

THE MIDLAND CAT CLUB OF IRELAND

RULES AND CONSTITUTION

(revised January, 2007)

1. NAME

The Club shall be called THE MIDLAND CAT CLUB OF IRELAND, (the Club).

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Club shall be

- 2.1 To encourage and promote the appreciation and status of cats and their proper welfare, breeding and exhibition.
- 2.2 To stimulate and encourage a humane attitude to all cats.
- 2.3 To urge all breeders, exhibitors and judges to adopt the standard of points approved by the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy of Ireland.
- 2.4 To select people to be trained as judges for approval by the GCCFI.
- 2.5 To encourage the interest of members in cat shows.
- 2.6 To maintain a register of kittens available for sale owned by members of the Club.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 The Club shall consist of Annual members, Junior members (under 18 years of age) and Honorary members appointed at the discretion of the Committee. Junior and Honorary members are not entitled to vote.

3.2 Membership shall be open to any individual who agrees to abide by the rules of the Club, and whose application has been approved by the Committee. (For definition of 'the Committee' see Rule 7.1 under 'Management'.

3.3 A joint- membership rate of subscription shall be available in case of couples at the same address.

3.4 The Committee has the right to refuse, without giving any reason, any application for membership or for renewal of membership from any person

3.5 Any annual member whose subscription remains unpaid by 31st May following the date when renewal falls due, ceases to be a member of the Club.

3.6 Any member who resigns from the Club or whose name has been removed from the list of members, shall have no further claim on the Club.

3.7 If, in the opinion of the Committee, the behaviour of any member or official considered to have been in any way derogatory or injurious to the welfare of the Club, or to the exhibiting of cats, the Committee shall have the power to suspend or expel such member or official providing that at least two-thirds present so decide and that the matter appears on the agenda of that particular meeting and the member shall have the right of appeal to the following AGM.

3.8 No member of the Club shall sell any cats or kittens under their control either directly or indirectly to, or pass into the keeping of, the proprietor of a pet shop or store, for sale or display.

3.9 All members on admission shall be furnished with an up-to-date list of the Rules together with a list of members of the Committee.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

4.1 The rate of subscription shall be fixed from time to time by decision of the Committee.

4.2 The annual subscription for members shall be payable on election and thereafter shall fall due on the 1st day of January each year.

5. GENERAL MEETINGS

5.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held as appointed by the Committee within the period 1st June to 31st July each year, and notice shall be sent to every fully paid-up member of the Club not less than 14 days nor more than one calendar month before the date appointed. Any member whose subscription remains unpaid by 31st May following the date renewal falls due shall not be entitled to vote at the AGM.

5.2 An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club (EGM) may be called by a decision of the Committee, or by any member making written application to the Secretary giving proper reason and supported by the signatures of not less than 15 full paid up members. The same arrangements with regard to notice to members and entitlement to vote shall apply as for the AGM. At such General Meetings (excluding the AGM), the only other business to be discussed shall be the specific Agenda item or items circulated in advance with the notice of the meeting.

5.3 General meetings shall be chaired by the Chairperson of the Committee, or in the absence of the Chair by the Vice-Chair, or in the absence of both by any other Committee member appointed by the Committee; or in the event of no Committee member being present and the Meeting being properly called, by any member elected to fill the Chair by those members attending the meeting.

5.4 Decisions at General Meeting of the Club shall be by simple majority vote (except in the case of proposals to change the Rules or Constitution, which shall require a two-thirds majority) either by a show of hands or, where requested by any member, by secret ballot.

5.5 All fully paid up and honorary members, except junior members, are entitled to vote. In case of a tie the Chair has the casting vote.

5.6 Ten per cent of members shall constitute a quorum at the AGM and at any other General meeting of the Club.

5.7 The Chair and the Treasurer shall submit the Report and Accounts for the year at the AGM.

6. RELATIONSHIP TO THE GCCFI

6.1 The Club and its members shall accept and shall be subject to the rules and constitution of the GCCFI and shall be bound by the GCCFI's disciplinary powers.

Any person suspended under Article 11 of the Constitution of the GCCFI shall automatically cease to be a member of the Club, and if wishing to rejoin after expiration of the suspension, must reapply to the Committee. The GCCFI shall be final court of appeal in all matters except for the conduct of the Show on the actual day of the Show.

7. MANAGEMENT

7.1 The Committee elected at the AGM by secret ballot shall carry sole responsibility for the management of the Club.

7.2 The Committee shall consist of four Officers, namely Chair, Vice-Chair, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, plus no more than eight ordinary members. The Officers shall be elected at the AGM. Each appointment shall extend for three years, retiring in rotation, unless in the interim the holder ceases to be a member of the Committee for any reason.

7.3 Any candidate for election to the Committee must have been a fully paid up member of the Club throughout the six months immediately preceding the AGM, and must have a proposer and seconder themselves both on the list of fully paid up members. No member shall be eligible to stand in absentia unless a written declaration of willingness to stand, signed by the member, is presented at the AGM. The vacancies shall be filled by those candidates securing the greatest number of votes.

7.4 Members elected to the Committee shall hold office for three years and shall then retire in rotation, remaining eligible for re-election.

7.5 The Committee may co-opt Club members, or non-voting members possessed of special skills or experience to fill vacancies that may occur during the year, such appointments enduring until the AGM. The number of persons so co-opted shall be such that the membership of the Committee shall not exceed 12 persons.

7.6 Decisions of the Committee shall be by a simple majority vote of those members present. In the case of a tied decision the Chair has the casting vote.

7.7 An Hon. President and one or more Vice-Presidents may be elected by the Committee prior to the AGM, in recognition of services to the Club. These Honorary positions shall not carry any voting rights additional to the normal voting rights their holders may have as members, and each shall be subject to re-election after they have been held for three years.

7.8 There shall be a meeting of the Committee as often as the Chair and Secretary jointly may deem necessary, but not less than four times in each year. At least one week's notice of meetings called shall be given to all Committee members.

7.9 Five members shall constitute a quorum at Committee meetings.

7.10 Attendance of Committee members shall be recorded and published in the notice for the AGM. Members who cannot attend Committee meetings for valid reasons shall be recorded as "Excused"; otherwise, members who are absent without an excuse acceptable to the Committee will be recorded as 'Absent'. Members who are absent for three consecutive meetings will cease to be members of the Committee.

7.12 The Committee shall also be empowered:

- To amend existing rules or introduce new rules, subject in both cases to ratification at the next General Meeting.
- To arbitrate in disputed matters
- To deal with any question not provided for by the rules
- To delegate any of its powers to sub-committees, subject to the Committee retaining final responsibility for all decisions reached
- Expel any member whose conduct may be detrimental to the Club or the Cat Fancy.

7.13 The Club shall be represented at GCCFI by two members, such delegates to be elected at the AGM.

7.14 An independent scrutineer of the Accounts of the Club shall be appointed by the Committee.

7.15 Committee members shall ensure that internal proceedings of the Committee are kept in strictest confidence.

8. FINANCE

8.1 Payments out of the funds of the Club shall be authorised only by the signatures of two Committee members appointed for that purpose, one of whom should be the Treasurer except in cases of urgency where the treasurer is not reasonably available.

8.2 All reasonable expenses incurred by any of the officers of the Committee on behalf of the Club shall, on presentation of proper receipts, be defrayed out of the funds of the Club.

9. CLUB SHOWS

9.1 A Show Manager, (preferably a member of the Committee) shall be appointed by the Committee from the fully paid up membership of the Club, the appointment being subject to the approval by the GCCFI. The Show Manager will be responsible to the Committee.

9.2 The Show Manager may claim all reasonable expenses for the running of the Show from Club funds.

9.3 On Show day the Show Manager's decision shall be final in all matters pertaining to the Show.

9.4 The Show Manager is empowered to order the immediate removal from the Show premises of any exhibit, in the interest either of safeguarding the other exhibits, the judges or the stewards; or to relieve distress of the exhibit.

9.5 Under no circumstances will the Show Manager, any member of the Committee or any Club member accept personal responsibility or liability for, or pay any claim in respect of, any accident or damage suffered by the general public or exhibitors to either themselves, exhibits or property.

9.6 Every member of the Committee is expected to make themselves available to help with the Show.

10. EQUIPMENT

10.1 The pens and the equipment of the Club shall be the responsibility of the Committee as regards storage, maintenance and replacement, the costs to be borne by Club funds.

10.2 The Committee alone shall decide on any request from other Clubs to hire the equipment, on what rates (if any) shall be charged, and on what conditions shall be attached as regards insurance cover, collection, prompt return et cetera.

11. CUPS AND TROPHIES

11.1 A Cup Secretary shall be appointed by the Committee who shall ensure that a proper record is kept of Cups and other trophies; that each is correctly signed for at the time it is handed over; that in due course they are returned to the custody of the Club in good time to be ready for the next Show.

11.2 No Cups or other trophies are permitted to be taken out of Ireland.

11.3 Only fully paid up members are eligible to receive awards of Cups or other trophies awarded in all categories.

11.4 All the trophies presented to the Club will become the property of the Club.

12. SURRENDER OF BOOKS, RECORDS ETC.

12.1 Any officer or member of the Club who has custody of books, documents, records, monies or any other property of the Club shall, on request from the Committee, hand them back intact.

13. DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB

13.1 In the event of any proposal to wind up the affairs of the Club, twenty-one days notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting to consider the situation shall be sent in writing to members. Only if the proposal receives the assent of at least two-thirds of those fully paid up members who respond, either by attending the Meeting or by replying beforehand, shall the resolution to wind up the Club be effective.

13.2 If such resolution be passes. The liabilities of the Club shall be discharged and any balance of the funds shall be held in trust by GCCFI. Trophies shall be returned to their donors wherever possible but any not so returned shall be distributed to other Clubs at the discretion of the Committee