

**Board of Directors – Winter Meeting  
Agenda  
January 15 - 17, 2026  
Electronic**

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**Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> Open Session 7:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**Welcome and Call to Order – Harrison**

**Fiduciary Duties - Adler**

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approve Minutes - Annual Meeting 08/27 - 29/2025
2. Approve Minutes - Special Meeting 11/11/2025
3. Set Spring Meeting Dates - May 15 - 17, 2026 (electronic)
4. Appoint Tracy Hisel to the Siamese Breed Group Committee

**Breed Advancement**

1. British Breed Group Corin Colors (NT to CH)
  - Rules Committee Comments ..... 3
  - Revised Standard ..... 5

**Administrative & Fiduciary**

1. COO update – Nevarez
2. Financial Reports – Fisher  
Audit
3. Budget Proposals
  - a. Displaying all cat titles – Naumenko ..... 6
  - b. Junior Exhibitor Background Checks – Cherau/Schiff ..... 12

**Follow-up Report**

- Report..... 17

**Committee Reports**

- a. Fee Increase Committee
- b. Breeder Listing Committee
- c. Genetics Committee ..... 18
- d. Legislative Committee
- e. World Cat Congress update

**Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> (Open Session Continued) Proposals 7:00 am – 9:00 am**

**Proposals – Board Governance**

1. Amend Board Governance Policy Article 6 (Travel Expenses) - Fisher ..... 19

**Proposals – Show Rules**

1. Amend Show Rule 27.1 and Standing Rule 207.1.1.2 (Champion Titles) - Vlach..... 21
2. Amend Show Rule 27.6 (Show all Titles) - Naumenko ..... 23

**Proposals – Standing Rules**

1. Add Standing Rule 103.2.1 (Life Members) – van Mullem ..... 25
2. Amend Standing Rule 106.4.1.1 (Rules Committee) - Fisher..... 28
3. Add Standing Rule 106.4.1.8 (IT Committee) – van Mullem. .... 30
4. Add Standing Rule 107.2 (Reporting to Board) – van Mullem..... 33

**Proposals – UCD and Glossary**

1. Amend UCD 71.4.1, 74.7.7, 74.8.1 and 75.7 (Corin Registrations and Exhibition) - Shelton, van den Bunder.. 36
2. Amend UCD 74.7.2, 74.7.6, 78.1.2 (Corin Descriptions) - Shelton ..... 38

**Update on the 2026 Annual - CPE Cat Club, NE Region**

**Executive Session – Judging Program, Complaints/Hearings 9:15 am – 1:00 pm**

**Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> (Executive Session Continued) 7:00 am – 8:30 am**

**Feline Health and Welfare Project 8:45 am – 11:00 am**

**Other Business and Discussion 11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Adjourn**

## **British Group Corin – Application for New Traits to Championship (Winter 2026)**

### **Summary:**

Rules Committee has reviewed the application to add Corin colors to the British Breed Group for this meeting and it is now in compliance with the criteria in Registration Rules 33.9.2. Details below under Application Criteria.

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 British Breed Group (as required by Reg Rules 33.9.2.6).

### **Additional Work Required:**

The impact of UCD changes (dealt with under separate proposals) removes the breed specific designations for Corin and now requires a breed standard to explicitly include Corin as a color choice. This means that even those breeds that are “all colors, all divisions” will require a breed standard change in order to use Corin colors in competition.

For the three breeds that currently allow Corin (namely the Siberian, Kurilian Bobtail and Toybob), the Rules Committee recommends that their Breed Standards be updated to reflect the UCD changes, in consultation with each Breed Committee. It is the Rules Committee’s recommendation that this be treated as a housekeeping change that is non-chargeable, rather than a change under Bylaw 118.2.

### **Comments on Breed Standard:**

The Breed Standard has been revised to explicitly include Corin colors. This means it now complies with the new requirements for Corin competition specified by separate UCD proposals also put forward for this meeting.

The change is:

**COLORS: All, including Corin in the Tabby, Tabby and White, Silver/Smoke, and Silver/Smoke and white divisions.**

### **Application Criteria:**

Rules Committee has no access to TFMS and therefore the Executive Office has therefore verified the registration and membership information within the application. The Committee is grateful to the EO for their help with this application.

The application has now met the criteria as set out in Registration Rules 33.9.2 although the Committee addressed the following in their evaluation:

- Of the 50 cats listed in the application, one was incorrectly included (Belleayr Sir Authur) but the EO suggested replacing that cat with Belleayr Ray – who would be valid for this section of the application. They also noted that a total of 91 cats had been registered with Corin colors. The application is therefore compliant with 33.9.2.3.
- Of the 11 breeders/exhibitors originally listed on the application, only 7 were actually valid, according to our rules. The applicant then provided a further name, together with confirmation that two of the other breeders originally listed had now registered Corin litters. That enabled the list of breeders/exhibitors to be compliant with 33.9.2.2
- There were no other issues with the rest of the application.

Standard Change:

COLORS: All, including Corin in the Tabby, Tabby and White, Silver/Smoke, and Silver/Smoke and white divisions.

## Displaying all cat titles

**Proposer/Committee Chair Name:** Evita Naumenko

### Clarify the Issue/Need

There is a choice when changing from Cat to Alter classes to either continue claiming titles along the ladder, e.g. as a Cat the title of TGC was achieved, once an Alter they can choose to claim the QGCA & SGCA once requirements are achieved or they can start again from CHA and lose the TGC or they can do nothing at all and keep the TGC. Often when Cats have achieved the SGC title and move onto Alter classes they simply do not claim any further titles as the SGC is lost. There are many cats out there that should be double titled and a lot of double Supremes. Owners are happy to pay for these next titles but only if they can retain all titles. In most other registries around the world this is possible.

We know the scoring systems are in place as there are already multiple options open to exhibitors as they change classes. What is needed is the ability to display two titles on all documentation instead of overwriting an existing Cat title with an Alter title.

This issue has been brought up by exhibitors, who are upset that they can claim and however can't display all titles earned by their cats in TICA, same as they can in other registries. These are owners who spend extensive time and resources attending TICA shows and are one of the most loyal groups to our registry.

It has also been brought to attention that with the current setup, TICA Therapy cats titles are also not appearing on their paperwork. Again, we have a unique TICA program for the therapy cats, something to be very proud of. To achieve these titles there are extensive requirements, therefore these cats and their owners do deserve their title recognition and display.

### Define the Desired Outcome

Exhibitors claiming all titles gained at shows, and having the ability to display the highest title achieved in each class.

This would increase member satisfaction. Titles in TICA are not easy to achieve so it is important we give the members the ability to display all awards. The scoring is already completed. There is also revenue generated by claiming extra titles.

### Affected documentation

- Cat Registration Certificates
- Litter Registration Certificates
- Breeder Slips
- Awards Certificates
- Title Certificates
- Certified Pedigrees
- Vertical Pedigrees
- Ancestral Pedigrees
- Progeny Reports

These titles to also be displayed on TFMS accounts and on TOES, therefore changes are needed in their software.

### **Alignment with TICA Mission**

The TICA Mission is to keep the most accurate and comprehensive certified pedigree registry, which currently is lacking precision (as titles are not claimed). It also is completely missing Therapy cat recognition, when Therapy cats play important role in community through public education.

### **What Resources are needed?**

**Project lead:** Danny Nevarez

### **What is the Estimated Cost?**

Below is the estimate requested for implementing the "*Dual-Title Display and Therapy Title Recognition Project*".

### **Summary:**

#### **Scope of Services**

*(Dual-Title Display and Therapy Title Recognition Project — TFMS and Document Outputs Only)*

#### **1. Project Purpose**

Give exhibitors the ability to display all titles their cats have earned across classes (Cat, Alter, Therapy) without overwriting previous achievements. This includes updating TFMS and all certificates, pedigrees, and registration documents to show the highest earned title in each class.

#### **2. Core Services**

##### **A. Requirements and Analysis**

- Review current title logic for Cat, Alter, and Therapy classes in TFMS.
- Document current scoring and title-claiming paths already in use.
- Identify where title overwriting occurs in TFMS and document generation.
- Define data model adjustments needed to store and display multiple highest titles.
- Confirm alignment with TICA rules, scoring practices, and exhibitor expectations.

#### **Budget Proposal - Titles**

##### **B. System Design**

- Create specifications to support storing multiple titles for each cat.
- Define changes needed for:
  - Registration Certificates
  - Litter Registration Certificates

- Breeder Slips
- Award Certificates
- Title Certificates
- Certified Pedigrees
- Vertical Pedigrees
- Ancestral Pedigrees
- Progeny Reports

- Update TFMS screens and title-display fields to show the highest title for each class.

#### **Reference the TFMS screens to be configured**

- Ensure Therapy Cat title recognition is properly captured and displayed.

#### **C. Development**

- Update TFMS database structure to support retaining Cat, Alter, and Therapy titles simultaneously.
- Modify TFMS title logic to avoid overwriting prior titles.
- Update automated templates for registrations, pedigrees, breeder slips, and certificates.
- Implement changes to ensure all document outputs reflect the correct titles.

#### **D. Testing & Quality Control**

- Develop test cases for Cats, Alters, Therapy Cats, and dual-title scenarios.
- Validate title logic throughout TFMS.
- Confirm corrected display on all certificate and pedigree templates.
- Ensure no existing title records are altered or lost.

#### **E. Training & Documentation**

- Prepare exhibitor guidance explaining how to claim and display additional titles.
- Train Executive Office staff on new TFMS title-handling procedures.
- Update internal documentation, help pages, and FAQs.

#### **F. Rollout & Support**

- Provide a rollout plan for TFMS and certificate updates.
- Offer issue tracking, support, and refinements during the transition.
- Gather user feedback after launch and recommend follow-up adjustments.

#### **3. Deliverables**

- Updated TFMS title storage and display logic



- Updated certificate, registration, and pedigree templates
- User instructions and internal training materials
- Final testing report and rollout documentation

#### 4. Roles and Responsibilities

- Project Lead: Oversees planning, scheduling, and approvals
- Developer/IT Team: Builds and tests TFMS and template updates
- Executive Office: Provides operational insight and testing
- Committee Liaison: Ensures exhibitor needs are represented

**Estimate Details: \$27,900 + 15% Contingency = \$32,085**

Work Category	Tasks	Estimated Hours
Requirements & Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review current Cat/Alter/Therapy title logic</li> <li>• Identify overwrite points in TFMS</li> <li>• Define multi-title logic and display rules</li> <li>• Client alignment, plan review, and confirmation</li> </ul>	18
System Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data model update design (multi-title support)</li> <li>• TFMS screen update design</li> <li>• Document output logic design</li> </ul>	12
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update TFMS title logic (no overwrite)</li> <li>• Implement multi-title storage fields/structure</li> <li>• TFMS UI changes for title display</li> <li>• Update document templates (certificates/pedigrees/etc)</li> <li>• Therapy title recognition logic</li> </ul>	46
Testing & QA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write test cases for multi-title and therapy scenarios</li> <li>• System testing in TFMS</li> </ul>	28

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document output validation</li> <li>• Regression testing</li> </ul>	
<b>Training &amp; Documentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Component/feature review and documentation</li> <li>• Client training session(s)</li> </ul>	<b>10</b>
<b>Deployment &amp; Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deployment to production</li> <li>• Post-launch support and fixes</li> </ul>	<b>10</b>

#### IT System(s) Involved

- TFMS
- TOES

#### Step Two:

#### Board Meeting or Board List - Test for Alignment:

#### Existing priority projects where does this rank?

1. Limit Color Options by Breed During Cat Registration in TFMS - \$8325
2. Automate Membership and Breeder Listing Renewals in Salesforce - \$15,750
3. Improve Show Result Accuracy for Cats with Pending Registration - \$8,100
4. Standardize Country and State Fields in TFMS - \$13,950
5. Include Title Tracking Information in TFMS (Complete) - \$6,750
6. Discount on the TOES License Fee When Using the TOES Show App (Complete)
7. Litter Registration Preview Page (Complete) - \$4,050

#### Executive Office Comments:

The Executive Office feels the cost is disproportionately high for the return. We believe this funding would be better used to add additional self-service automation.

#### Board Member Comments:

Hisae Tasaki:  
Jeff Shi:

#### Liesbeth van Mullem:

I support the title tracking project. This has been a long-standing request from many exhibitors who show their cats in TICA. Implementing this project will encourage exhibitors to continue participating in shows, which in turn will benefit the clubs organizing these shows.

Allowing these extra titles to be claimed will provide a sustainable and continuous income stream in the future.

Furthermore, this project will resolve the current issue whereby Therapy titles cannot be claimed. Regarding prioritization, I would be in favour of adding this project to the end of the current project list and re-evaluating the priority of all unfinished projects after the new budget process at the May meeting.

**Kurt Vlach:**

It is difficult to say anything without having sufficient numbers (like how many cats already earn titles in CH-class before they move to the Alter-Class) – and how many of them actually will prefer the “Double Titles”. By the way – it is also possible to move a pedigreed cat to the HHP-Class which maybe should also been considered here.

Anyway, the amount of 32K seems to me quite high and I strongly believe that this is not a project which is on Top for TICA. So at the current state I would not support spending money on this

Evita Naumenko:

**Donna Maddox:**

requesting previous projects approved cost for comparison

**Brenda Russo:** Budget Proposal Titles: Low Placement

While I understand this might be a valued enhancement, I am concerned that the cost might outweigh the potential income generated.

1. Administrative Costs: Implementing a recognition system for titles may require significant administrative resources, including staff time, training, and technology, which could outweigh the anticipated benefits.
2. Lack of Demand: If there is insufficient interest or demand for the recognized titles, the costs associated with promoting and maintaining the recognition program may not be justified.

Susanna Shon:

**Christian Cherau:**

I have had many members bring up the missing Breed Winner/”BW” title in TOES. Is this in scope to be corrected as well?

Is it possible to break apart the proposal to multiple steps that we approve as funding becomes available? I'd like to see Therapy cat titles added in TFMS/TOES and BW titles added to TOES first, given those are existing programs. We could then, as a second step, implement the enhanced cat/alter title scoring tracks.

In terms of priority ranking, I put this at 7 given the lengthy work involved and my desire to complete existing development projects before new ones are added.

Tracey Hisel:

Mariela Toriggia:

Jim Armel:

**NW Region:**

I concur that the cost is too high for the return, especially at this time when our budget isn't balanced.

Laurie Patton:

Laurie Schiff:

**Luiz Paulo:** In regards to the titles, although I find merit in the proposal I also believe the projected costs are extremely high and would not recommend it.

## Junior Exhibitor Background Checks – Budget Proposal

Use this worksheet when a new initiative or proposal is raised. The goal is to ensure the expected outcome is clearly defined before assigning solutions to the Executive Office.

**Proposer/Committee Chair Name:** Christian Cherau/Laurie Schiff

### Clarify the Issue/Need

- **Explain the actual issue/need.**
  - In order to bring TICA's Junior Exhibitor (JE) Program into compliance with state and local child protection laws, Junior Exhibitor Committee Members and Liaisons who have access to personal information for and are in regular proximity to Junior Exhibitors need to have background checks.
- **Who is impacted by this issue (members, clients, breeders, exhibitors, staff)?**
  - Members & Liaisons for the Junior Exhibitor Committee
- **How do we know this is a need - what evidence or feedback do we have?**
  - This is a longstanding Board of Directors follow-up item. In addition, TICA need to be proactive in protecting our youngest members and providing a safe environment.
- **What happens if we do nothing?**
  - We would need to scale back or eliminate the Junior Exhibitor Program.

### Define the Desired Outcome

- **What would success look like in 6 months or a year?**
  - Background checks completed by the Executive Office for all existing JE Liaisons/Committee members.
  - For non-United States committee members/liaisons, this may need to be accomplished with assistance of the local Regional Director and a local background check provider. There may be individuals in such non-US areas where background checks have already been performed due to local legislation.
- **What would be different if we do this?**
  - Before any future JE Committee Liaisons or Committee Members are formally appointed, the Executive Office must perform a background check and confirm there were no issues.
- **How will we know this need has been addressed?**
  - All JE Committee Members and Liaisons have been background checked.
- **What metrics or measures could tell us we're moving in the right direction?**
  - n/a
- **What specific benefits should this outcome create for TICA? (growth, member satisfaction, efficiency, etc.)**
  - This is required to keep the Junior Exhibitor Program in its current state.

### Alignment with TICA Mission

- **Please explain how this aligns with TICA's Mission:**
  - This is required to keep the Junior Exhibitor Program in its current state.

### What Resources are needed?

**Project lead:** Christian Cherau

- Need involvement of Executive Office to engage with existing background check provider for employees.

#### **What is the Estimated Cost?**

- \$5,000 upfront
- This will likely decrease in the future and is an overestimation.

#### **IT System(s) Involved**

- unknown

#### **Step Two:**

#### **Board Meeting or Board List - Test for Alignment:**

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#### **Existing priority projects where does this rank?**

1. Limit Color Options by Breed During Cat Registration in TFMS - \$8325
2. Automate Membership and Breeder Listing Renewals in Salesforce - \$15,750
3. Improve Show Result Accuracy for Cats with Pending Registration - \$8,100
4. Standardize Country and State Fields in TFMS - \$13,950
5. Include Title Tracking Information in TFMS (Complete) - \$6,750
6. Discount on the TOES License Fee When Using the TOES Show App (Complete)
7. Litter Registration Preview Page (Complete) - \$4,050

#### **Executive Office Comments:**

The Executive Office will establish a complete workflow to support the administration of background checks for the Junior Exhibitor program. This includes receiving and logging requests, collecting the applicant's information, submitting the background check to the designated provider, tracking its status, and documenting completion. Background check reports will be stored securely within the Executive Office, as TFMS will only record the confirmation details and reference number.

For applicants residing outside the United States, the Executive Office will need a documented process for coordinating international checks. If the standard provider cannot perform the check in that country, the Executive Office will work with the Regional Director to identify a suitable local vendor so the required information can be obtained.

TFMS will require new fields to support tracking and reporting. These fields will identify individuals participating in the Junior Exhibitor program, record the date the background check was completed, and store the confirmation or reference number provided by the background check vendor. TFMS will not store the report itself, only the verification that the check is complete. These are minor changes that can be supported as part of our routine maintenance & Support funds.

When a background check is completed with no concerns, the Executive Office will record the clearance in TFMS and notify the appropriate Committee Chair or Regional Director.

If a background check identifies an issue listed in the policy, the Executive Office will first notify the applicant privately. The initial communication will include a general explanation of the reason for the potential denial, consistent with the policy language. We might consider giving the applicant a choice to withdraw at that point, in which case no information is sent forward.

If the applicant chooses to proceed, the Executive Office will prepare a confidential summary for the Board. Only the information necessary for the Board's decision will be shared. The full background check report will remain secured within the Executive Office and will not be distributed.

#### **Board/Committee Comments:**

### **Background Check Policy**

To provide for the safety of minors attending shows, functions, or events sponsored by The International Cat Association, Inc. (TICA), its various Regions as described in the By-Laws, and/or any Club chartered under the By-Laws of TICA, background checks shall be conducted on people working with minors upon selection as a Junior Exhibitor Regional Liaison or appointment to the Junior Exhibitor Committee. TICA additionally may conduct an updated background check at any point in time for any reason.

Alternatively, background checks completed for other employment or volunteer activities may be submitted to the TICA Executive Office for review in lieu of a TICA background check.

Background checks will be conducted by the TICA Executive Office by the same background check provider that is used for TICA Executive Office staff. In the event the member resides in a foreign jurisdiction and the current background check provider cannot facilitate the review, the local Regional Director may assist in completing the process.

Issues that shall preclude service as a Junior Exhibitor Regional Liaison or Junior Exhibitor Committee Member:

- Current investigation or charges for criminal sexual conduct, neglect of a child, or physical abuse.
- Conviction of any offense (felony or misdemeanor) related to harm to a child. This may include, but is not limited to, traffic accidents, kidnapping, sexual assault of a child, injury to a child, possession or distribution of child pornography, neglect of a child, or indecent exposure. This includes convictions resulting from pleas of no lo contendere.
- Any felony conviction within the past ten years.
- Falsifying or withholding information on application.

Issues that may preclude service as a Junior Exhibitor Liaison or Junior Exhibitor Committee Member

- Traffic violations that led to serious injury of a third party.
- Felony convictions older than ten years.
- Misdemeanor convictions not involving minors that display a callous disregard for the health, safety, or well-being of humans or animals.

### **Background Check Privacy Policy**

Information submitted on the application and subsequent report will be kept confidential and secured at all times upon submittal to the TICA Executive Office. In the case where a background report flags a possible issue in any of the areas as noted above, the applicant will be contacted personally by a TICA Staff Member and allowed to withdraw his/her application before any formal notice is given to any of the Board of Directors or elected officials.

In the event a possible issue is flagged and the applicant wishes to proceed with application, the Executive Office will confidentially contact the TICA Board of Directors, who will make the final decision on the appointment as a Junior Exhibitor Liaison or Committee Member.

If there is found cause to deny the appointment, under no circumstances will the nature of the offense or the reason for denial be given to anyone other than the applicant, and any and all discussion will take place in confidential Executive Session. The TICA Board of Directors will honor all confidentiality.

Any decision to accept or deny a Junior Exhibitor Liaison or Junior Exhibitor Committee Member is at the sole discretion of the TICA Board of Directors.

### **Board Member Comments:**

Hisae Tasaki:

Jeff Shi:

#### **Liesbeth van Mullem:**

I appreciate the intent behind proposing background checks for individuals involved in the Junior Exhibitor Program, and I fully agree that the safety and well-being of our children must remain a top priority.

At the same time, I have some reservations about whether these proposed background checks are the most appropriate or effective measure in this context. Junior Exhibitor activities take place in public show hall environments, where children are not alone with a single adult and where there is continuous oversight from exhibitors, officials, and attendees. Given these circumstances, I feel that introducing background checks may be unnecessarily complex and disproportionate to the actual risk involved.

In addition, as an international organization, we would face significant challenges in applying background checks consistently and fairly across different countries, each with its own legal frameworks, availability of records, and privacy regulations. This lack of consistency may make it difficult to apply such checks uniformly, potentially leading to inconsistencies without a clear corresponding increase in safety.

So I am not in favour of this proposal.

Kurt Vlach:

#### **Evita Naumenko:**

DBS check comes as "pass" (a result on that day basically) and has no expiry dates. It is up to employees to set the validation dates and when the re-check is required - 2, 3 or 5 years. As we do sometimes have volunteers being very long term, a clear re-check dates are needed to ensure we are holding up to date information.

In UK the employee requests the DBS check, and gets notified that the person in question does not have convictions. We do not get the actual certificate, that is supplied by the check company directly to employee (which seems how it is covered in the current proposal).

I am not sure how it is elsewhere, however in my region, I do need a copy of this certificate, as it frequently gets asked by the venue for them to approve an event in their premises involving children. Therefore, I would like to add in the proposal that Liaisons need to be prepared to provide EO with a copy of the Certificate if/when requested.

#### **Donna Maddox:**

time frames needed , ongoing metrics for dates completed , # days beyond renewal required

Comments for titles - requesting previous projects approved cost for comparison

#### **Brenda Russo:**

TICA JE Background Check : High Placement

The proposed JE Background check budget proposal policy aims to keep applicant information private and ensure fair decisions, but I feel it also has issues with transparency and potential bias.

1. While I understand that the proposed budget of \$5,000 may be an overestimate, I would like to know what, if any, costs there would be to the IT system which is currently listed as unknown.

2. I do recognize that we need to meet the laws and statutes of state and federal regulations, however I am still concerned that background checks will deter volunteers from participating, leading to a domino effect of not enough adult liaisons leading to less junior exhibitor participation which is the future of TICA. Consider a hybrid approach, combining both online and in-person participation with certified liaisons. Perhaps utilizing effective online tools (like webinars, group forums, etc.) to make participation easier which might encourage children who might have barriers in attending shows.

Susanna Shon:

**Christian Cherau:**

I thank the Executive Office for all of the additional comments and support from the executive office!

In terms of prioritization, this seems like only a small ask for development. Any development requirements should not hold up this project, and it is my hope this could be undertaken as soon as approved.

Tracey Hisel:

Mariela Toriggia:

Jim Armel:

Laurie Patton:

**Laurie Schiff:**

It is completely unnecessary to track background checks in TMFS.

The number of these that we process will be not nearly large enough to automate anything in relation to background checks.

**Luiz Paulo:**

I have no objections on the proposal for background checks for JE. I consider a necessary implementation and the cost is not high.

**NW Region Comment:**

I think this is needed and a good use of funds - my only other comment is that some people currently working with Juniors may already have background checks in place due to their "real life" work - and I'd hope that if they can provide that certification, that TICA can accept it and not pay for duplicate certification.



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. 2025W work with Summit to get a quote on an estimate cost . 2025S on going we added ability to purchase genetic test in TFMS . <b>2025A ongoing</b>
China	Shi/Nevarez	2024S	ongoing	Jeff will check to see if the current attorney office is still open and operating 2024A ongoing . 2025W working on the paperwork that needs apostille from Texas. Hire an agency/service to complete the paperwork needed to move forward. 2025S pretty much finished with all types of document and will submit all paperwork. <b>2025A ongoing</b>
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.	Maddox	2024S	ongoing	Schiff, Maddox, Arnel, 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. 2025W Danny sent email to group and received feedback - work in progress. 2025S on going no update. <b>2025A ongoing</b>

**Memo:** Report on Genetics Research publications of interest to TICA's mission

Prepared by Adriana E. Kajon, Ph.D. Genetics Committee chair

Albuquerque, New Mexico December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Dear members of TICA's Board of Directors,

Below please find a selection of the 2025 publications I consider most significant to our mission

-De Martino et al. The dispersal of domestic cats from North Africa to Europe around 2000 years ago. Science. 2025

*This paper reports the results of genomic DNA analysis of 70 ancient cats from a variety of archeological sites across Europe and Anatolia and modern wild cats from Italy, Bulgaria and North Africa identifying two major waves of introduction and redefining the timing of introduction of African wild cats into Europe.*

-Harris et al. Near-gapless genome assemblies of the domestic cat (*Felis silvestris catus*) and the African serval (*Leptailurus serval*) derived from trio-binning. J Hered. 2025

*This paper reports the first assembly of the complete genome for the African Serval providing an essential resource for future population and comparative genomic studies that will benefit the Savannah breeding programs.*

-Kaelin et al. Molecular and genetic characterization of sex-linked orange coat color in the domestic cat. Curr Biol. 2025

**and**

-Toh et al. A deletion at the X-linked ARHGAP36 gene locus is associated with the orange coloration of tortoiseshell and calico cats. Curr Biol. 2025

*These two publications simultaneously released to acknowledge the work of two groups (Stanford University and Medical Institute of Bioregulation, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan ) report the identification of the gene responsible for the sex-linked orange/red pigmentation in domestic cats.*

-Abitbol M, et al. Dominant blue eyes in Maine Coon cats: New PAX3 variant and updated phenotypic data. Anim Genet. 2025. PMID: 40459211

*This paper describes a fourth variant (allele) of Pax3 responsible for dominant blue eyes (DBE) phenotype in Maine Coons and highlights the need to re-assess the prevalence of deafness among cats carrying the new mutations and also the reports the existence of cats referred to as "latent" in some Maine Coon lineages that carry these mutations but do not exhibit the DBE phenotype.*

## **Amend Board Governance Policy Article 6 (Travel Expenses) - Fisher**

### **Rationale:**

The policy needs to be updated to reflect a couple of situations where the lack of defined policy has meant long discussions in Board Meetings, leaving less time for other business.

In addition, for Board members outside the US, transfer or exchange fees have fallen to the Director to pay, reducing the actual reimbursement which seems unfair.

### **Amend Article 6:**

**Policy:** It is the policy of the Board that the travel expenses of the Officers and Directors to attend Board meetings are to be reimbursed by the Association, if funds are available.

**Travel Expense:** **Officers and Directors will be reimbursed for airfare expenses provided such expenses reflect the lowest reasonable available fare at the time of booking. Any voluntary upgrades to travel classes beyond the lowest reasonable fare will be considered a personal expense and not reimbursed.**

**Officers or Directors judging a show in conjunction with a meeting or those using mileage award tickets will not be reimbursed.**

If Officers or Directors choose to travel by car to a meeting, they may be reimbursed mileage at the prevailing rate allowed by the Internal Revenue Service OR the lowest reasonable airfare available, including any additional ground transportation required. It must be demonstrated that the cost of travel by car is the lesser by submitting a brief analysis, comparing the two. ~~Officers or Directors judging a show in conjunction with a meeting or those using mileage award tickets will not be reimbursed.~~

**Per Diem:** The Board may set per diem reimbursement rates based upon the published rates and guidelines of the United States Government Services Administration. The applicable rate is classified as M& IE (meals and incidental expense). "Incidental expense" is defined as fees and tips given to porters, baggage carriers, and hotel staff. Per diem may be claimed for the day prior to, the duration and the day following a meeting, unless otherwise approved by the Board. Travel days are paid at the rate of 75% of the approved rate. Any meals paid on behalf of a Director shall be deducted from per diem. The Board may authorize a per diem rate to adjust for the increased cost of the TICA Annual banquet.

**Lodging:** The Association is responsible for the payment of hotel accommodations for the day prior to, the duration, and the day following a meeting, unless otherwise approved by the Board.

**Claiming Reimbursement:** Officers or Directors may claim reimbursement under this policy by completing and submitting the TICA Official Expense Report. All receipts must be attached for any expenses claimed which are not directly paid by the Association or included in the per diem.

**If the cost of a visa is claimed for reimbursement, Officers and Directors must submit proof of payment and documentation that the visa was required for the trip.**

**Reimbursement for nonrefundable travel expenses may be granted if the cancellation was due to unforeseen circumstances and the expense was incurred in good faith for approved organizational business.**

**The TICA Executive Office will ensure that Officers and Directors are reimbursed fully when banking and exchange fees apply. The Executive Office will take reasonable steps to use the most cost-effective and convenient method of transferring reimbursement to the Officers and 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"**

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:**

- Clarifies reimbursement policy for Board members travel and lessens time required to discuss at Board Meetings.

**Cons:**

- May require more minor expense for TICA due to covering bank and forex fees

## **Amend Show Rule 27.1 and Standing Rule 207.1.1.2 (Champion Titles) - Vlach**

### **Rationale:**

In some Isolated Areas TICA is competing with another large US-based association and many exhibitors prefer to show there as it is quite easy to reach the title "Champion" in one show – without having to get a final for a cat or alter.

Until the late 1990s there the TICA-Rule to become a CH in Isolated Areas only required 150 points from two different judges, without any final. This has been changed later on that a final has been required.

It was always important for TICA that the title "means something", but it is right now a disadvantage for our clubs in some countries. This means that our TICA-Clubs are actually losing some of the exhibitor base – which has been seen over the last couple of years, especially after the Covid-years.

Therefore the proposal makes sure that it is possible for exhibitors to get a TICA-Title in one show.

Very often smaller clubs in Isolated Areas only can afford to have a 6-ring-show with three judges – so even under a changed rule the cat in question needs to be (without final) in all six rings BOC and BOD.

The proposed points double compared to the current rule, and also one more additional judge is needed.

IMPORTANT – There are NO CHANGES for the requirements of all other titles.

### **Amend Show Rule 27.1:**

27.1 Champion/Champion Alter/Master. An eligible male or female cat registered in TICA shall be entitled to the prefix "Champion", an eligible neuter or spay cat registered in TICA shall be entitled to the prefix "Champion Alter", and an eligible TICA registered household pet shall be entitled to the prefix "Master" when it has won a minimum of 300 points under no less than 4 different judges and acquired a minimum of 1 final. However, in such isolated areas as defined in Standing Rules 1012.3, cats will be entitled to Champion, Champion Alter or Master status by being awarded no less than ~~150~~ **300** points under no less than ~~2~~ **3** different judges ~~and acquired a minimum of 1 final.~~

### **Amend associated Standing Rule 207.1.1.2:**

207.1.1.2 Isolated Areas:

Champion HHP Requirements for Titles

CH CHA MS ~~150~~ **300** points from ~~2~~ **3** different judges, ~~plus one final~~

GRC GCA GRM 500 pts with 3 finals, 1 in top 5 SP or any final in AB

DGC DGCA DGM 1000 points plus 1 final in top 5 SP or any final in AB

TGC TGCA TGM 1500 points plus 1 final in top 5 SP or any final in AB

QGC QGCA QGM 2000 points plus 1 final in top 5 SP or any final in AB

SGC SGCA SGM 3000 points plus 1 Best Cat as a QGC/QGCA/QGM

**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:**

- Might increase entries in some smaller shows in isolated areas
- May achieve a minor increase in TICA's revenue from more Champion titles

**Cons:**

- Might allow cats that are not championship quality to title, simply by gaining enough color and division points over 1 or more shows.
- The Champion title in isolated areas becomes effectively a "participation" award rather than an achievement award.
- Can cheapen TICA titles in the eyes of exhibitors from other associations, making them less likely to cross over to TICA.
- Some exhibitors will not need to return to shows because their cat can Champion in one show. Under current rules, there is a likelihood that they will continue to show to get the final needed to claim a title for their cat.
- Would require programming changes that are currently unbudgeted.
- If implemented, judges should be more stringent about awarding WW to cats that do not meet breed standards, or DQ for faults under 2.16. Otherwise, it potentially means that titled cats could be used for breeding that do not meet their breed standard.

## **Amend Show Rule 27.6 (Show all Titles) - Naumenko**

### **Rationale:**

Some exhibitors like to show their cats in Championship and then, after altering, restart by earning all titles from CHA onwards in the Alter Class.

Currently, only the current category of titles is shown on paperwork. For example, a SGC cat, when now in the Alter class, will only have Alter titles on paperwork (e.g. awards, show catalogs, registration paperwork).

This proposal, if accepted would allow both sets of titles to be displayed, e.g. SGC DGCA on any paperwork associated with that cat,

Separately, a budget proposal for the necessary IT changes is being prepared.

### **Amend Show Rule 27.6:**

27.5 When the required points and awards have been accumulated for each of the above categories, the owner may claim the title. Upon payment of the appropriate fees, the title will be added to the cat's permanent record.

27.6 Alters begin competition in the Alter class in the status held at the time of altering; titles earned as an unaltered cat are retained **and displayed on the cat's official records**. After altering, alter titles are to be applied for, however, it will be the decision of the owner of the cat as to the next title to be applied for; an altered cat may hold titles and certificates for all titles prior to altering, and may either apply for the next title in line as an alter or begin again as CHA, i.e., if the cat is a TGC, the owner may apply for a CHA title or a QGCA title.

### **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"**

Based upon the existing wording of 27.6 an Alter may hold both Championship and Alter titles. The proposed change underscores the need for compliance with the existing rules, not create compliance, and is therefore not needed. Simple Standing Rules can address any issues of compliance.

There appears to be an issue within TFMS that existing Championship titles are overwritten with new Alter titles, thus not complying with the requirements of the current 27.6.

It is understood that claiming titles for an Altered cat from CHA onwards requires the owner to open a TFMS case each time and there are no notifications that new Alter titles have been earned. This may be as a result of constraints with the old TDS system and the Title Discount Program, which have effectively been transferred into TFMS.

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

**Pros:**

- Underlines the existing requirement to show titles achieved in both Championship and Alter classes
- Additional income as each new Alter title is claimed

**Cons:**

- Programming costs associated with modifying data and all print and displays where cat's titles are printed/displayed.



## **Add Standing Rule 103.2.1 (Life Members) – van Mullen**

### **Rationale:**

TICA offers several membership options, including a Lifetime Membership. Once a member is registered as a Life Member, there is currently no requirement for them to keep their personal information up to date.

Although TICA's cat registry is its most important asset, accurate and current membership data is also essential. This information is used for membership ballots, determining the number of members in each breed committee, and mailing printed issues of TRENDS to those who have selected that option.

As with any organization, maintaining accurate core data is a matter of responsible housekeeping and helps prevent unintended negative consequences. Currently TICA has Life Members for whom no valid address or telephone number is on file. Some may have passed away, yet remain in the records until an official death certificate is provided.

Because one purpose of this rule is to ensure accurate membership information before breed committee numbers are defined and the ballots are issued, the re-registration frequency has been set at six years rather than the five years as proposed in the original proposal. The frequency can also be set at three years, but that interval is more frequent than the original proposed five years.

The intention of this rule is not to require a major system change unless it can be accomplished at minimal cost. Given that the process occurs only once every six years, a simple, low-cost approach is sufficient. The Executive Office may use any practical and economical method to contact Life Members and collect updated information.

For instance:

#### **1. Email Verification (recommended)**

A simple email requesting the member to confirm or update their contact information through a short online form (e.g., Google Forms, Microsoft Forms, or a basic web form).

#### **2. Bounce-Back Monitoring**

Members whose email or postal mail is repeatedly undeliverable may be flagged for follow-up or automatically marked as "Inactive Life Member" if no valid contact information is provided by the deadline

#### **3. Reminder Notices in the TREND**

Printed reminders prompting Life Members to confirm their information, especially useful for those who prefer paper mail.

#### **4. Telephone Confirmation (for special cases)**

For members without valid email or who request assistance, basic phone verification can be offered if practical.

These options ensure compliance without requiring significant IT expense or technological development.

**Contd/...**

### **Add Standing Rule 103.2.1:**

**Beginning in May 2026, all Life Members shall be required to re-register every six (6) years, no later than June 30th of the applicable year, in order to retain voting rights and to continue receiving TICA publications. Re-registration cycles shall occur in 2026, 2032, 2038, and every six years thereafter.**

**For the purposes of this Rule, re-register shall mean the confirmation or updating of the member's contact information on file with TICA, including mailing address, email address, and telephone number. No fees shall be required for re-registration. Failure to re-register by the deadline shall result in the member being classified as an "Inactive Life Member" until such time as valid contact information is provided to the Executive Office.**

### **Rules Committee Comments:**

#### **Rules Chair Note:**

Latest EO figures show a total of 289 current Life Members; 138 have insufficient mailing address, and 189 have no email (in Feb 2025, there were 283 Life Members, of which 122 had no means of contacting them). With nearly 8,200 current members, uncontactable Life Members are approximately 0.017% of our current membership.

#### **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 terminology "re-register" is unhelpful and potentially misleading. The term "register" in the TICA context should be about cat registrations not members. Perhaps "reactivate" may be a better term, not requiring a lengthy explanation within the proposed rule.

This will require additional or modified rules to differentiate between "active" Life Members and "Inactive Life Members". For example, Bylaw Article 3, defining membership, Article 13 defining ability to vote and Bylaw Article 5 addressing Breed Committee membership.

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

##### **Pros:**

- Provides an alternative route to deactivating membership other than supplying a death certificate (the current EO policy).

**Contd/,,,**

**Cons:**

- Introduces a new category of membership (Inactive Life Member) that is not currently reflected in our rules.
- Does not address the stated purpose of having up-to-date information for Breed Committee elections in "off years". Breed Committee elections are every 3 years.
- Rules already exist that address the issue of voting and Breed Committee membership that can be utilized and supplemented with Standing Rules.
- Whilst suggestions for minimal cost TFMS changes are helpful, these still need to be validated by the EO. A scope of services may be required to outline these TFMS changes and related system development needs. There might be a cost to obtain such an estimate.
- With approximately 140 nonresponsive Life Members, it would appear that the only effect would be on determining the number of members that a Breed Committee would need to be considered Active. Alternative rule changes could be considered such as additional Standing Rules to Bylaw 15.2.1.1.

## **Amend Standing Rule 106.4.1.1 (Rules Committee) - Fisher**

### **Rationale:**

As one of the integral advisory committees of TICA, it is felt that the Rules Committee's Role and "Charter" should be updated. The following amendment updates the purpose and sets out specific duties for the Committee, in line with the specifics contained in the rules relating to the Genetics Committee and the Judging Committee.

### **Amend Standing Rule 106.4.1.1:**

106.4.1 Advisory Standing Committees. The following committees serve in an advisory capacity. These bring specialized knowledge and skills that aid the Board to make more effective decisions and develop and implement program and activities designated by the Board to assist members on behalf of the Association. Unless otherwise specified, a member of an Advisory Standing Committee may not concurrently serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

**106.4.1.1 Rules Committee.** ~~To review all proposed amendments to the By-Laws, Show Rules, Registration Rules and Standards of the Association, to note 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 By-Laws, Show Rules and Standards of the Association.~~ **Ensures the clarity, consistency, and integrity of the governing documents of the Association, that changes are accurately and consistently reflected across all relevant documents, and that terminology is used appropriately and uniformly. The duties of the Rules Committee shall include, but not be limited to:**

**106.4.1.1.1 Review all proposed amendments to the Association's By-Laws, Show Rules, Registration Rules, Standards, and other governing documents.**

**106.4.1.1.2 Identify and document any additional rules or sections that may be affected by proposed changes.**

**106.4.1.1.3 Ensure that the language used in proposed amendments clearly conveys the intended meaning.**

**106.4.1.1.3 Promote consistency and uniformity in terminology across all governing documents.**

**106.4.1.1.4 Provide recommendations for revisions or clarifications to maintain coherence and alignment within the Association's rules and guidelines.**

**106.4.1.1.5 Offer for consideration by the Board of Directors analysis of both the pros and cons of implementing proposed amendments.**

**106.4.1.1.6 Collaborate with other committees or stakeholders as necessary to ensure comprehensive rule integration.**

**106.4.1.1.7 Provide, for publication in the Annual Membership Ballot, a brief explanation of why a proposed rule change is on the ballot, together with a list of pros and cons for consideration by voting members.**

**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:**

- More accurately describes the work of the Rules Committee compared to the current description
- Aligns Rules Committee duties with the format used for the Genetics Committee.

**Cons:**

- None identified

## **Add Standing Rule 106.4.1.8 (IT Committee) – van Mullem**

### **Rationale:**

Our IT systems play a vital role in the services we provide to our clients, members, and clubs. While TFMS and TOES serve different purposes within the organization, they are closely interconnected:

- TFMS focuses on the registration of cats, litters, catteries, and memberships.
- TOES focuses on the management of shows, including entries and the recording of show results.

Like any IT system, both TFMS and TOES require:

1. Regular corrective maintenance;
2. Minor changes and enhancements to support continuous improvement; and
3. Projects or major changes to improve service quality, implement new services, or further automate manual activities.

The budget for these three categories is approved by the Board of Directors during the regular budget process or, when necessary, at other Board meetings.

The COO is responsible for providing leadership in developing and maintaining both IT systems and for carrying out plans authorized by the Board.

Standing Committees are established to ensure the effective and efficient operation of the organization. Given the growing importance of IT systems, it is appropriate to establish an IT Committee with two main purposes:

1. To provide **feedback and testing support** in connection with regular maintenance, minor changes and enhancements, and any major changes.
2. To **advise** the COO on the prioritization of minor changes within the approved budget.

The prioritization of projects or major changes remains the responsibility of the Board.

### **[Standing Rule 106.4 provided for context]**

**106.4 Standing Committees.** The President, with the advice of the Board of Directors, shall appoint persons knowledgeable in the fields specified to serve on the following standing committees. Any other committees, which from time to time may be necessary and proper for the effective and efficient operation of the Association, may be created by the President and appointments to them made by the President, with the advice of the Board. Each Standing Committee shall have a chairperson, members as needed and a Board member who works with the committee as a liaison and who serves on the Committee in a non-voting, ex-officio capacity. Each member of a Standing Committee shall sign a Non-Disclosure and Confidentiality Agreement (NDA) upon appointment. Signing the NDA is a requirement for remaining as a committee member.

### **Add Standing Rule 106.4.1.8:**

#### **106.4.1.8 IT Committee**

**Contd/...**

To support TICA in ensuring the effective operation, development, and improvement of the organization's key operational IT systems. The IT Committee shall be chaired by the COO, have a Board Liaison and consist of members with relevant expertise as determined and appointed by the Board.

**106.4.1.8.1 Responsibilities:**

106.4.1.8.1.1. To provide structured feedback and testing capabilities for corrective maintenance, minor changes, enhancements, and major changes to the IT systems;

106.4.1.8.1.2 To provide the COO with input and recommendations regarding the prioritization of minor changes and enhancements within the budget for these minor changes as approved by the Board;

106.4.1.8.1.3 To escalate to the COO any material risks, recurring issues, or concerns identified during testing or review.

106.4.1.8.1.4 To refer to the Board any unresolved disagreements with the COO regarding prioritization.

**106.4.1.8.2 Limitations**

106.4.1.8.2.1 The IT Committee shall not have authority over the IT budget. The budget for corrective maintenance, minor changes, and major projects is approved by the Board.

106.4.1.8.2.2. The IT Committee shall not have decision-making authority over projects or major changes. Prioritization and approval of such projects rests exclusively with the Board of Directors.

**106.4.1.8.3 Reporting**

The IT Committee shall report to the Board through the COO and provide updates for each Board meeting, or more frequent when requested by the Board. Such updates shall include, at a minimum:

- the number of bugs reported since the previous meeting
- the severity of these bugs
- the status of their resolution, including the timeframe in which they were addressed.
- an overview of all minor changes, including their prioritization, planned timeline, and completion status.

**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 end of 106.4.1.8, namely "as determined and appointed by the Board", is unnecessary as appointments to Standing Committees are already dealt with under 106.4 and this phrase is inconsistent with the language of 106.4.

Although not a rule change, The Board should consider budgeting for an IT management position under the COO in the future to enable daily triage of issues and strengthen operational support. This would allow the COO to stay focused on leadership and strategic direction.

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

### **Pros:**

- A diverse committee may bring varying unique skills to address problems.
- This Committee could provide a means of developing a set of test conditions that can be re-run after major or minor changes to demonstrate system integrity.
- Could provide a single source to receive and prioritize bugs that allows the COO to stay focused on leadership and strategic direction instead of daily triage. However, bug prioritization will involve significant volunteer effort.

### **Cons:**

- The purpose of the Committee as stated in 106.4.1.8 is inconsistent with the wording of and intent of committees described in Standing Rule 106.4.

The current rules define 3 types of committees: (1) Advisory Standing Committees (2) Board Administrative Standing Committees or (3) other ad hoc Committees. As proposed, this proposal does not describe an appropriate Advisory Standing Committee to the Board, it describes a working committee and an administrative process.

- As currently set out, this proposal blurs the line between Board oversight and daily operations
- The reporting requirements in 106.4.1.8.3 are focused on operational, rather than strategic issues.
- The skill sets required from Committee members will be different if the focus of the Committee becomes advising the Board on IT strategy (a more appropriate purpose as a Standing Committee) vs. tracking system "bugs" and laying out reports.
- There is already an advisory group for TOES, which provides regular feedback to the COO without the need for additional rules. A similar approach could also be adopted for TFMS.



## **Add Standing Rule 107.2 (Reporting to Board) – van Mullem**

### **Rationale:**

The purpose of this Rule is to ensure that the Board of Directors receives sufficient, accurate, and timely information to effectively exercise its oversight of the organization's business affairs, as provided under By-law 17.2.

This Rule sets forth the minimum reporting obligations of the responsible officers to the Board of Directors.

### **Bylaw 17.2 (provided for context):**

#### **17.2 Duties of the Board of Directors.**

17.2.1 The business affairs, government, policy formulation and implementation of the Association and such other duties as may be specified in the By-Laws, Show Rules and Registration Rules of the Association shall be under the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors.

### **Add Standing Rule 107.2:**

#### **107.2 Reporting to the Board of Directors**

##### **107.2.1 Monthly Reporting**

**To ensure the Board's continuous oversight of the organization's business affairs, the Board will receive, on a monthly basis, a written report containing the following Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), presented both in total and by region:**

- 1. Membership numbers;**
- 2. Registrations (including cattery, individual, blue slip, and litter registrations);**
- 3. Pedigrees (3- and 5-generation); and**
- 4. Breeder listings.**

**Such report shall be submitted no later than the tenth (10th) day of the month following the reporting period.**

##### **107.2.2 Quarterly Reporting**

**On a quarterly basis, the Board will receive a written progress report covering:**

- 1. Strategic projects;**
- 2. Information technology (IT) projects; and**
- 3. Corporate sponsorship activities; and**
- 4. Client and membership satisfaction metrics.**

**Each report shall include, at a minimum:**

- A statement of progress against the approved budget;**
- A statement of progress against agreed timelines and deliverables;**

- **An analysis of client and membership satisfaction trends, including key findings from surveys, feedback tools, or other standardized evaluation methods; and**
- **Any material deviations or risks or recommended corrective actions.**
- **Such report shall be submitted no later than fifteen (15) days following the end of each quarter.**
- 

### **107.2.3 Additional Information**

**The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, request further information, clarification, or interim reports where it deems such information necessary for the proper execution of its oversight responsibilities.**

### **107.2.4 Compliance**

**Failure to provide reports in accordance with this Rule shall be reported to the President, who may take such measures as deemed appropriate to ensure compliance.**

#### **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"**

As this is an administrative task and as such, may often require change, it might more appropriate to include this under the Board Governance Policy. The Policy could reference relevant ByLaws.

The Compliance section (107.2.4) is unclear as to who reports such "violations" and who has caused the violations.

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

#### **Pros:**

- Provides good data for the Regional Directors to perform duties or to improve results in their respective regions for the KPIs
- Adds consistency to reports and keeps the focus on Key Performance Indicators rather than day-to-day operations. A step towards more structured and transparent communication.

#### **Cons:**

- The language of the proposal is unclear as to who is responsible for providing the required reports.
- Creating a Standing Rule to require that the Board "RECEIVE" reports is not a proper duty of the Board. A duty of the Board would more properly be to "review".

- Quarterly reporting imposes unnecessary administrative work between meetings for the EO. Aligning the reporting cycle with Board Meetings might be more appropriate.
- Section 107.2.3 "Additional Information" could add an additional burden to the EO. Additional EO staff may be needed to support these expanded reporting and information demands.
- The inclusion of 107.2.4 (Compliance) is unnecessary. The Standing Rule is currently about "receiving". The Board "not receiving" would be the compliance issue.

## **Amend UCD 71.4.1, 74.7.7, 74.8.1 and 75.7 (Corin Registrations and Exhibition) – Shelton, van den Bunder**

### **Rationale:**

The following UCD revisions are proposed to reflect the changes required for the correct registration and exhibition of the British Corin colors and also taking the opportunity to correct some existing errors. This removes specific breed designations from Corin colors.

### **Amend UCD 71.4.1:**

71.4.1 All breeds must use the Uniform Color Descriptions colors for the respective categories, unless a specific exception is made (refer to **Sections 72.4, 73.7, and 74.6.2** ~~Section 74.2.2~~).

### **Amend UCD 74.7.7:**

[Note: the actual table itself has not been included for brevity]

Amend the definition of superscript 3 as follows:

3 = ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** Gold – all patterns including “and white” (~~Siberian, Kurilian Bobtail and Toybob only~~)

Add superscript 3 to all phaeomelanistic tabby, chinchilla, and shaded colors in the Traditional and Pointed Divisions in the tabby table (74.7.7)

Remove the color “sable torbie” from the Sepia column, as the designer name “sable” is applicable to the Burmese breed only, per section 72.4. Burmese are not recognized in the tabby division

### **Amend UCD 75.7:**

[Note: the actual table itself has not been included for brevity]

Amend the definition of superscript 3 as follows:

3 = ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** Silver – all patterns including “and white” (~~Siberian, Kurilian Bobtail and Toybob only~~)

Add superscript 3 to all chinchilla, and shaded colors in the Traditional and Pointed Divisions in the silver/smoke table (75.7).

Change “Seal silver shd/chin” to “Black silver shd/chin” in the Traditional Division and put “torbie” in parentheses for the tipped shaded tabbies in the traditional and sepia divisions.

### **Amend 74.8.1:**

74.8.1 The tabby pattern in tabby (lynx) points is not differentiated EXCEPT ~~as required by the breed standing (e.g. Bengals).~~ **in the Bengal (spotted or marble).**

**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:**

- Will update the UCD to match current knowledge and allow more breeds to potentially recognize Corin for Championship exhibition.
- Corrects some unrelated errors in the current UCD

**Cons:**

- None identified

## **Amend UCD 74.7.2, 74.7.6, 78.1.2 (Corin Descriptions) - Shelton**

### **Rationale:**

The following UCD revisions are proposed due to advances in our knowledge about the Corin gene since the last revision of this document in 2022. The UCD should use the term Corin rather than CORIN as capitalization of this trait may give the erroneous impression to TICA's audience that the term is an acronym (such as ASIP).

Although this coloration began as a trait limited to the Siberian, Kurilian Bobtail, and Toybob breeds, research performed by Dr. Marie Abitbol and Dr. Chris Kaelin has revealed the existence of at least 22 variants of this gene in a variety of breeds, with various degrees of impact on the coloration of tabby cats (including silvers).

The general term "Corin" was accepted by the World Cat Congress at the recent meeting in Hong Kong to describe the general phenotypic aspects of this trait, regardless of the designer names for the various breed associated variants that have been characterized.

Due to the high level of penetrance of a Corin variant in the TICA British Breed Group gene pool, it may be inferred that other breeds that outcross to these cats may wish to include the trait in their standards in the future.

A separate proposal will address UCD changes to show how Corin can be applied to a breed.

### **Amend UCD 74.7.2:**

One tabby variation seen is the golden: Goldens are shaded **or chinchilla** tabbies showing a preponderance of the phaeomelanin ground color with eumelanin color restricted to the tips of the hairs ~~due to the "wide band" trait~~. Goldens come in all of the basic colors in the shaded or chinchilla pattern including shaded or chinchilla golden torbies. A high degree of rufousing giving apricot or golden tones to the undercoat is considered desirable. Goldens are genetically agouti (A/-), with any underlying tabby pattern. Goldens compete in a separate color class within the tabby division. The shaded has eumelanin-based color from the tip to about one-third way down the hair shaft with an undercoat of light phaeomelanin. The appearance is one of having a mantle of darker color thrown over the black. The chinchilla will have only the tip of each guard hair colored with eumelanin-based color. Shaded and chinchilla goldens may be born with visible tabby pattern. As they mature, the wide band area increases and the cat appears to be only tipped with color.

**CONTD/....**

## Amend UCD 74.7.6:

~~CORIN~~ **Corin** Tabby. ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** Tabby is a unique wide-band trait, first found in ~~three~~ native Russian breeds (~~Siberians, Kurilian Bobtails, and Toybobs~~). Variants in the ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** gene increase the activity of the Agouti Signaling Protein (ASIP), pushing eumelanin to the end of the hair shaft resulting in wide bands of brighter phaeomelanin. Tabby markings ~~are~~ **may be** visible ~~except in ticked tabbies~~. The amount of eumelanin ~~may decrease~~ ~~decreases~~ and the brighter phaeomelanin increases as the cat approaches maturity. This trait can be expressed in both silver and non-silver cats. ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** Gold cats exhibit a warm undercoat tone, lightening of the tabby marks, **and may exhibit white or off-white areas on the muzzle, chest, and toes (while maintaining eumelanin colored paw pads). The lighter area around the nose may include the nose tip resulting in pink nose leather lacking the usual eumelanin outline.** ~~a white or off-white area around the nose may include the nose tip, eumelanin colored paw pads, and a pink nose lacking the usual tabby eumelanin outline.~~ ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** Silver cats **may** exhibit a “bimetallic” coloration, where the cat exhibits silver tabby hairs, most prominently on the back of the cat, but **may** also **display** ~~displays~~ phaeomelanin expressing hairs, most commonly on the legs and belly. While ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** ~~pushes~~ ~~has pushed~~ the eumelanin to the end of the hairs, the Inhibitor gene ~~is~~ **may be** unable to erase all pigment from the agouti bands leaving a gold band between the white base and the eumelanistic tip of the hair shaft. All patterns of ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** tabby are **recognized possible**, in all eumelanistic colors, including torbies, **when included in the standard for the breed.**

## Amend UCD 78.1.2:

78.1.2 ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** Tabbies: ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** is not the same as Carnelian or Copal. Carnelian/Copal is an MC1R mutation whereas ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** is not.

78.1.2.1 ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** Gold Tabby (Black, chocolate, cinnamon, blue, lilac, fawn): The base color is **decreased on the hair shaft** ~~restricted to the hair tips~~ resulting in large areas of bright phaeomelanin. Tabby markings may appear in these areas ~~except for ticked tabbies~~. Fully mature cats may not display any tabby markings. ~~There is a white or off-white area around the nose that may include the nose tip. Nose leather is pink with no tabby nose liner.~~ **Cats may exhibit white or off-white areas on the muzzle, chest, and toes (while maintaining eumelanin colored paw pads). The lighter area around the nose may include the nose tip resulting in pink nose leather lacking the usual eumelanin outline** Torbies will show little difference between the hair tip and the rest of the hair shaft in their phaeomelanistic areas. Allow **variation in distinctness of eumelanistic pattern** ~~visible eumelanistic patterns~~ in kittens that change as the kitten ages. Paw pads and tail tip correspond to the base color of the cat.

78.1.2.2 ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** Silver Tabby (Black, chocolate, cinnamon, blue, lilac, fawn): The base color is restricted to the hair tips resulting in a mantle of color on the back of the cat. The Inhibitor trait makes the lower part of the hair shaft white. ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** interacts with the Inhibitor trait allowing some level of bright phaeomelanin between the white band of silver and the colored hair tip. The gold band looks as though it is floating in the hair shaft and cats with this effect are sometimes referred to as bimetallic in color. Often the silver band and the gold band are equal in amount. Tabby marks are seen in these bands ~~unless the pattern is ticked~~. Eumelanistic color is apparent on the dorsal side of the cat and the tail, particularly the tail tip; phaeomelanistic color is strongest on the ventral side of the cat and on the legs where eumelanistic barring may be apparent. **Cats may exhibit white or off-white areas on the muzzle, chest, and toes (while maintaining eumelanin colored paw pads). The lighter area around the nose may include the nose tip resulting in pink nose leather lacking the usual eumelanin outline.** ~~There is a white or off-white area around the nose that may include the nose tip. Nose leather is pink without the usual tabby nose liner.~~ These colors are slow to develop. ~~Paw pads and tail tips correspond to the base color of the cat.~~ Allow **variation in distinctness of eumelanistic pattern** ~~for visible eumelanistic patterns~~ in kittens that change as the kitten ages. ~~Homozygous CORIN~~ **Corin** Silvers ~~have a visible golden band between the colored hair tip and the white of the silver at the base of the hair.~~ ~~Heterozygote CORIN~~ **Corin** Silvers ~~do not have the same clear banding and may have partial nose liner.~~ ~~Homozygous expression of the gold band floating between the silver white and the colored hair tip is preferred.~~ Paw pads and tail tip correspond to the base color of the cat.

78.1.2.3 ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** Gold Lynx Point (Black, Chocolate, Cinnamon, Blue, Lilac, Fawn) and ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** Silver Lynx Point (Black, Chocolate, Cinnamon, Blue, Lilac, Fawn). The descriptions above for the ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** Gold Tabby and ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** Silver Tabby apply to the ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** Gold Lynx Points and the ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** Silver Lynx Points. The ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** Gold Lynx Points have a brighter appearance from the gold coloration in the points. In ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** Silver Lynx Points the gold band between the colored hair tip and the white base may not be visible, particularly in shorthairs. Any shading on the body of ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** Gold Lynx Points or on ~~CORIN~~ **Corin** Silver Lynx Points may have a golden tone to it. When evaluating kittens, check the legs which should be lighter in color and check the back of the ears where you will be able to see the golden coloration.

#### **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"**

If this proposal passes, Breed Standards for the Siberian, Kurilian Bobtail and Toybob breeds will need to be reviewed and updated to ensure they will now explicitly permit Corin colors. Since this is a change that is driven at Board level, this could be considered as a housekeeping change rather than a chargeable breed standard change under Bylaw 118.2.



## **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 the Corin phenotype and updates its description using knowledge not known at the last UCD update in 2022.
- Allows other breeds in addition to the Siberian, Toybob and Kurilian Bobtail breeds to include Corin.
- Requires an explicit inclusion of Corin in a breed standard to be accepted for Championship exhibition (even if the current standard states "all colors, all divisions").

### **Cons:**

- Changes previously accepted descriptions for Corin in the Siberian, Toybob and Kurilian Bobtail breeds