

# RULES OF THE BRITISH RAGDOLL CAT CLUB

Amended 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020

(Founded 1987)

Member club of GCCF



## 1. Name

- a) The Club shall be known as The British Ragdoll Cat Club.

## 2. Aims and Objectives

- a) To promote interest in the breeding and exhibiting of Ragdolls.
- b) To assist the Ragdoll Breed Advisory Committee (BAC) in maintaining the Standard of Points, Judges Lists and Registration Policy by referring proposals suggested by our members as amendments to these documents as deemed necessary.
- c) To maintain a Breeding Policy for Ragdolls in respect of which guidelines breeder members shall be expected to comply.
- d) To maintain a Code of Ethics for Ragdoll breeders registered with the Club in respect of which guidelines they shall be expected to comply.
- e) To encourage the care, protection and the maintenance of the healthy breed lines of Ragdoll cats and cats in general.
- f) To offer guidance and assistance to members in all matters pertaining to Ragdolls.

## 3. Officers and Committee

- a) A President and Vice President may be appointed by the Committee at their discretion. They will be ex-officio members of the Committee. The appointment is to be confirmed by members at the AGM. The period of office is to be five years. The President and Vice President have no specific duties, but are required to be in sympathy with the Club and its aims. They may vote at Committee meetings.
- b) The management of the Club shall be vested in the Committee, consisting of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer and **twelve** Ordinary members who shall be elected by majority vote of members present at the AGM by paper ballot or by postal ballot.
- c) The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to be elected by majority vote of members present at the AGM by paper ballot or by postal ballot, and to hold office for three years, and shall be eligible for re-election. They will be ex-officio members of the Committee.
- d) The Hon Secretary to be elected by majority vote of members present at the AGM by paper ballot or by postal

ballot and to hold office for two years, and shall be eligible for re-election. The Hon Secretary will be an ex-officio member of the Committee.

- e) The Hon Treasurer to be elected by majority vote of members present at the AGM by paper ballot or by postal ballot and to hold office for two years, and shall be eligible for re-election. The Hon Treasurer will be an ex-officio member of the Committee.
- f) All Ordinary Committee members to be elected by majority vote of members present at the AGM by paper ballot or by postal ballot and to hold office for two years and shall be eligible for re-election.
- g) The Club shall be a member of the relevant Breed Advisory Committee and shall be represented at BAC meetings by the number of representatives permitted under the BAC constitution. Such representatives shall be elected from the Committee at the committee meeting following an AGM. The committee may also appoint other members of the club who may have been deemed to have beneficial skills to represent the committee at BAC meetings. In the event that a representative is unable to attend a BAC meeting a substitute shall be appointed by the officers of the Club. In the event that a representative should cease to be a member of the Club, the Committee shall appoint a substitute to attend meetings until the next meeting following the AGM.
- h) The Club shall be represented at GCCF Council Meetings by two delegates selected from within the Committee members and elected by members at the AGM. The delegates and their nominal substitutes shall serve for one year and may be eligible for re-election.
- i) A breed recorder shall be appointed by the Committee and may serve either as a co-opted member of the Committee or as a full member of the Committee.
- j) The Membership Secretary and Show Support Secretary to be appointed at the discretion of the Committee from within its members.
- k) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt not more than two persons (excluding the breed recorder if this position is occupied by a co-opted member) in a non-voting capacity to assist in discussions. These persons are to have specialized knowledge which would be useful to the Club and shall have been fully paid up members for a minimum of 2 years. Co-opted persons shall serve for one year until the next AGM when they may stand for election. The Committee may also appoint sub-committees as necessary.
- l) All nominations for Committee from members who have been fully paid up for a minimum of two years are to be made in writing, to the Hon Secretary six weeks prior to the AGM, supported in writing by a proposer and seconder and with the written approval of the nominee, together with a brief resume.

- m) Any member unable to attend the AGM and requiring to register a postal vote must inform the Hon Secretary at least 28 days prior to the published date of the AGM, and completed voting papers must be returned to the Hon Secretary before the AGM.
- n) Vacancies arising on the Committee during the course of the year will be filled by a majority decision of the Committee. Candidates will be chosen from the membership list. Members selected for the Committee in this way must stand for election at the next AGM.
- o) All members of the Committee must be fully paid up members of The British Ragdoll Cat Club.
- p) The Committee shall have the power to rule on issues for which no rule exists. These issues and rules to be raised at the next AGM and handled in accordance with rule 8 a).
- q) No two members of the same household or holding the same prefix may be Officers of the club at one and the same time.

#### 4. Finance

- a) The Club funds are to be deposited in a bank or building society in the name of the Club, or otherwise invested with the approval of the Committee.
- b) There shall be three Committee members authorised to sign cheques on behalf of the Club, these being the Chairman, Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary. All cheques over £200 to be signed by two of the three signatories.
- c) The financial year shall run from 1 January.
- d) All bona fide expenses incurred on behalf of the Club shall be defrayed out of Club funds, subject to the approval of the Committee.
- e) The Hon Treasurer to prepare the Annual Accounts of the Club, which will be examined by an independent person prior to their presentation to members at the Annual General Meeting.
- f) The appointment of an independent person to examine the Club Accounts shall be confirmed annually by a two-thirds majority of members attending the Annual General Meeting.

#### 5. Membership

- a) The Club shall consist of an unlimited number of members. Any breeder or owner of Ragdoll cats, or anyone interested in the breed, shall be eligible for membership of the Club.
- b) Application for membership is to be in writing on the 'Application for Membership' form and submitted with the appropriate fee to the Membership Secretary. Membership will be granted upon review by the Committee. The Committee shall have the power to refuse any application without being obliged to divulge the reason for refusal.

- c) The Committee shall have power to refuse to renew, or to expel any member whose words or actions may be considered detrimental to the Club or their cats, or contrary to the aims and objectives of the Club (paragraph 2). Any person expelled by the Committee has the right of appeal either in person or by letter at the AGM. Where such a situation arises the burden of proof lies with the person(s) bringing the matter to the attention of the committee. The committee will inform any member who is expelled or whose membership renewal is refused of the reason(s) for its decision.
- d) The Club shall be affiliated to the GCCF and Members shall abide by the disciplinary rules of the GCCF in accordance with the Constitution of the Council.
- e) Any member (including Long Term and Honorary Members) suspended under article 12 of the Constitution of the GCCF and wishing to rejoin after expiration of the period of suspension must apply for re-election to the Club Committee.
- f) The subscription rates for the following year are reviewed and fixed annually at the AGM on the Treasurer's recommendation.
- g) Subscriptions are due on 1 January each year.
- h) New members joining between 1 January and 31 August pay annual subscription plus joining fee and membership will be valid until 31 December of that year. New members joining after 1 September pay annual subscription plus joining fee and membership will be valid till 31 December of the following year.
- i) Memberships not renewed by 31 March each year will be deemed to have lapsed. Any such lapsed member desiring to rejoin the Club after 1 April will be required to pay the current rejoining fee in addition to the Annual Subscription.
- j) After a membership period of not less than one year, members may convert their membership to long-term membership by advising the Hon Secretary of their wish to do so. Long-term membership is for a fixed period of ten years and the fee payable is eight times that of the annual subscriptions at the annual rate current at the time of conversion.
- k) The Committee shall have the power at their discretion to grant Honorary Membership to any person or persons assisting the Ragdolls' progress. Honorary Members do not have voting rights.
- l) Any member may resign their membership in writing to the Hon Secretary at any time.
- m) In addition to the above, each person joining the Club undertakes during the currency of their membership of the Club, not to create any other Ragdoll Club or Ragdoll Association of any form without the prior agreement of the Committee. Members wishing to start regional or

local branches of The British Ragdoll Cat Club are strongly encouraged to do so.

- n) Only fully paid up Registered Breeders with The British Ragdoll Cat Club may make reference to The British Ragdoll Cat Club in any advertising, website, or other media used in connection with the sale of cats, kittens, or any other pet related products and services with the express permission of the Committee.
- o) The Honorary Secretary will endorse a GCCF breeder's prefix application for members who have been fully paid up members of The British Ragdoll Cat Club for two consecutive calendar years. The only exception will be made for those who have been members of The British Ragdoll Cat Club for less than two years but have attended a breeder's seminar held by The British Ragdoll Cat Club.
- p) In exceptional circumstances (eg worldwide pandemic), the committee may sign prefix applications for novice breeders who are yet to attend a seminar. Any breeder who has their prefix application signed under the rule 5p will be expected to attend the next available breeders seminar, and will not be eligible for registered breeders status until they have completed all aspects of the registered breeders criteria.

#### **6. Meetings.**

- a) An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held not later than 1<sup>st</sup> May each year. Notice of the AGM is to be sent to all members at least eight weeks prior to the AGM. All matters for the Agenda are to be sent to Hon Secretary at least six weeks in advance. The agenda, minutes of the previous AGM and annual accounts are to be sent to all members at least 28 days in advance. All fully paid up members at the time of the AGM are entitled to vote on all matters, including the election of committee members, which will be decided by a majority vote of members present at the AGM by paper ballot, or by postal vote. A ballot of places will only become necessary where there is an excess of nominations for the places available. New Committee members will take office at the end of the AGM.
- b) A quorum shall consist of sixteen members of the Club, including Officers and Committee.
- c) A Special General Meeting (SGM) shall be called on written demand to the Chairperson, of at least sixteen members specifying the business to be discussed, the conditions of 7b) and 8a) apply to an SGM. Administrative costs of an SGM are to be borne by the members requesting the meeting.
- d) At least four Committee meetings shall be held annually. A quorum shall consist of six members of the Committee including at least one Officer. Notice of meetings to be posted at least 21 days prior to the meetings. Minutes of the meeting are to be recorded by the Hon Secretary or Minute Secretary and approved in the usual way at the next meeting.

- e) The Hon Secretary, in conjunction with the Chairperson, shall conduct all the business of the Club.
- f) The Hon Secretary, after consultation with the Chairperson, shall call general meetings and Committee meetings as required.
- g) The Hon Secretary, assisted by the Membership Secretary, shall maintain a list of members.
- h) The Hon Secretary shall present an annual report to the AGM.
- i) Prior approval of the Hon Secretary shall be sought for all absences from properly notified Committee meetings. Absence from three quarters or more of the Committee meetings in the year shall be deemed to be resignation from the Committee.
- j) If a quorum of members is not present at an AGM, a postal and/or electronic ballot of all the voting members who were not present at the AGM should be carried out to ratify any decisions made at the AGM. Provided the total responses when combined with those of the members present at the AGM, constitute a quorum, the decisions made at the AGM may be considered approved/not approved.

#### **7. Voting**

- a) The Chairperson shall have the right to vote at Committee Meetings and Annual General Meetings and in addition shall have a casting vote in all matters.
- b) Resolutions shall be passed by simple majority of members present and voting, either by a show of hands or paper ballot, with the exception of matters relating to the Rules, Which shall always be by paper ballot and require approval by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting or by postal ballot.
- c) All fully paid up members are entitled to vote at any Club meeting or by postal ballot. No proxy votes are allowed.
- d) All postal ballot slips will require to be signed and have the name and address of the member.

#### **8. Alteration of Rules**

- a) No alteration to these Rules shall be made except at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose and notice of such a motion must appear on the agenda of the meeting and be sent to all members at least 28 days in advance. Any such alteration shall require a two-thirds majority of members present and voting or by postal ballot.

#### **9. Trophies**

- a) The ownership of all Trophies or Awards donated by members shall pass to the Club. In the event of the category for which they were assigned becoming obsolete, the committee shall have the power to re-assign such Trophies and Awards as appropriate.

## **10. Winding Up**

- a) A decision to wind up the affairs of the Club or to agree to the amalgamation with another club or organisation, shall require to be decided by a ballot of all members at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose of which at least twenty-eight days notice shall have been given. The decision shall require a vote of two-thirds majority of members present and voting or by postal ballot.
- b) In the event of the Club being wound up, divided or amalgamated, the existing funds will be donated to The Cat Welfare Trust (charity registration number 800719).
- c) In the event of the Club being wound up or divided with uncovered debts, each member over 18 years of age shall be equally liable for the debt up to a maximum of the then current membership fee.

## **11. Shows.**

The Committee shall have the authority to sponsor or organize shows as it deems necessary from time to time.

## **12. Governing Council of the Cat Fancy**

The Club agrees to abide by the Constitution and Rules of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy.