

GCCF SHOW REVIEW GROUP

Report to Council on first meeting held on Tuesday 23rd September 2014

Present: Keith Scruton (chairman), Perter Collin, Anne Gregory, John Hansson, Catherine Kaye
Heather McCrae, Saffron Rabey.

The group reviewed the current practices of FIFe, TICA, CFA and the GCCF. It was felt that the method of judging employed by the other registries did not lend itself to use by the GCCF in that it would require larger venues or those with additional rooms that could be used by the judges thus taking judging out of the main hall where the cats were penned: that or shows would need to be significantly smaller and therefore more expensive for exhibitors if clubs were to cover their costs. At shows such as TICA cats achieve points according to how many other cats the exhibit beats and although a cat could gain a title on the day to do so it would also need to final i.e. be in the last 5 or 10 cats depending on size of entry.

Recommendation: GCCF retains the current structured format for shows of cats in pens with judges going to the pens to judge as at present.

1 Vetting-in

This is a significant feature of GCCF shows and is important in ensuring the health and welfare of the exhibits.

Recommendation: Vetting in should remain.

2 13 day Rule

It was recognised that this has a vital part to play in minimising the spread of infection and although there was sympathy for making it applicable to the cat and not the household to do so was felt to negate the purpose of the Rule.

However it was agreed that the Rule should **only apply to the household where a cat was kept** and not all households where a cat was jointly owned by two or more people, where only one owner lives at the address where the cat is kept.

It was also agreed that on Veterinary advice **it was acceptable for different cats from the same household to be shown on adjacent days** e.g. at a National Pet Show

3 Judging

a) It was agreed that open class and miscellaneous judging should take place round the pens as at present but that more of a spectacle should be made of BOB, BOV and BIS judging to maintain the interest and enthusiasm of exhibitors and visitors. Particularly at breed shows but All Breed shows should be encouraged to do so where space permits.

b) It was felt to be **acceptable for exhibitors to bring their cats up to the steward at the table for BOV/BIS judging or at the Supreme show**

4 Order of Penning

a) Thought was given to the needs of visitors and to exhibitors who have more than one exhibit and who wish to be near them during the morning for preparation and the afternoon when visitors are around. **It was agreed that the preferred method of penning was to have all exhibits of the breed in adjacent pens i.e. adult, kitten and neuter** as it would allow a breed to be seen as a whole. This would require reprogramming for some of the current processing people and that the cost would need to be passed on to the exhibitors but it was felt to be something worth paying for.

b) To assist visitors it is recommend that a **GCCF approved breed notice be provided to put behind the first pen of each breed**. Such notices could be kept by the penning people for use by shows. This would ensure a GCCF corporate image.

c) The pen cards should have a **written description of the exhibit in a form approved by the relevant BAC**.

5 Classes

a) Kitten classes were considered to be the most challenging to judge due to the differences that arise through development between 14 weeks and 9 months. It is recommended that **kitten classes should only be judged by Full Judges of the breed**. The training of Probationer judges will be dealt with by the Judge Appointment and Training Working Group.

b) The suggestion that there should be a pre-champion class for younger cats was considered but it was felt that we have enough different classes already. BACs should make sure that judges appreciate that a cat should be assessed according to its age when considering maturity and not expect young adults to be as fully developed as a mature cat.

c) There was agreement that there are too many classes with 'No Entries' at shows and that **some amalgamations would be appropriate** e.g. Why do we have three classes for White cats where the difference is only eye colour? Although it was recognised that amalgamation could mean that some minority colours/patterns could be put at risk.

d) The current sections were reviewed and the competition in the different Grand classes considered. In order to better balance the competition given trends in entries it was recommended that they should be reorganised as shown in the accompanying appendix. The British section would gain another grand, the Semi-Longhair section another grand, the Burmese section would become the Shorthair Section and include the Burmese based breeds, Asians, Tonkinese and Australian Mist with their own grand and the Burmese retaining their current Grand; the Foreign section would be reorganised to have three grand classes and the Oriental and Siamese sections would be merged to form the new Oriental section with two grand classes.

Qualification to judge the grand would be Full Judge on half the lists (if an odd number at least Probationer on another). The qualification to Judge the Imperial would be the ability to judge the class as now in the Persian and British sections and both grand classes in the new Shorthair and Oriental sections. For the Semi-Longhair and Foreign Shorthair sections it would be the ability to judge at least two of the grand classes. This would give more judges eligible to judge the Imperial – particularly the Foreign Shorthair section where the problem is most acute.

e) It was agreed to support the Siamese CC proposal that a cat could enter **either** the class for which it was qualified **or** the class above. E.g. a champion could enter either the open class or the Grand **but not both**.

f) The option of converting the Imperial class to Bronze, Silver and Gold was discussed but it was felt that the option in e) above satisfied the needs of exhibitors who felt their cat too immature to enter into the higher option or who simply wanted to be able to continue show a cat who they feel would not merit the higher award.

g) The Olympian class was instigated to promote excellence and it was agreed that this should remain its main purpose and not be made easier to attain by splitting it into Bronze, Silver and Gold classes. Analysis of cats awarded the Olympian did not indicate an undue bias towards one breed or against other breeds.

h) HHP now have the same opportunities for titles as Pedigree cats and it was felt that they should do so under the same conditions. Therefore it was not felt appropriate to allow Olympian certificates gained at more than one breed show per level to count.

i) There was unanimous feeling that more should be made of BOB. Therefore it is proposed that **BOB should be awarded for just that**. E.g. In the Persian and British sections BOB shall be awarded to Self, Bi and Tricolour, Tabby, Tipped/Smoke/Cameo, Colourpoint(ed), Tortie. In the Semi-Longhair section Birman, Maine Coon, Somali etc., For the Burmese one BOB for brown, blue, chocolate and lilac and one BOB for red, cream, brown tortie, aoc tortie. For Siamese one BOB for the former breed 24 numbers and one BOB for the former breed 32 numbers and Orientals one BOB for self and one BOB for non-self.

Cats or kittens that win 5 or more BOB in a year should be eligible for an appropriately titled certificate to record the achievement.

j) The general view that there were too many miscellaneous classes scheduled was acknowledged. It was proposed **Breeders, Non-Breeders, age related and classes based on grand groupings should be scheduled. Club, charity and memorial classes to be added at show managers' discretion**. This will mean fewer judgments and therefore fewer judges required and free up time to enable shows to make BOV and BIS more of a spectacle.

k) It was felt that judges **should be required to write up ALL cats in the breed classes including BOC entries or in the Grand/Imperial/Olympian**. The write-up for an unplaced cat need not be long but

should indicate why the cat had not been placed. **The first three placed cats in the breeders and non-breeders classes should also be written up.** It was expected that show managers would consider these requirements when scheduling to avoid overloading some judges with reports to write up at the expense of others.

l) It was felt that with a reduced number of miscellaneous classes cats should only be entered for their breed Class at whatever level and two other classes. A maximum of six classes at back-to-back shows. There was no support for allowing a cat to enter for three shows if that was possible.

m) The suggestion that there should be a **closing date for a show after which a cat achieving a qualifying certificate can be moved to a higher class** was agreed **provided that the catalogue had not been finalised and the change could be incorporated** as for the Supreme Show 2014.

6 Other matters

a) It was suggested that a leaflet/fact sheet couched in layman's terms produced by the GCCF should be available at the gate for visitors to explain briefly about the different types of cat in the show. This could also be a suitable vehicle for advertising by a sponsor.

b) The current embargo on not inviting judges more than a year in advance was considered to work against some shows that are finding it difficult to invite suitably qualified judges for some breeds because shows re-invite judges on the day of their show. **This should no longer apply.**

c) The publication date for schedules was also felt to be counter-productive and prevented exhibitors from forward planning whether the shows to attend or book leave days/arrange holidays. **As schedules can be published on the GCCF website it was felt that timing was a matter for the Show Manager.**

d) Consideration was given to the geographic spread of shows through the year. It was noted that the board has decided that from 2015 the list of show licence applications will be published prior to the grant of those licences and that this should give clubs a chance to reconsider if there is a clash of local shows. Priority should be given where a show has moved date to the show that has regularly had their date in the event of a dispute.

e) Exhibitors from other registries should be given the opportunity to show with GCCF before having to register their cat. **It is recommended that in order to claim a GCCF title any such cat must first register with the GCCF.** Awards may be claimed retrospectively. If the cat does not conform to the approved GCCF breeding/Registration policy it must be registered on the Non-Active Register.

f) All HHP, whether currently exhibited with GCCF or not, should be allowed the same consideration and have to be registered with the GCCF to be able to claim their title.

g) Exhibitors should be allowed to circulate round the stalls/perimeter of the hall during the morning while open class judging is taking place but not between the rows of pens.

h) Shows should remember that the start and finish times are flexible and at show managers' discretion. Stall holders should be better satisfied if exhibitors can circulate round the stalls during the morning and the show could close earlier thus reducing the length of the day.

Appendix to the report of the first meeting of the Show Review Group

POSSIBLE REGROUPINGS

| Group | Breeds for Grand | Imperial |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Persian | Persian LH Self | Persian |
| | Persian LH Non-Self | |
| | Exotic | |
| Semi-Longhair | Birman, Ragdoll, Ragamuffin | Semi-Longhair |
| | Maine Coon, Norwegian Forest, Siberian | |
| | Somali LH, Somali SH, Turkish Van, Turkish Vankedisi, (<i>Nebelung</i>) | |
| British | British Self inc Manx | British |
| | British Non-Self inc Manx | |
| | Selkirk RexLH, Selkirk Rex SH | |
| Short Hair | Burmese | Shorthair |
| | Asian, Tonkinese (<i>Australian Mist</i>) | |
| Foreign Short Hair | Russian, Abyssinian, Korat, Thai, Singapura, Snowshoe | Foreign |
| | Devon Rex, Cornish Rex, Laperm LH, Laperm SH, Sphynx | |
| | Ocicat, Ocicat Classic, Bengal, Egyptian Mau | |
| Oriental | Siamese, Balinese | Oriental |
| | Oriental Self, Oriental Non-Self, Oriental Bi-Colour, Oriental LH | |

Breeds show thus (*breed name*) are currently at Preliminary Status.

Any new breeds would be placed in one of the grand groups at the time of recognition by the GCCF.