

# **RULES AND CONSTITUTION OF THE SIAMESE AND ALL BREEDS CAT CLUB OF IRELAND**

**COPY DATE 26/02/2012**

## **1. NAME**

The Club shall be called 'The Siamese and All Breeds Cat Club of Ireland' (the Club).

## **2. OBJECTS**

The objects of the Club shall be:

- 2.1 To encourage and promote an appreciation of pedigree cats and their proper welfare, breeding and exhibition.
- 2.2 To stimulate and encourage a humane attitude to all cats.
- 2.3 To urge all breeders, exhibitors and judges to adopt the type and standard of points approved by the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy of Ireland (the G.C.C.F.I.).
- 2.4 To select people to be trained as judges, for approval by the G.C.C.F.I.).
- 2.5 To encourage the interest of members in cat shows.

## **3. MEMBERSHIP**

- 3.1 The Club shall consist of life members, long-term members, annual members, junior members and honorary members. Junior members (under 18 years of age) and honorary members are not entitled to vote at meetings of the Club.
- 3.2 Membership shall be open to any individual who agrees to abide by the rules of the Club and whose application has been approved by the Committee. (For definition of 'the Committee', see Rule 7.1 under 'Management').
- 3.3 A joint-membership rate of subscription shall be available in the case of couples at the same address.
- 3.4 The Committee has the right to refuse, without giving any reason, any application for membership or for renewal of membership from any person.
- 3.5 Any member whose subscription remains unpaid by the 1st<sup>th</sup> February following the date when renewal falls due ceases therewith to be a member of the Club.
- 3.6 Any member who resigns from the Club or whose name has been removed from the list of members shall have no further claim on the Club.
- 3.7 If, in the opinion of the Committee, the behaviour of any member or official is considered to have been in any way derogatory or injurious to the welfare of the Club or to the exhibiting of cats, the Committee shall have the power to suspend or expel such member or official providing that at least two-thirds present so decide and that the matter appears on the

agenda of that particular meeting and the member shall have the right of appeal to the following AGM.

- 3.8 No member of the Club shall sell any cats or kittens under their control either directly or indirectly to, or pass into the keeping of, the proprietor of a pet shop or store, for sale or for display.
- 3.9 All members on admission shall be furnished with an up-to-date list of the Rules and a list of committee members.

#### 4. **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

- 4.1 Rates of subscription shall be fixed from time to time by decision of the Committee.
- 4.2 The annual subscription for members shall be payable on election and thereafter shall fall due on the first day of January each year.

#### 5. **GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 5.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Club ("AGM") shall be held as appointed by the Committee within the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to the 30<sup>th</sup> April each year, and Notice shall be sent to every fully-paid-up member of the Club not less than 21 days or more than one calendar month before the date appointed. Only members who have renewed their subscription prior to the AGM shall be entitled to vote at the AGM.
- 5.2 Other General Meetings of the Club may be called by a decision of the Committee, or by any member making written application to the Secretary giving proper reason and supported by the signatures of not less than 15 fully-paid-up members. The same arrangements with regard to notice to members and entitlement to vote shall apply as for the AGM. At such general meetings (excluding the AGM), the only business to be discussed shall be the specific Agenda item or items circulated in advance with the Notice calling the meeting.
- 5.3 General Meetings shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Committee, or in the absence of the Chairman by the Vice-Chairman, or in the absence of both by any other Committee member appointed by the Committee; or in the event of no Committee member being present and the meeting being properly called, by any member elected to fill the Chair by those members attending the Meeting.
- 5.4 Decisions at General Meetings of the Club shall be by simple majority vote (except in the case of proposals to change the Rules or Constitution, which shall require a two-thirds majority), either by a show of hands or, where requested by any member, by secret ballot.
- 5.5 All fully-paid-up members, except junior members, are entitled to vote. In the case of a tie, the Chairman has a casting vote.
- 5.6 Ten members shall constitute a quorum at the AGM, and any other General Meeting of the Club.
- 5.7 The Chairman and the Treasurer shall submit the Report and Accounts at the AGM.

## 6. **RELATIONSHIP TO G.C.C.F.I.**

The Club and its members shall accept and shall be subject to the Rules and Constitution of the G.C.C.F.I. and shall be bound by the G.C.C.F.I.'s disciplinary powers. The G.C.C.F.I. shall be the final court of appeal in all matters except for the conduct of the Show on the actual day of the Show. Any person placed on the blacklist of the G.C.C.F.I. automatically shall cease to be a member of the Club for the period of the ban.

## 7. **MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 The Committee elected at the AGM by secret ballot shall carry sole responsibility for the management of the Club.
- 7.2 The Committee shall consist of four Officers, namely, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, plus no more than eight ordinary members. The Officers shall be elected at the first meeting of the incoming Committee, which shall be held within one month of the AGM. Each appointment shall extend for two years, unless in the interim the holder ceases to be a member of the Committee for any reason.
- 7.3 Any candidate for election to the Committee must have been a fully-paid-up member of the Club throughout the 6 months immediately preceding the AGM and must have a proposer and seconder themselves both on the list of fully-paid-up members. Nominations for election to the committee must be in writing and must be received by the secretary one week before the AGM, signed by the nominee and the proposer and seconder. Nominations will not be accepted from the floor at the AGM. No member shall be eligible to stand in absentia unless a written declaration of willingness to stand, signed by the member, is presented at the AGM. The vacancies available shall be filled by those candidates securing the greatest number of votes.
- 7.4 Members accepting nomination to the Committee must be willing to make themselves available to help with the preparations immediately prior to the Annual Show as well as on the actual day of the Show.
- 7.5 Members elected to the Committee shall hold office for two years, and shall then retire, remaining eligible for re-election.
- 7.6 The Committee may co-opt Club members to fill vacancies that may occur during the year, such appointments enduring until the next AGM. The numbers of members so co-opted shall be such that the membership of the Committee shall not exceed 12 persons.
- 7.7 Decisions of the Committee shall be by simple majority vote of those members present. In the case of a tied decision, the Chairman has a casting vote.
- 7.8 An Hon. President and one or more Hon. Vice-Presidents may be elected by the Committee prior to the Annual General Meeting, in recognition of services to the Club. These Honorary positions shall not carry any voting rights, additional to the normal voting rights their holders may have as members and each shall be subject to re-election after it has been held for 2 years.

- 7.9 There shall be a meeting of the Committee as often as the Secretary and the Chairman jointly may deem necessary, but not less often than once every 3 months. At least one week's notice of meetings called shall be given to all Committee members.
- 7.10 Five members shall constitute a quorum at Committee meetings.
- 7.11 Attendance at Committee Meetings shall be recorded and published in the notice for the AGM. Members who cannot attend Committee meetings for valid reasons shall be recorded as "Excused"; otherwise, members who are absent without an excuse acceptable to the Committee shall be recorded as Absent. Members who are absent for three consecutive meetings or five meetings properly called during the year will cease to be members of the Committee.
- 7.12 The Committee shall also be empowered:
- to amend existing rules or introduce new rules, subject in both cases to ratification at the next General Meeting;
  - to arbitrate in disputed matters;
  - to deal with any question not provided for by the rules;
  - to delegate any of its powers to sub-committees, subject to the Committee retaining final responsibility for all decisions reached.
- 7.13 The Club shall be represented at G.C.C.F.I. by one or more members, such delegates to be elected at the first meeting of the Committee following the AGM.
- 7.14 An Auditor of the accounts of the Club shall be appointed by the Committee.
- 7.15 Committee members shall ensure that internal proceedings of the Committee are kept in the strictest confidence.

## **8. FINANCE**

- 8.1 Payments out of the funds of the Club shall be authorised only by the signature of two Committee members appointed for that purpose, one of whom should be the Treasurer, except in cases of urgency where the Treasurer is not reasonably available.
- 8.2. All reasonable expenses incurred by any of the Officers of the Committee on behalf of the Club shall on presentation of proper receipts be defrayed out of the funds of the Club.
- 8.3. The Club shall maintain a Welfare Fund, payments from which may be allocated at the discretion of the committee. The Welfare Fund shall maintain a minimum of €500.00 as an Emergency Reserve for allocation to Club Members in exceptional circumstances on application to the Club Secretary. Any monies in excess of the Emergency Reserve may be allocated and administrated by the Treasurer, the Chairman or Secretary, and any one committee member.

9. **CLUB SHOWS**

- 9.1 A Show Manager (preferably a member of the Committee) shall be appointed by the Committee from the fully-paid-up membership of the Club, the appointment being subject to approval by the G.C.C.F.I.. The Show Manager shall be responsible to the Committee.
- 9.2 The Show Manager may claim all reasonable expenses for the running of the Show from Club funds.
- 9.3 On Show Day, the Show Manager's decisions shall be final in all matters pertaining to the Show.
- 9.4 The Show Manager is empowered to order the immediate removal from the Show premises of any exhibit, in the interests either of safeguarding the other exhibits, the judges or the stewards; or to relieve distress to the exhibit.
- 9.5 Under no circumstances will the Show Manager, any member of the Committee or any Club member accept responsibility or liability for, or pay any claim in respect of, any accident or damage suffered by the general public or exhibitors to either themselves, exhibits or property.
- 9.6 All members of the Committee are expected to make themselves available to help with the setting up or dismantling of the Show, as well as to help during its course.

10. **EQUIPMENT**

- 10.1 The pens and other equipment of the Club shall be the responsibility of the Committee as regards to storage, maintenance and replacement, the cost to be borne by the Club funds.
- 10.2 The Committee alone shall decide on any request from other clubs to hire the equipment, on what rates (if any) shall be charged and on what conditions shall be attached as regards insurance cover, collection, prompt return et cetera.

11. **CUPS AND TROPHIES**

- 11.1 A Cups Secretary shall be appointed by the Committee, who shall ensure that a proper record is kept of Cups and other trophies; that each is correctly signed for at the time it is handed over, and that in due course they are returned to the custody of the Club in good time to be ready for the next Show.
- 11.2 No cups or other trophies are permitted to be taken out of Ireland.
- 11.3 Only fully-paid-up members are eligible to receive awards of cups or other trophies.

12. **SURRENDER OF BOOKS RECORDS ETC.**

- 12.1 Any Officer or Member of the Club who has custody of books, documents, records, monies or any other property of the Club, shall on request from the Committee hand them back intact.

13. **DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB**

- 13.1 In the event of any proposal to wind up the affairs of the Club, twenty-one days notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting to consider the situation shall be sent in writing to members. Only if the proposal receives the ascent of at least two-thirds of those fully-paid-up members who respond, either by attending the Meeting or by replying in writing beforehand, shall the resolution to wind up the Club be effective.
- 13.2 If such a resolution be passed, the liabilities of the Club shall be discharged and any balance of the funds shall be held in trust by the G.C.C.F.I.. Trophies shall be returned to the donors wherever possible but any not so returned shall be distributed to other Clubs at the discretion of the Committee.