



## CERTIFICATE OF HEARING FOR A WHITE CAT

Registered name of cat: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed of cat: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex (please circle): Male / Female / Female Neuter / Male Neuter

Eye colour of cat:  blue  orange  odd  green  Siamese

Date of birth of cat: \_\_\_\_\_ FB Reg. No: \_\_\_\_\_

Registered owner of cat: \_\_\_\_\_

Chip ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian - I have examined the above cat and am satisfied that it is not deaf.

Signature of Veterinary Practitioner: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinary Practice Stamp

Exhibitor: Please return the completed form to your registering club after taking a copy for your records. This certificate is required under FELIS BRITANNICA/FIFe Rules for all white breeding and show cats and must be in place before the cat attends a show.

## NOTES ON TESTING HEARING OF CATS

The Fédération Internationale Féline, of which Felis Britannica is a probationary member, has decided that, from 1 January 1996 no deaf white cats may be shown nor their progeny registered. It is therefore necessary to test the hearing of these cats. The purposes of this rule are to try to reduce the occurrence of the White Deafness Syndrome and to avoid distress suffered by some deaf cats at shows.

It is difficult to test the hearing of small animals without specialist equipment, which is not available to most Veterinary Practitioners, and it has been decided to accept tests done in the normal surgery. Without audiometric test apparatus, it is difficult to diagnose degrees of hearing impairment, and so it has been decided to accept cats, which show responses to sounds in the human auditory frequency range.

A cat may fail to react to sounds if particularly unresponsive or if stressed in the surgery and its response may be to 'freeze'. Both pleasant and unpleasant sounds can be productive. The source of sound must obviously be out of sight of the animal and care should be taken to avoid giving false clues such as vibrations or air movements. Suggested sounds include claps and whistles, blowing across ballpoint pen tops, the owner's voice, humming through comb and paper, and the tearing of paper.

A deaf cat is also distinctive vocally as it mews at full volume at all times, as it is deprived of any feedback. Commonly, deaf kittens like to ride on a vacuum cleaner as the vibration is like a mother's purr. While they sometimes mimic the reactions of their siblings to sounds, their lack of fear of household clangs and bangs is obvious.

A cat with a partial hearing loss could be deaf in one ear or have a reduced sensitivity or a deficiency in some frequency bands in one or both ears. Such a cat finds it difficult to detect the direction of a sound source. If it is suspected that a cat may have some degree of impaired hearing, the owner is advised to seek audiometric tests for the animal.