



Nordic Meeting in Helsinki 15-16.1.2005

Hotel Arthur, Vuorikatu 19, Helsinki

Participants

- Sweden: Hans G Lindberg, Rikard Elofsson, Cecilia Wennergren,
Martti Peltonen and Eiwor Andersson
- Norway: Johnny Skjölås and Björn Steensrud
- Denmark: Ole Amstrup
- Iceland: Marteinn Tryggvason Tausen
- Finland: Anne Paloluoma-Sundholm, Tiina Räsänen, Veli-Pekka Tahvanainen (SRK board members), Pia Nyman (secretary for the board meeting), Maj-Britt Stein and Kristiina Rautio (SRK breeding commission)

SATURDAY – all delegates together

9.30 Opening of the meeting and approval of the agenda

9.45 Presentation of each federation and their delegates

- SRK in Finland has 11 member clubs, of which one is a internet-club. Year 2004 there were about 4500 persons as members in the clubs. Registration statistics were handed out for each meeting participant. During 2004 a total of 3170 cats were registered by SRK, and 128 new cattery names were registered in FIFe. Member clubs organized 24 Cat Shows, and about 14 000 cats were entered in the shows. There are 17 Finnish FIFE-judges listed in FIFe. SRK has no central office of it's own, all officials work from their own homes.
- Denmark: Felis Danica has 4 member clubs, board consists of 2 members from each club. Income mainly from pedigrees. In GA one club can have max 10 representatives. Income from registrations split between clubs and fed. Registration statistics distributed to the meeting participants. 15-16 shows a year. Next year the clubs are allowed to organize 2 cert shows as well. Each club must organize at least 1 show a year.
- Sweden: 50 year anniversary this year. 54 member clubs, 7200 persons in clubs. Office with 5 employees. 11000 pedigrees written during year 2004. 75 shows organized in Sweden year 2004, 22000 cats entered. 34 judges, 16 judge students. Board members are chairmen of the commissions (5 commissions). Pen pool is run by SVERAK - 1000 pens in 3 containers around the country, transports organized by SVERAK office.

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<http://www.kissaliitto.fi/>

Main sponsors RC and Sveland Försäkringar. Magazine Våra Katter, subscriptions are not included in the membership fees. Organizes a course in cat ownership instead of giving out a leaflet with instructions of care.

- NRR 2716 new pedigrees, 120 new breeders 2004. 31 clubs with 2500 members. 51 shows with 12350 cats exhibited. Renting of cages as well via NRR GA has 80-90 delegates, takes 3 days. Board member is not a member in the commission, but is present in the meetings as a contact person (except in the disciplinary commission). NRR is a company. Education for cat people is important for NRR
- Iceland: 15 year old, very small club with 150 members. All people work for free. 2 shows per year, 120 cats per shows. Income mainly from pedigrees and breeder names. Mostly NFO, PER and OSH in the shows.

10.30 Presentation of SESAM and SVERAK's show program

- Sesam is a pedigree program combined with member registry, subscriptions of Våra Katter and counting of Cat Of the Year-points. Show program is under development and it will be connected to the SESAM system. Problems occur if the owner information is not updated. Sending of the results would take place on-line. Club gets a license to use the program for a limited time around the show. Development is at the moment in beta-version phase, first testing starts these days. No cost for the clubs. The program functions via internet.
- Side project to these programs is the ID-project. All dogs have to be chipped and registered in Sweden, so far not so with cats but that is expected to come in the future. Plans have been made for forms for the doctors, with no cost for the owners or doctors. The aim is to have a free access to all pedigree information, excluding owners' data.

11.30 Board members meeting

Anne Paloluoma-Sundholm, chairman, Pia Nyman, secretary

Administrative matters GA – board – commissions in each federation

- Differences in administration of commissions and the board: in Sweden there was a change in statutes some years ago, so today the board consists of chairmen of the commissions. In Finland and Norway the board can name a representative for the commissions. In Norway the commissions make their proposals and work independently for themselves. In Finland there have been problems when the board gets only the minutes and has no background information, it is very difficult to make right decisions. In SVERAK the status of the commission chairmen in the as full members of the board- board consists of 5 chairmen and a treasurer, vice chairman, chairman of the board and 1 board member. In Sweden there is a special election commission, which prepares the elections. First the presently sitting members are asked if they want to continue, and after that all the clubs can name their candidates. When the list of candidates is combined, the clubs inform the election commission of which candidate they are supporting
- Norway has nowadays a weekend long meeting with board and commission members, in order to make the tasks of the different organs clear.
- In Sweden changes in the federation rules must be accepted with a qualified majority. The GA has about 100 delegates, and takes 2 days. Besides that there is a meeting of chairmen, where all the clubs have their representatives as participants.
- System for financing: SVERAK charges 5€ per club's member, besides that there is a fee for GA (175 € on 2004) Minimum 450 €, clubs have to pay for 50 members. Main income comes from pedigrees. In Norway: membership fee is based on the amount of members, but NRR pays costs of GA attending. In Finland the clubs pay a federation fee according to the

amount of members in the club (1,50 €/member), and besides that the Kissa-magazine subscription.

- SVERAK publishes all board's and commissions' minutes as soon as they are confirmed by the board, person names removed. NRR publishes them as well, the clubs have 14 days to let the board know they disagree, and in that case the decision must be changed.
- Felis Danica has a similar system to NRR's, but they have no show commission since the clubs organize the shows and take care of the matters connected to them.

Independent clubs in the Nordic countries

- There are no Independent Cat Clubs in Denmark, and FD members do not refuse to accept pedigrees from expelled club members
- SVERAK does not co-operate with ID clubs, even though there are many of them in Sweden. The transferring of the pedigrees is possible.
- FIFe open doors-policy includes clubs that are members in one of the WCC-members

Shows in the Nordic countries

- a show organized on a ferry between countries was discussed. There is no rule prohibiting this kind of activity
- the sponsorship situation is very different on our countries. Finland lacks the strong central organization and the member clubs negotiate separately for their sponsor deals, in the other Nordic countries the federation takes care of the sponsorship negotiations on behalf of the member clubs.

Day of the Cat

- Day of a cat on first Advent Sunday of the year is a tradition in Sweden and Norway, and Iceland has started this as well. All clubs try to organize something special on that day. It might be nice to make this a co-Nordic happening also in Finland and Denmark
- SVERAK promised to send some material they used in their campaign last year, so Denmark and Finland can plan their own happening

Judges' training program

- The judge's training problem was discussed. The federation of the pupil is responsible for the training and helping the pupil through.
- Has there been a change in the amount of pupil judge's starting the program since the new requirements were accepted? Should we pay more attention to the education of the old judges instead of recruiting new students? More emphasis should be on the quality of the judges.

Discipline matters- SRK breeding rules/art 18

- Disciplinary commissions have a bit different tasks in FD and SVERAK/ NRR. FD handles matters between breeders and cat buyers, and the commission must have a lawyer as a member.
- Other federations take no parting civil matters like cat sales contracts.
- Finland has no commission for disciplinary matters, the board handles all these.
- In NRR the GA selects the disciplinary commission. Board can make decisions by themselves if the case is clear, or transfer the matter to DC. The DC handles matters concerning shows and breeding, as well as cat welfare.
- SVERAK DC is elected by GA and reports directly to the GA. Today it has to handle far too many cases, because the member clubs have stopped taking care of their members. DC

handles things like unpaid show fees, violation of the breeding rules etc. No matters involving cat sales, they belong to the consumer authorities.

- In Sweden the breeders are treated as professional business practitioners when selling kittens to non-breeders, so the cats are normally insured already in the litters.
- Both NRR and Sverak return letters concerning cat handle, because they are civil matters
- There is a DC in Iceland as well, but they have not had to deal with any disciplinary matters lately.
- SRK has in their rules different types of restrictions and bans for violation of rules. There are 4 different types of bans in SRK rules: total ban from functioning inside SRK (breeding, showing, functioning in a post in SRK), show ban, breeding ban or special monitoring (for breeders that have violated the breeding rules but have been granted a special permission in beforehand by SRK).
- SRK wishes co-operation between the Nordic countries concerning restrictions for breeders and members' members.
- It was decided that Anne Paloluoma-Sundholm compiles an agreement of respecting the Nordic countries decisions for restrictions in breeding or showing for each Federation to be ratified in their organisation

Registration statistics 2004

It was agreed that all the statistics would be distributed to every federation, and can be published in each country if wanted.

FIFe-proposal from 2004 (Number of votes)

- Ole proposed a set of a scenario of what would happen in case the Nordic countries formed a separate Federation of clubs and did not provide the income they are at the moment supporting FIFe with. The proposal from last year concerned decisions and voting for such things.
- Next GA we should concentrate on naming good candidates to the FIFe board, where our representation is only 1/5.

FIFe-matters 2005

- the candidates and proposals for FIFe GA were discussed.
- The judges' seminar will probably have to be organized without cats, since the conference halls do not accept animals in their locations.

SUNDAY

9.45 Meeting continues

FIFe registration rule 4.4.1 (Kittens must be registered first in FIFe)

- there have not been many violations of this rule in the Nordic countries. In Finland there have been some cases, even some imports from other countries that could not be registered because of the breeder had been expelled from the FIFe-club.
- Transferring the pedigrees from another association is done in all countries with care; impossible colours are corrected and in case no information is available, either the incorrect information or the whole cat is removed from the pedigree

Co-operation between our cat magazines

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- the magazine subscription fee is included in the membership fee in SRK, NRR and FD, but not in SVERAK. It might be possible to subscribe other countries magazines via the federations. It was decided that the federation's magazines will be sent to each federations chairman and editor-in-chief.
- Usually the chairman of the board reads through the magazine before it is printed, all contents are checked for corrected.
- It would be nice to have articles exchanged between the magazines

Vaccinations

- if a country has stricter rules than FIFe, they apply for local cats only. All foreign cats must be allowed to a show with vaccinations according to FIFe rules. Of course national legislation overrides FIFe's rules, ie. the import rules in each country are the highest laws.

Maine coon health problems

- there have been a lot of health problems with MCO in Norway lately. There have not been any major issues in Sweden, Finland or Iceland.
- In Denmark the health commission has contacted the veterinarians concerning health problems in cats
- A possibility of a co-operation for getting a sponsor for scanning or x-raying certain breeds?

Co-operation with Baltic countries

- it might be a good idea to invite the Baltic countries to the next meeting. They will be asked in FIFe GA if they are interested