



Minutes of the Meeting of the
World Cat Congress
Vienna, Austria
6th March, 2000

Present: Mrs Alva Uddin (President of FIFe) WCC Chairman
Mr Don Williams (President of CFA) Vice-Chairman of WCC
Mrs Penelope Bydlinski (FIFe General Secretary) WCC Secretary/Treasurer
Mrs Anneliese Hackmann (President of WCF)
Mrs Lesley Morgan (International Liaison Officer of ACF Inc.)
Mr Larry Paul (President of TICA)
Mr Eric Reijers (Vice-President of FIFe)

In attendance: Mr John Blythe (President of ACF Inc.)
Mr Paulo Ruschi (Vice-President of WCF)
Mr Leo van de Haterd (Treasurer of FIFe)

1. The Chairman opened the meeting at 10.15 a.m. and welcomed those present.
2. Mrs L. Morgan-Blythe moved to accept the Minutes of the 1999 Meeting and Mr L. Paul seconded; all were in favour. There were no matters arising which would not be dealt with separately.

3. Reports

a) FIFe. Mrs Uddin told the meeting of the establishment of a 'Task Force Europe' which would be responsible for looking into the legislation of the European Union in the areas where it concerned FIFe. One important step was to establish FIFe as an international organisation. As this was the year of the 50th Jubilee of the FIFe, a commemorative 'Jubilee Book' was being produced. She was pleased to say that the Charter formulated in 1999 had been accepted by the General Assembly of the Fife.

There was a discussion over European legislation and it was pointed out that a citizen of the EU had the right to sue its government. In France, somebody was suing the LOOF for monopoly.

Israel and Yugoslavia would be applying for full membership of FIFe at the next General Assembly and Malta would be applying for an extension of patronage.

b) Mrs L. Morgan-Blythe presented a report on ACF Inc. and distributed copies. (Annex 1).

c) Mr. D. Williams reported to the meeting on CFA. The Siberian, American Bobtail and La Perm had been accepted for registration only. The Ragdoll and Selkirk Rex had been fully recognised and the European Burmese had been given provisional status in the U.S.A. but had championship status in the international division. Replying to questions about the Selkirk Rex, Mr Williams said that it was similar to a Bohemian Rex and that DNA testing was being done to establish similarity with other rexed breeds, specifically La Perm. The outcome of the DNA testing will determine the future of the two breeds.

Mr Williams referred again to the problem of a WCF club in Australia which incorporated the words 'cat fanciers association' into its name; CFA had raised sanctions against WCF. Mr Ruschi speaking for WCF said that the club had been in existence for twelve years and refused to change its name. Mrs Morgan-Blythe asked about the name used by this club when it was under the patronage of FIFe as it had not then incorporated CFA; patronage had ceased in 1993 and as far as she was aware this club had not been active for many years.

Mr Paul suggested that the meeting agree that in future a name which is similar to one of the participant organisations should not be accepted. This was agreed.

d) Mr Paul, giving a report on TICA, explained that this was the first year of his presidency. The breeds Ozor Azules and the Californian Spangle had been abolished. The former because of a lethal gene and the latter from lack of numbers. There were new NBC rules requiring any breed to progress very slowly and there was a stop of recognition of new breeds. He felt that TICA had gone too far in recognising new breeds without enough studies of the breed in question. They do not want 'wild' blood although he spoke highly of the Bengal temperament. They were very much against 'dwarfism' gene. There were plans to change breed recognition to a ballot of all members. At present each breed committee has one year to consolidate its standard; these are being streamlined so cats of the same type have the same base standard. (eg siamese/oriental and their LH counterparts; persian/exotic, aby/somali) rather than individual standards for each.

Mr Paul has produced a rule book in a similar form to that of FIFe. He found the French situation incomprehensible and hoped that FIFe would find a way of solving it.

In a discussion, Mr Williams said that CFA has a five year period after recognition of a breed during which time all genetic aspects have to be sorted out or recognition could be withdrawn.

Mrs Uddin, explaining the French situation, said that originally the FIFe French member had been told not to become a member of LOOF as some of its rulings were in conflict with those of FIFe, for example some breeds were accepted which were not recognised by FIFe and their awards were based on different criteria to those of FIFe. Since the French government has officially accepted the LOOF, all other organisations must accept it. The LOOF registry want a monopoly on all pedigree distribution worldwide, they already have it in France where a French cat must have a LOOF pedigree or it cannot be legally accepted as a registered pure-breed animal. Failure to have a LOOF pedigree has resulted in fines for the breeder.

e) WCF report was presented by Mr Ruschi. He stated that WCF was not the biggest nor the oldest organisation, but as far as he knew, they were the ones growing at the fastest speed. They now had 58 federations 580 clubs and 15 new clubs had applied to the next General Assembly. He believed that the WCC could give unity to the cat fancy in the future by having a common judging school and studying the existing standards. They were implementing judging schools internationally and ideally there would be world judge training standards. They had recently recognised the Brazilian Shorthair; it has been established for ten years from descendants of cats brought over by Portuguese invaders.

Mr Ruschi also said that in Brazil the FIFe federation does not allow WCF members to participate in FIFe shows even if the exhibitors are members of both organisations; he asked FIFe for a solution. Mrs Uddin explained that whilst 'open doors' was in place, the individual members were free to choose whether they opened their shows or not. FIFe could not interfere.

Mr Paul said that he was concerned that any new breed being recognised should be substantially different to existing breeds - no mimic breeds could be acceptable.

Mrs Hackmann spoke of the problems in Germany with the legislation now in existence. She had been in touch with the BBC and had been advised. She had now threatened to sue the Government and they had then replied that there was not a problem and they would be willing to have a meeting with her. At present in Germany any veterinary surgeon can stop a

show where either Manx, Scottish Folds, American Curls, Rexes or any breed with a large amount of white, e.g. a harlequin patterned cat, are being exhibited. The regulations vary from region to region.

Mr Blythe pointed out that WCC should support its members. He proposed that a letter be sent from the WCC to the German Government, protesting the situation. This was seconded by both Mr Paul and Mr Williams and all were in agreement.

WCF also has problems with Chartreuse and British. In Europe many years ago the 'Kartäuser' was the name given to the blue Shorthair which was the equivalent of the British Blue in the UK. Eventually the breeds Chartreuse and British were separated but many cats have both breeds on their pedigrees and previously were considered as the same cat. It was pointed out that the term 'Kartäuser' could no longer be used. WCF has different standards and breed numbers but needed clarification as to the difference. CFA requires 5 generations of pure British with no longhair in those generations.

After a coffee break ACF presented an updated list of judges.

4. Correspondence:

a) Governing Council of the Southern Africa Cat Council.

Mrs L. Morgan-Blythe knew the applicant, Mr Lamprecht whom she had met as a judge in Australia. He was a doctor of Pharmacology. She found him a strict and informed judge, very articulate and sound. It was agreed to write to him asking him to make a formal application which would be considered at the next meeting.

b) ACFA. Mr L. Paul proposed that no action be taken as no application had been received. This was seconded and agreed.

5. GCCF It was regretted that the GCCF were apparently unwilling to take any part in the WCC. As the oldest association in the World it was felt they should have input. The then Chairman, Mrs Brenda Wolstenholme, had attended the first meeting in Italy in 1994, the following year she was expected and reservations made for her but she did not arrive. The following year the General Secretary had spoken to her regarding the next meeting and the invitation had been declined as the GCCF did not have any interest in what was going on outside of the UK.

6. Discussion on decreasing numbers within the cat fancy Mrs L. Morgan-Blythe asked whether this was a matter for further discussion. Mr Williams said that the numbers were also decreasing in the dog fancy in the USA. He thought that legislation was partly to blame but in CFA they have a youth development programme.

Mr Blythe felt that there were more leisure time activities available than there had been 20 years ago and thus the cat fancy had more competition. He felt that the cat fancy had to be an attraction for the public. He stressed the need to ensure that shows were not boring; judges needed to be able to speak about the cats and the public to hear and see what is going on. The ability of the judges was very important. He thought that the WCC should concentrate on selling the fancy. There was a greater urban society nowadays, cats had superseded dogs as they can be kept indoors and are beneficial to older people, of which there are a growing number, as well as the sick and disabled. The CFA also do breed show-cases at shows, where a judge presents the breeds. TICA, WCF and some FIFe clubs have also tried this. Mr Ruschi had noticed many older ladies in Brazil who are interested in cats and he felt younger people needed to be educated.

Mr Blythe tabled the idea of marketing and suggested each organisation does a white paper on what it does for marketing the fancy and also how it stages show. This was agreed.

7. Proposals

a) TICA: quarantine periods in different countries.

Mrs L. Morgan-Blythe distributed a document concerning the Australian requirements. It varied according to the country of origin.

Japan has now brought in 14 days quarantine with average costs of \$2800. House quarantine is possible but still costs \$200 a day. There is however provision for cats going out to shows and returning with correct documentation.

The UK now has a trial 'Passports for Pets' which is restricted to cats from the EU countries.

Mrs Uddin commented on the danger for judges in areas where rabies is active; although a cat could be vaccinated, if it harbours a live virus and bites it would be possible to get rabies.

It was felt that general information should be supplied by WCC.

b) WCF: 1. Minimum measurement for show cages could not be discussed as it would be impossible to adopt.

2. The rule of 'no smoking' in show halls was already in place.

3. Microchips common to all members. A universal scanner would be required. Now that ISO standards are accepted and will probably be entering the USA and Australian markets, it could be possible in the future to settle on a common microchip but not at present. Mr Blythe pointed out that we are in a position to endorse one system. He suggested that such an endorsement should be worth sponsorship for WCC. In Australia TROVAN was quite widely used. Mrs Uddin said that a TROVAN scanner was essential, all others are readable by Datamars.

Mrs Uddin agreed to take up contact with Datamars with a view to sponsorship in the future when everything is in place.

c) FIFe: 1. Proposed joint show in Europe with each body conducting a "ring" according to its own methods. It was felt that the principle was good but technicalities needed to be sorted out. FIFe would pursue the details on this.

2. An international symposium on cats. This was agreed. Themes would have to be worked out.

3. Procedures for entering shows under 'open doors.' There are difficulties with FIFe rules which require an exhibitor to have the entry endorsed by the exhibitor's club or federation. There are no procedures in place for this in other organisations. The purpose is two-fold, it verifies that the member is in good standing and also guarantees the entry fees. There seems no solution to this problem.

Mr Paul moved that the Congress should make clear that cats registered in the WCC's five bodies are acceptable in any show in the World. This was agreed.

8. Financial

Mr D. Williams agreed to look into sponsorship and Mrs Hackmann would also approach Bayer.

It was agreed that each participating body would pay 250 Euros to the WCC account. This would cover general expenses, such as postage and printing. Mr Blythe tabled that this was a tentative amount and would be reviewed at the end of the year. The account to be opened in the name of the Secretary/Treasurer with an indication that it was for WCC purposes. This was tabled, seconded and agreed.

8. Elections

This year the Vice-Chairman was due to be elected and Mr Larry Paul nominated Mr Don Williams, this was seconded by Mrs Morgan-Blythe and as all were in agreement, Mr Williams was duly elected for a further two years.

Mr Paul commended the Secretary for her work on the Charter and on the notepaper.

8. WCC, Sydney 2001 hosted by ACF Inc.

Mrs L. Morgan-Blythe said that she appreciated the expense involved and would try to book the participants for judging engagements at \$750 Australian per show to offset the cost of travel. At present there were engagements for Mrs Uddin, Mrs Bydlinski and Mr Paul on 24/25.02.01. All would be engaged in Sydney on 3/4.03.01. It was suggested by the show organisers (WSCA) that participants should arrive in Sydney on 1st March. There would be a gala dinner and paid accommodation for judge delegates on the usual pre and post-show basis.

Mr Blythe said that this would be the first WCC to be held outside of Europe and in the Southern hemisphere. He said that only the ACF ILO and he were familiar with the procedure and he moved that the Chairman and the Secretary be empowered to liaise with the International Liaison Officer over details of the planned meeting, defining financial obligations of the parties, timetable, protocols and other matters necessary for the smooth running of the event.

Mr Williams felt there should not be a two day show and this was seconded by Mr Paul. Mrs Morgan-Blythe will ensure private accommodation between shows and contracts would be sent out.

9. A.O.B.

FIFe reported some problems with its member in Spain and in Brazil. A letter from the Spanish member, ASFE, would be circulated to the members of the WCC.

Where serious problems have been encountered within federations, any documentation concerning action unbecoming or proven cases of cruelty should be sent to the Secretary who would circulate to all participants and it would then be kept in the WCC office and would be made available to members who are approached by any such person.

It was agreed that Mrs Bydlinski would produce a list of common disqualifiers in all of the participating organisation, which would be put on the web site.

The meeting closed at 4.30 p.m.

Alva Uddin
FIFe Pres.

Don Williams
CFA Pres.

Anneliese Hackmann
WCF President

Lesley Morgan-Blythe
ACF ILO

Larry Paul
TICA Pres.