

(56) INTERNATIONAL DIVISION MEETING.  
Saturday, June 30, 2011

**International Division Chair Mr. Newkirk** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the following representatives present, in addition to the CFA Board of Directors.

**Asia:** Russell Law, [unidentified female], Phebe Lo, Matthew Lee, Suki Lee, Chloe Chung, Edmund Tang, Christine Lam.

**Europe:** Henny Wintershoven, Kenny Currle, Liz Watson, [unidentified couple], Monique van Eijk, Jos Wintershoven, George Cherrie, Arie Groenewegen, Reto Gfeller

**Hamza:** Good morning. I'm not sure where Darrell is. Maybe he overslept a little bit, but we'll start with – he's what? **Meeker:** He's at the Aby breed council meeting. **Hamza:** OK. Well, you know, he knows this meeting is scheduled. Anyway, my first question is to our friends in Europe. I'm a little baffled why you're here. I'm glad you're here, but you're a full-fledged region in CFA. I don't mind you being here. I'm just wanting you at some point real soon to start thinking of yourselves as not the International Division anymore. I guess we'll start with you. Do you have any issues you would like to address? **Kenny Currle:** Europe wants to say good-bye. That's why we're here. **Hamza:** Oh, wonderful. Well, I have a question. Did you bring a cake? **Wintershoven:** No cakes anymore. **Hamza:** OK, well please. We're listening. **Currle:** The only thing I wanted to say. Two years ago, in your first term, Jerry, one of the goals that you had set forward, we wanted to make Europe our new Region 9. Good things have happened in that two years of time. This was the first show season in Europe where they really didn't have to leave the continent of Europe to get in 100 rings, which tells you the number of entries and number of shows they have been putting on there. We need to thank a lot of people who organized it in Europe, such as Henny and her crew, the people from Russia, they have just done a fantastic job. This year, we experienced our first shows in the Middle East – one in Kuwait which I attended along with Rachel. Pam participated in the first show in Israel. The board recently accepted a new club in Egypt and we look for expansion in those areas. We may have to wait awhile before we have our first show in Egypt until things calm down. I do want to thank the board. I guess about 2 years ago, right after Jerry got in, with the move of Central Office, we got way behind on registrations, due in large part because of communication between Europe and the Central Office. My suggestion was that they appoint somebody as the intermediary for translation purposes, and you people made the wise decision to bring Monique into the fold. [applause] I just want to personally thank Darrell, Pam, Dick and yourself, Jerry, for the honor of representing CFA overseas. We plan on bigger and better things in the future. Thank you for supporting us.

**Hamza:** OK. We'll address the Asian constituency. Do you folks have anything you would like to address, with the board being here? **Phebe Lo:** After Europe has become the new Region 9, I think we will be the next focus on how Asia and Latin America becomes the next region, but I think it will be a long way to go because the quarantine issue in Asia is a very, very big issue because the cats cannot travel around the countries for competing. So, I think the next thing we have to do is solve this issue before we can move forward. **Hamza:** Dick, do you have any thoughts on how maybe we can help with the quarantine issues? **Kallmeyer:** We've been meeting with a lot of the government officials, but there's a lot of impediments. First of all, we

have no entry into mainland China, and that Hong Kong is extremely strict in regard to the quarantine. In fact, Hong Kong, I think the only country they can really go to is Malaysia to exhibit. So, Hong Kong has been effectively isolated. There's certain areas like Taiwan and Singapore, where they can't go anywhere, so we have that issue, as well. So, until we can get government involvement to put on shows, maybe a passport specifically for shows, I think we're going to have severe problems. I know Russia wants to talk about possibly awards in Hong Kong or regional awards within Asia itself. South America is isolated. You know, where do they go? I'm happy to report, this year the 25<sup>th</sup> best cat is from South America, so they are penetrating. We had a lot of Asian cats shown by either Americans or Europeans penetrating, but we do have problems competing across. While Hong Kong and Malaysia are isolated, China is growing like crazy and they're having a lot of shows, so it's going skew the results. So, the answer is, we don't have an answer right now on how to bring in these areas. We also have a problem in the Middle East. How do they compete in this large region? **Hamza:** Is there a way we can open up dialogue with the Chinese government? **Kallmeyer:** We can try. I think we need somebody from mainland China with political connections, to open up. **Hamza:** Is there somebody we have access to in mainland China that may be able to open a door? **Russell Law:** May I say a word? **Hamza:** Yes. **Law:** Actually, what I think is that if you agree that the governments in Asia can do things for us, we may have to wait for another 200 years. That's not going to happen. Actually, the way I understand it for the last couple years, people like Dick and Bob have tried very hard to negotiate. If I use the word "negotiate", with AFC – that's the government that looks after all these kinds of things in Hong Kong – and they have been very, very strict about countries of high registrations like China. That's the major problem we have now. I've been in the cat fancy for more than 10 years, and the problem is that, I'm not trying to disrespect Hong Kong, but if you look at Hong Kong it's miserable. I mean, we once had 400+ cats in a show, to such an extent that we attracted all the national campaigners – major national campaigners to Hong Kong to compete. Up to the time now, we will be very, very lucky to have 150 cats in the show. UFO, my club, which has been established over 2-1/2 years from now, in the initial few shows – we have run actually more than 11 shows, actually 12 in the time span of 2-1/2 years – and for the first maybe 3 or 4 or 5 shows, we had about 200 cats. The previous 4 shows, it's very hard for us to get to 130, including everything. So, you can see the sort of ? in Hong Kong from 400+. I remember back in the Hong Kong Cat Lovers' Society shows back maybe 4, 5, 6 years ago, in championship alone we had 195 cats. There was one show back in I think 2007, no 2007, we had top 15 finals in every category. That was awesome. I remember a judge commenting that just the Exotic Shorthair class in Hong Kong would be much larger than many of the championship classes in other clubs around the world. So, you are seeing a major downturn to such an extent. I don't see any major change from the government regarding all these quarantine controls. That's not going to happen. Trust me. I've been dealing with these people for a long time, as well, and it's government being government. I think it's the same everywhere. They just don't want to change. Unless you get the head of the AFC involved in the cat fancy, and I don't think that's going to happen. The second thing is, the second thing apart from the quarantine control over Asia – I mean Europe, the way I understand, because I was the first exhibitor to show my cat in Europe back in 2006, and Europe is never compartmentized in such a way. Maybe you have a department in eastern Europe, but Europe has never been compartmentized. You have never had any granting control, but in Asia, like Dick said, Taiwan cats can never travel. Singapore cats, forget about it. In Hong Kong, whenever our cats travel to what the AFC classifies as free

countries, Thai included, Indonesia included, ? included, we cannot come back or we will face another at least 4 or 5 months guaranteed quarantine control. Literally you have to put your cats in the quarantine center by the government for 4 months. You don't want to do it. Likewise, I actually had a chance to show my cats in China about 2-1/2 years ago. How I did it, I sent the cat to Malaysia and that cat never returned to Hong Kong for about a year. In that year, the cat went to Thailand, went to China, went actually to ? as well to compete. After this stage, I still don't understand. I mean, I try to get information about this Chinese quarantine law and I just couldn't get anything. I don't understand why there are some people who manage to get into China without much problem. If you look at some of the advice from friends in China, there is ? guaranteed for a month in China. To my understanding, some people just find a way to get around it. Not me, obviously. Not my friends, obviously. So, we need to look at these things. Otherwise, in Hong Kong the CFA cat fancy is dying. I am looking at this very reasonably. We have more clubs. Maybe we have more shows in the past 4, 5 or 6 years, but if you look at the number of cats and you look at the number of exhibitors, I have seen a lot of exhibitors when I started, disappearing. I actually have a number of friends from back about 10 years ago that they haven't been competing for awhile and they disappeared. It looks that way. It looks that way. Plus, the problems in the system of grand points needed to grand cats. I mean, two seasons ago CFA raised the bar in Hong Kong to grand cats. We used to have the 25/75 system – 25 points to grand premiership cats and 75 for championship cats – 6, 7 years ago and then it was raised to 50/125, whereas the rest of Asia still enjoys this 25/75 system. If you look at the number of shows in China and the number of cats they have, that's something I find very, very hard to comprehend. If you look at the number of grands in Asia, I think China takes up 80%, so that's another point I want to raise, to look at. I'm not saying we are changing it literally now, but this is a couple things I think we need to look at if we want to make it a fair game. And one more thing that I'm raising at the moment. I don't know if you guys want to give it some thought, but the International Division, in the past it was one International Division. In 2005, 2006, then the European and Asian Divisions sort of happened, so we have our own set of division awards for Asia, and Europe had their own set of awards. So, you have these International Division – Asia, Latin America and Europe. I don't know if this will work, but what about International Division – China? Sort of separate China from the rest of the International Division, so make it fair again for the others. Therefore, those people who are willing to compete and people who disappeared, and the new-bees to think it's a fair chance. If you look at the number of exhibitors we see in championship, 80%, 85% lives in China. The same thing happened to kittens. We in Hong Kong are very lucky because maybe the mainland [inaudible] but that's how it goes. Alright. That's all I have to say.

**Kallmeyer:** A few comments. I think Russell is right on about the grand points. I think Mary K and Monte are looking at the analysis and what we've found is that Indonesia, China, Malaysia and possibly Thailand should at least be brought up to Hong Kong [scoring] right away. In fact, we've seen three times the number of one-show grands in all of Asia, and some of those have actually been higher in Hong Kong than we see in the rest of the world, as well. I don't think Hong Kong points need to be raised, but the other countries, too. **Hamza:** I think there should be parity. **Kallmeyer:** Yeah. I think in that area – Taiwan, Korea, Singapore, since they are encapsulated. **Law:** [inaudible] **Kallmeyer:** Right. One of the problems we have in basically compartmentalizing the different countries is, how many awards we're going to give across the

countries and where do we cut it? And, do we include Malaysia with Hong Kong, because you can travel back and forth, and if you do so, you can't go anywhere else. We have China standing alone. Do we throw Thailand as part of it? The quarantine laws become very significant. We did talk to the Chinese authorities about the quarantine laws. One unfairness is that if I am a Chinese resident, not an ex-pat, is that I can actually do more than if I'm a foreigner going into China. Like, if I'm Thai or Malaysian, I have one set of quarantine requirements, but if I reside in China I have a different set. So, there's definitely problems in China because the number of new clubs and the number of new cats shown is really going to sway the whole region. We had the problem in the Middle East and South America. They're really isolated. They might not be quarantine isolated, but where do you go for shows? **Hamza:** They're geographically isolated. **Kallmeyer:** Geographically isolated. We can increase, let's say, the locations you could go to we could open up possibly Europe to earning regional points for Hong Kong or Asia, but then we get other problems about other regions crossing the boundaries. So, we have a lot of problems there. I think we need some hard numbers. You ought to get John Chin in Malaysia to really start analyzing that. I know he did it one time, but like I said, what would Hong Kong think if maybe we restricted the number of shows in Hong Kong – or, of awards. Maybe 10 awards, rather than 25 or so that we're giving to Asia and do that with China. Would something like that work? **Law:** I do think Hong Kong, the advantage is on them [inaudible] in that regard. **Kallmeyer:** Where do we set the boundaries? The only country I think we could include with Hong Kong would be Malaysia, just because you can go back and forth to a certain extent. **Hamza:** Dick, is your concern devaluing the DW? **Kallmeyer:** Right. **Lo:** How about we cut the number of rings in the winners? Just like the national winners, they have to 100 rings for the highest scoring. Would it be feasible to apply such rules on the number of rings in our DW? **Hamza:** Aren't they on the same system we are? **Kallmeyer:** Yeah. It's the same computer system. Anything is programmable, whether it's – I mean, we can make it work, but do we want to have it separate between the two areas? **Hamza:** You know, what I think is if we do go down that route, we try to maintain the number of DWs that are coming out now, but just allocate it differently. Like you said, maybe Hong Kong gets a top 10. **Kallmeyer:** The best statistician in CFA is sitting over there [Monte Phillips], and maybe it's something that Monte would want to try and tackle, and look at alternatives there. Maybe there is a way to take the relative points in different regions and somehow prorate places or normalize across the area. It would definitely be a different solution for Asia than doing it anywhere else. **Hamza:** In a way, we have reduced the International Division down to one area, so it gives us a little more flexibility. Do you think you and Monte could have some sort of statistical analysis done by the August board meeting? **Monte Phillips:** August? No sweat. **Hamza:** I love no sweat. **Kallmeyer:** OK. Now, is there somebody from Asia that wants to work with him? Russell, could you provide philosophical guidance to Monte? **Law:** Oh, philosophy. **Kallmeyer:** How's your statistics? **Law:** I do have philosophy [inaudible], but yeah, I think actually we have some of those winning campaigners here and then we have the first judge in Asia here. We talk about it all the time. I do think it's desirable for those Hong Kong campaigners to be pointed out. We don't want that to happen, because we travel. We love to travel, it's just that the number of countries, places, cities that we can travel to, it's [inaudible]. That's why the idea to travel like 1,000 kilometers to Europe to show once – the first time I appeared in Europe, friends kept asking, "Russell, why are you here?" I said, "well, to score points." Scoring more points – points which I bring back to Asia. Yes, that's strange, but there are people like Chloe, who is more even crazier. But, that's not the problem. The problem is, we

just cannot move, literally, so I think in view of the ever-growing and developing huge dragon country – China – the way you look at it, if you look at the size of China, it's bigger than all the countries of Europe added together, and if you look at the number of clubs in China, I have no idea exactly how many clubs are there, but if you look at it, I'm quite positive to say the number of clubs in China is more than the rest of Asia together. So, I mean, I know. A couple years ago, the mainland Chinese actually were whining about Hong Kong and the fact that we won most of the DWs, but we only knew, that's temporary. That would be very, very temporary. I sort of – I made a sort of prediction that China would take over Asia like – they would dominate, and this is what happened now. Obviously, the number of exhibitors, the number of cats, the number of clubs and shows in China, they are growing. At the same time, I don't know if that is necessarily the reason, but at the same time, the number of shows, the number of new exhibitors are decreasing in the rest of Asia, the way I look at it – maybe not in the Malaysia because they are still in a growing stage, but even if Malaysia, if you ask John Chin, my first show with my kitten in Malaysia back in 2006, I think that the shows back then were actually bigger count-wise. It would be very hard for a Malaysian show nowadays to meet 100 cats, including everything – HHP included. So, look at it. I think if we can look at China in a different perspective, I think all the people here don't really object to the idea that Hong Kong is part of Asia, it is including Malaysia, it could include Taiwan, but China – I'm sorry. It's just that they are too dominant at the moment. We feel that we are so helpless, in a sense. Even in Malaysia, they feel the same thing. Actually, I'm not just speaking for myself. I had a bit of discussion with all these people around Asia on FaceBook and asked them what do they want me to talk about – being part of it, being part of this big family. I have always considered myself a member of this big family of CFA in Asia – not just Asia, actually; CFA global. So, I want to raise these concerns for everybody to think about it this way and see the dominance of China over the last 12 months, or maybe the last 24 months or so, and it will continue to happen, it will continue to show its effects in the next 12 to 24 months, as time goes on.

**Kallmeyer:** I think we have another problem, too. If we isolate China, the remaining people – Hong Kong, Malaysia – will look like the elephant to the Middle East, Africa and South America, as well. So, where do we set the balance? **Law:** I think it may work that way. Isolate is not a good word, but the International Division – bracket – Europe, International Division – bracket- Asia, I think it could be the same thing. I don't see why not, as a philosopher, if you like. **Kallmeyer:** I think what we need, too, Phebe, you might talk to the other countries, besides Hong Kong. Malaysia, Indonesia, bring them in, as well. China we definitely have some unique problems, maybe even one of creative exhibiting, as well, that we probably have to solve. If we break it out, remember, we're going to have three regional awards, and the question is, you know, do we want 60 Divisional Winners in championship, or maybe reduce that quantity to top 15? Think about that, too, what's tolerable, but I think you need evidence to bring back to us. You will have to coordinate among the different groups. **Lo:** Maybe by the end of July, we have the Awards Banquet and show. Many reputable breeders and exhibitors from China and Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, they will come. I will call a meeting and discuss this with them. **Kallmeyer:** And then, Liz and Ken, I think we need to somehow get that information from the Middle East, the Egypt club and South America, how we can really start building a cohesive unit there.

**Kallmeyer:** I want to make a comment, too, about the large shows in Hong Kong. That's not a unique thing that we've seen. You know, in the beginning, Hong Kong had 1 or 2 shows, and the shows were enormous and people brought them in. Then, as we gradually start developing new shows in an area, you find the average size goes down quite a bit. That happens in the U.S. at times, too, that you have those A Class shows that just dominate, but as you have more smaller shows, people like to win more and they feel they can acquire more. They don't like the large shows anymore. **Lo:** One other situation in Hong Kong, from the grand show to now the small show because of the sponsorship. Commercial sponsorship has lowered down more and more, because they focus on pet fairs than only sponsor a cat show. That is the main problem, that we cannot get any commercial sponsor money-wise. We only get the prizes.

**Kallmeyer:** For the board, what we see in Asia is that sponsorship from commercial ventures is extremely important there. In the United States, we really try for it but in Asia sometimes they cannot put on shows unless they have it. **Hamza:** We may be able to help. We're just starting to get some contacts with the companies we deal with in their offshore divisions. I can't promise anything, but I can tell you that we have opened some of those doors just recently. At the very least, we've got dialogue going, and that's a good thing. What the fruit of that dialogue will be, I can't tell you. **Law:** I personally would love to have more than 12 shows in actually the last 24 months. I do think sponsorship is a step critical. I'm not saying it's easy for us to find sponsorship, but as quoted from [inaudible]. I think if there's hope, there will be money, there will be the kind of spirit, there will be the kind of effort to put shows together, if there's hope. So, that's actually what our main concern is. If we can see a way out and we have to hold that, if we try for things, we'll get something out of it, then I think we are always more than happy to get more shows on. I'm sure that would be same situation to other clubs, as well. But, there has to be hope. That has to be the main concern that we have at the moment. I'm not looking for a resolution today, because it's not realistic, but I hope it is put down in some for [inaudible] has to review seriously, as well. **Hamza:** Ann, would you just tell Bob that I want him to earmark 5 of the sponsorships for the Asian Division? That's a start, but it will – now that I know it's that important, in next year's budget I'll see if I can increase the sponsorship in the Asian Division.

**Hamza:** At this point, I want to do something that I wasn't able to do before. This is Darrell's last International Division meeting, and he has been so instrumental in keeping the International Division alive in CFA. I just want to recognize Darrell's efforts. [standing ovation] **Newkirk:** I'll just say that it has been an honor to serve in this position for 8 years. I couldn't have done it without a good, strong committee and a lot of really, really hard working people working behind the scenes. They've done a great, great job. I expect great things from Asia, OK? You guys are going to do good, so just keep up the hard work. That's what it takes – perseverance and hard work. Europe did it. That was my goal when I took over the committee, to get them as a region, and they did that. Now, it's time for someone else to assume this chair and work on Asia and get you guys in as a region, OK? **Hamza:** And what Darrell said, it depends on how you look at your problems. If you look at them as obstacles that you can overcome, you will. If you look at them as impediments you can't overcome, you won't. So, you have to have a can-do attitude. Europe faced incredible challenges, but they overcame them and we know you have large challenges. We're hearing you. Rachel, I would like you to put on the August agenda that we start talking about their request for divisional, I guess, realignments and I'm going to do what I can for club sponsorships. We know there's more, but it's a work in progress. **Newkirk:** I also

think that we understand that right now the way the International Division is structured, based on Europe becoming a region, the bulk of the International Division is in Asia right now. We've got some activity in the Middle East, and we've got a little bit of activity in South America. So, the bulk of the work will be with Asia right now. In my last committee report, I restructured the committee somewhat to meet the new delineation of how the International Division is set up. So, Liz is over South America, and then Kenny Currie I put in as over the Middle East. Kenny seems to work really good with getting those new areas set up and running, and so I thought he was the man for the job. Whoever takes over the chair, obviously, will be able to appoint the people they think best suits the needs, so at that point in time you will know what your committee structure is going to be and who your contact person will be. So, those ID lists that I set up and own right now will be transferred over to whoever that new person is and I'll take myself off. I'm not quitting. I love you guys, OK? So, I'm here to help. If you have problems, please, I welcome to talk to any of you at any time, OK?

**Kallmeyer:** Russell and Phebe, I think your task now is to do some research and figure out what those trigger points are, maybe in awards, suppose we did set up those sub-areas. Do some heavy thought. We don't want to give you two awards in Hong Kong because you're a small area, but I mean, what numbers would you like to see, from your side? I would also like to bring up an issue that there were allegations of, let's say, events in China shows and possibly other areas about phantom cats and point out that we will have anonymous, random auditors possibly visiting shows to ensure that the counts are accurate, just as a warning. **Hamza:** It's important that the shows you run are legitimate and beyond reproach. You folks are the next people in line. Europe has come through the door, and that puts an emphasis on Asia. That has two responsibilities. The first responsibility, Phebe, you're going to have to get your organization forward so that there's open communication with the board, so we can address your needs and help you grow into the role of the next region of CFA. Part of that growth, there's a responsibility and you all are the stewards of the Asian Division. There's a responsibility on your part to make sure that these shows operate in the CFA way, which means with integrity, honor and fairness. You'll find that when you do that, it will help you grow. It will also help me help you, because if there are no questions, I have a much better chance when I deal with sponsors, to say, "here are some good shows for you to help", but if there are questions, you know how corporate mind thinking is. If there's a question, if there's any hint or sniff of trouble, they're just going to stay away. They're in it for money. If they know they can go and help you and sponsor your shows and everything runs good and they see an increase in sales in the area where the show was at, they're going to come back. But, if just the opposite happens, if they feel like they've gotten involved in a situation that was less than honorable and they feel like it could damage their reputation, corporate memories are very long. **Newkirk:** They never forget.

**Newkirk:** We do have actually one issue that's a constitutional issue, and that is that there are supposed to be two representatives in the ID. When we had – before Europe was a region, that was real easy to do because we had one from Europe and one from Asia. Phebe was the only one that submitted her name. So, I guess we need Ed to look into see if we're going to, whether the board can appoint the second. **Hamza:** We can appoint a second? **Raymond:** Yes. **Hamza:** We should do it here, then. Who would you like to work with Phebe. **Newkirk:** I saw you look at Russell. **Lo:** Yes. **Law:** I just talk. **Hamza:** I think you would do just fine. Why don't

you try it for a year? **Law:** Actually, anything official is just not my main concern, honestly. If there's anything I can do to make the Asian Division run as smoothly as possible. **Newkirk:** Then you will take on the challenge? **Law:** I will give it a shot. **Hamza:** Can I get a motion? **Meeker:** So moved. **Hamza:** Do I get a second? **Kallmeyer:** Second. **Hamza:** All in favor of Russell being the second representative.

**Hamza** called the motion. **Motion Carried.** [applause]

**Law:** Oh, man. **Newkirk:** You will do fine. **Hamza:** You'll do just fine. **Law:** Thank you, guys. Thank you. I'm actually – it's an honor. I'm focusing on a lot of things that have to be resolved. I mean, I really don't want to see CFA in Asia die. I seem to feel this way, especially we have threats coming. Dick knows that in Malaysia already, rumor has been flying around that TICA will be hosting 64 rings in Kuala Lumpur alone. I don't know if it's actually the case, but it has been flying around. It's a rumor, but it has not been clarified by anyone yet, but that's what I've been hearing for the last 2 months, so we need to do something about it. I think we need to give hope to everyone, not the kind of promises that you will win a DW if you run a cat, but they have to know that they have to appreciate the fact that they have a good cat, and if they are willing to travel and if they are willing to show up, then at least they have a reasonable chance of winning, a lot like the situation now. We're going to have to try it. It's just not happening. So yeah, I think we need to look at that situation. **Kallmeyer:** Don't forget, you also now represent Africa, the Middle East and South America. **Law:** I know. Just realizing that the day when South American becomes crazy and the Middle East becomes crazy, that is the time I think we all quit. **Hamza:** How's your Spanish? **Law:** Spanish? **Kallmeyer:** Portuguese. **Law:** *Hasta la vista, baby! Te quiero.* **Hamza:** Good. **Law:** *Tu eres muy bonita.* That's a good one. **Newkirk:** Yeah. [laughter] **Law:** No, I can't do Español. **Hamza:** That's fine. We're just having a little fun here towards the end.

**Hamza:** Just so you know, we've heard you. I've got you on the schedule for August. I don't think it's going to be a quick fix, but we're at the beginning of the season and the goal will be if we can get something acceptable that we can try out before next season begins, I think that's the goal. You know, we're going to work with you. You have strong access to the board. The important thing is, just like anywhere else, is communication. We can't operate on things we don't know about, so if you have issues, you have to – it's just a learning process. The door is open and you guys have to learn to walk through it frequently. We can't expect to solve your problems if we hear from you once a year. Are there any more issues? We've got about 7 minutes left.

**Pam DelaBar:** I've been in Europe now for over a year and working with a very strong European contingent, and some really good clubs and people. I would ask the board to focus globally and consider the impacts globally when you are instituting new policies, rules and procedures, especially on corporate sponsorships. This impacts us just as much as it does – it impacts Japan, it impacts Europe and it impacts the rest of the International Division. Like in the materials that were handed out to us on our insurance. *All CFA cats and kittens are covered by the 60 day insurance.* No, they're not, because they cannot insure outside the North American continent. Look at different programs like that, and make sure that they are inclusive. If they can't be inclusive, just come out and state that. There are problems in those countries where the



EU currently has its effect. The EU Council is looking at establishing a registry of all animals – be they cows, horses, cats, dogs – and this is on top of the different registries that are in Europe. We do not know, 1) if this is going to happen, 2) if it will have a negative effect on our fancies, and 3) if there will be more requirements upon breeders if they do establish this. That's why we would also like for the Legislative Committee to look globally and maybe start establishing some legislative liaisons outside the United States and North America. Just a note here is to consider allowing judge trainees to come to Europe. I think that we have a wide array, especially for longhair trainees in Exotics, shorthair trainees in Abyss, Burmese, several breeds that they can really get a good training on. Of course, that's if they want to. We're looking at possibly Europe growing into more than one region, years down the road. I'll probably be in some old folk's home by that time, but looking at the division, it's a very, very large area and just for reference, TICA already has two regions in our one region area. We're putting emphasis in our former strong areas. We have more clubs going to help out in Italy, and we know what the problems were in Italy with [name omitted]. Rachel, I would ask that there be some sensitivities to these comments. Sophisto Cat Club is planning a show in Italy, to show the strength of CFA in that area. We're also expanding into areas such as England and Bulgaria. But, with the strong work that we're doing in getting more and more people involved with CFA, I can probably be very safe in saying that Region 9 will meet your goal of 200 new exhibitors. **Hamza:** Good. Then we'll have way more than I wanted. **DelaBar:** Way more than you wanted? **Hamza:** Well, the one problem is, we've got to be able to handle what comes through the door, but we'll make it work. One of the things I want to say in regards to what you have said, one of the things we've worked on hard is sponsorship on a global basis. There's a real push-back from companies, and it's a little surprising because some of these companies are huge conglomerates that have a global presence, but they want to treat every division separately. We have just, in the last month, made inroads with one particular company that has finally decided to take a global view of things and so we're negotiating with them now. I'm hoping it bears fruit for all of CFA everywhere, but it's not easy. And I'll need help from the regions that are not in North America and in the International Division, that we do get a sponsor to help us, it's incumbent upon the fanciers in these areas to use the products that are helping us so that we can demonstrate to the companies that there's strength. You know what? The days where the corporate slush funds are just overflowing and there's no accountability, the corporations have to justify their budgets, and if we can demonstrate to them that their involvement in CFA has brought economic and financial rewards to them, these programs will grow. So, I'm pretty confident in at least one major sponsorship that we're going to have something on a global basis. When it happens you'll know it from me because the important thing at that point is to get behind that sponsor and demonstrate that we matter in a marketplace, because they don't really care about feeling good, they care about the bottom line. They're responsible to shareholders, and in their world money talks. So, when we get to that point, if we are effective, it will open the door to so much more. **DelaBar:** That's good, Jerry. Differences in Asia, CFA is basically paving the way in Asia and we have since like 2004 – excuse me, 2003. In Europe, we're sort of following. We're still the new guy on the block and the sponsors have been so focused with the one major organization over there. There's where we're seeing some – we need some higher intervention to work with the sponsors over there, to have them recognize the fact that yes, there are CFA shows, as well as the other association. **Hamza:** The one company I'm dealing with – I don't want to mention names yet, because I don't want to ruin anything – but they have a large presence in Europe and they were

open, very open, to Europe. Their roots are in Europe. Maybe you know who I'm talking about now. But we finally were able to deal with them on a global basis, which we haven't been able to do anywhere else. Every time we open that door, we keep hearing, "we are separate, even though we're under one umbrella." Then, when we try to work with those particular branches, we run into the problems you're talking about, so we finally breached that wall and I'm hoping that it will next year result in some meaningful corporate sponsors, not only for Europe, but for Asia, as well. Like I say, once that comes through, it gives us a chance to prove ourselves or disprove ourselves. If we do well, it will lead to more. You know, there's nothing like being able to hold up a spread sheet and saying, "look, this is what happened in dollars and cents to other sponsors", and if they see some black ink on the bottom line, all of a sudden they want to listen. **DelaBar:** Just one other point I wanted the board to be aware of that was just recently passed, and obviously the organization – Rachel, again I ask for sensitivity in this. [Name omitted] held its annual meeting this past month. One of the things they passed were constraints on judges, both guest judges and [name omitted] judges. [Name omitted] judges are no longer allowed to guest judge more than two other association shows in one calendar year. Other association judges are no longer allowed to guest judge more than three [name omitted] shows in a calendar year. Now, we don't know whether this was the DelaBar-Hamalainen rule or not. All rules have names. But the [name omitted] judges didn't want this. It actually came out of [name omitted] by [name omitted]. All the other judges were saying, "why are they so afraid of CFA?" It was not, "why are they so afraid of TICA", "why are they so afraid of WCF", it's "why are they so afraid of CFA". We like working with them, so our clubs may not be able to get the number of guest judges to help fill in slates as we did before. Asia is fairly lucky. This only applies to areas where there is a [name omitted] presence. There is no [name omitted] presence in Hong Kong, so they can freely come to Hong Kong and Asia. But, I just wanted you to know some of the constraints that they're putting in the European clubs, because we do have [name omitted] guest judges. **Newkirk:** I think it's fairly obvious that [name omitted] is really shaking in their boots with us, because we're making more inroads and they know it, and we're getting more people from [name omitted] coming to our shows. **DelaBar:** And many of them are judges and would be interested down the road in coming. **Newkirk:** Yes. So, they know that we're a threat. We've been a small threat but we're growing, and now that we're a region over there, it's even more of a threat to them. So, you guys keep up the good work. You've just started.

**DelaBar:** Now, you notice we did not bring up the N word [novice]. **Hamza:** Depends on where you're from, but you just did, so what I want to say is, I think the novice compromise is a good compromise. I think what it ultimately does is allow you to keep an important part of your system, but it also more importantly gives you the ability to bring more registrations into CFA and to market CFA. The more CFA registrations you get, the stronger CFA gets in Europe, because the lines will come down and there will be CFA lines. So, the more CFA lines we can get to come down in each breed, it's very meaningful. So, I'm excited. I hope that 50% or 60% of the novices that get shown, what we now call the "temporary registration number" cats, I'm hoping 50% or 60% of those cats translate into actual CFA registrations, and I think if that happens, then you're showing an incredible amount of strength in Europe and Asia. Do you want to say good-bye? **Newkirk:** *Sayonara.* [applause] It has really been a pleasure and an honor, you guys. **Law:** And who is going to take your chair? **Newkirk:** That will be announced Sunday morning. *El Presidente.* Sunday morning, when he announces the committee chairs. But, it has

been an honor and I thank you for allowing me this. It has really been a good ride. Thank you.  
[applause]

**Hamza:** Well, thank you very much. Can I get a motion to adjourn? **Newkirk:** We don't need one. **Hamza:** Oh, we don't need one here? **Newkirk:** You just have to say, "meeting adjourned." **Hamza:** You say it. **Newkirk:** Meeting adjourned.

(57) **BREED COUNCIL SECRETARIES' MEETING.**  
**Saturday, June 30, 2012**

**Breeds and Standards Co-Chair Annette Wilson** called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. with the Breed Council Secretaries and Breed Committee Chairs (or their representatives) present, in addition to the CFA Board of Directors: *Donna Hetherington [Bombay]; Art Graafmans [Burmese]; Cyndy Byrd [British Shorthair]; Penni Richter [Exotic]; Monte Phillips [Chartreux]; Henny Wintershoven [Singapura]; Karen Bishop [Japanese Bobtail]; Melanie Morgan [Egyptian Mau]; Jeri Zottoli [Birman]; Deb Noggle [Balinese]; Laura Gregory [Ragamuffin]; Julie Keyer [Oriental]; Alexis Mitchell [Maine Coon]; Katherine Bock [Norwegian Forest Cat]; Keith Kimberlin [Burmilla]; Geri Fellerman [Persian]; Robin Bryan [European Burmese]; Sharon McKenzie [Cornish Rex]; Sande Willen [Manx]; Dianna Clark [American Curl]; Isabelle Bellavance [Ragdolls]; Linda Martino [Tonkinese]; Carol Johnson [American Shorthair]; Virginia Wheeldon [Siamese]; Mary Kolencik [Colorpoint Shorthair]; Linda Peterson [Devon Rex]; Norma Placchi [Havana Brown]; Jan Rogers [American Wirehair]; Jacqui Bennett [Ocicat]; Marilee Griswold [Scottish Fold]; Cheryl Coleman [Korat]; Dennis Ganoë [LaPerm]; Darrell Newkirk [Abyssinian]; Annette Wilson [Russian Blue].*

**Wilson:** OK, while we are waiting here, we're going to start with a quick introduction, so if we can start down there, we're going to go this way. You'll have to talk into the microphone. Say your name and which breed council you are the secretary of. [Introductions were then made of the Breed Council Secretaries and the members of the Board of Directors]

**Wilson:** OK, we're going to start with the agenda. Some of these things are going to take more time, obviously, to discuss than others. If you want to be recognized if you would raise your hand, maybe Jerry can keep track of who is next to speak.

**AGENDA**

1. *Frequency of changes to standards – less?*

**Wilson:** The first agenda item is one I put on here. I talk about it every year that I meet with the breed councils as part of this meeting, and it's the frequency of changes to the standards. I guess I always think that a standard is a standard, and it shouldn't be subject to change. It should be something that is set in stone, basically. We do tend to – it seems like a breed council secretary, that it should be part of their job to have a ballot every year. I would just like to say that I think it is important to realize that every time you tweak your standard, that you are either reacting to something that probably came from the judging ring or a judges' workshop – I think this last year was probably a good example of that. We had a judges' workshop last year and those breeds that were discussed had a whole bunch of standard changes. Sometimes they are necessary and sometimes they're not. I would just like you to caution your breed council members that every time a standard is changed, even if it's a point here and a point there, it's a reaction and it's going to change the way cats are bred. You need to think about what a standard really is. I'm not proposing we change the constitution. I'm not proposing anything. I would just like to say, it is a huge, huge process. It's a process to you, to work with your breed council

members when you want to put a ballot forward. It's a huge process for Central Office, for the Breeds and Standards Committee, errors get made, things are complicated, it comes to the board in February and it's not always understood where you are going. So, please, please think about, do you really need to change your standard? **Hamza:** Can I say something here? **Wilson:** Yes. **Hamza:** Just from an overview – see, I get to see the top of the mountain down, and an overview, just so you folks know that if your standard starts to resemble a moving target, it's a real problem for the rest of CFA. **Zottoli:** I happen to be the person that authored that 15 Birman standard breed council changes that we did. It was in some ways reactive, but it was reactive in that when we presented our standard to the board – or, to the judges' workshop, and Karen Bishop will back me up on this, the questions that were asked by our fellow judges led us to feel that some of our wording needed tweaking; not changed, *per se*, but tidied up so we could paint a better picture of what our breed was to read like, so that the judges could interpret it the way we meant it to be. **Wilson:** And I think that's important. I'm not picking on you particularly, but I just think – and if you hadn't had a standard change in 10 years, then maybe it is time to look at those kinds of things. Sometimes, though, what you are there for in that workshop is to explain things to the judges, not necessarily to try to reword what's in your standard. We always have new judges coming in and we have judges that have been there a long time. We're never too old or been there too long to learn, so those workshops are very valuable, but that sometimes is your venue for explaining that. **Hamza:** The troublemaker is next. **Eigenhauser:** I don't anyone to think that we're picking on any individual standard change. Of course you're going to have standard changes, and when you have a group of standard changes that you want to make, you may choose to do them all in one year or you may break them down into meaningful bites. You know, "we're going to work on heads this year" or "we're going to work on body next year", "we're going to work on coat". No one is looking at anything in particular. What we're looking for, though, is to kind of change the mindset. In legislation, we always run into these situations where somebody is running for re-election and you look on their web page. It doesn't say, "I was wise enough to vote against bad laws", it always says, "I proposed a zillion bills and they all passed". Well, the measure of success isn't how much noise you make and it isn't how frequently you put things on your ballots and it isn't how many things that you do that aren't necessarily constructive or forward going; sometimes, the wisest thing you can do is nothing, and we need to re-evaluate how we measure our worth. We were appointed to this job to do something. Well, sometimes, the thing you need to do is to bring your breed together behind the standard you already have. That's an accomplishment, too. Stability, consistency, long-term vision that your breeders can get behind. That's the valuable goal. We have no way to measure it. You can say, "yeah, I put 5 things on the ballot this year." Well, you know, that's one way of measuring, so the thing we want to say here isn't that you shouldn't fix things that need to be fixed, what we're saying is, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. **Keyer:** One area that I think we need to keep in mind, though, is show rule changes pertaining to breeds, because breed standard changes are one thing and if we go to every other year or things have been proposed on that, that's fine, but show rule changes pertaining to breeds, we are not allowed to propose those to the general delegation or annually, like ever show rule changes can be made. So, to keep that in mind and perhaps consider separating that out from standard changes when you do this. **Baugh:** One of the things I think we need to remember is the fact that we have a lot of newer breeds coming in. I expect to see significant changes coming through on standards, on our newer breeds, because you're refining your standard and getting to the point where it's a standard that truly reflects your cat. The other

thing we need to keep in mind is that there isn't a perfect cat out there. That's what the standard should state. The standard should tell us what you believe is the perfect cat. That's what you're breeding toward. I don't like to see standard changes where it looks like we're changing the standard to fit the cat. We need to breed the cat to fit the standard. **Kimberlin:** I just wanted to make some comments, because this is one of the new breeds that is coming across to CFA. When we put together the standard, we looked at the standards of the rest of the world and came up with what we thought suited CFA the best, tried to come up with the wording that was significantly the same as what other breeds had in CFA. We have heard from certain judges that the standard needed a lot of work. Well, in my opinion, as one who researched it a lot, I think the standard needs very little work. Most of us who are breeding the cats are very happy with a few small tweakings of the standard, maybe with point allotment and maybe a better description of the muzzle, but from the standpoint of a new breed, we kind of feel that we have our standard pretty well set, and that we are going to make very few changes before the breed reaches a new level. **Wilson:** Thank you, Keith. And you know, that's your right. If that's the standard for your breed that's coming through when you're ready to advance through the matrix here, that's one of the requirements, is that by the time you're provisional, you should have a definitive standard, and if that is what you feel best describes the cat, I think that's fine, but then you have to be able to respond to the feedback you get and help that judge see how the cats you're showing fit into the standard that you have. **Kimberlin:** I'll just make one comment on that, and that is that since cats are being shown in different parts of the country, they don't all quite look the same yet, and we are breeding the cats. The standard is written already as what the ideal cat should be. Judges are seeing cats and saying, "well, this cat doesn't necessarily fit that standard". Yeah, we know that, but we just started breeding these cats. So, that's where we've gotten into many situations and discussions on the internet already about the breeder has looked at somebody's specific cats and said, "oh, they should change the standard". We had one person that would go and every time she talked to a different judge, she was rewriting the standard, and I said, "you can't do that". We wrote the standard. It's in the CFA book. We have to show these cats and let us breed these cats because the standard was written and we're following that written standard to get the best possible kittens.

**Newkirk:** I just want to get back to our agenda item, and that's talking about frequency of standard changes. I would like to remind you guys that you represent the people of your breed council. You're not a dictator. I'm speaking as a board member right now, OK, and the Aby breed council secretary. We're there to solicit opinions and stuff from the people. The thing that I don't like to see is, if you bring a proposal to the board, and we have hours of work that we do on these breed council changes, OK? Breed standard changes. If you made a proposal one year and there wasn't one board member that supported you, why the hell are you putting it on your ballot the next year? It's not going to get the support. We change one or two board members at each meeting, so please use some common sense. Consider our time, and many times those things involve 3 or 4 other breed councils, because it might be an affected breed. So, I'm just asking you, use some common sense, OK? If you had a proposal and it was soundly turned down by the board for whatever reason, and we usually try to provide the reason why the board didn't agree with what you wanted to do, then read that and take it to heart. Don't just give us the same proposal again the next year because you can. Respect our time and we'll try to respect your

ballots that you give to us. **Hamza:** That's known as the "dead horse principle". **Wilson:** So, have we beaten that to death? OK, thank you.

2. *Reformatting how the breed profiles are laid out on the CFA website, to add in grand photos submitted for the ~~Almanac~~ Cat Talk/Yearbook each year. The text on the CFA website came directly from the individual breed brochures.*

**Wilson:** Agenda item #2, <reads>. I'm not sure whose agenda item that is. Did someone – Rachel, do you remember where that came from? **Anger:** I can look it up if no one claims it. **Wilson:** Did someone here ask us to put that on there? It appeared by magic, then. I think what this is probably talking about – I'm just making this up – I believe that something came out there about that they are going to look at the breed profiles online and they are going to put grand pictures in that section that are submitted for the Almanac or Yearbook, so that in addition to being in the Almanac, you will have your grand photos online in the breed profile area. So there. If you have any questions, don't ask me.

*Change the text to use what is on the Cats CenterStage site, which is what was written up for "The Cat Fanciers' Association Complete Cat Book". It's much more extensive, and has a bit of information on history, personality, etc.*

**Wilson:** Oh yeah, there's another section. <reads> I think there is – we'll come to the breed brochures in a minute, but there's the profiles that are on Cats CenterStage that are much more detailed and a little bit more focused on what this breed actually is – not so much the history of the breed and everything, but what the concept of the breed is, and it's much more detailed, and so they are probably going to look at maybe just having one breed profile and it will be the more extensive information. **Miller:** Actually, I would like to talk about that. Cats CenterStage was designed to appeal to the general public, and the text that's in the *Cat Fanciers' Association Complete Cat Book* emphasizes the personality and the history of the breed more than the standard. I mean, the standard is in there, but that's what it talks about. So, Cats CenterStage focused on that when we got it going, and we also had breed pages which we still have up there, although they haven't been changed. We have photographs of the cats as pets, and that's very appealing to the general public. The idea was that the public that would come to Cats CenterStage would be the entrée to the general public, and they would be linked to the CFA website. The people that would come to the CFA website that wanted to know more than just the standard or who was the latest grand champion, but they want to know more about the personality would relate to the Cats CenterStage. Now, I think that CFA has DNT Media and they will probably be re-looking at the whole situation, would be my guess. Whether Cats CenterStage will survive or not, I don't know, or whether it will be incorporated in the main website. I really don't know, but I think that it – I love the idea of the breed pages. If you haven't been to Cats CenterStage to look at those, you should look at them because I think showing these breeds as pets in households is very appealing to the public. So, this is, I think a very interesting idea but I don't know whether Cats CenterStage is the place for it or if it will be incorporated into the CFA website. **Wilson:** Thank you, Joan. Does anybody else have anything on this? **Kolencik:** First, that first paragraph in there where it says *Almanac/Yearbook*, that's *Cat Talk/Yearbook*, so if somebody puts a grand in Cat Talk and the Yearbook for this past year, it will be listed on the breed profiles. For the second one, I'm kind of not happy with the idea of

using what's from the book as the breed profiles in my breed because I just rewrote that breed profile so that it highlighted the personality of the cat first, rather than the history. If you go and look at what's on Cats CenterStage, it's a very long, encyclopedic passage. I think that our breed profiles are the first thing that people find on the site when they're coming to look for a particular breed. That's what they see, and I think that we should have some input into how they perceive our breed, what they think of our breed, and I don't want to hit them with an encyclopedia right off the bat. So, what I would ask is, before somebody does something to the breed profiles, that they give those of us who are breed council secretaries who want to have some input, let us supply some input. Some of us might like to suggest that we have a candid photo showing our cats with families or other pets or something like that. We can provide that information, so rather than just grabbing something off of another website, let us have some input as to how our breed is presented. **Wilson:** Thank you. **Hannon:** If you want, it was my understanding that Kathy Durdick was planning to re-do the breed profiles on the main site and she, too, was going to be using what's in the Complete Cat Book and some of the breed council secretaries were unhappy about that. They wanted more input themselves regarding what was on the main website for the breed profile. I think that somehow got convoluted in this. I think that was the main concern, not what's on Cats CenterStage. **Wilson:** Thank you. I think we need to have some consistency across all of these online or print publications, and I absolutely think that the breed council secretaries should be able to review them and provide input. **Kolencik:** I don't mind that the profile is linked to that information, I just don't want it to be the first thing that they see. There's nothing wrong with the article, it's just like an encyclopedia that starts out with, here's the history of the breed. It doesn't tell them, "you're going to love this cat because it's going to sleep with you" and things like that. So, that information is good. I would just like to see us have input into how it's presented. **Wilson:** Thank you. Anything else?

3. *Overview for each CFA recognized breed, the requirements for registration via pedigree from foreign registries, their recognized colors, allowable outcrosses and perhaps some additional specifics. Translate into most often-used European languages.*

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0ArBw\\_GeZ0ol-dDZjOWRpcW40a0MyWnBZY0lsdTQ0ZIE#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0ArBw_GeZ0ol-dDZjOWRpcW40a0MyWnBZY0lsdTQ0ZIE#gid=0)

**Wilson:** We can go back to #3 now, which actually relates to #5. One of our European breeders did a very nice outline, and that's what this is a link to, this document. It's an <reads>. I would like you to go there and make sure it looks like it's current for your breed, and if you see any changes that need to be made, if you will send them to me, I will get them to her. But, this is really useful. It's in English also. It's very useful in a great way to take a look and see if someone is registering by foreign pedigree what the requirements are. We've recently had some changes for some of the breeds that were just ratified by the board in the Thursday meeting, so she will be making those updates, too. It's a nice way, if you've got people within your breed council that want to register cats in another association, to see this information. What I don't believe is on there, for example, the Egyptian Mau import policy, the Burmese import situation, but she can update that as she gets information or as it's passed – maybe not to actually link to the import policy, but just to say that there is one. **Bock:** This was what you had sent out to us preliminarily, was it? **Wilson:** I think Rachel sent it out, right, with the link. **Bock:** OK, because I noticed that there was something that – this should reflect our current rules for registration by breed? **Wilson:**



Yes, but she did not have access to the individual rules for registration. She has the CFA Rules for Registration document. **Bock:** For example, in my breed there are rules for cats that are imported that was not reflected on that document. **Wilson:** If you have an extensive import policy or something that's different, you can certainly bring that to us and she can add it there. What we don't want to see is a huge, huge, "here's all the things you have to do – take 3 pictures, check their paw pad color" or something like that. **Bock:** So, we should note those things? **Wilson:** Yes. Send them to me and I'll send them to her and she can add those. **Bock:** Thank you. **Wilson:** But, it's really a nice document. I think it's really useful for everybody and until such time as we can actually put the individual registration rules on our own CFA website, you know what? I think it's helpful for everybody. It was certainly helpful for me. Any questions on that?

#### 4. *Update on Individual Breed Brochures*

**Wilson:** I'm going to jump down to #4 and we'll come back to #3, and that's an update on the individual breed brochures. I want to thank everybody who met the first deadline and then I would also like to thank people who met the second deadline, the third deadline and the fourth deadline. There were just a couple people who met no deadlines. I know this was complicated and I know it is time consuming. It certainly is like herding cats to try to put together a little chart of who sent what when, and when it got sent into Central Office. Since we extended the deadlines so many times, I do want to just let you all know that because now we're in conflict with other processes that are time sensitive, like the Yearbook and so on, and of course the annual meeting, that it's probably going to be August or so before you're seeing – some of you may have seen copy to approve. Has anybody? Melanie, I know you saw it. Some of you have seen copy, but ultimately you will see from Kelly an email with your copy to approve. Please do proofread it, make sure it matches what you sent, make sure the pictures are the pictures you want, then I'll try to give you some updates as to when it's complete and when they are actually going to be printed. So, it's going to take some time to get that out there. I know many of you took the previous brochures that were brought to the National Show and probably have boxes of them. I know that, from experience, I have been at two shows with my breed booth and people really aren't interested that much in picking up paper anymore. They want to see electronic information. So, on the other hand, when regional booths and information booths and the CFA booth are somewhere, apparently the brochures are very popular, so it's just not at the top of the list of things to do right now, but I appreciate – basically, we've gone back to them with, "OK, these are all complete" or use the breed profile and last year's winners. Does anyone have any questions on that process?

#### 5. *Possible revisions to Advancement of New Breeds/Colors, especially for breeds that exist in other associations.*

**Wilson:** #5 is <reads>. Sharon Roy is going to work with the Breeds and Standards Committee in reviewing what we currently have. This is a document that is actually linked on the CFA website, so you can find it. I have a couple copies if anybody wants to grab one later. But, just to highlight it, it shows a progression from being accepted from Miscellaneous, then the requirements for Provisional and for Championship, then there's a column for acceptance of new colors. It shows the number of breeders required, the number of cats registered, the number of

cats shown, the time frame, and where the standard should be at each point in time. I think probably the main thing that should be addressed, if it's an existing breed in other main line associations, or more than one association, is for Provisional status, the 5 year or more period, registrations over a 5 year period. Obviously, these cats have been registered over a much longer period, but I also want to comment that that period doesn't start when the cat is advanced to the next level. It can be registrations over a period of time with CFA, so if a breed has been in Miscellaneous for 3 years, the clock started when the first cats became registered. I think some people say, "well, I have to be Provisional for 5 years". That's really not what this means. These are not rules, these are guidelines. An upcoming breed can certainly petition if they have some data to support it, and you can – we certainly have precedent for that. So, Sharon is going to work with us on this. She's going to take a look at it and make some recommendations, and we'll see where we can go with that. What we want to be careful, though, is not to offend or – we want to be sensitive to other breeds that might be affected. If you have a concern about a breed that's in the Miscellaneous or Provisional process and you think, post-acceptance, that there's a concern, then any breed council secretary could come, of course, to the Breeds and Standards Committee and voice that concern. I don't see that we have any concerns right now on that, but certainly if anybody's concerned, "oh, they're going to fast" for some reason, it can't be because, "well, we didn't get to go that fast." It needs to have some validity to it. **Kimberlin:** Since this is directly affecting the Burmilla right now, I just wanted to make some comments. Some notes that I thought. I looked at that many times, and part of it that I feel that's necessary that we need some type of guidelines. I like to see everything in writing so I can follow it and then I will follow it. I'm just saying, when I looked at that I see things that are missing that I would like to see. Some of my suggestions are that if a breed is recognized in other associations, I would like it to be outlined how we can authenticate that they are in other associations by providing information and saying, if the breed is able to provide that this is registered and which associations and for how long and, you know, maybe being able to supply pedigrees or registration numbers, that we would be given an allowance on a time allotment towards that, so that this way it would help with the process, so there is something when other breeds come along and they want to do the same process, they have a little more information in front of them. That was what I was referring to. I looked at that, and I feel like, yeah, it says 5 years and you're saying that's a guideline, but there's nothing else that it says. That's all it says. **Wilson:** Right, because it's different. It's going to be different for every breed, but I think your point is well taken and I think that's what Sharon will work on. **Kimberlin:** Right. I just wanted to bring that up so that everybody heard about it. **Miller:** Years ago, I remember when the 5 years was determined as the minimum for Miscellaneous. It was based on certain criteria, but I agree with Keith. It's not written down. I remember it. It was not just the standard. Even if a cat came from another association, sometimes the standards needed a lot of work. The points had to be determined. Also, it was to determine whether the health was good in a breed that was coming in to CFA. That took a little bit of time for people to get that information together. And whether the personality was good. If they would need any outcrosses. There were lots of things. It seems to me that those criteria should be listed and there should be some system to prove that it is viable and that the breed doesn't have health problems. Right now, I agree. When you come into CFA, you don't know what's expected of you. It's possible that a breed that has been accepted in another association, we could reduce it to two years or three years. I think it's a very valid point. I really do. There's no point in holding a breed back for 5 years before they can even go into Provisional if they can meet the criteria, but

the criteria should be specified, I think. **Wilson:** Thank you. **Gregory:** Having recently come up through that process, I know at first those 5 years seem like a long time. It definitely felt like a long time, but when you mentioned breeds accepted in other associations and having credit for that, I don't know what breeds really come to CFA not having been accepted anywhere else. I just don't see that your very beginning, "gee I have an idea and I would like to create a breed" comes to CFA first. **Miller:** Yes, but the Li Hua is an example, from China. That's not accepted anywhere. **Wilson:** That's our other Miscellaneous breed. **Miller:** We don't know anything about those cats. Most of us have never even seen one. That's very different from your breed. **Gregory:** Most of [inaudible] would maybe be a foreign breed, but pretty much here it would be like, we didn't show up not having been accepted somewhere else. That happens to many other breeds. **Wilson:** What I think you all don't see, though, are the packages we get in the mail as Breeds and Standards Committee, of this new breed in Kentucky that has a special kind of coat. I mean, there is, trust me, there's stuff. **Bennett:** I can say, in all honesty, on the Li Hua, as you mention, it is, of course, brand new to CFA and that standard is going to need development and work as we translate things from Chinese into American. We just got 4 more brought back in the country, the first female in the country, so it may take us 5 years. It may take us 6 or 7 to build a gene pool and be able to see how this breed develops in the United States. So, I agree that it has to be guidelines. Some may be more mature and ready much faster than others. **Kimberlin:** I just want to make one more comment. You were referring to new breeds. Since I've been around taking the Burmilla, I've had many people come up to me and ask me about how they can start a new breed because they have this idea to start a new breed from scratch. So, there are people that are looking to start new breeds by hybridizing two existing breeds and think they have a great idea. So, any way that anything can be outlined is really important. **Wilson:** Keith, that's a good point and it's something I thought of recently. We've seen this rash of "create a new breed by finding some wild cat of another species and crossing it with an existing breed or two". We don't really give any guideline, and I'm not saying we should, about how you can make a new breed. We have mutations, we have what we call our natural breeds, but there are people out there that want to do something, and you know what? If they really want to, we're not going to stop them, so guidelines of that type of thing might be helpful. Certainly, if we could steer them away from capturing a cheetah and using that, it would be nice. Any other comments or questions on this topic?

6. *Consider the addition that "Show cats of all breeds should have essentially amiable disposition" or "Show cats of all breeds should be amenable to handling".*

**Wilson:** Alright, our next question is <reads>. I think we did have someone bring this up. Jacqui, if you want to speak to this. **Bennett:** This came up as a discussion through a number of breed council secretaries. We have, I think, 3 or 4 standards that have statements about disposition in them, and other standards have discussed putting statements in there but they were afraid that this brought excessive myopic attention and people would assume there was a problem so you had to add this to the standard because you get a black line and black lines are scary. As we're going into a very political and a very public relations world, the discussion was that if we would take that standard [*sic*, statement] out of the individual standards and put it in the preface, right along with *show cats should be healthy and in good condition*. It's basically just table stakes. We want animals that are happy – not necessarily happy, either, but not feeling

threatened to be there. We want to just open it up for discussion to the different breed council secretaries, to see if they would be amenable to changing the preface by adding that comment.

**Baugh:** It's already there in the preface to the standards. It says that a show cat is expected to be gentle and amenable to handling. To me, that's the first criteria of a show cat. **Miller:** That's what I was going to say, too. It's already there. I was the co-author of the structure part, too. I think some of the preface parts in the beginning of the standard that apply to all cats should be given more attention. The structure is very carefully drawn out as far as, every cat should be balanced, every cat should have certain basic structural strength – the legs and all that sort of thing. There's no need to repeat it all in the standards, unless there's some breed that should not be balanced. That could be in the standard, but otherwise I think everybody needs to maybe review the preface. The condition is where you find amenable to handling and the structure is where you find the balance and refinement, and all the other things that make up every breed, actually. I think it's very important. It used to be that every standard had 5 points for condition for years, and we took that out of all the standards. I think that's only one left and it's a newer breed. I forget which breed that is, but I was noticing it should be taken out because it's all covered in the beginning for every breed. Every breed has to be in good condition and good health reflected. **Phillips:** I just have a comment. I'll put my other hat on, Show Rules. It's already in the show rules, as well, that a cat has to be amenable to handling. I do want to take exception. I do have one of those breeds that's not supposed to be balanced. **Wilson:** Any other comments on this? OK.

7. *I would like to see added to the matrix for new colors a line item with a guide number related to asking for color classes to be broken up. I can never get a target number and looking at past board actions it varies a lot.*

**Wilson:** We'll go to #7. I think this is the Linda Martino question. <reads> Linda, did you want to clarify this? **Martino:** Those who know me know that I – **Wilson:** Could you speak in the microphone, please? The microphone. **Martino:** I just want to say that when there are numbers, you can always make exceptions if the need arises. By having a number helps to let us, as breed council secretaries, work with our councils to give us targets. In the absence of any number at all, you get people saying, "well, they favor this breed because they let them do this, but they won't let us do that." So, just give us a number and we can stop a lot of the grousing. **Eigenhauser:** I'm surprised you guys haven't asked for this sooner. If I was a breed council secretary and I was trying to break out a new color class and I wanted to know how many cats so I could beat the bushes, get my people to show, get them out there, and the board says, "well, guess. We'll tell you later." I would be pretty unhappy. I think we need some target numbers so that you have an idea of what you're trying to achieve, what you're trying to accomplish and how to get there. Again, they don't have to be set in stone. They can just be a guideline, but when you're talking to your breed council about breaking out a color and they ask you, "well, how many do we need, to get there?", and you have to say, "well, the board won't tell us", I think we should tell you. I would like you guys to come up with a target number. Like I said, it doesn't have to be set in stone, it doesn't have to be unbendable, but at least a target number for a guideline so we have something to work with and you have something to shoot for, something you can honestly tell your breed council. That may give you a lot of strength. If the number is 20, just to pick a number out of thin air, and you've got 18 cats showing, then you can go back to

your breed council and say, “get those 2 more cats out, people”, but if you have nothing, then what are you shooting at? **Hamza:** George, do you think it would be better if we discussed it with the board and threw a number back at them to see if it was acceptable? **Eigenhauser:** They’re here. Why not ask them? **Bock:** Last year, the board approved as AOV our amber colored cats and at the time that Annette was approaching me through the – putting together this project to be presented to you, one of my concerns was, how do we get the numbers? How do we – no one is even breeding this color here because they haven’t been allowed. Of course, there are the numbers that are shown currently. I guess there was – it would take us years to get there. I was grateful that she told me they would be flexible with, you know, if we would get the cats out, they would be flexible in progressing us to championship. At the same time, a number would give us something to shoot for. So, again, I’m kind of both ways on it. It would be good to know that we wouldn’t be held to something, but still a number where we could say we have a target would be of tremendous help. **Kolencik:** I was going to respond to what George said. Some of the breed councils haven’t asked for this. We haven’t asked you for a number because our members aren’t asking us for it. They don’t care, and the reason is, they don’t see an incentive awards-wise for CFA to go after these color awards that you give. The only advantage now that we have of breaking our color classes down further, it used to be that we wanted to get over the winners ribbon problem. Well, those are gone, so now the only advantage is that we’re going to get end-of-year color awards. Right now, I had second best of color last year and I got nothing – nothing from CFA. I got my name somewhere listed. So, we’re not asking for it because in some breeds we don’t see an incentive. Like in the Siamese breed, getting a color win is extremely important because the breed council hands out a nice rosette and we make a big deal out of it, but CFA doesn’t make a big deal out of that, so we’re not asking for it. So, if you want us to go after these color awards, I think that from the reaction that I’ve seen from my breed council members is, they don’t see the point and it would help, I think, if CFA gave us an incentive to go after those awards. **Kimberlin:** I just wanted to make some more comments about the amber, since it was brought up. I spoke to Katherine at great length about this at the time when this was taking place and, you know, it was suggested that the route we bring amber in was through AOV and I had great disagreements with that because, first of all, giving a little history, the amber – **Wilson:** Keith, can I interrupt you? If we want to speak separately about an amber issue or something like that, I would like to keep – we need to move along and I would like to keep this more general. **Kimberlin:** But there is a very important part to this, OK? The reason is that because there was a DNA test done and we know how important DNA testing is. There was DNA done to legitimize that the amber gene did exist, and then this was also brought into every association and they immediately allowed the amber to compete as championship and I just felt that we should have been able to allow the same thing and just compete already and not in AOV, and that we would not need to get [inaudible] because the DNA work had been done. We can DNA test until – **Wilson:** OK, but this is not about advancement right now, this is about numbers needed to break out color classes, so if we could stay on that subject. **Gregory:** Just to address, some of the breeds do think it’s important to break out and get some color classes, especially those of use that only have one color class, so it gives our breeders something to shoot for when we can break it out a little bit and say, “I can have a color win if I can’t get the breed win”, and we have a few more divisions. Even if it is only a certificate or whatever it is, it’s something to shoot for. My only concern, I have mixed feelings on that number to shoot for, simply because I’m worried about where it might be. We have a larger number of breeds and you have small, minority breeds.

My only concern in setting one number is, a large breed it will be easier to attain – that, versus a smaller breed, so where do we set that number so that it's fair to all breeds across, based on the sizes of their breeds so they can attain that? **Wilson:** And are breeds willing, should that no longer be a popular color, are you willing to then contract your color class? That's the other thing. **Bizzell:** I speak loudly so I don't need a microphone and I'll be brief. We could do something like a percentage of total of that breed shown, instead of a [inaudible]. That would be a better fit. **Kolencik:** There already is a point minimum for color wins from CFA, because I know that sometimes we don't have a qualifying cat, so maybe you could look at that, too. You might be able to raise that, to make sure it's meaningful. **Baugh:** Perhaps the number could be dependent upon the number of cats registered in that breed, similar to what they do with dogs for the number of points that are required for a dog to get a major win. For how many points you get, look at the number of cats of that color, and that could determine how many you would need to bring that up as a percentage similar to that. **Eigenhauser:** As always, I'm the contrarian on this. The reason we break things out into colors isn't just to get more awards, it's also to facilitate judging. When we're trying to judge 200 cats over the course of a day, we break them into meaningful bites; you know, how many can fit on the table, you judge these 3 cats against each other and then you judge them against others. So, a lot of it has to do with judging procedures, and to me that is breed independent. If 30 cats is enough cats to be a color, it should be enough cats to be a color in any breed. I would be opposed to making it proportional. That penalizes the larger breeds, just for being larger. The idea here is, how many cats need to be seen on the judging table to be worth calling them a separate color? That number, I think, could be set at a number that is low enough that it isn't penalizing the small breeds and is large enough that it isn't creating a zillion colors in the bigger breeds, but I would be opposed to making it proportional because that's not what it's about. Now, as Mary suggested, if the issue is about awards, then a point threshold solves that. We don't even need to worry about – we can make every cat some color class if you wanted to, as long as you set a high enough threshold for awards. So, they are really two separate issues, but to me the issue is, how do we handle these cats on the judging table, how many can you fit in a ring at a time in order to be able to judge them? When you've got a big breed and there's 20 cats of the same breed and there's only 12 cages, it's hard to judge that color. So, what we need to think about is not just awards. As Mary said, we can set point thresholds to deal with awards. The question is, in terms of breaking them down into meaningful classes for judges to judge, what is a meaningful number? So, I'm not a fan of proportionality. **Hamza:** I want to mention that I'm against dumbing down the competition. You know, if everybody gets a brown ribbon, it becomes meaningless. There's got to be enough cats in the class that getting the division means something. If we continue to dumb down our awards systems and we take the thrill of competition out of it, I think we hurt the organization overall. **Kimberlin:** I just want to bring this up. With the Norwegian Forest Cat, we have two color classes presently, which is just brown tabbies and all others. I've seen that as a huge problem in the breed because CFA has really recognized the "with white" brown tabby cats more than anything else and has discouraged breeders from even importing cats without white. I felt that the "without white" cats should have been separated out. You're talking about numbers here, no one would bring them in and your data would show that there aren't any because they just don't want to bring them in because they feel they can't win. So, having a number across the board would not work in this case, until they were broken out first. **Wilson:** I wonder, Keith, on the Norwegian Forest Cats if you could work through your breed council secretary sitting next to you

there. **Bock:** Please try. **Wilson:** If Katherine could speak for the Norwegian Forest Cat breed council, I think that would be great. Any other comments or questions on this?

**Wilson:** Do you want us to give you a number today? My number is 25. Does anybody else have a number? **Kimberlin:** 5. **Wilson:** See, that's how the bargaining starts. **Eigenhauser:** I move 20. **Wilson:** I hear 20. **Kolencik:** I have a question. Is that 25 registered or 25 shown? **Wilson:** I think it should be shown. **Unidentified Speaker:** Of one color? **Wilson:** Color class or pattern. I mean, it doesn't have to be a pattern. If the Norwegian Forest Cats want to see a color class for brown tabby and white, they could give us the registration numbers. Certainly, we see many of them shown, you know, so bring it to us. Put it on the ballot. But not every year. **Phillips:** Just for clarification, you're talking about 25 cats to be shown in one ring? **Wilson:** No. **Phillips:** All of the same color? **Wilson:** No, but that would be great, wouldn't it? That's competition. **Phillips:** So, we're talking about 25 cats total. **Wilson:** Total. Unique cats shown. How is that. **Hamza:** In a season. **Wilson:** Get them out there. **Unidentified Speaker:** You had me thinking 25 in one show. **Wilson:** No, but that truly would be competition. I mean, that would be great to see. **Unidentified Speaker:** Where do we get them? **Hamza:** You breed them. **Wilson:** You get those people out there showing them. Alright, any other comments on that issue? I want to really thank everybody for their participation in that, because I think that's really important. **Shafnisky:** I just wanted to point out, and it appears some of the breed council secretaries are thinking it, as well – there are some breeds that there aren't 25 cats shown in a year, so we really – **Hamza:** Then they shouldn't have a division. **Wilson:** If there aren't 25 cats shown, is it really time to break out a color class, then? <no> All in favor? I'm sorry. I'm jumping into your shoes. **Hamza:** I can leave. I'll get up and go. **Wilson:** And we're not really trying to be funny. We take this seriously, too, but we need some input from you. I know you want a number. Throw a number at us. Let's take a look at it. Linda, you don't have to wait to throw numbers out and put them on your ballot and wait until February. If you have some ideas, let's talk about it on the breed council secretaries' list. I mean, that is a great forum to participate on these types of discussions, and we do listen. **Martin:** [off microphone, inaudible]. If you guys are agreeing that we can work on a number and work on it over the next few months, I'm happy. **Wilson:** OK. We want you to be happy. Thank you. **Hamza:** Would most of you be happy if we went forward on a board level, using 25 as a beginning base. **Unidentified Speaker:** 25 in a show season? **Hamza:** In a show season. 25 individual cats. **Unidentified Speaker:** I think a lot of us feel that's a little too high. **Wilson:** OK, let's see a raise of hands. How many people think that is a good number, and it's a breed that has more than one color in it? **Unidentified Speaker:** Are you talking one show season again? **Wilson:** In a show season, 25 unique cats shown in a show season of the color or pattern you want to break out. How many think 20 is a good number? The "25" people also should raise their hand as we're going down, so keep your hands up. How many think 18-1/2 is a good number? **Hamza:** I'm hesitant to go below 20. **Wilson:** I really think 20, that's not that many cats, and if you have a breed that you don't have 20 cats of that color or that pattern – it could be bi-color, it could be parti-color, it could be "and white" – then get them out there and show them. You've got a goal, then. **Kolencik:** I just want to remind everybody of thinking, when you're breaking out a color class – so, I'm going to use my breed as an example. We have a lot more seal lynx points shown, because they're dominant, than we do chocolate tortie lynx points shown, OK? So, if I got 25 people showing seal lynx points and I got nobody showing chocolate, so do we break out the lynx points into a color class because I've got

a lot of cats there, then I'm left with this other color class that's teeny, teeny tiny and there's nobody showing anything in it. So, 25 in one, you've got to remember, it's going to leave you with something that's very small and not meaningful. **Hamza:** I'm used to dealing with the law of unintended consequences, so I just want to caution you people that a judge will notice your cat more if it gets through a division with more cats. If you have 10 cats in a division and you get the brown ribbon, I guarantee you're getting a better look than if you're one cat in a division getting the brown ribbon. **Newkirk:** I don't agree with that at all. **Hamza:** Well, let me take – I breed bi-colors and sometimes we have 20 cats in the bi-color division. It's pretty hard to ignore the best of breed in a division that large. Well, minority breeds are already complaining they never get out of class. **Newkirk:** We are judging cats on a breed standard. **Hamza:** I know, I know. **Newkirk:** I'm telling you, a judge may say, OK, there's 15 cats in this category, but you're still comparing that cat to one cat that may be a single breed winner and it's who meets the standard the closest. When I judge, you don't get more points because there's more cats in there. It's the standard and how the cat meets the standard. **Wilson:** But what I do think is that when you have a large class in a particular breed, division or color and there's really good cats in that class, and the competition is really tough – not just against the standard but against each other – I understand that point of it, but quantity doesn't necessarily equate. **Baugh:** I think that's a perception that is flawed. It doesn't matter how many cats are in a color class or how many cats are in a breed. I have been at shows where people have said, "I can't believe, there's 22 Himalayans here and none of the judges are using any of them." That's because none of them meet their standard. **Wilson:** Alright, any more comments on numbers? Yes, I can't see you. **Johnson:** I think I would like to see more discussion on the list before we choose a number. I just think we need to take a look at everybody's breeds and see whether or not the 20 number is realistic. **Wilson:** and that's fine. I think that's where we're going with this. We'll have some discussion. We might actually have competition for it in some kind of meaningful way in an arena, sort of like The Hunger Games. That's what I'm thinking. Anyway, let's do bring it up. Maybe Linda, you could start that discussion after we all recover from this weekend. **Martino:** Thank you for making sure that was on the agenda.

#### 8. *Genetic Diversity – Leslie Lyons, Ph.D.*

**Wilson:** Next on our agenda, Leslie Lyons, Dr. Lyons, was going to speak to us about genetic diversity. Unfortunately, I didn't get to the Winn Foundation meeting but I heard really, really good feedback from it and she's here today to talk to us, gives us a little brief outline.

**Leslie Lyons, Ph.D.:** OK. Well, thank you very much. It's my pleasure. I've never spoken to the breed council before as a collective group, and I appreciate the opportunity very much. Our laboratory has had some very exciting years; this past year, with discovering some mutations that I think are going to be very important to the cat fancy, but also over the past few years with the dog breeds exposed and certainly with some things going on in Europe, it seems like the cat fancy has the potential of really getting under the limelight as far as some activist group, as people have already mentioned here today. So I wanted to mention, briefly review some of the work that we have done and see if it's of interest to you with your breeding programs. So, if you were at the Winn Foundation Symposium, you saw me put up a slide of the overall genetic diversity of a lot of different breeds. Many of our breeds are at the high end of the scale that are close to being at what random-bred populations should be, so that's fantastic. Some breeds up



there are Manx, Norwegian Forest Cat, Siberians – the cat breeds that really come from our natural populations and have a good genetic foundation.

But, there are some breeds at the lower end of the scale that I think particularly are in critical situation and we really need to develop a breed management plan for them, so that they potentially just don't go extinct. Of course, the breeds down at that end of the list are the Burmese and the Singapura. So, we have done different methods to evaluate that genetics. If you would like me to, I will be reviewing this in detail at the Burmese breed council meeting, but we have done different methods to try to evaluate breed statistics, and they're all pretty consistent. So, I don't want you to feel like, "well, if I did it another way it would come out differently." Overall, we have a pretty consistent distribution of how the breeds fall out. This year, we have been lucky enough to be able to find very rapidly with these new DNA chips that are now available, we can find disease locations and hence their mutations very rapidly now. So, just within the past year we have been able to find the mutation for Burmese hypokalemia, so that's a potassium disorder that plagues non-USA Burmese. So, in the UK, Europe and Australia, those cats have that situation. But now, in the United States, of course the craniofacial defect that has been found in our Burmese cats, particularly contemporary lines, that mutation now has been found, as well. So, if you have two copies of that mutation, you're going to have a very severe congenital craniofacial defect that is not compatible with life, but if you have one copy of the mutation, you have the more brachycephalic face, which is what some of the Burmese groups have been selecting for. So, we are now in the situation where we know what that mutation is, and now how are we going to manage that? Because the Burmese group is so critical, if you just got rid of that mutation completely, that would just cause more extinction of the breed. So, we have to think of globally, actually, how to deal with this cat breed.

Korats have been able to do this. The Korat is a small breed. They are one of the first that had genetic testing and they're not a very popular breed but they have really good genetic diversity and low inbreeding, they've used genetic testing, they've figured out what to do, they bring in cats from Thailand, they share their cats. It's a good example that they just inherently did the right thing.

So, how can we kind of write that down and give it as a model for other people to follow? We have done enough genetics to know that certain breeds have different historical populations that they come from, so the Siamese, the Burmese, the Birman – definitely, their closest relatives are the cats from South Asia, from street cats there; whereas, Persians and Ragdolls and Norwegian Forest Cats, their closest relatives are the cats from Europe. So, we can even sit down and pick out what is the most historical proper population for an outcrossing program. We do have the genetic ability now to figure out how closely the breeds are related to one another, and if you've ever heard about our Turkish Van study, we can certainly look at the genetics within a breed or within a small grouping of breeds, such as Turkish Vans, Turkish Angoras, cats from Cypress, cats from Turkey, show you how closely related they are, how diversely related they are. So, if a breed group wanted to, say, day one, this is day one, collect up enough cats that would be the breeding population for tomorrow and you did their genetic diversity five years from now, you could do it again and you can now monitor for the rest of your lives how your genetic diversity is progressing within your breed group. So, we have the ability to do that now. As someone mentioned, there is a genetic test for amber. There is a genetic test for all the major

colors that really you are interested in except silver. I know, I've heard about silver, and actually probably the orange test will be out soon this year. That's a group from the National Cancer Institute has discovered that one. So, one of the prospects for any breed, a good way to add diversity is to bring in more colors. So, there are the genetic tests so you don't have to worry about who is going to carry something and who doesn't. So, I think some of those fears kind of need to go away. A lot of the disease mutations are known, and we now actually at Davis have launched a breed identification test, like a cat ancestry test, kind of like the Dog Wisdom Panel. You can send in DNA samples, know what race your cat belongs to. There's about eight major races of cats, like European, Mediterranean, Southeast Asian, Arabian Sea cats, and then also if your cat truly is part of a breed, so it either had a breed parent or grandparent, we can detect that, as well. But, this same type of test is the test you would use to monitor your breed. You do that testing to figure out, what does my breed look like today, what does it look like five years from now, and then continue into perpetuity, actually.

So, we have some plans for developing an outcrossing program. We'll discuss it and banter them around in the Burmese group. I would suggest anybody who has remotely been involved with Burmese – I'll name some names – American Shorthair, Tonkinese, Bombay – maybe they should come listen to our meeting, as well, because I know there has been in the past some contemporary Burmese bred into those lines, as well. So, I hope you have some time to visit the Burmese meeting today. I think hopefully it will be a very constructive meeting. I think the eyes of the world are on the Burmese as far as how they can move forward and really develop a nice breed management plan, how to use genetics effectively and how to really, more importantly, develop a cooperative group that their #1 interest is the health of the breed. That's what I have to say. I'll be happy to take questions.

**Hamza:** I just have a quick question. You talk about the Burmese, but are there any other breeds that, as an organization, we should look to help with genetic diversity. **Lyons:** Let me pull that up here. Singapura, definitely Singapura. The Burmese have kicked around, you know, who can they outcross with to help increase their diversity. Well, I think we need to think about helping the Singapura, as well. Other breeds that are kind of at that lower end of the scale, the Russian Blue and the Birman are kind of at that end of the scale. This all started for me 20 years ago by the Havana Brown group coming forward and saying, "we want an outcrossing program. Will you prove genetically that we need this outcrossing program?" So, we did at the time, but then at the time I said, "gee, I don't know what the rest of the breeds look like. What if I'm telling Havana Browns to outcross and they're a really diverse group? That means, everybody else has to, as well." But the order on this file is Burmese, Singapura, Russian Blue, Birman, Havana Brown. So, when we first did the Havana Brown, that kind of gave us our benchmark. So, I was kind of pleased it didn't put Havana Brown at the wrong end of the scale, when everybody has to outcross. But, overall, I do think every breed should maybe have some type of planned outcrossing program. It might not have to be – I'm not saying, go to Thailand and get 20 cats and bring them in. It just needs to be a few cats, but it also needs to be sharing of cats and maybe sharing of cats that are in Europe, as well. So, to me, the Burmese group should be really thinking about, how can we get European Burmese working together with us? How can we get Singapuras, Burmese from other parts of the world. I heard the discussion about the Burmillas. Those guys are in the mix. The Asians. Australian Mist have used Burmese, as well, so we kind of maybe have to start thinking a little more globally in some cases.

**Wilson:** I have a question about your database. If a breed wanted to start working on a management program now, based on that data, how would they know how much data you already have on that breed and how globally should this be, internationally? **Lyons:** Right. So, the question is about the database. What we want to keep in mind with my database is that this has been collected over about 10 years, and it is CFA/TICA cats. I didn't really care. I tried to stay away from European cats at the time because I felt like their breed histories were quite different, in some cases, with our own because of the world wars and things like that. So, I would suggest at this point kind of maybe starting over and because we can do this so rapidly now. When I first started doing this, this took a lot of work and a lot of time to do it, but now instead, we can use these SNPs and these arrays and just generate the data that took me 10 years to generate. We can generate it in a week now. So, I would suggest maybe starting over and really saying, "OK, do we want to just work with CFA, or CFA/TICA or the whole world and try to get a baseline. A baseline is somewhere 30 to 50 cats, but that means you need everybody to participate. You don't want 30 cats from one breeder. They have to be the most diverse cats you can get, even though we know, of course, it's a breed and they are going to be somewhat related, but you want the cats that are also going to be breeding and producing the cats of the next generation. So, that might be the best show winner or it might not, depending on how that cat breeds. So, any breed group could absolutely do it, and we can also still compare to the data that we have.

**Kimberlin:** I wanted to make some references here to the Burmese, because I've done a lot of research now since I'm with the Burmilla, and I understand that TICA has the Burmese, the European Burmese and Tonkinese all woven into one and they do outcrossing through them. My question is really to the breed council now. How can we set up a numbering system or some type of system to reference these cats, if we decide that the breeds want to get into this type of thing with the genetic outcrossing. **Wilson:** Do you mean registration numbering system? **Kimberlin:** Correct. **Wilson:** This really is – the way you do that is, you have to put an outcross on your ballot, you have to get the agreement of the other breed councils, you have to let the breed council secretary know the – **Kimberlin:** Don't you think this is something that's coming up that is going to be like, through other breeds that the Breeds and Standards Committee can set up a format before time, do the pre-work to come up with a system first before anybody even tries to put it on the ballot? **Hamza:** Keith, we've already done that. **Wilson:** We do this all the time. **Hamza:** And we have a precedent now for genetically trying to help the breeds out when they're in a genetic problematic position. Mod Daeng was a cat that opened up a lot of doors, as far as the way we think. **Lyons:** Keep in mind we'll be able to really banter through this, I hope well, in the Burmese group, but keep in mind we can use DNA to prove parentage, so nobody can like hang paper, really, if we do this. **Kimberlin:** That's the main point here. How are you going to keep track of this? **Lyons:** Those type of registries can be set up, but keep in mind we also have to think about educational programs for the breeders, the judges, and one thing we're going to have to think about also in Burmese, and I'm going to probably – you're going to throw some eggs at me here, but I think within the cat fancy we need to think about less extreme phenotypes, as well. So, here we have a mutation that's certainly, even with the carriers we're still going to have cherry eye problems and dermaloid problems, and this is where the public, where PETA, can come after you is making cats that just can't live on their own. So, I caution everyone about getting too extreme with brachycephalic faces and Persian-type faces, or too long in some of the Siamese extremes, as well. So, I just want to try to throw that caution and get you thinking more

proactively, because I can't fix that – you can. I'm doing the best I can with genetic diseases and helping to find color traits for you, but those things you and the judges control, and you have to work together on that. **Hamza:** I know that our Achilles heel has always been vigor. If we lose vigor in the breeds, we are susceptible, like you said. One of the questions I have is, when we work with the outcrosses, is there enough ability in genetic testing to test the outcrosses coming in, to make sure that they are solving the problem and not compounding it? **Lyons:** Well, we can certainly test for any known disease, we can test for all the colors and hair traits that you're interested in. Is there going to be something new in there? Who knows, but at any given day with any new production of a new cat, a new mutation can happen, as well. So, I don't think there's any greater risk with going to a street cat than staying within a breed, because at any time a cat can have a mutation, just like what's happened in the Burmese. Hypokalemia, as well. There's many cases where these diseases are not found in the random-bred cats, but found in our breeds.

**Miller:** I have two questions, but the main question is, I would like to have you elaborate just a little bit more about the nature of diversity and whether it's always negative, because I know that if there's a lack of diversity, it can impact the immune system. However, I remember in the 80's when we had a specific disease in the Abyssinian breed, we didn't have DNA to look toward, we had to study pedigrees in those days, and so we looked at breed co-efficiency through pedigree study at Ohio State, and it was found that some of the healthiest cats as far as being clear of the renal amyloidosis were the ones that had the very high – in other words, they were very inbred lines, because if you breed healthy to healthy, you get healthy. So, I would like to know, at what point, or how do you – is diversity always needed in a breed? What about the Russian Blues, for instance? They are – I don't know that they might not have the diversity that you want to see, but as far as I know, they are a healthy breed. So, that would be another example. I would like you to elaborate on that a little. **Lyons:** I think that's a very good point. Even in wildlife situations, there are some very inbred populations that are quite healthy. How they got healthy is, by inbreeding they ended up purging their recessive traits because you were able to get rid of them because they got so inbred. So, you're stacking the deck against you when you're causing lower and lower diversity, so what should you worry about? A brand new corona virus coming along. A brand new herpes virus coming along. A brand new calici virus coming along. If your breed is all genetically the same, it's going to wipe out that whole breed. So, those are the things you worry about in wildlife populations. But, are all inbred populations unhealthy?

**Bennett:** One of the discussions that we've recently been having in Ocicats is about a condition, PRA, and we were wondering, on testing outcrosses, we can test PRA in Abys that we bring in, but what we're concerned about is, if we test Ocicats for that, is that marker the same or are we going to endanger our gene pool by relying on a test that may not be specific for our cat? **Lyons:** Right. So, she's talking about the CEP290 mutation that's found in Abyssinians that causes recessive PRA, so yes, if you have these mutations – pardon me? PRA is Progressive Retinal Atrophy, so it's blindness, alright? What we have found with this Abyssinian blindness is that it has far more variable expression than Dr. Narfström thought at the beginning, so there are cats that are many years old that have such minor loss of their photo receptors that they're still fairly sighted, but they have this mutation. I think we have to start to understand that mutations like the blindness mutation or also hypertrophic cardiomyopathy – that's one that drives you nuts, right? OK, so you have a positive cat, you don't know whether it's going to get disease or not.

This is the norm, actually, that mutations interact with other genes and other modifiers, and the body is very good at correcting things if it has the chance. So, if you have those mutations, yes, we should be considering how can we alleviate that, how can we keep them at a very low level or maybe even eradicate them from the population? The thing is, what you have to think about is conversely just because you don't have the mutation doesn't mean that you might not have another form of HCM or blindness that we don't know about yet. So, it's the converse that you really have to be more worried about. Think about this; Korats, Russian Blues, Chartreux – those are all cats that are little d little d (dd) for the dilute mutation, but they're still all different colors, if you look at them. Those are modifier genes. If they can modify color, they can modify vision, they can modify heart disease, as well.

**Morgan:** I want to go back to your baseline where you're talking about establishing a new baseline. You started 10+ years ago getting samples from a lot of us. I don't think a lot of us know exactly what you have. Will you be able to identify if we send duplicate cats on that baseline? So we just send them on in? I have no idea what I sent you, I know my breed council members don't know, and we don't want to mess things up by having you double up on things.

**Lyons:** Right, right. Yes, genetically you would end up with a cat with the same profile, but I have the data so I can always talk back with you and say, "here's the ones you sent to me", but remember my data being old enough, we want to make sure we're using the cats that are contributing forward, from this point on.

**Morgan:** When I talk to my breed council, I want to make sure that they're not confused about what to send or not.

**Wilson:** Is there a model or a little template you could provide, that we could provide to the breed council secretaries, if they wanted to put something together? What's required, a minimum number, maximum number? Just a little outline so if the breed councils wanted to take this to their members and maybe even open it up globally to their breeds in other associations that they work with or whatever, I think that would be very valuable, but we need to know, what do we need to send, how do we send it, what do you need with it, do you need a pedigree, and so on. That would really, really be great, because I think there would be a huge amount of interest in this.

**Newkirk:** And how many samples per breed.

**Wilson:** Right, how many.

**Lyons:** The samples per breed would depend on the population census of the breed. Of course, you don't need as many to account for Korats as you would for Persians. So, that type of thing. Yes, we can come up with a template, but I would like to work with CFA and the breed councils to come up with what would be feasible and work.

**Eigenhauser:** And on that subject, somebody asked before about whether the board can put together some sort of guidelines on how to do this. The problem is not the board right now. I mean, I've been on the board for a long time. I've never seen a board more amenable to listening to good science and scientific discussion, and a well-reasoned program. You know, whatever works for your breed, you've got a really good chance if it's got good science behind it of the board approving it. The bottleneck in these things has always been the politics, especially if you're working with another breed. Then, you've got to get their approval, you've got to make whatever concessions they require politically in order to make this happen, so I don't see the impediment of science. Science is science, facts are facts, and this board is very good, I think, in terms of listening to good science. The problem you're always going to have to deal with is your breeders who don't want "those dirty cats brought into our lines" or the other breed that doesn't want to be used as an outcross. It's dealing with that, and I think the better science you can present to your breed council members and to the members of the other breed council, the better

the chance you get it passed, because more and more, people are letting go of their prejudices and the old wives tales and the rules of thumb that we used to breed by and starting to listen to what science is telling us. But remember that the bottleneck in these things more often than not is the politics. **Wilson:** And I know that Norma Placchi is happy to share what the Havana Brown breed council did. They did their homework. They put together an outcross program with the help of Dr. Lyons that had a beginning and an end, and because they did it that way, they got the cooperation of the Oriental breed council to work with them. If you leave things open ended, that's where the politics and the fear come in that all of a sudden the board is going to merge the breeds together or something like that. If you can put together something that makes sense scientifically that has a beginning and an end, work with the other breed council to get their buy-in ahead of time, you will be so much further ahead. Norma, did you want to speak to that?

**Placchi:** Yes, and it has worked very, very successfully. As a matter of fact, this year we have the very first F1 DM in the breed. [applause] and the very first F2 DM in the breed. We are very, very proud. **Wilson:** It really revitalized that breed. **Placchi:** Yes, and we have to thank the board because they were very cooperative. The Oriental and the Siamese breed council secretaries were very cooperative, and it's working.

**Lyons:** I would like to make a plea for the Burmese breeders. I know some people have left the breed group, but one of the ways to really help increase genetic diversity quickly is to expand a population quickly, so you want fast population growth. So, if we can get every one of you in the room to do one Burmese breeding for us, that would be really great. I know that won't happen, but at least that's something we have to think about, too, is to get the old people back in and somebody that will hold some cats for us or something, but really to increase a population's genetics, you need the breed to expand quickly. **Wilson:** That's a good point. Does anyone else have questions for Dr. Lyons?

**Hamza:** I know it was brought up a few minutes ago that maybe we've got healthy lines and we should line breed those lines, and you talked about after awhile the recessive drops off, but I would like you to explain that that takes a very long time and [inaudible] is more likely to happen. We're dealing with a much – when you were talking about it, I think you were thinking about things like cheetahs and stuff. **Lyons:** Yeah, yeah. **Hamza:** And that takes a very long time. **Lyons:** Right. Overall, you always just want to work towards better diversity. You know, when a wildlife group sees an inbred population, they still have the instinct of wanting to diversify those cats or whatever it might be, like the Florida panthers or the cheetahs or something like that. So, you do go through a purging episode, so the cheetahs have learned to deal with FIP, but now they're growing back to being more diverse and a healthier population again, so that's what will happen is you'll go through bottlenecks and then they'll expand again, and then bottlenecks and then expand again. The thing is, you never know when the insult is going to happen, so if you're diverse, more of your population will potentially survive, so I don't want to, again, be too overdramatic that if you're inbred you're doomed, but you're certainly not stacking the deck in your favor. **Miller:** I was thinking when you were saying that some of the random-bred cats were lacking the disease problems of some of the pedigreed cats, correct? **Lyons:** Correct. **Miller:** But we have a problem right now that practically every shelter in the United States requires neutering and spaying before they will release the cat. Every rescue group requires neutering and spaying, so other than having a stray wander up to your house, it's almost

impossible to get a random-bred cat that could be utilized in a breeding program that might be very valuable, and I'm wondering if we, if there's any way in which we can reach the shelters or some of them, maybe even through the veterinary world would be easier than through our group, to try to see if we can get access to some random-bred cats. I wonder if you thought about that, Leslie? 88% to about 94% in certain parts of the country of owned cats are already neutered and spayed, so it's pretty hard to find a random-bred cat now. **Wilson:** I will tell you that you can go down every little road in Michigan and find outside every little farm this time of year, "free kittens". **Miller:** Certainly in California we don't see that anymore at all. **Wilson:** Come to Michigan. **Hamza:** By "lack of diversity", we mean within our own organization here, for instance? **Lyons:** That's a little tricky, because you already have the genetics that you have, and you might mix it around a little bit more, but still you're only limited to what you have. I would think maybe a little more mixing with some of the breeds at the higher end of the scale, like maybe the Russian Blue that might benefit, but groups like the Singapura and the Burmese really need an influx of something. **Hamza:** What are the breeds that we have, that are at the higher end of the scale? **Lyons:** I said Manx, Siberian, Ragdolls and Norwegian Forest Cats. Don't those all make sense to you? Those are the natural populations that you've been able to pull a lot of founders from, and they come in lots of different colors and things like that. The more you restrict colors, also, the more you shove yourself to the lower diversity end of the world. **Newkirk:** What about Japanese Bobtail and British? Would they fall in that group? **Lyons:** Japanese Bobtails are kind of interesting. They are a quandary for us, because obviously that bob tail came from the Orient but their genetic signature now doesn't match the Asian signature. It's more a western signature, so there's been – they basically have lost their origins because of recent breedings with western cats. But, you know, so they are still a pretty diverse breed, but I also realize, you know, a less popular breed, as well. So, numbers don't always do it; it's the diversity and how much you're sharing and how much you're interacting with different countries to keep the cats diverse. **Newkirk:** Since we are much more global than we were in past years, I think probably our genetic diversity within a lot of breeds here is a genetic soup of United States type cats. Will it help the diversity to bring in cats from like England or Australia? Because, to me, that would seem to me to be a whole different genetic soup to select from to add to the diversity in what we have here. Having said that, I understand that we import a lot of cats out, and so our genetic fingerprint is going to be showing up in these foreign countries a lot, so I guess my question is, are we diluting this out so that we're not helping ourselves by these cats all showing up in foreign countries. **Lyons:** Oh, I don't think there's enough of that that's really affecting it. In some breeds that might be the case, but I think it's good to be thinking globally. I think the Burmese have to think globally at this point; other breeds maybe not so much. I'm aware that you have to be considering types and what's going to ruin your type. The hardest thing that you have to get back is the type, because that's multiple genes that you have to manipulate. Colors are a little easier. You might lose a little bit of tone, but still the morphology you have to worry about. But, sharing with Europeans and Australians and Asians, I think that's all a very good deal. Japanese Bobtail is right in the middle of that scale. **Newkirk:** There's really only a couple of breeds that are physically different, structurally different. I mean, Russian Blue comes to mind because the Australians breed the donkey ear look. **Wilson:** But still, in a few generations, if people are willing to work with that. **Newkirk:** What I'm saying is, Cornish Rex and Russian Blue come to my mind of the two breeds that, most of our standards worldwide are very close except for those two breed. **Lyons:** We found the Cornish Rex mutation this year, by

the way, too. It's the one that also includes the German Rex, as historically has been known, but now we can actually genetically type for that, as well.

**Wilson:** OK, I thank you very much for coming. This has been invaluable. **Lyons:** My pleasure. [applause]

9. *Streamlining the ballots and potentially implementing online or electronic voting.*

**Wilson:** OK, we've just got one more topic on here, and that is <reads>. I wonder if Mr. Kallmeyer could speak to that. **Kallmeyer:** Actually, there's a lot of third-party vendors that do that, so it's just setting it up to do it, and setting up the security for the breed council members. I think that's the problem. We still have people that don't have computers and need the regular mail, as well. **Wilson:** But as far as breed council membership registration, isn't that something we're looking at? **Kallmeyer:** We thought we had a student project, but it turned out to be a real student project. There are third-party vendors, it's very easy to use. Eventually, we can use the same software we're using for the clerking test. That would do the same purpose. They insure integrity, they provide the passwords. What it would require from CFA is that we would have to essentially give the PIN number to each breed council member and the cost structure is relatively cheap. It would probably cost us about \$2,000 to do it. **Wilson:** Would that also work for the balloting process? **Kallmeyer:** Sure. **Wilson:** Alright. Well, let's, maybe we'll talk and I'll see what I can get back to – it's not going to happen this year. **Kolencik:** Why? **Wilson:** Because, well, if you're going to rely on me to do it, I don't have the time this year. **Kolencik:** Maybe somebody can help you if you ask. **Wilson:** Are you volunteering? **Kolencik:** I'll be happy to. **Wilson:** Alright. Mary K has volunteered for this project. **Kolencik:** I really think that this needs to be a priority after all the problems from last year. It has to be a priority. **Wilson:** I understand. **Kolencik:** It's not going to happen until you guys make it a priority. **Wilson:** We have a volunteer, thank you.

10. *Other topics?*

**Wilson:** Any other topics? **Griswold:** A couple years ago we talked about changing registration numbers based on DNA, so far as longhair carriers or cats that don't carry longhair, and we put that as a poll on our breed council ballot and it was not unanimous but almost unanimous to approve that, and I was wanting to know, so, can we now register based on DNA? **Miller:** I would like to comment. I know when we were talking at the board level about Somalis that might be causing some longhair genes in the Abyssinian line if they came into the pedigree many years back, we find that there are five – I wish Leslie were still here because she could probably explain it – there are about five longhair genes, so I don't think we're ready yet to be able to require DNA for longhair, because how are you going to identify which longhair gene? Some of them can be identified and some of them can't right now. That's my understanding. **Griswold:** I thought that all four genes had finally been found for longhair, but in any case, if the DNA says that you're not a longhair carrier, then for Scottish Folds you could be an 8800 number. If you're a longhair carrier, you can be an 8600, so that would allow us to change our registration numbers to show exactly what the cat is. **Brown:** There's at least one fibroblast growth factor that there's no test for, so there's a possibility that some cats could fall in between the cracks, so we aren't quite ready yet. **Shafnisky:** I think we already did this for the Oriental



longhairs in February. We are allowing them to do some changing of their numbers. This is something we should consider – not now, but I think it’s something that we have to look at, since we’ve already approved it for them. **Wilson:** I don’t remember. A lot of this is related to process, and I think that process is as important as being able to DNA test for anything that might affect how you register your cats or the color class they go into and so on. There needs to be a process in place of how that’s going to work. For example, you tested the cat, you know it’s only a shorthair, now what? There needs to be some type of proof required. It needs to go to Central Office. What is Central Office to do with it? What labs are they going to agree to use? There’s so much on the other side of it, once there actually is a test that’s definitive, that’s almost as important. Just like with the Burmese, with their outcross program they’ve got this test. OK, so if these imports meet this and this and this, and they test positive for this and negative for this and five other things, OK then what? What’s the next step? That cat’s registration application goes to Central Office and then how do we track that? How do we know what’s the process in place? That’s what we don’t have in place yet. I would say that’s a priority, but we just heard another priority. So, we have a lot of priorities and we’ve run out of time. But, you need to think towards that also. If you can come to us with a process, and I will – Melanie had to leave, but the Egyptian Mau import policy is an example of, you know, this comes in, we get this, the breed council secretary reviews it, they approve it and we tell Central Office “register the cat”. The breed council secretary does that, in that case.

**Hamza:** I just want to say in closing, for me is, when we look at our breeds, and I was so pleased to have Leslie Lyons here, I said it before and I just want to reiterate it; our Achilles heel, by far, is genetic vigor of our breeds. If we lose our vigor, if the people that are our enemies can say, “they are breeding cats that aren’t healthy and aren’t as vigorous as other cats”, then we open a door to a lot of problems. But, on a personal level, we open the door to dealing with things that are unpleasant to deal with. It’s up to the – one of the primary responsibilities of the breed council is to safeguard your breeds. You’re the gatekeeper of your breed. You have the responsibility of unique look and feel of genetic material on the planet. You have to anticipate – again, I was so glad she was here. I was able to identify the breeds who have these low coefficients. It’s up to each breed council secretary to figure out where you are, as far as trouble in your breed. It’s even a bigger responsibility, if you’re one of the breeds already in trouble, you’ve got to move fast. This board has proved that it’s willing to work with you to get out of trouble, but if you’re one of those breeds that is on the dawn of trouble, it’s up to you to take enough time so that you can correct your problems correctly. So, in a way, we have to be more than we’ve ever been. You have to be scientifically savvy. You have to understand where you are. The good news is that we have the resources, we have the ability to participate in this program to track where we are genetically, and we also have expert advice that we can rely on to say where to go. We also have the ability to test the individuals. Is Art still here? He had to go, but what’s wonderful with Art and with their program is that with outcrossing, they were able to investigate the individual or individuals that they wanted to use with DNA testing, knowing that the offspring would produce certain colors and produce certain traits, and I think the board was very responsive in that case to helping him come forward. I wouldn’t see a problem as long as a program made sense. I think the board would welcome it with open arms. I just want you to know that we’re in full partnership with you to make the breeds what they should be, as far as their genetic vigor.

**Fellerman:** [inaudible, off microphone] **Wilson:** In the Thursday board meeting, the board ratified the – OK, the board ratified the Abyssinian, Persian and British Shorthair results so that you would not – it would be a full five generations and 8 for the Abyssinians, so there would be no registration for breeding only for that last generation. That option would no longer exist.

**Wilson:** Any other questions? I want to thank the breed council secretaries and the board members for participating. Hopefully, we will have an even longer agenda next year.