

# Abyssinian Cat Association – Constitution

(As amended by Resolutions passed on 20 April 2002, 18 April 2004 and 12 April 2009)



## **1. Name**

The club shall be known as the Abyssinian Cat Association (ACA)

## **2. Aims and Objects**

- 2.1. To promote interest in the owning, breeding, exhibiting and care of all colours of Abyssinian cats.
- 2.2. To represent the interests of the members of the ACA at the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF) of which the ACA is a member club and at the relevant Breed Advisory Committee (BAC).
- 2.3. To establish Standards of Points and Breeding and Registration Policies for Abyssinians and to nominate persons for appointment as Judges of Abyssinians via the relevant BAC in co-operation with other affiliated member Clubs of that BAC.
- 2.4. To encourage the care, protection and maintenance of healthy breeding lines of Abyssinian cats.
- 2.5. To encourage the care and protection of cats in general.

## **3. GCCF Membership and Delegates**

- 3.1. The ACA is a GCCF member club and will abide by the rules of affiliation set down by the GCCF and as amended from time to time in a constitutional manner.
- 3.2. Members shall in joining the ACA also agree to abide by the disciplinary rules of the GCCF in accordance with the constitution of the GCCF.
- 3.3. Delegates to the GCCF will be elected by paper ballot at the AGM. They shall serve for a period of one year and be eligible for re-election.

## **4. Breed Advisory Committee Representation**

- 4.1. The ACA will be a member of the relevant BAC and will be represented at the BAC meetings by the number of delegates permitted by the BAC constitution.
- 4.2. The BAC representatives will be chosen by the ACA Committee and any person wishing to represent the ACA in this way should make this known to the Hon. Secretary.

## **5. Membership**

- 5.1. The ACA shall consist of an unlimited number of members. Any breeder or owner of Abyssinians or anyone interested in the breed shall be eligible for membership.
- 5.2. Members who joined the ACA at or before the foundation meeting shall be known as founder members.
- 5.3. Application for membership is to be made in writing and shall be supported by the signatures of two fully paid up members of the ACA as proposer and seconder. In the absence of a proposer and seconder a letter of recommendation from the applicant's Veterinary Surgeon will suffice. Election to membership shall be by a majority vote of the Committee whose decision is final. No reason for refusal needs to be given.
- 5.4. After a continuous period of three years' membership adult members may convert their membership into long term membership by advising the membership secretary of their wish to do so. Long term membership is for a fixed period of ten years and the fee payable is ten times the annual subscription at the date of application.
- 5.5. The committee may also appoint persons who have outstanding service to the breed or to the ACA as Honorary Members for a specified period.
- 5.6. Life membership may be offered by vote at the AGM to persons who have given outstanding service to the ACA over a number of years. Such a proposal must appear on the agenda for the AGM.
- 5.7. All members except Junior, Associate, and Honorary members are entitled to vote at any General Meeting or ballot held by the ACA. Joint adult members have one vote each. No proxy votes are allowed.
- 5.8. The Committee shall have the power to expel or refuse to renew membership of any member whose words or actions may be considered detrimental to the ACA, to the breed or to the welfare of cats. This decision not to be taken lightly and only after impartial investigation. Such a member shall have the right of appeal to a General Meeting subject to notice of this appeal being lodged in writing with the Hon. Secretary postmarked within 28 days. The General Meeting can either be the AGM if there is sufficient time for the matter to be placed on the Agenda or a Special General Meeting called as in 8.2.
- 5.9. Any member, including Life and Honorary members, suspended under article 12 of the GCCF Constitution shall cease to be a member of the ACA. If they wish to rejoin after the period of suspension they must re-apply to the Committee for membership in the usual way.
- 5.10. Any member may resign from the ACA at any time by writing to the Hon. Secretary.

## **6. Subscriptions**

- 6.1. The subscriptions for Single, Joint and Junior (non-voting) Members shall be determined from time to time by the Committee, subject to the approval of members at the AGM and shall be published in the Journal. Subscriptions are due on January 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Non-payment by March 31<sup>st</sup> after a reminder will result in the membership being deemed to have lapsed. New applications received after October 1<sup>st</sup> shall be deemed to cover the following year.
- 6.2. All Judges of Abyssinians will be offered Associate (non-voting) membership at half the current adult subscription rate.
- 6.3. Persons from overseas will be offered, if desired, an associate (non-voting) membership at half the current adult subscription rate. All publications AGM papers etc. will be emailed unless otherwise requested and a supplemental charge will be levied each year for the postage of publications.

## **7. Officers and Committee**

- 7.1. A President and Vice-President may be proposed by the Committee, from time to time, to the AGM.
- 7.2. The ACA shall be managed by a Chair, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Administration Secretary, Minutes Secretary, Cup Secretary and a Committee of five members. Officers and Committee Members have a right to vote at Committee Meetings. The chair will hold a casting vote only.
- 7.3. The Chair, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Administration Secretary, Minutes Secretary, Cup Secretary will be elected, if necessary, by Ballot, for a period of two years and are eligible for reelection.
- 7.4. Committee Members who shall have been members of the ACA for at least one year, will be elected, if necessary by Ballot, for a period of three years after which time they shall retire from office, at the next annual general meeting but are eligible for re-election.
- 7.5. All nominations - from fully paid up members - which should be in writing with the written support of a proposer and seconder and with the written consent of the nominee must be received by the Hon. Secretary four weeks before the AGM. The names of the Proposers and Seconders shall accompany the Ballot Paper. The Ballot, if this is necessary, must be completed before the AGM. Written notice of the AGM should be sent to members at least six weeks before the date of the meeting.
- 7.6. A Vice-Chair of the Committee will be elected by the Committee from its members for a period of one year to conduct any meetings at which the Chair is unable to be present. This appointment is to be advised to members at the AGM. Any acting Chair will hold only a casting vote.
- 7.7. Any member elected to the Committee shall agree not to serve on the Committee of any other Cat Club specifically concerned with the Abyssinian Cat.
- 7.8. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt members to fill any vacancies occurring during the year - from AGM to AGM. Such members will have a vote but will come up for election before the next AGM.
- 7.9. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt temporarily in a non-voting capacity members with specialised knowledge or skills to assist in discussions. The numbers of these persons plus the Committee not to exceed eleven.
- 7.10. The Committee may appoint any sub-committee necessary to foster the work of the ACA.
- 7.11. The ACA delegates to GCCF will be co-opted - as in 7.9 - to the Committee if they are not already Committee members.
- 7.12. Absence from three consecutive Committee Meetings without sufficient reason shall be deemed resignation and the absenting member will not be eligible for re-election for the next five years.
- 7.13. At least three Committee Meetings will be held between AGM's, some of these may be online. A quorum shall consist of five voting members of the Committee including Officers. Notice of meetings to be at least fourteen days.
- 7.14. Minutes of previous meetings shall be recorded by the Minutes Secretary and shall be approved in the usual way at Committee Meetings and duly signed by the Chair. A summary of the decisions taken at Committee Meetings will be published in the Journal and members may be sent a copy of the signed Minutes on request and provision of a stamped, addressed envelope.

## **8. General Meetings**

- 8.1. The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 20<sup>th</sup> December each year. All matters for the Agenda and Nominations to be sent to the Secretary four weeks before the AGM. Notice of the meeting and the minutes of the previous AGM (if not previously circulated) will be sent to members at least six weeks before the AGM. The AGM Agenda shall be sent to all members at least three weeks before the AGM.
- 8.2. A Special General Meeting may be called on written demand of at least twenty-one fully paid up members specifying the business to be discussed, on a surety of twenty-one times the current single adult subscription; this sum to be returned or disbursed against the costs of the meeting at the discretion of the Committee. Such meetings must be held within eight weeks of notice being received by the Hon. Secretary.
- 8.3. For any General Meeting a quorum shall consist of thirteen adult members of the ACA including Committee and Officers. Resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority of those voting and not abstaining either by a show of hands or by a paper ballot with the exception of matters relating to the

Rules and Constitution. Amalgamation or Winding-up which shall require for approval a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. The Chair will retain a casting vote in all matters.

- 8.4. If within half an hour from the time appointed for the Meeting a quorum is not present, the Meeting shall stand adjourned to such other day and at such other time and place as the Committee may determine, and if at the adjourned Meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the Meeting, the Members present shall be a quorum.

## **9. Finance**

- 9.1. The funds of the ACA shall be deposited in a Bank or Building Society approved by the Committee and all cheques shall be signed by two of the following: Chair, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, normally the Hon. Treasurer and one other.
- 9.2. The financial year of the ACA will be from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- 9.3. The Hon. Treasurer shall present an audited balance sheet to the AGM and a running balance to all Committee Meetings.
- 9.4. An auditor shall be appointed at the AGM.
- 9.5. All bona fide expenses incurred on the ACA's behalf shall be defrayed out of ACA funds subject to the approval of the Committee. This will include a proportion of reasonable travel expenses incurred by Committee Members.
- 9.6. The Hon. Treasurer will present copies of the Accounts to the Hon. Secretary to be sent out to the membership with the AGM Agenda.

## **10. Hon. Secretary**

The Hon. Secretary shall:

- 10.1. Conduct all correspondence of the ACA relating to Policy, Public Relations and Committee business.
- 10.2. Call the General and Committee Meetings as required and keep a Minute Book in which these Meetings shall be recorded.
- 10.3. Present an Annual Report to the AGM.

## **11. Hon. Administration Secretary**

The Hon. Administration Secretary shall:

- 11.1. Maintain a list of members.
- 11.2. Maintain a list of members kittens available for sale.
- 11.3. Be available on a regular basis to answer queries from the general public by letter, email or by telephone.
- 11.4. Make available the ACA's publications with the exception of the Journal.

## **12. Hon. Minutes Secretary**

The Hon. Minutes Secretary shall take minutes at all meetings of the ACA.

## **13. Hon. Cup Secretary**

The Hon. Cup Secretary shall be responsible for the care and allocation of the ACA Trophies.

## **14. Alteration of Rules, Amalgamation and Winding-up**

- 14.1. No alteration shall be made to these rules except at a General Meeting and notice of such a motion must be on the Agenda for that meeting. This shall require for approval a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. Such rule changes will come into effect from the next AGM.
- 14.2. The ACA may be wound-up or amalgamated with another club only at a General Meeting and notice of such a motion and a proposal for disposal of the ACA assets must be on the Agenda for that meeting. This shall require for approval of two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

## **15. Members' Charter**

- 15.1. The Hon. Secretary shall be charged with providing a synopsis of each committee Meeting to the ACA Journal which will detail all the decisions of the Committee
- 15.2. The Committee shall appoint one of its members to be a Communications Officer who will have the following responsibilities:
- 15.2.1. To oversee the Members' Charter**
- 15.2.2.** To ensure effective communications with Members
- 15.2.3. To be a point of contact for Members
- 15.2.4. To ensure that the good name of the ACA is upheld at all times and to liaise with both the "cat" and general press
- 15.3. Irrespective of any pre-existing authority in these rules no member shall have their membership revoked without the right to a full hearing at a General Meeting.