THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY OF IRELAND

CONSTITUTION

Latest amendments are highlighted in grey

1. THE NAME

The name shall be The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy of Ireland (hereinafter called 'the Council').

2. OBJECTS

The Council shall be a non-profit making organisation. Its objects shall be to promote the welfare of all cats and the interests of breeders and exhibitors, to provide for the registration and recording of cats and cat pedigrees, to classify cat breeds, to licence shows held under its Rules, to maintain and improve wherever possible the standard of cats and cat breeding and to exercise its disciplinary powers when it considers it necessary to do so.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Council shall consist of Founder and Life Members, Honorary Life Members, elected ordinary members and delegates from affiliated clubs. Membership of the Council shall not exceed **21**.

3.1 Life Members may be elected to replace resignations and deaths. The total number of Life Members shall not exceed **10.** Life Members living outside Ireland for more than 12 months, and not attending meetings, shall become ***Honorary*** Life Members and will cease to have voting powers. If appropriate, other Life Members may be appointed in their place. If they return to Ireland they will be re-instated as full Life Members, with voting rights, when a vacancy arises. The Executive Committee may nominate a candidate for Life membership after two terms of office (four years) have been served as an Honorary Officer or Executive Committee member of the Council.
Any such nomination shall be included in the papers giving notice of the meeting at which they are to be considered, which may be the Annual General Meeting or any General Meeting of the Council and to succeed candidates shall require in their favour a two thirds majority vote of those present at the meeting

3.2 The Council may elect members at their discretion. In the event of more than one nomination for one position such positions will be elected by ballot following a simple majority result. Elected members serve for a period of 2 years and are elected at the AGM. The number of elected members shall not exceed 8 at any one time.
In the event of there being vacancies for Life Membership, and no suitable candidates, further members can be elected for that term. Should there be

suitable candidates to be proposed for Life Membership at the next electoral meeting, the elected membership shall reduce to 8.

3.3 The Council shall include the delegates of affiliated clubs. ~~A club with fewer than 35 paid up members shall have 1 delegate and clubs with 35 or more members shall be entitled to 2 delegates~~. Each club shall have 1 delegate. Eligibility to act as club delegate is open to a serving member of the club committee. Delegates shall be elected at the first meeting of a club committee following their Annual General Meeting or at the AGM. A club should elect and nominate to the Council a substitute delegate who is entitled to attend Council meetings in the event of the absence of an elected delegate. If any delegate should vacate his seat on the Council, the club concerned shall be entitled to elect in such **a** manner as the club decides another delegate to fill the vacancy. A club delegate shall hold office for a period of one year or until the next electoral meeting of the club. A delegate may be a delegate of only one Club at a time. If a delegate ceases to be a club delegate he thereby ceases to be a member of the Council and any of its committees. All members of Council are eligible for election to committees. Substitute delegates are not eligible for election to committees.

3.4 A veterinary surgeon and a legal practitioner shall be included on the Council as Honorary members. They may be requested to attend those Council meetings where their professional guidance is required.

4. OFFICERS

4.1 The Honorary Officers of the Council shall be a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and any such other Honorary Officers as the Council may from time to time decide. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected by and from the membership of the Council at an Annual General Meeting. In order to be eligible for the office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman Members must have served at least one term on the Executive Committee unless there are exceptional circumstances. The term of office is two years. On election as Chairman or Vice-Chairman the position held, whether as delegate or elected member, thereby becomes vacant and eligible for re-appointment. Should there be more than one nomination for the office of Chairman the result shall be determined by ballot the election decided by simple majority vote. The Chairman shall have only a casting vote. The Vice-Chairman shall have one vote unless acting as Chairman, in which case he shall have only a casting vote. All other officers shall have one vote. Neither the Chairman nor the Vice-Chairman shall be eligible for re-election if this would result in remaining in the same office for more than four consecutive years, except in exceptional circumstances as approved by Council. If the office of Treasurer becomes vacant the accounts of the Council shall be examined by the Council immediately.

4.2 Any misconduct by a Council Member will result in a written warning from the Chair to such Member. In the event of a Member so informed not complying with the content of the letter within a period of 21 days of its issue, of if any Member be deemed to be in complete breech of the Rules of Council it will result in the immediate termination of that Member's term of office.

4.3 The Treasurer of the GCCFI should not at the same time be the Treasurer of an affiliated Club.

4.4 An Officer of the Council may not be an Officer, committee member, official, judge or show manager of any unaffiliated organisation in Ireland whose activities include the registration and or licensing or holding of shows for pedigree cats without the prior consent of the Executive Committee.

5. COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

All Committees shall be responsible to the Council. They shall meet as directed and Minutes shall be kept of all meetings. All Council and Committee matters are strictly confidential.

5.1 The Council shall elect an Executive Committee consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer ex-officio together with ~~five~~ **three** members elected by the Council at the Annual General Meeting. The term of office shall be two years. The Executive Committee shall meet at least four times a year or more often if required. Four members present shall constitute a quorum. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to take executive action on matters which arise in connection with the day to day working of the Cat Fancy.

The Executive Committee shall appoint an Honorary President and Vice President, and if required, at its discretion, an Assistant Secretary. An Assistant Secretary thus appointed shall thereafter be bound by the Constitution and the Honorary Secretary shall remain responsible for all activities of the office of Secretary.

The Executive Committee shall consider candidates for Life Membership at a meeting prior to an Annual General Meeting or a General Meeting and shall include any nominations in the papers giving notice of the meeting.

In all of its actions and decisions the Executive Committee shall conform with this Constitution and shall be governed by the general policies laid down by the Council. When it considers it necessary or desirable to do so it shall refer any matter to the Council for decision.

5.2 The Council shall appoint **3** Members to form an Investigation Panel who will establish the validity of any Complaints received and forward those appropriate the Disciplinary committee. ***Members of the Investigation Panel may not be members of either the Disciplinary or Appeals committees.***

5.3 The Council shall elect a Disciplinary Committee consisting of ~~**five**~~ **three** members, ***not members of the Investigation Panel or Appeals committee.*** **Three** members shall constitute a quorum. The Committee shall elect its own

Chairman and shall meet as required and deliver its findings to the Executive Committee. A Barrister or Solicitor, appointed by the Council, may be present at meetings to advise. In matters of breaches of the Constitution or Rules (where admitted) the Committee may issue an advising letter to the persons or Club concerned to have (on demand being made within 14 days of the letter being issued) a formal hearing as provided by Articles 11.2b and 11.3a of the Constitution.

5.4.1 The Council shall elect an Appeals Committee which shall consist of ~~**five**~~ **three** members ***(not members of the Investigation Panel or the Disciplinary Committee***). **Three** members shall constitute a quorum. Appeals against the decisions of the Disciplinary Committee shall be decided by simple majority. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final. The Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee (or member of that Committee appointed by him) shall be present at all hearings of the Appeals Committee but shall not speak (unless asked to do so) and shall not vote. If so required, the Disciplinary Committee shall give in writing its findings as to the facts of any complaint heard by it. Such findings shall be presented to the Appeals Committee by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee or another member of the Disciplinary Committee nominated by the said Chairman. In addition to hearing appeals against the judgement of the Disciplinary Committee, the Appeals Committee shall have the power to act as Arbitrator in disputes between individuals and/or organisations within the Cat Fancy and shall also be empowered to hear and adjudicate upon Appeals lodged under any permitted section of the Show Rules, its jurisdiction being limited only by the Constitutional powers of the Council within the limits of which the decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding upon all the parties concerned.

5.4.2 **One** member of the Council shall be elected by Council at the Electoral meeting to the Disciplinary committee and one to the Appeals Committee as substitute members to fill vacancies arising from any cause whatsoever. If an impartial quorum cannot be formed for either the Disciplinary or Appeals committees from the elected members, the Executive shall have the power to appoint to the committee suitably experienced people who are not members of Council to hear that particular case.

5.5 The Council shall elect a Supreme Show Committee consisting of a Show Manager, and **five** others, one of whom shall act as Substitute Show Manager should the need arise. **Three** members present shall constitute a quorum The Committee shall keep Minutes of its meetings. The Supreme Show shall conform to the standard of presentation required of affiliated club cat shows in every respect. By its nature the Supreme show differs from other shows in respect of judging arrangements and the Council shall determine how this is carried out and effect changes as necessary. The Committee shall be responsible to the Treasurer and the Council for submitting a financial account, in the approved format, following and within one month of a Supreme Show. (See 9.1)

6. AFFILIATION OF CLUBS

6.1 To be eligible for affiliation a Club must have at least **twenty** paid up Ordinary and Life Members as shown by the Club's last verified accounts, and shall have been in existence for at least one year and its Rules must provide that in the event of affiliation being granted the Council shall have Disciplinary Powers according to its Constitution over the Club and the members thereof. An application for affiliation must be accompanied by:

i. A copy of the last verified accounts of the Club in which the subscription income is analysed to show the number of members who have paid a full subscription for the year covered by the accounts and the number of Life Members.

ii. Minutes of the inaugural meeting should be submitted together with the names of elected Officers, i.e. Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members.

iii. An up to date copy of the Club's Rules, certified by the Chairman and the Secretary of the Club.

iv. The Rules of all affiliated Clubs shall include a Rule requiring that any member (including Life and Co-Opted members) suspended under Article 11 of the Constitution and wishing to re-join after expiration of the suspension must apply for re-election to the Club Committee.

v. If affiliation is granted a club is required to pay the annual affiliation fee and to abide by the rules of the GCCFI in all matters and is entitled to send delegates to GCCFI Council meetings.

vi. Clubs may be affiliated annually and application for affiliation, or its renewal, must be made before June 1st to enable the Council at its Annual General Meeting to discuss the club's request and also to licence the club's proposed cat show or shows planned for the following year. Nominations from clubs claiming representation on the Council shall be considered only at the meetings of the Council.

vii. Once affiliated all shows must be run under GCCFI licence after payment of the appropriate show licence fee.

viii. First applicant clubs may be granted a show licence on the proviso that they have a fully qualified Show Manager to run the show according to GCCFI rules.
If these requirements are fulfilled to the satisfaction of the Council it may, in its discretion, grant affiliation to the applicant Club.

7. PROCEDURES

7.1 The Council shall hold an Annual General Meeting which is bi-annually an electoral meeting, in June or July of each year on a day fixed by the Honorary Secretary. In exceptional circumstances the meeting may be deferred but held no later than 31st August. **Seven** members shall constitute a quorum. Business transacted at an electoral meeting shall include:

I. Chairman's Report on Council and Committee meetings.

ii. Treasurer's Report and a statement of verified accounts relative to the preceding year.
iii. Registrations Report.
iv. Election of Officers
v. Election of members
vi. Election of Committees.
vii. Reports of Delegates.
viii. Any Other Business specified in the notice convening the meeting or accepted at the discretion of the Chairman.

7.2 The Council shall hold a minimum of **two** General Meetings a year. The Secretary may call in addition an Extraordinary General Meeting convened on receipt of a written request by three ordinary members of the Council and one Officer. Such a request shall state the business for which the meeting is convened and no other business shall be transacted at the meeting.

7.3 All members shall be given not less than fourteen days' notice of any Electoral, General or Extraordinary General Meeting.

7.4 Rules may only be amended at Electoral, General or Extraordinary General Meetings. Any proposal to change a Rule or amend the membership must be circulated in advance of a Council meeting.

7.5 At all meetings voting shall be decided by a show of hands or a paper ballot. Resolutions shall be decided by a simple majority of those voting and present except in cases where a particular majority is decided by this Constitution.

7.6 No Officer or member of a Committee can be elected in absentia unless the Secretary has received a written declaration from the candidate stating acceptance of the nomination.

7.7 Minutes shall be taken at all meetings of Council and Committees. In cases where the Honorary Secretary of the Council is not present a Minute Secretary shall be appointed from that Committee. Copies of all such Minutes shall be provided to the Honorary Secretary within fourteen days of the meeting.

7.8 Any complaints to Council must be given in writing to the Secretary on the appropriate form.

7.9 The Chairman's decision on conduct of business shall be final.

8. POWERS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council shall itself or through its Committees properly appointed have the following powers in addition to all other powers vested in it by law or by this Constitution.

i. To deal with the finances of the Council.

ii. To make and amend Rules for the Registration and Exhibition of cats.

iii. To grant licences for Shows and Exhibitions of cats to be held under the auspices of the Council and to charge such fees as the Council may from time to time decide.

iv. To make such awards at such Shows and Exhibitions as it shall deem fit.

v. To arrange for the keeping of a Register of the pedigrees of cats and kittens.

vi. To issue certificates of pedigrees of its cats and kittens in its Register.

vii. To exercise disciplinary powers in accordance with this Constitution.

viii By agreement between the parties concerned to arbitrate in disputes between individuals or between affiliated Clubs or between individuals and affiliated clubs. Any individual or club party to any dispute may refer the matter to Council for arbitration

ix To disaffiliate any Club not conforming to this Constitution or to any rule made by the Council.

x To engage a Solicitor or Solicitors or other person or persons of specialist knowledge, honorary or otherwise.

xi To issue to the Press or any other media outlet such information and/or notices as it may deem desirable.

xii. To require any affiliated Club to amend any of its Rules if in the opinion of the Council this is necessary in the interests of the Cat Fancy or its objects.

xiii ~~To appoint Judges on the recommendations of the Judges Committee. Any person so appointed may not officiate at any cat show in the Republic of Ireland not licensed by the GCCFI without prior permission. To remove a Judge from the list of Judges on a proper cause being shown by the Judges Committee.~~

xiv. To arrange for the hearing by the Appeals Committee of any appeal against a decision of the Disciplinary Committee.

xv. To appoint standing committees as deemed necessary.

xvi. To enter into association with any Cat Club, Society or Governing Body in any part of the world.

xvii The Chairman's decision on the conduct of business at all meetings shall be final.

9. FINANCES

9.1 The funds of the Council will be maintained on Current Account in a Financial Institution in the Republic of Ireland. Through the account shall be credited all moneys received by way of subscription from affiliated clubs, fees from licensed Cat Shows and from all other sources and the Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all such funds received and will account to the Executive Committee at its meetings and to the Annual General Meeting of the Council. Surplus funds, having passed through Current Account may be placed on Deposit Account at the direction of the Council.

9.2 The Bank Account shall be operated by the signature of the Treasurer and any other officer of the Executive Committee as the Council shall decide and the Council

may have the accounts verified by any person nominated for that purpose for presentation at the Annual General Meeting.

9.3 A separate Supreme Show current bank account shall be operated in the same way as described in Article 5.4.
The cheque book for the No. 2 account for operating Supreme Show finances should be in the hands of the Show Manager, who together with another member of the Supreme Committee , should be signatories. The cheque book will be returned to the Treasurer when the accounts are submitted i.e. within one month of the Show.

10. REGISTRY

The Council shall arrange for the registration of cats, transfer of ownership and the issuing of prefixes. This will be in line with the Registration rules and breed policies as determined by Council. Reports will be made to the Executive Committee as required. Itemised accounts will be available to the Treasurer.

11. DISCIPLINARY POWERS.

11.1 Any affiliated club or any person who is, or was, at any time, bound by this Constitution or any Rule made by the Council hereunder shall be liable to disciplinary action in accordance with the Article whether or not in the case of a club it was affiliated or in the case of a person he was so bound at the time of the occurrence giving rise to the liability to disciplinary action. Liability to disciplinary action will arise in respect of any of the following:

(a) Any breach of this Constitution or of any of the Rules made by the Council there under and any breach of the Rules of any affiliated club or clubs to which such person belongs.

(b) Any act, conduct, default or omission arising out of, connected with or relating to the keeping, breeding, exhibiting or judging of cats which is or may be discreditable or prejudicial to the health or welfare of cats or the interests of cat owners or the breeding or exhibiting of cats.

It shall be discreditable conduct (1) to supply or (2) to be concerned in the supply of animals with a view to profit or gain for the purposes of scientific or other research, 'to be concerned' to include (a) acting as an agent for such supply or (b) any act leading to a profit or gain being derived from such a supply. In the event of such discreditable conduct being proved to the satisfaction of the Disciplinary Committee, the GCCFI will no longer accept any cat or kittens owned by the person concerned into any show run according to its Rules for a period of **5 years** after the occurrence of such misconduct.

~~The GCCFI strongly recommends members of the Cat Fancy not to sell to pet shops because such action may lead to cats being treated in a way that would be prejudicial to the cats' welfare, so rendering themselves liable to be called~~

It shall be discreditable conduct for any breeder to sell or otherwise dispose of cats or kittens, either themselves or by way of an agent or third party to any retail or other business in Ireland or overseas engaged wholly or in part in the business of selling pets where such a cat or kitten is intended for resale. Neither shall they place cats or kittens with such businesses on a sale or return basis.
~~upon to answer a complaint of discreditable and/or prejudicial conduct brought under Article 11 of the GCCFI Constitution.~~

The Council strongly recommends that in the event of a cat or kitten being advertised on any form of social media, extensive searches and enquiries are made by the vendor into the circumstances of the purchaser, their reasons for the purchase and their suitability to own such a cat or kitten.

(c) Any conviction by a Court of Justice of any offence against any act, statute, by-law or regulation relating to the protection, treatment or welfare of any animal or animals.

(d) Any act, conduct default or omission in any way connected with cats, the GCCFI, any affiliated club or any member or members thereof or any other person or club, which is or may be discreditable or prejudicial to the interests of the GCCFI or any affiliated club or to any member of any of them.

11.2

(a) It shall be the right of any person, club or any committee of the Council (hereinafter called 'the complainant') to bring to the attention of the **Investigations Committee** ~~Secretary~~ of the Council any fact or matters indicating that an affiliated club or any person (hereinafter called 'the defendant') may have become liable to disciplinary action as aforesaid. ~~and it shall be the duty of the Honorary Secretary forthwith to lay such facts and matters before the Investigation Panel~~. Such Complaint must be accompanied by a completed Complaints Form (available on the GCCFI website) together with a fee of **€25.00.** The form shall be sent to the Investigations committee ***no later than 8 weeks*** after such complaint has arisen, except in exceptional *circumstances* which will be decided by the Investigations committee whose decision is final. ~~In the event of late receipt such complaint will not be accepted or considered.~~ This does not apply to breaches of Section 2 Rule 47/ Section 4 Rule 33 which must be sent by Show Managers within 5 days of a show.

(b) Where any such fact or matters have been laid before it the Investigation Panel shall have power to call for and it shall be the duty of every affiliated club or any person mentioned in sub-article 1 hereof to provide such further information as the Panel may consider necessary to enable it to carry out its duties under this Article. The Investigation Panel shall provide the defendant with details of the complaint and then give him an opportunity to make written representations within 14 days of the letter being issued.

(c) The Investigation Panel shall thereupon decide whether a prima facie case has been made out against the defendant and, if so, it shall refer the complaint to the Disciplinary committee. It shall send the committee a summary of the facts and matters which were before the Investigation Panel together with a copy or summary of any representations made to it by the defendant.

(d) In the event that the Investigation Panel finds that no prima facie case has been made out against a defendant it may at its absolute discretion require the complainant concerned to make a contribution towards the cost of processing the complaint not exceeding €100. Failure without good cause to pay a contribution so required shall be deemed to be discreditable conduct within the meaning of sub-Article 1d of this Article.

11.3

(a) Upon receipt of a formal complaint from the Disciplinary Committee the Honorary Secretary of the Council shall arrange to notify the defendant of the terms of the complaint and as soon as practicable thereafter, of the time and place fixed for the hearing. The Disciplinary Committee shall give the defendant the opportunity of being heard at it.

(b) The Investigation Panel shall appoint one of its number to present the formal complaint before it or shall allow the complainant to present such complaints, if he so wishes.

(c) The Disciplinary Committee may instruct a Solicitor or brief Counsel to act or advise it on the hearing of a formal complaint.

(d) The complainant shall attend the hearing of a formal complaint **if required,** together with any witnesses to give evidence in support of the complaint. Failure to do so shall render the persons concerned liable to disciplinary action under Article 11 hereof.

(**e**)All witnesses required shall be notified not less than fourteen days before the date fixed for the hearing of the formal complaint by the Disciplinary Committee.

(f) If the defendant, or any other person required to do so, fails to attend a hearing the Disciplinary Committee may proceed with the hearing in such a manner as it considers appropriate, including proceeding to make findings and issue orders.

11.4

If the Disciplinary Committee is of the opinion that the complaint has been proved in whole or in part orders against the defendant as it considers appropriate. A written report of the findings and decision of the Disciplinary Committee shall be furnished within **14 days** of the hearing to the Executive Committee and the Defendant. The Disciplinary Committee shall make one of the following orders:

(a) If the defendant be an affiliated club: Disaffiliation.

(b) If the defendant be a person at any time bound by this Constitution and the Rules made there under:

1. Suspension of the defendant concerned from exhibiting at, taking part in or having any connection with any cat show. During any period of such suspension a defendant shall not be eligible to become or remain a member of any affiliated club. Except where the Disciplinary Committee orders otherwise the Council shall not register any cat or the progeny of any cat owned by a defendant suspended in accordance herewith and similarly the Council shall not register the transfer of any cat to or from the ownership of any such defendant during the period of suspension. No such progeny born during the period of suspension shall be registered at any time. Provided always that the Executive Committee may in its absolute discretion allow the registration of any cat aforesaid where it is satisfied that not to do so would be deleterious to the welfare of the cat or would cause hardship or injury to an innocent third party who had acted at all times in good faith.

2. Disqualification from all shows held under the Rules of the Council of all cats owned by the defendant or registered by him or owned or registered by him, jointly with another or others, or owned or registered in the name or names of a nominee or nominees respectively. No cats disqualified in accordance herewith shall be eligible to be shown during the period of such disqualification.

3. A defendant shall not represent themselves as being in any way affiliated with or connected to the Council during the period of suspension.

4. Disqualification from holding office in an affiliated club or being a member of a committee of an affiliated club.

5. Disqualification from being concerned in the management of any show held under the Rules of the Council.

6. Disqualification from officiating as a judge at any show held under the Rules of the Council.

Any suspension or disqualification hereunder may be imposed for such a period or periods as the Disciplinary Committee shall order.

(c) In the case of any defendant:

1. That the said defendant be censured and warned.

2. Imposition of a fine(s) as decided by the committee and payable within 28 days. Failure to comply with any order imposing of fine hereunder shall cause the defendant to be automatically disqualified and suspended under the terms of

b1 and 2 hereof, or disaffiliated as the case may be for so long as the failure to comply continues. If in the opinion of the Disciplinary Committee, deliberate cruelty or neglect has occurred, the GCCFI reserve the right to report any such incidents to the ISPCA or An Garda Siochana (the Police).

11.5

Any order of the Disciplinary Committee may be made upon such terms and conditions (if any) as the Committee may deem appropriate, but if notwithstanding its findings that a complaint has been proved the Disciplinary Committee is of the opinion that in all circumstances of the case no such order as aforesaid is appropriate it may make an order that no further action be taken on the complaint.

11.6

An order of the Disciplinary Committee shall take effect from the date of the order. Notice of the order shall be given forthwith to the defendant and the Council within **14 days**.

11.7

Any person knowingly supplying a cat to anyone so suspended in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 11 (4) (b) (i) of the Article shall be liable to disciplinary action hereunder.

11.8

An appeal may be made from any finding of the Disciplinary Committee to the Appeals Committee upon any point of law or procedure or against any order or finding made by the Disciplinary Committee but **not a finding of fact**. Notice of appeal shall be given to the Honorary Secretary of Council within twenty one days of such finding; any such notice shall set out in reasonable detail the ground or grounds of appeal and such ground or grounds shall not afterwards be varied except with the leave of the Appeals Committee.

1**1.9**

(a) The Appeals Committee through the Honorary Secretary of the Council shall arrange to notify the parties to the appeal of the time and place fixed for the hearing of the Appeal.

The Appeals Committee shall give the parties the opportunity of being heard.

(b) The Disciplinary Committee shall appoint one of its number to appear for it on an Appeal.

(c) The Appeals Committee may instruct a Solicitor or may brief Counsel to advise it on the hearing of any Appeal.

11.10

(a) On any Appeal the Appeals Committee shall take into consideration the record of the evidence given before and the documents produced to the Disciplinary Committee on its hearing of the formal complaint but may in its absolute discretion rehear any witness called before the Disciplinary Committee and may on special grounds (as to which the Appeals Committee shall be the sole judge) admit and receive any fresh evidence which was not capable of being produced to the Disciplinary Committee.

(b) On any Appeal the Appeals Committee may affirm, vary or rescind any order of the Disciplinary Committee including any order as to costs and may substitute any other order or orders which the Disciplinary Committee might have made on the original formal complaint. An order of the Appeals Committee shall take effect as from the date thereof. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final.

(c) Notice of any order of the Appeals Committee shall as soon as practicable be given to the parties and the Council.

11.11

(a) The unsuccessful party to any complaint heard by the Disciplinary Committee shall be liable to **ALL** costs relating to the Hearing payable by both parties.

(b) Any such costs shall be paid within one month of the date of the service upon the defendant of the order save that subject to paragraph (c) below if notice of appeal is given such costs shall not be payable until the determination of the appeal and then subject to any order made by the Appeals Committee thereon.

(c) Where the appeal is from an order of the Disciplinary Committee that the defendant
be suspended or the defendant's cats disqualified, any costs ordered by the Disciplinary Committee shall be paid forthwith and failure to do so shall invalidate any notice of appeal which may thereafter be given.

(d) No appeal shall lie solely on the question of costs.

(e) Where the Appeals Committee dismisses wholly or in part any appeal it may in addition to any order made by it under paragraph 10 above against a defendant, direct that the said defendants pay a further sum not exceeding €100 by way of costs of the appeal. Any costs ordered by the Appeals Committee together with any costs to be directed to be paid by the Disciplinary Committee varied if such be the case by the Appeals Committee, shall be paid within one month of the date of the order of the Appeals Committee. Failure to do so shall automatically cause a defendant Club to be disaffiliated and any other defendant to be suspended until payment is made.

11.12

(a) Whenever the Disciplinary Committee finds that a formal complaint has been proved in whole or in part, it shall subject to paragraph d hereof cause its order to be published, provided that where the Disciplinary Committee has ordered that no further action be taken on the complaint, the order shall not be published unless the defendant so requests.
As a result of any proven complaint, a report in writing will be furnished to the ***Secretary***, who will inform their Registrars, who undertake registrations on our behalf, solely for the purpose of making them aware of such complaint and the result thereof.

(b) The Appeals Committee shall likewise cause any order made by it to be published provided that if the Appeals Committee has ordered that no further action be taken on the complaint the order shall not be published unless the defendant so requests.

(c) Unless the Disciplinary Committee, or as the case may be, the Appeals Committee in its absolute discretion otherwise directs , any such publication shall state the name of the defendant, the substance of the complaint, and the order or orders made against such defendant, but need not include the name of any person concerned in the complaint or appeal.

(d) No publication under paragraph a) hereof shall be made until after the expiry of the appeal period aforesaid and in the event that notice of appeal as aforesaid is received by the Council no publication under paragraph b) hereof shall take place

11.13

(a) At any hearing before the Disciplinary Committee or the Appeals Committee respectively, any complainant and any defendant may if any of them shall so desire, be represented by a member of the Cat Fancy other than a witness to the complaint or by a Solicitor or Counsel and paragraphs 2(b), 3(a), 8 and 9(a) hereof shall be construed accordingly.

(b) The Disciplinary Committee may instruct a Solicitor or cause Counsel to be briefed upon its behalf to advise it or to represent it at any hearing before it or the Appeals Committee as the case may be.

11.14

In this article unless inconsistent with the subject or context

(a) “Hearing” in relation to a complaint or appeal shall mean a meeting of the relevant Committees for the purposes of considering a complaint or appeal and

include the making of an order or finding upon or in connection with the complaint or appeal and also where appropriate include a rehearing.

(b) “Order” includes any finding term or condition in consequence of which the order is made.

(c) “Club" shall include any Club, Association or Society.

(d) "Cat" and "Cats" shall include male and female adults respectively, kitten and kittens respectively and shall include neuters and spays respectively.

12. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting at any Annual General Meeting, provided that not less than fourteen days notice of the proposed change has been given to all members, or at any Extraordinary General Meeting of which due notice of such meeting and the proposed amendment shall be give in accordance with Article 7.

In this Constitution unless inconsistent with the subject or context the masculine gender where used shall include the feminine.