



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FIFE BOARD 03/23

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 – Tavira, Portugal

### 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 & Registration 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 09.45 hours.

### **2. Approval of the Agenda**

The Board approved the amended agenda for this meeting.

### **3. Approval of previous Minutes**

The Minutes 02/23 were approved and sent to the Members on 18.04.2023.

### **4. Matters arising from or omitted in previous Minutes**

FD (DK) asked permission to organise a 1 certificate show taking place the 02-03-04.06.2023, so spread over 3 days and divided by categories. The venue was the largest agricultural fair held in Denmark once per year, which attracted tens of thousands of visitors and the presence of cats was desired. The Board granted this request.

### **5. Financial**

#### **5.1 Members' and Patronage Members' Payments**

The Treasurer announced there were no outstanding payments.

#### **5.2 Judges Exams**

One new judges' exam application was received.

#### **5.3 Other Financial Matters**

- a. Mrs. Marie-France Pohl, in her capacity as controller, informed the Board about the benefits of opening a second bank account in Luxemburg She added a contact to the "Post Finance Account". The Board discussed this matter and asked the Treasurer to look into this matter.
- b. The Treasurer received documents from the BIL Bank in Luxemburg about access to the bank account that needed to be signed by four board members, the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer and the Vice-Treasurer.

## **6. Members' Matters**

### **6.1 Correspondence**

- a. Members informed the GS of the following changes: details listed on the FIFe website.  
\* CFCA (LV) – new address.
- b. FRU (RU) informed the Board that their clubs and individual members were very concerned about the imposed limitations, which paralyzed the work of their federation. FRU respectfully asked the FIFe Board to remedy the situation so the Russian FIFe Member could work in the way a FIFe Member should work. FRU needed to inform their members and breeders to enable them to make plans for further breeding and exhibition activities and for this, FRU asked the Board to consider lifting all the restrictions imposed. They hoped to be able to bring good news to their members as soon as possible.  
The Board discussed this request and answered FRU that the restrictions in place were decided by the General Assembly and could not be overruled by the Board.
- c. FB (GB) wondered if they could register kittens bred in Latvia, with FRU pedigrees. The Board informed FB that the restriction in place regarding this matter was that actual cats bred in Russia could not be imported in their pedigree book but it did not forbid the import of cats bred outside Russia, by a Latvian breeder who was a member of FRU. This was not in conflict with any rule or restriction and FB could import these cats in their pedigree book.
- d. ANFI (IT) sent the pedigree of an imported BEN n 24, where one of the ancestors was an outcross with an EXO ny 11. They stated they would register this cat in the RIEG pedigree book and wondered if they should register it as an XSH. The Board discussed this question and informed ANFI, that in line with articles 4.2 and 4.3 of the BRR, this cat should simply be registered in the RIEG pedigree book, nothing more.
- e. ASFE (ES) also had a question regarding the restrictions concerning Russia. They had a new member who used to be a member in WCF. She had applied for a FIFe cattery name and wanted to register her cats in the ASFE pedigree book. One of her cats was born in Russia in February 2021 and was owned by this new member since May 2021, another cat was bred in Ukraine, but had Russian ancestors. They wondered if they could import these cats in their pedigree book and give their new member FIFe pedigrees for these cats.  
The Board discussed this matter and the GS answered ASFE. He stated that the restriction in place concerning the import of cats bred in Russia in FIFe pedigree books was valid as of the 01.03.2022 until 31.05.2023 and was: "*FIFe Members outside Russia may not import any cat bred in Russia in their pedigree books, regardless of, which organization issued its pedigree.*" The two questions asked by ASFE, did not fall within the scope of this restriction. The first cat was in possession of their member since May 2021 so this posed no problem at all, because the restriction was valid as of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The second cat was not bred in Russia but in Ukraine and the fact that this cat had Russian ancestors was neither here nor there. Many cats in FIFe had Russian ancestors. The restriction concerned the actual imported cats, not their ancestors. He also mentioned that such a question could be dealt with in the FIFe registrars Facebook group.
- f. FFF (FR) asked if they could accept a new breed, called "Highland Lynx" or "Highlander" at their shows, a breed originating from a crossing between a "Desert Lynx" and a "Jungle Curl". They asked if article 13.1 of the General Rules also applied to this breed or if they could accept it at their shows. The Board asked the BRC for a recommendation (see item 8.5.b).
- g. FRU (RU) sent a long email, protesting against the proposal brought by Suomen Kissaliitto to the 2023 GA. The Board answered that the General Assembly of Members was the highest authority in FIFe and it was up to the GA to decide or accept proposals. If the Board would refuse to list proposals sent by Members it would exercise unauthorised censorship.

## **7. Show matters:**

### **7.1 General**

- a. FFF (FR) requested the Board of FIFe for an exception to article 4.3 of the SR, allowing them the possibility as described in Annex 2 of the SR until 31.12.23, for cats to get the titles IP/IC, by obtaining 5x CACIB/CAPIB, in 1 country, with min. 3 different judges. The Board granted this request for an exception.
- b. SVERAK (SE) requested an exception to the required number of cats. Two of their clubs, planned to hold a BEN single breed show, on the 21.10.2023 in Stockholm, and were sure to get at least 100 cats, but 150 might be too much. The Board felt that a show with at least 100 BEN was already quite an accomplishment and granted this request for an exception.  
The GS referred SVERAK to SR art. 4.9.5 for the special rules regarding single breed shows.

- c. FFB (BR) requested 2 exceptions for the first upcoming AW show. They only had very few cats entered 15 days after opening the inscriptions namely 140 and because of this, FFB asked for two exceptions valid until 31.12.2023. The first one was that cats in classes 11 and 12 could participate without qualification to get more exhibitors for the show and the second one was to keep the exception to gain the JW title with 2 x BIS. The Board discussed these requests and decided to grant the first one but not the second one. FFB and 5 other Members already had a greatly reduced requirement for the JW title; instead of 5 BIS they only needed 3. Granting a JW title which only 2 BIS would devalue the title of JW.
- d. SVERAK (SE) asked for an exception to article 1.1.a of the SR, allowing their club, ÄK to arrange a show in Gothenburg during the weekend immediately following the 2024 FIFe GA, 01+02.06.2024. The Board had already granted the same request for an exception for 2023 (see Minutes 01/23, item 7.1.b) and also granted this exception.
- e. FBe (BE) asked several questions regarding the organisation of shows outside Belgium, in Luxembourg. The Board decided to ask the SC for a recommendation see item 8.4).

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

- a. FFF (FR) – shows in Orange, 15+16.04.2023, as International with less than 150 cats.
- b. ASFE (ES) – shows in Zaragoza, 15+16.04.2023, as International with less than 150 cats.
- c. ČSCH (CZ) – shows in Bojkovice, 15+16.04.2023, as International with less than 150 cats.
- d. FFF (FR) – shows in Peyrehorade, 22+23.04.2023, as International with less than 150 cats.
- e. CPF (PT) – shows in Ponte de Lima, 29+30.04.2023, as International with less than 150 cats.
- f. ČSCH (CZ) – shows in Brno, 06+07.05.2023, as International with less than 150 cats.
- g. ZFDS (SI) – shows in Ljubljana, 13+14.05.2023, as International with less than 150 cats.
- h. ČSCH (CZ) – show in Chomutov, 14.05.2023, as International with less than 150 cats.
- i. FD (DK) – show in Roskilde, 02-03+04.06.2023, 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. NRR (NO) informed the Board that the venue for the 2024 Worldshow would be the Oslo Convention Centre (OCC) in Sandefjord, close to airport Oslo Torp. They also sent the website of this venue.
- b. In line with article 2.1 of the SR, the GS contacted FAF-FR (RO) asking if they would be interested to host the 2025 World Show. FAF-FR would send an answer during the GA week.

### 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 - tba - tba                 | • 2032 - tba - KKÖ (AT)          |
| • 2026 - Amsterdam - Mundikat (NL) | • 2033 - tba - Suomen K. (FI)    |
| • 2027 - Prague - ČSCH (CZ)        | • 2034 - Bucharest - FAF-FR (RO) |
| • 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

*Nothing to report*

### 8.2 Seminars

- a. The JSC chairman informed the GS that in line with article 2.2.2.a. of the Judges Rules, they approved the agenda for the national FIFe Judges seminar, organised by ANFI (IT) in Segrate (Milan) on the 24.06.2023. The GS thanked ANFI for organising this seminar and asked the SCA to add the venue and date on the official show calendar.
- b. The JSC chairman informed the GS and the Treasurer that Mrs. Eva Porat would not be able to present her lecture at the GA Judges Seminar. The JSC had decided to ask Mrs. Anna Wilczek who suggested to hold a comparison lecture on naked breeds. The Board agreed.

### **8.3 Judges and Standards Commission**

- a. The JSC secretary sent minutes of the VCMs, held on the 17.01.2023 and on the 02.05.2023.
- b. The JSC chairman sent the checked and updated Judges Exam Questionnaires for all 4 categories and the General Part in the French language. This task had been performed by Mrs. Yulia Skabovska. These questionnaires were filed and could be used.

### **8.4 Show Commission**

The Board decided to forward the questions from FBe (BE) about the organisation of shows outside Belgium, in Luxemburg to the SC for a recommendation (see item 7.1.e).

### **8.5 Breeding & Registration Commission**

- a. The BRC sent a recommendation on the question of SK (FI) about an imported BUR n from TICA (see item 6.1.h Minutes 02/23). Initially this seemed to be a simple question but further discussions revealed there were matters, which needed to be clarified further. The Board would discuss this matter with the BRC during the GA week.
- b. The BCA sent a request from the BOM BC secretary for direct contact with the BRC, with which the Board agreed (see also item 15.a). The BOM BC suggested using a cat with BOM x AMS ancestry and felt it should be possible to outcross even if the BRR limited this. The BRC stated that when the BOM was presented for preliminary recognition in 2022, it was suggested to the BOM BC to include AMS-non in their list of permitted outcrosses which seemed sensible because the AMS non was one of the original breeds the BOM was bred from. The BOM BC considered this but decided to leave it out, maybe because they thought that using an unrecognised breed might harm the application for preliminary recognition. The BRC supported the addition of this outcross and felt it should have been included in the original application. The Board agreed with this recommendation.
- c. The Board decided to send the question from FFF (FR) about accepting a new breed at their shows (see item 6.1.f) to the BRC. They concluded that this breed could not be shown, not only, because of art. 13.1 of the GR but also because two more relevant BRR Rules, namely:
  - **3.6.1** which specifically banned any new breeds based on "wild cats". In the genetics and origin of the breed "Highland Lynx" you could find the Lynx, the Jungle Cat and the Chaussie.
  - **3.6.3** which specifically excluded any breed relying on "congenital faults" for its breed traits from recognition and in this case, we had a breed with a bobbed tail, curled ears, which was bred in some registries for polydactyly ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Highlander\\_cat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Highlander_cat)).The BRC concluded that without proper genetic research into such a breed they cautioned against it being either "on exhibition" or in a "presentation" at a FIFe show, since such actions could raise the expectation of future approval by our organisation.  
The Board fully agreed with this recommendation and informed FFF that this breed could not be exhibited at a FIFe show, be bred with or promoted or advertised in FIFe.

#### **8.5.1 Breeding & Registration Statistics 2022**

All Members, except the Chinese Member CCU, sent the Excel form for the 2022 Breeding & Registration statistics. The total number of registrations was 114.375, which was a decrease of almost 4.500 (4.5%) compared with 2021.

### **8.6 Health & Welfare Commission**

### **8.7 Disciplinary Commission**

*For the above items there was nothing to report*

## **9. Judges' Matters**

### **9.1 General**

- a. Mrs. Satu Hämäläinen, international Allbreed judge from Finland, informed the GS that the date of the non-FIFe shows in Malta, for which she received permission to judge (see Minutes 05/22, item 9.7.h) had changed to the 11+12.11.2023.
- b. Mrs. Olga Sizova, international Allbreed judge from Russia, informed the GS that she changed her membership from FRU (RU) to Felinolog (BY). The judges' lists were amended.
- c. Mrs. Carla Rotini, international category 1 + 2 judge from Italy, informed the GS that she changed her membership from 1.DEKZV e.V. (DE) back to ANFI (IT).
- d. NRR (NO) informed the GS that Mr. Lars Landsnes, dormant category 3 judge from Norway, was not longer a member of any NRR club. He had also not paid his judges fee nor indicated that he wanted to change membership and NRR considered this as his resignation. His name was removed from the judges list

## **9.2 Permission to sit the FIFe Judges' Exam**

Mrs. Sanna Hietala (FI) to sit the exam in category 1, in Riihimäki (FI) on the 21.10.2023 in English with Mrs. Jaana Jyrkinen (FI) and Mrs. Thea Friškovec-Keller (CH).

### **9.2.1 Theoretical Part**

*Nothing to report*

### **9.2.2 Practical Part**

Mrs. Ietje Röhr-Dubbeld (NL) to sit the practical exam in Breed Group A in Eskilstuna (SE) on the 02.09.2023 in English with Mr. Dietmar Sagurski (DE) and Mr. Mirosław Skotarczyk (PL).

## **9.3 FIFe Judges' Examinations passed:**

*Nothing to report*

## **9.4 Judges Appointments – 1<sup>st</sup> category**

After passing the required stage at the show in Heemstede (NL) on 26.03.2023, Mr. Danijel Iveta (HR) was appointed an International FIFe judge in category 2.

## **9.5 Judges Appointments – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> categories**

After passing the BG D exam, at the show in Venturina (IT) on the 15.04.2023, Mrs. Katia Pocci (IT) was appointed an international category 4 Judge.

## **9.6 Mentor Judge applications** *Nothing to report*

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

- a. Mrs. Satu Hämäläinen (FI) – CFA show in Bangkok (TH), 10.06.2023
- b. Mrs. Satu Hämäläinen (FI) – CFA shows in Hong Kong (HK), 26+27.08.2023
- c. Mr. Alexey Shchukin (NL) – TICA shows in Tacoma (US), 02+03.09.2023
- d. Mrs. Janet Green (GB) – GCCF Supreme show in Coventry (GB), 21.10.2023
- e. Mr. Satu Hämäläinen (FI) – CFA show in Bangkok (TH), 16.12.2023
- f. Mrs. Satu Hämäläinen (FI) – CFA show in Torremolinos (ES), 02.02.2024
- g. Mrs. Janet Green (GB) – GCCFI show in Belfast (GB), 02.03.2024

## **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**

- a. SFDH (HR) informed the GS that Mrs. Lena Vencliková, Allbreed judge from Czechia, would be the mentor for their student judge in categories 3+4, Mrs. Marina Han.
- b. FB (GB) asked if a judge, who was not active, could be included on the student judges list. Mrs Janet Green, international judge for BG A, category 3 and BG C, had recently been removed as a student judge but now asked to be included on that list again for BG B and D and category 2. FB agreed, provided she would make an effort to get engagements to sit as a student at least twice in the next 12 months (as per rule 2.1.3). However, FB wondered if this was possible since she was not an active judge and might be listed as dormant in 2023. The GS answered this was not a problem and Mrs. Green could be reinstated as student judge.
- c. ANFI (IT) informed the GS that the international judge Mrs. Carla Rotini was their member again and they vouched to respect the responsibilities and duties as a national FIFe Member for her as a student judge. The GS amended the website student judges list.
- d. SVERAK (SE) informed the GS that their student judge in category 4, Mrs. Annika Berner, decided to stop her studies. Her name was removed from the student judges lists

### **10.2 Request for a preliminary student judges' examination:**

SK (FI) for their member Mrs. Sanna-Leena Santapakka in category 4, on 08.07.2023 in Riihimäki (FI) with Mrs. Katja Patrikainen and Mrs. Susanna Piispanen (both FI).

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

- a. NRR (NO) that Mrs. Margit Kjetsaa passed the preliminary student judges' exam in category 4 on the 10.04.2023 in Stavanger (NO). Mr. Steven Jones would be her mentor.
- b. Suomen Kissaliitto (FI) that Mr. Harri Saari passed the preliminary student judges' exam in category 4 on the 19.05.2023 in Vårgårda (SE). Mr. Veikko Saarela would be his mentor.

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

- a. ANFI (IT) to include Mr. Alessio Schiavon as a student judge in category 1.
- b. NRR (NO) to include Mrs. Margit Kjetsaa as a student judge in category 2.

#### **11. Cattery Name Business**

*Nothing to report*

#### **12. General Assemblies**

The Vice-Treasurer contacted the venue for the 2024 GA in Parndorf, Austria, and received information on the room rates, coffee breaks and lunches.

#### **13. The FIFe website and social media**

The Vice-President and Vice-Treasurer reported to be disappointed with the lack of response and initiative of the Finnish company chosen to build the new FIFe website and no longer felt confident with this cooperation so the Board decided to call it a day. The Vice-President and Vice-Treasurer would contact another shortlisted company in Finland.

#### **14. World Cat Congress**

The WCC meeting would be in Launceston in Tasmania (AU) from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of June. FIFe would be represented by the President and the Treasurer.

#### **15. FIFe Breed Councils**

The BCA forwarded a request from the BOM BC secretary asking for direct contact with the BRC on using cats with AMS non ancestry. The Board agreed that direct contact was possible. The BRC answered the question regarding the use of AMS non (see item 8.5.a) but declined to communicate directly with the BOM BC Secretary. Prior to receiving this request through the correct channels (BCA and GS), the BOM BC Secretary had already contacted the BRC chairman whilst well aware that the BCA had sent this request to the GS. The Board understood the position of the BRC and asked the BCA to inform the BC secretaries to respect official procedures and communication. The BCA confirmed she would pass on all information and would inform the BC Secretaries.

#### **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**

The President of the feline organisation ICFA-RUI (Rolandus) contacted the FIFe President because FPL (PL) refused to accept their pedigrees. FPL stated only to accept pedigrees issued by WCC Members. The President answered that FIFe itself was not a registry. The national FIFe Members were responsible for all registrations, whilst fulfilling the conditions stated in article 4.6.2 of the BRR. It was up to the importing FIFe Member, in this case Felis Polonia, to decide on the reliability of the pedigrees and the FIFe board could and would not interfere in national matters such as registrations and individual members matters. All of this was clearly described in the FIFe Statutes and Rules.

#### **19. Next Board meetings**

- Saturday 19.08.2023 Vienna (AT)
- Saturday 25.11.2023 Vienna (AT)

#### **20. Close of the Meeting**

The meeting closed at 16.45 hours

Annette Sjödin - President

Eric Reijers – General-Secretary