

**TICA Board of Directors
Spring Meeting Agenda
May 16-18, 2025
Electronic**

Friday, May 16, 2025, 7:30 am CDT

Welcome and Call to Order – Harrison 7:30 am – 8:00 am

Fiduciary Duties - Adler

Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Corrections/Approval of Special Meeting Minutes, January 16, 2025
2. Corrections/Approval of Winter Meeting Minutes, January 23 - 26, 2025
3. Corrections/Approval of Special Meeting Minutes, February 26, 2025
4. Set Annual Meeting dates: August 27 – 29, 2025, Dresden, Germany

Executive Session – Judging Program, Hearings/Complaints 8:00 am – 12:30 pm

Saturday, May 17, 2025, (Open Session) 7:30 am – 12:30 pm CDT

Proposals 7:30 am – 9:30 am

Proposals – Board Governance Policy

1. Amend Board Governance Article One (Purpose) – Faccioli/Fisher 3

Proposals – By-Laws

1. Amend By-Laws 13.2, 13.2.5 (Life Members) - Vlach 5
2. Amend By-Law 14.2 and Reg Rule 310.1 (Breed health Issues) - Forest..... 7
- Genetics Committee Comments 10
3. Amend By-Laws Article 15 (Recall) - Fisher 12
4. Amend By-Laws Article 16 (Initiative and Referendum) - Fisher 15
5. Amend By-Law 122.2.2 (Show Complaints) – van Mullem..... 18

Proposal - Judging Program

1. Amend Judging Program (Deadlines) – Judging Committee 19

Proposal - Show Rules

1. Amend Show Rules 23.8 & 23.8.1 (Kitten Ages) - Yawata 24
2. Amend Show Rule 23.6 (Denying Entry) - Fisher 25
3. Amend Show Rule 23.6.2.1 (21 day rule) - Yawata 27
4. Amend Show Rule 23.6.6 (Entry prohibited by law) - Yawata 28
5. Add Show Rule 29.2.1.1 (Closing Entries) – Yawata 29
6. Add Show Rule 216.12.12 (DQ DBE Cats) – Bengal Breed Committee 30
7. Amend Show Rule 217.6.1 and Clerking Program 54.2.4.2.5.1 (HHP Ribbons) - HHP Breed Committee 32
8. Amend Show Rules (Gender Neutrality) – Yawata 34

Proposals – Standing Rules

1. Add Standing Rule 1014.3.2 (Write-in eligibility) – Vlach 36

9:30 am – 10:00 am

2025 Annual update – TICACATS - Dresden, Germany, EN Region

Follow-Up Report 38

10:00 am – 11:00 am

COO Update/Marketing Report

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Feline welfare discussion - Maddox

WCC meeting - agenda item - Harrison

Sunday, May 18th, 2025 (Open Session) 7:30 am - 11:30 am CDT

Administrative and Fiduciary 7:30 am – 9:30 am

- 1. Financial Report
- 2. Proposed Budget FY 2026
- 3. Budget Proposals

Breed Advancements (Minuet & Toybob) 9:30 am – 10:30 am

1. Minuet Tall (NT to CH)	39
2. Rationale	42
3. Standard Change	43
4. Rules Committee Comments	61
5. Genetics Committee Comments	62
1. Toybob to (PNB to ANB)	
2. Standard (approved 2024 Annual)	63
3. Rules Committee Comments	64

Other Business and Discussion 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Add Newfoundland and Labrador as Isolated status - Cherau

Adjourn

Amend Board Governance Article One (Purpose) – Faccioli/Fisher

Rationale:

The origin of the Board Governance publication was the report presented by the committee that was formed for the purpose set forth on its Article One. Once the proposed rules and policies were approved, Article One should be the purpose of the document, not the purpose of the committee. This proposal aims to fix that.

Amend Article One:

~~Article One: Committee Charter~~

~~The purpose of this committee is:~~

~~To infuse a desire for and commitment to best practices in governance within the TICA Board of Directors.~~

~~Review and recommend to the full Board governance processes such as agenda design and management, Board action follow up, budget and strategic planning "rhythm", and meeting evaluation.~~

~~Oversee development of TICA Board policies, including "Board Ethics."~~

~~Solicit recommendations and arrange for Board "educational" sessions about TICA's business and operating processes.~~

Article One: Purpose

This Board Governance Manual provides a clear and consistent framework for how the Board, itself, operates and serves as an important orientation tool for new board members. It seeks to:

1. Address Ethical Standards, including policies on ethical behavior, conflicts of interest, confidentiality, and other ethical standards that help safeguard the integrity of the Board and the Association.

2. Provide Continuity in Governance, as board members change over time. It ensures that the governance function of the Association can maintain its mission and operations smoothly regardless of personnel turnover. Having a written set of policies and procedures ensures that decisions are made consistently, based on established guidelines, rather than personal preferences or reactive decisions.

3. Foster Best Practices, which may include financial oversight, budgeting and strategic planning processes, among others, which leads to stronger organizational performance.

This Manual is a living document. It is the policy of the Board that amendments to this manual require board approval through a majority vote. Proposed changes must be submitted in writing and reviewed by the appropriate committee before being presented to the Board for 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)

Pros:

- Provides clarity on the purpose of the document, and how it is updated

Cons:

- None identified

Amend Bylaw 13.2, 13.2.5 (Life Members) - Vlach

Rationale:

Right now there are many Lifetime Members where TICA has no address or telephone number. Many of them might already be dead, but we still have them in our files – until we receive a death certificate. In the last couple of years hardly any people joined TICA as Lifetime Members. To be accurate with membership data it might make sense to delete the Lifetime-option. It is important to have current or correct data for TICA in order to conduct business.

Amend Bylaw 13.2 and 13.2.5:

13.2 Classes of Members. Members shall be divided into ~~four~~ **three** classes: ~~Life Members~~, Regular Members, Family Members and Junior members. A member's region of record is the region where the member resides.

13.2.5 **Rule deleted** ~~Life Members. Those members who pay the life membership fee. Life members have the same rights and privileges as regular members.~~

If the changes pass the membership ballot, then amend Standing Rule 103.3.1:

103.3.1 Membership dues shall be as follows:

	Online TREND	Printed TREND
1 Year	\$30	\$35 (40 International)
5 Year	\$135	\$160 (\$185 International)
1 Year Family	\$10	\$15 (North America only)
5 Year Family	\$40	\$65 (North America only)
1 Year Junior	\$0	(not available)
5 Year Junior	\$0	(not available)
Life Membership	\$1000	\$1000

Rules Chair Note:

For context the EO has supplied the following information:

How many Life Members are there in TFMS? 283

*How many Life memberships have been taken out in the last 5 years? **Not sure but what I can tell you is that 21 life members have been added since October 2021.***

How many Life Members have a working email address in TFMS (e.g, does not bounce)? 94

*How many Life Members lack a means of contacting them either by phone, post or email? **122 do not have an email and/or a complete mailing address***

*I assume that if a death certificate is received for a Life Member, then their membership is cancelled. **Correct - 67***

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:

- This proposal eliminates a membership category but leaves the question of what to do with current Lifetime members unanswered
- Having current or correct data really isn't necessary to conduct business – there are a lot of "clients" in our system for which we lack current data

Amend Bylaw 14.2 and Reg Rule 310.1 (Breed health Issues) - Forest

Rationale:

The rule changes proposed are regarding the health of cats registered with TICA. There are currently no rules in place regarding breed-specific health risks within cats, despite TICA's stated mission and objective of "the dissemination of information to promote the knowledge and interest of breeders, owners, exhibitors and the general public concerning the breeding, exhibition and improvement of breeds, and the care and welfare of all cats...." The proposed rule changes would not only align the rules with TICA's mission and objective, but also modernize the rules in relationship with growing scientific knowledge.

The goals of these rules are to (1) increase welfare by identifying current health concerns of breeds, (2) provide knowledge to breeders prior to breeding, and (3) increase awareness of breed-specific disease prevalence amongst breeders and buyers.

These rule changes attempt to acknowledge the differences in health concerns amongst breeds while also preserving genetic diversity. These rule changes would leave it up to the individual breed committee to determine potential health concerns of the breeds; in response to these health concerns, the breed committees would be able to set breed-specific health-testing requirements if indicated. Because genetic diversity plays an integral part of overall breed health, there will not be a required passing standard for such breed-specific testing, as genetic diversity plays an integral part of overall breed health. Instead, required health testing would allow breeders to make the most educated decisions regarding potential pairings.

For example, should a breed committee have a concern of PKD in their breed, they may share this concern as part of the breed standard. If they decide this issue is pressing for the breed, they may decide to require that a cat have genetic health-testing for PKD. In such a case, a breeding cat is not required to test negative; they are only to have had this test performed and the results documented with TICA. Similarly, if the breed committee designated hip-testing requirements, the cat would not have to have a specific hip grade; however, the breeder would be required to show documentation of hip grading. Thus, the breeder will be able to select the pairings which lower the risk for conditions of concern.

These proposed rule changes would work similarly to other species registries. For example, quarter horses must be genetically health-tested prior to breeding. In dogs, the AKC Breeder Program has breed-specific health testing. This would require a place for breeders to upload documentation within the website or via email. However, these rules do not require health testing to be made available to the public.

These rule changes would increase awareness of breed-specific health concerns. The breed committee will be required to, with some degree of frequency, describe concerning breed specific health issues or state that there are none of importance. The breed committee will not be compelled to make required health testing but will be able to, should they feel it is in the best interest of their breed.

These rule changes will encourage breeder knowledge of their lines. These rules would not prevent cats who have, themselves, not been health tested to be registered or shown, as this rule only specifies that parents must meet health-testing requirements (if required by the breed committee). This would merely prevent litters of parents who have not met breed-standard health-testing from being registered.

Other cat associations who have similar ordinances that protect cat health include GCCF and FIFe. In GCCF, each Breed Advisory Committee is required to produce, publish, and promote an accepted breeding policy, which is then reviewed by a genetics committee. This policy is meant to include a description of known genetic disorders, as well as a plan to manage and mitigate them. GCCF also has in place a Genetic Register, which is a system for breeders to use for the express purpose of eliminating genetic disorders. In FIFe, there are similar breed-specific testing requirements. However, these are not set by breed committees but instead by the Breeding and registration commission at large, and these testing requirements must be supported by scientific research and reviewed at least once every five years.

The rule changes we propose are modest. These changes are meant to update TICA's rules to align with its mission, encourage health as a priority within purebred cats, and increase breeder knowledge. Furthermore, it is also our hope that these rules would help to mitigate the public desire for government oversight by advocating for feline health within the registry. In Europe, there are several breeds that have been banned or are facing bans. Including health concerns within the breed standard will increase the knowledge of both consumers and breeders. Having breed-specific testing in the future may demonstrate self-regulation instead of a need for government oversight.

Amend Bylaw 14.2:

14.2 Duties. Members of each Breed/Breed Group Section shall sponsor the breed/breed group and be responsible for developing a comprehensive standard, **which includes current health concerns and required health-testing**, for the breed/breed group and proposing amendments and revisions of the standards for the breed/breed group. **The section for current health concerns must be updated at least once every five years.**

Amend Reg Rule 310.1:

310.1 A litter of kittens must be registered with TICA provided the dam of the litter is registered with TICA. If the sire of the litter is not registered with TICA but is registered with another association, a copy of his certified pedigree from a recognized registering body showing three generations of pedigree or pedigree to the extent of his registration in the other association must accompany the application for litter registration. The copy shall then be attached to the application for a record in the association files.

310.1.1 Both dam and sire of the litter must meet the breed-specific health-testing requirements, if any, designated by the breed standard. A record of these health tests must either accompany the application for litter registration or be recorded with TICA previously.

Rules Chair Note: When voting on the Motion, the effective date should be specified as “once all required system changes have been implemented and successfully tested”.

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 passed, individual breed standards will need to add an additional section on health issues as they are updated.

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

Pros:

- Addition of these requirements aligns with TICA's mission
- Any health issues are addressed by the relevant Breed Committees as required
- Using breed standards provides an existing mechanism to update breed standards

Cons:

- If a Breed Committee is inactive, any health concerns may not be identified
- Tracking and enforcing updates may be difficult and is an additional workload in the EO.
- Requires changes to TFMS in order to implement.

Genetics Committee Comments on proposed changes to Bylaws 14.2 and Reg Rule 310.1

The majority of the Genetics Committee strongly supports these rule changes. This proposal conforms with how TICA identifies itself, and with the association's mission. Various committee members pointed out that some registries or locations already incorporate genetic, physical, and/or functional testing before a litter can be registered, some groups report genetic test results on registrations. The technology and information that we have access to needs to be used. Failing to do so makes rather a mockery of our statement that we are the "world's largest genetic registry of pedigreed cats".

The supporting members (AK, HL, VM, DP, MP) think that the proposal is a good start, but it is only a start. Not only breed committee should be involved. The Genetics Committee, at minimum, should be able to indicate that a breed should add in a trait or test. Tests that are very important to a breed should probably have parental results listed on the litter registrations sent to the breeder of the registered litter and on the registration slips and individual registrations from a litter.

A minority of the committee members (NCS, EC, LS) think that testing should not be required, but instead should be a value added choice. TICA is first a registry - registrations are the meat and potatoes of our business. Will requiring the testing prior to registration cut into our income? Do we currently have the capability in place to support this type of testing being added to registrations? Should actually it be an "add on" with a fee, to help offset software development costs to TICA.

There are also an assortment of practical considerations in any case:

1) How will required test results be acquired and reported? Will a cat need to be microchipped and have a licensed veterinarian read the chip at the time of the exam or DNA sampling? That could be prohibitively expensive and/or difficult to manage logistically. If genetic tests are done, will there be approved testing service providers? What if either a cat's owner falsifies a result, or a test result is in error? Will data from this type of reporting be accessible, and to who?

2) For conditions like HCM where genetic tests only catch some types, and echocardiograms at younger ages are less reliable than at older ages, will there be a requirement to screen cats that were used for breeding when they are middle-aged or older? Will later results be shared with owners of descendants? Similarly, what would be the policy for diseases like amyloidosis which are devastating, late onset, are of high incidence in some breeds, have no genetic test, and can only be accurately diagnosed post-mortem? Could a breed choose to retroactively put in results for a late onset condition years after registration and breeding? Should there be levels of certification of a registered cat? Currently if you change a cat's status to "deceased" the TFMS system asks for a date of death. Could choices be put in there, such as "HCM", "PKD", "amyloidosis", "cancer", "infectious disease", "unknown", "kidney failure"?

3) The TICA board has put a high priority on education for breeders, judges, and the public in the interest of feline welfare. If we are going to indicate physical and genetic health concerns in breeds we should also have information about those issues. It would be useful to have a list of these concerns with a brief description, and perhaps links to diagnosis and treatments accessible on the TICA website.

Participating Genetics Committee members:

Nikki Crandall-Seibert
Ellen Crockett
Adriana Kajon
Heather Lorimer
Vikki Moran
Dragana Petkovic
Massimo Picardello
Lorraine Shelton

Amend Bylaw 14.2:

14.2 Duties. Members of each Breed/Breed Group Section shall sponsor the breed/breed group and be responsible for developing a comprehensive standard, **which includes current health concerns and required health-testing**, for the breed/breed group and proposing amendments and revisions of the standards for the breed/breed group. **The section for current health concerns must be updated at least once every five years.**

Amend Reg Rule 310.1:

310.1 A litter of kittens must be registered with TICA provided the dam of the litter is registered with TICA. If the sire of the litter is not registered with TICA but is registered with another association, a copy of his certified pedigree from a recognized registering body showing three generations of pedigree or pedigree to the extent of his registration in the other association must accompany the application for litter registration. The copy shall then be attached to the application for a record in the association files.

310.1.1 Both dam and sire of the litter must meet the breed-specific health-testing requirements, if any, designated by the breed standard. A record of these health tests must either accompany the application for litter registration or be recorded with TICA previously.

Amend Bylaws Article 15 (Recall) - Fisher

Rationale:

TICA's By-Laws were first crafted over 40 years ago. While many changes have been made to them over the years, there remain governance provisions which have not been reviewed and updated to reflect the significant growth and change TICA has enjoyed over its history.

One such area includes "Recall" of elected officials. While, thankfully, this provision is rarely needed and used, there are concerns that the current provisions do not reflect the needs of a rapidly changing association.

This proposed amendment seeks to address concerns raised by the membership regarding this right afforded them. The proposal -

1. Sets out the reasons for which recall may be based. Recall should not be entered into lightly as there is a significant and detailed process which depends on the voting membership to place these officials in their positions. We also recognize that the process is not one of unanimous consent and that members will have differing and sometimes passionate differences in who should represent their interest.
2. Addresses concerns that members and members eligible to vote vary greatly from the number of members who actually care to and do participate in the governance of the association. Also addressed is the concern that some Breed Committee membership might be overstated due to Life Members who have been uncontactable by TICA for many years yet remain on the membership roll because no death certificate has been received. One Breed Committee found that some 50% of their section members fell into that category.
3. Bases the required number of petition signatures on the actual number of members who voted in the applicable election. The larger the voting base, the smaller the required percentage of signatures. In the case of President and Vice President, the percentage is set at 30%. Studies do suggest that, arguably, the percentage should be at 51% to ensure the success of the passage of the measure, but 30% is more commonly used and does provide greater access to the membership for raising leadership issues and allowing the membership to vote on the matter.

An example study can be found at: https://uh.edu/class/political-science/about/election-lab/_docs/uh-election-lab-recall-election.pdf

Analysis:

The average number of votes cast in the past two elections for President and Vice President is approximately 1,350. At 30%, 405 signatures would be required to recall the President and Vice President. Votes cast for Regional Directors varies widely because of size differences among the Regions; i.e., 9 votes cast in the smallest region and 160 in the largest region. Applying the larger percentage of 60%, results in signature requirements of 5 to 90. The largest percentage, 80% applies to the very small voting pools and participants in the greatly variable elections for Breed Committees.

It should be noted that the current language for recall of Regional Directors is 150 or 50% of the members of the Region. What is not clear is whether the intent is that 150 is the minimum or the cap for required signatures. In other words, assuming a Region has 600 members (presumably in good standing), is the required number of signatures 150 or 300? Likewise, for a small Region of 150, is the requirement 150 signatures or 75 signatures? The same is true, even more critically, for the signature requirements for Breed Committee elections.

Amend Bylaws Article 15 (Recall):

115.1 Recall Petition. Members of the Association, a Region or Breed/Breed Group Section may petition **to remove for recall of a National Officer President, Vice President, Regional Director or Breed Committee member from office prior to the expiration of their term. Recall may only be initiated on grounds of incompetency, misconduct or malfeasance in office, respectively. Following a ballot of the eligible** ~~Upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the~~ members of the Association, the Region, or the Breed/Breed Group Section, the President or Vice President, Regional Director or a member of the Breed Committee, respectively, shall be removed from office immediately **if there is an affirmative vote by a majority of the voting members.**

115.2 Notice. Notice of intent to present a petition to have a ballot published for recall of a specified person or persons shall be filed with the Executive Office. Within 30 days of the filing of the notice, the recall petition shall be filed with the Executive Office. The Business Manager/Executive Secretary shall immediately forward a copy of the Petition including the reasons to the person(s) whose recall is sought.

~~115.3 Signatures and Fee. For recall of the President or Vice President, the petition shall contain a minimum of 250 signatures; for Regional Director, signatures of 150 or one half of the members of the Region; for Breed Committee, signatures of 50 or one half of the members of the Breed/Breed Group Section. In every case, it shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee as specified in the Standing Rules.~~

115.3 Signatures and Fee. Recall petitions shall contain the signatures of members in good standing, as follows, and be accompanied by the appropriate fee as specified in the Standing Rules.

115.3.1 For recall of the President or Vice President, signatures equal in number to 30% of the number of votes cast at the last regular election which resulted in the election of that official.

115.3.2 For recall of Regional Directors, signatures equal in number to 60% of the number of votes cast at the last regular election which resulted in the election of that official.

115.3.3 For recall of Breed Committee Members, signatures equal in number to 80% of the number of votes cast for the position of Chair at the last regular election which resulted in the election of that official, subject to a maximum of 50 signatures.

15.4 Publication and Ballot. Notice that the petition has been filed and the reason given therein shall be published in the next available newsletter. Any rebuttal submitted together with a restatement of the reasons for recall shall be printed in the next following newsletter. The ballot, without further comment, shall be mailed to each member eligible to vote on the matter. The provisions of Article Thirteen shall apply to recall.

115.5 Form. Every recall petition must include the following:

115.5.1 An attribution declaring who created the recall petition must be printed in boldface type (at least 12 point) at or near the top of each page.

115.5.2 If circulated to obtain signatures at a show a disclaimer must be printed in boldface type (at least 12 point) at or near the top of each page with the following statement: "This petition is distributed in accordance with TICA By-Laws, Article Fifteen - Recall, and does not constitute an endorsement by the show committee of the opinions/statements made herein."

115.5.3. Factual written evidence must be presented in support of the proposed recall.

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:

- Provides clear reasons for initiating any recall
- Addresses the increasing gap between actual membership and those members who vote
- Ensures even small breed sections with inactive life members can initiate a recall
- Still requires a majority vote of the relevant section of the membership before any recall can happen

Cons:

- May reduce the number of members required to initiate a recall of an RD

Amend Bylaws Article 16 (Initiative and Referendum) - Fisher

Rationale:

TICA's By-Laws were first crafted over 40 years ago. While many changes have been made to them over the years, there remain governance provisions which have not been reviewed and updated to reflect the significant growth and change TICA has enjoyed over its history.

One such issue is that pertaining to the ability of members to bring matters directly to membership vote, bypassing the Board of Directors. This has rarely been used and, given the extensive process that is already available to members in bringing such proposals before the membership and through the Board, it is appropriately a rarity.

This proposed amendment addresses both the number of signatures required for a petition and the regional participation required to ensure that the petition represents the wishes of a diverse cross section of TICA membership. The proposal -

1. Addresses concerns that members and members eligible to vote vary greatly from the number of members who actually care to and do participate in the governance of the association. It sets a known marker as the basis for determining the number of required signatures - the votes cast for President in the last election for President, Vice President and Breed Committees. A percentage of 10% was chosen and deemed reasonable for this proposal. However, in practice, percentages vary greatly among organizations.
2. Addresses the concern that membership numbers may be overstated by Life Members who have been uncontactable by TICA for many years yet remain on the membership roll because no death certificate has been received.
3. Provides requirements for geographic diversity to support the need for and interest in the issue by members. In practice, requirements for geographic diversity are extremely varied and, obviously, the extent of that diversity is arguable.

Analysis:

The average number of votes cast for the Office of President in the past two elections is approximately 1,350. Therefore, a petition to place an issue before the membership would require 135 signatures (10%). This number will increase or decrease based on the changes in actual TICA membership and the level of interest in the governance process.

Current rules require a diversity defined to include participation by at least 3 Regions (approximately 50% of the number of Regions in existence at the time of drafting the original By-Laws.) This proposal approaches the issue in a slightly different way by limiting the influence of a single or a small group of larger regions on the presentation of the petition. By limiting the allowable signatures of a single region to 25% of the total, it is assured that diversity is created by requiring members in at least 4 Regions to have interest in the issue.

Amend Bylaws Article 16 (Initiatives and Referendum):

By-Laws Article Sixteen – **Membership Initiatives and Referendum**

116.1 ~~Petition~~ **Membership Initiatives**. Notwithstanding anything else in these By-Laws, ~~upon a petition signed by at least 100 members in good standing from a minimum of three regions and composed of the greater of six members or 10 percent of the membership of each of the three regions, accompanied by a filing fee as specified in the Standing Rules, any amendments of the By-Laws, Show Rules, or Registration Rules of the Association, and any matters concerning the business affairs, government and policy of the Association, shall be submitted to the membership for a mail vote.~~ **members of the Association may petition to send amendments to the By-Laws, Show Rules, Registration Rules, or any other matters concerning the business affairs, government and policy of the Association directly to the membership for a mail vote. Unless otherwise specified in the By-Laws, Show Rules or Registration Rules of this Association or in the proposal itself, all action taken by membership initiatives shall become effective immediately upon certification that the proposal has been adopted by a majority vote.**

116.2 Notice. Notice of intent to present a petition to have a ballot published for **a membership** initiative ~~or referendum~~ shall be filed with the Executive Office. Within 30 days of the filing of the notice, the petition shall be filed with the Executive Office.

116.3 Publication and Ballot. Notice that the petition has been filed and reason given therein shall be published in the next available newsletter. Any rebuttal submitted together with restatement of the reasons for shall be printed in the following newsletter. The ballot shall be mailed to each member eligible to vote on the matter. The provisions of Article Thirteen shall apply.

~~116.4 Effective Date. Unless otherwise specified in the By-Laws, Show Rules or Registration Rules of this Association or in the proposal itself, all action taken by the membership by initiative or referendum shall become effective immediately upon certification that the proposal has been adopted by a majority vote.~~

116.4 Signatures and Fee. Membership Initiative petitions shall be supported by the signatures of members in good standing and be accompanied by the appropriate fee as specified in the Standing Rules.

116.4.1 The number of members supporting a petition must be at least 10% of the number of votes cast for the Office of President at the last regular election for that office.

116.4.2 No more than 25% of the supporting members may come from a single region.

116.5 Form. Every petition must include the following:

116.5.1 An attribution declaring who created the petition must be printed in boldface type (at least 12 point) at or near the top of each page.

116.5.2 If circulated to obtain signatures at a show a disclaimer must be printed in boldface type (at least 12 point) at or near the top of each page with the following statement: "This petition is distributed in accordance with TICA By-Laws, Article Sixteen - Initiative and Referendum and does not constitute an endorsement by the show committee of the opinions/statements made herein."

116.5.3 Factual written evidence must be presented in support of the proposed petition.

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:

- Simplifies the language used to describe the process
- Addresses the increasing gap between total membership and those members who do actually vote
- Still requires a majority vote of the membership before any action can happen
- Now requires at least 4 regions to support an initiative rather than the current 3.

Cons:

- Depending upon election results for the President, may reduce the number of members needed to support a petition.

Amend Bylaw 122.2.2 (Show Complaints) – van Mullem

Rationale:

Some show protests/complaints have nothing to do with scoring but would be dismissed when they are filed after the 10 working days. For instance, complaints related to judges sometimes first go to the judging committee before a formal complaint is filed.

This proposal clarifies that the 10 day limit only applies to complaints regarding scoring and/or title points.

Amend Bylaw 122.2.2:

122.2.2 Show Protests/Complaints. Complaints/Protests charging misconduct or violation of the rules of the association, arising in connection with a show **the resolution of which could affect scoring for that show**, shall be submitted in writing with any evidence and a filing fee as set forth in the Standing Rules within 10 working days following the completion of the show. A copy of the complaint shall also be sent to the show committee. The Board of Directors shall consider a complaint brought pursuant to this article at the next scheduled Board meeting provided that the responding parties have had adequate time to respond.

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 that complaints arising from a show that do not impact scoring can be filed within 180 days of the show.

Cons:

- Should expedited complaint review happen only in cases affecting scoring and not (for example) animal abuse, mishandling issues, bad conduct by a club? One could argue that those issues should be expedited also.

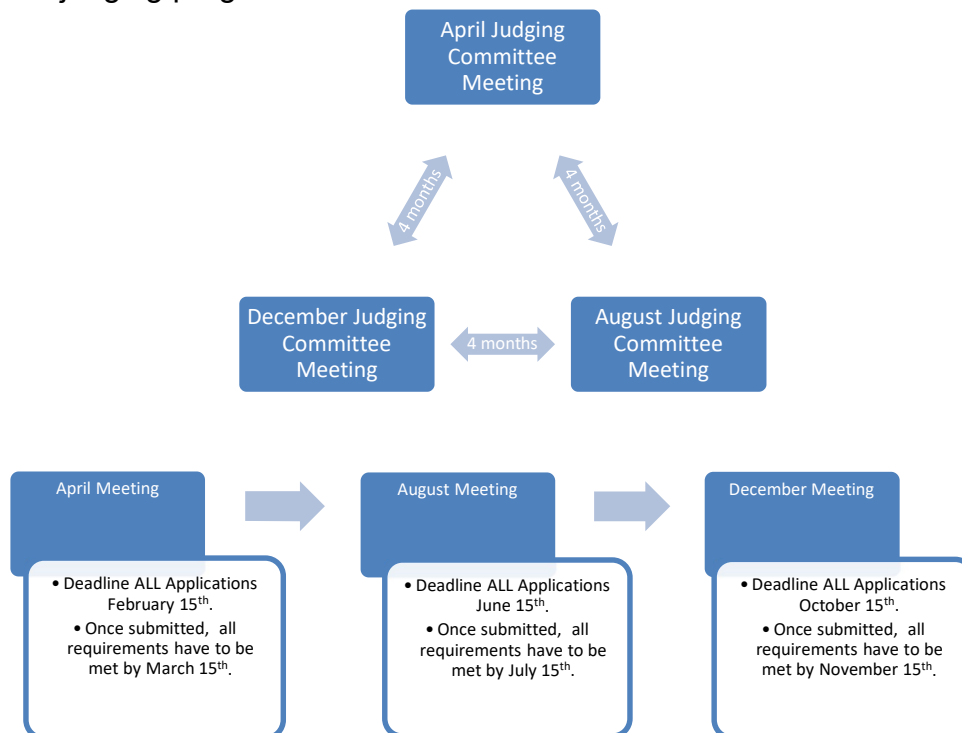
Amend Judging Program (Deadlines) – Judging Committee

Rationale:

Application deadlines are consolidated in Article 1. The proposal makes more flexible deadlines for candidates, shortening the time between deadlines and the scheduled meetings.

The proposal clarifies that advancement of Remote Judges and Probationary SP judges to Approved SP can be considered by the Judging Committee at any time.

The proposal unifies the time limit for the applicant test with the rest of the exams in the judging program.



Amend as follows:

Article One – Judging Committee

41.5 Meetings of the Judging Committee

41.5.4 Acceptances into the Judging Program and for advancement within the Judging Program shall require an affirmative vote by a majority of the Judging Committee members present and voting. The vote of the individual Committee Members shall be reported in the public minutes of the meeting.

41.5.7.1 Applications for acceptance into the Judging Program and for advancement within the Judging Program shall be considered only at scheduled Judging Committee meetings; **except for the Advancement under the procedure set forth in 45.7.1. (Remote Judges and Probationary Specialty Judge to Approved Specialty).**

41.5.7.2 Applications and payment of fees must be received by the Judging Committee no later than February 15th for consideration at the April meeting, June 15th for consideration at the August meeting and October 15th for consideration at the December meeting. Applications received after these deadlines will be presented at the following scheduled Judging Committee meeting.

41.5.7.2.1 Once the application has been submitted, if all requirements have not been met by March 15th for application at the April meeting, July 15th for application at the August meeting or November 15th for application at the December meeting the applicant must reapply at a future scheduled Judging Committee meeting.

Article Three – ~~Application of Trainees – Requirements for~~ Application for Admission into the Judging Program

43.7 When the applicant has an eligible Allbreed Sponsor and up to 1 year prior to the anticipated date of application, the applicant may request a comprehensive written open book examination covering TICA By-Laws, Show Rules, Breed Standards, Ethics and the cat fancy, in general. The applicant must score 95 per cent or higher on the examination, and all questions missed must be answered correctly. ~~If the applicant fails to complete the examination within the time allowed, application may not be re-submitted for 6 months.~~

43.7.1 Once received, the applicant may complete and submit the examination in sections for grading; however, all sections must be initially submitted within 4 months. Sections, as received, will be graded and returned to the applicant if they require additional work or correction. Applicants will have up to 2 months from the initial examination return deadline to resolve any outstanding issues and receive a passing grade. If the applicant fails to complete the examination within the time allowed, application may not be re-submitted for 6 months.

~~43.7.12 Applications, and examination~~**which have received a passing grade**, must be received **by the Judging Committee** ~~no later than May 15th for application at the August meeting, October 15th for application at the December Meeting and January 15th for application at the April Meeting.~~ **in accordance with the deadlines set forth in Article One.**

Article Five – Probationary and Approved Specialty Judge

45.2.4 When the training portion of the program has been completed, the trainee shall send the completed Application for Advancement to Probationary Specialty Judge to the ~~Trainee Coordinator, the Allbreed Sponsor and the Judging Committee Administrator~~ **Committee Administrator** to be received ~~to be received by May 15th for application at the August meeting, October 15th for application at the December meeting or January 15th for application at the April meeting.~~ **in accordance with the deadlines set forth in Article One.**

Article Six – Provisional Allbreed Judge

46.2.6 The Application for Advancement to Provisional Allbreed Judge must be completed and received by the Judging Committee **in accordance with the deadlines set forth in Article One.** ~~no later than May 15th for application at the August meeting, October 15th for application at the December Meeting or January 15th for application at the April Meeting.~~ Applications received after the deadline will be presented at the following scheduled Judging Committee meeting.

46.3 A judge may request an examination anytime within 1 year of the time planned for advancement.

46.3.1 Once received, the applicant may complete and submit the examination in sections for grading; however, all sections must be initially submitted within 4 months. Sections, as received, will be graded and returned to the applicant if they require additional work or correction. Applicants will have up to 2 months from the initial examination return deadline to resolve any outstanding issues and receive a passing grade. **If the applicant fails to complete the examination within the time allowed, application may not be re-submitted for 6 months.** ~~Examination must be passed before the submission dates of May 15th for application at the August meeting, October 15th for application at the December meeting and January 15th application at the April meeting.~~

~~46.3.1.1 If the examination is not passed by the above stated deadlines, and/or if all other requirements have not been met by June 15th for application at the August meeting, November 15th for application at the December meeting or February 15th for application at the April meeting, the applicant must reapply for advancement at a following scheduled Judging Committee meeting.~~

46.3.1.1 Applications, and examination which have received a passing grade, must be received by the Judging Committee in accordance with the deadlines set forth in Article One.

Article Seven – Approved Allbreed Judge

47.2.6 The Application for Advancement to Approved Allbreed Judge must be completed and received by the Judging Committee **in accordance with the deadlines set forth in Article One.** ~~no later than May 15th for application at the August meeting, October 15th for application at the December Meeting or January 15th for application at the April Meeting.~~ Applications received after the deadline will be presented at the following scheduled Judging Committee meeting.

47.3 A judge may request an examination anytime within 1 year of the time planned for advancement.

47.3.1 Once received, the applicant may complete and submit the examination in sections for grading; however, all sections must be initially submitted within 4 months. Sections, as received, will be graded and returned to the applicant if they require additional work or correction. Applicants will have up to 2 months from the initial examination return deadline to resolve any outstanding issues and receive a passing grade. **If the applicant fails to complete the examination within the time allowed, application may not be re-submitted for 6 months.** ~~Examination must be passed before the submission dates of May 15th for application at the August meeting, October 15th for application at the December meeting and January 15th application at the April meeting.~~

~~46.3.1.1 If the examination is not passed by the above stated deadlines, and/or if all other requirements have not been met by June 15th for application at the August meeting, November 15th for application at the December meeting or February 15th for application at the April meeting, the applicant must reapply for advancement at a following scheduled Judging Committee meeting.~~

47.3.1.1 Applications, and examination which have received a passing grade, must be received by the Judging Committee in accordance with the deadlines set forth in Article One.

Article Eight – Application for Instructor

48.4 The applicant shall send the completed Application for Instructor to the Judging Committee to be received **in accordance with the deadlines set forth in Article One.** ~~no later than May 15th for application at the August Meeting, October 15th for application at the December Meeting or January 15th for application at the April Meeting.~~

48.5 All other requirements must be passed **in accordance with the deadlines set forth in Article One.** ~~by June 15th for application at the August Meeting, November 15th for application at the December Meeting or February 15th for application at the April Meeting. If all requirements have not been met by the deadline date, the applicant must reapply for Instructor at a following scheduled Judging Committee meeting.~~

Article Nine – Acceptance of Judges from Other Cat Associations

49.2 Any judge who is or has been licensed by another domestic or international association, who has at least 5 years of judging experience with one association, and who has judged at least 25 cat shows before applying to TICA, may apply to the Judging Committee for a TICA judge's license **in accordance with the deadlines set forth in Article One.** ~~no later than May 15th for application at the August meeting, October 15th for application at the December Meeting or January 15th for application at the April Meeting.~~ The highest level for which an Allbreed applicant may apply is Approved Specialty. Transfer judges who are not Allbreed in their original association shall apply at the Probationary Specialty level. Any such application shall include a detailed description of prior training and education and shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. ~~Applications received after the deadline will be presented at the following scheduled Judging Committee meeting.~~

Article Eleven – Reinstatement

411.2 Any judge formerly licensed as a TICA judge may, within 10 years of resigning their license, apply to the Judging Committee for reinstatement. Applications for reinstatement at all levels must be made ~~no later than~~ **in accordance with the deadlines set forth in Article One.** ~~May 15th for application at the August Meeting, October 15th for application at the December Meeting or January 15th for application at the April Meeting. Applications received after the deadline will be presented at the following scheduled Judging Committee Meeting.~~

411.2.1 To be reconsidered for reinstatement, all applicants must:

411.2.1.1 Meet the requirement of 411.1

411.2.1.2 Forward payment of an application fee, a processing fee, and the appropriate

license fee to the Executive Office to be received **in accordance with the deadlines set forth in Article One.** ~~no later than May 15th for the application at the August Meeting, October 15th for application at the December Meeting or January 15th for application at the April Meeting.~~

411.2.2 Applicants for reinstatement as Provision or Approved Allbreed Judge must meet any training requirements deemed necessary by the Judging Committee, assigned on a case-by-case basis.

411.2.3 Applicants for reinstatement as Probationary or Approved Specialty Judge must:

411.2.3.1 Successfully complete the Reinstatement Exam **in accordance with the deadlines set forth in Article One. If the applicant fails to complete the examination within the time allowed, application may not be re-submitted for 6 months.** ~~no later than May 15th for application at the August Meeting, October 15th for application at the December Meeting or January 15th for application at the April Meeting.~~

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:

- Deadline dates are only listed once, making any future changes much easier.
- Some deadlines have been shortened, thus speeding up processing of applications

Cons:

- None identified

Amend Show Rules 23.8 & 23.8.1 (Kitten Ages) - Yawata

Rationale:

In response to the growing worldwide interest in animal welfare and the increased scrutiny from the general public on whether or not Association is actively working on animal welfare, I believe that it is necessary to take all possible safety measures for kittens also in TICA.

Additionally, I think it will be ensured uniformity in the months age criteria for “showing” and “exhibition only”.

Therefore, I propose to amend Show Rule 23.8 and 23.8.1.

Amend Show Rule 23.8:

23.8 The show committee may permit cats or kittens ~~3~~ **4** months of age or older to be entered for “Exhibition Only”.

23.8.1 No kitten under the age of ~~3~~ **4** calendar months is permitted in the show hall under any circumstance.

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:

- Would impact joint shows with other organisations, as some organisations allow kittens in competition from 3 months old (e.g. LOOF, WCF). This rule would prohibit such kittens from all shows within the same show hall.
- Removes the option for a kitten to be acclimatised to a show hall environment between 3 and 4 months old, prior to competing in kitten classes.

Amend Show Rule 23.6 (Denying Entry) - Fisher

Rationale:

So, relative to the current rule, it seems that a club can refuse an entry if someone has had services suspended - either temporarily or permanently by TICA OR the club has had a prior issue with either the person or their cat. There doesn't appear to be any other reason.

This Rule has to do with accepting entries to a TICA show, nothing about someone not paying club dues on time. TICA does not make people belong to a club to enter a show. TICA does not set guidelines for how clubs run their internal affairs.

Frankly, the current wording in 23.6.3 is confusing. A TICA Temporary or Permanent Suspension List does not exist. There is only a Temporary Suspension List. Suspension of Services can be temporary or permanent. Plus, our rules do not create or define a Club Temporary or Permanent Suspension List. Again, TICA does not run the clubs. This rule is about providing access to a TICA-sanctioned cat show.

Amend Show Rule 23.6:

23.6 The show committee, at its discretion, may refuse to accept any entry for the following reasons:

23.6.1 Maximum entries received.

23.6.2 Show date is during 21-day prohibitive period.

23.6.2.1 Any cat or kitten from a house or cattery where there has been fungus or any infectious or contagious illness within 21 days prior to the opening date of the show is ineligible for entry and/or exhibition.

23.6.3 Exhibitor's name is on ~~club or~~ **the** TICA Temporary ~~or Permanent~~ Suspension List.

23.6.4 A formal ~~protest~~ **complaint** alleging a violation of Show Rules and/or By-Laws **by the exhibitor** has been lodged, and the ~~protest~~ **complaint** has been upheld by the Board of Directors. **As a result, the exhibitor has been suspended from all TICA services.**

23.6.5 Prior conduct of the entry and/or exhibitor is detrimental to the best interest of the association or the welfare of cats or the club and/or its show.

23.6.5.1 The show committee shall give notice to the exhibitor in writing when applying 23.6.5.

23.6.5.2 The show committee shall disclose to the exhibitor the details of the detrimental prior conduct, if there is a request for information disclosure.

23.6.6 The entry is prohibited by law.

23.6.7 The last entry day is past. The last entry day is the last day and time that entries are accepted, notwithstanding any advertised "closing date". The show committee shall accept entries in the order received, however, may give preference to entries accompanied by payment.

23.6.7.1 In the event that a show committee has declined any entry pursuant to 23.6.7, no further entries may be accepted for any reason whatsoever.

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 the rules as to why an exhibitor cannot enter a show.
- Makes the terminology consistent with other rules

Cons:

- Removes any reference to a suspension list that a club may choose to operate.

Amend Show Rule 23.6.2.1 (21 day rule) - Yawata

Rationale:

23.6.2.1 is also interpreted: "A cat or kitten from a house or cattery where there has been fungus or any infectious or contagious illness without 22 days prior to the opening date of the show is eligible for entry and/or exhibition."

For example, if a fungus or any infectious or contagious illness occur 22 days before opening date of the show, the validity and effectiveness of this rule would be called into question, given the risk of it spreading rapidly in the house or cattery.

Therefore, instead of "Any cat or kitten from a house or cattery where there has been fungus or any infectious or contagious illness within 21 days prior to the opening date of the show," it changes the criteria for determining entry eligibility to "within 21 days after confirmed that the infection or contagious disease including fungus has ended due to healing or remission," I believe, it will ensure the effectiveness of this rule.

Amend Show Rule 23.6.2.1:

23.6.2.1 Any cat or kitten from a house or cattery where there has been fungus or any infectious or contagious illness, within 21 days prior to the opening date of the show **(after confirming that the infection or contagious disease has ended due to healing or remission)** is ineligible for entry and/or exhibition.

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 – the current rule doesn't "start the clock" with diagnosis, but rather from the absence of disease.

Amend Show Rules 23.6.6 (Entry prohibited by law) - Yawata

Rationale:

Nowadays, the scope of TICA's activities has expanded all over the world, including many emerging countries, and there is a need for Rules and wording that can be easily interpreted by all TICA members of any country or region.

At the same time, I think it is necessary to clearly state that laws, regulations, ordinances, etc. differ in each country and region around the world, and that they are not limited to laws

Therefore, I propose an amendment to 23.6.6

Amend Show Rule 23.6.6:

23.6 The show committee, at its discretion, may refuse to accept any entry for the following reasons:

[23.6.1 to 23.6.5 deleted for brevity]

23.6.6 The entry **and/or showing, or exhibition** ~~is~~ prohibited by laws **and regulations etc.**

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:

- The current wording is sufficient. This rule is about accepting entries, not about shows and exhibitions
- No change is needed. No matter the form (e.g. a permanent act of law, a local regulation, a temporary regulation due to some special situation), it is an "entry prohibited by law".

Add Show Rule 29.2.1.1 (Closing Entries) - Yawata

Rationale:

At certain club in certain Region, there is a movement to discriminate in acceptance of entries depending on class, especially in SP rings, if there are more than 6 entries in a particular class, to close the entry at just 5 entries.

Show Rule 29.2.1 originally stipulates that "no class shall be discriminated against by limiting the number of entries in that class in any show," but this is not actually followed.

In order to avoid such violations of this Rule, I believe that additional procedural regulation is essential, and that the show committee must be held responsible.

Add Show Rule 29.2.1.1:

29.2 Entries.

29.2.1 Entries, regardless of class, shall be accepted as received by the entry clerk, and no class shall be discriminated against by limiting the number of entries in that class in any show.

29.2.1.1 When entries close for any class, the show committee shall immediately announce publicly that all entries have been closed.

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)

Rules Chair Note: The word "discriminate" in 29.2.1 whilst accurate, may not be fully understood by those whose first language is not English.

Pros:

- Clarifies what should happen should any class be closed to entries

Cons:

- Additional rule that would be better dealt with by the RD, as it appears to be a regional issue
- Does not take into account clubs that use waiting lists

Add Show Rule 216.12.12 (DQ DBE Cats) – Bengal Breed Committee

Rationale:

Including Dominant Blue Eyes (DBE) in cats poses significant concerns for the integrity of responsible breeding practices and the health and welfare of the cats themselves. This proposed rule change is intended to address the following issues:

Health and Welfare Concerns: Dominant Blue Eyes have been linked to a higher incidence of congenital sensory deficits, particularly deafness, affecting the cat's quality of life. The trait's consistent presence across coat colors suggests a genetic link that may also influence other developmental or health-related abnormalities. By disqualifying cats with DBE, we encourage breeding practices that prioritize the well-being of the animals.

Alignment with TICA's Responsible Breeding Standards: TICA emphasizes the importance of maintaining breed health and reducing or eliminating abnormalities through responsible breeding. Allowing DBE cats in the show hall contradicts this principle by indirectly promoting a trait associated with potential health issues. This rule change reinforces TICA's commitment to prioritizing the health and sustainability of recognized breeds.

Precedent for Disqualification Based on Health Risks: Like other physical abnormalities, such as crossed eyes, undershot jaws, or visible tail faults, which are grounds for disqualification, DBE represents a genetic abnormality that warrants exclusion from the show hall. This ensures consistency in applying TICA's rules and promotes high breeding standards.

Ethical Breeding Encouragement: Excluding DBE from the show hall sends a clear message that traits associated with health risks should not be prioritized for aesthetic appeal. This promotes ethical breeding practices and educates the public and breeders about the importance of genetic health over superficial traits.

Add Show Rule 216.12.12:

216.12.12 Cats in traditional/sepia/mink categories that are in the solid/tortie/tabby/silver & smoke divisions, that have blue or odd eyes, shall be disqualified. This rule does not apply to solid white cats.

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"

Rules Chair Note: The proposed rule has been shared with the Genetics Committee who liked the wording.

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

Pros:

- Addresses the issue of DBE cats without the need to change individual breed standards
- Provides a clear and objective measure to identify DBE cats.

Cons:

- Does not apply to HHP/HHPK classes (see 216.12)

Amend Show Rule 217.6.1 and Clerking Program 54.2.4.2.5.1 (HHP Ribbons) - HHP Breed Committee

Rationale:

On more than one occasion, it has brought to the attention of various BOD members that what the judges hang in the ring is not consistent with the rules regarding Household Pets. Most recently, an HHP exhibitor brought this up with our president and she asked the HHP Breed Committee to consider how best to address the issue.

By the 'letter of the laws,' judges and clubs are violating the existing rules every time a first/best of color flat is hung.

The committee acknowledges there was a proposal concerning this rule presented at the 2024 Winter Meeting but it only proposed to remove the word "merit" from the rule and did not consider the fact that to keep First Place was still inconsistent with the hanging of a First of Color (or Best of Color) flat.

In our research, we did determine that indeed while the rule did call for the awarding of a first place or merit award, no provision for how such an award should be represented was ever accounted for in Show Rule 212.1.1. Additionally, the points allotted for this first place or merit award are generally accepted to be the same as the First of Color award used in Championship Classes, but Standing Rule 207.5 does not actually specify that the First Place/Merit award is worth the same points as First of Color.

After months of discussion in our committee and consultation with the chair of the Rules Committee we are submitting a change proposal that brings the rule in line with the common practice in the ring and reduces the need for multiple changes or the addition of new flats for clubs to acquire.

We do hope the BOD will pass the proposal for the membership to vote on as it will clean up inconsistencies that has existed since TICA's inception.

Amend Show Rule 217.6.1:

217.6.1 All household pet entries, adult and kitten, receive a **Best of Color award used to show** ~~first place or merit award~~, except as noted in the Withhold All Awards section of the Household Pet standard.

If passed, also amend Clerking Program 54.2.4.2.5.1:

54.2.4.2.5.1 All household pets receive a **Best of Color award used to show** ~~first place or merit award~~ (Show Rules, Article Seventeen).

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"

To be consistent with this and other rules, 217.5.1 should be re-worded to refer to Best through Fifth Best of Color:

“217.5.1 Each judge shall select and place a **Best through Fifth Best of Color** ~~first, second, third, fourth and fifth place~~ award in each color class, except as provided in 216.7”

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 wording of the rule, whilst retaining the concept of merit awards
- Avoids need to provide new flats for “merit” awards

Cons:

- None identified

Amend Show Rules (Gender Neutrality) - Yawata

Rationale:

In several places in the Show Rules, the wording has not been revised based on the principle of "Gender Neutrality."

I think "they/them/their" should be used.

Amend Show Rule 24.3.1:

24.3.1 A sponsoring club must, at least 10 days prior to the advertised closing date of a show, announce and make known to any exhibitor who inquires, who the contracted and confirmed judges are. Any exhibitor who has previously entered the show shall be notified of any change in judges and may withdraw ~~his~~ **their** entries and have entry and related fees returned, within 10 calendar days, if requested before the advertised closing date of the show.

Amend Show Rule 210.3:

210.3 An exhibitor shall not, in any way, make it known to an officiating judge where ~~his~~ **their** entry(ies) have placed in any other ring.

Amend Show Rule 210.7:

210.7 An exhibitor shall not request that ~~his~~ **their** entry(ies) be judged separately from the regular class(es) for the entry(ies).

Amend Show Rule 212.9:

212.9 With the permission of the Show Manager, a Judge, in order to expedite the smoother running of the show, and remain within ~~his~~ **their** time frame, may hold finals with or without all the cats being benched in the ring, provided the following is adhered to:

Amend Show Rule 216.4.1:

216.4.1. Any cat not amenable to handling on the judging table should be penalized for temperament and awards may be withheld from that ring, but the cat will be counted present and competing in that ring. If awards are withheld, the judge shall make the notation "unable to handle" in ~~his~~ **their** judge's book.

Amend Show Rule 216.6:

216.6 At the option of the owner, a judge may transfer any kitten or cat incorrectly entered as to sex, color or breed, providing the transfer was not made by the show management prior to starting the judging. If the correct class has already been judged, the judge shall mark ~~his~~ **their** judge's book "wrong class-not judged."

Rules Chair Note:

As these rules do not impact how a cat is shown, they can come into effect immediately once approved by the membership

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:

- The proposed wording is consistent with other Show Rules updated in 2022 for the same reason

Cons:

- None identified

Add Standing Rule 1014.3.2 (Write-in eligibility) - Vlach

Rationale:

This is a clarification of the purpose of the existing rule and helps to avoid misunderstandings.

As an example: If a candidate runs unopposed, but the majority of votes would be "Write Ins" for "Scrooge McDuck" or a person which does not match the qualifications for being elected - then the candidate will still be elected.

(for context) Bylaws 114.2, 114.3.1 and 114.3.2:

114.2 Announcement of Candidates. Any member who has been a member in good standing for 2 consecutive years immediately preceding the election month and is also eligible to vote shall be eligible to seek office and shall declare their candidacy in writing to the Executive Office not more than 4 months nor less than 2 months before the election month with the filing fee established by the Board of Directors. If no member in the region has been a member for the 2 years immediately preceding the election month, the 2-year membership requirement shall not apply. This shall entitle the candidate to be listed as a candidate for the office sought in every issue of the newsletter including the newsletter prior to the ballot being mailed to the membership. Each candidate shall be entitled to publish a summary of their experience, credentials and platform in accordance with Standing Rules.

114.3.1 The election ballot shall contain a list of candidates. The ballot for election of President, Vice President and Regional Directors shall also contain lines for write-in votes. The provisions of Article Thirteen shall apply to election of officers.

114.3.2 The person who receives an absolute majority (over 50%) of the valid votes cast shall be elected. If no-one reaches this threshold, a run-off election between the two people with the highest number of votes shall be held.

Add Standing Rule 1014.3.2:

1014.3.2 To be considered a valid vote, a write-in candidate must meet the criteria set out in Bylaw 114.2; otherwise, the vote will be declared void and not counted.

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 that only candidates that meet the requirements set forth in 114.2 can be elected

Cons:

- Adds additional limits on who can be elected in a write in campaign

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 .
China - may need to consider changing law firm due to death of the office attorney	Adler/Nevarez/Shi	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.
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	ongoing	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. 2025W Danny sent email to group and received feedback - work in progress.
VJH will look into the forms used for traditional judging so they can be posted on our web	Harrison	2025W		
Start a list of projects that we want to have quotes for: Project, quote and proposed budget.	Nevarez/van Mullem	2025W		

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.

ATTACHMENT C

Rational for proposed changes:

The Minuet Breed Group submitted a proposal in the fall of 2024 for the Advancement of the Minuet Tails into Championship using the New Traits process. The application was sent to the Rules Committee and the Genetics Committee. Comments from members of the Genetics Committee indicated that the Minuet was not a distinctive breed in and of itself. While the Minuet Breed Committee firmly believes the Minuet is distinctive, we agree that the current breed standard does not sufficiently describe the Minuet as a breed independent of looks similar to other breeds. In that respect, the Minuet Breed Committee converged to revised the Minuet Breed Standard to help give a visual imagery of the Minuet through descriptive wording. Submitted with the new wording to the Breed Standard are corresponding pictures of Minuets to demonstrate the features and help the Genetics Committee see that the Minuet is not a dwarf version of another cat breed.

We appreciate the Genetics Committee's comments that allowed us to revisit the standard and see that it was inefficient in areas of describing the cat. We were able to work cohesively to create a new version of the standard that essentially says the same thing but in a more enhanced and complimentary way, where the Minuet is now viewed as a singularly independent breed that neither represents its parent outcrosses, nor another breed.

ATTACHMENT B

The following is the **changes to the current standard** (include revised wording):

Minuet Breed Group (MNT/MNL/~~MTT~~/~~MTL~~)

The Minuet (~~MNT~~) and the Minuet Longhair (~~MNL~~) are short-legged, substantially boned cats. They are distinguished only by the appearance of the coat, with the shorthair (MNT) having a plush, all-weather coat, and the longhair having a long, silky coat with britches and a plumed tail. ~~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: 43 points total

Shape	10 points
Eyes	10 points
Ears	8 points
Chin/Nose/Muzzle	10 points
Profile	4 points
Neck	1 point

Body: 45 points total

Torso	10 points
Legs	8 points
Tail	7 points
Boning	9 points
Musculature	9 points
Feet	2 points

Coat: ~~20~~ 12 points total

Length	10 5 points
Texture	10 7 points

Category: All
Divisions: All
Colors: All

Permissible Outcrosses: Persian Breed Group, Munchkin Breed Group

HEAD:

Shape: ~~Round, broad, with well rounded contours when viewed from any angle. Cheeks moderately full, top head rounded but not domed.~~ Round when viewed from every direction, with the appearance of being broader at the cheek line. A gentle curve at the cheeks creates the impression of warmth and charm. Allow for stud jaws in males. (See Picture 1, 2)

Ears: ~~Medium with preference to slightly smaller ears but not extreme. Rounded tips. Set wide apart.~~ Medium, well-rounded ears, with rounded tips and broad bases. Ears set wide apart on the head, as much on the top of the head as the side of the head. (See Picture 3)

Eyes: ~~Large and round, wide open but not protruding. No brow ridge. Deep brilliant eye color is preferred which conforms to coat color.~~ Large and round, giving a sense of innocent wonder in the cat. Set wide and level. The inside of the eyes should be outside the breadth of the nose leather. No evident cheekbones to detract from the openness of the eyes. Eyes not recessed or protruding. Eye color will be independent of coat color. (See Picture 4).

Chin: ~~Rounded and moderate.~~ Full and rounded. Complements the cheeks and forehead, and contributes to a cohesive look that is both charming and robust. From the profile, the chin is in line with the nose, neither protruding nor recessed. (See Picture 5)

Muzzle: ~~Moderately short and broad with well rounded whisker pads.~~ Rounded with more breadth than height, broken into four portions: the top quadrant being the nose, the sides being padded whisker pads, and the bottom quadrant being the chin. Each portion should fit together like a puzzle, and no part should be extreme or out of alignment. Whisker pads should not be exceedingly prominent, with no whisker break, blending gently into the cheeks. Length of muzzle is short but not snub. (See Pictures 6, 7 and 8)

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.~~ 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. Nose leather should be a petite feature that compliments the sweet look of the cat; however, nostrils should be open for good respiration. (See Picture 9)

Profile: ~~Gentle curve to a moderate stop.~~ The length of the nose is short, where there is a prominent stop from the nose to the forehead, with a soft, round change in direction; no break. Forehead is smooth and round from the brow to the back of the head, but not domed. (See picture 10).

Neck: ~~Head should blend into a moderately short neck.~~ Has a muscular feel. When paired with a rounded, broad head, it enhances the overall appearance of strength and sound structure. Neck is in proportion to the body, medium-short; neither too short and thick, nor too long or thin; well-muscled. (See picture 11)

BODY:

Torso: ~~Semi cobby, well rounded. Straight topline preferred, slight rise from the shoulders to tail is acceptable.~~ Medium-short, rounded body with a broad chest. Flanks not deep. Depth of torso in the front should be almost even to the depth of torso at the hips. Torso exudes a sense of strength that compliments the physical appearance of the cat. Back should be straight from shoulders to the hips, either level with ground or with a slight rise to the hindquarters. (See Picture 12).

Legs: ~~Short, well-developed, firm musculature. Out upper thigh boning and musculature may be thick and pronounced due to short legs. Inner legs straight with little to no bowing, though slight bowing is acceptable.~~ MNT/MNL: Short, well-developed, and sturdy, and with firm musculature. Outer upper thigh may be thick and pronounced due to shortened legs and

musculature. Inner front legs straight with little to no bowing, although slight bowing is acceptable. Legs should not be less than one quarter the length of the torso. Back legs to be straight and aligned. 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. Back legs to be straight and aligned. (See Picture 13, 14 and 15 for MNT/MNL)

Feet: Rounded and neat, tufts on longhairs. (See Picture 12)

Tail: ~~In proportion to body length or longer, not short. Long hairs should be plumed and flowing.~~ Long, to be at least the length to the shoulder or longer. Even thickness starting at the base with a gradual taper to a blunt end. Longhairs can have a plumed or flowing tail. (See Pictures 16 and 17)

Boning: ~~Medium to substantial. In front, legs should be short and straight from the breadth of the chest, adding to a sturdy appearance.~~ Overall substantial and solid; not fine-boned. Front legs should be straight from the breadth of the chest, adding to a sturdy appearance; however, should not have a “bull-dog” appearance. Boning should support a healthy, well-proportioned body weight and contributes to overall athleticism and strength without being overly fragile or stocky. (See Picture 18)

Musculature: ~~Substantial, firm and noticeable on the front legs.~~ Substantial and firm. Well-developed in mature adults. Thicker in legs and chest. Females will be comparably less robust than adult males. The forelimbs, shoulders, and upper limbs are strong, allowing for quick bursts of motion and good pouncing skills. (See Picture 18)

COAT/COLOR/PATTERN:

Length (MNT/MTT): ~~Short. Dense but slightly longer than other shorthairs; standing away from the body.~~ Short but slightly longer than other shorthair breeds. Dense and stands away from the body. Not lying flat or tight.

Length (MNL/MTL): ~~Dense, full, allowing for seasonal variations.~~ Semi-long to long, with more length appearing in the ruff, britches, and tail, which have more body from an undercoat. Hair over the shoulders and saddle area should fall smoothly over the body.

Texture (MNT/MTT): ~~Plus, double coat preferred, all weather, not lying flat.~~ Plush, all weather double coat. Soft. Allow for seasonal variations, area climates, and hormonal changes.

Texture (MNL/MTL): ~~Soft, slight undercoat gives the coat body but coat still falls smoothly. Not cottony. Possible curls on underbody.~~ Full, soft, and silky. Not cottony; however, having a double coat that will vary due to seasons, area climates, and hormonal changes.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: ~~The Minuet is a hybrid of the Persian Breed Group and the Munchkin Breed Group. The desired result is a cat that should be medium in size and strong, with noticeable boning and musculature. This cat should have a very open and round face with a sweet expression and large eyes that do not tear. The ideal Minuet is an active yet laid-back cat with a playful attitude.~~ The Minuet is a hybrid breed that was created from the cross of the Persian Breed Group and the Munchkin; however, a growing gene pool allows breeders to breed more and more within the Minuet Breed Group itself. The desired result is a cat that should be medium in size and strong, with sturdy boning and musculature. The forelimbs, shoulders, and upper limbs are strong, allowing for quick bursts of motion and good pouncing skills. The hind limbs, thighs, and calves are powerful, allowing for good running and jumping skills. This cat should have a very open and round face with an expression of innocent wonder, and large eyes that do not tear. The ideal Minuet is an active yet laid-back cat with a playful attitude.

ALLOWANCES: ~~Lockets, nose bump.~~ Slightly less round head type in kittens. Ears slightly larger on kittens. Jowls in mature males. Nose bump. Females will be smaller and less robust than mature males. Lockets. Eye color does not have to represent the coat color.

PENALIZE: ~~Brow ridge, dome, snub nose.~~ Brow ridge, evident cheekbones, doming, excessive tearing. Finer boning. Snub nose.

WITHHOLD ALL AWARDS: ~~Excessive tearing~~

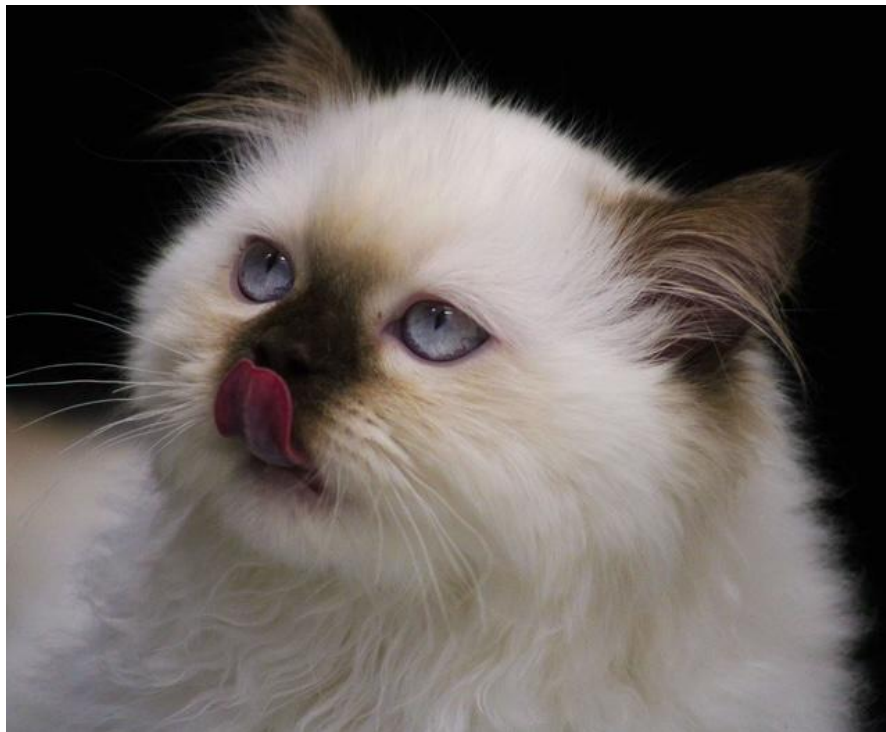
DISQUALIFY (DQ): ~~Nose, break, crooked nose, excessive bowing, long legs.~~ Nose break, wry mouth, excessive bowing, protruding eyes. Undershot or overshot jaw.

PICTURES FOLLOW IN THE NEXT PAGES



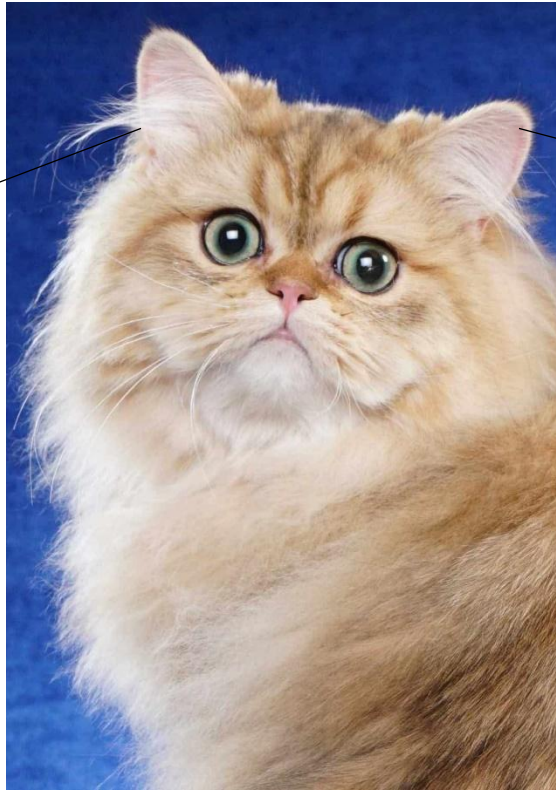
Gentle curve
at the cheek
line

Picture 1
Minuet (MNT) Shorthair
Head round, slightly broader at the cheek line



Picture 2
Minuet LH (MNL)
(Head) Round when viewed from any direction

Broad bases



Rounded
tips

Picture 3

Minuet LH (MNL)

(Ears) Medium, well-rounded

Set wide apart, as much on top as on side of the head

No evident
cheekbones



Picture 4

Minuet LH (MNL)

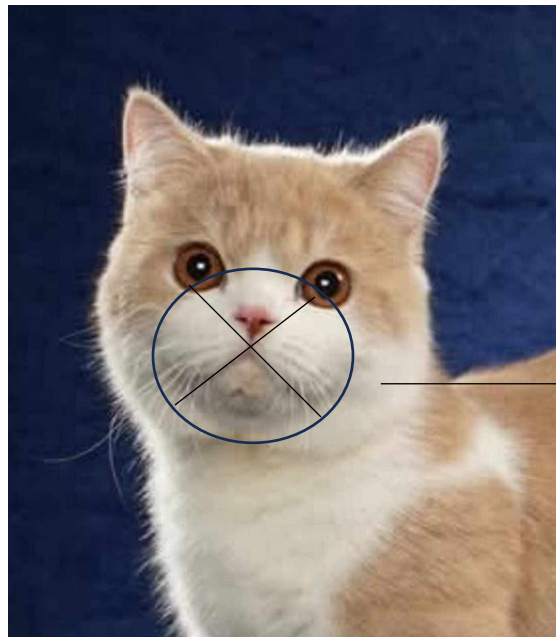
(Eyes) Large and round, giving sense of innocent wonder

Set wide and level

Inside of eyes set outside the breadth of nose leather



Picture 5
Minuet LH (MNL)
(Chin) Full and rounded
Complements cheeks and forehead in the roundness



Four portions: Each portion fits together like a puzzle with no portion being extreme or out of alignment.

Picture 6
Minuet (MNT) shorthair
(Muzzle) Rounded with more breadth than height



Picture 7

Minuet LH (MNT)

(Muzzle) Whisker pads should not be exceedingly prominent
No whisker break, blending gently into the cheeks



Picture 8

Minuet LH (MNL)

(Muzzle) Length of muzzle should be short, not snub



Top of nose leather does not come above lower edge of eyes.

Picture 9
Minuet LH (MNL)
(Nose) Short, broad, with obvious stop, no break.



Forehead is smooth and round but not domed.

Prominent stop from nose to forehead, with soft, round change in direction.

Chin runs perpendicular up to nose, where there is a definite change in direction.

Picture 10
Minuet LH (MNL)
(Profile) Length of nose is short; no break



Picture 11

Minuet (MNT) shorthair

(Neck) Muscular, medium-short, paired with a rounded head.
Enhances the overall appearance of strength and sound structure.



Good clearance between
underside of torso to the
ground.

Flanks not deep. Depth
of front torso almost
even to depth of torso
at hips.

Picture 12

Minuet (MNT) shorthair
(Torso) Semi-cobby and solid



Picture 13
Minuet LH (MNL)
(Legs) Short, well-developed, and sturdy, with firm musculature



Good clearance between belly and ground. Long hairs can obscure depth of clearance.

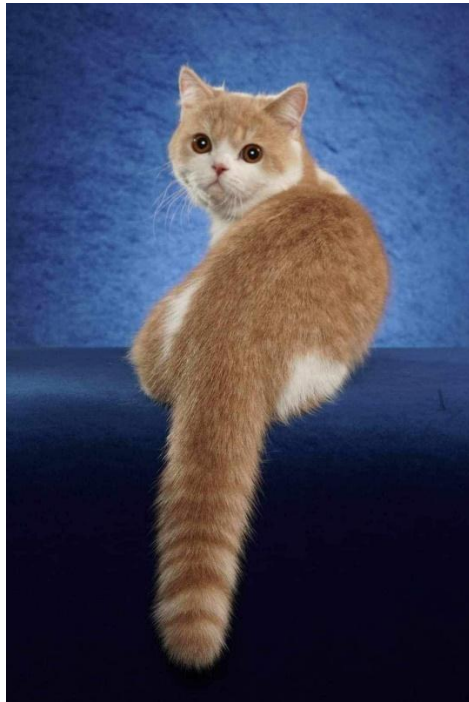
Picture 14
Minuet LH (MNL)
(Legs) Legs not extremely short, where cat's belly has little clearance to the ground.



Picture 15
Minuet (MNT) short hair
(Legs) Good clearance between belly and the ground



Picture 16
Minuet LH (MNL)
(Tail) Long, at least to shoulder or longer. Longhairs can be plumed or flowing



Picture 17
Minuet (MNT) shorthair
(Tail) Even thickness starting at the base, with gradual taper to a blunt end



Picture 18
Minuet (MNT) shorthair
(Boning/Musculature) Overall substantial and solid. Supporting a healthy well-proportioned body weight. Thicker in legs and chest; forelegs, shoulders, and upper chest are strong.



Picture 19

Minuet LH (MNL)

(Balance and condition): Gives the impression of having great balance with four feet on the ground.

Comparison to Other Breeds

Why the Minuet Is Not Similar to Another Breed

Minuet vs British Shorthair



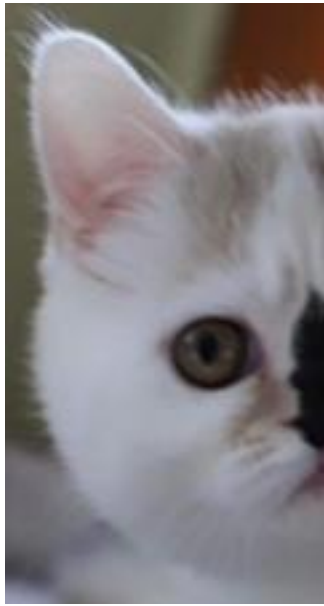
Minuet Longhair vs British Longhair



Minuet vs American Shorthair



Minuet vs Scottish Straight



Minuet LH vs Scottish Straight LH



Minuet Talls – Application for New Traits to Championship (Spring 2025)

Summary:

This application was originally submitted to the Winter 2025 meeting. It was deferred by the Board to the Spring 2025 meeting, so that the Breed Group could address the concerns raised by both Genetics and Rules Committees about the proposed standard originally submitted.

The Breed Committee have made substantial changes to the standard for presentation at this meeting. It is understood by all parties that another poll of the Breed Group will be required for this revised standard.

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.

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 2026) or not. If approved, there should then be a second motion to approve both new breeds for Championship status (also wef 1 May 2026).

Comments on Breed Standard:

Following significant work by the Breed Committee, a revised standard has been provided and the Rules Committee had no objections to this new version.

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 Comments on the Minuet Standard Changes

April 14, 2025,

The Minuet breed committee has worked hard on this standard and has resolved a number of vague and contradictory issues in the old standard. The comments from Rules and Genetics in earlier drafts were considered.

The Genetics committee is particularly pleased to see the changes in the description of nostrils, torso structure, back, boning, and leg length, as they are positives to preserve the health of the breed. The clarification on profile, ear shape and size, neck and tail should help clarify the differentiation in type from other breeds.

This is a substantial improvement from the old standard.

Participating Genetics Committee Members

Ellen Crockett

Adriana Kajon

Massimo Picardello

Lorraine Shelton

Heather Lorimer, Chair

TICA Genetics Committee

TOYBOB BREED GROUP (TB/TBL)

The Toybob (TB) is a small cat with proportionally balanced features, medium muscularity, and bone structure. The cat's bobbed tail is owed to a natural mutation(s) found in native cats from Russia. The Toybob temperament is very gentle and the cat amendable to handle. Toybob Longhair (TBL) is the longhair version of the breed.

HEAD40 points

Shape	10
Eyes	10
Ears	4
Muzzle/Nose/Chin	6
Profile	7
Neck	3

BODY40 points

Torso	10
Legs/Feet	6
Tail	10
Boning	7
Musculature	7

COAT/COLOR/PATTERN .. 20 points

Length	6
Texture	12
Color/Pattern	2

CATEGORY: All.

DIVISION: All.

COLOR: All.

PERMISSIBLE OUTCROSSES:

Russian Domestic Shorthair and Longhair with similar phenotype and no structural mutation(s). DNA testing is strongly advised to ensure no (foreign) structural mutation(s) and free of all testable genetic diseases.

HEAD:

Shape: Medium-sized modified wedge with rounded contours and a flat plane above the eyebrows. Head is slightly longer than broad with rounded cheekbones curved inward from face to mid muzzle to create a slight to no whisker pinch and ending in a short, modified square shaped muzzle. Jowls are often prominent in adult males.

Eyes: Eyes are large to very large, rounded with an open expression, corners of the eye point to the outer base of the ear. A wide set is preferred. The big-eyed expression is what gives the Toybob its characteristics sweet-faced look.

Eye Color: Traditional eye color is related to coat color. Eye color should only be considered if all other points are equal.

Ears: Medium tall, one ear width apart and wide at the base. Mature males may have more width between the ear bases. Ears must be as tall as wide in length, with rounded tips and slightly tilted forward.

Muzzle/Nose: Moderately short, square shaped in appearance with gently rounded contours and a smooth transition into the cheek bone. Nose can be straight or with a slightly curved bridge.

Chin: Strong with moderate depth so as to still be in line with the nose tip. Chin must be neither receding nor protruding.

Profile: Gently curved profile with a dip from the forehead to the nose at the eye-middle level. Definite stop is not allowed. Full forehead is preferred.

Neck: Short, thick, with an almost no-neck appearance.

BODY:

Torso: Short and square shaped with a solid chest. Broad rib cage and slight depth of flank add to the solidness of the overall body balance. Back is almost straight when viewed from the side when the cat is in natural walking position. A primordial pouch is common and may appear prominent on their compact body; this is not a sign of obesity.

Legs: Strong, medium in proportion to the body to complement the square shape look of the cat's mid section. Hind legs are slightly longer than front legs.

Feet: Rounded with elongated toes on the hind legs.

Tail: Bobbed with kinks and curves in any combination but also may be almost straight. The tail minimum length is two vertebrae to a maximum length down to the hock. The bone length measures the tail length. Tail must be gently handled without attempts to straighten. The last bone may be lightly felt to determine the presence of pointed tip.

Boning: Strong, moderately refined and proportional to the body. Neither heavy nor delicate.

Musculature: Firm, solid and well developed with clean lines and no bulging appearance.

COAT:

TB: Coat is medium-short, and moderately plush, and slightly crisp to the touch, with some density. The coat is rather resilient and not close lying to the body. The coat has developed undercoat where the topcoat is almost the same length as the undercoat. Stomach hair is shorter and softer, while fur texture on the spine area is slightly thicker and coarser. Overall texture can vary with coat color. Kittens can have a somewhat wooly coat.

TBL: Coat is semi-longhair to long in length and softer than the short-coated variety. The texture can vary with coat color. Topcoat is slightly longer in length than the undercoat, with a thick plushy feel throughout the body. The coat is slightly shorter over the shoulders and may be wavy in the stomach area, ruff and britches. Heavy ruff is desirable. Tail coat is full and plumed. Visible ear and feet furnishings. No ear tufts.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The Toybob is a naturally small, bobtailed cat primarily developed in Russia. The Toybob name is derived from two words, where "Toy" is meant to describe a playful small-sized cat breed, and "bob" refers to a bobbed tail. Toybobs have compact, muscular bodies with short bobbed tails consisting of one or more kinked vertebrae. The Toybob body should not look nor feel refined or delicate. The cat's bobbed tail is unique to the breed and due to a spontaneous mutation(s) that appears in native cats in Russia. The Toybob has a pleasant temperament and is affectionate while also obedient to their human companions. Despite their small size, they are active, playful and agile. Toybobs reach full maturity at 1.5 years, with little to no size difference between both sexes, and ideally should retain a kitten-like appearance as adults.

ALLOWANCES: Longer necks in kittens. Jowls in adult males. Wider ear-set on heavily jowled males. Males smaller than females. Buttons, lockets, and/or small white spotting in all color classes (are not considered with white). Tarnishing in silvers. Minimal seasons changes in coat density, length, and texture for the shorthair; moderate for Toybob Longhair.

PENALIZE:

TB/TBL: Oversized cat. Narrow head. Eyes set too close. Narrow muzzle. Definite stop. Weak chin. Ears too large. Longer necks in adults. Delicate boning. Elongated body. Short tight close-lying coat. Ear tufts on Toybob Longhair.

WITHHOLD A L L AWARDS (WW):
Small eyes. Frailness.

DISQUALIFY (DQ): Crossed eyes. Docked tail. Complete absence of tail or tail past the hock (without stretching). Rapid oscillation of eyes. Dominant Blue Eye (DBE) gene: blue eye color in cats other than pointed, solid white, with white or high white coat patterns. Disproportionately short legs to the cat's overall body balance. Extra toes. Evidence of wild ancestry. Glitter Undernourished.



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.

Rules Committee Response on Toybob Application for ANB

Summary:

Based on their review, the Rules Committee considers that the application meets the criteria for advancement set out in Reg Rules 33.7.1

The Board is advised to also seek the views of the Genetics Committee when considering the application.

The Committee does not have access to TFMS but understands that the various lists are based upon information obtained directly from TFMS by the EO (and included as appendices to the application).

The Committee is grateful to the EO for validating the membership of the letter signatories, as well as the status and last litter registered of the listed breeders.

Comments on Application:

The breed standard was updated at the 2024 Annual and remains unchanged for this application.

The original application included two breeders with no litters registered and one breeder whose litter was born before 21 Feb 23 (thus not eligible).

The Working Group Chair then supplied details of two further active breeders, which then brought the application into compliance.