



Minutes of the Meeting of the
World Cat Congress
Moscow, Russia
10th March, 2002

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

1. The President opened the meeting at 09.15 and welcomed the delegates. Apologies had been received from Richard Nelson who was unable to attend.

2. Mrs Morgan-Blythe moved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting in 2001, seconded by Eric Reijers, they were approved and signed by those present. There were no matters arising.

3. Reports from individual organisations:

a) **FIFe:** Mr Reijers reported that the recommendations for health & welfare of cats had been accepted at the FIFe General Assembly in 2001 and been incorporated into the new Breeding and Registration Rules. Rumania and Bulgaria were working towards coming under patronage very soon. The board of FIFe was organising the current year's GA themselves and it would, once again, be in Albufeira, Portugal. He presented each delegate with a complimentary copy of the FIFe Jubilee Book which had been published the previous year. The members were very happy to have an historical record of the federation. He spoke of the problem of the different languages which made everything slower in FIFe.

b) **ACF Inc.:** Mrs Morgan-Blythe presented the report which is attached to these Minutes as Annex 1.

c) **CFA Inc.:** Mr Williams said that the European Burmese and the Sphynx had been granted championship status in the previous year. The Sphynx had advanced very quickly. Siberians and Bobtails had been given registration status. Solid and pointed Tonkinese were given championship status but there were problems in breeding solid with solid and cats reverting to Burmese. He also reported that there had been 1000 entries at the Houston show in 2001 which had been limited by the size available, he anticipated that the current year's show would be larger.

d) **TICA:** Mr Barnes apologised that publications, which he had arranged to be sent to Moscow for each delegate, had not arrived. He would arrange for the TICA Trend, Year Book and updated rules and standard changes would be sent to everybody when he returned to the States. TICA would have its elections in October. Kay de Viilbliss had been

president for three years and he had been vice-president for the same period. Championship status had been given to the Munchkin although this was a controversial matter. It was seen as a threat to other breeds which might become 'munchkinised.' However, TICA felt that by registering them, they could control activities.

e) **WCF:** Mrs Hackmann explained that their General Meetings were held every two years and there had not been one in 2001. She said that there were problems with microchipping as not everybody could afford it. WCF had a good relationship with the government in Germany and was also representing TICA there. She had organised a special show for the following weekend with white cats entered, there would be TV coverage and Mrs Hackmann then planned to let everybody have a report on the outcome. There was concern about commercialisation of breeders; the government had the right to ask clubs for addresses of breeders and the clubs have to provide them. This meant that breeders could be liable for tax as the taxation department could get their details. There was a ministerial discussion paper issued on 1st March to which a response would be given and she expected that the government would take notice.

f) **NZCF Inc.:** Report from Mr Nelson is attached to these Minutes as Annex 2.

4. Correspondence

a) The Secretary had been corresponding with the Governing Council of the Southern Africa Cat Council. They would be interested in joining the WCC but were not yet in a position to do so. The Secretary would keep in touch with them.

5. Elections

Vice-Chairman for a period of two years. Mr Barnes nominated Mr Williams and this was seconded by Mrs Morgan-Blythe. Unanimously agreed.

6. Proposals

a) Respect for cattery names between the organisations.

This proposal had been brought by FIFe and WCF and Mr Reijers explained it be giving an example of a cat being exported from a FIFe registry into CFA. Because the FIFe prefix was already licenced to another CFA breeder, the prefix had been removed and the name changed. When offspring from this cat were imported into FIFe, they were not identifiable. Mr Williams understood the problem and suggested that maybe 'imp' could be added as a suffix in the future and the prefix retained. After some discussion the following two proposals were tabled:

1. That if a cat imported from one WCC member to another has a cattery name or name which already exists in the importing member's registry, this cat will retain its full name with a designation which indicates there is a duplication. Proposed by Mr Reijers, seconded by Mrs Morgan-Blythe and unanimously agreed.

2. If an existing cattery name from one WCC body is to be registered with another WCC body, where it already exists, this name will be identified by the abbreviations of the organisation where the name was originally registered. Proposed by Mr Reijers, seconded by Mrs Morgan-Blythe and unanimously agreed.

b) That a harmonisation of breed names be undertaken.

This proposal was brought by FIFe. The delegates were aware of problems with different terminology but it was not easy to change the names which were recognised within the organisations. Mr Reijers stated that the FIFe board would bring a proposal to the General

Assembly to change the name of the Javanese to that of Oriental Longhair. He felt that it was very confusing that this cat was also known as the Angora in the GCCF and the Mandarin in the WCF. It seemed more logical to state the length of the coat and keep the original name, the same would be true of the Scottish Fold. WCC members would try to do what they could to harmonise such names.

- c) Expulsion of a body by a WCC member to be respected by all other members.

This proposal was brought by ACF Inc. The meeting discussed the difficulties of an exclusion policy and questioned whether it was within the scope of the meeting. Mrs Morgan-Blythe agreed to postpone the proposal but gave notice of bringing it to the next meeting.

7. Financial

The Treasurer had provided a report and a statement of accounts. Mrs Morgan-Blythe moved to accept these and this was unanimously agreed.

8. Other Matters for Discussion

a) Disqualifiers and General Faults. These had finally been amended and agreed and could be published.

b) The two month window for the age of kittens/cats. In both CFA and TICA kittens were from 4-8 months old and in adult class at 8 months. The adult class was open at 10 months in WCF and FIFe and at 9 months in ACF. As different breeds matured at different rates it was up to the exhibitors and the judges and different bodies had their own policies on this.

c) Brand of microchips to be recommended. The meeting felt there was no need to discuss this. Different countries had different routes, for example WCF buys in bulk and issues them with the pedigrees. As the modern scanners were universal, it did not matter which chips were used.

d) Mrs Uddin had asked for discussion on some of the cruel things that were done to cats and dogs in different parts of the world. Whilst having every sympathy, the meeting felt that it was outside its scope and it was the animal protection bodies who were taking up this matter.

9. Any Other Business

There was conflict between a CFA club and the FIFe member in Norway. The Norwegian member had decided that a non-FIFe member attending a FIFe show should have a registration card for each cat, the charge for this card was approximately twice that of the current charge for a pedigree in Norway. Mr Williams felt that the measures adopted by the FIFe member towards CFA club members amounted to discrimination. Mr Reijers explained that FIFe did not interfere in national matters.

Regarding the acceptance of the Munchkin by TICA, Mr Williams pointed out that CFA had not been asked to accept them. Mr Barnes said that the TICA geneticists were satisfied that the cat was healthy but it was a divisive issue and people had left TICA over it.

Mr Reijers pointed out that a derogatory reference to FIFe and independent judges had appeared in the CFA yearbook on a report on the CFA International Division. Mr Williams apologised for this but explained that this wording came directly from the international division.

Mr Williams spoke about the meeting in 2003 which was to be held in the United States. He was trying to organise sponsorship and hoped it would be held in the Newark area on the first weekend in March as in previous years.

Mr Barnes suggested the possibility of the 2004 meeting being hosted by TICA and the meeting that this would be an excellent idea.

Mrs Morgan-Blythe moved to adjourn the meeting until after the Open Meeting, seconded by Mr Barnes and the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting reconvened at 0935 after the Open Meeting and a visit to the Theatre of Cats.

The current meeting had been pushed for time since the Agenda had been fixed with no allowance for anything running over the time allotted. The meeting therefore discussed the format for future meetings.

Mr Reijers felt that if people had come a great distance to attend these meetings, sufficient time should be allowed for discussion. He thought that three days were needed, one day for the closed meeting, one day for a seminar and one day for an open meeting.

Mr Williams said that guide lines should be set for the open meetings and Mr Barnes concurred. At the recent open meeting a lot of time had been wasted on a matter which was not a WCC issue and the chair should be somebody who understands this situation.

Mrs Morgan-Blythe suggested that rather than taking up meeting time, each individual representing the organisation should have a private session in another area to answer questions specific to their own organisation, this was seconded by Mr Williams, all were in favour.

Mrs Morgan-Blythe spoke about standards and the acceptance of new breeds in an organisation. It was agreed that the country of origin standard should be closely adhered to and that all standards for the same breed should be very similar.

There was discussion about the differences between shows in different organisations. TICA had a very good description of how their shows worked which was on their web site. FIFe felt it would be a good idea to do the same. There was then a discussion on different methods of judging.

Mr Reijers felt that CFA had not given out any information on the WCC but Mr Barnes had also not known of its existence until this meeting. Mr Williams said that after the minutes had been agreed he would publish them on the CFA web site. Mr Reijers proposed to ask the FIFe members for any suggestions or ideas they might have for the WCC.

Mrs Morgan-Blythe hoped that all member bodies would be informed so that the membership knew of the existence of WCC. Mr Barnes felt that at present the group was seen as a sort of cabal because there was no real knowledge about it. He indicated that he would write an article about the current meeting which would be published in TICA TREND. He also thought that the minutes of the meeting could be posted on the TICA web site.

Mrs Hackmann said that she always made a report on the meeting; this appeared in her

magazine. She would, however, like to have the Minutes as soon as possible after the meeting and all were in agreement. The secretary agreed to do this in the shortest possible time scale.

Mrs Morgan-Blythe proposed that the Minutes, when approved, should appear on the relevant web sites and magazines. This was seconded by Mr Reijers and all were in favour.

The meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.

Signed by:

Alva Uddin, President of FIFe

Don Williams, President of Cfa

Anneliese Hackmann, President of WCF

Lesley Morgan-Blythe, ACF ILO

Dewane Barnes, Vice-President of TICA