



Minutes of the Meeting of the  
World Cat Congress  
Sydney, Australia  
5th March, 2001

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.)  
Mrs Kay de Vilbiss (President of TICA)

After acceptance,  
Mr Richard Nelson (President of NZCF)

In attendance: Mr John Blythe (President of ACF Inc.)

1. The Chairman opened the meeting at 08.35 and after welcoming the delegates present asked for one minute's silence in memory of TICA's late president, Larry Paul who had contributed enormously to the WCC.

2. Mrs L. Morgan (ACF) moved that the Minutes of the Meeting of 2000 were formally accepted, this was seconded by Mrs de Vilbiss (TICA) and they were duly signed by those present.

3. A draft constitution was submitted by the Secretary and after some amendments were made, Mr D. Williams (CFA) moved that it be accepted. All were in favour. This draft constitution is attached to these minutes as Annex I.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes: a) Universal Disqualifiers and b) White paper on future of Cat Fancy. It was agreed that both items would be dealt with under AOB.

5. Mrs L. Morgan on behalf of ACF, who had proposed their associate membership, introduced the New Zealand Cat Fancy Inc. She said that they had been established for at least fifty years. They recognised some breeds which were not recognised by the ACF, e.g. Mandalay. They were a structured and reliable organisation with excellent cats and well-run shows. They were very correct, efficient and professional. She moved for their acceptance and Mr D. Williams (CFA) seconded the motion, pointing out also that the NZCF were the only cat fancy in New Zealand. All delegates were in favour of the motion and Mr Richard Nelson was invited, at 10.30 a.m. to join the meeting. Mr Nelson was welcomed by the Chairman. He thanked the meeting for its acceptance and said he hoped that the NZCF would make a contribution. The newly agreed conditions of associate membership were explained to Mr Nelson who was in agreement with these.

6. Reports:

a) **FIFe.** Mrs Uddin (FIFe) reported that there were on-going problems with some of the European members such as Germany which had introduced a virtual ban on certain breeds. In France, LOOF, a private organisation had been appointed by the government to issue all French pedigrees and grant show licenses in France. This organisation also recognised breeds which FIFe did not. As a consequence of the fact that any show held in France must be open to everybody, the French FIFe member had had to give up hosting the

World Show which would have been held there in 2002. The FIFe has approached the EU officially in this matter. FIFe has also applied for recognition as an international organisation under Belgian law.

At the last FIFe General Assembly, AMIL in Israel had been accepted as a full member. The Russian member has problems but is continuing to hold shows and to pay its membership.

**b) ACF Inc.** A written report was submitted and is attached to these Minutes as Annex 2.

**c) CFA.** Mr Williams (CFA) reported that the CFA had been involved in even more legislative activities. They now had three full-time employees in this respect who collected data and forwarded it to the relevant people in order to help the fight against legislation. They were working together with TICA and ACFA on the legislation matters. The American Kennel Club were also working with them and in Florida even the bird fanciers were involved; this had come about because of the restrictions on numbers allowed as pets in one household. As a result the local authorities were having to review their thinking as revenue was being lost in local legislation.

Mr Williams had been re-elected as President for a further two year term and there had been some changes in the officers of the CFA.

**d) TICA.** Mrs de Vilbiss (TICA) reported that since the death of Larry Paul she had assumed his position as President. Dwayne Barnes was now Vice-President and there had been other changes amongst the officers.

Speaking about the European scene, Mrs de Vilbiss said that TICA representatives had met with LOOF in France and discussed agreement with reference to TICA members. They were working well together with only small problems which could be ironed out; they have many members in France. In Germany there had been attempts by the government veterinary surgeon to have Sphynx excluded from a show, but as the show was taking place on a military base they had no authority.

Internally, new rules had been accepted and updated copies would be sent to other WCC members. They are registering most things. They had also been asked to register big cats for the purpose of keeping records and this was being done under a separate registry. They have some members in South Africa, a large contingent in Japan and new clubs in Malaysia, Costa Rica and Chile.

Savanna and Chausie had been accepted as new breeds at the first level.

**e) WCF.** Mrs Hackmann (WCF) reported that WCF has its GM every two years. She had been elected for a further four year term, a new general secretary had been elected. Anatolian Shorthairs - a short-haired Turkish Van - had been recognised as well as Kanaani, which were a spotted cat from Israel. WCF had sixteen new members. They had lost their French member because of the problems within France. Some clubs were expelled because of financial problems, WCF felt unable to work for clubs which did not pay their dues - the Australian WCF member was to be expelled for that reason.

With regard to shows in Germany, Mrs Hackmann stated that she did not have problems as she made contact prior to the shows with the veterinarians concerned. She was to have a meeting with the Government at the end of the year. She felt it possible that microchipping would become mandatory from the 1st of January 2002, at present it was voluntary. She had arranged an evaluation on the Sphynx and this had been presented to the authorities who had then allowed it. She understood that a similar evaluation on the Manx was being prepared by somebody in the Netherlands. Evaluations were needed on all breeds and varieties with which the government had problems, particularly white and bi-colours, in order to fight against the legislators in Germany. They were seeking to make such rules concerning these breeds national rather than the present situation where there were regional differences within Germany.

Such rules as are made will also apply to cats visiting Germany. WCF was working with the FIFe club in Germany and Mrs de Vilbiss offered the help of the TICA clubs at this point. Mrs Hackmann reported that individual veterinarians are at liberty to refuse entry of certain breeds/varieties to a show and, in extreme cases, to close the show. These decisions have all been based on the original directive of the EU.

At the end of the reports Mrs Uddin remarked on the need to unite in order to fight the legislators in Europe.

#### 7. Correspondence:

The secretary had correspondence from the South African organisation SACC, in which they had expressed interest in joining the WCC. The secretary would inform them of the proposed constitution and they were aware that any application for membership would have to be made in good time for next year's meeting. Mr Williams (CFA) said that in the past they had had problems because of non-white judges and Apartheid. Mrs Morgan (ACF) who had judged there recently stated that superficially everything appeared to be in order and she thought there would be no problems with a non-white judge.

A letter from Mr H. G. Scholer, a FIFe honorary judge, would be dealt with under AOB as would letters from the FIFe members ASFE (E) and 1.DEKZV e.V. (D).

#### 8. Elections:

a) President for a period of two years.

Mr Williams (CFA) proposed that Mrs Uddin should continue in this position and this was seconded by Mrs de Vilbiss (TICA) and unanimously accepted.

b) Secretary/Treasurer for a period of two years.

Mr Williams (CFA) proposed that Mrs Bydlinski should continue in this position and this was seconded by Mrs de Vilbiss (TICA) and unanimously accepted.

#### 9. Proposals:

A)ACF Inc. The ACF proposal reflected concern about discontented bodies which sought to move from one organisation to another. Their proposal was presented and after much discussion, it was decided that an amended proposal should be brought under AOB.

The meeting adjourned for a one hour lunch break and reconvened at 13.30.

B) FIFe.

Their two proposals were unanimously accepted and read as follows:

a) That show lists must be published in advance and the dates adhered to except in very special circumstances.

b) That members should ensure that their member clubs respect the dates of shows of other organisations.

Mrs Hackmann (WCF) asked that the FIFe show lists should be sent to Mr Paulo Ruschi by e-mail as he was responsible for granting licenses for WCF shows.

#### 10. Points for discussion.

Mrs Hackmann (WCF) had asked for the question of silver pointed Birmans to be raised. ACF Inc., stated that they had such cats in tabby pointed which were registered as non-silver

because silver were not recognised. FIFe had decided that no silver would be allowed in any colourpoint varieties and where it exists, the animals concerned cannot be bred from without control. CFA also did not allow it. CFA are also making restrictions on colourpoints appearing in Oriental breeding programmes. After May 2001 a colourpoint cat appearing from an Oriental litter would be registered as AOV. Silver pointed Birmans were accepted in New Zealand. Mr Nelson said it was a problem when a non-silver was registered from such breeding. Only a small number of people were working with these cats. Registrations stated that they could be shown by phenotype but silver in background was noted. CFA makes a similar designation.

There were further discussions about this and also about white with the himalayan pattern. None of the member organisations accept this for show but only for registration.

The meeting then went on to discuss ways in which the WCC could influence cat fancy affairs. It was agreed that all member organisations should report on the WCC in their own publications. It was also agreed that an official article should be written about WCC and its aims which would be made available to all members for publication.

#### 11. Financial

Mrs Bydlinski had supplied the members with a copy of the current accounts which were in good order. Each member had paid their fee for the previous year and the WCC liabilities had been met.

It was felt that major sponsorship should be sought for future WCC activities. The WCC members represented approximately 80% of the cat fancy of the world and a sponsor could be assured of a very wide coverage. Mr Blythe (ACF President) agreed to formulate a letter in this respect.

Mrs Morgan Blythe (ACF) moved that the fee for membership for the next year should be set at £150. This was unanimously agreed. It was also agreed that two signatures were necessary on the bank account and Mrs Uddin (FIFe) would be the second signatory.

#### 12. AOB

ACF Inc. presented its amended proposal which was seconded by CFA and unanimously accepted. It read as follows:

The ACF moves that member bodies of WCC agree that should they receive an application for membership by an affiliate or club from another WCC member, they will notify the initial parent body of such an application prior to considering it. Should any disputation exist between the affiliate or club and its parent body, then the WCC member receiving the application for membership will defer considering the application for membership until such disputation has been either resolved by mutual consent or settled by litigation.

The letter from Mr H.G. Scholer (FIFe Honorary Judge) concerned the size of international shows and 'world' shows within the WCF. Mrs Hackmann (WCF) stated that WCF ruled that there should be a minimum of 100 cats to constitute an

international show and she felt there had been some misinformation. It was agreed that Mrs Hackmann would write to Mr Scholer and send a copy to the WCC secretary for circulation.

One of the FIFe members was alarmed about the possibility of duplication of cattery names between FIFe and WCF clubs in Spain. Mrs Hackmann (WCF) stated that she already had access to data in some countries and was willing to do the same in Spain. The FIFe would provide her with the necessary data.

Mrs Uddin presented a paper which she had received from a zoologist in Sweden. This is attached as Annex 3 to these minutes). CFA stated that it is not prepared to accept any cat which has been produced by crosses to wild cats.

Disqualifiers and General Faults. This document was produced and the members agreed to amend it so that it could then be published as a reliable piece of information. It could also be put on the web site.

ACF Inc. and FIFe had both submitted a 'white' paper concerning the future of the cat fancy. These are attached to these minutes as Annex 4 & 5 respectively. The meeting further discussed ways of generating interest in the cat fancy. Both CFA and TICA had found that youth groups could be utilised. It was necessary to educate young people so that they grew up with an interest and respect for cats. In order to maintain the standard of judging, it was necessary to take time over judge training. Current legislation is seeking to reduce the number of cats kept in individual households and as many of the people with more cats were the breeders who were the backbone of the cat fancy, such legislation had to be fought.

It was also pointed out that the media, with its tendency to publicise 'cute' rather than responsible attitudes towards cats, did not help the cause. It was suggested that recruiting big media names, such as Rolf Harris or in the USA, well-known wrestlers, to support and publicise the true aims of the cat fancy might be a good idea.

Animal activist organisations and, to some extent, animal behaviourists were creating a very bad image of the cat fancy which needed to be rectified.

Mrs Hackmann (WCF) invited the members to hold the meeting for 2002 in Moscow. She had excellent contacts with both TV and radio in that country and could guarantee really good media coverage. The weekend of 9,10,11 March was decided. Mrs Hackmann will also seek sponsorship for the basic expenses of the delegates and will advise.

Mr Williams (CFA) said he would look into the possibility of the WCC being held in the USA in 2003. It was only a tentative suggestion at this stage. Mrs de Vilbiss added that perhaps TICA might be able to help in the event that CFA found it could not. The possibilities would be considered.

The meeting closed at 16.45 with a presentation to ACF Inc. who had hosted this very successful WCC weekend.

Signed by:

Alva Uddin, President of FIFe:

Don Williams, President of CFA:

Anneliese Hackmann, WCF President:

Lesley Morgan-Blythe, ACF ILO:

Kay de Vilbiss, President of TICA:

Richard Nelson, President of NZCF: