

GCCF APPEALS COMMITTEE

At the Council meeting on 6 November 2021 appointments will be made to the Appeals Committee. There are two vacancies for Committee members, and if you are a retiring member or reserve you may stand again. Reserves will also be needed.

If you would like to be an AC member you do not have to be a GCCF delegate to apply. You need to have signed up to the GCCF rules and Byelaws (as an owner and/or breeder) and have the qualities required (see the role description below).

Please send in your name, with a brief outline (no more than a page) of your GCCF experience and any other qualifications and knowledge that you would like delegates to have. Ideally this will be circulated with the meeting paperwork and so should be received by the GCCF Office **4th October 2021**, but late applications can be circulated to delegates with the supplementary agenda. Please send to the IC/DC Secretary: <Abigail@gccfcats.org>

APPEALS COMMITTEE

The Appeals Committee holds meetings only when required. This could be an actual meeting in London, or by videoconference. It would be for the Committee to decide. Although appeals are rare, they are often high-profile, complex and create precedents. Both parties may be represented by legal counsel.

The Appeals Committee considers appeals against the decisions of the Disciplinary Committee. It also has the power to act as an arbitrator in disputes between individuals and/or organisations within GCCF. Both are important functions demanding an ability to make independent and responsible judgements (see Byelaw 12 (6)).

Documents are circulated prior to the meeting and members are expected to read and analyse them in advance of a hearing, to understand the arguments presented, and formulate appropriate questions for both parties and any supporting witnesses they may call.

Impartiality must be maintained throughout; Appeals Committee members must be totally unbiased, ignoring any irrelevant information acquired either prior to or during a hearing.

Appeals Committee members must recuse themselves (withdraw) from any case that they have any direct or indirect association with, either as an individual or an organisation. Additionally, they must recuse themselves if there might be a perception that they could have a bias towards or against either party in a case.

Discussions in Appeals hearings must be treated with total confidentiality and discretion at all times.

Qualities required: Discretion, analytical powers, judgement, ability to work within a quasi-judicial setting.