

Burmese Cat Club Rules- Revised April 2022

1. NAME

The Club shall be called "The Burmese Cat Club" and is afterwards referred to in these Rules as "The Club".

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Club shall be to safeguard the well-being of the Burmese cat and the genetic health of the breed (GEMS Code BURn, BURa, BURb, BURc, BURd, BURE, BURf, BURg, BURh, BURj, and such other colours as may be approved in future); to stimulate and encourage improvement of the type; and the development of new colours; to work for a wider appreciation of the breed, and to provide information on care, health and welfare for members. These objects shall be achieved amongst other means by:

- (i) Membership of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy and the appointment of delegates to the Council.
- (ii) Participating with other Burmese breed Clubs in any appropriate joint committee (a) to select prospective judges and probationer judges of Burmese and recommend them to the GCCF for appointment, (b) to make recommendations to the GCCF on all matters relating to the Burmese breed, (c) to offer seminars on the Burmese breed to members and judges.
- (iii) Fostering communications between members by (a) arranging meetings; (b) publication of a newsletter providing opportunities to give information and advice, and to allow for the exchange of views: (c) Instagram page and updates/news via email.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- (i) The Club shall consist of an unlimited number of members. Membership is open to all but election shall be by a majority *vote* of the Committee and the Committee shall not be required to *give* reasons for refusing membership.
- (ii) The classes of membership shall be determined by the members at the Annual General Meeting. Currently the classes comprise: (a) founder members who agreed to join the Club before or at the foundation meeting; (b) life members who paid the required subscription before February 1972; (c) long-term members who are elected for a period of ten years at the discretion of the Committee, (d) annual members who pay the appropriate subscription on 1st January of each year; (e) honorary members who are appointed by the Committee for a specified period. This class is reserved for individuals who *have* rendered outstanding service to the Burmese breed.
- (iii) Applications for membership shall be in writing or via the website.
- (iv) Membership shall include a category of junior membership for which the upper age limit shall be 16.
- (v) Honorary and junior members shall enjoy all the rights and benefits of membership except for the right to *vote* at meetings and in elections.

4. DUTIES OF MEMBERS

- (i) Membership of the Club shall be taken to imply acceptance by the member of the objects of the Club, its Rules and code of ethics. *Every* member shall *strive* to further the purposes for which the Club exists.
- (ii) The members of the Club shall be bound by the Rules and disciplinary powers of the GCCF in accordance with the Bylaws of the GCCF at any time prevailing.

5. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- (i) Membership subscriptions shall be set for the subsequent financial year at the Annual General Meeting and shall be determined by a simple majority of those members present and voting. The Committee shall have the authority to increase subscriptions by 10%. It shall not exercise this power on more than one occasion without recourse to the members in general meeting.
- (ii) Payment - Subscriptions shall be paid on election and thereafter on the 1st January of each succeeding year. Long term members shall pay a sum equivalent to nine years' subscription to cover membership for ten years. Any member whose subscription is in arrears after 1st March shall be suspended from membership and shall not be entitled to compete for any special prizes open to members of the Club nor to enjoy any privileges of membership. Such a member will be reinstated on payment of the current subscription. A member who has not paid the subscription by 1st April shall be deemed to be a lapsed member. Those whose completed application forms are received by the Membership Secretary on or after 1 July in any calendar year shall pay half the appropriate first annual subscription.
- (iii) Resignation - Any member may resign his or her membership by giving to the Secretary notice in writing to that effect but shall not be entitled to a refund of subscription.

6. MANAGEMENT

- (i) The management and control of the Club and its finances shall be *vested* in the Officers and seven other elected members of the Club who shall form the Committee. The Officers shall be the Chair, the Hon. Treasurer and the Hon. Secretary.
- (ii) The Officers shall be appointed by the Committee for a period of three years following the AGM : the Chair, Hon. Secretary

and Hon. Treasurer retiring in consecutive years. Candidates for the posts of Chair, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer shall submit to the Committee evidence of their relevant experience appropriate to the duties and responsibilities of the post in question. The Committee may during the course of the year co-opt any member to fill a vacancy for the post of Chair, Hon. Secretary or Hon. Treasurer. Committee members shall be elected for a term of three years. Retiring Officers and Members shall be eligible for re-election. The election of committee members, when relevant, shall be by ballot by electronic or other means as agreed of all voting members of the Club.

(iii) Nominations for Committee members shall be invited at the time of notifying the date of the Annual General Meeting. All nominations must be proposed and seconded by paid-up members of the Club and be signed by the nominee. Candidates must be paid-up members of the Club who *have* been adult members for at least three years.

(iv) Brief biographical details of all candidates, and a named proposer and seconder for each who must be fully paid-up members of the Club, shall be circulated with the voting papers.

For the purpose of Rules 6(iii) and 6(iv), the definition of a fully paid-up member is one who has paid the current year's subscription prior to the nomination. In all other circumstances, Rule 5(ii) will apply.

(v) The name of the scrutineer, who shall not be a member of the Club, must be shown on the voting papers. In the *event* of two or more members receiving an equal number of *votes*, the Chair shall *have* a second or casting *vote*.

(vi) At its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting the Committee shall appoint a President to serve for one year. One or more Vice-Presidents may also be appointed annually, in recognition of past service to the Club. Current Officers and current members of the Committee shall not be eligible for appointment as President or Vice-President. The President and Vice-President(s) may attend Meetings of the Committee as non-voting members. The retiring President and Vice-President(s) shall be eligible for re-appointment. (vii) Any casual *vacancy* in the membership of the Committee may be filled for the remainder of the current year at the discretion of the Committee by the member who *received* the next highest number of *votes* to those elected at the last election and who is willing to serve. (viii) The Committee shall *have* the power to co-opt for periods not exceeding one year, in a non-voting capacity, a person or persons with specialised knowledge, who need not be a member of the Club. A GCCF Delegate elected under Rule 7 below who is not already a Committee member or an Elected Officer shall automatically be co-opted to the Committee in a non-voting capacity for the period of GCCF Council membership.

(vii) Following the Annual General Meeting the Committee shall appoint from its members a Deputy Chair of Committee to serve for three years.

7. DELEGATES TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

(i) The Club shall be a member of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy and be represented by delegates elected by the members in accordance with the requirements of the Council.

(ii) Nominations for delegates shall be invited at the time of notifying the date of the Annual General meeting. All nominations must be proposed and seconded by members of the Club and signed by the nominee. Candidates must be paid-up members who have been adult members for at least three years. Rules 6. (iv) and (v) shall also apply.

(iii) The delegates shall serve for one year, but shall be eligible for re-election. A delegate, if not already a member of the Committee, shall be co-opted to the Committee. The number of delegates to be elected will be controlled by the Rules of the Governing Council.

8. POWERS OF COMMITTEE

(i) The property and finances of the Club and the management and control of its affairs shall be *vested* in the Committee who may exercise all the powers of the Club except those which are expressly directed by these Rules to be exercised in general meeting.

(ii) The Committee shall *have* absolute power in the election of members and shall *have* the right to refuse to admit any person. The Committee may suspend or expel a member if it is satisfied that the member has breached GCCF Rules in connection with cats or cat shows or whose actions conflict with the fundamental principles of the Club, providing that the member has previously been given the opportunity to state his or her case to the Committee. The member may appeal at the next general meeting of the Club against the Committee's decision.

(iii) The Committee has the right to appoint Standing Committees and Sub-Committees to consider particular matters and to lay down terms of reference for them. Members of such Committees need not necessarily be members of the Committee or of the Club. The Chair of a Sub-Committee shall be a member of the Committee and be appointed at a meeting of the Committee. The Chair of a Sub-Committee shall *have* a second or casting *vote*.

(iv) If an Officer or member of the Committee is absent from two consecutive meetings of the Committee or does not attend at least three meetings in each year, without good and sufficient reason satisfactory to the Committee, the Officer or member shall be deemed to *have* retired from membership of the Committee.

(v) The Committee may arrange Cat Shows in accordance with the Rules of the GCCF and shall appoint a Show Committee, which shall comprise the elected committee and the current show managers. The committee shall *have* absolute discretion in the making of show rules to be applied by the Show Committee providing that the rules so made do not conflict with those of the GCCF.

(vi) in accordance with the GCCF judge appointment scheme, the committee shall appoint representatives of the Club to attend the Burmese Joint Consultative Committee (BJCC) the breed Advisory Committee for Burmese. These Club

representatives will be preferably, but not necessarily from the committee.

vii) The number of representatives shall be determined according to the terms of the BJCC constitution, and those appointed shall make themselves aware of matters pertaining to the Burmese Breed and to the candidates within the Burmese scheme; to represent the views of the Club Committee to the BJCC and to represent the views of the BJCC to the Club committee.

(viii) The Committee is also empowered to arbitrate in all disputes within the Club and to deal with any questions not specifically provided for in the Rules.

9. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

(i) The Officers shall act generally under the authority of the Committee, and their duties shall include the following:

- a) to hold all monies *received* on behalf of the Club in accounts opened on authorisation of the Committee;
 - b) to defray on behalf of the Club all expenses properly and necessarily incurred by the Officers and such expenses incurred by members of the Club which are considered to be appropriate;
 - c) to render annually to the Committee an audited statement of Income and Expenditure and a Balance Sheet covering the financial year which shall be the calendar year. An independent examiner shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting by a simple majority of those present and voting. A copy of the accounts will be available at the Annual General Meeting or on request from the Treasurer;
 - d) to conduct correspondence on behalf of the Club;
 - e) to maintain a register of members;
 - f) to inform new members of their election and supply them with a copy of the Rules;
 - g) to call meetings;
 - h) to keep minutes of the proceedings of all meetings and to present the minutes of general and special general meetings to the Annual General Meeting each year;
 - i) to arrange show support authorised by the Committee;
 - j) to produce the Burmese Cat Club News;
- (ii) It is the Committee's responsibility to apportion these duties between its Officers, and should it be deemed necessary, to delegate some of these duties to other members of the Committee.

10. MEETINGS

(i) A general meeting of the Club (the Annual General Meeting) shall be held not later than 30th April each year or as required by the GCCF. Other general Meetings may be held as determined by the Committee. For each general meeting, the Committee shall appoint the time and place and shall give every member twenty- one days' notice of the meeting. The committee members who are present, plus five other members of the Club shall be a quorum for any such meeting.

(ii) A special general meeting may be called by the Committee or, on receiving a requisition in writing signed by twenty -five members of the Club stating fully the object of the meeting, by the Hon. Secretary. The purpose for which the meeting has been called shall be stated on the notice convening it and this business only may be transacted at the meeting. Twenty-eight days' notice of every special general meeting shall be given to every member. Twenty members of the Club shall be a quorum for such meetings. If the meeting is not called by the Committee then the members requesting such a meeting shall be responsible for the costs involved.

(iii) Committee meetings shall be held as often as the Committee may deem necessary but at least twice a year, and five members of the Committee, including one officer, shall be a quorum for such meetings. Fourteen days' notice of every meeting of the Committee shall be given to every member of the Committee.

(iv) At every General, Special General, or Committee meeting every matter not otherwise provided for shall be decided by a vote of those present. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

(v) The Chair of the Club (or in his/her absence, the Deputy Chair of the Committee) shall take the chair at all meetings of the Club or the Committee. In the absence of both Chair and Deputy Chair, the members present may appoint a Chair for that meeting.

11. ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

Role descriptions shall be drawn up by the Committee for all elected positions. Elected members are expected to support the Club's activities. In the event of an elected member failing to perform the duties of the post in accordance with the specification, then the Committee is empowered to replace that member, after due warning, and subject to the right of the member to discuss the matter with the Committee.

12 . ALTERATION OF RULES

These Rules will be subject to a five-yearly review by the committee but may only be altered at an Annual General Meeting, a General Meeting or a Special General Meeting of the Club. The notice calling the meeting shall give full particulars of the alterations or additions to be proposed, and such alterations or additions shall be made only if two-thirds of the members present and voting shall vote in favour.

13. DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB

A proposal for the dissolution of the Club shall be submitted to a postal ballot of all members entitled to vote, and a copy of the proposal, together with a statement of the manner in which the Club's assets are to be distributed, shall be sent to every member. The dissolution shall become effective only if two-thirds of the members voting are in favour.