

Proposal 1 - Amend Bylaw 14.2 and Bylaw 17.4 (Breed Health Issues)

Rationale:

This proposed rule, which aligns with TICA's mission to improve the health and welfare of cats, adds to the duties of each Breed/Breed Group Committee the requirement that a "Breeding Program" be developed and maintained. It is intended that this additional requirement would take advantage of growing scientific knowledge to identify breed-specific health risks and provide knowledge to breeders prior to breeding.

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 and advise on breed-specific health tests in response to these health concerns, allowing breeders to make the most educated decisions regarding potential pairings.

PROs: • Breeding Programs will be a valuable resource to help new breeders start a healthy program and keep seasoned breeders aware of latest developments • Demonstrates TICA's investment in the health and welfare of cats	CONs: • Developing an additional document means more volunteer work, so it might discourage members from stepping forward as Breed Committee members • Updates every 5 years means tracking that Breed Committees do their updates in time – requires additional work and possibly automation at the EO. • Leaves unclear how, without an active Breed Committee, a Breed/Breed Group can achieve the requirement.
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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 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**.

If this Bylaw change is approved by the membership, add Standing Rule 104.2.1 as follows:

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 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.

Amend Bylaw 17.4:

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.

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

Note that if this proposal is approved by the membership ballot, 17.4 shall be re-numbered to match the format used in Proposal 2 and also to avoid any numbering clashes.

Proposal 2 - Amend By-Laws 17.4 Duties of Officers (Breed Committee Newsletters)

Rationale:

TICA's Breed Committees are the stewards of TICA's breeds, and should be encouraged to actively engage, communicate, and advocate to Breed/Breed Group Section members and the Board of Directors.

TICA's mission as a registry is to protect our many breeds, and part of this mission should be encouraging Breed Committees to be an elected wealth of knowledge to mentor new breeders and work for the continued health and existence of their breeds. This newsletter would provide a focused venue for Breed Committees to educate their members and breeders, which is one of TICA's core goals for the coming years.

Codifying this change into TICA's By-Laws ensure this duty of the Breed Committee is recognized by the membership as an important obligation of the Breed Committee, to best serve the rest of their Breed/Breed Group Section.

This rule is effective from May 1, 2027 with the initial annual electronic newsletter due by June 30, 2027. Breed Committee candidates who run in 2026 should understand that this new rule (if passed) would be part of their duties.

PROs: • Such newsletters would be beneficial to the breed section/group members • Aids education efforts (a core goal for TICA).	CONs: • The additional work may discourage members from standing for Breed Committees • Inactive committees will not produce anything • Particularly for the large breed sections/groups, it requires appropriate infrastructure to be in place (e.g. tool for sending them, process to track frequency of newsletters)
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Amend Bylaw 17.4:

17.4 Duties of the Breed Committees.

17.4.1 Represent ~~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.

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, renumber 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.

Proposal 3 - Amend Bylaws Article 15 (Recall)

Rationale:

TICA's By-Laws were first crafted over 40 years ago. This proposed amendment seeks to address concerns raised by the membership and which better reflects the growth and TICA has enjoyed over time.

The proposal:

1. Sets out the reasons for which recall may be based.
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.
3. Bases the required number of petition signatures on the actual number of members who voted in the applicable election.

PROs:	CONS:
• 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	• May reduce the number of members required to initiate a recall of an RD

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.

Proposal 4 - Amend Bylaws Article 16 (Initiative and Referendum)

Rationale:

TICA's By-Laws were first crafted over 40 years ago. This Bylaw needs updating to reflect the significant growth and change TICA has enjoyed, while still allowing members to bypass the Board of Directors and bring matters directly to the membership for vote.

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.
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 a number of regions.

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.

Contd/...

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.

Proposal 5 - Amend Bylaw 122.2.2 (Show Complaints)

Rationale:

This proposal clarifies that the 10 day deadline only applies to complaints which could affect scoring and/or title points. Some show protests/complaints have no impact on scoring but would be rejected, as untimely, if 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.

PROs: • Establishes that the 10-day deadline for show complaints applies only to complaints whose outcome could impact scoring and titles. • Ensures that all complaints affecting scoring (and particularly any from an April show) are raised promptly	CONs: • May cause confusion as to whether a show complaint affects scoring and is subject to the 10-day deadline or whether the show complaint is subject to the filing deadlines under 122.2.1
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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.

Proposal 6 - Add Show Rule 216.12.12 (DQ DBE Cats)

Rationale:

In recent years breeders have identified a number of cats with blue eyes that are not caused by the previously known genes, as colourpoint (cs), white self (W) and white spotting (ws). In an effort to produce blue eyes in a broader variety of coat patterns and colors – such as the previously unattainable blue-eyed black self – breeders began selectively breeding these cats.

These experimental breeding programs have expanded as the blue-eyed cats have increased in popularity and the trait has been introduced to multiple breeds. More than one gene has been identified that causes the blue eyes and, since these are all dominant genes, they are collectively referred to as dominant blue eyes (DBE).

However, while the appearance of these blue eyes is undeniably striking, the trait has been found to be associated with a significantly increased risk of congenital sensory deficits, particularly deafness, which can severely affect a cat's quality of life. 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.

While this proposal would disqualify (DQ) pedigreed cats with dominant blue eyes (DBE), breeders who believe they can responsibly incorporate DBE into their breed may request to include it in their breed standard, subject to approval by the TICA Board of Directors.

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 in the show hall	CONS: • Breeds that want to allow blue eyes in traditional or sepia categories without white will have to change their standards.
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Add Show Rule 216.12.12:

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.

**Proposal 7 - Amend Show Rules 217.5.1, 217.6.1 and Clerking Program
54.2.4.2.5.1 (HHP Ribbons)**

Rationale:

Household Pet competition has been an important part of TICA since inception. The rules have described the use of "first place" or "merit" awards in this competition. In practice, over the years, special "merit" ribbons were replaced with Best of Color ribbons, to denote "merit". This practice, having become common place, has caused some confusion among exhibitors as a seeming departure by judges from the stated rules.

This proposal from the Household Pet Breed Committee brings the rule in line with common practice and reduces the need for multiple changes or the addition of new flats for clubs to acquire.

PROs: • Clarifies wording of these rules, while retaining the concept of merit awards • Avoids need for clubs to provide new flats for "merit" awards	CONS: • None identified
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Amend Show Rule 217.5.1 and 217.6.1:

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.

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).

Proposal 8 - Amend Show Rules (Gender Neutrality)

Rationale:

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

PROs: The proposed wording is consistent with other Show Rules updated in 2022 for the same reason	CONs: None identified
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Note: As these rules do not impact how a cat is shown, they can come into effect immediately once approved by the membership

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."

Proposal 9 - Add Reg Rule 33.11 (Rescind Championship of a Trait or Breed)

Rationale:

This proposal provides a mechanism for removing Championship Status if time and additional scientific information reveal problems that are irrevocably connected to a breed or trait.

Having a scientifically-based procedure for evaluating a breed or trait, which includes removal of Championship status, allows TICA to demonstrate its commitment to the health and welfare of cats and to support the ability to point out the deficiencies in methods and rationales that have been used to ban breeds elsewhere.

It is intended that this proposal provides a tool for making sure that TICA Championship breeds are healthy and that individual cats are able to lead happy and healthy lives unencumbered by harmful genes irrevocably connected to their breed or trait.

PROs:	CONs:
• Introduces a robust procedure to rescind a breed/trait for Championship exhibition if it turns out that the breed/trait has serious health issues that cannot be avoided. • Requires a high bar of at least three-fourths (or 75%) of all the Board members to vote to approve rescinding, following evidence-based submissions by relevant parties. • Provides a similarly robust route to reverse rescinding, should sufficient evidence for this be presented.	• If a breed is rescinded, it will not stop people from continuing to breed the affected breed "under TICA's umbrella", as long as the breed stays in Registration Only status. It will still get official TICA papers, it will just not be showable. People who breed for monetary gain do not care if a breed is showable.

Add Reg Rule 33.11:

Rescinding Championship Status of a Trait or of a Breed

33.11.1 A Request to Rescind may be made by any TICA Standing Committee or the Board of Directors to rescind the Championship status of a specific trait within a Championship breed or an entire Championship breed in which the trait or breed-defining mutation directly causes problems that interfere with the health and welfare of even well-kept indoor cats.

33.11.2 The Request to Rescind, with supporting evidence, shall be sent to each member of the Genetics Committee, each member of the Rules Committee and each member of the affected Breed Committee at least 90 days prior to the Board meeting at which approval to rescind is sought.

33.11.3 Notice of Intent to propose Rescinding of Championship Status must be published in the TICA Trend at least 120 days prior to the meeting at which the application will be heard, and which invites comments about the breed/trait to be forwarded to the Executive Office.

33.11.4 Criteria to decide if rescinding is appropriate should include (but are not limited to):

- **Characterization of the biological mechanisms underlying the health and/or behavioral changes detrimental to animal health or welfare.**
- **Statistical analysis establishing the percentage of individuals adversely affected, including severity of presentation, impact on quality of life, litter size and viability, and longevity.**
- **Mitigation strategies to detect and prevent detrimental effects or minimize their severity.**
- **Evidence such as case reports or population studies, preferably published in peer-reviewed veterinary or science journals.**

33.11.5 A formal presentation of supporting evidence at the meeting of the Board of Directors is to be made by designated representative(s) from the committee making the Request to Rescind. This may include, but is not limited to, photographs, illustrations, images, statistics, health and breeding reports, examples of the breed or trait, and any other relevant material.

33.11.5.1 Comments received by the Executive Office about the breed/trait should be collated into a single document and sent to Board members at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. A formal rebuttal may be prepared and presented by a committee member of the affected breed. Rebuttals must follow the guidelines in 33.11.4.

33.11.5.2 The Board of Directors may approve or disapprove the Request to Rescind, or impose additional requirements which the Board of Directors, entirely in their discretion, may require. An affirmative vote of at least three-fourths of the membership of the Board is required to rescind Championship status.

33.11.6 If the Championship status of a breed or trait is rescinded, individual cats and litters shall retain their existing registration numbers. Any titles earned are retained. After rescinding of Championship status the breed/trait will have Registration-Only status in perpetuity, or until reinstatement.

33.11.7 After a breed or trait has been rescinded, a petition for reinstatement of Championship exhibition status can be put forward if new data indicates that the original basis for rescinding can be refuted. The same process as set out in 33.11.1 – 33.11.4 will be followed for reinstatement. An affirmative vote of at least three-fourths of the membership of the Board is required to reinstate Championship status.

33.11.7.1The petition can be made by either a TICA Standing Committee, the Board of Directors or at least 5 TICA members from a minimum of 3 regions.

33.11.7.2 A petition for reinstatement will be considered no less than three years from the last board decision on the breed or trait.