

Minutes of TICA Board of Directors - 2025 Annual Meeting

Location and Date: Dresden, Germany, August 27 – 29, 2025

President, Vicki Jo Harrison
Vice President, Luiz Paulo Faccioli
Asia East RD, Hisae Tasaki
Asia West RD, Jeff Shi
Europe North RD, Liesbeth van Mullem
Europe South RD, Kurt Vlach
Europe West RD, Evita Naumenko
Great Lakes RD, Donna Maddox
Mid Atlantic RD, Brenda Russo
Mid Pacific RD, Susanna Shon
Northeast RD, Christian Cherau
Northwest RD, Elaine Hawksworth-Weitz
South America RD, Mariela Toriggia
South Central RD, Jim Armel
Southeast RD, Laurie Patton
Southwest RD, Laurie Schiff
International Associate RD, Lisa Dickie

Also in attendance: Susan Adler, Legal Counsel; Frances Cardona, Business Office Manager; Carlos Lopez, Judging Administrator; Danny Nevarez, Chief Operating Officer; Rebecca Torres, Administrative Assistant.

The meeting was called to order by President, Vicki Jo Harrison, at 8:10 AM CET.

Dickie and Hawksworth-Weitz were not present.

Adler was not present at the beginning of the meeting but joined the meeting after lunch.

1. Unanimous consent by Faccioli to approve #1 and #3 of the consent agenda. Without objection.

1. Approval/Corrections to Minutes - May 16 – 18, 2025, Spring Meeting

2. Approval/Corrections to Minutes - July 16, 2025, Special Meeting

3. Set Winter Meeting Dates - January 15 -17, 2026 (electronic)

2. Unanimous consent by Faccioli to approve #2 of the consent agenda. Without objection.

Schiff went over the Fiduciary responsibilities of the Board of Directors.

3. Unanimous consent by Faccioli to go into Executive Session to include Cardona, Nevarez, and Torres. Without objection.

4. Unanimous consent by Faccioli to leave Executive Session. Without objection.

5. Motion by van Mullem/Vlach to accept the proposal to advance the Minuet Tails from New Trait to Championship. Motion carried with Faccioli, Maddox, Patton, Schiff, and Toriggia opposed. **Maddox:** The change should be managed in the breed standard to permit long legs. There should not be separation to create a breed group. This process should not continue forward. **Schiff:** I think this is very much a big picture issue and we need to have some further conceptualization of what should occur with traits that stray so far from the original concept/defining concept of that particular breed (in this case, the defining factor of the breed being short legs) before we can advance these traits that are not just hair length or color. **Shon:** Yes, as I want to support and respect what the breeders of the Minuet feel will preserve their breed. **Vlach/Cherau/Russo:** I am against pulling everything into Championship which might be possible in this case I will vote yes only because I think that with this decision we might save some lives of cats. *This change goes into effect May 1, 2026.*

6. Motion by van Mullem/Vlach to accept the proposed Minuet Breed Group (MNT/MNL/MTT/MTL) standard changes. Motion carried unanimously. *This change goes into effect May 1, 2026.*

The breed advancement for the MX, CY, and MXT, CYT (NT to CH) was moved to Friday, August 29th, 2025.

7. Motion by Vlach/Cherau to accept the proposed Siberian breed standard changes. Motion carried unanimously. *This change goes into effect May 1, 2026.*

The standard change for the Household Pet (HHP) was moved to Friday, August 29th, 2025.

Note - Breed reports were received from the Toybob (TB/TBL) - ANB, Serengeti (SE) - ANB and Tennessee Rex (TR/TRS) - CH.

8. Motion by van Mullem/Armel to terminate the experimental status of the Experimental Breeds that do not comply with Registration Rule 33.1.2.3. Motion carried unanimously. *This change goes into effect immediately.*

Experimental Bambino, Experimental Dwelf, Experimental Elf, Experimental Fantasy, Experimental Foldex, Experimental Foldex Longhair, Experimental Genetta, Experimental Imperial, Experimental Imperial Longhair, Experimental Jaguar Sphynx, Experimental Keetso, Experimental Kinkalow, Experimental Kinkalow Lh, Experimental Krinkle, Experimental Krinkle Shorthair, Experimental Lambkin, Experimental Scottish Kilt, Experimental Scottish Kilt Lh, Experimental Skookum, Experimental Skookum Shorthair.

Note – other Experimental Breed status will be terminated on November 16, 2026, per Registration Rules 33.1.2., 33.1.2.1, 33.1.2.2.

9. Motion by van Mullem/Armel to accept the original proposal submitted to amend By-Laws 14.2, add By-Law 17.4.1 and add Standing Rule 104.2.1 (Breed Health Issues) as amended with the changes suggested by the Genetics committee and adding Standing Rule 104.2.1.1. Motion carried with Schiff opposed. **Schiff:** I believe it is irresponsible to enact such a far-sweeping rule without any sort of cost analysis, as well as any sort of plan to deal with the difficulties that may occur in implementation. *This change will be part of the 2025 Membership Ballot.*

14.2 Duties. Members of each Breed/Breed Group Section shall sponsor the breed/breed group and be responsible for developing a breeding program and a comprehensive standard for the breed/breed group. The members of each Breed/Breed Group Section are responsible for reviewing and updating the health section in the breeding program at least once every five years and to propose proposing amendments and revisions of the standards and/or breeding program for the breed/breed group if needed.

104.2.1 Breeding Program

The Breeding Program serves as a valuable resource for both novice and experienced breeders, providing guidelines for breeding on both health and type. Each Breeding Program includes the outcross policies for the breed, a dedicated health section that addresses the genetic diversity of the breed and outlines breed-specific health-testing requirements when necessary. The primary goal is to identify, manage and mitigate any known genetic issues, which are scientifically identified as adversely affecting the health and welfare of a well-cared-for indoor cats. Other sections of the Breeding Program may include, but are not limited to, the breed's history and a comprehensive explanation of the breed seminar. This description aims to portray the quintessential qualities of the breed without emphasizing extremes, promoting balanced and consistent breeding toward perfect examples of the breed.

104.2.1.1 The first breeding program shall be finalized no later than the 2030 Annual meeting, or upon the first standard change, whichever comes first; however, breeds without an active breed committee may be granted an extension.

104.2.2 Each Breed/Breed Group Section is strongly encouraged to present at least one Breed/Breed Group Seminar every 3 years.

17.4 Duties of the Breed Committees. It is the duty of the Breed Committee to represent the Breed/Breed Group Section members on any proposed Breed Standard change, amendment, or deletion, submitted by any bona fide voting members of the Breed/Breed Group Section. Any proposal submitted to the Breed Committee must be approved by a majority vote of the Committee prior to the Breed Committee Chairperson forwarding the proposal to the Genetics and Rules Committees for review and approval. It is the responsibility of the Breed Committee Chairperson to forward any approved proposal to the aforementioned Committees within 5 days of approval by the Breed Committee and to return any proposal not approved by the Committee to the person or persons originally submitting the proposal. Individual Breed Committee members may attach comments to any breed proposal submitted to the aforesaid committees or individuals. Upon approval of the Genetics and Rules Committees, the proposal must be forwarded to the Executive Office for balloting of the Breed/Breed Group Section in accordance with 118.2.

See motion #10, if approved by membership ballot 17.4 will be renumbered.

17.4.1 The Breed Committee shall use the same process for any changes to the breeding program as is used for changes to the breed standard.

10. Motion by Cherau/Patton to accept the proposal to amend By-Laws 17.4 Duties of Officers (Breed Committee Newsletters) as amended with implementation to begin at the end of the 2026/2027 show season. Motion carried unanimously. *This change will be part of the 2025 Membership Ballot.*

17.4 Duties of the Breed Committees.

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17.4.2 In accordance with the Standing Rules developed by the Board of Directors, periodically inform Breed/Breed Group Section members and the Board of matters of interest to the breed.

If the above is approved by membership ballot, re-number the current 107.4 as 107.4.1 and add Standing Rule 107.4.2:

107.4.1 Polls of Breed Committee members shall be conducted by the Executive Office, with the results reported back to the Breed Committee Chair.

107.4.2 Breed Committees are strongly encouraged to provide an annual electronic newsletter to breed section/group members and to the Board of Directors within 60 days of the conclusion of the show season. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform members on breed-specific developments, health issues, legislative issues, standard revisions, and educational topics. It may also highlight registration and membership trends. Implementation to begin at the end of the 2026/2027 show season.

11. Motion by Faccioli/Armel to accept the proposal to amend Show Rule 23.6 (Denying Entry). Motion denied with Faccioli in favor and Shi and Toriggia abstaining.

12. Motion by van Mullem/Faccioli to accept the proposal to add Show Rule 216.12.12 (DQ DBE Cats). Motion carried with Cherau, Faccioli, Maddox, Russo, and Schiff opposed. **Faccioli:** This rule has a conceptual problem as a color fault — what includes a wrong eye color — should never be a reason for DQ, but for WW. **Cherau/Maddox/Russo:** I feel this belongs in Breeding Programs and in Breed Standards. **Maddox:** The change should be managed in the breed standard to permit a tail. There should not be separation to create a breed group. This process should not continue forward. *This change will be part of the 2025 Membership Ballot*

216.12.12 With the exception of solid white cats, cats with blue or odd eyes that are classified in the Traditional or Sepia categories in the solid/tortie/tabby/silver and smoke divisions, shall be disqualified, unless authorized by a Board approved standard.

13. Motion by van Mullem/Vlach to accept the proposal to add Registration Rule 33.11 (Rescind Championship of a Trait or Breed). Motion carried with Armel, Cherau, Faccioli, Maddox and Schiff opposed. **Maddox:** I am in favor of supporting new science backed learning and not permitting a trait that creates health issues for a cat. This includes rescinding previous permission of a breed trait. However, there needs to be more specific criteria and decision making definitions. **Schiff:** Revoking championship status is an unprecedented action, not only in TICA, but in the entire cat fancy, and perhaps all other animal fancies, and cannot simply be undertaken without great thought, much discussion, and time to digest and ponder the repercussions of doing so. Further, with the current difficulty in obtaining show entries, the last thing we need is LESS cats available to be shown. The rule does not require scientific proof that a trait is bad, only a "suggestion" that some evidence be peer-reviewed or the like. This entire concept of eliminating "bad" traits or cats is simply an invitation for governments and animal rights organizations to point their fingers at us as follows: "Look at that: they KNOW their cats are sick and unhealthy, EVERY breed and breeder should be banned." *This change will be part of the 2025 Membership Ballot. For brevity, see appendix for the proposal.*

14. Motion by Faccioli/Vlach to accept the proposal to amend Standing Rule 106.4.1 (Committee Membership). Motion denied unanimously.

15. Motion by Faccioli/van Mullem to accept the proposal to amend Standing Rule 601.2.11 (Kitten Ownership on awards). Motion denied unanimously.

16. Motion by van Mullem/Vlach to accept the definition for Dominant Blue Eyes (DBE) to be added to the Glossary of Terms. Motion carried unanimously. *Note – amending UCD 76.1/With White: See Particolor should not have been part of the proposal submitted, the Board only voted on adding the definition of DBE to the Glossary of Terms.*

Add to Glossary of Terms: **DBE:**

DBE is an acronym for Dominant Blue Eyes. DBE cats typically, but not always, have one or two blue eyes in a traditional or sepia colored cat that is not white or particolor. There are several varieties of DBE caused by different mutations in genes such as PAX 3, not the KIT gene where the mutations are that cause solid white and particolored cats. The DBE genes can also cause some white patching, most commonly on the face and chest.

Adler joined the meeting.

Harrison went over the follow-up report.

Harrison gave an update on the World Cat Congress meeting.

Van Mullem gave an update on European history and current decisions on dog and cat welfare. See appendix.

Lorimer presented notes on Genetic Health and Welfare. See appendix.

Maddox continued with the ongoing interactive exercise with the Board to explore and prioritize the high-level areas where the TICA Feline Health and Welfare Project can have the most impact. See appendix.

17. Unanimous consent by Faccioli to recess for the day at 5:39 PM CET. Without objection.

Meeting was called to order by President, Vicki Jo Harrison, at 8:07 AM CET on Thursday, August 28, 2025

Adler, Dickie, and Hawksworth-Weitz were not present on Thursday, August 28, 2025.

18. Unanimous consent by Faccioli to go into Executive Session to include Cardona, Lopez, Nevarez, and Torres. Without objection.

19. Motion by Cherau/Russo to suspend Elaine Hawksworth-Weitz's membership and seat on the Board of Directors. Motion carried with Vlach abstaining.

20. Motion by Schiff/Shon to delegate the administrative powers of the Northwest Regional Director to approve shows and other administrative tasks necessary for the Northwest Region to Vicki Jo Harrison. Schiff/Vlach called the question and passed. Motion carried with Faccioli and van Mullem opposed.

21. Motion by Cherau/Faccioli due to her continued violation of TICA By-Law 122.6.2.1, increase the suspension of Chris Unangst to five (5) years, which began in May 2025. The remainder of the discipline imposed continues, with the probationary period commencing at the end of the five (5) years. Motion carried unanimously.

Lopez presented the Judging Committee reports.

22. Motion by Faccioli/Russo take no action on the appeal submitted by Iris Zink. Motion carried with Schiff opposed. **Schiff:** I am unable to make a decision without review of the information and documentation upon which the judging committee based their decision. I believe if a matter is escalated according to our rules the entire file must be provided for review. If not, a review cannot be fair and impartial.

23. Motion by Faccioli/Shon to direct the Judging Committee to Grandfather Iris Zink's transfer test for one year. Motion carried unanimously.

Lopez was excused from Executive Session.

24. Motion by Cherau/Patton to defer the Hiroshi Ishizawa vs Kazumi Ichikawa-Frost complaint after a certified translation of the judgement is provided and/or Ishizawa can ask the court for a judgment which includes reference to the registration and/or the pending appeal is resolved. Ishizawa shall notify TICA when any of those events occur and we will then restore the matter to the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

25. Motion by Faccioli/Patton to take no action on Miyagawa's request on the Mayuko Kawahara vs Emiko Miyagawa Koyama complaint. Motion carried unanimously.

Nevarez presented the CCO Executive report.

26. Unanimous consent by Faccioli to leave Executive Session. Without objection.

The public COO update was moved to Friday, August 29th, 2025.

Note - the Yearbook and Trend reports were received.

The budget proposal for Fee Increase: 10% Across the Board with 5% Club Rebate was withdrawn and a committee will be formed to review the proposal and present it back to the Board.

27. Motion by Vlach/Toriggia to accept the budget proposal to add Breeder Client and cat linking in TFMS after all current projects are completed. Motion denied with Shi, Toriggia and Vlach in favor.

28. Motion by Cherau/Faccioli to approve Board members payment of hotel fees for up to 7 nights. Motion carried with van Mullem opposed.

29. Motion by Cherau/Faccioli for the Board members attending the meeting to receive full reimbursement for airfare and travel costs. Motion carried unanimously.

30. Motion by Cherau/Faccioli to approve the per diem rates for up to 5 days at \$82.00 and up to 3 days for travel at \$61.50. Motion carried with Naumenko and van Mullem opposed.

31. Motion by Cherau/Faccioli to approve the Judging Committee Chair payment of hotel fees for up to 2 nights. Motion carried unanimously.

32. Motion by Cherau/Faccioli to approve the Genetics Committee Chair payment of hotel fees up to 2 nights. Motion carried unanimously.

33. Motion by Vlach/van Mullem to reimburse Kurt Vlach/Europe South Region for ticket for the 2025 Winter Meeting. (2,000 euros). Motion denied with Shi, Tasaki and Vlach abstaining.

34. Unanimous consent by Faccioli to go into the Committee of the Whole to allow Vickie Fisher to speak. Without objection.

Fisher presented the financial reports. See appendix.

Note – the financial reports were received.

Chuck Spavin and Kevin Monn, RBC Wealth Management financial advisors, gave an update on TICA's investment portfolios.

35. Motion by Faccioli/Toriggia to accept the recommendations from the RBC Wealth Management financial advisors. Motion carried with Vlach opposed.

London – Maintain, reduce to \$400,000 balance; **Polen** – Sell positions (approx. \$50,000 realized profit); Engage new manager - Capital **Group International** - \$150,000; Add remainder to **Bond Ladder**; **Total portfolio fees of .39%/year.**

36. Motion by Schiff/Faccioli for TICA to reimburse full expense to the Board including unavoidable fees and for TICA to use the least expensive method to send the reimbursements. Motion carried unanimously.

Note – The Board reimbursement policy should be that the recipients receive the full amount they have expended. If there are any unavoidable fees, TICA should absorb those fees and try to use the most cost-effective and convenient method of transfer to TICA.

37. Motion by Vlach/Patton for Jeff Shi to be reimbursed for the cost of his visa to travel to the 2025 Annual meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

38. Unanimous consent by Faccioli to go into Executive Session to include Cardona, Nevarez, and Torres. Without objection.

Harrison went over the Executive Session follow-up report.

39. Motion by Faccioli/Armel to appoint Tracy Hisel as Northwest Interim Regional Director. Motion carried unanimously.

40. Motion by van Mullem/Schiff to hold all processing with cats on this list in the pedigree pending further confirmation from CFA. If issues with the original pedigrees are confirmed TICA may change the registration status to Foundation from this list and any additional lists received from CFA. Motion carried unanimously. *For brevity, see appendix for the list of cats.*

41. Unanimous consent by Faccioli to leave Executive Session. Without objection.

42. Unanimous consent by Faccioli to recess for the day at 6:19 PM CET. Without objection.

Meeting was called to order by President, Vicki Jo Harrison, at 8:11 AM CET on Friday, August 29, 2025

Dickie and Adler were not present on Friday, August 29, 2025.

43. Motion by Vlach/van Mullem to accept the proposal presented for the 2028 Annual, Blue Danube Cat Club, Slovenia, ES region. Motion carried unanimously. *See appendix.*

44. Motion by van Mullem/Armel to accept the proposal to advance the Manx/Cymric Tailed from New Trait to Championship. Vote was tied; Harrison voted in favor of breaking the tie. Motion carried with Cherau, Faccioli, Maddox, Patton, Schiff, Shi, and Toriggia opposed. *This change goes into effect May 1, 2026.*

45. Motion by van Mullem/Armel to accept proposed Manx Breed Group (MX/CY/MXT/CYT) standard changes. Motion carried with Schiff opposed. **Cherau/Armel/Shon/van Mullem:** I would like to see the standard further amended so tail faults are included as a mandatory disqualification, as per Show Rule 216.12.4. *This change goes into effect May 1, 2026.*

46. Motion by Faccioli/Vlach to accept the proposed Household Pet (HHP) breed standard changes as amended by using the correct wording for Show Rule 216.4.1. Motion carried unanimously. *This change goes into effect May 1, 2026. See appendix.*

Nevarez presented the COO report. See appendix.

Cherau gave an update on the 2026 Annual, CPE Cat Club, Toronto, Canada, NE region. See appendix.

47. Motion by Schiff/Shon that Judges and trainees sitting on the Board of Directors are exempt from CEUs requirements as long as they attend two of the three board meetings. Motion carried unanimously. *Note - this should be included in the Judging Program.*

48. Unanimous consent by Faccioli to go out of the Committee of the Whole. Without objection.

49. Unanimous consent by Faccioli to go into Executive Session to include Cardona, Nevarez, and Torres. Without objection.

50. Unanimous consent by Faccioli to leave Executive Session. Without objection.

51. Unanimous consent by Faccioli to adjourn at 12:26 PM CET. Without objection.