned while attending a class on TICA clerking, show rules, By-Laws or in their area of Distinction. This report should include a self-evaluation and a judge's evaluation.
 - 88.2.7.2 File the report in the personal notebook.
- 88.2.8 Complete the Senior Novice test.

ARTICLE NINE – Senior Intermediate Level

- 89.1 To participate in the Senior Intermediate Level, all requirements of the Senior Novice Level must be completed.
- 89.2 The following are requirements to complete the Senior Intermediate Level:
 - 89.2.1 Show in at least four (4) TICA shows after earning the Senior Novice Level. ??????
 - 89.2.2 Participate in a fund raiser for the Junior Exhibitors or your cat club or donate a service/time to the Junior Exhibitors or your cat club after earning the Senior Novice Level.
 - 89.2.3 Participate in at least two (2) Junior Exhibitor rings after earning the Senior Novice Level.
 - 89.2.4 Attend at least one school, seminar, class or workshop after earning the Senior Novice Level.
 - 89.2.5 Complete the general requirements to enter the Clerking Program.
 - 89.2.6 Successfully complete the first level of the training program as Trainee/Assistant Ring Clerk.
 - 89.2.7 Complete the following suggested Project (Note: The JE Liaison can substitute age appropriate project at their discretion.)
 - 89.2.7.1 Volunteer with a shelter, cat café, pet event or similar.
 - 89.2.7.2 Ask your Mentor, a Judge, or Head Ring Clerk to review the clerking box and sign off on the project.

ARTICLE TEN – Senior Advanced Level

- 810.1 To participate at the Senior Advanced Level, all requirements of the Senior Intermediate Level must have been completed.
- 810.2 The following are requirements to complete the Senior Advanced Level:
 - 810.2.1 Show in at least four (4) TICA shows.
 - 810.2.2 Participate in a fund raiser for the Junior Exhibitors or your cat club or donate service/time to the Junior Exhibitors or your club.
 - 810.2.3 Participate in two (2) Junior Exhibitor rings after earning the Senior Intermediate Level.



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810.2.4 Obtain and read the most recently updated versions of the TICA By-Laws, TICA Show Rules, Standing Rules, TICA Judging Program (if applicable to desired Distinction) and add to the personal notebook.

810.2.5 Show Management requirements (if applicable to desired Distinction).

810.2.5.1 Participate in the planning and executive of a show as a Co/Junior Show Manager. If such position is not available, the JE Liaison may substitute a reasonable equivalent at their discretion.

810.2.6 Mentorship. As a Senior Advanced Level participant, find a person working on any of the Junior Levels and help them accomplish one of their requirements.

810.2.7 Breeds and breeding.

810.2.7.1 Select two (2) breeds of interest and prepare a report on the history each of the breeds.

810.2.7.2 Prepare and conduct a breed specific or household pet presentation of approximately 15-25 minutes.

810.2.7.3 Show at least one cat, alter or household pet, owner or co-owned by the Junior Exhibitor to a Triple Grand Champion/Alter/Master status or higher.

810.2.8 Clerking.

810.2.8.1 Refer to the TICA Clerking Program and complete Level 2 requirements.

810.2.8.2 Successfully complete the Head Ring Clerk exam.

ARTICLE ELEVEN – Levels of Distinction

Completion of Junior Exhibitor Program with Distinction is recognized in one or more of the following areas:

811.1 Qualification to apply for entrance to the TICA Judging Program.

811.2 Excellence in Information Technology – Website, social media for shows/club. Assist three (3) clubs with web presence whether social media, summary sheets, TOES Cat Show application, banquet slide show, TFMS or TOES show setup, Regional meeting live stream, Regional Tik-Tok social media presence

811.3 Excellence in Humanitarian Programs – Shelters, TNR Clinics, fostering). Volunteering at shelters, cat cafes, TNR clinics. Assist rescue groups at shows, foster, community outreach at events, host food drives or fundraisers, participate in the TICA Therapy Cat Program.

811.4 Excellence in Exhibiting -- Exhibit pedigreed or household pet cats to Supreme or higher; consistent yearly exhibitor who displays terrific sportsmanship.

811.5 Excellence in Education -- Cat Care 101, assist Regional Director or clubs with CEU or educational events (like breed seminars), TICA Ambassadors at Regional or Annual Awards shows enlightening public with tours, what happens at a cat show.

811.6 Excellence in Individual Distinction – such as



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811.6.1 **Excellence in Art, Graphic Design and Photography** – Submit photos to Trend Editor, Yearbook Editor and/or TICA Newsletters; TICA or show club Instagram pages; assist with ad design for above, breeder pages.

811.6.2 **Excellence in Regional Administration** – Show reporters, regional websites or newsletters, assist regional show reporters, assist with regional award PowerPoint presentations, assist with regional award banquets.

811.6.3 **Excellence in Show Production and Administration** - Junior Manager or Co-Show Manager – Handle steward assignments, work front desk/hospitality, work in kitchen (if available), master clerk judges slips runner, assist with toes, assist with benching charts, assist with check-in, set-up/tear-down; show final awards plaques/bars.

811.6.4 **Excellence in Breeding** – Attend or produce a breed presentation which would include genetics/inherited traits and testing that should be done prior to breeding; complete the appropriate genetic testing prior to breeding/co-breeding a litter with at least one kitten who becomes a Grand Champion/Grand Champion Alter or higher.

811.6.5 **Excellence in Science and Feline Health** – (Genetics/Veterinary Sciences) – Observations/internships at veterinary clinics/hospitals/medical and scientific community; learning about different scientific career opportunities in animal care and coursework; attend TICA CEU classes and health symposiums.

ARTICLE TWELVE – Scoring for Junior Exhibitor Rings

812.1 The following point system is to be used as a guideline for Judges to follow in evaluating a participant's performance in a Junior Exhibitor ring:

812.1.1 **Handling Skills (20 points)** – Junior/cat interaction – observable in the ring as well as through questions asked about the responsibility of caring totally for their cat. The judge should take into consideration the appropriateness of the cat chosen by the junior (such as a small 8 year old attempting to handle a large fully grown MC, or a junior attempting to handle an uncontrollable cat would not be conducive to long term success).

812.1.2 **Presentation (40 points)** – The quality of the cat is not judged. Juniors are observed keeping in mind age/level appropriateness. The judge will ask questions at the end of the presentation. 20 points for demonstration and presentation such as a judge would do to a cat during a final – telling about each significant feature on the cat (breed/HHP, color, pattern, size, body part shapes, etc.). 20 points for knowledge of the breed or basic HHP knowledge, cat care, grooming and ring readiness. Judge asks impromptu questions that are relative to the cat the child is presenting in the ring.

812.1.3 **Testing (20 points)** – for pre-assigned questions related to the cat, health, rules and regulations, scoring, titles, etc.

812.1.4 **Overall Presentation (20 Points)** – Judge assesses the appearance, demeanor, conduct, and comfort level, confidence in the ring and with handling the cat of each Junior.



ARTICLE THIRTEEN – Regional and International Awards and Scoring

813.1 Scoring

813.2 Extra Points

813.2.1 Extra points are earned at shows for the completion of the following activities, as approved by Show Management on the JE Extra Points Activity form.

813.2.1.1 Ring Clerk: 1 day (25 Pts); 2 days (50 pts); 3 days (75 pts)

813.2.1.2 Ring Steward: ½ day (10 pts); 1 day (25 pts); 2 days (50 pts); 3 days (75 pts)

813.2.1.3 Show set-up/break-down: 25 pts set-up or break-down only; 50 pts for both

813.2.1.4 Show hospitality: ½ day (10 pts); 1 day (25 pts), 2 days (50 pts); 3 days (75 pts)

813.2.1.5 Master Clerk: 75 pts

813.2.1.6 Entry Clerk: 75 pts

813.2.1.7 Co/Junior Show Manager: 75 pts

813.2.2 A maximum of 150 extra point will be awarded per show at a maximum of seven (7) shows.

813.3 Cumulative show season scores are the sum of the following:

813.3.1 The top 7 JE ring scores for the season; and

813.3.2 Extra points from a maximum of seven (7) shows, as earned in accordance with JE Program Room 813.2.

813.4 Regional Awards. The Top Ten Junior Exhibitors will be recognized at the Regional Level with appropriate awards similar to those of the Top Twenty Cats, i.e., rosettes, plaque, etc. keeping in the theme of the awards being issued at that Regional Awards ceremony.

813.5 International Recognition. The Top Five Junior Exhibitors from each Region will be recognized in the program at the International Awards ceremony.

813.6 The Junior Exhibitor Program Achievement and Distinction Award. All Junior Exhibitors who complete the program or complete the program, with Distinction, will be honored at the Annual Convention with an appropriate award, featured in the visual media presentation at the Annual Awards Banquet and in the TICA Yearbook in color, free of charge. The list of recipients will be printed in the TICA TREND.