THE AUSTRALIAN CAT FEDERATION (Inc)
JUDGES' GUILD

CONSTITUTION

Version 1 *ISSUED 2002*

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1 NAME

1.1 The name of the organisation shall be the Australian Cat Federation (Inc.) Judges' Guild, hereinafter referred to as the Guild.

2 STATUS

2.1 The Guild shall be the official body representing the judges of the Australian Cat Federation (Inc.). The Guild may offer limited membership to judges from other recognised bodies. Decisions for carrying out the aims and objects of the Guild shall be made by the members at the Annual General Meeting, or at Extraordinary Meetings, or by postal or electronic voting in matters of urgency. These decisions are to be recommended to the Australian Cat Federation (Inc.) at its annual conference or as required. It is a bona fide recommendatory body to the ACF (Inc.).

3 DEFINITIONS

3.1 For the purpose of these rules and regulations thereunder the following definitions shall apply:

3.1.1 COMMITTEE means the executive committee.

3.1.2 GUILD means the Australian Cat Federation (Inc.) Judges' Guild.

3.1.3 SECRETARY means the Secretary of the Guild.

3.1.4 MEMBER means a member of the Guild.

3.1.5 FEDERATION means the Australian Cat Federation (Inc.).

4 OBJECTS

4.1 The objects for which the Guild has been established are:

4.1.1 to prepare recommendations on standards, breed varieties, training, examinations, experimental breeding programs, and all related matters referred to it for presentation to the Annual General Meeting of the Federation;

4.1.2 to nominate judges to engage in our National training scheme examinations and panels based on our national and international standards and requirements and to consult on policies affecting the welfare and conditions of ACF judges and trainees;

4.1.3 to act as an advisory panel on matters relating to judges' ethics, conduct and behaviour;

4.1.4 to organise, where and when necessary, the services of elected judges to prepare submissions on behalf of the Federation for presentation to the Annual General Meeting of the Federation and, when appropriate, to other bodies concerned with the welfare of our judges within the Commonwealth of Australia;

4.1.5 to conduct an Annual General Meeting, and if possible, a seminar. The Annual General Meeting to be devoted to administration matters, official business, etc.; the seminar to give each member judge an opportunity to discuss/debate special breeds, experimental and others, or any aspects of judging, showing or training;

4.1.6 to establish and maintain a fund for the purpose of assisting member bodies of the Federation with training of judges under the Federation's method of training judges, which requires interstate assignments; and

4.1.7 to keep members informed on any aspect of judging, breeding, showing or training by means of a regular publication.

5 POWERS

5.1 The decisions of the Guild, to the Federation's Annual General Meeting, shall be in the form of recommendations, and nothing in this Constitution shall affect the authority of the Federation.

6 MEMBERSHIP

6.1 Full Membership

6.1.1 Shall be open to any Australian Judge provided they are:

(a) a member of the Federation's Judges' Panel; or

(b) a member of one of the Federation's member bodies' Judges' Panel.

6.1.2 A Full Member on payment of a fee as determined from time to time, is entitled to all the privileges of membership as set out in clause 6.6

6.2 Affiliate Membership

6.2.1 Shall be open to any judge provided they are:

(a) a non active judge of the ACF Judges Panel or their member body (an active judge is one who officiates at least once each calendar year); or

(b) a cadet judge of an ACF member body.

6.2.2 An Affiliate Member on payment of a reduced fee equal to ¾ of the current full membership fee, is limited to the following privileges of membership:

(a) attend Annual General Meeting/Extraordinary meetings but has NO voting rights, and

(b) receive a magazine.

6.3 Associate Member

6.3.1 Shall be open to any judge provided they are:

(a) a member of a recognised Australian or overseas Cat Control/Organisation or their member bodies.

6.3.2 An Associate Member on payment of a reduced fee equal to ¾ of current full membership fee, is limited to the following privileges of membership:

(a) attend Annual General Meetings but has NO voting rights; (information on matters to be discussed at the Annual General Meeting will only be made available at the meeting); and

(b) receive a magazine.

6.4 Subscriptions

6.4.1 The annual subscriptions for membership as fixed by the Committee from time to time shall be payable in advance on the first of MAY each year.

6.5 Arrears of subscriptions

6.5.1 Any member whose subscriptions shall be unpaid for three (3) months shall be deemed an unfinancial member and shall not be entitled to any privileges of membership and any member whose subscription shall be unpaid for twelve (12) months from the beginning of the financial year shall cease to be a member of the Guild. Any member rejoining after a lapse of a year or more shall not be required to pay subscriptions for the lapsed years.

6.6 Privileges of membership

6.6.1 Member shall become possessed of the rights and privileges of membership whilst they remain a financial member (the exception is where a member is no longer eligible for that membership category prior to cessation of financial status). The privileges of membership shall include the right to:

(a) attend Annual General / Extraordinary Meetings and vote on issues raised;

(b) stand and/or vote for the members of the Committee of the Guild; and

(c) to receive the magazine of the Guild.

6.7 Resignation

6.7.1 Any member desiring to resign as a member of the Guild shall do so by written notice to the Secretary.

7 MANAGEMENT

7.1 The management of the affairs of the Guild shall be vested in a Committee comprising:

7.1.1 The President
7.1.2 The Vice-President
7.1.3 The Secretary
7.1.4 The Treasurer
7.1.5 The Editor
7.1.6 and other committee members so each state or territory Federation's member bodies has two representatives on the Committee.

7.2 Once elected, the Committee will form itself into an executive. The Committee shall serve for a period of two (2) years. Office holders of the Committee shall be elected annually.

7.3 Each 2 years (commencing 1998), an in-state election will be conducted by written ballot, to determine the two executive members to serve that state or territory Federation's member body. The results of ballots shall be declared at the Annual General Meeting of the Guild.

7.4 Arrangements for elections of the Committee of the Guild shall be the responsibility of the retiring Committee.

7.5 Any member not wishing to stand for election to the Committee is to advise the Secretary in writing by April 1st.

7.6 The Committee shall provide an account of its stewardship in a written annual report to the Annual General Meeting and to the Federation's Annual General Meeting.

7.7 The Committee has the power to co-opt any full member it deems has an area of expertise not already represented on the Committee, for a specific project.

7.8 The Committee may invite any member of the Federation's member bodies, whether a member or not, to attend its meetings. Further, the Committee may seek advice from persons outside the Guild.

7.9 The Committee may meet as often as it shall determine; upon notification by the President who may call a meeting whenever they think fit, and by the Secretary who shall do so when requested by two members of the Committee.

7.10 Four shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Committee.

7.11 If one of the two state or territory committee members retires during any year, the other is to carry on until the end of that financial year, after which an election will be held in the state or territory to determine the member to fulfil the rest of the current two year term.

8 GENERAL MEETINGS

8.1 An ordinary General Meeting of the members of the Guild (to be known as the Annual General Meeting) shall be held annually at such time and place, as the Committee shall determine.

8.2 Ten members present shall constitute a quorum at General Meetings.

8.3 By giving two (2) month's notice in writing, notice of business for discussion~~s~~ at this meeting must be:

8.3.1 lodged by the Federation's Secretary (from matters submitted from its member bodies) to the Guild Secretary; *OR*

8.3.2 lodged by members of the Guild, directly with the Guild Secretary, in respect to:

(a) internal matters of the Guild; or

(b) matters requiring general discussion (ie prior to any proposal being submitted).

8.4 The Secretary shall communicate the agenda for the Annual General Meeting to each member and the Federation at least six weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

8.5 Every motion submitted to an Annual General Meeting shall be decided in the first instance by a show of hands and by a poll if so decided:

8.5.1 Decisions affecting the internal affairs of the Guild voted on by members at the Annual General Meeting must be ratified (by written ballot) within three calendar months of the date of the Annual General Meeting by a simple majority of respondents.

8.5.2 Decisions affecting the Constitution are to be processed in accordance with clause 11.

8.5.3 Decisions affecting matters:

(a) submitted from the Federation for consideration by the Guild; or

(b) of minor omissions/errors to judges training and breeding schemes or to breed standards found,

will be forwarded to the Federation to be considered at its next meeting.

8.6 At all Annual General Meetings of the Guild when questions of order or practice shall arise, the ruling of the Chairman of the meeting shall be accepted as final, and in all cases of equality of voting on any question the Chairman of the meeting shall have the casting vote in addition to their own.

8.7 The President and in their absence the Vice-President shall be the Chairman of all meetings of the Guild. Should both the President and the Vice-President not be present within fifteen minutes of the time appointed for the holding of the meeting, those present at the meeting shall elect a Chairman from amongst their number.

8.8 The Secretary shall at the discretion of the President submit any particular matter of urgency to the members, by post or electronic means and a vote on any such matter may be taken accordingly. The result shall be the decision of the Guild and shall be recommended to the Federations' Annual General Meeting as applicable.

8.9 The President may convene an Extraordinary Meeting of members whenever they may think fit and the Secretary shall do so whenever requested by not less than four members of the Committee or on the written notice of not less than 50% of members. Not less than twenty one days' notice of an Extraordinary Meeting shall set out the nature of the business of the meeting and only the business so notified may be dealt with at the meeting.

9 JUDGES' SEMINAR

9.1 A judges' seminar shall be held annually when considered practicable by the Committee.

9.2 The Seminar shall be held for the purpose of allowing each member judge to discuss/debate topics relating to breeding, judging, showing or training.

9.3 Seminars will be open to any interested persons. Topics to be discussed will be communicated to all members.

10 FINANCE

10.1 The financial year of the Guild shall commence on the 1st day of May each year and end on the 30th April next ensuing.

10.2 The Guild shall meet its own costs. Guild costs shall be met, by the Committee striking membership fees and by such other means as the Guild shall from time to time decide.

10.3 All cheques shall be signed or endorsed in such manner as the Committee may from time to time determine.

10.4 The Treasurer shall prepare or cause to be prepared a statement of receipts and expenditure for the financial year together with the balance sheet showing the assets and liabilities of the Guild of such a financial year.

10.5 The financial statement and the balance sheet shall be certified correct by the Auditor appointed by the Committee, and submitted to the Annual General Meeting.

10.6 The income and property of the Guild shall be applied solely to the promotion of the objects of the Guild and no part thereof shall be transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of pecuniary profit to the members, provided that remuneration may be made in good faith or expenses paid to officers or servants of the Guild or to any other person not being a member of the Guild in return for services actually rendered to the Guild.

10.7 The Committee shall establish and maintain a fund to assist in training of judges. The Committee shall have the power to donate or lend to assist in the training of judges.

11 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

11.1 This Constitution may be amended by a resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting and ratified by 75% of respondents by written ballot within three (3) calendar months.

12 DISSOLUTION

12.1 Any resolution to dissolve the Guild shall be referred to the members by plebiscite and dissolution shall require more than 75% of the members of the Guild to vote in favour in order to be effective. All assets at the time of dissolution shall be vested in the Australian Cat Federation (Inc.) for its use.