

Minutes: Nordic Meeting 2.-3. February 2008 in Oslo.

Opening of the meeting by chairman – Welcome:

After a short welcome from the President of NRR, Christer Einvik, it was over to the agenda. A few suggestions of alterations were decided:

Since there were no ongoing projects to be presented at 14.30 on Saturday, it was decided to move the FIFe General Matters and General Assembly Matters forward to Saturday. Show Matters were moved up before Breeding Matters on the agenda for Sunday.

The suggestion that the 2008 minutes should include all decisions, even if they are just between two members, was also carried.

Minutes from Nordic Meeting 2007 in Sweden:

NRR asked for the final draft of the minutes from Nordic Meeting 2007.

There was no concrete answer to why this was not received by the other Nordic members, but SVERAKs participants would look into this and send it out as soon as possible.

Short presentation of the participants:

Felis Danica (FD): 4 clubs, about 2.500 club members, 6.000 new cats registered in 2007.

FD insists that there has to be at least 200 club members to be a cat club under FD.

The smallest club has 300 members.

Kynjakettir (KKI): The Icelandic member is not divided into clubs, but has 161 members in total. They arrange two cat shows a year with 120-160 cats each show. They have 149 registered cattery names all together and registered 180 new cats in 2007.

The cat magazine that KKI gives out twice a year includes the catalogue for their cat shows!

NRR: 30 clubs, about 2.500 club members, 3.365 new cats registered in 2007.

The NRR clubs arranged 48 cat shows, where 11200 cats were exhibited during 2007. NRR has 13 FIFe judges. The NRR cat magazine, Aristokatt, is published 4 times each year, and is included in the NRR membership.

During 2007 NRR has appointed a sponsorship coordinator to handle all aspects of NRRs sponsors and to be a contact between them and the clubs.

SVERAK: 56 clubs, 8.000 club members, 71 international cat shows in 2007 with 24.750 cats competing. They have registered almost 12.000 new cats and got 395 new cattery names during 2007. This makes SVERAK by fare the largest of the Nordic federations.

SVERAK has hired an IT-specialist for a period of 6 months, to digitalise the whole pedigree book, all the way back to 1949. This will be an historic document of great value to SVERAK and to the FIFe.

The SVERAK board has a proposal to their GA, to reorganise the whole structure of the SVERAK organisation. The alterations they are proposing are quite drastic, but they want to give the committees more power to decide issues concerning their own committee.

They have also started a volunteer exam where breeders can answer around 60 questions about SVERAK, FIFe, breeding, shows etc. and can get a Diploma as a SVERAK breeder. Those breeders who have gained a diploma will be listed on the SVERAK website and this will serve as a mark of quality for the breeder.

SVERAKs booklet called: "At ha katt" is now used as a part of the curriculum at the National School of Agriculture and the Veterinarian Collage.

National information:

Disciplinary matters and exclusions:

It was decided that lists containing excluded members from our federations are to be distributed between all the Nordic members, and out to all club leaders and secretaries. This is to make sure that clubs turn away show entries from members excluded in other Nordic countries. SVERAK updates and sends out their list several times a year. Extreme reasons for exclusion (e.g. cruelty to animals) are also sent from SVERAK to CFA.

The Day of the Cat (Katens dag)- experiences:

FD and KKI have no marking of this day. NRR has no official marking, but some clubs have arrangements locally. SVERAK has a package of gifts etc from Royal Canin that is sent out to clubs wanting to mark this day locally.

National Magazines:

It was unanimously decided that all Nordic members were to send their national magazine to all other Nordic members. These are to be sent to the official office of each member and to the editors of our magazines.

Feline health project:

Presentation by Dr. med. vet. Thora Jónasdóttir.

NRR is in co-operation with the Veterinary Collage, National Housecat Federation (NHF), Animal Identification (ID) and Animal Protection involved in a national health-project on cats to find the general health issues of our feline population. This project has been the final paper for three veterinarian students. There has been a lot of work done in collecting information from cat owners about their cat or cats health.

The first stage of this project is now finished and is available in an extensive resume on NRR website. The next stage will concern just pedigree cats and the different health issues different breeds are experiencing. The Veterinarian Collage looks forward to continue working with all the data collected.

FIFe:

General Assembly 2008 – proposals, election and general questions:

All participants were made aware of each members proposals concerning the FIFe rules which were to be presented at their own General Assemblies. There were several proposals from all the Nordic members and all were discussed, but few were acclaimed by the participants.

It was suggested and all agreed that continuing E-mail communication between the Nordic countries would be vice prior to making suggestions that will need a final vote at the FIFe GA. If there are several proposals from one country, and none from another, there is always the possibility of getting another Nordic member to present it at their GA. Then possibly getting more proposals all Nordic countries have agreed upon to the FIFe GA.

According to Annette Sjödin there are a number of proposals from the Judges & Standards Commission to the FIFe GA this year. The education of our judges and student judges is one area where the Nordic countries should co-operate and form our own proposals for next year, if necessary, after seeing what the Commission is proposing this year.

The participants discussed whether or not it would be a good idea for the FIFe to hire someone to be webmaster for the FIFe website.

This year there are a few positions within the FIFe that are up for election. The participants agreed to support Tom Høj (FD) for the position of vice-auditor.

Show Matters:

Proposal from FD:

Agreement between SVERAK and FD regarding FIFe Show rules 1.4

FD is asking for an exception from the FIFe Show rule 1.4: Distance between shows. There is less than 400km between Copenhagen and the south of Sweden, and they propose that 200km is enough distance between two shows on the same weekend in Sweden and Denmark. The participants from SVERAK will bring this to their own GA for a vote there.

Show entry – FD:

Danish exhibitors have experienced their entry forms being returned from the other Nordic countries. The participants from NRR and SVERAK thought that there must have been no stamped and signed confirmation from the Danish exhibitors club, as required. There is an agreement between the Nordic countries that it is enough confirmation from club secretary, and therefore no need to also send these entry forms via the office of the federation.

National rules – vaccination rules:

The vaccination rule decided on the FIFe GA 2007, (Title I, art. 1.8c: Validity of vaccination) ruling from 01.01.2008, has been a bit of a problem to insure in practise.

Many exhibitors use the back of their cat's pedigree as the cats vaccination papers.

There is nowhere to write in the expiring date for the vaccination on the back of the pedigree paper. SVERAKs proposal to validate these vaccinations is:

“If there is no expiring date noted, then the vaccination is valid for 1 (one) year.”

Complete texts will be sent out from SVERAK, but the participants from the other Nordic countries agreed upon that this is a practically good solution to the problem.

SWS:

An agreement was made to book the dates for the Scandinavian Winner Show up to 10 (ten) years ahead. There has previously existed an oral agreement between SVERAK and NRR that this show is to be held over the summer months each year, alternating in Sweden and Norway. SWS is at the end of August this year and it is difficult to find a date for the Swedish event next year. It was suggested 19.-20. September 2009, then going away from the general idea of arranging this event over the summer months.. Katarina Wolfram (SVERAK) and Gøran Vinje (NRR) were handed the task of finding dates for the SWS for the next 10 years.

Breeding & Registration matters:

National rules

SVERAK has the rule of 2 (two) vaccinations for kittens before entering their shows. This is also regarding the kittens entering the show owned by Norwegian exhibitors.

We have to respect all national rules like this.

NRR- breeders has the possibility to put their kittens on a “pedigree class 2”, which means that this kitten is prohibited from breeding. SVERAK respects this by noting “Prohibited from breeding” into the pedigree book and onto the pedigree paper.

Breeders in SVERAK has experienced that the Swedish PKD-form is not valid in NRR. This puzzled the participants from NRR and they will take it to their pedigree registrar.

Quarantine, infectious diseases, different counties – different rules.

SVERAK has no specific rules for how their club members are to report or act in case of an infectious disease in their own cattery. FD has some rules concerning quarantine, but they have recently removed FIP from their list of deceases demanding quarantine.

FDs members are obliged to alert their own club when infections deceases are discovered.

Marttein from KKI had already left at this point, so we have no information from Iceland on this matter.

SVERAK found “something” about not entering shows if your cattery has infectious deceases in their rules, but this is very vague and the SVERAK participants wants to bring this matter to their own Health Commission, for further discussions.

NRR has a very comprehensive quarantine regulation for most well known infectious diseases. In 2006, a general sentence stating that; If there is a suspicion/confirmation of an infectious disease in a cat ‘stock’ (population living together), all individuals should be kept in a quarantine until a veterinarian can confirm that the stock is healthy/disease-free. This general sentence is intended to cover all infectious diseases, and a detailed description of each could serve as information to the cat owners.

Annette Sjödin informed the participants that the FIFe board has sent a request to the Judges & Standards Commission regarding judges who are judging at shows at the same time as having an infectious decease in their own cattery.

SVERAK wants to invite FD and NRR to a meeting about SESAM, which is SVERAKs and NRRs pedigree program. The manufacturer of the SESAM-program will possibly also be there, and SVERAK will send out invitation and possible dates in due course.

Last on the agenda was to set a date for next years Nordic Meeting.

It was decided that KKI in Iceland will be hosts of NM 2009.

The date is set for 10.-11. January 2009.