

CAM CAT RULES

1. Name

The Club shall be called "The Cambridgeshire Cat Club" and is afterwards referred to in these rules as "the Club" or "Cam Cat".

2. Principles and Objects

The Club is a non-profit making organisation. Its objects are to encourage interest in cats, to safeguard their well-being and long-term health and to give members advice regarding the welfare of cats. These objects will be achieved, amongst other means, by :

- a. Providing the opportunity for meetings of club members and committee for exchange of ideas and information and to determine Club policy.
- b. Providing advice and guidance to members on cat welfare and the exhibition of cats.
- c. Organising an annual Club show and to support other shows for the exhibition of cats
- d. Subject to the fulfilment of membership requirements, actively participating in the running of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, afterwards referred to as GCCF, through the appointment of a delegate to the Council.

3. Membership

- a. The Club shall consist of Ordinary annual subscribing members and Honorary members and are open to anyone who has an interest in cats.
- b. Applications for Ordinary membership shall be made in writing to the Membership Secretary. Should membership be refused on the decision of a majority vote of the committee, no reasons will be given to the applicant.
- c. Honorary membership may be granted by the Committee of the Club, subject to approval of the membership. Honorary members do not have voting rights.
- d. Membership of the Club shall imply acceptance of its rules. Every member is expected to promote the objects of the Club. Any suggestions for furthering these objects should be sent in writing to the Club Secretary who will include the item on the agenda for the next Committee meeting.
- e. If, in the opinion of the Committee, the conduct of any member has been prejudicial to the welfare, breeding or exhibiting of cats or shall be likely to prove harmful to the character, reputation or interests of the Club, the Committee must give the member details of the allegation in writing and the member must be allowed 28 days to respond in writing or in person as the member chooses. After giving the member the opportunity of being heard, the Committee may determine to :
 - i. take no further action in which case the member must be informed of this
 - ii. issue a warning to the member
 - iii. suspend the member for such a period as it thinks fit
 - iv. expel the member from the Club
- f. If the Committee determines that the member should be suspended or expelled from the Club, the Committee will send to the member full details in writing (including

any evidence they hold) of the reason for their suspension or expulsion. Within 28 days of this notice, the member may :

i. Accept the decision of the Committee. If no written response is received by the Club within 28 days, the member will be deemed to have accepted the decision.

ii. Appeal the decision and request the appeal be heard at a General Meeting of the Club. The member may respond either orally at the General Meeting or in writing. If the proposal to expel or suspend the member is passed by a simple majority of those present and voting, they will cease to be a member immediately.

iii. Appeal the decision at the GCCF Appeals Committee in accordance with and accepting the rules of the operation of that Committee (see GCCF Byelaw 11.6)

g. If a member has been suspended by the GCCF, their membership of the Club will automatically be suspended for the same period. Any such member wishing to re-join the Club after their suspension ends must apply to the Committee for readmission.

h. If a member resigns from the Club or has membership withdrawn, any rights to or claim upon the Clubs property or funds shall be forfeited.

4. Subscriptions

a. The subscription rate for the following year will be agreed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

b. Subscriptions are payable on application for membership and thereafter on 1 January each year.

c. Members failing to pay their subscription by 30 April shall be deemed to have terminated their membership but will be re-instated on payment of the correct subscription.

d. In addition to the annual subscription, the Club may make a variable charge to members and others attending any meeting other than the AGM.

5. Management and Officials

a. The business of the Club will be managed by a Committee comprising five Officers – Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Membership Secretary - and up to six elected members.

b. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman must have been serving members of the Committee for at least 2 years and shall be elected by the Committee at the first meeting following the AGM.

c. The Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary shall be appointed by the Committee at the first meeting following the AGM and shall hold office at the will and pleasure of the Committee.

d. The elected Committee members shall be fully paid-up members of the Club and shall be elected at the AGM.

e. Members elected to the Committee shall serve for a period of up to three years and then stand down but be eligible for re-election.

f. A third of the committee will retire annually but be eligible for re-election thus maintaining continuity of the Committee.

g. The Committee may nominate a President and up to three Vice-Presidents for election by the members at the AGM. No duties are imposed upon the President and Vice-President apart from sympathy with the objects of the Club. They may attend

meetings and speak but will have no vote unless they are also fully paid-up members of the Club.

6. Elections

- a. Nominations in writing for membership of the Committee must be sponsored by two fully paid-up members and must reach the Secretary by no later than two weeks before the advertised date of the AGM.
- b. In the event of more than one nomination being received for one vacancy, voting is by a ballot at the AGM. Nominees receiving the highest number of votes will be elected until all vacancies are filled.
- c. A formal notice calling for the resignation of any Officer or Committee member may be brought to the AGM, with the proposer and seconder sending details in writing to the Secretary at least 2 weeks before the AGM. The proposal must then be placed on the AGM agenda.
- d. In the event of an unforeseen vacancy arising, the Committee may co-opt a member who will have full voting powers and will be eligible for election at the AGM.
- e. The Committee shall have the power to delegate any of its functions to a Sub-Committee of its members.

7. Meetings

Committee meetings

- a. The Committee is to meet not less than three times a year and at such meetings, four Committee members, which must include at least three officers, will form a quorum. Meetings may be held via virtual means or in person.
- b. The Chairman, or in his/her absence the Vice-Chairman will be the Presiding Officer.
- c. Every Committee member present at the meeting will have one vote except the Presiding Officer who will have the casting vote.
- d. The date of each committee meeting and agenda will be sent to each Committee member at least two weeks before the meeting.
- e. Committee members who fail without sufficient reason to attend at least half of the meetings called within the Club year shall be deemed to have resigned and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election.
- f. If any Officer or Committee member resigns, he/she must hand over all of the Club's property within 14 days.

Annual General Meeting

- a. The AGM will be held within nine months of the end of the financial year at a time and place fixed by the Committee. The AGM may be held by virtual means.
- b. An announcement advertising this meeting is to be placed with the GCCF, on the Club website and any other suitable forums at least three weeks in advance.
- c. The agenda for the meeting, together with the Minutes of the last AGM and a duly examined statement of the accounts, which has been approved by the Committee, will be made available to each member not less than fourteen days before the AGM.

- d. Any member wishing to have an item placed on the agenda for the AGM must inform the Secretary not less than three weeks before the date of the meeting.
- d. The quorum for a General Meeting is to be six fully paid-up members. If a quorum of members is not present at an AGM an electronic ballot should be carried out to ratify any decisions made at the AGM.
- e. All matters will be decided by a simple majority of the votes cast except for amendments to these rules when a two-thirds majority is required.

Special General Meeting

- a. A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the Committee or upon a request signed by not less than twelve members of the Club
- b. This meeting will be convened within 28 days of the request and a notice will be made available to all paid-up members, specifying the business to be discussed. This shall be the only business to be discussed.
- c. The quorum for a Special General Meeting shall be eighteen members. If a quorum of members is not present, an electronic ballot should be carried out.
- d. If the meeting was called at the written request of members and their proposals are unproven or defeated, the members calling the meeting will be liable for all the costs associated with the meeting. In all other instances, the costs will be met by the Club.

8. Finance

- a. All Club funds are to be deposited in an account in the name of the Cambridgeshire Cat Club and the associated Joint Show Account.
- b. The financial year of the Club is to end on 31 December each year.
- c. The Treasurer shall take charge of funds and pay from them such expenses as are necessary.
- d. Payments, whether by cheque or electronic means, must be authorised by two out of the three nominated members of the Committee, who may not come from the same household.
- e. The Club accounts are to be examined annually by a suitably qualified independent person appointed at the AGM and eligible for re-appointment.
- f. The Treasurer is responsible for the completion and timely submission of the Annual Returns to GCCF.
- g. The property of the Club is vested in the Committee.
- h. Ownership of all donated trophies passes to the Club.

9. Membership of the GCCF

- a. The Club will be a member of the GCCF
- b. The delegate and substitute delegate to the GCCF shall be elected annually by ballot at the AGM and shall hold office during the immediate succeeding year.
- c. The GCCF delegate must have been a Committee member for at least a year.
- d. The Club and its members will be bound by the Rules and disciplinary powers of the GCCF.

10. Amendment of Rules

- a. No new rule is to be made or amended or rescinded unless notice of the proposed change has been given on the agenda of an AGM or Special General Meeting unless the proposed changes have been approved by at least two-thirds of the members voting.
- b. The board of the GCCF must be notified of any changes to these rules, which must be submitted in electronic format.

11. Winding up of the Club

- a. Three months' notice of any proposal to dissolve the Club shall be given in writing to all paid-up members and a Special General Meeting shall be called to consider the question.
- b. A majority of two-thirds of the members voting is required to dissolve the Club
- c. In the event that the Club is dissolved, all liabilities shall be discharged and any balance of funds divided equally amongst all paid-up members, after any donations to a nominated charity promoting cat welfare have been made.
- d. Trophies and any other Club property will be distributed to other Clubs or sold.