

REPORT FROM WORLD CAT CONGRESS. 2017.

The World Cat Conference 2017 was held in Las Vegas and hosted by the American Cat Fanciers Association.

This year there were 9 member Associations attending. –

These were The Host association– C.F.A.

A.C.F. Australian Cat Federation.

C.C.C.A. Coordinating Cat Council of Australia.

The New Zealand Cat Fancy.

The S.A.C. Southern Africa Cat Council.

T.I.C.A. The International Cat Association.

W.C.F. World Cat Federation.

F.I.F.E. Feline International Feline.

And the GCCF

The first day the Seminar was held with a very varied program. The opening item was the introduction of the delegates from the World Cat Congress. Each of us having to give a short presentation of our organization's activities.

Speakers on the agenda included - Dr Rick Kesler, Scientific Vet from Royal Canin. His subject Nutrition and Reproduction.

Dr Vicki Thayer for the Win Feline Foundation discussing Research updates.

Dr Heather Lorimer from the Youngstown State University on Feline Genetics- this lady Breeds Oriental Shorthairs under the SYNGERY cattery Prefix.

Pat Jacobberger gave an amusing half hour on the Psychology of Judging – which would have been better if her power point presentation had worked!!

The American Curl Breeders gave a very interesting insight into the Breed, and with the cats they had with them we were able to really get to know them – I do have to say they were extremely attractive and outgoing cats.

The interest in the History of the Cat Fancy is very strong in America. Karen Lawrence did a most interesting presentation. There is a Feline Historical

Museum in Ohio. Her proudest purchase for the museum is a small silver cup from an early UK GCCF Siamese Show for Best Exhibit – 1930's I think she said. How Karen would love to “rummage” in the Office at Bridgwater – she would be in her element!

The following two days the CFA's Show was held. There were 200 cats entered, of these 24 were Household Pets. Most of the Pedigree classes only having one entry. There were classes with two in, one with 4 and one with 5. So very similar to our Shows. Here in the UK we talk about the dwindling numbers of cats entered at Shows. We are NOT unique to this problem. It was disturbing being with cat fraternity the world over, talking together about the same problems. The dwindling numbers of younger people breeding and exhibiting seem to be a big concern. A problem the Americans have at Shows is the very few numbers of the public that come to visit. I don't think it is helped by exhibitors who pen the cats in transportable pens, which are quite dark and it is difficult to see the cats, and no numbering system, so even with a catalogue it was difficult to find the cats or people you would like to chat with or even to browse and admire. In this respect our show halls are very enviable and attract visitors. It is easy for Visitors to enjoy the cats and talk to the exhibitors.

On the final day the WCC Business Meeting is held. It is customary to exchange small gifts from our organizations. In the past I have taken SOP's and Rule books. The pens and pads are always popular. However this year Mark suggested I take the GEM's publication – everyone was immensely impressed and complimentary about it – so one up for the GCCF – I do sincerely hope everyone here has purchased a copy????? **If not you should.**

The meeting has a varied agenda of diverse topics reflecting the wide geographical Membership. The New Zealand Cat Fancy for instance is a young organization and wanted to know how other organizations dealt with the Disciplinary procedures. They didn't want to be too severe with their rules. Some of the problems in the Cat Fancy's the world over are similar and a discussion was helpful. Australia has a continuing problem with the laws of the country

towards cats in general, not allowing them the freedom to roam in any way. Even the feral cats! There is also the emergence of a very vibrant Cat Fancy in China, there are various groups and these are expanding at a vast rate. Judges from Australia are being invited to judge regularly. It seems the cats are of a high quality and unlike other World Cat Organizations, in China the Cat Fancy is supported by many YOUNG people -. One to watch!

A gathering such as the WCC could never take place without the financial support, and the “hands-on” support, that was received from Royal Canin. Thanks must go to them.

On a final note my thanks to The Board for assisting me in my travel costs – very much appreciated.

One other thing – the GCCF host the WCC in 2021 - - our Anniversary Year. Steve mentioned at the last Council Meeting that money is already being saved for this event. – This will be a wonderful opportunity to Show Case our History and how we are moving forward. So please support it when the time comes.

Thank you

Betty Shingleton 14/06/17.