

GENETICS COMMITTEE - Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Genetics Committee exists to advise the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy on all matters relating to breed recognition, registration on the GCCF register, breeding policies and the overall genetic health of the cat.

GCCF Byelaws state:

"The Council shall seek the advice of the Genetics Committee in all cases where application is made to the Council to give recognition to a new breed or variety. The Committee shall appoint its own Chairman and Secretary and shall meet as required and report its findings to the Board".

Membership

The Committee shall comprise seven members appointed annually by the GCCF Board at the first Board meeting following the Electoral Council meeting (June) each year, and an invited member of the Veterinary Advisory Committee

The Committee shall nominate one of its members as Chair and may choose to have a Vice-Chairman.

The Committee reserves the right to co-opt additional members as required to provide specialist knowledge and advice.

Principal Functions & Accountabilities

The Genetics Committee is a sub-committee of the Board and reports directly to it; and through the Board to Council. The Committee's principal functions are:

- To advise the Board and Council on all matters relating to cat genetics and the breeding of pedigree cats, with conclusions based on GCCF rules and agreed policies. [L] [SEP]
- To consider the merits of granting recognition to new breeds and advise the Board and Council accordingly. [L] [SEP]
- To provide expert advice to GCCF staff. [L] [SEP]
- To advise BACs on relevant registration and breeding policies, with conclusions based on GCCF rules and agreed policies. [L] [SEP]
- To undertake regular (though not necessarily frequent) reviews of SOPs [L] [SEP] and registration policies; advice on necessary/desirable changes or [L] [SEP] amendments.
- To provide advice and guidance on implementing the GCCF Breeding Policy
- To review and advise on genetic tests available. [L] [SEP]

- To liaise with Genetics Committees of other registration bodies - CFA, KC, TICA, FIFe. [L] [SEP]
- To advise/recommend on subscriptions to websites and journals and to monitor research and development. [L] [SEP]
- To work with genetics specialists and co-opted members of Genetics Committee. [L] [SEP]
- To liaise with Defra and other Government departments as appropriate on all aspects relating to cat health and welfare. [L] [SEP]
- To develop links and liaise with academic institutions (such as universities and veterinary schools) undertaking research into cat genetics; where appropriate to liaise with the research and development departments of commercial firms such as pharmaceutical companies who may be developing tests or treatments/solutions to genetic defects. [L] [SEP]

Frequency & Place of Meetings [L] [SEP]

The Committee should aim to meet two or three times per year, although meetings should be dictated by need, and giving due consideration to minimising financial cost to the GCCF. Between meetings the Committee will communicate electronically and discuss any matter that is its proper concern and may make decisions by this method. Committee conclusions are usually a consensus of the views of its members. Where there is an evidence based diverging viewpoint a record will be made.

Liaison & Communication [L] [SEP]

The Committee should liaise regularly with the Board, and through the Board, Council. Members of the Committee should be available to provide expert advice to staff at the GCCF Office on matters pertaining to the Committee's remit. [L] [SEP]

The Committee should develop communication links with all Breed Advisory Committees and should seek to advise them on breeding policies, breed registration policies and the genetic health of the breed(s) for which they cater. [L] [SEP]

The Committee should seek to build a sound working relationship with the genetics committees of other appropriate registration bodies, such as the Kennel Club, FIFe, Felis Britannica and TICA. Where such links are established there should be regular liaison and reports, [L] [SEP]

It should also build and maintain good communications links to Veterinary Advisory Committee, the Supreme Committee, GCCF Press Officer/Marketing and the GCCF Webmaster. [L] [SEP]

The current Genetics Committee members are : Steve Crow (Chairman) Dr Karen Kempshell (Vice Chairman), Dr Gavin Eyres, Rosemary Fisher, Claire Lewis, Anthony Nichols, Dr Sue Moreland (GCCF Veterinary Officer) and Dr Ray Wigley. Jen Lacey (GC Secretary)