

The GmCat Artifact Path Tier System

A Companion Guide to Holder Alignment, Participation Rights, Commercial Use, and Cultural Stewardship

Purpose

The GmCat Artifact Path Tier System explains how different levels of Greeting Artifact alignment may unlock deeper participation layers within the GmCat ecosystem.

The tier system is not designed to sell control of the brand. It is designed to organize access, creative opportunity, lore participation, recognition, commercial usage eligibility, and stewardship in a way that supports the broader mission of open culture, fixed artifacts, and living lore.

Guiding principle: Holding unlocks access. Contribution earns status.

Why Tiers Exist

The total original supply of GmCat Greeting Artifacts is 77,777,777,777. Because the number 7 is central to the supply pattern, the tier thresholds use repeated 7s as a simple symbolic structure that is easy to remember and easy to communicate.

The lower tiers are intentionally accessible. A holder does not need a massive amount of Greeting Artifacts to begin showing Proof of Alignment. Higher tiers may unlock deeper participation layers, but the public culture remains open to everyone.

The Tier Overview

Tier	Amount Held	Name	Primary Purpose
0	0	Stray Kitty	Anyone can participate in public GmCat culture.
1	7+	Morning Paw	Entry-level Proof of Alignment and basic holder identity.
2	77+	Purr Paw	Stronger alignment and deeper community access.
3	777+	Artifact Paw	Active community participation, submissions, and recognition.
4	7,777+	Whisker Flame Paw	Creator-rights tier and starting point for small-batch commercial usage rights.
5	77,777+	Lore Keeper Paw	Living lore, canon participation, and expanded creative/lore-based projects.
6	777,777+	Council of Paws	High-level ecosystem participation, advisory stewardship, and larger collaboration eligibility.
7	7,777,777+	Genesis Guardian	Major origin-aligned stewardship and ecosystem sponsorship.

How Each Tier Works

Tier	Rights and Permissions
Tier 0 - Stray Kitty (0 artifacts)	Anyone can say gm, make memes, create fan art, share public content, join public spaces, and participate in public cultural activity. This protects the open-culture side of GmCat. Commercial use is not included at this tier.
Tier 1 - Morning Paw (7+ artifacts)	Entry-level Proof of Alignment. May receive verified holder roles, basic holder recognition, selected holder spaces, and eligibility for simple rituals, polls, previews, or community moments.
Tier 2 - Purr Paw (77+ artifacts)	Stronger alignment. May unlock early previews, deeper community discussions, holder-only updates, simple event access, and stronger recognition as part of the artifact-aligned community.
Tier 3 - Artifact Paw (777+ artifacts)	Active community tier. May include profile badges, creator spotlight eligibility, deeper Artifact Path activities, and the ability to submit art, memes, stories, or ideas for community review.
Tier 4 - Whisker Flame Paw (7,777+ artifacts)	Creator-rights tier. May receive expanded permission to create GmCat-inspired works, use "GmCat Greeting Artifact Holder" language, participate in official creator challenges, submit creative works for possible public feature, and engage in approved small-batch commercial usage.
Tier 5 - Lore Keeper Paw (77,777+ artifacts)	Living-lore participation tier. May submit formal lore proposals, participate in canon review windows, propose rituals, locations, side characters, moods, or storylines, and receive public credit for accepted contributions. May be eligible for expanded lore-based commercial projects subject to standards and approval.
Tier 6 - Council of Paws (777,777+ artifacts)	High-level ecosystem participation. May submit ecosystem proposals, nominate creators for grants or recognition, help review major lore expansions, gain early access to ecosystem releases, sponsor community contests, and become eligible for larger commercial collaborations or co-branded opportunities.
Tier 7 - Genesis Guardian (7,777,777+ artifacts)	Major origin-aligned stewardship. May sponsor large-scale ecosystem initiatives, propose major cultural or lore efforts, receive priority consideration for official collaborations, and be publicly recognized as major long-term stewards of the GmCat ecosystem.

Commercial Usage Rights

Commercial usage rights are not the same as community participation. Public, non-commercial participation remains open to everyone. Commercial usage begins at the designated creator-rights tier (Whisker Flame Paw and above) and must follow the GmCat Open Brand License.

Level	Commercial Treatment
Stray Kitty through Artifact Paw	Non-commercial community participation, fan art, memes, stories, remixes, and submissions are encouraged. Selling GmCat-inspired goods or services is not included by default.
Whisker Flame Paw	Starting tier for approved small-batch commercial usage rights, such as stickers, prints, shirts, mugs, comics, digital works, local event goods, and creator-owned GmCat-inspired products.
Lore Keeper Paw	Eligible for expanded lore-based commercial projects, story releases, zines, comics, or themed product lines that follow community standards.
Council of Paws	Eligible for larger creator campaigns, sponsored community projects, broader collaborations, and co-branded opportunities.
Genesis Guardian	Eligible for major ecosystem sponsorship, high-level collaborations, and larger-scale brand initiatives, subject to review by community and community standards.

Commercial rights must always follow community standards: no scams, no hateful use, no false endorsements, no misleading financial claims, no misuse of the GmCat name, and no activity that harms the GmCat ecosystem.

Artifact Tiers vs. Contribution Ranks

Artifact tiers and contribution ranks should work together but remain separate. Artifact tiers are based on the amount of Greeting Artifacts held. Contribution ranks are based on what a person actually does for the ecosystem.

This distinction is important because a person with a smaller artifact tier may become highly respected through consistent contribution, while a large holder who never participates should not automatically become culturally important.

In short: Artifact Tier = access and alignment. Contribution Rank = earned cultural status.

Operating Safeguards

- No tier grants corporate ownership or equity rights.
- No tier guarantees financial return or future value.
- No tier gives unilateral control over GmCat culture.
- The broader culture remains open to everyone.
- Higher tiers should encourage deeper participation, not exclusionary control.
- Commercial usage rights begin only at the designated tiers and remain subject to the GmCat Open Brand License.
- Contribution should remain the strongest path to cultural status.
- The fixed supply of original Greeting Artifacts should remain transparent and protected.

Important Note

The GmCat Artifact Path does not promote control. It recognizes alignment. Higher artifact tiers may unlock deeper access, creative permissions, commercial usage eligibility, lore participation, recognition, and stewardship opportunities, but the culture remains open to everyone. Holding GmCat Artifacts signals Proof of Alignment. Contribution turns that alignment into cultural impact. This tier system describes cultural participation, alignment, creative opportunity, recognition, and stewardship. It does not promise financial returns, guarantee future value, or represent equity ownership in a company.