



King County 4-H Cat Program Cage Guidelines



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS –

ALL cages MUST have the following for ALL shows and King County Fair:

- ☞ Cover on top, sides, bottom and rear of cage
- ☞ Lower skirting required
- ☞ Fresh food or sign stating that cat is fed on a schedule or restricted diet
- ☞ Fresh, clean water available
- ☞ Litter box of appropriate size for cat with clean litter (may or may not be draped/covered)

CAGE DECORATION CLASS REQUIREMENTS –

ALL cages that will be judged in this class MUST have "Cage Information Card" that states:

- ☞ **Cage Information Card stating:**
 - Theme name/Cage Title
 - Anything of interest the 4-H member would like to point out
 - How the 4-H member made or decorated cage items. "Cage Card should present information that answers questions about "how" a particular item was made/constructed by the 4-H member
 - "Cage Card" should be separate from biography* as it is more "technical" in nature as to "how I made it" versus "who I am"
 - If organic material is used in the cage note that material is non-hazardous to the cat

*(information regarding biography under point 3)

1. OVERALL DESIGN – Originality and Creativity

- ☞ Does the cage have one central theme?
 - Consider decorations inside and on top of the cage.
 - If cage-top decorations are included, are they neat and well-organized?
- ☞ Does the cage make you want to stop and look at it –is the cage unique, pleasing and organized when first viewed?
- ☞ Does the cage decoration use ideas and/or materials to convey a message/theme in a new or different way – are the materials used in a clever way?

- ☞ Are the food and water containers part of the theme – or is there no connection to them and style of the cage?
- ☞ Is the litter box and/or litter box covering part of the theme?
- ☞ If a litter box covering is used, is the covering/draping obscuring easy entrance/exit to the box?
- ☞ Are most of the decorations hand-made by the 4-H member or primarily store-bought?
 - Deductions should **not** be made for store-bought cage decorations; however, consideration should be given to those cages where the 4-H member made additional efforts to hand-make their decorations.
- ☞ Can the cat be easily seen – or are there so many decorations on the front of the cage and inside the cage that it makes it difficult to see the cat?
 - Sometimes, cats like to lie in their litter box – **do not** penalize if cat is lying in litter box.
- ☞ According to "Cage Information Card", is the majority of the work/effort done by the 4-H member with minimal assistance from an adult (take age into consideration)?
 - If a judge has a question regarding cage construction or decoration, the judge may interview the 4-H member.

2. SAFETY AND COMFORT

- ☞ Is there enough room for the cat to move around and lie down?
- ☞ Can the cat easily reach the litter pan, water and food?
- ☞ Are small decorations firmly attached?
- ☞ Deductions should be made if any of the following are inside the cage:
 - Sharp, pointed objects that may injure a cat
 - Small, loose items that present a choking hazard if a cat were to accidentally eat it
 - Strings, cords, or looped objects that a cat can get tangled up in
- ☞ Electrical appliances, cords or other devices should not come in direct contact with cat. Battery operated appliances are OK as long as they are not a hazard to the cat
- ☞ Are there plants or other organic material that may be hazardous? If organic material is inside the cage, it should be noted on the "cage information card" that the material is non-hazardous to the cat
 - **Deductions should be made if appropriate notation of organic material is not made on the "cage information card".**

3. TOP OF CAGE ~ OPTIONAL

- ☞ Is a biography of the 4-H member included?
 - If so – biography **should**:
 - a) Be legible and free of spelling errors
 - b) List only first name of 4-H member
 - c) Include age division, county name, cat name and cat age
 - d) Include information about their cat or what they did with their club/county during the year

☼ Biography **should not** have:

- a) Photo of member
- b) Last name of member
- c) Age of member
- d) City where member lives

Photo(s) of cat are acceptable. Photo(s) that do not include face of member are acceptable.