



AGENDA

AUSTRALIAN CAT FEDERATION (INC.) GENERAL MEETING



TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, 18TH JULY 2021, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE
AUSTRALIAN CAT FEDERATION (INC.) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

VIA ZOOM

1. **OPENING & WELCOME**
2. **APOLOGIES**
3. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**
4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE APRIL 2021 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**
As raised by delegates at this meeting.
5. **REPORT FROM COMMITTEE**
 - a. Judges Guild
 - b. 2021 ACF Virtual Show
6. **REPORTS — SUB-COMMITTEES – As circulated prior to meeting.**
 - a. Breeding Rules Sub Committee
 - b. Glossary Sub – Committee
 - c. UTH – UTJ Subcommittee
 - d. Feline Health Research Fund
7. **MEETING OF WORLD CAT CONGRESS**
 - a) Report for 2020 - 2021 meeting.
 - b) WCC Meeting, plans for 2022.

8 - CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

8.1 ACF Constitution – Changes to Rules Annual General Meeting Appendix 8.1

Motion from CANT
By Special Resolution

Rules 116 & 118 of the Constitution be amended to read:

116. The ordinary business of the annual general meeting shall be:
- a. to confirm the minutes of the last preceding annual general meeting.
 - b. to receive reports from the ACF Officers of the Federation, auditor's report upon the books and accounts for the last preceding financial year, member bodies and servants of the Federation upon the transactions of the Federation during the last preceding financial year.
 - c. to elect the officers of the Federation and ~~appoint~~ agree the ordinary committee persons.
 - d. to appoint the auditor; and
 - e. to determine the remuneration of Officers of the Federation; and
insert new clause
 - f. **to determine changes to these Rules made by Special Resolution.**
- 118.
- a. The annual general meeting may transact special business of which notice is given in accordance with these rules.
insert new clause
 - b. **Any changes to these Rules may only be made by Special Resolution at an Annual General Meeting.**

Rationale:

It has been traditional practice within ACF (Inc.) since its inception and provides a better lead in time for changes to be given due consideration. It is preferable that changes to the Constitution be made only once annually when all members are physically present.

It is also desirable that the Constitution is not changed "willy nilly" as a kneejerk reaction to a particular circumstance.

This will also mean that costs associated with lodging Constitutional changes will only be required once in any year (when applicable).

The other corrections are to standardise terms (b) & (e) with other sections of the Constitution; and in the case of (c) correct that member bodies determine who their delegates are they are not appointed at the AGM.

8.2 ACF Constitution – Formatting Appendix 8.2

Motion from CANT
By Special Resolution

Rule 9l of the Constitution be amended to read:

- recognise existing ACF judges living in the State or Territory where no ACF member exists.

Rationale:

The last two dot points do not make sense, the current formatting reads:

- recognise existing ACF judges.
- living in the State or Territory where no ACF member exists.

- 8.3 ACF Constitution – Basic Objects – New Sub Clause 9 (m) Appendix 8.3**
Motion from CANT
By Special Resolution
Rule 9 of the Constitution be amended to add a new sub clause (m) under Basic Objects to read as follows:
To champion the cat as a valuable addition to the lifestyle and wellbeing of many social groups in Australia. To interact with State, Territory and Federal Government entities as appropriate to educate policy and/or law makers in the values upheld by responsible members of the cat fancy and to actively oppose the inhumane treatment of cats perceived to be a problem.
Rationale:
The Australian Cat Federation (Inc.) should be a stakeholder in legislative processes affecting cats in Australia.
- 8.4 ACF Constitution – Basic Objects – New Sub Clause (n) Appendix 8.4**
Motion from FCCQ
By Special Resolution
Rule 9 of the Constitution be amended to add a new sub clause (n) under Basic Objects to read as follows:
To protect & promote the health, welfare, and to raise awareness on the responsible ownership of all cats, including the microchipping of all cats and the desexing of cats sold as pets. Our affiliate members offer education and advice to pet owners and the showing of neutered and spayed domestic cats.
Rationale:
At the 14 April 2021 Zoom meeting it was identified that the Federation does not state anywhere other than on the front page of its website that they represent and promote the welfare of all cats not just pedigreed cats
- 8.5 ACF Constitution – Notice of General Meeting Appendix 8.5**
Motion from FCCQ
By Special Resolution
Clause 128 of the constitution be amended to read:
128. Notice of ~~general~~ meetings the Secretary of the Federation shall, at least sixty (60) days before the date fixed for holding any ~~general~~ meetings of the Federation, other than special general meetings, notify all member ~~or provisional member bodies~~ in writing specifying the place, day, and time for the holding of the meeting ~~and the nature of the business to be transacted thereat. Motions & proposals to be received by the Secretary of the Federation no later than forty (45) days prior to the date of the meeting. The agenda for the meeting and the business to be transacted thereat to be circulated no later than thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting.~~
Rationale:
Given that the Federation is required to hold at least three meetings per year the timeframe of sixty days' notice for both the notice of meeting but also for agenda items is unreasonable and places undue pressure on the Secretary of the Federation and member bodies to meet the deadlines.

8.6 ACF Constitution - Standardisation of Terminology used. Appendix 8.6 & 8.6a

Motion from CANT

By Special Resolution

the Constitution be amended to standardise terminology used and other corrections as shown in attached document.

Briefly:

- Throughout the Constitution, amendments have been made so that in all places they are consistent with those that are defined in clause 1 Name and 2 Interpretation.
- In addition:
 - There are a number of places where grammar has been corrected eg. clauses 24, 35, 41c, 42, 45, & 176
 - Cl 74 b: has been corrected as a deputy committee person is not “elected” as such. They are a nomination from the member or provisional member body.
 - Cl 76 & 78, 87 & 88: removed references that ordinary committee and deputy committee persons are *elected* rather than *nominated by their member body*.
 - Cl 78 c: removed the term “Executive” as they are referred to as “Committee Officers or an officer of the Federation”.
 - Cl 89: Duties of office holders corrected grammar and included that requirements are for all meetings.
 - Cl 78, 111 removed references to *executive committee* as there is not one.
 - Cl 141 amended as approved in 2020.
 - Cl 142 delated as approved in 2020 so there will be consequential renumbering.
 - Cl 143: removed reference to *proxies* - there is no proxies, member bodies can provide, by notification, alternate persons to attend any meetings.

Rationale:

Presently there is a disparity in terms used, incorrect grammar, and incorrect statements made throughout the Constitution which is unprofessional in a document that is the cornerstone of the Federation.

9 - SUBMISSIONS – BY-LAWS

9.1 ACF By-laws Part 2. Clause 4 New Sub Clause Appendix 9.1

Motion from CANT

“that the ACF (Inc.) issue numbered Prefix Certificates on the clearance of Cattery Prefixes and a new clause 4.7 be added to By-laws Part 2 Clause 4

4.7 On issuing a Prefix, ACF(Inc.) will issue a numbered national prefix Certificate. The issuing Member or Provisional Member Body may be included on the Certificate.

Rationale:

- It is generally accepted that potential buyers (of kittens) take breeders a little more seriously if they can see from the outset, they are registered breeders.
- Registration issued by the National Body would be more prestigious than individual State/Control Registration without abrogating the responsibilities of Councils to uphold and police the Breeders’ Code of Ethics, register cats and kittens etc.

- 9.2 ACF By-Laws Part 2 Note c) under 14.5.8.5** **Appendix 9.2**
Motion from CAT
“that By-laws Part 2 under 14.5.8.5 have a new note c) inserted to read any British Shorthair which
a) produces longhaired kittens or
b) DNA tests as a LH carrier
has the status (LHC) added after its registration number as happens with silver “(s)” or in some registries, colourpoint carrier “(cpc)”

Rationale:

Especially amongst questionable and backyard breeders, British “Longhair” seems to be flavour of the pandemic, at huge prices. There are quite a number of carriers in the breeding population, but no-one has any real means of knowing that a cat is homozygous SH, if that is what they seek, as indeed so many serious British Shorthair (BSH) breeders do. The purpose of this is to enable breeders to know exactly what to expect from kittens they acquire and to thus eliminate any “surprises” down the line. To bring transparency to pedigrees and guarantee cats are pure for SH whilst upholding the integrity of ACF registries.

- 9.3 ACF By-laws Part 2. Clause 5 New Sub Clauses** **Appendix 9.3**
Motion from FCCQ
“that ACF Bylaws Part 2. Section 5 Application for Registration be updated to include new sub clauses 5.13 & 5.14 responsibility of the breeder to transfer cat/kittens to new owner/s and provision of registration/pedigree”.

New clauses to read:

5.13 Breeders must transfer a cat/kitten into a new owner/s name/s and provide a copy of the registration/pedigree to the new owner in every instance. The pedigree may be endorsed (pet only, showing etc) by the breeder through the registrar upon transfer.

5.14 In order that the registrar is enabled to keep accurate records at all times, it is the responsibility of any owner to ensure that details kept by the registrar are correct, including any desexing, change of ownership details etc.

Rationale:

1. There has been increased activity to promote rescue cats throughout Australia and many animal organisations are promoting only rescue cats, believing that registered breeders should not be permitted.
2. There is room for both rescue promotion and purebred pedigree breeding. Registering bodies are working with local councils and rescue organisation to achieve this. However, to promote the purchase of pedigree cats, who have known lineage, as opposed to BYB “purebred” cats which are often sold on social media sites by unregistered breeders, a small fee paid by the breeder can provide the owners with the reassurance of the pet’s pedigree, as well as providing confirmation of the legitimacy of the registered breeder.
3. All pets, retirees, rehomed cats should be provided pedigree papers from the breeders to emphasise the differences between BYB “purebred” and registered purebred pedigree. (Rehomed includes any retired breeding cats and any returned pets that may also require rehoming)
4. Provision of the papers by the breeder to the owner does not preclude the breeder from having the papers endorsed by the registrar as pet only, not for showing etc.
5. It is the breeder’s responsibility to notify their registering council of any change in the cats that are registered in their names, including change of ownership, desexing, death etc, in order that the registering bodies records be kept as accurate as possible.

- 9.4 **ACF By-laws- Part 5 Awards - Amendment to 5.4.1(b)** **Appendix 9.4**
Motion from GCCFSA
“that ACF By-laws Part 5 Awards subclause 5.4.1(b), ACF Companion Award of Honour be awarded to the best neuter and spay companion in show”.

Rationale:

Equality between all Groups, with equal opportunity to reach the eight Honour levels available.

- 9.5 **ACF By-laws Part 6.2 – Show Rules Amend Groups** **Appendix 9.5**
Motion from FCCQ
“that By-laws 6.2 – National Show Rules have a new sub clause 32 b. added to rule 32 which reads:

32 b. Member bodies hosting an ACF (Inc.) National may elect to use Groups Longhair, Shorthair, and Companions

Rationale:

- In many states there is an exceedingly small Group 2 entry
- As most entries come from the host state, the host member body should be permitted to decide on the Groups to be used. It may be a state where the Group 2 Entry is <10 across all classes.
- In these states it may also be a sound financial decision. Needless outlay for rosettes.
- From a sponsor’s point of view unnecessary supply of product which cannot be returned

10 - SUBMISSIONS – By-laws Part 3 - BREED STANDARDS

- 10.1 **Bengal Standard – Recognition of Blue Colours & Patterns** **Appendix 10.1, 10.1a**
Motion from GCCFSA
“that the ACF Inc recognise the blue colours/patterns in Bengal cats and allow championship status.
- 10.2 **British Shorthair Standard - Silver & Golden Tipped and Shaded Points** **Appendix 10.2, 10.2a,10b**
Motion from CAT (1)

“that ACF (Inc.) recognises silver and golden tipped and shaded in British Shorthair.

Rationale:

These cats exist; the ‘makings’ are definitely in our British Shorthair and other gene pools in Australia and to not recognise them is to tacitly condone turning a blind eye which will ultimately end in confusion and potentially flawed pedigrees. (Rather much as silver in some pointed cats is denied because they have been around for so long, going unidentified as such. They existed for some 20 years prior to actual recognition of silver in tabby point SIA, for example.) Particularly in recent British imports, many cats have golden and pointed background.

10.3 Mandalay Standard - Update

Appendix 10.3, 10.3a

Motion from Cats WA

“that the ACF Mandalay breed standard be updated to include:

- a) Tabby Patterns
- b) The following statement - The presence of a few white hairs may be overlooked in an otherwise excellent cat, but a noticeable number of white hairs, or a white patch, is a serious fault. A light sprinkling of white hairs is allowed over the shoulder, where damage may result from injections, or from other cats, as for breeding queens.

Rationale:

The Mandalay was first developed in New Zealand. In Australia, the foundation cats differ in that British Shorthair x Burmese are used rather than Burmese x Domestic. The NZ standard recognises tabby and silver. Initially the breeders proposing recognition of the Australian Bombay as a Mandalay did not include Tabby or Silver in the standard. Now the breed is more established it is appropriate to include Tabby as this pattern can be carried down from the British Shorthair and does occur naturally. There is no proposal to include silver, at this time as the inhibitor gene is not in the existing gene pool and no breeder are planning to breed silver.

10.4 Siamese & Balinese Standard - Update

Appendix 10.4, 10.4a, 10.4b

Motions from GCCFSA

To be voted on separately

Motion 1 - *“that Bi-colour and Van colour descriptions be included in Siamese and Balinese; and aligned with Oriental Longhair and Oriental Shorthair.”*

Motion 2 *“that the Van description be added to the Siamese and Balinese colour and pattern standard.”*

Motion 3 *“that the Disqualify Faults for Siamese and Balinese be modified for White toe or toes to White toe or toes (except for colours with white).”*

Rationale:

Motion 1

As these four breeds have inter-mateability, there is the ability to produce Van colour patterns in Balinese and Siamese. Any Van coloured cats within these two breeds, currently are at a disadvantage, as they are shown and registered as Bi-colours. Therefore, this effectively produces an inaccurate pedigree, and these cats are at a disadvantage on the show bench against Bi-colours that meet the standard.

Motion 2

“VAN (add 01 after colour code) White cat with colour confined to the extremities: head, tail and legs. One or two small, coloured patches on body allowable. Note: Cats having more than two small body spots should be shown in the regular Bi-Colour class.” And to include in the Notes, “The patches of white may be difficult to discern in a kitten, and allowance should be made for this. Since this is a point restricted cat, allowances must be made for lack of full expression of the piebald on the cat until 18 months of age since the white colouration matures with the point colouration of the cat, as does the shading on the body.”

By adding these descriptions, would align the Siamese and Balinese Standards with the Oriental Longhair and Oriental Shorthair standards. Given that the expression of colour, or in the case of the white spotting gene, the lack of colour expression takes time to develop. There needs a note or disclaimer to acknowledge this. Expecting to see clear differences, between colour and white in a pointed van cat, similar to what would be seen in a pointed Bicolour, is not feasible, and even more so in an immature exhibit.

Motion 3

The current disqualify fault, means that all Bicolour Siamese and Balinese, should be disqualified, if the standard was correctly applied during judging at shows. If the previous remits (motions) are passed, then this effectively would also disqualify Van Siamese and Balinese.

10.5 Sphynx Standard - Amendment to Profile Description Appendix 10.5, 10.5a, 10.5b

Motion from FCCQ

The current Sphynx profile description is "Slight to Moderate STOP at bridge of nose".

FCCQ proposes that in line with the amendment by TICA in 2020 that the ACF Sphynx standard be amended to read:

"Slight to moderate change of direction at the bridge of the nose. Some degree of fuzz on bridge of nose.

Rationale:

The term "stop" is used to describe the profiles of breeds such as Bombay, Devon Rex, American Shorthair etc. all breeds which have far more drastic profiles.

It does not effectively describe the ideal profile of a Sphynx and tends towards a more extreme visual.

Amending the profile description will also help to provide a more universally understood visual for the breed and aligns with dissuading our breeds described Withhold All Awards, Any suggestion of Devon Rex or Cornish Rex in moult.

Additionally, the fuzz on the bridge of the nose is a unique expression of the Sphynx mutation and differentiates from other hairless/hair loss breeds such as the Donskoy, Peterbald and Lykoi, which all have rubbery bald noses (Donskoy & Peterbald in their hairless coat variety).

10.6 Review of Breed Groupings Appendix 10.6

Motion from Cats WA

"that ACF establish a sub committee to review the groupings of breeds (ACF Standards)

Rationale:

- The groupings for ACF breed standards have Group 3 with far more breeds than any other group. With associations moving to all longhair and all shorthair for judging this is further exacerbated with groups 2 and 3 combined and group 1 standing alone. FIFe has reviewed and changed their groupings and ACF has followed FIFe standards.
- Current recognition process is confused when it comes to deciding on the group for a new breed. Some member bodies believe that coat length is the criteria, and some believe body type is the criteria. Historically most new breeds seem to be added to Group three which is now exceptionally large with the majority of breeds.

11 - SUBMISSIONS - POLICY

11.1 ACF Legislation Policy – Nation Stakeholder in Matters Pertaining to Cats Appendix 11.1

Motion from CANT

1. proposes that the Australian Cat Federation Incorporated become a Stakeholder Nationally in matters pertaining to cats”.
2. that The Australian Cat Federation Incorporated in the first instance write to Federal Ministers/Shadow Ministers for the Environment and other Political Parties espousing environmental platforms plus The Australian Veterinary Association and the RSPCA emphasising the role of ACF (Inc.) and its Affiliates in responsible cat breeding via its Code of Ethics.
3. The ACF (Inc.)’s ongoing concern re the inhumane deaths due to the use of 1080 in the culling of feral cats despite the Threatened Species Commission’s undertaking in 2015 that only humane methods would be used.

Rationale:

The ACF(Inc.) has had a Legislative Watchdog Committee for several years but no action has been taken with respect to various matters raised. The law and policy makers should be appraised of:

- The steps cat fanciers and members of ACF(Inc.) and its Affiliates take when breeding a litter to ensure the health of the mother and the kittens.
- The steps taken when kittens are sold (e.g., offer a contract, etc.) What registered breeders do to make sure cats do not end up in shelters.
- Affiliate’s Breeder Code of Ethics.
- Knowledgeable, law-abiding hobby breeders are being harmed by the measures already in force in many States, while irresponsible individuals already in violation of the laws are unlikely to comply with any new laws.
- Policing harsh laws is difficult for communities to enforce and only serve to divert scarce resources oversight from enforcement of serious animal issues such as true animal cruelty.

The Minister for the Environment should be encouraged to use humane forms of culling.

The Minister for the Environment should be encouraged to explore Single-dose injection advances to drug development phase.

There is promising news from **Michelson Found Animals** and the **Michelson Prize & Grants Program**. Based on positive results of a one-year study with a single-dose injection, researchers entered a second-year breeding trial in female cats. This was successful, as well! Evaluating whether a gene transfer treatment results in permanent sterility requires patience and a multi-year breeding trial. Even so, due to the success thus far, Michelson Found Animals is shifting from a grant-based research project to a drug development phase. Although a potential non-surgical sterilant is still several years away from commercial availability, this is a huge accomplishment that brings us one step closer to a viable product.

Motion from CAT

“that in the case of states or territories where there is more than one ACF Inc. body, there will be transparent consultation and co-operation when member bodies are planning their show calendars. Ideally, it would involve a physical meeting and also include CCCA member bodies’ dates.

Rationale:

CAT Inc. attempted consultation with TFA and CCCT in November and then again with TFA in January after nil response from the ACF (Inc.) provisional affiliate. (CCCT did respond.) We were somewhat archly advised that TFA had planned its shows until 2023 and were referred to its website for info on dates. There was no offer of discussion nor compromise which is most disappointing from any organisation, let alone a provisional member of ACF (Inc.) responding to a founding member. It reflects a disregard for co-operation with the rest of the Tasmanian cat fancy, and little foresight as to the potential outcome of its actions.

It reflects no sense of nor concern for ACF’s Basic Objects items 9 d) and e) and indeed, is compromising ACF’s (Inc.) own position with regards to upholding its constitution:

1. To promote co-operation between ACF (Inc) member bodies so as to protect the rights and interests of all ACF (Inc) members, and to promote co-operation with other recognized bodies within Australia, in all matters affecting a common standard for the registration of cats within their state or territory of birth.
2. To encourage co-operative action by members in all matters of common interest affecting any aspect of promotion, breeding and showing of cats.
3. The other point is that TFA is meant to be under mentorship – surely, this (among other things) required mentor intervention? However, as it has gone un-checked, we hope this meeting can do the job of the mentors.

12 - GENERAL BUSINESS

GENERAL BUSINESS

- a) **National Show Venues**
 - 2022 Queensland – FCCQ also WCC Meeting
 - 2023 Tasmania - TFA
 - 2024 Western Australia – Cats WA (FCCWA)
- b) **National Show Planning – 2022 Show**
- c) **Other Business**
 - i. **Constitution – Review of Section 6 Committee and Section 7 Meetings**

Next Meeting:

15. **CLOSE**