

Minutes of the Meeting of the World Cat Congress  
Malmö, Sweden  
5th & 8th March, 1999

Present: Mrs Alva Uddin (President of FIFe and in the Chair)  
Mrs Penelope Bydlinski (FIFe General Secretary and taking the Minutes)  
Mr Eric Reijers (FIFe Vice-President)  
Mrs Anneliese Hackmann (President of WCF)  
Mrs Lesley Morgan (International Liaison Officer of ACF Inc.)  
Mr Larry Paul (President of TICA)  
Mr Don Williams (President of CFA)

Mrs Uddin convened the informal meeting at 3.30 p.m. welcoming those present and explaining that this short period gave an opportunity for the participants to go through the proposed Charter before the open meeting that evening.

Mr Williams (CFA) had a problem with a WCF affiliate in Australia which was calling itself 'Cat Fanciers Association'. He objected strongly and Mrs Hackmann (WCF) agreed to contact the organisation.

There was a discussion on the proposed Charter and some points arose: there is a problem with the so-called 'novice' class in CFA shows because within the FIFe the term 'novice' has a different meaning. Within CFA it meant cats that were not registered with the organisation, and within FIFe it meant cats from an unknown background or cats unable to prove their background who were seeking recognition within a breed. Mr Williams reported that as from 1st May points were to be allotted within this class which could be claimed once the cat was registered CFA. With regard to the name of this class, Mr Williams felt it would be better to change the name within the CFA.

It was also pointed out that as the registration requirements between the organisations differed in some instances, it was not always possible to show all breeds in both organisations.

The Charter (Annex 1) was then looked at in detail with particular attention to the 'Aims and Objectives'. Points 1 to 4, being proposed and seconded, were unanimously agreed. Point 5, 6, 7 and 8 were proposed and seconded with amendments and unanimously agreed. A new Point 9 was proposed and seconded and unanimously agreed.

Under Membership Points 1 to 6 were discussed and would be dealt with on Monday. The informal meeting then adjourned and would reconvene at the official meeting on Monday, 8th March at which time the above agreements would be officially ratified and the rest of the proposed Charter discussed.

The same participants were convened by the President of FIFe at 9.45 a.m. on Monday, 8th March. Mrs Uddin (FIFe) remarked that it was 'International Women's Day' and that women were in the majority in the FIFe. Mrs Morgan (ACF) expressed concern over the exchange of breed codes as not all codes had been covered.

Mr Paul (TICA) congratulated FIFe on its 50 Year Jubilee and also circulated a new standard for the Bengal cat (Annex 2).

#### Reports

a) The FIFe report (Annex 3) had been circulated and Mrs Uddin expressed her happiness at the acceptance of the Health & Welfare Commission.

b) ACF Inc. Mrs Morgan read out a written report which was then circulated (Annex 4).

c) Mr Williams (CFA) gave a verbal report for CFA. He reported that the Ragdoll and Selkirk Rex had not been accepted; they had not improved over the previous 5 years and in the case of the Selkirk Rex the idea of what was desired had been changed. There were not enough specimens of Ragdolls at the shows to give the judges a chance to see them. The tabby pattern in the Birman had been accepted, as had the red gene in that breed. Sphynx had been recognised for registration purposes.

There was a discussion on Ragdolls when Mrs Morgan (ACF) asked about policies on other colours in this breed. Mr Williams (CFA) said that any variety must be unique in pattern and colour, CFA will not accept any colour/pattern which resembles another breed. They allow registration of these varieties but not exhibition. Mrs Morgan (ACF) said that she expected an application for red and tabby points in the near future. Mr Paul (TICA) said that TICA had accepted the tabbies and torties, 56 examples had been exhibited in the previous year, all of which had been bi-colours. He agreed that the pointed and mitted patterns can be confused with other breeds but the Association accepts all patterns. He added that the breeders say they get more non-bi-colours than bi-colours.

d) Mr Paul (TICA) gave a verbal report. He had been elected as president at the preceding AGM and a new vice-president had also been elected. He felt that TICA may have been too free with recognition of new breeds and referred to the Munchkin which was being shown in large numbers; he voiced concern about mixing it with other breeds. There was now a two-year moratorium and nothing new was being considered. Mr Paul had asked that new registration rules concerning new breeds should be established. He believed strongly in sharing information and working together.

e) A report on WCF had been prepared and was read out. There were now 53 member organisations in WCF and a list was circulated.

Mr Paul (TICA) asked what were the conditions for acceptance of a new breed. Within FIFe the requirements were that 15 cats showing 3 generations of the breed should be exhibited as well as three different cats with 5 consecutive generations of the breed. The Judges & LO Commission had to be present at a show where these cats were on exhibition so that they could report on the cats to the General Assembly which would then vote on recognition.

CFA requires a breed to wait five years with a 'miscellaneous' status before being considered for championship status.

Mrs Hackmann (WCF) said they could accept at a show a breed not recognised by themselves as long as a standard was available.

Mrs Morgan pointed out the 'spotted mist' was now known as the 'Australian mist' and the Californian Spangle no longer exists.

Mrs Bydlinski reported on the Cyprus club which had been under patronage to the FIFe; the Cat Association of Britain had been the mentors of this club but had withdrawn its mentorship when it became apparent that one person was manipulating everything, no pedigrees were being issued and the general morale of the club was very poor. The club in question had immediately gone under the patronage of WCF. Mr Paul (TICA) said that he thought that each member of the WCC should inform the other members about such clubs. A similar situation had arisen with a club in Australia.

There being no correspondence for discussion the meeting took up the question of the Charter. The points that had been agreed at the Friday afternoon meeting were ratified. Mr Williams (CFA) brought up the question of 'associate membership' and pointed out the need to define an 'associate' member. It was agreed that such a member would be non-voting, would participate in meetings, be informed and distributed with all minutes etc. Pertaining to the WCC. They would be able to submit proposals through a full member and their input would be through the main Committee members. They could attend meetings but would not have the right to vote. With such amendments Points 1 to 6 were proposed and seconded and unanimously agreed.

## Proposal:

### a) The Charter

The structure of the meetings of the WCC was discussed and the first point unanimously agreed. Point 2 was amended and unanimously agreed as was Point 3.

Mr Paul (TICA) moved that the Charter in its amended form should be accepted by the present forum. Mr Williams (CFA) saw nothing that his Board would not agree with and WCF had no problem with it. FIFe would have to abstain since it needed the approval of the General Assembly.

Discussion on the funding of the Congress then followed and a motion concerning the meetings was moved and approved. A further motion concerning sponsorship was also tabled and agreed.

Mr Paul (TICA) moved the acceptance of the Charter as agreed. With the exception of the FIFe who abstained, the Charter was unanimously accepted.

### b) Proposals from WCF

#### a) Proposal concerning cattery names (Annex 5).

Mr Williams (CFA) saw many problems because of the number of names. Mr Paul (TICA) mentioned an instance with a Danish cattery name and the law in Denmark in this respect. The FIFe has a rule that the country code has to be attached to the name. Mr Williams (CFA) felt that it was not feasible for CFA to call Germany to check on a name when they have already had to check their own records; he felt it was a long and complicated procedure.

Mrs Hackmann said she would make the information available and if required, people could use it.

#### b) Proposal regarding an agreement on which microchip to be used.

Mrs Uddin (FIFe) said that as yet the ISO had not agreed a standard and she felt it could not therefore be done. Mr Williams (CFA) wanted to go on record as agreeing with the concept but unable to endorse it until a universal reader were available. Mr Paul (TICA) said that TICA were in the same position. Mrs Uddin (FIFe) agreed. She said there at present seven manufacturer world-wide and there was one 'universal' reader which reads 3 out of the 7 chips. The FECAVA standard would change in five years. There are 5 companies which do have the same standard. They had an accepted ISO standard but objections had later been put in by Australia and New Zealand.

## Discussion on Open Meeting

Mr Williams (CFA) felt that there had been a good discussion even though there were not many people present. Reverting the question of the 'novice' class, Mrs Morgan (ACF) suggested it be known as 'Other Registry' or 'OR'. Mr Williams (CFA) said that they had changed the class so that a winners ribbon is given and then if the cat was registered, the points could be claimed. The owner must retain the records themselves for any future claim.

## Press Release

It was agreed that Mrs Morgan (ACF) and Mrs Bydlinski (FIFe) should formulate a statement. It should contain information on the acceptance of the Charter, the venue for next year and the need to educate, legislate etc. The Press Release was to go to each of the organisations' web sites as well as Radio, Television, Magazine etc.

## International Disqualification List

Mr Reijers (FIFe) presented a review of the disqualifications; these were divided by those common in all organisations and those specific. Mr Paul (TICA) said that their standards were under review and hoped to be made more uniform in the next year. Mr Williams had supplied Mrs Bydlinski with the CFA's list of penalties and disqualifications; he had been surprised to read that Mr Rothermel thought it a problem to produce such a list. He pointed out that there were also other disqualifiers in the CFA Show Rules. A new list would be published shortly.

A brief discussion was held on a) de-clawing and Mr Paul (TICA) said that some owner's will put a cat to sleep because of damage to furniture, therefore they accepted de-clawing. b) Peke-faced persians were also mentioned but these were no longer popular. Mr Williams spoke of the problem that judges have in the USA where an exhibitor can sue a judge for making a statement about the condition of a cat and affected their kitten sales. It was pointed out that judges are not veterinary surgeons and all points should be positive rather than negative, emphasising the aim of perfect health.

Mr Paul (TICA) moved that a statement saying 'Features out of the ordinary which are not natural to a cat will not be encouraged. This forum universally condemns the feline known as 'Twistie' or 'Kangaroo Cat.' The motion was unanimously accepted.

### Terminology

Mrs Bydlinski (FIFe) had looked into the terminology for breeds and colours between the various organisations. There were a lot of discrepancies, for example 'tortie tabby' and 'patched tabby', 'tortie and white' and 'calico'. Mr Williams (CFA) agreed that there was a lack of uniformity and they would work to achieve such uniformity.

### *Bengal Terminology*

Mr Paul (TICA) and Mrs Morgan (ACF) had worked into this subject. There was a great discrepancy in terminology within TICA and its breeders. Originally brown spotted had been the only description. Mr Paul (TICA) said he would take this up with the Bengal breeders. Mrs Morgan (ACF) said that in New Zealand there were two sorts of 'snow.' Mr Williams (CFA) objected to the term 'mink'. WCF uses the TICA terminology. These discrepancies lead to a lot of confusion. TICA had refused to accept feral names such as 'snow leopard'. They will try to resolve this situation eventually.

### AOB

#### 1. **Appointment of Officers**

- 1.a) Mr Williams (CFA) proposed that Mrs Uddin should be Chairman of the WCC for the next two years, this was seconded by Mr Paul (TICA) and carried unanimously.
- 1.b) Mr Paul (TICA) proposed that Mr Williams should be vice-chairman for the next year, this was seconded by Mrs Morgan (ACF) and carried unanimously.
- 1.c) Mr Williams proposed that Mrs Bydlinski (FIFe) should be appointed as Secretary/Treasurer for a two-year period, this was seconded by Mr Paul (TICA) and carried unanimously. Mrs Bydlinski agreed to accept the appointment.

#### 2. **Exchange of Judges**

National judges were no longer shown on the current list of Judges as this led to confusion. The differences in the groups between the organisations needs to be clarified as it can lead to misunderstandings on qualifications.

#### 3. **Sponsorship**

Mr Williams (CFA) asked if there might be a special sponsor in Austria who might be

interested in sponsoring the 2000 event. Iams are usually willing. Whiskas does ÖVEK's shows in Austria. Hills do a small amount and Purina are coming back into the picture. CFA would target pharmaceutical companies. It was mentioned that a microchipping company might be interested. It was thought that USA members might be willing to travel to WCC. The fiscal years normally end in June and any budgets would have to be submitted by then.

#### Date and Venue for 2000

ÖVEK (A) had expressed their willingness to host the 2000 WCC in Austria, the exact venue would be decided upon later.

Mrs Morgan (ACF) had been asked by Brian Edwards if the WCC would be interested in meeting in Australia in 2001. Dates in May had been discussed but this was difficult for FIFe because of the GA at the end of May. The original weekend in March would be better and Mrs Morgan would advise the participants.

A motion to adjourn at 5.10 p.m. was unanimously accepted.

Alva Uddin  
FIFe

Anneliese Hackmann  
WCF

Lesley Morgan  
ACF Inc.

Larry Paul  
TICA

Don Williams  
CFA