



A GENERAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY



Meeting of Full Council

SATURDAY, 6th November 2021 by videoconference

Meeting minutes

	PRESENTED BY	ACTION BY
C2322 WELCOME TO THE DELEGATES AND IN MEMORIAM	Chair	
1. At 1.13 pm the Chairman welcomed delegates and the Office Manager and thanked so many for giving their time to attend Council.		
2. A point of order was raised on admittance of the emergency item that was on the supplementary agenda as 28 days notice had not been given in accordance with ByeLaw 13a). It was stated that for this reason it would be for Council to decide whether or not the item could be discussed and a two thirds majority would be required to set aside the ByeLaw. It was understood there was sufficient precedent, but this was not agreed. The Chair acknowledged the point of order, but gave it as his understanding that Council was the ultimate authority for GCCF and for that reason was entitled to express an opinion on whether a matter should be discussed or not. The vote would also determine whether delegates wished to concur with the point of order.		
Action: consideration by the Board of a ByeLaw amendment for clarity		JL
2. Sheila Hamilton, Russell Hardy, Janet Jeffers, Marie Rose, Mary Rufell, and GCCF Vice-President Eric Wickham-Ruffle were remembered in a moment of silence. Other names were also mentioned that were on record in previous meeting minutes.		INFO
C2323 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Chair	
19 apologies for absence had been received in advance and about half the number of these clubs had been able to send substitutes. Full details were on the attached attendance sheet.		INFO
C2324 CLUB DISPENSATIONS	Chair	
1. The Turkish Van Edinburgh, East of Scotland, Nor'East Of Scotland and Old-Style Siamese CCs had each apologised for late club returns and asked permission to send a delegate to Council.		
2. A poll was taken to cover the four clubs. Majority approval: 95% for, 2% against, 3% abstained		
C2325 MINUTES OF THE JULY ELECTORAL & GENERAL MEETINGS	Chair	
1. The Minutes of the Council meeting of 17 July 2021		
1.1 The draft minutes had been circulated, and had been published on the website for several months. A correction to a club name South-West British Shorthair, had been notified.		
1.2 There were no queries, and on the proposal of three identified delegates a vote was taken to approve them Majority 95% in favour, 0% against with 5% abstentions.		INFO
2. Matters arising from the previous meeting not covered by an agenda item	None	INFO
C2326 MEETINGS - minutes for information only		
1. Board of Directors: 28 May, 25 June, 17 July, 28 August 2021		
1.1 There were no delegate queries arising from these minutes on the day		
2. Finance Committee: 5 February, 21 May 2021		
2.1 There were no delegate queries arising from these minutes on the day.		INFO
C2327 BOARD ELECTION	Chair	
1. A tie-break vote was taken to determine which candidate was to be the 5th Board member elected in 2021, and which would be first reserve as two people had gained an equal number of votes in the elections run by Civica in September.		
2. Anna McEntee was declared as the new Board member with 52% of the vote and Ketill Game became first reserve with 48 %. There were no abstentions and the Chair congratulated the successful candidate.		
Action: a website announcement of the result and Board information to be sent to Mrs McEntee		JL/OM
3. There was comment after the vote that several people stood for Board membership who were not successful. By standing they had shown interest and proved they willing to work so that the Board should take note of these candidates and their particular skills and consider them for Board projects and Working Groups that would make use of them. There was some agreement with this, but it was also observed that all expertise should be given consideration and no one precluded.		INFO

C2328 APPEALS COMMITTEE ELECTION

- 1.1 There were three applicants with two members and two reserves required
- 1.2 A vote was taken and Sally Woolrich (68%) and Cynthia Cullin (58%) were declared as appointed. David Lee (48%) would be the first reserve.
- 1.3 It was noted that another reserve was needed and delegates were asked to contact the Office if they, or anyone they knew, were interested.

Action: website announcement of the result and AC information to be sent

RF/IC/DC Sec

C2329 BYELAW CHANGES

1. **Byelaw amendments to enable electronic meetings and voting** **Chair**
 - 1.1 Amendments were proposed to Byelaws:
 - 9 (1) MEETINGS OF COUNCIL
 - 10 3 PROCEDURE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS
 - 11 STANDING COMMITTEES including the removal of (2) The Board of Management) & added wording to the Finance Committee.
 - In each amendment Chairman was replaced by Chair
 - 1.2 The intention was to allow in perpetuity meetings by videoconference with electronic voting if the majority of delegates so wished. However, there could be physical meetings if these were wanted and any combination of physical and electronic. It would be for delegates to decide.
 - 1.3 An amendment was proposed to delete the removal of the Board of Management as this was an not connected with electronic meetings and voting. It had never been used, but could be wanted in the future. There was an objection to its removal as it was a substantive amendment that had not been notified (Byelaw 9(4)).
 - 1.4 Following comment from other delegates the Chairman allowed the amendment which was agreed.
majority 79% in favour, 10% against with 10% abstaining.
 - 1.5 A vote on the amended proposal was taken with the result:
majority 96% in favour, 3% against with 1% abstaining.
2. **A proposal from the Board to formalise the Board and Finance nomination procedure** **Chair**
 - 2.1 It was proposed to insert wording into Byelaw 11 at (4) to give clarity to the nomination process, so that all of those involved - clubs, candidates and their nominators knew exactly what the process was and how it was to be administered.
 - 2.2 The GCCF's solicitor had advised the inclusion of detail for the avoidance of doubt in the future after difficulties in 2021. In response to a delegate question the Chair reported that this legal advice had included a recommendation that candidates who had not sent statements on time should not be barred from the election, but should not have their statements published. There was disagreement between the Chair and a delegate over whether any candidate had actually been barred in the past.
 - 2.3 It was observed that self-nomination was now specifically excluded which was new, and a view was also expressed that delegates should be allowed to be nominated by their clubs. It was noted that prior to nominations being sent in advance delegates had always made nominations for committees from the floor at Council on the day of the Electoral meeting, and it was easier to check entitlement to nominate if this was restricted to delegates.
 - 2.4 The Chair was of the opinion that the Board should look again at the substance of the proposal and return it to the next Council meeting. A vote on the withdrawal was taken with the result:
majority 89% in favour 7% against, with 3% abstaining

Action: a return to the next Board agenda **JL**
3. **A revision to Byelaw (12) to clarify the section on Disciplinary Powers** **DC**
 - 3.1 The revisions were as prepared by the GCCF's Solicitor to aid the work of the Disciplinary Committee by allowing DC to stipulate the course of action for meetings in certain circumstances (3) and clarifying the terms and conditions of suspension (4).
 - 3.2 They had been deemed necessary following difficulties pursuing some DC cases satisfactorily.
 - 3.3 A vote on the proposal was taken with the result:
majority 85% in favour, 7% against with 7% abstaining
4. **A temporary ByeLaw amendment in respect of the membership numbers for delegate representation in Council in 2022**
 - 4.1 The intention of this measure was to allow clubs to retain their entitlement to Council delegates following the loss of shows and social activities during the second year of the pandemic which had not allowed any growth in membership numbers for many clubs.
 - 4.2 Delegate entitlement would be based upon membership achieved in 2019 as had been allowed in 2021, and this had worked successfully. If a club had achieved higher membership it would be able to declare this in its 2021 examined returns and base its entitlement on these figures.
 - 4.3 A vote on the proposal was taken with the result:
majority 89% in favour, 7% against with 4% abstaining

Action: Approved wording of the ByeLaw changes to be retained as an addendum to these minutes
The ByeLaws to be updated as necessary **JL**

C2330 CLUB SUSPENSIONS

1. The Board had decided to take Council opinion on the suspension of three clubs that had not completed their annual returns for two years. They were named as Croydon and Southern Counties CCs and the Longhaired Oriental Breed Club. They did not have a group of active committee members.

2. Clarification was given that suspension meant clubs could return to active membership if returns were successfully completed according to criteria specified by the Board. They would then be able to offer membership services again, and apply for a show licence and the Board had a responsibility to assist any that wished to do this. However, if the club wound up its affairs, or had membership withdrawn by Council, there was no way back.
3. It was agreed there should be publication of names of clubs that were either non-active or no longer existed so that their names should not be used to deceive new owners/breeders into joining when no GCCF services could be offered.

Action: publication of the club names to be discussed at the November Board meeting

JL

C2331

BREED MATTERS

1. **Championship Status for the Sokoke** **SOKBG**
 - 1.1 The Sokoke registration policy (May 2021) and SOP (September 2020) were to remain unchanged. The Breed Group Chairman acknowledged this was a breed with low numbers, but the genetic diversity was good as imports were from different sources and more were planned.
 - 1.2 The breeders had been working over seven years to achieve championship status, with some show bench success, and it was hoped that its achievement would stimulate further interest.
 - 1.3 A vote was taken with the result: **majority 83% in favour, 7% against with 9% abstaining.**
 - 1.4 Shows not yet closed could convert the merit classes to breed classes at the Show Manager's discretion. All shows would have to offer breed classes from 6 March 2022.

2. **Registration policy amendments for the Persian Longhair** **PLBAC**
 - 2.1 The policy had been amended with respect to tabby bi and tri-colours to make corrections to ensure the GEMS code for tabby markings was properly applied.
 - 2.2 Also, additional agouti testing for active registered cats was to be required to obtain certainty on agouti status for future generations in planned breeding programmes. Phenotype could be deceptive.
 - 2.3 A vote was taken with the result: **majority 94% in favour, 3% against with 3% abstaining.**

Action: the Breeder Group and BAC to be informed of the decisions taken

JL

3. **Registration Policy & SOP amendments approved via website publication**
 - 3.1 **The British Longhair** had been promoted to Championship Status. There had also been a registration policy revisions on breed definitions and all tabby patterns were now included.
 - 3.2 **The Ocicat & Aztec** registration policies had been revised to update their DNA testing schedules and make minor clarifications as advised by the Genetics Committee and registrar.
 - 3.3 **The German Longhair** - the Board had inserted some additional wording into the provisional registration policy to provide definitions of the allowed outcrosses. **INFO**

Dr Susan Moreland and Professor Tim Gruffydd-Jones of the GCCF Veterinary Advisory Committee were permitted to attend Council to contribute to items 1 and 5 of this section.

C2332

SHOW MATTERS

1. **A proposal to discontinue the practice of vetting-in at shows** **Shrops and Havana & Lilac CCs**
 - 1.1 Miss Tonkinson was proposer on behalf the Havana & Lilac CC. She explained that the intention was not to remove vetting-in altogether, but to discontinue it in its present form and apply a lighter touch. Vaccination cards would still be inspected and random checks could be made on exhibitors' cats both as they came into the hall and after they were penned. A Duty Vet would be available for most of the day to deal with any welfare concerns as they arose, as was current practice.
 - 1.2 She made the following points as a rationale:
 - The days were long gone when there could be mass infection after a show as all cats were now vaccinated against the diseases that could be spread widely at shows in the past, which had brought a major risk reduction.
 - Vetting-in and the vetting-in queues caused stress to cats and exhibitors. It could well be the reason some cats were difficult to handle in their first important classes of the morning. Judges and stewards were usually experienced with handling cats in a way that many vets were not.
 - Disinfectants had improved and were used effectively during the judging process to prevent spread of infection between exhibits.
 - In the current pandemic vets and exhibitors were at risk because of close proximity during the vetting-in process which meant close contact. Vets had been careful to avoid close contact with clients at surgeries.
 - The vetting-in process could not detect viruses and was most unlikely to detect Covid-19 in a cat, but this was not wide-spread in cats and actual disease and transmission were low-risk.
 - There was a large national shortage of vets that was a major concern (vacancy figures for two companies were given in support of this contention) and therefore there was a problem in finding those who were willing to vet-in and the situation was likely to get worse rather than improve.
 - Most TICA shows were declared as non-vetted and there was no evidence to show cats were at greater risk attending those shows than vetted GCCF shows.
 - 1.3 In conclusion Miss Tonkinson asked for consideration of a trial over a two year period of the process she had outlined at the beginning so there could be an assessment made of the risks and benefits. She reiterated she was not proposing to get rid of vetting-in but to cut it to random inspections so that veterinary support was still available during the day and there was a deterrent to exhibitors bringing cats who could be unwell. She also refuted social media allegations that action against vetting-in was anonymous. The clubs had used the standard procedure of bringing a proposal to Council.
 - 1.4 Other delegates spoke in support of the proposal and a possible trial period of suspension of vetting in in its current form. Additional points made were:

- Further detail of the non-vetted shows of other feline organisations and the Kennel Club. It was stressed that a number of GCCF delegates were happy to take their cats to the shows of other organisations and that there were no reports of problems. Delegates spoke of their own positive experiences in this respect.
 - GCCF exhibitors should be trusted to look after their cats properly and bring only healthy animals to shows, in the same way as those of other organisations.
 - As exhibits were vetted-out during the course of the day it was apparent some conditions were missed at vetting-in so it wasn't an entirely satisfactory process.
- 1.5 The principle speakers against any change were Professor Gruffydd-Jones Dr Moreland and Steve Crow (the Board lead on welfare). Others who contributed were welfare officers for their clubs, judges and long term exhibitors who spoke of their particular experiences. Most delegates who said they had taken opinion from their committee and/or club members reported that they had found little support for the proposal and that it was stated to them that exhibitors would not continue to support GCCF shows if there was no vetting-in.
- 1.6 Professor Gruffydd-Jones observed that most his career had been spent working with cats and during that time he had also been closely associated with GCCF breeders. He knew how passionate most were about their cats, which was a reason they deserved a measure of protection from the few who didn't know or care about health or welfare when attending shows. Vetting-in provided a barrier against infection and parasites entering the show hall. It wasn't necessarily complete and perfect, but no other method would give the same degree of protection. Viruses could not be seen, but signs of infection were detectable, and it was proven that cats with symptoms of upper respiratory tract infections were shedding far more virus than those that had none. He acknowledged that cats were stressed on show days, but made the point this would be from the total show experience rather than vetting-in in particular. He also noted that vets who came to shows were there because they wanted to be involved with the cats and it was opportunity for them to talk to breeders and learn more about the breeds. GCCF had respect within the veterinary profession because it was prepared to put welfare first and having vetting-in was a demonstration of this commitment.
- 1.7 Dr Moreland added that vetting-in was also provided a deterrent. If exhibitors were certain of a veterinary inspection they left cats who showed signs of being off-colour at home. She agreed with Miss Tonkinson on the point that there was a shortage of vets. The Veterinary Advisory Committee was now in the process of updating the list of vets prepared to vet-in and was reaching out to ICC and veterinary organisations to find new vets interested so that they could be added. It was a work in progress.
- 1.8 Other comments also referred to GCCF's reputation as a responsible authority. It was noted that GCCF shows were not run the same way as TICA ones, and that individual experience was only that and not evidence such as scientific study would provide.
- 1.9 The debate concluded with Miss Tonkinson reiterating the shortage of vets and welcoming the efforts of the VAC to expand the list, because show managers were facing difficulties.
- 1.10 A vote was taken with the result proposal lost: **23% in favour, 76% against with 1% abstaining.**

2. A minor change to the rules concerning ringworm

- 2.1 This amendment had been recommended by the GCCF's solicitor following a disciplinary case. The intention was to make it clear that reporting ringworm was not only necessary if cats were shown. The first sentence was split into two separate sentences.
- 2.2 In the event of ringworm infection being diagnosed in a cattery/household by a veterinary surgeon, the cattery owner/householder will inform the GCCF Office, **and Neither** the cattery owner/householder nor any cat owned by them or living at the same address will attend any show until a Clearance Certificate, as required by the GCCF has been obtained.
- 2.3 A vote was taken with the result: **majority 91% in favour, 5% against with 3% abstaining.**
- Action: The rule book to be updated** JL

3. A report from the Judge Appointment System Review Group

- 3.1 Kate Kaye reported the group had met frequently since the last Council meeting. It was primarily working on the new judge training programme that was based around the grand groups of the current sections, although there had to be sufficient flexibility to allow for change in these.
- 3.2 However, the the implications of the changes had to be looked at in detail for candidates, BACs tutors and show management to ensure a fluent transition once change was introduced. It was hoped that the first proposals to Council would be made in the spring, but as yet there couldn't be a definite commitment.
- 3.3 BACs had been contacted to provide guidance on the Accelerated Judge Scheme as shows were taking place once again. As it had only begun six months before lockdown it was thought additional input would be useful to avoid confusion.
- 3.4 There had been conversation with the Show Review Group to discuss planned changes in the context of a show day to discuss what would be workable. There had also been liaison on the problems experienced by first time judges who needed engagements.
- 3.5 Assistance had been provided to two BACs. **INFO**

4. A report from the Show Review Group

- 4.1 Lyndsey Robinson gave a report on the work of the group noting first that updates of its work were available via the website.
- 4.2 It was mentioned first that the sanitiser mentioned at the previous Council meeting had been purchased by GCCF and made available to show managers which ensured the most appropriate product was in use and reduced costs a little.
- 4.3 The SRG had continued to look at proposals they had received, but had decided against those concerned with re-shaping Olympian classes, and also bronze, silver, gold at each title level as this was close to the show change agreed at July Council.
- 4.4 Proposals still under discussion were amalgamation of some classes at all-breed shows, as responses were still awaited from some BACs, two certificates signed by one judge at breed class level and a change to the 13 day rule so that it did not apply after a GCCF show.

- 4.5 Caution was expressed that none were guaranteed to bring in new exhibitors. Therefore there were also checks being made to consider any practices that could allow more options to show management and/or cut down on the amount of tasks or paperwork required.
- 4.6 There was ongoing work with the JASRG on the use of new pupil judges at shows. It was also hoped to streamline paperwork and update it so that overall there was a reduction on the amount of paperwork a show had to provide.
- 4.7 105 judges had responded to a survey on whether they were prepared to judge post-covid. Most had responded positively, but 14% were not judging again until spring at the earliest.
- 4.8 A survey for show managers was now underway and had about a week to run. SMs had been invited to say what worked well and what needed improvement.
- 4.9 It was queried if any update was planned to SM training with confirmation that this was being assessed. It was stressed that SMs were as important as judges for shows to take place. It was thought possible there should be some sort of accelerated scheme, but a note was caution was expressed because SMs were responsible for show funds. Apologies were given to some SMs and ASMs who had not received the survey. It was noted that it was known that information listed was out of date.
- 4.10 Two general points were made: judges and SMs were open to abuse on social media (a point that was agreed) and reports from all working groups would be appreciated in advance of the Council meeting. **INFO**

5. Revisions to the rule concerning show vaccinations required for shows

- 5.1 This was introduced as an emergency item (without the 28 days notice required by ByeLaw 9(4)) because of the difficulties in vets obtaining a sufficient number of vaccinations and manufacturers recommending a longer period between boosters for adult cats.
- 5.2 It was commented that this was simply to enable exhibitors to show their adults cats if not able to obtain a booster at 12 months, and it required planning rather than being an emergency.
- 5.3 Delegates were asked if they wished to consider the matter with a vote taken requiring a two thirds majority. **majority 89% in favour, 9% against with 2% abstaining.**
- 5.4 Discussion then opened on the rule changes. It was stated that unless there was certainty that manufacturers had sanctioned the extended period there was possible contravention of the Animal Welfare Act Section Two 4.1 as any cat coming infected at a show in the extension period could be deemed to have been caused unnecessary suffering. Delegates were urged to vote against the proposal because of the risk.
- 5.5 Other opinion given was that nobody was forced to show their cat if their vaccination was due past twelve months. They were able to make a decision for themselves in conjunction with their own vet's advice. it was observed that owners should also check with their insurance companies to ensure cover remained in place if a booster was given late.
- 5.6 Dr Moreland spelt out that the three month extension applied only to adult cats, not kittens who needed a booster as completion of their primary course. It was safe for cats over two years to extend to fifteen months and attend shows, afterwards they should stay at home. However, international veterinary guidelines did specify that a single dose of live vaccine was a sufficient restart for cats that had received a primary course of vaccine.
- 5.7 A vote was taken with the result: **majority 80% in favour, 12% against with 8% abstaining.**
Action: notice to SMs and exhibitors about the rule change **Vet Officer**

C2333

BUSINESS REPORTS

1. The IT Report

SC

- 1.1 Steve Crow had supplied a written report on 5 October to go out with the Council Council paperwork. This confirmed that it was felt that Phoenix was stable and running effectively. Bug fixes and minor updates were regularly made.
- 1.2 The inbreeding co-efficient and trial mating functions recently introduced were now operating smoothly.
- 1.3 The kitten buying video was functioning and a video about the history GCCF was nearing completion.
- 1.4 Work was ongoing in updating the website. Currently individual pages were being directly transferred or raise, a draft front page had been circulated to the Board and sub-menus were under consideration.
- 1.5 The registration project was nearing completion. 29 policies were finalised, 14 in progress and only 3 remained to be started.
- 1.6 A decision was awaited from the New Zealand CF on whether they would purchase system operating services.
- 1.7 SC gave an update on the Business Systems Project to mitigate the risk of losing Ian Macro's services suddenly. A contract had now been agreed and was ready to sign. The project would begin in mid-November and should be finished in February.
- 1.8 22 shows would be using STAR in the first half of 2022. The service was still an extended pilot scheme, but a pricing schedule had been completed and would be presented to the Board at its next meeting.

INFO

2. The Welfare Report

SC

- 2.1 This had been circulated in advance and covered the work of the Canine and Feline Sector Group between July and September. A Code of Practice for Cat Breeding had been completed and when signed off by DEFRA would be ready for publication. SC would be part of a sub-group working on Guidance on Cat Conformation.
- 2.2 Legislation for the compulsory microchipping of cats was planned for 2022 as was a review of the how dog and cat licensing laws were working. Work would also begin on looking at sanctuaries and guidelines on the responsible ownership for dogs and cats. The C&FSG had a full agenda for the coming year and SC would provide regular updates.
- 2.3 The Genetics Committee pages were being updated for the new website and would include a revision of GCCF's Breeding Policy.

INFO

3. A report on the work of the Breeder Scheme Group

PW/JL

- 3.1 Peter Williams sent apologies for being unable to attend Council or prepare a report for advance circulation. He had supplied a report to be read out.
- 3.2 He reported that the survey reported at the last meeting had received an excellent response. The feedback had been analysed and work had begun on designing a new Scheme according to the findings.
- 3.3 Most had thought GCCF should have a Breeder Scheme albeit only a small minority of respondents were members of the existing Scheme. However, the majority wanted a Scheme that could possibly be Accredited (as the Kennel Club's) making it objective and auditable.
- 3.4 There were three key factors required: proof of knowledge for a breeder participation, independent inspection, and regular monitoring once a breeder was a Scheme Member. Those points all required considerable input to make them work. It wasn't just a question of what was to be inspected objectively, but where would inspectors be found and how would they be trained.
- 3.5 When ready the Scheme would need introduction and marketing. It was probable that Office support would be needed which could involve an additional employee. Consideration would have to be given to finance. Who would pay for a new Scheme and how much would it cost to run?
- 3.6 Publication of the survey findings was requested.

Action: a survey report to be completed

BSG

- 3.7 There followed some general discussion on back street breeders and the liaison between GCCF and Pets4Homes was described. It was hoped that this would assist with public education, particularly as it was expected the site would carry the Kitten Video once again when it completed an update.
- 3.8 There was agreement that GCCF could do more to market itself. Suggestions were: leaflets in vets' surgeries, a car sticker with a simple slogan, and aiming to be on the front page of a Google search. It was suggested the Marketing Group should be reformed.

Action: referral to the Board for discussion

JL

C2334 JUDGES (for information)

1. NOTIFICATION OF JUDGES APPROVED VIA THE WEBSITE SINCE JULY COUNCIL 2021

None.

2. NOTIFICATION OF JUDGES APPROVED VIA THE ACCELERATED SCHEME SINCE JULY COUNCIL

Somali BAC	Full Judge	Linda Martin
Oriental BAC	Full Judge	Helen Marriott-Power
Turkish BAC	Full Judge	Linda Martin
RagaMuffin BAC	Full Judge	Linda Martin

3. NOTIFICATION OF JUDGES TRANSFERRING TO THE EMERITUS LIST & WITHDRAWALS

Pina Bruno-Grieve	EM and withdrawal as Pupil Judge from the Balinese list
Carole Gainsbury	EM and withdrawal as a Pupil Judge from the Birman and Maine Coon lists
Phil Cornish	Withdrawal as a Pupil Judge from the Burmese list (by personal request)

The Chair offered congratulations to Helen Marriott-Power on becoming a GCCF all-breed judge.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 4.50pm, with the Chairman thanking delegates for their participation.

The next meeting to be: Saturday, 19 March 2022 at 1pm and the Electoral Meeting 16 July 2022 (provisionally)

End of agenda.

ADDENDUM - APPROVED RULE & BYELAW CHANGES IN FULL

Byelaw amendments to enable electronic meetings and voting

9. MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

(1) The Council shall meet three times a year or more often if required. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in June each year in London **as soon after 1 June each year as is practical** and shall be called the "Electoral Meeting". ~~One meeting each year may be held outside London~~ **Any meeting may be held by videoconference** if it is the wish of the majority of the delegates. All dates to be fixed by the Chairman. The Chairman shall have powers to direct that a meeting of any Council committee or sub-committee take place within one month. An additional meeting shall be called whenever the number of agenda items outstanding reaches more than six. (Amended 18.2.04)

10. PROCEDURE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

(3) Any Resolution put to the vote at ~~any~~ **a physical** meeting shall be decided by a show of hands of those present and voting, unless a poll, taking the form of a paper ballot is demanded by not fewer than six delegates or called for by the Chairman in which case the same shall be taken at such time and in such manner as the Chairman may direct. **At a videoconference the electronic polling facility should be used unless the Chair directs otherwise.** The Chairman's declaration that a resolution submitted to a show of hands or on a poll has been carried or lost shall be conclusive evidence of that fact. Scrutineers **(when required)** shall be appointed by the Chairman.

11. STANDING COMMITTEES

(1) Board of Directors

(a) The Chairman and Vice-Chairman ex-officio, Treasurer and one or more representatives from the Council Office ex-officio together with fifteen delegates elected by the Council at its Electoral Meeting, **or by an online process as agreed by the Council at its meeting prior to the Electoral Meeting.**

(2) Board of Management (if appointed)

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman ex officio, the Treasurer (if appointed) and three members elected by the Council at its Electoral Meeting and one or more representatives from the Council Office ex-officio. Three voting members shall constitute a quorum. The Council Office representatives shall have no vote and the Chairman shall not be entitled to vote except where the votes for and against a proposal are equal when he shall have one vote. The Board of Management shall have responsibility for the income and expenditure policy of the Council.

(3) Finance Committee

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman ex officio, Treasurer and one or more representatives from the GCCF Office ex-officio and five delegates elected by the Council at its Electoral Meeting, **or by an online process as agreed by the Council at its meeting prior to the Electoral Meeting.**

Temporary Byelaw change to allow clubs to retain their entitlement to Council delegates following the loss of shows and social activities during the pandemic causing a possible fall in membership numbers.

Byelaw 3 Membership is amended FOR ONE YEAR in that:

Clubs may base their entitlement to delegate representation on the membership numbers stated on the 2019 'Club Returns' form, unless the number of members is greater in 2021 than in 2019, which must be provable by the 2021 examined club accounts, submitted by 1 May 2022.

12) Disciplinary Powers

(3)

- a. Upon receipt of a formal complaint from the Investigation Committee, the Council Office on behalf of the Disciplinary Committee shall arrange to notify the defendants of the terms of the complaint and as soon as practicable thereafter of the time and place fixed for the hearing. The Disciplinary Committee shall give the defendant the opportunity of being heard before it. (Amended 18.2.04)
- b. The Investigation Committee shall appoint one of its number or a member of an Member club to present the formal complaint before the Disciplinary Committee or shall allow the complainant to present such complaints, if he so wishes.
- c. The Disciplinary Committee may instruct a Solicitor or brief Counsel to act or advise it on the hearing of a formal complaint.
- d. The complainant, if required, shall attend the hearing of the formal complaint together with any witnesses who have agreed to appear to give evidence in support of the complaint. Failure to do so may render the persons concerned liable to a fine of £100 (within the meaning of Bye-Law 12(4)(c)(ii)), such fine to be decided by the Disciplinary Committee at that time. (Amended 1.1.02)
- e. All witnesses required shall be notified not less than fourteen days before the date fixed for the hearing of the formal complaint by the Disciplinary Committee and those witnesses called by the Committee of the Council aforesaid shall be paid their travelling and subsistence expenses and loss of remuneration by the Council.

- f. If the defendant, or any other person required to do so, fails to attend a hearing, the Disciplinary Committee may proceed with the hearing in such manner as it considers appropriate, including proceeding to make findings and to issue orders.
- g. The Disciplinary Committee and the Appeals Committee may adjourn a hearing for such period and upon such terms as it considers appropriate.

(4)

(b) If the defendant be a person at any time bound by these Byelaws and the Rules made thereunder:

(i) ~~Suspension of the defendant concerned from exhibiting at, taking part in or having connection with any Cat Show. During any period of such suspension a defendant shall not be eligible to become or remain a member of any Member Club. Except where the Disciplinary Committee orders otherwise the Council shall not register any cat or the progeny of any cat owned by a defendant suspended in accordance herewith and similarly the Council shall not register the transfer of any cat to or from the ownership of any such defendant during the period of suspension. No such progeny born during the period of suspension shall be registered at any time. Provided always that the Board of Directors may in its absolute discretion allow the registration of any cat aforesaid or the transfer from the ownership of such defendant of any aforesaid where it is satisfied that not to do so would be deleterious to the welfare of the cat or would cause hardship or injury to an innocent third party who had acted at all times in good faith. Should the suspended owner be the breeder of the cat an administrative prefix will be substituted for the registered breeder's prefix, if one such is on record as part of that cat's name.~~

(ii) – (vii) remain

Any suspension or disqualification under this Byelaw 12(4) may be imposed for such a period or periods as the Disciplinary Committee shall order. During any period of suspension under Byelaw 12(4)(b)(i):

A. a defendant shall not represent themselves as being in any way affiliated with or connected to the Council;

B. a defendant shall not be eligible to become a member of any Member Club, but shall nonetheless remain bound by the Rules and Byelaws of the Council;

C. except where the Disciplinary Committee orders otherwise, the Council shall not:

I. register any cat or the progeny of any cat owned by a defendant;

II. register the transfer of any cat to or from the ownership of any such defendant; or

III. register at any time the progeny of any cats that are born or conceived during the period of suspension.

provided always that the Board of Directors may in its absolute discretion allow the registration of any cat or the transfer from the ownership of such defendant where it is satisfied that not to do so would be deleterious to the welfare of the cat or would cause hardship or injury to an innocent third party who had acted at all times in good faith. Should the suspended owner be the breeder of the cat an administrative prefix will be substituted for the registered breeder's prefix, if one such is on record as part of that cat's name; and

(D) a defendant shall not:

I. be permitted to access their GCCF account;

II. procure a third party to operate a GCCF account on their behalf; or

III. administer, operate or be connected to the GCCF account of any other person bound by the Rules and Byelaws of the Council.

For the avoidance of any doubt, during any period of suspension or disqualification a defendant shall remain bound by the Rules and Byelaws of the Council.

Amendments to GCCF RULES Section 5:3 Vaccinations as proposed by the Veterinary Advisory Committee

It is requested that Council accepts changes to this rule as an emergency agenda item so that it can include temporary measures to take account of current vaccine shortages and manufacturers' recommendations regarding the timing of boosters in respect of cats who have completed their primary course of vaccinations. It has been necessary to reword in other parts of the rule to clarify for show entry purposes the circumstances in which these concessions apply. They relate only to booster vaccinations, so the rules relating to kittens and cats that have not completed their primary vaccination course have had wording clarified but have not been changed.

A) All cats exhibited at shows held under GCCF rules must have a current certificate of vaccination against Feline Calicivirus (FCV), Feline Herpes Virus (FHV) and Feline Panleukopenia* (FPV). (*Previously termed feline Infectious Enteritis)

- i. The primary course (first set of **3 vaccinations**) in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation, must have been completed more than seven days before the show.

~~(Delete Note 1)~~ The certificate must be clearly identifiable to the cat in question. The certificate must show the cat's full GCCF registered name, sex, breed and date of birth and correct owner details.

~~(Delete Note 2)~~ **NOTE 1: PRIMARY COURSE**

THE PRIMARY COURSE IS DEFINED AS THE FIRST TWO DOSES OF VACCINE ADMINISTERED 3-4 WEEKS APART PLUS A THIRD DOSE (1st ADULT VACCINATION) GIVEN 12 MONTHS LATER.

Kittens and previously unvaccinated cats may be shown after the first two doses of the primary course provided the second dose was given more than 7 days before the show.

Manufacturers recommend that the third dose of the primary course (**1st Adult Vaccination**) is given **approximately by** 12 months after the 2nd kitten vaccination. This dose must have been given more than 7 days before the show.

(Some vaccine guidelines now recommend a 3rd dose is given to kittens at 16 weeks but this is not compulsory for kittens attending GCCF shows.)

~~a. (Delete Note 3)~~ Kittens or cats who have received two doses of a primary course with an interval of more than 6 weeks between them will be rejected under Section A.

~~b. Adult cats who have received **only** the **two kitten doses** with the 2nd kitten vaccination given more than 12 months and 7 days before the show will be rejected under Section A.~~

~~c. Adult cats who have received **three doses** of a primary course with an interval of 12-15 months between the 2nd kitten vaccination and the 1st Adult Vaccination **will not be rejected.**~~

~~d. (Delete Note 4)~~ Adult cats who have received **three doses** of a primary course with an interval of more than 15 months between the 2nd kitten vaccination and the 1st Adult Vaccination will be rejected under Section A.

- ii Booster vaccinations against FCV, FHV and FPV must be given at the manufacturers' recommended intervals. Where a variable interval of 1-3 years for FCV and FHV is recommended the minimum interval applies. i.e all cats attending shows MUST receive annual booster against FCV and FHV. For Boosters only note: Exhibitors are advised to leave at least a week between a booster vaccination and show attendance to allow the vaccine to take effect and in case of any adverse reaction. (Amended 05.10.2016.)

~~(Delete Note 5)~~

Note 2: BOOSTER VACCINATIONS IN ADULT CATS WHO HAVE COMPLETED A 3 DOSE PRIMARY COURSE

Every **adult** cat attending a GCCF show must have had a minimum of a Flu (FCV,FHV) booster in the 12 months and 7 days preceding the show. Cats whose last booster was given more than 12 months and 7 days before the show will be rejected under Section A. Once a cat has completed the 3 doses of the primary course a single booster is deemed adequate to restore full immunity regardless of the interval from the previous vaccination. **Therefore in cats who have received the 3 dose primary course vets are instructed to only check the latest booster entry for both Flu (FCV,FHV) and FPV and other booster entries do not need to be checked.** A booster interval of 3 years for FPV only is acceptable with appropriately licensed vaccines where the flu(FCV,FHV) components can be given separately.

AMENDMENTS TO NOTE 2 THAT GIVE A TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF THE BOOSTER VACCINATION INTERVAL IN ADULT CATS WHO HAVE COMPLETED A 3 DOSE PRIMARY COURSE

VALID FROM 06/11/2021 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO TEMPORARY SHORTAGE OF FELINE VACCINES

Every adult cat attending a GCCF show must have had a minimum of a Flu (FCV,FHV) booster in the 15 months and 7 days preceding the show. Cats whose last booster was given more than 15 months and 7 days before the show will be rejected under Section A.

NB: The existing rules in relation to the 3 dose primary course and FPV vaccination in adult cats will still apply.

(There are no changes to Sections B & C of this rule with the exception of the renumbering of subsequent notes to maintain a logical sequence)