

GCCF Judge Appointment Scheme Review Terms of Reference **(TOR)**

Background and Context:

The GCCF Judge Appointment Scheme (GCCF JAS) came into being in 1986. The aim was to primarily ensure that the training of judges within GCCF was intermeshed in a coherent way with any breed related issues such as the Standard of Points, breeding and registration policies.

Over the intervening years, although there have been a number of minor changes to the rules and procedures, they have been all too few and have mainly failed to take into consideration the major changes within the cat fancy, life styles and changing methods of communication over the last 30 plus years.

This means that we are now struggling with a greatly outdated approach to the recruitment and training of new stewards and especially new judges.

The GCCF Judge Appointment Scheme governing the training of judges is pivotal in the work undertaken by Breed Advisory Committees. (BAC's). We tend to see Judge training and other Breed issues as separate entities but they actually irrevocably coalesce.

It has been acknowledged that the current GCCF JAS system is "not fit for purpose" and that this needs to be address urgently if we are to ensure sufficient judges for the future.

An independent sub group was formed, on the direction of the Board in 2014 to address this issue with a number of minor but successful outcomes, however due to a recent review in 2019, it was felt that an update of objectives and the scope of the group was required to enable the work to continue to progress still further.

Objectives:

Stage one:

- To review the overall structure, role and effectiveness of the current GCCF JAS system in respect of judge training to ensure it is fit for purpose. (see addendum 1)
- To mutually liaise with the GCCF Show Review Group to ensure that any proposals for change in judge training, are consistent with any changes to the format of GCCF shows and their role in training judges.
- To consult on suggested changes and seek ways in which to encourage those in the broader cat fancy to contribute their thoughts, ideas and concerns.

Stage Two:

- To review the overall structure, role and effectiveness of the current GCCF JAS system in respect of effects on judge training to ensure it is fit for purpose.
- To bring forward a set of proposals for change to be debated and decided in Council.

Scope:

Stage one:

- To propose an improved system for judge training through a more structured and educational approach that increases the number of GCCF judges.

- To monitor the newly introduced GCCF Judge Training Accelerated Scheme, propose adaptations and highlight successful outcomes that could transfer into proposals for training of new judges.

Stage two:

- To review the current structure of the GCCF JAS, compare best practice of Judge training within other registering bodies to consider proven alternative methods of such training that could be useful.
- To ensure that the remodelling and updates proposed for the GCCF JAS and will thereby attract new stewards and judges to the GCCF.

Resources

- Current GCCF Judge Appointment Scheme documents (March 2021 edition)
- GCCF Accelerated Judge Training Scheme documents (June 2019)
- Documentation of similar schemes from other official feline organisations
- Feedback from interested parties (see addendum 2)

Outcomes

- Recommendations for a fully revised GCCF JAS
- To increase numbers of stewards and judges in GCCF

Who is included in the Group

This sub group was set up at the direction of the Board and the members chosen after expression of interest was sought from all areas of the GCCF. (see addendum 3)

Timescales (estimated) for the process of stage one of the project

- Updates to the Board as appropriate
- Discussion and research: 6 – 8 weeks
- Draft proposal of changes: 6 – 8 weeks
- Regular reports at each Council meeting

Governance and reporting

- Meetings to have specific focus as governed by the agenda
- Minutes to be taken
- Updates to Board/GCCF website as appropriate
- Update to BAC's/Judges/Stewards

Risks and issues

- Sheer volume and complexity of the GCCF JAS document and the work involved
- Resistance to change
- Inertia
- Inability to please all
- Social media negativity

Addendums

1. Drivers for change:

- General lack of a sufficient number of actively engaged GCCF Judges
- Age demographics and effect of Covid
- Length of time and cost to train
- Viability of single breed judges to SM
- Lack of multibreed judges

2. Consult:

- Judges
- BAC (*any other interested party via their breeds BAC's*)
- Judges Guild
- Stewards
- Show Review Group

3. **This will be reviewed every three years from the date of publication of this TOR.**

Current Members:

- Kate Kaye (Chair)
- Peter Collin
- Hilary Dean
- Sarndra Deveraux
- Steve Parkin
- Claire Lewis
- Sue Dalton-Hobbs

Comment [A1]: Concur with the Board's terms of office which three yearly..