

NORWEGIAN FOREST CAT FANCIERS ASSOCIATION
BY-LAWS
(2004)

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership in the Norwegian Forest Cat Fanciers Association (NFCFA) begins when the completed application and dues are received by the appropriate officer:
1. Fancier applicants should send all information to the Treasurer.
 2. Provisional Breeder Member applicants should send all information to the Breeder Division Secretary.
- B. There shall be two divisions: Voting Members and Non-voting Members.
1. Voting membership is composed of the members in good standing of the following subdivisions:
 - a. Breeder Members: catteries (not individuals) who have met the requirements of Article I, Section E, or Section F.
 - b. Provisional Breeder Members: catteries which have applied for Breeder Member status but who have not yet completed the requirements outlined in Section D.
 - c. Associate Members who have met the requirements of Article I, Section D.)
 2. Non-voting membership is composed of members in the following subdivisions:
 - a. Fancier Members: individuals who have met the requirements of Article I, Section H.
 - b. Foreign Breeder Members: individuals who have met the requirements of Article I, Section I.
 - c. Honorary Members: individuals who have met the requirements of Article I, Section J.
 - d. Any voting member not in good standing.
- C. A person wishing to become a Breeder Member must apply to the Breeder Division Secretary for an application form and Code of Ethics, or download from the NFCFA website the appropriate forms, complete the forms, and return them and the appropriate dues to the Breeder Division Secretary within 60 days of the date of the signatures on the documents. If the required information is not received by the Breeder Division Secretary within the stated time, any dues already submitted will be forfeit to the Association. The applicant may reapply by submitting a new application and fees.
1. Applicants must have a cattery registered in one of the major recognized registration associations (ACA, ACFA, CFA, CFF, TICA).
 2. Applicants must own or lease a female kitten or cat capable of reproduction and must provide a signed sponsorship agreement from a Breeder member in good standing.
- D. Provisional Breeder membership commences upon receipt by the Breeder Division Secretary of a completed application and Code of Ethics signed by all owners of the cattery, and a copy of a valid, current cattery registration certificate. The membership will be notified of all new Provisional Breeder Members in the next issue of *The Skogkatt*, on the NFCFA List and/or in the minutes of the next meeting. All sources shall list the Provisional Breeder Member(s) by name, address, telephone number, email address, cattery name, and full name of any cat(s). Provisional Breeder Members may attend meetings, receive Minutes, and vote on all matters except those applying to breed standards and advancement of Provisional Breeder Members to full Breeder Member status. Provisional Breeder Members may not be on any Breeders List, advertise in *The Skogkatt*, or advertise in any way that they are members of NFCFA.

Provisional Breeder members may list kittens in the Kitten Bank, but all persons contacting the Kitten Bank must be advised of listings that belong to Provisional Breeder Members. Provisional Breeder membership expires two (2) years from the date of the application or upon acceptance of the Provisional Breeder Member as a full Breeder Member. The Breeder Division Secretary shall determine if an extension of time shall be granted to anyone who has not completed the process after the two year time span; necessity to replace a planned breeder or other unforeseen situations shall govern the granting of extension.

1. Acceptance: Before being accepted as a Breeder Member, a Provisional Breeder must deliver the following to the Breeder Division Secretary: a copy of a litter registration of a Norwegian Forest Cat kittens from a recognized cat registering association and a brief letter from the sponsor reaffirming sponsorship.

2. Waiting Period: Six (6) months after the date of application for Breeder Member status, or six months after the birth of the registered litter, whichever comes later, the Provisional Breeder Member will be presented for vote at the next semi-annual date (March or September).

3. Voting: In March or September of each year, a ballot with the name of each Provisional Breeder to be voted on for advancement to full Breeder status shall be mailed out to Breeder Members, who shall be given not less than four weeks to return the ballots to the Recording Secretary. A majority of votes received is necessary for attaining full Breeder Member status. A tie vote is thus regarded as a "no" vote. The Breeder Division Secretary shall notify the Provisional Breeder Members of the results immediately and the names of those advanced shall be published in the next issue of *The Skogkatt* and on the NFCFA List (only the results, not the actual votes count).

If the Provisional Breeder Member is not accepted for Breeder Member status, the Provisional Breeder Member shall revert to Fancier status for the remainder of the dues year. The cattery may reapply in one year.

Should all votes be abstentions, the Provisional Breeder Member shall have six months to obtain a letter of recommendation from a second sponsor, who shall be a Breeder Member in good standing. Six months after obtaining a second sponsorship, the Provisional Breeder Member may reapply for advancement to full Breeder status.

E. A full Breeder Member is one who actively breeds and registers with one of the major registering associations a minimum of one litter per two contiguous show seasons (May 1 through April 30). Breeder Members are required to send to the Breeder Division Secretary, along with annual dues, a photocopy of a litter registration dated within the last two years.

If the Breeder Member has been in full Breeder status for a minimum of five (5) years, in lieu of providing a copy of a litter registration, shall provide a copy of a litter registration showing a stud male owned by a Breeder Member listed as the sire of the litter.

After ten (10) years of full Breeder membership, the requirement for providing a litter registration is waived.

A Breeder Member in good standing shall have dues paid up to date; shall have on file with the Breeder Division Secretary a signed and current copy of the Code of Ethics; shall have on file a copy of the required proofs of litter registration; and shall have no outstanding complaints registered against the cattery or cattery owner(s).

F. An inactive Breeder Member is one who finds it necessary to cease active breeding (including the use by others of a stud male owned by the cattery). The person may have plans to resume active breeding in the near future but must suspend breeding plans for personal reasons (medical, educational, family concerns, etc.) and shall so notify the Breeder Division Secretary. Such persons shall pay full dues and retain voting privileges. Upon resumption of an active breeding program, the member shall notify the Breeder Division Secretary and shall provide the necessary litter registration in order to be reinstated.

Persons who have been full Breeder Members for ten years do not fall into this category should they not be actively breeding. (See Article I, Section E)

G. Associate Members who have been granted this status prior to April 30, 2004, shall retain this status and its privileges. The category itself shall not continue past April 30, 2004. Associate Members are

members who are actively showing Norwegian Forest Cats that they own or lease with no intention of breeding, or who own and show a whole male Norwegian Forest Cat.

Associate Members shall not have the right to vote on any issues unless they provide to the Recording Secretary (whose obligation it shall be to certify eligibility to vote) proof of showing a Norwegian Forest Cat a minimum of four (4) times a year, said proof to be a photocopy of the show catalog's title page and the breed page(s) listing the cat(s) accompanied by the signature of the Master Clerk..

H. Fancier Members are those who apply for Fancier Membership and send dues to the Treasurer. Fancier Members do not have to own a Norwegian Forest Cat.

I. Foreign Breeder Members shall be member catteries that are located outside of North America. Foreign Breeder Members have all the privileges of Breeder Members except the right to vote. NFCFA does not require from these members proofs of litter registrations. NFCFA recognizes that some Foreign Breeder Members may not be able to follow all NFCFA Codes since laws in their own countries may supersede requirements in the Code.

J. Honorary membership may be conferred upon any person who has contributed significantly to the welfare of the Norwegian Forest Cat or the NFCFA itself. This honor requires only a majority vote by the Executive Board. Honorary members shall be listed on any complete list of NFCFA members and shall receive *The Skogkatt*. They are not required to pay dues, nor do they have the right to vote.

K. Changes in cattery ownership must be made by sending official notice to the Breeder Division Secretary regarding any changes in ownership. If however, the change involves inheritance, sale or transfer, or the addition of a person not previously an approved Breeder Member, the cattery must reapply for membership and any person(s) not previously an approved Breeder Member(s) must go through the Provisional process. The original owner of the Cattery, a full Breeder Member, retains the rights of full Breeder membership and the Cattery shall continue to enjoy the privileges of full Breeder Membership.

L. Reinstatement of a cattery that has allowed its membership to lapse for more than two years requires the owner(s) to follow the process for application for membership outlined in Article I, section D.

M. Reinstatement of a cattery whose membership has lapsed for fewer than two years requires the owner(s) to send a letter requesting reinstatement to the Breeder Division Secretary. The Executive Board may reinstate the cattery to full Breeder Membership by a two-thirds vote. The Cattery will be notified by the Breeder Division Secretary of the results of the vote. If reinstatement is approved, full Breeder membership will commence upon the receipt of current dues and a current litter registration.

N. Simple name change of a Breeder Cattery not involving a change in ownership requires only written notification to the Breeder Division Secretary of the name change along with a photocopy of the cattery registration certificate from a recognized registering association.

O. Members of the Breeder Division who voluntarily resign their membership shall not be eligible to apply for reinstatement for a period of nine (9) months or May 1 of the year following the resignation, whichever is later. At that time, the individual/cattery must send a letter via the United States Postal Service to the Breeder Division Secretary requesting consideration for reinstatement, which letter shall include a statement as to the reason the individual wishes to be reinstated and what circumstances have changed since the resignation. Reinstatement shall then be considered by a vote of the Executive Board. A two-thirds majority vote is required for an individual to be reinstated.

P. If any member of any Division has acted in a deleterious manner or with the intent to destroy the integrity of this organization, that individual shall not be eligible for future membership.

ARTICLE II DUES

- A. Annual dues for all membership shall be set by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board.
- B. Dues shall be payable on May 1st of each year, coinciding with the NFCFA fiscal year. A grace period of forty-five days from the due date will be allowed. Failure to pay on, or before, the expiration of the grace period will result in cancellation of membership.
- C. Final notice shall be sent to the delinquent Fancier members by the Treasurer and to Breeder Division members by the Breeder Division secretary. This notice must be in writing and sent no later than ten days before the grace period expires.
- D. All dues shall be paid in United States funds, either by check or money order. These must be made payable to the Norwegian Forest Cat Fanciers Association or NFCFA. There will be a penalty fee of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) for checks returned for insufficient funds.

ARTICLE III MEETINGS

- A. Annual Meeting
 - 1. There shall be one National meeting of NFCFA each year.
 - 2. The NFCFA President is solely responsible for scheduling the Annual National Meeting.
 - 3. At least five (5) voting members, including two officers, shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business at the National Annual Meeting.
- B. Regional Meeting
 - 1. Regional meetings may be held at any time there are at least four (4) voting members present at a cat show.
 - 2. Minutes shall be kept of discussions held and suggestions made at regional Meetings and copies sent to the Recording secretary.
 - 3. The Recording Secretary shall send copies of the Minutes/reports of the regional meetings to the Executive Board.
- C. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called, if necessary, for the transaction of important business. They may be called by the President, The Executive Board, or upon written request of at least five Full Breeder members. The business of the meeting shall be limited only to that for which the meeting was called. The Recording Secretary shall receive Minutes of this meeting.
- D. Notification

Members will be notified in The Skogkatt of the date and location of the Annual national meeting. This notice will include the name of a person to contact for specific information.

Scheduled Regional meetings shall be listed in The Skogkatt if there is sufficient lead in time.

The NFCFA list on the Internet (NFCFA@yahogroups.com) shall be available for dissemination of information about scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

- A. The officers of this Association shall be: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, Breeder Division Secretary, Recording Secretary, and a Regional Director from each of the designated Regions.
- B. The above elected officers shall be known as the Executive Board. The management of the business and affairs of NFCFA shall be under the directions of the Executive Board.
- C. Officers shall be elected in February of an election year and shall take office in May of that year. Each term shall be two years.
- D. No person shall serve as President or Vice-President for more than two consecutive terms.
- E. Vacancies in office shall be filled, for the unexpired term, by appointment by the President.
- F. No person shall hold more than one elected office in NFCFA at the same time.
- G. If deemed necessary, the Executive Board may appoint Special Representatives.
- H. Should any officer fail to fulfill the duties of office, a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board is required to approve a recall vote. A two-thirds majority of voting NFCFA members' votes received is required to remove an officer.

ARTICLE V ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- A. Anyone wishing to serve as an officer of the Association must have been a Breeder Member in good standing for a minimum of two (2) years. Those qualifying under these terms shall notify the Recording Secretary by January 15th of each election year. No person may file for more than one office.
- B. The Recording Secretary shall provide a slate of announced candidates on the NFCFA List no later than January 20. Anyone wishing to declare for write-in candidacy for any office shall notify the Recording Secretary by January 30.
- C. The election ballot shall instruct voting members to vote only for the Regional Director who represents each member's region.
- D. The results, but not the actual vote count, shall be reported at the next meeting, in *The Skogkatt*, and on the NFCFA List. The candidate for a given office, including any write-in candidates, who receives a majority of the votes cast is elected. If a write-in candidate wins and declines to serve, the candidate with a majority of the remaining votes is elected. If no candidate receives a majority, a run-off will be held between the candidates receiving the most votes for the office.

ARTICLE VI TRANSFER OF OFFICE

- A. Within thirty days of the end of their appointed or elected term, all officers, except the Treasurer, will turn over all records, equipment, or other property of NFCFA to their successors.
- B. Within two weeks of the end of an elected term, the outgoing Treasurer will turn over to the incoming Treasurer all funds (except for amounts needed for outstanding checks). The outgoing Treasurer will have the time involving two bank statements to accomplish the signing of new signature cards, change of

address, notification of the bank of the change in financial officer, and the final clearing of the outgoing Treasurer's books.

ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS

A. The President shall:

1. be executive officer of NFCFA;
2. have the authority to act as the representative and spokesman for NFCFA in all matters not otherwise specifically delegated by the Constitution and By-Laws;
3. preside at Annual Meetings;
4. appoint another officer to preside at Annual meetings if the President is unable to attend;
5. coordinate the activities of the members concerning NFCFA business;
6. appoint any committees necessary, and be a member ex-officio of such committees.

B. The Vice-President shall:

1. perform all the duties of the office of President in the event of the absence or incapacity of the President;
2. assume the office of the President if this office becomes vacant and appoint a new Vice-President for the unexpired term;
3. maintain updated copies of the Constitution , By-Laws, NFCFA Code of Ethics, and any similar documents of the association and provide updated copies to each officer promptly should changes occur in any document.

C. The Treasurer shall:

1. receive all monies due to NFCFA, have custody of all funds, disburse all approved expenses, and deposit all monies received in a bank account maintained by NFCFA;
2. keep an account of all receipts and expenses;
3. render to the Executive Board Quarterly Financial reports, during the fiscal year of May 1st through April 30th;
4. maintain a list of current members with name, mailing address and phone number, sending written notice to the Executive Board and Skogkatt Editor of any changes and/or deletions.

D. The Corresponding Secretary shall:

1. keep a list of all Members in Good Standing with name, current mailing address, phone number and any email address which may have been provided;
2. notify members of regular and special meetings at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting, using the NFCFA List or The Skogkatt;
3. be responsible for all NFCFA correspondence, except that which is delegated to other

Association officials;

4. act as the initial contact for those interested in NFCFA and as such maintain a listing in advertisements designed to attract potential members and persons desiring to learn about the Norwegian Forest Cat. It is therefore necessary for the Corresponding Secretary to maintain a fixed address at which this officer is physically present;
5. refer potential kitten buyers to the appropriate Regional Director for further information on available kittens and direct inquiries to the NFCFA website for leads to available kittens;
6. maintain a packet of information and specific materials designated by the Executive Board to be sent to those inquiring about the Norwegian Forest Cat.

E. The Breeder Division secretary shall:

1. receive all completed applications, Codes of Ethics, and dues for the Breeder division, check that all agreements are signed, and forward the dues to the Treasurer;
2. forward to the Executive Board, and Editor of the *Skogkatt*, all necessary information on Provisional Breeder Members. This information shall be printed in the next issue of the *Skogkatt*;
3. notify the Recording Secretary of those Provisional Breeder Members who have completed the provisional period and are eligible for advancement, and therefore should be included on the March or September ballots;
4. maintain a file for each Breeder Division Member which contains:
 - a) a completed application signed by all owners of the cattery;
 - b) a copy of the current Code of Ethics signed by all owners of the cattery;
 - c) proof of cattery registration in one of the recognized registries;
 - d) proof of litter registrations.(except for those Breeder Members with more than ten years of membership and Foreign Breeders)
5. notify Provisional Members of the results (not actual vote count) of the advancement ballot;
6. maintain a current record of geographical distribution of voting members and notify the Executive Board of any major population change which may necessitate a change in the composition of a particular Region;
7. submit to the Editor of *The Skogkatt*, on or before May 1st, a map of the United States and Canada showing the number of voting members of each state/province;
8. submit yearly to the Executive Board and the Editor of *The Skogkatt* a list of Breeder Division Members with names, mailing addresses, and Cattery names.

F. The Recording Secretary shall:

1. distribute Minutes of all meetings of NFCFA to all voting members within thirty days of such meetings, this distribution to be handled in any manner deemed most efficient;
2. prepare and send ballots to Breeder members and record results of the advancement ballot

in March and September;

3. keep on file in a sealed envelope, for two years, all election ballots
4. immediately notify the Breeder Division Secretary of the results of the advancement
5. maintain a permanent Notebook, or Minutes Book, containing all Minutes.

G. The Regional Director shall:

1. serve as a full voting member of the Executive Board;
2. fill in for any officer unable to attend a meeting;
3. act as liaison between the NFCFA and members of the Region each represents;
4. encourage members to conduct Regional meetings and to forward the results of such meetings to the Recording Secretary;
5. keep a listing of kittens available from Breeder Division Members within their own region.

ARTICLE VIII VOLUNTARY AND APPOINTED POSITIONS

A. The position of Editor of *The Skogkatt* shall be a voluntary position. The Editor serves at the pleasure of the Executive Board. The Editor shall:

1. gather and publish news, letters, or other material that is of interest to the owners of the Norwegian Forest Cat;
2. attempt to secure permission to reprint relevant articles, not limited to those about the NFC, that appear in other publications;
3. publish *The Skogkatt* quarterly;
4. distribute *The Skogkatt* to all members;
5. sell advertising in *The Skogkatt* as specified by the Executive Board;
6. remind members, in the Winter issue, of the May 1st dues date;
7. publish in the Fall issue of each election year, notification about filing for office.

Note: Each issue of *the Skogkatt* shall contain:

- a) A list with addresses of all officers and the chairpersons of standing committees;
- b) Information about how to join NFCFA;
- c) The names, addresses, sponsors, and cats of new Provisional Breeder Members;
- d) The names of newly advanced Breeder Members;

- e) Information about the date, place, and contact person for the Annual and/or Regional meetings;
 - f) In the Summer issue, a map with locations and numbers of Breeder Division members, as well as the annual list of Breeder Members.
- B. The Archivist shall be an appointed officer. The Archivist and committee shall be responsible for:
- 1. data entry of pedigree information submitted by membership;
 - 2. compilation of a Resource Library for NFCFA minutes, By-Laws, Constitution, Code, issues of *The Skogkatt*, articles, photographs, and other materials pertaining to the history and development of the Norwegian Forest Cat;
 - 3. assisting members, whenever possible, with inquiries regarding the use of resources included in the Archives.
- C. The Webmaster shall be an appointed officer. The Webmaster shall maintain *an updated website*, including the Kitten Bank, current list of Officers and contact information for each, list of full Breeder Members, and such other material as the Executive Board deems needed.

ARTICLE IX VOTING PROCEDURES

- A. At the discretion of the Board, any important matter requiring a full voting membership vote or a ballot vote, may be done by a "Mail Ballot."
- B. All ballots, except those pertaining to proposed By-Laws amendments, must be properly identified as to the voting Cattery (in the manner designated by the Recording Secretary) and returned to the Recording Secretary by the date stated on the individual ballot. All ballots returned and not so identified shall be considered void. Unreturned ballots shall be considered abstentions.
Ballots for the election of Officers may be returned to the Chairman of the Election Committee as indicated on the ballot, but must similarly be identified as to the voting Cattery to be considered valid.
- C. All proposals concerning changes in the Constitution or By-Laws are to be sent to the Chairman of the By-Laws Committee. Ballots will be mailed out by the Chairperson of the By-Laws Committee. Ballots are to be returned to the Chairperson of the By-Laws Committee within four weeks of receipt of the ballot or by the date indicated on the ballot. Envelopes must be clearly marked with the cattery, the name, and the address of the voting member.
At the close of voting, results shall be sent to the Recording Secretary for dissemination via the Minutes, *The Skogkatt*, and/or the NFCFA List.
- D. The only "secret ballots" shall be the voting for officers of this Association as stated under the rules established by the election committee.
- E. All proposals shall be fully explained on all "mail ballots."

ARTICLE X PROTECTION OF THE BREED

- A. All Breeder and Provisional Breeder Members are required to sign an agreement to abide by the Constitution, By-Laws, and all NFCFA Codes.
- B. ETHICS COMMITTEE

NFCFA has an obligation to protect the breed as well as potential buyers and breeders of the Norwegian Forest Cat. An Ethics Committee consisting of four persons will review all formal complaints against members. The President shall be one of the Committee members and serve as its Chairperson. If the President chooses not to serve as Chairman of this committee, the Vice-President will assume the role of Chairperson. Should the Vice-President be unable to serve, the Senior Committee Member then becomes the Chairperson. After taking office, the President shall recommend to the Executive Board three committee members, one of whom shall be designated as the Senior Committee member. The President shall also name three alternates. It is suggested that the Breeder Division Secretary be one of the members of this Committee, as the majority of complaints involve members of the Breeder Division. Persons selected to serve on the Committee must have been Full Breeder Members for a minimum of five years. The Executive Board must approve each member by a two-thirds majority vote. Names of Ethics Committee Members shall be published in the Minutes, *The Skogkatt*, and on the NFCFA List.

C. DISQUALIFICATIONS

Any committee member *who is a* complainant or who is the subject of a pending complaint shall be replaced by an alternate selected by the Chairperson. Any committee member who cannot render an impartial decision due to the circumstances of the complaint must disqualify himself/herself.

D. SUBSTANCE OF A COMPLAINT

All formal complaints must be filed in good faith and not for the purpose of harassment, embarrassment, or personal animosity. Proper grounds for a complaint shall be conduct which constitutes:

1. a violation of the spirit or the letter of the Code of Ethics or the By-Laws,
2. any other egregious conduct not worthy of a Breeder, or
3. filing a formal complaint in bad faith.

E. FILING COMPLAINTS

Review of a formal complaint by the Committee shall be initiated, by the Committee Chairperson, upon the receipt of an original and three copies of a written complaint.

The written complaint shall be signed by the complainant and shall consist of the following:

1. a brief factual statement of the conduct complained of;
2. names, addresses, and phone numbers of all persons with relevant knowledge of the facts;
3. a list of any relevant evidence, documents, or photographs which support the allegations of the complaint; and
4. any other information material to the substance of the complaint.

Confidentiality Requirement: Complainant must keep all complaints in strict confidence. Disclosure to anyone not on the Committee of the pendency or subject of a formal complaint prior to final resolution by the Executive Board shall result in dismissal of the complaint. A complainant may withdraw the complaint at any time before final resolution upon written notice to the Chairperson.

F. NOTICE AND REPLY

Within ten (10) days of the receipt of a Formal Complaint, the Chairperson shall send one copy to the defending party by certified mail, return receipt requested.

The defending party must respond within ten (10) days by filing an original and three copies of a written reply consisting of the following:

1. counterstatement of facts;
2. identification of persons with relevant knowledge of the facts;
3. a list of any relevant evidence, documents, or photographs which defeat the allegations of the complaint;
4. any other information material to the substance of the complaint.

G. PROCEDURE FOR REVIEW

Each case will be assigned a Number by the Chairperson and Complainant and Defending Party shall be identified only by Letters. Only the Chairperson shall have the key to the identities of the parties involved, assuring a neutral attitude on the part of the Committee, which is based on the facts of the case and not influenced by the identity of the parties involved.

Within ten (10) days of receipt of the Reply or upon expiration of the Reply Period, the Chairperson will forward a copy of the Formal Complaint and Reply, if any, to the sitting committee members and shall schedule a meeting of the Committee to be held within 30 days. Meetings may be conducted in person, by phone or other electronic means.

Committee members shall keep confidential to the extent possible the pendency and substance of complaints and the identity of the parties concerned.

At the scheduled time, the Chairperson and Committee Members shall decide by majority vote to recommend to the Executive Board one of the following courses of action:

- I. Dismissal of the complaint,
- II. Private censure of the defending party,
- III. Public censure of the defending party,
- IV. Suspension of NFCFA membership not to exceed one year, with revocation of Breeder or Provisional status
- VI. Permanent expulsion from NFCFA.

H. Review by the Executive Board

The Executive Board shall receive the written recommendations of the Committee, together with a summary of the complete record. Within twenty-one (21) days, the Executive Board shall by a 2/3 majority vote adopt one of the following courses of action:

- 1.. Approval and ratification of the Committee's recommended action, or
2. Any other course of action listed in Section G, Sections 1 – 5, above.

Failure of the Executive Board to agree by a 2/3 vote shall result in automatic ratification of the Committee recommendation.

I. The Chairperson, in writing, shall notify the complainant and the defending party of the final decision.

J. Without limiting other bases for expulsion from NFCFA, a member against whom a court of law judgment has been rendered in any case involving any type of animal cruelty or abuse may be expelled from membership by a majority vote of the Executive Board, after the member is provided the opportunity to

submit an explanation. It is recognized that some militant groups may bring a charge against someone without validity and may have the political power to gain acceptance by the courts.

J. Any member of NFCFA who has 1) been suspended or expelled from, or 2) denied access the services of one of the major registration associations shall, upon action by a 2/3 majority vote of the Executive Board be suspended or expelled from NFCFA, in conformity with the actions of the registering association..

ARTICLE XI ADVERTISING

A. Only full Breeder Members may advertise in any way that they are members of NFCFA. This restriction applies, but is not limited to advertising in magazines, show catalogs, business cards, cat shows, and any other means of publication.

B. No other NFCFA members, including Provisional Breeders, may represent themselves in any place or publication as NFCFA Breeder Members.

C. If an instance of improper advertising is discovered by any member or interested party, the Breeder Division Secretary shall be notified and sent a copy of the advertisement or given the website location carrying the advertisement. This officer shall verify lack of full Breeder membership and then notify the person making the false claim that the advertising is to cease immediately.

D. If the false advertising continues, The Breeder Division Secretary will notify the publication, or other location of advertising that the NFCFA membership claim is false and must be discontinued. At this point, membership status will be automatically suspended and the offending member notified in writing of this action.

E. If a false claim continues to be made, the NFCFA membership shall be notified of this fact in the Minutes, *The Skogkatt*, or on the NFCFA List. The member continuing to make the false claim shall be expelled from NFCFA.

ARTICLE XII REGIONS

A. Each region of NFCFA shall:

1. be based on the distribution of voting members;

2. consist of a minimum of five members;

3. may be adjusted by a majority vote of the Executive Board, if necessary, no later than May 1st of each year, upon notice by the Vice-President and/or Breeder Division Secretary of a loss of voting members in any regions.

B. The NFCFA regions shall be as follows:

WESTERN: : In the United States: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming;
In Canada: Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan

SOUTH CENTRAL: In the United States: Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas;
All of Mexico

NORTH CENTRAL: In the United States: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin;
In Canada: Manitoba and Ontario

NORTHEAST: In the United States: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont;
In Canada: Quebec and the Maritime Provinces

MID-ATLANTIC: Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania

SOUTHEAST: Alabama, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENTS

- A. These By-Laws may be amended by a majority of voting members' ballots received by the Chairman of the By-Laws Committee and reported to the Recording Secretary.
- B. Suggested amendments may be proposed in any of the following ways:
- 1) By the By-Laws Committee, after approval of the proposed Amendments by an eighty percent (80%) vote of Committee members;
 - 2) By a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board;
 - 3) By unanimous vote of the voting members attending an Annual Meeting;
 - 4) By petition sent to the President bearing the signatures of seven voting members.
- C. The procedure shall be as follows:
- 1) The source of all proposed amendments must be specified on the ballots sent out to the voting members by the Chairman of the By-Laws Committee;
 - 2) Ballots for proposed amendments may be sent out with the minutes of the Annual meeting, or at the direction of the Executive Board;
 - 3) Members shall be given not less than four weeks to return the ballot to the Chairperson of the By-Laws Committee, who shall notify the Recording Secretary of the ballot results;
 - 4) The results and actual vote count will be published in the minutes of the Annual meeting, in *The Skogkatt*, and/or on the NFCFA List.
 - 5) All amendment ballots shall carry the date at which the amendment(s) will become effective, if approved.