



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FIFe BOARD 02/26 – 28.03.2026 – Vienna (AT)

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 08:30 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 01/26 on 20.01.2026 had been approved and were sent to the Members on 12.02.2026.

4. Matters arising from or omitted in previous Minutes

Nothing to report.

5. Financials

5.1 Members' and Patronage Members' Payments

- a. A written agreement had been received with the Members with continuously overdue invoices. Overdue items were promised to be paid by end of March.

5.2 FIFe Feline Fund – FIFeF

- a. The total amount in the fund was now EUR 111'691.07.
- b. The Board discussed the FIFeF and decided to only deal with requests for grants 2x per year (at the meetings in May resp. in November) and only if more than one application is on the table and sent well in advance for consideration and recommendation. The Board felt that a clear and uniform application procedure for grants should be set up by the HWC, which should also include a payment plan (when which amounts need to be paid). Furthermore, the HWC would be tasked with the development of the procedure monitoring the progress of research projects after the grant is given. In general, the Board would appreciate more elaboration in every request what is the benefit of the research project for FIFe.



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- c. The HWC sent the formal project proposal received from the University of Pisa (principal investigator: prof. Veronica Marchetti) for the Board's review. The objective of this initiative is to establish a clear, scientific baseline for what constitutes a "healthy cat". Defining these assessment standards could better support responsible breeding practices and provide a data-driven response to the recurring criticisms regarding the health of specific pedigreed breeds. The estimated total costs would be EUR 26'800. The Board replied that this concrete proposal was much appreciated and asked the HWC some initial questions. The answers are pending.
- d. The BCA forwarded a complaint from the BC CYM/MAN after the Board's decision not to fund a study aiming to differentiate between the four known genetic mutations of the Manx trait. As no new arguments were presented, the decision of the Board did not change, and the Board closed the matter.
- e. FPL (PL) sent an elaborate proposal for a grant of EUR 40'000 from the FIFeF to sponsor a veterinary research project on Rex and Sphynx cats, created in cooperation with the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (WULS), the key veterinary academy in Poland. The project intends to determine whether the phenotype of Rex and Sphynx cats, under modern indoor living conditions and appropriate standards of care, can be associated in any way with objective signs of compromised health, impaired behavioural functioning, or reduced welfare of cats. Its aim is to provide an objective and welfare-relevant basis for discussion between FIFe, FIFe Members and government bodies for future decision-making regarding the breeding and status of Rex and Sphynx cats. The leader of the research would be Professor Ewa Sawosz Chwalibóg, who specialises in feline physiology, nutrition and behaviour. She is a former cat breeder as well.
The Board decided to ask the HWC for their recommendation on the proposal. The HWC recommended positively and the Board felt this was absolutely a very welcome proposal. The Board decided to put this request as a pilot to activate the FIFeF.
- f. The Board asked the HWC for a status update regarding the FIFe Veterinary Research Scholarship for the year 2026, for which EUR 9'000 was assigned. The answer is pending.

5.3 Other Financial Matters

The Treasurer presented the Financial Report 2025 and the Budget 2027. The Board discussed the documents and agreed with them.

6. Organisational Matters

6.1 Internal Matters

- a. The paper archive and other materials as kept by the deceased GS are now stored at a central location where they can be sorted out at a later moment.
- b. The first order for ribbons in 2026 was made for 4 Members. The Treasurer will remind all Members on the possibility for ordering ribbons when the second order this year will be prepared.

6.2 Registration Matters

- a. Access to the bank account for the President and Vice-President is still pending and will be realised shortly.
- b. Our request to close our bank accounts in Luxemburg has finally been executed by the bank. The de-registration in the Luxembourg register had been started.

6.3 GDPR – General Data Protection Regulation

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

7. Members

7.1 General

- a. SVERAK (SE) wrote they appreciated and were thankful for the great work with the introduction of "FIFe news". They considered this a very nice initiative.
- b. ASFEC (CO) informed their president and secretary had new email addresses (details on the website).



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- c. LCC-FFL (LU) asked several questions related to individual members which are member or Board member in non-FIFe organisations. These questions were answered by referring to Statutes 2.6 and BRR 5.1.1.
- d. FH (HU) informed they changed their postal address (details on the website).
- e. FPL (PL) informed they had a new secretary (details on the website).
- f. FFB (BR) asked, also on behalf of the other Members in the group organising the AW and EAW show for direct contact with the SC. They would like to involve the SC to propose an exception to the GA to remove the annual limitation on 3-certificate weekends specifically for their group of countries. After evaluating the request, the Board concluded that it is a matter for the Members concerned to present a (joint) proposal to the upcoming GA and had no reason to ask the SC to look into this.
- g. ČSCH-CSHK (CZ) wrote they would like to make new FIFe roll ups to be used at their shows and asked for some graphics used in the past. They were referred to our website [Presentation - Fédération Internationale Féline](#), where FIFe logos can be found in different layouts and file formats.

7.2 Patronage Membership

Nothing to report

7.3 Individual Membership Changes

Nothing to report

8. Breeding & Registration / Cattery Names

- a. KKÍ (IS) asked how to proceed with the registration of a MCO having a pedigree from a non-FIFe organisation showing the cat's sire and cats in his ancestry are polydactyl cats. They asked (1) whether they could register this cat, (2) if so, if he could be used for breeding and (3) if he could be registered and used for breeding, if pedigrees for all kittens could be issued even when some were born polydactyl. The Board decided to ask the BRC for their recommendation (see item 13.5.a).
- b. FPL (PL) wrote they already gathered proposals from their member for the annual Felis Polonia General Assembly. One of the proposals introduces an inhibition of breeding queens after they turn 8 years old. FPL asked if this could transgress BRR 3.1 which states that FIFe Members are not permitted to impose any further stricter breeding or registration limitations. FPL does not have the subject in their national rules. The Board decided to ask the BRC for their recommendation (see item 13.5.b).
- c. LCC-FFL (LU) asked for clarification of the visibility of cattery names on the website. They were referred to BRR 5.2.6 which deals with the deletion of cattery names. The procedure for deleting cattery names is: (1) Requests for deletion of cattery names shall be submitted by the FIFe Member where the individual member hold resp. held membership to the Cattery Name Administrator (2) The request must include which of the 5 reasons listed in BRR 5.2.6 is applicable (3) After the request is granted, the deleted cattery name will no longer be visible on the FIFe website.

9. Shows

- a. ANFI (IT) asked how the requirement for a minimum of 150 cats for their upcoming international single breed show for MCO should be assessed, taking in consideration the occasional absences that may occur on the day of the show for health or logistical reasons. They asked if any generally accepted number of absences can be considered acceptable. The Board advised that only a number of absent cats is acceptable which is in line with the average number of absent cats on ANFI shows during the last year. In this context the Board also referred to Board Meeting Minutes 04/25 23.08.25, item 8.a, which dealt with absent cats at a single breed show.
- b. NRR (NO) asked to consider SR 4.7 in its entirety as the way the rules and certificates are now formulated, this article should not be dealt with in the same way as before. They have noted as well that previous wording related to previous provisions are still in the SR in all three languages. The Board decided to ask the SC for a recommendation (see item 13.4.a).



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- c. FPL (PL) asked for an exception to SR 4.16 for a cat to obtain the DVM title in a shorter qualifying period than two years and one day, due to the veterinary surgery that deprived the cat from future showing. They enclosed photos and a veterinary document related to the cat's condition. The Board decided to ask the SC for a recommendation (see item 13.4.b).

10. Judges

- a. The Judges received an email with a link to the Judges Engagement Form 2026 to be used for reporting their annual 3x judging activities.
- b. The Judges celebrating their 15 resp. 25 years judges' jubilee in 2026 were congratulated and informed their silver resp. golden pin would be handed to them at the Judges Seminar in Vilnius.
- c. Mrs. Flavia Capra (IT) asked if a FIFe Judge can judge in France at a LOOF show. The AGS referred her to JR 3.7 (Participation in non-FIFe shows), which outlines the requirements to fulfil and the procedure to follow.

11. Student Judges.

Nothing to report

12. Breed Councils

- a. The BCA forwarded a request from the BC EXO/PER to add a link to their website on the Breed Councils page on our website. This request was granted.
- b. The BCA informed that the secretary of the BC BEN, Mr. Marcin Biernaczyk (PL) had resigned. The BC had duly elected Mrs. Åsa Olovsson (SE) as their new secretary.
- c. The BCA informed that the secretary of the BC OCI, Mr. Hans Boskär (SE) had resigned. The new secretary would be Mrs. Franziska Ruprecht (CH).

13. Commissions

13.1 Statutes, Rules, Standards, EMS System & forms

Nothing to report

13.2 Seminars and lectures

- a. After the JSC provided the final programme of the Judges Seminar following the GA, it was published in the Events calendar on the website, including a link to the registration form for this seminar.

13.3 Judges & Standards Commission

- a. After forwarding the reactivation questionnaire to Mrs. Janet Green, the JSC expressed their concerns. They understood that Mrs. Green did not judge in FIFe, but only in GCCF, and that she had already been reactivated in the past. The JSC questioned whether it was correct and appropriate to reactivate one of our officials several times in order for her to judge in other circuits. Regardless of any potential changes to our rules, the JSC believed it was appropriate to assess the specific nature of the situation and whether such an action was advisable. The Board understood the concerns raised but believed it was up to the JSC to decide if the subject was eligible for a proposal to the General Assembly.
- b. At the request of the JSC, the AGS forwarded a message composed by them to all judges who had informed they would like to participate in the Judges Online Meeting on 10.02.2026. Attached to the message were links to 2 forms (ideas for proposals and judges involvement) as provided by the JSC which served as input for the meeting.
- c. The JSC reported that 61 judges were present at the Judges Online Meeting and they scheduled a second meeting on the 17.02.2026. The Board agreed with the follow up meeting and that the JSC would send the link to this meeting to those judges who participated in the first session.



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- d. The JSC sent the draft minutes of the Judges Online Meeting held at 10+17.02.2026. The Board agreed that the JSC the minutes would be sent by them to the judges who participated in the meeting. To avoid misunderstanding, the Board emphasises there is only one official form for the judges to report their annual activities, called “Judges Engagement Form” (3x judging).
- e. The JSC asked for a wider permission to be directly in touch with judges for next activities and all related matters. The Board felt that direct contact with judges should be requested on a case-by-case basis and always for a specific subject.

13.4 Show Commission

- a. With reference to item 9.c, the SC reviewed SR 4.7 on the remarks made by NRR (NO). The SC agreed that part of the article is no longer needed but did not recommend removing the full paragraph. Two elements of SR 4.7 remain essential and should be kept: the exclusion for classes 11 and 12 and the obligation to move to the higher class once all certificates for a title have been obtained. However, the last paragraph—regarding re-entering the same class in the same country—has become redundant under the current rules. The SC recommended removing only this final paragraph and felt this adjustment reflected the intended outcome of a previously carried General Assembly proposal. They hoped it could be regarded as an administrative correction. The Board agreed and the correction will be made in a next issue of the SR.
- b. With reference to item 9.b, the SC sent their recommendation on the FPL (PL) request for an exception to SR 4.16. The SC understood this was a very unfortunate situation for the exhibitor, especially as the cat's show career had to end prematurely due to a medically unavoidable procedure. However, granting an exception in this case would inevitably create a precedent, as one exception would lead to countless similar requests. To ensure equal treatment and maintain the integrity of the rules across FIFe, the SC could not support the exception. The Board agreed.
- c. The SC sent the minutes of their meeting held on 12.03.2026.

13.5 Breeding & Registration Commission

- a. With reference to item 8.a, the BRC answered that according to BRR 3.6.3 only cats suffering from congenital abnormalities, such as polydactylism, have restrictions regarding the registration and breeding. Since the polydactyly is a congenital trait, caused by an autosomal dominant gene mutation, the BRC advised KKÍ to ask for a veterinary certificate to confirm that the cat in question is free of polydactyly, and then issue a pedigree in LO. The BRC stated that, although it is rare, a spontaneous mutation in a kitten from two non-polydactyl parents can happen. If it does, BRR 3.6.3 applies: “(...) *Such cats are not allowed for breeding, cannot be sold as breeding cats; a breeder selling such a cat must send a request to their FIFe Member for a “breeding restriction” to be put on the pedigree, they cannot be promoted or advertised*”. The Board agreed.
- b. With reference to item 8.b, the BRC answered that in the past there were other Members asking the Board, and the BRC, permission to have an exception to the rule in question. The BRC felt that an exception could also be granted to FPL, if they asked for it. They added that the HWC should also have a say in this since it was a health-related issue. The Board decided to ask the opinion of the HWC (see item 13.6.a).

13.6 Health & Welfare Commission

- a. With reference to item 13.5.a, the Board asked the HWC on their opinion on the breeding age limit for queens, as raised by FPL. The HWC answered that they had identified no specific health-related justifications that would necessitate a localised breeding restriction unique to Poland. They felt that if the FPL GA would adopt a proposal restricting the breeding of queens exclusively within Poland after they reach 8 years of age, such a measure would constitute a direct violation of BRR 3.1. The HWC considered this a matter of regulatory compliance rather than feline health. The Board agreed.



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- b. The HWC suggested to introduce a "publication assessment sheet" for a smoother communication between all parties involved (Commissions, General Secretary and Members), to keep track of all actions and store these sheets in their repository. The Board welcomed this initiative and asked the HWC to send the AGS a copy of final sheets for his HWC archive.
- c. The meeting with Dr. Barbara Padalino (see Board Meeting Minutes 01/26, item 13.6.d) took place with Mrs. Sara Moroni and Mr. Karl Preiss attending as representatives of the HWC respectively the Board.
- d. As NRR (NO) had their own health and strategy group, they wrote they would appreciate to receive a report from this particular meeting. This report made by the HWC, was forwarded to NRR.
- e. The HWC asked for direct contact with the PRC to finalise the article to be published in the Health and Welfare section of the website right after the recognition of the CORIN British varieties. The Board felt that all commissions are free to contact each other on working routine matters where cooperation is deemed necessary.

13.7 Disciplinary Commission

- a. The DC noted that in the GA invitation letter, which was sent to the Members and functionaries, a DC meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 27th at the same time as the open meetings continue. The DC would prefer to have their meeting on Tuesday. The DC thought it important for their members to take part in the Open Meetings during the entire course of the meetings. The Board answered that was already a longtime tradition that the meeting is specifically mentioned in the invitation letter. This is no longer necessary, as it is up to the commissions if they decide to physically meet during the GA week. In any case, the DC should be available for the Board in case of matters arising for the DC to handle prior to the GA on Thursday.

13.8 Public Relations Commission

- a. The PRC sent the minutes of their meeting held on 11.02.2026.
- b. The PRC sent a proposal to introduce a new slogan as part of the creation of a recognisable and visible brand for FIFe. The Board would contact the PRC on the implementation of the new slogan.
- c. The PRC designed a diploma for candidates who passed their preliminary exam and were admitted as a Student Judge in the Judges Training Programme.

14. Website & Social Media

Nothing to report

15. General Assemblies

- a. The invitation letter to the GA 2026 was sent to all Members and functionaries and included a link to the registration form for participation in the events during the GA week.
- b. Proposals will be listed in the GA agenda in the following order: Set of rules / Article number / Member country code / FIFe Member (abbreviation) / Commission abbreviation or Board. In this order proposals dealing with the same article in the same set of rules will be grouped together.
- c. LCC-FFL (LU) asked questions regarding delegates and advisors at the GA. These were answered by stating that the meetings of the GA are open to all individual members of FIFe Members and they can be appointed delegate or advisor by any FIFe Member.

16. World Cat Congress

- a. The chair of the WCC Health Committee, Mrs. Sara Moroni, participated in meeting of the Choose Health Coalition (CHC) on 19.02.2026 and sent the meeting minutes. The CHC agreed on their approach to the World Dog Show (WDS), which will take place from 3–7 June in Bologna (IT). Mrs. Moroni felt that activities which were developed for the WDS could be adapted for the FIFe World Show as well. The Board felt this is not possible in



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connection with our WS, which only goes for 2 days, while the WDS is scheduled for several days (3-7 June) and they also plan activities on 1-2 June.

- b. The Board evaluated the received suggestions for proposals to the 2026 WCC meeting and decided to forward 4 proposals. These proposals were sent to the Members and commissions for their information.
- c. The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF), the host of the 2026 WCC Meeting taking place from Thursday 23 to Monday 27 April, sent a link to the GCCF website providing all information on the meeting. A news item was published on our website including this link.
- d. The WCC secretary sent the agendas for the Business and Executive meetings to be held on Monday 27 April 2026.

17. Any Other Business

18. Next Board Meetings

- Tuesday 26.05.2026 – Vilnius (LT) – in connection with the General Assembly
- 07.07.2026 VCM – optional meeting if needed
- Saturday 22.08.2026 – Vienna (AT)
- 06.10.2026 VCM – optional meeting if needed
- Saturday 14.11.2026 – Vienna (AT)

19. Close of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 16:00 CET.

Annette Sjödin – President

Charles Spijker – Acting General Secretary