

BREEDING EVALUATION

Estimated Breeding Values or EBVs are used by animal breeders taking a scientific approach to ensure the best outcomes from breeding animals. Farmers and livestock breeders normally use EBVs to help them breed the best animals they can. Cat breeders can use an equivalent, albeit less formal, process to evaluate and compare kittens for breeding potential. Breeders should not only use type in order to make these decisions, but should take into account a range of other factors.

EBVs test how useful an individual animal would be for breeding by scoring it according to certain key criteria. It can be used as a selection tool by breeders selecting breeding animals for the next generation. Although normally used on young animals, adults can be evaluated or re-evaluated at any time.

EBVs should only be used by the breeder to inform their own decisions. It is a partly subjective measure so cannot be used to compare scores between different breeders who may interpret the scoring slightly differently. There are no official scores.

Scoring should be as accurate as you can make it, but reasonable estimates can be made if all of the details are not known or not remembered.

SCORING

1. SOP Point Score

An honest appraisal by the breeder or cat show judge or other person well acquainted with the breed of how well the cat meets the standard of points for that breed. Although this is partly subjective, an analysis of the cat can be made with a points based score given to each section as broken down in the SOP with a total out of 100 calculated. Although scores may come out slightly differently depending on who is doing them if one person scores a whole litter it will show which kittens they feel most closely meet the SOP. Ideally two or more people should score the kittens.

Score out of 100 _____

Faults

Points should be removed for any faults listed on the SOP or in the standard list of withholding faults.

Do not remove points for variants accepted for breeding, e.g. straight coat in rex breeds.

Remove 25 points for a withholding fault and 10 points for other faults.

Points to subtract from score _____

2. Temperament Score

1. Reaction to unfamiliar situations, such as trips out of the home, for example to the vet.
2. Boldness, confidence and reaction to loud noises, such as vacuum cleaners or loud music.
3. How often does the kitten approach the breeder/owner for affectionate interaction, e.g. to sit on lap, be stroked, cuddled?
4. Reaction to being picked up and held (does the kitten relax or struggle?)
5. Eagerness to engage in play

Mark each of the above categories out of 10

Score out of 50 _____

3. Health Score

Has the kitten had any health problems?

Serious health problems, such as recurring, difficult-to-treat infections, surgical interventions, visual or auditory problems etc. should score 0

Moderate health problems, such as successfully treated URIs, diarrhoea, anorexia etc
Score between 1 and 24

Minor health problems only, such as short-lived digestive upsets, minor injuries etc.
Score between 25 and 49

No health problems score 50

Score out of 50 _____

4. Development Score

Has the kitten's development been normal in all areas?

When did the kitten open its eyes?

When did the kitten start coming out of the nest box?

When did kitten start to eat solids?

When did kitten stop suckling?

When did kitten start trying to use litter tray?

When did kitten become fully litter trained?

Has the kitten had a steady growth rate?

Score out of 25 _____

5. Co-efficient of Inbreeding

The COI should be calculated on as many generations as possible, preferably back to foundation.

Over 25% score 0

20 to 25% score 10

10 to 20% score 15

0 to 10 % score 25

Score out of 25 _____

6. Generational Level

Kittens with like to like breeding in their pedigrees should produce more consistent outcomes with lower risk of undesirable atavistic type.

1. The kitten has non-approved outcross breeds within the first three generations of its pedigree (i.e. parent, grandparent and great grandparent.)
Score 0
2. The kitten has approved outcross breeds within the first three generations of its pedigree
Score 10
3. The kitten has only cats of its own breed (including variants) within the first three generations of its pedigree
Score 25

Score out of 25 _____

7. Parental Breeding History

How many kittens were in the litter that the kitten was part of?

Were there any congenital health problems in any of the litter siblings?

Did any of the litter siblings suffer from subsequent health problems?

Has the kitten's mother had any breeding failures, such as failure to conceive after mating, Caesarian sections, still births etc?

Has the sire produced kittens with congenital abnormalities with a significant number of other queens?

Does the kittens have any parents or grandparents with notable success in breeding or showing?

Score out of 25 _____

8. Breeding Goals & 'X Factor'

How much would the kitten contribute towards the goals of the breeder's breeding programme? For example does it display a trait, such as colour, pattern etc, or carry a gene for a trait that the breeder aims to work with?

Does the breeder feel a particular affinity or have an instinct about the kitten?

Score out of 25 _____

Total score out of 300 _____

Divide by 3 for percentage value _____ %