

**Minutes of a Meeting
of Representatives of World Cat Organisations
on Monday, 12th June 1995
at Hoorn, The Netherlands**

Present: Mrs Alva Uddin (President of FIFe and in the Chair)
Mr Craig Rothermel (President of the CFA)
Mrs Lesley Morgan (International Liaison Officer ACF)
Mrs Anneliese Hackmann (President of WCF)
Mr Fabrice Calmès (Vice-President of the FIFe)
Mrs Penny Bydlinski (General Secretary of the FIFe)
Mr Heinz Kellner (Secretary of the WCF)

1. The Chairman, Mrs Uddin, opened the meeting at 9.50 a.m. She greeted those present and explained that a representative of the GCCF had not been able to attend. She reported that other independent organisations had expressed the wish to take part but said that FIFe felt that it had to be organisations who had members in more than one country, however this could be discussed.
2. The Agenda was agreed.
3. It was agreed that there was a need to have a written record of what took place at the Meeting and Mrs Bydlinski was there to take the Minutes. A draft of the Minutes would be sent to each of the representatives which, if they agreed it, they should sign and return so that an official record was kept. All present agreed.
3. World Standard of Breed Standards.

At the Meeting in Venice in 1994 it was agreed that each organisation would submit comments on the standards; so far none had been received. Mrs Hackmann said they were still working on their standards. It was agreed that whilst the standards need not be the same 'word for word', it was desirable that the cat should have the same appearance in each organisation.

Mrs Uddin explained that any changes to FIFe standards were made by the General Assembly and that the new edition of those standards was issued in a loose-leaf form which enabled replacement of any pages which had been changed. She explained that because of the need for the three languages in the FIFe, there had been problems arising out of translations and the FIFe had agreed that English was the first language from which the translations would be made. There had been no changes in the FIFe standards, merely a new format. Mr Rothermel said that he thought the loose-leaf concept was an excellent idea.

With regard to the future, Mrs Uddin said they would continue to work on this. Mrs Hackmann said that she had somebody currently working on it and all agreed on the validity of the basic standards being the same. All standards should be sent to Mrs Uddin in her capacity of member of the Standard Working Group in the FIFe. Mr Rothermel would pick up the differences with CFA standards. Mr Rothermel said that he did not feel the **intepretation** should be changed, only the descriptive wording. Mrs Uddin said that the FIFe had decided they wanted positive standards and also that the inclusion of line drawings was being considered. Both Mr Rothermel and Mrs Morgan felt that drawings could be dangerous as they could impinge on people's own interpretation of the standard. Mr Rothermel felt that people must have the right to breed to their own ideas and that drawings could be restrictive. Also on a world-wide basis they would present difficulties as an 'artist' would be influenced by the cats available in his/her own area; if it were to be done, the drawings would have to be very generic and Mrs Uddin mentioned the Persian 'diagram' that Richard Gebhardt had done some years ago.

She thought the FIFe would probably introduce drawings for the purpose of judge training since some of the judges appear to be afraid of cats! This led to a discussion on judge training; Mr Rothermel said that CFA had very specific judge training programmes. Mr Kellner said that

WCF would be setting up a programme and Mrs Uddin said that a new principle for judge training had been accepted this year by the FIFe General Assembly.

Reverting to the standards all were in agreement that there should be world standards. Mrs Morgan suggested that in the case of new breeds the standard should be sent to each organisation and that the standard of the country of origin should be accepted. Mr Rothermel pointed out that to accept any breed within CFA there must be 60% approval at Board level. He thought that generally a 'new' breed standard from the country of origin could be accepted but amendments may come later. No organisation could be forced to accept any breed.

Some breeds are known by different names in different organisations, e.g. the European is called the Celtic Shorthair in the WCF. Only the four basic colours, seal, blue, chocolate and lilac are called Siamese in the CFA; the others are called 'Colourpoint Shorthairs', etc. Each organisation needs to be aware of these differences and it was agreed that Mrs Uddin would circulate such differences to the other organisations.

4. Exchange of Information

This point had already been touched on in the preceding point. Mr Rothermel spoke of the numeric codes used by the CFA; these codes encompass breed, variety and sex. The FIFe uses the EMS system which is a logical not a genetic system. The GCCF uses other code number. It is necessary to know these for cross-reference on pedigrees etc. Mrs Morgan said that Australia had eliminated breed numbers because of the confusion on the different codes; it now had to put in the name of the breed and variety. It was agreed that the various codes should be circulated and the GCCF will also be approached for theirs.

Mrs Uddin asked about the WCF judge training programme in Russia as there were many rumours about a three-day training course at the end of which a judge was appointed. Mrs Hackmann said they had many problems in Russia – one judge has been suspended. Mr Rothermel said that CFA also had problems in Russia and there were a lot of rumours; he felt part of the problem was that a lot of people in Russia are living from cats. Mr Kellner said that when they see catalogues from Russia they find many strange things such as breeds that have apparently been invented. FIFe also has problems there. Mrs Uddin referred to David Boehm, who was known to all organisations and Mr Rothermel said that this man had his own Register in Russia. Mrs Hackmann said that there are 'judges' who say they are 'national' judges who have not been trained or accepted by her organisation. She has a list of all approved judges.

Mr Rothermel said that within CFA the members elected their own representatives, he wasn't sure of the new one for Europe as there had been a recent election. He also said that Mrs Edna Field was the person responsible for the international section of the CFA and would be the contact on these matters. He suggested that if a member or a member's member is suspended or excluded from one organisation, that organisation should inform the others so that they would be aware and perhaps avoid certain situations. A case in point was Johnstone in Australia who had tried with every organisation in turn; Mrs Morgan said that in Australia the ACF and the CCC of A exchange judges and recognise each others pedigrees but neither of them, recognise Johnstone's pedigrees. New Zealand also did not recognise them.

Mr Rothermel said that there was a recent rumour that TICA was going to start issuing 3-generation non-certified pedigrees. He said that if they did this, CFA could no longer recognise them.

Mrs Uddin related a recent experience in Sweden with a GCCF judge who judged breeds for which he was not licensed by the GCCF. She said that he had said he had been trained by an organisation in the United States but not CFA, ACFA or TICA. Mr Rothermel said there were two other small organisations in America, the AACE and the UFO, neither of these had any standing and CFA did not recognise their pedigrees etc.

Mrs Morgan enquired about WCF members and judges in Australia. Mrs Hackmann said there were two clubs; one in Victoria and one in Queensland.

It was noted that CFA also have problems in France with members who have been suspended from other organisations there. It was vital that information be provided and perhaps it would also be advisable to inform ACFA and TICA in the States. Mr Rothermel undertook to do this. There is, for instance, a TICA member who is wanted by the police in Germany. Such information needs to be known.

Returning to the subject of Russia, Mrs Uddin said that there was a special situation in that country. The sale of a kitten brought in more money than a normal salary. In most cases the cats were kept in excellent conditions and really looked after since they represented a lot of money to the person concerned and they also cared about the cats. Mr Rothermel agreed but spoke of the deplorable trade at street markets etc. in small kittens and puppies; he found this unacceptable and was not sure that CFA would remain there in view of the situation.

At this point Mr Rothermel said he would make a commitment on behalf of CFA: the Almanac, which is issued monthly, contains a lot of information including records of any disciplinary action etc. He promised that each of the organisations present would receive a first class (sent by first class mail) subscription to this journal; in that way they would have up-to-date information. He said that CFA also inform ACFA and TICA where disciplinary matters were concerned. Mrs Uddin said that whilst FIFe could make the Board Minutes available, their Members were independent and she could not speak for them. She said she would appreciate a list of clubs in the various countries from the other organisations. Mr Rothermel said there were 32 clubs in their International division, two of these were in South America; two of the French clubs were going and one of the English ones. The recently issued blue folder of FIFe, containing statutes, rules, judges list, show list and members list, would be supplied to both Mr Rothermel and Mrs Hackmann and Mrs Morgan.

5. Council of Europe

Mrs Uddin said that the FIFe members had not realised what was happening until it happened. The European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals which had been signed by several countries was simply not known. FIFe had been invited to attend the Council of Europe's Multilateral Consultation as had the WCF. For this they were grateful.

Legislation regarding pet animals is spreading everywhere. Mr Rothermel said that the CFA had set up a new position called "Legislation Liaison" which would look after legislation that is an infringement of personal rights. He said that he would arrange for such information and angles that this office encountered could be made available to all organisations. It was stressed that people should write to their own governments at national level. Mrs Hackmann said that after the Meeting in Venice in 1994 she had written to everybody regarding this and did in fact have a meeting with a Ministry in Bonn very shortly. She has people willing to help on this matter. At the Seminar on Saturday, 10th June several people put their names on a list of those willing to take an active part. Mrs Uddin said that Patrizia de Ferrari from Italy was certainly willing to do what she could; she was a veterinarian and well qualified to do research etc. Mrs Morgan asked for a copy of Mrs de Ferrari's address to the Seminar; this can be provided to all concerned. Mr Rothermel said he would see if the Wynn Foundation had any information which could be useful in this matter and Mrs Bydlinski will check with FAB in England. Mrs Uddin said that the FIFe had forbidden the showing of deaf cats and their use in breeding. Mrs Hackmann said that WCF would also bring in such a ruling.

With regard to the Council of Europe's proposal, it was pointed out that the GCCF had agreed with everything. Mr Rothermel spoke of the need to present a united front and Mrs Uddin observed that at least we knew the people concerned in the Council of Europe. Mrs Morgan suggested that petitions should be raised at show as well, of course, as fact gathering. We need to have figures for how many white cats involved in pedigrees and the incidence of deafness. Mr Rothermel said that he thought Mimyi Sluiter, a Dutch lady who had spoken at the Seminar, could be very useful in this matter. He also felt that thought should be given to

setting up a foundation such as the CFA's Winn Feline Foundation. Mrs Uddin pointed out that there were really serious conditions such as luxating patellas, hip dysplasia etc. on which research really needed to be done.

Mrs Hackmann reported the problems that had recently been encountered with the media's negative coverage on 'extreme' type cats. There had been demonstrations at shows about this; Mrs Uddin said there had been a demonstration at a show in Italy about the size of the pens. It was agreed that what information could be collected would be circulated and co-ordinated.

6. Open Shows and Open Showing

For the period from 1st January 1996 until 1st January 1997 it will be possible for a member of either FIFe, CFA or WCF to participate in a show organised by either of the other two named organisations. The situation would be reviewed at the end of this period.

It was agreed that to obtain a title the cats would have to be registered with the relevant organisation. Titles from other organisations are entered on pedigrees with the organisation's identity, eg. CFA Ch. etc.

WCF rules allow for a World Champion which has been shown on two continents. They accept CFA and FIFe titles as qualifications for this title. FIFe only accepts its own titles as qualification for a FIFe title or award. Mr Rothermel thought that members were more likely to stay with their own organisations if they were free to show elsewhere.

Mrs Uddin had worked out a method for entering shows outside the exhibitor's own organisation. The exhibitor should submit their entry and the entry fee to its own club/federation who would check that the exhibitor was a member in good standing and sign or stamp the entry form to that effect; the entry forms and the fees would then be forwarded to the organising club/federation. This is the normal practice for European organisations. A list of clubs could be kept by the General Secretary of the organisations. The matter of small clubs which are unaffiliated to any major organisation was raised. It was noted that some of these small clubs had held shows and then disappeared without paying for the hall etc. It was felt that they too must conform.

7. Exchange of Judges

Mr Rothermel reported that under CFA rules, their judges were not able to judge for another American organisation. At the moment they may not judge for a non-CFA organisation in a country where a CFA club is in existence. He felt that this last rule may change in view of the agreement now being made.

Mrs Uddin said she was well aware that CFA clubs in Europe needed FIFe judges more than FIFe needed CFA judges. She pointed out that the rules and standards of the host organisation must be made available to a guest judge. Mr Rothermel said that he thought a verbal instruction on general points prior to the show was also very important. Replying to Mrs Uddin's question concerning CFA judges being eligible to judge abroad, he said that a judge going abroad must be on the APPROVED list or in the case of all rounder APPROVAL PENDING. A list was available. Apprentice CFA judges were not allowed to judge in Europe. He will check into the exact rules and advise. It was pointed out that if the non-CFA clubs arranged it between themselves, they could invite a judge from the States to more than one show and share the cost of the travel between them.

Regarding show dates, Mr Rothermel said these were in the Almanac. FIFe and WCF should send show calendars to Tom Dent in the CFA office. Mrs Uddin said that FIFe judges have to ask permission to judge for CFA. All organisations should make their show dates available to each other.

On the matter of joint or 'open' shows being held, Mr Rothermel saw no objections.

8. Miscellaneous

The subject of Cattery Names was raised. Mrs Hackmann said that some were registered with WCF and also with CFA. They have given their cattery name register to one person and in the future this person could search to see if a name was free. Mrs Uddin said that FIFe names could not be processed in this way. Mr Rothermel said that cattery names in CFA had to be re-licensed every five years.

Mr Rothermel asked about 5-generation pedigrees which are a requirement of CFA. Mrs Uddin said that these could be provided by the FIFe Members and Mrs Hackmann has also for WCF.

Mrs Morgan proposed, and was seconded by Mr Calmès, that both the GCCF and TICA should again be invited to the 1996 Meeting. This was unanimously agreed. It was also pointed out that Mrs Farinelli in Italy would wish to be involved since she had been partly responsible for the original concept of these Meetings.

Mrs Uddin thanked everyone for coming and giving their time at what she felt was a positive Meeting. Mrs Hackmann said that she thought the members would be in agreement with what has been decided and Mrs Morgan said that Australia was much happier about the present situation. It was felt that the Seminar had aroused good, positive reactions and it was hoped to continue and grow slowly in this manner. Mr Rothermel said he would like to bring Tom Dent to next year's meeting and this was agreed.

The suggested date for next year's Meeting is 4/5/6th May 1996, the venue might be Venice but that would be decided and advised in due course. It was also suggested that for 1997 a suitable date would be 15/16/17 March as this would give time for the organisations to bring any proposals to their Annual General Meetings.

The Meeting closed at 3.45 p.m.

Minutes approved by :-

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FIFe President

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CFA President

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