Constitution: CFC May 2014

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CAT FANCIERS’ CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA
(as amended by the AGM on 25 May 2014)

1. TITLE
This Club shall be known as the Cat Fanciers’ Club of South Africa

2. HEADQUARTERS
The headquarters shall be in Gauteng or its suburbs and the address shall be such as decided at each Annual General Meeting.

3. LEGAL STATUS
Independent legal personality
3.1 The Club shall be body corporate or “universitas” having a separate legal “persona” with perpetual succession and with a capacity to acquire and hold property for itself and apart from its members, and likewise to acquire other rights and incur obligations and to sue and be sued for and by itself apart from its members.
3.2 The property and other assets of the Club shall vest in the Club, which shall hold such assets for itself as distinct from its individual members, and the individual members shall have no right in or to any property or other assets of the Club.
3.3 Under no circumstances shall the assets of the Club or any part thereof be distributed to members in the form of a dividend or share-out of excess or remaining funds and in the event of the Club being dissolved, the assets shall be handed over to such other body, having similar objects to that of the Club, as the Committee may decide.
3.4 Any obligations or liabilities incurred by or on behalf of the Club shall be incurred for the Club itself and to the exclusion of the individual members.
3.5 The Club may sue or be sued in its own name and the power to decide on whether or not to defend a suit, shall vest in the Committee for the time being holding office, as provided for in this Constitution.

4. OBJECTIVES
The objectives of this Club will be:
4.1 To promote an interest in and a friendly disposition towards all cats.
4.2 To co-operate and collaborate where possible with local Southern Africa Cat Council (SACC) Cat Clubs, and internationally, for mutual benefit and to promote friendly personal relations amongst all those interested in cats.
4.3 To promote a knowledge of cats by investigating or to assist in any manner the investigation of scientific breeding, feeding and treatment of cats and to publish reports of aforementioned investigations in the Press or any other suitable manner.
4.4 To aid and encourage the breeding of cats according to the highest standards.
4.5 To lay down standards for all breeds in conjunction with members of SACC.
4.6 To hold Cat Shows and appoint Judges thereat.
4.7 To offer prizes or other inducements at Cat Shows, whether conducted by this Club or otherwise, or at any other occasion for competition, exhibition, breeding kind treatment of or prevention of cruelty to cats.
4.8 To act in the prevention or assistance in the prevention of any cruelty to, neglect or abuse of cats in any appropriate manner.
4.9 To run the Club as a non-profit making organisation and to devote surplus money realised to the betterment of the aims of the Club. In this respect, the Club may donate to charitable organisations of its choice.
4.10 To train or assist in the training of persons for the breeding, judging, showing or exhibiting of cats.
4.11 To assist in carrying on of a register for the recognition and particulars of cats and their breeding in conjunction with the Associated Cat Clubs or to appoint a person to do so on behalf of the Club and to give such a person specific instructions in this respect.
4.12 To publish a newsletter or any other printed matter in order to further conclusive to the attainment of the aforementioned objectives.
4.13 To act in any manner lawful to accomplish matters incidental or conclusive to the attainment of the aforementioned objectives.
4.14 The members of this Club shall at all times promote the best interests of the Cat Fanciers’ Club and SACC.

5. MEMBERSHIP
5.1 This Club shall consist of Honorary members, Life members, Founder members, Ordinary members, and Family members. It shall be persons interested in the objectives of the Club.
5.2 Honorary members shall be the President and Vice-President of this Club and entitled to vote. These Honorary members shall be elected at an Annual General meeting.
5.2.1 Honorary membership may also be granted to any person who has done exceptionally good work for the Club. This will be one year’s free membership to such person, the person receiving this honorary membership will be entitled to vote. The recipient of such an honour will be decided upon by the committee of the day and the names of the recipients will be made known at the Annual General Meeting every year.
5.3 Life members shall be persons who have completed all future subscriptions by payment of the applicable fees prior to registration of membership.
5.4 Founder members will be limited to the ten original founders of the Club. These founder members shall enjoy NO special privileges which will set them apart from other members. Except for life and founder members, applications for membership shall be made annually on the prescribed form supplied by the Club and all applicable fees shall be paid prior to registration of membership.
5.5 Members shall be persons having been accepted as such by the Club Committee. Only fully paid-up members and members over the age of 18 years shall be entitled to vote.
5.6 Family members shall be persons of the same family, residing at the same address and having paid fees applicable to family membership. All such members over the age of 18 years may vote.
5.7 Except for life and founder members, application for membership shall be made annually on the prescribed form supplied by the Club and all applicable fees shall be paid prior to registration of membership.
5.8 The Club Committee elected in accordance with this Constitution shall have absolute discretion, without being obliged to give reasons, in approving or disapproving of such Application. Receipt of a membership card will be proof of acceptance as a member of this Club. Fees shall be returned together with any application which is not approved.
5.9 The Club Committee shall have the power to suspend or terminate any membership of any member as provided for in this Constitution.
5.9.1 Should membership be terminated after approval no money will be paid back to the applicant.
5.10 All membership fees are subject to approval at the Annual General Meeting.

6. COMMITTEE
6.1 ELECTION
6.1.1 The affairs of the Club shall be conducted by the Club Committee consisting of not less than 10 elected members.

6.1.2 Such elections shall take place at the Annual General Meeting.
6.1.3 Members thus elected will serve the Club for one year and will be eligible for re-election.
6.1.4 Two members of the existing Committee shall be elected by the Committee at its last meeting in any calendar year to serve from the date of the ensuing Annual General Meeting to the following Annual General Meeting.
6.1.5 The names of the two members so elected by the Committee shall be circulated to all members by the Honorary Secretary of the Committee together with notice convening the ensuing Annual General Meeting, 14 days prior to the meeting.
6.1.6 The Committee shall elect by majority vote, persons for the office of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and any other officers it may deem fit and necessary.
6.1.7 A person thus elected may not serve on the Committee of any other Cat Club, unless written approval has been given by the Committee.
6.2 The Committee may remove from office any member of the Committee who has failed to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the Committee during his period of office, except where leave of absence has been obtained, or in the case of illness of the member. Such member shall be given a reasonable opportunity of making representations to the Committee before any decision of the Committee shall be final and binding on the parties concerned.
6.3 The Committee shall strive to carry out all the objectives of this Club and everything incidental or conclusive thereto.
6.4 The Committee shall be entitled to co-opt further Committee members as deemed necessary.
6.5 Honorary members shall be elected by the Committee as and when deemed necessary.
6.6 The Committee may appoint Sub-Committees on a temporary basis for a specific purpose. Such sub-committee need not consist of Committee members, but shall act to the approval of the Club Committee.
6.7 The Committee may elect regional representatives in other centres to promote and further the aims of the Club. These appointments shall be reviewed on an annual basis.
6.8 An Independent Accountant shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting in each year, whose duty it will be to prepare the Annual Financial Statements of the Club.
6.9 All payments, other than by petty cash, shall be made by cheque drawn on the Club’s banking account and shall be signed by any two of the following: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and one other Committee member nominated by the Committee, provided that the two signatories are not husband and wife or immediate relations.
6.10 Officers elected in accordance with the Constitution shall carry out all duties normally associated with their offices and subject to the approval of the rest of the Committee.
6.11 The Committee may accept sponsorship for any cat shows held by this Club or newsletter published by this Club on whatever basis it may deem most advantageous.
6.12 A quorum at a meeting shall be 5 of the elected Committee members.
6.13 All matters arising at a meeting of the Committee or Sub-Committee thereof shall be decided by a simple majority of votes. The Chairman shall have a casting vote in the event of an equality of votes.

7. VOTING
7.1 Persons defined as members in paragraphs 5.1 through 5.6 hereof, shall be entitled to vote at Annual General Meetings of this Club.
7.2 In the event of an equality of votes the Chairman presiding at such a meeting shall have a casting vote.
7.3 All matters arising at such Annual General Meeting shall be decided on by simple majority vote, safe as provided for in 7.5.
7.4 The manner of voting shall be left entirely at the discretion of the Chairman presiding at such Annual General Meeting.
7.5 Proposals to amend this Constitution shall require a two-third majority to pass.
7.6 No person shall be entitled to vote at an Annual General Meeting unless he/she has paid his/her membership fees by no later than 30 days immediately prior to such Annual General Meeting.

8. GENERAL MEETINGS
8.1 The Club shall be entitled to hold general meetings in order to decide on matters of importance to the Club.
8.1.1 A general meeting of the Club, called the Annual General Meeting, shall be held not later than the last day of May each year.
8.1.2 Notice of an Annual General Meeting shall be given by the Honorary Secretary to all members not less than 14 days prior to such a meeting. Such notice shall include the agenda for the meeting.
8.2 The Agenda of the Annual General Meeting shall include the following:
8.2.1 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
8.2.2 Chairman’s report.
8.2.3 Treasurer’s report which shall include a balance sheet and income and expenditure statement signed by the Independent Accountant for the financial year under review.
8.2.4 Election of officers as provided for in the Constitution.
8.2.5 Amendments to this Constitution. Such amendments must be proposed and seconded in writing by members at least 30 days before the Annual General Meeting.
8.2.6 All other business that the Annual General Meeting may deal with in terms of this Constitution.
8.2.7 Members wishing any matter to be considered by the Annual General Meeting must give exact details of such matters in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least 30 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting
8.3 Nominations for election as Club Committee members, duly proposed and seconded by members of the Club and signed by the candidate shall be posted to the Honorary Secretary of the Committee not later than 21 February of each year. A complete list of nominations will be sent to members not later than 14 days prior to such an Annual General Meeting.
8.4 No other business other than that stated on the Agenda may be transacted at an Annual General Meeting. Matters on the Agenda may be passed with or without modification.
8.5 Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings may be convened by a majority of the Club’s Committee.

8.5.1 The Committee shall also summon an Extraordinary General Meeting in written requisition to do so by not less than 20% of members of the Club in good standing. Such requisition shall state the business to be brought forward before the meeting and no other business shall be discussed at such Extraordinary General Meeting. Such meeting shall be summoned within one month of the written requisition being requested to the Committee and at least 10 days written notice shall be given to members of such meeting.
8.6 At an Annual General Meeting 12 people personally present shall form a quorum. Should a quorum not be present, the Chairman presiding at the meeting shall adjourn the meeting to a later date at a place announced by him. Members present and/or entitled to vote at such adjourned meeting shall form a quorum. No further notice of such adjourned meeting save as provided therein need be given.

9. CONDUCT, IRREGULARITIES AND DUTIES ON THE PART OF MEMBERS
9.1 Every member shall strive to further the aims of this Club.
9.2 It shall be the duty of every member to bring to the notice of the Committee or any member thereof any irregularity or misconduct on the part of any member and this can pertain to the aims of the Club, its cat shows or members’ keeping or handling of cats.
9.3 Such a member will be warned in writing by the Committee, and will have the opportunity to state his/her case either in writing or verbally before the Committee. After hearing a member’s case the Committee will have the following routes to follow:
9.3.1 Dismiss the case.
9.3.2 Suspend the member for a said time.
9.3.3 Expel the member.
9.3.4 Report the matter to the Ethics Committee of the Governing Council of SACC.
9.3.5 Inform all the Clubs about the matter.
9.3.6 Any combination of 9.3.2 to 9.3.5 above.
9.4 All members on written request may have access to the financial books of the Club.

10. DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB
The Club may dissolve:
10.1 If two-thirds of its members at an Extraordinary General Meeting called specifically for that purpose agree thereto.
OR
10.2 If membership drops below 20 members.