



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FIFE BOARD 05/23

19th August – Vienna, Austria

Present

Mrs. Annette Sjödin	-	President	Mr. Veikko Saarela	-	Vice-President
Mr. Leo v/d Haterd	-	Treasurer	Mr. Karl Preiss	-	Vice-Treasurer
Mr. Charles Spijker	-	Vice-Secretary	Mr. Eric Reijers	-	General-Secretary

Abbreviations used

- BCA – Breed Council Administrator
- BRC – Breeding & Reg. Commission
- BRR – Breeding & Registration Rules
- CNA – Cattery Names Administrator
- DC – Disciplinary Commission
- GA – General Assembly
- GS – General-Secretary
- HWC – Health & Welfare Commission
- JSC – Judges & Standard Commission
- JR – Judges Rules
- PRC – Public Relations Commission
- SC – Show Commission
- SCA – Show Calendar Administrator
- SR – Show Rules
- VCM – Video Conference Meeting
- WCC – World Cat Congress

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting started at 09.15 hours.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The Board approved the agenda for this meeting.

3. Approval of previous Minutes

The Minutes 03/23 had been approved and were sent to the Members on 23.05.2023.

4. Matters arising from or omitted in previous Minutes

On 23.05.2023, the HWC sent a 6-pages PDF, a summary of survey results, containing the data gathered by the HWC in their 2022 survey when they contacted the Members with a list of questions. This survey was sent to the Members together with the Minutes 03/23.

5. Financial

5.1 Members' and Patronage Members' Payments

The Treasurer presented a list of outstanding payments. There was nothing special to report. He also presented a "Profit & Loss" list until 01.09.2023.

5.2 Judges Exams

Four new judges' exam applications were received.

5.3 Other Financial Matters

- a. The Treasurer stated that the budget for the commissions was almost completely spent at the 2023 GA. The Board questioned why all commission members were present from Tuesday to Sunday. On Tuesday, they should be there for the closed meetings and on Wednesday for the Open Commission Meeting, after that only the chairmen should stay for the rest of the week. The GS would send this suggestion to all commissions to ask for their opinions. Likewise, the Board questioned the presence of the controllers for the whole week. They should be present for the two days of the actual GA. The GS would inform the controllers.
- b. The Vice-Treasurer would contact the bank, enquiring about additional access to the account.
- c. The Treasurer suggested the controllers could check the 2023 accounts on Sunday 7th April 2024, after the planned board meeting in Vienna. He would contact the controllers.

6. Members' Matters

6.1 Correspondence

- a. Members informed the GS of the following changes: details listed on the FIFe website.
* NRR (NO) – new address.
* 1.DEKZV e.V. – new president and email address
- b. ICA (ID) sent an email with 2 questions. The first one was about the addition on the use of the code for eye colour, which was: "The code for eye-colour must be used if the cat is blue-eyed and non-pointed", brought by the BRC to amend the EMS list, at the 2022 GA. ICA asked if this meant that a blue-eyed solid cat (except MCO) should be registered with the code 61, like "BSH x c 61" in RIEX register and if offspring from such a cat had copper or deep orange eyes, should these also be in the RIEX register? The GS replied that this was correct. BSH c with blue eyes was not recognised, so it needed an "x" to indicate this and as a non-recognised variety and had to be registered in the RIEX register. Offspring of such a cat, even if they were fully recognised, also had to be registered in the RIEX register. This was clearly explained in articles 4.2 and 4.3 of the BRR. The second question was if odd-eyed bi-colour EXO/PER/BLH/BSH could compete at shows. ICA asked this because some All-Breed judges had said not to be sure if this was allowed and also stated that "bi-colour EXO/PER/BLH/BSH always had copper eye-colour". ICA added that many cat owners were confused and worried about this. They knew that the FIFe standards of EXO/PER/BLH/BSH bi-colour indicated that bi-colour could have one of 3 eye colours: deep blue, copper/deep orange and odd-eyed. Many owners of these odd-eyed bi-colour cats, wanted to show them, but feared their cats would not get an Ex or a certificate. The GS replied that this variety was recognised, so the judges were wrong and ICA was correct. At the 2018 GA, the JSC brought a proposal to clarify that bi-colour odd-eyed EXO/PER/BLH/BSH, should be judged together with those that had blue or copper eyes, and this proposal was carried (re. page 10 of the 2018 GA Minutes). This was also included in the "Summary of Changes 2019" document, which was sent to all Members and judges in the beginning of 2019 and which the treasurer also sent by post. And finally, this was also stated on pages 8, 16 and 17 of the EMS list. Summarizing, these cats can be shown, are fully recognised and can receive certificates, if they have sufficient merit.
- c. 1.DEKZV e.V. pointed out that the FPL proposal to change the ages in classes 12, 11, 10 and 9 per 01.01.2024, which was accepted by the 2023 GA, could lead to problems at the end of 2023. They asked for a transition arrangement.
- d. CFCA (LV) sent a complaint against the behaviour and words of Mr. Adrian Alexandru Dragota directed at Mrs. Anžela Fomičeva on Friday evening the 26th of May in Tavira (PT). The Board decided to send this matter to the DC for a recommendation (see item 8.7.b).
- e. FFH (CH) requested a provisional EMS code for the Bengal Longhair. They stated that this breed was registered in WCF as CAM (Cashmere) and in TICA as BGL (Bengal Longhair). FFH preferred the breed-name and code used by TICA. This breed should then be listed as sister-breed of the BEN. Breeding permissions would be easier because it would no longer be listed as XLH. The Board sent this to the BRC for a recommendation (see item 8.5.b).
- f. ANFI (IT) informed the Board that they decided to register cats coming from Russia in their Pedigree Book. They asked if they could only register cats that arrived in Italy, after the date of their decision or also those that arrived before and were never registered because of the FIFe restriction. The GS answered that the FIFe restriction to ban the import of cats bred in Russia into the FIFe Pedigree Books, regardless of which organization issued its pedigree, came into effect on the 01.03.2022. This decision was valid until the 31.05.2022. At the 2022 GA in Pízen (CZ) the GA decided to extend this restriction until the 31.05.2023. At the 2023 GA in Tavira (PT) the GA decided not to extend this restriction, so as of the 01.06.2023 it is allowed to import cats bred in Russia and to register them in FIFe pedigree books. The decision ANFI made on 07.06.2023 was a national matter and anything occurring between 01.06. and 07.06.2023 should be decided by ANFI, provided they were not in conflict with the above-mentioned period when restrictions were valid.
- g. ČSCH-SCHK (CZ) referred to items 6.1.f and 8.5.b of the Board Minutes 02/23 and asked how to register non-FIFe imports or their own requests for pedigrees of Siberian cats with the so-called "sunshine" colour. The current way to register them as silver or golden, depending on how the breeder marked the colour, seemed to be incorrect; should they continue with this? They wondered how to describe the colour verbally, when registering imports and using "x", and how to complete/define/describe this mark? The GS answered that until now, no answer had been received by the BRC and the JSC. They would be reminded. #

- h. 1.DEKZV e.V. (DE) asked how to register charcoal in OSH and attached a pedigree from an imported cat with this colour/pattern. The Board decided to send this to the BRC for a recommendation (see item 8.5.c).
- i. LCC-FFL (LU) asked if information was available from the survey conducted by the HWC in February 2023, indicating in which countries certain breeds were not allowed. They stated to have heard that there had been a discussion on banning certain breeds throughout the EU and wondered if FIFe had information about this and if the GS could send them the email address of Jurgita Gustaitiene, the HWC. They also indicated that there was an error in the German version of the SPH standard concerning the description of the whiskers. The GS replied that the summary of results of the HWC survey, had been sent to all Members on the 23.05.2023, together with the Minutes of the Board 03/23 and a printed version had been given to all delegates at the 2023 GA. Regarding a ban on certain breeds by the EU, he answered that FIFe had not received any official information about this. The GS informed LCC-FFL that the email address of Mrs. Gustaitiene was on the FIFe website, on the page listing the HWC members and on the Judges list. He added that she was no longer chairman of the HWC and that in line with article 6.3 of the Statutes, correspondence to commissions should be sent to the GS. Members were not allowed to contact commissions directly. Finally, he stated that the Board and/or JSC would look into the wording of the SPH standard.

7. Show matters:

7.1 General

- a. FPL (PL), as the Member who proposed the accepted changes in age for show classes 9,10,11 and 12, sent a suggestion how to handle the transition period, after the new age limits would be valid, starting from 01.01.2024. FPL suggested that cats should always be judged in the class according to their age at the given show and that all certificates obtained before should remain valid. FPL gave an example:
A cat born on 01.02.2023, would be in open class in December 2023 (as per current rules). This cat would be shown on a two-day show in December 2023 and obtained two CACs. From 01.01.2024 till 31.01.2024 this cat should compete in class 11 and could, for example, complete his Junior Winner title or obtain (if shown three times in January 2024 and obtained three times an Ex1) the new Junior Champion title. From 01.02.2024 this cat would compete in open class as per the new rules, but the two CACs obtained in December 2023 would still be valid. FPL believed this was most logical and easiest approach.
The Board decided to send this suggestion to the SC for a recommendation (see item 8. 4.b).
- b. FD (DK) informed the GS of the results of the 1 certificate show, divided by categories spread over 3 days on the 02+03+04.06.2023 held at a large, yearly agricultural event (see item 7.1.9 Minutes 05/22). FD had always been present at this fair but this was the first time they held a real cat show. This year, the event attracted 113.000 visitors, which were queuing up to see the cats. The PR was excellent and the media coverage on the various breeds shown was very positive and FD sent various photographs and a link to television coverage.
This event was always held during the first weekend of June – which meant that in some years, this would coincide with the weekend immediately following the FIFe GA, which was in conflict with §1.1. of the SR. In 2024, the dates would be from the 31.05 until the 02.06 and in 2025, from the 30.05 until the 01.06. However, FD feared that if they were not able to confirm their participation for the events in 2024 and 2025 within a few weeks, other Danish feline organizations would jump at the chance to take over and arrange non-FIFe shows there. This was why FD asked the Board for an exception to § 1.1 of the SR for the years 2024 and 2025 so they could participate again at this event; FD had no influence on the dates.
The Board discussed this request and decided to grant this request for 2 exceptions for the years 2024 and 2025 so FD, and FIFe, could be present at this prestigious event.
- c. Mundikat (NL) filed a complaint on the general behaviour of Felis Belgica (FBe), especially on the organization of the NSW. FBe did not inform all NSW group members of changes where and when the shows would take place. Mundikat also stated that FBe changed the date of the 2024 NSW too late, which was not in line with article 2.6.2 of the SR.
The Board understood the problems described by Mundikat but felt it could not do much so close to the date of the show. The GS would write to FBe telling them to respect all relevant Winner Show articles, now and in future. The Board also urged all Members participating in Winner Groups to respect article 2.6.1 of the SR, at the least the spirit of this rule.
- d. SVERAK (SE) sent a suggestion how to handle the transition period between the old ages in classes 12/11/10/9 and the new ages, valid as of 01.01.2024. They understood that there had

been discussions how to handle this, e.g. with cats that would be 10 months old in November or December 2023 and would be entered in show classes 9 or 10. Then in January, they would be juniors again. SVERAK suggested to let all cats in classes 9 or 10 continue in these classes and that cats that were not yet 12 months old in January or February 2024 should continue in class 11, except cats, which entered class 9, 10 or higher, during late 2023. This "problem" would only exist during two months in the beginning of 2024. SVERAK asked the Board's opinion because they also needed to make corrections to their show programme. The Board decided to also send this matter to the SC for consideration (see item 8. 4.b).

- e. LFA-Bubaste (LT) organised a 3-certificate show on the 15+16.07.2023 and asked for an exception. For one of the shows the number of entries was lower than 150. This exception was granted but the next day, Bubaste informed the GS that they had managed to get 150 entries, so no exception was needed.

7.2 Ratification of dispensation to the Show Rules regarding the number of cats.

- a. 1.DEKZV (DE) – shows in Wolnzach, 03+04.06.2023, as International with less than 150 cats.
 b. ČSCH (CZ) – show in Kolin,04.06.2023, as International with less than 150 cats.
 c. FFH (CH) – shows in Reconvilier, 10+11.06.2023, as International with less than 150 cats.
 d. ČSCH (CZ) – shows in Brno,10+11.06.2023, as International with less than 150 cats.
 e. FD (DK) – show in Herning, 30.06+01.07.2023, as International with less than 150 cats.

7.3 Ratification of permission granted to a FIFe Member to invite a non-FIFe Judge:

7.4 Ratification of permission not granted to FIFe Members to invite non-FIFe Judges:

For the above items there was nothing to report

7A World Shows

7A.1. General

- a. FAF-FR (RO) informed the GS that they would organise the 2025 World Show in Bucharest. The Board thanked FAF-FR and the show calendar was updated.
 b. UFU (UA) had a request; many Ukrainian breeders would like to participate at the WS in Strasbourg this year. But it was really complicated for those who stayed in Ukraine to obtain qualifications at this moment. Due to ongoing war, there were no shows in Ukraine and breeders residing in Ukraine had problems to go to shows abroad since there were no flights from and to Ukraine at the moment and the number of bus and train connections were greatly reduced. Finally, most breeders in Ukraine could not afford to go to shows for qualifications but would try to get funds to cover the trip to WS. UFU asked for an exception, allowing their breeders to participate at the 2023 WS without qualification like it was done during the WS in Vicenza right after the pandemic. This would be greatly welcomed by UFU members. The Board decided to ask the SC for a recommendation (see item 8.4.c).

7A.2. The complete World Show List (only the first 10 years are published on the Show List):

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • 2023 - Strasbourg - FFF (FR) | • 2030 - tba - SFDH (HR) |
| • 2024 - Sandefjord - NRR (NO) | • 2031 - tba - FD (DK) |
| • 2025 - Bucharest - FAF-FR (RO) | • 2032 - tba - KKÖ (AT) |
| • 2026 - Amsterdam - Mundikat (NL) | • 2033 - tba - Suomen K. (FI) |
| • 2027 - Prague - ČSCH (CZ) | • 2034 - tba |
| • 2028 - tba - FPL (PL) | • 2035 - tba - FFH (CH) |
| • 2029 - tba - SVERAK (SE) | |

8. Commission Matters

8.1 Statutes, Rules, Standards, EMS List, lists and forms

- a. Mrs. Nathalie Smits-Peelen was informed by Mrs. Kateryna Ovanessian, that there were mistakes in the EMS list on pages where the new EMS code for "agouti" pointed BLH/BSH * 11 33 had been inserted and Mrs. Smits-Peelen informed the GS. Besides the codes 01, 02 and 03 also 09 was listed. The Board agreed and established that this was a copy & paste mistake. This was corrected, the new EMS list was uploaded on the website and Mrs. Smits-Peelen was thanked for noticing this.
 b. This year, a new printed issue of the Standards would be provided together with the Statutes and Rules. The starting pages of the current, yellow, EMS System booklet, would be integrated in the booklet with Statutes and Rules and not be issued separately anymore.

8.2 Seminars

- a. At the national FIFe Judges seminar, held by ANFI (IT) in Segrate (Milan) on the 24.06.2023 a total of 24 participants including 3 lecturers were present. These were subdivided in 5 first time student judges, 9 judges who were student judges in other categories and 10 judges
- b. The JSC chairman asked the Board's approval for the organisation of a Compulsory Student Judge Seminar. This would be an online seminar split into 3 sessions, on Wednesday evening the 11th, 18th and 25th of October. Participation at all 3 sessions was obligatory to obtain a certificate of attendance. She included an agenda and stated that the JSC expected that 10 to 15 student judges would participate. The Board discussed this matter and agreed with this particular request. The JSC was informed, the agenda was uploaded on the website.
- c. The Board discussed the principle of online seminars, especially the CSS, which was the only compulsory seminar in the whole training system for student judges. The CSS was a place for first time student judges to become acquainted with each other and lecturers. During the pandemic, this was the only and understandable option but this should not be valid automatically for future seminars. Online seminars could be an addition to the training, but personal interaction was essential when discussing, for example, ethics and the judge arena. After all, our hobby was mainly about interacting with exhibitors and owners of cats.

8.3 Judges and Standards Commission

The JSC discussed comments made during the last GA and wanted to start an ambitious project, involving the standards. The aim would be to eliminate the faults in all breeds where these were the clear opposite of the standard description and to maintain those faults, which gave a clear indication. To accomplish this, the JSC needed to confer with relevant Breed Councils. They planned to organise an online meeting with BC Secretaries, in which also the BCA would be involved and since this would be very time-consuming, they wanted to start this process in the autumn of this year. The JSC asked the Board for permission to communicate with the BC Secretaries directly. The Board granted this request for direct communication.

8.4 Show Commission

- a. The SC sent their recommendations on the questions from FBe (BE) on organising shows outside Belgium, in Luxemburg; see Minutes 03/23, items 7.1.e and 8.4. The SC referred to article 1.2 and 7.2 of the SR and article 1.4 of the Statutes. FBe asked three questions:
 1. Can a FIFe Member organize a show in another country, where a FIFe Member was already established, obviously with permission of the FIFe Member in that country?
 2. Would the certificate issued count as a certificate gained in the country where the show was held, i.e. is the geographic location was the determining factor, or as a certificate gained in the organizer's country (i.e. the responsible Member was determining factor)?
 3. Must we always apply to the Board before organizing such a show in another FIFe Member's country, or can we to deal with this between the FIFe Members concerned and just inform the Show calendar administrator?

The SC discussed these questions at their meeting in Tavira. The SC considered cooperation between FIFe Members as very positive and would always support this but stated that FIFe cannot interfere in the organization and the financial matters of parties involved as long as valid rules are respected. This is subject only to agreement between the Members involved. Regarding the 3 questions asked, the SC recommended the following answers:

1. In accordance with article 1.4 of the Statutes (especially 1.4.f), the SC was in favour of cooperation between the Members. However, one Member can never organize a show in the country of another Member without their permission and preferably, with mutual cooperation.
2. If a FIFe Member organises a show in another country where there is a national FIFe Member, the certificates gained must absolutely be counted as described in art. 7.2 of SR: such certificates can NOT count as certificates gained abroad. It is the show organizer, not the location/country, that issues the certificates.
3. To organize a show in another FIFe Member's country, must always be applied to and approved by the FIFe Board in advance, just like any other exception to the FIFe rules, but especially in such a case, because there are two FIFe Members are involved.

The Board appreciated the answers of the SC but could not agree with all their conclusions.

The Board decided to answer the questions asked by FBe in their email, as follows:

1. No, it is in principle not possible for a FIFe member to organize a show in a country, where a FIFe member was established. Whereas FIFe Members must offer pedigree services to their individual members, in line with article 4.5 of the BRR, this obligation does not exist

- regarding shows. However, individual members of a FIFe Member had a justified expectancy that one of the core activities of their Member was, to organize shows. Since the answer to question 1 was “no” the other questions were no longer applicable. The GS would inform FBe.
- b. The GS forwarded the suggestions from FPL and SVERAK (see item 7.1.a & d.) how to handle the transition period, which would arise after the new ages would be valid for classes 9, 10, 11 and 12, to the SC for a recommendation. The SC sent their recommendation, considering the suggestions from both FPL and SVERAK. They referred to the relevant SR articles, 1.17.e and 5.4. The SC was of the opinion that the FPL (PL) suggestion, and the example they provided, was most in line with existing Show Rules regarding age and obtaining certificates. The SC agreed with FPL that this was the only way how to interpret this matter. They stated that this interpretation would avoid problems and confusion for the exhibitors. Cats would, as always, be entered and judged in show classes by age. The SC recommended to accept the FPL (PL) suggestion, which would mean that as of 01.01.2024:
- cats, not yet 8 months must be entered in class 12
 - cats, not yet 12 months must be entered in class 11
 - cats, which already achieved certificates in class 9 or higher, prior to 01.01.2024, will keep these certificates (and other awards achieved) and must be entered in accordance with the new age classification valid as from 01.01.2024. The SC asked the Board to publish this information in the Board Minutes, to indicate it on the website and to include it in the annual Summary of changes per 01.01.2024 which was sent to all Members and Judges. The Board agreed with the SC and the GS would inform FPL and SVERAK. A news item would be put on the website and the Members would be informed about this as well.
- c. The GS forwarded the request for an exception from UFU (UA) to the SC for a recommendation (see item 7A.1.b). The SC sent their recommendation with reference to article 2.3 of the SR and considered this a very reasonable request, especially in view of the current circumstances in Ukraine. The SC sympathised with the sentiment of UFU members and breeders and would try to support them in any way possible. The SC recommended the Board to grant the exception regarding article 2.3 of SR to UFU breeders/individual members and to allow their cats to participate at the World Show 2023 without the required qualifications. The Board agreed with the SC and the GS would inform UFU that their members would not need to qualify their cats in order to participate at the 2023 World Show. The Board discussed in general why cats needed qualifications for World and Winner Shows and would ask the SC for a recommendation.
- d. The Board had seen the invitation of FBe for the 2024 NSW show. The NSW would take place on Saturday and Easter Sunday. Then on Easter Monday a regular 1-day show was planned. The Board would ask the opinion of the SC on this combination of shows.

8.5 Breeding & Registration Commission

- a. The Board had a short meeting with the BRC during the GA week in Tavira to clarify the question of SK how to register a BUR n, imported from TICA, with a grandparent, whose parents were BOM x BOM (see item 8.5.a Minutes 03/23). Both parties agreed that in line with the general principles of the BRR and especially with the 3rd bullet of § 4.6.2, SK should not change the ancestry of this imported cat. In TICA, the BUR and BOM were sister breeds and this imported cat should be registered as BUR n in the RX pedigree book. It was also pointed out that § 7.2 was exclusively meant for the registration of BOM, which was not applicable in this case. This was sent to SK and the Board trusted this settled their query.
- b. The GS forwarded the application of FFH (CH), asking for a provisional EMS code for the Bengal Longhair to the BRC (see item 6.1.e) and the BRC recommended, in line with the precedent set during the recognition of the BLH, to use the code BGL non. The Board discussed this matter by email and agreed with the BRC. The GS informed FFH that in line with article 8.1 of the BRR, FFH and all FIFe Members, could from now on use the provisional EMS code BGL non for the registration of Bengal Longhair. He added that when the next issue of the BRR would be issued or printed, this code would be included in the table in article 8.1 and that BGL non, would be added as a sister breed to the BEN in the table in article 6.1. This also meant that article 6.3 of the BRR now applied to the BGL non as well.
- c. The GS forwarded the question of 1.DEKZV e.V. (DE), asking how to register charcoal in OSH to the BRC (see item 6.1.h).

8.6 Health & Welfare Commission

- a. The GS was informed that the chairman of the HWC would be Mrs. Sara Moroni and the secretary Mrs. Petra Černá DVM.
- b. The HWC requested direct contact with the BCA so they could contact the BC's. The HWC wanted to learn about issues faced by BC's and see if they could offer help. This request was approved. The GS informed the HWC that commissions could contact each other without asking for permission; this did not include the DC.
- c. The Vice-President informed the HWC that he had contacted Mrs. Sirpa Pietikäinen, who had been proposed by SK (FI) as a member of the HWC at the 2023 GA, and she offered her help to the FIFe board and commissions. Mrs. Pietikäinen, as EU parliament member, had close contacts and experience with EU institutions. She said that cats, other animals and their health and welfare had always had her interest.
- d. The HWC chairman informed the Board that they had a meeting and one of the topics was the relation of FIFe Members with their governmental bodies. They had recently dealt with questions of FBe (BE) but felt that all European Members would face similar challenges soon. The HWC felt that direct contact with the EU Commission was needed and that the voice and needs of FIFe should be heard, tabled and possibly met, before FIFe breeders would face restrictions on a national or European level. The HWC was aware that engaging in a formal discussion on a legislative and governmental level was challenging. They were also aware of their advisory role in the FIFe structure but concerned that new developments would lead to unavoidable transformations. The HWC thanked Suomen Kissaliitto for the contact with Mrs. Pietikäinen and would gladly cooperate with her to try to ascertain the following:
 - how to proceed to get in contact with the EU Commission in an appropriate manner
 - how to set up a valuable tool to be received and transposed into an EU directive
 - how to be involved in working groups or interinstitutional meetings.Before the HWC would start with this work (preferably including, other qualified professionals) they asked the Board for formal approval of their plans. The HWC looked forward to receiving comments and promptings from the Board and hoped for endorsement and approval. The Board welcomed the initiative of the HWC and had no problem endorsing their plans. The Board was not particularly in favour to establish a "working group" but pointed out that as written in the Statutes, the HWC represented FIFe on all matter concerning the health and welfare of cats and the gathering of information on the health and welfare of cats and distributing this information as requested by the Members. The GS would inform the HWC.

8.7 Disciplinary Commission

- a. The DC had a meeting where they discussed the proposals brought to the 2023 GA. The DC contacted the Board because they felt that the proposal of Suomen Kissaliitto regarding the extension of restrictions regarding Russia (and to include Belarus) was not in accordance with Article 1.3 of the Statutes. The DC was split in their opinion how to proceed but the majority felt this proposal needed a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority to pass, like a change of Statutes. The Board agreed and at the GA, the President stated during item 5, approval of the agenda, that the proposal from SK was a membership matter and would be moved to be included in the section on proposals dealing with the statutes, which also needed a qualified or $\frac{3}{4}$ majority.
- b. The GS forwarded the complaint sent by CFCA (LV) against the behaviour and words of Mr. Adrian Alexandru Dragota directed at Mrs. Anžela Fomičeva on Friday evening the 26th of May in Tavira to the DC or a recommendation (see item 6.1.d). In this complaint, also the immediate suspension of Mr. Dragota as a member of the DC was demanded. The GS also forwarded an email from Mr. Dragota received on the 27th of May, in which he offered his apologies and informed the DC that the Board had not yet asked Mr. Dragota for his point of view on this matter; the GS trusted that the DC would do that. The DC sent an extensive recommendation on this matter including 2 witness statements. Regarding the behaviour towards Mrs. Fomičeva by Mr. Dragota: since he had already sent a personal apology to her the next day and the nature of this behaviour did not require a permanent suspension from the DC, they felt it was up to Mr. Dragota himself to evaluate whether or not he still had credibility to function as a DC member within this term. The DC recommended the Board to issue a strong reprimand. All functionaries should be able to refrain from this kind of behaviour. Regarding the public shaming of Mrs. Fomičeva and CFCA by Mr. Dragota the DC recommended similar actions. The DC was split in the opinion to temporarily suspend Mr. Dragota as member of the DC for 3 months. The DC left this up to the board to decide. The Board decided to reprimand Mr. Dragota in line with article 8.1 of the Statutes.

8.8 Public Relations Commission

- a. The GS was informed that the chairman of the PRC would be Mrs. Anna Wijbrands and the secretary Mrs. Anžela Fomičeva.
- b. The chairman of the PRC sent minutes of their first meeting, held on the 26.05.2023 in Tavira.
- c. The PRC requested permission to contact Members and commissions directly. They would copy the Board in all communications. They wished to initiate a communication survey for Members and commissions to find out the ways online media was used to communicate with cat owners. They also wished to generate questions and assess the ability for Members and commissions to communicate their input and wishes regarding new ways of using social media. The Board granted the request for directly contact with the Members and stated that no permission was needed for contact with the other commissions or the Board.
- d. The chairman of the PRC informed the GS that they were engaged in a survey to map, which resources FIFe Members used to connect with their individual members, potential exhibitors and existing exhibitors, and which channels they used to attract new potential exhibitors and members to determine the best strategy for more visibility and effective communication. They asked for an online meeting with those Board members, engaged with the new homepage of FIFe; about the plans and structure of the website and offered their help in changing some templates or widgets. They also wanted to know, which official FIFe social media channels or groups were moderated by FIFe at this moment. They intended to finish and summarize this survey and present future plans at the end of July. They requested a meeting with the individuals concerned with the FIFe website and social media platforms.
- e. The chairman of the PRC sent minutes of their VCM, held on the 11.06.2023.
- f. The PRC, Vice-Treasurer, Vice-Secretary and GS participated in a VCM on the 19.07.2023. Information was exchanged and questions asked and dealt with, mainly on the (new) FIFe website and presence of FIFe on social media. It was established that the Vice-President and the Vice-Treasurer were still in the process of closing a contract with a new Finnish company; when the contents would be discussed and specified, a member of the PRC could participate in the VCM. Since the PRC offered support to the board in several areas, the first concrete task was to come with ideas for the design of the presentation of the World-Winners on the new FIFe website.
- g. The Treasurer pointed out that FIFe would celebrate its 75 year Jubilee in 2024. The GS would contact the PRC and ask them for suggestions how to celebrate this.

9. Judges' Matters

Obituary: Mr. Beat Rettenmund

On the 17th of July 2023, the FIFe Board was informed by its Argentinean Member, AFA, of the death, after a prolonged illness, of the Honorary and International All Breed FIFe Judge Mr. Beat Rettenmund. Beat would have celebrated his 71st birthday in a few weeks.

Beat, who was born in Switzerland, joined an FFH club in 1974 and bred Abyssinians, Siamese and Orientals under the cattery name "*Puen Chan's*". Later, he also bred Devon Rex. For quite some years, he was actively involved in FFH as Board member and chairman of the Breeding Commission and he was president of the club "Ebocat" of which he was Honorary President.

Beat was FIFe Vice-President from 1988 until 1991 and a member of the FIFe Judges & LO Commission from 1986 until 1992, when he moved to Argentina.

He passed his judges exam in category IV in 1983, in category III in 1984 and was a national judge in categories I and II until 2004, when he was appointed international for these categories.

Beat was very active in expanding and promoting FIFe in Latin and South America and supported all members there.

Beat will be sorely missed, and the FIFe Board extends its sincere condolences to Beat's long year partner, Renato, his family and friends and the Argentinean FIFe Member AFA.

9.1 General

- a. Mrs. Donatella Mastrangelo (IT) and Mr. Steven Jones (NO), who checked the theoretical exam in category 4 of Mrs. Päivi Palokangas (SE) on the 26.05.2023 in Tavira (PT), informed the GS that she had failed the exam.
- b. Mrs. Pia Nyrup (DK) informed the GS that she found a mistake in the standard of the BLH/BSH. She was asked by an exhibitor in Indonesia if an odd-eyed BSH j 03 could get a certificate. Mrs. Nyrup was convinced this was not the case, but she decided to check the standard. In the standard she found that odd-eyed bicolours were accepted and thus she

concluded this was mistake. The GS answered her that she unfortunately had not found a mistake but simply neglected to update herself since odd-eyed bicolors had been accepted as recognised varieties since 01.01.2019. He also pointed out that this was indicated in the “Summary of Changes” valid as of 01.01.2019, which was sent to all Members and judges.

- c. Mr. Raymond A. Saetre (NO) requested that his suspension, which would end at the 01.01.2024, be lifted. The Board discussed this matter and decided to lift the suspension, allowing Mr. Saetre to function again as a judge as of 01.09.2023. The Vice-Treasurer did not participate in the discussion or decision.
- d. FBe (BE) sent an application for the category 2 exam for Mr. Joeri Vanrusselt. He had seen more than enough cats but his last student activity, a parallel judging session on 02.07.2023 at a Felikat show in Reusel (NL), was supervised by Mrs. Ietje Röhr-Dubbeld (NL) who was not listed as an active judge so this certificate was invalid. The GS informed FBe that Mr. Vanrusselt needed to see 5 more cats in parallel and he instructed Felikat to meticulously check if judges were qualified when allocating student judges to them. Lastly, he sent a cautionary email to Mrs. Röhr-Dubbeld, asking her to be aware of her status as a judge.
- e. NRR (NO) sent a category 3 exam application for Mrs. Caroline Stoa. Whilst she had seen almost all breeds, she still had not seen the CHA. The GS was informed she would see this breed on 01.09.2023 at a planned session in Finland. The GS informed NRR to send this certificate immediately after this session and then exam permission would be sent.

9.2 Permission to sit the FIFe Judges’ Exam

- a. Mrs. Magda Kudra (PL) to sit the exam in Breed Group D, in Schiedam (NL) on the 09.09.2023 in English with Mrs. Pia Nyman (FI) and Mr. Vladimir Isakov (BY).
- b. Mrs. Belina Muicey (AR) to sit the exam in category 2, in Schiedam (NL) on the 09.09.2023 in English with Mr. Gerado Fraga y Guzman (ES) and Mrs. Laura Scholten (NL).

9.2.1 Theoretical Part

9.2.2 Practical Part

For the above items there was nothing to report

9.3 FIFe Judges’ Examinations passed:

- a. Mrs. Pauline Kröger-Stokhof (NL) passed the theoretical part of the category 3 exam in Tavira (PT) on the 26.05.2023 in English with Mrs. Annette Sjödin (SE) and Mr. Veikko Saarela (FI).
- b. Bobby Funk (DE) passed the theoretical part of the Breed Group D exam in Tavira (PT) on the 26.05.2023 in German with Mr. Karl Preiss (NO) and Mr. Eric Reijers (CZ).
- c. Mrs. Carin Sahlberg (FI) passed the theoretical part of the Breed Group A exam in Tavira (PT) on the 26.05.2023 in English with Mrs. Annette Sjödin (SE) and Mr. Charles Spijker (NL).
- d. Mrs. Pauline Kröger-Stokhof (NL) passed the practical part of the category 3 exam in Hjørring (DK) on the 10.06.2023 in English with Mrs. Britta Busse and Mrs. Helene Reiter (both DE).
- e. Mrs. Ilona Senderek-Wójcik (PL) passed the category 2 exam, at a show in Trondheim (NO) on the 24.06.2023 in English with Mrs. Donatella Mastrangelo and Mr. Glenn Sjöbom (SE).

9.4 Judges Appointments – 1st category

After passing the last part of the required stage at the show in Reusel (NL) on 01.07.2023, Mrs. Pauline Kröger-Stokhof (NL) was appointed an International FIFe judge in category 3.

9.5 Judges Appointments – 2nd, 3rd and 4th categories

Nothing to report

9.6 Mentor Judge application

The following judge applied to be a mentor judge and sent the required application form:

- Mr. Dietmar Sagurski (DE) – categories 3 and 4

9.7 Ratification of permission granted to FIFe Judges to officiate at a non-FIFe shows to:

- a. Mrs. Caroline Stoa (NO) – SACC show in Cape Town (SA), 30.09.2023
- b. Mrs. Nurit Pahl (IL) – TICA show in Bat-Yam (IL), 11.11.2023
- c. Mr. Martti Peltonen (SE) – IDP (ENFI) shows in Pistoia (IT), 30.09+01.10.2023

9.8 Permission denied to a FIFe Judge to officiate at non-FIFe shows to:

Nothing to report

10. Student Judges' matters

10.1 General

FB (GB) requested the reinstatement of Mrs. Janet Green as a student judge in Breed Groups B, D and category 2 because she had been actively seeking student judge engagements for the next 12 months. The student judges list was amended.

10.2 Request for a preliminary student judges' examination:

- a. FFH (CH) for their member Mrs. Nancy Klabunde in category 2, on 12.08.2023 in Villmergen (CH) with Mrs. Stéphanie Feyfar and Mr. Jürg Friškovec-Keller (both CH).
- b. ANFI (IT) for their member Mrs. Ingrid Dall'Orta in category 3, on 06.10.2023 in Siena (IT) with Mrs. Miriam Klein (IT) and Mr. Dietmar Sagurski (DE).
- c. CPF (PT) for their member Mr João Carlos Serralheiro Jerónimo in category 3, on 05.10.2023 in Lisbon (PT) with Mr. João Noronha and Mr. José Carlos Gomes (both PT).

10.3 Notification of the pass of a preliminary student judge's exam:

- a. SK (FI) that Mrs. Sanna-Leena Santapakka passed the preliminary student judges' exam in category 4 on the 08.07.2023 in Ristimäki (FI). Mrs. Satu Hämäläinen would be her mentor.
- b. FFH (CH) that Mrs. Nancy Klabunde passed the preliminary student judges' exam in category 2 on the 12.08.2023 in Villmergen (CH). Mrs. Thea Friškovec-Keller would be her mentor.

10.4 Notification of new student judges in an additional category or breed group:

- a. 1.DEKZV e.V. (DE) to include Mrs. Barbara Bazzotti as a student judge in category 4.
- b. Mundikat (NL) to include Mrs. Pauline Kröger-Stokhof as a student judge in category 2.
- c. FD (DK) to include Mrs. Anne-Louise Nygaard Sadek as a student judge in category 1.

11. Cattery Name Business

Nothing to report

12. General Assemblies

- a. The Vice-Treasurer sent the signed contract between FIFe and the Pannonia Tower Hotel in Parndorf (AT) regarding the reservation of meeting- and hotel rooms.
- b. The technical equipment and voting system at the 2024 GA would be provided by the company in Latvia, which also provided this service at the GA 2022 in Plzen.

13. The FIFe website and social media

- a. The Vice-Treasurer and Vice-President (VT+VP) contacted the two other Finnish companies that had put in bids to create a new website. One company extended the validity of the offer until 30.06.23 and the other one provided an updated offer. Pricewise, both offers were nearly identical and both companies added 24% VAT on their offers. The VT+VP sent an updated list with prices from the suppliers and stated that both companies were willing and promised to deliver the contracts in English.
- b. The VT+VP informed the Board that they had a VCM with the two Finnish companies; Verkkovaraani (VERK) at 14.06.2023 and Medialuotsi (MED) at 16.06.2023. During the VCM with VERK all questions were answered satisfactorily (English contract, payment terms, development start August 2023). On the 15.06.2023, VERK sent a mail, summarizing the meeting in a very comprehensive way. During the meeting with MED, all questions were answered satisfactorily (English contract, payment terms, development start 08/23). At the 16.06, after the meeting, MED sent a mail with the contracts and terms & conditions. Both companies were in the opinion of the VT+VP capable to perform the work but they decided to continue with VERK based on the higher professionalism.
- c. The VT+VP had another VCM with VERK in August; VERK sent a draft of the delivery and maintenance contracts and both contracts were reviewed. VERK would bring an updated version where the timeframes were provided for the design, layout and structure, technical execution, user training and customer review, payment conditions and content update & publication. These contracts were signed at this board meeting.
- d. The VT+VP showed the first design of the new website; it was very attractive and "clean". The Board thanked them for this hard work.

14. World Cat Congress

The GS, Mr. Eric Reijers, in his capacity as President of the WCC had to cancel his trip to the 2023 WCC meeting in Launceston, Tasmania (AU) in June, due to family reasons. Unfortunately, also the FIFe President, Mrs. Annette Sjödin had to cancel her participation for the same reasons at the last minute. Due to personal obstacles, and the fact it was only a week prior to the meeting, it was not possible for the other Board members to participate as a replacement. This meant FIFe was only represented by the Treasurer, Mr. Leo van de Haterd. At this meeting Mr. Reijers was unanimously re-elected WCC President, Mr. Jan van Rooyen from SACC (SA) was elected Vice-President, Mr. Robbie Walker from ACF (AU) was appointed Secretary and Mrs. Penelope Bydlinski from FIFe was appointed Treasurer.

The 2024 WCC would be held in Bali (ID) from the 20th to the 27th of March 2024 organised by WCF. FIFe would be represented by the President and the Treasurer.

15. FIFe Breed Councils

The BCA forwarded a rumour that she had heard from one of the BC Secretaries. Allegedly, at the last WCC meeting there had been a discussion about forbidding the breeds BEN and MAN. The GS requested the BCA not to send any rumours to the Board anymore and added that the WCC did not have the authority to forbid its 9 Members anything. Such decisions could exclusively be made by the Member organisations themselves. He assumed this was perfectly clear to everyone. Nevertheless, he contacted the WCC secretary, who answered that nothing was discussed about this matter at all.

16. GDPR – General Data Protection Regulation

FIFe follows the GDPR regulations with regard to the storage of personal data.

17. Membership change

Nothing to report

18. Any Other Business

- a. WCF asked if FIFe had accepted (patronage) membership of a club in Malta and if not, what the reason was for this decision. This club left WCF last year and now all of a sudden wants to rejoin WCF. The GS answered that in March 2023, FIFe received an application for patronage membership from a Maltese club called NCF, and Mrs Connie Gauci de Brincat was the secretary. The GS mentioned that this application was not correct and not complete conform the requirements stated in the FIFe Statutes. The FIFe Board discussed the request and decided not to grant it, because the last FIFe Member in Malta, left FIFe with a debt.
- b. An independent club from Germany, "Felidae e.V.", informed the GS that they would have a special "world" show in November 2024 in Stuttgart (DE), with judges from 30 countries from CFA, TICA, GCCF, LOOF and WCF. They asked the Board to allow FIFe judges to officiate at this show, because the German FIFe Member, 1.DEKZV e.V. had not granted permission. The Board discussed this matter and decided it could not grant this request. In the first place, because the German Member refused this and the Board could not overrule their decision and secondly, a FIFe show was planned at the same weekend only 138 kilometres away, so 2 requirements of article 3.7 of the Judges Rules could not be respected.

19. Next Board meetings

- Saturday 25.11.2023 Vienna (AT)
- Saturday 20.01.2024 Vienna (AT)
- Saturday 06.04.2024 Vienna (AT)
- Monday 27.05.2024 Parndorf (AT), in connection with the GA
- Saturday 24.08.2024 Vienna (AT)
- Saturday 23.11.2024 Vienna (AT)

20. Close of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 19.30 hours

Annette Sjödin - President

Eric Reijers – General-Secretary