

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heads of Organisations
Copenhagen, Denmark,
Monday, 9th March 1998.

Present: Mrs Alva Uddin (President of FIFe and in the Chair)
Mrs Penelope Bydlinski (FIFe General Secretary and taking the Minutes)
Mrs Anneliese Hackmann (President of WCF)
Mrs Georgia Morgan (President of TICA)
Mrs Lesley Morgan Blythe (Acting President of ACF)
Mr Craig Rothermel (President of CFA)
Mr Eric Reijers (Vice President of FIFe)

In attendance: Mrs Diana Rothermel (CFA)
Mrs Resa Bauer-Demeyere (TICA)
Mrs Margarethe Leileithner (FIFe)
Mrs Julian Schuller (ACF)
Mrs Birgit Nehammer (FIFe)
Mr John Blythe

1. The meeting convened at 10am. The Fife President, Mrs Alva Uddin, welcomed those present and expressed her gratitude to DARAK for hosting this event. She referred to difficulties within the cat fraternity in Europe arising out of the Council of Europe's dictates on various breeds and the effects within the cat fancy of threatened legislation.

The meeting accepted the agenda.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes 10th March, 1997.

Mr Rothermel had not received a copy of the completed, signed document. (Change of address). To receive same.

Moved L Morgan Blythe, Seconded G Morgan that the minutes provided a true and accurate record of proceedings. Motion carried.

3 Matters Arising

i) L Morgan Blythe: Page 3 re disqualifying and withholding faults. Asked what progress had been made on this. While a composite list had not been produced by Mr Dent (as far as Mr Rothermel was aware) FIFe, and ACF lists were available at the meeting, could be copied and studied by those present during lunch break and the matter dealt with in the afternoon. Mrs Morgan had brought sufficient copies of TICA's General and Specific Penalties/Disqualifications and distributed the complete printout to everyone attending the meeting.

Mr Rothermel referred to CFA's recent determination that as far as standards are concerned, the positive rather than the negative points should prevail. These are more geared towards health and soundness than before.

ii) L Morgan Blythe: Page 3 re phenotypical/genotypical registration and exhibition. Reported that she had received no advice on this. The organisations verbally reported their policy:
FIFe: phenotype for exhibition, genotype for registration (phenotype shown on pedigree).
CFA: both genotype. (However, there are some exceptions: LH exotics may not be shown. Expectation that policy may change eventually). Queried whether phenotype might apply for exhibition. CFA tends to go by breed rather than colour e.g: self red with pattern but they would change according to phenotype. CFA is generally bound by breed councils' decisions.

TICA: phenotype for exhibition, genotype for registration in compliance with TICA Registration Rules.

WCF: Both phenotype and genotype.

ACF: Geno/genotype, with the exception of Queensland, where phenotype applies for exhibition of "O" gene cats.

It was hoped that the fact these differences are minuted may bring clarification.

iii) L Morgan Blythe: re Page 4, lexicon for imported cats.

Mr Rothermel said Mr Dent was working on a presentation on this matter. Unfortunately, Mr Dent was unable to be present at the meeting, and Mr Rothermel could not comment on progress. He advised that he would follow through on this with Mr Dent.

TICA: Prefixes are never omitted or changed, however titles are omitted - to eliminate potential problems at a later date should the title change. Mrs Morgan feels that all details and titles, etc should be retained when a cat is transferred from one country/body to another and will work to change this in TICA.

FIFe: it is a matter for the member body to determine. Mrs Uddin explained that country code letters are used. Does not allow addition of another's prefix in affix form.

WCF: all details/titles are retained. Same policy re use of prefix as affix.

ACF: retains all titles, designating origins (e.g: "CFA GC") Isolated cases of importers/purchasers using their prefix as an affix.

Mrs Bydlinski advised that Cat Assn. Britain had attempted to get the General Assembly to accept that non-FIFe members could register direct with FIFe without being a member of a member. This has been rejected.

iv) L Morgan Blythe: re differing breed codes (import/export).

Some confusion arises when a cat's pedigree includes codes which differ from that of the new registering body. Where they differ, is it feasible if a copy of the code used is sent to the new registry?

CFA: all breed/colour codes are listed in the CFA Almanac. (March edition)

TICA: Mrs Morgan will circulate a copy of TICA's.

ACF: uses written form, in full, describing colour/pattern/breed, to avoid just such confusion.

FIFe: EMS system will be circulated.

Mrs Bydlinski pointed out the fact that GCCF does not identify tabby patterns.

It was agreed that all organisations should supply copies of their own codes to all other Secretariats, for ready identification/translation of colour and pattern on pedigrees.

Anomalies associated with pedigrees:

Mr Rothermel informed the meeting that CFA now requires a 5 generation certified pedigree with the following exceptions: Korat - 3; Siamese and Abyssinian - 8.

v) Open doors policy.

Mrs Morgan proposed that Mrs Uddin's suggestion of FIFe "Open Doors" policy be extended for a further 2 years; i.e: until 2000, and is thereafter negotiable. She urged all participating Associations, i.e. Australian Cat Federation, Inc., (ACF), Cat Fanciers Association, Inc., (CFA), Federation Internationale Féline (FIFe), The International Cat Association, Inc., (TICA), and World Cat Federation, (WCF) to give their support. The previous two year commitment was a giant step in promoting harmonious relations in the Cat Fancy world wide. In fact our co-operative efforts had alerted the Cat Fancy that we could and did co-exist and work together.

Mrs Uddin spoke on the situation in France and Italy, where Mr Rothermel understood that the FIFe clubs were not pursuing "open doors". She explained that the problem stemmed from the fact that CFA clubs require a non-CFA registered cat to be shown in the 'novice' class, which has a different connotation under FIFe rules than CFA's. (FIFe 'novice' is an assessment class for cats of unknown

pedigree, e.g: European SH, Norwegian Forest). If FIFe titled cats were not registered with CFA, the title was not recognised. Conversely, CFA titled cats have to go into the open (class 9/10) at FIFe shows.

Mr Rothermel undertook to see if his Board would accept FIFe cats in Open class (rather than novice) as an exception for Europe. Mrs Morgan said that TICA has the same problem as CFA, and that it would require an amendment of the rules, but that she saw the merit in this. Mr Rothermel asked if FIFe requires (FIFe) registration to exhibit at their shows, and felt that perhaps CFA could accept at open class level a cat with FIFe registration. Mrs Uddin explained that FIFe doesn't require cats registered with other bodies to be dual-registered with FIFe, but for titles to be accepted by FIFe, they would have to be registered.

Mr Rothermel detailed some of the problem areas encountered, largely relating to individual bodies' registration rules. e.g: what in CFA terms is a LH Exotic is shown in FIFe/WCF as a Persian; British in FIFe/WCF are allowed Persian in their background, whereas CFA aren't; and the difficulty with Siamese/Colourpoint.

Mrs Morgan concurred, saying that TICA will not accept for showing a cat with outcross in it. She reported that TICA's Registration Rules listed numerous Breed Groups. For example, the Exotic Shorthair, Himalayan, and Persian were one Breed Group; the Siamese, Balinese, Oriental Shorthair and Oriental Longhair were another Breed Group and so on; therefore, the progeny of a breeding within a Breed Group was registered and eligible for exhibition in the breed they resemble - in other words phenotypically. Many breeds recognised in TICA with out-crosses in their ancestry records were eligible for exhibition, provided they were registered in the proper Registration Category. The Registration Category was determined by the Breed Section with input/recommendations put from the Genetics Committee.

4) Reports

a) FIFe.

Mrs Uddin reported on the last General Assembly. The previous year had been a good and productive one. A new, improved education programme for judges has been accepted, which makes certain things compulsory, including seminars. This arose out of Council of Europe deliberations. Mr Eric Reijers is now Vice President. Standards are being amended. A combined FIFe/CFA show will shortly be held in Salzburg. The 1999 World show will be held in Milan. FIFe has now accepted Turkish Van in all colours but self white.

She referred to PKD in Persians (and associated breeds) being the major health problem within her own country. Mr Rothermel responded that the Winn Foundation is sponsoring research into this at Ohio State, and that there might be information forthcoming from that source. He would enquire and facilitate. Mrs Morgan stated that TICA has a welfare committee, and that whatever PKD information was available would be provided by Mrs Bauer-Demeyere. Mrs Uddin felt it was a pity that FIFe has no Welfare/Health commission as yet, but hopes that one would be instituted.

b) ACF.

Mrs Morgan Blythe said that the ACF mourned the loss of The Hon Lance Barnard, President for 11 years. She explained that according to the constitution, the Pres. cannot be a breeder nor a judge, and that while this may have some limitations, it ensures impartiality. Mrs Morgan Blythe was elected Acting Vice President to see out the term. She reported the new ACF affiliate in Sydney is running very successful shows, along American lines.

Japanese Bobtails, Tonkinese, Bengal & Singapura were recognised at last year's AGM, and provisional status was given to Burmilla and Bombay (both still in experimental stages). Country or body of origin standards are being used (FIFe for Burmilla, TICA for Bengal, CFA for others). This year's National show will feature 3 FIFe judges, and Mrs Stephe Bruin will address the Judges'

seminar on FIFe judging methods. The 1999 National will be held in Hobart, and Wayne Trevathan (CFA) and Aline & Philippe Noel (TICA) will address the seminar on their methods.

Mrs Morgan Blythe reported that Siamese/Oriental breeders in Australia were very concerned about the proliferation of (hepatic) amyloidosis, and at a recent meeting in Melbourne a number of breeders admitted to losses to the disease. It seems that this might have been about for some time, but perhaps mis-diagnosed. It seems from discussion that Australia has a disproportionately high incidence, or perhaps more accurate diagnosis. Contact had been established by Mrs Morgan Blythe with Felikat's health committee, and extensive data (pedigrees, pathology reports) on both renal (aby) and hepatic (siamese) amyloidosis cats in Aust. had been forwarded by Aust. breeders and herself for use by University of Utrecht researchers. The first step had been taken; i.e: admission that the problem exists.

Mrs Bauer- Demeyere (TICA) reported that she had been in contact with researchers at the University of British Columbia, and emphasised that laboratory techniques must be standard. She would forward the published standard protocol. Mr Rothermel felt sure the Winn Foundation would have information, which he would forward to Mrs Morgan Blythe. This disease (in S/O) is not known much in Europe, outside Holland, and little is reported in the USA.

The Australian problem with feral cats and legislation was raised. There is a Threat Abatement paper at <http://www.biodiversity.environment.gov.au/plants/threaten/species.htm>. This is a 63 page document with appendices. It refers mainly to feral cats but of course domestic cats will be affected. Local government compromises in some parts have been reached, but there are still threats by some councils to limit to 2 - cat household. It is hoped that (as in South Australia) there will be exceptions for breeders. The senator who wanted Aust. to be cat free is now politically dead. Northern Territory - Mrs Schuller (a resident) reported that there is strong feeling against feral cats, which have now been feral for 400 years in that part of the country.

c) CFA

Mr Rothermel reported that CFA has 650 clubs throughout the world, and run about 400 shows with a total of around 95,000 cats. (Mrs Uddin noted that FIFe statistics are similar). Selkirk Rex and Bicolour Ragdoll now have provisional status. Sphynx is now eligible for registration. Any organisation may link to their website, but CFA prefers not to reciprocate, as they have no control over other pages. Joan Miller is head of legislative committee.

There have been new club applications from throughout the world, even in countries where the cat fancy is almost non-existent, though to an extent things seem to be stagnating in the USA, because of legislation. The CFA International Show held in Atlanta was the second largest with 1150 exhibits. Second Best Kitten was Italian bred and owned.

Mr Rothermel made the point that we should all be selling the cat to the general public, not CFA cats, TICA cats, FIFe cats, etc.

d) TICA

Mrs Morgan gave a full report, the text of which appears as an Annex to these Minutes.

e) WCF

Mrs Hackmann reported that it had been a difficult year. At the December Extraordinary GM, Mr Kellner left the Board, and the new Gen. Secretary until the next GA is Mrs Molly Oliver. Many of WCF's records are missing, which is providing problems. Thus much of the documentation is being revamped, and the standard is being renewed. In the previous issue, much was missing. WCF is starting to register shows - no information was being received by head office, and judges were not notified. There is a new address for WCF, which was circulated. All correspondence to go via Mrs Hackmann, the President. WCF has 47 voting members and others under patronage. The 1997 WCF World Show was held in Moscow, and it featured a TICA ring. A feature was the "Cat and Human" exhibition, which will be repeated this year.

WCF may be recognising the Don Sphynx in August, there are 40 of these cats in Russia. It is supposedly smaller than other sphynx, and has more hair, also. The Brazilian Shorthair has been proposed for recognition. This is like a European SH. There is the likelihood of an application for recognition of the Kanaani, a spotted cat bred for 8 years in Israel. There is nothing further to report on the Turkish White (none hearing impaired - ref. 1997 minutes) as Turkey is slow in responding. An article on blood groups in Birman, Persian and British will be translated, and WCF would be interested in any information other bodies might have.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 1240 Hrs.

The meeting reconvened at 1330Hrs.

5) Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

6) Proposals

a) Press Release

Mrs Morgan Blythe moved that "from this meeting there be some form of press release so it is known that there is a "United Nations of Cats", and a resume of points covered be included in that". Seconded Mr Rothermel. Carried.

Mr Rothermel will give this to CFA Public Relations Dept to deal with. He suggested that Mrs Bydlinski might write a synopsis, and each organisation endeavour to get it into local press. TICA also willing to do this; suggested AP/Reuter, and that it emanate from the USA.. Mrs Hackmann has a contact with Reuter.

Theme of release: Congress held by 5 world bodies, emphasis on benefits to cat world, health and welfare of cats around the world. The object was to fight in unity for the welfare of the cat.

b) International Disqualification list. (ACF)

Mrs Morgan Blythe moved that "each organisation's policy on disqualifiers be analysed so that it can be seen what are common denominators, and that the meeting approves in principle the resultant list". Seconded Mr Rothermel, who added that CFA might have a problem, as breed councils are authors of individual standards. He agreed in principle, but was not in a position to make decisions. Mr Reijers suggested it be kept general, and as far as possible, a declaration of the positive. Mrs Hackmann pointed out the simplicity of presenting a list that is common to all organisations. Surely that acceptable to all? Mr Reijers undertook to compile such a list and it will then be published and made available to all. Carried unanimously.

c) Bengal terminology. (ACF)

Mrs Morgan Blythe referred to the confusion caused by use of colloquial, "breeders' terminology" with regard to the Bengal cat. For example, while the standard mentions "brown spotted", this colour/pattern also described by some breeders as "sorrel leopard", (i.e: highly rufoused)" sorrel leopard tabby glitzed", etc. ("Black/gold/cream marble" - only brown marble named in standard). Use of the word "snow" (for the pointed varieties) bears no relationship to standard. Mrs Morgan said that genetically, a brown Bengal can't be a sorrel, and concurred that there was confusion re breeders' terminology and that used officially (standards and TICA certified pedigrees). Mrs Morgan Blythe and Mrs Morgan to work on clarification of anomalies.

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d) Submission of proposals (WCF)

Mrs Hackmann suggested that in future, all proposals for the Congress be submitted in written form 3 months in advance, and circulated to all participants. Moved Mrs Morgan, seconded Mrs Morgan Blythe that this policy be adopted. Carried unanimously.

e) Open Meeting

Mrs Morgan Blythe mentioned the presence of one "Independent" from Holland, who was very sincere and looking to this organisation for help. Mr Rothermel said he was very disappointed in the lack of participation by other bodies. He would like to impress on people that we encourage questions, etc. He suggested an open meeting on a Saturday, which might gain a greater attendance. It was felt that people aren't happy about discussing government intervention, etc; there need to be topics with which various cat fanciers can identify (variety). Mrs Morgan believes that publicising an advance agenda might help. Mr Rothermel thought that there were topics that various people might be involved in. Mrs Morgan Blythe felt that interesting topics as well as a seminar/workshop might draw more involvement. She suggested that perhaps we might consider a workshop from 9am to 4pm, followed by the open meeting. This would make it a long day. Moved Mr Rothermel, seconded Mrs Morgan that Mrs Morgan Blythe and Mrs Bydlinski develop an agenda and timetable for the open meeting next year. Carried unanimously.

7) Future Planning.

1999 Congress will be in Malmo, Sweden, hosted by SVERAK's member Sydkatten. (First weekend March, as usual) Mr Rothermel said he was not available on that weekend in 2000, and the meeting decided on March 18/19 weekend for that year.

8) Any Other Business.

a) Belgian and Dutch government proposals.

These are still the same as those for the Council of Europe, and a source of great concern to the fancy. Mr Reijers spoke on this, listing the various "defects" (undesirable hereditary conditions) which might lead to the banning of certain breeds (conceivably, according to the list, this could affect all dominant white cats, contemporary persians, manx, scottish fold, sphynx, munchkins, etc). He pointed out that the Council of Europe (and the Euro Parliament) have no constituency, and little purpose other than to indulge in this sort of trivia, to justify its existence. He said the paper is to be referred to another advisory council at Dutch national level, and on that basis, these breeds may be forbidden. Mrs Nehammer reported that the Danish government allows the cat fancy to police itself as a responsible organisation.

b) Survival of this forum.

Mrs Uddin invited Mr John Blythe (observer) to address the meeting. He said it was a privilege to be here, with the heads of state of the cat world. This forum works well as we all enjoy cordial personal relations, and is a League of Nations of the cat fancy. However, the League of Nations collapsed, and he felt it is important that this not happen to these meetings. He thought that if it was to continue and prosper it required more structure. (i.e: constitution or similar document, membership and financial support). (Acclamation)

Mr Rothermel observed that our members don't care what we do, so long as it's nothing. They are unwilling to give authority, but might be amenable to us developing ideas to bring back. We might educate people more, try to include more in the agenda, thus creating more interest. He thanked Mrs

Uddin and FIFe for their initiative in instigating these meetings. (Acclamation). Mrs Uddin stated that the focus should always be on health and welfare of the cat.

Mrs Morgan Blythe referred to the variety of names that this forum has been/is being known by. She suggested that a first step towards formalising the body might be to settle on a name which we always use; an identity. Moved Mrs Morgan Blythe, seconded Mrs Morgan that a specific name be used for this forum. Carried unanimously. After discussion, it was determined that this forum be known as the World Cat Congress (WCC). Moved Mr Reijers, seconded Mrs Morgan that this name be adopted. Carried unanimously.

Mr Rothermel suggested holding a meeting where we (the bodies here today) discuss certain topics and then open it to the floor - so in effect, run a 'open' meeting. Mrs Uddin mentioned the difficulties experienced 2 years ago when unofficial "minutes" were put on the internet by an observer. This could easily occur if meeting open, so perhaps wiser to keep it closed. All present today are accountable. This not true of open meeting. Mrs Schuller said that there might be cooperation if observers knew what was being talked about. Mrs Bauer-Demeyere said we would have to point out that there would be no publication of details prior to release of the official minutes. Mrs Morgan felt that opening the meeting might promote interest. Mrs Morgan Blythe commented on last year's meeting deciding to restrict participation to the existing group, and not to open this meeting. It was agreed that no decision can be taken on "opening" this meeting until it is known what is possible in Malmo. It was agreed that it would be an open meeting if facilities permit.

Mr Blythe referred to the need for some form of constitution. Moved Mr Rothermel, seconded Mrs Morgan that Mr Blythe put together a document for consideration. Carried unanimously. Mr Blythe saw no problem with dialogue on a constitution taking place, even if agreement can't be found. Mrs Morgan Blythe questioned whether "constitution" was the appropriate word. She suggested "charter" as an alternative.
Sponsorship.

Mr Rothermel reported that he had spoken to lams on this, as directed by last year's meeting, but that there had been a shake-up in management and he has to establish the right person to talk to. USA lams do not have the authority to sponsor this, but would pressure the European lams. He noted that it is very difficult to get sponsorship. Mrs Uddin said she felt that Sweden would not be good for sponsorship. Various ideas were voiced re sponsorship. Mr Rothermel suggested lams might sponsor accommodation and food, perhaps. Sweden was very happy to host 1999 WCC meeting, but concerned about the cost.

9) Close of Meeting

There being no further business, Mrs Uddin thanked all for their presence this weekend, and declared the meeting closed at 1630 Hrs.

Alva Uddin Georgia Morgan Anneliese Hackmann Lesley Morgan Blythe Craig Rothermel
President, FIFe President, TICA President, WCF Acting President, ACF President, CFA

1998

The International Cat Association has been in business 18 years. July 1st 1998 will be 19 years. TICA was established as an individual membership Association; whereby, each member is entitled to the TICA TREND (bi-monthly publication) for the period of the paid membership, they are automatically qualified as a member of their preferred breed section, which qualifies them to vote on any changes that may affect their breed, and they are entitled to vote on changes to the By-Laws, Show Rules, and Registration Rules. Each member is also granted the opportunity to be involved in the election process for President, Vice-President and the Regional Directors in their resident region.

TICA has sustained a constant growth pattern from the early years, which accelerated in 1983. To date our Association has chartered 480 clubs, featured in Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America. Statistics confirm an increase on shows each year; from May 1, 1994 through April 30, 1995, 267 shows were licensed, with entries of 38,942; from May 1, 1995 through April 30, 1996, 289 shows were licensed, with entries of 41,529; from May 1, 1996 through April 30, 1997, 298 shows were licensed, with 43,195 entries.

Three years ago, TICA adopted a "Voluntary Responsible Breeder Program" spearheaded by Resa-bauer DeMeyere, Northwest Regional Director. The time involved in this project escalated into hours, and days of dedicated work - but it paid off. The "CODE OF ETHICS" portion of this program has been indorsed and accepted by 195 breeders; and the Cattery Evaluation phase, of course is a sought after distinction for any breeder, however It does require dedication. 169 breeders have qualified for this prestigious achievement. Some of the early qualifiers have repeated this distinction.

The Board of Directors issued a moratorium in 1996 whereby no NEW BREED will be accepted for registration that have wild-blood/non-domestic cats.

The Pixie-Bob breed will be advanced to Championship status May 1, 1998, and moved to Category II for registration purposes.

A new Judging Program was adopted during our 1998 Semi-Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors, in Tokyo Japan in February, and is being prepared for printing at this time.

Pointed Siberians are NBC status.