



MINUTES

For the Meeting of the **Board OF DIRECTORS**

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY
Tuesday, 12 January 2016 at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London

Present: Mr Steve Crow - Chairman
Mr John Hansson - Vice-Chairman

Mrs Lynda Ashmore	Dr Gillian Bennett
Mrs Rosemary Fisher	Mrs Doreen Goadby
Mr Thomas Goss	Mrs Shelagh Heavens
Mrs Catherine Kaye	Mrs Jen Lacey
Mrs Celia Leighton	Mrs Helen Marriott-Power
Ms Heather McRae	Mrs Pat Perkins
Mrs Sally Rainbow-Ockwell	

In attendance: Mr Mark Goadby - Office Manager

BD3516 MEETING INTRODUCTION

- Apologies for absence.**
 - 1.1 Apologies were given on behalf of Mr Sean Farrell and Mr John Robinson **INFO**
- Chairman's Opening remarks**
 - 2.1 The Chairman opened the meeting shortly before 11.20pm, and wished everyone present a Happy New Year.
 - 2.2 He noted that figures had been circulated from the Office indicating that 2015 had finished with some excellent results and it was good to start a new year reviewing the successes of the previous one.
 - 2.3 All present were reminded to be courteous, and that the business of the day was confidential.
 - 2.4 He hoped that there would be time to discuss the outcome of the survey results carried out by the Show Structure Review Group, the first to gather opinion from a wide range of exhibitors.
 - 2.5 There was then a review of Board meeting dates in order to try and make use of the Kennel Club facilities as often as possible as they were far more comfortable, refreshments would be available and they were cheaper for Board meetings.
 - 2.6 It was agreed to use the KC for the Board in March, May, July and November. The costs and availability for FC and IC meetings would be investigated.

Action: confirmation of provisional bookings with KC **MG**
circulation to the Board of a revised meetings' list indicating the new venue and date changes,

BD3517 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- The Minutes of the Board meeting of 17 November 2015**

The final draft was approved as circulated after minor corrections.

Action: to be sent to the GCCF website for publication and go out with the Council agenda **JL/RF**
- Matters arising from the November minutes**
 - 2.1 BD3500.2 Flowers had been sent to the President on her 100th birthday.
Vice President, Gordon Butler, was recovering, but slowly. Mr & Mrs Butler would be moving to Taunton and good wishes in respect of this would be sent.
 - 2.2 BD3504.1 Agria had been pleased to discuss business with the Board in November.
 - 2.3 BD3404.8 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell apologised for not yet having the 2016 Business Plan ready for circulation.
 - 2.4 BD3505.4 A letter had been sent to IC requesting a list of reasons to give an explanation when there was no case to answer and its receipt had been acknowledged. It would be considered at an IC meeting later in the year, as the one scheduled for January had been cancelled.
 - 2.5 BD3507.2 The statement had been made on the website. There had been no response to date.
 - 2.6 BD3508.9 Responses had been received from the VAC. It was thought to be a situation that would occur very infrequently, but to avoid potential conflict of interests suggested that another vet or the SM should vet in the DV's cat and the SM should be involved if there was any query on the cat during the day.
Action: Protocol to be put into the SM website information and the club & VAC to be informed. **JL/RF**
 - 2.7 BD3509.10 Mrs Fisher had circulated the certificate plate costs. It was £350 for all, not for each.
 - 2.8 BD3510.4 There had been no response from the Ragdoll BAC to the registration policy query raised, probably because no meeting had been held. It was agreed the representative should be asked in Council, with GC advice to be stated and the process monitored. It was noted that the BAC Secretary had resigned.
 - 2.9 BD3510.9 The Australian Mist clubs had not submitted a revised registration policy. The recognition of caramel and revised SOP only to go forward to February Council. **JL**
 - 2.10 BD3511 It was reported that Mrs Dean would be away for some time and was not continuing as secretary for some BACs. It was agreed that the Chairman of each BAC should be point of contact until her return, and s/he would pass breed information enquiries on to an appropriate representative.

BD3518 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Unregistered interests declared for the business of this meeting.**
 - 1.1 Club and show interests were as on record. No new information was given. **INFO**

1. **Financial statement on business to the end of November**
 - 1.1 The OM stated that the indications were that there would be a good surplus at the end of year as levels of income from core business and from Agria remained high.
 - 1.2 Except for bank charges due to card use, and the use of commercial computer support, expenditure had been reduced. Overall it was 95% of the total at the same point in the previous year.
 - 1.3 There would be some significant expenditure in December as staff bonuses had been paid, and there was the cost of the deficit for Supreme show, so a deficit for the month was expected.
 - 1.4 This would reduce the surplus from the high level predicted from the November figures, but extra costs and capital payment had been made and a healthy surplus remained, which was an excellent achievement. INFO
2. **Volume figures**
The data to the end of 2015 had been circulated to give the following information:
 - 2.1 212 more cats had been registered in 2015 than the previous year, which was the first time there had been an increase for some years. Without including imports there was still a small rise of 135.
 - 2.2 Prefix registrations had fallen slightly, with 392 less, but a record year of non-prefix registrations, with an additional 527, had provided the increase. These also generated more income.
 - 2.3 The transfer total had slowed over the past month after a major surge, but there was an increase of 7% over the year as a whole. 38% of cats were now being transferred which was an outright record.
 - 2.4 Import figures also remained at record levels, more than at any time since statistics were kept.
 - 2.5 Prefix application figures had not shown the same improvement, but were better than in 2014.
 - 2.6 The online system was well used (over 80% of prefix registrations were made this way) which, together with payments made by telephone, had increased bank card use substantially. INFO
3. **2016 budget for approval**
 - 3.1 The budget took into account known levels of expenditure in 2015 and predictable increases or decreases in expenditure, together with projects that were being carried forward from the 2015 Business Plan. The OM outlined the areas of change to the Board.
 - 3.2 There would be a reduction of professional and secretarial services required after Phoenix and the expectation of a smaller staff role in this respect.
 - 3.3 An increased allowance had been made for staff training. Staff would need additional support initially post Phoenix and the new employee for marketing and communication could need regular update and skill enhancement in areas relevant to GCCF.
 - 3.4 Expenditure was also planned for further IT enhancement, customer service upgrades, Supreme support and staff reward for achievement, all as continued investment of profit into the business.
 - 3.5 A vote was taken and the 2016 budget approved unanimously. INFO
4. **Staff salary review**
 - 4.1 The OM commented briefly before leaving the room for this item.
 - 4.2 There was some discussion on the rate of the increase considering pay rises for the sector, the amount given in 2015, and whether each employee should receive the same percentage increase, or allowance be made for known additional responsibility or effort.
 - 4.3 It was agreed that a 1% increase should be paid to all. This was less than the previous year, but in 2015 there had to be a catch up after a period when no increases could be made.
 - 4.4 In addition bonuses could be paid as reward for effort at a particular time, and there could be individual pay increases when salaries were considered with performance appraisal and job description review for additional responsibility.
 - 4.5 It was thought important that staff should be aware that increases and bonuses had to be earned and did not happen as a matter of course, but it was appreciated that staff had worked well together as a team through difficult circumstances in 2015 so reward was merited.
Action: a letter to go to all staff giving the basis on which the decision was made. SC
 - 4.6 There was a query on the introduction of the staff pension scheme, the timing and whether the government scheme was the best option. It was agreed this should be discussed further in the next FC meeting.
Action: item for the February FC agenda JL

BD3520 BUSINESS MATTERS

1. **The 2016 Business Plan**
 - 1.1 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell would circulate the Business Plan to the Board as soon as it was completed.
 - 1.2 All Board members were asked to make a response even if it was only to acknowledge receipt.
Action: after circulation and Board approval the BP would be published on the website and go to the February Council meeting with the 2016 budget. SRO/MG
2. **The GCCF partnership with Agria - meeting report**
 - 2.1 At the December meeting with Agria the company's managing director had indicated he was pleased with what had been achieved recently, but thought there was still more to be done. It was agreed that the new member of staff with responsibility for marketing would be of assistance for this.
 - 2.2. It was thought that the direct link to the Agria site when a transfer was made would provide a boost, and early indications were promising.
 - 2.3 It was noted that the connections through from the GCCF website were not linking as previously to infill automatically when breeders provided five week cover.
Action: this to be checked RF/MG
 - 2.4 It was thought that the company should be encouraged to do more for Breeder Scheme members and six weeks kitten cover should be urged. Also that they could do more to promote benefits to breeders. There were good provisions that weren't highlighted or bullet pointed.

2.5 Other suggestions were: facilitation to change the type of cover promptly when a cat was neutered and rehomed, a single insurance pot to cover all cats in a breeding household, and additional occasional incentives such as the holiday offer currently running.

Action: Comments from the Board to be put to Agria at the next meeting.

SC

3. Contract with Royal Canin

3.1 RC had reported that this was one of their most successful campaigns and the company was very pleased with the outcome to date.

3.2 After such a good start for GCCF it would be interesting to monitor transfers over the coming six months to ascertain whether they were sustained or showed continued growth.

3.3 The company had indicated that it was interested in further involvement with GCCF. Seminars at shows other than the Supreme had been suggested, as had further promotion of GCCF.

3.4 The Board was interested in an RC offer to sponsor a competition at shows for children/young people. There had been a suggestion of a special miscellaneous class for cats exhibited by them. SMs present liked the idea but there had to be consideration of practicality and promotion.

Action: to return to the agenda after time allowed for thought

JL

4. Report on the progress of Project Phoenix and online services

4.1 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell reported after a meeting in January there was now a target date of 1 March. This would entail additional work, and therefore affect cost, but it would be of benefit to GCCF in that it gave time before the peak season of kitten registration for problems to be fixed and staff to become familiar with it. The OM supported this view.

4.2 It was the intention that Mr Macro should focus solely on shows and the Supreme. This would be an additional cost, but it left Digital Trading free to complete the other work and it was an area that IM was familiar with. The Supreme area of the site would not be available until after 1 March to allow registration to be a priority.

4.3 Testing was well underway. 504 issues had been raised and 104 remained to be fixed. SRO was working with DT to ensure this was completed.

4.5 Registration policies were now 50% complete, and would be ready by the launch date, though not all would have been signed off by the BAC. Some BACs had proved more co-operative than others.

4.6 Office staff would begin inputting onto the system from February with SRO providing training and support during this period and after the launch.

4.7 There was no extra payment to DT. The additional work for IM and SRO to complete project delivery for March was at a total cost of £11750. This amount was partly offset by staff saving (£4,200) and training costs brought forward from 2015 (£2000).

4.8 The Board approved the target date, and supported plans to close down the on-line services for the time necessary to make the switch over, ensure it was functioning, and staff were ready.

Action: further report to the Board after the IT meeting of 2 February to confirm that action on 1 March was viable. An announcement to be made in Council.

SRO

5. Website report

5.1 Mrs Fisher reported that the website continued to function smoothly and there had been no issues raised on access, other than occasional help required by the inexperienced.

5.2 Updates were being made regularly and information removed that was no longer relevant.

5.3 The Chair expressed thanks to those concerned in the efficient operation of the site.

INFO

6. Breeder Scheme update, and website incentive of offering a period of free kitten listing

6.1 The free kitten list was in operation and feedback from breeders indicated support for this.

6.2 It was agreed the Breeder scheme needed further development and then more extensive marketing. It would be discussed at the next meeting of the Marketing Strategy Group and when the new member of staff responsible for marketing was in post.

6.3 It was agreed that in future the names of those wishing to join the BS should be circulated to the whole Board. There would be monitoring to ensure an effective response was made quickly.

INFO

7. Information on negotiations with GCCFI

7.1 The outcome of GCCFI meeting on 23 November had been favourable on taking up the GCCF offer for online registration, but there was not yet a final decision. It was hoped this would be made at the next GCCFI meeting in February.

7.2 The OM explained there was no budget allocation specific for this project since the initial expenditure on development should be matched approximately by income.

INFO

BD 3521 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

1. Codes of conduct for GCCF Officers & Board and the disciplinary committees

1.1 The Declaration of Office was a commitment to uphold the Code of Conduct and this was a requirement of Bylaw 11 (11) for the disciplinary committees.

1.2 There were two amendments to section 3: to clarify friendship, and ensure that IC did not become inquisitorial, and the document was then approved.

1.3 The Declaration and Code for GCCF Officers and the Board was approved without change.

Action: to go to February Council for information and then be published on the GCCF so that those standing for election in June would have knowledge of the commitment.

JL

2. **Application for registration of a cat purchased from a suspended breeder**

2.1 There was good deal of sympathy for the breeder who had been the victim of deception by a suspended breeder and it was acknowledged that the Byelaws gave the Board discretion. However, there had to be a consistency of approach and an awareness that to allow discretion without factual basis could encourage suspended breeders to target novices.

2.2 It was agreed that in the first instance the purchasers of the male should inform the relevant Trading Standards authority for the area. The findings of the TSO should be submitted to GCCF in support of their application for registration.

Action: the owners to be informed of the Board's decision

MG

2.3 It was suggested that where Board discretion was used to register a cat from a suspended breeder, an admin prefix should replace that of the breeder.

Action: A rule revision to be proposed for this purpose.

JL

2.4 It was queried whether a reciprocal arrangement existed with TICA so that breeders suspended with one organisation could not register cats with other. The OM confirmed this existed now, but was not in operation at the time this cat was transferred.

BD3522 PREFIXES

1. **Prefix applications**

1.1 Several names applied for were close to those of existing prefixes, but all were considered sufficiently different.

1.2 All 17 prefixes applied for were approved.

Action: the applicants to be informed

OFFICE

BD3523 THE SUPREME SHOW

1. **Report from the Show Manager on 2015 show**

1.1 Mrs Leighton reported that the 2015 show had a loss of £9,700. This was final the figure. It was less than had been expected because of £5000 received from a donor who wished to remain anonymous. The Board asked for its gratitude for this generosity to be passed on.

1.2 It was considered that given the expense of the venue to allow for the special format of the Supreme a loss had to be accepted. The Supreme could be viewed as an event to showcase cats to the public, rather than a show in the club sense, for which money could be allocated for marketing purposes, and it should then be evaluated accordingly.

INFO

2. **Preparation for the Supreme Show for 2016**

2.1 This would be the 40th Supreme and the SM invited ideas, but cautioned that all suggestions would have to be costed.

2.2 Meetings were planned with Agria and RC to confirm sponsorship, and it was also suggested that clubs might like to make particular sponsorship for specialities.

2.2 It was acknowledged that the priority was attracting a good entry of cats. Mrs Kaye observed that there had been feedback on the Supreme in the Show Survey that could be helpful as a number of exhibitors had expressed dissatisfaction on certain aspects of the Supreme that could possibly be addressed.

2.3 There was a thought that as it was the Ruby Show there could be a special competition for red and/or red series cats.

2.4 The Gala Dinner for 2016 was confirmed for the Friday night of the show. It was envisaged that the Cat Of The Year Awards would be presented here based on scoring for shows from 1 June 2015 to 31 May 2016. (It was thought a simpler method of scoring than that devised for previous awards should be developed.) The fun awards for people could continue to be organised for and presented at the dinner following the Suffolk & Norfolk Show.

Action: A meeting of the Supreme Committee to be held on 24 January to plan further for 2016.

CL

Circulation of an alternative method of scoring used successfully in Scotland

HM

2.5 It was agreed that there must be discussion on the future of the Supreme post 2016 prior to the appointment of a new Event Manager.

Action: to be on the agenda of the February FC meeting and for the Board in March or April.

JL

BD3524 OTHER SHOW MATTERS

1. **2015/2016 Show Changes for report**

1.1 Kernow CC/SW British SH CC Shared Show – 26 March 2016: Venue changed to The Westpoint Centre, Clyst St Mary, Exeter, Devon, EX5 1DJ

1.2 Bedford & District CC/Cambridgeshire CC Shared Show – 23 April 2016: Venue changed to Kettering Conference Centre, Thurston Drive, Kettering, NN15 6PB.

2. **2015/2016 Show changes - for approval**

2.1 National Pet Shows – London – 7 & 8 May 2016: Application received: Venue: Excel London, 1 Western Gateway, Royal Victoria Dock, London E16 1XL; SMs: Mr B and Mrs A Gregory & Mrs D Taylor; 24 HP cats expected.

2.2. Black & White CC -14 May 2016: request for Selkirk rex at their show , as agreed by the Board for the 2016/17 show.

2.3 Durham County CC - 28 May 2016: Mrs L Gillhespy to stand down with immediate effect as JSM and Miss E Watson to be SM instead of ASM. This will also apply to the 2016/17 show. The club shares a venue with Northern Counties, SM Mrs Al-Jumali.

These requests were agreed.

OFFICE

3. **2016/2017 Show Changes for report**
- 3.1 Wyvern CC/Rex CA/Sphynx CC Shared Shows – 10 September 2016: Required date confirmed as 3 September 2016 and as already agreed by the Board in November that this would be the better date, this is reported for reference rather than approval. Also for Wyvern CC, Debbie Newman is no longer one of the Joint SMs.
- 3.2 Russian Blue Breeders Association - 1 October 2016: Mrs A Murray-Brooks appointed as SM in place of Mrs D Tomson.
- 3.3 Kernow CC/SW British SH CC Shared Show – 1 April 2017: Venue changed to The Westpoint Centre, Clyst St Mary, Exeter, Devon, EX5 1DJ.
4. **2015/2016 Show changes and late licence application - for approval**
- 4.1 Scotia Cat Fanciers - 11 June 2016: request to return to this original date.
It was thought the club would want 8 October as this was now available and there was no SM for 11 June. Therefore this date was given provisional approval.
- 4.2 Balinese & Siamese CC – 16 July 2016: Venue: Samuel Cody SS College, Ballantine Road, Farnborough, Hants, GU14 8SS; SM: Mrs J Wilkinson; Cats: 60; HP Section: Yes; Additional Breeds: Oriental Section; Judges: 4; Finance: £500-£1000.
- 4.3 Edinburgh & East of Scotland CC - 16 July 2016 Date change requested to 5 November 2016 to share with Caledonian LH at the Leith Academy, 20 Academy Park, Edinburgh. EH6 8JQ.
- 4.4 Norsk Skogkatt Society – 1 October 2016: Miss B Spooner submitted as Show Manager in place of Mrs C Pike.
- 4.5 Siamese CC - 1 October 2016 (was sharing with TPS&PS): requested date change back to usual date of 5 November as no longer sharing.
- 4.6 Tabby Point Siamese & progressive Breeders CC - 1 October 2016: requested date change to 20 August 2016 to share with the Lilac Point Siamese CS. SM to be Barbara James in place of H Meekings, with ASM Ms R Clarke.
- 4.7 Selkirk Rex CC – Date now submitted as 1 October 2016 (sharing with BCS, CBRSH, EGYMAU, TAB)
Venue: Perdiswell Leisure Centre, Bilford Road, Worcester, WR3 8DX; Show Manager: Mrs B Prowse; Number of cats expected: 30; Number of Judges: 4/5 (sharing with TAB).
- 4.8 Caledonian LH CC 5 November 2015: return requested to the original date of 5 November 2016 to share with Edinburgh & East of Scotland at the Leith Academy, 20 Academy Park, Edinburgh. EH6 8JQ.
- 4.9 National Pet Shows – Birmingham – 5 & 6 November 2016: Applications received: Venue: NEC, Birmingham B40 1NT; SMs: Mr B and Mrs A Gregory & Mrs D Taylor; 24 HP cats expected
- 4.10 Scottish CC – 3 December 2016 (Sharing with West of Scotland CC): Venue: Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility, O'Donnell Way, Motherwell, North Lanarkshire, ML1 2TZ; Number of Cats: 400; HP Section: Yes; Judges: 33; Finance: over £3000.
- 4.11 Progressive Ragdoll Breed CC – Date now submitted as 2 April 2017 (sharing with several other clubs: Number of Judges still to be advised.
- 4.12 Durham County CC 27 May 2017 - as 2.3.
- Requests as detailed agreed. OFFICE**
5. **2016/17 Show licence details still awaited**
- 5.1 Scotia Cat Fanciers (11 June 2016): se 4.1
- 5.2 North West CC - 24 September 2016: Show Manager
- 5.3 Ocicat Club - 1 October 2016: venue
- 5.4 Tonkinese Breed Club - date and venue
- 5.5 Tonkinese CC - date, venue, cats judges and HHP Section and additional breeds, plus future show dates.
- INFO**
6. **2016/17 Show licence applications not yet received**
- 6.1 Russian & Abyssinian CC of Scotland (To be decided at club's AGM);
- 6.2 West of Scotland CC. (Reminder sent 19.11.15)
- INFO**
7. **Query on disqualification because of lack of a vaccination certificate.**
- 7.1 As this was not the first time the vaccination card had not been taken to the show and was subsequently not submitted in time to the Office (disqualification rescinded) it was considered the exhibitor should be asked to substantiate her reason'
- 7.2 It was agreed that a medical certificate would provide the necessary validation.
- Action: This to be requested.**
- OFFICE**
8. **Request for guidance on early passes for bad weather.**
- 8.1 An email had been received alleging refusal to allow an exhibitor to leave early despite reports of flooding. (Ms McCrae left the room)
- 8.2 It was agreed no action could be taken on the complaint about the Show Manager as this had been or could be taken to IC.
- 8.3 However, it was thought that more guidance could be given to SMs on early passes and/or early closure in the event of bad weather in the area of the venue or reported from elsewhere.
- Action This to be on the agenda for a future Board meeting.**
- JL**
9. **Request for guidance advertising presence at shows**
- 9.1 The Blue Persian Cat Society had concerns about notifications on social media detailing the cats to be exhibited at shows. Committee members had recalled that disqualification resulted if there was advertising to this effect in cat magazines in the past.
- 9.2 Dr Bennett pointed out that the only rule currently in operation prevented identification of a cat in its pen to a judge on the show day before judging was completed. (4:26).
- Action: a letter giving the information to go to the BPCS**
- JL**

10. **New Certificates**

10.1 Mrs Fisher had ascertained that the plates could be obtained for a total of £350 and circulated the information to the Board. There had been no queries.

10.2 It was agreed that the new certificates would be used from 1 June 2016.

Action: liaison with the office on ordering a supply of the new certificates

RF

BD3525 SHOW STRUCTURE REVIEW GROUP

1. **Report from the Chairman of the Show Structure Review Group**

1.1 Mrs Kaye reported that there was a total of 1,445 responses to the survey, with 96.6% of these exhibitors currently showing with GCCF. All sections were represented, including Household and Pedigree Pet.

1.2 Although nothing really unexpected had emerged from the results there were two general points to bear in mind if future surveys were carried out. Most participants completed it quickly, there was no need to allow several weeks. Also, the open ended questions at the end had produced over 1,000 pages of script that was extremely time consuming to analyse. This would be better avoided.

1.3 Overall there was a high level of satisfaction (72.4%), with the social side of shows - meeting friends and seeing cats reported most frequently as enjoyable. Geographical location, cost and judges were the factors that determined whether a show was selected.

1.4 Improvement was wanted for the show day, in particular the venues, and both the quality of judging and Supreme were mentioned frequently as needing to be changed or improved.

1.5 The SSRG had ideas for further analysis of certain key areas from these results, in particular a survey that was specific to the Supreme.

Action: a report to be formulated and presented to Council further analysis to be made before any proposals can be produced

SSRG

BD3526 BREED APPLICATIONS, REGISTRATION/TRANSFER & SOP MATTERS

1. **Nebelung SOP revision**

1.1 Overall this was thought to be a sensible revision with superfluous wording removed from the introduction and helpful detail added.

1.2 There were two very small wording amendments for clarity.

CK/JL

Action: the breeder group to be informed of the changes, and the revised SOP to be on the Council agenda.

2. **Oriental LH and SH SOP revision**

2.1 The GCCF numbering had been replaced by EMS codes throughout, but the other revisions were small, relating to eye colour (SH) and withholding faults(LH).

2.2 There was approval without any amendment.

Action: the BAC to be informed and the revised SOPs to be on the Council agenda.

JL

3. **Preliminary recognition of the Suffolk Chocolate and Suffolk Lilac**

3.1 Two judge names were removed from the list of those proposed and some minor typographical corrections were made to the registration policy and SOP.

3.2 The application was approved.

Action: the clubs to be informed and the application to be on the Council agenda.

JL

4. **Generic rule to ensure white cats used for breeding have normal hearing confirmed by testing**

4.1 Section 1 - The Register - new 1c)

Before any progeny may be registered from any breed of white cat, male or female, this cat must have had a BAER or OAE certificate of freedom from unilateral or bilateral deafness submitted to the GCCF Office. White cats without such certification will be registered on the non-active register until such time as the required certificate is sent and an application for transfer to the active register is made. Cats should be microchipped when tested with the number recorded on the test result and the cat's own veterinary records.

4.2 It was confirmed that the previous objection to the wording of this rule had been removed. Breeders and/or owners did not have to test kittens. They could choose to do this or wait until the cat was older.

4.3 It was agreed that the rule should be listed as 1g).

Action: the rule to be on the February Council agenda.

JL

BD3527 CLUB AND BAC MATTERS

1. **Report from the BAC Structure Review Group**

1.1 Mr Hansson reported that the next meeting was being organised for February, date to be confirmed.

1.2 Several issues had arisen in the past months that needed discussion:

- information on judging from the SSRG survey
- acceptance/definition of tutor judges
- criteria for BAC representatives
- non-adherence to the rules of procedure
- retention of BAC paperwork

1.3 A survey for BAC Chairman was being drafted to gather information on administrative practices and ascertain where there were problems or difficulties that indicated change was required.

INFO

2. **Delegate numbers**

2.1 A letter had been received from the Surrey & Sussex CA suggesting that the number of club members to qualify for delegate representation should be reduced for All Breed clubs to 75 for one delegate and 150 for 2. The rationale was that clubs were finding it increasingly difficult to retain the number of members necessary, and there seemed little indication this would change.

2.2 As there was no mention of breed or specialist clubs, or factual information provided, it was agreed that it should go forward to February Council as a discussion item, as any byelaw change concerning membership would need further consideration of implications for GCCF and the clubs.

Action: the discussion item to be on the February Council agenda.

JL

3. **Byelaw change to allow an administration charge for clubs with late returns**

3.1 Member clubs who have a problem completing the return for any reason should inform the Board **prior to May 1st for assistance. Those that do not and have to be contacted in order to obtain all or part of the listed paperwork will be charged an administrative fee.**

3.2 It was confirmed that the administrative fee to be put to Council was £50 as this amount had been suggested by delegates in October.

Action: the byelaw amendment to be on the February Council agenda.

JL

4. **Generic club rules**

4.1 As those drafted for the Scottish clubs (min BD3511.8) were not available the OM had put together a draft that had been circulated.

4.2 There had been some Officer and Board member input and it was agreed that Dr Bennett should work on the draft and circulate a second version for the March or April agenda.

Action preparation of a second draft

GB

4.3 Mr Hansson informed the Board that the Suffolk breed clubs would wait for the issue of a set of generic rules so that these could be customised.

5. **Club rules update**

5.1 This item was not taken as it would be useful to issue the generic rules to newly formed clubs and those that had submitted rules that had anomalies or could cause difficulties in practice.

INFO

BD3528 VETERINARY AND WELFARE MATTERS

1. **Revision of the rule on kitten vaccination**

2. **Advice to breeders on the rule addition requiring kitten vaccination**

These items were still awaiting information from IC and the committee had not had an opportunity to discuss them and draft proposals.

INFO

3. **Pedigree pet classes - the acceptance of physical anomalies**

3.1 A proposal had been drafted as currently breeds based on physical anomalies that are listed in the GCCF Breeding Policy as unacceptable for the basis of future breed recognition can be shown in the pedigree pet section.

3.2 It was considered that revision was needed as the wording suggested that pets of recognised breeds, such as Sphynx and Manx, could also be excluded.

Action: further discussion with the Veterinary Officers

JL

4. **A structured approach to HCM**

4.1 This was outlined in the notes from the Genetics Committee held in November, but discussion was deferred.

Action: to be included on the next agenda

JL

5. **Report from C&FSG/Breeding & Sale of Cats Group**

5.1 The Chairman stated that the report and recommendations outlined in November would be discussed by the C&FSG in early March. He had been able to make some changes, but not remove proposals on the selling of kittens, and the involvement of HMRC, though these were not aimed specifically at pedigree breeders.

5.2 He proposed that Jackie Cuff (Cats Protection) attend the Board meeting in March to explain the implications and take questions. This was something she was keen to do.

5.3 The Board agreed that she should be allowed time at the next meeting.

Action: The invitation to be made.

SC

6. **Cat Welfare Trust**

6.1 Mrs Fisher reported that as the CWT had lost a committee member with the sad death of Mrs Sharp a replacement had been discussed. The suggestion was that this should be Mr Anthony Nichols who was extremely knowledgeable on all aspects of feline genetics and had regular contact with the research geneticists. This was approved.

6.2 The discussion on possible future proposals to the CWT for research into the genetic diversity of GCCF breeds was postponed for future meeting.

Action: Mr Nichols to join the CWT Board, and the discussion to be included on a future agenda.

RF/JL

BD3529 OFFICE/ADMINISTRATION

1.1 No report circulated.

1.2 Some discussion of staff issues at 3519.4

1.3 The OM's annual appraisal was scheduled for the end of January.

INFO

BD3530EVENTS

1. **Gala dinner and Cat Of The Year Competition.**

1.1 No additional information to the discussion as recorded at BD3523.4

INFO

2. **National Pet Shows.**

2.1 The licences had been graded according to the details provided. (BD352.2.1 & BD3524.4.9)

2.2 There was no additional information.

INFO

BD3531

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None taken.

The meeting finished at 5.10pm with deferments where noted.

The next meeting: Tuesday, 8 March 2016 at 11.00 for 11.15am in the Boardroom at the Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London.