

INTERNATIONAL DIVISION MEETING
Saturday, June 26, 2010

International Division Chair Mr. Newkirk called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with Liz Watson – Europe Liaison, Robert Zenda – Asia/Latin America Liaison, Henny Wintershoven (for Olivier Grin – Elected European Representative), Phebe Low, Elected Asian Representative, and International Division guests Gabby Lueppens, Michael Schleissner, Satu Hämäläinen, Maria Brunk, Suki Lee, Matthew Lee, Ulrike Knuppel, in addition to the CFA Board of Directors.

DelaBar: I'm going to call this meeting to order and I'm going to turn over the running of the meeting to Darrell. **Newkirk:** Good morning, everyone. First, I think what we need to do is start off with introductions. We've got Europe in the front row and Asia in the back. **Liz Watson:** Liz Watson. I'm the European liaison for the International Division. **Henny Wintershoven:** I'm Henny Wintershoven, I represent Europe because Olivier Grin is not able to come. **Gabby Lueppens:** My name is Gabby Lueppens. I'm coming from Germany. **Michael Schleissner:** Michael Schleissner, also from Germany. **Satu Hämäläinen:** Satu Hämäläinen, I'm just a guest here. **Maria Brunk:** Maria Brunk. **Bob Zenda:** Bob Zenda, the Asia/Latin America Liaison. **Phebe Low:** Phebe Low, newly elected as the Asian rep. **Suki Lee:** Suki from Hong Kong. **Matthew Lee:** Matthew from Hong Kong. **Newkirk:** A lot of these guys have been to all of our meetings, so it's really good that we had a good turn-out from the International Division. I'm going to turn it over to Liz and let her do the report for Europe and then Henny has got some issues she would like to bring up.

Watson: I'm sure you read the International Report. I focus on some of the shows in Russia, because I know that was a real problem with the number of champions that were at Chatte Noir in the December and April shows. We focused on that and we have come up with what we hope is going to be a solution, at least until they grow a little more and until we get a little more activity. I know Henny has got some things to bring up. They have finally got a bank account, so I'm sure that she can talk about that. Europe is poised to become a region for CFA, which is what we have been encouraging and working on for several years. The bank account has been a problem in trying to get this opened up and get the people who would administer it, so I'm going to turn this over to Henny and let her talk about that. **Wintershoven:** We have now a bank account for the region. It is a problem for us because every country has the banks that have to be with two people for signing, but we are able to do it and my husband [Jos Wintershoven] will be the Treasurer of the new region. Until we become a region, we are going to collect already money for the new region, and we are going to collect the money from the exhibitors. Exhibitors are willing to pay for every cat they enter one Euro, so every club will collect that money and put it in our new bank account for the region. The people want to become a region. **Newkirk:** I suggested they set it up like we have done here in the States, where the clubs charge the dollar surcharge. We can't require this of the clubs to submit that, but I think most of the clubs would voluntarily do that so that they can get some seed money in an account and at least get their awards and their ribbons paid for from that account, without having to tap the treasury from CFA. My idea was that hopefully we could go along with collecting that without sending it to Central Office. We've got some other things that we want to talk about later as far as the show license. I'll give it back to you, Henny. I just wanted to give you an idea why we came about

doing it that way. **Wintershoven:** The only problem for us is, we have countries like Malta, England, Sweden, they have a quarantine, so in Europe we need the normal 6 winner ribbons and 200 points for granding, so I don't know how to resolve that problem. **Watson:** We raised the points to 125 for the Moscow region. Moscow region takes in a huge area, but I know there are clubs such as Chatte Noir Club, who puts on a show in Siberia. We can't ask them to have 200 points when they have one show there. Chelyabinsk has two. We have not included them in the 125 points, but as this area grows, we certainly will think about bringing it in. We don't want to have it easier for somebody to earn a title. As I said earlier, we had a problem with a lot of champions in the Chatte Noir show in December and we waited to see what the April show was like. It really didn't change, and so now we have to raise their winners ribbons. We're not here to hurt people, but we are here to make sure that areas continue to grow. I'm not sure what we can do about the Ukraine. They are unwilling to put on shows anywhere but Kiev. The people in Kiev show in Kiev. They show in the Ukraine. We really are going to try and be as far as we can to these areas. I hope that Europe understands that our focus is growth, and growth in all areas. We have to consider that. **Johnson:** Yesterday, we passed an important rule about the change of winners ribbons in championship and you all are excited about that show rule change having a positive influence. **Watson:** I was excited about that. This is going to help everybody be able to use the show and have it mean something. This is not a cheap hobby by any stretch of the imagination. It never has been cheap and it's not getting any cheaper. It's expensive for clubs, it's expensive for exhibitors. I'm so happy that passed. I really think that this is going to help. Was there something where we're going to be able to have the 10 ring shows and have 6 on one day? **Johnson:** We haven't gone there yet. **Newkirk:** Someone brought that up during the meeting, but that's something the board has not really discussed yet. The one thing we did last year was to increase the winners ribbons to 6 in the Ukraine. We would like to convey to the board that in October when we do show rules, we would like that increased for Russia. We think that that will eliminate some of these wild numbers we are seeing in one-show grands over there. Chris [Russheim] has done a really nice report on the number of one-show grands. I sent that out and it was really sort of eye opening to see that. She did a great job on that. **Miller:** My understanding from what Liz said is, not all of Russia. We're talking Moscow. **Watson:** We're talking Moscow and Moscow region. I think there were 21 one-show grands last year in Russia. Not all were from the Moscow region, but a good portion of them were. We did have some European one-show grands. There was one from Spain and one from Finland. **Schleissner:** Just let me put in my opinion and maybe I can clear up a little bit the situation. We should not mix two points. One point is, we want to become a region. The other point is that inside the region, there are big fightings at the moment. There is what I will call "mainland Europe". These are the old countries which started in CFA several years ago and these people started under the rules of CFA. We never had a special agreement for having winner ribbons or having grand points, so we started like you do it over here. Then, we have the eastern part of Europe, which is still Europe. Because of their country situations, it's really difficult for these people traveling around in Europe. They need visas. They live far apart. A show somewhere in Siberia needed maybe 12 hours to come and to change airports. This is really difficult, so we should not mix. We have one issue; we want to become a region. The other issue is that we have in Europe areas which cannot travel like the Germans or cannot travel like the French or the Netherland people. They are separated and they do their own business at the moment. And then, the next step, this doesn't clear up everything, but the thing is, at the moment we start to split over there. We start to split because they do not

work together. From my point of view, they start working against each other because they do it under other conditions. We should work together to raise everything. So, we have to find special solutions, how to go on. **Newkirk:** What Michael is saying is, it's a hard balancing act to try to make these people conform to what you call the mainland, or the core group of clubs that we have had for years, without hindering the growth over there. It's a hard balancing act because the core clubs in Europe have always been under the current points for CFA – 6 winners ribbons and 200 points. These isolated areas are way out where they can't travel, and we always made exceptions for them, but we've seen some pretty significant growth, especially in the Moscow area, so what has happened with these special conditions and the counts that they get and the reduced number of winners ribbons that they have enjoyed in the past has created a problem of so many one-show grands. It was years in Europe before there was a one-show grand. It was a long, long time. **Wintershoven:** We have now 6 one-show grands in all those years, in Europe. **Newkirk:** So, the one thing we did in Kiev was increase the number of winners ribbons to 6. They can't claim their championship from Saturday and then compete on Sunday as a champion, and one-show grand. That's why Liz and I were thinking, if we can make the Moscow area go up to 6 winners ribbons, we'll potentially hope to see the same net effect in Kiev. We've still got to look at the data, because we just started that in the new show season. **Wintershoven:** We have figured it out already. Russia has 86 rings for the new seasons and mainland Europe, we have 112 rings. **Watson:** I would like to point out that in Russia it's a unique situation because 8 rings of those are in Chelyabinsk. Chelyabinsk is across the Ural mountains. Granted, the Muscovites go there, but there are still quite a few people that are local to that show, and they really are very, very supportive of CFA. Michael, did you find that there were Muscovites at the show you judged in Siberia? **Schleissner:** No. We had the same situation you just talked about at the Chelyabinsk show, so this is a special group showing over there. I think they do not travel that far, so they stay in their area, so this is absolutely right, what Liz is telling you. **Watson:** There are a couple of shows that Nika puts on, there are the Chatte Noir shows which are always 8 ring shows, both in December and in April. So, it seems like there are a lot of rings, but you have to balance that some of these shows are in an area where they simply do not get the number of exhibitors. I know the Nika shows, so even though there are a lot of rings, it's really the Chatte Noir show that has produced the problems there. **Newkirk:** We have had some new people join the meeting, so could we have everybody introduce themselves? **Ulrike Knuppel:** Hello, my name is Ulrike Knuppel. I'm from Germany. I'm the club secretary from Cat Friends of Germany. **Unidentified Speaker:** I'm from Moscow. We just breeder of Burmese and I just joined the program yesterday. This is my husband Sasha, so thank you for letting us here, because it's we really appreciate being here. Now we would like to listen. **Wintershoven:** The only thing I can say is that the exhibitors in the mainland are not happy with the 75 and 125 grand points from Russia. **Schleissner:** Let me try to explain a little bit more what Henny wants to tell you. We had the situation, and we still have the situation. You can have a 75 point grand champion, which you have done in Russia, and you go over to Europe and you go to the same competition with the grands we have over there, and finally this year we also have a national winner which is a 75 point grand champion, and it's really, it's much more easy to do the 75 grand points and then go in competition. When you are a grand and go into grand competition, sometimes it needs much more time to get 200 points than the 75 points, so some of our cats over there stop with 175 and never go on. There are a lot of them there. This is what Henny wants to tell you. This brings the people in a competition. They are not really working together again or for the future

and this does not help to grow. **Altschul:** What I find really interesting is that the mainland Europe, as you say, has experienced incredible growth, especially in the last 5 or 6 years and all along they had requirements the same as the United States, so I think that tells us, yes, you can have growth under the same requirement. When I researched the one-show grands, I found that there were 16 one show grands at one show [in Russia]. That was just incredible, then you tell me that mainland Europe has only had 6 one-show grands the entire 16 years, so I understand. It's got to be causing a lot of friction over there. The big question is, I understand granting leniency, but at the same time there are remote places in the United States, then look at Canada. We struggle here, too. Anybody who lives in south Texas, the Corpus Christi area which is down by Mexico, has to drive minimum 10 hours to get to a show. They usually have to drive 20 or more hours, or they have to fly. So, we have remote areas in the United States, and we still have 200 points, so I understand exactly what the problem is. I hope that there's a way to resolve it.

Wintershoven: We hope so. Some of the exhibitors are talking now already about leaving CFA and so we will lose a lot of exhibitors. We can see that in the last years, a lot of exhibitors we don't see at our shows anymore. They are all going to another association because they said the Russian people has beautiful cats, the quality is very good, but they only need 2 rings to be a grand and a top cat in the mainland Europe, we need 2 or 3 shows to become a grand. That's a problem.

Watson: We have to look at the dynamics of the other association, too. I'm not sure that it's any easier to do something there than it is in CFA. You've got your levels that you have to go through in other associations in order to get their high level of title. I want to point out one thing when we talk about Europe. I'm not sure that everyone is aware that when Europe came in, they refused to have any difference between Europe and what is here. Because they insisted on that, it has been a struggle for Europe to grow, in order to really take off. Like Carissa said, CFA is really now growing over there. I can appreciate what you're saying, Carissa. I can appreciate what Henny is saying. On the other hand I'm torn, because I think there are areas that we need to protect in order to have growth there. Just as she is saying these people are going to leave and go to other associations, if we put 200 points in Siberia, they're not going to show. When you have on 10 cats that could possibly be champions, they will never get anywhere. We are all up for suggestions that will balance this out. We have tried to do it with raising the winners ribbons, so it might take a couple of years to raise it to 200 points to grand, but we'll get there. We have to do it where the activity is.

Newkirk: What we have tried to do is take baby steps to increase it without stifling the growth. We have had so much growth in Moscow. We really have enjoyed a tremendous amount of growth and that translates into revenue for our organization with new catteries coming in, new registrations coming in. It's a difficult balancing act to try to get them up to 200 points and 6 winners ribbons. We tried to do the 6 winners ribbons to cut down on the number of those cats transferring to champion on Sunday and one-show granding. I would like the mainland Europeans to work with us and let's see if we can get this passed in October to bring the Moscow area up to 6 winners ribbons, which I think is a good move. I think everybody is in agreement with that, then let's do evaluation without just jumping up in one step and not stifle that growth over there. That's what I'm worried about. If we try to jump them up with everybody else, then they will just say, "it's not worth it. I hope we can encourage them to continue that growth and I think within the not-too-distant future, we can move them up to 200 points. That's the objective, to have them conform to what the rest of Europe is. That's what the goal is. It's not to protect them forever, so we've got a future goal to meet.

Johnson: Help me understand the dynamics. You mentioned a couple times "not a lot of grands at shows". Is that

because most are opens? **Wintershoven:** The quality in Europe is very high. **Johnson:** OK, so there's a lot of grand champions? **Wintershoven:** A lot of champions and a lot of grand champions. **Johnson:** My comment is, when we do include opens in the show as champions, because the way I read the new rule was that opens would count as champions, so when we see that, we'll see a lot of dynamic changes surrounding how championship goes. It will be interesting to see how that helps. When you are rewriting the show rules in October regarding the 6 winners ribbons, you will have to sort of blend that in as you do that rule. I'm not sure where, but it will be very interesting to see how the dynamics of that help, and I think it would help because you will increase your championship count by the number of opens. **Wintershoven:** That will be very good for the shorthairs because we don't have so many shorthairs in Europe. 75% is longhair and 25% is shorthair. **Watson:** Often times, when you go to Moscow, you judge an independent show and they have nothing but shorthairs. You're lucky if you have a half a dozen longhairs. You might have 2 longhair kittens and maybe 1 in championship. They love shorthairs over there in these independent organizations. That's really interesting. As far as CFA, we have a lot of longhairs in the CFA shows in Russia. We are growing as far as the shorthairs are concerned, but I think that's really fascinating that there's that disparity. **Wintershoven:** Ukraine is also more shorthairs than longhairs. **Newkirk:** The shorthairs have really come up since the first time I went over to judge in Europe. There are a lot more shorthairs than there were years ago.

Newkirk: We've got one more issue that I've got on my list. **Mare:** Darrell, could I ask a question before we move to the issue? **Newkirk:** Yes. **Mare:** I'm very impressed that the Europeans insisted that they play by the same rules that we play by in the United States. This is the first I have learned of that. That's very admirable, and I've seen the quality of the cats that I've had the privilege of judging in Europe grow substantially in a relatively rapid time, and that's probably why. I understand that we are growing and we want to encourage growth in all parts of Europe, including the eastern bloc countries. What I would like to know from our European representatives is, are you comfortable with waiting another year to see how this plays out with the new open situation? Is that comfortable for you? **Schleissner:** I can only tell you my point of view. If we see that something moves, we are satisfied. Moving faster would be better, but moving at all, this is something I think we can accept. **Mare:** Thank you, Michael. I assure you that I as one member of the board am going to be watching that and I imagine I am speaking for many of us on the board. **Newkirk:** Unfortunately what we will have to gage on is what goes on in Kiev, because we modified the show rules in October that won't take effect until May 1. Our board meeting is in June, so we're not going to really have any data to evaluate. That's another reason why things move slow in CFA when we do our rule changes. **Watson:** To comment further on that, what we base this awareness that we need 6 winners ribbons in the Moscow region is from the two 8-ring shows of Chatte Noir. We'll have that data before the board meeting and we should have a lot more information on what's going on. It will come up as far as the 6 winners ribbons or 6 qualifying rings that they'll need, but we'll know if this is going to be a good thing. We can monitor what goes on in the Ukraine. It's an interesting place because they just don't have a lot of travel from there to Europe. Before, the Ukraine used to have a visa, and when they had a visa there wasn't much traveling between Europe, for the European exhibitors to go to the Ukraine. If Russia's visa would go away, we would see a lot more, but that hasn't happened yet. **Newkirk:** I received an email not too long ago from a breeder/exhibitor in

Israel that we have, and that person has to travel all the way to Europe, so they wanted Israel added to the countries that require 75 points. Liz and I talked about this a little bit this morning. I don't have a problem with doing that because, the way it is, if they go to Europe, they only get a percentage of the points anyway, so it is balanced out when they go into the other countries.

That's another thing that we can talk about when we do the show rules. I want to wrap up what's going on in Europe, because we want to give Asia some equal time. Anything else, Henny?

Watson: I will be very happy if they are happy. I know that they like to move things quickly. I like to have things move quickly, but if they are happy with the fact that we can assure them that we are on top of the situation and it won't continue the way it has been, we will move towards getting the Moscow region in line with the rest of Europe. If they are happy with that, I am comfortable telling them that that is our goal. I hope you're comfortable with that. We'll get it done. **Newkirk:** Give us a little time. It will take some time. That's a good move, I think.

Anybody else have any questions from the board about what's going on in Europe?

Zenda: I know all of you have read the report that I gave Darrell input for. We have seen incredible growth in Asia. I do the stats every year to try and look at the data, because that's really what is important. It tells us what's really happening. We've seen more than 90% growth in entries in our shows since we started the scoring, since we split Europe and Asia apart 5 seasons ago. This year alone is another 25% increase in the entries in Asia. The numbers are absolutely astounding. Now, my report indicated there was not a show in Korea because at the time the report was due, they hadn't submitted their show package, so I apologize to the folks for not including that report. We actually had 32 shows, and so that will increase the numbers even more. What is important is that I look at the numbers like Carissa does. It is a numbers game. We waited too long, for example, to implement the change in Hong Kong. Now we're starting to see the effects of it, but as I look at the data for this year, and I'll be bringing things forward for the October meeting if I'm still sitting in this position. We increased the grand points in Hong Kong because of the number of one-show grands. We made it 125 and 50 points, because they always had the highest championship count. This year, China and Thailand had more average champions. As a matter of fact, China had 44 average champions per show. Thailand had 42 average champions per show. In Hong Kong, we have 38. This is what's going on here. The competition in Asia is astounding. They also are pretty good at looking at the show rules and anything you change, and how you can get around it, so soon we will have show rules with Asian names on them. I will bring the data back to you before the October meeting of what we need to do with this and what adjustments we need to make. The number of one-show grands would have changed quite a bit had we implemented this the year before, so when you look at those numbers and see the effect our changes might have made, I think we're going in the right direction. Unfortunately, we do have to take it slow and make sure we're doing it right, so we'll be looking at those numbers very carefully. Phebe has already introduced herself. I'm so pleased to have her sitting as our elected representative, because one of the goals is to get our treasury going, as well. When Kathy Calhoun let us know that the bonding issue was taken care of and the treasurers in any country are also covered by it, that erased a big block that we were worried about. Phebe has done an awful lot of work and of course our appointed treasurer for the region, or our funds manager, Rarteo, is respected by all of the clubs all over Asia and we couldn't have any better choices, between the two of them working together. She can tell you a little more about that. The last thing I want to say is that there are still openings at tables and seats at the Asia/Latin America

Division Awards Banquet that will be held in Shanghai on August 30th this year, and so I can give you the contact for those of you who would like to join us, and you're all cordially invited to participate. It's also the World Expo, so come to Shanghai in August and join us for the party.

Phebe Low: I would like to add some more on the show counts all over Asia. My concern is on Singapore and Taiwan. Taiwan is really static on their development because of the quarantine issue around Asia. It's more severe than Europe. Taiwan, they cannot go everywhere and then come back. Otherwise, they will have to have 21 days quarantine in their own country when the cats go back. So, they never go out, and now there are 2 exhibitors come from Taiwan to Hong Kong and they are willing to put the cats into quarantine when they go back to home. Finally, the cat is a grand champion in Hong Kong. I can see the same situation when Hong Kong was getting started in 1997. We get a few years and get the first grand champion in Hong Kong, but Taiwan is static in this stage. The other issue is the funds set-up. I have made a proposal to Darrell and Bob, and we will make a plan by this year to set up an account in Hong Kong and have it be Hong Kong dollar and the U.S. dollar. My concern is on the fundraising. I wouldn't charge in the show entry because it is very expensive, so I was thinking about other ways of fundraising, such as a show, to get some more funding and then from souvenirs or book sales, so that is a milestone in Asia. That's it for me. **Matthew Lee:** First of all, Darrell and Bob did an excellent job to get growth in Asia. We have been doing this for 10 years now. It has been great fun and we are getting away from the 75 point rule. Now, 125 is harder. The best place in Asia to be is Malaysia, because if I'm a Malaysian cat, I could go to 23 shows last year, which is great. If I'm a Hong Kong cat, I can only go to 11 shows. I couldn't go to China, Thailand or Malaysia, whereas if I'm China, Thailand or Indonesia, I can also go to Malaysia shows and get to 18 shows a year. This fact is going to change even more extreme in the next show season. I expect China and Malaysia will try to do a little more shows. So, similar to Europe, we are splitting to cover two regions. In one place it is very hard to travel and the other places we can go to 3 countries together, you can get a massive leap. Nevertheless, I think as Bob said, we seem to be pretty adoptive to the rules and we have a national winner coming from Hong Kong. More and more of us are traveling to Europe and the States to campaign, so I think the direction is definitely going correctly. As Phebe pointed out, raising money is always the hardest thing. I work for a bank and I know how hard that is. I really think the group in Asia, especially in countries like China, Thailand and Malaysia where it's a lot cheaper to run the show, I can tell you these places, I think most of the expenses is flying in the judges, so the airlines get most of the money from running the show, because the venues in Malaysia are very economic. In Hong Kong, the judges' cost and also the venue is always a headache. We went from running those massive 40,000 people shows in the Hong Kong Convention Center to now kind of school hall type of shows, which is a lot easier to break even. Of course, it's not as spectacular on the website.

Zenda: One other thing I did want to mention that's always on our minds in Asia, and that's the quarantine issue. I would like to ask Dick to mention about the last meeting we had with the AFCD and why CFA is progressing so very nicely with them. **Kallmeyer:** Obviously, as we get more shows, we are becoming more and more noticeable to the quarantine authorities. One of the big issues in Asia is obviously the H1N1, SARS, etc. Recently in Hong Kong we had an event in which the authorities noticed that there was a quarantine violation from a European exhibitor. The authorities have gotten so sophisticated that they actually subscribe to our online Almanac and they go through the catalog one by one and actually look at all the shows you have

been to for the past few months. In this case, the exhibitor had come into Hong Kong and gave a statement of all the shows they attended in the past three months. However, they very noticeably omitted one of the shows in Ukraine that they had been to and the authorities picked it up. The good news is, because we had established a relationship before, they actually contacted us, so we investigated and found out it was, in fact, true, so I met with the authorities last April and I did spend some time just talking about what CFA is – all our activities, as well as the associated activities; breed rescue, things like CenterStage or the CFA website where we talk about actually the health of the cats, how to clip their nails, how to wash them, and they were very impressed. Obviously, I apologized for our activities on our exhibitor and mentioned that we had taken a protest action, against the offenders. They were extremely pleased that we even cared to handle this and, in fact, they were so impressed that we are talking about actually changing the quarantine form to allow a box that it's a CFA cat and it will get expedited, favorable treatment. So, there's good news and bad news at the same time. One of the problems we have had in Asia is that some of the actions from the quarantine authorities have actually come from jealous exhibitors that turned in other exhibitors, and bring it to their attention, so we're kind of working those issues. Obviously, I think we're closer to a resolution than we ever have been before. Just pointing out that when I met with the Hong Kong authorities, the enforcement officer was very interested in CFA and he wanted to attend the clerking school I was conducting that evening. Unfortunately, he couldn't take off from work or he probably would have come. So, there's good news and bad news. We're actually working with authorities. We're getting to be known as experts in the cat area, so good news there. **Zenda:** Thanks, Dick. Unfortunately, I was unable to make that meeting, but I have had several of them with them, and of course Matthew and Suki and all the clubs got together, and we put together that proposal that really exposed and educated them to what CFA is all about. We made that change to the show rules and we adopted that form, now we put our money where our mouth is. We said that, "we won't tolerate the violations, and our board will act on it," and they are extremely impressed. Now, we have similar situations in other countries. For example, Malaysia also has quarantine restrictions but what has happened over time is they generally would make a waiver if you guarantee these cats would just stay in one place and not be out in the population and what have you. We've still got some problems in Malaysia that we need to work out, but we've got some people on the ground there that are working with Dick and I to provide a lot of information to one of the ladies named Zamina who met with the officials, and now we've got some alternate proposals, as well. They are thinking about doing something like the European pet passport procedure, and they are also emphasizing the fact that all your exhibitors need to understand that when they sign that entry blank, they are agreeing to abide by our show rules. Our show rules have that quarantine issue right up front, that the CFA board will take action if violations occur. Through that educational process, we can probably cut that down quite a bit and hopefully make it easier for our exhibitors. I'm really pleased to see what's happening in Hong Kong now. The previous director was thinking about doing something about allowing the Hong Kong cats to go into China. They won't do it the other way because they don't trust the certificate, but we kept going back to them and saying, "do you trust your own?" "Oh, yes." "Well then, why can't you let them do that?" The new director there is now talking to the health department authorities about exploring that. It will be a long, slow process but I think that over time, if we continue our meetings with them, if we continue to show good faith, we have an opportunity to really open it up even more. This is a market that can contribute significantly to CFA's bottom line and it's already doing so. **Newkirk:** Even with all

the issues with quarantine that we have both in Europe and in Asia, we have made so much growth. It really is exciting to see the numbers and the growth there.

Zenda: Brazil. Several of us have had the pleasure of visiting Sao Paulo, which is one of the largest cities in the world, like 40 million people, 5 million cars. Pam [DelaBar] and I saw them all, I guarantee you. It's difficult. The club we have has put on two shows. They have no money and nobody in the club. We've had to donate our air fares and do those sorts of things. We've had some very generous donations from our judges, and I thank those on the panel who agreed to do that. They are going to continue to do this as long as they can. But the good news is, now we have two more groups and I think one of the club applications may be on the way already. That one is Munir and Alexandra Ghattas, and those of you who were around when they had their national winner, those are the same folks. I also have an inquiry from Argentina. There are a lot of countries that are very, very interested. They are not happy with the FIFe and the WCF folks. The reason they're not happy with them is, whenever CFA tries to do something, no matter what the World Cat Congress does, FIFe operates on its own in those countries. They do everything they can to either schedule a show on the same date or discourage the people from coming. From those judges who want to be a guest judge, they won't grant permission when we do it, so we've got a lot of things to overcome there, but I'm happy to see that they love CFA. Pam and I were just down there not too long ago. It's an amazing thing. At some point in time, we've got to think about how we break up or how we split the International Division, because it isn't really working with Asia/Latin America. They are so far apart. They also have the same issue with Korea. It is so distant from the rest of Asia, it doesn't quite fit, so I think we just have to scratch our heads and see where we go from there. **Watson:** I want to say something about Brazil. They do want to have another show. As Bob said, they really can't afford to pay for the air fare. I had Rachel post to the list and I got no takers. If any of you who are judges would consider going down there, please let us know because that's the only way it's going to grow. We're going to get other clubs in. Is Munir's club going to be in Sao Paulo? They don't live there. **Zenda:** I think they do now, or they're close. I'm not sure. Pam might know. **Watson:** These clubs need our help. Please, if you are a judge or know somebody that might like to go. It is true that she's had a real problem with another association. Once she schedules her show, they put on a show the same weekend 50 miles away. It's a problem, so we need your help. **Newkirk:** That's one of the things we are having in Japan, also, with another association's clubs. I went on their website to try to find out how many shows they had in Japan, and I didn't see hardly any shows listed on the home page. **Anger:** If you would encourage the clubs that are looking for judges to fly on their miles to have as long a time window as they can possibly plan for. That's part of the problem. The last time we went on the list asking for volunteers, it was a couple of months out. We have judges that are more than willing to help out wherever we can. **Watson:** I have spoken to her about that and if we can get some judges that are willing, she would be willing to change her date. Did you not think that, Bob? **Zenda:** Yes, as a matter of fact, I got an email from her in the last couple of days because they are so frustrated about finding another judge for that show in September, she has given me the flexibility, if we can find somebody. **Watson:** They will change the date. **Zenda:** She's waiting to see when FIFe locks their show date. This is really a strange situation.

Newkirk: One other issue I wanted to bring up, Shirley Dent wrote to me the show packet from the June Malaysia show has still not been received in Central Office. Shirley wanted us to consider instituting a late fee for these clubs who don't get their show packets in on time. That's another thing that we need to consider at the October meeting when we are putting together the agenda. Liz and I talked a little bit about the distribution of show materials. A lot of the clubs over in Asia, especially China, their facilities have to be approved by the government. A lot of times, these shows aren't approved until right close to when the show is, and it's causing these clubs to pay late fees up to \$500. Part of that is to cover the expedited fee to get the show supplies to that area. As you all know, those of you that put shows on, that packet is quite heavy so it's very expensive to send that over there. I would like for us to explore having a distribution point for these show materials one place in Europe and one place in Asia. That wouldn't cover Latin America, but at least would could look at how much it would cost to have these materials printed in the area itself and have a distribution point. I'm just tossing that out for us to look into. Once we get through Sunday and move on, if that's something we want to explore and look into, and maybe we can bring that back to the board in October, also.

Newkirk: The last thing I have on my list is the show license fee. We talked about making the ID clubs conform at some point in time, at least a partial step anyway. One of the things we have considered and talked about is granting the clubs that are new a couple years of free show license to get their accounts and shows underway, but at some point in time with the financial condition that the organization is in, the ID clubs are going to have to step up to the plate and at least pay half of the show license fee. If Europe becomes a region, that's going to take care of itself because they are going to have to pay the show license fee. **Johnson:** Working Thursday to balance the budget for CFA, we're talking about trying to show that the budget for next year is in the plus, even by a few hundred dollars. I looked some numbers up last night to prepare for the meeting. Your numbers get into the 120's and 143 for your average show. The U.S. shows are going down and the size of our shows is going to converge. I know you have some large, successful shows, like in Hong Kong. We used to do convention-size shows and we would get a lot of gate, and now we're doing small venues, just because it's not affordable, so we face a lot of the same issues in the U.S. as Europe and Asia. I like the idea of possibly having a new club have a bye for their first or second show. If we have that kind of rule, I would like to consider it to be a global rule. Maybe we should do that to encourage growth here in the U.S. We have a lot of areas where we used to have shows, we no longer have shows. There are states that have no shows at all. I was talking to Liz about the Gulf Shore and Carissa has mentioned several times about that region has a lot of areas don't have shows. So, as we look at solutions for struggling clubs, I would like us to look at making global solutions. I would like us to start thinking of solutions for struggling clubs in areas more globally. I was looking up the numbers and the average show is 143. We have a lot of struggling clubs here that are struggling to get to 150 and they used to be bigger shows, so we're all facing challenges. So, I would like us to think of global solutions. Maybe we can also look at starting to have the \$1 surcharge. When we started that in the U.S., it was shared with CFA to help pay for scoring, and the regions got half. In Asia, you mentioned you're not ready yet, but if you think about the people that put on shows and the people that are involved in the organization, many, many exhibitors aren't yet involved in a club. That's a way for the exhibitors to pay a little more of the fare than just the clubs paying the way. So, I encourage you to think about those things and make it more global, because we are

struggling and I see your numbers converging with ours. We're all getting to be the same place with size. **Newkirk:** I think you make a wonderful point, Peg. We have really established ourselves as a global organization, and that's in part due to all these people sitting over here that have supported our organization, and Bob and Liz and our elected ID's have done an absolutely phenomenal job. They really have. They work tirelessly to make sure that we continue growth over there, so I really commend the committee for doing a fabulous job. <applause> Anybody else have anything they want to bring up?

Natalia: There is some issues in Moscow that I want to bring to your attention about our problems. We try to attend every CFA show in Moscow and the issues are that there are only two clubs that put on a show. It's nothing, really, because in Moscow there are millions of people. As a result, we have only 6 shows a year. It's true, I agree with Michael that Russian people, they can't travel. There are visa issues and many other obstacles for them. The next one, we have different registry shows on the same day. There are other associations in Moscow which were sponsored by Royal Canin, more than 1,000 participants, but they don't include CFA. As a result, only 40 or 50 people can come to the CFA show. Other registries get very good sports arenas, a lot of visitors, a lot of advertising, and we have CFA show outside of Moscow in a small venue, so there are no visitors, unfortunately. As a result, cat count is very low, but the quality of the CFA show is not competitive for other systems. We tried to show different systems. I can tell you, CFA is the best because of the quality of judges, the quality of cats. Thank you for inviting us. It's good to share our opinion with you. Thank you. I appreciate it.

Newkirk: Thank you. We want to continue and hopefully we will get a few more clubs there. I think the issue is, as we grow, we need more clubs and more shows, and that's a slow process sometimes. It's very hard to establish a club and it's expensive, that initial outlay of money to sponsor a show, and so it just takes time. Hopefully, as we garner more support for the CFA system there, we will see that growth continue and we will get more clubs. **Watson:** There were a lot of different systems there that all held their shows at the same time in the same venue. Most people will enter CFA and other systems, as well. It makes it difficult because it's hard to be in two places at once. The person in charge of Chatte Noir told me that they have not been invited back because they have their combined system best of the best, generally CFA cats do the winning. It's a problem, so they don't want them there because they are real competition for them. **Miller:** When I was last in Moscow, I judged a CFA show and the second day I judged another show, which was astounding. It was all the organizations in one huge show hall. I believe there was FIFe, there was the Russian association, there was TICA and CFA. We were judging all the cats that were accepted in all these organizations, and quickly getting up to speed on standards. There was a gigantic gate. There were huge vendor displays. It was a very exciting thing. If I could just ask whether that's becoming common there? Is it successful? Are you trying to deal with these other associations that are competing with CFA? What's going on with this, Natalia? **Natalia:** I'm not sure I understand the question. I have no information about the other systems. They do a lot of independent clubs together. That's how they get people to participate. **Miller:** What kind of entertainment? **Natalia:** Lotteries. It's very organized on a high level, with very good venues that get a lot of visitors. They do something for children. **Sasha:** These guys, they are really having fun from the exhibitions. CFA does more formal things. The CFA cats are much high quality, that's true, but everything is very official and very formal. That's the difference. It's for exhibitors and for visitors much more interesting and fun. It's a beautiful

hobby. Let's have fun, not to be official and formal. **Miller:** That's a big problem here, too. **Newkirk:** Is it more from the show management or from the exhibitors? **Sasha:** I think it's more a question of the show manager who organized the show. Ask the exhibitors, as well. They would like to have fun, to enjoy themselves, their cats, their friends. **Natalia:** We were so upset about the fact that CFA was not invited to the sports arena. In one place was multi-regional, very great place, but this year the CFA show was separate. It was outside of Moscow and few visitors. The other registries were together in the big venue. They had fun. **Miller:** They just don't ask CFA? **Natalia:** No CFA. **Sasha:** As a Muscovite, I can say even for me it was quite a problem to locate the new show hall. It was absolutely impossible to find this place, but as for previous years when we had a show right in the center of Moscow, very fancy modern show, it was easy to achieve, but right now it's dead end. **Suki Lee:** Those same things like in Hong Kong, which is where we have the dogs walk over and then we have another place is doing the cat shows. And then the company would like to have a huge amount to rent the school out and then they can bargain with the pet expo in Hong Kong. **DelaBar:** Sasha, I have a question. Who is giving the invitations for the different associations to come into the big arena? I have judged when it was CFA, TICA, WCF, FIFe. **Sasha:** Sorry, I am not well informed of that. In that case, I'm just a participant in the exhibition. **Watson:** Generally, you have somebody who organizes the show, so it would be the show production person who does all of this. He is the one who invites all of these different organizations to come in and participate. **DelaBar:** Do we have any idea which organization? Is this a special show production company? **Watson:** I think it is. I can find that out for you. **DelaBar:** I would like to find that out. I still have the means of going through the WCC. **Watson:** I can find that out. It was the show production man who was in charge of the whole thing, of setting up this big cat extravaganza. He did not want to have CFA there anymore because their cats were too good and the other cats from the other organizations were not necessarily getting what they felt they should. That was the last time I was there. I know they are going to continue with their 8 ring shows. **Newkirk:** That show has been a wonderful exposure for CFA. It's in that big complex and I judged it a couple of times. I was just absolutely phenomenal and their grand prix winner to end the whole production is just phenomenal. **Watson:** The Nika show is what Sasha is speaking of, which is way out. We went to this park and as we're coming into it, we had to stop and take pictures, because there was a moose. Trust me, I don't think you will find that in central Moscow. We were quite a way out. Moscow is a huge, huge area. **Zenda:** When they had the 5 organizations, the person who seemed to be in charge was the WCF person. All the exhibitors could choose which shows they went to. Remember, in the WCF ring, when they were giving their best of the best, there were 18 of us lined up there voting on the cats, you would see people with 4 or 5 numbers because their cat was in this show and this show, and had different numbers.

Newkirk: Anybody else have any comments? Board members, any questions? Thanks everybody for coming. It's always a very productive meeting. I think we really discussed a lot of issues. The quarantine issue seems to come up every year. It seems to be an issue, and the other organizations, their systems around the country being jealous of our cats and our judges also seems to be a recurrent theme that we have problems with, so we still have work to do. We're experiencing a lot of growth, which is phenomenal and I appreciate everybody's work on the Committee. Thanks to everybody. I really appreciate it. <applause>

BREED COUNCIL SECRETARIES' MEETING
Saturday, June 26, 2010

Breeds and Standards Chair Ms. Kusy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with the Breed Council Secretaries and Breed Committee Chairs (or their representatives) present, in addition to the CFA Board of Directors: *Marilee Griswold, Scottish Folds; Sandi Douglass, Colorpoint Shorthair; Henny Wintershoven, Singapura; Donna Hetherington, Bombay; Monte Phillips, Chartreux; Sande Willen, Manx; Jan Mellinger, Selkirk Rex; Karen Bishop, Japanese Bobtail; Melanie Morgan, Egyptian Mau; Jeri Zottoli, Birman; Cheryl Coleman, Korat; John Hiemstra, Tonkinese; Linda Peterson, Devon Rex; Rob Miller, Russian Blue; Wendy Heidt, Siberian; Ann Gamboa, Turkish Angora; Cindy Byrd, British Shorthair; Carol Johnson, American Shorthair; Judy Kollmann, European Burmese; Art Graafmans, Burmese; Laura Gregory, Ragamuffin; Jacqui Bennett, Ocicat; Jan Rogers, American Wirehair; Julie Keyer, Oriental; Norma Placchi, Havana Brown; Norman Auspitz, Abyssinian; Martha Auspitz, Maine Coon; Isabelle Bellevance, Ragdoll; Carla Bizzell, Exotic; Kathy Black, Somali; Sharon McKenzie, Cornish Rex; Kathryn Bock, Norwegian Forest Cat; Nancy Petersen, Persian; Dee Dee Cantley, Sphynx.*

Debbie Kusy
Breeds and Standards Chairperson>>

DelaBar: I'm going to be turning this over to the Breeds and Standards Chair, Debbie Kusy. She is passing around a sign-in sheet for the breed council secretaries, so with no further interruptions, Debbie. **Kusy:** Thank you, Pam. Thanks everyone for coming. I think this is a very important meeting. It is one we have done for years and this is a tradition I hope will continue. First of all, I would like to go around the table and everyone say your name and what breed you represent. <see above> OK, thank you everyone. We have great representation. I had asked on the Breed Council Secretaries' List for suggested topics for this meeting. I had a great response. I have 5 and we added one from the board meeting on Thursday. I emailed an agenda to you all. We can take them one by one.

Proposed topics for discussion at the meeting between BCS and the CFA Board of Directors

1. *Including a brief history of each breed in the breed standard. (Suggested by the Board of Directors in response to the Siamese breed including such a question on the 2009 ballot).*

Kusy: The first item was <reads>. For those who weren't familiar with it, on the Siamese ballot this year, there was a brief history of the Siamese breed and actually Debbi Stevenson got that from the AKC standards. They include, "this a working dog, it's great for herding, the breed originated in Ireland" or whatever. She thought that was a good idea and put it on the Siamese ballot. The board asked that this be directed to this group, if you thought it was something that would be good to preface your breed. The board thought the one on the Siamese ballot was a little long. It would just be maybe a paragraph or two. "The Japanese Bobtail originated in Japan. It's the sacred cat there." That type of thing. Anybody have any comments on that? **Mellinger:** I think it's a great idea. I don't see why there would be any objection to it, and it's just good information for all of us to have, especially now with the links back and forth with Cats

CenterStage, it's fabulous. **Kusy:** Some of the board members' objections were that the standard was a place to describe the actual description of the cat; the head structure, the body structure, that type of thing, so they questioned the need for something like that. If it were to be done, I would hope that every breed would do it. It shouldn't be limited to the Siamese. It should be all the breeds. Anybody else? **Bellevance:** In the dog world, this is something that can be useful because many of those breeds have been developed for a specific purpose and that's always taken into account when you are evaluating a dog, to make sure that it's able to do the original job. Most cats were not bred, per se, for a certain purpose so their confirmation isn't necessarily linked to this. I don't see the purpose in that respect. **Bennett:** If we're going to do this, could the board or the Breeds & Standards Committee provide some very clear guidelines? **Johnson:** There already is a breed description for American Shorthair, which has a brief history on the CFA website, so I'm wondering why we would put that into the standard, as well. It's also noteworthy that that history was not written by the current breed council secretary, so I'm wondering, would this replace that, or are we going to have two descriptions, one just a brief ambulatory to, "this is an American breed originated in the United States" or "originated in America" and then have that more full description that's also on the CFA website? **Kusy:** I would say it's the former; that there would be a breed description in the breed standard, as well as the full description on the website. It's not meant to be a total history of the breed, such as we have on the website. It's just a preface as to why this breed exists. **Eigenhauser:** My thought is, if you guys want to do it, great. There's no real harm in having your description in more than one place. There's breed articles, breed standards, breed descriptions, and it would nice to have a little something in there when people look at your breed standard to give them a little sense of what your breed is about. If you wanted to do it, I wouldn't see a problem. If we are going to create guidelines for it, though, there are two things I would suggest. The first is that brevity is the soul of wit. Shorter is generally better. The other thing is, you should avoid making anything that could be classified as a political statement. I know there's a certain amount of friction between some breeds. I don't want to see this as a place to vent those problems. This would be a place to talk about happy things with our cats. **Mare:** You need to consider who you are writing it for. If you're looking for new exhibitors or perhaps people who are going to purchase your kittens, the last place they are going to come to look is the standard. That's something for those of us in the fancy, per se. To me, the best place for that kind of description already exists and it's on your websites. Carrying the standards around, I would hate to increase them in size for any reason, unless it was something that I felt was really going to serve a useful purpose. I encourage you to put the kind of historic descriptions that we're talking about on your websites. I encourage your new kitten buyers to take a look there, and you can change or modify it at will, but once it hits the standard, it's pretty much there. You're not going to be changing them much.

2. *How do you feel about the CFA Board of Directors passing rules regarding showing and/or registering cats in the classes of another breed without breed council input?*

[**Kusy** noted that this had been dealt with at the annual meeting on Friday]

3. *Using DNA info as basis for adjusting breed prefix numbers. For example – In the Persian, any Persian with a Himalayan behind it will always carry a special registration prefix – e.g. – a Blue Persian Male with no pointed cats behind it has a registration prefix of 0106, if there is a pointed cat in the pedigree, it is a 3006. Would it be*

acceptable, upon receipt of a DNA test showing that the cat does not carry the pointed gene, to change the prefix to 0106. There are quite a few breeds that are affected by this – Persian, Exotic, Balinese/Javanese, Birman, etc.

DelaBar: At the board meeting, it was explained what happened with the original lab. A lot of research went into trying to find out what went wrong. We went to the DNA chip originator, who is at Texas A&M University. All of our testing now is going to be going through Texas A&M University, instead of this private lab, so it's going to take them some time to build up. [inaudible due to electronic disruption] **Kusy:** It was a pointed issue and they wanted to change the registration. Obviously the owner of the cat would be responsible for the DNA test, not CFA. I think that would be totally unreasonable. **Altschul:** My concern with Persians – and I breed CPC's and the non-point carriers – if you have a CPC, for example blue Persian, and it doesn't carry the pointed gene, that cat is next to impossible to sell as a breeding cat. Nobody wants it because it's got the 3000 number on it, so there is a significant financial gain to sell a cat and get it's number changed so that it looks like it's a pure Persian. My other concern is, I know we can't legislate morality [inaudible due to electronic disruption] actually goes to the cat that they're asking to change the registration number on. **Miller:** I have come around about different opinions, personally on this issue, particularly when it was brought up to the Abyssinian breed council. When you have DNA, let's say if a cat is a longhair carrier, you would be able to pick that up. What it can't pick up is everything that comes with the breed that made the longhair gene. The polygenes are not picked up. The difference in the head structure or the boning or something else. It's very, very subtle and it's not picked up, so there are breeders that may not have longhair in the gene, but they've got a whole lot of polygenes because of whatever brought in that longhair. I hope that's understandable by people. There are a few breeders in the Abyssinian breed that really care. They wanted only ruddies, let's say. Alright, that's their option. They're a minority. They are never going to win, if the breed council votes, yet I feel that somehow I personally would like to protect them. If there are some people, like Carissa says, that want to have Persians that don't have these polygenes that were brought in by whatever was used by the pointed gene, I feel that's something that the breeders should have a right to have, and so [inaudible due to electronic disruption] say, "we don't care, we don't want this anymore", fine, and the board also has to have a voice in it, too. We pick up our information from individual breeders, as well as the breed council vote. I hope this is understandable. I just don't think you want to have a blanket decision that no, we're not going to do this anymore based on DNA. **Eigenhauser:** A lot of times we say CPC as a verbal shorthand, but that isn't really what they are looking for. They're looking at the collective set of genes that make up the cat, not just that one gene. What's important for your breed? Are you looking at that one gene or are you looking at that whole line of cats? It's really a breed-by-breed decision, so I would be opposed to any "one size fits all" solution to this. This is something each breed would have to decide. Is this identifying number to identify a line of cats you're concerned with, or is this identifying number specific to that trait that we can genetically test for? The answer may be different, in different breeds. That's the way it's going to have to be handled. **Norm Auspitz:** The issue was not just identifying whatever with this prefix, the issue was the prefixes were not always accurate and they didn't always work. That was not a 20 year old problem, that was an ongoing problem as late as a year ago. Mistakes were made and for new people, they didn't know any different, so when the prefix became unreliable, the information content is actually more dangerous. There's

no substitute for people line chasing and looking at pedigrees to figure out what's going on, rather than relying on a faulty Cobol program that occasionally would glitch and give you the wrong prefix. **Griswold:** As we get more and more DNA tests, this is going to come up in a lot of different areas. One thing about the prefixes, it does appear to me that they were originally put in to try to delineate some of these genetic differences, like for the 8800's for Scottish Fold shorthair, 8600 is longhair carrier, 8400 as longhairs. So, if I find that that prefix is, in fact, genetically wrong, then it does kind of make these prefixes worthless. You can just give them random numbers. They don't need prefixes at all. This has come up a couple times in our breed council meeting, that they would like the option of being able to change something if it is, indeed, not the truth. I know there's plenty of other genetic things that go along with that, but the prefix in and of itself is specifically for longhairs, shorthairs, longhair carriers, and that we now can test whether it is, in fact, wrong. **Petersen:** But the prefix in some cases is not just for pointed, it's to indicate a particular type of heritage that these cats came from. As a dilute Persian breeder, I do not want those other modifier genes that are associated [inaudible due to electronic disruption] pointed gene that I don't want in my own personal breeding. I don't want those modifiers that go along with the history of those cats and I would like to maintain that right to be able to distinguish them. **Miller:** The Scottish Fold example is a perfect example of what we're trying to say. For the Scottish Fold, I totally agree. They accept longhairs, so that's very different from a breed that doesn't accept longhairs, but if they already accept longhairs they are accepting all the genes that go with the longhair, so they want to know what their cats are carrying because it helps in a breeding selection program, so absolutely, the Scottish Fold breeders are totally different than, say, the Persian breeders because they may want in their breeding program to know what the background of their cats is. All you want to know is, does this carry longhair or not? You don't care about the polygenes, so that's an example of why it should be a breed-by-breed decision and no blanket decision that we're going to be doing for every breed. **Johnson:** As DNA tests become more fleshed out and available, and I think that if we look at the dog fancy, they have some things they check for, whether it's traits from their ancestry and/or problems, that they test to make sure they're not breeding animals with problems. As that becomes things that we can rely on and more prevalent, I think it is a breed-by-breed decision. We have a lot of rules of registration that vary a little bit by breed. We're talking about registration based on prefixes, so it seems like we might have a natural place to start including whether DNA is acceptable by breeds. This is just a suggestion, but I would think we could look at that, and I definitely think it's breed by breed, and I would like to encourage people to think about how it would affect their breed or help their breed, and maybe look into this in the future on a breed-by-breed basis. **Anger:** It can't be "one size fits all". This is too personal an issue. In conversations with a geneticist I know, they think it's almost ironic that our value of a DNA test is, what colors do our cats carry? They think in terms of the huge pool of health issues that you're testing for, but our big concern is color. We're losing some of the focus of the DNA process. **Brown:** The important thing to remember is, we need to worry about the accuracy of our pedigree. If and when we get a DNA-based registry, we can require parentage and identity profiles for those cats that we register. Once we do this, then we know that the two parents that are listed on the registration application are accurate. It's inaccuracy in past pedigrees that makes it very difficult to line chase, because there will be mistakes as you pass through the generations. There will be diseases, there will be colors, there will be all sorts of things that shouldn't happen when we look at that pedigree, but they are there because there are parts of the pedigree that

aren't right. Once we have identity and parentage profile and we have a designated letter on the registration number to let you know that that has been proven genetically through DNA tests, it will be much easier to line chase on the pedigrees that we're looking at.

Brown: As part of the closure with Shelterwood Laboratories, the information should be transmitted to Texas A&M. Also as part of the closure, any test that was submitted before the order form was pulled from CatGenes on April 15th is supposed to be finished and a report issued. Again, that's part of the closure agreement, so there will be a transfer of information. We haven't lost the data base, and things will go on, but they will go on in a different laboratory under different hands. **Griswold:** Like I mentioned before, the prefix for Scottish Folds pretty much tells you whether you have a longhair carrier. There's no issues regarding its heritage and where it came from. If we as a breed wanted to do this and send in DNA samples, the way it is now, if we have a longhair carrier that we breed to a longhair carrier, the whole litter is longhair carriers, whether or not it genetically actually is, and I do think there are some people who feel like they would like to have an 8800 prefix if the cat indeed is shorthair only. How would we go about doing this, to allow people to register cats through DNA? **Kusy:** That's something the board would have to address. We can't settle that today, certainly. We would have to establish guidelines and discuss with the breed councils. This originally came from Central Office. They had been approached by a breeder who had proof that the cat did not carry the gene and pretty much demanded that the cat be reregistered. At this point, we don't have guidelines for it, so they wanted to get a feel for what both the board and the breed council secretaries thought. This is opening the dialogue and we'll go forward from here. I hope Allene is getting all this. **Tartaglia:** I am. **Kathy Black:** I can see that breeder's point, but the problem is, you have to prove the cat that was tested was that cat, and that's one issue. Also, like Carissa's point, if you want to prove your cat that you're trying to sell is not a CPC, you could have the cat tested yourself and have that data provided to the person that's going to buy that cat. Again, it would be about proving that that DNA came from that cat. **Miller:** I think what Marilee is asking is very interesting. She is mostly asking, what's the procedure for a breed that doesn't have a big problem with this, and maybe the breeders are willing to test and can they do this? I would think that if a single breed is interested, that the board could set up a procedure. Probably it needs a motion that we would entertain, and I would say that we would not make any decision until the February board meeting on a breed, because the breed council secretary would be there, we would have a chance to ask questions, make sure everything is right, you would have to provide the data, but maybe we could have a motion on Sunday to entertain a breed presenting material and information, asking for this, a single breed. What I don't want to see is any blanket thing. **Johnson:** If there are breed councils that are interested in this, next year's breed ballot would be a place to poll your breed, how interested you are and what your interest is, and then the board would have some information at the February board meeting to address, and possibly the board would think about how a process would work, so you've got an excellent opportunity coming up on your breed council ballots to find out interest in how your breed feels about this as a whole. **Newkirk:** I was going to say the same thing as Peg did about polling your breed council, but modifying your rules of registration. To me, that's the place where you would cover this. **Bellevance:** I'm just asking a point of clarification. For a breed to change its rules of registration, I assume they would have to go through the balloting procedure. Usually, that's just for standards, isn't it? **Miller:** The 60% of the breed council vote for us to even consider a question has to do with standards only. The

board makes decisions on rules for registration for a breed. However, most of us on the board, certainly including myself, will not make any decisions without knowing what the breeders want, so I don't care what the vote is. Not only do we look at the vote, but we talk to breeders, too. We want to hear, we want to get letters, we want to get emails from people about what they really want, because sometimes a single individual in the breed has a lot to say and a lot of knowledge, so in registration rules, it's not just what the majority wants. I want to know what the minority thinks, too. **DelaBar:** Let me address this, and not go to an "I have a dream" type thing, but when we brought up the possibility of having a DNA registry, I looked at this not only through the dog fancy, we've got quarter horse registration, Appaloosa registration – all these are predicated on DNA registry. Even over in Europe, we have individual countries that are already doing what we want to do. It involves DNA, it involves microchipping so other breeders know that this cat with that name and that pedigree and that DNA test are one and the same. We have, for 104 years now, predicated our registry on the hope of honesty and ethics of our breeders. We expect that. That is our anticipation, that this is happening, but now we have so many other things, like diseases come along, that we can breed away from if we do know the DNA of those cats. We don't have to lose gene pools or shrink them down to a level where, all of a sudden we have to formulate outcrossing. This is something that we can work toward and can do [inaudible due to electronic disruption] we get to the level of DNA testing. From Dr. Hoffman at Texas A&M University, this is almost Star Trek 101. **Kusy:** We should probably move on. I think the board and the breed council secretaries have a good feel on this.

4. *From Central Office – they want to combine the breed pamphlets into one, showing all of our accepted breeds. In other words we would no longer have an individual breed pamphlet for each breed, there would be one, all-inclusive pamphlet showing all breeds, with a photo of each and a brief description of the breed.*

Kusy: Please keep an open mind on this. The next one is from Central Office. They would like to combine the breed pamphlets into one. In other words, we would no longer have individual breed pamphlets for each breed. There would just be one all-inclusive pamphlet showing all breeds with a photo and breed description for each breed. Allene, I'll ask you to address it, since this was your idea. **Tartaglia:** As you know, we've been doing the breed council pamphlets for many, many years. We're not able to update them all that often with new pictures, because in order for us to get a good price on them, we have to print a lot. When I say "a lot", 10,000 or 15,000. It's always a guessing game trying to figure out if we need 5,000 of this one, 10,000 Persian, 2,500 American Bobtails. We never get it right, even though we try, so we always have supplies that are not proper. I've also found that, going to the shows, a lot of people will pick up one or two, and then they will put it back and they might look at a couple of others. They're not being exposed to all the different breeds we have. A couple of us have talked about it, and we think if there's one overall pamphlet, it would be 11x17 folded in half, it would expose the public to all the breeds we have, not just one or two that they're already familiar with. All the breed profiles have probably 3 paragraphs that's identical in every single one, and that's about the age that a kitten goes to a new home, don't declaw, responsible ownership and all that, so that would only be mentioned once, and then we would just work with the breed council secretaries to pick up a paragraph of what you really feel is the essence of your breed. We do have a sponsor for this. It would be paid for and we would like you to give that serious consideration because it is quite a change. One other thing is, it would also make it easier for any club or any show to

have a supply of breed information. Instead of having to lay out 40 different breed profiles, they can have one pile, so I think a lot more shows would take advantage of having the pamphlet available. It would be in full color. The only downside that I can see is that instead of having two photos, there would be one, so for those breeds that have two different divisions, longhair and shorthair, it would just be the highest scoring cat for that year and we would be able to print a supply that would last maybe just a year so we would be able to update with the new breed pictures every year. **Rogers:** A question I would have right off the bat would be, how many clubs really avail themselves to this product to begin with, and how does it impact Cats CenterStage and the project Joan is working on, with a folder that's got cats in it now with all our different breeds? **Bizzell:** I heard the words "sponsored and paid for", so I would certainly be in favor of that. **Miller:** I love the idea. Now, we already have the 11x17. I don't know if anybody brought one of these things, but this is what I'm talking about. Each one of them already has a short paragraph with the essence, but I feel it has to be approved by everyone. What I love about it is, I think the public would be interested. However, I would like to go a little bit further. I would like to be sure that there's a website for each of the breeds so the people in the show can go and get all the other pictures and the history and everything else on the breed council website, and also I think that the top 10 breeds, by our registration, should continue to have their own pamphlet. That would be an incentive for you guys to get your cats into the top 10. The media is interested in the top 10. That's what they always are asking about. On Cats CenterStage, we have the rankings of our breeds because that is what many of the media people immediately want to know, so maybe this would be an incentive to get your cats in there if we would have special pamphlets done just for the top 10 breeds, or maybe we could make it the top 15 or whatever, but I think it's a wonderful idea. I think it would be, especially with sponsorship, we already have the platform for it and I think we should definitely move on this. **Mellinger:** I sort of disagree with the top 10, because having minority breeds, the goal is to get them out there. I know you do a lot of education. At our show we have gate. We had 8,000 through our gate this year in San Diego. We give out tons and tons of brochures and pamphlets. It would be very nice to have one – storage and all those good things. **Miller:** One of the things that I had recommended at the board table on Thursday is that we have some recognition for the breeds that are able to up their registrations by say 25% or 30%. Now, if the Selkirk Rex is able to increase their registrations by 25% maybe one of the incentives to do that, maybe instead of the top 10 or in addition to the top 10, if any breed was able to increase their registration by the highest percentage, one of the incentives might be that they get their pamphlet. I agree, the public picks up those pamphlets like crazy. We haven't had booths at the HSUS and some of the other humane conferences in awhile, but we used to and the shelters were just picking them up like crazy, too, so there is a need for the breed profiles but I think that maybe considering the cost and the other things that Allene has mentioned, possibly we have to use that as an incentive for increased registration in a breed, but we do have to consider the rare breeds. I agree with Jan on that. **Bennett:** Would it be possible to do this maybe as a best of both worlds approach – have CFA provide a single 11x17 poster, but provide each of the breed councils the template and allow the breed councils to decide if they want to produce, at their own cost, the individual pamphlets so CFA's expense is limited to all cats and the breed councils determine on their own their needs of pamphlets. **Tartaglia:** Yes, that's possible. **Douglass:** I like the idea of the main pamphlet. I think it's a great idea. It equalizes things for a lot of our small breeds. We are a small breed. I know we don't have a budget to be able to print our own pamphlets at all. I disagree with having a top 10 format,

because there again you are lessening the effect of what we can do to publicize our minority breeds. It's very important for the minority breeds to get themselves out there. We have many breed booths ourselves. We've done that at our expense. We try to push our cats, but it really would be helpful not to have to compete with cats that have more registry than we do, because right now we're struggling and I would rather see an overall equal thing for all the breeds, rather than pick a few breeds out and make that be more important. **Kusy:** Sandi, when Joan said that, I think she meant by percentage. Obviously, we're never going to have as many Siberians as we do Persians, and I'm not picking on the Siberians though it's a smaller breed. We could just never do it by the total numbers. It would have to be by an increase in percentage. **Krzanowski:** I like the idea of one single pamphlet to cover all the breeds, but I disagree also with the top 10 idea. In my experience working at CFA events in the CFA booth, I've found that often the top 10 cats are not the ones most popular with the public as far as the breed pamphlets are concerned. Typically it's more related to which cats might have been used in media coverage, in publicity or in special events related to the show or whatever it is that we're producing, so the top 10 idea might not be a viable one. I also like Jacqui's idea of providing templates to the breed councils and allowing them to print them on their own, if they so wish. **Rogers:** I think you may have misunderstood my original question. Thank you, Jan. I know the big shows do use those brochures quite a bit. My question to Allene was, if CFA is producing it and Cats CenterStage is producing it, are we going to have two of these brochures or are we going to have that wonderful sponsorship money given to Joan Miller so that she can produce it? I don't see any sense having two different brochures and, for what it's worth, most of the Meet the Breeds that we did last year, many of the breeds produced their own folders and passed them out. **Johnson:** I really like the idea. One thing that Jan mentioned early on was, how often do the clubs avail? Getting 40+ breeds is difficult. I think that you would find more clubs availing themselves of these and passing them out to the public. It's all about educating the public and the media and everybody about our sponsors. Jacqui's idea about pamphlets – I don't know about everybody else, but if you're looking for travel information or whatever, so many websites have printable PDF brochures that you can download and I think the template idea can be farther reaching than just a breed council printing the pamphlet. Why not on Cats CenterStage have PDF printable that anybody going out there, if they want a special little color pamphlet on their favorite breed, they can print it, breed councils can avail themselves of it and we can do something where we minimize the need for top 10. We really need to reach out and look at all the possible ways we can reach the public and do printing and make ourselves a financially viable organization, and like Carla, sponsorship, having this paid for by somebody, is excellent for this organization at this time. **Tartaglia:** Joan and I haven't conferred on this, but I think we are talking about one pamphlet, whether it's coming from Cats CenterStage or us sponsored, and probably Joan will agree that it should come from the money we already have to sponsor this. **Miller:** Oh, yes. **Tartaglia:** I think it has already been expressed, but I'm in disagreement with the top 10 pamphlets for the reasons that you've indicated, but also, we're back into the same thing again. How are you going to know what are the right ones to print? If we're doing top 10, I would just as soon do all of them again and not have one that has everything but we've taken out 10 of them. **Miller:** This is one of the reasons these meetings are so great is like the top 10 thing, that's out of my head now. I know that this is not the right thing, but I do like the idea of recognizing the breeds by special pamphlets and I hope we can find a way to do that. One of the comments I would like to make, in developing Cats CenterStage, we're trying very much to think about what appeals to the public. The breeders are

used to using terminology. We all understand minority breeds, but we're trying to use the word "rare breed" and I just wanted to ask if you want to consider this, because rare means very special, it means a connoisseur's type of thing, like a rare piece of art. "Minority breed" is just a word that just doesn't have a meaning for the public. They don't know what you're talking about, like a minority race? What are you talking about? A rare breed means that someone is very discriminating when they are choosing something that's rare and precious, so I would like to ask you if you could possibly consider using the word "rare breed". That's what we're trying to use on Cats CenterStage, because I think that has more appeal to the public. **Rogers:** I have a problem with "rare breeds" only because there are no less than six cat forums right now, including a couple of lists that are rare breeds, and they include the Toygers, Savannahs, Munchkins, what have you, and that's pretty high profile. I'm talking over 600,000 hits since just the beginning of the year on the one forum I'm on, and they have some really strange comments. **Miller:** OK, but there is the confirmation that the word is getting hits. I don't care what they want to call their breeds. I don't care about the Munchkins and the Toygers and that sort of thing. It's obvious that if they're using "rare breed" and that's what is getting the hits, then we're on the right track, so I don't care what they do. My background is in art and a rare piece of art or a rare sculpture has meaning for collectors and connoisseurs of things that are special. **Bock:** My concern with "rare breeds", and I'm really not wild about "minority breeds" myself, but some breeds may be rare in the U.S. but not in other parts of the world. If CFA is an international organization, what happens there? **Miller:** I'm not talking about labeling breeds "rare breeds" or "popular breeds", I'm talking about whenever we feel it's appropriate to use the word "precious breed" or whatever, that we might considering instead of saying, "this is a minority breed in America, as opposed to being a popular breed in Europe", that we say "this is a rare breed in American as opposed to being a popular breed in Europe." I'm not saying we want to designate breeds as being rare, because I completely agree with you. The Norwegian Forest Cat is a perfect example of a breed – and the Siberians, too. I've been to Russia. I've seen lots of Siberians in Russia, but they are still considered rare here. Maybe they won't be rare here very long.

5. *Meet the Breeds – discussion on this year's event, led by David White, Committee Chair.*

Kusy: We should probably move on to the next subject, which is the Meet the Breeds event. David [White] and Claudia [Hasay], could you step up here and sit here with Pam and address it? **DelaBar:** Last year's Meet the Breeds was definitely a media success and is working out to be a better monetary success than originally realized. It's happening again and David, as the Chair, is going to give you some briefings on it. **White:** Yes, actually Claudia and I wanted to officially kick off Meet the Breeds for 2010 and officially invite our breed council secretaries and members to participate in it. I know we had a lot of breed council member participation, but I'm just curious how many breed council secretaries had an opportunity to attend last year. Wow, that's great. Excellent. So, you all know what fun we had at last year's event. We're looking to have the same momentum going for 2010. Just so that everyone is aware the event will take place and has the exact date, October 16th and 17, 2010, the same weekend that we had it last year. Jacob Javitz Center is the forum that we're going to be using similar to last year. However, we're going to be in a different location than the space that we were in last year, because that's going to be under renovation. From what I'm told, it's going to be the same area but a little further north than we were last year, so I'm being told that it's going to be a much bigger venue that we're

going to be using next year. In terms of our communication, we will be using the Yahoo Group list like we did last year, so I assume that everyone is signed up for that Yahoo Group list. If you're not, we will be using the sign-up sheet that's going around now to make sure we get everyone signed up. That's where we're going to be warehousing all the information that you will need in order to be up to date on our progression with Meet the Breeds. **Hasay:** Welcome back to everybody who jumped off the high board with me last year and did this for the first time. As those of you who participated last year remember, we had a lot of unknowns going into this event. The big discussion was, "four wheel carts versus two wheeled carts, could we use them, could we not use them?" It turned out we could use the four wheels, but the people who did ran into some problems because of the single freight elevator and all of the dog people and all of their stuff that they need to wheel out. If you use a two wheel cart, you can go right up the escalator. One of the unknowns that we faced was, how the cats are going to behave, how they were going to react to the noises, the dogs. For those of you who weren't there, the noise was incredible. When they were running the fly ball competition, the barking, the cheering, it was massive and the cats were terrific. I didn't run into anybody who had a problem with their cats. For those of you who are going to go for the first time, I think you will be shocked at the response you get from the people. They are so pleased to be able to come up and meet your cats, and touch your cats. The thank you's were incredible. The little kids running up to your table saying, "where's the hand cleaner? I want to touch this cat." I think it stunned everybody how well it went. One of the unknowns that was not so pleasant was the bill at the end. New York being a union city and the Javitz Center being a total union shop, there are ridiculous charges and ridiculous restrictions, what you can and cannot do. Do not be caught with a screwdriver. This is *verboten*. We have not yet gotten a pricing list as to what items are going to cost us this year. The initial feeling we're getting is, it is going to be dramatically different. We got billed for labor charges. For all of those wonderful, helpful men who said, "sure, I'll go get you another table," well there was a catch at the end of that. I'm going to give you a head's up that hopefully we're wrong and this is not the case, but we could be looking at charges of \$100-\$150 per table. So, for some of you who had booths that were lined with tables and used a lot of double cages, you may have to rethink your strategy. This year, everyone's stipend is going to be \$1,000. However, as we took \$100 off last year from the original \$2,000 stipend, this year the bus transportation will not be deducted. That has been budgeted separately, and as you all know, the busses from Secaucus worked really well for everyone. You will have the booth space, which will be a table and two chairs, and you are 10x10. Because we're still waiting on a pricing list, I cannot give you the cost yet for the second booth space. I know a lot of you have indicated to me already that you would like to increase and go to the double booth space. As soon as we get those bits of information, I will relay that to you. I have handed out sign-up sheets with email addresses. Please write clearly. I've already had a couple of your email addresses bounce. Maybe some of you have changed from last year's list. I'm clearing off everyone who was on the site last year. We're going to start from scratch, because a lot of those people have fallen off, didn't participate or are no longer involved. Anyone who would like additional people added to the list, you can send me an email. You all have my address. It is claudiahasay@mac.com I'll include that when I send out the recap of this conversation. I'm more than willing to put anybody up there who you think is important to have, but just try not to include the world. **Mellinger:** I'm saying this because I wasn't there. I'm not the breed council secretary and I was not there, but at our breed council meeting this morning, there was a request for more logistics, issues put out ahead of

time. **Hasay:** Last year was a learning experience for everyone. The communication vehicle was a little slow to get started. Once we had it up and running, I think it worked very effectively. You guys were terrific about sharing sources and sharing information and sharing ideas with each other. I know that that's going to continue. We are looking to have all 41 of our recognized breeds represented this year. I will relay the information as I receive it. Again, we're going through AKC in a different way this year as far as the unions and the labor are concerned. Hopefully, it will help to reduce some of the drayage charges, working in a larger group format. That's the hope at this point, and we should be getting that information shortly. I hope to have the Yahoo Groups site up and running the first week in July. I'll have all of your information, we'll put everybody on it. We'll send out a welcoming email. As you have questions, especially those who did not participate last year and those breeds that were not able to make it, please feel free to talk to me here, talk to me online. I'm pretty good about getting back to everyone. I'm more than willing to hold your hand and answer all those questions that we went through over and over and over again last year. **Heidt:** I was there last year. It was a great time. The hardest part for me was, I'm kind of a do'er. I am the show manager for a lot of shows and I was not allowed to touch our tables, to get my own chair, to do anything. Anytime I tried to do something, some guy was right there saying, "you can't do that, you can't do that, you can't do that." So, we sat around and had to wait a really, really long time to be able to set up our booth, because we didn't have it skirted, we couldn't move the tables until they skirted it, so it's just really frustrating when we wanted to save money and do things ourselves, but we couldn't do anything. **Hasay:** One of the problems that happened is, the Javitz Center is a convention center that is used to doing a lot of trade shows, and when they have a set-up day, you have Joe's CD Booth coming in. He comes in by himself and they have a guy there and he goes and gets him his table and his chairs, and it's fine. They were not expecting to have 34 people walk in simultaneously with the booth done at the exact same time. That completely floored them. They had no idea. When I arrived, I had a single table that was the wrong size and nothing else. I have to say, the guys were terrific. I mean, everybody was set up within an hour or so of our arrival Friday, but it did take them off guard, too, that we all came en masse in one wave, so knowing that that's the situation, maybe we stagger how we go in. Now everybody knows how long it took them to set it up the first time. It will probably take less time to set up this time. I know some of you are going to make changes. I know the Maine Coon booth had a lot of tables around the perimeter with a lot of double cages for all those big cats. I on the other hand with the Devons had one table with one cage with 5 cats in it, sleeping on top of each other. It was a different set-up for me. Some of you may have to rethink what you do. Some of you may decide some things worked better than others. As a general observation, I would say the booths that were the most graphic and simple attracted a lot of attention. The spectators don't care if it's a national winner or a DM. It means nothing to them. You could bring your most rank cat, and they are thrilled to see them and meet them. It's all about meeting the cats and their personality, and that's what we want to get across. **Graafmans:** Sorry if I missed this. One table for the standard set-up or two? **Hasay:** One table and two chairs. **Graafmans:** Are we going to have a place where all of the salient information is going to be placed, so that you know where the hotel is and the phone number and the address, and we know all these things? That list got very chatty last year and my finger heads to the delete button really quick when we start getting chatty like that. **Hasay:** I don't know if people didn't realize it or didn't use it, but there were document sections on the Yahoo site. There were calendars there. I posted on the calendar dates when things were due. I

would send you an email saying this stuff is up there. You need to use the site a little more.

Graafmans: For example, I was under the understanding that I would have 4 foot curtains between the booths and we ended up with 8 foot, so I didn't provide enough materials. **Hasay:**

That's because you deleted too many emails. **Graafmans:** You're exactly right. **Hasay:** That was something that I threw back to the group – did you want the 4 foot or would you be more happy with an 8 foot size? The majority went for the 8 foot size, so that was changed because it worked better. **Graafmans:** It was the right decision, it's just some of us have real jobs. Thank you.

Bennett: There were some questions last year. Were we going to be getting some guidance on which cats, what type of cats, because there were questions last year about whether we could or should bring AOV's, should not bring AOV's. Are we going to have all this fairly clearly delineated ahead of time, so we can give people the information so there's no confusion? **Hasay:** Yes, you will, and I will let Mr. White give you the answer. **White:** Yes, we were going to speak to that. There was a little confusion last year, so I want to make it perfectly clear this year that obviously we are looking to have all 41 breeds represented at Meet the Breeds. However, we only want to have in representation at the event the 41 breeds that can be shown in championship status, so I just want to make that perfectly clear. In addition, I want to make sure that, as I mentioned, we want as many breeds represented, so we're hoping that the breed councils are going to step up, based on the huge success from last year. However, if there is a breed council that is unwilling to participate, we will open it up to any breed clubs under that particular breed to participate, similar to last year. As many of you know, the Havana Brown breed club did step up and participate, and we did have the Havana Browns present last year as a result, so we will open it up to breed clubs in the event the breed councils are unable to attend. **Bellevance:** I heard you mention that you wanted just the one double cage and table, or is that all that's going to be paid for? **Hasay:** That's what you're going to get as a base. You can order whatever you want, including electricity. That whole pricing list will be up there, and then you can allocate your money as best suits you. There were breed councils that spent a good portion of their money on transportation. There were some breed councils that spent nothing on transportation and put the whole \$2,000 to the booth. Again, it's what works best for you to showcase your breed.

Bellevance: OK, that works fine for me. It's just that my experience from last year is, I had 8 cats there and it was a darn good thing. I think that was a perfect number. For anybody who had fewer cats, the cats were probably very tired and were just sleeping. People had to almost ask you if they were still alive. I don't see myself putting them underneath the table in carriers. I think it was just better. The other question I had is, as you mentioned, about perhaps buying double booths. I would like to see the option of perhaps sharing a double booth with somebody else. I personally think a 20 foot booth is too big, but the 10 foot was too narrow. People would come in and then you would be squeezing and have to try to work your way out, so 15 foot would work perfect for me. **Hasay:** That's something I will investigate. We're dealing with a union shop. They can be instructed that they can only put 10 foot increments of pipe and drape up. I have no idea. I don't want to say you can do that, but I will certainly look into it. **Norman Auspitz:** One of the problems we had last year early on, and I hope this is fixed, is there appeared to be a lot of slowness, even after the group was up, about getting information out to us. The reports for meetings, minutes, recaps of this meeting, it was very late in the game, because we don't have a lot of time between now and October, so I'm hoping now that you've been through it once, that you're a whole lot more on the ball and going to communicate a whole lot more, and let us know when you put these things up there, because I didn't know some stuff was up there because no

email was ever sent or at least if it was sent, it was never received. I'm just hoping, now that the learning experience is over, that we're going to be more communicative. **Placchi:** I just wanted to set the record straight. The Havana Brown Breed Council will be participating this year.

Griswold: I'll admit we weren't there last year and I have to say that I'm a little bit sad that our money is going down this year. I don't know if there's any way that for breeds that did not participate last year to get the \$2,000 to try to get this booth up and running. Part of what was hard for us is, a lot of our breeders (a) are kind of dwindling, and (b) are way far away from New York, so maybe this year, we will try to hook up with the Brits, who also weren't there last year. In order for me to go present this to my breed council again, now I'm going to have \$1,000 to try to get everybody there and we didn't make a backdrop or anything last year because we weren't there. I don't know if there's a way for breeds that didn't participate to maybe be able to tap into more resources? No? **Hasay:** What I can try and help you do is, we found a lot of sources for things that are remarkably inexpensive. A lot of people found online banner and print sources. I had an 8x3 foot banner done. I think it cost \$60, full graphic color with grommets. You can do a lot with a little, if you really put some thought into what you want, something that's eye catching. It doesn't have to be elaborate and it doesn't have to be expensive, if it's well thought out.

Another example, the Somalis last year decided that they were unable to participate and one individual said, "I am local, I can do it" but they didn't take a booth. What they did was speak to the Abyssinian people and brought a Somali, who was then exhibited in the Abyssinian booth, so they did work together and they did share expense to a certain degree. Maybe that is something that we can work out. **Petersen:** I had a couple questions that came up this morning in our breed council meeting. One, is there going to be any significant increase in the cost of electric hook-up?

White: Again, we don't have the price list yet. I had a conversation with Allene this morning, and we do expect to have that next week. Once we get that, that is one thing that we will post on the Yahoo Group list under files. We mentioned earlier one thing that will be drastically different in terms of, if you compare this year's price list versus last year, it would be inclusive of all the labor charges, so that's the reason why you are going to see a tremendous spike in all the fees associated with everything that we utilized last year, because it will be inclusive of that labor charge. **Petersen:** The second thing was, last year the people who were doing the Persian booth found that they were getting requests to have their cats go to other activities that were taking place, and if that's going to happen again, like, "Could you bring a cat to the grooming? Could you bring a cat for here?", we would like to know that ahead of time so we're more prepared to have sufficient cats available for these various activities. **White:** Certainly. One of the things that I wanted to mention also, we do plan on recognizing the top 5 booths next year, so instead of having AKC do the best booth design, we're going to be recognizing the top 5 booths on the CFA side. **Hasay:** Most of those demo-type things were handled by Geri Fellerman, who worked as the event coordinator last year. That aspect of her participation is changing. It's going to now go through Allene and David and I. Geri is focusing on a different thing, so there will be more communication around that, so that should alleviate some of that. One of the things that we would really like to do is make the feline side of the show a bit more dynamic. To that end, I really want to see the agility ring bumped up. I have already spoken with Jill Archibald and what we would like to do is have you guys bring as many cats that will run agility. On Sunday we would like to have a run-off and make a big deal out of it. A final time trial for the end and have an award. Jill is going to start pulling kids out and teaching them how to get the cat to jump a hurdle. They will get a badge that says they ran cat agility. I would like to know, how many

people have cats that fetch? Would you like to see a fetch contest? Take your cat in, you've got 10 tosses, see who brings back the most. If we're honest, there's a heck of a lot more going on in the dog side than there is on our side. The cats are beautiful and people love to see them, but they've got all that other stuff. The dog side has Earth dog, they have jumping dogs, they have running dogs, they have barking dogs. It's a bit more vibrant. I would like to see us come up with some things to compete with that, so anybody who has any ideas along that line would be terrific. Also, the cat idol aspect is going to be handled differently. We're not going to have the public vote on their favorite cat until the end. We're going to have some judges walking around speaking to everybody with their little pads, looking very official, and they will call as a surprise the cats that they want to display at the end and have the public vote, so that will be something else that's a little different and hopefully a little more dynamic. **Gregory:** I want to ask on behalf of the Ragamuffin about a comment David just made. We were looking forward to participating this year. You just mentioned something about the 41 championship breeds, so are we or are we not going to have a chance to participate this year? We were looking forward to participating. **White:** We'll take that back to the board and I'll get back to you. **DelaBar:** I just got a clarification. It's breeds that we register, not championship only, so yes to the Ragamuffins. **Hasay:** Thanks everybody. I'm looking forward to it.

6. *Other topics?*

DelaBar: One last thing, I brought this to the board the other day. Many of you may already be aware of the World Cat Congress. I will be on my last year as president of the World Cat Congress coming up. One thing we are doing – all of the organizations that are members of the World Cat Congress will be submitting various things. One the things is a comparison of the breeds and the breed standards across all organizations. There is a template and I will make sure it goes to Breeds and Standards and gets to you. There are things you've never heard of that are considered breeds by some of these organizations, but we're going through this alphabetically, so of course Abyssinians, American Bobtails and all of those will be first. It's just a template form and I wanted you to be aware, so you don't feel like you have been blind sided when you are asked for this information.

Kusy: I counted 35 breeds that were represented. I think that's the best representation we ever had. I think you should give yourselves a hand. <applause>

DelaBar: Thank you all. We haven't always agreed, but I have enjoyed working with you. Thank you for your commitment to your breeds.