



Minutes of the Meeting of the
World Cat Congress
Texas, U.S.A.
15th March, 2004

Present: Mr John Blythe (President of ACF Inc.) WCC President and in the Chair
Mr Don Williams (President of CFA) Vice-President of WCC
Mrs Penelope Bydlinski (FIFe General Secretary) WCC Secretary/Treasurer
Mr Eric Reijers (President of FIFe)
Mrs Anneliese Hackmann (President of WCF)
Mr Paulo Ruschi (Vice-President of WCF) – spokesperson for Mrs Hackmann
Mr Allan Raymond (International Liaison Officer of ACF Inc.)
Mrs Kay de Vilbiss (President of TICA)
Mr Richard Nelson (President of NZCF)

In attendance: L. Morgan-Blythe & J. Schuller (Australia), D. Barnes, L. Bowers and C. Welch (USA – TICA).

1. The Chairman opened the meeting at 09.07. The Chairman welcomed the delegates and thanked TICA for hosting the event.

2. Mr Williams (CFA) moved that the Minutes of the Meeting of 2002 were formally accepted, seconded by Mr Reijers (FIFe) and unanimously accepted. The minutes were signed by the delegates at the 2002 meeting.

3. Ratification of changes to the Constitution and matters resolved by electronic vote was moved by Mr Williams (CFA) and seconded by Mr Reijers (FIFe). Unanimously accepted.

4. Honour to be conferred on Mrs Alva Uddin:

It was suggested that the title of Founder President Emeritus be conferred. Moved by Mr Reijers (FIFe), seconded by Mrs Hackmann (WCF), unanimously accepted,

It was agreed that the presentation of a plaque or something similar would be made at the FIFe General Assembly on 27/28th. May, 2004.

5. Further changes to the Constitution:

a) NZCF proposed to review the role of the so-called “associate” members and it was agreed that Mr Richard Nelson, Mr Williams and the President would form a Constitution Sub-committee to work on this subject.

b) WCF.

1) To limit the time of office of the President and Vice-President to one period only. Moved by WCF and seconded by CFA, rejected by 4 to 1.

2) Concerning the time for despatch of the Agenda. Withdrawn as already in Constitution.

3) That a WCC meeting should be held every two years only. Moved by WCF, seconded by CFA, rejected by 4 to 1.

NZCF presented their proposal for an amended Constitution (attached to these Minutes as Annex 1). Proposed by NZCF, seconded by TICA and accepted unanimously.

6. Financial

All members had paid their fees. The Treasurer circulated a financial report to each member, attached to these Minutes as Annex 2.

It was proposed that the costs of the President and the General Secretary, where not covered by the host body, should be paid by the WCC. Moved by Mr Williams (CFA) and seconded by Mr Reijers (FIFe). Accepted unanimously.

Mr Blythe volunteered to try and get sponsorship for WCC activities. He would be the point of contact for any possible sources.

It was proposed that WCC should have its own web site to which the main member bodies would be linked. Moved by Mr Williams (CFA) and seconded by Mr Reijers (FIFe). Unanimously agreed.

7. Election of Vice-President

Mr Reijers (FIFe) nominated by ACF, seconded by NZCF and unanimously elected.

8. Three year forward planning:

2005 meeting was fixed for New Zealand.

2006. It was agreed that this should take place in Europe and Mr Reijers would make enquiries.

2007. WCF offered to host this meeting in Europe.

9. ACF Notice of Motion from 2002 concerning protocol to be observed when members accepting new members in their own organizations. ACF felt there should be mutual recognition of the disciplinary procedures of each organization. After a very lively discussion ACF moved the following proposal:

"That in the event a member group, federation or affiliate of any WCC body (i.e. FIFE, WCF, CFA, ACF, TICA, NZCF) is suspended or expelled from that WCC body, it is not recognised in any way by other WCC member bodies. In the case of suspension, non-recognition would be reviewed at the appropriate time." Unanimously agreed.

The meeting re-convened after lunch and Mr Williams (CFA) moved the adoption of the amended Constitution, seconded by Mrs de Vilbiss (TICA), passed unanimously.

11. Application for membership by Rolandus Union International. This application had not been made in accordance with the rules. Mr Williams (CFA) moved that they should be informed that they should be informed to apply correctly, seconded by Mrs de Vilbiss (TICA) and agreed unanimously.

12. Members reports:

FIFe: Mr Reijers reported that there was pressure within FIFe to have proportional representation in the ballot at the General Assembly. Dr Susan Little and Mrs Lorraine Shelton from the Winn Foundation had attended the last GA and lectured at the judges' seminar. FIFe had very much appreciated their contribution. The FIFe had decided that it was not possible to register a wild cat. It had also forbidden the exhibition of cats showing Achondroplasia or Osteochondrodysplasia. FIFe was also planning not to allow kittens under the age of 4 months to take part in shows.

WCF: Mrs Hackmann said that there were no more problems chasing dates since all dates are published. She stated that there was no prohibition of breeds in Germany. She regretted that no other organizations were taking part in the Scientific Advisory Council in Germany.

ACF: Mr Raymond had nothing further to add but suggested that a chat room group should be established so that views could be discussed. He told the meeting that Mrs Lesley Morgan-Blythe had been awarded a Distinguished Service Award for her many years of service.

TICA: Mrs de Vilbiss reported that they had reservations on registrations. They were working together with Solveig Pfleuger who was a veterinarian and a geneticist as well as having degrees in other areas. They also worked with Dr Little and Dr Lyons in identifying DNA etc. This person was a neo-natal specialist and Mrs de Vilbiss said this offer was open to all. TICA had also made changes to their judge training programme.

NZCF: Mr Nelson reported that they had re-vamped their constitution to give individual membership. They had recently accepted Selkirk Rex and Singapura. They were currently standardizing their judge training.

13. Matters raised at Open Meeting

1) The Fur Trade. It was agreed that WCC, as a world body, would have more weight if writing to put pressure on governments. It was necessary to identify at what level these matters were dealt with. There was a large importation of items, which used cat fur in their production. It was resolved that the President would draft a letter, which could be used as required.

2) Health issues: ACF said that certificates, such as a PKD test, should be with the cat's papers when they were sold overseas. Health certificates have to be signed when exporting. The President wondered if WCC could sponsor a data base recording where tests were made for a particular condition. Such information as well as current recommendations on vaccinations, such as rabies, could be shown on the web site. Input from visitors to the site should be encouraged.

3) With reference to Scottish Folds. It was reported that Dr Lyons has a long-term project on this breed with the aim of identifying the gene. For more information it was possible to contact the SFS Breed Council and also Dr. Pfleuger.

14. Proposals

1) FIFe was concerned about respecting registrations and prefixes between the organizations. Mr Williams (CFA) said that they have a five-year or permanent registration system. The President suggested that the addition of the country code to the prefix would solve the problem and this was resolved.

2) WCF asked that the existing problems between themselves, FIFe, ACF and NZCF should be solved. There was very open discussion on the problems that existed because WCF had accepted members in Australia and New Zealand without any reference to the ACF or NZCF. These member clubs were not acceptable because of their registration policies and their lack of judge training. Mr Nelson insisted that WCF should give a written apology to NZCF, and the meeting agreed. This matter would have to be gone into more thoroughly and relevant delegates agreed to exchange concrete information on the subject.

15. Any Other Business

Mr Nelson (NZCF) suggested that a chat list should be set up for ideas to be discussed and agreed to do it. This was resolved.

It was resolved that information on quarantine and health requirements would be looked into with a view to putting them on the web site.

Mrs de Vilbiss said that TICA might like to use the FIFe EMS codes.

It was agreed that Mr Williams (CFA) would take advice from CFA's legal advisers concerning the registration of WCC as an organization.

The meeting closed at 5 p.m

Signed by:

John Blythe, President of ACF and WCC President

Allan Raymond, ACF ILO

Don Williams, President of CFA

Eric Reijers, President of FIFe

Richard Nelson, President of NZCF

Kay de Vilbiss, President of TICA

Anneliese Hackmann, President of WCF