

PHILOSOPHY AND PRINCIPLES OF THE GCCF JUDGE APPOINTMENT SCHEME

1. THE SYSTEM

- a) There shall be one unified system for the appointment of Judges applied throughout the Cat Fancy.
- b) It shall be open and fair to all who participate, and operate within identified procedures.
- c) It shall clearly define requirements of applicants and provide them with guidance and assessment of progress.
- d) The system shall be administered by Breed Advisory Committees (BACs).
- e) The unified system will provide the 'core' constitution and rules of procedure by which the system will operate. There will be provision for some variation to allow for the differing number of colours/patterns covered by BACs, and the differing number of constituent clubs.
- f) It must be understood that entry into and progression through the scheme does not guarantee that a candidate will eventually be promoted to Full Judge of the chosen breed.

2 THE APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES

- a) The appointment and dismissal of Judges are the prerogatives of Council.
- b) Judges will be appointed, by Council, to the Breed Judge lists which are:
Persian: Self, Persian: Tortie, Tortie & White & Bi-colour, Persian: Tabby, Persian: Smoke/Tipped, Persian: Colourpoint, Exotic, Birman, Turkish Van, Somali, Maine Coon, Norwegian Forest Cat, Ragdoll, British, Russian, Korat, Abyssinian, Cornish Rex, Devon Rex, Asian, Tonkinese, Ocicat, Bengal, Singapura, Egyptian Mau, Burmese, Oriental Self, Oriental Non-Self, Oriental LH (Angora), Siamese, Balinese and others as agreed from time to time.
- c) This system applies to the appointment of Judges to all lists which include breeds with Championship or Provisional status. Where a new breed of new breed type or of new hair type of an existing breed type has Preliminary status, a Full Judge of two years standing on another list may be appointed as a Full Judge to the new list. Clubs or BACs catering for the latter should set up a stewarding scheme in accordance with clauses 18 and 19 of the Rules of Procedure for the Appointment of Judges in order to ensure a flow of candidates when Provisional status is granted. An application for promotion of a breed to Provisional status will not be considered until the Constitution and Rules of the relevant BAC have been approved by the GCCF Executive Committee.
- d) Council will only consider applications for the appointment and removal of Judges on a Judge list from the relevant BAC. In the case of Judge lists whose specialist breed club is not yet affiliated, and therefore for whom no BAC exists, recommendations to Council may be made by a representative group of breeders.
- e) On promotion of the first breed on a breed list to Provisional status, the BAC shall review all Judges on their list and may propose to Council the transfer to Probationer Judge status of any Judge appointed to that Preliminary Breed List who has not demonstrated sufficient active interest and/or proficiency in judging the breed. The BAC must obtain the written consent of all Judges who are to continue as Full Judges or Probationer Judges on that Breed List.
- f) Any Judge who does not wish, or is unable, to undertake any further judging engagements at any time may request that their name be placed upon the Retired List. Judges may request that their names be placed upon the Retired List for any or all of the Breed Lists of which they are Full Judges, whilst retaining their existing status on other Breed Lists. Such a change of status shall be permanent.
- g) A Judge may apply to be placed upon the Emeritus List for any or all of the Breed Lists of which they are a Full Judge. This shall be taken as an indication that, although not generally available to judge that Breed List, they may accept engagements for occasional shows, or that they are unable to accept engagements in the immediate future.

- h) Judges are listed as Specialist Judges if they are Full Judges of one or more breeds within a Breed List but were not promoted to Full Judge of all breeds of that Breed List when the BAC system was applied. No further Specialist Judges will be appointed.
- i) Any Full, Emeritus or existing Specialist Judge who has not both judged cats of a particular Breed List at a GCCF Championship Show, and attended seminars, including Judges' Guild seminars etc, for cats of that Breed List, during the previous five year period may be required to undertake a refresher period as a Probationer Judge of the appropriate Breed List at a minimum of five Championship Shows, from which they must submit critiques as required by the BAC, together with evidence of tuition by a Full Judge at a minimum of three of these shows. After this they may apply to the BAC for reinstatement as a Full, Emeritus or existing Specialist Judge of that Breed List/breed.

3. BREED ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- a) A BAC exists to work in the interests of the cats of its Breed List by monitoring the training and performance of the Judges on its list and candidates within its scheme, and by reviewing its Standard of Points and Registration Policy and amending them if and when required, with due consideration to the health and future of the breed(s)
- b) Breed Advisory Committees will consist of representatives of the Specialist Breed Clubs, affiliated to GCCF, catering for breeds included in the Judge list.
- c) There will be only one Breed Advisory Committee per Judge list. Each BAC should be as fully representative as possible of all areas of the Cat Fancy, including experienced breeders and exhibitors, show managers, judges etc.
- d) A BAC is the forum for discussion between its Constituent Clubs. The Club representatives, who shall be appointed according to the rules of their respective Clubs, must represent the views of their Club Committee to the BAC. In order to do so it is desirable that representatives are Committee members or attend Club Committee meetings. Representatives should not normally be mandated by their Club since any discussion during the meeting must be taken into consideration when voting. Any decision as to the extent of consultation with the individual Club members is the responsibility of the Club Committee.
- e) Once a BAC has been formed and its Constitution has been approved by the Executive Committee, no other group will be recognised as the advisory/recommending body to Council for the breed(s) concerned. Should any of the Clubs involved be unable to participate in the business meetings of the BAC then that Club will forfeit its right to make proposals to Council relating to judges, standards or points, registration policies and new breeds of the Breed List, which are the sole prerogatives of BACs. Such a Club will not, however, lose its right to speak on any matter relating to the breed(s) for which it caters.
- f) BACs may be combined to form Joint BACs, either where the breeds covered are of the same breed type but of differing coat pattern or length, or where the BACs have constituent clubs in common. The Breed Judge lists will not be combined and only the constituent clubs of the relevant individual BAC may vote on matters specific to the BAC breeds or judges. Certificates, reports etc. will only be sent to the constituent Clubs of the relevant BAC.
- g) BACs covering breeds of the same basic type (e.g. Persians or Orientals) should liaise over proposals to amend Standards of Points or Registration Policies.
- h) BACs should liaise with other BACs and are encouraged to hold joint seminars, primarily for all breeds within a section, and including cross-section seminars.

4. FULL JUDGES

- a) Full Judges play an essential role in the GCCF Judge Appointment Scheme by passing on their knowledge and techniques to their stewards at every judging engagement, whether verbally or by demonstration. This knowledge includes not only the finer points of handling and judging cats but the other qualities required of judges such as impartiality, demeanour etc.
- b) Full Judges will also have the opportunity to give advice and guidance to Probationer Judges throughout the probationary period since when they are engaged to judge an adult Open class they may be approached by the Probationer Judge to discuss his/her placings of the equivalent kitten Open class,

after completion of the class. This tuition is a vital part of the judge training procedure. Any Judge may decline to participate in this procedure on a particular occasion but it is hoped that all Judges will be able to participate when their judging load, and that of the Probationer Judge, permits them to do so.

If there are no Open kittens present, the Probationer Judge may seek permission of the Full Judge to judge, place and report to the BAC on the equivalent adult and/or neuter Open class and to discuss his/her placings of the class after completion.

A Full Judge's Open adult or neuter classes may coincide with the Open kitten classes of more than one Probationer Judge; in such a case the Full Judge should establish, prior to the start of judging, which Open classes have entries, decide which Probationer Judge(s) will be offered tuition and inform all the relevant Probationer Judges. At shows with a low judging load and low Open class entries a Full Judge may wish to be available for tuition to more than one Probationer Judge.

- c) The system is designed to benefit from the experience of all Full Judges since stewards may choose from whom they seek engagements and Probationer Judges may seek to discuss their Open kitten classes with the Full Judge who is engaged to judge the equivalent Open adult or neuter class at the same show.
- d) Judges must give careful consideration to completing stewarding certificates and offering tuition. Although it may be very difficult to be critical without risk of upsetting some candidates, constructive criticism throughout the scheme should enable candidates to progress far more quickly since, in its absence, they may remain unaware of their shortcomings. Encouragement should be given, although any steward who is obviously not "judge material" may be gently encouraged to try other areas of Cat Fancy activity, such as show management etc. if appropriate.
- e) BACs may require stewards to seek certificates, or Probationer Judges to seek tuition, from Judges determined by the BAC in order to be guided and/or assessed on particular points. These Judges will be those who have specialised knowledge of a particular breed, colour or pattern, such as breeding experience etc. The BAC will write to the Judges concerned outlining the areas requiring tuition.

5. STEWARDS

- a) The GCCF Stewarding Scheme provides training for candidates to become GCCF Stewards. No qualification is required before joining this Scheme as this initial period should be regarded as a time of learning procedures and gaining experience. Stewards are encouraged to learn how to handle cats across the breed sections; to ensure the different breeds relax and feel comfortable when judged; to understand the judging procedure by keeping a steward's form; to understand the processes on a Show Table and to follow the recommendations of the Stewarding Guide. Successful completion of the Scheme will result in formal recognition of the candidate's ability as a Steward.
- b) In the case of candidates with previous stewarding experience, this experience shall be taken into consideration.
- c) There is no obligation for a qualified GCCF Steward to apply to become a Probationer Judge, but it is hoped that whilst progressing through the Stewarding Scheme some candidates will develop an interest in, and an aptitude for, becoming a Probationer Judge and will go on to join the judge appointment scheme, either on completion of the stewarding scheme, or at a later date.

6. COMPLAINTS

- a) A BAC, the candidates within its Scheme, the Judges on its Breed List and its constituent Clubs are subject to the disciplinary powers laid down in the GCCF Constitution.
- b) Any person or Club who believes that a BAC is in breach of its Constitution or Rules, or has acted in a manner which is or may be discreditable or prejudicial to the GCCF Judge Appointment Scheme, the BAC or the BAC breed(s) may direct a complaint under Article 12 of the GCCF Constitution, in writing, to the GCCF Office.
- c) Any BAC which believes that a constituent Club or a candidate within the BAC Scheme is in breach of the BAC Constitution or Rules, or that any person has acted in a manner which is or may be discreditable or prejudicial to the GCCF Judge Appointment Scheme, the BAC or the BAC breed(s), may direct a complaint under Article 12 of the GCCF Constitution, in writing, to the GCCF Office.

- d) Any such complaint may lead to disciplinary action under Article 12 of the GCCF Constitution.
- e) Any candidate who believes that they have been dealt with unfairly because the BAC was given incorrect information should inform the BAC immediately, providing proof that the information was incorrect. The BAC must then enable the additional information to be studied by the constituent clubs before considering the application again at its next meeting.
- f) Any candidate who believes that the BAC has failed to give clear reasons for deferment or rejection should write to the BAC Secretary to request clarification of the reasons. They should inform the GCCF Office if no satisfactory clarification is received.
- g) A complaint under clause 6.f shall be reviewed by the GCCF Investigation Committee who shall, if they find that the candidate has genuine cause for complaint, refer the case to the GCCF Committee of Judges for arbitration between the candidate and the BAC.