

How to show with TICA

You want to enter a Tica show? Great news! Almost all TICA shows use online entries on the Show Calendar. All you need is a “TOES” (TICA Online Entry System) account. Once you have it, it’s easy to select the show you wish to go to and enter at the push of a button.

If your cat is registered with TICA then you will most likely already have a TFMS (TICA Feline Management System) account; if not, visit www.tfms.tica.org/s/ to create one. This is where your cat’s registration details are stored. You can then use the same log in details to create an account with TOES on shows.tica.org . Once you have a TOES Account go to **My Cats** where you will need to **Add Cat**. After that you will see an option to fetch the cat details from TFMS by just typing their registration number in.

If your cat is not registered with TICA then you can try a show without needing to be registered but the cat must be eligible for registration, you will need to provide proof of eligibility for registration. This can be a registration document or certified pedigree with you showing as the owner from another recognised registry, GCCF, CFA, FIFe, etc or registration slips for the parents. It is wise to photograph these or screenshot them ready to upload to your TOES account. When you are ready, visit shows.tica.org to create a TOES Account. Once you have a TOES account go to **My Cats** where you will need to **Add Cat**. There just follow the instructions, select that your cat does not have a TICA registration number, you will see the option to upload the documentation. Always use the cat’s registered name, breeder and owner’s names as they appear on the registration papers. If you are unsure of the correct category or division for your cat’s colour then please contact the entry clerk, they can help.

If your address is in the UK, Ireland or the Channel Islands your region is EW Europe West/Western Europe. Remember to click save!

TOES automatically places your cat in the correct class as long as you have input the correct date of birth and sex. Male & Female are entire cats and kittens. Spay & Neuter are neutered (Altered) cats and kittens. All HHPs must be neutered at 8 months of age. Kittens may be shown from 4 calendar months old and become Cats or Alters from 8 months of age.

Once your cat is in your TOES Account move to the Show Calendar (same shows.tica.org website), find the show you wish to enter scroll below the show description and you should be able to enter:

Your Current Entries							
Cat	Entry Status	Days	Class	Congress	Exh. Only	For Sale	
<hr/>							
+ Add New Entry							
+ Add Placeholder							

Press **Add New Entry** and follow the instructions:

Select the cat you wish to enter (if more than one, each needs to be entered separately), select what days you wish to attend, Leave the “Participating in TICA rings” option.

Agent name – list a name of agent, if you are not showing your cat yourself, and you have agreed an agent.

Benching request – put a name of someone you know who will be attending the show, who you wish to be penned next to. Or use this box to indicate that you are new exhibitor, the show team will then know to bench you next to experienced exhibitors to help you out.

Single/Double Space – select according to how many cats are you taking and how much space your pen will be taking. UK shows usually provide double spaces.

Grooming Space – this is an extra space that you can use for all your extra bits and pieces, such as grooming supplies and gives you room to groom your cats before taking them to the ring. This is charged extra, please check on the show description.

And accept the TICA show rules. It is useful to visit www.tica.org and download the show rules to read through. There is a certain show etiquette to follow, however the most important one is – once you have submitted an entry, it is payable. Even if you decide to not go. Failure to do so will result in your name being placed on the Bad Debt list and you will not be able to attend any TICA shows.

If you wish to save a space in the show but haven't decided which cat to take you can do this by selecting Add Placeholder. You will need to pay for this at the same time just as you would an entry.

If you only wish to bring your cat on Exhibition, meaning it can be in the show hall but will not be judged, then click on the drop down box for Participating in TICA rings and the Exhibition only option will appear. Exhibition cats can be kittens from 3 calendar months old, companion cats, cats you wish to take for another event in the show like Meet the Breeds or Cat Agility or for a stallholder who wishes to have their cats with them.

Here are some notes to help make it a good experience:

1. If you need to stay in a hotel and you are booking well ahead (before entries open), then book on a cancellable rate just in case the show venue changes. Hotels we use are Travelodge, Ibis and anywhere that will accept pets. They will likely make a charge (roughly £20) for the cat.
2. Start to gather the equipment you need for the show.

For the show you will need:

- A suitable pen, such as Sturdi* or similar. UK double spaces measure 120cm x 60cm, the minimum pen size for one cat or two kittens is 60cm x 60cm. Some show teams will be able to rent you a metal pen to use, but you will need to bring coverings such as blankets to make your cat feel secluded.
- Litter tray, litter, blankets/bed for inside the pen, food, water and bowls for them, toys and treats. Kitchen roll and bin bags, plus any wet wipes for clearing up.
- A grooming kit to suit your cat's needs; combs, brushes etc, plus pet wipes or waterless shampoo can be handy for accidents. As a show is a beauty contest, your cat will need to be prepared well, so bathed or whatever the coat type requires. Nails must be clipped all round; this is a show rule.
- Pack a "cat bag" for the hotel stay. Litter tray/litter food/water bowls, blanket, toy and a small clean up kit - rubbish bags, a small dustpan and brush that can be found in Range or similar for litter clean ups, possibly a small air freshener to leave the room in a nice state when you leave. If your cat sprays, it's probably better to keep it in the bathroom. It's important we leave hotel rooms as we find them. It is harder and harder to find hotels that will accept cats.
Before you let your cat out of the carrier in a hotel room, do a quick check to make sure no windows are open, and that the bathroom has no "cat sized gaps" that mean your cat can go exploring.....it happens!
- Finally, your own things for overnight stays.
- For the show itself comfortable clothes (layers as some show halls can be chilly) and comfy shoes are a must, it can be a lot of walking.
- Cash/card for shopping, food and drinks and the raffle, if there is one.

You will be sent a catalogue by email usually on the Thursday before the show. The Catalogue lists all entries and contains useful information, such as your cat's entry number, show team and judges details. You can keep it on your phone or print off the pages relevant to you or even the whole catalogue so you can keep track of how your cat does. If you have a paper version don't forget a pen as well!

The main thing is to be well prepared, of course things get forgotten but we are all friendly and will help out.....you see, I have forgotten something already! The cat's vaccination certificate is very important, I keep mine in a pocket on the travel carrier so it's always ready for vet trips or shows. Vaccinations should be kept up to date as per your vet's recommendations and boosters should be given a minimum of 7 days before the show, if due at the same time, to allow your cat's immune system to react.

You will need to check or vet in on the morning of the show and check in again on the Sunday to avoid being marked as absent. There is usually a newbie talk at the start of the day to explain how judging works. TICA is based on a ring judging system where only yourself and the judges handle your cats. You will take them from the benching area to the rings when their number is called. You will then return them to your pen when they are released from the ring.

Relax and enjoy the show!

*Sturdi is a brand that produces collapsible fabric crates designed for cat shows and is a term often used when talking about show tents/pens. In the UK we have one company that produces their own version of this pen, Desire More. Below are some links to possible pens:

www.desiremore.co.uk

www.sturdiproducts.com

[Large Pet Dog Cat Cage Foldable Tent House Cattery Delivery Room Professional Cat Competition Cage \(aliexpress.com\)](http://www.aliexpress.com)

www.amazon.co.uk search Cat Show Crate and a few options will appear.

Always check the sizes!