



## **RULES OF THE ORIENTAL & TABBY POINT SIAMESE CAT CLUB**

(Board Approved 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024)

### **1. Title**

The club shall be known as The Oriental & Tabby Point Siamese Cat Club.

### **2. Aims and Purpose**

The club is a non-profit making organisation. Its purpose shall be:

- a. to promote the breeding and exhibition of Oriental Shorthairs and Siamese of colours and patterns achieving recognition after 1973 and Tabby Point Siamese
- b. to promote good breeding practices, particularly in those breeds, by the giving of experienced advice to club members,
- c. in co-operation with other GCCF member clubs via the relevant Breed Advisory Committees to establish Standards of Points and Registration and Breeding Policies and to nominate and approve persons appointed as judges,
- d. to represent the interests of club members to both GCCF and BAC committees, and participate in judge monitoring and training procedures,
- e. to promote interest in the protection and welfare of all cats,
- f. to hold an annual Club Breed Show.

### **3. GCCF Membership**

- a. The club is a member of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy and shall be represented at GCCF meetings by the number of delegates permitted under GCCF bylaws.
- b. Membership provides that the GCCF shall have disciplinary powers with regard to the club and its members in accordance with the GCCF bye-laws.
- c. Except with the permission of the GCCF, no delegate may serve as an officer or committee member of any cat club which is not a member of the GCCF.
- d. The club, on behalf of its membership, agrees to submit to the byelaws and rules of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy.

### **4. Breed Advisory Committees**

- a. The club shall be a member of all relevant Breed Advisory Committees.
- b. Representatives will be elected by the committee. Representatives must ascertain the views of the committee on matters to be discussed on BAC agendas and their reports shall be presented to committee meetings and the Annual General Meeting.
- c. If necessary, a substitute representative may be appointed with the approval of a majority of committee members or, in an emergency by one of the club officers. In these circumstances, the substitute must be briefed with the committee's views. Such approval may be conveyed by any means of communication.

## 5. Membership

- a. The Club shall have three categories of Voting Members: Ordinary, Long-Term and Life Members, and three categories of Non-Voting Members: Junior, Honorary and Emeritus Members. Voting and non-voting members will be specified on the club's annual returns.
- b. Junior Members are those under 18 years old. Their application for membership must be countersigned by a parent or guardian.
- c. Long-Term Membership is for a term of 6 years.
- d. Any individual may apply for Ordinary, Long-Term or Junior membership by paying the appropriate fee and submitting a completed application form proposed and seconded by two paid-up members of a GCCF member club. The committee has the power to accept membership by simple majority and to refuse; no reasons will be given to the applicant.
- e. The committee may propose election of any individual as an Honorary member to an AGM, with reasons given for the proposal.
- f. Existing Life Members at the time of adoption of these rules retain that status, but no new Life Members shall be created thereafter. Should contact with a Life Member be lost, the membership will be converted to Emeritus, reverting to Life Membership on provision of new contact details by the Member.
- g. Any member (including life and honorary members) suspended under Article 12 of the GCCF Byelaws and wishing to re-join after expiry of the suspension, must apply to the committee for re-instatement.
- h. The committee has the power to expel or suspend any member for breach of the club's rules or objectives. If the Committee determine that the Member should be suspended or expelled from the Club, the Club Secretary will send to the member full details in writing (including any evidence they hold) of the reason(s) for their suspension or expulsion. Within 28 days of the issue of this notice the member may:
  - i) Accept the decision of the committee. If no written response is received by the Club Secretary within 28 days the member will be deemed to have accepted the decision.
  - ii) Appeal the decision and request the appeal be heard at a Special General Meeting of the Club. The Member may respond, either orally at the General Meeting, or in writing. If the proposal to expel or suspend the Member is passed by a simple majority of those present and voting, the person whose expulsion or suspension is sought will cease to be a member immediately.
  - iii) Appeal the decision via the GCCF Appeals Committee in accordance with and accepting the rules of operation of that committee (see GCCF Byelaw 11.7).  
N.B. only one of these options may be selected.
- i. Personal information provided by members will be used only for the purpose of contacting the member. It will not be passed to any third party. It will not be retained once membership terminates.

## 6. Subscriptions

- a. The subscriptions and entry fees shall be agreed by members at each Annual General Meeting. At the discretion of the committee, membership shall lapse if the subscription falls five months in arrears, with a reminder notice to be included with the AGM notices.
- b. Subscriptions are due annually on 1st January.
- c. No member whose subscription is unpaid is entitled to vote at a General Meeting.

## **7. Honorary President and Vice-Presidents**

The President and Vice-presidents shall be elected annually by members at the AGM but may continue in office indefinitely

## **8. Committee**

- a. The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a Committee comprising a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and five other members.
  - b. The Committee shall meet not fewer than three times each year. Meetings may be virtual.
  - c. The officers shall be elected by the Committee and shall hold office for two years when they may offer themselves for re-election.
  - d. The Committee is empowered to appoint a Breeding Advisor who may be invited to attend committee meetings in an advisory capacity. The Breeding Advisor shall have no vote.
  - e. The President, Vice-Presidents, Show Manager and BAC Representatives have the right to attend committee meetings but have no vote unless they are also committee members.
  - f. A committee meeting quorum shall consist of four members two of whom must be officers. The Chairman shall have no vote but shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie.
  - g. Any committee member guilty of serious breaches of the club's rules and objectives may be required to resign. The Club Secretary will send the member full details in writing (including any evidence they hold) of the reason(s) for the request for resignation. Within 28 days of the issue of this notice the member may:
    - i) Accept the decision of the committee. If no written response is received by the Club Secretary within 28 days the member will be deemed to have accepted the decision.
    - ii) Appeal the decision and request the appeal be heard at a Special General Meeting of the Club. The Member may respond, either orally at the General Meeting, or in writing. If the proposal to expel or suspend the Member is passed by a simple majority of those present and voting, the person whose expulsion or suspension is sought will cease to be a member immediately.
    - iii) Appeal the decision via the GCCF Appeals Committee in accordance with and accepting the rules of operation of that committee (see GCCF Byelaw 11.7)
- N.B. only one of these options may be selected.
- h. It is the duty of committee members to respect the confidentiality of committee discussions.
  - i. The committee has the power to determine as it thinks fit in matters not covered by the rules.

## **9. Election of Committee**

- a. Committee members shall be elected at the AGM for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-election.
- b. If a vacancy arises, the Committee may co-opt a member, who will have full voting powers. The co-option must be ratified at the next AGM. The term of service on the Committee of the co-opted member will be that of the member replaced.
- c. In the absence of a vacancy, the Committee may co-opt two members, who will have no vote.
- d. Officers and committee members failing to attend three meetings during a year without a justifiable reason may be asked to resign.

## **10. Election of Delegates**

GCCF delegates and substitute delegates shall be elected at each AGM and may offer themselves for re-election. Delegates and substitute delegates must be officers or committee members. Delegates' reports shall be presented to committee meetings and the Annual General Meeting.

## **11. Honorary Treasurer**

- a. The funds of the club will be deposited in a bank approved by the committee. Signatories to the club account will be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and may include the Show Manager at the discretion of the Committee. Payments of £100 or less may be authorised by any of the signatories; for higher sums, authorisation by any two signatories who do not reside at the same address is required.
- b. The financial year of the club will be from 1st January to 31st December.
- c. The Treasurer shall present a balance sheet and accounts, which have been examined by a suitable, independent person, to the AGM.
- d. The Treasurer shall also present a report to every committee meeting giving updates on membership and balances.
- e. All approved expenses incurred by the officers, GCCF delegates and BAC representatives on behalf of the club (including fares and motor fuel at cost) shall be defrayed out of the club funds.
- f. All deposits in the Distressed Cats' Fund are to be used exclusively for cats requiring rehoming or to give assistance to those cats whose circumstances have deteriorated.

## **12. Honorary Secretary**

- a. The Secretary shall maintain a list of members and conduct all correspondence of the club.
- b. The Secretary shall call the general meetings and committee meetings as required and keep minutes and records of such meetings.
- c. The Secretary shall present an annual report to the AGM.

## **13. General Meetings**

- a. This section describes the rules common to all General Meetings, whether Annual or Special.
- b. The quorum for a General Meeting is as for a committee meeting with the addition of five voting member who are neither committee members nor officers'.
- c. General meetings may be virtual.
- d. The agenda for a General Meeting shall be circulated to all members at least 28 days prior to the meeting.
- e. Changes to the Rules require a two-thirds majority of those voting. For all other matters, a simple majority is sufficient.

## **14. Annual General Meetings**

- a. The AGM must be held before 1st May every year.
- b. Matters to be decided at the AGM include approval of minutes and accounts, appointment of a suitable, independent person to examine the accounts, election of President, Vice-President and committee members as appropriate and election of GCCF delegates.
- c. An announcement advertising the date, time and place for the meeting shall be placed with the GCCF and club websites and on any other suitable forums at least two months in advance.

- d. All nominations and matters for the agenda including proposed changes to the Rules must be submitted in writing to the Hon. Secretary 35 days prior to the meeting
- e. Nominations must be proposed and seconded by members of the club.
- f. The agenda, the Club's accounts, balance sheet, the previous AGM minutes and any proposed changes to the Rules shall be circulated to all members at least 28 days prior to the meeting.
- g. If a quorum of members is not present at an AGM, a postal and/or electronic ballot of all the voting members who were not present at the AGM should be carried out to ratify any decisions made at the AGM. Provided the total responses, when combined with those of the members present at the AGM, constitute a quorum, the decisions made at the AGM may be considered approved/not approved. The majority required to approve any decision will be that specified in this constitution.

### **15. Special General Meetings**

- a. The Committee may call a Special General Meeting where the only business to be discussed will be a previously specified topic. In addition, the Committee shall call a Special General Meeting if a written request is received from 12 or more members stating the business for discussion. In this case, the date of the meeting shall be within 3 months of receipt of the request. Only the business listed on the agenda will be discussed.
- b. If an SGM is called by request of members, and their proposals are unproven or defeated, the members concerned shall bear all costs of the meeting. In all other cases, the costs will be met by the club.

### **16. Amalgamation or Winding-up**

- a. The club may be wound up or amalgamated with another club, association or society only by resolution passed by a two-thirds' majority of those voting in a postal or electronic ballot of all members. If the resolution is approved, the Committee shall call a Special General meeting.
- b. In the event of winding up, the Club's liabilities shall be discharged - if they exceed its assets, committee members will be responsible for making good the shortfall. Remaining assets shall be donated to a charity or charities promoting cat welfare chosen by the Special General Meeting.
- c. In the event of amalgamation with another body, the terms of such amalgamation shall be negotiated by the Committee, but these must be approved by the Special General Meeting.