

2025 CFA ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, June 28, 2025

(52) INTERNATIONAL DIVISION MEETING.

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Newkirk: It's a few minutes after nine, so we're going to go ahead and get our meeting started. We always start off with introductions. I'm very pleased to see that we have people from China here, and we have people from ID-Other. Thank you for attending. I appreciate it, the board appreciates it, and this is your time to interact with the Board of Directors. You always can interact with the ID Committee. We're going to start off with introductions. I want to introduce the ID Committee to start with:

Attending in Person:

Darrell Newkirk, Chair of the ID Committee
Bob Zenda, Co-Chair of the ID-Other
Russell Webb, Co-Chair for China
Marilee Griswold, Co-Chair of ID-Other
Anne Mathis, Co-Chair of South America
Ellyn Honey, Co-Chair for China
Jan Rogers, AWA Sub-Chair

Lai Howe Chuan, Malaysia
Loh Wai Leong, Malaysia
Nicolas Pun, Hong Kong
Allen Shi, China
Charlene Jin, China
Sarah Ng, Hong Kong
Russell Law, Hong Kong
Alex Chen, Hong Kong
PakHei Leung, Hong Kong
Christine Choi, Hong Kong
Virginia Liu, Hong Kong
Patrick Au, Hong Kong
Fiona Lee, Hong Kong
Rain Fung, Hong Kong
Phebe Low, Hong Kong
Alex Luk Chun Lap, Hong Kong
Gloria Leung, Hong Kong
Gavin Cao, China
Agnes Sun, China
Nguyen Kieu Ngoc, Vietnam
Sun Suraphong, Thailand
Pao Badia Grimalt, Thailand

Attending via Zoom:

Allan Raymond, ID Representative

Newkirk: Great, thank you very much. Also here in attendance, maybe the board members would like to introduce themselves. We can start with President Mastin at the end of the table. **Mastin:** Rich Mastin, CFA President. **Raymond:** Ed Raymond, CFA Legal Council. **Currlle:** Kenny Currlle, Southern Region Director. **Moyer:** Janet Moyer, Region 6 Regional Director. **Altschul:** Carissa Altschul, Gulf Shore Region Director. **Nasin:** Doreann Nasin, Region 1. **Jensen:** Vicki Jensen, Region 2. **Tamura:** Aki Tamura, Region 8. **Huhtaniemi:** Pauli, Huhtaniemi, Director-at-Large. **Colilla:** John Colilla, the Great Lakes Region Director. **Krzanowski:** Carol Krzanowski, Director-at-Large. **Calhoun:** Kathy Calhoun, CFA Treasurer. **Webster:** Howard Webster, Southwest Region Director. **Anger:** Rachel Anger, the person that's going to try and spell all your names right, CFA Secretary, and also the person who's going to beg you to use the microphone every time you talk. Please use your microphone, and I'll try to spell your name right. Thank you. **DelaBar:** Pam DelaBar, Regional Director for Region 9, Europe. **Newkirk:** Thank you everybody.

Newkirk: One of the things that gave me more pleasure than anything this weekend in our meeting was the Judging Program report for the applicants and the advancements. They were almost all from the ID – a few outside. So, if you were accepted into the Program, would you please stand up? If you were advanced, during the weekend. So, I think if you heard Vicki's report yesterday, we're getting great, great response from the International Division, for people going into the Judging Program, and that really makes my heart swell, so thank you guys very much. I really, really appreciate it. [applause]

2. UPDATE ON COMBINE ID AWARDS BANQUET

Newkirk: I don't have a huge agenda for this meeting, but my first thing on the agenda is the ID update, and that's Bob Zenda. **Zenda:** Hey, good morning everyone. I understand that Hong Kong is empty because you're all here. I'm going to do a short update on the show rules that go into effect this year, and various times of the year. **Newkirk:** Talk about the banquet first. **Zenda:** Oh, that's right. The first thing we want to do is introduce the banquet. We've got H.C. Lai here and Wai Leong, and I'd like them to provide the update about what's happening in Malaysia, exciting ID combined banquet in November. The floor is yours. **Lai:** First of all, we are very happy and honored to be able to organize this banquet. Our banquet will be held in Kuala Lumpur city center, which is our Malaysia's main city, and the date is confirmed. The date will be on the 3rd of November. The hotel that we confirm is Hotel EQ. The banquet theme will be cultural night, because in Malaysia we have diversity of culture, so we have multi-racial, multi-ethnic, and we have different kind of cultures in Malaysia. We hope that this kind of team should be able to bring Malaysia's name to the world. As for the guest list, we already sent out last week. I believe the guests that we invited have already got the list, and the contracts as well. Everything has been finalized. By next week, our committee, which is Jon Lee, he will start sending emails to all the winners, and collecting all the pictures and all the information from all the Division Winners. Is there any questions that you guys would like to know? **Zenda:** Yes, I was going to ask, when are we going to post the information about the banquet on the ID website? That's extremely important. **Lai:** After these banquets. I believe by Tuesday or

Wednesday, when we arrive in Malaysia, we will start blasting out all the information, and to make an official announcement on the banquets. **Newkirk:** Thank you. Appreciate the update.

- 3. UPDATE ON SHOW RULES AFFECTING THE ID IN SEPTEMBER (ZENDA)**
- 4. Q AND A FOR NEW SHOW RULES FOR THE 2025-2026 SHOW SEASON**
- 5. DISCUSSION IN REGARD TO BREED SUMMARY VS ONLINE ENTRY COUNTS**

INTERNATIONAL DIVISION SHOWS



- ❖ All entries must be via the CFA Online Entry Portal.
- ❖ All ID shows close at 9pm China time on Wednesday before show.
- ❖ Kittens must be registered or have TRN to enter shows.
- ❖ English Show Flyer must be submitted that complies with SR 5.01-5.05 and should be submitted with Show License Application.
 - Flyers received less than 30 days prior to show will be assessed a **LATE FEE** (except China, Hong Kong & Macau)

Newkirk: Next, we're going to have a little bit of Show Rule updating. Bob? **Zenda:** This is not really good news, because I shared all of this with all of the club secretaries and the ID coordinators, who we work with all the time to get the information out. I thought it would be good just to let everyone know what's happening that's new this year. One of the things about CFA, and one of the reasons why it's been so popular in the International Division, is that we are a rules-based association, where you can expect, no matter where you are in the world, when you attend a CFA show, you're going to have the same kind of a format, you're going to have the same kind of rules, you're going to have the same selection of judges, and you're going to have the same bylaws, whether you're a member of a club or not. No matter where you are, those rules apply, and so that similarity helps us be creative and to service the folks who are interested in CFA, in promoting CFA, the largest registry of pedigree cats in the world. One of the first things that we changed this last year is that all the entries for the CFA shows must be coming through the CFA entry portal, which means that they can be tracked, as well as analyzed statistically and whatever else that the ID wants to do here with it. All the ID shows will close at 9 p.m. China time on Wednesday before the show. That's across the board for all shows except China, Hong Kong and Macau. Now, we're considering extending that to Macau and Hong Kong

next year, but to be determined. This year, all kittens have to be registered or have a TRN or the entry portal will not accept them. That's a large change, and it makes a big difference.



EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

- ❖ Shows in the ID (except China, Hong Kong & Macau) may be licensed up to 60 days prior to opening date of show without penalty. Early licensing is encouraged.
- ❖ Shows licensed less than 60 days, but more than 30 days prior to opening date of show will be assessed a **penalty fee**.
- ❖ Show License Applications received less than 30 days prior to opening date of the show will be returned and not licensed.

Zenda: Our show flyers have to be published. You can publish them in the local language, but they also have to be English so we can share them with the world. They're published on the CFA website, and on the CFA website you can find all the shows that are already currently licensed. Those show flyers need to be in compliance with the Show Rules – the ones I'm quoting here, 5.01 through 5.05, and we're taking a very, very close look at those as they come in with the show license application. They're required to come in at least 30 days prior to the show. Preferably, they'll come in with that show license application. If they are received less than 30 days prior to the show, they'll be assessed a late fee, and that late fee is \$100. You'll find that in the addendum that shows all the fees that CFA has established. Now, that does not apply to Hong Kong and Macau and China, but stay tuned for May next year. Beginning with this show season, shows in the ID except China, Hong Kong, and Macau may be licensed up to 60 days prior to the opening day of the show without a penalty, and we encourage you to do that even earlier, if possible. The sooner you get that show license, the sooner it'll be on the CFA website and people will have an idea of where it is, who it is, how they're going to enter, etc. If shows that are licensed less than 60 days but more than 30 days prior to the opening day of the show will be assessed a penalty fee, and that penalty fee, by the way, is \$150. So that'll encourage you to get there. Now, if you come in less than 30 days prior to the opening day of that show, you're not going to get a show license. We've had a lot of problems with very, very last minute things, and we've been troubling the CFA Executive Board week after week after week for this exception and this exception. This closes that loophole. This is in effect now, so if you're involved with a club that's licensing a show, get that dog gone thing in there 60 days in

advance so we can get it out there up on the website. So, the only other thing I didn't put on this little slide, which is brief but to the point, is that effective this show season, throughout the entire International Division, in order to be counted to the show count, the cat must be presented in at least 70% of the rings. It was 80% last year. We'll roll it to 70%. That applies to the entire International Division. So, do you understand what I'm talking about here? If you don't present that cat in 70% of the rings, it's not included in the show count. And that's about all I have to offer from this point of view, and I'll take any questions you might have.

[From later in the discussion] **Zenda:** And to change the subject, I forgot to cover the first one that Kathy just reminded me. The other major change is the use of TRNs. They used to be good for 60 days. This season they're good for 30 days. I think you're probably all aware of that.

Law: Russell from Hong Kong. I think maybe I can say on behalf of the peeps in Hong Kong, because as far as I know, I think we have six, seven, eight show managers here from Hong Kong, including myself. I've organized more than 50 shows since 2009, so what I can say is that as far as Hong Kong is concerned, I think most, if not all, of the entries are accepted through the website, so I think the model for accepting entries is no issue for us. And the typical day for closing entry for us is almost always Tuesday, so that's actually one day before the proposed deadline from the board now. And also the TRN thing, I think we almost don't use the TRN system to enter our kittens in shows, so that's also, it should not affect us much. But then we had some discussions around some of the clubs in Hong Kong about the ID banquet. This year, I know that there's some exception for the ID banquet, which is actually quite different from what we've been having for the last 20 years. Maybe the first ID banquet that I ever went to was 2005 in Hong Kong and it's almost, without an exception, held in August. That's one month. We love the idea because the annual is always June and the ID banquet is in August, which is actually what we consider like our seafood – fresh. Because the idea is that the season ends by the last weekend of April and it goes without saying that we enjoy the achievement of each last season, like we're doing now in June, and then we enjoy our own party in Asia in August, which is, I mean, we're so close together, the dates. The good thing about that is that a lot of the exhibitors and campaigners in Hong Kong are parents, and they have kids. August is still summer holiday, so these parents are free to go anywhere they like, in theory. So, maybe we can't change it, despite the fact that we have some issues with the date proposed, or the ID banquet is coming November, but maybe starting from 2026, in Hong Kong, we really hope that the board will consider going back to August because that's our traditional banquet. We respect and we honor tradition, like we have our traditional days for sure. So why not for the banquet? And there's a hope. I mean, it really is good, you know, we can celebrate all these wins so close together. Just imagine, you know, now we are in November, it's actually in the middle of the new season when everybody is crazy about scoring points and chasing for shows. And then you're going back to celebrate the wins last season, where you have to look up in your own record, you know, what placement was my win? I forgot. I think it goes without saying that it's actually quite reasonable to have a look at that. Also, personally, I don't object to the idea of combining the banquet for China and the rest of the ID together, but bearing in mind, now China, how many parts of China that we have is divided into three or four parts? And each part of it has its own sets of divisional winners. And I think the active countries in Asia, in ID, we have like seven, eight countries, and each country has its own sets of DW. I mean, for the board to think about it, it's like combining all the regional banquets, one to nine, together in one day. Just imagine how many awards you

have to be presented. I think we have to start at one o'clock till ten at night. And, I mean, it's not funny. So, yeah, well, I'd like to hear more about you guys. How do you think about the combined banquet and possibly the logistic behind everything? And also, you know, maybe starting from 2026, moving it back to August. Thank you very much. **Newkirk:** Thank you, Russell, and I can address that with you already. There's been so much disorganization up to this point for this combined banquet. Typically, I don't bring that to the attention of the Board of Directors. We handle that internally within the ID Committee. So I have directed the ID Committee that next year we will not be holding an in-conjunction banquet. There will be two separate banquets. I have directed Allan and Bob and Marilee to look for a facility in July or August – not November – July or August to hold the ID-Other. And then Allan and Russell will be working with Jon Lee to formalize a banquet within China. So, that's what my plans are for next year. We're going to go back to the way we have been doing it and we're not going to do it late in the season. I agree with you. Holding the banquet on Monday I don't think is a good idea, but that's what they have proposed and that's what they plan to do. So, next year there will be two banquets, one for China and one for ID-Other. Any other questions? **Zenda:** You need to understand that up until this point in time, every year we ask for nominations for folks who want to take the risk and put together a banquet for us. So, this year we awarded it to Malaysia because they were the only folks who stepped up and said, "hey, we'll take the time, we'll take the risk, we'll spend the money, but we'll try to give you the great time and nod all the CFA awardees." **Law:** For that reason, I applaud the club in Malaysia for taking the risk. That's one part that I think the people in Hong Kong appreciate. When no one is willing to do it, but then the Malaysian club is taking the liability and responsibility. So, I really appreciate that.

Newkirk: So I want to give you just a little bit of an update of what I have been doing this show season. Last show season was my first year returning as Chair of the International Division. Most of you know that I was Chair during Pam DelaBar's tenure as President for her whole presidency at the beginning of Jerry Hamza's. So, I took the year to sort of observe what's going on at the ID. I have a Dropbox account. I have a file for every show. So, when I receive a copy of your show license from Jen Brahler from Central Office, that's included in your file. You have to put your show flyer in at least 30 days in advance. So, if you're scheduling very late or close to your date, then you're going to have to put the flyer in. I sent all the ID entry clerks, which I formed an I/O group for, and so I update them. Some of you in here are on that email chain. I talked to Cathy Dunham. I'm going to be adding her on. So if there's questions that I can't ask technically from Central Office, then Cathy will be able to do that. But, one of the things I want to make perfectly clear to you guys, if you're an entry clerk or a show manager, if you're applying for a TRN, that has to be paid before the close of the check-in. It's not eligible to be exhibited if that fee is not paid. So, we're not going to have any more of this begging you to pay your TRN fee. So, that's the thing that I will be sending out to the entry clerks. Collect the fee when they check in if they have not paid for the TRN. Additionally, besides the show license and your show flyer that we are checking to make sure you're complying – and I have to say, you guys have really stepped up and done a good job of updating your flyers to include everything. That's a show rule. If you don't do it, you're violating the show rule. So, make sure that your show flyer is compliant.

Newkirk: Ellyn and Marilee approve ID-Other shows. So Bob approves. I've seen Marilee's initials on it every once in a while. But Ellyn and Russell for China. I monitor your breed summaries to make sure you're closing on Wednesday night at 9 o'clock. Last weekend a

show published a count at 9 o'clock and they didn't close the show until Thursday. That is a violation of the show rules and I told them, "it's a warning, I will be watching it, don't do it again." So, make sure your shows are closing appropriately. Next year, that Wednesday closing date is going to move to Tuesday. Just so we're stepping back a day at a time until you meet the same requirements that people here in Regions 1 through 9 are. So please.

Newkirk: Additionally, I sent out an email asking if your show is a two day show – not a 6x6 but a two-day show – please indicate on your flyers if the judges are judging Saturday or judges are judging Sunday. That's very important to me because I've worked with Vicki Nye, who is the Chair of the Judging Program, and we look at the number of entries in a certain color class. You guys, it's British Shorthair and in the ID Ragdolls. So if all those cats couldn't be fit in the ring at one call, then there has to be bay check-in. So, if I don't know who's judging on Saturday, how do I know who to assign to do it? So, in my report, I said that I would be working with the Show Rules Committee, Ed Raymond and Carol Krzanowski, to include that as a show rule change to require you to put the day that a judge is officiating. So, like I said, I monitor your show flyer, your show license application. I monitor your online entry and your breed summary.

Newkirk: Now, I know people want to add and stuff and cheat. And one of the reasons why we changed the show rule about having to compete in 70% of the rings and then require a number, either TRN or official CFA registration number to compete is, we're trying to make sure that the cats that are in, nobody violated the show rule because there's no show rule limiting how many cats you can enter. If you can pay for 50 cats, have at it. The club will be very happy because they'll make money. So, I'm monitoring those. One additional thing that I'm putting into that file, a fifth thing, is when Cathy Dunham or Paula Noble score the show, I get a completed copy of the master clerk catalog. So, that is also, and I review that. Just as an update, one show I reviewed, I was looking at the kittens. Of all the kittens that were entered, two of them had CFA registration numbers. All the other kittens had a TRN. I was pretty amazed. So, I haven't started going through and counting how many TRNs are totaling up in each show. I don't care because, you know what, it's money for us. You know, if people don't want to register a cat, then apply for a TRN, and if we have to, because in the past people have applied for a TRN, they have used it and then when it expired – it used to be I think 90 days when we first started doing it – then they would just apply for another one. So, you know, your cat needs to be able to be registered. So that's the whole point, is to give you a temporary number until your cat is registered and if your cat can't be registered, then we shouldn't be reissuing you a TRN number.

Newkirk: So, back to the online versus breed summary. We get a copy of all that stuff in the system. Dick Kallmeyer is our statistician. I can email Dick and say, "hey, give me the stats on this show, what was entered through the online entry," and then we can compare that to what the breed summary is. Now, we talked about this in the meeting on Thursday. There can be a difference between the online count and the breed summary, but if every cat is entered like it's supposed to be according to the show rules, then that online count most likely will be higher than the breed summary. So, if there's a big disparity, I'm going to be contacting Dick and say, "give me the stats, which cats were entered through the online." Now, if your entry clerk wants to spend half his night entering a cat in a show that was submitted by an email, which is not according to our rules, then they have to sit there and enter that cat through the online system. So, there's a workaround and it's an education process. So, we understand that. I've talked to

Rich about this and we're working with people to make sure that everybody gets in compliance with what our show rules are. So, please, you have your entry clerks contact people that don't enter their cats correctly. They have to be entered through the online system. OK, any questions on that? **Phebe? Low:** I would like to make advice for those using the TRN. Make use of the expedited service for the registration. Within 24 hours, you can get the registration number instead of using the TRN. So, it will be more efficient than using the TRN and causing the entry clerk or the master clerk to do all the TRN stuff. **Newkirk:** Thank you for that. That's a very good suggestion. So, she said that, you know, you can use the expedited registration and get your number within 24 hours. I think the eCats system, if you're in eCats, those registrations come through very quick, even under a normal registration process. Three days. OK, Russell said three days.

Newkirk: So, anyway, another little trick that I've sort of picked up on by looking at these marked catalogs is, if the registration number, if you enter under a false registration number and then you come to the show and give them the correct registration number, we're going to find that. So, make sure when you enter the cat, it's the correct cat, the correct birth date, and the correct registration number or TRN. Don't be putting the sister's registration number and trying to show that cat because we'll find out. So, we have ways of doing it. I don't want to be threatening. I just want to tell you guys that please, we have a set of rules and we want you to follow those rules. OK? Any questions? **Badia:** Yes, sir. It's not a question. It's a comment about the new show rules applying to ID-Other. I fully agree with having registration numbers in kittens and the dates and everything. But there is one related to the 70% of the cats being in rings that it is pretty shocking to me that CFA wants to promote this, because this is affecting directly to the welfare of many cats. I saw that this was applied before in China. I saw it and I thought, wow, poor them. Now, it is affecting me as both an exhibitor and as a club, because we don't have that many shows. We don't have a show like every weekend, and we have many exhibitors that are willing to come with two cats, with three cats that they are planning to even switch between rings. I'm getting like one grand that maybe has like a few points and then they put another cat. So, all these entries are lost because they are bringing only one cat because they cannot play anymore. Cats as well that do well in one or two rings and then they get moody. For example, my own breed, Bengals, that we know that sometimes can get moody. So, we cannot put them in all the rings anymore. So, that means that maybe they even entered into the finals in the first two rings and then they cannot go anymore because they are not feeling well to go to other rings. So, you know, there are all these series of new rules that are being applied that I feel that it's great, but all in a pack and having this one as well, that is affecting at the moment that we have as well a two-day show, for example, in Asia. There are many people that work six days a week and can only come one day. So, we are also losing these exhibitors at the same time. So, I would really ask to reconsider to take this one out and have it like the rest of the world. I would also think like what would happen if yesterday this would have been brought to everybody, people from Region 1-9, what they would have said if this would also be applied to the U.S.? **Newkirk:** I have always advocated that ID rules should be the same as Regions 1-9. However, this last year, in March and April, two areas of the International Division stuffed to the gills supporting kittens, and that's exactly why this rule got instituted to comply with the same way that we do it in China. China has done this for several years, and I'm sorry, but those two clubs brought this on. I told them, I said, this rule was instituted because of your actions. I went through those two shows, the marked catalog, and I was shocked at how many cats were in one ring. I'll just give you an example. One was Peanut Butter for the sire,

Jelly for the dam, and then Smudgy for the kitten. Now, do you think I'm stupid? Do you think that I think that is a legitimate entry? That was a stuffed cat to elevate the count to support some cat. Now, I did all the statistics on these two shows, and I sent that to the Board of Directors.

How many cats competed in one ring? How many cats competed in two rings? How many cats competed in three rings? I was astonished when I added those up. So, I'm sorry, I don't mean to be blunt, but you guys brought that on yourselves. **Badia:** Sorry, I mean, before there was also a cat manipulation committee, I think, or I don't know, what was it called? A special investigation committee, right? I mean, if something like this happens, I guess that this can be brought up and looked and punished as well in a show, but applying a rule that goes to the welfare of the cats, it is totally unfair. So, still, I don't think that this rule should be applied, even though there were two cases in Malaysia and in Thailand. I think that this rule will not solve the issue in that sense, and it is having a huge impact on the people that will come, exhibitors, amount of entries, etc.

And we can do other things as well in case that this happens again. **Newkirk:** Carissa? **Altschul:**

I want to speak to the part where you said that some of your cats can only be shown in one or two rings before they become temperamental. Part of being a show cat is that the cat can be shown in the majority of the rings. If your cat cannot handle being shown in the majority of the rings, you need to look at your breeding program. I don't care what breed it is. There's Bengals here in the United States, and they are able to be shown in all the rings, even at ten ring shows. The temperament of the show cat is just as important as the health and the structure. So, if your cats cannot be handled in more than one or two rings for a weekend, please look at your breeding program. Maybe look at how you're raising your cats. Talk to the other breeders who have cats that are able to be shown. I can recall here in the United States, there were certain breeds that the judges were afraid of. Those breeders make tremendous strides in their breeds to change the temperaments in their cats. You can breed for temperament, as well as structure, so, please look at that as well. **Badia:** Thank you. Yes, and I know about that. What happens in ID is that, I don't know if you have seen the fees that we have as well, because we have to import most of the judges and everything. So, someone goes to the show. It's the first time that they bring a cat in the show. They think that they have a great temperament, because at home they do have a great temperament, and then they are exposed in a different situation. They go to two rings, and then they cannot go forward. So, what happens next? Somebody says, oh, take this pill. Give to the cat this pill. So, drugging the cat mostly, or if not, you're going back home. You spend like \$200 in an entry fee, plus the troubles and everything. So, what do you do? So, this is the situation they find out and these situations, it's because of the 70%. So, yes, of course, there is, you know, the temperament can be selected, etc., etc., but these are real situations that people find when you have this kind of rule. So, and this is because CFA puts a 70%. If it's not in there, they don't need to go through that. **Altschul:** So, like Darrell said, the 70% rule came into effect because of the behaviors that we saw happening at the shows. I believe that even if the cat itself is shown and left at 70%, it can still get points. It just doesn't count toward the total count. The reason why this rule does not apply to Regions 1-9 is we don't have that problem. You go through an average catalog in Regions 1-9, maybe 5% to 10% of the cats, if that, probably less than that, don't make it to every ring. So, I understand your concerns. I understand your frustrations. We pay high entry fees over here, as well. When you add in, if a person brings one cat, they pay \$85, plus they have to pay for a half space, plus they pay for a grooming space. It can very easily become \$150 or more to enter a single cat in a show. I strongly encourage you, if you are producing shows, to reach out to anybody who's a new exhibitor. I don't know if you guys use the new exhibitor little box on your entry forms like we do here. Reach out to them and let them

know that, hey, these are some things you might want to look into. We have a New Exhibitor Committee in the United States that reaches out to new exhibitors prior to entering the show. If they have a singular bad experience at a show, then yes, their first show may not be perfect, but I certainly hope that your exhibitors are well aware that giving drugs to a cat at a show is breaking a show rule. **Newkirk:** So, this was instituted because, I think it's 6.34, don't quote me on that, about manipulating counts and it wasn't happening in the adults because the adults have to be registered. It was a major issue in kittens and the show rule was instituted because of – and I'll call it what it is – it's cheating. It's cheating. This board does not condone cheating. We want you to go by the show rules. So, if you want to empty out a pet shop to put in your show to up the count, it's not going to work anymore. That's another reason why we require kittens to have a registration number, CFA, or TRN, one or the other. I'm sorry for people that the law of unintended consequences hits because they can't compete in the whole show, but it used to be 80%, we dropped it to 70%. So, I mean, today is Anne and I's last day as board members. If Rich appoints me as ID Chair on Sunday, then I will still be bringing show rule resolutions that need to be changed or reconsidered to change. So, I apologize to the people that it adversely affects, but it had to be done.

Newkirk: Virginia? **Liu:** Good morning, I'm Virginia Liu from Hong Kong. Talking about TRN, I'm really glad to see that the CFA is finally addressing the issue and trying to close the loophole. I just wanted to say that not only kittens are affected. Actually, in championship cats, we also see quite a number of TRNs in a couple of shows in the ID. For example, in one show, there were 14 cats with TRN in championship alone. And then in another end of season show, there were 18 cats in one show with TRN. And then those 18 cats, two were grand champions. I really wonder how come grand champions were showing with TRN. Of course, the season is already over and we are now looking forward to some changes and some improvements in the system. This is just what I want to say. I just wanted to mention that not only kittens were affected, but also championship cats. **Newkirk:** I'll ask Cathy to address that. **Dunham:** Hi, I'm Cathy Dunham. I'm the lead scorer for CFA. I probably talked with you all via email at one point or another. TRNs. If a grand champion is entered with a TRN and that gets to Central Office, it's a no-go. We don't let that happen because you already have a title. TRNs are for cats that don't have titles. So, it's an educational process. Darrell, I think, passed out some information via your communication process about how to use titles. That's one of the things that I have seen and I'm trying to help educate you is when to use open, champion, or grand champion as you're showing your cats. Paula Noble is also here. She is my co-scorer. We see it all the time. Cats come in. You might show the cat the first time as an open, but you don't get all your qualifying rings. Something happens. Maybe the cat can't be in all the rings, as was talked about earlier. Then, you automatically think they're a champion the next show. They're not. They're still an open until they get the number of qualifying rings they need. Sometimes, you think you have enough points to become a grand champion and you don't. Counts are wrong, the Master Clerk inadvertently counts something they shouldn't have and you're relying on that count to know if you're a grand or not. We go through them very meticulously. We change titles back on cats. That's why occasionally you'll get an email from Paula or I as an exhibitor or as the show management. We're saying this cat cannot be shown under this title. We can't award points to you because it's shown as the wrong title. So, please always contact us. We're happy to answer those questions and help educate you on how to use that. **Newkirk:** Pam? **DelaBar:** However, there is a way this could happen and it'd still be honest. The cat comes in, it's transferred from another association, or you have an in-depth registration issue. That TRN is good for 30 days.

You go to one show. Let's say it's a four-ring show. It's not six qualifying rings but four qualifying rings and you get enough points for that grand championship. Our show rules allow you to go from open to grand if you pay the championship confirmation of \$15. So, it is conceivable to happen and we had that happen in two of my areas in Europe where cats had four qualifying rings and one cat had 515 points, grand points. And it can happen still within that 30-day validity period. So, it does not mean, if you see this, that there's cheating going on. We actually allow this in our show rules. **Newkirk:** Cathy, you want to address that? **DelaBar:** Just say I'm right. **Dunham:** Well, yes. Pam is right. I will agree with that. During that 30-day period, Pam's correct, it can happen. But if your TRN expires and we don't communicate with you and take care of it, the next time, that's when you can't use it. So, Paula and I know that you have the grace period of the 30 days, but once we get beyond the 30 days and you show the cat with what we call an "incorrect title", that's when we're going to come back to you as an exhibitor and say, you can't do this until we can verify. It's usually exactly what Pam said. You have not paid for your confirmation of your champion or premier title. Once you do that for us, then we automatically give you your grand certificate or whatever it is that you're needing, but the key is that confirmation of payment for your champion or premier title. So, anytime any of you have questions about titles, get a hold of Paula or I, either one. We're happy to answer the questions. We're happy to help you do the research. **Newkirk:** Thank you. Any other questions?

Newkirk: Pau? **Badia:** Yes, my question goes on to the details about this 70%. I think you said that actually cats can earn points even if they don't go to all the finals. Is that correct? **Dunham:** Yes. **Newkirk:** They're only excluded from the count. **Badia:** They're only excluded from the count, but do they get points on their cats? **Newkirk:** Yes. **Badia:** Either breed points or either go to the finals? **Newkirk:** We're not going to take their points away. **Badia:** That changes a lot. **Newkirk:** They competed, but they just won't be in the count for the show. **Badia:** OK, thank you.

Newkirk: My next thing on my agenda was about moving the closing date for shows from Wednesday to Tuesday, and we already covered that. Bob has a point about scheduling. **Zenda:** You all are aware that our scheduling system in ID-Other, our scheduler is Nadia out of Singapore. It's important that when you make a show reservation, if there's any change to that, you notify her so that when the show license application comes in, you need to understand the process. It goes to Jen, and if she's got all the documents, she has all the signed contracts and has the show flyer and everything is there, she then forwards it to Marilee and I, and we then examine it. The first thing that we look at, is it on the show schedule? If it's not, we go back. We don't license them until we find out what the heck's going on. And so, if you have a change and you come in with a show license application and it's not on the current show schedule, it's going to be delayed until you fix that. We're going to notify you, but we're going to take a good look at it. It's important that if you have a change to that schedule or you're not going to be able to put on the show, you let us know as quickly as possible. There may be another club out there that couldn't get that date because you had it reserved. So let's keep up with that carefully, and then we'll be able to process your stuff in a timely manner. **Law:** Just a quick one. How many consecutive years it takes to make one weekend a traditional weekend now? Two? **Griswold:** Yeah, I want to say, too, that Bob and I have been looking at the contracts that come through for the judges. Those have to be complete also. The judges have to sign. We have to see which day the judge is judging on. So they all have to be complete. We've been sending some of those back. And then your flyers, you've been doing such a good job. Now we have closing dates on

there. You're starting to put that they have to be entered on the online entry system. So, I just wanted to say thanks because this is a change, and change is always difficult. I've been very impressed with the changes that we've seen. **Newkirk:** Thank you, Marilee.

Newkirk: So, we're not here to pick on you guys. We're here to help you. We just want to make sure that you follow the show rules. That's all we're trying to do. It's not a threat to your integrity or your honesty if I email you and have a question. I'm not going to accuse you of anything. I just want an answer to the question so I can make a decision. I share that stuff with the Committee. I have a fabulous Committee. We all work well together and the Board of Directors, they're great. Most of the things that we bring to them, they may have some questions and we will answer those questions. But we're here to help you. We welcome you. You're part of our family and I'm very proud of all the clubs in the International Division. You do a great job. There's been a few little minor discrepancies that I've been working on to get those corrected so that nobody's going to come back and say, "oh, they stuffed that show and cheated," or "their flyer was really poor." We just want you to be able to have a proud face whenever you put your shows on. We want honest shows.

6. OPEN Q AND A

Newkirk: Bob was just reminding me that we have a new club in Istanbul, Turkey. OK, so I've covered everything that I have on my agenda. If you have any questions. **Nick?** **Pun:** I have not a question, but just two comments. One is, I really hope that the Central Office will take care of the show license very carefully. Because there was one show that was licensed, 6x6 ring, with just one license and it really screwed up some of the exhibitors. Because of that show, the count, I'm one of the exhibitors that I lose my BWI, to be quite frank with you. Because of that show, only one show counted, it was included in that show, instead of two. The second thing is, Darell mentioned there were two incidents. Because of the two incidents, it applied 70% of the show rules. I mean, the attendance of the show. I feel very sorry for the rest of the ID. Because it's just two incidents, and the whole ID is penalized for that. **Newkirk:** So, those were two incidents that I investigated. Those are not the only times that it has happened, OK? As for the 12-ring show that was incorrectly licensed as a one-day show, I will have to take responsibility for that, because I saw the application. There were other issues that I don't want to go into because it's during closed session with the board, and I don't want to violate my responsibility. There were other issues, and I can tell you that that won't happen again, OK? It was a one-off. I apologize to all of you guys. I should have been more attentive to it and there were other people that had eyes on it. We all missed it, but as Chair, I have to take responsibility for it. **Allen?** **Shi:** So, I also want to add some comments about it because when I started to show cats in CFA, I found that's not a rule in CFA rules. I found that in the U.S., people show kittens in fall and it will be allowed in the wintertime. Then they show grands. After that, all the people start to show championship. So the kitten grands, may be shown next season for the championship for the whole year. But in China, people campaign for the kitten for the whole year because the kitten is a shorter time to get the national winner, individual winner. And some people sell for money. And some other, I mean exhibitors, they just want to beat their competitors. They want to push their competitors' cats down before the show ends. Because that's really upsetting many exhibitors. So this should be stopped. They use every method to beat the other exhibitors. That's not right. But I experienced it a lot. You know that, Darrell. So I really appreciate the board's idea about the bay check-in and 70% rules. Combined to at least, at the bottom line, to keep the

show to be the honest way. I think that's a good idea. Thank you. **Newkirk:** So I think everyone knows that kittens, their campaign is a four-month campaign. All of our championship cats are for the whole year, or a portion of the year if you become eight months after the beginning of the season. So, I understand that the 70% and the kitten requirement for registrations now will have some adverse effects on counts, but if somebody has a better solution, give it to us. It's a show rule. We can change the show rules at any time. But in answer to Nick, like I said, I investigated two shows because I got complaints. I would have never investigated it had I not got a complaint, but I got a complaint and I found out that the show I was investigating stuffed the show to the max, but the other show also stuffed to the max. So it was a break-even as far as I was concerned. I can't come down on one club for stuffing the show and not come down on the other club. And so it was done at the end of the season, and so it was just no way to – Gavin?

Cao: So this is Gavin here. Actually, I just want to bring some historical context to this whole issue of 70% rule and bay check-in. So, you guys all know this first got implemented in mainland China. I think Allen came up with the bay check-in rule and I came up with the 80% or 70% rule. You need to understand that from an administrative perspective, if there's one or two clubs who's trying to stuff, we don't have anything in our arsenal to deal with it right at the show. So, imagine you're a judge going to this show and you know this show probably well. Based on your observation, you see maybe there's not enough cats in the benching area but the show is 225, right? There's nothing in the judge's arsenal to deal with this because there's no show rule that allows us to intervene. All we have is a hunch, what we see, common sense, but there's nothing that can enable us to put a halt to it right at the moment in that show. Especially for shows that are happening in March and April. One show makes a difference to the entire ranking. So, I'm a strong proponent for equal rules across the world for all regions. I'm a strong believer in that, but unfortunately we did have just one or two clubs that were really behaving badly in this area in mainland China. I'm not aware of the situation in ID-Other for this season, but I think everybody needs to understand that we're simply trying to enrich our arsenal to deal with this kind of situation. Also, if you don't want the 70% rule, then just in order to make sure that all the cats are actually there, maybe you're happy with starting the bay check-in every show. That can also work, but it's very unfortunate that this type of adverse effect is brought to all the clubs. Maybe 99% of the clubs are actually behaving in all the shows and trying to pursue fairness in the show production, but unfortunately we are being affected by just a few bad apples. **Newkirk:** Peer pressure. Alright, so if you've got clubs that are misbehaving, peer pressure. It shouldn't happen. I agree with what Gavin said. It's unfortunate that we had to institute a rule because of the bad actions of two clubs in ID-Other, and my only solution I can come up with is the 70% rule. I worked with, well Kathy was working on a proposal – Kathy Calhoun, our Treasurer – to make sure that all kittens are registered and able to compete.

Newkirk: Anybody else have questions? We've got 20 more minutes. **Rachel?** **Anger:** Thank you for using your microphones by the way. Darell kind of zeroed in on a point I wanted to make as I watched the discussion going on. You guys aren't the problem. We're really delighted that you're here. We're proud of all of you. You guys are the leaders. So we're hoping that peer pressure will be your job now. I'm sure many of you already do this. When you see something, I'm sure you say something. "This isn't right." "This is against a show rule." Because you guys all want to compete on that level playing field. So that's exactly the point. You're the leaders. So please, take that power of the peer pressure to do the right thing and uphold our show rules. So we're counting on you. Thank you. **Calhoun:** I just want to say, first of all, we really appreciate your support of the rules and all the things that Darrell is trying to put in place. I don't

want you to, you know, I've heard a couple of times people say that, "well, there was just two instances of this occurring." I would tell you, there are a number of rules that have been put in place that's getting in front of something that could happen over and over again by the first time it happened. So, a lot of our rules are generated that way because something has gone wrong. We don't want to get to the point where it becomes habitual and then it's a humongous problem. So, getting in front of the problem is what is happening here. No one's being, you know, singled out or that sort of thing. It would not be the first time that a single occasion or a limited number of occasions of something that was incorrect has generated a show rule. Thank you for coming and bringing all your questions. **Newkirk:** I will add that you can go through the show rules and put a name beside many of them. "One bad actor is responsible for that show rule." It's funny, but it's not funny, OK? That's good. And Nick, in answer to your question, I didn't go back and look at all the shows because as you guys know I had heart surgery last year. I didn't know if my heart could take it. I don't want to be back in the hospital with my heart, so I did not look further.

Newkirk: Anybody else? Any board members have any questions? OK, thank you guys for coming. I really, really appreciate it. I'm proud of all the work you do. You are a wonderful example and the face of CFA and the International Division. I really, really, really appreciate everyone's hard work. Thank you very much and thank you for coming. Thank you.

(53) BREED COUNCIL SECRETARIES' MEETING.

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Attending In Person:

Beth Reilly	Abyssinian
Kathie Hunt	American Curl
Carol Johnson	American Shorthair
Jan Rogers	American Wirehair
Howard Webster	Balinese
Pau Badia Grimalt	Bengal
Karen Lane	Birman
Jeri Zottoli	Bombay
Cathy Dunham	British Shorthair
Art Graafmans	Burmese
Keith Kimberlin	Burmilla
Orca Starbuck	Chartreux
Mary Kolencik	Colorpoint Shorthair
Mike Blees	Cornish Rex
Bobbie Irie	Devon Rex
Melanie Morgan	Egyptian Mau
Wendy Klamm	European Burmese
Jennifer Reding	Japanese Bobtail
Cheryl Coleman	Korat
Dennis Ganoe	LaPerm
Elaine Magee	Maine Coon Cat
Joy Dey	Manx
Michael Shelton	Norwegian Forest Cat
Dotti Olsen	Oriental Shorthair
Carissa Altschul	Persian
Laura Gregory	RagaMuffin
Lauren Tan	Ragdoll
Annette Wilson	Russian Blue
Marilee Griswold	Scottish Fold
Laura Barber	Selkirk Rex
Betsy Arnold	Siamese
Lucy Drury	Siberian
Ikuyu Takase	Singapura
Charlene Munro	Somali
Cyndee Hill	Sphynx
Clinton Parker	Tonkinese
Judy Bemis	Toybob
Alene Shafnisky	Turkish Angora

Attending via Zoom:

Lynn Cooke	Exotic
Linda Gorsuch	Turkish Van

Mastin: Hello, everyone. Good morning. Annette is trying to get your attention. She'd like to start this meeting. My name is Rich Mastin. I am the President of CFA. Please respect Annette. She would like to run the meeting. It's all yours. **Wilson:** Thank you. Thank you all for coming. This is an annual thing we get to do. We get to express some concerns – or not – to the board members, and the board members are forced to listen to us, and we all appreciate that. I want to thank everybody who traveled here and let me know they were coming. We have a really good turnout of breed council secretaries. We have Lynn Cooke, who's joined us via Zoom. The first thing we always do are introductions. I'm Annette Wilson. I am the Chair of the CFA Breeds and Standards Committee. Melanie Morgan is sitting here to help me find people raising their hand, and she is a member of my Committee, as are Carla Bizzell and Krista Schmidt. I want to thank them for their help throughout the year, and I also want to thank my board liaison, Darrell Newkirk, who has been really nice to rely on through the last year also. So, we're going to start with Kathie Hunt, and we're going to go through. Everybody say their name and their breed Council. OK? Kathie, go. **Hunt:** Kathie Hunt, American Curl. **Wilson:** OK, that's Kathie Hunt, American Curl. And what I'd like you to do is speak using a microphone. You'll have to pass it along. So if you could pass that microphone down to Dotti Olsen here, then she will be next and then she will pass it to the next person. **Olsen:** I'm Dottie Olsen. I'm the Oriental Breed Council Secretary. **Parker:** Clinton Parker, Tonkinese Breed Council Secretary. **Reding:** Jennifer Reding, Japanese Bobtail Breed Council Secretary. **Graafmans:** Art Graafmans, Burmese Breed Council Secretary. **Blees:** Mike Blees, Cornish Rex Breed Council Secretary. **Lane:** Hi, I'm Karen Lane, Birman Breed Council Secretary. **Barber:** Good morning. My name is Laura Barber, and I'm Selkirk Rex. **Shafnisky:** Alene Shafnisky, Turkish Angora. **Hill:** Cyndee Hill, Sphynx Breed Council Secretary. **Shelton:** Mike Shelton, representing Norwegian Forest Cat. **Starbuck:** Orca Starbuck, Chartreux Breed Council Secretary. **Johnson:** Carol Johnson, American Shorthair. **Tan:** Lauren Tan, Ragdoll Breed Council Secretary. **Irie:** Bobbie Irie, filling in for Linda Peterson for Devon Rex. **Dunham:** Cathy Dunham, British Shorthair. **Kolencik:** Mary Kolencik, Colorpoint Shorthair. **Arnold:** Betsy Arnold, Siamese. **Reilly:** Beth Reilly, Abyssinian Breed Council. **Zottoli:** Jeri Zottoli, Bombay. **Dey:** Joy Dey, Manx. Laura Gregory, RagaMuffin. **Rogers:** Jan Rogers, American Wirehair. **Klamm:** Wendy Klamm, European Burmese. **Bemis:** Judy Bemis, filling in for Meg Lambert, ToyBobs. **Coleman:** Cheryl Coleman, Korat. **Munro:** Charlene Munro, Somalis. **Badia:** Pau Badia, Bengals. **Magee:** Elaine Magee, Maine Coon Cat. **Kimberlin:** Keith Kimberlin, Burmilla. **Takase:** Ikuyu Takase, Singapura. **Drury:** Lucy Drury, Siberian. **Ganoe:** Dennis Ganoe, LaPerms. **Webster:** Howard Webster, Balinese/Javanese. **Morgan:** Melanie Morgan, Egyptian Mau. **Wilson:** Annette Wilson, Russian Blue. **Altschul:** Carissa Altschul, Persian. **Griswold:** Marilee Griswold, Scottish Fold.

Wilson: Do we want the board members to say their names, or do we know them all? **Kolencik:** No, we know them all. **Wilson:** She said that with such enthusiasm. **Calhoun:** So, point of clarification. The phone thing. We didn't do it through the ID because I did not want to worry about currency exchange, so we are going to get a pass. But if you do it three times, because we've got two already, you do it three times, the pass may be over. **Wilson:** OK, so we

have not as long an agenda as usual. Just one other point. When you speak on the mic, reintroduce yourself. Just like you do when you speak at the annual, say your name, and your breed. **Gorsuch:** Linda Gorsuch, Turkish Van Breed Council Secretary. **Wilson:** And Lynn? She's muted. It's Lynn Cooke, Exotic Breed Council Secretary.

2. BREEDER OF EXCELLENCE – a program whose time has come? (Marilee Griswold)

Wilson: As you may recall, last year, we had some extensive concerns that are ongoing, regarding legislation in various countries, specific to pedigreed cats, and concerns of health and structure and so on, because it's the way animal rights activists are looking to get breeders to stop breeding cats. So they're finding things wrong. We had a very good presentation by Pam DelaBar explaining some of the information. As a result of that, several committees were formed within CFA to look for ways that we could show the world and show legislators and show people who aren't familiar with pedigreed cats that we are committed to breeding healthy cats. Melanie chaired the Health and Welfare Committee. We have Marilee on the Genetics Committee and Ginger Meeker chaired the Committee for Breed Preservation. So, there's been a lot of discussion. There's been a lot of meetings. There's been a lot of concern and several of the breed councils did change their standard. The British Shorthair, the Persian, the Exotic Breed Council changed their standards to be more specific about what to disqualify in areas that might be specific to their cats. Meanwhile, these committees met and came up with other things, some of which was discussed on the Breed Council Secretaries' List, some of which was just behind the scenes, and we're going to see some of the results of that here. So, first we're going to have Marilee present a program that would be sort of replacing the old cattery standard, or the Cattery of Excellence Program that's gone away, would be a Breeder of Excellence designation. Nothing's set in stone here yet. This is just the first look at it. The board has seen it and so I'm going to invite Marilee to show the slides, and then we can have some discussion after.

The Cat Fanciers' Association Breeder of Excellence Program

Genetics committee/Health and Welfare Subcommittee

Griswold: Thank you. Alright, so Marilee. So I will tell you, this program came out, it was the birth child of all of our concerns. So, I know that different organizations like FIFE are starting to respond also. They have things like mandatory genetic testing for certain breeds. We didn't feel in our committee that anything mandatory was going to go very well, and so we ended up saying instead of a stick, where we're going to try to get breeders to do more health testing and to improve health of their breeds, instead of the stick, maybe we try the carrot. That's where

the Breeder of Excellence Program came from. If you don't want to participate in this program, you don't have to. Your program remains the same. Nothing happens to you. You go on with business as usual. However, if you want to participate in this program, you may have some benefits. So we'll see.

Conception and Purpose

- We want to promote breeders who go above and beyond with health testing and welfare of their breed.
- Especially given the recent increase of pressure from welfare advocates, we want to promote genetics and health testing by breeders and those who register with CFA.
- We want to promote registration and the value of registration with CFA.
- We want to increase awareness to the public of the need for health and genetics testing in our breeds.

Griswold: All right, so the conception and purpose of this, again, we wanted to promote breeders who go above and beyond with health testing. Some breeders are already doing this, so this may be of no great large change to you and your breeding program. You're already doing it. And then, as I said, with the increase of pressure from welfare advocates, this was what came out of it. Another thing that was always on our mind was promoting registrations in CFA. As we heard in our meeting, registrations are our core values here. This is part of what we do. If we're going to be breeders in CFA, we should be promoting registration. I will tell you, all the Breeder of Excellence or Breeder of Merit programs I looked at, both within the cat world and in the dog world, all required supportive registration. That was just across the board. If you're going to be a Breeder of Merit in AKC, you have to register all your puppies. That's the way it goes. And then increase the awareness to the public for the need for health and genetic testing in our breeds. This will also increase the worth of our registration. If we are a Breeder of Excellence, and that's on our registration, I heard a lot through our group that a registration didn't really mean much. So, we might be selling pet kittens, and we're not registering or giving them registration papers because pet people don't care. So, we're trying to increase the awareness of health issues in our breeds and what we as breeders are doing to try to minimize that.

Griswold: Let me take a second here because I wanted to do this right at the beginning and totally forgot. This committee is large and with wonderful people on it. We have Lynn, who we saw over here. We have Cyndee on this group. We have Orca on this group. Melanie, a big part in this group. Annette in this group. Joy in this group. We have Connie Hurley. She's a veterinary for Lykois. We have her in the group. Susan Cook-Henry in there. So we have a group of fantastic people. We met a lot, so I have to thank them. They worked very, very hard on this and this is what came out.

The Cat Fanciers' Association Breeder of Excellence

The Cat Fanciers' Association is supportive of responsible breeders who have proven themselves to be Preservation breeders who care about the welfare and health of their breed. This includes ensuring that necessary and recommended health testing has been performed on their breeding cats as well as providing registration certification. Our program has requirements a breeder must meet to prove their dedication to producing healthy kittens.

Griswold: This is a statement. So basically, I don't know where we're going with this. It includes ensuring necessary and recommended health testing has been performed on breeding cats and providing registration.

CFA Breeder of Excellence Benefits

1. Registrations will feature your special designation as a Breeder of Excellence.
2. Prime placement in CFA Breeder listings.
3. Breed-specific web banners to proudly promote involvement in the program on your website.
4. Breeder benefits for consumables (maybe from Revival or Optimal selection for example)
5. Lapel pin
6. A certificate of distinction
7. Benefit with CFA for one free cat/kitten registration for every 5 registrations paid.

Griswold: OK, so what have we come up with? Again, this isn't an official program yet. We're working on this and it may take a while because it is a big program to implement. But what would we give you as a Breeder of Excellence? So your registrations will feature a designation as a Breeder of Excellence. So your kitten registration, when it pops out, it's going to have a little CFA logo and a Breeder of Excellence logo – Teresa Keiger is working on that for me – Breeder of Excellence logo on your registration itself. You're going to have prime placement in your breeder listings, so whenever people go to look for, "I would like a Tonkinese, please" and if you're a Breeder of Excellence, you would be at the top of the list. Breed-specific web banners to promote your program. They would kind of look like, it would say Breeder of Excellence and have a little picture of a Japanese Bobtail, and you can put that on your website. You can put that on your Facebook. Also, we're looking at breeder benefits for consumables. Maybe DNA testing discount codes. Maybe even working with someplace like Revival or someplace. I want this to be a global organization, so we would be looking at places overseas where breeders are getting a lot of consumable products. A lapel pin. You can proudly wear it, saying "Breeder of Excellence". You can wear it around at your cat shows. Certificates. They'll come with a little certificate that says, "Congratulations, you are a Breeder of Excellence." And then we're also thinking something that could benefit worldwide, and we are asking that you

register the kittens, which you'll see the requirements coming up here, that we give you some sort of a discount on these registrations. In this group, I learned a lot about our breeders. They are not all registering every litter. They are not all registering every kitten. So, we're the breeders of CFA and we're not doing it. Why the reasons we're not doing it? Either pet people don't care, you don't care, money savings. So, we're trying to get an incentive here.

CFA Breeder of Excellence Requirements

1. Have a history of at least 5 years involvement with CFA events.
2. Earned CFA Grand titles on a minimum of 4 cats from CFA litters they bred/co - bred in each breed applied for.
3. Member of a CFA club.
4. Member of the CFA Breed Council for each breed applied for.
5. Certifies and can provide proof that applicable health screens are performed on your breeding cats as recommended by the Breed Council for each breed applied for.
6. Demonstrates a commitment to ensuring 100% of the kittens produced are individually CFA registered.

Griswold: Here's some of the requirements that we came up with. You need to be involved in CFA for about five years. I think we've come up some ideas with how to put a line in the sand for the time of involvement. It would be from the date of your first litter, that you earn CFA grands, grand titles on four cats from litters that you bred, for the breed you apply for. So you may breed more than one breed. You have to meet these criteria for each breed. Be a member of a CFA club. We are a club-based organization. You got to be in it to win it. So you've got to be part of the CFA and be in the club. Member of a CFA breed council. There we've got support for breed councils. We're going to give them a voice. Larger, hopefully, increase the numbers of people interested in being on the breed council. That's been a problem for a while. We can't recruit people for our breed councils. Certify and prove that applicable health screens are performed for your breeding cats, as recommended by the breed council for each breed. OK, I can explain this. AKC's Breeder of Merit Program, for example, they went to, say, the German Shepherd Club, whatever it is, and said, "German Shepherds, what do you think are the problems in your breed and what health testing is required?" So, I'm not choosing the health testing for your breed. You're choosing the health testing for your breed. You are going to have to tell us what health testing you think is required for Birmans to be a Breeder of Excellence. We can have sections of what might be required and have sections of what might be suggested. If you say, "Birmans have no health problems at all," then for Birmans we don't have health requirements for Breeder of Excellence. This will be up to – and, of course, as I said before, demonstrate a commitment to ensuring 100% of kittens produced are individually registered. So, you're going to have to register your litters. If your litter says you have three kittens in there, you're going to have to pay for yellow slips for three kittens. Now, could you lie and say, "I have five kittens but there's only three in the litter?" Yes. There's going to be ways around a lot of this stuff, I'm sure, that you can lie but even on pedigrees that's something we deal with every day also. So, if we got you, you won't be a Breeder of Excellence anymore, right? It's actually going to be based some on your integrity. We have to rely a little bit on integrity.

How will we do this?

The main program will require a committee who collects the information from the breeders and the health information through the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA).

We collect information such as show/CFA involvement, Grands produced, club membership, etc for the judging program. It would be similar for this program.

The health records will be maintained by the OFA and easily checked online or via email.

Griswold: So, how are we going to do this? You're thinking, how are we going to collect all this information? First off, for collecting information about the breeder themselves, how many grands you have, that's easy for you to prove. The date of your first litter, that's easy for you to prove. Involvement in CFA, whatever all the requirements that we have. We're going to have to have a committee that collects this information just like we do for the Judging Program. The Judging Program has a huge volume of things that you have to put together to apply for the Judging Program. We're not going to have a huge volume for Breeder of Excellence, but there will be some things. We're going to have to have a committee that makes sure that you have all the requirements met.

Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA)

1. They collect health information based on the breed requirements given to them by the AKC official breed clubs.
2. They do have fees for things such as hip dysplasia grading. But the data collection for all other health tests is free.
3. The information is public.
4. The other health testing is performed by your/a veterinarian. Requires a microchip to be associated with the health results. (Example: HCM scanning by board certified cardiologist with microchip number checked)

What about the health testing? I've talked with OFA. OFA, the Orthopedic Foundation for Animal Safety, worked with AKC on their program. They have a website. You can type in German Shepherds and it will tell you what health requirements are needed, and you can send those to the OFA. You send your results of your HCM scan to the OFA. The OFA, like I said, they do collect this information. They also grade hip x-rays for hip dysplasia. If you have animals, I'm not forcing anyone here, let's say for Maine Coons, if you want to say hip dysplasia is one of the requirements testing for hip dysplasia, you take the x-ray and they will grade your x-ray for your hip dysplasia for you. Otherwise, OFA doesn't really do the testing themselves. They're mostly a collection agency and they collect all the information.

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG



Recommended Tests/CHIC Program Requirements

The OFA, working with the breed's parent club, recommends the following basic health screening tests for all breeding stock. Dogs meeting these basic health screening requirements will be issued Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) numbers. For CHIC certification, all results do not need to be normal, but they must all be in the public domain so that responsible breeders can make more informed breeding decisions. For potential puppy buyers, CHIC certification is a good indicator the breeder responsibly factors good health into their selection criteria. The breed specific list below represents the basic health screening recommendations. It is not all encompassing. There may be other health screening tests appropriate for this breed. And, there may be other health concerns for which there is no commonly accepted screening protocol available.

Griswold: Again, like here for the German Shepherd dog, you can come up to OFA, browse by breed, type in “German Shepherd,” and here it is. It will say, “recommended testing programs” and you can see what health screenings are recommended. They collect statistics with regard to those.

Example of Testing Requirements for German Shepherds

Screening	Testing options
Hip Dysplasia	One of the following: OFA Radiographic Hip Evaluation SV Evaluation
Elbow Dysplasia	One of the following: OFA Radiographic Elbow Evaluation SV Evaluation
Temperament Test	Required for OFA Temperament test submitted to OFA
Cardiac Evaluation	(Optional but recommended) Standard Congenital Cardiac Exam. Results registered with OFA. Advanced Cardiac Exam Basic Cardiac Exam
Autoimmune thyroiditis	(Optional but recommended) OFA evaluation from an approved laboratory - recommend yearly testing
ACVO Eye Exam	(Optional but recommended) Eye Examination - recommend annually until age 6, every 2 years thereafter
Degenerative Myelopathy	(Optional but recommended) DNA based DM test results from an approved lab
Application Forms	
Basic Cardiac Application Form	
DNA Based Genetic Disease Application Form	

Griswold: Then if you go to what health tests are required, for the German Shepherd, hip dysplasia is required. Elbow dysplasia is required. A temperament test is required. Optional is cardiac and all these other things, but these three are required. So, to get certified for Breeder of Merit, you're going to have to meet these criteria for German Shepherds.

OFA—Ready for us



The screenshots show the OFA website's search results for different cat breeds. Each result page includes the OFA logo, breed name, a 'CHC Program' button, and a note stating that the breed is not yet part of the program. The breeds shown are Maine Coon Cat, Persian Cat, and Scottish Fold.

Griswold: They are ready for us. If you go to OFA right now and type in search for breed and put in Maine Coon Cat, it says “your breed is not yet part of the program.” Same with Persian, same with Scottish Fold. They are ready for us. I talked to them. They’re more than happy to do this for us.

Examples from Breed Councils

Egyptian Mau

Required: PKD and Blood type

Recommended: Dilute, HCM, Glitter, Solid

RUSSIAN BLUE:

Required: None

Recommended: HCM scan for breeding cats starting at age 2 and every 2 years thereafter

For cats imported to US: Blood typing, ophthalmic exam for juvenile cataracts

For breeder's knowledge: carrying colorpoint, carrying longhair

Griswold: So, these are examples of things. When I had some folks on my committee, I said, OK Melanie, what can you think of right off the top of your head? She said, “I would require PKD and blood typing, but I don’t have anything that’s required, but I can recommend these things. Annette said, “I really think our breed is super healthy, we don’t have anything that is required, but I can recommend these things, and especially for cats imported to the USA, they’ve been having some issues with these cataracts.” So you guys know your breed way better than I ever can. So, these are going to be things that I’m going to come to you eventually. I’m not sure if we’re ready yet, but eventually I’m going to come to you as a breed council. You’re going to have to talk to your breed council members and say, “Breeder of Excellence, what is going to be required?”

People are already doing this!



Like Comment Share



Like Comment Share



Griswold: Now I will tell you, I think this might be my last slide, just on Facebook groups, people, cat people, are already doing this. So, for example, this one. I don't know if anybody's interested, but OFA makes certifications for eyes and cardio. This is a Bengal. Bengal has a certification here. OFA takes these health records from all over the world. This can be a worldwide program. This is a Maine Coon cat. Also has this heart certification here. So, people are already doing this. I'm not sure how much, it may be a big deal for some of us who have a lot of cats at home who have not been any testing. Maybe for new people, we've considered adding something that might encourage new, young breeders to start off as trying to become a Breeder of Excellence, because I know a lot of young people, new people, people coming from the dog world are already doing some of these things.

Conclusion

We are hopeful that this program will not only increase registration, but also increase the value of registration. In addition, it shows CFA is promoting the health and welfare of breeds and supporting breeders who go above and beyond to do so.

Griswold: So anyway, do you guys have questions? Are you excited? Are you not excited? What? **Graafmans:** Are there fees associated with OFA to breeders or the CFA? **Griswold:** So this is not the CFA. For the breeders, the cardiac is like \$15 to register with them and they keep that information long term. So, I'm going to have to work out with them what fees are associated. I think those to do the hip grading might be more like \$25, but they're actually doing a rating for your evaluation with that. **Graafmans:** I think that needs to be looked at because I get pet buyers that come to me, and says, "do you breed Burmese cats in CFA?" And they kind of agree that we're going to give you a slip and everything, and the first words out of

their mouth are, “can I get a discount without the slip?” My answer is no, but I know a lot of people would rather not provide the slip and offer the discount if they have to. **Griswold:** I know, Art. You see, this is part of why we are not typing. We need registrations, and we need registrations to mean something. We need people to care about registrations. We need you to care about registrations. **Kolencik:** This is just a suggestion for something that you could offer as a benefit, a discount on joining the breed council, like a \$5 discount, because if this is going to, you’re possibly going to be making some money on this, maybe you could give \$5 back and encourage people to join the breed council. **Griswold:** Kathy, do you have a response on that?

Calhoun: I don’t have a response. No, what I do have – this hasn’t been, there’s no budget assigned to this yet. There’s no costing assigned to this yet. This is something that the board is working through. So, we can’t say whether there will be any charges for CFA or not, so we don’t have a no or yes. As far as discounts, we’re not in a position to say no or yes, because of any of the financials, none of the financials have been done. **Griswold:** Absolutely. This is kind of still in its infancy. So, this is an idea, a concept that was formed from our committee. **Calhoun:** But it’s – just to finish my thought here – but it certainly is good input and worthy of consideration.

Kolencik: That’s all I wanted to say, was just keep it in mind. **Griswold:** Who’s next here? Charlene. **Monroe:** I just want to be a cheerleader for it. I think this is such a huge step in the right direction, and it’s just awesome. **Griswold:** Thank you. Dennis? **Ganoe:** You know me, the first thing I do is try to QA something. **Griswold:** Bring it, bring it. **Ganoe:** I was looking at historical, from the future, looking back. When someone gets the Breeder of Excellence certification from CFA, their registrations get that logo printed on them? **Griswold:** Yes. **Ganoe:** On their registration? I would caution the board and Central Office when you institute that, look at all the ways that that can be abused, because you have people who have multiple cattery names, and you have people who have multiple breeds within their cattery names, and most of that is perfectly legit. You also have history of what that breeder does. They have to have at least five years, be part of the breed council, and all the requirements to get in. What happens when they lose those requirements, or they don’t continue, and also for five years they’ve been breeding their breed producing certificates, and I know that the system right now, when you go to print a certificate for an older cat, which I do often when I’m trying to transfer ownership of a retired breeder, it reprints the certificate from the data that they’ve got in the database. Somehow, you need to have a date attached to that Breeder of Excellence appellation that they’ve got, so that any cat registered before they got that doesn’t have the certificate, and if they lose their certification of Breeder of Excellence, it then needs to go away. We call that add/change/delete, so everything you do has to have a date attached to it. These are things that you’ll do when you get more into the meat of implementing, but they’re things we need to be cognizant of now.

Griswold: Right, right, right. I’ve thought about this. I’ve thought we can, you know, Kathy’s right. This has not been in the budget at all, and so this is probably, we’re looking at least a year away, but in a year, this is from last year, this is what we have come up with and we can go from here, but you know, my ideas on part of this is that you have a cattery number. We could give you a Breeder of Excellence number. When you go to register your kittens, you pull down for your cattery number, we have a box you can pull down for your Cattery of Excellence, and that will send us to the forms for registration that have the Category of Excellence on it. If you lose your Cattery of Excellence, your number will go away. You won’t have that option anymore. I have not considered, like if I had a litter from five years ago that I want to register now, I have not considered that. So, I don’t know, we’ll have to think of what to do with that going forward.

Morgan: So, this concept was born of a really very big need out there. However, it’s based off

each cat that you have in your program meeting the criteria. For example, you aren't a Breeder of Excellence if you're trying to register a kitten from a cat that hasn't met the health requirements that are on there. Therefore, you couldn't go back and put the Breeder of Excellence on a litter from a cat that hadn't been registered. It's cat-based. So, in terms of a workaround, that's the way that we were addressing that. **Griswold:** Yeah, that's a good point. **Ganoe:** That was my other question. It's cat based. **Griswold:** It's cat-based per cat. Well, each one of your breeding cats has to meet the requirements. Not kittens, not premiers – neutered and spayed animals, obviously. **Shafnisky:** I just want to say I'm online with a few people and they're extremely excited about this. I guess a suggestion more than anything is that pretty much we're of the belief that everybody should be doing some kind of DNA testing of your cats because we're discovering new things through the DNA tests all the time. And, you know, HCM is something that can be present in any breed. So, maybe that's one of those optional but recommended that should just be put on every breed, because we encourage our breeders to DNA test every single cat, whether it's a premier, a breeding cat, don't care. DNA test them all. That's what we do.

Klamm: I wholeheartedly support this idea. I mean, I'm 110%, 200% behind it. I do have a question totally with the genetic testing. Let's say you have parents A and B. Both of them have tested negative for everything else. Do you have to test their kittens, because you know they're going to be negative? **Griswold:** Right, right. We've discussed this and we're going to, when we look at this, of course not, right? Because if your parents are negative, you're not going to have to test. You know, all my cats are PKB negative. That's something I really care about. So, going forward, I don't have worry about that anymore, unless they find there's that recessive PKB stuff. **Klamm:** One other thing is, can you send us a PDF file of your PowerPoint? **Wilson:** I'll be sending that out to the Breed Council Secretaries. **Klamm:** Thank you so much. **Griswold:** Carol, where'd you go? **Johnson:** That was my question. **Griswold:** Oh, OK.

Parker: This is a more generic question because it was just recent. And I apologize, it wasn't me so much so I'm not qualified to present real well, but we just recently had some genetic testing done on some of our Tonkinese. My daughter's the one who did it, so I'm not familiar with exactly all the details. But, it turns out CFA just recently changed who they do the genetic testing with. and we didn't get the results back and we didn't get any information and I don't know what CFA is going to do in terms of trying to get that stable, but we spent like \$200 doing some testing and didn't get any results because it was right at the time when CFA transferred from one tester to another and then they refused to do anything about getting our results, so I think we need to make this real stable if we're going to require them to do testing.

Griswold: Absolutely. I'm with you. Allene, do you have a response? **Tartaglia:** Please provide me with that information and I'll get with Neogen and make sure you get your results. They're supposed to fulfill all the test results that have come in and if they're not then we will get that resolved. **Parker:** You're not going to be able to get a result. They lost the data. They lost the swab we sent in. **Wilson:** I think this program will come up with – you can use multiple different frames for doing your testing, but I don't think that's real pertinent to this right now. **Griswold:** I think one of our benefits we're trying to work, with some of the testing companies, see if they will work with us, give us discounts and things, but for the requirements for the cat, so you don't have to use that genetic testing. If you're in Europe you can use the European labs, you can use the Pet Gene or Gene Pet or whatever it is in China. So, you can use your own for the purposes of qualifying a cat. But yeah, that's a problem.

Wilson: So we can answer more questions if we have time but could we maybe get a show of hands of the breed council secretaries that think this is an idea worth pursuing? OK. So there you have your answer. And Marilee is a breed council secretary. She's on the breed council secretary's list and I'm sure she'd be happy to answer any of your individual questions from your breed council members. You can contact her privately or on the list because a lot of these answers to these questions would be helpful for all of us, I'm sure. Meanwhile we need to move on. **Griswold:** Thank you. **Wilson:** That you, Marilee.

3. ENCOURAGING ELIGIBLE BREEDERS TO JOIN THEIR BREED COUNCILS (Mary Kolencik)

Wilson: So next we have an item that Mary Kolencik brought up for the agenda and it's about how we can encourage eligible breeders to join their breed councils. **Mary? Kolencik:** I was just in the Siamese breed council meeting this morning and I was just noticing that there's lots of new people there and we had some people from the International Division which were there, which I was really happy to see, and I said to the other people there, when you work with somebody in another country, help them figure out how to join the breed council. Let's encourage people, because I know it's difficult. The discussion exploded with the difficulty that even we are having in finding anything in joining the breed council. So, yesterday Pam DelaBar mentioned multiple times during the discussion that Region 9 has more registrations than any other region. Multiple times, we heard about how CFA is a global organization and this is not reflected in the breed council membership. We are not getting those people to join the breed council. So, how do we do this? Why is that? Why aren't we getting them. Even we, people who have decades of experience and we know what we are looking for, we know what kind of form and we know what the requirements are, and if we can't find it on the website, how do we expect them to find it on the website? So that's a big problem is, we need more help with the navigation on the website. We need the website to promote the breed council, not just say "here is the link to join the breed council" but tell people why they should want to join the breed council. And it should be easy to find. There is one path right now. Why isn't it in three places? Why isn't it under both the resources and the breeders and the breeds? It could be in multiple places pointing to the same thing and really, you have to really search for things if you want to find that on the website.

Kolencik: So I wanted to make another point. Let me make sure I have it. In February, I want to thank Annette for bringing up some of these concerns for us in February. One of the things she brought up, she asked if when we log into our eCat account, could we get a notice that "hey, you're on this breed council, renewal is up. You've got three weeks to renew." We have this little notice like we do for the eCat subscriptions. Central Office said at the time, well, the breed councils aren't associated with your eCat membership. I'm sitting there at home and I'm screaming at the screen, why? Why not? Why can't they be? So that is my question. Why can we not have our breed council memberships associated with our eCats so that we can more easily join, renew, get notices like that? At the very least, there could be a notice on the main page when you log into eCats that everybody sees that says, "breed council memberships are due in a couple weeks, time to renew." It could be under quick links. There could be a link to go to renew your breed council membership. We need to start looking for ways to push the breed council memberships for people. That's all I want to say. **Tartaglia:** Can you hear me? That's a project for this year. We're working on adding it. Plus we're working on an auto renew. So we're

working on all that. **Kolencik:** So, my point is that all of us here, when we have discussions about this, we want help promoting the breed councils, but we also need CFA to also promote them through the website. **Wilson:** Thank you, Mary. Wendy? **Klamm:** One of the things that I started doing is, we get our winners list that shows all the people who showed in CFA and the EBs have a bunch of international people. What I have done – and none of them are in the breed council – what I have done is, I have sent out usually three emails inviting them to join the breed council, sending them or attaching the web address where they can get the form, where they can see the requirements, everything. Unfortunately, it has not produced one individual who is showing in CFA to join the breed council. So I think this Breeder of Excellence program might be a really big encouragement for them to join, but it needs to be simplified somehow, saying, you know, you have already met the requirements. Is there any way we can do that? **Wilson:** I did ask Central Office about that. Is there a way to, once someone has met the requirements, can they get notified that they are now eligible to join and here's how? However, it's complicated because we have a complicated set of requirements to join, which can be difficult for people in other countries to understand how that is. I know Jacqui Bennett did a very nice spreadsheet of how, you know, if this, then this, then this. But it is kind of complicated, and so programming a way to say, well, have they bred three grands? Have they showed or not? Have they bred three litters and shown a cat in the previous year? So, it's complicated. I think we want to change the requirements, but finding a way to simplify it so that it can be programmed to push, you know, something out to people who qualify is going to take some work, I think. Clinton? **Parker:** This is kind of related to what you're just trying. We don't really have Tonkinese breeders outside Japan, outside the U.S., but we did. We had some in Russia, but anyway, European Burmese sounds like [inaudible]. I think CFA should consider doing an associate membership. Some of the requirements are not easy, especially for people in foreign countries. There's a lot of requirements that take a while for somebody to meet. They might be interested in joining but they don't meet the requirements, so they don't join. If you could offer them associate membership and say, "hey, until you meet the requirements, we'll put you on" so the breed council will have a list, you're listed as an associate member but you're not a voting member for anything to vote on, but I think that would be a way to get people maybe started into the program, especially if they are going to move forward and maybe down the road to get on it, but at least be down the road because they're associate members to start with. **Wilson:** I think that's an interesting suggestion and it's something we do in our breed club. Currently, we have associate members, but it's more processing and you still have the thing of when do you meet it and you push it out, or do you just wait for people to join? However, a lot of you communicate with your members by group lists or emails lists, and there's no reason why you can't invite people who are listed on your list of people who show the cat – your grand list or whatever. You could invite them to join it with the idea that they're not a member of the breed council, but would you like to participate? Would you like to see what goes on, and what kind of communication and what we talk about. That's a way to get some interest, so I would encourage folks to do that. Any other points on this issue? I want to thank Mary for bringing it up. I think it's very valuable.

4. BREED COUNCIL ON-LINE APPLICATION FORM is here!

Wilson: That segues into our next brief comment here which is, Central Office did put a breed council application online form, so now you don't have to fill out the form and email it to someone and hope you get an answer and that they tell you how to pay. There's a form that

walks you right through the process of applying for breed council membership. Once you have met the qualifications and continue them, and if you bred the grand, then you can use Rapid Renewal and you will get an email from Central Office when your dues are due and you will just go to the form and do the Rapid Renewal and pay then at the same time, which I think most of us find is fairly easy to do. That online, that first-time application form can be difficult. So I want to thank Central Office for putting that up online. On the back of your agenda are some of the links to some of these things, so you can copy them and whatever. I think this agenda is up on the breed council secretary's list also.

5. GENERAL/OVERALL DISQUALIFICATIONS (Orca Starbuck)

Wilson: Alright, now we have Orca Starbuck is going to present something that there was quite a bit of discussion on the list and I love it, but when I send something to the list and wait for feedback and nobody posts anything, it's like, did it go somewhere? You know, a hole in the ground. And then I posted something that everybody got involved in and that's really exciting. So, part of what the Health and Wellness Committee did, and this was a result of last year's meeting when it was actually discussed about how breeds in other associations address health and welfare, either as a recommended requirement for their breed and/or in their standards. We have always addressed disqualifications and penalize on a standard-by-standard basis. And you're all aware of that, they change from time to time, but a lot of other associations aren't that specific in their standards because they address certain structural issues that apply to all the standards with, of course, some exceptions. If a breed is a mutation, so it's going to have this. So, there was a lot of feedback and a lot of angst seemingly around it, but I'd like you to listen and look at Orca's presentation because I think it will open your eyes a little bit to how this can help us show legislators, other breeders, people behind cats, anybody looking at our standards, that we do care about particularly structural faults in pedigreed cats. OK, Orca.



Feline Structure & Faults

Prepared for CFA Health & Welfare Committee
Orca Starbuck, Chartreux BCS

Starbuck: I should probably use a mic, right? **Wilson:** You need a mic. **Starbuck:** Can everyone hear me at this point? So, Mike is handing out some handouts. Everybody should have – there's two handouts and everyone should get one of each handout. **Wilson:** Yeah, so you're going to get a handout of this presentation because it's going to be hard to actually read some of this on the screen and it's actually going to be hard to read some of it. **Starbuck:** Yeah, there's a lot of information. **Wilson:** And this also will be put up on the breed council secretary's list so that you can actually expand it and take a look at it. But visually this is going to be interesting, especially one of the charts to show some [inaudible].

Feline structure: a discussion

- Reasons to examine how we define normal and abnormal structure in CFA:
 - Breeders are under attack worldwide, due to concerns that our pedigree cats may have structure that potentially compromises normal function.
 - Our rules and standards should clearly define both ideal structure (supporting perfectly normal function), and abnormal structure (faults).
 - Clear and comprehensive definitions can help to guide breeders and judges when making decisions, and also demonstrate to others our commitment to feline health and welfare.
- Today, we will talk about how we define normal and abnormal feline structure in our CFA show rules, standards, and other documents.
- Towards the end, we'll talk about how other associations do it, and some options for next steps.
- Please note that the purpose of this presentation is to open discussion, not to push forward a specific solution.

Starbuck: So, I was asked to look into this by the committee. I was asked to look into, how do we handle structural or abnormalities in CFA and how do they handle it in other associations. So, I just did some research and this presentation is pretty much just the result of my research. So, this whole discussion came about, started last year when we talked about how we are under attack for structural abnormalities that are perceived by the people outside of the cat fancy, and so I looked into how do we define normal and abnormal structure in CFA and why do we care about this? Breeders are under attack because of perception that our pedigreed cats may have structure that potentially compromises normal functioning. Our rules and standards should clearly define both ideal structure supporting perfectly normal function and abnormal structure. Comprehensive and clear definitions can help to guide our breeders and judges when we make decisions, but it also demonstrates to others our commitment to feline health and welfare. So we're just going to talk about what I found. I'll talk a little bit about how other associations do it and just some options for how we might move forward. This presentation is not, I'm not presenting a solution. We're just talking about what I found.

Show Rules



6.12 A cat or kitten **not** having all of its physical properties - **eyes, ears, legs, tail, claws, but** descended testicles (adult cat only) - or **has** had **any** change **affecting** a cat's natural functioning (e.g. temperament), is **eligible** for entry. The previous requirements, **data** missing certain physical properties, as listed below, are **eligible** for entry in the category (class) indicated:

- Altered cats in the Premiership classes;
- Altered cats and kittens in the Household Pet classes;
- Altered kittens in the Kitten classes;
- Kittens without descended testicles in Kitten classes;
- Recognized naturally tallies or naturally partially tallies breeds in the Premiership, Championships or Premiership classes;
- Cats having had a **perineal urethrostomy operation** in the Premiership Classes;
- Household pets in the Household Pet Class **not** having those physical properties - **eyes, ears, legs or tail**. Household pets **may** not be shown who **have surgically absent eyes, ears, legs or tail** or who **have undergone tendonectomy surgery**. Cats **must** be able to sit or stand;
- Cats **not** having **any** litterbox commination in Ability.

Article 6 ("Entering the Show")

Article 11 ("During the Show")

Starbuck: So how does CFA define abnormalities? Where do we have our DQs and penalize in our rules? One place we have some is in the show rules. Under entering the show and during the show, there's a few mentions in our show rules of things. For example, cats must have all their physical properties. So, that's where we get the idea that all boy cats have to have two

testicles and cats can't be declawed, because that's a physical property as well. There's some information about biting, some other general information in the show rules.

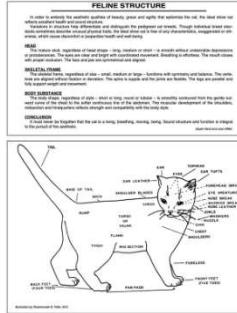
Feline Structure & Faults
CFA Health & Welfare Committee



Show Standards



2025-2026 Show Season
(April 26, 2025 - April 26, 2026)



Feline Structure statement,
intended to be a preface to
every breed standard



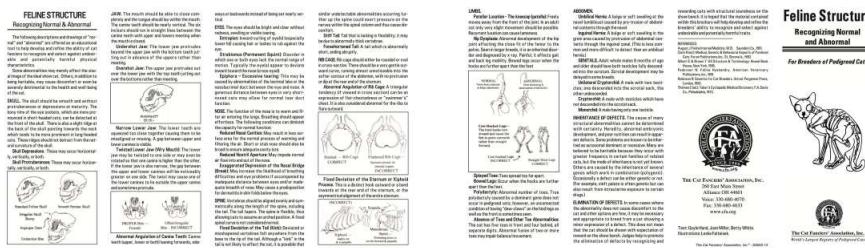
Individual breed
standards

Starbuck: In our show standards, we have two things. We have at the beginning of the show standards, there's a positive statement about feline structure and this was really intended to be a preface to every breed standard to say what we consider to be ideal, healthy structure for the cat that supports normal functioning. Then we have our individual breed standards. Now, almost all information about DQs and penalize is in those standards.

Feline Structure & Faults
CFA Health & Welfare Committee



Feline Structure: Recognizing Normal and Abnormal

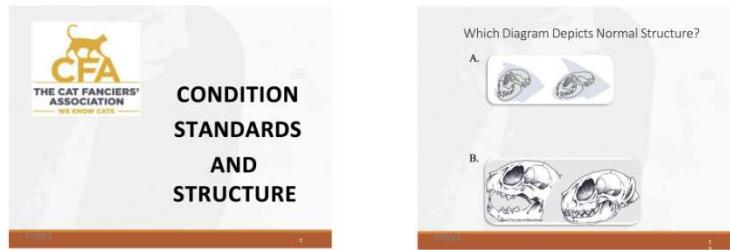


A detailed brochure, "Feline Structure: Recognizing Normal and Abnormal," was developed for CFA in the 1990s by Gayle Hand, Joan Miller, and Betty White, with illustrations by Leslie Falteisek. The latest printing was in 2014.

The brochure is currently out of print and is unavailable on the CFA web site.

Starbuck: We also have – and I found this out while I was doing this – there was a brochure developed in the 1990s called Feline Structure: Recognizing Normal and Abnormal. That's one of the handouts for today. This was developed around 1995 by Gail Hand, Jeff Miller, and Betty White. Leslie Faltesak did the illustrations. The latest printing which you're getting today was from 2014. This is out of print now. It's not on our website, and it actually was really hard for me to track it down, so I'm glad I was able to find it.

BAOS presentation (various versions)



The CFA BAOS includes a presentation called "Condition, Standards, and Structure," based on the Feline Structure brochure.

Starbuck: In the CFA BAOS, we have a presentation every year called Condition, Standards, and Structure. This is based originally on the Feline Structure brochure. Every year, this presentation is a little bit different. Sometimes there's a quiz. Sometimes there's more or less pictures, but this is also another place where we talk about normal and abnormal structure when we're training people. But this doesn't affect our actual penalize and DQs.

Summary of how CFA defines feline structure & faults

- **Show Rules**
 - Article 6 ("Entering the Show") and Article 11 ("During the show")
 - General health, condition, behavior, biting
 - "All physical properties" (both testicles, not declawed)
 - Refers to breed standards for additional defects
- **Show Standards**
 - Feline Structure statement (positive statement of ideal structure and function)
 - Individual breed standards
 - **Most structural faults in CFA are defined in individual breed standards**
 - Breed standards also include positive statements of ideal structure
- Additional materials (informational only):
 - Feline Structure: Recognizing Normal and Abnormal
 - BAOS presentation on structure

Starbuck: So, here's a summary of all the places where we define abnormalities in CFA. Most structural faults in CFA are defined in our individual breed standards. The additional materials, Feline Structure and the BAOS presentation, are informational only. They're still useful.

CFA Structural Penalize and DQs: Summary by Breed

#	Fault	Feline Structure	Show Rules	Aby	Am Cat	Ash	AWH	Bali	Beng	Bim	Bom	BSh	Burm	Brisa	Char	CPSH	CRX	DRX	EMau	Ebur	Evo	Hava	Jobs	KHM	Kor	LaP	Lyk	MC	Mx	NFC	Oci	On	Paro	Pug M	Pug D	RB	SF	Sak	Sa	Sb	Sing	Som	Spe	Tork	ToyB	TA	TV
0	Structural defects or abnormalities (general)																																														
1	Skewness and/or crookedness																																														
1.1	Deformity of the skull resulting in asymmetry	Abnormal																																													
1.2	Skull depressions or protuberances	Abnormal																																													
1.3	Reduced nares impeding normal airflow	Abnormal																																													
1.4	Extreme break interference w/ breathing and tearing	Abnormal																																													
1.5	Lower lip and chin too high (winding differs)	Abnormal																																													
1.6	Lower break placement too far forward or ventrally	Abnormal																																													
2	JAWS, TEETH, and TONGUE																																														
2.1	Undershot or overjet jaw	Abnormal																																													
2.2	Narrow or twisted lower jaw (very mouth)	Abnormal																																													
2.3	Malocclusion or regulation of canine teeth	Abnormal																																													
2.4	Tongue protrusion due to malocclusion	Abnormal																																													
2.5	Mouth breathing due to obstruction / malocclusion	Abnormal																																													
3	EYES																																														
3.1	Entropion	Abnormal																																													
3.2	Exophthalmos (permanent exophthalmos, cross-eyed)	Abnormal																																													
3.3	Nystagmus (rapid oscillation of eyes)	Abnormal																																													
4	EARs																																														
4.1	Curdled or folded ears	Abnormal																																													
5	BODY																																														
5.1	Curviness or the spine	Abnormal																																													
5.2	Abnormality of the rib cage, such as flat chest	Abnormal																																													
5.3	Deviation of the sternum or xiphoid process	Abnormal																																													
5.4	Umbilical hernia	Abnormal																																													
5.5	Abnormal testicles in adult whole male	Abnormal	DiqualifP																																												
5.6	HAIR																																														
5.7	Weakness or lameness in the hindquarters	Abnormal																																													
5.8	Potellar luxation, hip dysplasia	Abnormal																																													
5.9	Foreshortened legs (dwarfism, achondroplasia)	Abnormal																																													
5.10	Incorrect number of toes	Abnormal																																													
5.11	Spotted toes	Abnormal																																													
5.12	Persistently bowed legs	Abnormal																																													
5.13	Cow hockings	Abnormal																																													
5.14	Debowed	Abnormal	DiqualifP																																												
5.15	Visible, fixed, directional deviation of tail (kink)	Abnormal																																													
5.16	Pelupate tail defects / catch-all "abnormal" tail	Abnormal																																													
5.17	Stiff tail (specifically)	Abnormal																																													
5.18	Shorthair																																														
5.19	Aggressive behavior endangering the judge	DiqualifP																																													
5.20	Obesity	Abnormal																																													
5.21	Emaciation	Abnormal																																													
5.22	Pregnancy	Abnormal																																													
5.23	Evidence of illness or poor health	Abnormal																																													
5.24	Locking "physical properties" (limb, ear, eye, etc)	Abnormal																																													
5.25	Excessive wrinkles	Abnormal																																													

Feline Structure & Faults
CFA Health & Welfare Committee

Which CFA documents mention each fault or feature?

The handout is a visual summary of how each CFA document refers to structural abnormalities, structural mutations, and general faults listed in our rules and standards.

#	Fault	Feline Structure	Show Rules	Aby	Am Cat	Ash	AWH	Bali	Beng	Bim	Bom	BSh	Burm	Brisa	Char	CPSH	CRX	DRX	EMau	Ebur	Evo	Hava	Jobs	KHM	Kor	LaP	Ly
---	-------	---------------------	---------------	-----	-----------	-----	-----	------	------	-----	-----	-----	------	-------	------	------	-----	-----	------	------	-----	------	------	-----	-----	-----	----

Here's how to read the handout (sorry that the text is itty bitty!)

The left column lists the abnormalities described in Feline Structure, plus additional general faults and features listed in our Show Rules and Show Standards.

Each breed standard has a column that indicates how this standard refers to each abnormality or feature:

Legend:
 D Disqualify
 P Penalize
 M Mutation feature

#	Fault	Feline Structure	Show Rules	Individual breed standards														
				Aby	Am Bob	Am Curl	ASH	AWH	Bali	Beng	Birm	Bom	BSH	Burm				
0	Structural defects or abnormalities (general)													 D				
1	SKULL and NOSE																	
1.1	Deformity of the skull resulting in asymmetry	 Abnormal																
1.2	Skull depressions or protuberances	 Abnormal																
1.3	Reduced nares impeding normal airflow	 Abnormal																
1.4	Extreme break interferes w/ breathing and tearing	 Abnormal												 D				
1.5	Nose / break placed too high (wording differs)																	
1.6	Nose / break placed to side of centerline													 D				
2	JAWS, TEETH, and TONGUE																	
2.1	Undershot or overshot jaw	 Abnormal								 D	 D			 D	 D	 D		
2.2	Narrow or twisted lower jaw (wry mouth)	 Abnormal												 D	 D	 D		
2.3	Abnormal angulation of canine teeth	 Abnormal													 D	 D	 D	
2.4	Tongue protruding due to malocclusion									 D								
2.5	Mouth breathing due to obstruction / malocclusion									 D								
3	EYES																	
3.1	Entropion	 Abnormal																
3.2	Strabismus (permanent squint, cross-eyed)	 Abnormal													 P	 D	 D	 D
3.3	Nystagmus (rapid oscillation of eyes)																	
4	FARS																	

Starbuck: So here's how to read it. Sorry that the text is so small on the handout, but that was the only way that I could get all the information on there. On the left, I have abnormalities that were described in our Feline Structure pamphlet. I listed them all out and I figured out how to categorize them. Then also I included some general faults and features listed in our show rules and show standards, and also things that are listed in our individual breed standards. So for example, we see here at the top, SKULL AND NOSE, Deformity of the skull resulting in asymmetry. That's in our Feline Structure pamphlet, but there's also some things about the placement of the break which are only in our Persian and Exotic standards now, so I included those because they exist in CFA, but they're not in our Feline Structure brochure. So in the first column there, I marked all the things that are listed in the Feline Structure brochure as abnormal.

Starbuck: The next column shows things that are listed in our show rules. I tried to include everything that could be considered a general issue or fault there. Then all of the rest of the columns are all of our individual breed standards. So, you can see there how our individual breed standards disqualify and penalize for certain things. The red is for disqualify, the orange is for penalize and then there are some breeds, of course, that have mutation features. So, I put a purple M in that column for breeds that have mutation features.

Some thoughts about how we do this in CFA

- As a BCS and BC member, I appreciate how each breed council has a lot of autonomy regarding which features are considered a penalize or DQ!
- On the other hand, structural DQs are notably inconsistent from breed to breed, because of how they are incrementally defined.
 - DQ and Penalize may be added when a breed is working to eliminate a problem, and then remain in the standard after it is eliminated.
 - Some breed standards lack common DQs, perhaps because they were based on standards from other associations in which faults are defined at a higher level.
- Our inconsistency is confusing, and has the consequence that judges can't address some faults that they should be able to penalize or DQ.
 - Without a DQ, judges may lose the opportunity to discuss a fault with the breeder
 - In a small show or class, even "burying" the cat may still mean it makes a final

Starbuck: OK, so some thoughts about how we do this when you're looking over this big spreadsheet. First of all, as a breed council secretary and as a breed council member, I really appreciate how each breed council has a lot of autonomy regarding which features are considered a penalize or DQ. We need that autonomy, and especially in things like tail fault, we have a lot of variation in how breed councils handle this. Some breed councils don't want to see anything at all in the tail, like even a little knot. Other breed councils only want to disqualify for a kind of crook in the tail, something that's obvious, a directional fault. So, that's something that we want to make sure to leave up to breed councils. On the other hand, we have a lot of structural abnormalities that are defined in some breed standards as a DQ and not in others. As I went through and did this, I was really amazed at how inconsistent it is, and it was just fascinating to me, but this is because of how we define things in CFA, incrementally, in our breed standards. So it's just historical. Things happen to be in a breed standard because it was built on some other breed standard, or because it came from another association, or often because our breed had a problem. So I'll give an example. The Chartreux, my breed. We disqualify for a visible tail fault. Those are things that appear, but we also have a disqualification for weakness and lameness in the hindquarters. Why do we have that? Because back in the 80s, we had a serious problem with patellar luxation. We had cats that would luxate right there on the table and cats that needed to have surgery for their knees. So, we put that in back in the 80s when the standard was written because we wanted to eliminate that. Generations later, we have eliminated it. It's no longer a problem in our breed, but it still exists in our breed standard as a disqualification because of historical reasons. So, I think that a lot of the reason that some of these things appear in our breed standards is historical. It's incremental. Some breed standards also lack common disqualifications. So, the most common thing that you'll see on there is for tail faults. The next most common thing is for number of toes. The Chartreux breed standard doesn't have anything about number of toes. I don't know why. I mean, it's historical. Who knows? There's one breed standard, the Burmilla, which doesn't have any structural disqualifications. There's nothing in there about tail faults, toes, anything else. I don't know why, but I'm guessing it's possible that the Burmilla standard came from another association in which those structural faults were handled as a general thing, like no cats can have too many toes. So, it's possible that that standard was originally written in a different context and then brought over to CFA. So, it's just incremental for each breed standard. This is confusing, and it has the consequence also that judges can't address some faults, that they should be able to penalize or DQ, that really are a structural issue for a cat. Without a DQ, judges may lose the opportunity to discuss the fault with

the breeder if they're not able to DQ in an appropriate way. Now, OK, well, maybe they could do insufficient merit or something. Insufficient merit doesn't really capture a structural health-related fault. It's not really accurate for what we want to disqualify. And then in a small show or class, even burying the cat in the class, it still might make a final. So, if there's only ten shorthair kittens or only ten longhair premiers, everybody's going to make a final unless they are disqualified. Should they be disqualified?

How do other associations define these faults?

GCCF Faults / Defects (from Standards)

FIFe DQs / Faults (from Show Rules)



Show Rules & Related Standing Rules

(Version C 22-Nov-2024)

TICA DQs (from Show Rules)

Starbuck: So how do other associations do it? I'm just going to touch on this quickly.

First of all, every other association has a general list for DQs. I didn't find any that did it the way we do. GCCF is very, very comprehensive in how they do it. They have a document about it, but also in their breed standards, the beginning of their breed standards document has a list of all the faults, and then they have an additional document similar to our online structure document that has pictures and explanations of what each one is. FIFe has a really cool table, which I like, where for each one of the faults, they show how to treat it. So, they show whether it's a disqualification, whether you withhold this type of win or that, because FIFe has different certificates, and so, depending on the severity of the issue, they might withhold one type of certificate, but not another type of certificate. So, they're preventing cats from getting to higher levels of titles, based on the severity of the issue. Then TICA's is not quite as easy, user-friendly. In their show rules, it's kind of like our show rules, except that they have more disqualifying faults in their show rules. It's like, OK, cats have to have two testicles, and cats can't have a bite issue, or cats can't have a spinal problem. So that's just written in text in their show rules. You have to just search through it and find it, but they also have it at this general level for all cats.

Options for moving forward together

- Revise and republish "Feline Structure" brochure
 - Are there things that we would add or change?
 - Perhaps this can also be included in our Standards document
- Ensure that our judges are trained on how to *safely, comfortably, and accurately* evaluate cats on the table for structure and function
 - Nearly all of the listed faults are defined in *some* breed standards already
 - Address breed council concerns about excessive or uncomfortable handling
- Promote discussion with breed councils and breeders about structure and function
- Work towards a general list of structural faults that we can all agree on
 - Simplify our complex system (while not taking away autonomy in breed standards)
 - Give judges the ability to address structural faults when they see them
 - Make it more clear to others how committed we are to healthy structure and function

Starbuck: And this is my last slide. So, what can we do to move forward? First of all, I think this feline structure brochure is really precious. It was written by some amazing people in CFA. They put a lot of work into this, and this is a document which presents what CFA considers normal and abnormal structure to support normal functioning of a cat. Are there things that we would add or change? Quite possibly, because it's been quite a while since this was developed. It's quite possible new things may have shown up, or I don't know, maybe we want to explain things differently. Perhaps this could be included in our standards document. The same way that we have a positive statement about feline structure there, perhaps we want to include a summary of abnormal structural issues. That wouldn't affect our breed standards or how we DQ, but it would bring this document and this information up a bit more in prominence, make it available. Next, we need to make sure that our judges are trained, and this actually really came up from a conversation on the breed council secretaries' list, because I saw a lot of concerns about this. We need to make sure that our judges are trained on how to safely, comfortably, and accurately evaluate cats on the table for every one of these structural abnormalities, and the reason is that every one of the structural abnormalities in this pamphlet is a DQ in some breed, and it's fascinating to me. So anything, you know, that's in there. So, for example, cow hock. Well, we have one breed that it's a DQ for, the Bengal. So, judges have to be able to evaluate for that because we have a breed that DQs it. Name any structural abnormality, pretty much, and there's a breed that DQs it, so judges need to be able to identify, handle in a safe and comfortable way for the cat. Next, I'd love it if we could have discussion with our breed councils, with our breeders, about structure. It would be wonderful if you guys could work with your breed councils and say, "hey, here's this feline structure document. What would we change about this? Are there things here that are an issue in our breed that we want to address? And what structural abnormalities are we as a breed council comfortable with having as a general disqualification for all cats?" Because, ultimately, I think it would be much simpler for us and also easier for everybody to understand, both inside and outside the fancy, if we have some kind of general list of structural faults that we all agree on. This would simplify our system, but it wouldn't take away autonomy in our breed standards. We can still have stuff in our breed standards. We can have exceptions to the list for breeds. We don't have to dictate for everyone, but I think that there's a lot of flaws that we can all agree are abnormalities that impede normal functioning cats. This would also give judges the ability to address structural faults when we see them in any breed, instead of burying them and not being sure what to do with them, and it would make it more clear to others how committed we are to healthy structure and function in our breed. And

this, actually, yesterday at the legislative presentation, I was really, really struck by the idea that part of how we respond to legislative issues is that we say, our breed standards have a picture of an ideal cat with ideal structure. Our breed standards, our standards and rules, actually are a blueprint for healthy structure and healthy function; and, therefore, you don't need to legislate us out of existence. We're promoting healthy structure and function. So if we have both a feline structure document, more prominent than it was, and maybe a general list of faults, this would help, I think, to present what we're already doing, which is working towards healthy structure and function in our breeds. Thank you, everyone.

Wilson: Thank you. This was a ton of work, and you did a fabulous job putting this chart together, but I think if you actually hold it way out, you see that there's a lot more commonality in some of these issues than not. So, what I'd like to do is invite continuing discussion on the breed council secretary's list about some of these things, and then we can maybe start with a short list first of what common things. I mean, do we all agree that our standards, basically one way or another, assume that all the cats have five toes on the front and four toes on the back? So there's a start right there. So let's start with things like that, and notice on here that every breed but one disqualifies for visible, fixed, directional deviation of a tail or a kink. Some go beyond that, but all of them have a disqualification for that. I mean, we all are scared of a little bit of that. If we put it there, then it's going to mean something, but we already are disqualifying for that. Kathy, did you have a question? **Calhoun:** I did have a question. I think you mentioned before you were going to be sending out these. Is this a PDF? **Starbuck:** Yes. **Calhoun:** I assume it started with an Excel file. **Starbuck:** Yes. I will provide these to Annette, and then Annette can send out the presentation and both of the PDF files. So you can share them with your breed councils. **Wilson:** And I'll send them to Rachel and she can share them with them with the board. **Calhoun:** I had more to ask. Can you send this as an Excel file so that you can, you know, lock in the front scrolls? **Starbuck:** Yes, it's actually in Google Sheets, and I'll be happy to send you the link. **Calhoun:** Thank you. Thank you.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YnPx8pjX-L5X0AK0SgEhOTqTjGLfyrf-7wrdTzCxW3E/edit?gid=328961365#gid=328961365>

Kolencik: I'm glad you mentioned tail fault because as it says here, wait, let me make sure I'm reading this right. Yeah, almost all of us have a problem with that, but some breeds only DQ or penalize. We DQ for visible. What we don't want, what I'm afraid of, and what I really hope we avoid is creating some master list that the judges are supposed to apply that overrides what each of us individually apply because we don't want to change visible to structural. I think none of us want that. **Starbuck:** You know, speaking for Chartreux, we have a distinction in our breed between a visible fault, which is a DQ, and a palpable fault, which is just a penalize. So, we don't want to see judges DQ any cat if they just have a little, you know, funky vertebra down at the end of the tail, but every breed is going to have a different way that they want to do it.

Kolencik: So, how are you going to address that if you create this common list of things?

Wilson: Well, visible would be the highest level, or the lowest level, depending on what you want. So, disqualify for a visible tail fault. So, any breed that says any abnormal tail, like my breed, well, it would fall into there but you wouldn't change your individual breed standard disqualifications. So, everything would have to fall into the category. **Kolencik:** So then, what is the whole point of having this master list? **Wilson:** Well, just to make it so that someone who isn't familiar with every standard could look at it and say, well, you know, they want these

structural faults, to not reward it. **Starbuck:** And because also there's a lot of things that really are faults that are currently not handled. **Wilson:** Darrell, do you have a comment? **Newkirk:** I do. I want to thank you for compiling this. This is fabulous. It's really a lot of work, and it's great. I think part of the problem is the way our organization is structured. We have breed councils that have to vote to change their breed standard. In other organizations, I attended the ACF meeting in Melbourne, Australia. The judges changed the breed standards at that meeting, and so I'm not advocating that by any stretch of the imagination. However, I like the idea of a list of structural problems, but do you want to denote that there is an exception in certain breeds? To me, I think the best thing would be the DQs, the penalties, apply to every breed. To me, that's the fair thing. It's never going to happen. Well, I shouldn't say never, because I said we'd never have Bengals at CFA shows. We have them, OK? I said we would never have mitted and pointed Ragdolls. We have them. So "never" is a word we should not ever use. Or is it never use? Whatever. Whichever. So anyway, but I do want to commend you for the work you did. It's fabulous. **Starbuck:** Thank you. **Wilson:** Thank you, Darrell. Melanie's making a list of people, so I'm going to call on people in this order. So, Marilee? **Griswold:** Well, I just wanted to say, Orca did a lot of work on this. She is on this Health and Welfare Committee under Melanie. We all work together, and so this is a very active committee. If anyone wants to do the amount of work that Orca did, please contact me and be on our committee. **Wilson:** Pam DelaBar?

DelaBar: I just wanted to give you all a heads up that the health and welfare of cats, pedigreed cats, is going to be an item of discussion at the World Cat Congress, and that's the end of July. It has been brought forward by FIFE, who does have a lot of mandatory testing for allowing certain breeds to be bred, and there are some very strong concerns on how we are going to make sure our cats do not become extinct. To give you an idea, one of the breeds that is really under attack, besides the Scottish Fold – Marilee knows all this – is the Manx. There are four genes that describe the Manx problems. There is not one lab that tests for all four. If you remember, many years ago, and I'm sure Art Graafmans remembers, is that the Burmese breeders got together to try to find the gene causing the Burmese head defect. It took 20 years, and they did. Look at your problems with your individual breeds. Address them. Don't hide them. I mean, we're seeing CEP290 in Orientals. Now it's going into other and other breeds. I looked around at the first row. I would say, you're extinct. You're not. You might be, depending on your whiskers. You're okay. You're extinct. Maybe. You're extinct. Well, we'll see. Yeah, the Japanese Bobtail. It goes on. This is a very serious concern. It's not just happening in Europe. It's coming over to the States. It's going into the various countries. Please be serious in addressing these. We've all worked too hard. Of course, one thing that was brought up over the Manx – and the tailed Manx was accepted for show in FIFE. They have their rumpies, rumpy risers, stumpies in tailed Manx. Other associations are looking very hard. Look where you can expand your breed, and especially those breeds that promote the health of your breed, including the structure. I consider structure to be part of the health of the breed. This is how we can fight back. As it was said by Orca, to me, one of the most significant things said yesterday was by Alene in her Legislative report, is that our pedigrees and our standards are the blueprint for our success in our continuation as breeds. Otherwise, we're going to see cats in show halls that are just natural breeds and probably are semi-longhair. But thank you. We're all in this together. Anything that any of us on the board can do for you, let us know. **Wilson:** Jennifer? **Reding:** I think, coming from a veterinary perspective, because I worked in the veterinary industry for almost 30 years, we need to make a distinction between a defect that affects the life and health and length of life of a cat versus a defect that's going to shorten its life or make its life more difficult. Everybody hates directional

deviation of tail. Everybody disqualifies that, except for breeds that allow for it specifically. A cat with a tail that looks like this can still live a perfectly normal life. They can live until they're 15 or 16. That tail isn't going to kill them. An extra toe on a foot is not going to kill them. But, we need to be more careful of stuff like entropion. We've got to look for cats that have entropion. Cats with cow hocks. Cats with severe cow hocks often need surgery to live a normal life, and a lot of the most deadly diseases are invisible on the table. When we're coming up with this general description of what everybody is going to be seeking for, let's try and be sure to make a distinction between, does it affect the life and health and comfort of the cat or is it actually going to shorten its life and make it uncomfortable to live? **Wilson:** I think those are good points, Jennifer. I think that while a tail fault might not, or a lack of toes or too many toes, may not affect the well-being of that individual cat, breeding those things into your breeds can certainly be an issue. Multiple toes. My sister has a polydactyl, something with seven toes, and he tears his toes. They get caught on things. So, there are issues, but there's also the bottom list of things on here addresses things like obesity, emaciation, pregnancy, abnormal size for the breed, evidence. So we do have cats that address that. **Reding:** That's normal. I'm just saying that there are some things that a mild deviation of the tail or one extra toe isn't going to shorten the life of the cat. **Wilson:** Right, but this is for our standards, so our show standards. Keith, you had your hand up? **Kimberlin:** Since Burmilla was mentioned as not having tail faults, I have already spoken to Annette about that, and she put the suggestion of the structural deviation of tail that we would put in the standard. I was more in favor of having a general structural faults section that would be referred to in every breed, so we didn't have to put it in the Burmilla. And, you know, I thought also when thinking of that, that you could have the general list of structural faults and you could have a general list of tail faults, separating them out because they can be quite different. **Wilson:** Thank you. We only have a few minutes. Art? **Graafmans:** We not long ago changed the palpable tail fault to a penalize, primarily because there were a handful of judges out there that went looking. I mean, they would grind at the end of that tail until they finally found something. So, we made it a penalized because if you've got to work that hard to find it, maybe you shouldn't be penalizing it too much. If we're talking about having these different issues listed as a disqualify in general, does our breed standard supersede the general requirement? **Wilson:** Yes. If there's a breed-specific disqualify or penalized, then it wouldn't fall into that. So what we're looking for are general structural. For example, on this sheet, which was the structural thing, skull depressions, they may occur horizontally, vertically, or both. Now, I never knew what that meant until I started judging, and I felt some or saw some, and I freaked out. I was like, well, if I had a Russian Blue that had that, then I wouldn't show it because there's something wrong. So, not all of us know or experience in our breed what some of these things are until you see it in another breed. Now, I'm not saying that a skull depression should be an overall disqualify, but maybe it should. I don't know. That's why we need to look at this. Pectus, you know, or foreshortened ribcage. I've seen those in a judging ring. I've felt cats where their ribcage stops or there's, you know, it's an indent. I don't think that's structurally safe for any cat, and I certainly don't think it should be a show cat. So, should that be a general disqualify? Maybe it should. Those are the kind of discussions we all need to have together on the list. **Graafmans:** That's a mentoring problem. One other thing, maybe a little off topic. I recently learned that Burmese are apparently brachycephalic and may not be able to fly on a plane. I have not a clue what brachycephalic generally means. **Wilson:** Like a human baby has a round face with a small little nose. In cats, that's why we like cats with small round heads because they remind us of human babies. That's a fact. So, brachycephalic means a round, foreshortened head.

Graafmans: That doesn't feel like a very well-defined condition. **Wilson:** It's legislatively defined. **Graafmans:** You have those doing legislative work. **Wilson:** But those are the things we're facing. That is exactly the issue where airlines are listening to legislation and saying, "oh, we can't have these cats or dogs, French bulldogs, English bulldogs, because they can't breathe and so they could die on a plane and we could get sued." That's where that comes from.

6. REGISTRATION FRAUD – Cattery Report

Wilson: OK, I want one reminder to remind your breed council members, it is still important to order up for free their cattery report and look for possible fraudulent pedigrees. We just had a former breed council secretary of the breed contact me a couple of months ago saying, "someone just told me that my spay that was registered eight years ago is the dam of all these litters, and she was never bred." Kathy? **Calhoun:** Really happy you brought that up. Cathy Dunham, so this is something that I didn't know, and I don't know, maybe I was the only one that didn't know this, and maybe Cathy can speak to it. If your cat has been neutered, you just neutered it, you don't show it anymore, you never showed it as a neuter, or if your cat has unfortunately passed away, you can contact Central Office and have them make an adjustment in the system that shows the cat is deceased or the cat is now a neuter or a spay. Cathy, can you confirm that? **Dunham:** Sure. If you have cats that have passed away for whatever reason, we do have the ability to mark it in that cat's record that they are now deceased. That will trigger us, if a litter comes in with that name, to look at it and go, "oh wait, this isn't good." We can also mark – so I'll just give you a general example from scoring. You've shown your cat as a championship cat. Now you have neutered and spayed that cat, and you're going to show it in premiership. When I get it in scoring the first time you show it in premiership, I have to go change it in the registration record from a whole cat to a spayed or neuter so that I can even score it. So, you can always tell us that ahead of time. You can just send me an email, send any of us at Central Office an email and say, can you flip this cat's record to say that it's a spay or neuter or that it's deceased, and we'll be happy to do that. **Munro:** Cathy, is changing it in eCats, will that do it for you, or do we have to contact you in another way? **Dunham:** No. We have to have it. It's the record. **Wilson:** So it can't be just changed. You can't change it in eCats. It has to be changed by Central Office. **Dotti?** **Olsen:** That was the same thing, because I do change my cats in eCat whenever I spay or neuter or one passes away. I change it in eCat. **Wilson:** Bobbie? **Irie:** I'm going back to a registration question. Being a mentor to a few Devon Rex newbies and things, I'm an advocate of registering every kitten. I think that's a great idea, but the issue that I come across in trying to talk to somebody else to register all their kittens in the litter is, "yes, but, I don't want to register them at eight weeks, because I can lose one or two kitties." And so, is there anything that we can do with the registration process to go ahead and indicate, yes, I registered this litter, but something happened and there's only two surviving instead of the six that I registered? Because we're paying however many dollars for each individual kitten, or what we like to do is go ahead and not just register the litter, but prepay, you know, even for people who adopt the kitties, so that at least there's a record. But, I mean, we're talking, you know, \$20 plus, so if you're losing like two or three, is there any way to indicate that the kitty came up with an illness and is now deceased? That type of thing, even if it's like 5% or 10%. **Wilson:** My best advice is to wait until the litter is eight or nine weeks old, then register the litter and pre-register every kitten. That's what I do. I don't do it the day they're born. I mean, you can, but then you run into that. But to say, tic-tac, I want to take back a pre-registration, I don't think that's – **Irie:** No, understanding, but we don't release our kitties until they're four months of age. Devon Rex

mature slowly and to socialize and everything. Even kitties that go to pet homes do not leave until four months, but things can happen, and if you register a litter and you've got everything, even if it's prepaid, I think that if you go back on the records, maybe one or two kind of disappear. Does that make sense? **Wilson:** No, it doesn't. **Irie:** How do you adjust for the kitties that are missing from the litter registration to the individual registration? **Wilson:** Well, if you pre-register them and they're never given a name and registered to an owner, they're just out there. I mean, I have to follow up with pet owners to get a name, and then I go in and register it for them, because they just don't ever get around to it, even though it's prepaid. So, everybody has different ways of dealing with that, but if you're concerned that you may lose kittens before, then you just wait until you know they're healthy and they're going to live, and you register them. And if one of them ends up not surviving at three or four months, well, yes, you're out \$20. **Irie:** Well, so those that don't prepay their litters – let's say you register four or five and only two get registered, and then there's that gap, especially if you're doing the Breeder of Excellence. There's like a discrepancy that you don't want held against you. **Wilson:** OK, if you're doing blue slip registrations, then those just sit out there. If you want to be a Breeder of Excellence, you've got to pre-register all your kittens. That's bottom line. Yes, Kathy. **Calhoun:** I think I just want the Breeder of Excellence folks to catch this, because if you register a litter and it says it has three kittens, you do that. Whether you pre-register or not, if only two of those kittens show up in registration, you would have not shown that you registered all those kittens. If the kittens had passed away, how do you address that, if you are trying to attempt to get to the Breeder of Excellence. I think that's what you're asking. **Irie:** Yes. **Wilson:** I can answer that. **Calhoun:** Let me finish. There's no refund involved. **Irie:** The refund isn't what I'm asking for because it's coming out of our pockets. It discourages people from pre-registering because it is money. **Morgan:** The answer to that is fairly simple. In the Breeder of Excellence program, if a cat doesn't have a name, you need to have a name or registration number. It needs to at least be pre-registered. **Griswold:** Yes. **Morgan:** You get a yellow slip or a green slip. Either one would qualify for the breeder of excellence program.

7. OTHER ITEMS?

Wilson: So, we are coming to an end here. I want to also remind you that the schedule of dates, if you're proposing any changes to your standard, that schedule is on the back. You should follow the guidelines on how to write them up. They need to be in a Word document, and you can send them to me at any point and we can start going through it and I'll be happy to give you help. But if you don't put it in a Word document, attach it to an e-mail, I'm going to send it back to you. And then we don't have an election of breed council secretaries this year, so the only breeds that will have ballots are those with standard changes.

Wilson: I want to ask you just one little thing to think about. I don't need any feedback right here, but we've always talked at some point of going to a list of color descriptions that are standard across most breeds. And it's a huge project, and I've not thrown it out, but I've just never found time to work on it. Would anybody be interested in a much shorter thing that would describe the appropriate paw pad and nose leather color by color? Because that is something that can be used to determine color in some, but not all, cases. But that could be something that we could put in a general description before the standard. Paw pad and nose leather color by color. Interested in that? OK, I'm signing you up. Thank you. OK. So with that, I want to thank the – Keith? **Kimberlin:** Yeah, I just wanted to ask one thing. You know, we have pedigrees that you

can order. I was wondering if at any point there might be a way to get a pedigree by litter, which would have the sire and dam. That would be general, just like a litter pedigree that we could pay for so that we could hand it out with our registrations. **Wilson:** Well, now that you're registering every kitten with a litter, you can order up a pedigree for it.

Wilson: Thank you to the board. Thank you to all of you for coming. I hope you continue to communicate with your breed council members, and we will post all this stuff up on the link.

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Breed Council Secretary declaration form and updated declarations can be found here:

<https://cfa.org/cfa-breed-councils/declared-candidates/>

(note: if you are not going to run, please talk to your BC members and see if someone is interested! You can direct anyone interested to this page to review what the requirements are:

<https://cfa.org/cfa-breed-councils/secretaries/>

BC Deadlines and Guidelines for writing ballot proposals can be found here:

<https://cfa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/change-guidelines.pdf>

THANK YOU FOR BEING THE GUARDIAN AND PROTECTOR OF YOUR BREED!

BREEDS AND STANDARDS 2024 TIMELINE/DEADLINES
General Guidelines---Subject to Change

August 1:	Breed Council membership deadline for voting on current term proposals
August 1:	New Breed/Color Application and Advancement deadline
August 15:	Breed Council Secretaries must be notified of any breed color or advancement requests that might affect their breed
September 1:	Proposed breed standard/registration rule/color class ballot items to Breeds & Standards Committee for review
September 15:	Breed Council proposed standard/registration/color class changes must be received by Central Office (upon prior review by Breeds & Standards Committee)
November 1:	Breed ballots will be uploaded by Central Office and available for on-line voting