



Birman Cat Club of Canberra

PO Box 22

ERINDALE A.C.T. 2903

1. Name
The name of the Club shall be "The Birman Cat Club of Canberra Inc".
2. Interpretation
In this Constitution unless there be something in the subject matter and context inconsistent therewith:-
 - 2.1. "The Club" means The Birman Cat Club of Canberra Inc.
 - 2.2. "The Committee" means those persons appointed in accordance with this Constitution to administer the activities of the Club.
3. Objects
The objects of the Club shall be:-
 - 3.1. To promote and improve the breeding of Birman cats.
 - 3.2. To encourage the continual review of the official standard of points, by breeders and judges.
 - 3.3. To foster & assist co-operation in the breeding of Birman cats.
 - 3.4. To hold shows and exhibitions of Birman cats and support other Clubs in the showing of Birman cats.
 - 3.5. To collate and circulate information on Birman cats.
 - 3.6. To aid and support wherever possible activities for the benefit of all cats.
4. Registered Office
The registered office of the Club shall be such place as may be determined by the Committee from time to time.
5. Membership
The membership of the Club shall consist of:
 - 5.1. Ordinary members: Ordinary members shall comprise those persons over the age of 16 years who own a Birman cat but in the case of family membership the ownership requirements is limited to one Birman cat per family. Ordinary members shall also comprise those members who do not own a Birman cat, but who can satisfy the Committee that they can assist the Club in upholding its Objects.
 - 5.2. Junior members: Junior members shall comprise those persons who aged 16 years and under but who would otherwise be entitled under sub-clause (a) hereof to make application to become an ordinary member
 - 5.3. Honorary members: The Club may admit a person as an Honorary Member only
 - 5.4. Associate members: Associate members shall comprise those persons not entitled to ordinary membership status.
 - 5.5. Life Members: The Club may admit a person as a Life Member.

Only ordinary financial and life members shall be entitled to participate in the business affairs of the Club.
6. The first members of the Club shall be those persons recorded as members of the Club as at the date of the adoption of this Constitution.
7. Application for membership:
 - 7.1. shall be made in writing signed by the applicant, and shall be in such form and contain such requirements as the Committee may from time to time prescribe.
 - 7.2. As soon as practicable after the receipt by the Secretary of an application for membership it shall be considered by the Committee who shall thereupon determine

upon the admission or rejection of the applicant. In no case shall the Committee be required to give any reason for the rejection of an applicant.

7.3. A Register of Members shall be kept by the Secretary showing in respect of each member name, address, date of commencement of membership and class of membership

8. Membership Fees

Membership fees for the ensuing year shall be decided by members at the Annual General Meeting.

9. Expulsion of Members

A member may be expelled from membership of the Club by the Committee if in the opinion of such Committee, after affording such member an opportunity of offering the Committee an explanation of his or her conduct either verbally or in writing as the Committee may decide, the conduct of the member is such as to be detrimental to the best interests of the Club, provided that:

- 9.1. Such expulsion shall not be effective unless it is confirmed by a majority of members present at a General Meeting of members;
- 9.2. Such General Meeting is held within a period of 1 month from the date of the decision of the Committee to expel the member;
- 9.3. At such General Meeting the member whose expulsion is under consideration shall be allowed to offer an explanation of his/her conduct verbally or in writing at the option of such member;
- 9.4. The voting at such General Meeting shall be by ballot if not less than five members present thereat shall so demand; and
- 9.5. It shall be in the power of the Committee to exclude such member from participation in the affairs of the Club until such General Meeting shall be held.

10. Annual General Meeting

An Annual General Meeting of the members of the Club shall be held by 30 November of each year when the following business shall be transacted, namely:-

- 10.1. Confirmation of Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
- 10.2. Annual Report.
- 10.3. Presentation of audited accounts.
- 10.4. Election of officers.
- 10.5. Election of Auditor.
- 10.6. Election of Patron, if required.
- 10.7. Determination of membership fees for the ensuing year.
- 10.8. Election and admission of life members (if applicable).

11. Management of Club

The management of the Club shall be vested in the Committee. No member of the Committee shall be appointed to any salaried office of the Club or any office of the Club paid by fees and no remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth shall be given by the Club to any member of the Committee except payment for out-of-pocket expenses, interest at a rate not exceeding the overdraft rate charged by bankers in Canberra for money lent to the Club and/or reasonable and proper rent for any premises let to the Club.

12. Officers of the Club

The office bearers of the Club shall consist of:-

- 12.1. Patrons as required;
- 12.2. President;
- 12.3. Vice-President
- 12.4. Treasurer

- 12.5. Honorary Secretary;
- 12.6. 3 Committee members

The above officers shall comprise the Committee excepting that/those person/s if any as/is are elected as the Club's Patrons.

Any casual vacancy occurring among the officers of the Club may be filled by the Committee and the person so appointed to fill such vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of the member so replaced.

13. Quorum

At Annual General Meetings of ordinary members a quorum shall consist of at least 6 ordinary members but at other General Meetings the quorum shall be at least 5 ordinary members. A quorum for Committee Meetings shall be 2 members. Should within half an hour of the time set down for a meeting to commence a quorum be not present then the meeting shall be adjourned to the same time and place seven days later or to a place and to a time within one month of the date of such meeting to be determined thereat. If at such adjourned meeting a quorum be not present, then those members attending shall be deemed to be a quorum provided the number of such members is not less than three.

14. Notice of Meetings

The Secretary shall give at least 7 days notice in writing of all General Meetings to the Members of the Club specifying the place, the day and the hour of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be dealt with at the meeting.

15. Proceedings at General Meetings

- 15.1. The President shall preside as Chairman at every general meeting of the Club but if he/she is not present within thirty minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting or is unwilling to act then the members present shall elect one of their number to be chairman of the meeting.
- 15.2. At any general meeting a resolution put to the vote of a meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is (before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands) demanded by the Chairman or by at least three members present. Unless a poll is so demanded a declaration by the Chairman that a resolution has on a show of hands been carried or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority or lost and an entry to that effect in the book containing the minutes of the proceedings of the Club shall each be conclusive evidence or the fact without proof of the number or proportion of votes recorded in favour of or against the resolution. The demand for a poll may be withdrawn.
- 15.3. If a poll is duly demanded it shall be taken in such manner and either a once or after an interval or adjournment or otherwise as the Chairman directs and the result of the poll shall be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded but a poll demanded on the election of a Chairman or on a question of adjournment shall be taken forthwith
- 15.4. In the case of an equality of votes whether on a show of hands or on a poll the Chairman of the meeting at which the show of hands takes place or at which a poll is demanded shall be entitled to a second or casting vote.
- 15.5. Each ordinary member present and voting at a general meeting of the Club shall have one vote.

16. Proceedings of the Committee

- 16.1. The Committee may meet together for the dispatch of business, adjourn and otherwise appoint and regulate its meetings as it thinks fit. The President may at any time and the Secretary on the requisition of two members of the Committee summon a meeting of the Committee.

- 16.2. Questions arising at any meeting of the Committee shall be decided by a majority of votes of those present and a determination by a majority of the members of the Committee present shall for all purposes be a determination of the Committee. In case of an equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- 16.3. The continuing members of the Committee may act notwithstanding any vacancy in the Committee, but if and so long as their number is reduced below the number fixed by or pursuant to this Constitution as the necessary quorum, the Committee may fill the vacancy until the next General Meeting is held.

17. Vacation of Office

The office of a member of the Committee shall ipso facto become vacant:

- 17.1. Upon his decease;
- 17.2. If he becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with his creditors generally;
- 17.3. If he becomes mentally ill or a person whose person or estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under the law relating to mental health;
- 17.4. If he resigns his office by notice in writing to the Club;
- 17.5. If he is absent for more than six months without leave of the Committee from meetings of the Committee held during that period;
- 17.6. If he ceases to be a member of the Club;
- 17.7. Upon a resolution being passed by a two-thirds majority of members present at a properly constituted general meeting specially called for the purpose, to remove him from office;
- 17.8. If he holds any office of profit under the Club;
- 17.9. If he is directly or indirectly interested in any contract or proposed contract with the Club.

18. Financial year

The financial year shall conclude on the 30th June each year.

19. Audit

An auditor or auditors shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. They shall examine all accounts, vouchers, receipts, books, etc., and furnish a report thereon to the members at the Annual Meeting. Audits shall be conducted at regular intervals of not more than twelve months.

20. Accounts

Prior to the payment of accounts, such accounts must be passed for payment by either a meeting of the Committee or a general meeting of the club. Such approval must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all of the Club's accounts and cheques shall be signed by any two of the President, Secretary and Treasurer or such other person or persons as may be nominated by the Club in a General Meeting from time to time.

21. Minutes

The Committee shall cause minutes to be made:

- 21.1. of all appointments of office-bearers and members of the Committee;
- 21.2. of the names of members of the Committee present at all meetings of the Club and of the Committee;
- 21.3. of all proceedings at all meetings of the Club and of the Committee;

Such Minutes shall be signed by the Chairman of the meeting at which the proceedings were held or by the Chairman of the next succeeding meeting.

22. Affiliation with Capital Cats Inc.

The Club shall seek affiliation with Capital Cats Inc of the A.C.T. and be bound to comply with that Council's rules and regulations.

23. Dissolution

23.1. The Club shall be dissolved in the event of membership less than five (5) persons or upon the vote of a three-fourths majority of members present at a General Meeting convened to consider such question.

23.2. Upon a resolution being passed in accordance with paragraph (a) of this rule, all assets and funds of the Club on hand shall after the payment of all expenses and liabilities be handed over to such registered or exempted charity or charities as a simple majority of the members at the General Meeting so convened, or at a subsequent General Meeting may decide.

24. Amendment of Constitution

This Constitution may be amended by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of members present at any General Meeting at which notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given.

25. Notices

A Notice may be given to any member either personally, by email or by sending it by post to him at his address registered with the Club or if he has no registered address to the place of abode of the member last known to the Committee. Where a notice is sent by post, service of the notice shall be deemed to be effected by properly addressing, prepaying and posting a letter or an envelope containing the notice and to have been effected, in the case of the notice of a meeting, on the day after the date of its posting and in any other case the time at which the letter would be delivered in the ordinary course of post.

