



RULES OF THE CLUB

(as of November 20, 2004)

Article 1. Name and Aims

- 1.01 The club shall be known as the VIKING CAT CLUB (VCC).
- 1.02 The aims of the VIKING CAT CLUB shall be:
 - (a) To sponsor and promote the welfare of all breeds of cat.
 - (b) To cultivate and promote friendship among the owners, fanciers and breeders of Norwegian Forest Cats.
 - (c) To promote breeding towards FIFe breed standards and encourage the registration of cats with the British FIFe member.
 - (d) To plan and pursue a programme of healthy selective breeding designed to produce and improve the Norwegian Forest Cat in the UK.
 - (e) To encourage spaying and neutering of any and all cats not specifically being used as part of a viable breeding programme in order to reduce the excessive trend to the over population of and tragedy among unwanted cats.
 - (f) To promote and encourage kindness to all animals and assist in prevention of cruelty and bad treatment of all animals.
 - (g) To promote friendship, understanding and communication among breeders, exhibitors and the general pet owning community.
 - (h) To encourage the free and meaningful exchange of knowledge among breeders, exhibitors, fanciers and pet owners.
 - (i) To facilitate breeder access to information on such subjects as genetics, veterinary research, cattery management and feline behavioural problems.
 - (j) To create an interest in breeding, exhibiting and owning as a pet, the Norwegian Forest Cat in the UK and abroad.

Article 2. Membership

- 2.01 Membership shall be open to all persons sharing an interest in the breed and aims of Norwegian Forest Cats.
- 2.02 Application for membership shall be to the Honorary Membership Secretary of the Viking Cat Club on the official application form.

- 2.03 Membership applications shall be approved individually by the committee at the earliest opportunity following receipt by the Honorary Membership Secretary of the application.
- 2.04 A simple majority of votes are sufficient to elect or reject applications. The Chairman shall have the casting vote.
- 2.05 The Viking Cat Club shall have the right to refuse membership without disclosing the reasons.
- 2.06 Notice of acceptance or rejection should be sent to the applicant by the Honorary Membership Secretary.
- 2.07 The amount of the annual subscription for the Viking Cat Club shall be decided by the committee and reviewed from time to time. The annual subscription shall run from the 1st June each year.
- 2.08 Failure to pay subscriptions within 2 months of the due date will result in the member automatically being dropped from the membership list. A reminder will be sent to the defaulting member by the Honorary Membership Secretary at least two weeks before the period of grace expires.
- 2.09 All members must be in good standing with the FIFe and must adhere to the club's Code of Ethics.
- 2.10 It shall be the duty of each member to uphold the aims of the Viking Cat Club and to fulfil carefully the terms of all transactions concerned with cats, such as sale, stud fees and pedigrees, whether such business is carried on with other club members or breeders or the public at large.

Article 3. Affiliation

- 3.01 The Viking Cat Club shall be a full member club of Felis Britannica.

Article 4. Meetings

- 4.01 Meetings shall be held on such dates and at such times and places as the committee shall designate, such decision being dependent on the wishes of the majority of the membership.
- 4.02 Special meetings may be called from time to time if necessary for the transaction of important business and may be called by the Chairman, committee or upon written request of five (5) members. The business at this meeting shall be limited to that mentioned in the request.
- 4.03 Members shall be notified of the time and place of all meetings by mail, telephone, email or in person by the Honorary Secretary or his/her representative.
- 4.04 Five (5) regular members, excluding officers, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a General Meeting. Three (3) members of the committee, or 3/5 whichever is the greater, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction at a Committee Meeting.
- 4.05 All voting will be by simple majority, unless otherwise explicitly stated.
- 4.06 Voting at all General Meetings shall be in person only.

Article 5. Officers and Committee

- 5.01 The officers of the Viking Cat Club shall be a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Membership Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer. The offices may be combined at the discretion of the club.
- 5.02 The management of the business affairs of the Viking Cat Club shall be under the direction of a committee consisting of not less than four (4) and not more than ten (10) members.
- 5.03 Committee members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall take office to serve for the 3 years. All members in paid up membership are eligible to stand for election.

- 5.04 The committee may co-opt up to four more members provided that the co-opted members meet the membership requirements at that time, and that the total number of elected members shall serve until the next following Annual General Meeting and thereafter shall be eligible for election.
- 5.05 The officers of the Viking Cat Club shall be elected from committee members and are eligible for re-election annually by the committee. Club officers shall be elected at a committee meeting to be held immediately following the Annual General Meeting. A third of the committee shall be deemed to have resigned each year and shall be eligible for re-election should they so wish.
- 5.06 The Viking Cat Club committee may elect annually other officers or sub-committees as deemed advisable.

Article 6. Duties of Officers

- 6.01 The Chairman or a member of the committee nominated by the Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the committee and shall perform such other duties as are incidental to the Chairman's office. He/she shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- 6.02 The Vice-Chairman shall perform all the duties of the chairman in the absence of that officer.
- 6.03 The Honorary Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the members and the committee of the Viking Cat Club and shall present them at ensuing meetings.

- 6.04 The Honorary Secretary shall keep an attendance record. He/she shall notify the members of regular meetings at least one (1) week prior to the date of the meeting, and notify members of the Annual General Meeting at least four (4) weeks prior to the date of the meeting. In the case of the Annual General Meeting the Honorary Secretary shall remind all regular members that nominations for the Viking Cat Club committee and resolutions for the Annual General Meeting should be submitted at least two (2) weeks before the date of the Annual General Meeting. The Honorary Secretary shall perform such other duties as are incidental to the Honorary Secretary's office.
- 6.05 The Honorary Membership Secretary shall maintain a list of all paid up members with the names, addresses and telephone numbers of each. He/she shall advise applicants for club membership of the action taken on their application.
- 6.06 The Honorary Treasurer shall receive and have custody of all monies and shall deposit the same in a bank account in the name of the Viking Cat Club. He/she shall keep account of all receipts and expenditures and shall render a financial report at each regular meeting, and audited accounts at each Annual General Meeting. He/she shall report to each committee meeting as to the state of the balance in the bank account. He/she shall furnish names and addresses to the Honorary Membership Secretary of all membership subscriptions paid. The Honorary Treasurer shall perform such other duties as are incidental to the Honorary Treasurer's office.
- 6.07 Deleted
- 6.08 Membership records, minute book, attendance records and books of accounts of the Viking Cat Club shall be the property of the club and not of the officer administering them.

Article 7. Discipline

- 7.01 The committee shall have the power to suspend or expel from membership any person who, after a fair and impartial hearing, shall be found guilty of violating any rules of the Viking Cat Club or any organisation the club has affiliated to or of conduct detrimental to the club or the cat fancy.
- (a) The charges against any member or officer must be made in writing, by the person or persons preferring the charges and directed to the committee.
 - (b) The written charges must contain sufficient documentation to determine the validity of the complaint.
 - (c) The written charges must contain information on how to contact all relevant witnesses.
- 7.02 The person or persons preferring the charges shall be prepared to present facts supporting their allegations.
- 7.03 The Chairman shall set a date for a hearing, and notify all parties involved by certified letter not less than seven (7) days in advance of the hearing date.
- 7.04 The person against whom the charge is preferred will be notified formally by certified letter of the details of the charges at least twenty one (21) days in advance of the hearing.
- 7.05 After a fair and impartial hearing the officers present shall vote on how to proceed. A 2/3 majority of officers present shall constitute a decision.
- 7.06 Should any member so disciplined wish to contend either the decision or the punishment, they have the right of appeal within 14 days. Any such appeal shall be heard by an independent body, as agreed by the member disciplined and the club committee.

Article 8. Amendments

- 8.01 The Viking Cat Club rules shall be amended by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of ordinary members present at any General Meeting at which notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given.

Article 9. Amalgamation or Winding-Up

- 9.01 A motion for the winding-up of the Club or for amalgamation with another Club must be included on the Agenda of a General Meeting. The motion shall be carried if those present and voting (abstentions are not counted) agree to wind up or amalgamate the Club by a two-thirds majority.
- 9.02 Final disposal of the Club's assets, other than assets received for cat welfare, shall be determined at this General Meeting, and be approved by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.
- 9.03 Assets including monies received by the Club for cat welfare shall be donated to a dedicated fund or funds for domestic cat welfare, as agreed at this General Meeting and approved by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.