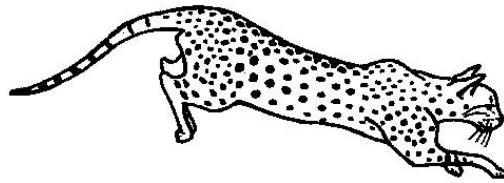


THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES  
OF  
THE OCICAT CLUB



MEMBER OF  
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL  
OF THE CAT FANCY

**PRESIDENT  
DESMOND MORRIS**

## **1. NAME**

The Club shall be called "THE OCICAT CLUB" hereinafter referred to in these rules as "The Club".

## **2. AIMS AND OBJECTS**

- (i) To promote interest in the owning, breeding, exhibiting, welfare and care of the Ocicat and Aztec in all colours.
- (ii) To establish Standards of Points, and Breeding and Registration Policies for Ocicats and Aztecs, via the relevant Breed Advisory Committee, with attention to the maintenance of healthy breeding lines and the promotion of good temperament.
- (iii) To nominate persons for appointment as Judges for the Breeds via the relevant Breed Advisory Committee in co-operation with affiliated member Clubs of that B.A.C.
- (iv) To appoint suitable representatives to represent the interests of the Club Members and the Breeds at the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy and at any relevant Breed Advisory committees.
- (v) To promote the best possible care of both pet and breeding cats; to prevent, at least within the Breeds, cat farming and the selling of cats and kittens in pet shops and large stores; and to adhere to the guidelines given by the G.C.C.F. relating to kitten sales in that a kitten should be over thirteen weeks and fully inoculated against Feline Enteritis and Cat 'Flu before leaving home.
- (vi) To hold and support Cat Shows subject to G.C.C.F. approval.

## **3. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE**

- (i) The Club may have a President and a maximum of two Vice-Presidents. These shall be nominated in the same way as Committee Members, or by nominations duly proposed and seconded from the floor at The Annual General Meeting. They may be invited to attend Committee Meetings but shall have no vote. The President's office is permanent but the Vice-Presidents shall be elected every 4 years. Both offices are honorary and no duties are imposed save sympathy with the objects of The Club.
- (ii) The Club will be managed by a Committee and a Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, all of whom shall be fully paid up adult members of at least twelve months standing. The Committee shall consist of seven persons. The Officers and Committee Members shall have power to co-opt four additional members in a voting capacity. A presence of four, which must include at least one officer, will constitute a quorum.
- (iii) The Committee shall, normally at their first meeting after the AGM, elect a Committee Member to be the Vice Chairman, who shall take up the authority and duties of Chairman in the absence of The Chairman.
- (iv) No Officer or Committee Member of The Club may, without written permission of The GCCF, also be an Officer, Committee Member, Official, Judge, Show Manager or functionary of any unaffiliated organisation in the U.K. whose activities include the registration of and/or licensing or holding of shows for pedigree cats including Ocicats and Aztecs.
- (v) No Officer or Committee Member of The Club or representative of The Club at Breed Advisory Committees may also be an Officer, Committee Member or representative for any other club that also appoints representatives to the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy or to Breed Advisory committees that are relevant to Ocicat and Aztec breeds.
- (vi) The Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall serve a standard period of three years and shall stand down in rotation and be eligible for re-election. Officer posts may alternatively be offered for a term between one and three years if appropriate to maintain the rotation of one Officer standing down each year.
- (vii) The Committee Members shall serve a period of two years and shall be eligible for re-election.
- (viii) Nominations for Committee positions shall be proposed and seconded by fully paid-up Members in good standing (i.e. have paid all fees due and have no current action being taken against them), and must be received by the Honorary Secretary (Reference Rule 7(i)).
- (ix) In the event of there being more nominations than vacancies, the Officers and Committee Members shall be elected at The Annual General Meeting, with vacant seats filled in descending order of votes received. Nominations for each post shall be received in writing at least 28 days before the Annual General Meeting (Reference Rule 7 (i)).
- (x) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt a Member to fill any vacancy however caused; until the next Annual General Meeting when the position will be filled by election.
- (xi) Absence from two consecutive committee Meetings, without sufficient reason and notification, shall be deemed resignation and the absenting member shall not be eligible for re-election for at least one year from the subsequent annual General Meeting.
- (xii) The Committee may appoint individuals or sub-committees to carry out specific tasks on behalf of The Club, or invite any person to a particular Committee or General Meeting for a specific purpose.
- (xiii) Committee decisions are by a simple majority, unless otherwise stated. The Chairman may at any meeting exercise a casting vote to resolve a tie in addition to their personal vote.

(xiv) As a Member of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, The Club shall be represented by a delegate or delegates, and substitute delegates in accordance with the G.C.C.F. Bye Laws. All delegates must be Members of the Committee, and shall be elected at The Annual General Meeting to serve for one year, being then eligible for immediate re-election. Nominations shall be duly proposed and seconded from the floor at The Annual General Meeting and the election will then take place immediately.

(xv) All correspondence sent, in any form, to The Committee shall be addressed to The Honorary Secretary.

(xvi) The Committee is empowered to arbitrate in all disputes within the Club and to deal with any questions or matters not specifically provided for in the Rules.

#### **4. HONORARY SECRETARY**-----

(i) The Honorary Secretary shall maintain a list of members and conduct or orchestrate all the correspondence of The Club.

(ii) The Honorary Secretary shall call General Meetings and Committee Meetings as required, in consultation with the Chairman, and shall ensure a Minute Book is kept in which the Meetings of The Club and of its Committee shall be recorded.

(iii) The Committee may hold electronic meetings, or discuss and decide on matters via electronic media. In such cases, the Honorary Secretary shall ensure records are kept of any decisions taken and these records shall be reviewed at the subsequent Committee Meeting.

(iv) The Honorary Secretary shall present an Annual Report to The Annual General Meeting.

(v) The Honorary Secretary or the Committee may appoint Committee Members to perform specific secretarial duties.

#### **5. HONORARY TREASURER**-----

(i) The funds of The Club shall be deposited in a Bank or Building Society under the name of "The Ocicat Club", approved by the Committee. The signatories on all cheques must be two of three signatories. The signatories shall be The Treasurer, another Officer and one other person appointed by The Committee.

(ii) The financial year of The Club shall be from 1st January to 31st December of the same year.

(iii) The Honorary Treasurer shall present a profit and loss account and a balance sheet to The Annual General Meeting. This shall have been examined by an independent person, appointed for that purpose by The Annual General Meeting, on an annual basis.

#### **6. MEMBERSHIP**-----

(i) Membership of The Club shall be available to any breeder or owner of Ocicats or Aztecs, or anyone interested in the Breeds, at the discretion of the Committee, and on proposing and seconding by fully paid up Members of The Club who are in good standing. The seconder may, if necessary, be the applicant's veterinary surgeon, and Committee Members may be contacted in case of difficulty. Members should not propose membership for applicants they do not know personally.

(ii) The Committee shall be empowered to refuse any membership proposal and shall not be obliged to give any reason for doing so.

(iii) Members who joined The Club before the first A.G.M. shall be known as Founder Members.

(iv) Honorary Membership may be granted at the discretion of The Committee.

(v) Single Membership shall be available to individual adults resident in the UK

(vi) Joint/Family Membership shall be available to two persons living at the same UK address, both of whom shall be named in their membership records, and their children under 15 years, if requested. Both adult members shall have full voting rights. Communications from The Club will be sent in single copy to the two persons. Joint members shall have joint liability for their membership in all respects.

(vii) Junior Members are so classed until the age of 15 years and will not have voting rights until the subscription year following their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday when they will be eligible for adult membership.

(viii) Associate Membership shall be available to Full GCCF judges of Ocicats and/or Aztecs.

(ix) Overseas Membership shall be available to members resident outside the UK.

(x) The Committee shall have the power to immediately suspend or expel any Member or Official from The Club if, in the opinion of the Committee, such Member's conduct has been detrimental to the welfare, breeding or exhibiting of cats, or likely to prove injurious to the character, reputation or interests of The Club and/or its Members, who shall be governed by these Rules and the Club's Code of Ethics. Any disciplinary actions will be subject to the Disciplinary Policy.

(xi) Any Member, including Life and Honorary Members, suspended under Article 12 of The Constitution of the G.C.C.F. shall cease to be a member of The Club and, if wishing to rejoin after expiration of suspension, must apply to The Committee for re-admission.

(xii) The subscription for Single, Joint, Junior, Associate and Overseas Members shall be determined from time to time by The Committee, subject to approval at the A.G.M., and shall be due on 1st January each year.

(xiii) Membership is considered lapsed if subscriptions are not paid by 1<sup>st</sup> January. A reminder will be sent and Membership is automatically reinstated if overdue subscriptions are paid before the 30<sup>th</sup> June. If subscriptions are still in arrears after then, they shall no longer be a Member of the Club and shall, if they so wish, reapply to the Committee for Membership.

(xiv) Members joining after 30th September shall be entitled to a maximum of fifteen months membership, before their subscription becomes due.

(xv) Long Term Membership for a period of five years may be granted to an ordinary Member of at least one year's standing, at the Committee's discretion, at a non-refundable fee equal to 4 years subscription.

(xi) A Member of The Club shall be deemed to have accepted the Rules and Code of Ethics of The Club, and these Rules and Code of Ethics shall be made available to all members.

## **7. GENERAL MEETINGS**

(i) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 31st July each year: usually on the first Sunday in March. Advance notice of the date will be announced on the GCCF website and the Ocicat Club website as a minimum. All nominations and matters for the Agenda must be received in writing by the Honorary Secretary at least 28 days prior to the meeting.

(ii) Notice of a General Meeting and the Agenda for it shall be sent to all Members not less than 21 days before the Meeting.

(iii) Five Members, of which at least one shall be an officer and at least two shall be Committee Members, will constitute a quorum at an Annual General Meeting. If a quorum is not present within half an hour of the scheduled time of the meeting, the Annual General Meeting shall stand adjourned to such other date, time and place the Committee shall determine. Not less than one week's notice shall be given of such a meeting. If in the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour of the scheduled time of the meeting, the members present shall constitute a quorum (here, members means at least two members).

(iv) Only fully paid up Members in good standing shall be eligible to participate in or vote at any General Meeting.

(v) A Special General Meeting shall be called on the signed and written demand of ten fully paid up Members who have been members for a period of twelve months or more, specifying the business to be discussed, and providing surety of £100. The sum will be returned at the discretion of the Special General Meeting if the grounds for calling it are found by the Meeting to be valid. Such meetings shall be held within six weeks of the said demand being received by the Honorary Secretary. Ten Members, of which at least one shall be an officer and at least two shall be Committee Members, will constitute a quorum at a Special General Meeting. If a quorum is not present within half an hour of the scheduled time of the meeting, the Special General Meeting shall stand cancelled and the surety shall be retained or returned (in full or in part) at the discretion of the Committee.

(vi) The Committee shall be empowered to call a Special General Meeting to discuss any business it deems necessary.

## **8. CLUB TROPHIES**

(i) Points and rosettes shall only be awarded to fully paid up Members.

(ii) Trophies shall only be presented to Members who are fully paid up Members at the time of presentation.

(iii) Any Member who fails to return a trophy on time or returns it in an unacceptable condition may, at the Committee's discretion, be barred from holding trophies, and may be charged for any necessary repairs.

(iv) When cups and trophies are donated to The Club they become the property of The Club.

## **9. ALTERATION OF RULES AND POLICIES**

(i) No alteration shall be made to these Rules except at a General Meeting, and notice of such a motion must appear on the Agenda for that Meeting. Any such alteration shall require a simple majority.

(ii) The Committee shall be empowered to amend the policies of The Ocicat Club from time to time by a two thirds majority of those present and voting. The Membership shall be informed of such amendments four weeks before they come into effect.

## **10. CLUB WEBSITE**

(i) The Club will maintain a website, governance of which shall be determined by the Website Policy

## **11. AMALGAMATION AND WINDING UP**

(i) The Club may be wound up or amalgamated with another Cat Club at a General Meeting and notice of such a motion, and a proposal for the disposal of Club Assets, must appear on the Agenda for that Meeting. Any such motion and proposal shall require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

(ii) On winding up, all monies and assets pertaining to the Club shall be donated to Cats' Protection or should this not be possible, a similar registered national Cat Charity or Cat Rescue designated by the meeting.

**Amended**

31st July 1994  
29th July 1995  
26th July 1997  
17th August 1997  
6th December 1997

25th July 1999  
9th July 2000  
3rd March 2002  
1st March 2003  
5th March 2006

2nd March 2008  
7th March 2011  
4<sup>th</sup> March 2012  
2<sup>nd</sup> March 2014  
23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016

31<sup>st</sup> March 2018  
8<sup>th</sup> March 2020