



## MINUTES

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

### THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY

Tuesday, 17 November 2015 at the Conway Hall, Holborn, London

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

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

In attendance: Mr Mark Goadby - Office Manager

#### BD3500 MEETING INTRODUCTION

- Apologies for absence.**
  - All were present although there were some late arrivals because of train delays.
  - Mrs Perkins gave advance notice that she would have to leave the meeting early.
- Chairman's Opening remarks**
  - The Chairman opened the meeting shortly before 11.30pm, thanked those present for attending, and apologised for the late start. There had been transport problems for some Board members.
  - All present were reminded to be polite, respect the views of others and that Board business was confidential until to such time as it was published in the agreed manner.
  - News was given of GCCF Vice President, Gordon Butler, who was seriously ill, but had recently improved slightly. A card would be sent.
  - It was reported that Mr Andy Hughes had now left the staff at the Bridgwater Office, having completed the term of his contract. The Chairman would visit the office in December and have Christmas lunch with the staff.
  - A message of condolence had been sent to LOOF on the day following the terrorist action in Paris.
  - It was noted that the President's 100th birthday was early in the New Year and should be celebrated.

INFO

#### BD3501 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- The Minutes of the Board meeting of 9 September 2015**

The final draft was approved as circulated.

**Action: to be sent to the GCCF website for publication.**
- Matters arising from the September minutes**
  - Most business was ongoing and would be discussed at the relevant point on the agenda.
  - 2BD3496.1 It was agreed that the Veterinary Officer could continue doing checks for certificates of entirety at shows with a microchip reader, and that it would be useful for her to carry an official stamp, as long as vetting in was not delayed by this service.

**Action: Mrs Moreland to be informed.**
  - BD3496.1 The OM confirmed that the Code of Ethics had been updated to reflect the new rule on vaccinations, and give guidance on exceptions to it. This was published on the website.
- Minutes of the Council Meeting of 21 October**
  - The draft Council minutes were approved for publication without amendment.

**Action: to be sent to the GCCF website for publication.**
  - The draft minutes of the September Finance Committee had been circulated to the Board for information as agreed with the remit change. (C2075.3.1)

JL/RF

JL

INF

JL/RF

INFO

#### BD3502 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Unregistered interests declared for the business of this meeting.**
  - Club and show interests were as on record.

INFO

#### BD3503 FINANCE

- Financial statement on business to the end of September**
  - The OM stated that he was delighted to present the reports as the income generated had continued to be good, and had been exceptional through the past month, giving a positive outlook for the end of year results.
  - The income was 98% of that compared to the same period in 2014. However, the expenditure had been reduced to 87% to that of the previous year and this drop would impact on the overall surplus.
  - Many areas of expense had been reduced, particularly the IC/DC costs, though there were some exceptions. Higher bank charges reflected increased card use, because of the rise in the number of transactions, and computer support was currently at a commercial rate as volunteer time was given to Project Phoenix.

1.4 The full year projection indicated the end of year surplus would be at or above the predicted figure as it was confirmed that October had produced some record volume transaction figures.

INFO

2. **Volume figures**

**The data to the end of October 2015 had been circulated to give the following information:**

2.1 Prefix registrations were just edging ahead of the 2014 level and non-prefix registrations had been the highest since the current recording began in 2007.

2.2 The cumulative transfer total was now showing an increase of 28%. It was now greater than when the introduction of the online system had produced the first stimulus.

2.3 Import figures remained strong, and it was significant that more cats were coming onto the GCCF register than were being exported (by the number certified pedigrees requested).

2.4 Applications for prefixes continued to be greater than in 2014, and it was observed that people who were using other registries were now obtaining a GCCF prefix as an addition or alternative.

INFO

3. **Report on capital investment.**

3.1 Mr Hansson's name had now been added to the account and the first £50,000 had been transferred.

3.2 The second half would follow in the next month as the maximum for a single transaction had been reached.

3.3 The interest rate was currently 1.76% for a fixed term, and this was the best achievable for a limited period at no risk.

INFO

4. **Staff bonuses**

4.1 The OM produced figures relative to staff performance. These were changed in respect to one member of staff in the course of discussion and then agreed. They would be paid ahead of Christmas.

INFO

4.2 Mr Goadby (and Mrs Goadby) left the room for the discussion on the bonus for the OM. This was agreed following some discussion and they returned.

INFO

**BD3504 BUSINESS MATTERS**

1. **The GCCF partnership with Agria**

1.1 The MD of Agria, Mr Simon Wheeler and two company colleagues joined the Board meeting at midday to exchange information with Board members and make a short presentation.

1.2 Figures were presented to show the the benefit of the partnership to GCCF, indicating the growth in the commission achieved over the past three years. The income from this had enabled GCCF to keep the costs of services to breeders and exhibitors stable.

1.3 The total predicted for 2015 was just over £40,000, almost double the amount of the previous year, with a start made in 2013 at just £8,819.

1.4 Mr Wheeler was keen to point out that much more could have been achieved if the level of growth had been similar to that of the Kennel Club, though GCCF directors observed the difference in the percentage of pedigree dogs to cats in the overall respective populations, and it was known that a much lower percentage of the total number of cats was insured overall. Veterinary costs for sick/injured cats could be as much as for dogs, but there was no third party liability risk perceived.

1.5 The Agria team had considered it was beneficial being at the Supreme. They had appreciated the feedback, and amount of interest generated, and would be prepared to be sponsors again.

1.6 There was an exchange of views on what Agria had to offer compared with other companies, and it was agreed that when comparisons were made they were not always on a like for like basis. It was also observed that not all were familiar with some aspects of the Agria cover provided for kittens, such as the continuation of cover for pre-existing conditions.

1.7 It was considered that Agria's support of club welfare and rescue, and the insuring of older rehomed cats, were well liked, and a positive for the company image, as well as beneficial for the cats concerned. Thanks were expressed particularly for the company's support assisting with Mrs Sharpe's cats.

1.8 It was stressed that if there were exceptional circumstances when a cat or kitten went to a new home, including export, Agria would be prepared to discuss the cover that could be provided.

**Action: Director input to the Chairman and OM prior to the next meeting with Agria on 8 December. ALL**

2. **Contract with Royal Canin**

2.1 The volume figures had indicated the tremendous surge there had been in the proportion of transfers to registrations made. The OM observed that the only stimulus to explain this was the Royal Canin incentive. Prior to this the figures had been falling when compared to the previous year.

2.2. There was further confirmation that the incentive was liked by new owners from telephone conversations with office staff. There was now increased positive comment.

2.3 The company had indicated that it was very pleased by the results. A 15% take up rate seemed low, but it was twice as good as achieved from other campaigns and had well exceeded their predictions.

2.4 It was noted that RC's retail data base needed improvement as the complaint most often received was the difficulty in finding an outlet to take the voucher in some areas. This would be passed on at the next meeting between GCCF and RC representatives.

INFO

3. **Report on the progress of Project Phoenix and online services**

3.1 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell reported that the testing of the new system was progressing. The number of issues had reduced from around 500 to about 150. There had been an introduction to the Office.

3.2 The member of staff who had left DT employment was able to continue to give the project one day per week and SRO was working alongside him on those occasions. Mr Macro was supporting with his expertise.

3.3 The project manager informed the Board that the office staff would find difficulty in making the change to the new system as it had been designed for an expected difference in office processes. The OM agreed that if staff were asked to make the transition to the new system and simultaneously adopt new methods of working it could cause problems, and a staged introduction would be beneficial and should increase staff confidence.

3.4 To do this would require a system modification that could be introduced and then bypassed when it was no longer required. However, it was not in the specifications given initially to DT and so would mean additional cost. It was proposed and agreed this should be investigated to obtain figures.

**Action: consultation with DT and a report to the Board by 23 November.**

**SRO  
INFO**

3.5 There was nothing to report on the current on-line services.

**4. Website report**

4.1 Mrs Fisher reported that there were no new issues raised with the performance of the website. It seemed that those using it routinely had become familiar with its operation.

4.2 The Abyssinian BAC would be submitting revised content for their breed information page, and updates were expected from other BACs. However, the inclusion of health information had been questioned. There was Board agreement that if the information was substantiated by independent sources, such as ICC, then it should remain.

**Action: to be discussed further at the next Genetics Committee meeting.**

**SC**

**5. Breeder Scheme website update with proposal for offering a period of free kitten listing**

5.1 The Breeder Scheme site was now fully integrated into the existing website giving a fast initial response and much speedier interaction. BS members had been informed.

5.2 It was proposed that for a time kitten listing should be free. This would not only encourage BS membership, and give a positive incentive for those already on the scheme to remain with it, but get the site more populated with kittens to encourage its use by members of public who were looking for particular breeds, in preference to more general sites with a large number of non-registering, profit only breeders.

5.3 It was noted that the overall income from the scheme was approximately £2000 and to which website listing contributed only £160. Free listing was agreed.

**Action: BS members to be informed.**

**MG**

**6. Information on negotiations with GCCFI**

6.1 There would be no update on the final decision from GCCFI until after its Council meeting on 23 November.

6.2 There would be additional links for information on the GCCF website if there was a positive outcome.

**INFO**

**7. GCCF International**

7.1 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell reported that there had been no interest following a website notice asking for volunteers to participate in considering what was possible for GCCF outside the UK.

7.2 Three Board members (RF, LA and PP) agreed to explore possibilities with contacts who had expressed an interest in association with GCCF, and HM would also liaise with breeders abroad.

**INFO**

**8. 2016 Business Plan**

8.1 SRO volunteered to follow through on the 2015 plan she had drafted and was thanked for this.

**Action: Draft to be circulated to the Board prior to the January meeting to be approved and published ahead of the February Council meeting.**

**SRO**

**BD 3505 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

**1. List of additional rules to incur fixed penalties.**

1.1 This had been circulated to the Board as agreed after the last meeting.

1.2 There was further discussion on the incremental nature of the fixed penalties prior to a vote being taken.

1.3 Approval for the list was agreed by a majority with 1 against and 1 abstention.

**Action: to be forwarded to the IC/DC Secretary for the final draft and publication.**

**GB**

**2. Correction of Byelaw 11d (6)**

2.1 A correction was required as reference to a quorum had inadvertently been left in the second paragraph. This set it at 5, although it had been agreed as 3 for the newly structured committee as stated in the first paragraph.

2.2 The deletion was agreed without query.

**Action: The correction to the text to be made.**

**OM**

**3. Codes of Conduct for GCCF officers and elected committees**

3.1 it was observed that Byelaw 11 required members of the three disciplinary committees to sign Codes of Conduct, and although there had been drafts, one had not yet been produced for this purpose and put to the Board.

3.2 JL volunteered to produce DC codes to present to the Board and suggested that the Board, and possibly FC should have similar documents.

3.3 There was discussion on whether the one for Board should contain a clause that bound members to the decisions agreed by a majority of the Board, providing that clubs were not disenfranchised in Council if wishing to express different views. It was agreed it was difficult to allow for divided loyalties as each director had a dual role with a possible conflict of interests.

**Action: codes to be drafted for consideration in January.**

**JL**

**4. Letter from Mrs Ashman**

4.1 After the conclusion of the court case and referral to IC no further action was to be taken. IC had found no case to answer and the matter was now closed.

4.2 It was observed that in the situation that there was no case to answer the complainant would not necessarily know why, and feel dissatisfied because of this. Dr Bennett responded that this would need legal input.

4.3 It was agreed that IC should be written to with a request to work out the provision of standard reasons for the Board to consider. If these were suitable they would be checked by Miss Coate.

**Action: letter to IC requesting the draft of list of standard reasons.**

**JL**

**BD3506 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 One prefix was rejected because it had the potential to cause offence. No suitable alternatives had been provided, and the applicant would have to be asked to provide something different.
  - 1.3 De-Moongems (now submitted with a hyphen and an additional 's') was accepted despite an objection
- Action: the applicants to be informed of the decisions accordingly.**

**OFFICE**

**BD3507 THE SUPREME SHOW**

**1. Report from the Show Manager**

- 1.1 Mrs Leighton could not be exact, but believed the final figures would show a loss no greater than £15,000.
- 1.2 Income was lower in 2015 because of a smaller entry overall and a reduced number through the gate and lower catalogue sales.
- 1.3 It was explained that the cost of the hall had not risen for several years, but to keep it at the same figure the change to October had been agreed. However, this was a period when there were not so many other events taking place in other halls and therefore the opportunity for high gate numbers was reduced.
- 1.4 Mrs Leighton pointed out that although the number of places taken on Club Row had increased, thanks to GCCF subsidising free entry, it had benefitted the clubs rather than show profits. Money derived from the tables and exhibits had been lost, but an increased number present in the area had meant staging and screening costs had escalated accordingly.
- 1.5 Feedback from the exhibitors and visitors had been positive. It was felt that the atmosphere was good and the show had run to plan. It was believed that there was now appreciation of the change to October as it meant a start to the journey home in daylight.

**2. Supreme Show for 2016**

- 2.1 The new management company for the NEC required the contract for the 2016 hall reservation to be signed by the end of the month. Therefore the decision to hold a show in 2016 could not be left until after the February Council meeting, but had to be taken at this meeting.
- 2.2 It was expected that the losses in the next year would be similar to those in 2015, but set against this was a known good business trading surplus. To use a part of this would not put the company at risk.
- 2.3 It was also acknowledged that the last vote taken in Council had expressed the wish to continue with the Supreme by a very large majority, with only three against it.
- 2.4 A vote to approve the signing of the contact was taken. 12 in favour, 2 abstentions.  
(NB Mrs Perkins had left the meeting)

**Actions: contract to be signed and preparations for the 2016 show to begin  
a statement to be made for the website to inform delegates & exhibitors**

**CL  
SC**

**BD3508 OTHER SHOW MATTERS**

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

- 1.1 Ocicat Club – 3 October 2015: Show postponed – looking at other options (Office notified 28 Sept 2015)
- 1.2 Ulster Siamese & ABCC – 21 November 2015: Now postponed to next season see item 5.6.
- 1.3 Russian & Abyssinian CC of Scotland – 5 December 2015: Show Cancelled – Notified 16.11.15
- 1.4 Herts & Middlesex CC – 27 February 2016: Mrs J Williams no longer an Assistant SM.
- 1.5 Tonkinese Breed Club – 28 May 2016: Show cancelled
- 1.6 Tonkinese Cat Club – 28 May 2016: Show cancelled

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

- 2.1 Scottish CC & West of Scotland CC shared Shows – 5 December 2015: Mr R Gabb and Ms H McRae submitted as Show Managers in place of Mr I Thomson; Mr W Graham and Mrs H Hawthorne to be Assistant SMs.
- 2.2 Coventry & Leicester CC – 27 February 2016: Mrs G A Anderson-Keeble submitted as Joint Show Manager with Jill Coomer and Lesley Szwed. (Already approved for 2017 show)
- 2.3 National Pet Shows – London – 7 & 8 May 2016: Full Applications to follow (January meeting)  
(No other shows on these dates)
- 2.4 Balinese CS, Caramel & Apricot Fed., Tabby Pointed Siamese CS Shared Shows – 21 May 2016: Mrs B James submitted as Joint SM with Mrs J Pounds
- 2.5 Durham County CC – 28 May 2016: Miss E Watson submitted as Joint SM with Mrs L Gillhespy,  
(Already approved for the 2017 show). **All requests agreed.**

**OFFICE**

**3. 2015/2016 show details awaited**

- 3.1 Russian & Abyssinian CC of Scotland – 5 December 2015: Date still not changed as promised.  
Reminder emailed 21.10.15. Show now cancelled, see 1.3 above.

**INFO**

**4. 2016/2017 Show Changes for report**

- 4.1 Blue Pointed Siamese CC, Midshires Siamese CC, Oriental LH BC Shared Shows – 6 August 2016:  
Venue changed to Ettington Community Centre, Rogers Lane, Ettington, Warks, CV37 7SX
- 4.2 Long Hair Cream & Blue Cream CA – 3 September 2016: No longer sharing with White Persian CC (see 5.8)
- 4.3 Manchester & District CC – 10 September 2016: Venue now submitted as George H Carnall Leisure Centre, Kingsway Park, Urmston, Manchester M41 7FJ.
- 4.4 Tonkinese Breed Club – 13 May 2017: No longer sharing with Tonkinese CC and seeking alternative date and venue; club has no problems with the Tonkinese CC, this decision is due to financial restrictions and exhibitors' wishes for a separate show.

4.5 Tonkinese Cat Club – 13 May 2017: No longer sharing with Tonkinese Breed C and seeking alternative date and venue. Other details still awaited: Number of cats; HHPT Section; additional breeds; future show dates; judges. Finance now confirmed as £1001-£2000 **INFO**

5. **2015/2016 Show changes - for approval**

5.1 Scotia Cat Fanciers – 11 June 2016: Ms H McRae submitted as Show Manager providing the show date can be changed to 8 October 2016, same venue.

5.2 Edinburgh & East of Scotland CC – 16 July 2016: Request date change to 8 October 2016 in order to share with Caledonian LH CC (see CALELH request below).

**NB A query was raised on the date of the Wyvern as there was conflicting information published.**

5.3 Tabby CC – 1 October 2016: Request permission to include a complete Persian/Exotic Section excluding White Selfs (as not in their breeding programme); Any colour Norwegian Forest, SemiLH Section, as only one class and colour/pattern has no points; Any Colour Selkirk Rex, BSH section, for same reason. (Already allowed All Breeds of Tabbies inc Bengals by right; All Breeds Tipped and Other Pattern BSH Assessment by Request; Endorsed by Smoke CS). (NB White breeding programme statement not considered accurate).

5.4 Bengal CC – 5 November 2016: Request date change to 26 November 2016 as original date required set up on Show day.

5.5 Caledonian CC – 5 November 2016: Request date change to 8 October 2016 in order to share with Edinburgh & East of Scotland CC at their venue of Leigh Academy, 20 Academy Park, Edinburgh, EH6 8JQ.

5.6 National Pet Shows – Birmingham – 5 & 6 November 2016: Full Applications to follow (January meeting)

5.7 Ulster Siamese & All Breed CC- 19 November 2016: Request date change to 25 June 2016 due to the number of TICA shows and Scottish double shows on or around their previous date (see letter. Other shows on new date: East Sussex CC, Maine Coon CC). Show manager also changed from June Ferguson (due to ill health) to Heather McRae with Mr William Graham and Mrs Heather Hawthorne as ASMs.

5.8 West of England & S Wales CS – 27 August 2016: Mrs L Gray submitted as Joint Show Manager with Mrs P Harper in place of Mrs Wylde who has resigned.

5.9 White Persian CC -3 September 2016: Requested date to 5 November 2016 in order to share with Blue Persian CS at their venue at Hamfields, Leisure Centre, Hamfields, Berkely, Gloucester GL13 9NT. Mrs Grace Wylde submitted as Show Manager in place of Mrs S Tokens with Keith Scruton as Assistant SM. Also requested permission to have all other Persian & Exotic Breeds remaining after those allowed by right.

5.10 Blue Persian CS- 5 November 2016: No longer sharing with Central LH but with the White Persian CC at the Hamfields Leisure Centre, Hamfields, Berkely, Gloucester GL13 9NT venue. Mrs Grace Wylde submitted as Show Manager with Keith Scruton as Assistant SM. Also request permission to have all other Persian & Exotic Breeds remaining after those allowed by Right.

5.11 Colourpoint Society of GB – 10 December 2016 (Late Application sharing with National CC & Sphynx CA): Venue: Bracknell Leisure Centre etc.; SM: Mrs C Pike; Cats: 100; HP Section: Yes; Judges: 10; Finance: £1001-£2000.

5.12 Cameo, Pewter & Smoke Society – 22 January 2017: Request permission to include additional classes for Persian & Exotic Bi Colours and Tabbies in the club colours: AC Cameo & White; AC Smoke & White; Silver/Blue/Chocolate/Lilac/Cream/Red Tabbies in future shows.

**NB The permission was by request, and not by right.**

5.13 Abyssinian CA – 2 April 2017 (Late Application sharing with several other clubs): Venue Aldersley Leisure Complex, Wolverhampton etc.; SM: Mrs L Ashmore; Cats: 30; HP Section: No; Add Breeds: Somali; Foreign Assessment; Judges 5; Finance: over £3000.

5.14 Cornish Rex Society – 2 April 2017 (sharing with several other clubs): Venue: Aldersley Leisure Complex; SM: Mrs L Ashmore; ASM: Mrs K Hill; Cats: 15; HP Section: No; Judges: 4; Finance: £2001-£3000.

5.15 Progressive Ragdoll Breed CC – Date: To be advised; Venue: Aldersley Leisure Centre Complex. SM Mrs J Huyton; ASM: Stuart Ryan; Cats: 35; HP: Yes; Judges: To be advised; Finance: £1001-£2000.

**Requests as detailed agreed.**

**OFFICE**

6. **2016/17 Show licence details still awaited**

6.1 North West CC - 24 September 2106, Show Manager

6.2 Ocicat CC - 1 October 2016, venue

6.3 Progressive Ragdoll Breed CC - date and judges

6.4 Selkirk Rex CC - date, venue, Show manager, number of cays expected and number of judges required

6.5 Tonkinese Breed Club - date and venue

6.6 Tonkinese CC - date, venue, cats judges and HHP Section and additional breeds, plus future show dates. **INFO**

7. **2016/17 Show licence applications not yet received**

7.1 Balinese & Siamese CC; Russian & Abyssinian CC of Scotland (To be decided at club's AGM); Scottish CC; West of Scotland CC.

8. **Abyssinian CA and Abyssinian CC Shows**

The clubs are allowed to have Somalis by request, but not by right.

**INFO**

9. **The role of the Duty Vet**

9.1 A letter had been received from the Red Point & Tortie Point Siamese CC querying whether a Duty Vet should have the right to exhibit at a show.

9.2 A conflict of interest was pointed out, as the club's show the DV's kitten (vetted in by another vet) was clearly undersized for its age and its demeanour gave cause for concern. When called to attend to it the DV was compromised and the judge had to insist on it being withdrawn.

9.3 The Board agreed that the priority was always the welfare of the kitten, and the judge and Show Manager had acted properly on the day. There was discussion on whether one instance, although of concern, should result in no DV being allowed to show, especially as it could make obtaining willing DVs more difficult and costly for some shows.

9.4 It was agreed that before decision was taken the VAC should be asked to comment.

**Actions: a letter requesting comment to go to the VAC, and the club to be informed and thanked. JL**

10. **New Certificates**

10.1 Mrs Fisher had some examples with her of the new designs on on gold and silver card. The card was of a different type to that currently in use and would not require any special pens.

10.2 The cost was 20p per certificate (discounted rate because of the number that would be purchased) plus the price of original plates.

**Action: Plate costs to be circulated when they were received.**

**RF**

**BD3509 SHOW STRUCTURE REVIEW GROUP**

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

1.1 Mrs Kaye reported that 1386 survey results had come in to date and some were still coming, although more slowly now. It remained open until the first week of December so there would be some additions.

1.2 The overall level of satisfaction with GCCF was high, and the vast majority seemed satisfied with the show structure, a greater number with club shows than that of the Supreme, though this still received majority support.

1.3 The one concern that was identifiable at present was with the lack of anonymity of exhibits in judging.

1.4 It was hoped that collation would take place in December, so that a meeting could be held early in January to bring proposals to the Board that could progress to February Council.

1.5 A large number of written comments had come with survey replies, and these would take quite a considerable time to read through and analyse.

**Action: work on survey results**

**SSRG**

2. **Olympian Gold cats - show suggestion**

2.1 A letter addressed to the Board had been received outlining show entry possibilities for cats who had achieved Olympian Gold. It was agreed that this would be passed to the SSRV to consider with all other ideas. **INFO**  
(Note: Mr Robinson left the meeting)

**BD3510 BREED APPLICATIONS, REGISTRATION/TRANSFER & SOP MATTERS**

1. **Abyssinian registration policy (EXP removal)**

1.1 The amendments removed the use of the Experimental Register in line with approved GCCF policy. There were no queries and the changes were agreed.

2. **Burmese registration policy correction**

2.1 The changes were to correct the terminology used for the DNA testing procedure for clarification. There were no queries and the amendments were agreed.

3. **Norwegian Forest Cat registration policy amendment**

3.1 The change was to alter the number of generations required for registration on the full register from six to five to comply with GCCF policy approved by Council. The alteration was agreed.

**Action: It was agreed that 1-3 were minor changes and notification would be given to delegates via website publication, allowing 4 weeks for any objections to be received.**

**JL**

4. **Ragdoll registration policy revisions**

4.1 The Ragdoll registration policy (as amended 5/10/2015) complied in all respects with standard GCCF practice.

4.2 The rationale for the revisions to the Ragdoll HCM testing scheme was stated and accepted by the Board.

4.3 There was approval for the policy, but a query would be raised with the BAC on the type of review to be carried out in two years time (page 2, rationale - final sentence).

**Action: the BAC to be informed of the approval and query.**

**JL**

5. **Sphynx registration policy**

5.1 An email had been received from the Secretary of the Sphynx BAC asking that only the clause on the BAER testing of white cats be considered.

5.2 It was acknowledged that the wording used for this appeared in this form in other policies, but information had been received from AHT via the Russian BAC which was to be considered by the Genetics Committee. It was therefore possible that BACs would be asked to make changes in line with current best practice.

5.3 It was agreed that the Sphynx policy should be deferred until GC had agreed a policy to circulate to the Board.

**Action: the Sphynx BAC to be informed of the deferment.**

**JL**

6. **Russian registration policy - letter from Nebelung breeders**

6.1 Ms Bryant, writing on behalf of a group of Nebelung breeders, had requested a rejection of the Council vote taken on 21 October to approve amendments to the Russian registration policy, and reappraisal of the policy for Russians as this was not in the interests of the Nebelungs, whose breeders had not been properly consulted.

6.2 Mrs Kaye gave a brief synopsis of the the information that had been passed to Nebelung breeders, the form it had taken and those specifically involved. It was noted that Ms Bryant was on record of attending a Russian BAC meeting when the matter was discussed.

6.3 The Board considered that as the Nebelungs were an entirely different breed from Russians with their own registration policy their breeders had no jurisdiction over the Russian registration policy, whether or not there had been an adequate consultation process. Therefore the Board could not request that the Russian policy be returned for further discussion in Council as this would be to disregard GCCF rules (1:20a).

6.4 It was noted that Nebelung breeders used shorthaired cats in their breeding programmes, and known longhair carriers were considered as Nebelung variants. They could continue to do so and would have the option of how to record these on the new system - XSH <NEB> or NEB v5.

**Action: Ms Bryant to be informed of the Board's conclusions.**

JL

**7. Rule changes relating to the removal of the Experimental Register**

7.1 There were no queries raised by Board members, but little time to consider these rule changes. Therefore it was agreed that the Board be given a short time to consider them further prior to publication on the website, as agreed by GCCF Council.

7.2 The OM observed that he would retain the section on the Experimental Register in the rule book whilst its use was still current for cats being bred from and/or exhibited, and this was approved.

**Action: rules to be circulated again to the Board and then published for the attention of delegates on the GCCF website.**

JL

**8. The application for Preliminary recognition of the Suffolk Chocolate & Lilac**

8.1 Mr Hansson reported that the Standard of Points was now in an acceptable form and judges had been contacted for an approved list. Most had already responded positively.

8.2 A registration policy existed in outline and would be scrutinised at the next Genetics Committee meeting and confirmed with the Suffolk clubs.

8.3 He anticipated all paperwork would be with the Board by the next meeting, with circulation in advance.

**Action: SOP and judge list to be circulated and registration policy to GC**

JH

**9. An application from the Australian Mist Clubs to recognise caramel as a breed colour**

9.1 It was agreed that there was sufficient evidence that caramel existed in Australian Mists and therefore it made sense to accept it as an additional colour for the breed.

9.2 The amendments to the Australian Mist Standard of Points were agreed without query.

9.3 It was noted that further amendments were required for the registration policy

- removal of reference to the Experimental Register
- change of GCCF breed numbers to GEMS code
- clarification on the wording for the DNA testing procedure
- the requirements for DNA testing differed between the registration and breeding policy statements, requiring a correction to one of them.

**Action: the A-M clubs to be asked for registration policy amendments prior to the next meeting**

JL

**BD3511 CLUB AND BAC MATTERS**

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

1.1 Mr Hansson reported that there had been no further meeting, as he was awaiting the survey results to enable the determination of the future direction of BAC structure reforms.

1.2 An email from the Secretary of the Sphynx BAC, which also referred to the Joint Rex BAC, indicated that the BACs did not wish to operate a single judge list for the Rex grand group within the Foreign Section, as had been proposed to them by the Board. It was observed that the Persian and Oriental BACs had not been given any opt out, but agreed that this information should be referred back to the Review Group. **INFO**

**2. Club and BAC returns report**

2.1 Mrs Goadby reported that all clubs and BACs had now completed their returns for 2015.

2.2 Mrs Heavens was thanked for her assistance.

**INFO**

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

3.1 The principle of clubs submitting returns or information/reasons for lateness prior to May 1st was agreed. It was considered that there would be some advance knowledge of any problems, and it was a committee responsibility to be aware of whether the Treasurer had difficulties.

3.2 The fee would be set by Council in February.

**Action: wording to be circulated to the Board and to go to Council in February.**

JL

**4. Norsk Skoggcatt Society revised constitution**

4.1 The revised constitution had been checked and referred back to the club with a correction and minor amendment suggested.

**INFO**

**5. Report on the rules of the Australian Mist Cat Association.**

**6. Cambria Cat Club revised constitution**

**7. Suffolk clubs.**

**8. Blue Persian Cat Society**

Dr Bennett reported that there were potential problems with the rules or the revisions put forward by these clubs. The Board concluded that it would be useful for a standard set of rules to be sent out to all clubs that could have information inserted, rather than having to work with the complexities of various rules, some of which had been drafted originally many decades previously.

Ms McRae believed that a document of this type had been prepared for some Scottish clubs.

**Action: This to be obtained and circulated to the Board.**

**HM**

**BD3512 VETERINARY AND WELFARE MATTERS**

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

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

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

These items were deferred to the agenda of the January Board meeting.

JL

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

4.1 The Chairman reported briefly that the evidence on the breeding and sale of cats had been collected and was being collated into a report and recommendations to go to the C&FSG for discussion. Agreed recommendations would then go to DEFRA.

4.2 He had been able to make amendments with consideration for the breeding practices of pedigree breeders.

4.3 The one recommendation that he had noted that could cause difficulties was the proposal that all who sold kittens should be declaring the income to HMRC.

INFO

**BD3513           EVENTS**

1. **National Pet Show report**

1.1 A report had been circulated to the Board from Mrs Gregory giving the highlights of the event.

1.2 It had been another extremely successful occasion with several presenters noted for the outstanding contribution to GCCF.

1.3 Both the London and NEC show would in future be known as the National Pet Show prefaced by the name of the city.

INFO

2. **Cat Of The Year Competition 2015-16**

2.1 The method of scoring was as for the previous year, and Mrs Marriott -Power reported that she had arranged for a Board colleague to act as the collator

2.2 There would be website publication and liaison with the GCCF Office for results.

INFO

**BD3514           OFFICE**

1. **Office report**

1.1 There had been some discussion of members of staff at the time when bonuses were considered (BD3503.4).

1.2 The OM had circulated a general office report. There were no issues raised.

INFO

2. **Recruitment of a GCCF Communications Officer - update**

Report deferred to the next meeting.

INFO

3. **GCCF Processes**

3.1 issues were discussed at BD3504.3.3 as processes to deal with registrations and transfers remained as they as they had been for many years, and would need to change once staff had become familiar with the new computer system.

INFO

**BD3515           ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**None taken.**

The meeting finished at 5.10pm with deferments where noted.

The next meeting: Tuesday, 12 January 2016 at 11.00 for 11.15am in the Brockway Room at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London.