

# *CONSTITUTION OF*



*The Burmese Cat Society  
of Australasia Inc.*

(ABN 39 464 123 231)

# CONSTITUTION OF THE BURMESE CAT SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA INC.

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(as amended on Friday, 11th June, 1993, Friday 4th February 2000, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2004, Friday 9th June 2006 and Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2015)

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## 1. THE SOCIETY

- (1) The name of the Society shall be the Burmese Cat Society of Australasia, hereinafter called The Society.
- (2) The Society colours shall be brown and blue.

## 2. INTERPRETATIONS

In this Constitution, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (1) Words implying the masculine gender shall be taken to include the feminine, and the singular shall include the plural, and vice versa.
- (2) The Chairman means the President or his deputy acting in the capacity of the Chairman.
- (3) Member means financial member.
- (4) The Act means the Associations Incorporation Act 1984.

## 3. OBJECTS

The objects of The Society shall be:

- (1) To promote and improve the breeding of pedigreed Burmese cats.
- (2) To maintain a critical watch on Burmese cats, their official points and standards, and the interpretation of such standards by breeders and judges.
- (3) To promote and foster co-operation in the breeding of Burmese cats.
- (4) To hold shows and exhibitions of Burmese cats, and to support other clubs providing classes for Burmese cats.
- (5) To help train judges to judge Burmese cats according to ruling standards.
- (6) To endeavour to avail the members of all possible information on the breeding and welfare of Burmese cats, in Australasia and elsewhere.
- (7) To make awards at various shows and exhibitions, to encourage the breeding and showing of Burmese cats conforming to ruling standards.
- (8) To aid and support all activities for the benefit and welfare of all cats.

## 4. MEMBERSHIP

### (1) Classes of Membership

- (a) The Society shall consist of:  
Full Members, and  
Junior Members.
- (b) Full Members shall include Life Members,  
Ordinary Members, Dual Members, and  
Pensioner Members.
- (b) Life Membership may be granted to any member in recognition of special services rendered to The Society over a period of not less than 5 years by a majority of votes by members at an Annual General Meeting.
- (c) Junior Members shall be under the age of 18 years.

On attaining 18 years a Junior Member shall automatically be elected an Ordinary Member.

- (d) Dual Members shall be two persons residing in the same household.
- (e) Pensioner Members shall be persons in receipt of an Australian Government pension (Centrelink, Veterans' Affairs, or the like).

(2) *Applications (Nominations) for Membership*

Applications for membership of The Society shall be on the duly prescribed form, and shall be considered at a General Meeting and approved by a 75% majority vote. Prospective members may be present during voting on their membership, at the discretion of the President.

"Membership may be refused without assigning any reason".

(3) *Membership Fees*

- (a) Membership fees shall be as from time to time determined by a majority vote at an Annual General Meeting of The Society.
- (b) Annual membership fees shall fall due on the first day of April of each year.
- (c) Life Members shall not be required to pay membership fees.

(4) *Cessation of Membership*

A member whose membership fees fall in arrears by more than three months shall automatically cease to be a member provided he has been warned in writing of the impending lapse by the Secretary.

(5) *Disciplining of Members*

- (a) The Society may expel or suspend any member for misconduct, unethical behaviour, and/or actions contrary to the objects and spirit of The Society, or actions likely to bring The Society into disrepute.
- (b) A Special General Meeting shall be called for this purpose, and at that meeting the member shall be permitted to make written or verbal submissions in his defence.
- (c) The members present shall vote by special resolution (75% majority) on whether the member should be expelled or suspended.
- (d) There shall be no appeal against such expulsion or suspension.
- (e) Advice of any actions taken under this clause shall be forwarded to the Administrator, NSW Cat Fanciers Association Inc.

(6) *Expulsion from a Meeting*

If any member or officer, in the opinion of the Chairman, is guilty of unseemly conduct at a meeting, he may be ordered by the Chairman to withdraw from the meeting.

(7) *Member's Liability*

The liability of a member to contribute to the payments of debts of the Society or the costs and expenses of the winding up of the Society is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid by the member in respect of membership.

## **5. OFFICERS**

- (1) The Society may elect Patrons.
- (2) The Society shall elect annually the following officers who shall be Full Members:
  - (a) President.
  - (b) Senior and Junior Vice-President.
  - (c) Secretary.
  - (d) Treasurer.
  - (e) Publicity Officer.
  - (f) Editor and Editorial Committee of two (2)
  - (g) Social Secretary.
- (3) The Society may elect annually a Minutes/Assistant Secretary, and/or an Assistant Treasurer, if required.
- (4) All officers of The Society shall act in an honorary capacity.
- (5) The President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Society may not hold the same executive position in any other cat club.
- (6) The Society shall appoint a Full Member as Public Officer in accordance with Sections 22, 23, 24, and 25 of the Act.

## **6. DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

- (1) The President shall preside at all meetings of The Society or the committee.
- (2) A Vice-President or elected Chairman shall deputise for the President as required, and when acting in that capacity shall perform all duties proper to the President.
- (3) The Secretary shall:
  - (a) Conduct The Society's correspondence.
  - (b) Maintain an open list of financial members.
  - (c) Notify new members of their election and forward to them a copy of the Constitution.
  - (d) Notify members of meetings.
  - (e) Convene Committee Meetings in conjunction with the President.
  - (f) Keep true minutes of all Society meetings, in the absence of a Minutes Secretary. The minutes shall be inserted in the minutes book and read at the following meeting for confirmation, actions and signature of the President.
  - (g) Prepare the annual report.
  - (h) Perform any other duties required by the Constitution or entrusted to him by the committee.
- (4) The Treasurer shall:
  - (a) Bank all monies on behalf of The Society and operate accounts in the name of The Society.
  - (b) Keep a true record of receipts and expenditure, and present a financial statement at each meeting, including all accounts paid since the previous meeting, and annual financial statement at the Annual General Meeting.
  - (c) Include details of all accounts paid by the Treasurer in the Treasurer's financial statement.

## **7. COMMITTEE**

- (1) The committee shall comprise President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-Presidents, Publicity Officer, Social Secretary, Editor and at least four (4) duly elected members (which shall include Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer if elected).

- (2) The quorum for a committee meeting shall be seven (7) members.
- (3) Meetings of the committee shall be held when called by the President and Secretary, or when requested by 4 other committee members.
- (4) Procedure of committee meetings shall follow the rules of the General Meeting.

## **8. POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

- (1) To hear and determine any dispute between members in their capacity as members of The Society. All members have the right of appeal to a special meeting of The Society, and such appeal shall be lodged with the Secretary within 7 days of the committee's decision being served on the member.
- (2) To enter into contracts on behalf of The Society
- (3) To make any decisions or arrangements on behalf of The Society, such decisions to be ratified at the next general meeting.

## **9. FINANCE**

- (1) The financial year of The Society shall commence on the first day of April and terminate on the thirty-first day of March.
- (2) All accounts shall be authorised by The Society or the committee.
- (3) All accounts shall be paid by cheque or by internet banking.
- (4) All cheques shall be signed, and all internet payments authorised, by the Treasurer and either the President or the Secretary.
- (5) The Treasurer's financial statement shall be included in the minutes of the meeting at which it was presented.
- (6) Annual subscription fees shall not be refundable.

## **10. VOTING**

- (1) All financial members excepting Junior Members shall have the right to vote.
- (2) Save as this constitution provides otherwise, questions shall be decided by a simple majority vote at all Society and committee meetings.
- (3) In the case of an equality of votes the President may exercise a second or casting vote.
- (4) There shall be no proxy voting or postal voting.
- (5) Voting at all meetings shall be by a show of hands, excepting:
  - (a) For the election of officers and committee;
  - (b) When directed otherwise by the Chairman of the meeting;
  - (c) If any two (2) members present request a poll.
  - (d) When a special resolution (a 75% majority) is required.

## **11. GENERAL MEETINGS**

- (1) At least 3 General Meetings shall be held each year at such times and dates as arranged by the President and the Secretary.
- (2) Seven (7) members shall form a quorum at a General Meeting.
- (3) All meetings shall be governed by the "Guide to Meetings and Organisations", by N.E. Renton.

## **12. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

- (1) An Annual General Meeting shall be held each May (or as soon as possible thereafter), and at it all officers shall be elected for the ensuing year.
- (2) Nominations of all officers and committee members shall be seconded, and accepted by the nominee, and voted upon by secret ballot.

- (3) Every Australasian member shall be sent by post a notice of the Annual General Meeting, at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the said meeting.
- (4) Unfinancial members cannot stand for office nor vote at any election or partake of any of the benefits of membership of The Society.
- (5) A quorum at the Annual General Meeting shall be nine (9) financial members.
- (6) The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:
  - (a) Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
  - (b) Annual report.
  - (c) Audited balance sheet and statement of income and expenditure.
  - (d) The members at an Annual General Meeting may resolve to waive the requirement for auditing of the balance sheet and financial statements.
  - (e) Election of officers and committee.
  - (f) Election of veterinary surgeon.
  - (g) Determination of members' subscriptions.
  - (h) Any other business of which notice has been given as per clause 12 (3).
  - (i) Election of Life Members, not more than two (2) elected at any Annual General Meeting.

### **13. AFFILIATIONS**

- (1) The Society shall be an affiliate of the New South Wales Cat Fanciers Association Incorporated
- (2) The Society may accept affiliations from other clubs which accept the objectives of The Society on matters pertaining to Burmese cats.

### **14. CATS-IN-DISTRESS FUND**

A Cats-in-Distress Fund may be established by The Society for the purpose of assisting Burmese cats and kittens in distress, to be administered according to the resolutions of members in General Meeting.

### **15. CONTINGENCIES**

- (1) In the event of any contingency arising that has not been provided for by this Constitution, the matter may be dealt with by the committee. Any members dissatisfied shall have the right of appeal to a meeting of The Society.
- (2) If any officer or committee member becomes absent without leave for three (3) consecutive meetings of The Society the position of such an officer or committee member shall automatically become vacant. The acceptance by a meeting of apologies for absence from the meeting shall be deemed to grant leave.
- (3) Should the position of any officer fall vacant at any time during the year, for any reason, a vote to fill the vacancy shall be held as soon as possible at a General Meeting. Voting shall be by secret ballot of all members present at that meeting.

### **16. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- (1) This Constitution may be amended at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting.
- (2) The Secretary shall notify all members in writing of the proposed amendment or amendments to the Constitution, with such notice to be posted not less than 2 months prior to the meeting at which such amendments are to be discussed .
- (3) An amendment, or a group of amendments, shall be accepted as forming part of the amended Constitution if passed by a special resolution at a properly constituted Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.

## **17. APPEALS**

- (1) In the case of appeals to the General Meeting, such appeal shall be lodged in writing to the Secretary within 7 days of the original decision. The Secretary shall place such matters on the notice papers, and a Special General Meeting shall be called within twenty-one (21) days to deal with such appeal.
- (2) In all cases a special resolution by the General Meeting in favour of the appellant shall be necessary for such an appeal to be upheld.

## **18. COMMON SEAL**

- (1) The common seal of the association shall be kept in the custody of the public officer.
- (2) The common seal shall not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of the committee and the affixing of the common seal shall be attested by the signatures either of 2 members of the committee or of 1 member of the committee and of the public officer or secretary.

## **19. CUSTODY OF BOOKS, ETC**

Except as provided otherwise in these rules, the public officer shall keep in his custody or control all records, books and other documents relating to the Society. The public officer shall ensure that the records required by the Act to be kept are kept.

## **20. INSPECTION OF BOOKS. ETC**

The records, books and other documents of the association shall be open to inspection, free of charge, by a member of the association at any reasonable hour.

## **21. WINDING UP AND SURPLUS PROPERTY**

- (1) The Society shall not be wound up unless a special resolution to voluntarily wind up The Society is passed at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose.
- (2) At that special general meeting of the Society, the members shall pass a special resolution nominating an incorporated association as the association in which is to vest its surplus property pursuant to section 53 (2) of the Act.
- (3) The incorporated association so nominated shall be one which fulfils the requirements specified in section 53 (2A) of the Act.