

Nordic Meeting

In Oslo 11. – 12. January 2003

Participants:

Felis Danica (FD), Denmark: Ole Amstrup, Dorte Kaae

Suomen Kissaliitto ry (SRK), Finland: Anne Paloluoma

Sveriges Kattklubbars Riksförbund (SVERAK), Sweden: Annette Sjödin, Hans G. Lindberg, Michael Wirth Färdigh, Lars-Erik Pedersen, Eva Porat

Kynjakettir, Iceland: Helga Andrèsdóttir

Norske Rasekattklubbers Riksforbund (NRR), Norway: Johnny Skjølås, Lisbeth Falling, Roald Westre, Bjørn Steensrud, Anita Skofteby, Janka Lund

Host for this meeting was NRR.

Running a Cat Association:

All countries presented their organisation. Similarities and differences were discussed.

Norway:

33 clubs (2 independent clubs, 1 CFA club)

2278 members

7000 registered cattery names

133.400 cats registered in the d-base.

1 100% employee

1 driver employee

Sweden:

Nearly 56 clubs (14 independent clubs)

6.500 members

Cats Shown in 2001 – 22.300

Cats Shown in 2002 – 21.000

5 fulltime employees

Iceland:

1 club founded 1990

250 members

2x 2 CERT shows a year = 4 shows a year (150 cats at the last show)

16 different breeds + domestic cats. Silver and Golden persians most popular

6 and 8 weeks quarantine for cats imported from outside Iceland

Problems with inbreeding

Finland:

11 clubs; 1 only Internet based, 2 housecat clubs, 1 cat agility club. (0 independent clubs)

23 breeding rings/clubs

No office

Main income from pedigrees - € 7.000

Cost for pedigree - € 16
Cost for Cattery name - € 80
10. 000 cats shown last year

Denmark:

4 clubs (0 independent clubs)
JYRAK 2100 members
Racekatten 1400 members
DARAK 2025 members
Katteklubben (earlier Perserkatten) 400 members
2 delegates from each club in the board of FD
Income from pedigrees partly to the 4 clubs
Each club owns their own show pens
Must be 100 members to found a new club – only recognised if all the other clubs agree
40% reduction of registered cats in category I
Maine Coon most popular breed – last show 300 cats in category II!

Breeding and Showing between Nordic Countries

Import/export; pedigrees, transfers

The participants informed about procedures for registration in each country.

In Sweden the importers can either get a RIEEX pedigree at once or wait for a LO pedigree. The person who registers the pedigrees decides how to register the imports. Only problem cases will be taken further to the Swedish Breeding Council.

In Norway all imports and exports are controlled by one person pointed out by the board of NRR and under the auspices of the national Breeding Council.

In Denmark all pedigrees from IDP are controlled by the national Breeding Council.

Registration Rules - National Differences

The discussion made it clear that the problem cases often do not concern the quality of the pedigree as such, but are frequently due to different national rules in different FIFe countries, especially in category IV. A cat may be LO-registered in one country and will get a RIEEX-registration in the next country. This is a drawback for active breeders – they have to pay the cost for this bureaucracy. If we want to make FIFe a strong cat federation, we must also have the same rules for every member in FIFe. When buying a FIFe-LO-registered cat, it should be fully recognised as such in all FIFe countries provided they are correctly registered in accordance with common FIFe rules. We should also bear in mind that registration based on special national rules are only valid in that specific country.

The effect of national rules is consequently very restricted, but they are nevertheless causing problems for breeders and federations. Iceland pointed out that registration problems often crop up when imported cats from different countries are to be reregistered. In the future it should therefore be an organizational goal to have common registration rules and practice in the FIFe. Iceland would therefore be interested in making a proposal to the FIFe on this point. It was also pointed out that common registration rules and practice do not prevent the members from having their own breeding policy. The meeting would, however, let each FIFe member make national rules concerning health problems within the framework of the FIFe.

Sweden pointed out the breeder's right to put a cat on a non-breeding pedigree as a problem. (In Norway it is called class 2 pedigree.) It seems as if it is used as a market regulation: Breeders put cats on a non-breeding pedigree to close the lines for others to use. This is also often used as a way of getting more money for the cat. The cat is first sold as a pet for a limited amount of money, and the

buyer is pressed to pay more to get it opened for breeding purpose. Several examples were mentioned. In the long run it could be a danger to the breeds. The diversity of breeding cats will decrease, and inbred problems could be a result.

The majority of the meeting agreed that the only reasons for putting a cat on a non-breeding pedigree should be severe faults and health problems.

SVERAK informed about the benefits of the computer program SESAM. The program is used for more than pedigrees: Subscription list for the national magazine, a survey of the members in the clubs, making statistics etc. A new "brother" is under construction – a program for shows – ALADDIN. It will hopefully be finished in Aug./Sept. 2003.

The possibilities of sharing data over the national boards were discussed and it was clear that this was deeply in demand. One of the main problems is the different national registration rules.

Information about Show Rules; ID-marking, Vaccinations etc.

Sweden informed about the new rule that every cat shown in SVERAK has to be ID-marked (details about this will be presented later when the SVERAK GA has made the final decision).

To show a domestic cat (non-pedigree cat) in SVERAK it has to be neutered.

In Finland they have a rule that one out of 100 cats at a show will be tested for ring worm. All exhibitors have to sign a form and give the permission if they want to show their cats in Finland.

Norway pointed out that there were different vaccination rules in Sweden and Norway. In Sweden you can wait another 45 days after a year before re-vaccination. SVERAK made it clear that they followed FIFe's rules "...according to national rules of vaccination..." In Sweden it is the national veterinarian practice to have more than a year between vaccinations. When Swedish exhibitors participate in Norway, their cats must be vaccinated according to the rules set by the Norwegian federation.

In Norway all domestic cats must be registered in NRR before showing. The registration contains the name of mother and father (if known), the birth date has to be set once and for all. The EMS-code for colour, pattern etc. can be settled, or the owner can get assistance at a show to decide the EMS-code. Several domestic cats have already been registered, and the owners are very proud of the document. Domestic cats from other countries can be registered in NRR if they want to be shown in Norway, or if they are registered by another FIFe-member this will be accepted.

Domestic cats are also divided in new classes in Norway, adults (from 10 month) and youngsters (from 3 months). Also division in longhair and shorthair, males and female, as before.

Both Sweden and Norway have show-licence for IDP-cats. Both accept the licence from the other country/other country members, but CFA-registered cats do not need any licence in SVERAK, but they have to send their show application through the club. Most of the owners of CFA registered cats also register them in SVERAK. In Norway CFA-cats have to get the show-licence just like the IDP-cats, referring to Article 27 in the Show rules. Art. 27 says **all cats** must be registered in a FIFe pedigree - except domestic cats and novices. Swedish CFA-cats not registered/licensed i SVERAK: NRR will register them according to Norwegian rules and practice.

The meeting stated that when showing a cat in another country the exhibitors have to follow the national rules and practice in that particular FIFe-country. The exhibitors must be active in finding information on all rules etc. in the countries where they want to show their cats.

Membership in another Country

A new FIFe-rule says that it is possible to get a membership in a country different from the one you live in. The FIFe-board is making an application form for these matters. The Nordic countries want to cooperate on this issue and make a system of exchange of information about members changing membership from one country to another. It was agreed on having the same practice in these matters.

Use of Judges

It was discussed whether it should be decided beforehand which cats the judges are going to judge at shows. This information should be given on the show flyer. The exhibitors are our customers and should be informed about this if possible. Some judges are more used than others according to the exhibitors' wishes. It is important that the arranging clubs know which judges other clubs have invited - and which cats they are supposed to judge.

Especially Norwegian shows were criticised for not informing about the division on breed per judges.

The confirmation of acceptance should be sent to the exhibitor two weeks in advance according to FIFe-rules. This is not always done and show managers must respect this rule.

Norwegian clubs very often have to work hard to get enough exhibitors, and therefore they have to accept cats after the deadline. Swedish clubs do not seem to have this problem. This matter was thoroughly discussed, and the conclusion was that a firmer and more predictable invitation, with the judges settled per breed, and a firmer handling of applications for dispensation regarding deadlines etc might have a positive effect. At the same time it was obvious that it is easier to have everything settled at an early stage when there is no problem to get enough cats weeks and weeks before the closing date. It is after all a question of finances.

How to attract exhibitors: An example from Sweden: All exhibitors paying early are competing about winning all their show fees back.

Scandinavian Winner Show (SWS)

FIFe's Show Commission have discussed if the SWS and WWS (World Winner Show) should be held at the same weekend, because it should not be possible to win both titles in the same year.

The SWS will probably stop after 2006. After this year there will probably be no grounds for a special show in Scandinavia. All quarantine rules will disappear in Sweden before 2007. This will probably also be the matter in Norway because of EU and the EØS-agreement.

SVERAK will arrange the WWS in 2007.

This will also affect all the exceptions in the FIFe Show rules for the Scandinavian countries.

In Sweden the clubs are responsible for arranging the SWS. In 2003 it is Stockholms Kattklubb. And the last SWS in Sweden will be held in 2005.

Cooperation on FIFe-proposals

Some of the organisations had not yet had their national general assembly, so it was difficult to discuss actual proposals.

Denmark had a discussion on the need for group divisions in category I and IV. Because it is easy to get a certificate in these categories, only one cat in many variants makes taking part in a show less attractive. Harder competition makes showing more interesting. This will have a positive effect in obtaining more exhibitors. Such proposals should be sent to the Judges and LO Commission for further discussions.

It was agreed on sending the countries' FIFe-proposals to each other when they were ready.

The meeting discussed the FIFe's future and the growth of LOOF. It is a disturbing development as to LOOF, when even small IDP-clubs in Norway have received standards from LOOF.

Also the growth of FIFe in countries outside Europe was discussed. It is possible that some countries should only be affiliated members of FIFe, and be allowed to use our standards and judges, but not be a full members. It is nearly impossible to really know whether remote countries really follow the FIFe rules or not. At the same time we have examples showing that FIFe rules are not followed, and we also know that this is well known in "higher circles". It was mentioned that the FIFe-logo was misused in some countries.

The Nordic countries would prefer a more European FIFe with only one language - English.

Payment for the President was discussed. It is nearly impossible to manage this position and at the same time have a full time work. It was decided that NRR should propose to the General Assembly as follows: With a raise in the member fee of €150, this amount could go directly to the President.

This meeting was held in a friendly and nice atmosphere and all agreed on the importance of a more close cooperation in the future.

The next Nordic Meeting is to be held in Iceland 10. – 11. January 2004. A meeting for 2005 was also decided: In Finland 15. – 16. January.

Reported by
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