

I have been breeding and showing BSH (and now BLHs as well) for the last 13 years. I strongly believe in cat health. I have been a member of the current Investigation Committee for the last two years and have gained extensive knowledge and understanding of the GCCF by-laws and how to implement them without prejudice.

For me the health of the cats does not come from feeding anything that is not species appropriate. I have done a lot of research into appropriate feeding and using my common sense, I realise that commercial animal feed is a recent phenomenon. Say 100 years or so and cats anatomy has developed over thousands of years and it is a basic fact that no commercial pet food company provides the right level of meat a cat needs. I am also a hands-on person - I do not need my vet to tell me my cats have fleas or worms as - as a responsible cat owner I should know this by spending time with my cats. I also DO NOT believe in unnecessary vaccinations. We as humans don't get vaccinated every year so why are cats different? Saying that I do think at the same time - we are doing complete injustice to our cats by treating them like humans and not allowing them to do/be what nature had intended.

As for my feeling about the GCCF - although I don't agree with everything about GCCF; however, as a GCCF breeder/exhibitor I abide my all rules set by GCCF. I also see the clear limitation GCCF has based on the laws of this county and its own by laws whether its welfare related or the sale of a cat/kitten.

Outside The cat fancy - I am a long serving civil servant and worked as a regional manager for international operations, covering several overseas posts for the Home Office and the Foreign Office and now working for the Department for Transport. These jobs have involved writing, developing, and implementing policies and process that work differently in different regions. I have also been involved with negotiating agreements with international stakeholders in hostiles parts of the world such as many of the African states, the Middle East, Jamaica, and the Indian subcontinent. I am currently leading on my Department's Annual Report which will be laid in Parliament in July.

Zaneel Abidin