

Siamese Cat Society of the British Empire – Rules

Last modified July 2024

1. NAME AND OBJECTS

The Society shall, by tradition, be called 'The Siamese Cat Society of the British Empire'. The Society is a non-profit making organization. Its objects shall be:-

- a. To promote the breeding of Siamese Cats and safeguard and encourage fair dealing with kind treatment of all cats.
- b. To hold and support shows for the exhibition of Siamese Cats.
- c. To improve all conditions relating to showing Siamese Cats.
- d. in co-operation with other GCCF member clubs via the Siamese Joint Advisory Committee to establish Standards of Points and Registration and Breeding Policies and to nominate and approve persons appointed as judges.

2. FINANCE

- a. The financial year of the Society shall run from 1st January to 31st December.
- b. The funds of the Society shall be held in a bank approved by the committee. Signatories to the club account will be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and may include the Show Manager at the discretion of the Committee. Payments of £100 or less may be authorised by any of the signatories; for higher sums, authorisation by any two signatories who do not reside at the same address is required.
- c. Any member receiving money on behalf of the Society (unless authorised by these rules or by the committee to retain it) shall immediately hand it to the Treasurer.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- a. The Society shall consist of paid-up members, life members, emeritus members and honorary members.
- b. Emeritus members and honorary members shall have no vote.
- c. Long-Term Membership is for a term of 6 years.
- d. Honorary members shall be persons who in the opinion of the Committee may be or have been of service to the society.
- e. Existing Life Members at the time of adoption of these rules retain that status, but no new Life Members shall be created thereafter. Should contact with a Life Member be lost, the membership will be converted to Emeritus, reverting to Life Membership on provision of new contact details by the Member.
- f. Candidates for election must be proposed by a member of the Society and seconded by another. All proposals for membership shall be placed before the next committee meeting held after the receipt of the nomination in writing.
- g. No member shall pledge the name of the Society to request patronage for any matter without the prior consent of the Committee.
- h. Personal information provided by members will be used only for the purpose of contacting the member. It will not be passed to any third party. It will not be retained once membership terminates.

- i. **HONORARY PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS** The Society shall have a President and up to two Vice-Presidents. These positions shall be conferred upon persons who have served the Society in an outstanding way and shall be proposed by the Committee, when and if necessary, and confirmed by the Annual General Meeting. Their positions shall be honorary and may continue indefinitely. No duties shall be imposed upon them apart from sympathy with the objects of the Society.

4. COMMITTEE

- a. The Honorary Officers of the Society shall be Chairman; Vice Chairman; Secretary and Treasurer. Their powers and duties shall be as provided in Rule 5.
- b. The affairs of the Society shall be directed on behalf of the members by a Committee consisting of the officers to five other members. The members shall be elected by ballot at the A.G.M. for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-election.
- c. The officers shall be elected from the Committee by the Committee at the meeting following the AGM.
- d. Representatives to the SCJAC shall be elected by the Committee.
- e. The President, Vice-Presidents and Show Manager have the right to attend committee meetings but have no vote unless they are also committee members
- f. Members of the Committee who do not attend 50 per cent of committee meetings annually shall, at the discretion of the Committee, be asked to resign.
- g. At committee meetings the quorum shall be five.
- h. Any vacancies caused by resignation or otherwise of a Committee member during the year may be filled by the co-option of a person elected by the Committee, whose term of service on the committee shall be that of the member replaced..
- i. i. At all committee meetings all matters shall be decided by a simple majority vote. The Chairman shall have a casting vote. On points of order the Chairman's decision shall be final.
- j. The power to decide upon matters not provided for in the Rules shall rest with the Committee.

5. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

- a. **The Chairman** shall:
 - i. Preside at all General and Committee meetings.
 - ii. Preside at any sub-committee meetings if a member of that sub-committee.
 - iii. Ensure that all meetings are conducted in a proper manner.
 - iv. Have no vote, but be entitled to a casting vote in the eventuality of an equality of votes on a motion.
 - v. Be empowered to delegate the duties of the Chair at his/her discretion to the Vice Chairman.

- b. **The Secretary** shall:-
- i. Conduct the correspondence of the Society.
 - ii. Record the names and contact details of each member and honorary member and make corrections as they arise.
 - iii. Give to each newly-elected member notice of his election, together with a copy of the rules.
 - iv. Give in writing to every member and honorary members fourteen day's notice of every Special or Annual General Meeting, together with a copy of the agenda. Seven clear days' notice to be given for Committee Meetings.
 - v. Keep minutes of the proceedings of all general and committee meetings, which shall be submitted for confirmation at the next following general or committee meeting, as the case may be.
 - vi. Render an annual report to the Annual General Meeting.
 - vii. Perform any other duties required of him/her by these rules, or entrusted to him/her from time to time by the Committee.
 - viii. With the agreement of the Committee, be empowered to delegate any of these responsibilities.
- c. **The Treasurer** shall:-
- i. Defray from the funds of the Society all authorised expenses incurred by the officers, GCCF delegates and SCJAC representatives in the discharge of their duties under these rules or the regulations made thereunder.
 - ii. Render to the Committee and the Annual General Meeting a statement of accounts which has been inspected by a suitable independent person showing the financial position of the Society at the end of each financial year.
 - iii. Present a report to every committee meeting giving updates on membership and balances.
 - iv. With the agreement of the Committee be empowered to delegate minor clerical duties.

6. **DELEGATES TO G.C.C.F.**

- a. Nominations for delegates to the G.C.C.F. must be proposed and seconded by fully paid-up members, also with the written consent of the nominee.
- b. Election of delegates shall take place at the Annual General Meeting.
- c. A General Meeting of Members shall be held at least once in every calendar year to be known as the **Annual General Meeting** (AGM). The Quorum at Annual General Meetings shall consist of no less than the number of Committee members plus two voting members.
- d. Matters to be decided at the AGM include approval of minutes and accounts, appointment of a suitable, independent person to examine the accounts, determination of membership fees, election of President, Vice-President and committee members as appropriate and election of GCCF delegates.
- e. The Rules may be changed only by an AGM.

- f. An announcement advertising the date, time and place for the meeting shall be placed with the GCCF and club websites and on any other suitable forums at least two months in advance.
- g. All nominations and matters for the agenda including proposed changes to the Rules must be submitted in writing to the Hon. Secretary at least 21 days prior to the meeting
- h. Nominations must be proposed and seconded by members of the club.
- i. The agenda, the Club's accounts, balance sheet, the previous AGM minutes and any proposed changes to the Rules shall be circulated to all members at least 14 days prior to the meeting.
- j. Amendments to proposals may be accepted by the Chairman at the meeting provided they do not alter the main object of the proposal of which notice has already been given.
- k. If a quorum of members is not present at an AGM, a postal and/or electronic ballot of all the voting members who were not present at the AGM shall take place to ratify any decisions made at the AGM. Provided the total responses, when combined with those of the members present at the AGM, constitute a quorum, the decisions made at the AGM may be considered approved/not approved. The majority required to approve any decision will be that specified in these rules.
- l. Rule changes require a two-thirds majority vote. All other matters require a simple majority

7. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- a. A special General Meeting may be called by the Committee or by not less than 15 paid up members of the Society who shall submit to the Secretary the Notice requiring the meeting which shall state the matter to be discussed at the Meeting and shall be signed by the Members requiring it. No business other than that stated on the Agenda may be discussed at a Special General Meeting. Rule 7(e) applies. The Hon. Secretary shall give paid up members 14 (fourteen) days notice of a Special General Meeting which will be convened within 30 (thirty) days of receipt of the written request. Members calling a Special General Meeting shall, by signing the formal request, agree to reimburse the Society for all expenses incurred if so required by the Meeting.

8. ENTRANCE FEE AND SUBSCRIPTION

- a. Every member shall pay an Entrance Fee and an Annual Subscription of an amount determined from time to time by an Annual General Meeting.
- b. The Annual Subscription shall become due on election and thereafter on the 1st day of January in each year.

9. CESSATION OF ACTIVITIES

In the event of the Society ceasing its activities or amalgamating with any similar society, a Special General Meeting will be called for a decision by the committee and the members as to the manner in which the Society should be dissolved or amalgamated and disposal of the funds and trophies and meeting of liabilities.

10. GCCF MEMBERSHIP

- a. The club is a member of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy and shall be represented at GCCF meetings by the number of delegates permitted under GCCF bylaws
- b. Membership provides that the GCCF shall have disciplinary powers with regard to the club and its members in accordance with the GCCF bye-laws.
- c. Except with the permission of the GCCF, no delegate may serve as an officer or committee member of any cat club which is not a member of the GCCF.
- d. The club, on behalf of its membership, agrees to submit to the byelaws and rules of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy.