

# **THE MAINE COON CAT CLUB CONSTITUTION**

## **1. NAME**

The name shall be the Maine Coon Cat Club (hereinafter called 'the Club').

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Club shall be:-

- i.) to promote the interests of the Maine Coon cat;
- ii.) to further the health, welfare and care of Maine Coon cats at all times;
- iii.) to encourage the breeding of Maine Coon cats of sound conformation, amiable disposition and good health and free from hereditary defects whether expressed or carried in masked form;
- iv.) to promote fair dealing in and kind treatment of all cats.

## **3. MEMBERSHIP**

- a) Membership shall be single, joint, junior (6-16 years), honorary life and honorary membership. Honorary membership is for a period set by the Committee. Honorary life membership is awarded to those members who have given outstanding service to the Club. Junior members shall have no vote. All members shall be deemed to accept the Constitution of the Club and agree to be bound by it.
- b) Application for membership shall require proposal by a Club member or a veterinary surgeon. Such application shall be considered by the Committee of the Club, which has the power to accept or refuse membership.

## **4. COMMITTEE**

- a) The affairs of the Club shall be directed, in accordance with policy, by a Committee of eleven members unless item 10 4e is invoked.
- b) Members of the Committee shall be elected for a period running from the end of one AGM to the end of the AGM three years later. Co-opted members serve until the AGM after their co-option.
- c) No Officer or Committee member may serve as an Officer or Committee member of any other club which caters solely for Maine Coon Cats.
- d) If vacancies arise between elections, the Committee may appoint replacement members to hold office until the next annual election.
- e) The Committee shall meet at least four times between successive AGMs and a meeting shall follow immediately after each AGM. The quorum at any meeting shall be six.
- f) The Committee shall keep the Standard of Points under constant review.
- g) The Committee shall, with the co-operation of the members, compile and maintain a register of Maine Coon stud cats, which register shall be open to inspection by any member of the Club.
- h) Excepting where otherwise provided for by the Constitution, the Committee shall regulate its own procedure.
- i) Committee members must attend a minimum of 2 committee meetings in a 12 month period, unless sufficient reason and notification is given.

## **5. OFFICERS**

- a) The Officers of the Club shall be a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer. No-one may hold more than one office at a time in either the Maine Coon Cat Club or any other cat club.
- b) The Officers shall be elected annually by the Committee from its own membership. In the event that an Officer shall leave office before the expiry of their term, a replacement shall be elected at the next meeting.
- c) The Officers of the Club shall be ex-officio members of any sub-committee or working party that shall be appointed.
- d) The committee may appoint any member to act as an Officer to carry out specific functions of the Club, where these skills or expertise are not currently available from within the existing committee

## **6. CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman shall:-

- a) take the chair at all meetings of the Club or its Committee, except that in the Chairman's absence the chair shall be taken by the Vice-Chairman, failing which an acting Chairman shall be elected by those present.
- b) rule upon any matter of contention covered by this Constitution, interpreting the application of this Constitution to such matter.

## **7. HONORARY SECRETARY**

The Secretary shall:-

- a) conduct the correspondence of the Club;
- b) keep a register of the Club's members and their current addresses, making such amendments as may be notified to maintain its accuracy;
- c) give notice in writing, not later than the date required by the Constitution, to all members of any meeting of the Club which they may attend;

- d) ensure that the Club's elections are conducted in accordance with such rules as shall be determined from time to time.
- e) render to the Annual General Meeting such annual report as required by the Committee;
- f) carry out such other duties as shall be required by the Constitution or by the Committee and ensure if possible that the provisions of the Constitution are carried out.
- g) The Secretary shall also act as Membership Secretary, informing each new member of their acceptance and supply them with a copy of this Constitution.

## **8. HONORARY TREASURER**

The Treasurer shall:-

- a) hold the appropriate bank and/or investment accounts or, in cash, all monies received on behalf of the Club, with the exception of the show account;
- b) defray from the funds of the Club expenses properly incurred by the Committee or by any sub-committee or working party appointed by the Club or by any Officer in the discharge of duties under the Constitution, with the exception of monies relating to the show;
- c) render annually to the AGM detailed accounts of the club which have been examined and signed by suitable independent person(s).

## **9. SHOW MANAGER**

The Show Manager shall:-

- a) hold the appropriate bank and/or investment accounts or, in cash, all monies received on behalf of the Club show;
- b) defray from the funds of the show account(s) expenses properly incurred in the organisation and running of the Club show;
- c) render annually to the Treasurer detailed accounts of the show which have been examined and signed by suitable independent person(s) which shall then be passed to the Committee for presentation at the AGM.

## **10. MEETINGS, VOTING AND ELECTIONS**

### **(1) VOTING**

- a) Each member in attendance at a meeting shall have one vote on each issue except that the Chairman, in the event of a tie, may exercise a second and casting vote.
- b) No member who is not at the meeting may vote either by proxy or by post at the meeting except where specifically provided for elsewhere in this Constitution.
- c) All issues shall be decided by a simple majority and all issues, except where provided for specifically elsewhere in the Constitution, shall be decided by a show of hands.

### **(2) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- a) A general meeting of the Club to be called the Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held no later than the thirty-first day of March each year. The quorum for an AGM shall be fifteen members.
- b) The business of an AGM shall include:-
  - (i) presentation of the annual report and statement of accounts;
  - (ii) appointment of suitable independent person(s) to examine and sign the Club accounts.
  - (iii) consideration of resolutions sponsored by either the Committee or by two or more members of the Club and submitted in writing, postmarked not less than one month prior to the date of the AGM;
  - (iv) any other business at the Chairman's discretion, provided that it concerns matters that have arisen too late to be included in the agenda.
- c) The following business may be transacted only at an AGM:-
  - (i) receipt of the annual report and statement of accounts;
  - (ii) appointment of suitable independent person(s) to examine and sign the Club accounts;
  - (iii) setting the annual subscription level;
  - (iv) amendments to the Constitution.
- d) Notice of an AGM shall be sent to all members not less than three months prior to the date of the AGM.
- e) The agenda for an AGM shall be sent to each member not less than two weeks prior to the AGM.

### **(3) EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

- a) An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be summoned by the Committee at its own discretion but must be summoned if requested by ten percent or more of Club members. The quorum for an EGM shall be fifteen members. The request must specify the precise nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- b) The business to be transacted at an EGM must be specified on the agenda and no other business shall be transacted at an EGM.
- c) Notice of an EGM, together with its agenda, shall be sent to all members at least one month prior to the date of the EGM,

(4) **ELECTIONS**

a) The following positions shall be elected at the AGM, by a simple majority of club members present and eligible to vote:-

(i) Committee members.

(ii) Delegates to the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF).

b) All Club members shall be eligible for nomination as Committee members or delegates.

c) (i) Nominations for these positions shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary not later than two months prior to the date of the election. The nominations must be made by two or more Club members and include the consent of the nominee in writing.

(ii) Nominations shall not be required for outgoing Committee members and delegates.

d) Candidates must submit to the Secretary with the nominations a statement of not more than two hundred and fifty words concerning their candidacy, to be circulated to the members.

e) In the event of a tie for the last available position, both candidates shall be invited to join the Committee as co-opted members.

**11. DUTIES OF MEMBERS AND ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

a) Each member shall strive to promote the objectives of the Club and shall bring to the notice of the Committee any matters contrary to these objectives.

b) Each member shall pay such annual subscription as shall be agreed by the AGM from time to time. Annual subscriptions shall fall due on the first day of January each year or immediately upon acceptance into membership for new members, except that the second subscription only shall be waived for new members accepted less than three months before it should fall due.

c) The membership of any member whose annual subscription remains unpaid three months after the due date shall be deemed to have ceased. Lapsed members may either seek new membership or may, at the discretion of the Committee, be reinstated as members on payment of all arrears of annual subscription(s).

d) Any member who for any reason ceases to be a member of the Club shall have no further claim upon it and no fees, subscriptions or other monies, or any part thereof, paid to the Club by such ex-members shall be returnable.

**12. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, AMALGAMATION, WINDING UP**

a) The Constitution shall operate with effect from the close of business of the 2014 AGM and supersedes all previous rules and Constitutions, howsoever amended. Officers, Committee members and delegates elected or appointed before the close of business of the 2014 AGM shall continue to act as if elected under the Constitution.

b) The Constitution may be amended only by an AGM and then only by a majority of at least two-thirds of those present and voting. Such amendment shall be subject to the usual rules of business of an AGM, except that no amendment may be considered under Any Other Business.

c) The Club may be wound up or amalgamated with another organisation only by a majority of at least two-thirds of those present and voting at an AGM or EGM.

**13. ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS**

a) The Club shall seek and attempt to maintain affiliation to the GCCF and both the Club and its members shall be bound by the Constitution and Rules of the GCCF.

b) Any delegates to the GCCF shall hold the position for a period of one year from the close of business of the AGM at which the appointment is announced.

c) Any organisation outside the United Kingdom associated with cats may, at the discretion of the Committee, be associated with the Club to further its objectives.

**14. DISCIPLINE**

a) The Committee has the power to withdraw membership from individuals who do not observe the Rules of this Club or, in the opinion of the Committee, have behaved in a manner likely to bring discredit upon or prejudicial to the interests of the Club or the Cat Fancy.

b) The Committee shall also have the power to withdraw membership from any person convicted in a court of law of ill-treating or neglecting an animal as well as any person whom it may consider to be guilty of misconduct connected with the keeping, judging or exhibiting of cats.

c) Persons against whom this section is invoked shall have the right of appeal to a General Meeting.

As amended on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at the Annual General Meeting.