



MINUTES

For the Meeting of the **Board OF DIRECTORS**

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY

Tuesday, 14 April 2015 at the Somers Town Coffee House, Chalton Street, London



Present: Mr Steve Crow - Chairman

Mrs L Ashmore	Dr G Bennett
Mr S Farrell	Mrs R Fisher
Mrs Doreen Goadby	Mr Thomas Goss
Mr John Hansson	Mrs Shelagh Heavens
Mrs Jen Lacey	Mrs Helen Marriott-Power
Mrs Pat Perkins	Mrs Sally Rainbow-Ockwell

In attendance: Mr Mark Goadby - Office Manager

BD3431 MEETING INTRODUCTION

- Chairman's Opening remarks**
 - 1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present at 11.18am.
 - 1.2 He apologised for the rather cramped conditions of the venue, but it was conveniently located and a reasonably priced alternative to the Conway Hall, which was unavailable.
 - 1.3 Board members were reminded of the confidentiality of the business, to be respectful to each other and focus on the views being put forward. **INFO**
- Apologies for absence.**
 - 2.1 These had been received from: Mrs A Gregory, Mrs C Leighton and Mr J Robinson
 - 2.2 A card and flowers would be sent to Mrs Gregory once she was home from hospital. **INFO**

BD3432 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- The Minutes of the Board meeting of 10 March 2015**

A typographical error was corrected, and the minutes were then approved unanimously. **INFO**
- Matters arising from the March minutes**
 - 2.1 BD3414.1.2 The Chairman confirmed he had written to Mrs Dean to pass on regret that she had had to resign and thank her for her contribution to the work of the Board, but had not received a reply. Mrs Heavens was welcomed to the meeting.
 - 2.2 BD3415.2.3 Dr Bennett reported that IC had almost completed the revision of the Fixed Penalty List and she would present it at the next meeting.
Action: to be on the agenda for the May Board meeting. **JL**
 - 2.3 BD3417.2.2 IC had proposed a fine of £200 as the maximum for the sale of a non- vaccinated kitten, but it was noted that BL13.2 stipulated that a fixed penalty could be no more than £100. As this limit had been set in 2003 it was agreed the level should be raised.
Action: to be on the agenda for the May Board meeting. **JL**
 - 2.4 BD3421.3.2 A letter had been sent to the British Ragdoll CC. There had not been a response, but expected that this would be received after their meeting at the end of the month. **INFO**
 - 2.5 BD3423.4 Yorkshire CC had been informed that their proposal to establish the Supreme as a subsidiary company was not supported by the Board. However, as it had been approved by their AGM the club did not wish to withdraw it from the agenda of the next Council meeting.
Action: to be on the agenda for the June Council meeting. **JL**
 - 2.6 The Chairman observed that other actions were completed or would be brought forward as business in agenda items for this meeting. **INFO**

BD3433 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Unregistered interests declared for the business of this meeting.**

BD 3440 (Ragamuffin promotion) JH. BD3440.2 and BD3443.6 recognition for the Sokoke and its breed club SRO.
Action: The Register of Interests to be updated to record involvement with these breeds. **JH & SRO**

BD3434 ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

- The appointment of a 'caretaker' Chairman**
 - 1.1 After discussion it was agreed that there was no need to appoint a 'caretaker' Chairman as SC would be in electronic contact for most of the time he was in New Zealand and the OM had several experienced Board members with expertise in specific areas he could refer to. They would have the responsibility to circulate issues to the Board when necessary.
 - 1.2 The Royal Canin contract would be signed electronically, if acceptable to RC, or by a director in the office as proxy for the Chairman, if required.
 - 1.3 JH and HMP had experience of the Chairman's role and agreed to be available to the OM to offer advice and support if needed. **INFO**
- The publication of the IC/DC election process to invite applications.**

To date three applications had been received for IC/DC positions, and they were from existing members of the committees. It was agreed further publicity was needed.

Actions: A note to be drafted

**This to be sent out via email from the office to all addresses held on the system.
Publicity to be given on social media.**

JL
SRO
JL/SRO

3. **Publicity by candidates for other positions prior to the 2015 June elections**

3.1 After discussion it was agreed that candidates for the Board and Finance Committee should be allowed one or two paragraphs (maximum 200 words) to give a profile of experience and what qualities would they bring to the role for which they had been nominated. The rationale for this was that the company had grown, and demanded more of volunteers, so additional information would be useful to delegates in advance of a vote.

Action: Advance notice to be given to club secretaries and existing delegates so that all wishing to stand would be aware of the change. OM/SRO

BD3435 BYELAW AMENDMENT

1. **An addition to Byelaw 7 (15)**

1.1 It was agreed it was unnecessary to have long lists of judge promotions in Council that very rarely needed discussion. However, a sufficient rationale for change had to be presented with reassurance to delegates that they would not be disenfranchised.

1.2 Rationale: helpful to show managers who could note promotions and issue invitations accordingly, BACs could be more flexible as no need to fix meeting dates to tie in with Council meetings, candidates would be assisted as it would remove long waiting periods

1.3 Delegates could make objections on behalf of clubs, and if there was any issue to be discussed it would have to be brought to a meeting, as it was important all appointments remained the prerogative of Council.

1.4 The new BL wording to be:

To appoint judges on the recommendation of the Breed Advisory Committee for the relevant Judges list or the Council Committee of Judges. In the case of a new breed, prior to the formation of a BAC, recommendations for the Judges list will be considered from a representative group of breeders.

The list of appointments to Pupil Judge, and promotions to Full Judge, will be published on the GCCF website on a weekly basis to include the following information: the BAC making the recommendation, the judge's name and list status (Full Judge or Pupil Judge). During the four weeks following each publication a delegate to Council may contact the GCCF Office with an objection to any appointment, and bring this objection to the next meeting of Full Council so that it can be considered. If no objection is received, at the end of four weeks it shall be deemed that the appointment is confirmed, and the judge and BAC shall be informed of this.

Approved unanimously.

Action: to be on the agenda for the June Council meeting.

JL

BD3436 RULE CHANGES

1. **Rule changes to ensure that imports require a certified pedigree to a maximum of five generations.** (Section 1) 7f) i A 4 generation, or more if required by the current GCCF Registration Policy for that breed, **to a maximum of five generations.** Certified Pedigree for the parent/parents not registered with the GCCF issued by a bona fide registering organisation.

7g) i A certified pedigree, **to a maximum of five generations**, which must be in accordance with the current GCCF Registration Policy for the breed in question.

Rationale as at BD3421.1.2

Approved unanimously.

Actions: To be on the agenda for the June Council meeting.

JL

List of bona fide recognised registering bodies to be updated on the GCCF website SRO/OM

2. **To ensure that judges for new breeds are already qualified to work in the section applied for.**

2.1 There was some discussion to amend the rule wording further. It was agreed that judges did not necessarily need two years experience, but did have to be full on at least one list, and FJ or PJ status was acceptable for the section of the new breed.

Action: to circulate the reworded rule 1:43e to the Board. If approved it would go forward to June Council, but would be brought to the May Board agenda if further discussion was required. JL

2.2 Amended rule

A list of full GCCF judges of at least 2 years standing, **full on at least one list**, to be submitted for appointment as full judges of the new breed together with a rationale for their choice. **These should be full or pupil judges already qualified to work in the section into which the new breed has been placed.** Further lists may be submitted prior to the new breed applying for promotion for Provisional **Championship** recognition **using the same criteria.**

2.3 The rule change below was agreed without amendment.

Section 1:48d

Confirmation of the list of full judges of the breed, **who have been appointed in accordance with rule 1:43e.** If so wished, a list of candidates for appointment as probationer **pupil** judges of the breed, in accordance with the GCCF Judge Appointment Scheme, may be submitted.

3. **An addition to the rules to ensure cat comfort at shows**

Section 2:3g

...Exhibitors should **must be permitted the use of cool pads/ice packs** under their cats blankets, and/or safe battery-operated fans on their pens, **at all shows. Show Managers are recommended that, wherever possible, air conditioning is utilised in halls.** Exhibitors and visitors may be requested to leave the hall for a period....

The use of must had been confirmed by the Norwegian Forest cat BAC. This was agreed for June Council agenda. JL

4. **A rule change to allow a cat to enter a higher certificate class if a title is gained after the closing date stated on the schedule if an extension to the closing date is published on the website.**

4.1 2:4d) With reference to schedule requirements the insertion of **proposed** to be added before 'closing date'.

4:2 4:11a) an addition

...as published **stated** in the schedule, **or any extension to this published on the GCCF website.**

4.3 It was agreed that there should be more time for discussion on this from show management perspective.

Action: any suggested amended wording to be on the May Board agenda.

JL

5. **Rule changes to Section 4:4c to ensure breeds with physical anomalies, and therefore not recognised by GCCF, are not shown as pedigree pets; and to extend the welfare ruling to be all inclusive.**

Exhibits which have been declawed, together with polydactyls, folded ears, curly tails and any other abnormality are not acceptable exhibits and a duty veterinary surgeon is instructed to reject them. With the exception of declawing **and the cutting/plucking of eyebrows and/or eyelashes**, this does not apply to **non-pedigree** exhibits (pedigree and non-pedigree) in the household pet section.

Approved unanimously.

Action: To be on the agenda for the June Council meeting.

JL

6. **Rules in which Probationer must be changed to Pupil to reflect the revisions made to the JAS.**

Section 3 1b, 1c, 2, 4b.

Approved unanimously.

Action: To be on the agenda for the June Council meeting.

JL

7. **Change to the Code of Conduct for GCCF Judges to allow for a revision to judge training that enables newly qualified pupil judges to offer their services.**

Section 2

a) Judges should not solicit judging engagements at specific shows, **with the exception that Pupil Judges who are progressing from the stewarding scheme for the first time may offer their services to a Show Manager in order to gain experience. (see JAS 24d)**

Reference to PJs doing this at their own expense was removed and the change was then agreed unanimously.

Action: To be on the agenda for the June Council meeting.

JL

8. **An addition to the 'Eligibility to Judge Title Classes – Minimum Requirements 1.6.2013'**

Note to the end of this:

NB: Once deemed eligible to judge a title class, with the record made on the GCCF list accordingly, no judge should lose this eligibility by the restructuring of sections, or breed groups, and/or the addition of new breeds to a section or group. (This will be applied retrospectively from the introduction of the Olympian Classes at 1.6.2012.)

With the addition of the final sentence this was approved:

8 in favour, 3 abstentions, 1 against.

Action: To be on the agenda for the June Council meeting.

JL

BD3437

BUSINESS MATTERS

1. **The contract with Royal Canin**

1.1 The final amendments for the contract with Royal Canin had now been cleared by the GCCF's solicitor. It had been returned to RC and verbal indication had been given that it was acceptable, but it was now with their legal department, with an expected return in the next week or so.

1.2 It would be signed in writing or electronically, as required, (min 3434.1.2) and be live two weeks from that date.

1.3 Breeders would be informed as soon as it was signed to announce the new transfer incentive and the new style of paperwork to be sent out with registrations.

Action: publicity for the new scheme immediately after the contract completion.

OM

1.4 It was noted that the Catwyse filming with Dr Bruce Bennett had been completed at the Somali show.

INFO

2. **Reports from other partnerships.**

2.1 It was reported from a meeting with Agria that the company had concern that the policy conversion rate was falling. It was concluded that this was largely depended on their marketing once new contacts were provided rather than direct contribution from GCCF, but agreed that GCCF would consider any suggestions they made in this respect.

2.2 There was no report yet that the number of breeders providing Agria kitten contracts was declining, but this remained a GCCF concern because other companies gave better incentives that were not dependent on conversion, but Agria had chosen to ignore advice given in this respect.

Action: A check to be made on the timing of the end of the contract so that there was time to plan possible change.

OM/MSG

2.3 It was reported that the first support for rescue had been made from Agria via a link with the Burmese Trust.

A rehome package had been provided that could be rolled out to other club rescues if successful.

2.4 The Chairman reported from a meeting of the Cat Group. Possible seminar dates and topics had been discussed. There was to be a Cats & The Law (Dr A Nurse) update, results from a study on hand rearing, consideration of feral population control and kitten contracts. It was believed compulsory microchipping for cats was not imminent. There was as yet no effective monitoring for dogs planned.

INFO

2.5 It was noted that the GCCF logo and support was not on the Vet Compass project website.

Action: Contact to be made with Dan O'Neill

JL

3. **Report on the progress of Project Phoenix**

3.1 Mrs Rainbow-Ockwell gave apologies that no report for March had been circulated to the Board.

3.2 The work was on schedule and currently slightly under budget, but there was an intensive testing program planned over the coming weeks.

3.3 It was noted Andy Hughes was providing very useful support for this as his checking was extremely thorough.

3.4 A technical meeting was planned at the end of April and a Steering Group meeting was planned for 7 May. **INFO**

4. **Online services report**

4.1 There were no problems to report.

4.2 Breeder pedigrees would be available in the next day or so.

INFO

5. **Website revision update**

- 5.1 Mrs Fisher reported that the breed hub was now complete, except for some not yet finished breeding policies, and photographs of some breeds were still required. A contact for Turkish Van and Vankedisi was supplied.
- 5.2 The next stage was to get the news section transferred and the online page and show information would follow that ahead of going live. The GCCF history, GC and VAC sections would remain to be done.
- 5.3 Further training was being provided by DTC, but transferring from the old site was not proving difficult and the content management system was user friendly.
- 5.4 RF observed how supportive Roger Goodwin of DTC had been, being responsive and flexible in the provision of training and advice.
- 5.5. She also repeated that it would be easy to make amendments to the breed information at BAC request.

Action: The new site to go live, with a link to the old site so that it could continue to be used while the transfer of information was taking place.

RF

6. **Annual report**

- 6.1 It was noted that some sections were complete and others still had to be done.
- 6.2 Contact had been made with those responsible for the sections and they would be requested for the information if there had been no progress report.

Action: to be completed for printing for the June Council meeting.

SRO

BD3438 WELFARE MATTERS

1. **Requirement for policies for intervention when flagged by the registration/transfer process**

- 1.1 It was agreed that registrations could provide a guide to when mentoring was needed, either by a large number of kittens being registered from multiple queens in a single household or the frequency of litters from a single queen. Multiple transfers to a single new owner could also be highlighted.
- 1.2 However, it was recognised that satisfactory explanations could be given for any of the above, and as there would be wide variation in individual circumstances, so although the need for monitoring existed, it would be difficult to attach specific figures.

Action: this issue to be referred to the VAC and GC to formulate policies for further Board discussion. JL

2. **Report on liaison with welfare and/or rescue groups**

- 2.1 It was agreed there should be a list of contacts on the website for breed welfare support.
- 2.2 There was also a need to give clubs support on rescue and rehoming.

Action: This to an item for discussion on the May Board agenda.

JL

3. **Support from PET Adoption UK**

- 3.1 The charity would support clubs who offered a rehoming service by providing their contact details on its website and promotion of GCCF.
- 3.2 It was agreed that clubs should be informed that there was GCCF support for this and any welfare contact details they provided would be passed on to the charity unless they made it clear that they wished to opt out from this service.

Action: this information to be in the annual spring letter to go from the office to clubs

OM

4. **Canine & Feline Sector Group**

- 4.1 The Chairman confirmed there were no large issues that the whole group was dealing with currently. The smaller Feline Welfare group was continuing to gather information on the use of the internet for the sale of kittens so that there was evidence to assess the scale of commercial breeding.
- 4.2 It was understood that Lord Black would participate in a ballot in May, and, if successful, put forward a bill to restrict cat breeding. Most of the references to specific requirements for queens had been removed, at GCCF request, and it was purported to be aimed at unrestricted domestic breeding, but there was no indication of how this could be monitored, whereas controls could adversely affect pedigree breeders.
- 4.3 SC would be absent for the next meeting on 27 April and had asked Mrs Lacey to attend in his place. **INFO**

5. **World Cat Congress**

- 5.1 The Chairman planned to speak to the Congress on the nature of changes which were affecting the hobby in the 21st century, covering welfare controls and attitudes to cat showing, and also the changing life styles of breeders and exhibitors. He looked forward to the response from other delegates.
- 5.2 The GCCF proposal that wild cat species should be banned from the shows of all WCC organisations had been made, and it was noted that an Australian Federation would be also covering this.

Action: support from the VAC to be requested from its meeting on the following day.

SC

BD3439 DISCIPLINARY MATTER

1. **Progress on adding additional fixed penalties**

Dr Bennett had confirmed the list would be brought to the May meeting (min3432.2.2) and asked the Board to note that the rules were not for discussion, only the penalties that had been applied to them. **INFO**

2. **Update on small claims action**

- 2.1 This was ongoing with the online process being used.
- 2.2 It was noted that if it did not reach court (and Mrs Ashman had already informed the Board that she did not wish to have a CCJ against her name) then there could be no award for costs.
- 2.3 This was a reason for DC action following repayment of the money retained. **INFO**

1. **Promotion to Championship status for Ragamuffins**
This was unanimously agreed.
2. **Preliminary recognition for the Sokoke**
2.1 This was unanimously agreed.
2.2 It was noted that GCCF was the first organisation to recognise the Snow Sokoke.
2.3 Sokoke self and dilute progeny would be recorded as non-recognised variants.
Action: 1 & 2 to be on the June Council agenda. JL
3. **Request for a name change to Aztec for the Ocicat Classic**
3.1 It was noted that decisions for other breeds had established a precedent for the rationale put forward, although in this case there was only a difference in the tabby pattern.
3.2 It was considered essential that a single judging list for the breed should be retained.
3.3 Concern was expressed on behalf of the Genetics Committee that the BAC had supplied no breeding policy for the Ocicat or the Ocicat Classic.
3.4 It was agreed that the Board would request a Breeding Policy to be further convinced that there was the need to allow the distinction of a different name. Appropriate changes to the registration policy would also need to be indicated.
Action: a letter to be sent in reply to the BAC Chairman to state the Board's requirements. JL
4. **Permission for the Blue Chinchilla, Blue Shaded Silver, and Blue Golden Persians to be allowed to be shown in the breed classes for Chinchillas and Goldens.**
This was agreed with two abstentions.
Action: to be on the June Council agenda. JL

BD3441

THE SUPREME SHOW

1. **Report on the 2014 Show**
1.1 It was expected that there was no change to the reported loss of £4,600, but as the SM was absent this could not be confirmed.
2. **Report on the 2015 Supreme Show plans**
2.1 It was known that judges had been invited.
2.2 Royal Canin had confirmed sponsorship for BIS, BOV and BOB.
2.3 Agria had confirmed £5000 sponsorship which would be available by the end of September.
2.4 It was noted that they were supporting 'Meet the Breeds' again, and there would be a need for clubs to be encouraged to take tables and bring exhibits. INFO

BD3442

OTHER SHOW MATTERS

1. **2014/2015 Show changes for report.**
1.1 SHCS - 12 April 2015: Mrs J Knapp replaced as ASM by Mrs C Kaye.
2. **2014/2015 Show changes - for approval**
None
3. **2015/2016 Show Changes for report**
3.1 Siamese CC - 3 October 2015: Mrs N Hill and Mrs B James have resigned as SM and ASM. No replacements have been submitted yet.
3.2 Selkirk Rex CC - 28 November 2015: The show has had to be cancelled as the SM has pulled out (no valid reason supplied) and the club has not found another show with which to share.
3.3 Russian & Abyssinian CC of Scotland - 5 December 2015: Date to be changed, no finalisation yet of an alternative.
4. **2015/2016 Show changes - for approval**
4.1 South Western Counties CC - 25 July 2015: Request for date to revert to 26 September as penning unavailable due to holidays. Agreed
4.2 Oriental Longhair BC - 1 August 2015: Request for permission to split the Adult and Neuter Breed classes into Tabby and Non-Tabby or three ways into Self, Tortie/Tabby and Any Other Colour. A first show so no previous record to support the application. Tabby/Non-Tabby split agreed
4.3 Chinchilla, Silver Tabby & Smoke CS/Red, Cream & Tortie Society - 21 November 2015: request date change to 22 November and venue to be Hungerford Town Hall & Corn Exchange RG17 0NJ. Mrs S Kirk to be SM for Chinchilla & Silver Tabby and Mrs S Woodley for RCT. Agreed
4.4 Caledonian LH CC - & November 2015: For the avoidance of financial loss a change in club status to All Breed, or postponement of the show to go back to back with Edinburgh & East Scotland CC, advice requested. **Advice is for the club to go back to back rather than apply for a status change.**
4.5 Progressive Ragdoll Breed CC - 21 November 2015: Request for date change to 3 April 2016 due to share with Midland Counties CC at Aldersley leisure Centre with Mrs J Huyton as SM in place of Mr M Lewis, and Mr Stuart Ryan as ASM. Agreed
Action: Board approval/comment as noted, and clubs to be informed OFFICE

5. **Preston & Blackpool CC - 28 March 2015- exhibit 248**
- 5.1 A letter had been received from the Show Manager explaining that the exhibit had been awarded a CC by the breed class judge, although it had been withdrawn by the exhibitor and SM as it was not the cat that had been entered in the show.
- 5.2 The Board agreed this was contrary to rules: 2:11c and 2:11f, as the cat not was entered in the catalogue and it was not acceptable for this to be amended on the day, and 2:12a as the cat judged was not in the judge's book. Therefore the SM's disqualification of the exhibit was confirmed and the certificate was invalid.
- 5.3 There was some concern that the SM had delegated the final decision to the Office, rather than being definite in overruling the judge on the day.
- Actions: Reply to Show Manager to inform her of the decision and comment.
Letter to the exhibitor to inform her of the disqualification.
Referral of the judge to IC for insisting on acting contrary to show rules.** **OFFICE**
(A vote for the final action gave a majority in favour, 0 against and 5 abstentions.)
6. **Public liability increases**
- 6.1 The office manager reported that there would be a £1,600 increase if public liability was increased from £5m to £10m as required by Rivermead Sports Centre. The cost for a single instance was £212.
- 6.2 It was agreed to cover individual shows, but keep a check so that it could be assessed when it was viable to make the increase for all. When this was done show fees would have to be increased for all. **INFO**
7. **Outcome of liaison with Wood Green.**
- 7.1 It was noted that Wood Green had to renovate its arena and no shows would take place there while work on this was carried out, but then believed that a ban would apply to cat shows only on the grounds that cats were not social animals and a show caused stress.
- 7.2 The Chairman had written to give reasons why this should be reconsidered, and promised to circulate the letter so that clubs could use it if they wished to write individually.
- Actions: circulation of the letter
opinion to be requested from the VAC on scientific basis for stress** **SC
JL**
8. **Proposal for exhibition classes with critique**
- 8.1 The LaPerm CC had submitted a rule change to go forward to Council to allow breeders the advantage of independent feedback on cats to be used for breeding which are not eligible to be shown in competition.
- 8.2 The rationale was it would help breeders make decisions about which cats or kittens to retain for breeding, as they would gain a clearer understanding of their cats' strong and weak points from the judges' critiques. Also constructive feedback from judges on good conformation would help guide towards the breeding of healthy cats and discourage people from breeding from cats with faults.
- 8.3 The Board considered the intention sound, but the club was to be requested to refer only to the proposed new class in its rule addition, rather than including existing exhibition classes which were to remain unchanged.
- Action: request to be passed to the club** **JL**
9. **New certificates.**
- 9.1 Mrs Fisher reported that a quote for printing blocks had ascertained that it would cost £130 to print 200 certificates digitally, £393 using gold and silver ink and £709 to produce them foiled.
- 9.2 It was agreed to go for the second option and produce samples to take to Council and present at shows along with examples of the Olympian & Supreme certificates so that the effect of using foil could be seen.
- Action: printed certificates to be acquired as agreed** **RF**

BD3443 CLUB AND BAC MATTERS

1. **Report from the Chair of the BAC Review Group**
- 1.1 John Hansson said that the next meeting was planned for 20 April, and this was to follow the Show Review Group Meeting so that any necessary information from there could be fed through into the discussion.
- 1.2 Decisions made at the first meeting and been proposed to this meeting as byelaw and rule changes, if required, and amendment to the Philosophy and principles document was ongoing to reflect proposals and remove duplication.
2. **Revision of the Judge Appointment Scheme**
- 2.1 This was not presented to the Board meetings as change was still ongoing (see above).
- 2.2 Assurance was given to the OM that there would be a summary sheet of the sections controlled by individual BACs to remove the necessity of printing the entire document when BAC revisions were made. **INFO**
3. **Rationale for a single Judge list for the Rex, LaPerm and Sphynx Grand group**
- 3.1 This had been circulated and there was one additional point in favour suggested for inclusion. **JL**
- Action: revised document to go the BACRG for discussion and be sent to the BACs concerned if agreed.**
4. **Club & BAC returns**
- 4.1 Mrs Goadby reported that to date twenty three club and six BAC returns had been received.
- 4.2 As Eastern Counties had less than 100 members it had requested dispensation to retain a delegate. **INFO**
5. **Suffolk Chocolate & Lilac Cat Club application for provisional membership**
- Dr Bennett said it had been impossible to decipher the document in the form it had been submitted. She needed a good quality electronic copy as she could see that amendments would be necessary.
- Action: This to be requested from the club.** **OM**

6. **Sokoke Breed Club application for provisional membership.**

Dr Bennet reported that some minor amendments needed to be made to the club rules. It was agreed that if the club was informed and confirmed these were made membership was agreed and did not need further Board discussion.

Action: to go forward to June Council agenda as information.

JL

BD3444

EVENTS

1. **London & National Pet Shows**

1.1 Mrs Gregory had sent apologies for the meeting and circulated information to update members on the events.

1.2 The National Pet Show was on hold as the focus was on the imminent London Pet Show. 11 bookings had been received for Saturday 9 May, and 13 for Sunday 10 May. A number of others had been promised ahead of the closing date on 21 April.

1.3 There were four entries each day for the GCCF Household Pet Show, but more were expected.

1.4 A booklet entitled 'Showing Your Household Pet in GCCF' was planned and there was a query on whether the website addresses for shows would be the same on the new website, as the information supplied would be out of date very quickly if they were to change.

Action: liaison with Mrs Gregory on website information

RF

1.5. The Board noted that contingency plans had been made if Mrs Gregory needed additional support.

INFO

2. **Gala Dinner and Cat of the year Competition**

2.1 Bookings were going well for the Gala Dinner. 10 rooms of the 12 reserved had been booked for the Friday evening and 16 of the 20 reserved for the Saturday.

2.2 The competitions had generated excitement in social media, with particular interest in and enthusiasm for The Cat of the Year and Prefix of the Year placings.

2.3 R&L had sponsored glass plaques for the Prefix of the Year, and GCCF Exhibit of the Year and Richardsons were providing rosettes for the individual GCCF Cat, Kitten, Neuter, HHP and Pedigree pet of the Year. It was hoped certificates for these would be available from the Office.

2.4 Mrs Gregory paid tribute to Mr Keith Scruton for establishing the competitions and collating all the evidence so that the awards could be made.

INFO

BD3445

GENETICS COMMITTEE

1. **Revision of the GCCF Breeding Policy**

1.1 The chairman reported that this was now complete. The text had been updated and clarified, particularly for areas where there had been scientific advancements that had provided additional information in the last five years.

1.2 It now needed the foreword promised by Prof T Gruffydd-Jones and when this had been received it could be formatted, given a cover and printed. It would be available in hard copy and electronically.

Action: A reminder to be given to Prof T G-J at the VAC Meeting.

JL

2. **Presentation of the GCCF Outcrossing Policy**

2.1 The Chairman introduced the policy, commenting that it gave the scientific background that explained the need to make outcrossing possible for those who wanted to undertake it, although it was understood that this would be a small minority due to the commitment involved. However, it was designed to assist BACs and breeders to plan within a structured framework.

2.2 It was agreed that 'pending' in the Burmese section should be amended to read 'none agreed'.

2.3 It was requested that any other amendments or corrections should be passed to JL so that text could be finalised in preparation for printing to send out with Council packs.

Action: to go to June council for information.

JL

3. **A policy for artificial insemination**

3.1 The policy proposed by GC was accepted with the addition that it would be mandatory that all test results would carry the microchip number of the cat(s) tested.

3.2 It permitted approval of AI if the Board accepted a valid reason existed in advance, and both cats concerned had proved fertile with other partners.

3.3 For registration progeny would need to validate parentage by test result, and provide all other screening tests required by the registration policy for the breed, plus the sire's certificate of entirety.

INFO

BD3446

FINANCE

1. **2014 Financial statement**

1.1 This would be presented at the May meeting

2. **Financial statement on business to date**

2.1 The OM apologised for non-circulation of the figures to the end of March. There was increased work in the office due to staff leave and illness.

2.2 He commented that there had been a significant increase in business in the first two months of the year, so that there was actually a surplus in February, but estimated that this had not been carried forward into March.

3. **Volume figures**

The data to the end of March 2015 had been circulated to give the following information:

3.1 The total number of litter registrations was just a little above the 2014 level, but the improvement remained in the non-prefix registrations. Prefix registrations were just below those of the previous year.

3.2 The cumulative transfer total dipped after its promising start in the first two months, but was still higher than in 2013 and 2014, and the incentive scheme would begin shortly.

3.3 Import figures were the highest recorded for this period.

3.4 Applications for prefixes remained just above the 2014 level.

INFO

4. Report on investment advice

4.1 The Office Manager had obtained terms from Hargreaves Lansdown but it was considered that their costs were too high for the sort of short term low risk investment investment required by GCCF.

4.2 The suggestions were that building society rates and gilts were investigated for £100k for a twelve month period.

Action: a report to made of this information to the May Board meeting.

OM

BD3447 OFFICE

1. Update on staffing

1.1 A new administrator had been appointed and was due to start work on 20 April. A training programme had been planned and it was expected that she would enjoy the challenge of a new role. There was an initial trial period, but there was every indication she would prove a useful addition to the team.

1.2 A member of staff had returned to work after illness, but another was absent, and her work had to be covered. Therefore it had proved very useful to have a temporary person available.

1.3 A meeting and training room had been created away from the general office and was proving useful

Action: Early notice to be given if further difficulties due to absence are detected.

OM

2. Office report

The OM had circulated details of staffing and training, and had no general matters to report.

INFO

BD3448 CAT WELFARE TRUST

1. 1.1 There had been some contact made with the trustees and Sue Moreland had suggested a possible member.

1.2 Mrs Perkins had also expressed an interest, and Dr Karen Kempzell had been approached.

1.3 If all three confirmed a definite interest it would mean the three vacancies could be filled.

Action: information to be provided at Council.

RF

BD3449 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The Chairman reported he had been told PAT (Pets as Therapy) cats were required. A website link could be provided for anyone interested. Both cat and owner received assessment for suitability for the role.

2. There had been a query whether decorative metal 'Do Not Touch' signs could be used on show pens. It was doubted there would be much of market for these, but not considered that they would identify a pen more than any other sign of this nature, as those printed came in different styles.

3. Mrs Butler had queried when there was definite confirmation of a Board decision via circulated email. The OM observed that he allowed about two weeks. It was considered that if all circulations were dated then any Board member who did not respond within a two week period should be deemed abstaining, and then a decision could be determined by counting only those in favour and against.

The meeting finished at 5.10pm. All items on the agenda were completed.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 19 May 2015, 11.00 for 11.15am in the Brockway Room at the Conway Hall, Holburn, London.