

(55) **INTERNATIONAL DIVISION MEETING.**

**Saturday, July 2, 2016**

**Hannon:** I'm calling the meeting to order. I welcome all of you. I'm going to turn the meeting over to Dick Kallmeyer, who is Chair of the International Committee.

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

**Kallmeyer:** Thank you Mark, and welcome everyone. Start off by introducing the members of the committee. Besides myself, we have two board members – Kathy Calhoun and John Colilla – as part of the Committee. We have Ken Curle that helps us in the Middle East, and our new or returning member, Bob Zenda. Bob Zenda is going to help us in a tactical role, especially China. One is a case where he is working with Jason out of Dalian to do a 3 to 5 page brochure in Chinese, “you're a clerk, now what do I do?”, since we have a lot of clerks show up at a show. The second part is to develop, “putting on a show for dummies” in Chinese, basically the fundamentals and basics of the show. We will take advantage of Bob in other areas, as well, but that's the main tactical area.

**Kallmeyer:** At this time we would like the members of the ID who showed up to introduce themselves. **Hannon:** Speak into the microphone and introduce yourselves. **Kit Fung:** Good morning everyone. I am Kit Fung from Hong Kong. **Kallmeyer:** He is also one of our judges and new second specialty trainee. **Frankie Chan:** This is Frankie Chan from China. I am a candidate for China Representative. **Nicholas Pun:** Good morning. I am Nicholas Pun and I am from Hong Kong, too. **Allen Shi:** Allen Shi from Shanghai, China. **Kai Gavin Cao:** My name is Gavin and I'm from Sichuan, China. I'm also running for the ID Representative. **Matthew Wong:** I am Matthew Wong from Hong Kong. Suki's husband. **Suki Lee:** Good morning. Suki Lee from Hong Kong, approved longhair judge and shorthair apprentice.

Joining the meeting later were: **Chloe Chung:** Good morning everyone. This is Chloe Chung from Hong Kong. I'm an allbreed judge. **Chate:** Good morning everyone. I am Chate from Thailand. I am just an exhibitor. **5D:** I am 5D. I'm from Beijing. **Katherine:** Hello everyone, I am Katherine. I come from Chengdu, China. **[inaudible]:** Good morning everyone. My name is [inaudible]. I'm from China. **Brandon:** Hello everybody. I'm Brandon from Beijing, China. **Pat:** Hello. My name is Pat from Thailand. **Chris:** Hello, I am Chris, a Ragdoll breeder from Beijing, China. **Kallmeyer:** I would like to introduce two more members that just walked in, Justin and Carrie.

**Kallmeyer:** Welcome everyone.

**1. Central Office issues**

**Kallmeyer:** The agenda we would like to cover, we want to start off with Central Office issues with the ID and some of the things we have run into. The next part is, Annette Wilson has been working with all the judges who have judged at International Division shows and they came up with a list of concerns or areas that should be addressed. We will go through those, as well. On the Central Office side, there are several issues with registering cats that they have run into.

One of the big issues is not providing enough information, that the Asian exhibitors especially don't provide email, they don't provide a way that we can contact people. We run into that issue especially since there are several agents registering cats maybe 100 at a time and not providing enough information. It is very important that we do get at least the email so we can contact people if something happens.

**Kallmeyer:** The second issue that we have run into relates to entry programs, especially in China. The entry clerks are not completing all the information that we really need. They are leaving off the city, the province. There is neither a phone number or an email to contact people. This becomes extremely important during the awards period, that we have no way to find out how to contact the people that they have won awards. So, we want the entry clerks to be more diligent. Point out that CFA will be producing a new entry program. It will be web based. The company that we are looking at actually has experience delivering web-based applications that can be accessed from China. You will find the new entry program will require things like the email address, the country, and forcing that issue.

**Kallmeyer:** The other issue that Central Office has is that the entries in China don't always provide the correct entry information. To give you an example, there was a show in Chengdu in which 17 premiers were thrown out. What happened? The people had entered grand premiers as opens, and it's not only in China. It happened in Region 7 where they threw out 7 cats in premiership. Why they did that, there's conjecture that part of it might be that they were stuffers and they didn't want another grand to compete against their grand. We're not exactly sure, but in China we had problems with an American Shorthair breeder that was told not to enter their grand as an open. They ended up doing it about 9 or 10 times. So, the net effect of that, if you enter a grand incorrectly, it's discarded and not part of the official count. The second issue that we have related to that is that in China we see a lot of opens that when they become a champion don't enter as a champion. In fact, if you go to Herman, you see them as NC-CH or NC-PR. Now, they are not throwing those out today. We have a different problem in the United States, in that we have almost as many exhibitors enter their opens as champions because they figure they are judged as champions. So, CFA is not discarding those entries today, but it's very important. In China especially and in Asia we have a lot of issues of the non-confirmed champions and premiers. They never bothered to file for their championship. Now, what screws that up in the system is that if the cat is really a champion entered as an open, our scorer actually has to go through those one by one and do a correction, and it takes an awful lot of time to fix this. So, the rules have been changed that after 30 days, CFA Central Office will notify these people of the change, but if we don't have the email address there is no way we can notify them, so it's an additional problem. We may get to the point where they are going to lose all their points. So, once you become a champion, make sure you file for a champion.

## **2. *Fraudulent registration***

**Kallmeyer:** The other issue we have been having concerns certain frauds in registrations. We already know that in China they advertise that for about 300 RMB, about \$50, you can get a CFA registration or a TICA registration. This is being advertised. It's something that we have to find a way – I'm not sure we can solve it. It's a tough problem, but definitely issues of fraud. We've had issues with some of the people (not brokers) agenting registrations. Somebody recently just complained that they are being blackmailed because they gave their PIN number

and litter information to one of these agents to register a cat, and this agent just contacted them and said, “unless you give us more money, we’re going to take over and transfer the ownership.” Now, it’s silly on their part to give up that information, but again it’s fraud issues that we have been seeing. We’ve been issues in China where people even lost ownership of the cat. For example, we had a breeder of Ragdolls who happened to be at a show. After the show they looked at the catalog and saw the father and mother were actually their cats. In fact, what was interesting to her is that the father of this kitten had been neutered about 3 years before. Somehow, someone had transferred the ownership of the mother to another person. So, we definitely see fraud issues going on. We have seen fraud issues related to eastern Europe. To give you an example, at the awards show last August, there was a tortoiseshell Sphynx being show. The master clerk at the time came up to me and said, “gee, this registration number seems funny.” We looked at the prefix, and the prefix was 7940, a red tabby Exotic male. This is for a tortoiseshell Sphynx female. So, that made us a little suspicious. We asked for the green slip and they gave it to us. The father was a red tabby Exotic male and the mother was a Ragdoll. This was a registration, this one particularly came from Russia. So, there’s a lot of concerns that people are dumping cats into China with fake registrations and we have to flush those out. Now, when we score a show, we actually look at each TRN. If it’s CFA parents, we make sure that the parents are valid and related to the owner. It’s one of those things that we need you to keep track of to help us detect this fraud and solve the issues. So, those are the main issues with Central Office. It’s incomplete information. Make sure that we have a way to contact people if we see problems.

### **3. *High price of China shows***

**Kallmeyer:** The next issue is, because of everything happening in China and a lot of complaints from judges that have gone to Chinese shows, Annette set up a data collection system to have judges write reports about every show in China. This is not related to any particular person here, per se, it’s just issues that have to be solved. The #1 issue is cats being shown in one ring. First of all, judges are upset. They consider it an insult that a cat is not in their ring. You hear a lot of stories of judges judging maybe 180 or 200 cats on Saturday, and the Sunday judges judge 40 cats. You see a lot of demand for judges to judge on Sunday. The judges consider this not only a personal insult, but from your side it cheapens your wins. People don’t respect the Chinese wins as much, so it’s certainly a concern. From that, I would like to open it up to the board members to give their experience in this case. Board members or committee members. Let’s open it up to comments from the board. Probably some of the judges might describe their experience.

**Wilson:** First of all, the board tasked the Judging Program Committee to get feedback from judges about the shows in the ID, and not just in China. I want to say first, judges overall saw a lot of improvement in a lot of areas. I really want to congratulate all the representatives we have here from all of the ID areas, because there’s really a lot of improvement. There’s improvement in clerks. Just the contrast from a year ago. A lot more people clerking who know what they are doing and are enthusiastic about it. Maybe could do a better job marking the catalog, but a lot of the ring management is improved, so really good job there. But, the issue that Dick mentioned is fairly specific to China. It’s true that the judges come and they love the honor and privilege of judging the cats in China. It truly is an honor. Hospitality is always very nice, but even on the Saturday of a two-day show, often there are lists and lists of absentees that

come around after you have called your cats. It is about competition and one of the reasons we are judges is because it's a privilege to compare the cats and hang ribbons on the cats. That's what we want to do. I understand that not everybody can come to the show on Sunday, so you expect some absentees, but it's really gotten blatant at some of the shows. That's not what we want to do. We want to judge the cats, and hopefully breeders and exhibitors want to compete. So, there instances in some of the feedback I got was, shows with 225 entries, they only have about 75 cats total judged in any one ring. There seems to be blatant direction of which cats are absent in which rings. There is a list: ring 1, these cats are absent; ring 2, these cats are absent. There might be 40 numbers on that list. The master clerk catalogs bear that out. Show halls in some cases don't appear to be large enough to bench more than 100 cats plus the judging rings, so there is concern that cats in the same color and the same breed are the same cat in some instances. That's a concern. Some of the other issues were that there's a lot of addendas. There seem to be many transfers – color class transfers, changes in color and pattern, serial transfers – the cat is transferred from Exotic kitten to longhair Persian and then back, then it turns out to be absent anyway. That may be an entry clerk issue, it could be an exhibitor issue. It's just an area where there's room for improvement. Again, the third item that came up is the clerks. There's a lot of improvement in clerking. Hopefully there will continue to be clerking classes. I understood from what they said earlier that there's going to be some additional assistance provided so clerks in a show can have a sheet to look at and see what there is to do. But, one thing that was fairly common in the feedback was the cacophony at the shows where the clerks are all calling cats to the rings at the same time in loud voices so that nobody can hear anything. I personally have seen improvement in that, but that is something to work on that I think probably can be affected pretty easily. Then the other thing would be show start times, especially on Saturday. I understand that many clubs set up the show early in the morning, but they bring the judges over to the show at 10:00 and often the show doesn't start until 1:00. If that's the most convenient time to take judges over, that's fine, but certainly the judges don't mind waiting at the hotel and going at a later time. Do you want to talk about any of the other things? **Kallmeyer:** Why don't we start with that and then have comments from other judge members of the board who have been to Chinese shows. Any comments?

#### **4. Judge comments on ID shows**

**Newkirk:** Thank you guys for coming. One of the things that drives me crazy about the shows over there are the ring clerks talking over one another. I've spoken to Gavin. The last show I did was one that Frankie had put on. It was a little bit better, but they had I think 50 English speaking volunteers helping at that show, which was fabulous. It was one of the best run shows that I've been at. Gavin's shows that I have judged have done very, very well, too. But, I think it's really upon you guys that are putting the shows on to gather the clerks in the morning and say, "If someone is speaking, wait until they are finished and then you make your announcement." What typically happens is, one person is calling up cats to their ring. The next person picks up the mike and they are like 5 decibels higher because they think their announcement is more important than the one going on. I think that's something you guys can fix very easily, but you have to sit them down and you have to say, "Look, it's rude to do it, so wait until the person is finished announcing and then you announce." I walk out of the show halls with a really bad headache many times because it's like one is coming in one ear and another one is going in the other and they clash right in the middle of my brain. So anyway,

that's something I think is an easy fix. I'm telling you, the judges at your show will much appreciate it.

**Currle:** Having been through the Region 9 coming in, I think you are experiencing pretty much the same situation as far as education and how to run your shows. The more exposure you have to shows being run correctly, I think you guys are going to be doing just fine. My only issue was, I judged Sunday at a 225 entry show, and I judged 47 cats. It was disappointing. CFA is about competition, and that's what you have to keep in mind. You need to compete. We love handling cats; otherwise, we wouldn't be in the Judging Program. We're very happy to have you, we're very happy to help you. All you have to do is ask.

**Kallmeyer:** One of the issues Annette brought up is the abnormal amount of transfers, especially color changes. We need some way in China to get the word out to what cats are supposed to look like, to get the correct color class. Some are simple, some are mackerel tabbies versus classic tabby, but having master clerked a lot of shows in Chinese, I go through about one red pen per show with a phenomenal number of changes. It's less than it was multiple years ago. I think it was about 2008 we did a show in Chengdu, the first time in Chengdu, and I think there were 83 cats in the show. We had 71 transfers, so it was phenomenal. We have to find a way to get it out. I think people may be buying cats from pet shops that aren't clear, but basic identification on cats, we need a way to transfer the knowledge, but associated with that is the way the clerks handle the transfers at the shows. The exhibitors give the transfers to the clerks, and the clerks never bother to tell the judges. We have a lot of cases where the show is running late, the judge is waiting for cats to appear, and eventually somebody shows up to say, "these cats are absent." So, shows that should have ended up earlier go much later because of those problems. A lot of these things are functional things that certainly can be solved if there is a way to get that information out there. We started to see a lot more clerking schools. I think there have been probably 5 clerking schools within the past couple months. We had a Chinese translator at the show. Jason in Dalian has done a great job, so we are starting to see better clerks coming out of it. It's just whether we can continue to develop them. Most of the people here that I see that are clerks do very well, but the knowledge is not being transferred. In the U.S., we're lucky. If you become a clerk, you can train under an experienced clerk. We don't see that in China. They are learning and kind of thrown into it. We have people at a lot of shows that are just hired to clerk. They don't have cats, they have never been to a cat show, and it certainly leads to challenges as part of that. Point out, at the clerking school, one of the interesting things – I taught one in Chengdu that probably had about 25 students, but 13 students had flown in only for the clerking school. So, they definitely want to have the knowledge there. One of the clerking students there had been to one cat show for TICA where she clerked. Having gone to the clerking school convinced her she wants to come to CFA shows. We have to build up the quality of the shows throughout the ID to keep the people. We're starting to see more competition there, and people feel they can make money, announce that they're judges and form a new association. Part of it is that we have discouraged a lot of exhibitors that have gone to the pointed-assist shows, I'll call them. They felt that they are not getting their fair share as part of it. Darrell brought up too, I think in a lot of cases we are pricing exhibitors out of the show. Towards the end of the show season we saw a lot of shows where entry fees were the equivalent of about \$600 US or more. Some of the shows we have seen recently have been on the order probably of less than \$200, so it tends to bring more people in. We have to bring in more exhibitors so you don't feel the requirement that you have to assist cats or stuff the shows in order to bring them.

**Kallmeyer:** Darrell, you had some comments about the pricing of the shows and discounts? **Newkirk:** Yes, it was brought to my attention – I didn't see the flyer, so this is second hand information, OK? I don't recall what the exact entry fee was, but there was a notation at the bottom of the flyer that the price for a club member to enter the show was \$10. There was one show that I saw the count and there was like 3 people who had each entered 30 cats. We sat down with a calculator and figured it out. If they were charging \$600 to enter that, one person's entry would have been \$27,000. Now, I'm not stupid. I know that \$27,000 did not get put in the account for those entries, and I know you guys aren't stupid so I won't insult you with thinking that you do that. However, there needs to be some kind of reasonable discount for club members. Free is not an option. If they are going to put the cat in and get points for it, then they need to pay a reasonable fee that non-members of that club pay. That's only fair. It's not fair to let everybody in the club have everything for free. That may boost up your count and it's easy on your wallet, but there needs to be some fairness here.

**Kallmeyer:** Related to that, we've had a lot of allegations on rejected entries. Again, every time we try to investigate, no one would say, "that person did that" and willing to stand up for it. I think Darrell gave me an example of someone who tried to enter a show and they were told, "no, we don't want any more grands" or "we don't want that breed." If people have a complaint, they are willing to stand up for it and support the allegation, we can investigate, but just saying that it happened is not enough. **Newkirk:** Yes, I did tell Dick about an instance where a grand was being shown, the person tried to enter a show, and they said, "we're only accepting opens and champions, we're not taking any grands for the show." That's not fair. Their competition should be open for anybody. When I was the ID chair and we had an issue in Hong Kong where one faction wouldn't take entries from another person, so we sort of tightened up the show rules to prevent that. So, it's competition. If your cat is good enough, your cat is going to win. We had two Exotics this past show season here in the States and they both got national wins. Most of the time when they were at the same show, the judges used both of them because they are top show cats. You guys have beautiful cats in China, so you should not be afraid of competition. You get a good cat, you take it to the show, the judges are going to recognize the quality of that cat. If there's 2 of you or 3 of you even that are very competitive within the same breed, and you may be in the same color class even. There's no reason that those cats shouldn't make placements in the finals and get points. It's about fairness. So, it's really disheartening for us on the board and as judges, too, to get word that they wouldn't accept this particular entry in the show because somebody in the club is running a cat and they don't want the competition. If you're excluding entries, where is the pride in your cat winning by defeating the other cats?

**Wong:** Excuse me, I'm sorry. We've spent 30 minutes on one-way hand grenades, right? **Newkirk:** We will take your hand grenades. Fire away. **Wong:** As a pure observer – you know, I'm just Suki's husband. Most shows that my wife goes for training, I think most of these issues here, I am sure we speak with each other about it, and a lot of you during dinner, but just let me make one disclaimer. A lot of the organizers here, they may not be the people doing these practices, right? I think that some of the things you mentioned are done a lot by people who are not even sitting here today. Some of them are at this event but they are not sitting here. So, please, for those who haven't met them, there are a lot of good fellows here. Not all of them are bad. Maybe half. So, I think we should give a chance for them to explain a little bit, but if we only get one way it won't work, because they have some comments.

**Kallmeyer:** We can open it up for comments. Someone want to speak, besides Matthew?

**Cao:** I just want to first of all comment on the protest thing. We all know that things got a bit weird and crazy and not controlled last season. Personally, I know friends who got rejected from shows. I myself, I was running a championship show cat last year and I missed 5 shows that were over 200 entries. I couldn't get entry into even one of them. The reason why we didn't protest was because we think the process is really long. I have a friend who was asked to pay 20,000 RMB to enter a show. If he doesn't pay that amount he doesn't get in because he is a grand. I'm not going to name names or the breed. He decided not to go but he doesn't want to file a protest either, because it just takes too long to get a response. The show was within a month before the season was stopped and it wouldn't help. Some people actually paid. So, I think that maybe we're not understanding the protest process that well, but in our mind the protest process is probably a bit too long. **Eigenhauser:** I'm George Eigenhauser. I'm the Protest chair. I just wanted to explain, the protest process isn't necessarily to resolve an immediate problem. If the show is this weekend and you are having a problem with an entry, no – the protest process is not the way to fix that problem. There is nothing we can do that fast. We have a basic rule that we call “due process” where we have to hear from both sides and that is going to take time, particularly when we are dealing with long distances and language barriers. So, certainly to fully resolve the matter, it's going to take longer to fix the problem than the immediate show. The purpose of filing a protest isn't to get you in the show, it's to make sure they don't do it at their next show. So, that's really what you have to do. You have to look at it as a long view. It's like when we arrest somebody for a crime, it doesn't stop the crime that was already in progress but it would keep them from doing it again. I understand that it's slow and I understand that it's frustrating and there's a lot of paperwork involved. You're right, it is not a way to deal with an immediate problem, but if the problem keeps recurring, you really need to step up and do the protest and go through the process so that it doesn't happen again. **Wilson:** But when this kind of thing comes up, there should be a process for some immediate resolution or a way to complain, so is that something that maybe the – **Eigenhauser:** The way we've been doing it now is mostly Dick jawboning. If we have the opportunity to say, “fix this or there will be a protest,” and certainly we have the ability to threaten, but an actual protest itself, no, we can't punish somebody without hearing from both sides and getting the facts. Certainly, we have the threat of a protest to hold over people's heads. **Newkirk:** Would it be possible that if people experience something like this, that they could write to you, Dick, and then maybe you could take it to the executive board – not the complete board, I'm talking about the 4 officers and George – then you guys can review that and then come to a resolution, and then get back with whoever the offending party is and say, “look, if you're charging more than what's on the show flyer” – you guys will have to do show flyers from now on; it has to be submitted. What I used to do when somebody was violating something, I had my favorite guy who would always give me [expletive deleted]. Anyway, “that's against the show rules and if you do it I will bring it to the board and will file a protest against you,” and that usually put a stop to it. That would be an easy fix for a short-term issue here like we are talking. **Kallmeyer:** China tends to be a little more challenging. Let me put it that way. I know in Gavin's case we were probably pretty close to getting something, but he gave up. **Cao:** No, I'm going to bring that up later. **Kallmeyer:** No, not you, but the one friend exhibitor, but you're right. I think maybe we need the executive committee. **DelaBar:** Many of you know I have a special interest in China because of its beginnings. I want you to take our comments very seriously, because people will leave CFA and they will go to the other organizations that are sitting there just waiting to get the money that your clubs are getting.

We've got WCF who went in a year ago. We've got TICA that's biting at the bit to get in there. We now have FIFe who went in 2 years ago and has been very calm because they weren't getting any feedback from the people that they were supposedly helping get started. Well, they're still there in China. You've also got this new group, UCA. Even though it may be pet store owners and people that are trying to build up their commercial businesses based upon the cat fancy, they are using our weaknesses, which are the manipulation of cats in the rings, and manipulation of show counts and who gets in shows and who does not get in shows. They are using those very same factors to draw people from CFA over to UCA. We know one of the characters that's in charge of this has made himself an allbreed judge. I wrote him and said, "gee, where did you get your training?" I have yet to get a response, but he is hiring credible judges to judge his shows. I know these people that are going over to judge. Now, the only way we can really stop this – and they want to put on 3 shows a month – the only way we can really stop this is by stopping those things that people object to, such as the high entry fees, such as the surprise shows, and the other factors that have been brought up. This is our concern and this is why we bring it up. CFA no longer has a monopoly in China. And, there's Thailand. You've got WCF and TICA wanting to get into Thailand. I can't blame them. I want to get into Thailand. They will use any weakness that they see and use it against us to build up their own organizations. **Eigenhauser:** If I might just add one thing, even if we do come up with a more formal mechanism for threatening people when they're doing something bad and try to resolve it in something resembling real time, if the aggrieved party doesn't get satisfaction but won't cooperate in the protest later, we are making empty threats. Pretty soon, people will realize we are bluffing. Bluffs don't work, so what we need is follow through. When there is a problem, don't just turn the other cheek. Don't just say, "I don't want to get involved, it's too much effort, it's too much work, I don't want to make waves," because if you do that, that guarantees our threats will be hollow and they won't have any results.

**Kuta:** I want to talk a little bit more on a practical show-running level. I'm an entry clerk and I'm also the Regional Director for the Southwest Region. I was an entry clerk a long time before that. One of the things is finding a really trustworthy entry clerk that multiple different groups of people can trust and want to use. Sometimes people don't want to use that trustworthy entry clerk for regions, right, and then things happen. I think that's part of it – trying to find a way that you can have one who can be held accountable and feels that personal responsibility to keep the entries fair and honest. For instance, I'll have people try to stuff shows. They will say, "so-and-so is paying for my entry," and I'm like, "I don't want to know about this because I will say something about it." I don't think that's right, so if it's going to happen you have to work around it and I do not want to know, so you have to work harder on doing this if it's going to happen. It makes it more difficult for them to do that, and lets more of the people who really want to show their cats get into the show. I don't know how to do that in your division, but if there's any way to make the entry process more transparent. Things like the waiting lists, when I have one, people know what order they are in. I give very clear instructions for it, so demanding some of that from the entry clerks and really trying to find somebody who has a passion for it and using them for a lot of the shows I think can help, but then the ones who are trying to manipulate counts aren't going to use that entry clerk anyway, but then I think the exhibitors start to learn which ones are the honest ones and then tend to do those shows, because I know when I first started out I had some problems entering shows and it really frustrated me and made me almost go away because I couldn't get in or my entries somehow got lost or I got to the show, "oh, we don't have it," "oh, but you called me and told me you had my entry," "but you didn't



have a confirmation so you're not in." So, that made me become an entry clerk. Hopefully, we can get some more entry clerks to help push out the other ones, I don't know. **Colilla:** Dick mentioned the new entry clerk program is going to be web based and will also document the time of the entries, so this way we know the sequence of events, so if there's an issue we can backtrack it to detect fraud. There will be more whistles and bells to prevent fraudulent entries.

**Allan Shi:** First, I appreciate all the board members and judges who have judged in China with very good judging. You probably want to realize what happened in China. What we want to do is good work for CFA in the future. That is what we want, so the past is already the past. With China right now we need a solution for a good future. So, for those problems you mentioned in China, I want to say something about that. Last year, you all know about the mishaps in China, the problems. It really exists there. The people sitting here I think all have had a bad experience to enter a cat show. So, I think all the things is a relationship, the show rules education. That's what we need to do in the new season. So, we need people to teach China about how to hold cat shows, about entry clerk working, about show set-up and the show process – anything. I have many years – not too many, about 5 years – organizing shows and trying to get my shows better and better, so I am always training some clerks. The master clerk cannot be an exhibitor, I know that, but I can teach them to work about that, so that's what we have to do – let more people know how to hold a cat show. I know the people sitting here – the board members, the judges – many people will do that in China. So, what I suggest in China is, we need more people to teach Chinese and we need more people to manage the Chinese cat fanciers. Plus, you know right now, China every week they have 2 or 3 shows on the same weekend. That's a large number. I know in the U.S. it's the same number. China is a big size, the same as U.S., so only a few people are board members, so the board can't manage China. So, I think that's not enough. The International Division is a very large area, with ID-China and ID-Other right now. ID-Other also grows out. That's what we want. CFA always asks, "what can we do for China and for the International Division?" So, that's what we want. We really want that. About some show entry rejects, I have sometimes experience about that and protests. It really takes a long time. A very long time, but sometimes we have to do that. It's really long. You know the show will happen one week, I send the protest and the protest goes into a long process. Like George said, the Protest Committee cannot do this in email to deal with this problem. So, what I want to say is, is it possible to have a Chinese protest committee to deal with these in a short time? I'm not saying immediately, but shorter time. I know when protests come in, there is much work to do, not only about China. Right now, China is really big and has many problems there, so we need people to do that work for us. I think that's CFA's responsibility, right?

**Newkirk:** I want to go back to John's point about the entry clerk time stamping on the web-based system. If the entry clerk refuses the entry and doesn't enter and just throws it in the trash can, then nothing is going to be time stamped. Nobody will know. So, that's one of the problems, that the entry clerks have to enter the data in order to know when it's time stamped. I want to make another point; that is, I really appreciate what you guys are doing. I'm glad that you have chosen the CFA system and you support us, and we want to support you. Anytime we have new people come in – we saw some of this in Europe at some of the shows – it's just a matter of educating and understanding what the rules are. I think for the most part, I've had a lot of people where I've been invited over to judge and they say, "hey, we're just regular cat people who want to put on a cat show." I think that's the majority. I think there's a few people that create a few problems. You guys can help us out by, like George said, filing a protest. It may not

get the issue solved for you on that specific occasion, but if it's brought to us and you present us with the right data, then we can take care of those people. So, please do that. I think the one big issue that a lot of Region 1-9 or specifically here in the States is the stuffing issue. If you guys can come up with some kind of solution, you're going to get a lot more respect from the people over here. We see this as a severe manipulation of the show counts when that happens, so if we can come up with some solution to address that, then you're going to get a lot more respect from the people that are over here showing their cats. Even though they may not be able to come over to China to exhibit their cats and attend some of the big shows, at least they will know it wasn't manipulated and you got a national win based on phantom points. **Colilla:** What happens with entering on the CFA website, we will have an audit trail of entries that are coming in. So, if they send an entry, we will know the sequence of event. We can follow the entry clerk privilege in the future and show license and everything that we need to, because we will have an audit trail and the sequence of entries coming in for a show.

**Frankie Chan:** Thanks for all your comments about Chinese issues. I very much appreciate for it. Talking about education, I do have some comments and the experience I've gone through before. I think the education part is not just that CFA is responsible for China, it's also our own responsibility. We need to educate ourselves. We need a system, and in this system each section. We need outreach executive procedure for each segment so that all the people take responsibility and help and what they should do. For the entry clerks, for the show managers, for all the exhibitors and all the clerks in the ring. Talking about the last few shows we held in Taiyuan and Qingdao. Richard and Darrell were both there. We did a great job. I'm very proud of that, because we do a clerking school before the show. We held it without any requests from others. We do it by ourselves, because we know there are a lot of young people that wish to learn, that wish to know, that wish to hear, but just don't have the opportunities. I want to say the CFA game is not about several people or several parties, it is about all the new cat fanciers in China. We need to get a chance. In the coming several months, we have several shows held in Taiyuan and Shanghai and Chongqing. Some of them are quite new cities in China, new provinces in China. We need to promote all, promote more, and it is our own responsibility. People in Taiyuan and Chongqing, nobody taught me how to do it, but where can I learn it? I go to Hong Kong shows every weekend when there is a show. I learned a lot from Hong Kong shows, because the Hong Kong CFA development is like 10 years ahead of China. I think it's very new in the cat fancy world, but for China compared to 100 years of CFA history, it's also new. So, we need time and we need to make efforts by ourselves, all parties together to make it work. That's what I have to say.

**Kallmeyer:** Just one comment. The shows so far this show season have been totally different. We have seen most of the cats in most of the rings, so it's kind of a pleasure. **DelaBar:** We've been talking about what you need to do. In the past, when we opened up a new area or a new country, we used to put on basically schools in how to put on shows, and go through the show rules so you know that you must charge a minimum of \$1 per ring per entry. That's per the show rules. Is this the type of thing that those of us who have been around for a few years could come in – you all could have us come in anyway a day or so early – that we could come in and hold these types of seminars? “This is what you have to do in this case; this is what you have to do in that case.” And sit down, instead of pointing the finger after something has happened? Be proactive and do all of this type of instruction before. Would that be of help? **Schreck:** Pam sort of stole my idea. I was quite surprised and pleased to hear that 31 people flew in for the clerking

school. A lot of these areas I am hearing are brand new. People may have not even been to a show before, yet they are putting on a show. So, maybe besides a clerking school, you have to a show management school so that you can invite people from wherever. Even if they are not having a show today, maybe they are thinking about it in the future. Maybe a presentation of some kind, just like for the clerking school. “OK, this is the show, this is what you do first, this is what you do second, this is what you need to have available at the show.” If you had that maybe in conjunction with the clerking school, you could perhaps maybe draw even more people in. **Kallmeyer:** Point out too that Matt and Suki did a tremendous amount of work in the days of Hong Kong with a lot of translations into Chinese on this. In fact, it’s on the website. The problem is that we haven’t got the information out well enough. So, Bob and Kathy working to do a “show production for dummies” guide and get that information out.

**Kit Fung:** I want to talk about show entries. If you enter a cat, the club can ask an exhibitor to provide the green paper to enter the cat, and make the entry form easy. **Colilla:** We can’t do that because they have to fax it in. It’s not possible because not everybody would have the capability of doing that additional paperwork, other than entering the data. **Fung:** We have some experience in Hong Kong before. Some clubs or entry clerks want to verify the cat information. If you provide the registration paper to the entry clerk with your entry, then make sure that cat has the information. **Colilla:** Can you talk to me after this? Thank you.

**Cao:** First of all, it has been awhile but I want to get back to my point about competitions in China. My club hosts probably 5 or 6 shows a season. We normally get sponsorship from the pet food companies, but now we are seeing more competition fighting for the same endorsement in the same city for their sponsorship. To be honest, CFA doesn’t really have an advantage. In terms of budget-wise, CFA shows are normally larger. We would have more rings. We normally have 8 or 10 ring shows in China, and compared to WCF or other organizations where they only have 2 rings, it’s at least twice the amount. So, I think what’s helping us right now is the elite that CFA has right now in China. It’s the most respected organization right now in China in terms of the cat fanciers, but we do have problems – all the problems that we talked about today. Education is certainly a part of it. We’ve had a lot of good suggestions about education, but I think the core problem we are having right now still is stuffing. The other one is show entry rejection. I think these are the core points that are preventing us to host cat shows in China and getting new exhibitors to come. I personally know people who go to other organizations because they think the CFA shows are not fair. This is something that we should be aware of. We shouldn’t bury our heads in the sand and just ignore it, and we should actually try to stop it. I was kind of surprised that ring-by-ring didn’t pass yesterday. I understand that ring-by-ring is probably a lot of paperwork for CFA headquarters and maybe for the master clerks. I guess, to a certain degree, it doesn’t really make sense that we do ring-by-ring for the United States because we don’t have that much of a problem with stuffing – not to the same degree, anyway. But, ring-by-ring would really help China, because if you think about all the things that people do to try to get the show up, that wouldn’t happen if there was ring-by-ring, or even the 60%. Like I said, I understand why and maybe because we are so large now we have different situations in different areas. We may be thinking about how to manage things differently in different parts of the world. I understand we are the same organization, but things are so different in China and in other parts of the world. Maybe the concern is being politically correct, that we have the same rule for everyone, maybe that’s what people are thinking and not speaking about it. But, you can do it voluntarily, like in our region we want ring-by-ring. What’s stopping that, right? We have

different situations in different parts of the world. Obviously, we have seen so many changes that CFA puts on, like 2 or 3 show rule changes per season – to be honest, just for China mostly, right? Do you agree? <yes> For that many shows, the system doesn't really work. Stuff that would work in the States wouldn't work in China. George was talking about the protest system, which I understand due process and everything, but [frustrated sigh]. **Kallmeyer:** Gavin, a comment here. If the clubs wanted ring-by-ring – not that we wouldn't suffer to do it – in the ID, then they should put together a petition to the board and then we could isolate it to China, to show that it really matters to that division. So, get the clubs in China to sign, have the secretary sign it in so we have proof, then we might be able to do something specifically for there. **Cao:** OK, thank you. The second part of the problem that we have, like I said, learning and education and getting the show set up properly is very important, but I think fairness in competition is the most important for our kind of organization. The second problem that we had last year was entry rejection. I was hearing from different people talking about entry rejection. I think maybe some of you don't understand how entry rejection works in China. No offense. So, I want to provide a bit of background information on that. This is how entry rejection comes, because I experienced it 4 or 5 times last year. First of all, they put up a flyer somewhere. They don't even announce it, but they put it somewhere probably you don't go. So, that part of the problem has already been resolved with the show rule change we had last time, the most recent one. Then, 2 or 3 days into it or sometimes earlier they just say the show is filled, OK? There is no way for CFA to check whether or not the show is being filled because it has no authority for anyone to check that. Step 3, because they are still wanting to get in, because obviously the show cannot be filled in 3 days, not in China even. So, they have a waiting list which is in their mind. For example, let's say Allan goes and says, "I want to be on the waiting list," well, he gets on the waiting list. But let's say if Nick wants to actually enter the show and he's no competition, so he is just money for the entry fees. So, the club would actually say, "OK, you're in," even when Nick is actually the one who is behind Allan on the actual waiting list. The waiting list is just a term or something in the club owner's mind. It cannot be validated. So, that's how things have been working in China. I think what John Colilla and Dick brought up with the entry system is actually helping with this part of the problem, but I would ask maybe for an additional feature, to have actually a waiting list system to be put in place, so if the show is being filled they would have to submit a form – it doesn't matter if its online or offline – and people would actually see who is the next person in the queue, if a spot fills up in the show. So, I think if we do these two things, this would really help to get things be more fair in China. The third thing that we sometimes dream about is to have the implants. You guys know what I'm talking about? Microchips. That would help. You guys probably didn't know about the UFC organization. I know about it and I know the owner, the inventor. Their main advantage, the thing that they advertise the most is that they require all the show cats to have microchip implantation. I have to do some homework on that. Microchip implantation is not that costly for the owner. In China it's maybe 50 RMB, which is \$8 or so. It's not a lot when we talk about \$500 entry fees. I don't think that's a problem there. The other problem we have is, we have to get the scanner for the microchip implantation. That costs probably, last time I checked it was around \$200 or \$300, which is still not much for the club. So, I'm not saying that we have to do it now. I'm not saying we have to do it right away, but I think it's something worth considering. It's something we might want to bring to the table at some point for discussion. **Kallmeyer:** Let me point out that Kathy is willing to work with you on a plan for that, to write out all the ramifications. Why don't you work with Kathy on that?

**Kuta:** Two hopefully quick things. One, are most of you able to use WeChat video to the U.S.? <yes> So, if we ever wanted to have a chat about entry clerking stuff or anything like that, you could set that up easily? Cool, because Google Hangouts doesn't work, right? OK, so WeChat. Just a side note. The low tech, old fashioned way of instead of microchipping the cats, one thing as entry clerk I tried to learn all the cats that are showing. Like, I just like to walk around and see each one in the show hall. That's kind of hard to do when you have 30 cats in the same class that are the same color. That makes it a little more difficult. Like when people are checking in, it's like, "oh, do they really have 8 cats in their carriers?"

**Mastin:** Thank you for bringing all these issues and concerns to our attention, and for all you are doing over in China. A couple questions. Do all the clubs, or the majority of clubs in China, would they like to see either the 60% rule or ring-by-ring, and if they do, which one do they prefer? **Cao:** I can't speak for all the clubs, but if we are going to do it, we should do it all the way. **Mastin:** Is there a preference? **Cao:** We actually all have been asking, the 60% you can stuff one cat per two cats you enter. There is still stuffing, so if we do it, we might as well just do it altogether. **Kallmeyer:** Just practically, we could implement 60% like that. Ring-by-ring is probably 6 to 8 months or more. That's the only difference. We could make it 80% or something. **Cao:** 60%, people all tried that and you can still stuff 33%. **Kallmeyer:** For this, why don't we work with John Colilla? Get together a petition from the clubs and get in contact with him, then we will tell you the ramifications and when we can do what. So, work with John in this case.

**Nicholas Pun:** I just want to make one comment beside all the issues that have been risen today. Today we heard about competition, competition, competition. What I see is, can we step back and say, how can we create harmony and balance and fairness in competition? I know people come to the show and want to win, but how to win gracefully and also lose gracefully. This is the way. Let's take the example in Hong Kong. Ten years ago we had different groups of breeders and we were not happy. When they win, they said, "I don't like you" or whatever, and there's lots of conflicts among the breeders. But for the past 2 or 3 years, we see the unity growing and we have gatherings for all the breeders. We go out for dinner and also recently all the breeders made a new group on FaceBook talking about purebred cats. Lots of people in Hong Kong really want to join the group and learn a lot about purebred cats and also what CFA is about. This is something I think CFA wants to see – how to grow CFA and how to promote CFA in a healthy way. We also see there are lots of internal affairs we see today. There's lots of external attacks for CFA, like on the FaceBook group we received really bad comments from all the animal protection shouters or however you say, saying "we don't like pedigreed cats, why you don't go for adoptions and why these people are creating a lot of cats that we don't want and you pet out, and why don't you do adoptions," and stuff like that going on. So, we have to see, instead of the people here, we are still being attacked, not by other purebred cat groups but also by other groups of people. So, let's get unity and try to create fairness and healthy competition. **Kallmeyer:** Nicholas, I think we would sacrifice our first born to also get that in North America. In regard to the animal rightists, you want to have some conversations with George Eigenhauser and the Legislative Group to help out.

**Brandon:** Hello everybody. First of all, so sorry for my poor English. I need Gavin to translate for me. **Cao:** But you speak well. [translates] First off, I would like to introduce myself. We all know that when a cat gets transferred from say the United States or Japan and they get brought into the Chinese market, the way that Chinese play the game is totally different from the

Japanese or the Americans. So, from 2007 until 2014, 70% of all the cats that get imported into China have to be checked by Brandon and his team. The rules need to be changed and modified before we can successfully survive in the Chinese market. So, trust him. He understands exactly what you guys are going through right now. Right now, all the competitions in China are really fierce. It's probably a lot harder to compete in China than other places right now. If the stats are correct, the cats that we grand in China are probably more than at least 4 regions combined from the United States. When the cats have to go through this kind of high competition, it is really normal if you have a good cat that you get enough grand points. A lot of things that we see right now and the problems that we have are because of the extreme competition that we have in China. If you want to invest yourself into something long-term, there are two things that may interest you. One is a hobby interest and the other is profit. Because the competition is really fierce right now, there are less and less people who are coming to CFA for a hobby. Instead, they are going for interest and profit in China. That's how things are right now. [Brandon makes a long statement in Chinese and gestures for Gavin to translate it, which causes the Chinese guests to laugh, which causes everyone to laugh] So, if we just change the rules arbitrarily or without thinking that much, what will happen is, people with more monetary interest will attempt to join CFA and people who take it as a hobby will leave. I [Brandon] would be proposing two things that we can do. This is some math, OK? What Brandon is saying is that he is proposing that the entry stays the same, so if it is a 225 limit show, it is still 225, but people are allowed to enter more cats. Let's say you can have 250 who are entering, but the final count will be controlled at 225. You guys get that? OK, so that's proposal #1. The clubs will actually have to take the CFA fees according to the number of cats that are entered. That's rule #1. You guys have a question about it? **Kallmeyer:** Why don't you have Brandon write it up, even in Chinese. We'll get a translator. It's probably too much right now. We have 7 minutes left. Why don't you write it. Those are things that the board probably has to think about in the long term. This is probably not enough time. **Cao:** He has a second point. Brandon wants, when a new club applies, another club with at least 3 years of experience putting on shows should be paired with this club as a member and should help out the new club, obviously. If something bad happens to the new club, then the mentor club would be punished accordingly. Sounds good. **Kallmeyer:** I like the mentoring idea, but again that's something to write up so people can think about the implications. I point out that Brandon was the Clerk of the Year in China.

**Chloe Chung:** I would like to say, today we all worry about, how can we get the forms or how can we get better cats or how can we attend a show, but first of all to set up a cat show, no matter which association, the main point is to promote cats. So, if we want more people to love these beautiful animals, the main point I want to stand to promote cats as a judge is, I want to see a healthy cat. The big point that worries me about a cat that is not in condition is that suffers which is from pet shop is the health issue. During the cat show is maybe not a long time. It's only a day or two, but they can expose upper respiratory to the healthy cats, especially kittens. They don't have a full immune system yet. I would be so worried to put my kittens in this kind of show with the big stuffers that I don't even know where they come from. This is my big issue, so I suggest we really need to put a microchip on it. We can also set up a program as some countries in Europe. We do all have to vet check. This is very important, that we want to promote healthy cats, because what is the standard? We may be able to change, but health issues we are not able to change. I don't want to see the upper respiratory or the ringworm and this kind of thing exposed to the healthy cats. This is the main point for me and I believe this is also that the owners don't want to suffer. This is also the issue that we want to let people know we

promote not only pedigreed cats, we also promote healthy cat. **Kallmeyer:** An editorial comment here. Chloe is now a Chinese vet. We congratulate her on that.

**Anger:** First, I just wanted to mention that I have heard the comments about the Sunday judges getting a small fraction of the entered cats. I always judge Saturday and usually have them all, so this is not in every ring. Suki and I just judged a show there last Spring and we had a British Shorthair marathon, and they were all there. I just wanted to acknowledge that it's not in every ring. I have a suggestion that we have an ombudsman for China. I don't know who that poor person would be that would take in all the problems, but perhaps we could have an intermediary that would be the intake person. Maybe we could set up a system and they could pass it along to the executive committee for those issues that require an immediate response. We acknowledge that cat shows in China are kind of like the X Games with extreme competition. From back in the day, this is either a very bad idea or a cool idea, we used to have something called the Showman's Club. We had a Show of the Year selected by a committee, based on evaluations from the judges and the exhibitors. I don't know if a competition of who could put on the best show would help improve the CFA system, based on workshops such as Pam mentioned. In AKC they have a show steward that is in the show hall. If there is any problem that comes up in the show, they go immediately to the show steward. This is not something that I am suggesting or that I would like to see us ever have to implement, but it's something to think about if it would be embraced and have a positive outcome. My last point is about the microchipping. I love the concept and it's a great philosophy, but who is going to check the microchips? The judge can't do it because information is revealed that I don't want to know. Is the clerk going to do it? The issue is, who is going to take responsibility for that? The concept is great, otherwise.

**Calhoun:** We have run out of time, but I just want to really quick – and we'll put this into the show management guide that we're going to be working on with Bob Zenda, but one of the things I wanted to mention is the logistics for the judges. There's nothing more disheartening than to be on a flight for 14 to 20 hours and get to a location and there's no one there. There's language barriers and there's concerns for safety and those sorts of things. So, we need to make sure from top to bottom, and that's part of putting on a good show. That includes prompt payment of air fares prior to travel and all those sorts of things. We'll make sure that we incorporate all that into the show management guide. Once again, this has been a fantastic conversation. We really appreciate the active participation all around the room.

**Kallmeyer:** I would like to thank all the ID members for coming and for all their comments. We want China to be successful and we want to work with you to make it successful. Certainly, a large part of it has to come from the Chinese to make this work. So, we need your help. That is not to exclude the rest of the International Division. We want you all to grow. Thank you.

**DelaBar:** Dick, this is for the board and for John Colilla particularly. On the new entry program, please put in a field for microchips, because we have countries in Europe where we do have to check the microchip when the exhibitor is checking in. China can do this, too. We have it in Europe. **Colilla:** Done. **DelaBar:** Thank you.

**(56) BREED COUNCIL SECRETARIES' MEETING.**

**Saturday, July 2, 2016**

**Hannon:** We're ready for the second half of the meeting which is Breed Council Secretaries, but before we do I would like to take advantage of the last meeting of this board and thank Geri and Steve, who were regional directors for the last two years and will be leaving us. Thank them for their hard work. [applause] Also our Treasurer, Barb Schreck, is leaving us after this meeting. We thank her for all she has done. [applause] And this is the last meeting where Ed Raymond will be our attorney, and I want to thank Ed for his six years of work. [applause] I'll turn this over to the co-chairs of the Breeds and Standards Committee, Melanie Morgan and Carla Bizzell.

**Bizzell:** Thank you. I'm Carla Bizzell and most of you know me. Welcome everyone to this meeting. I think it's a good forum for exchange of ideas. The first thing I would like to do is for the Breed Council Secretaries to introduce themselves. If you are not the Breed Council Secretary and representing a breed, please tell us your name and what breed you are representing, so we will know who you are. We're going to start with Melanie since she is a Breed Council Secretary. **Morgan:** I apologize for the voice. I'll let Carla do most of the talking. I really do want to thank all of you for coming. As a Breed Council Secretary and also now part of Breeds and Standards, I've always felt one of the most important functions of being a Breed Council Secretary is bringing back this information and keeping this two-way exchange between our board members and you, the representatives of our precious breeds. So, thank you for taking the time and effort to come and represent your breeds.

**Breeds and Standards Co-Chairs Carla Bizzell and Melanie Morgan** 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: **Melanie Morgan** (Egyptian Mau, Bombay); **Marguerite Epstein** (Turkish Angora); **Meg Lambert** (Abyssinian); **Jan Rogers** (American Wirehair); **Laura Gregory** (Ragamuffin); **Trudie Allen** (Maine Coon); **Orca Starbuck** (Chartreux); **Carissa Altschul** (Persian); **Art Graafmans** (Burmese); **Cyndi Byrd** (British Shorthair); **Penni Richter** (Exotic); **Allene Keating** (European Burmese); **Sue Riley** (Oicat); **Karen Bishop** (Japanese Bobtail); **Sherri Phelps** (Siberian); **Dennis Ganoe** (LaPerm); **Colin Cornwall** (Selkirk Rex); **Carmen Martino** (Tonkinese); **Susan Murphy** (Manx); **Sallie Smith** (Birman); **Kitty Barie** (Norwegian Forest Cat, Burmilla); **Mary Kolencik** (Siamese); **Annette Wilson** (Russian Blue); **Bob Zenda** (American Shorthair).

**1. *Introductions***

**Bizzell:** Did everyone get a copy of the agenda and attached material?

**2. *Schedule and guidelines for Ballot Cycle (Bizzell)***

**Bizzell:** The first thing we have to go over is the scheduling guidelines for the ballot cycle. It starts on the flip side of the agenda page. The first deadline that we show is August 1<sup>st</sup> as the deadline for breed council membership in order to be able to vote. It's also the declaration deadline for Breed Council Secretary. This year will be a Breed Council Secretary election, so we will need all declarations in by August 1<sup>st</sup>. What that means is that all Breed Councils will



have a ballot this year. The deadlines we show for getting the ballots in to Melanie and I for review is August 15. That gives us ample time to, hopefully, back and forth on any issues we have with what has been submitted, and for Rachel – God bless her – to do the formatting, and then we have a final review of the ballots before they go into ClassMarker. Then, there’s information on when the ballots come out and when the ballots will be returned, so let me know if you have any questions. This is also online on the website. If you need that website link, I’ll send that to the Breed Council Secretaries’ list, so you can disseminate that to your members if you like. There’s a lot of information on how to format a ballot. Pretty much everything you ever wanted to know about a ballot is in here. OK, so that’s all for that item. **Lambert:** I have a question about the ballot. The Abyssinian Breed Council, I had complaints from people that they weren’t online so they didn’t get an online ballot. We can’t be mailing out all the ballots when we don’t need to, so I’m wondering about an effective way to get paper ballots to people when they’re not on the list. Any suggestions? **Bizzell:** That’s a good question, because I know they send out emails to each council member, but if you’re not on email they do send a paper ballot. If someone has moved, we may not have their current address, so if that’s something each breed council secretary could poll their members? Of course, if they’re not online it’s going to be hard to poll their members. We do want to make a big effort to get a ballot to everyone, so poll your members if you have someone that has been missed. Please let Kristi Wollam know so she can get them a paper ballot. **Morgan:** As a Breed Council Secretary, one way or another each of you has a way of contacting your Breed Council members. Each of you should know if one of your members is not online. If you don’t have a list of members, you can find them on the CFA website and, if you don’t have a method for communicating with them, Central Office should be able to give you an address for them. Therefore, if you have members that are not online and you know they’re not online, whatever your method of communication – when we talk about communication, we’ll be talking about that later – for your breed council, you might want to send a notice so you make sure that those people are included. But, I think it’s incumbent upon us as Breed Council Secretaries to make sure that we communicate to Central Office the way that people need to get their information. **Lambert:** Yes, thank you. I think with the Abyssinian Breed Council, the problem didn’t seem to have occurred in the past. It may have been extenuating circumstances how people became so agitated about it.

### 3. *BCS Code clean-up project (Bizzell)*

**Bizzell:** The third item is the BCS code clean-up. OK, at this point, all of you will have received from me either a very small listing of numbers or a very large listing of numbers, depending on your breed and the BCS codes, which are the codes we use to register cats in our system. The method I went through is Tim Schreck – thank you very much Tim, if you’re in the room – got us a fresh, complete copy of codes. There were approximately 8,000 codes that we use to register cats. The first thing I did was, I took out all of the already inactivated codes. We had some codes in there that we have already inactivated. I sorted them by breed, split them up into separate files. I did an initial review of each of those breed’s codes and pulled out the things that were obvious. For instance, if the Rules for Registration says, “do not accept cinnamon or fawn” and there was a code for that breed to register a cinnamon, then that was one I marked for inactivation. These things have been evolving for 45-50 years or something like that. Central Office simply does not have the time or manpower to go through and do a global review. In reality, the Breed Council Secretaries who are closer to the breeds are more familiar with the terminology used; for instance, “ebony” for Oriental and such different terminology for different

colors and patterns that we use in our breeds are really better suited to correct the nuances. In some cases it will be inactivating codes, in other cases it will be correcting the terminology. I've already got some of them back. My beta test was Carissa. Thank you very much, Carissa. I forget how many pages there were – 11 pages in tiny type of codes for Persians. Things that we found are like, several years ago the Persian took out the whole concept of van pattern. All the van pattern codes were still active and usable in Central Office, and those should not be used. So, we went through and marked all the van patterns. Those have now gone into Central Office so the changes can be affected in the system. I do a re-review as they come back to me, to make sure I understand what the Breed Council Secretary is asking for, and then I'm sure when Central Office goes in to actually make the changes, they may have questions for us, as well, or comments like, "we use this code in a different way." Maybe the code just says sepia and they use it for all sepia-based colors. So, you wouldn't have a cat come across that just says sepia in its description, it would say seal sepia lynx point or something. At any rate, there is a multi-checking process here. It's not going to happen overnight. The changes that need to be made didn't come into effect overnight, either. It's been an evolution of many years. So, I thank you for your help. No huge rush to get this back to me because I already have several back. It will take some time for me to review those and then it will take time for Central Office to make the changes. So, at your convenience, please do go through, for those of you who have not gotten them back to me. Just do a thorough check so we can get these things in as good an order as possible. Any questions?

**4. *Identifying e-mails coming from Breed Council Secretary e-mail link on WEB site (Bellavance)***

**Bizzell:** The next item had to do with – and this was something that Isabelle brought up. I didn't hear her name when the introductions were made and I don't think she is here. She had asked a question whether or not, when someone clicks on their email address on the Breed Council Secretaries' listing, could that come along with a tag line: "This came from the CFA website." **Kuta:** I don't want to answer for Kathy [Durdick], but there are some usual standard codes that you can put in that pre-populates the subject field. **Bizzell:** OK, I'll get with Kathy. Rolled into that same concept about electronic communication, Meg had some questions about using other methods for communication. Did you want to address that? **Lambert:** I was wondering if other Breed Council Secretaries use FaceBook or Twitter? Although many of the complainants appear not to be online, so I don't know if that will help much. I just wonder what other Breed Council Secretaries might do to try to reach all their members. **Allen:** The Maine Coon Cat Breed Council has had, for quite a long time, used a YahooGroup email list, and that works really well for us, but there is one caveat; somebody has to be willing each year to go through and add new members as the membership changes. Luckily, my husband has been employed in that capacity since we started that, but it is a good, effective means of communication if the people are online. **Lambert:** Yes, that's our main method of communication. I had resisted that method for years, but then becoming the Breed Council Secretary, it was obvious that it would be helpful. But, then it appears that people are resisting still belonging to a list, but thank you. **[unidentified speaker]:** We have a list but we're not using it. We're almost exclusively using FaceBook. It's more immediate. It just seems easier and most of the people we have who are on FaceBook actually want to participate. The ones who aren't on FaceBook, they tend to be the members who are not very active in what we do for the breed. **Morgan:** For the Egyptian Maus, we're using the YahooGroups. I understand the appeal

of FaceBook and certainly many of the younger generation would say that's the way to go, although they are probably on to something new. With YahooGroups, if you do have people who are off line and sometimes when people become members they are, I inform them that if they want to get the regular updates, they need to come up with a way to be on the YahooGroups because that is our method of communication, and as member of the Breed Council it's their responsibility to tie into that. So, that has basically been my system. It has kind of worked, and going back to what Trudie said, every August 15<sup>th</sup> or so, I go through and I clean out my Breed Council list for that year. **Zenda:** FaceBook doesn't work took well for the newest members of our Breed Council because they are coming from China where it's blocked, as is the Yahoo stuff, so today they asked me to set it up on WeChat, which is the Chinese version of that. It is very good. You can do groups, you can do free calls, you can do video chats. So, I'm going to try and do that for at least the American Shorthair. **[unidentified speaker]:** People in the U.S. have no trouble getting on WeChat? **Zenda:** No. **Bizzell:** Anything else on that topic?

#### 5. *Rules of Registration online (Morgan)*

**Bizzell:** The next topic is one that Melanie brought up, the Rules of Registration. **Morgan:** Just an FYI. Most of you probably already know we've been working on trying to update the Rules of Registration and make them accessible to everyone for the first time. As many of you know, we sent them through you for multiple iterations of proofing, etc. Earlier this year, Kathy put them online, so when you get the drop-down for your breed, for the standards and all that, it's just another drop-down menu. So, for any of you, you can click on the Rules of Registration and see what the requirements are for your specific breed. You should all be aware of that, but I just wanted to make it official that it is finally up to date and we're doing our best to update them as we make the changes at the February board meetings. Any questions on that?

#### 6. *Global Changes to Standards requiring detail ballot item (Kimberlin)*

**Bizzell:** The next item has to do with global changes to standards on our ballots. Keith Kimberlin brought this up and, of course, Kitty is representing – Kitty is the new Keith today. I'll briefly describe. The example I used for her was when the Birman changed their lynx points to tabby points and they put on the ballot, "we now want to call all our lynx points tabby points." They then had to list out every single lynx point color as it is today and then as it would show. That was pages and pages of ballots. That is open to making a mistake, as in leaving a few out, which is what we did for the Burmilla last year. There were 3 items that should have been changed to chinchilla that got missed. In fact, 6 items which are colors that we don't see very often. We'll get them fixed this year. I don't know if there's any discussion. **Rogers:** This is kind of a Birman thing, and I would like to thank Rich Mastin for getting involved in it. When we changed – and this was a couple years ago – our lynx points to tabby points, all of the pedigrees in Europe say tabby point and all of those cats that came to America said tabby points. Apparently they go through Monique, and Monique didn't know it had changed from lynx point to tabby point until last Christmas when I was over there. **Bizzell:** That sounds like an administrative issue. **Rogers:** So, when those kind of changes come, we not only need to do it here, but we need to let people who are looking at those pedigrees and interpreting those pedigrees – I won't mention names, but there was one in Central Office that didn't know that change, either. **Bizzell:** OK, I'll get with Terri and make sure that information goes out. Anytime we have changes to the standards, it's important that everyone who has something to do with the

registration get those changes. **Lambert:** I'm just wondering, with correcting things like lynx point to tabby point because genetically it's a tabby point, but we have different names for the same color in CFA. Will there ever be a unification or coordination? Because in other association, if one breed decides to correct the color like to tabby point, then the other breeds that have lynx point, they become tabby points. The Abyssinian breed, we call cinnamons "red." It's possible that that might eventually be changed, but they are not red. If we have a consistency of color, they would be cinnamons. **Bizzell:** OK Meg, I feel your pain and I can tell you as a judge I have to know for each breed. Like if I were to call an ebony tabby Oriental a brown tabby, I would hear about it. The issue we have here is that the standards cannot be changed constitutionally without the Breed Council's approval. So, it's a great goal. In fact, we had a group working on a unified sets of colors and patterns, but we cannot force the Breed Councils to accept it. We can offer it up particularly for new breeds that are coming in. "Here's a standard set of colors and patterns that you may choose to accept." Over time maybe we will get some standardization, but as long as that's constitutional where each Breed Council has complete purview over standard changes, we cannot force any kind of consistency across the breeds. **Lambert:** With Abyssinians, some of the people wanted to change to sorrel, which they use in Europe some and in Canada, and they were using it in TICA. But sorrel is just another incorrect name for the color. It's cinnamon. TICA just recently did away with sorrel because they are a genetic registry, and they went to cinnamon. As an Abyssinian breeder, I feel like CFA has kind of fallen behind, but you have to get your Breed Council to agree. There are red Abyssinians in Europe – there are actual sex-linked reds – so it's a concern. But anyhow, that's where we are coming from. **Bizzell:** OK, thank you. Any other comments?

#### 7. *Statistics on litters and breeders (Morgan)*

**Bizzell:** The next item was, we provided some statistical information that was compiled by Dick Kallmeyer. Thank you, Dick. He is like the statistician to the stars. He keeps sending us all this great information, which kind of gives you a real "stand back and look at the big picture" sort of information. **Morgan:** I don't have all that much to say. Dick can probably add more, but I did find it interesting reading. I think that a number of breeds have seen a slight uptick from last year to this year, which is kind of promising. I also found a few of the breeds a little worrisome. Maybe something that those Breed Council Secretaries might want to talk about Dick about. We're registering fewer cats in a year than what we would require for advancement, so it's something. I also think maybe in a way a challenge to our Breed Councils. Let's try to keep these numbers moving up. Maybe having them out there might help. Any questions? **Rogers:** Dick, can we get this via email so that we can put it out without retyping everything? **Bizzell:** I can actually send it to you.

#### 8. *Other topics as time permits*

**Morgan:** We're going on to other topics. I think that Annette, did you want to talk about the opt out on pedigrees? Is that something you wanted to bring up? The opt out? **Wilson:** We had a fairly extensive discussion last year at this meeting about some issues with some registries and some clubs in some countries not having accurate pedigree information. Is this what I'm supposed to be talking about? **Morgan:** Yes. **Wilson:** There was some board action and then reaction back again. It can be a difficult situation, but I had my Breed Council meeting this afternoon and we have experienced some issues with pedigrees from some associations and some

clubs in some areas. I'm going to propose that we ballot a registration rule change to exclude certain pedigrees when someone is registering by pedigree because when I'm looking at some of these pedigrees and I'm seeing that the same cat is listed more than once with different numbers and so on, I would be happy to examine these and send them back. I don't know how much time is being done doing that now and requesting information, but to me as a breeder and a Breed Council Secretary, the quality and the accuracy of our pedigrees on our breeds is more important than hurting the feelings of another association's club who may be doing something wrong in one particular area. **Bizzell:** Any questions or comments about that?

**Bizzell:** Jean, you wanted to speak briefly on the Mentor Program? **Dugger:** Yes. I'm the Mentoring Program Chair and I hope you guys realize what happens when a person goes on the CFA website, they can fill out a little form that's like an electronic form and it's forwarded to me as the Mentoring Chairman. What I do is, in addition to putting it in a database that I have for keeping up with everybody, I forward it out to the regional director or the ID director or whatever area it is, and most regions have a chair person like the Mentoring Chairman where they try to find that person a mentor, but as a longtime breeder, my feeling is very strong that somebody needs a breeder, not only in their area, but they need somebody that's specific to their breed or close to their breed to help them. I think I know that all of us, as breeders, when we place a kitten or a cat with somebody as a show kitten or as a new breeder, it's so important to grow CFA. We want these new breeders to have the same knowledge that we have, as they grow and go forward. I would really like to see the Breed Councils – we are the cream of the crop as far as breeders that can help new people coming into CFA because we have made it to the Breed Council. I would like to see the Breed Council Secretaries just think about ways that you guys could help us with the Mentoring Program and sort of merge those things together where if I got a request for say a Persian person in like wherever, I would also send it to Carissa and then she could maybe say, "oh sure, I know so-and-so" and they may not realize this person is a new Persian person. They can help them, and that's what I would kind of like to see. I don't know if you guys have any comments or you would like to help with that, but I think it's really important. **Altschul:** I definitely think the Breed Council Secretaries could help with this, because I think we tend to know our breeders, or we should. I don't know what's going on with the submissions for the Mentoring Program, but I get so many people who contact me as a Breed Council Secretary and say, "I submitted a request form to the Mentoring Program months ago and I have heard nothing." I've been getting dozens of people over the last few years who have said that. "Nobody ever contacted me." I don't know if the form is never getting to you, so I don't know if there's a way we can set it up on the website that maybe they get a number when they submit it and then there is someplace that they can click and see that the number has been received, because maybe they don't want their names published. **Dugger:** You can send an email to me if somebody contacts you I can look it up, or vice versa. **Altschul:** Somewhere the ball is getting dropped and I don't really know what's happening. I heard about this years before you took over, so not necessarily just the last two years, but I love the idea of copying the Breed Council Secretaries. **Dugger:** I've had it for the last year, and like I said, it's just a little database that goes nowhere. It's just a spreadsheet that's on my laptop, so it's not like it's anything that I share. I wish it was. I wish it was something that I could share with everybody, because I think it would be better. But we in CFA I know are all working on all those electronic ideas, and we would all like to see things like that happen, but I appreciate that. There's maybe hopefully ways we can improve the communication and I can make sure that you guys know, because as we know, we've got to grow CFA and to do that we've got to bring new, good breeders into the

system. That's my goal as the mentoring person, is to work with you guys to make that happen, for whatever breed that we're talking about. We want all the cats to be good cats, no matter where they are going. **Graafmans:** Have you considered maybe a two-level Mentoring Program? I used to be somewhat involved in the Mentoring Program when it split from the Ambassador Program. One of the things we noticed was that an awful lot of times you'll get a new breeder in a breed and you will pair them up with somebody that's in their neighborhood, and that mentor tries to turn that person into a satellite breeder, rather than actually helping them. Would it make sense to pair them up with a breeder in the same breed but physically far from them, and say a longhair breeder helping a new longhair person with the grooming, the showing, how to set up the cages, how to handle the cats and that sort of thing, so there isn't that immediate – call it a conflict of interest, "I'm not going to help somebody beat me." Let's face it, we're steeped in that kind of attitude and it needs to change. We've talked about changing it, but I'm not noticing that it's changing. Just a thought. **Dugger:** And I agree with you. I think that is an issue, and that's why I want to try to hopefully merge the Mentoring Program with the Breed Council Secretaries so that we can all have more control over that, and not only improve our breed, but improve our new breeders. **Epstein:** Jean, would it help if we polled our Breed Council members and asked which ones are available for mentoring and then forward on to you names? **Dugger:** I would love that. **Epstein:** This shouldn't be that hard. Can we make a commitment to do that? That's the easiest thing to start with. You've got to start somewhere. **Dugger:** Yes. **Richter:** You said it already goes to our regional director, wherever the new person is. Maybe that regional director or whoever is handling their mentor program can try to hook them up with someone local to them that can help them at shows, so they know what to do and how to set up, but they can also in that time get forwarded possibly, if the Breed Council Secretaries agree, for them to find them a breeding mentor versus someone to help at shows. That might be an easy way to get to different breeds. **Dugger:** That's a great idea. That's what I want it to be is a two-fold project – to make sure we are covering the new person at the show where they know how to do all the stuff that we know how to do at the shows, but also to cover the breeding aspect and to be able to give advice. That's where it comes from us. **Richter:** The Breed Councils can hopefully help to distribute them and not have any conflicts. **Dugger:** Exactly, because an Abyssinian person is not going to know if Persian person says, "hey, do you remember Candirand?" They might remember the name, but they might not know, where Carissa could say, "this is so-and-so's, you need to go to them." We all know how that works. That's why I want to make it work better. **Schreck:** I'm a little confused about the information flow. The new person fills out the request for mentoring or whatever the form is, it goes to Jean. Why doesn't Jean just forward it on to Carissa or whoever? What am I missing here? **Dugger:** That's just not the procedure that we've had in the past. I was trying to follow the procedure that I was given from how it was done in the past. I had also talked to Carla and Melanie about joining the programs together. Carol can help. **Krzanowski:** I was Mentor Chair until last Fall. In the past, what we had was a mentor coordinator for each region, as well as the International Division areas. When the form was completed on the CFA website, it was emailed to me. I entered it into my spreadsheet and, based on the location of the protégé, I forwarded it to the appropriate mentor coordinator. I did not involve the regional directors because I did not think that was a function that they should be involved in. I also would follow up on that, and if I did not hear anything back I would follow up with the coordinator. If they couldn't find a mentor, I would contact the Breed Council Secretary and ask if they had a recommendation. We had a pretty good system going at that time, but that's how we handled it in the past. The form should be just

forwarded right on to the mentor coordinators in the regions. **Lambert:** Is there any sort of written guidelines for what a mentor really does, to keep people from realizing it doesn't mean you set someone up as a satellite breeder, that they are actually supposed to be helping them. As long as there is a Mentor Program, I am willing, as Breed Council Secretary, to send you information but I don't want to have to be coordinating them. I will send you who I know, but there's no written guidelines about what mentoring really means? **Krzanowski:** Last year while I was still Chair, we rewrote the whole mentor section on the CFA website. There is information on there as far as exactly what a mentor does and does not do. Anytime you have an inquiry, you can refer them directly to that section. **Bishop:** Just a question. If I poll my Breed Council members this afternoon and I put out on my YahooGroup to my Breed Council members, "is anyone interested in being a mentor?" When I find out these names, do I turn that over to Jean? Am I turning that over to my regional director? What am I doing with that information? **Dugger:** What I was kind of hoping is that, with my spreadsheet, I could make each breed and have a list of people that you guys send to me. I'll send that to the mentor coordinator in the different regions so they will have those names and probably copy the regional director so we will all be on the same page. I also want to update our mentor coordinators with the regional directors. That's another thing. I was going to send out an email after this. We have one in our region that had asked me if she could be replaced because she hasn't bred for a long time and I want to make sure that we've got a person on board that wants to do this. So, that was my plan, to answer your question. **Bishop:** So, I'm sending them to you? **Dugger:** Yes. **Bizzell:** Anything else?

**Bizzell:** I think Meg had the last two items. One had to do with the grand certificates and the other one had to do with certified pedigrees. **Lambert:** I'll start with the grand certificates because a number of people within my Breed Council independently contacted me to say that they had never received their grand certificate from CFA. Then I realized that I had two grands and I didn't receive my grand certificates. To me it wasn't such a big deal, but to these other people with premiership cats it was important. When you go online to check Herman, he no longer congratulates you. He tells you how many points you have but he doesn't congratulate you like he used to. To some people that matters, so I'm wondering about how to get that jump started again. The second issue was, because people are now selling cats to places where there are other associations, they need certified pedigrees to register them. I end up getting pedigrees. Carla had asked me to bring examples. I had sent her one, but the rest of my examples are with my laptop on my end table at home. I will tell you that some of it was just a question of quality. The printer needed a new cartridge, so it looked like it was done but it wasn't really checked for quality. The others, though – the 6 generation pedigrees are spaced incorrectly horizontally so that names are truncated. For instance, my cat was a DM and it ends up being GRC/BW/NW Bastis Theenvelopeplease of Anu- and it was missing –bis, DM. It's consistent throughout the pedigree. Over the years, I have gotten certified pedigrees before and they were a really nice product. They looked good. I take out my old pedigrees and they look great. The new ones don't. First of all, you can't have truncated names because – and I'm sorry to go on so long – when I was helping people get pedigrees to register cats in Europe and in Canada. I'll use Canada as an example. CCA pretty much mimics CFA's structure, so because CFA requires 8 generations to register an Abyssinian, CCA does. First, we do not have the capacity to produce an 8 generation pedigree in CFA. Second, we doubled that by saying to the Canadian Cat Association through their breed council representative that only in the case of CFA they will allow 6 generations. So, they went along with that. First of all, suppose I just didn't want to do that for some reason. Suppose I was the breed council secretary up in Canada and I'm not going to do that. The second

thing was, when they got the pedigrees, CCA commented on how bad the cats' names were truncated, that numbers were not legible. My point is that we are charging a lot of money for this product. Mark and I have had long discussions about this. I began to wonder why more people weren't complaining. I think people can get pedigrees online and through different websites, so they are not looking at CFA certified pedigrees, but we have to have a product that the other associations aren't saying [inaudible]. We require 8 generations from CCA. They are now allowing us to only do 6. They cannot produce an 8 generation pedigree either, but we require them to have 8. They are basically CFA cats, but an occasional cat has not been registered. There is just some inconsistency there, but that actually is another issue. The quality of the product is what I was the most concerned with, and the fact we have not sent out the grand champion certificates. **Eigenhauser:** I have a question. You said that Canada basically registers the same way we do. Would you be advocating having a different generational requirement on cats from, let's call it a "trusted registry," as opposed to the 8 generations as a general rule? **Lambert:** The Canadian Cat Association basically uses CFA pedigrees. They do not accept TICA Abyssinian pedigrees because of the red gene and the confusion of names, so I don't know if I would make it a blanket statement, but certainly in the case of Canada it might get us more registrations. If more people would come from there to CFA, they would register their cats with a 6 generation pedigree. **Eigenhauser:** Then my suggestion is, put it on your ballot and say, "from this one registry that we trust and is enough like us, do the members of the Breed Council want to reduce the generational requirement from 8 to 6," and if it passes we will look at it. **Lambert:** OK. That's a good idea, George. Thank you.

**Barry:** The grands I am told by the office are being done once a month, so if you are behind in that, email me, but the last time I checked we were doing them once a month. **Hannon:** Don't you agree that up until recently that wasn't the case. She may have a complaint from 4 months ago. **Barry:** That's correct. We actually changed the system to be done once a month. I would have said this past Fall, early Winter, that that was changed. We have had some issues with the overall system, and were behind due to all the issues we had last year in registration. Something had to be put on hold to jump in for registration and get those updated. We agree at Central Office there is a problem with the quality, the way the 6 generation works. We have been told repeatedly this cannot be fixed to provide a better product. We don't like what we're producing in the 6 generation. I don't know if Tim can step in and see if he can get a different answer than we constantly get anytime we have asked that question. **Lambert:** Because, they're not cheap, you know. **Barry:** I know they're not cheap. **Lambert:** The product is not acceptable to other associations. **Barry:** I agree. It has been something Verna and I have discussed, along with a couple of the other people. **Lambert:** Mark and I went all around about it and it seemed to be nothing could be done. **Barry:** That's what we are told; that they can't do anything with the system itself. **T. Schreck:** Can we discuss later? I need those examples of what you have. **Lambert:** I had sent them to the office previously. In fact, Mark instructed them to print me new ones. **T. Schreck:** I would like them. **Barry:** We're very concerned. We are a registration. That is what our business is and we want to take pride in what we are producing. That's critical, especially if we want to remain the showcase of pedigreed registrations. That has been a concern of ours. Up until being able to deal with the issues in Registration, we are not at a point where we should and could be willing to deal with that. We had a long discussion and came up with a different way of getting these to you in the way of hard copies so you didn't get them with all kinds of holes in them if you don't want all kinds of holes in them. **Lambert:** I have one other issue. It's sort of the same thing but it has to do with tracking a couple of cats –



Somalis in Abyssinian pedigrees. I'm constantly hearing from these people that another one has been registered incorrectly without the 358 or 359 [prefix]. The thing is, I personally ran into a cat who was incorrectly registered and I'm sure it has been corrected but the person never was notified that the cat is now a 358/359, so when those corrections were made, new certificates weren't set out. **Barry:** They should have been sent out. If you have specifics, email me. **Lambert:** Thank you.

**Altschul:** This kind of ties into an issue that I brought up with Mark and a couple of other board members. I just want to bring it to the entire board. There are some breeds that our breed codes mean a lot. It has to do with the ancestry. There are other breeds where it's not quite as important. With the Persian breed, our breed codes are extremely important. Personally, I've come across a number of ones that I've registered where I registered a cat that was non-CPC (that's "colorpoint carrier" for those of you who don't know). They registered it with what we call a "pure Persian" number. I had one that was a pure Persian and they gave me a CPC number. I know what I'm looking at so I knew to contact CFA. As soon as I contact them they fix it, but that's 2 errors within 10 or 15 registrations, and that's just from me. I asked multiple times and I am asking again, the Breed Council Secretaries or somebody is supposed to be doing an audit of registrations because that's a huge error rate. I've had multiple other ones that have come in where cats out of chocolates – which in Persians are all CPCs – are being registered as pure Persians. This is wrong. Again, when we bring it to CFA's attention they fix it, but I know what I'm looking at with the color codes. There are a lot of Persian registrations where they have no idea what they are looking at. Like Terri said, our registrations, that is what we are. If these are getting massively messed up, there's a huge concern here that I have. I really think we need to be utilizing the Breed Council Secretaries to be auditing the registrations. I'm willing to do it. I'll give my time. I know there are probably a lot of Persians, but I am more than willing to do it. I know the codes. **Bizzell:** That very day she went through 11 pages of codes. **Barry:** First off, I'm glad you are bringing this up because, as Tim well knows, I have been asking and asking but we still have so many things that need to come off the HP before we can go back and correct some things on our CompuTan system. We don't have stops on the system, so if someone makes a mistake in registration, it doesn't automatically stop it. If it's not a color that's within your breed but it's there and still active, it's not going to stop it. That's one on that. The other is – and I'm not passing the buck, guys, I'm really not – we have contacted the Breed Council Secretaries and we have been told, "I don't have the time." I'm sorry, I don't mean it quite that ugly, but that was what we have been told by some of you all. It's a two-way street. I know you are all volunteers. We realize that, but we have been contacting you. **Lambert:** I just want to speak to the last part of that. Not that I'm offended or anything, but some Breed Council Secretaries have a better knowledge of pedigrees than others. Some Breed Council Secretaries really are not that schooled on pedigrees at all. Then we do have people in the Breed Council who are certainly willing to criticize me. Darrell can attest to this. Darrell was point guard of the Abyssinians. Darrell volunteered, because Darrell understands those particular pedigrees that have the Somali. But yes, all Breed Council Secretaries are not created equal. Some have a good knowledge and some don't, so depending heavily on the Breed Council Secretaries might not be as accurate. **Richter:** I agree with Carissa. In my breed, I have a big problem with that. I think it's partially due to a lot of new breeders coming into the cat fancy that don't necessarily know what they're doing when they are dealing with the history of their pedigrees and I have seen lots of problems. I'm all for giving my time to help. I think it's really important with what's going on and how my breed is growing. **Barry:** Just one quick thing. Could Carla and I work together possibly on

getting a list of who Central Office could count on and rely on to go directly to, to get questions answered on your breeds? **Bizzell:** Absolutely.

**Gregory:** I have a question since we are talking about pedigrees and registrations. When we have cats registered by certified pedigree – up until recently we didn't have any allowed outcrosses, and in another association our breed (Ragamuffin) allows Siberian outcross which we do not allow here – I've been trying to find out, so if a person brings a 5 generation certified pedigree, and at this point we're getting to where that Siberian may be in the 6<sup>th</sup> generation. So, at that point, is that cat now registerable? <yes> And is there nothing we can do to stop it, knowing that that cat is there? The only thing we can do is to raise the generations, which is why people use the higher generations. <yes>

**Newkirk:** Could I make a question, and then I want to make a comment? Could we exhaust the debate on one issue? I know you guys are trying to recognize the speakers, but before we move on to another issue could you just say, "is there any more debate on this particular point?" Because the point I want to make goes back about 15 conversations, about the Aby. I held my hand up and I thought you guys had recognized me, but obviously you haven't. It would help a little bit more to make the debate a little more current if we exhaust the debate on one point before we go to the next. OK, that's just a suggestion. I wanted to comment on Meg's comment about the special Aby identifier numbers. I worked with Verna and I provided her with a list that the people from the Aby Breed Council have said this cat should have the special identifier number because of cats in the pedigree. I don't have the pedigree, so all I can do is compile a list, forward it on to Verna so she can research it in the database, but it was like I was getting bombarded by a Breed Council member and finally I had enough. I thought you know what? I'm done with you, so that person became Voldemort to me. I just got tired of it. I want to help. I want to make sure that our pedigrees are protected. I want that. I think what was done was actually not appropriate. What we should have done was deregister all those cats, but we sort of had our hands tied because one cat had produced over 200 cats. How do you go back and decertify the pedigree on 200 cats that are in our database now? So, that really created a problem for the board to come up with an adequate solution to what the issue was. I actually voted against it because I actually felt like those cats really should not have an Abyssinian number. But, to save a lot of heartache and issue for people who bought those cats under good faith – and the person who did this knew it was not right. That even makes me more angry on the whole issue, because the person knew it was not right but they circumvented the rules which we now changed to get that cat for breeding purposes only. That's how they snuck in the cat with a Somali in the 8<sup>th</sup> generation. It really, really created a problem. I just went on the Yahoo Aby Breed Council list and I was reading some of the old emails that went across on this issue. People hated each other over this. Anyway, I hope it doesn't happen in the future, but there's one person on there that just gets on my last nerve when I get 50 emails on this cat, this cat and this cat. Verna can't be bombarded by 80 people from the Breed Council. So, I think she has done her best to try to make sure all those cats got reregistered. So, I thank you Verna for doing that. It was a hard job and a hard issue. **Lambert:** Darrell is right. Darrell took the lead on this. Verna and the office did a wonderful job trying to track it, but Darrell is right. That person is Voldemort. That's not what she is to you, she is Voldemort. Darrell does not use profanity a lot, but he actually used profanity when referring to her, so then I knew she was a truly evil person. Thank you Darrell for all your help.

**Allen:** Just a point of clarification. I get occasional questions about registration for specific colors and so forth for Maine Coons. I thought I recall that last year we were asked to let Carla and Melanie know if, as a Breed Council Secretary we were willing to accept those questions and answer them. I obviously said I would, because I have gotten some of those questions. I'm a little confused about what we're talking about now versus what we did then. What additional things are we talking about? **Bizzell:** What I think Carissa is asking to do, instead of just fielding questions, she wants to look at all the registration numbers – all of them, not just ones they have questions on. **Lambert:** In the case of the Abyssinians, some of the Abyssinian breeders challenged the Breed Council Secretary's will or knowledge of this particular issue, so in his kindness Darrell stepped forward, but yeah, I'm the Breed Council Secretary but then people are like, "you've done something wrong here." That's why this has come up again because we were supposed to be doing that but they were not happy when they don't agree with your answer. Even if you say, "oh, I was wrong, we will fix that," they are not happy with that so they challenged the Breed Council Secretary's knowledge. The 42 years she has raised Abyssinians was not relevant to the discussion.

**Richter:** I'm not sure if this is relevant to that. **Bizzell:** Have we exhausted all discussion? So, we're on to the next topic. **Richter:** Mine sort of ties into registration. I'm having a growing problem in my breed that people are coming to me and saying, "what color is this cat?" It's clearly a smoke or a silver, and I say, "can you please send me the pedigree?" They have the parents registered as a brown tabby and white, and the mother is a calico. When I look at the pedigree, the grandmother of this questionable kitty is a silver tabby, so this brown tabby genetically is really not a brown tabby, it's probably a silver tabby that has produced a smoke or a silver tabby kitten. What are we supposed to do? Because both the parents are not registered as silver tabby or smoke cats, and it's clearly a smoke or a tabby. It's happening more and more in my breed. Does Registration register it as it is and as it looks, regardless of the pedigree? I mean, the pedigree is messed up, and it's happening over and over again. **Bizzell:** I know that currently our system doesn't have any hard stops in it. It doesn't have a color decision tree in it. For instance, if you have a silver factor cat. **Richter:** Even the breeders of the sire and dam argue with the current look of the kitty. Unfortunately, I've talked to Davis and there is no current DNA color test for silver and smoke. I wish there was. It's a paw pad, it's a nose, it's a clear smoke or silver tabby and they refuse to acknowledge that that original sire is a silver tabby and not a bad brown tabby. We're stuck now with an improper pedigree. **Bizzell:** Our system currently does not have a decision tree in place. I don't know if Dick has any update on that or not. **Barry:** I really can't give you any update on that. It doesn't have it in there, so we have to rely on the information given to us by the owners. **Richter:** Alright, but what are we supposed to tell those owners? Do they register the color that it is? **Barry:** Yes. **Richter:** I feel it is what it is and how do we go back and correct what's behind it? **Graafmans:** It's a bottomless pit of work. **Barry:** It's the same way, on certain days we open up envelopes and somebody has sent us the cat's fur and wants us to tell them what color it is. That's true. Some of these things happen once a year. **Eigenhauser:** This isn't a new problem. It was one of the first things I learned when I got on the board of CFA is that we do allow impossible breedings. You know, there's this black female that suddenly throws a red kitten, so she must be an unapparent tortie or, I think it was in Turkish Angoras for a long time we had a real problem with unapparent silvers, so the problem is, we don't register the cats according to what their DNA says, we register them according to what the owner looking at the cat thinks it is. So, we have always allowed these impossible breedings because of the element of human error. Then the question becomes, we get a situation

like yours, do we then go upstream and trash and burn until it's right, or do we just allow the registration? The decision has been made long before I got on the board that we just allow them in, so it's always been that way. There has always been a certain amount of slop in how we register the cats, because we're always relying on human eyeballs looking at the cat and saying, "is this a red tabby or is this a red?" "Is this an unapparent tortie, is this an unapparent silver?" So, we let them in. I'm sure at some point we will put in software that will create the stops, that will create the checks that will prevent them from being registered, but as a matter of policy, CFA hasn't done that yet. That's certainly something I think we ought to consider going forward.

**Richter:** Except that it's not necessarily that it should be stopped, because it's actually right. The kitten questioned actually is a silver. **Eigenhauser:** But then the question is, if we stop it, then do we have to go back to the parents and re-register them? That's the policy question that we haven't been able to deal with. As far back as I remember, we've registered cats not genetically but phenotypically, according to what your eye thinks it is. If it is in fact a silver and one of the parents was misregistered, the cat is still a silver so we accept that registration. That's been policy for as long as I can remember. **Allen:** I do agree with Carissa, now that I understand for sure what she's talking about. As the Maine Coon Breed Council Secretary, I probably at least 3 or 4 times a week get pictures of, "can you tell me what color this cat is and how I should register it?" So, in the end, it would probably be almost easier to have a list and be checking what it is, rather than try to deal with all of that. **Newkirk:** I think we get into a lot of issues on color, especially from the judging ring. One of the things for years that we have dealt with is about reds and red tabbies. The red gene makes non-agouti inoperative, so all red cats are really tabbies. There is no such thing as a solid red. I had an issue of this recently. I had a red kitten. I was a science major, so genetics has always fascinated me. So, I questioned the lady, "is this cat genetically a red?" It was a tabby on the table, but it was a kitten so at some point in time would shed out that coat and be what we call a solid red. We had an issue not too long ago in Roseville at a show. We had a Javanese that was red. It came into the ring with a big white blaze down the front of its face, so I pulled the standard out it's a DQ if there's white on the feet. No mention if there's a white blaze on the cat. When it walked into my ring, I was given a color class number to transfer it to longhair Oriental, so I said, "who are the parents?" They said they were both Javanese, so I said, "you can't transfer the cat from one breed to another, it's got to be a Javanese." It was really a dilemma. There were 6 of us judging the show and we had 6 different opinions, so I convinced the lady to absent it from my ring. We occasionally get into a situation like that where there's no right answer to it. It's not really a DQ because that specific thing is not listed as a DQ. If I could have held a foot up and seen a little white toe, I could have said OK. I still don't know. It's a beautiful cat and I think they convinced her to show it as a Household Pet. It's a shame, because the cat structurally was beautiful. That's a gene pool that needs some genes into it. Ellyn was judging the show and she talked maybe an hour and a half after the show with the people trying to look at their pedigrees and figure out where something could have gone wrong. I don't know, I a lot of times will talk to exhibitors about the color of their cat if I have a question. Sometimes we have made some changes on cats, based on the color of the parents, but you've got to have a little bit of understanding how genetics work. If you don't carry red or if you don't carry silver, one of the parents has to be one of those colors in order to produce one of those colors. Anyway, it is an issue sometimes and I really didn't know that if a cat had smoke in its background and no parent had silver in the pedigree, I didn't understand that we could transfer that. So, I learned something today and I thank George for that. **Graafmans:** I sort of have to preface this comment with a question. Burmese colors are about as simple as it gets. I

don't tend to have problems but I've noticed in the ring you will see kittens that will be registered as a color, and it becomes apparent as the cat matures that the color is incorrect. I've heard that if that person wants to change that kitten to a different color class, he loses the points that he has accumulated. What that does is, it discourages people from correcting these colors as it becomes more apparent what is the correct color. I do have a fair amount of experience with inherited databases that have a lot of subtle mistakes in them. I have learned over the years that to try to fix those subtle mistakes is a bottomless pit of work and is counter-productive in the end. So, if this organization can get to the point where we can build a matrix that says a platinum Burmese bred to a champagne Burmese cannot produce a sable offspring. If we can build that matrix, behind that you want to make sure that at least the current generations that you're working with are correct. So, would it make sense for the board to change that rule? I don't know the mechanics of how we could or couldn't change that, but at least allow people to retain points for that show year, at least in kittens, so we are encouraging people to make the corrections as they become apparent. **Richter:** In addition to that, I had a lot of people panic because they graded a cat as a cream and white, then bred it and realized that it was a cameo and white. Now they are freaking out over correcting a cat's color because they are afraid they will lose the title and have to re-grade it, so they leave it wrong. So, we are not really creating accurate pedigrees. **Altschul:** That's happened in Persians. I know one specific cat that graded, then started sireing and they realized he was a genetic tabby. They just brought the cat back out and regraded it. That's not the best option. In some cases it may be difficult, but I don't know that I really think it's fair to say, "this cat graded as a cream and white but it's really a cameo and white" so we're going to let it keep its title even though it graded under a different color? That's a major concern for me. I can see maybe a kitten keeping some points, but not a graded cat. One thing we need to do as Breed Councils and CFA generally is, do more on educating people on colors. There are some colors that are like, "what the heck is this?" but a lot of the colors are really obvious. I think CFA could do something like maybe even on our website even build a color database and someone can go to the CFA website and see, "OK, this is a cameo and this is a cream" and talk about what are the differences between the colors. Again, it goes back to registrations and education and CFA should be the main source for that, not necessarily a breeder here, a breeder there. **Newkirk:** I've got one final thing about color. At the same show where I was judging the Javanese with the white, I got a transfer on an Oriental. We as judges have really got to be careful in what these new transfer color descriptions are. I got a color description for a fawn-cream silver patched spotted tabby and white. OK, you can't have patched and fawn-cream in the same color description. So I said, "first off, that has to be struck out. My next suggestion is, any color description be limited to at least one paragraph." **Gregory:** We are talking about cats changing colors and patterns. My other question pertains to, Darrell, actually you have to change their title so long as they change actual color class, is what I'm understanding, whereas in our breed we only have one color class, so all of our cats are in one color class. We have had cats that are changing their color description that one cat is a silver tabby and then suddenly it is a sable silver tabby and in championship they are changing these colors but they are not having to start over and champion the cat and they are retaining their grand points and they're adding together all of these different colors. I understand the rules originally that if you change the color description, you had to start over, but we're being told by Central Office that unless you change the color class, which for us we don't, they retain the points. **Hannon:** No, it's color. If the cat changes color – even though your breed is all one color class – they start over. **Gregory:** That is not happening. We have grand champions who have changed color and retained all their points

within our breeds. **Hannon:** Terri, are you hearing this? If you can give her specific cats as examples, she will check into it. **Epstein:** Someone mentioned education. Yeah. Don't you think, I mean, our website is really nice. Don't you think maybe we should have breeders' seminars online? YouTube videos, etc.? This is something we are capable of. Maybe we need to have a breeder education committee, not just mentor, and have it centralized. Have some of education more central instead of individualized, so that new people coming in have a place to say, "this is where I learn about color," and us as Breed Council Secretaries can contribute, instead of just, "oh here's the standard and I can give you an article someone wrote," etc. We need to have in there maybe something like the presentation that I gave to the judges, OK? This is what your cat is supposed to look like, this is what its colors are, etc. Have some of the educational material the judges have or other educational stuff in one place for our breeders and centralize it, instead of just depending on mentors to teach people, because I've had people teach other people some stuff that isn't right. **Bizzell:** Is there any reason why we couldn't put the presentation material that we have for the judges available to anyone? It's not super-secret information or anything, it's presentations on breeds. **Hannon:** It's on the judges' pages. **Bizzell:** Maybe we should make it more obvious how to get to it. **Epstein:** It's called the judges' community education site. **Bizzell:** We could provide a link from another source on the website. **Kallmeyer:** We already have the technology. It's the content we need, to be honest with you. I would like it in Chinese too, because we have so many transfers because of color. It would be a great idea. It's already there, we just need the content and a place to point it. **Lambert:** It would seem to me that is something that you could put on your breed website also, where people in your specific breed would have it there. **Allen:** We have our BAOS slide show linked to the Maine Coon Cat Breed Council. We do not unfortunately have it in Chinese. If somebody could help us with how to do that translation, we would be happy to, but we do have it up there. As I update it, we update it on the website and we do try to refer breeders to that training that's available to everybody. **Krzanowski:** I was speaking with Joan Miller the other day. She is Chair of Outreach and Education. I believe she is planning on producing some webinars with this sort of thing, exactly what we're talking about. Hopefully, something will be forthcoming soon. **Wilson:** If you go on the CFA website – cfa.org – and you go to Shows/Judges/Judges Resources/Continuing Education, it will bring up all the presentations. **Hannon:** What we need to do is put that on each breed site so it links to that specific breed presentation. **Wilson:** It's there and you don't have to be a judge to see it.

**Bizzell:** Thank you everyone for coming.

## **BREED COUNCIL DEADLINES and TIMETABLE**

### **Breed Standard Timeline for changes, advancement, and membership:**

**August 1:** Breed Council membership deadline (rec'd in CO)

**August 1:** New Breed/Color and Advancement notification deadline (in CO)

**August 1:** BCS should have all proposed standard changes from BC members.

**August 15:** BCS must be notified of any breed color or advancement requests that might affect them (see below\*\*)

**August 15:** Proposed breed standard questions to Breeds & Standards Committee for review.

**September 15:** BCS proposed standard changes must be received by Central Office via B & S Committee

**October 26:** Breed ballots will be available electronically/sent out upon request by Central Office

**December 15:** Breed ballots due back to Central Office

\*\* If a question dealing with the merging of two breeds for registration and/or show purposes or the disallowance of one breed as an outcross for another breed or the disallowance of the right to show one breed in the classes of another is to appear on one breed's ballot, the first secretary must submit the proposed change to the secretary of the affected breed(s) by certified mail postmarked or by email date-stamped by August 15 (copy the B&S Committee).

**All deadlines reflect date that application, advancement material, or ballots must be RECEIVED.**

Melanie Morgan  
1487 Poindexter Road  
Louisa, VA 23093  
540-967-0495  
[emaucats.com](mailto:emaucats.com)

Carla Bizzell  
38 S. Blue Angel #203  
Pensacola, FL 32506  
512-627-4765  
Carla.Bizzell@yahoo.com