



AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF THE FIFe BOARD 01/26 – 20.01.2026 – VCM

Attendees

Mrs. Annette Sjödin	- President	Mr. Veikko Saarela	- Vice-President
Mr. Jürg Keller-Friškovec	- Treasurer	Mr. Karl Preiss	- Vice-Treasurer
Mr. Charles Spijker	- Acting General Secretary		

Abbreviations used

- AGS – Acting General Secretary
- BCA – Breed Council Administrator
- BCR – Breed Council Rules
- BRC – Breeding & Registration Commission
- BRR – Breeding & Registration Rules
- CNA – Cattery Name Administrator
- DC – Disciplinary Commission
- FIFeF – FIFe Feline Fund
- GA – General Assembly
- GR – General Rules
- GS – General Secretary
- HWC – Health & Welfare Commission
- JR – Judges Rules
- JSC – Judges & Standard Commission
- PRC – Public Relations Commission
- SC – Show Commission
- SCA – Show Calendar Administrator
- SR – Show Rules
- VCM – Video Conference Meeting
- VS – Vice Secretary
- WCC – World Cat Congress

1. Opening of the Meeting

The President opened the meeting at 17:00 CET.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The AGS prepared the agenda for this meeting. The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of previous Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting 05/25 on 22.11.2025 had been approved and were sent to the Members on 10.12.2025.

4. Matters arising from or omitted in previous Minutes

Nothing to report.

5. Financials

5.1 Members' and Patronage Members' Payments

- a. The Board decided that the Treasurer would draft a letter to address Members who have continuously overdue invoices.

5.2 FIFe Feline Fund – FIFeF

- a. The total amount in the fund was now EUR 51'691.07.
- b. Considering the very favourable result of the financial year 2025, the Board decided to attribute EUR 60'000 to the FIFeF.
- c. Following the recent developments in Belgium on CYM/MAN and the confirmation that Suomen Kissaliitto (FI) was not able to provide financial support for 2026 (see Board meeting minutes 05/25, item 5.2.c), the HWC send their strategy for the MAN/CYM study aiming to differentiate between the four known genetic mutations of the Manx trait, to identify which are "safer" regarding spinal health. The HWC suggested to fund this project by the FIFe Feline Fund, granting an amount between EUR 3'500 – 5'000. The Board discussed the matter and by taking into account the actual breeding numbers in our federation, concluded not to go further.



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- d. The HWC sent a proposal to establish the FIFe Veterinary Research Scholarship for a pilot scholarship project funded by FIFe Feline Fund. This would concern 3 scholarships of EUR 3'000 each on an annual basis on the subjects hairlessness, brachycephaly respectively vibrissae. The Board decided to agree with a one-time allocation of EUR 9'000 for the 3 scholarships for the year 2026.

5.3 Other Financial Matters

Nothing to report

6. Organisational Matters

6.1 Internal Matters

- a. The work on creating electronic archives accessible by functionaries and the electronic archive for the FIFe Secretariat, as well as creating a digital repository for scientific literature on purebred cats, is in progress.
- b. A professional company will be hired for the transport of the paper archive and other materials as kept by the deceased GS to a storage location. After that, this archive can be sorted out.

6.2 Registration Matters

- a. The electronic access to the Swiss bank accounts for the Treasurer and Vice-Treasurer had been arranged, the process leading to access for the President and Vice-President is pending.
- b. The closing of the bank accounts in Luxemburg is still pending. After this, the de-registration in the Luxembourg register can start.

6.3 GDPR – General Data Protection Regulation

FIFe follows the GDPR regulations regarding the storage of personal data.

7. Members

7.1 General

- a. LCC-FFL (LU) confirmed the receipt of the FIFe Newsletter #2 which they considered a very nice presentation. They asked for a Word document containing the text of the Newsletter, so they could easily make translations in German and French for their members. This document was prepared by the PRC and then sent to LCC-FFL.

7.2 Patronage Membership

Nothing to report

7.3 Individual Membership Changes

Nothing to report

8. Breeding & Registration / Cattery Names

- a. EKL-Felix (EE) asked for a recommendation from the HWC for the minimum age for breeding. They noticed there is no information on this subject in the FIFe rules and they thought it would be a good idea to have it in the rules. The Board referred the matter to the HWC (see item 13.6.b).
- b. Felis Danica (DK) wondered if a valid DNA test is required in case of offspring from parents both genotypically tested and registered as Corin. The Board referred the matter to the BRC (see item 13.5.b).
- c. The Board decided that in case of requests to delete a cattery name, the reason for deletion (see BRR 5.2.6) must be indicated.

9. Shows

- a. The Board decided to ask our Members and their show organisers to pay more attention to SR 1.10.b and 1.10.h (insurance, informing the judges in time about the show hotel and the transfer to the show hotel), as well as 6.1.3 (maximum number of cats to be judged on one day). This would also be communicated in a next send out to the Members.



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- b. The Board was made aware that 1. DEKZV (DE) had published they awarded more than the maximum permitted number of 15 cats the titles National Winner respectively International Winner. The Board asked the SC for a recommendation (see item 13.4.d).
- c. Felis Russica (RU) informed that the Eurasian Winner Show had been postponed one week to 28-29.03.2026.

10. Judges

- a. Mrs. Loredana Fanelli (IT) sent a request to add the remark “Temporarily not available for judging assignments” with her name on the Judges List; this request was granted.
- b. Mr. Jørgen Billing (DK) wrote that after he issued a stage certificate to the probational judge Mr. Siemen Overboom (NL), he became aware he did not fulfill all requirements to act as a supervising judge. Since Mr. Billing informed the Board himself about his mistake and sincerely apologised for it, the Board accepted his apologies and decided to consider the stage certificate as valid.
- c. Mrs. Petra Cerna (US) sent her new address of residence and new email address (see Judges List and Members List – HWC).
- d. Mrs. Gabriela Minárová (SK) tendered her resignation as an International FIFe Judge as from 01.01.2026. The Board thanked her for her services to FIFe since 2014.
- e. Mrs. Janet Green (GB) informed she did not judge during the years 2024 and 2025 and sent a request for reactivation. She will remain on the Judges List pending this procedure (see item 13.3.c).
- f. Mrs. Helene Lis (SE) sent her new address of residence as from 01.02.2026 (see Judges List).
- g. The dormant Judge Mrs. Annika Billing (SE) wrote she had received an invitation to judge and wondered if she could judge. The AGS answered that dormant Judges are not allowed to officiate at any show. If Mrs. Billing wished to do so, she could send a request for reactivation with reference to JR 3.11.
- h. SVERAK (SE) sent a request to appoint Mrs. Sirpa Lindelöf (SE) as an Honorary FIFe Judge. In December 2023, while serving in her capacity as a FIFe judge, Sirpa was affected by a serious medical incident which regrettably meant that she is no longer able to be active within the cat fancy or as a judge. Considering the above, it was SVERAK’s explicit wish that Sirpa’s extensive and valuable contributions to the cat fancy be formally recognised through her appointment as an Honorary Judge within FIFe. The Board discussed the request and decided not to follow up on it, as the title Honorary FIFe Judge gives a merit for someone who did special things for FIFe and is not a merit for a person in an indescribable very sad situation.

11. Student Judges

- a. Mrs. Donatella Mastrangelo (IT) informed she was approached by Mr. Mauricio Marcinelli (BR) to be his mentor judge. As Mr. Marcinelli failed his preliminary exam twice, she asked the Board if she could receive the exam papers with the written answers of the candidate, so she could understand better what the situation was and then decide if she would accept to be his mentor. The Board felt that Mrs. Mastrangelo should contact FFB (BR), it is up to them to inform her of the situation.

12. Breed Councils

- a. The BCA forwarded a request from the BC BUR for direct contact with the HWC regarding the preparation of a proposal to the 2026 GA to allow the use of XSH n 31 (BOM) for breeding. The Board agreed to have this contact.

13. Commissions

13.1 Statutes, Rules, Standards, EMS System & forms

- a. SVERAK (SE) requested to make all rules and standards available in Word format.



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- b. NRR (NO) and Suomen Kissaliitto (FI) noticed errors in the 2026 issues of the Breeding & Registration Rules (articles 6.6 and 6.15) and the Show Rules (article 4.9.1). The Board is always grateful for this type of feedback and after correction of the errors, new versions of these rules would be made available for downloading on the website.

13.2 Seminars and lectures

- a. The JSC sent the list of participants of the Snowshoe breed lecture on 07.01.2026. They informed that 17 student judges and 14 judges registered; of these 12 student judges and 12 judges were present.
- b. The JSC approved the agenda of the seminar which FPL (PL) would organise in Gdansk on Saturday 25.07.2026 (see Board meeting minutes 05/25, item 7.1.f).
- c. Suomen Kissaliitto (FI) sent a request to host a Judges Seminar in Lahti on Friday 07.08.2026. The Board agreed with the date, the JSC approved the preliminary agenda.

13.3 Judges & Standards Commission

- a. At the request of the JSC, the AGS sent a message to all judges informing them about an online judges meeting (see Board meeting minutes 05/25, item 13.3.b) and asking them to complete a poll on their preferred date for this meeting.
- b. With reference to Board meeting minutes 05/25, item 12.c, the JSC sent their feedback on the request from the BC SPH to approve their proposed clarification in the Sphynx standard regarding natural absence of whiskers. The JSC maintains that the Breed Standard is a morphological ideal for judging, not a repository for historical or genetic justifications. The Board agreed.
- c. The JSC was asked to prepare the reactivation questionnaire for Mrs. Janet Green (GB).

13.4 Show Commission

- a. With reference to Board meeting minutes 05/25, item 13.4.c, Mundikat (NL) answered they had no objection against ASFE (ES) organising the Mediterranean Winner Show in November 2026, provided the show would not be scheduled the weekend after the World Show.
- b. With reference to Board meeting minutes 05/25, item 12.c, the SC sent their feedback on the letter from the BC SPH on the topics (a) Special Hairless Breed Presentations outside of restricted areas, or (b) Virtual Judging Options and (c) Ensuring the World Show rotation avoids locations where recognised breeds are legally banned. The SC felt that implementation of the suggested ideas at shows held in countries which ban the breed is not realistic, as bans include showing or making any kind of publicity for the breed. Actions from governments in Member countries are not always within the full control of FIFe or even the FIFe Member in the country. Also, external factors like COVID, war, travel distances or national legislation could prevent that everybody can attend Winner Shows or the World Show now or in the future. The Board agreed.
- c. The SC sent the Winner Show Organisers Guide. The Board agreed to upload this Guide to the website (in the Library, section Rules & Forms, under Miscellaneous).
- d. The SC was asked for their recommendation regarding 1. DEKZV awarding too many cats the title NW and IW (see item 9.b). They wrote these faulty results must be corrected by 1. DEKZV. The Board agreed and informed 1. DEKZV they should strictly adhere to the SR in place and publish the revised 2025 NW and IW rankings.
- e. With reference to SR 1.10.b, the Board decided to ask the SC for a clarification which types of insurance for judges and staff of the show are meant.

13.5 Breeding & Registration Commission

- a. With reference to Board meeting minutes 05/25, item 13.6.c, question (3) dealing with the correct registration of MCO with 03, 09, or without white, but with 61/63 eyes, the BRC answered: these cats shall be registered in RIEEX, as all non-recognised variants. The Board then asked the BRC for clarification on how registrars should proceed to achieve correct and uniform registration, including registration examples for the varieties 61 and 63 (first registration as well as – if applicable – re-registration after processing test results).



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The BRC stated that there are several genes that can originate blue eyes in cats, some of which are directly harmful. The fact that one of the genes has been found cannot mean that blue-eyed cats without, or with little white, are allowed for breeding if they are free tested for PAX3. It is unknown whether blue eyes on coloured cats are caused by something completely different than PAX3. Therefore, the BRC believed that the requirement for testing PAX3 should apply to MCO where breeding with blue eyes is permitted (i.e. in combination with EMS codes w, 01 or 02). The BRC understood that this has become too unclear in the BRR and would work towards clarification of the rules for the upcoming GA. The Board agreed and established that according to current rules, the correct registration, no matter of test results, is as follows:

Blue-eyed (61)

MCO w 61, MCO * 01 61, MCO * 02 61.

Any other 61 variety: XLH * 61 (MCO) in RIEEX.

Odd-eyed (63)

MCO w 63, MCO * 01 63, MCO * 02 63.

Any other 63 variety: MCO * (i.e. without including the eye colour code 63 for odd-eyed, as in these varieties the eye colour code is never included in the full EMS code of the cat).

Registration shall be in the LO when all requirements for this register are met.

All odd-eyed varieties in MCO are recognised varieties.

- b. On the question from Felis Danica (FD) regarding the required DNA test of corin cats (see item 8.b), the BRC answered that kittens born from two parents genetically tested and registered as corin, do not need a further genetic colour test.

13.6 Health & Welfare Commission

- a. With reference to Board meeting minutes 05/25 item 13.6.e, the Board dealt with the report from the BC RAG concerning pedigrees that may contain unverified information. The report identified cats that were reportedly never bred by the cattery named, yet appear in FIFe pedigrees. The Board considered how such cases should be handled, as not all listed cats could be verified. Consequently, the Board has deliberately chosen not to advise deletion, as this would lead to a loss of historical information and make pedigree interpretation more difficult. Instead, unverified cats should remain in the pedigree and be marked by the Member's pedigree administration with a note such as "not confirmed". This ensures transparency while preserving available genealogical data. Some Members' Pedigree Books may contain these cats. How such entries are handled may depend on whether living descendants exist and is to be decided by the Member as no common procedures exist. Breeders concerned must decide individually how to proceed. The list would be distributed to our Members and individual members are encouraged to contact their Member if clarification is needed.
- b. The HWC asked for permission of a direct contact with all FIFe Members specifically to send out a short survey on breeding age in their respective countries (minimum and maximum). The scope of this request is to evaluate the feasibility of including such breeding age in the BRR, having such request informally reached us from several sides, but having some evident technical difficulties of applicability in different countries. A survey would help the HWC understand if and how to formulate an acceptable proposal to be carried at the next GA. The Board agreed.
- c. The HWC sent a request for direct contact with the Members with regard to a survey for the DG SANTE Study on Animal Welfare Indicators to monitor animal welfare at farm, transport and slaughter. The Board believed this survey was not in our expertise and should not be distributed further.
- d. The HWC sent a request for the Board to participate in an introductory meeting with Prof. Dr. Barbara Padalino, who entered, as academic, in the EU Platform for Welfare. She expressed her interest in setting a study on Sphynx and naked breeds. This introductory meeting took place with Mrs. Sara Moroni and Mr. Karl Preiss attending as representatives of the HWC respectively the Board. The outcome of this meeting would be discussed at the Board meeting in March.



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- e. The HWC asked for a direct contact with the BC LYO regarding a severe skin condition in the breed. The Board agreed.

13.7 Disciplinary Commission

Nothing to report

13.8 Public Relations Commission

Nothing to report

14. Website & Social Media

- a. The Board received several requests for enhancement of the website and would look which functionalities could be considered.

15. General Assemblies

- a. The Members would be informed about the venue of the General Assembly 2026, the week programme and how to book rooms at the GA hotel at reduced rates.

16. World Cat Congress

- a. The FIFe delegate to the WCC 2026, Mr. Karl Preiss sent information to our Members and functionaries on preparing and submitting proposals for the WCC meeting in April. The Board received 2 suggestions which will be discussed in the next Board meeting.
- b. The WCC secretary sent the draft itinerary for the WCC 2026 which would take place in Liverpool (GB) from Thursday 23 to Monday 27 April. The final itinerary would be published on the WCC website.

17. Any Other Business

Nothing to report

18. Next Board Meetings

- Saturday 28.03.2026 – Vienna (AT)
- Tuesday 26.05.2026 – Vilnius (LT) – in connection with the General Assembly
- Saturday 22.08.2026 – TBA
- Saturday 14.11.2026 – TBA

19. Close of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 21:00 CET.

Annette Sjödin – President

Charles Spijker – Acting General Secretary