

1. Name

The Club, which will be non-profit making, will be called the "Russian and Abyssinian Cat Club of Scotland (RACCS)".

2. Aims and objectives

The Club's aims and objectives are to encourage an active interest in the care, well-being, and protection of all cats, in particular the Russian and Abyssinian breeds; to give help and advice to breeders and owners of such cats in all matters relating to their interest, and to support good relationships between owners and breeders. The aim of the Club is to have a presence at shows, exhibitions and functions in connection with Russian and Abyssinian cats and to organise and hold such events. As a breed club, the Club will also seek representation on the Breed Advisory Committees for Russians and Abyssinians.

3. Membership

- (a) There will be an unlimited number of members and, regardless of the Club's title, geographical location will present no barrier to acceptance.
- (b) Applications for membership must be in writing, giving details of name, address and the breeds of cats kept. Applications will be accompanied by the current annual subscription. Applicants shall agree to abide by the GCCF General Code of Ethics for Breeders and Owners.
- (c) Membership of the Club will in itself imply acceptance of the Club's rules.
- (d) Honorary membership may be conferred by the members at the AGM, but Honorary Members will not be eligible for election to the Committee, nor can they vote at any meetings.
- (e) Joint membership applies to joint prefix holders, or any two persons from the same household.
- (f) In the event that a club member has to be expelled from the club for misconduct, he/she will have a right to appeal to the membership for reinstatement within three months of such expulsion. A Special General Meeting may be required (see 9(c) below) for this purpose, any costs thereof to be borne by the supplicant member or Club as determined at that meeting. Where the meeting agrees to reinstate the member, costs will be reimbursed by the Club.
- (g) No one who is involved in breeding of cats for vivisection for financial gain will be admitted to the Club. If a member is found to be involved in this activity, their membership will not be renewed. Medical and scientific professionals engaged in licensed research are exempt from this rule.

4. Membership fees

- (a) Ordinary and joint membership fees will be agreed annually by the members present at the AGM and any change will take effect from the next financial year.
- (b) A special rate will be established each year for Senior Citizens, who will be entitled to vote at meetings.
- (c) A special rate will be established each year for junior members (aged under 16), but they will not be entitled to vote at meetings.
- (d) After three years as a voting member a member may apply for life membership, the rate for which will be ten times the current annual subscription rate
- (e) Any member whose subscription remains unpaid three months after the renewal date will be deemed to have resigned and if wishing to rejoin the Club will be required to submit an application as per Rule 3(b).
- (f) Subscriptions once paid, cannot be refunded.

5. Constitution

- (a) The business of the Club will be managed by a Committee of four officers: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer; plus eight other members.
- (b) The Secretary will act under the direction of the Committee and will, in consultation with the Chairman between meetings, be responsible for the Club's business. The Secretary will keep minutes of proceedings of all special, general and Committee meetings, in a book provided for the purpose. These minutes, after being put to the meeting and agreed as correct, will be signed by the Chairman at the next succeeding meeting.
- (c) The Treasurer will take charge of the Club's funds and receipts, pay all bills, under the authority of the Committee and give a complete account at each examination, and at any interval required by the Committee.
- (d) At Committee meetings each Committee member will have one vote, and when the votes are equal, the presiding officer will have the casting vote.
- (e) All officers and members who are in charge of books, documents, records, property or money belonging to the Club will, on request, surrender them to the Committee.
- (f) The offices of President and Vice-Presidents are honorary, and no duties will be required of them, other than that they are in agreement with the Club's objectives. They will be elected at an AGM and appointments are made for life or until resignation by the individual concerned.

6. Election of committee

- (a) The Committee will consist of twelve members, including officers, who will be elected every three years by the members at the AGM.
- (b) Members may seek re-election after completing their three year term of office. Nominations for Officers and Committee members, signed by the proposer, seconder and nominee, must reach the Secretary seven days before the date of the AGM.
- (c) Nominees for Officers' positions, if not elected, may stand for the Committee without further nomination if they wish. Nominees for Office Bearers will normally have served on the Committee for at least one year.
- (d) The Committee may co-opt members to fill any vacancies on the Committee until the next AGM when they must be formally elected by those in attendance. The Committee may also co-opt further members for specific duties, who shall not be voting members of the Committee, and who shall attend Committee meetings when the business of the day so requires.

7. Powers of the Committee

- (a) The management and control of the Club and its finances shall be vested in the Committee.
- (b) The Committee shall have the right to accept or refuse admission to membership of the Club.
- (c) The Committee may also require the resignation of any member if they are satisfied that they have committed serious misconduct in connection with cats or cat shows, or have acted in opposition to the Club's aims and objectives. The requirement for resignation shall be made in writing and the member concerned must be given a reasonable opportunity to state their case to the Committee.
- (d) The Committee is empowered to arbitrate in all disputes within the Club, and to deal with any matters not specifically provided for in these Rules.

8. Finance

- (a) The financial year of the Club will end on 31st December each year, to which date the accounts of the Club will be balanced.
- (b) All expenses incurred for and on behalf of the Club, with the approval of the Officers and Committee, will be met out of Club funds.
- (c) A bank account in the name of the Club will be opened with such a bank as the Treasurer may decide, and all monies received by the Treasurer for and on behalf of the Club will be paid into this account. All cheques will be

signed by any two of the following three officers: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, one of whom will usually be the Treasurer. These two officers will not reside at the same address.

(d) An independent person will be appointed at each AGM to examine the Club's funds and accounts.

9. Meetings

(a) The AGM will be held not later than 20 May each year. The agenda for the meeting, together with a copy of the examined accounts for the preceding year, will be sent to all members not less than 21 days prior to the AGM. The quorum of all AGMs will be 13 paid up members. Voting will be by show of hands.

(b) No new rule will be made, nor can any rule be amended, or rescinded, unless notice of the proposed change is given on the agenda of a General Meeting, and unless the proposal will have received the assent of at least two thirds of the members present and voting at the Meeting.

(c) A special general meeting will be called whenever the Committee, or any 13 members, so request in writing, specifying the reason for the meeting. Members at the meeting will decide responsibility for defrayment of costs of the meeting. No other matters may be decided at the meeting. Not less than 21 days notice will be given to members of an SGM.

(d) Committee meetings will be held at least three times a year to conduct the Club's business. To accommodate members from as broad a geographical range as possible these meetings will, where possible, take place in accordance with the Championship Cat Show calendar as laid down by the GCCF. Committee members will be given at least 14 days' notice of meetings. A Committee member who is absent for three consecutive meetings without reasonable cause will be deemed to have retired from the Committee. The quorum for Committee meetings will be 7 members, 2 of whom must be officers. The Chairman has a casting vote in addition to a personal vote.

10. Membership of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF)

(a) The GCCF will have disciplinary powers according to its constitution, over the Club and the members thereof.

(b) Any member, including life and honorary members, suspended under article 12 of the constitution of the GCCF and wishing to rejoin the Club after the suspension is lifted must apply to the Committee of the Club for re-election.

(c) Prefix applications will not be countersigned by the Club secretary until the applicant has been a member for at least twelve months, or is being formally mentored by a Club member who has been a member for more than twelve months.

11. Special awards

(a) The committee may, if it so chooses, offer support to its members by offering Club rosettes at shows and trophies for points winners

(b) Trophies are awarded for one year and must be returned by the date of the next AGM.

(c) Ownership of donated trophies passes to the Club.

12. Winding up or amalgamation

(a) In the event that the club has to be wound up or amalgamated with another, the decision to take this action must be made by a ballot of all members or at a Special General Meeting held specifically for that purpose.

(b) A two-thirds majority of club members is required for dissolution.

(c) In the event of winding up, any remaining funds and assets may be donated to charity at the discretion of the committee/members. Any trophies held by the Club will be returned to the donor/s if possible.

Amendments from Dr Bennett:

Clause 3(g); Clause 6(b); Clause 7(c); Clause 9(d); Clause 10

Amendments due to change in Club status:

Clause 2

Clause 6(e) deleted – only applied for the first 4 years (plus subsequent amendment to Clause 6(a))

Clause 10(a), (b) and (c)

Clause 11(a)

Proposed substantive amendments (in red):

New Clause 4(e) creating life membership category

Clause 8(c) – to add the Vice-Chairman as an approved cheque signatory

Clause 10(c) – to allow an established Club member to vouch for a new member wishing to apply for a prefix



CONSTITUTION & RULES (amended March 2011)