

GENETICS COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Genetics Committee exists to advise the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy on all matters relating to breed recognition, registration on the GCCF register, breeding policies, and the overall genetic health of the cat.

GCCF Constitution states:

“The Council shall seek the advice of the Genetics Committee in all cases where application is made to the Council to give recognition to a new breed or variety. The Committee shall appoint its own Chairman and Secretary and shall meet as required and report its findings to the Executive Committee.”

Membership

The Committee shall comprise seven members appointed annually by the GCCF Executive Committee at the first EC meeting following the electoral Council meeting (June) each year.

The Committee shall nominate one of its members as Chair.

The Committee reserves the right to co-opt additional members as required to provide specialist knowledge and advice.

Principal Functions & Accountabilities

The Genetics Committee is a sub-committee of the Executive Committee and reports directly to it; and through EC to Council. The Committee's principal functions are:

- To advise Exec and Council on all matters relating to cat genetics and the breeding of pedigree cats.
- To consider the merits of granting recognition to new breeds and advise Exec and Council accordingly.
- To provide expert advice to GCCF staff.
- To advise BACs on relevant registration and breeding policies
- To undertake regular (though not necessarily frequent) reviews of SOPs and registrations policies; advice on necessary/desirable changes or amendments.
- To provide advice and guidance on implementing the GCCF Breeding Policy, once developed and agreed.
- To review and advise on genetic tests available.

- To liaise with genetics committees of other registration bodies – CFA, KC, TICA, FIFe
- To advise/recommend on subscriptions to websites and journals and to monitor research and development
- To work with genetics specialist as co-opted member of Genetics Committee.
- To liaise with Defra and other Govt departments as appropriate on all aspects relating to cat health and welfare.
- To develop links and liaise with academic institutions (such as universities and veterinary schools) undertaking research into cat genetics; where appropriate to liaise with the research and development departments of commercial firms such as pharmaceutical companies who may be developing tests or treatments/solutions to genetic defects.

Frequency & Place of Meetings

The Committee should aim to meet two or three times per year, although meetings should be dictated by need, and giving due consideration to minimising the financial cost to the GCCF.

The timing and venue should be dictated by convenience and where possible should maximise the opportunity to share venues booked for other committee meetings (eg Exec).

Liaison & Communication

The Committee should liaise regularly with the Executive Committee and through EC, Council. Members of the committee should be available to provide expert advice to staff at the GCCF Office on matters pertaining to the Committee's remit.

The Committee should develop communication links with all Breed Advisory Committees and should seek to advise them on breeding policies, breed registration policies and the genetic health of the breed(s) for which they are responsible.

The Committee should seek to build a sound working relationship with the genetics committees of other appropriate registration bodies, such as the Kennel Club, FIFe, Felis Britannicas and TICA

It should also build and maintain good communications links to Veterinary Sub-committee, Supreme Sub-committee, GCCF Press Officer/Marketing & Communications Officer and GCCF Webmaster.

Steve Crow
1st January 2010