

**Board of Directors – Winter Meeting
Agenda
January 23 - 26, 2025
Las Vegas, Nevada**

Thursday, January 23rd

Welcome and Call to Order – Harrison 8:00 am – 8:15 am

Fiduciary Duties - Adler

Consent Agenda

1. Approve minutes of August 27 - 30, 2024 – Annual Meeting
2. Set Spring Meeting Dates: May16 – 18, 2025 (electronic)
3. Appoint Deborah Kinsley to the Maine Coon (MC/MCP) Breed Committee
4. Appoint Teresa Logan to the Scottish Fold/Straight (LH/SH) Breed Committee
5. Appoint Mette-Maaria Saarela to the Russian Blue Breed Committee

Executive Session - Strategic Planning Session 8:15 am – 5:00 pm

Friday, January 24th (Executive Session Continued)

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Judging Program, Complaints/Hearings 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Friday, January 24th (Open Session) 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

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Update on 2025 Annual

1. TICACATS – Dresden, Germany, EN Region

Saturday, January 25th (Open Session Continued) 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Administrative & Fiduciary

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Audit
2. Set Hotel and Per Diem rates
3. COO update – Nevarez

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Committee Updates

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Other Business and Discussion

Executive Session 10:15 am – 12:00 pm

Adjourn

Minuet Talls Campaign

The following is the argument to support TICA granting the Minuet Talls (formerly known as nonstandards) Championship status.

Argument:

1. Genetic Material:

Both tall and short Minuets can be born in the same litter and are the result of genetic combinations that happen at the time of conception. There is no genetic or physical difference between the two versions of the Minuets (talls and shorts) other than the length of leg. Nor is there any possibility in breeding Minuets to manipulate the appearance of tall or short Minuets in a litter.

As such, in coming from the same litter, Minuet Talls have the opportunity to carry ideal genetic material for breeding subsequent litters that can enhance a feature of the next generation, such as implanting a certain color, pattern or body feature (coat texture, rounded ears, non-tearing eyes, etc.) that by happenstance is carried by a Minuet Tall from a litter. This ability allows a Minuet breeding program to include an ideal Minuet Tall queen or stud to help expand the breeding pool of Minuets and allows some breeders who are reluctant to move back into the Persian breed group for breeding options, which have the real potential of producing kittens with extreme features (nose breaks, tearing eyes, large heads, etc.), which are faults in the Minuet breed standard.

It is also an option for breeders that a Minuet Tall may be the only possibility to carry on a specific line in their program, if a Minuet Tall is all they have from a final breeding between a successful pairing of a queen and stud that are to be retired.

2. Lethal Dominant Gene:

The gene that causes achondroplasia (dwarfism) in cats is a naturally occurring gene and has been studied by Dr. Leslie Lyons of the University of Missouri. She concluded in her study that there are no associated health problems related to the dwarf gene in cats and that dwarf cats are relatively genetically healthy and long-lived cats. However, each dwarf cat, including short-legged Minuets, carry one tall leg gene and one short leg gene. Consequently, Minuet Talls carry two tall leg genes. It has been discovered that the short gene (the gene causing achondroplasia in cats) is a lethal dominant gene, meaning that if both parent cats (queen and stud) contribute a short leg gene, the embryo will not form and the genetic material will be reabsorbed by the queen.

In light of this lethal dominant gene, it is possible to breed two short-legged Minuets together and have a successful litter; however, the litter numbers are statistically smaller, since there will be a 25% reabsorption rate of genetic material (no kitten formed). Because of this, the possibility of an unsuccessful pregnancy could occur. This, in turn, could result

in pyometra and put the queen at risk of severe health issues. Therefore, many Minuet breeders choose to include a Minuet Tall in their breeding program simply to avoid this possibility. Breeding a short-legged Minuet to a Minuet Tall would prevent the 25% reabsorption rate of genetic material, since a Minuet Tall carries two long leg genes, avoiding the possibility of two short leg genes being contributed by both parent cats.

3. Mounting ability:

Whereas there is successful breeding of short-legged male Minuets with Minuet females (including both short-legged and long-legged females), there have been complaints of difficulty with some short-legged Minuet males in mounting females. This diminishes the gene pool of successful breeding male Minuets simply because of the inability to mount the female. Expanding the gene pool of male Minuets to include the Talls allows breeders to include Minuet Talls in their program for proficiency with the actual act of breeding. This argument loops back to Argument #1, Genetic Material, in that we are improving the quality of our kittens by expanding the gene pool to choose quality breeding males among both short-legged Minuets and Minuet Talls, and not diminishing the pool because some quality short-legged Minuet males are unable to mount.

4. Maintaining an appropriate leg length:

As with any breeding of a cat with a mutation or unusual feature, there is the risk that irresponsible breeders can exploit that feature to make a parody of it. With Minuets, it is breeding for shorter and shorter legs, which greatly compromises the cat's mobility and quality of life. Responsible breeding of Minuets focuses on producing healthy and efficiently mobile Minuets of either leg length. In producing dwarf Minuets, the legs should be of moderate shortness, not an extreme deficiency of length, which gives the cat a grotesque appearance of no height and compromises their ability to move. These cats are often referred to as rug huggers and are severely compromised. However, a discussion with Dr. Leslie Lyons confirmed that it is possible, that by using a Minuet Tall in a breeding program, a program can prevent or correct the direction of shortening legs. She stated that the genetics of leg length is complicated and involves a lot of factors, but for simplicity's sake, it would be possible.

5. Appearance:

Minuets are a breed of independent appearance from any other breeds. Regardless of leg length, a Minuet can be identified as a Minuet simply by their doll-like features of the face and their coat, as well as their body structure. Minuets are not supposed to be miniature versions of the Persian breed group. In fact, certain features of the Persian breed group found in a Minuet are considered faults or flaws. These include nose breaks, downturned jowls, cottony coat, cobby body, etc. An extreme looking Minuet is considered poor quality because it looks too much like the foundation stock (Persian breed group). Consequently, if a Minuet has features that are too sharp and mimic the Munchkin, it is considered of poor quality. The proper Minuet is one that is of moderate roundness in face

and features, semi-cobby body but straight topline, and having a double coat (short or long haired). (More specific features can be found in the Minuet breed standard.)

6. Validation of Breeding Stock

As with any pedigreed championship cat, the purpose of showing examples of the breed is to receive validation of said cat to be used in a breeding program. Showing animals, (cats, dogs, rabbits, etc.) has been a way of having trained experts in breed standards (judges) give acclaim to what exhibitors present as the best of their breeding programs. This acclaim comes in the forms of titles and awards, giving a sense of pride and accomplishment in a breeder's journey of developing their best lines. This tradition has been available for those pedigreed cats of TICA-recognized breeds in championship status. In breeds where certain versions of the cat are not considered "showable," i.e. the full coat Peterbald, the decision for such version of the cat not to be showable is a breed group decision.

Given that the Minuet Talls represent statistically half of our produced litters and are not any more prone to having faults or flaws than the short-legged version of the breed, they have become a much-respected part of our breeding programs from the onset of breeding Minuets. As mentioned in the aforementioned points, the Minuet Tall is, in fact, an asset to our breeding programs, and as such, the Minuet Breed Group feels it is time to include the Minuet Talls in TICA's tradition of recognizing excellent examples of pedigreed cats.

MINUET BREED GROUP (MNT/MNL/MTT/MTL)

(The standard is not being re-written for the inclusion of the long-legged version of the breed other than to address the leg length for the long-legs.)

The Minuet (MNT) and the Minuet Longhair (MNL) are short-legged, medium to substantially boned cats. The Minuet Tall (MTT) and the Minuet Tall Longhair (MTL) are the regular leg length version of the dwarf, short leg Minuet and Minuet LH, matching the short-leg version in every sense except length of leg. The Minuet (MNT) and Minuet Tall (MTT) are the short-haired version of the breed, while the Minuet LH (MNL) and Minuet Tall LH (MTL) are the long-haired version of the breed.

Head:

Shape:

Round, broad, with well-rounded contours when view from any angle. Cheeks moderately full, top of head rounded by not domed.

Ears:

Medium with preference given to slightly smaller ears but not extreme. Rounded tips. Set wide apart.

Eyes:

Large and round, wide open but not protruding. No brow ridge. Deep brilliant eye color is preferred which conforms with coat color.

Chin:

Rounded and moderate.

Muzzle:

Moderately short and broad with well-rounded whisker pads

Nose:

Moderately short, broad and with an obvious stop, but no break; not snub. Top of the nose leather should not come above the lower edge of the eye.

Profile:

Gentle curve to a moderate stop.

Neck:

Head should blend into moderately short neck.

Body:

Torso:

Semi-cobby, well-rounded. Straight topline preferred, slight rise from the shoulders to tail is acceptable.

Legs:

Minuet (MNT/MNL): Short, well-developed, firm, musculature. Outer upper thigh boning and musculature may be thick and pronounced due to short legs. Inner leg straight with little to no bowing, though slight bowing is acceptable.

Minuet Talls (MTT/MTL): Length differs from the dwarf version by being the length of a medium sized non-dwarf cat. Well-developed, firm, musculature.

Feet:

Rounded and neat, tufts on longhairs.

Tail:

In proportion to body length or longer, not short. Long hairs should be plumed and flowing.

Boning:

Minuet (MNT/MNL): Medium to substantial. In front, legs should be short and straight from the breadth of the chest adding to sturdy appearance.

Minuet Talls (MTT/MTL): Medium to substantial.

Musculature:

Substantial, firm and noticeable on front legs.

Coat/Color/Pattern:

Length (MNT/MTT):

Short. Dense but slightly longer than other shorthairs; standing away from body.

Length (MNL/MTL):

Dense, full, allowing for seasonal variations.

Texture (MNT/MTT):

Plus, double coat preferred, all weather, not lying flat.

Texture (MNL/MTL):

Soft, slight undercoat give the coat body but coat still falls smoothly. Not cottony. Possible curls on underbody.

Allowances:

Lockets, nose bump

Penalize:

Brow ridge, dome, snub nose

Withhold all Awards:

Currently: Excessive tearing

Disqualify:

Currently: Nose break, crooked nose, excessive bowing, ~~long legs.~~

Minuet Talls – Application for New Traits to Championship

Summary:

Rules Committee has reviewed the New Traits application to advance the Minuet Talls to Championship. It meets the criteria set out in Reg Rules 33.9.2. There were some comments about whether the new breeds are sufficiently distinctive - please refer to the notes under "Breed Standard".

The Board should also seek advice from the Genetics Committee before deciding upon the advancement, as well as also checking that there has been an affirmative outcome of a poll of the Minuet Breed Group (as required by Reg Rules 33.9.2.6).

The breed codes MTT (Minuet Tall) and MTL (Minuet Tall Longhair) have been put forward and this should be verified as suitable with the EO.

As with previous applications of this type, the Board should first vote whether to approve the revised standard (wef 1 May 2025) or not. If approved, there should then be a second motion to approve both new breeds for Championship status (also wef 1 May 2025).

Comments on Breed Standard:

The original submission did not include naming the new breeds explicitly. An acceptable revision was promptly supplied when requested and which has Rules Committee approval.

There were some comments raised regarding the distinctiveness of the proposed new breeds:

- (A) I am not a fan of accepting breeds that are non-visual for the trait that defines the breed. There was a Minuet "tall" at the show I judged this weekend, and it was really not distinctive in type without the short stature.
- (B) I agree with (A). The short legs make the breed unique. Not every cat belongs on the show bench...to be used in breeding programs, yes, but not for show.
- (C) I know they are not distinctive but if a breed feels it is necessary for health reasons, should we stand in their way?
- (D) I agree with (C). A lot of breeders do not keep variants for breeding (for various reasons - one being space), so a lot of these variants that may help improve the breed (if used for breeding) are actually neutered and sold as pets and shown as household pets.
- (E) I have to agree with (A) and (B), the legs are what make this breed most distinctive.

Contd/...

(F)

am in agreement with (A), (B) and (E) - short legs make the breed - I really don't know how I could look at a 'tall' one and say "Oh, that's a Minuet!" Just because they need them for their breeding program doesn't mean they have to show them.

(G)

I talked recently to a couple of Minuet breeders and they all stressed that Minuets with long legs are essential for a healthy breeding program. They explained to me exactly why, part of that explanation is in the document they sent, but it's not stated as clearly as what I was told.

But the point is: they do need the long-legged cats in the breed. And I understand the frustration of only half of your stock being showable.

Application Criteria:

Rules Committee has no access to TFMS and therefore assumes that the Executive Office has verified the registration information within the application. The Committee is grateful to the EO for verifying membership and breeder information for this application.

The application has met the criteria as set out in Registration Rules 33.9.2 although the Committee wished to note the following points:

- 58 cats were listed as registered, however 6 of the 58 had birth dates outside the 3-year window. That still left 52 cats, which met the requirements of 33.9.2.3

Genetics Committee Breed Comments for the Winter Meeting 2024

This has a long introduction to the eye-color issue which underlies some of the proposed standard changes. Our comments for three breed standard revisions and request for Championship of the Minuet Talls are after that. The individual breed committees, Rules committee, and Genetics committee, have done extensive work on the standard changes, so there are less comments on the standards at this point.

The goal of the Genetics Committee is to promote policies and standards that make genetic sense, to safeguard the genetic health and welfare of our breeds, and to encourage the breeding and exhibition of healthy, beautiful, cats.

I) Introduction: Notes on Eye-Colors and New Mutations.

Several breeds, including two of the three here, as well as earlier versions of the third, have included language to try to prevent dominant blue-eye (DBE) genes unconnected to the standard KIT mutations that cause cats to be white or with-white from competing on the show bench. There are good reasons for this. However, care needs to be taken to not remove cats from Championship who do not have DBE and previously could be shown. As more and more breeds take up this issue there should be a clear understanding of the nature of blue eyes in our existing cats as well as what we know about the genetics of DBE cats. Therefore, we are providing an introduction to the topic. We hope that all breed committees that are thinking about revising their standard in light of the DBE mutations, or even altering their eye color standards for other reasons, as well as board members, judges, and breeders, who may need to make decisions in regards to eye color, will read this to help become informed on the topic.

This is a soapbox issue for Heather Lorimer, so she apologizes in advance for its length.

Traditional color cats without white can have eyes in a wide variety of colors, any shade of green, yellow, gold or copper heading into brick-like brownish color. There is no correlation between the traditional coat colors and eye color with the exception that true blue eyes are only found in some white and part-white cats, unless there is some other mutation present. Sepia cats do not have eye color that makes it to copper, but they can have all the other colors, including very warm gold. Mink cats range from near to pointed blue through aqua and into blue-greens. Pointed cats all have some variety of blue eyes from very pale to deepest indigo.

In the Traditional category “eye color to conform with coat color” makes no genetic sense. There is no reason for a silver tabby to have green eyes other than that we like it and breed for it. Remember that a smoke has the same silver gene that a silver tabby does, and smokes are not set aside to have green eyes in otherwise gold or copper eyed breeds. On the other hand a golden is not a silver, and yet some breeds set aside goldens to have green eyes too. It makes no genetic sense to require copper eyes in a smoke, and green eyes in a silver tabby or shaded golden. If you really want those beautiful green eyes in silver tabbies (of which shaded silvers

are a version) in a breed that does not have green eyes in general, perhaps the standard should say “green preferred” with gold and/or copper allowed, and in the other colors say copper (or gold) preferred, so as to allow for crossing between different colors for type and health without severely penalizing the offspring on the show bench.

White cats and with-white particolor cats result from mutations in the KIT gene. These mutations can also affect the presence of pigment in the iris, resulting in one or two blue eyes or eyes with blue and non-blue sectors. It is important to remember that this effect is not very controllable. Solid white cats and cats that are homozygous for white spotting and have a lot of white on them are more likely to have affected irises. Restricting blue or part blue eyes in these colors will prevent otherwise show-worthy cats who may have had excellent show cat parents from being shown. That has been historically something that TICA tries not to do. We should encourage showing cats, out of show cats, who have traits that should be expected to occur. There are some exceptions, tailed Manx, Bombays in colors other than black, and solid black Egyptian Maus come to mind. Genetically, those situations do not make sense though.

With the advancing breeding restrictions in Europe and elsewhere we need to carefully consider what traits do and don't interfere with the quality of life of well-kept indoor cats. One of these concerns is deafness. One can argue that a well kept indoors deaf cat has no diminishment in its quality of life compared to a hearing cat, but few, if any, would argue that deafness should be bred for on purpose. Solid white cats may be deaf as a result of changes to the sensory cells caused by the effects of the white gene. Solid white cats may be deaf, or not, whatever their eye color is. In several countries white cats must be Baer tested to ensure that they are not deaf before they can be legally bred. On the other hand, even very high white, van patterned, homozygous with-white cats have not been shown to have an increased likelihood of being deaf compared to cats with no white, though they may be blue-eyed, odd-eyed, or have sector eyes.

Other mutations can and do cause blue eyes, both in cats and in other animals. Some are associated with health problems, others are not. Some of these mutant genes inherit recessively, others dominantly, or incompletely dominantly, where two copies causes more of an effect than just one. Below are some examples of known gene mutations that cause blue eyes in animals. This is by no means a complete list.

In humans mutations the OCA2 gene, and the HERC2 gene commonly cause blue eyes and are associated with no health problems. There is also a syndrome called Waardenburg syndrome that can cause blue eyes and other pigmentation changes. There are several types of Waardenburg syndrome, caused by different genes. The genes include PAX3 (type I and III), and MITF (type II), among others. Different mutations in the same gene can cause different effects. Some types are associated with deafness, others with physical deformities, some both.

In dogs blue eyes can be caused by duplication of a regulatory region in front of the ALX4 gene which is not associated with other problems, or by mutations in the PMEL (merle) gene, or due to mutations in MITF, also known as the extreme piebald gene in dogs. Both the merle gene

and the extreme piebald gene are associated with deafness. Dogs that are homozygous merle may also be blind.

In horses, piebald horses can have blue eyes caused by mutations in MITF or PAX3, they may also be deaf. Frame overo horses can also have blue eyes from their gene, a mutation in the endothelin receptor B (EDNRB) gene. If two frame overos are bred together a homozygous foal with a white coat, blue eyes, and an incomplete digestive tract can result. Those foals have lethal white syndrome and die within a day or two from their internal defects. Unfortunately it is not always clear that a horse has a copy of this mutation by its appearance, usually yes, but not always. Genetic testing is advised if a horse has any frame overo relatives. On the other hand, horses that have blue eyes due to mutations in the cream gene (the SLC45A2 gene previously known as MATP and OCA4) do not have deafness or health problems.

Why is this important in regards to these proposed breed standard changes?

In recent years the phenomenon of dominantly inheriting blue eyes (DBE) in cats without white has become something of a fad. Blue eyes in non-white, non-pointed, cats are attractive to people, so there is a market for DBE cats. Breeders of assorted breeds have crossed DBE cats from a variety of sources into their cats, and there is a demand for their blue-eyed kittens.

There are several different mutations involved with DBE. Some have been identified as PAX3 mutations which are linked to deafness as well as changing the structure of the cats face, moving the eyes farther apart and an apparent flattening of the nose bridge between the eyes. Other DBE mutations are unknown. Years ago another DBE breed was under development called Ojos Azules. They were abandoned due to lethal physical defects in homozygotes. Unfortunately multiple different mutations cause DBE and only some can be tested for.

Breed section members are concerned by these developments and several have worked on revising their breed standards to exclude DBE cats from Championship in their breeds. Several exclude blue eyes in cats that are not pointed and not white or with white. However, many DBE cats have a tiny bit of white, but not enough to truly be even mitted. Perhaps our UCD needs to define a minimum amount of white for a cat to be considered "with-white".

In these days of more understanding of genes and genomes in general, it is reasonably likely that new mutations can be identified and their possible health consequences determined with a reasonable amount of time and effort. In the meantime it is unwise for breeds to add in new mutations for fun (and profit) without any understanding of what the mutations are, how they cause the traits they cause, and what their health consequences could be. Having said that, once a trait's gene mutation is understood, if the effects are simply cosmetic and pleasing, a door should be able to be opened to acceptance if breeders are interested.

Certainly DBE caused by a PAX3 mutation linked to deafness is not something we want added in to our breeds. Nor do we want DBE cats that turn out to have mutations similar to frame overo or merle.

II) On the proposed standard changes for the Persian breed group standard

We support changes aimed at improving health. The overall rationale for these changes is excellent. We worked through a number of drafts with the Persian breed group committee and are pleased with the results. The added emphasis on smooth skulls, open nostrils, good breathing, allowing a little bit of moderation in the face, and penalizing hypertyped cats is all excellent and should help preserve the breed. We think this is a huge step forward.

“Blue or odd eyes only in whites or with white colors/patterns” is an appropriate way to help deal with the incursion of DBE into the breed group.

III) On the proposed standard changes for the MC/MCP breed standard

We also went through several drafts of this. The polydactyl toe positioning change is good.

The original proposal included language aimed at reducing the likelihood of DBE creeping into MC show cats. They already had included some in their previous standard revision, which was good, and are working at strengthening it. For now that is not in this version.

IV) On the proposed standard changes for the SB breed standard

Names that are not used in TICA, but are in other associations do not belong in TICA standards. Therefore “[Pointed Siberians are also known as Neva Masquerade](#)” should be removed, as should references to “Sunshine” coloration, although the genetics committee needs to revisit the naming of CORIN mutation colorations. Naming the first one CORIN in the first place was a mistake on our part, though it seemed like a good idea at the time. (Note: these concerns have been addressed in the final version.)

The comment on white lockets belongs in Allowances.

“In the Traditional category blue and odd-eye color is ONLY accepted in solid white or ‘with white’ cats.” Is another appropriate way to deal with the incursions of DBE cats.

Good work!

V) Comments on the Minuet Talls

The Genetics Committee does not have a complete consensus on the Minuet Talls.

Genetically all Minuets are heterozygous, carrying normal leg length, as at least one good copy of the gene is required for development of a fertilized egg into a kitten. The preferred breeding

plan of always breeding short to tall makes perfect sense as it avoids problems that could be caused by non-viable fertilized eggs that could result from Minuet to Minuet breedings. In any case Minuet breedings, like Manx breedings, will always have the potential to produce 'non-standard' cats, ones without the breed-defining mutation. The question here is whether these non-standard cats should compete in championship.

The large majority (5 of 7 responding committee members) do not think that the Minuet Tall is distinct enough to be a breed even as part of a breed group. In part this is due to the vagueness and contradictions in the Minuet standard. In part it is due to the fact that the short legs are a defining feature of the breed. Other than the short legs, the standard seems to be that of a moderated Persian type. Therefore, without the short legs, the breed is just not distinctive enough.

The only committee member who thinks that the breed is distinctive outside of the short legs in acceptance of the breed is Heather Lorimer. Her comment is that a good Minuet is quite distinctive even lying down on a judges table where you can't see its legs. They have that sweet face of the 'doll-face' Persian. It is a pretty, not terribly extreme look. There is no nose break and the top of the nose can be no higher than the bottom of the eyes.

A possible lack of distinctiveness is exacerbated by deficiencies in the standard. The whole committee has serious trouble with the Minuet type standard which is unclear, too minimal, and contradictory. Are the ears medium or medium small? The standard says medium but then has a preference for smaller? The nose description says it is to have an obvious stop, but the profile standard says "gentle curve to moderate stop". What exactly is wanted?

Several committee members (4 of 7) did see some advantages to having Minuet Talls in championship, for two main reasons. One committee member thinks these are valuable enough to outweigh the perceived lack of distinctiveness of the Minuet Talls. The advantages are:

1. To have judges evaluation of more of the breeding stock, to help keep to the standard and not go too extreme, have healthy appearing cats, have the coat right etc.
2. The Talls will not have any of the potential problems that could result from achondroplasia.

Overall the majority of the Genetics Committee do not recommend that Minuet Talls be championship cats at this time. We do recommend revisiting the standard and perhaps making revisions in it before asking for Minuet Talls again. Take a close look at the Persian, Scottish, and British breed group standards as comparisons. Minuet Talls need to be distinctive from those three groups for them to be a breed on their own.

Participating Committee Members:

Ellen Crocket
Adriana Kajon
Vikki Moran
Dragana Petkovic
Massimo Picardello

Lorraine Shelton
Heather Lorimer, Chair

RATIONALE FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE SIBERIAN GROUP STANDARDS

August 2024

The Siberian Breed Committee wishes to amend our breed standards whose previous revision was last accomplished in 2005.

In the time since 2005 we have seen significant growth in popularity of the breed and sadly, in many cases, the characteristic triple coat texture has been lost. We feel it is our responsibility to address this issue as well as better clarify our standards, minimize ambiguity and in general more succinctly describe the Siberian for both our esteemed judges and our breeders alike.

An additional immediate concern is a recent introduction of the Dominant Blue Eye gene to our natural breed, a breed that does not and has never allowed for any outcrosses. We propose to allow blue or odd eyes only in Solid White or Van patterned cats in the Traditional category and specify only blue eyes in the Pointed category to exclude use of DBE gene (dominant blue-eyed) in Siberian breed. At the latest WCF GA the important decisions were the establishment of a WCF Health and Welfare Commission, the prohibition from participation in exhibitions from November 1st onwards of polydactyl cats and DBE cats (pedigrees can still be issued), signifying the importance of reducing opportunities of potentially harmful genes entering established breeds made by other registries.



The committee wishes to see healthy and happy cats of our breed that conform to a standard promoting the best Siberian health and welfare.

We also wish to follow changes made by the Maine Coon breed section and disallow Chocolate, Cinnamon colours and their dilutes. These colours have never been allowed in Siberians by any other established cat associations (e.g. Fife, WCF, GCCF, LOOF) but have made their way into TICA and CFA Siberian standards by virtue of the current standard wording “All traditional and pointed colors.” At the time the previous Standards update was written these colors were not seen or considered in the Siberian breed. Additionally, the Ticked Tabby pattern is the only pattern in which Siberians do not naturally come nor are they seen without an outcross. Other Associations have already made this restriction (GCCF) or are moving to disallow this tabby pattern in the breed.

At this same time, we have taken the opportunity to look at other points that require updates and submit all of these to rules and genetics committees for their comments and it is our sincere hope, their full agreement.

Below is detailed each update that we are requesting and the rationale for doing so.

Original standard	Proposed change	Rationale for change
Opening introduction	Reordered to read as title	To read more logically and follow the title
Points allocations	Reallocated as attached	Give more weight and emphasis to coat texture and identify cheek bones as distinguishing SB head shape from all other breeds.
Category	No Change	
Divisions	No Change	
Colors	Updated from “All” to “Only dominant black-based (B/-) colors, including the result of sex-linked red allele (X ^o). Non-dominant black-based (b/-, b ¹ /-) modified colors, such as chocolate, lilac, cinnamon, fawn and caramel are not allowed. Permitted tabby patterns – mackerel, spotted, classic and shaded.”	Rationale is to reject Chocolate, Cinnamon, Caramel colours and their dilutes. These colours have never been allowed in Siberians but have made their way into TICA and CFA Siberians via the current standard phrasing “All traditional and pointed colors.” The ticked pattern does not naturally to Siberians without an outcross and is omitted.
HEAD - shape	Medium large trapezoid-shaped wedge with rounded contours, low set cheekbones, rounded muzzle and firm chin. Cheekbones are a key factor in the head shape of a Siberian. They are low set, broad and softly curved, connecting the muzzle to the outer edge of the ear and giving definition to the broad wedge-shaped head.	This better identifies the head with fewer words and more descriptive visual shape. More emphasis is given to cheekbones as they play major part to give the very distinctive Siberian look. Proper positioning of the cheekbones on the skull lead to the correct head width and shape and provides the necessary muzzle transition into the head.
HEAD - Ears	Medium - large, with relatively broad base, rounded and with a slight forward tilt. They are set as much on the sides of the head as on the top and one to one and one-half ear width apart. Well furnished with lynx tipping allowed.	More succinct general description of the ear. Added the description of the ear base to eliminate any perception that a narrow base fits the standard.
HEAD – Eyes	Large, moderately oval, with the lower half curvature being more fully rounded than the top lid. The eyes are set more than one eye’s width apart, slightly oblique with outer corner pointing toward the outer edge of the ear. Blue eye color is mandatory in the Pointed category. In the Traditional category blue and odd-eye color is ONLY accepted in solid white and ‘with white’ cats. Clear color is preferred. Copper color is undesirable.	Correction and better description provided for the eye shape, removing the round from the requirement. Added the eye colour requirements to specify that blue eyes are not acceptable in non solid white or van patterned cats, as are occurring by using outcrosses in the breed with genes that we do not want.

HEAD - Chin	No change	
HEAD - Muzzle	The muzzle is moderately short, full and rounded with a gentle and inconspicuous transition to the head. The lower jaw and chin are a substantial width and depth to complete the full rounded shape of the muzzle.	The description was updated to give more specifics on the desired muzzle length and shape.
HEAD - Profile	The flat top of the head leads to a slightly rounded forehead of good height without doming. It continues through a gentle curve at the bridge followed by a slight convex curvature of the nose before the tip. A straight nose tip is also permissible.	Rewording to give clear description as how the Siberian profile should be.
HEAD - Neck	No change	
BODY - Torso	The body is medium-long, with characteristic barrel-shaped appearance and feel, firm solid and well-muscled.	Rewording to give better description as how the Siberian torso should be.
BODY – Legs and Feet	Legs are medium length with muscular, thick, tree trunk boning and mighty strength. Rear legs are slightly longer than front legs, giving a minimal arch to the back and a bit more elevation to the hip over the shoulders. Feet are big and rounded, with abundant toe tufts as if wearing mittens.	Moved to combine Legs and Feet and to rationalize the effects of leg heights on the torso posture.
BODY - Tail	The tail is medium in length, proportionate to the body length. It is broad at the base, tapering slightly to a blunt tip and is thickly furnished.	Revised the verbiage and added the tail coat furnishing description.
BODY – Boning & Musculature	Boning is substantial. Musculature is strong.	Combined and revised to eliminate redundancy.
COAT/COLOR/PATTERN - Length	The coat is semi-long in length. The undercoat is the shortest and softest layer closest to the body and it is covered by a longer firmer topcoat. The longest part of a coat is the outermost protective guard hairs also known as a “raincoat.” The fur over the shoulders is shorter and blends into the longer coat on the body. The Winter coat exhibits abundant ruff encircling the neck, cascading down the chest, and setting off the cat’s head. Full britches and bushy tail dress their backend. The summer coat can be distinctly shorter and less dense, but triple texture must be present.	A full description of the three layers of triple coat is given for optimal understanding of the Siberians’ very unique and defining coat structure, it is not a long draping coat. We have given more specific description, such as that the hair across the shoulders just behind the ruff is distinctly shorter than both the ruff and the body coat though it blends seamlessly through that transition and how the neck ruff is exhibited.

<p>COAT/COLOR/ PATTERN - Texture</p>	<p>This is the most IMPORTANT unique feature of the breed. The triple coat consists of an undercoat, awn hairs and guard hairs. The undercoat is plentiful, dense and resilient. It is soft and has a somewhat springy texture making the outer coat stand away from the body. The awn hair is straight and slightly longer. It covers the woolly down undercoat and provides a layer of protective insulation. The longer guard hairs over the cat's back, flanks, and upper side of their tail. These have a noticeably coarser feel and add the topmost outer layer of water resistance for protecting the inner coat layers. The combination of these three layers gives the desired feel of a dense, resilient, and weatherproof coat.</p>	<p>The Siberian is the ONLY breed with a triple coat. It is a uniquely defining feature with distinct layers and each has its own texture so we have given a very detailed description on the texture which is missing from the existing standard. The importance of these layers and with correct textures distinguishes the Siberian coat like no other breed, therefore increased point value for this trait.</p>
<p>COAT/COLOR/ PATTERN - Pattern</p>	<p>Sound color and patterns are desirable, but secondary to texture. Any amount of white is allowed, with no preference or requirement for symmetry; off-white allowed on chin, breast and stomach of tabbies. CORIN coloration is a unique wide-band trait in the Siberian breed caused by a recessive variant in the CORIN gene, which influences the activity of Agouti Signaling protein (ASIP). This trait can be expressed in both silver and non-silver cats. CORIN goldens exhibit a warm undercoat tone, lightening of the tabby marks, and enlarged off-white area around the nose that extends to the chest, eumelanin colored paw pads, and a pink nose lacking the eumelanin outline usually observed in tabby cats. CORIN silvers exhibit a "bimetallic" coloration, where the cat exhibits silver tabby hairs, most prominently on the back of the cat, but also displays phaeomelanin expressing hairs, most commonly on the legs and belly. All patterns of CORIN tabby are possible, in all basic Eumelanistic colors, including torbies.</p>	<p>We have added more explanation on the coat appearance if the CORIN gene is present and how it is displayed.</p>
<p>GENERAL DESCRIPTION</p>	<p>The Siberian is a medium-large cat with the overall appearance of excellent physical condition, strength and power and dense weatherproof coat. The cat should be well-balanced with all the body parts in proportion to each other,</p>	<p>There has been modification in the second part of the general description to give a better overall impression that the Siberian must present – strength, robustness and power</p>

	<p>reflect excellent health and robust power with good muscle tone; and be amenable to handling. The overall aesthetic impression of a Siberian Cat's head are pleasingly rounded shapes and softly rounded contours, repeated from the tips of their ears, the shape of their eyes and full rounded muzzles, and extends onward through their barrel-shaped body to large well-rounded paws.</p> <p>Siberians are a slow developing breed, reaching full maturity, strength, and well-developed musculature between the ages of three and five years old. Males are notably larger than females. Size is secondary to type.</p>	packed in a healthy balanced cat.
LOCKETS	White buttons, spots and lockets are allowed in all colors.	Moved from allowances to separate section.
ALLOWANCES	The Siberian is a slow maturing breed, taking an average of three to five years to reach full structure and glorious coat. Coat coincides with age, development and import seasonal patterns. Consideration should be given with kittens and young adults, as well as seasonal variation in coat length and density with mature adults.	Revised wording, including age and seasonal considerations.
PENALIZE	Challenging temperament. Head: straight profile or deep profile curve, a stop or break; narrow pinched, long or foxy muzzle, almond-shaped or completely round eyes, Copper eye color.	The penalizing faults are updated to help eliminate more accruing faults in the breed, which we want to discourage
WW	<p>Non-permissible colours, evidence of illness, poor health, emaciation.</p> <p>Head: High set or narrow cheek bones; blue or odd eye color in coat colors other than solid white or with white in Traditional category.</p> <p>Body: Slight or delicate boning, build and musculature.</p> <p>Coat: Exceptionally soft and fine guard hairs on adult cats; Flat, draping silky coats on the body; Excessive coat length and volume; Fine, soft, silky or woolly overall coat texture; Lacking triple coat.</p>	Identifying the withholding faults to send a clear message to the breeders and judges which traits are not acceptable in Siberians. The blue eyes are being added by outcrosses, and this has never been allowed in Siberians. This is to improve the overall quality of the Siberians being bred and shown, which are lacking very important and distinguishing qualities of the breed.
DQ	Visible tail fault.	

SIBERIAN

The Siberian is a medium-large, semi-longhaired cat originating in Russia with traits most suited to its survival in a harsh outdoor environment. They are muscular, powerfully built cats whose distinctive head type, hefty body, and uniquely weatherproof triple coat qualities are important characteristics distinguishing them from any other breed and reflecting their natural heritage.

HEAD	40 points
Shape.....	12-14
Ears.....	5
Eyes.....	5
Chin.....	3
Muzzle.....	10-8
Profile.....	3
Neck.....	2
BODY	35 points
Torso.....	10
Legs/ Feet	5-8
Feet.....	3
Tail.....	5
Boning/ Musculature	6-12
Musculature.....	6
COAT/COLOR	15-25 points
Length.....	5
Texture.....	5-15
Color/Pattern.....	3-5
Color.....	2
OTHER	10 points
Balance.....	5
Condition.....	3
Temperament.....	2

CATEGORY: Traditional and Pointed.

DIVISIONS: All.

COLORS: Only dominant black-based (B/-) colors, including the result of sex-linked red allele (X^r). Non-dominant black-based (b/-, b¹/-) modified colors, such as chocolate, lilac, cinnamon, fawn and caramel are not allowed. Permitted tabby patterns – mackerel, spotted, classic and shaded.

PERMISSIBLE OUTCROSSES: None.

HEAD:

Shape: Medium large trapezoid-shaped wedge modified wedge of medium/large size with rounded contours, in good proportion to the body. The head is broader at the top of the skull and narrows slightly to a full low set cheekbones, rounded muzzle and firm chin. The cheekbones are neither high set nor prominent. Cheekbones are a key factor in the head shape of a Siberian. They are low set, broad and softly curved, connecting the muzzle to the outer edge of the ear and giving definition to the broad wedge-shaped head.

Ears: Medium-large, with relatively broad base, rounded, and with a slight forward tilt slightly forward. The ears should be set as much on the sides of the head as on the top. The ears are one to one and one half ear width apart. The hair over the back of the ear is short and thin. From the middle of the ear, the furnishings become longer and cover the base of the ear. Well furnished with lynx tipping allowed allowable.

Eyes: Large, moderately oval, with the lower half curvature being more fully rounded than the top lid, almost round, with the outer corner angled slightly towards the base of the

ear. The eyes are should be set more than one eye's width apart, slightly oblique with outer corner pointing toward the outer edge of the ear.

There is no relationship between eye color and coat color/pattern.

Blue eye color is mandatory in the Pointed category. In the Traditional category blue and odd-eye color is ONLY accepted in solid white or 'with white' cats. Clear color is preferred. Copper color is undesirable.

Chin: The chin is well-rounded but not protruding, and is in line with the nose.

Muzzle: The muzzle is moderately short in length, full and rounded with a gentle and inconspicuous transition to the head. The lower jaw and chin are a substantial width and depth to complete the full rounded shape of the muzzle. There is a slight muzzle curvature, but the transition between the side of the head and the muzzle is gentle and inconspicuous.

Profile: The flat top of the head leads to a slightly rounded forehead of good height without doming. It continues through a gentle curve at the bridge followed by the top of the head is almost flat, with a slight convex nose curvature of the nose before the tip a gentle slope from the forehead to the nose and a slight convex curvature before the tip when viewed in profile. A straight nose tip is also permissible.

Neck: The short neck is rounded, substantial and thickly muscular well-muscled.

BODY:

Torso: The body is medium-long in length, with characteristic well-muscled with the back arched slightly higher than the shoulders, with a barrel-shaped appearance, firm, belly giving the sensation of solid and well-muscled. weight (which appears with age).

Legs and Feet: Legs are medium in length and muscular with thick, tree trunk boning and a mighty strength. The hind Rear legs are slightly longer than the front legs, giving a minimal arch to the back and bit more elevation to the hip over the shoulders. Feet and should have substantial boning.

Feet: The feet are big and rounded, with abundant toe tufts desirable as if wearing mittens.

Tail: The tail is medium in length, proportionate to the body length. It is broad wide at the base, tapering slightly to a blunt tip and is thickly furnished. The tail should be somewhat shorter than the length of the body.

Boning and Musculature: Boning is substantial, musculature is strong.

Musculature: Substantiated, powerful.

COAT/ COLOUR/ PATTERN:

Length: The coat is semi-long in length. The undercoat is the shortest and softest layer closest to the body and it is covered by a longer firmer topcoat. The longest part of a coat is the outermost protective guard hairs also known as "raincoat."

The fur over the shoulders is shorter and blends into the longer coat on the body. The Winter coat exhibits abundant ruff encircling the neck, cascading down the chest, and setting off the cat's head. Full britches and a bushy tail dress their backend. The summer coat can be distinctly shorter and less dense,

but triple texture must be present.

This is a moderately long to longhaired cat with a triple coat. The hair on the shoulder blades and lower part of the chest being thick and slightly shorter. There should be an abundant ruff setting off the head. There is a tight undercoat (in mature cats), thicker in cold weather. Allow for warm weather coats. The hair may thicken to curls on the belly and britches, but a wavy coat is not characteristic.

Texture: Varies coarse to soft, varying according to color. This is the most IMPORTANT unique feature of the breed. The triple coat consists of an undercoat, awn hairs and guard hairs. The undercoat is plentiful, dense, and resilient. It is soft and has a somewhat springy texture making the outer coat stand away from the body. The awn hair is straight and slightly longer. It covers the woolly down undercoat and provides a layer of protective insulation. The longer guard hairs cover the cat's back, flanks, and upper side of their tail. These have a noticeably coarser feel and add the topmost outer layer of water resistance for protecting the inner coat layers. The combination of these three layers gives the desired feel of a dense, resilient, and weatherproof coat.

Color/Pattern: Clear-Sound color and patterns are desirable, but secondary to type texture.

Color: All traditional and pointed colors and combinations are accepted with or without white. White or Any amount of white is allowed, with no preference or requirement for symmetry; off-white allowed on chin, breast and stomach of tabbies; white allowed in most areas. Strong colors are desirable, but secondary to type.

CORIN coloration is a unique wide-band trait in Siberian breed caused by a recessive variant in the CORIN gene, which influences the activity of Agouti Signaling protein (ASIP). This trait can be expressed in both silver and non-silver cats. CORIN goldens exhibit a warm undercoat tone, lightening of the tabby marks, and enlarged off-white area around the nose that extends to the chest, eumelanin colored paw pads, and a pink nose lacking the eumelanin outline usually observed in tabby cats. CORIN silvers exhibit a "bimetallic" colorations, where the cat exhibits silver tabby hairs, most prominently on the back of the cat, but also displays phaeomelanin expressing hairs, most commonly on the legs and belly. All patterns of CORIN tabby are possible, in all basic Eumelanistic colors, including torbies.

OTHER:

Balance: Well-proportioned.

Condition: Excellent health in good overall condition.

Temperament: Must be unchallenging.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The Siberian is a medium-large cat with the overall appearance of excellent physical condition, strength and power and dense weatherproof coat. The cat should be well-balanced with all the body parts in proportion to each other, reflect excellent health and robust power with good muscle tone; and be amenable to handling.

The overall aesthetic impression of a Siberian Cat's head are pleasingly rounded shapes and softly rounded contours, repeated from the tips of their ears, the shape of their eyes and full rounded muzzles, and extends onward through their barrel-shaped body to large well-rounded paws.

Siberians are a slow developing breed, reaching full maturity, strength, and well-developed musculature between the ages of three and five years old.

Males are notably larger than females.

modified by a sweet faciat expression. The general impression of the body is one of circles and roundness. Siberians are slow to mature, taking as long as 5 years to reach full maturity. Females are considerably smaller than males, and allowances should be made when comparing females and young cats to the standard. Size is secondary to type.x

LOCKETS: White buttons, spots, and lockets are allowed in all colors.

ALLOWANCES:

Because

The Siberian is a slow maturing breed, taking an average of three to five years to reach full structure and glorious coat. Coat coincides with age, development, and important seasonal patterns. Consideration when judging should be given with kittens and young adults, as well as seasonal variation in coat length and density with mature adults. Buttons, spots, and lockets are allowed in all colors. (moved to LOCKETS)

PENALIZE: Challenging temperament.

Head: Straight profile or deep profile curve, a stop or break; narrow, pinched, long or foxy muzzle, almond-shaped or completely round eyes, copper eye colour.

Body: Tail too long or too short; delicate boning; non-muscular, long body, very long legs, narrow chest, unhealthy weight; too heavy or too slight.

WITHHOLD ALL AWARDS: Evidence of illness, poor health, emaciation, visible tail fault;

Head: High set or narrow cheek bones; blue or odd eye color in coat colors other than solid white or with white in Traditional category.

Body: Slight or delicate boning, build and musculature.

Coat: Non-permissible colours, exceptionally soft and fine guard hairs on adult cats, flat, draping, silky coats on the body; excessive coat length and volume; fine, soft, silky, or woolly overall coat texture, lacking triple coat.

DISQUALIFY: Visible tail fault.

Temperament must be unchallenging; any sign of definite challenge shall disqualify. The cat may exhibit fear, seek to flee, or generally complain aloud but may not threaten to harm. In accordance with Show Rules, ARTICLE SIXTEEN, the following shall be considered mandatory disqualifications: a cat that bites (216.9), a cat showing evidence of intent to deceive (216.10), adult whole male cats not having two descended testicles (216.11), cats with all or part of the tail missing, except as authorized by a Board approved standard (216.12.1), cats with more than five toes on each front foot and four toes on each back foot, unless proved the result of an injury or as authorized by a Board approved standard (216.12.2), visible or invisible tail faults if Board approved standard requires disqualification (216.12.4), crossed eyes if Board approved standard requires disqualification (216.12.5), total blindness (216.12.6), markedly smaller size, not in keeping with the breed (216.12.9), and depression of the sternum or unusually small diameter of the rib cage itself (216.12.11.1). See Show Rules, ARTICLE SIXTEEN for more comprehensive rules governing penalties and disqualifications.

Siberian Breed Standard, 05/01/2005 01/08/2024

SIBERIAN

The Siberian is a medium-large, semi-longhaired cat originating in Russia with traits most suited to its survival in a harsh outdoor environment. They are muscular, powerfully built cats whose distinctive head type, hefty body, and uniquely weatherproof triple coat qualities are important characteristics distinguishing them from any other breed and reflecting their natural heritage.

HEAD	40 points
Shape	14
Ears	5
Eyes	5
Chin	3
Muzzle.....	8
Profile	3
Neck	2
BODY	35 points
Torso.....	10
Legs/Feet.....	8
Tail.....	5
Boning/Musculature.....	12
COAT/COLOR	25 points
Length	5
Texture.....	15
Color/Pattern.....	5

CATEGORY: Traditional and Pointed.

DIVISIONS: All.

COLORS: Only dominant black-based (B/-) colors, including the result of sex-linked red allele (X^c). Non-dominant black-based (b/-, b¹/-) modified colors, such as chocolate, lilac, cinnamon, fawn and caramel are not allowed. Permitted tabby patterns – mackerel, spotted, classic and shaded.

PERMISSIBLE OUTCROSSES: None.

HEAD:

Shape: Medium large trapezoid-shaped wedge with rounded contours, low set cheekbones, rounded muzzle and firm chin. Cheekbones are a key factor in the head shape of a Siberian. They are low set, broad and softly curved, connecting the muzzle to the outer edge of the ear and giving definition to the broad wedge-shaped head.

Ears: Medium-large, with a relatively broad base, rounded, and with a slight forward tilt. They are set as much on the sides of the head as on the top and are one to one- and one-half ear width apart. Well furnished with lynx tipping allowed.

Eyes: Large, moderately oval, with the lower half curvature being more fully rounded than the top lid. The eyes are set more than one eye’s width apart, slightly oblique with outer corner pointing toward the outer edge of the ear.

Blue eye color is mandatory in the Pointed category. In the Traditional category blue and odd-eye color is ONLY accepted in solid white or ‘with white’ cats. Clear color is preferred. Copper color is undesirable.

Chin: The chin is firm, well-rounded but not protruding and is in line with the nose.

Muzzle: The muzzle is moderately short, full and rounded with a gentle and inconspicuous transition to the head. The lower jaw and chin are a substantial width and depth to complete the full rounded shape of the muzzle.

Profile: The flat top of the head leads to a slightly rounded forehead of good height without doming. It continues through a gentle curve at the bridge followed by a slight convex curvature of the nose before the tip. A straight nose tip is also permissible.

Neck: The short neck is rounded, substantial and thickly muscular.

BODY:

Torso: The body is medium-long, with characteristic barrel-shaped appearance, firm, solid and well-muscled.

Legs and Feet: Legs are medium length and muscular with thick, tree trunk boning and a mighty strength. Rear legs are slightly longer than front legs, giving a minimal arch to the back and bit more elevation to the hip over the shoulders. Feet are big and rounded, with abundant toe tufts as if wearing mittens.

Tail: The tail is medium in length, proportionate to the body length. It is broad at the base, tapering slightly to a blunt tip and is thickly furnished.

Boning and Musculature: Boning is substantial, musculature is strong.

COAT/ COLOUR/ PATTERN:

Length: The coat is semi-long in length. The undercoat is the shortest and softest layer closest to the body and it is covered by a longer firmer topcoat. The longest part of a coat is the outermost protective guard hairs also known as “raincoat.” The fur over the shoulders is shorter and blends into the longer coat on the body.

The Winter coat exhibits abundant ruff encircling the neck, cascading down the chest, and setting off the cat’s head. Full britches and a bushy tail dress their backend. The summer coat can be distinctly shorter and less dense, but triple texture must be present.

Texture: This is the most IMPORTANT unique feature of the breed. The triple coat consists of an undercoat, awn hairs and guard hairs. The undercoat is plentiful, dense, and resilient. It is soft and has a somewhat springy texture making the outer coat stand away from the body. The awn hair is straight and slightly

longer. It covers the woolly down undercoat and provides a layer of protective insulation. The longer guard hairs cover the cat’s back, flanks, and upper side of their tail. These have a noticeably coarser feel and add the topmost outer layer of water resistance for protecting the inner coat layers. The combination of these three layers gives the desired feel of a dense, resilient, and weatherproof coat.

Color/Pattern: Sound color and patterns are desirable, but secondary to texture. Any amount of white is allowed, with no preference or requirement for symmetry; off-white allowed on chin, breast and stomach of tabbies.

CORIN coloration is a unique wide-band trait in the Siberian breed caused by a recessive variant in the CORIN gene, which influences the activity of Agouti Signaling protein (ASIP). This trait can be expressed in both silver and non-silver cats. CORIN goldens exhibit a warm undercoat tone, lightening of the tabby marks, and enlarged off-white area around the nose that extends to the chest, eumelanin colored paw pads, and a pink nose lacking the eumelanin outline usually observed in tabby cats. CORIN silvers exhibit a “bimetallic” coloration, where the cat exhibits silver tabby hairs, most prominently on the back of the cat, but also displays phaeomelanin expressing hairs, most commonly on the legs and belly. All patterns of CORIN tabby are possible, in all basic Eumelanistic colors, including torbies.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Siberian is a medium-large cat with the overall appearance of excellent physical condition, strength and power and dense weatherproof coat. The cat should be well-balanced with all the body parts in proportion to each other, reflect excellent health and robust power with good muscle tone; and be amenable to handling. The overall aesthetic impression of a Siberian Cat’s head are pleasingly rounded shapes and softly rounded contours, repeated from the tips of their ears, the shape of their eyes and full rounded muzzles, and extends onward through their barrel-shaped body to large well-rounded paws.

Siberians are a slow developing breed, reaching full maturity, strength, and well-developed musculature between the ages of three and five years old.

Males are notably larger than females. Size is secondary to type.

LOCKETS: White buttons, spots, and lockets are allowed in all colors.

ALLOWANCES: The Siberian is a slow maturing breed, taking an average of three to five years to reach full structure and glorious coat. Coat coincides

with age, development, and important seasonal patterns. Consideration should be given to kittens and young adults, as well as seasonal variation in coat length and density with mature adults.

PENALIZE: Challenging temperament.

Head: Straight profile or deep profile curve, a stop or break; narrow, pinched, long or foxy muzzle, almond-shaped or completely round eyes, copper eye colour.

Body: Tail too long or too short, long body, long legs, narrow chest, unhealthy weight: too heavy or too slight.

WITHHOLD ALL AWARDS: Evidence of illness, poor health, emaciation.

Head: High set or narrow cheek bones; blue or odd eye color in coat colors other than solid white or with white in Traditional category.

Body: Slight or delicate boning, build and musculature.

Coat: Non-permissible colors, exceptionally soft and fine guard hairs on adult cats, flat, draping, silky coats on the body; excessive coat length and volume; fine, soft, silky, or woolly overall coat texture, lacking triple coat.

DISQUALIFY: Visible tail fault.

Temperament must be unchallenging; any sign of definite challenge shall disqualify. The cat may exhibit fear, seek to flee, or generally complain aloud but may not threaten to harm. In accordance with Show Rules, ARTICLE SIXTEEN, the following shall be considered mandatory disqualifications: a cat that bites (216.9), a cat showing evidence of intent to deceive (216.10), adult whole male cats not having two descended testicles (216.11), cats with all or part of the tail missing, except as authorized by a Board approved standard (216.12.1), cats with more than five toes on each front foot and four toes on each back foot, unless proved the result of an injury or as authorized by a Board approved standard (216.12.2), visible or invisible tail faults if Board approved standard requires disqualification (216.12.4), crossed eyes if Board approved standard requires disqualification (216.12.5), total blindness (216.12.6), markedly smaller size, not in keeping with the breed (216.12.9), and depression of the sternum or unusually small diameter of the rib cage itself (216.12.11.1). See Show Rules, ARTICLE SIXTEEN for more comprehensive rules governing penalties and disqualifications.

Siberian Breed Standard, 01/08/2024

Rules Committee Comments on Standard Changes (Winter 2025)

Summary

There were three standards submitted for approval for this meeting:

- MC/MCP Breed Group
- PS/HI/ES Breed group
- **Siberian**

All three were submitted within the deadline for review by Rules and Genetics. Changes as result of reviews by both Committees have taken time to be processed by the respective Breed Committees. At the time of writing this report, Siberian BC has not provided updated copies of their proposed changes.

From a Rules perspective, the proposed changes were correctly formatted and worded, subject to any comments noted below for each submission.

Some clarifications that were needed in two of the proposals (PS/HI/ES and Siberian) were referred to the Genetics Committee.

The marked-up Standards and accompanying rationales are supplied separately to this report.

MC/MCP Comments

The proposed changes cover what is acceptable for “thumbs” on MCP cats

Rules Committee had no concerns over this revision.

PS/HI/ES Comments

Following our initial review, the BC updated the changes to reflect Rules’ concerns on wording of the DQ revisions and body shading in Pointed ES as well as the HI.

Rules approved this version, and were happy to accept any wording changes subsequently suggested by the Genetics Committee.

Siberian Comments

The proposed revisions were approved subject to the phrase “Pointed Siberians are also known as Neva Masquerade” being removed from the section on Color/Pattern. This term is not used in TICA and does not need to be in the standard.

One member of the Rules Committee felt that some WW items were prone to different interpretations. For example: “excessive coat length and volume” and also “High set or narrow cheekbones”. This was referred back to the BC for their consideration, but not treated as a formal rejection by Rules Committee.

As usual, Rules Committee is happy to accept any wording changes subsequently suggested by the Genetics Committee.

(Rules Comments – W2025 Standard Changes – Page 1 of 1)

Genetics Committee Breed Comments for the Winter Meeting 2024

This has a long introduction to the eye-color issue which underlies some of the proposed standard changes. Our comments for three breed standard revisions and request for Championship of the Minuet Talls are after that. The individual breed committees, Rules committee, and Genetics committee, have done extensive work on the standard changes, so there are less comments on the standards at this point.

The goal of the Genetics Committee is to promote policies and standards that make genetic sense, to safeguard the genetic health and welfare of our breeds, and to encourage the breeding and exhibition of healthy, beautiful, cats.

I) Introduction: Notes on Eye-Colors and New Mutations.

Several breeds, including two of the three here, as well as earlier versions of the third, have included language to try to prevent dominant blue-eye (DBE) genes unconnected to the standard KIT mutations that cause cats to be white or with-white from competing on the show bench. There are good reasons for this. However, care needs to be taken to not remove cats from Championship who do not have DBE and previously could be shown. As more and more breeds take up this issue there should be a clear understanding of the nature of blue eyes in our existing cats as well as what we know about the genetics of DBE cats. Therefore, we are providing an introduction to the topic. We hope that all breed committees that are thinking about revising their standard in light of the DBE mutations, or even altering their eye color standards for other reasons, as well as board members, judges, and breeders, who may need to make decisions in regards to eye color, will read this to help become informed on the topic.

This is a soapbox issue for Heather Lorimer, so she apologizes in advance for its length.

Traditional color cats without white can have eyes in a wide variety of colors, any shade of green, yellow, gold or copper heading into brick-like brownish color. There is no correlation between the traditional coat colors and eye color with the exception that true blue eyes are only found in some white and part-white cats, unless there is some other mutation present. Sepia cats do not have eye color that makes it to copper, but they can have all the other colors, including very warm gold. Mink cats range from near to pointed blue through aqua and into blue-greens. Pointed cats all have some variety of blue eyes from very pale to deepest indigo.

In the Traditional category “eye color to conform with coat color” makes no genetic sense. There is no reason for a silver tabby to have green eyes other than that we like it and breed for it. Remember that a smoke has the same silver gene that a silver tabby does, and smokes are not set aside to have green eyes in otherwise gold or copper eyed breeds. On the other hand a golden is not a silver, and yet some breeds set aside goldens to have green eyes too. It makes no genetic sense to require copper eyes in a smoke, and green eyes in a silver tabby or shaded golden. If you really want those beautiful green eyes in silver tabbies (of which shaded silvers

are a version) in a breed that does not have green eyes in general, perhaps the standard should say “green preferred” with gold and/or copper allowed, and in the other colors say copper (or gold) preferred, so as to allow for crossing between different colors for type and health without severely penalizing the offspring on the show bench.

White cats and with-white particolor cats result from mutations in the KIT gene. These mutations can also affect the presence of pigment in the iris, resulting in one or two blue eyes or eyes with blue and non-blue sectors. It is important to remember that this effect is not very controllable. Solid white cats and cats that are homozygous for white spotting and have a lot of white on them are more likely to have affected irises. Restricting blue or part blue eyes in these colors will prevent otherwise show-worthy cats who may have had excellent show cat parents from being shown. That has been historically something that TICA tries not to do. We should encourage showing cats, out of show cats, who have traits that should be expected to occur. There are some exceptions, tailed Manx, Bombays in colors other than black, and solid black Egyptian Maus come to mind. Genetically, those situations do not make sense though.

With the advancing breeding restrictions in Europe and elsewhere we need to carefully consider what traits do and don't interfere with the quality of life of well-kept indoor cats. One of these concerns is deafness. One can argue that a well kept indoors deaf cat has no diminishment in its quality of life compared to a hearing cat, but few, if any, would argue that deafness should be bred for on purpose. Solid white cats may be deaf as a result of changes to the sensory cells caused by the effects of the white gene. Solid white cats may be deaf, or not, whatever their eye color is. In several countries white cats must be Baer tested to ensure that they are not deaf before they can be legally bred. On the other hand, even very high white, van patterned, homozygous with-white cats have not been shown to have an increased likelihood of being deaf compared to cats with no white, though they may be blue-eyed, odd-eyed, or have sector eyes.

Other mutations can and do cause blue eyes, both in cats and in other animals. Some are associated with health problems, others are not. Some of these mutant genes inherit recessively, others dominantly, or incompletely dominantly, where two copies causes more of an effect than just one. Below are some examples of known gene mutations that cause blue eyes in animals. This is by no means a complete list.

In humans mutations the OCA2 gene, and the HERC2 gene commonly cause blue eyes and are associated with no health problems. There is also a syndrome called Waardenburg syndrome that can cause blue eyes and other pigmentation changes. There are several types of Waardenburg syndrome, caused by different genes. The genes include PAX3 (type I and III), and MITF (type II), among others. Different mutations in the same gene can cause different effects. Some types are associated with deafness, others with physical deformities, some both.

In dogs blue eyes can be caused by duplication of a regulatory region in front of the ALX4 gene which is not associated with other problems, or by mutations in the PMEL (merle) gene, or due to mutations in MITF, also known as the extreme piebald gene in dogs. Both the merle gene

and the extreme piebald gene are associated with deafness. Dogs that are homozygous merle may also be blind.

In horses, piebald horses can have blue eyes caused by mutations in MITF or PAX3, they may also be deaf. Frame overo horses can also have blue eyes from their gene, a mutation in the endothelin receptor B (EDNRB) gene. If two frame overos are bred together a homozygous foal with a white coat, blue eyes, and an incomplete digestive tract can result. Those foals have lethal white syndrome and die within a day or two from their internal defects. Unfortunately it is not always clear that a horse has a copy of this mutation by its appearance, usually yes, but not always. Genetic testing is advised if a horse has any frame overo relatives. On the other hand, horses that have blue eyes due to mutations in the cream gene (the SLC45A2 gene previously known as MATP and OCA4) do not have deafness or health problems.

Why is this important in regards to these proposed breed standard changes?

In recent years the phenomenon of dominantly inheriting blue eyes (DBE) in cats without white has become something of a fad. Blue eyes in non-white, non-pointed, cats are attractive to people, so there is a market for DBE cats. Breeders of assorted breeds have crossed DBE cats from a variety of sources into their cats, and there is a demand for their blue-eyed kittens.

There are several different mutations involved with DBE. Some have been identified as PAX3 mutations which are linked to deafness as well as changing the structure of the cats face, moving the eyes farther apart and an apparent flattening of the nose bridge between the eyes. Other DBE mutations are unknown. Years ago another DBE breed was under development called Ojos Azules. They were abandoned due to lethal physical defects in homozygotes. Unfortunately multiple different mutations cause DBE and only some can be tested for.

Breed section members are concerned by these developments and several have worked on revising their breed standards to exclude DBE cats from Championship in their breeds. Several exclude blue eyes in cats that are not pointed and not white or with white. However, many DBE cats have a tiny bit of white, but not enough to truly be even mitted. Perhaps our UCD needs to define a minimum amount of white for a cat to be considered "with-white".

In these days of more understanding of genes and genomes in general, it is reasonably likely that new mutations can be identified and their possible health consequences determined with a reasonable amount of time and effort. In the meantime it is unwise for breeds to add in new mutations for fun (and profit) without any understanding of what the mutations are, how they cause the traits they cause, and what their health consequences could be. Having said that, once a trait's gene mutation is understood, if the effects are simply cosmetic and pleasing, a door should be able to be opened to acceptance if breeders are interested.

Certainly DBE caused by a PAX3 mutation linked to deafness is not something we want added in to our breeds. Nor do we want DBE cats that turn out to have mutations similar to frame overo or merle.

II) On the proposed standard changes for the Persian breed group standard

We support changes aimed at improving health. The overall rationale for these changes is excellent. We worked through a number of drafts with the Persian breed group committee and are pleased with the results. The added emphasis on smooth skulls, open nostrils, good breathing, allowing a little bit of moderation in the face, and penalizing hypertyped cats is all excellent and should help preserve the breed. We think this is a huge step forward.

“Blue or odd eyes only in whites or with white colors/patterns” is an appropriate way to help deal with the incursion of DBE into the breed group.

III) On the proposed standard changes for the MC/MCP breed standard

We also went through several drafts of this. The polydactyl toe positioning change is good.

The original proposal included language aimed at reducing the likelihood of DBE creeping into MC show cats. They already had included some in their previous standard revision, which was good, and are working at strengthening it. For now that is not in this version.

IV) On the proposed standard changes for the SB breed standard

Names that are not used in TICA, but are in other associations do not belong in TICA standards. Therefore “[Pointed Siberians are also known as Neva Masquerade](#)” should be removed, as should references to “Sunshine” coloration, although the genetics committee needs to revisit the naming of CORIN mutation colorations. Naming the first one CORIN in the first place was a mistake on our part, though it seemed like a good idea at the time. (Note: these concerns have been addressed in the final version.)

The comment on white lockets belongs in Allowances.

“In the Traditional category blue and odd-eye color is ONLY accepted in solid white or ‘with white’ cats.” Is another appropriate way to deal with the incursions of DBE cats.

Good work!

v) Comments on the Minuet Talls

The Genetics Committee does not have a complete consensus on the Minuet Talls.

Genetically all Minuets are heterozygous, carrying normal leg length, as at least one good copy of the gene is required for development of a fertilized egg into a kitten. The preferred breeding

plan of always breeding short to tall makes perfect sense as it avoids problems that could be caused by non-viable fertilized eggs that could result from Minuet to Minuet breedings. In any case Minuet breedings, like Manx breedings, will always have the potential to produce 'non-standard' cats, ones without the breed-defining mutation. The question here is whether these non-standard cats should compete in championship.

The large majority (5 of 7 responding committee members) do not think that the Minuet Tall is distinct enough to be a breed even as part of a breed group. In part this is due to the vagueness and contradictions in the Minuet standard. In part it is due to the fact that the short legs are a defining feature of the breed. Other than the short legs, the standard seems to be that of a moderated Persian type. Therefore, without the short legs, the breed is just not distinctive enough.

The only committee member who thinks that the breed is distinctive outside of the short legs in acceptance of the breed is Heather Lorimer. Her comment is that a good Minuet is quite distinctive even lying down on a judges table where you can't see its legs. They have that sweet face of the 'doll-face' Persian. It is a pretty, not terribly extreme look. There is no nose break and the top of the nose can be no higher than the bottom of the eyes.

A possible lack of distinctiveness is exacerbated by deficiencies in the standard. The whole committee has serious trouble with the Minuet type standard which is unclear, too minimal, and contradictory. Are the ears medium or medium small? The standard says medium but then has a preference for smaller? The nose description says it is to have an obvious stop, but the profile standard says "gentle curve to moderate stop". What exactly is wanted?

Several committee members (4 of 7) did see some advantages to having Minuet Talls in championship, for two main reasons. One committee member thinks these are valuable enough to outweigh the perceived lack of distinctiveness of the Minuet Talls. The advantages are:

1. To have judges evaluation of more of the breeding stock, to help keep to the standard and not go too extreme, have healthy appearing cats, have the coat right etc.
2. The Talls will not have any of the potential problems that could result from achondroplasia.

Overall the majority of the Genetics Committee do not recommend that Minuet Talls be championship cats at this time. We do recommend revisiting the standard and perhaps making revisions in it before asking for Minuet Talls again. Take a close look at the Persian, Scottish, and British breed group standards as comparisons. Minuet Talls need to be distinctive from those three groups for them to be a breed on their own.

Participating Committee Members:

Ellen Crocket
Adriana Kajon
Vikki Moran
Dragana Petkovic
Massimo Picardello

Lorraine Shelton
Heather Lorimer, Chair

RATIONALE FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE PERSIAN GROUP STANDARDS

NOVEMBER 2024

The Persian Breed Group committee wish to amend our standards which have not been revisited since 2004.

In this time we have seen significant development in the general type of the breed. Sadly in some cases this has led to an over exaggeration of certain features that have been in detriment to the breed such as reduced nose and nostril size, breathing difficulties, incorrect bites, misalignment of teeth and narrow jaws. We feel it is our responsibility to address these issues and therefore there is a need to make changes to our standards making it clearer for our judges and our breeders.

In addition to our concerns, it has been a significant area for discussion and concern internationally. Leslie Lyons at the WCC level has addressed this issue and called for a working group to be formed to try and take these issues forward. PBG Chair Jane Allen has been asked to be part of the group as has Heather Lorimer and Lies Mullem RD EN. Brachycephalic breeds both in dogs and cats are under the spotlight across Europe and our breed group is under threat of being banned in some countries indeed in some regions of Austria and the Netherlands the breeding of our breeds is definitely under threat.



This poster has been displayed in the Netherlands recently.

The committee wishes to see healthy and happy cats of our breeds that conform to a standard that promotes health and welfare in harmony with the sweet and balanced look of the Persian Group cats.

At the same time, we have taken the opportunity to look at other points that require updating and submit all of these to rules and genetics committees for their comments and hopefully agreement.

Below are details on each change we are requesting and the rationale for doing so.

Original standard	Proposed change	Rationale for change
Opening introduction	Reordered to read as title, PS/HI/ES	To read more logically and follow the title
Points allocations	Reallocated as attached	Give more weight and emphasis to head with particular reference to skull shape, eyes, nose and jaw.
Categories	Remove Sepia and Mink	Since 2000 there has been 12,852 Persians and 6,054 exotics registered in TICA, of those 3 PS and 6 ES were either sepia (3) or mink (6) and none seen on the show bench. We would request this alteration especially as we are working to improve eye colour in traditional and pointed varieties
Increase head points to 40	See track change document	Head is where the most challenges lie, so we have increased the points values of eyes, nose and most importantly the bite and jaw. We feel loosing 2 points for the neck is valid in this case.
HEAD - shape	Added smooth	To give added emphasis to a smooth head
HEAD - jaws	“should be” and perfect alignment	Added for ease of reading plus it’s about the whole jaw not just tooth alignment which is described later in penalties
HEAD – eyes - colour	Delete preferred as deep eye colour is a requirement. Copper eye color are preferred in all colours except for silver and golden where green eyes are preferred. Blue or odd eyes only in whites or with white colors/patterns. HI and pointed ES: Medium blue eye color is acceptable.	We want to emphasise that eye colour should be as deep as possible and related to the coat colour. HI remove pale blue We wish to discourage the further development of the DBE in our breed so have been prescriptive in eye colour.

HEAD - nose	Fully formed nose leather	Breed criticised for small noses and reduced nostril size and shape we want to make it clear to judges and breeders the leather must be fully formed and with open nostrils.
HEAD - profile	More description of the placement of nose break.	Some breaks are too high so guidance given here as to where the ideal placement should be.
HEAD - forehead	Forehead, nose and chin appear to be in line or very slightly rounded in keeping with the roundness of the head as a whole.	More specific how to look at it.
BODY - feet	Should be tufted PS/HI	More clarification needed as all longhairs have tufts!
COAT - length	Removed some wording and moved to allowances.	Moved to allowances as that is what it is referring to and we wished to draw attention to the HZ ES coat as there is a lack of understanding
COLOUR - HI	Clear body colour	Seeing trend towards darker body colouring in HI that is solid to roots therefore not seasonal. BC added more in the penalties to further describe
LOCKETS	Added under separate heading as other newer standards have done.	No change to actual standard just moved to separate section
ALLOWANCES	See additional text	Give more guidance to judges and breeders on ideals within the standard and especially with developmental stages in kittens.
PENALIZE	See additional text	As above to give more guidance and indeed support in making difficult decisions
WW	See additional text	To ensure that these unhealthy and undesirable traits are penalized appropriately and gives strong message to judges and breeders that they are unacceptable to our breed standards
DQ	See additional text	As above point this is a very serious fault in our breed and one that we do not wish to see proliferated hence the severity and stressing of this message.

Jane Allen, Jorge Garnica, Brigitte Pouilot, Christa Chapman, Dodie Ihde Johnson, Martha Johnson Moore, Evita Naumenko

Persian Breed Group Committee

PERSIAN BREED GROUP (PS/HI/ES)

The breed group comprises the Persian (PS), Himalayan (HI) and the Exotic shorthair (ES). All have the same head and body type; the characteristics distinguishing the breeds are the coat and coloration. The PS and HI have a long flowing coat, while the ES has a distinct short, plush and stand away coat texture. The PS origin is steeped in the mists of time, the HI is a man-made breed seeking to produce the pointed version of the PS and the ES was developed to be more resembling of a teddy bear with the facial features of the PS/HI but with a shorter, denser and more plush coat, longer than that of other shorthair breeds but still short enough not to flow. (PS/ES) All traditional and (HI) pointed colors are accepted. The only allowable genotypes at locus C are CC, Cc^s and c^sc^s.

HEAD	35-40 points
Shape	5-6
Ears	5
Eyes	10-7
Chin/Jaw and Bite.....	3-10
Nose	5-7
Profile	5
Neck	2

BODY	35 points
Torso	10
Feet and Legs	5-10
Tail	5
Boning/ Musculature.....	10
Musculature	5

COAT/COLOR/PATTERN ..	20-25 points
Length/Texture	10-15
Color/Pattern	10

OTHER	10 points
Condition	5
Balance	5

CATEGORIES:

PS: Traditional, ~~Sepia, and Mink~~

HI: Pointed.

ES: ~~All~~ Traditional and Pointed

DIVISIONS: All.

COLOR: All.

PERMISSIBLE OUTCROSSES: None.

HEAD:

Shape: Round, broad, smooth, domed, with great breadth. Should be medium to large in size and in proportion to body. symmetrical and balanced.

Jaws should be broad and powerful with correct tooth occlusion alignment. Cheeks should be wide and full and prominent. Overall sweet expression. **Ears:** Small and round tipped, not unduly open base. Set wide apart, fitting into contour of head.

Eyes: Large, round, and full. Set level and far apart giving a sweet expression to the face, eye color has

equal importance to size and shape.

PS/ES: Deep brilliant eye color preferred which conforms to coat color. Copper eyes are preferred in all colors except for silver and golden where green eyes are preferred. Blue or odd eyes only in whites or with white colors/patterns.

~~HI and pointed ES: Deepest blue preferred, but light to Medium blue eye color is acceptable.~~

Chin: Strong, full, well-developed, fitting into the face.

Nose: Almost as broad as long with fully formed nose leather and open nostrils. Muzzle should be short, broad and full.

Profile: Short, snub-nose, definite break directly between eyes. Break to be above the bottom edge of the eyes and no higher than the center of the eyes. Forehead, nose and chin in straight line appear to be in line or very slightly rounded in keeping with the roundness of the head as a whole.

Neck: Short, thick, and well-muscled.

BODY:

Torso: Cobby, firm, well-rounded mid section, in proportion. Medium to large in size. Back short and level. The chest is to be deep; equally massive across the shoulders and rump with a short, well-rounded abdomen and ribs **Legs:** Large bones, well-developed and with firm musculature. In front view, the forelegs should be short and straight from breadth of chest adding to sturdy appearance, not to have a bull dog appearance. When viewed from the rear, the legs should be straight.

Feet: Round and large. (PS/HI) feet should be tufted,

Tail: Short and straight. In proportion to body length. Boning: Heavy, sturdy and in proportion.

Musculature: Firm and well-developed, not overly fat.

COAT/COLOR/PATTERN:

Length: (PS/HI) Long all over the body. Full of life. Dense undercoat giving the coat full volume. Ruff should be immense. ~~Seasonal variations in coat shall be recognised.~~

(ES) Short, but slightly longer than other shorthairs. Soft, dense, plush; standing away from body. ~~Seasonal variation in coat and density should be recognised.~~ *now in allowances

The coat of the homozygous ES is shorter and therefore will not stand away from the body as much, they look more sculpted in appearance and the tail is less fully furnished.

Color: (PS/ES) As described in TICA Color Descriptions.

~~Color:~~ (HI and pointed ES) Clear body color preferred with subtle shading allowed.

~~*Allowance should be made for darker shaded areas on coats of mature cats.~~

There must be a definite contrast between the body and point color. The points, comprising of the ears, legs, feet, tail, and mask, must show the basic color of the cat.

OTHER:

Condition/Balance: Should reflect excellent health and robust power with good muscle tone, well-muscled, but not fat. All parts of the body should be in proportion to each other.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The ideal (PS/HI/ES) is a strong cat with excellent boning and musculature, a well-balanced cat, giving the impression of robust power. The face should be round with a sweet, pleasant expression and large, round expressive eyes. The cat should be well-balanced physically and temperamentally, gentle and amenable to handling.

LOCKETS: Withhold for lockets and buttons.

ALLOWANCES: Consideration should be given to the fact that females will generally be smaller than males of the same age, but should be in proportion and balance for their size. **Eyes:** Eye color in kittens appears muddy in orange eyed cats. Blue (HI and pointed ES), and green, in silvers, eye color develops from the center of the eye; should be fully developed by adulthood. **Coat:** Allowances for seasonal variation in the coat length and fullness; a shorter but well presented PS/HI coat in summer is totally acceptable.

(HI and pointed ES) Allowance for slightly shaded areas on coats of mature cats.

PENALIZE

Head: Long or narrow head; lumps, bumps and depressions in the skull should be penalized according to severity; long Roman nose; thin muzzle; mild overshot or undershot jaw; bite deformity, such as misaligned canines and missing canine teeth in whole adult cats. Extreme depression of the nose stop.

~~Small nostrils. Asymmetry while nature never creates a perfectly symmetric structure, recognition should be given to any obviously asymmetric head structure, (i. e., crooked or off-center nose, mouth, etc.). Such asymmetry should be penalized according to severity. Ears that are large, pointed, slanting out from the head or set too close together. Small or close set eyes. A green rim next to pupil in both kittens and adults. (PS/ES) Pale, weak eye color, (HI and pointed ES) Pale or grey eye color. Flecks of other colors in iris.~~

Body: A narrow chest, or long back. Poor muscle tone. Slab flanks.

Coat: Poor coat condition. (HI and pointed ES) Penalise a very heavily shaded coat on the body, seasonal shading can be detected by checking the colour at the roots, but a coat that is fully coloured to the roots must be penalised. Remember it will be more evident in the darker pointed colors.

WITHHOLD ALL AWARDS (WW)

Audible or heavy breathing. Pinched or very narrow nostrils. Very small or incorrectly formed nose leather. Overall lack of merit. Lockets or buttons. Poor overall condition. Eye color other than blue in HI and pointed ES.

DISQUALIFY (DQ):

As per Show Rule 216.12.10 inability to breathe normally with a closed mouth **MUST** be disqualified. Kinked tail. Severe Malocclusion or extremely asymmetric face structure; crossed, slanted or improperly focusing eyes. Severe overshot or undershot jaw.

▼▼▼▼▼
Temperament must be unchallenging; any sign of definite challenge shall disqualify. The cat may exhibit fear, seek to flee, or generally complain aloud but may not threaten to harm. In accordance with Show Rules, ARTICLE SIXTEEN, the following shall be considered mandatory disqualifications: a cat that bites (216.9), a cat showing evidence of intent to deceive (216.10), adult whole male cats not having two descended testicles (216.11), cats with all or part of the tail missing, except as authorized by a Board approved standard (216.12.1), cats with more than five toes on each front foot and four toes on each back foot, unless proved the result of an injury or as authorized by a Board approved standard (216.12.2), visible or invisible tail faults if Board approved standard requires disqualification (216.12.4), crossed eyes if Board approved standard requires disqualification (216.12.5), total blindness (216.12.6), markedly smaller size, not in keeping with the breed (216.12.9), and depression of the sternum or unusually small diameter of the rib cage itself (216.12.11.1). See Show Rules, ARTICLE SIXTEEN for more comprehensive rules governing penalties and disqualifications.

PERSIAN BREED GROUP (PS/HI/ES)

The breed group comprises the Persian (PS), Himalayan (HI) and the Exotic shorthair (ES). All have the same head and body type; the characteristics distinguishing the 3 breeds are the coat and coloration. The PS and HI have a long flowing coat, while the ES has a distinct short, plush and stand away coat texture. The PS origin is steeped in the mists of time, the HI is a man-made breed seeking to produce the pointed version of the PS and the ES was developed to be more resembling of a teddy bear with the facial features of the PS/HI but with a shorter, denser and more plush coat, longer than that of other shorthair breeds but still short enough not to flow. (PS/ES) All traditional and (HI) pointed colors are accepted. The only allowable genotypes at locus C are CC, Cc^s and c^sc^s.

HEAD..... 40 points

Shape.....	6
Ears.....	5
Eyes	7
Chin/Jaw and Bite	10
Nose	7
Profile.....	5

BODY..... 35 points

Torso.....	10
Feet and Legs	10
Tail	10
Boning/ Musculature	15

COAT/ COLOR/ PATTERN... .. 25 points

Length/Texture.....	15
Color/Pattern.....	10

CATEGORIES:

- PS:** Traditional.
- HI:** Pointed.
- ES:** Traditional and Pointed.

DIVISIONS: All.

COLOR: All.

PERMISSIBLE OUTCROSSES: None.

HEAD:

Shape: Round, broad, smooth, domed, with great breadth. Should be medium to large in size, symmetrical and balanced. Jaws should be broad and powerful with correct tooth alignment. Cheeks should be wide and full. Overall sweet expression.

Ears: Small and round tipped, not unduly open base. Set wide apart, fitting into contour of head.

Eyes: Large, round, and full. Set level and far apart giving a sweet expression to the face, eye color has equal importance to size and shape.

PS/ES: Deep brilliant eye color which conforms to coat color. Copper eyes are preferred in all colors except for silver and

golden where green eyes are preferred. Blue or odd eyes only in whites or with white colors/patterns.

HI and pointed ES: Medium blue eye color is acceptable.

Chin: Strong, full, well-developed, fitting into the face.

Nose: Almost as broad as long with fully formed nose leather and open nostrils. Muzzle should be short, broad and full.

Profile: Short, snub-nose, definite break directly between eyes. Break to be above the bottom edge of the eyes and no higher than the center of the eyes. Forehead, nose and chin appear to be in line or very slightly rounded in keeping with the roundness of the head as a whole.

Neck: Short, thick, and well-muscled.

BODY:

Torso: Cobby, firm, well-rounded mid section, in proportion. Medium to large in size. Back short and level. The chest is to be deep; equally massive across the shoulders and rump with a short, well-rounded abdomen and ribs

Legs: Large bones, well-developed and with firm musculature. In front view, the forelegs should be short and straight from breadth of chest adding to sturdy appearance, not to have a bull dog appearance. When viewed from the rear, the legs should be straight.

Feet: Round and large. (PS/HI) feet should be tufted.

Tail: Short and straight. In proportion to body length. Boning: Heavy, sturdy and in proportion.

Musculature: Firm and well-developed, not overly fat.

COAT/ COLOR/ PATTERN:

Length:

(PS/HI) Long all over the body. Full of life. Dense undercoat giving the coat full volume.

Ruff should be immense.

(ES) Short, but slightly longer than other shorthairs. Soft, dense, plush; standing away from body. The coat of the homozygous ES is shorter and therefore will not stand away from the body as much, they look more sculpted in appearance and the tail is less fully furnished.

Color:

(PS/ES) As described in TICA Color Descriptions.

(HI and pointed ES) Clear body color preferred with subtle shading allowed. There must be a definite contrast between the body and point color. The points, comprising of the ears, legs, feet, tail, and mask, must show the basic color of the cat.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The ideal PS/HI/ES is a strong cat with excellent boning and musculature, a well-balanced cat, giving the impression of robust power. The face should be round with a sweet, pleasant expression and large, round expressive eyes. The cat should be well-balanced physically and temperamentally, gentle and amenable to handling. It should reflect excellent health and robust power with good muscle tone, well-muscled, but not fat. All parts of the body should be in proportion to each other.

LOCKETS: Withhold for lockets and buttons.

ALLOWANCES: Consideration should be given to the fact that females will generally be smaller than males of the same age but should be in proportion and balance for their size. **Eyes:** Eye color in kittens appears muddy in orange eyed cats. Blue (HI and pointed ES), and green in silvers, eye color develops from the center of the eye; should be fully developed by adulthood. **Coat:** Allowances for seasonal variation in the coat length and fullness; a shorter but well presented PS/HI coat in summer is totally acceptable. (HI and pointed ES) Allowance for slightly shaded areas on coats of mature cats.

PENALIZE:

Head: Long or narrow head; lumps, bumps and depressions in the skull should be penalized according to severity; long Roman nose; thin muzzle; mild overshot or undershot jaw; bite deformity, such as misaligned canines and

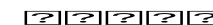
missing canine teeth in whole adult cats. Extreme depression of the nose stop. Small nostrils. Asymmetry (i.e., crooked or off-center nose, mouth, etc.), should be penalized according to severity. Ears that are large, pointed, slanting out from the head or set too close together. Small or close set eyes. A green rim next to pupil in both kittens and adults. (PS/ES) Pale, weak eye color, (HI and pointed ES) Pale or grey eye color. Flecks of other colors in iris. **Body:** A narrow chest, or long back. Poor muscle tone. Poor coat condition. Slab flanks. **Coat:** Poor coat condition. (HI and pointed ES) Penalise a very heavily shaded coat on the body, seasonal shading can be detected by checking the color at the roots, but a coat that is fully colored to the roots must be penalised. Remember it will be more evident in the darker pointed colors.

WITHHOLD ALL AWARDS (WW):

Audible or heavy breathing. Pinched or very narrow nostrils. Very small or incorrectly formed nose leather. Overall lack of merit. Poor overall condition. Eye color other than blue in HI and pointed ES.

DISQUALIFY (DQ):

As per Show Rule 216.12.10 inability to breathe normally with a closed mouth **MUST** be disqualified. Kinked tail. Malocclusion or extremely asymmetric face structure; crossed, slanted or improperly focusing eyes. Severe overshot or undershot jaw.



Temperament must be unchallenging; any sign of definite challenge shall disqualify. The cat may exhibit fear, seek to flee, or generally complain aloud but may not threaten to harm. In accordance with Show Rules, ARTICLE SIXTEEN, the following shall be considered mandatory disqualifications: a cat that bites (216.9), a cat showing evidence of intent to deceive (216.10), adult whole male cats not having two descended testicles (216.11), cats with all or part of the tail missing, except as authorized by a Board approved standard (216.12.1), cats with more than five toes on each front foot and four toes on each back foot, unless proved the result of an injury or as authorized by a Board approved standard (216.12.2), visible or invisible tail faults if Board approved standard requires disqualification (216.12.4), crossed eyes if Board approved standard requires disqualification (216.12.5), total blindness (216.12.6), markedly smaller size, not in keeping with the breed (216.12.9), and depression of the sternum or unusually small diameter of the rib cage itself (216.12.11.1). See Show Rules, ARTICLE SIXTEEN for more comprehensive rules governing penalties and disqualifications.

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Rules approved this version, and were happy to accept any wording changes subsequently suggested by the Genetics Committee.

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The proposed revisions were approved subject to the phrase “Pointed Siberians are also known as Neva Masquerade” being removed from the section on Color/Pattern. This term is not used in TICA and does not need to be in the standard.

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(Rules Comments – W2025 Standard Changes – Page 1 of 1)

Genetics Committee Breed Comments for the Winter Meeting 2024

This has a long introduction to the eye-color issue which underlies some of the proposed standard changes. Our comments for three breed standard revisions and request for Championship of the Minuet Talls are after that. The individual breed committees, Rules committee, and Genetics committee, have done extensive work on the standard changes, so there are less comments on the standards at this point.

The goal of the Genetics Committee is to promote policies and standards that make genetic sense, to safeguard the genetic health and welfare of our breeds, and to encourage the breeding and exhibition of healthy, beautiful, cats.

I) Introduction: Notes on Eye-Colors and New Mutations.

Several breeds, including two of the three here, as well as earlier versions of the third, have included language to try to prevent dominant blue-eye (DBE) genes unconnected to the standard KIT mutations that cause cats to be white or with-white from competing on the show bench. There are good reasons for this. However, care needs to be taken to not remove cats from Championship who do not have DBE and previously could be shown. As more and more breeds take up this issue there should be a clear understanding of the nature of blue eyes in our existing cats as well as what we know about the genetics of DBE cats. Therefore, we are providing an introduction to the topic. We hope that all breed committees that are thinking about revising their standard in light of the DBE mutations, or even altering their eye color standards for other reasons, as well as board members, judges, and breeders, who may need to make decisions in regards to eye color, will read this to help become informed on the topic.

This is a soapbox issue for Heather Lorimer, so she apologizes in advance for its length.

Traditional color cats without white can have eyes in a wide variety of colors, any shade of green, yellow, gold or copper heading into brick-like brownish color. There is no correlation between the traditional coat colors and eye color with the exception that true blue eyes are only found in some white and part-white cats, unless there is some other mutation present. Sepia cats do not have eye color that makes it to copper, but they can have all the other colors, including very warm gold. Mink cats range from near to pointed blue through aqua and into blue-greens. Pointed cats all have some variety of blue eyes from very pale to deepest indigo.

In the Traditional category “eye color to conform with coat color” makes no genetic sense. There is no reason for a silver tabby to have green eyes other than that we like it and breed for it. Remember that a smoke has the same silver gene that a silver tabby does, and smokes are not set aside to have green eyes in otherwise gold or copper eyed breeds. On the other hand a golden is not a silver, and yet some breeds set aside goldens to have green eyes too. It makes no genetic sense to require copper eyes in a smoke, and green eyes in a silver tabby or shaded golden. If you really want those beautiful green eyes in silver tabbies (of which shaded silvers

are a version) in a breed that does not have green eyes in general, perhaps the standard should say “green preferred” with gold and/or copper allowed, and in the other colors say copper (or gold) preferred, so as to allow for crossing between different colors for type and health without severely penalizing the offspring on the show bench.

White cats and with-white particolor cats result from mutations in the KIT gene. These mutations can also affect the presence of pigment in the iris, resulting in one or two blue eyes or eyes with blue and non-blue sectors. It is important to remember that this effect is not very controllable. Solid white cats and cats that are homozygous for white spotting and have a lot of white on them are more likely to have affected irises. Restricting blue or part blue eyes in these colors will prevent otherwise show-worthy cats who may have had excellent show cat parents from being shown. That has been historically something that TICA tries not to do. We should encourage showing cats, out of show cats, who have traits that should be expected to occur. There are some exceptions, tailed Manx, Bombays in colors other than black, and solid black Egyptian Maus come to mind. Genetically, those situations do not make sense though.

With the advancing breeding restrictions in Europe and elsewhere we need to carefully consider what traits do and don't interfere with the quality of life of well-kept indoor cats. One of these concerns is deafness. One can argue that a well kept indoors deaf cat has no diminishment in its quality of life compared to a hearing cat, but few, if any, would argue that deafness should be bred for on purpose. Solid white cats may be deaf as a result of changes to the sensory cells caused by the effects of the white gene. Solid white cats may be deaf, or not, whatever their eye color is. In several countries white cats must be Baer tested to ensure that they are not deaf before they can be legally bred. On the other hand, even very high white, van patterned, homozygous with-white cats have not been shown to have an increased likelihood of being deaf compared to cats with no white, though they may be blue-eyed, odd-eyed, or have sector eyes.

Other mutations can and do cause blue eyes, both in cats and in other animals. Some are associated with health problems, others are not. Some of these mutant genes inherit recessively, others dominantly, or incompletely dominantly, where two copies causes more of an effect than just one. Below are some examples of known gene mutations that cause blue eyes in animals. This is by no means a complete list.

In humans mutations the OCA2 gene, and the HERC2 gene commonly cause blue eyes and are associated with no health problems. There is also a syndrome called Waardenburg syndrome that can cause blue eyes and other pigmentation changes. There are several types of Waardenburg syndrome, caused by different genes. The genes include PAX3 (type I and III), and MITF (type II), among others. Different mutations in the same gene can cause different effects. Some types are associated with deafness, others with physical deformities, some both.

In dogs blue eyes can be caused by duplication of a regulatory region in front of the ALX4 gene which is not associated with other problems, or by mutations in the PMEL (merle) gene, or due to mutations in MITF, also known as the extreme piebald gene in dogs. Both the merle gene

and the extreme piebald gene are associated with deafness. Dogs that are homozygous merle may also be blind.

In horses, piebald horses can have blue eyes caused by mutations in MITF or PAX3, they may also be deaf. Frame overo horses can also have blue eyes from their gene, a mutation in the endothelin receptor B (EDNRB) gene. If two frame overos are bred together a homozygous foal with a white coat, blue eyes, and an incomplete digestive tract can result. Those foals have lethal white syndrome and die within a day or two from their internal defects. Unfortunately it is not always clear that a horse has a copy of this mutation by its appearance, usually yes, but not always. Genetic testing is advised if a horse has any frame overo relatives. On the other hand, horses that have blue eyes due to mutations in the cream gene (the SLC45A2 gene previously known as MATP and OCA4) do not have deafness or health problems.

Why is this important in regards to these proposed breed standard changes?

In recent years the phenomenon of dominantly inheriting blue eyes (DBE) in cats without white has become something of a fad. Blue eyes in non-white, non-pointed, cats are attractive to people, so there is a market for DBE cats. Breeders of assorted breeds have crossed DBE cats from a variety of sources into their cats, and there is a demand for their blue-eyed kittens.

There are several different mutations involved with DBE. Some have been identified as PAX3 mutations which are linked to deafness as well as changing the structure of the cats face, moving the eyes farther apart and an apparent flattening of the nose bridge between the eyes. Other DBE mutations are unknown. Years ago another DBE breed was under development called Ojos Azules. They were abandoned due to lethal physical defects in homozygotes. Unfortunately multiple different mutations cause DBE and only some can be tested for.

Breed section members are concerned by these developments and several have worked on revising their breed standards to exclude DBE cats from Championship in their breeds. Several exclude blue eyes in cats that are not pointed and not white or with white. However, many DBE cats have a tiny bit of white, but not enough to truly be even mitted. Perhaps our UCD needs to define a minimum amount of white for a cat to be considered "with-white".

In these days of more understanding of genes and genomes in general, it is reasonably likely that new mutations can be identified and their possible health consequences determined with a reasonable amount of time and effort. In the meantime it is unwise for breeds to add in new mutations for fun (and profit) without any understanding of what the mutations are, how they cause the traits they cause, and what their health consequences could be. Having said that, once a trait's gene mutation is understood, if the effects are simply cosmetic and pleasing, a door should be able to be opened to acceptance if breeders are interested.

Certainly DBE caused by a PAX3 mutation linked to deafness is not something we want added in to our breeds. Nor do we want DBE cats that turn out to have mutations similar to frame overo or merle.

II) On the proposed standard changes for the Persian breed group standard

We support changes aimed at improving health. The overall rationale for these changes is excellent. We worked through a number of drafts with the Persian breed group committee and are pleased with the results. The added emphasis on smooth skulls, open nostrils, good breathing, allowing a little bit of moderation in the face, and penalizing hypertyped cats is all excellent and should help preserve the breed. We think this is a huge step forward.

“Blue or odd eyes only in whites or with white colors/patterns” is an appropriate way to help deal with the incursion of DBE into the breed group.

III) On the proposed standard changes for the MC/MCP breed standard

We also went through several drafts of this. The polydactyl toe positioning change is good.

The original proposal included language aimed at reducing the likelihood of DBE creeping into MC show cats. They already had included some in their previous standard revision, which was good, and are working at strengthening it. For now that is not in this version.

IV) On the proposed standard changes for the SB breed standard

Names that are not used in TICA, but are in other associations do not belong in TICA standards. Therefore “[Pointed Siberians are also known as Neva Masquerade](#)” should be removed, as should references to “Sunshine” coloration, although the genetics committee needs to revisit the naming of CORIN mutation colorations. Naming the first one CORIN in the first place was a mistake on our part, though it seemed like a good idea at the time. (Note: these concerns have been addressed in the final version.)

The comment on white lockets belongs in Allowances.

“In the Traditional category blue and odd-eye color is ONLY accepted in solid white or ‘with white’ cats.” Is another appropriate way to deal with the incursions of DBE cats.

Good work!

v) Comments on the Minuet Talls

The Genetics Committee does not have a complete consensus on the Minuet Talls.

Genetically all Minuets are heterozygous, carrying normal leg length, as at least one good copy of the gene is required for development of a fertilized egg into a kitten. The preferred breeding

plan of always breeding short to tall makes perfect sense as it avoids problems that could be caused by non-viable fertilized eggs that could result from Minuet to Minuet breedings. In any case Minuet breedings, like Manx breedings, will always have the potential to produce 'non-standard' cats, ones without the breed-defining mutation. The question here is whether these non-standard cats should compete in championship.

The large majority (5 of 7 responding committee members) do not think that the Minuet Tall is distinct enough to be a breed even as part of a breed group. In part this is due to the vagueness and contradictions in the Minuet standard. In part it is due to the fact that the short legs are a defining feature of the breed. Other than the short legs, the standard seems to be that of a moderated Persian type. Therefore, without the short legs, the breed is just not distinctive enough.

The only committee member who thinks that the breed is distinctive outside of the short legs in acceptance of the breed is Heather Lorimer. Her comment is that a good Minuet is quite distinctive even lying down on a judges table where you can't see its legs. They have that sweet face of the 'doll-face' Persian. It is a pretty, not terribly extreme look. There is no nose break and the top of the nose can be no higher than the bottom of the eyes.

A possible lack of distinctiveness is exacerbated by deficiencies in the standard. The whole committee has serious trouble with the Minuet type standard which is unclear, too minimal, and contradictory. Are the ears medium or medium small? The standard says medium but then has a preference for smaller? The nose description says it is to have an obvious stop, but the profile standard says "gentle curve to moderate stop". What exactly is wanted?

Several committee members (4 of 7) did see some advantages to having Minuet Talls in championship, for two main reasons. One committee member thinks these are valuable enough to outweigh the perceived lack of distinctiveness of the Minuet Talls. The advantages are:

1. To have judges evaluation of more of the breeding stock, to help keep to the standard and not go too extreme, have healthy appearing cats, have the coat right etc.
2. The Talls will not have any of the potential problems that could result from achondroplasia.

Overall the majority of the Genetics Committee do not recommend that Minuet Talls be championship cats at this time. We do recommend revisiting the standard and perhaps making revisions in it before asking for Minuet Talls again. Take a close look at the Persian, Scottish, and British breed group standards as comparisons. Minuet Talls need to be distinctive from those three groups for them to be a breed on their own.

Participating Committee Members:

Ellen Crocket
Adriana Kajon
Vikki Moran
Dragana Petkovic
Massimo Picardello

Lorraine Shelton
Heather Lorimer, Chair

Rationale:

A proposal has also been put forward to clarify the Standard for the Maine Coon Polydactyl. Polydactyly in the Maine coon cat is a nonsyndromic preaxial dominant trait that shows variable expression. In "Mitten" Maine coons, thumbs will on occasion not be fully weight-bearing, and express either as enlarged dewclaws or opposable digits that barely brush the ground as balance points. There are no detrimental effects to the cat for either of these expressions but our current wording leads to confusion over what is acceptable.

MAINE COON BREED GROUP (MC/MCP)

This Breed Group is comprised of the Maine Coon (MC) and the Maine Coon Polydactyl (MCP). Overall balance and proportion are essential to the Maine Coon and no one feature should dominate the appearance of the cat.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Maine Coons originated in the Northeastern part of the United States and are generally regarded as native to the state of Maine. The breed, with its essentially amiable disposition, developed through a natural selection process where only the fittest survived. It should always be remembered that Maine Coons developed as "working cats", able to fend for themselves in a harsh climate of rough and woody terrain. The Maine Coon is a large breed with substantial boning, a broad chest, and a long, hard-muscled, rectangular body. The tail is long and flowing. Whether polydactyl or regular, the paws are large and well-tufted. The Maine Coon reaches full maturity at four to five years of age.

HISTORY: Legend has it that Maine Coon cats likely originated from domestic cats in New England that were descendants of cats that came on merchant and colonizing ships from western Europe. Over the years, those cats' descendants evolved to survive the hostile New England winters by developing keen hunting skills valuable for vermin control, strong muscular bodies, shaggy coats, and tufting on ears and feet. Polydactyl paws were common in the original Maine Coon population although it is unknown whether the trait was introduced from overseas or developed in North America. First recorded in cat literature in 1861 with a mention of a black and white cat named "Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines," Maine Coons were popular competitors at early cat shows in Boston and New York. A brown tabby female named "Cosie" won Best Cat at the 1895 Madison Square Garden Show. The Maine Coon was accepted for championship status in TICA when the Association was established in 1979. In 2015, polydactyl Maine Coons were assigned their own breed name (MCP) and accepted for Championship in a separate class from non-polydactyl MCs. The MC Breed Section then became the MC/MCP Breed Group.

CATEGORY: Traditional ONLY (Sepia, Mink, and Pointed not allowed)

DIVISION: All.

COLOR: All.

Only dominant black-based (B/-) colors including the result of the sex-linked red allele (X^o).

Nondominant black-based (b/-, b¹/-) modified colors such as chocolate, lilac, cinnamon, fawn, and caramel are not allowed.

PERMISSIBLE OUTCROSSES: None.

HEAD:

Shape: Slightly longer than wide, as measured from back of head to tip of muzzle, while still in proportion to body. Viewed from the front, a square muzzle under high and broad cheek bones give the appearance of an overall broad modified wedge-shaped head.

Eyes: Large and oval. Appear almost round when wide open. Slight oblique set where outer corner of eye points toward outer base of ear. Distance between the eyes is approximately one eye-width apart.

Color: Any shade of green and/or gold. No relation to coat color. Blue and odd eyes accepted only in white and with white.

Ears: Large, well furnished, wide at base, tapering to appear pointed by the enhancement of lynx tips. Taller than the width at base but still in balance with head length. Outer base just above the level of the top of the eye. Outside edges have a very slight outward tilt, not past 11 and 1 o'clock. Distance between inner ear edges is approximately one ear's width apart and forms a rectangle with outer edge of the muzzle. Furnishings extend beyond outer ear edge. Lynx tips maintain the balance of the ear without ~~excessive~~ heaviness or droop.

Chin: Wide and deep enough to complete square look of muzzle; ~~firm~~, in line with upper lip (see Profile).

Muzzle: Well-defined, square, with a definite box. Viewed from above, left and right edges are parallel, with muzzle size in balance with the rest of the head. Distinct transition between muzzle and cheek bones.

Profile: In profile view of entire head structure (back of head to tip of nose), balance is critical. Gently curving forehead flows into a slight concave curve at the bridge of the nose and continues into a smooth nose-line free of humps and/or bumps. Straight, vertical line extends from the tip of nose, through upper lip to bottom of chin. Depth of chin is approximately 1/3 of overall depth of the muzzle.

Neck: Medium long, substantially thicker in mature males as compared to adolescent males and/or females.

BODY:

Torso: Large, substantial, muscular, and rectangular. Females generally smaller than males. Body is relatively long with all parts in proportion, to create the appearance of a well-balanced rectangle. Broad, deep chest. Equal width from shoulders to hips, with depth of body. Allowance for slow maturation. Breed is considered "large" in size, but balance and proportion are of equal importance.

Boning & Musculature: Substantial boning adequate to support structure and size of the cat. Firm musculature, without flab. Allowance for females and immaturity.

Legs: Substantial, medium length, in proportion to body to complete a rectangle. All legs straight without cow hocking or toeing-out.

Feet: All toes, excluding dewclaws/**MCP thumbs**, touch the floor. Tufts start between the toes and are visible beneath the pads where they extend outwards.

MC: Large, rounded and well-tufted.

MCP: Large and well-tufted. Additional toes allowed on either fore or hind paws or both. Mitten or patty foot acceptable. Symmetrical expression preferred. Maximum 7 toes per foot.

Tail: Tail as long as body (from tail-base to shoulder blades). Wide base tapers to tip with full flowing fur.

COAT/COLOR/PATTERN:

Length: Uneven; shorter on shoulders, gradually lengthening down back and sides. Frontal ruff, belly shag and britches (more apparent with age). Tail fur long, full, flowing.

Texture: All-weather coat often with silky texture. Slight undercoat provides body, but coat falls smoothly.

Color & Pattern: Clear pattern and color, as described in the UCD. Acceptable patterns are ticked, classic, spotted, mackerel, and shaded/chinchilla. Some white on all four feet of cats with white.

ALLOWANCES

- Standard favors the male. Allowance MUST be made for significant size difference between male and female. Type should not be sacrificed for size. Breed is slow to mature.
- Slightly larger and/or tighter-set ears in kittens. Lower ear set in heavily jawed, fully mature males. Wider ear set in fully mature adults.
- Polydactyly is a trait with variable expression, from a single extra dewclaw to extra toes on each foot. All expressions are acceptable, without preference for more rather than fewer additional toes (up to the allowed maximum). Polydactyl mitten paws may appear to toe out.
- Ghost markings in smoke and solid-colored kittens and adults less than 18 months.

PENALTIES

Eyes: Overly rounded. Almond shaped. Flattened upper lid (hooded). Protruding. Small or deep-set. Excessive angle/slant (Oriental set) or level. Excessive size.

Ears: Overly rounded/without taper. Small. Flared. Lacking furnishings or lynx tips. Lynx tips that detract from the set and shape of the ear.

Chin: Narrow, not full. Diamond or triangular rather than square shape. Pronounced or receding. Excessive depth (50% of the profile or more).

Muzzle: Narrow and/or triangular shape. Prominent whisker pads. Rounded nose tip.

Profile: Straight from brow line to nose-tip. Break, stop or Roman nose. Pronounced bump.

Torso: Tubular, narrow or foreign body. Short body. Overweight. Excessive length (sway backed).

Tail: Too short to balance body length.

Feet: Toes, **excluding dewclaws/MCP thumbs**, not touching floor. Untufted paws.

Coat Length: Equal overall, without shag. Short. Too close-lying.

Coat Texture: Woolly or cottony.

Coat Color: Lockets. Shaded with heavy tabby markings on body. Silver series with heavy tarnishing.

Head: Round, narrow, or unmodified wedge shape. Muzzle length disproportionate to head.

Neck: Too short or too long.

Legs: Cow hocked or toed-out.

WITHHOLD AWARDS (WW)

Head: Heavy, massive muzzle out of balance with the rest of the head. Heavy brow detracting from the open expression of the eye.

Eyes: Small, beady, or deep-set.

Ears: Narrow-base/upright set with parallel appearance.

DISQUALIFICATIONS (DQ)

Nonpermissible Colors

Blue or odd-eyes in any colored cat other than solid white or with white

Fine boning

Cobby body

Tail fault

Tail length significantly out of balance with body.

Significantly too small for age or gender.

POINTS

HEAD	35 points
Shape	10
Eyes	6
Ears	6
Muzzle and Chin	6
Profile	6
Neck	1
 BODY	 35 points
Torso	10
Legs and Feet	4
Tail	6
Boning & Musculature.....	15
 COAT/COLOR/PATTERN	 20 points
Length & Texture	12
Color & Pattern	8
 BALANCE	 10 points

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Several breeds, including two of the three here, as well as earlier versions of the third, have included language to try to prevent dominant blue-eye (DBE) genes unconnected to the standard KIT mutations that cause cats to be white or with-white from competing on the show bench. There are good reasons for this. However, care needs to be taken to not remove cats from Championship who do not have DBE and previously could be shown. As more and more breeds take up this issue there should be a clear understanding of the nature of blue eyes in our existing cats as well as what we know about the genetics of DBE cats. Therefore, we are providing an introduction to the topic. We hope that all breed committees that are thinking about revising their standard in light of the DBE mutations, or even altering their eye color standards for other reasons, as well as board members, judges, and breeders, who may need to make decisions in regards to eye color, will read this to help become informed on the topic.

This is a soapbox issue for Heather Lorimer, so she apologizes in advance for its length.

Traditional color cats without white can have eyes in a wide variety of colors, any shade of green, yellow, gold or copper heading into brick-like brownish color. There is no correlation between the traditional coat colors and eye color with the exception that true blue eyes are only found in some white and part-white cats, unless there is some other mutation present. Sepia cats do not have eye color that makes it to copper, but they can have all the other colors, including very warm gold. Mink cats range from near to pointed blue through aqua and into blue-greens. Pointed cats all have some variety of blue eyes from very pale to deepest indigo.

In the Traditional category “eye color to conform with coat color” makes no genetic sense. There is no reason for a silver tabby to have green eyes other than that we like it and breed for it. Remember that a smoke has the same silver gene that a silver tabby does, and smokes are not set aside to have green eyes in otherwise gold or copper eyed breeds. On the other hand a golden is not a silver, and yet some breeds set aside goldens to have green eyes too. It makes no genetic sense to require copper eyes in a smoke, and green eyes in a silver tabby or shaded golden. If you really want those beautiful green eyes in silver tabbies (of which shaded silvers

are a version) in a breed that does not have green eyes in general, perhaps the standard should say “green preferred” with gold and/or copper allowed, and in the other colors say copper (or gold) preferred, so as to allow for crossing between different colors for type and health without severely penalizing the offspring on the show bench.

White cats and with-white particolor cats result from mutations in the KIT gene. These mutations can also affect the presence of pigment in the iris, resulting in one or two blue eyes or eyes with blue and non-blue sectors. It is important to remember that this effect is not very controllable. Solid white cats and cats that are homozygous for white spotting and have a lot of white on them are more likely to have affected irises. Restricting blue or part blue eyes in these colors will prevent otherwise show-worthy cats who may have had excellent show cat parents from being shown. That has been historically something that TICA tries not to do. We should encourage showing cats, out of show cats, who have traits that should be expected to occur. There are some exceptions, tailed Manx, Bombays in colors other than black, and solid black Egyptian Maus come to mind. Genetically, those situations do not make sense though.

With the advancing breeding restrictions in Europe and elsewhere we need to carefully consider what traits do and don't interfere with the quality of life of well-kept indoor cats. One of these concerns is deafness. One can argue that a well kept indoors deaf cat has no diminishment in its quality of life compared to a hearing cat, but few, if any, would argue that deafness should be bred for on purpose. Solid white cats may be deaf as a result of changes to the sensory cells caused by the effects of the white gene. Solid white cats may be deaf, or not, whatever their eye color is. In several countries white cats must be Baer tested to ensure that they are not deaf before they can be legally bred. On the other hand, even very high white, van patterned, homozygous with-white cats have not been shown to have an increased likelihood of being deaf compared to cats with no white, though they may be blue-eyed, odd-eyed, or have sector eyes.

Other mutations can and do cause blue eyes, both in cats and in other animals. Some are associated with health problems, others are not. Some of these mutant genes inherit recessively, others dominantly, or incompletely dominantly, where two copies causes more of an effect than just one. Below are some examples of known gene mutations that cause blue eyes in animals. This is by no means a complete list.

In humans mutations the OCA2 gene, and the HERC2 gene commonly cause blue eyes and are associated with no health problems. There is also a syndrome called Waardenburg syndrome that can cause blue eyes and other pigmentation changes. There are several types of Waardenburg syndrome, caused by different genes. The genes include PAX3 (type I and III), and MITF (type II), among others. Different mutations in the same gene can cause different effects. Some types are associated with deafness, others with physical deformities, some both.

In dogs blue eyes can be caused by duplication of a regulatory region in front of the ALX4 gene which is not associated with other problems, or by mutations in the PMEL (merle) gene, or due to mutations in MITF, also known as the extreme piebald gene in dogs. Both the merle gene

and the extreme piebald gene are associated with deafness. Dogs that are homozygous merle may also be blind.

In horses, piebald horses can have blue eyes caused by mutations in MITF or PAX3, they may also be deaf. Frame overo horses can also have blue eyes from their gene, a mutation in the endothelin receptor B (EDNRB) gene. If two frame overos are bred together a homozygous foal with a white coat, blue eyes, and an incomplete digestive tract can result. Those foals have lethal white syndrome and die within a day or two from their internal defects. Unfortunately it is not always clear that a horse has a copy of this mutation by its appearance, usually yes, but not always. Genetic testing is advised if a horse has any frame overo relatives. On the other hand, horses that have blue eyes due to mutations in the cream gene (the SLC45A2 gene previously known as MATP and OCA4) do not have deafness or health problems.

Why is this important in regards to these proposed breed standard changes?

In recent years the phenomenon of dominantly inheriting blue eyes (DBE) in cats without white has become something of a fad. Blue eyes in non-white, non-pointed, cats are attractive to people, so there is a market for DBE cats. Breeders of assorted breeds have crossed DBE cats from a variety of sources into their cats, and there is a demand for their blue-eyed kittens.

There are several different mutations involved with DBE. Some have been identified as PAX3 mutations which are linked to deafness as well as changing the structure of the cats face, moving the eyes farther apart and an apparent flattening of the nose bridge between the eyes. Other DBE mutations are unknown. Years ago another DBE breed was under development called Ojos Azules. They were abandoned due to lethal physical defects in homozygotes. Unfortunately multiple different mutations cause DBE and only some can be tested for.

Breed section members are concerned by these developments and several have worked on revising their breed standards to exclude DBE cats from Championship in their breeds. Several exclude blue eyes in cats that are not pointed and not white or with white. However, many DBE cats have a tiny bit of white, but not enough to truly be even mitted. Perhaps our UCD needs to define a minimum amount of white for a cat to be considered "with-white".

In these days of more understanding of genes and genomes in general, it is reasonably likely that new mutations can be identified and their possible health consequences determined with a reasonable amount of time and effort. In the meantime it is unwise for breeds to add in new mutations for fun (and profit) without any understanding of what the mutations are, how they cause the traits they cause, and what their health consequences could be. Having said that, once a trait's gene mutation is understood, if the effects are simply cosmetic and pleasing, a door should be able to be opened to acceptance if breeders are interested.

Certainly DBE caused by a PAX3 mutation linked to deafness is not something we want added in to our breeds. Nor do we want DBE cats that turn out to have mutations similar to frame overo or merle.

II) On the proposed standard changes for the Persian breed group standard

We support changes aimed at improving health. The overall rationale for these changes is excellent. We worked through a number of drafts with the Persian breed group committee and are pleased with the results. The added emphasis on smooth skulls, open nostrils, good breathing, allowing a little bit of moderation in the face, and penalizing hypertyped cats is all excellent and should help preserve the breed. We think this is a huge step forward.

“Blue or odd eyes only in whites or with white colors/patterns” is an appropriate way to help deal with the incursion of DBE into the breed group.

III) On the proposed standard changes for the MC/MCP breed standard

We also went through several drafts of this. The polydactyl toe positioning change is good.

The original proposal included language aimed at reducing the likelihood of DBE creeping into MC show cats. They already had included some in their previous standard revision, which was good, and are working at strengthening it. For now that is not in this version.

IV) On the proposed standard changes for the SB breed standard

Names that are not used in TICA, but are in other associations do not belong in TICA standards. Therefore “[Pointed Siberians are also known as Neva Masquerade](#)” should be removed, as should references to “Sunshine” coloration, although the genetics committee needs to revisit the naming of CORIN mutation colorations. Naming the first one CORIN in the first place was a mistake on our part, though it seemed like a good idea at the time. (Note: these concerns have been addressed in the final version.)

The comment on white lockets belongs in Allowances.

“In the Traditional category blue and odd-eye color is ONLY accepted in solid white or ‘with white’ cats.” Is another appropriate way to deal with the incursions of DBE cats.

Good work!

v) Comments on the Minuet Talls

The Genetics Committee does not have a complete consensus on the Minuet Talls.

Genetically all Minuets are heterozygous, carrying normal leg length, as at least one good copy of the gene is required for development of a fertilized egg into a kitten. The preferred breeding

plan of always breeding short to tall makes perfect sense as it avoids problems that could be caused by non-viable fertilized eggs that could result from Minuet to Minuet breedings. In any case Minuet breedings, like Manx breedings, will always have the potential to produce 'non-standard' cats, ones without the breed-defining mutation. The question here is whether these non-standard cats should compete in championship.

The large majority (5 of 7 responding committee members) do not think that the Minuet Tall is distinct enough to be a breed even as part of a breed group. In part this is due to the vagueness and contradictions in the Minuet standard. In part it is due to the fact that the short legs are a defining feature of the breed. Other than the short legs, the standard seems to be that of a moderated Persian type. Therefore, without the short legs, the breed is just not distinctive enough.

The only committee member who thinks that the breed is distinctive outside of the short legs in acceptance of the breed is Heather Lorimer. Her comment is that a good Minuet is quite distinctive even lying down on a judges table where you can't see its legs. They have that sweet face of the 'doll-face' Persian. It is a pretty, not terribly extreme look. There is no nose break and the top of the nose can be no higher than the bottom of the eyes.

A possible lack of distinctiveness is exacerbated by deficiencies in the standard. The whole committee has serious trouble with the Minuet type standard which is unclear, too minimal, and contradictory. Are the ears medium or medium small? The standard says medium but then has a preference for smaller? The nose description says it is to have an obvious stop, but the profile standard says "gentle curve to moderate stop". What exactly is wanted?

Several committee members (4 of 7) did see some advantages to having Minuet Talls in championship, for two main reasons. One committee member thinks these are valuable enough to outweigh the perceived lack of distinctiveness of the Minuet Talls. The advantages are:

1. To have judges evaluation of more of the breeding stock, to help keep to the standard and not go too extreme, have healthy appearing cats, have the coat right etc.
2. The Talls will not have any of the potential problems that could result from achondroplasia.

Overall the majority of the Genetics Committee do not recommend that Minuet Talls be championship cats at this time. We do recommend revisiting the standard and perhaps making revisions in it before asking for Minuet Talls again. Take a close look at the Persian, Scottish, and British breed group standards as comparisons. Minuet Talls need to be distinctive from those three groups for them to be a breed on their own.

Participating Committee Members:

Ellen Crocket
Adriana Kajon
Vikki Moran
Dragana Petkovic
Massimo Picardello

Lorraine Shelton
Heather Lorimer, Chair

Race	Candidate/Choice	Votes
Proposal 7 Amend Show Rule 212.3 (Restore final awards to 2015 status)	Yes, Amend Rule	507
Proposal 7 Amend Show Rule 212.3 (Restore final awards to 2015 status)	No	290
Race	Candidate/Choice	Votes
Proposal 8 Amend Show Rule 212.3 (Number of Finals)	Yes, Amend Rule	466
Proposal 8 Amend Show Rule 212.3 (Number of Finals)	No	336

Proposal 7 - Amend 212.3 (Restore final awards to 2015 status)

Rationale:

In 2016, the number of final awards in AB Alter Classes was changed to 10, even for counts below 25. Although intended to increase entries to shows, there is no conclusive evidence this has actually happened.

Some exhibitors in Kitten and Championship classes perceive this as an unfair advantage compared to the more restricted number of final places allowed for their classes. In areas where Alter class numbers are traditionally low, this change has caused dissatisfaction. Rather than having an element of competition, Alters can earn titles by merely entering enough shows.

Before 2016, one of the main attractions of TICA was that all classes were treated equally when awarding finals and cats had to compete against other cats to earn a final. This proposal restores that balance.

PROs:	CONS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It makes the number of awards in all pedigree finals consistent• Avoids confusion about the number of finals that can be awarded removing any perceived advantage for Alter exhibitors over exhibitors in other pedigree classes.• In areas with low alter counts, there will be competition for finals in small classes, as opposed to earning finals just by turning up to be judged.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In smaller AB Alter classes there would be fewer finals awarded

Amend Show Rule 212.3:

212.3 Number of Final Places Awarded

212.3.1 Household Pet Adult class **and**, Household Pet Kitten class, ~~and AB Alter class.~~

The following places shall be awarded for finals of these classes depending on number of cats present and competing:

Number of Cats

Fewer than 10
10 or More

Number of Final Places

Equal to Number of cats competing
10

212.3.2 All other Classes. The following places shall be awarded for finals of these classes depending on number of cats present and competing:

Number of Cats	Number of Final Places
Fewer than 5	<i>Equal to number of cats competing</i>
5-20	5
21	6
22	7
23	8
24	9
25 or more	10

Proposal 8 - Amend Show Rule 212.3 (Number of Finals)

Rationale:

In 2016, the number of final awards in AB Alter Classes was changed to 10, even for counts below 25. Although intended to increase entries to shows, there is no conclusive evidence this has actually happened.

Some exhibitors in Kitten and Championship classes perceive this as an unfair advantage compared to the more restricted number of final places allowed for their classes.

This proposal makes the number of allowed final places consistent for AB Finals in Alters, Kittens and Championship classes. In addition, for AB Finals, the judge has the discretion to award less than 10 Finals if the judge considers some cats not worthy of a final placement.

PROs:	CONs:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It makes the number of awards in all pedigree AB finals consistent, thus removing any perceived advantage for Alter exhibitors• May increase counts at smaller shows because of the greater chance of an AB Final• Gives the judges discretion not to award all 10 AB finals if some cats are not worthy of a final award.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It effectively creates a two-tier system of awarding finals (AB and SP), which seems at odds with TICA's overall philosophy of equal treatment of pedigree classes.• Makes it easier for more classes to get an AB final than an SP final and potentially devalues TICA titles as cats could advance even faster.• Different judges being able to award a different number of finals with the same count may be confusing to exhibitors. It could also increase the chances of errors in the Master Catalog.• The difference between the way AB and SP finals are awarded may also lead to confusion.• Judges may feel pressured to always give the highest possible number of finals, despite the rule giving them some leeway.

Amend Show Rule 212.3:

212.3 Number of Final Places Awarded

212.3.1 Household Pet Adult class, Household Pet Kitten class, ~~and~~ AB Alter class, **AB Kitten class and AB Championship class.**

At the discretion of the judge, the ~~The~~ following places ~~shall~~ **may** be awarded for finals of these classes depending on number of cats present and competing:

Number of Cats	Number of Final Places
Fewer than 10	Equal to Number of cats competing
10 or More	10

212.3.2 All ~~other~~ **Alter, Kitten and Championship Speciality** Classes. The following places shall be awarded for finals of these classes depending on number of cats present and competing:

Number of Cats	Number of Final Places
Fewer than 5	<i>Equal to number of cats competing</i>
5-20	5
21	6
22	7
23	8
24	9
25 or more	10

Add Show Rule 23.10 (Multiple Mutations) - Pasquini

Rationale:

The HHP, HHPK classes; and Exhibition should not be a loophole for unproven experimental breeds. To allow it, is to condone it. This is especially important in light of the fact that several of our breeds are being banned in countries due to multiple mutation breeds having health issues (example: Bambino in Netherlands led to Sphynx being banned.)

To preserve the integrity of the current approved breeds. If a multiple mutation breed is shown in household pet, it is hard for the public to discern that is not a "breed" that TICA endorses. Even if it is there as exhibition only, it gives the appearance that TICA endorses these cats by being at TICA sanctioned events.

While it is important that TICA welcomes fanciers, it should not be at the expense of preservation breeders who have worked hard to adhere to the TICA rules and standards. There are a billion cats for fanciers to choose from to show their cats in HHP. Some might argue about accidental pedigreed cats breedings being problematic for HHP. However, those are not being used to make new breeds or interfering the goals of preservation breeding. TICA voted on a rule banning multiple structural mutations and it should be adhered to and respected in all classes.

Add Show Rule 23.10

23.10 Any cat displaying multiple mutations (as listed below) is ineligible for entry in Kitten, Championship, Alter, Household Pet, Household Pet Kitten, New Trait, Exhibition. Breeds already accepted in PNB, ANB and Championship classes are exempt. If the breed sections of parent breed and board approves a breed mixed mutations listed below, as per TICA rules, that would supersede this rule.

23.10.1 Mutations shall include both structural mutations (as defined in Registration Rule 31.6) and coat mutations (to include all forms of hairlessness, all forms of hair-losing genes, all rex coats, and Lykoi coats).

Rules Chair Note:

This proposal is not yet ready for the ballot. It is sent to this meeting so that the Board can decide if this change in policy (restricting what can be shown in HHP/HHPK) is appropriate. If required, it can be referred back to Rules Committee for any necessary re-work.

Contd/...

Rules Committee Comments:

1. On "other rules affected by the proposed change and to ensure that the proper terms are used to convey the meaning intended and to ensure uniformity of terminology throughout"

- The judge has the ability under our existing rules to DQ it (as do the show Committee - see 21.60) but for clarity and transparency it would also need an owner to explicitly declare the entry complies with this proposed rule as part of the entry procedures. Thus, an additional rule will be needed in Article Four of the Show Rules plus a change to TOES as well.
- The language of the proposal needs further work

2. Opinions on the merits (or otherwise) of the proposal (i.e. "to review proposals" as per Standing Rule 106.4.1.1)

Pros:

- Would ensure no further (ineligible) double-mutation cats could attend TICA shows

Cons:

- Goes against the current policy of allowing all cats to be shown in HHP/HHPK.
- Insufficient data supplied to identify the extent of the issue – further research will be necessary

Add Show Rules 210.9.1 & 210.9.2 (Use of Cat Carriers) - Yawata

Rationale:

At certain Region's TICA show, some exhibitors/agents placed their cats in carriers on the judging table and asked that the cats be judged without taking them out of the carriers. On the other hand, there was a case where a carrier (containing a cat) put into judging cage, the Final judging was going on and awards were given.

Since there are no rules prohibiting such things, and no one can guarantee that something like these never happen again, so I would like to propose adding new rules to the Show Rules to ensure that exhibitors/agents and clerks are aware of these

Add Show Rules 210.9.1 & 210.9.2:

210.9.1 A exhibitor and/or an agent shall not place a carrier containing a cat into a judging cage.

210.9.2 A exhibitor and/or an agent shall not put a carrier containing a cat on the judging table and ask a judge to judge without removing the cat.

Rules Committee Comments:

1. On "other rules affected by the proposed change and to ensure that the proper terms are used to convey the meaning intended and to ensure uniformity of terminology throughout"

None

2. Opinions on the merits (or otherwise) of the proposal (i.e. "to review proposals" as per Standing Rule 106.4.1.1)

Pros:

- None identified

Cons:

- Unnecessary change as it is already covered by Show Rules 210.9, 210.10, and 216.4
- Specifically singling out cat carriers would rule out other possibilities such as a cat bed

Amend Standing Rule 601.2.21 & 901.4.5.3 (Gender Neutrality) - Yawata

Rationale:

If TICA, as a global Association, is serious about establishing "Gender Neutrality", it is essential to have uniformity and consistency in wording in all of TICA Rules, Programs, etc. And I think that "singular they/them/their" should be used in all documents.

:

Amend Standing Rule 601.1.21.1:

601.1.21.1 FOR Example: A cat has a total of 12,421 points, with the lowest score being 227 as follows:

~~He~~ **They** goes to a 10-ring show and wins the following awards:

What's ~~his~~ **their** new score now? It works out like this:

Now, since ~~his~~ **their** lowest score was 227, ~~he~~ **they** can only use Ring 3 toward ~~his~~ **their** final score (12,421), subtract the lowest ring (227), then add the replacement ring (256) and you've got ~~his~~ **their** new score: 12,450.

Amend Standing Rule 901.4.5.3:

901.4.5.3 Regional Members of the Year. Each year the membership of each region shall select a member who has done the most for TICA and ~~his or her~~ **their** region during the previous year. An appropriate award will be presented to the Regional Member at the Regional Awards Banquet and/or the Annual Convention. Members of the Board of Directors are ineligible for this award. 210.9.1 A exhibitor and/or an agent shall not place a carrier containing a cat into a judging cage.



Rules Committee Comments:

1. On "other rules affected by the proposed change and to ensure that the proper terms are used to convey the meaning intended and to ensure uniformity of terminology throughout"

- Additional changes related to the Judging Program have been referred to the Judging Committee for comment. Any changes they recommend will be submitted at a future Board Meeting.
- "A cat" and/or "it" would be more appropriate wording for 601.1.21.1 and is similar wording to references to cats in the Show Rules.

2. Opinions on the merits (or otherwise) of the proposal (i.e. "to review proposals" as per Standing Rule 106.4.1.1)

Pros:

- The change to 901.4.5.3 is appropriate and consistent with previous changes on this topic.

Contd/...

Cons:

- Amend Standing Rule 601.1.21.1: Neither the current or suggested wording seems proper. The example is referring to a cat, not a person. "Gender neutrality" is usually applied to people.

Add Standing Rules 1012.5 (Realignment) - Faccioli

Rationale:

Each three years, a committee is formed to review the Regions' structure and to propose any realignment to the Board of Directors. Although this routine has been a practice for years, there's no reference to "realignment" on our Rules nor minimum criteria to how proceed with this, except for some vague guidance in the Board Governance Policy. This proposal aims to fill this gap.

Add Standing Rule 1012.5

1012.5 Realignment. Every three years, beginning with the 2025 Winter Meeting, the Board of Directors shall ensure that the membership is adequately represented by evaluating the overall structure of the Regions.

1012.5.1 Prior to the applicable Winter Meeting, the President shall appoint an ad hoc Realignment committee comprising members of the Board of Directors. This committee shall be appointed with sufficient time to complete their evaluation and to make its recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Winter Meeting.

1012.5.2 At a minimum, the committee should evaluate the following:

1012.5.2.1 The number of members per Region.

1012.5.2.2 The number of shows/rings per Region.

1012.5.2.3 Geographical and/or other conditions which restrict travel to shows in the Region where a given area/country is located.

1012.5.2.4 Each Region's compliance with the requirements set forth on By-Laws Article Twelve and Standing Rule 1012.2 for a Region to be established.

1012.5.3 If a Region fails to meet the requirements of By-Laws Article Twelve and Standing Rule 1012.2, the Board, after considering the prior three-year trend, may require that an action plan be created and submitted to the Board for approval. Progress towards fulfilling the plan will be reviewed at the end of the subsequent three-year period. If requirements have not been met and no significant progress shown, the Board may eliminate the Region and assign its members to another existing Region.

Rules Committee Comments:

1. On "other rules affected by the proposed change and to ensure that the proper terms are used to convey the meaning intended and to ensure uniformity of terminology throughout"

Bylaws 112.1 and 112.2 should be updated in due course to remove the North American focus.

With the agreement of the proposer, the original wording has been changed by the Rules Committee to reflect the need to evaluate the current state – as revisions may not always be necessary.

2. Opinions on the merits (or otherwise) of the proposal (i.e. "to review proposals" as per Standing Rule 106.4.1.1)

Pros:

- Codifies the procedure the BOD has followed for quite a number of years

Cons:

- None identified

Add Standing Rule 1015.3.1 (Signatures) - Wood

Rationale:

When TICA's Bylaws were originally written as part of its foundation, pen, paper and physical signatures were the norm. In current times, the majority of correspondence is conducted online. Our rules should be brought up to date to reflect this.

What constitutes a signature is not currently defined in our rules. However, as a Texas non-profit corporation, TICA is also governed by the Texas Business Organisations Code which also permits the use of digital and electronic signatures as set out in BOC Sec 1.001 (82).

Bylaws 15 and 16 include an initial request stage that require members' signatures. If the initial request is valid, then it is followed by a formal membership vote using the established procedures of Article 13. For clarity and transparency to our members, acceptable signature methods should be defined in our rules.

Recent experience has shown that many members have great difficulty in creating digital signatures using tools such as Adobe Acrobat. However, filling in a form online and then submitting it seems to be within competence of most members and is similar in concept to the TFMS processes and would constitute an "electronic signature" consistent with Texas State Law. Use of the email address associated with a member's TFMS account would be unique to that person and facilitate identification of that member by the EO.

Add Standing Rule 1015.3.1:

1015.3.1 Signatures

For the purposes of Article 15 and Article 16 of the Bylaws, physical signatures, digital signatures and electronic signatures may be used. Digital and electronic signatures may be collected through the use of a third-party web site including, but not limited to, organizations that are in the business of providing online petition services.

1015.3.1.1 In all cases a signature by itself is not acceptable. It must be associated with whatever document the signatory is signing.

1015.3.1.2 Physical signatures shall also include scans, digital photos and facsimiles of a signed document.

1015.3.1.3 Electronic signatures shall include, as a minimum, the member's name and their email address (as recorded in their TFMS account). Electronic signatures may be submitted either individually or as part of an electronic file containing multiple members' electronic signatures. All submitted files shall be in a form capable of being read by the Executive Office.

1015.3.2 Fees

The filing fees for recall shall be:

For the President or Vice President	\$250
For a Regional Director	\$150
For Breed Committee	\$ 50

Rules Committee Comments:

1. On "other rules affected by the proposed change and to ensure that the proper terms are used to convey the meaning intended and to ensure uniformity of terminology throughout"

None - although other rules mention signatures (e.g. Registration Rules) so these may need to be addressed at a future date

2. Opinions on the merits (or otherwise) of the proposal (i.e. "to review proposals" as per Standing Rule 106.4.1.1)

Pros:

- Clarifies that electronic and digital signatures may also be used during the initial stage for each of these Bylaws.
- Subsequent stages still use the established methods for electronic ballots as set out in Article 13.

Cons:

- None identified

Add Standing Rule 308.2 (Cattery Name Requirement) – van Mullem

Rationale:

The current rules for cattery registration are outlined in TICA's Registration Rules, Article Eight: Cattery Name.

However, the cattery registration form imposes an additional requirement: "Cattery names must be one word (no spaces or special characters like ', #, &, -, ö, é, etc. allowed)."

Technically, accented characters such as ö and é are not special characters. They are diacritical Latin letters, which are regular Latin alphabet letters (A-Z) modified by accent marks to indicate different pronunciations or meanings in various languages. These characters are essential in many languages, especially in Scandinavia, where letters like å, ä, and ö are part of the alphabet.

In contrast, symbols like #, &, and ' are non-letter special characters, used for punctuation or symbolic purposes, and are not tied to any specific alphabet.

As TICA gains popularity in Scandinavia, where accented Latin letters are commonly used in cattery names, the current restriction poses challenges. Breeders are interested in coming over to TICA, but won't because of our current restrictions on the use of diacritical Latin letters in the cattery names.

For example, a Swedish cattery name like Nattväsen means "Night creature," but if forced to drop the diacritical mark, Nattvasen would mean "Night vase," resulting in a significant change in meaning.

In TICA's former IT system (TDS), it was technically impossible to accommodate diacritical Latin letters. However, with the new TFMS system, this restriction no longer applies, allowing these letters to be used in cattery names. This change would enable established breeders in other organizations to join TICA without losing their original cattery name.

Add Standing Rule 308.2:

308.2 A cattery name must be a single word containing only letters, numbers or diacritical Latin letters (e.g. ö, é, å)

If the rule is approved by the Board, also amend the cattery registration form to read:

"Cattery names must be one word (no spaces or special characters like ', #, &, -, etc. allowed). Diacritical Latin letters (e.g. ö, é, å) are permitted."

Rules Committee Comments:

1. On "other rules affected by the proposed change and to ensure that the proper terms are used to convey the meaning intended and to ensure uniformity of terminology throughout"

TOES and registration forms may also need updating

2. Opinions on the merits (or otherwise) of the proposal (i.e. "to review proposals" as per Standing Rule 106.4.1.1)

Pros:

- Removal of the restriction would allow some long-established Scandinavian breeders to retain their own cattery name in TICA
- Would encourage breeders from a predominately FIFe community to register with TICA
- Duplication issues of cattery names (e.g Nattväsen and Nattvasen) could be addressed through availability being checked using the "base latin" version of all letters.
- It appears that TFMS already accepts diacritical letters in imported cats (e.g SE*Kläppbackens Flareon/FI)

Cons:

- Would not address non-diacritical letters (e.g. æ and ø) used in Denmark and Norway.
- Whilst recognising the importance of representation within a global community, the EO have reservations about the potential impact on operational efficiency, database consistency, and user experience.

Amend JP Article 1 and Delete Article 20 (Judges' newsletter) – Judging Committee

Rationale:

The newsletter is part of the duties of the Judging Committee. It is more appropriate to include this job description in Article 1 – section 41.1

Article Twenty is no longer necessary.

Add JP 41.1.14:

41.1.14 Prepare and send a newsletter, electronically, to all participants in the Judging Program no less than twice a year.

Delete JP Article 20:

~~Article Twenty – Judge's Newsletter~~

~~420.1 The Judging Administrator shall prepare and send, no less than bi-annually, a newsletter to all persons participating in the Judging Program., all Board members and the Executive Office.~~

~~420.2 At some point during each year, to be determined by the Judging Administrator, s/he or his/her Judging Administrator Designee shall send to each participant in the Judging Program a copy of the annual judge's record form, the judge's refresher examination and a reminder of dues and judge's license fees to be paid by October 30th of each year.~~

Rules Committee Comments:

1. On "other rules affected by the proposed change and to ensure that the proper terms are used to convey the meaning intended and to ensure uniformity of terminology throughout"

With the agreement of the JA, the wording of the original proposal was amended to match the style of other rules in this section.

2. Opinions on the merits (or otherwise) of the proposal (i.e. "to review proposals" as per Standing Rule 106.4.1.1)

Pros:

- More logical positioning of the requirement

Cons:

- None identified

Amend JP Article 10 (Guest Judges) - Judging Committee

Rationale:

The proposal restricts the application for International Guest Judges to licensed Allbreed Judges in any association under the WCC or LOOF.

Once the International Guest Judge is approved, the Judging Committee will be responsible for furnishing copies of TICA Show rules, Standards, and provide assistance if needed.

Exceptions to 410.5 and 410.6 are no longer needed for any show held in any Region, these exceptions apply ONLY for isolated areas.

All references to Licensed International Guest Judge are deleted. Effective May 1, 2023, the designation of Licensed International Guest judge was terminated.

Amend JP Article 10:

410.1 International Guest Judge: Approval of International Guest Judges is delegated to the Judging Committee.

410.1.1 International Guest Judge. A club may apply to the Judging Committee for approval for a licensed Allbreed judge from another cat association to judge a TICA show.

410.1.1.1 Application shall be made on the official TICA Application for Invitation of International Guest Judge.

410.1.1.2 Application must be submitted to the Judging Committee **at least** 60 days prior to the show dates.

410.1.2 An International Guest Judge must be licensed in the formats and/or breeds to be judged.

The International Guest Judge should be licensed as an Allbreed Judge **in any association that is a member of the World Cat Congress or an organization that has a formal agreement with TICA for the mutual recognition of judges.** **However** ~~however~~, exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

410.1.3 Included with the application, the club must furnish documentation of the international judge's qualifications on the form provided to the Judging **Committee Administrator**, with a translation to English if the original documents are in a language other than English. Documentation shall consist of one or more of the following:

410.1.3.1 A copy of the judge's license.

410.1.3.2 A copy of the licensing association's listing of judges showing the applicant judge with their current status.

410.4.3.3 Other documentation or correspondence from the office of the licensing association which indicates the judge's current status.

410.4.4 If the judge is approved by the Judging Committee, the ~~club~~ **Judging Committee** is responsible for furnishing the International Guest Judge copies of TICA Show Rules and Standards, and working with said judge on interpretation and clarification.

410.4.4.1 Once a Guest Judge has been approved by the committee, any subsequent invitation/application for that same judge and the same show season may be automatically approved by the Judging Administrator without presentation to the committee, as long as the AB license is still valid and no problems have been reported on previous assignments and it will not exceed the limitations as listed in 410.4.5 or 410.4.6.

410.4.5 A judge may serve as a Guest Judge no more than nine (9) shows per TICA show season ~~except as stated in 410.1.6.1.~~

410.4.6 There shall be no more than two Guest Judges per show weekend or 50 percent of the rings whichever is less ~~except as stated in 410.1.6.1.~~

410.7 Isolated areas. Exceptions to 410.5 and 410.6 may be considered and granted on a case-by-case basis.

~~410.1.6.1 The number of Guest Judges allowed to judge shows in isolated areas shall be considered on a case-by-case basis. Exceptions to 410.1.5 and 410.1.6 shall be considered on a case-by-case basis. For the show seasons 2021/2022 and 2022-2023 only, this provision shall also apply for any show held in any Region.~~

~~410.2 Licensed International Guest Judge. A Licensed International Guest Judge may judge for any TICA club upon invitation without approval of the Judging Committee or restriction of the number of show weekends.~~

~~410.2.1 In order to maintain an active guest judge's license, the International guest judge must maintain active TICA membership with payment of annual membership dues and annual license fee by October 30th of each year, must have a TICA Approved Allbreed Judge as a sponsor, and must pass the annual Refresher Exam by June 30th of each year.~~

~~410.2.2 Effective May 1, 2023 the designation of Licensed International Guest judge will terminate. Any remaining Licensed International Guest Judges, who otherwise meet the requirements for relicensing, will be considered licensed as Provisional Allbreed Judges.~~

Contd/...

Rules Committee Comments:

1. On "other rules affected by the proposed change and to ensure that the proper terms are used to convey the meaning intended and to ensure uniformity of terminology throughout"

With the agreement of the JA, a specific reference to LOOF was removed and placed by alternative wording for future-proofing and other wording was changed for simplification.

2. Opinions on the merits (or otherwise) of the proposal (i.e. "to review proposals" as per Standing Rule 106.4.1.1)

Pros:

- Removes redundant wording for Licensed International Guest Judges
- Puts onus on JC rather than the club to support Guest Judges

Cons:

- None identified

Amend JP Article 15 (Licence renewals) – Judging Committee

Rationale:

The proposal allows judges to be a working member of an active TICA club or a TICA committee.

418.6 – 418.8 – 418.9 – 418.11 and 418.12 are moved to Article 15 since these procedures apply in the case the Judging Committee votes not to renew a judge's license.

Amend JP Article 15:

Article Fifteen – ~~Requirements for Annual Renewal of~~ Judging License Renewals

415.1 All judges actively engaged in judging, including Distinguished Judges, Judges of Merit, and any Judge Emeritus still judging, shall be required to take an annual refresher test, which must be returned to the Judging Committee Designee with a postmark, fax or email date no later than June 30th of each year. The test must be passed with a score of 95 percent or higher.

415.2 All judges must accumulate six Continuing Education Units (CEU's) each show season, with the exception of Judges Emeritus. CEU's are earned as described in Article 13.

415.2.1 Judges failing to accumulate six CEU's in one show season must earn twelve CEU's in the next show season.

415.2.2 Any CEU's already earned by a trainee during the show season in which they become a judge shall count towards this total.

415.2.3 A completed annual Judge's Record Form must be sent to the Judging Committee Designee with a postmark, fax or email date no later than June 30th of each year. The Annual Record Form lists a judge's activities (shows, CEU's, etc.) for the previous show season (May 1st-April 30th). Judges Emeriti are exempt from the Record Form requirement.

415.3 Each judge must be a working member of an active working TICA club **within their own** resident region **or of an active TICA committee.**

415.4 Each Judge must annually agree to and abide by the TICA Code of Ethics.

415.5 TICA membership dues and judge's license fee for the next show season must be paid to the Executive Office by October 30th of each year. Judges Emeriti and Distinguished Judges are exempt from license fees.

415.6 All outstanding fines or penalties must be paid before a judging license is renewed.

~~415.6 The completed annual Judge's Record Form must be sent to the Judging Committee Designee with a postmark, fax or email date no later than June 30th of each year. The annual Record Form lists a judge's activities (shows, CEU's, etc.) for the previous show season (May 1st – April 30th). Judges Emeriti are exempt from the Record Form requirement.~~

415.7 Judges shall be licensed **for the subsequent show year** ~~each year~~ at the Judging Committee meeting in December. Judges with a current license will be listed in the appropriate publications.

415.8 If the Judging Committee votes not to renew a judge's license for the upcoming show year, based on missing requirements **or outstanding fines**, it may renew a license when the missing requirements have been met **or when outstanding fines have been received in the Executive Office**. The license has not been revoked; it has expired. **It** may be renewed upon meeting requirements for renewal.

415.9 If a judge's license is not renewed at the December Judging Committee Meeting, the judge may continue to judge until April 30. After May 1st, the judge does not have a valid TICA judging license and may not judge TICA shows until a valid judging license has been issued.

415.9.1 The non-renewal date may be delayed for a show for which the affected judge has a contract and has purchased a non-refundable plane ticket prior to the December Judging Committee Meeting. Their license shall expire on completion of said show.

415.9.2 It is understood that the affected judge will not accept additional assignments to judge shows taking place during this extended period.

415.10 A judge whose license has not been renewed is no longer a member of the Judging Program on the effective date of the non-renewal and will be dropped from the official TICA Judges List, which is maintained by the Deputy Judging Administrator and published in the TICA TREND.

415.11 Upon receipt of notice of non-renewal of judge's license, the judge shall provide to the Judging Administrator a complete list of shows contracted within 10 days. The Judging Administrator shall notify the clubs affected by this non-renewal.

~~415.9 A judge's license shall not be renewed if that judge has any outstanding fines. However, the Judging Committee may renew the license when the fine(s) has/have been received in the Executive Office.~~

~~415.10~~**12** If a judge's license is not renewed, then the judge may file an appeal with the Board of Directors for review. The appeal will normally be heard at the next scheduled Board meeting. The final decision on renewal is solely at the Board's discretion.

415.13~~44~~ A current professional color photo must be submitted to the TICA Yearbook Editor every 3 years. Photographs must follow the specifications set by the Yearbook Editor.

Rules Committee Comments:

1. On "other rules affected by the proposed change and to ensure that the proper terms are used to convey the meaning intended and to ensure uniformity of terminology throughout"

With the agreement of the JA, some sections were reordered for clarity and logical flow.

2. Opinions on the merits (or otherwise) of the proposal (i.e. "to review proposals" as per Standing Rule 106.4.1.1)

Pros:

- The revised Article title more accurately reflects the content

Cons:

- Some concerns expressed that Committee membership may not be a sufficient level of involvement.

Amend JP Article 16 (Penalties) – Judging Committee

Rationale:

The Judging Committee was created at the 2018 Winter Meeting to oversee, administer and update the Judging Program. The Judging Committee has assumed administration of non-disciplinary matters related to the Judging Program. This includes, but is not limited to, acceptances into or advancements within the program, continuing education, testing and relicensing. The Committee makes recommendations to the Board of Directors for changes to the Judging Program.

This proposal introduces appropriate reference to the Judging Committee and describe the penalties (fine or non-licensure) according to the requirements for the Annual Renewal of Judging License (JP – Art 15).

Suspension, demotion or revoking of judging license are removed from Art 16, only the TICA Board of Directors can take disciplinary actions against TICA judges.

Amend JP Article 16:

416.1 Failure to fulfill judging requirements shall include failure to comply with the Bylaws, Show Rules and other rules, including the Judging Program, specifically Article Sixteen, of this Association.

416.2 The penalty for failing to fulfill judging requirements for **the annual renewal of judging license** shall be assessed by the **Judging Committee** ~~Board of Directors~~ on a case by case basis, and may include a fine **or non-licensure**, ~~suspension, demotion or any other penalty.~~

416.3 The following penalties shall be automatically assessed **for failure to:** ~~unless the judge is an Approved Allbreed Judge, in which case the Judging Administrator shall notify the judge that a hearing shall take place at the next meeting of the Board of Directors:~~

~~416.3.1 Penalties shall be assessed for failure to:~~

416.3.1.1 Satisfactorily complete the Annual Refresher **Test by June 30th.**

416.3.1.2 Pay membership dues and/or license fees by October 30th.

416.3.1.3 Forward a complete Judge's Yearly Record form by June 30th.

416.3.1.4 ~~Forward~~ **Provide** judges' books to the Executive Office within 48 or 72 hours ~~per~~ **as required by** Standing Rule 2017.1

416.3.1.5 Properly ~~notify~~ **respond to** the Executive Office **with an appropriate correction within 10 days**, ~~show committee and the appropriate exhibitors~~, upon notification by the Executive Office that a mistake which requires correction has been made in a judge's book, ~~of the correction within 10 days.~~

416.3.1.6 Provide the Yearbook Editor with a new picture every 3 years.

416.~~43~~.2 Penalties:

416.~~43~~.2.1 First offense – \$25 fine and letter of reprimand from the Judging Administrator.

416.43.2.2 Second offense (within any 12-month period) – \$50 fine.

416.43.2.3 Further offenses – may include, but are not limited to, **an additional fine or non-licensure, or a referral to the Board for possible disciplinary action;** ~~suspension, demotion or any other penalty, except that an Approved Allbreed Judge may not be demoted without a hearing.~~

416.53.3 Extenuating circumstances, when applicable, shall be taken into consideration.

Rules Committee Comments:

1. On "other rules affected by the proposed change and to ensure that the proper terms are used to convey the meaning intended and to ensure uniformity of terminology throughout"

None

2. Opinions on the merits (or otherwise) of the proposal (i.e. "to review proposals" as per Standing Rule 106.4.1.1)

None

Amend JP Article 17 (Code of Ethics) – Judging Committee

Rationale:

This proposal removes the designation of as judges as employees. Independent contractor should be a better term; however, this paragraph is about the judges complying with the rules, not about describing themselves as employees or independent contractors.

The proposal explicitly describes the manipulation of counts, while exhibiting or show managing, as an unethical behavior.

The proposal clarifies the concept of Presentation Only that applies when the judge is responsible for a cat that does not belong to them (any place, any reason), other than veterinary care.

The proposal clarifies how judges need to process in the event of judging a different show at a different location on consecutive days.

Amend JP Article 17

417.1 All participants in the TICA Judging Program shall abide by the TICA By-Laws, Show Rules, Registration Rules, Judging Program, all Board rulings, the Code of Ethics and Judge's Contracts as written, ~~and as employees of the club shall act accordingly.~~

417.2 Judges should be aware that ~~they are being honored by~~ being asked to judge a show **is an honor and shall act accordingly.**

417.3 Participants in the Judging Program are representatives of TICA ~~at all times~~ and shall conduct themselves as such, **taking care to avoid actions that reflect adversely on TICA and the cat fancy.**

417.4 Participants in the Judging Program shall act in a professional manner by displaying a considerate and caring attitude and courteous behavior whether verbal, written and/or as demonstrated by physical actions.

417.5 Participants in the Judging Program shall support the TICA Mission Statement, ~~and the Position Paper on Pet Overpopulation.~~

417.6 Judges, whether judging, exhibiting or visiting a show, shall not cause disruption during a show.

417.7 Judges, while exhibiting or show managing, shall not manipulate the counts to benefit their cats to the detriment of other competitors.

417.87 If a judge **is responsible for** ~~shares a room with~~ a cat, **that does not belong to them,** for any reason or at any place **(other than for veterinary care),** that cat must be Presentation Only in that judge's ring for the next 6 months.

417.9 A judge may not officiate and a trainee may not train at a show when a person residing in the same household is serving as Entry Clerk.

417.10~~8~~ If there is a conflict between a written contract and a verbal contract by a judge, the written contract shall prevail. A change in the written contract voids the contract.

417.10~~8~~.1 Any judge who has **accepted an assignment** ~~signed a contract~~ to judge a show shall not accept another **assignment** ~~contract~~ to judge a different show on that same date unless the original **assignment** ~~contract~~ is cancelled by the club. In the event that, inadvertently, more than one **assignment** ~~contract~~ has been **agreed signed**, the earlier date of **signing agreement** will determine the applicable **assignment** ~~contract~~.

417.9-11 A judge may judge a show one day in one location, and judge a different show at a different location on **consecutive days** ~~a subsequent day of the same weekend only~~ if:

~~417.9.1 Both clubs agree in writing to this arrangement.~~

417.9-211.1 The judge can make travel arrangements that do not require **them** ~~him/her~~ to leave the show hall during the advertised hours; and

417.9-311.2. Neither club is required to pay more than the lowest **reasonable** available round-trip air fare from the judge's home **according to the Agreement to Judge a TICA Show**.

417.12 The judge shall not make travel arrangements that require them to leave the show hall during the advertised hours unless they have pre-approval to do so.

417.13~~10~~ A judge shall make every ~~reasonable~~ effort to keep travel, meal and other incidental expenses as ~~low~~ **reasonable** as possible for the hosting club.

~~417.11 No person residing in the same household as a judge or trainee may serve as Entry Clerk for a show at which the judge is officiating or the trainee training.~~

~~417.12 No action may be taken against an Approved Specialty Judge, Provisional Allbreed Judge, Approved Allbreed Judge or an Instructor without full documentation of charges against that judge and a hearing before the Board of Directors~~

Contd/...

Rules Committee Comments:

1. On "other rules affected by the proposed change and to ensure that the proper terms are used to convey the meaning intended and to ensure uniformity of terminology throughout"

With the Agreement of the JC, some wording changes were made to this Article for (a) consistency with Show Rules and (b) clarity and ease of understanding.

2. Opinions on the merits (or otherwise) of the proposal (i.e. "to review proposals" as per Standing Rule 106.4.1.1)

Pros:

- Replaces "signed contracts" by "agreements" reflecting that fewer Judging Contracts are now actually signed (and is consistent language with Article 13 of the Show Rules).
- Clarifies expectations of judges' behaviour
- Addresses specific situations that have caused concern in the past.
- Clarifies "Presentation Only" circumstances

Cons:

- None identified

Amend JP Article 18 (Discipline) – Judging Committee

Rationale:

The proposal clarifies that disciplinary actions refer to remove, suspend or demote someone a judge from the Judging Program. Disciplinary actions are under the Board's jurisdiction.

Not to renew a judge's license for the upcoming show year is not a disciplinary action and according to JP Article 15 this is under the Judging Committee's jurisdiction.

This proposal allows the Judging Committee to send a reprimand letter in cases of informal complaints.

Amend JP Article 18:

Article Eighteen – Discipline

418.1 The Board **of Directors** shall assess an appropriate penalty for:

418.1.1 Failure to comply with any provision of the Judging Program, Show Rules and/or By-Laws.

418.1.2 Conduct unbecoming a TICA judge **according to the TICA Judge's Code of Ethics**.

418.1.3 Penalties shall include, but not be limited to, being **removed, suspended or demoted** ~~dropped~~ from the Judging Program, ~~being denied advancement within the program, or being demoted~~ following a hearing, if one is requested. ~~(See 418.14.)~~

418.2 Any judge against whom **an informal** complaint is filed which could **result in** ~~evoke~~ a reprimand shall be notified in writing by the Judging Administrator **or their designee** of the specifics of the complaint and given an opportunity to respond. ~~Complaints regarding judges are to be sent to the Judging Administrator. Protests~~ **Formal** complaints against judges are to be sent to the Executive Office. ~~for forwarding to the Judging Administrator.~~

418.2.1 **As a result of a formal complaint, the** ~~The~~ Board **of Directors** may instruct the Judging Administrator to issue a ~~Reprimand~~ **reprimand** to any participant in the Judging Program. Such reprimand shall be considered notice to the participant that a problem exists, and further action may result.

418.2.2 As a result of an informal complaint, the Judging Committee may instruct the Judging Administrator to issue a reprimand to any participant in the Judging Program. Such reprimand shall be considered notice to the participant that a problem exists, and further action may result.

~~418.3 If a judge is not an active member of an active TICA club, a current judging license may not be issued, or an advancement may not be granted. The Board may, however, take into consideration other contributions made by the judge to the cat fancy in general.~~

418.4³ No person may judge a **TICA** show without a valid judging license.

~~418.5 If the Board votes not to renew a judge's license for the upcoming show year, it may advise the Judging Administrator to may issue a license when missing requirements have been met. The license has not been revoked; it has expired; it may be renewed upon meeting requirements for renewal.~~

~~418.6 If a judge's license is not renewed at the Winter Board Meeting, the judge may continue to judge until April 30. After May 1st, the judge does not have a valid TICA judging license and may not judge TICA shows until a valid judging license has been issued.~~

~~418.7 In the event an Approved Specialty or Provisional Allbreed judge's license is not renewed, and there are extenuating circumstances of which the Board is unaware, the judge may request a hearing within 45 days of the denial date by notifying the Executive Office and copying the Judging Administrator.~~

~~418.8 A judge whose license has not been renewed becomes a non-participant in the Judging Program on the effective date of the non-renewal.~~

~~418.9 If a judge's license is not renewed, the judge will be immediately dropped from the official TICA Judge's List, which is maintained by the Judging Administrator and published in the TICA TREND.~~

418.4¹⁰ All hearing notices will be sent by **electronic or** certified mail, return-receipt **if** requested.

~~418.11 Upon receipt of notice of non-renewal of judge's license, the judge shall provide the Judging Administrator a complete list of shows contracted within 10 days. The Judging Administrator shall notify the clubs affected by this non-renewal.~~

~~418.12 The non-renewal date may be delayed for a show for which the affected judge has a contract and has purchased a non-refundable plane ticket prior to the Winter Board Meeting. License shall expire on completion of said show. It is understood that the affected judge will not accept additional assignments to judge shows taking place during this extended period.~~

418.5¹³ A Probationary Specialty judge is on probation in the Judging Program. ~~S/he~~ **They** may be dropped from the Judging Program, ~~or denied advancement within the program,~~ at any time upon demonstration of just cause. A hearing is not necessary.

418.6¹⁴ No action may be taken against an Approved Specialty Judge, Provisional Allbreed Judge, Approved Allbreed Judge or an Instructor without full documentation of charges against that judge and a hearing before the Board of Directors.

Rules Committee Comments:

1. On "other rules affected by the proposed change and to ensure that the proper terms are used to convey the meaning intended and to ensure uniformity of terminology throughout"

With the agreement of the JA, the additional wording in 418.2.2 was added to the article.

2. Opinions on the merits (or otherwise) of the proposal (i.e. "to review proposals" as per Standing Rule 106.4.1.1)

Pros:

- Clarifies disciplinary procedures and removes content now included elsewhere in the Judging Program.
- Reconfirms that formal disciplinary action can only be carried out by the Board of Directors

Cons:

- None identified

Delete JP Article 19 (Household Pet Judging Program) – Judging Committee

Rationale:

Article Nineteen is no longer necessary since there are no longer any judges holding a Household Pet Judging License ONLY.

Delete JP Article 19:

~~Article Nineteen – Household Pet Judging Program~~

~~(Note: Any judge who holds a Household Pet judging license on May 1, 2004 may retain his/her license by continuing to fulfill the annual requirements for relicensing of all judges as stated in the Judging Program, Article Fourteen.)~~

Rules Committee Comments:

1. On "other rules affected by the proposed change and to ensure that the proper terms are used to convey the meaning intended and to ensure uniformity of terminology throughout"

- There are other outdated references to HHP Judges in Standing Rules and Show Rules. These can be addressed by a future Board Meeting if the Board approves this change.

2. Opinions on the merits (or otherwise) of the proposal (i.e. "to review proposals" as per Standing Rule 106.4.1.1)

Pros:

- Removes a redundant and outdated part of the Judging Program

Cons:

- None identified

Amend CP 51.2.4.3.5 (Clerking requirements for Judges) - Yawata

Rationale:

This is housekeeping as there are two separate clerking requirements for New Judges versus Transfer Judges. While it is detailed out in the Judging Program manual, it is not in the Clerking Program manual.

Amend CP 51.2.4.3.5:

51.2.4.3.5 Passed the written examination for Master Clerk with a score of 90 percent or better.

NOTE: If you are going into the TICA Judging Program, see 43.2.5 of the Judging Program. If you are a transfer judge from another association, see 49.10.4.3 of the Judging Program.

Rules Committee Comments:

1. On "other rules affected by the proposed change and to ensure that the proper terms are used to convey the meaning intended and to ensure uniformity of terminology throughout"

None

2. Opinions on the merits (or otherwise) of the proposal (i.e. "to review proposals" as per Standing Rule 106.4.1.1)

Pros:

- None identified

Cons:

- It is an unnecessary addition and irrelevant to the Clerking function
- There is really no relationship between this section of the Clerking Program and the requirements in the cited Judging Program

Amend JE 83.1 (JE Excellence Award) – JE Committee

Rationale:

The Junior Exhibitor Committee acknowledges that each region may have different levels of shows in which the Juniors may participate in. We have a few regions that have a limited number of shows to attend and great distance to another region. We also have regions that are vast in themselves creating hardship in following the 83.1 current minimum of 4 shows to participate in. Although our Juniors have been acknowledged at regional shows and at the Annual, regardless-we felt it was time to get more in step with what has been encountered in some of our areas.

This is also cleaning up some verbiage and adding acknowledgement of showing a different cat/breed could be part of advancement within the Program. The information should be initially sent to the Region Liaison.

Amend 83.1 The Junior Exhibitor Program and Excellence Award

83.1 The Junior Exhibitor Program and Excellence Award This program is for Junior Exhibitors that desire to show their cats, enjoying the TICA experience from an exhibitor perspective. Junior Exhibitors may qualify yearly for a Junior Exhibitor Excellence Award. To qualify, a Junior Exhibitor ~~must be exhibitor in four (4) shows a year~~ **must show in a minimum of 2 shows** and **have been** provided a letter of endorsement from their JE Regional Liaison. To receive the award, the Junior Exhibitor must adhere to TICA rules and forward copies of the catalog cover pages and the pages that name the Junior Exhibitor as the owner/co-owner or agent to the JE Regional Liaison ~~or Regional Director~~. **for their records. If the Junior Exhibitor is utilizing a different cat/breed in the Junior Exhibitor Ring, it should be noted on the Evaluation Form by the Liaison (or responsible party). The Regional Liaison will then forward the Junior Exhibitor names in points order to the Regional Director.** Regional Director shall forward the list of names to the Executive Office.

83.1.1 The Junior Exhibitor Excellence Award shall be awarded annually at the Regional Award ceremonies.

Rules Committee Comments:

1. On "other rules affected by the proposed change and to ensure that the proper terms are used to convey the meaning intended and to ensure uniformity of terminology throughout"

- JE Program 85.2.1, 86.2.1, 87.2.1, 88.2.1, 89.2.1, 810.2.1 still refer to 4 TICA shows - is this correct or should these be reduced to 2 as well?
- Although a "different cat/breed" is introduced in 83.1, there is no reference to this elsewhere in the JE Program from a points/advancement viewpoint. We assume this is facilitating a future amendment.

Contd/...

2. Opinions on the merits (or otherwise) of the proposal (i.e. "to review proposals" as per Standing Rule 106.4.1.1)

Pros:

- Updates requirements to reflect reality of the number and spread of TICA shows in some regions.

Cons:

- Not clear if reducing the requirement of number of shows in 83.1 should be adjusted elsewhere in the JE Program.

Amend JE 813.2 and add new 813.3 (Extra Points) – JE Committee

Rationale:

The Updated Junior Exhibitor Program including added Distinctions was approved in January 2023. With these added Distinctions, it has been found some may include activity outside of the show hall (volunteering at a shelter or Cat Cafe; attending a cat related class or hosting a Cat Care 101 with a 4H or Girl Scout Troop are some examples). We have discovered that Extra Curricular points/Outside Show Hall Points have been given already, however had not been added to the actual Program. Hence, this proposal to update so the Program fits what is already being done.

While we were on the same section regarding Extra Points, we updated some point distributions and added a few additional 'tasks' that our Junior Exhibitors do within the show hall.

These extracurricular/outside activity points also would assist Juniors who have limited shows to attend earn points through other activities involving TICA and the Cat Fancy. All would run through and be approved by the Liaison.

Please note we still keep limits on maximum points earned through JE Rings, Extra Points and Extracurricular Points. This was an important topic for the Committee and much discussed.

In regards to Junior Exhibitor Extra Curricular Points and activities that are non-point generating yet related to TICA (field trips, social activities and similar), we have created a form to be completed and signed by the parent/guardian releasing TICA, Liaison's and others from Liability. Although the Liaison may not be on hand, these activities are under the guise of the TICA Junior Exhibitor Program and TICA itself. This includes field trips and social activities in which points are not achieved yet funding or associated with TICA and the Junior program. This form has been sent to Legal for finalization and once approved, will send to Rules for inclusion.

Amend JE Program 813.2, add new 813.3

813.2 Extra Points **Junior Exhibitors may earn additional points for activities related directly to shows and activities related to certain activities outside of a show.**

813.2.1 **Show Related** **A maximum of 150 extra points will be awarded per show, up to a maximum of seven (7) shows per season,** ~~Extra points are earned at shows~~ for the completion of the following activities, as approved by Show Management on the **JE Junior Exhibitor** Extra Points Activity form.

813.2.1.1 Ring Clerk: **half day (25 pts);** 1 day (~~50~~ 25-pts); 2 days (~~100~~ 50-pts); 3 days (~~150~~ 75-pts)

813.2.1.2 Ring Steward: ½ day (10 pts); 1 day (25 pts); 2 days (50 pts); 3 days (75 pts)

813.2.1.3 Show set-up/break-down: (~~25~~ **50** pts) set-up or break-down only; (~~50~~ **100** pts) for both

813.2.1.4 Show hospitality: ½ day (10 pts); 1 day (25 pts), 2 days (50 pts); 3 days (75 pts)

813.2.1.5 Master Clerk: ~~75-pts~~ **Solo 1 day (50 pts); 2 days (100 pts); 3 days (150 pts);**

Co-Master Clerk 1 day (25 pts); 2 days (50 pts); 3 days (75 pts)

813.2.1.6 Entry Clerk: ~~75 pts~~ **Solo (150 pts)/Co-Entry Clerk (75 pts)**

813.2.1.7 Co/Junior Show Manager: (75 pts)

813.2.1.8 Front Gate Admissions/Visitor Meet and Greet: (50 pts)

813.2.1.9 Show Raffle Ticket Sales: (25 pts)

813.2.1.10 Show Website/Social Media Postings: Up To (75 pts) dependent on work performed

813.2.2 Extra Curricular/Outside Show Hall Points Extracurricular points are earned at events outside the show hall and are not show specific. A maximum of 100 extracurricular points will be awarded per show season as approved by the Regional Liaison on the Junior Exhibitor Extracurricular Points form.

813.2.2.1 Manning TICA Booth at Pet Expo/Vet Conferences (50 pts)

813.2.2.2 Attending Cat Related Seminars (50 pts)

813.2.2.3 Volunteering at feline rescues, cat cafes or similar institutions (50 pts)

813.2.2.4 Hosting Cat Care 101 at outside show hall events (25 Pts)

~~813.2.2 A maximum of 150 extra point will be awarded per show at a maximum of seven (7) shows.~~

813.3 Cumulative show season scores are the sum of the following:

813.3.1 The top 7 JE ring scores for the season; and

813.3.2 **Any extra** ~~Extra~~ show points ~~from a maximum of seven (7) shows~~ **and extracurricular points**, as earned in accordance with JE Program ~~Room~~ **Rule** 813.2.

Rules Committee Comments:

1. On "other rules affected by the proposed change and to ensure that the proper terms are used to convey the meaning intended and to ensure uniformity of terminology throughout"

Some wording was re-ordered to improve clarity.

2. Opinions on the merits (or otherwise) of the proposal (i.e. "to review proposals" as per Standing Rule 106.4.1.1)

Pros:

- Formally adds a variety of activities in which a Junior might be engaged and that encourage continued interest in cats and the cat fancy.

Contd/...

Cons:

- Some committee members felt that that the whole program has become exceedingly complex. What used to be a fun time for kids with their cats has morphed into a huge, complex web of rules and regulations.

Amend JE Program 83.3 (Excellence Categories) – JE Committee

Rationale:

This category is already mentioned in 811.6.1, but accidentally omitted from 83.3 during the 2023 revisions.

Amend JE Program 83.3:

83.3 The Junior Exhibitor Program and Achievement Award, with Distinction.
Additional requirements may be met by Junior Exhibitors who are interested in various TICA related pursuits including the Judging Program. Upon completion of the Junior Exhibitor Program and additional requirements, the Junior Exhibitor is recognized as having completed the Junior Exhibitor Program with Distinction.

Completion of the Junior Exhibitor Program with Distinction is recognized in the following areas:

Qualification to apply for entrance to the TICA Judging Program.
Excellence in Information Technology (website, social media for shows/clubs)
Excellence in Humanitarian Programs (shelters, TNR Clinics, fostering)
Excellence in Exhibiting (showing to Lifetime Achievement or some assigned level)
Excellence in Education (outreach of youth in feline education (Cat Care 101, TICA U)
Excellence in Individual Distinction such as:
Excellence in Art, Graphic Design and Photography – Photos, Catalogue Covers, Inserts, Ad Design
Excellence in Regional Administration (show reporters, regional websites or newsletters)
Excellence in Show Production and Administration (show management)
Excellence in Breeding (producing one or more Outstanding Sires or Dams)
Excellence in Science and Feline Health (genetics/veterinary sciences)
Excellence in Clerking (license in Head Ring and Master Clerking)

Rules Committee Comments:

1. On "other rules affected by the proposed change and to ensure that the proper terms are used to convey the meaning intended and to ensure uniformity of terminology throughout"

None

Contd/...

2. Opinions on the merits (or otherwise) of the proposal (i.e. "to review proposals" as per Standing Rule 106.4.1.1)

Pros:

- Straightforward correction of an accidental omission

Cons:

- None identified

Task - Public follow-up	Owner	Date Created	Status	Note
TICA's pedigree revision to include more genetic information	van Mullem	5/18/2020	ongoing	2024S - work in progress- beginning stages of bringing information over - wisdom health 2024A ongoing
Promote traditional judging	Vlach	2022A	ongoing	2024S - Knapp had Asa Broing do a traditional judging - everyone loved it. Maddox and Knapp create a step by step document/process for clubs interested and send to Vlach for review. 2024A ongoing well received.
Look into new realignment procedures - Harrison will email board to see who would be interested in being part of this committee.	Harrison	2024W	ongoing	2024S no update 2024A create a committee
Harrison will reach out to the HHP committee on the Merit Award	Harrison	2024W	ongoing	2024S - HHP committee will do a poll to see if they want to go back to the Merit Award 2024A H Gilmore is in the process of creating a poll for Merit Award vs 1st place
China - may need to consider changing law firm due to death of the office attorney	Shi	2024S	ongoing	Jeff will check to see if the current attorney office is still open and operating 2024A ongoing
Setup a committee to revamp the guidelines for the Annual (flexibility for Europe 2028)	Harrison	2024S		2024A - create a committee
How to identify when a region is suffering, come up with some sort of plan to identify trends - Identify what data is needed first then create reporting.	Danny	2024S		Schiff, Maddox, Armel, Vlach work with Danny to identify what data is needed to get the reporting and try to identify the trends. 2024A start developing in the weekly directors meetings