

**Article I – MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Membership shall be open to all persons who own a registered Maine Coon Cat or who fancy the breed. The registered cat may be show, pet or breeding quality, whole or altered.

Section 2. There shall be four (4) membership levels within the Association. Any person requesting a change in their membership level shall be required to submit an application for the new membership level:

(A) Breeder Membership- Breeder Members in good standing shall be entitled to vote upon all matters of the Association; including, but not limited to, those relating to the standards, rules, and registrations of the Maine Coon Cat breed, all levels of membership in the Association, disciplinary actions and any matters determined by the C.F.F. to be considered by Maine Coon Cat Breed Club...

- 1.) Application for Breeder membership must be accompanied by dues for one year and the applicant must be sponsored by two Breeder Members in good standing. In addition, all persons applying for Breeder membership shall provide proof of breeding and showing C.F.F. Registered Purebred Maine Coon Cats for a period of no less than two years.
- 2.) Applicant for Breeder membership must be a member of the Association in good standing, as an Associate; and been so for a minimum of two years.
- 3.) To be accepted as a Breeder member, the application must be approved by a 2/3 majority of the Breeder Members voting. If the application is rejected the Associate's status will remain unchanged and the accompanying dues shall be returned.

(B) Associate Membership- Members in good standing shall be entitled to vote upon all matters of the Association excluding those relating to the standards, rules, and registrations the Maine Coon Cat breed, applications for Breeder membership in the Association, disciplinary actions, and any matters determined by C.F.F. to be considered by the Maine Coon Cat breed club.

- 1.) Application for Associate membership must be accompanied by dues for one year and the applicant must be sponsored by two Breeder Members in good standing. In addition, all persons applying for Associate membership shall provide proof of owning and showing C.F.F. Registered Purebred Maine Coon Cats.
- 2.) To be accepted as an Associate member, the application must be approved by a 2/3 majority of the Breeder & Associate Members voting. If the application is rejected the accompanying dues shall be returned.

**Article I- MEMBERSHIP (continued)**

(C) Fancier Membership- Fancier members shall not be entitled to vote upon Association matters. Application for Fancier membership must be accompanied by dues for one year. The application does not require sponsorship.

1.) To be accepted as a Fancier member, there must be a majority of votes for the applicant. If there are three negative bores it shall be sufficient to reject the application and the accompanying dues shall be returned.

(D) Honorary Membership- Any individual who performs an exceptional service for the Association, or for the promotion or improvement of the Maine Coon Cat breed, is eligible to for elected by the Association as an Honorary Member of the Association. Honorary Members shall not pay dues nor shall they be entitled to bore upon any Association matters.

Section 3. Any person interested in the objects of the Association may submit an Membership Application form to the Secretary applying for election of membership in the Association. This application shall be accompanied by the payment of dues for one year; except when less than 6 full months remain in the current fiscal year, the amount of dues submitted shall be 1/2 of the annual dues.

Section 4. The Secretary, upon receiving a membership application, shall notify all members who are eligible to vote on the membership level, of such application by direct mail or email. The notification shall include a copy of the Membership application form. All membership applications shall be voted upon at the nest meeting following circulation of such a applications. The vote shall include mail ballots from absentees if the votes are received before the start of the meeting.

Section 5. The Secretary shall maintain an up to dare list of members.

Section 6. Each new member must sign a pledge stating that he or she will uphold the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association and C.F.F.

Section 7. Only Breeder Members in good standing may use their membership in the Association as part of the advertising or promotion of their Cattery.

Section 8. Any member may voluntarily resign from membership at any time by submitting a letter of resignation to the Secretary; PROVIDED, that such resignation shall in no way relieve such member from any liability to the Association, and FURTHER PROVIDED, that such resignation shall be forfeiture by such member of all rights to any claim upon the organization its property and funds. Any member whose

**Article I- MEMBERSHIP (continued)**

current annual dues have not been received by the Treasurer by February 1 of each year, after notification by the Treasurer that such dues are delinquent, shall also be considered to have voluntarily resigned. All members of the Association shall be notified of any such resignations by means of the newsletter.

**Article II- DISCIPLINE**

- Section 1. At no time, must any member endanger the welfare of the Maine Coon Cat by maltreatment, improper care, neglect, indiscriminate breeding, or unethical selling and shipping methods. Three documented complaints against any member found to be guilty of the aforementioned detrimental acts constitute immediate expulsion proceedings in accordance with these By-laws.
- Section 2. Any member who does not abide by the Show Rules and Standards set by C.F.F., governing the exhibiting of cats in C.F.F. or by the Association's Constitution and By-laws is subject to expulsion by a 2/3 majority vote of Breeder members in good standing.
- Section 3. Any member who performs acts detrimental to the objects of the Association is subject to expulsion by a 2/3 majority vote of Breeder members in good standing.
- Section 4. Members wishing to initiate an expulsion action must submit by mail a copy of the charges to the Secretary. The charges must include a stipulation as to what detrimental acts were performed, a summary of all know facts relating to such acts, and a sworn statement alleging belief in their truth. The charges are then submitted to the Executive Council for investigation to determine the validity of the charges.
- Section 5. The Executive Council shall furnish an accused member with a copy of the expulsion charges, and said member shall be given 20 days to reply to such charges.
- Section 6. If upon investigation by the Executive Council the charges against an accused member are proven valid, a copy of such charges are then mailed to each Breeder member of the Association for voting. A vote by mail must be held within 45 days of the postmarked date of the charges. Only those ballots received postmarked within 60 days of the postmarked date of the charges will be tallies. Ballots shall be sent to a neutral teller designated by the President and a 2/3 majority of the tallied ballots is required for expulsion. The results of the vote shall be published in the Association's newsletter or by direct mail.

**Article II – DISCIPLINE (continued)**

Section 7. In the event a member is expelled from the Association, He / She may, not less than 6 months after the date of such action and upon evidence of his / her good intentions. Make an application for reinstatement of membership in accordance with Article I of these By-laws .

**Article III- MEETINGS**

Section 1. Regular meetings shall be held no less than twice a year for the handling of miscellaneous matters on such dates and at such time and place as Executive Council shall designate and the members in good standing shall be notified by the Secretary of all meetings.

Section 2. Should an emergency situation arise which cannot be handled within the time frame provided by the regular meetings, a special meeting may be called by the President, Executive Council, or upon written demand of 1/3 of the members in good standing. Notification of such meetings must be postmarked at least 10 days prior to the date of such meetings and must specify the time, date place, business for which it is called and the approximate agenda.

Section 3. The presence of five members in good standing who hold voting rights two of which must be officers, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business provided advance notice of the meeting has been given. If a quorum is not attained, any motions passed at such meetings must be ratified by a ballot mailed to all members in good standing who hold voting rights, on order to be binding. When a quorum is attained at meetings, all business transacted shall require a 2/3 majority vote for passage. Matters relating to the standards, rules, and regulations of the Maine Coon Cat Breed, and other matters determined by C.F.F. to be considered by the Maine Coon Cat Breed Club, shall be ratified by a ballot distributed to all Breeder Members in good standing.

Section4. At any meeting of the Association, any member in good standing may be represented by a proxy. The proxy must be a member in good standing and must exhibit a written authorization signed by the member being represented. Each authorization shall be valid only for the meeting date specified therein.

Section5. All meetings shall be governed by the parliamentary authority of ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER , REVISED where not in conflict with provisions of the Constitution and By-laws of the Association.

**Article III-MEETINGS (continued)**

Section 6. The Standard meeting agenda shall consist of the acceptance of minutes from the prior meeting, the Treasurer’s report, correspondence, old business, new Any member may add to the addenda by contacting the Secretary at least 10 days before the meeting.

**Article IV- NEWSLETTERS**

Section1. The newsletter shall contain items of correspondence received by the Secretary from C.F.F. and from members concerning the Association and C.F.F. MATTERS. The newsletter shall provide a forum for discussion or proposal of items of normal business conducted by the Association. The newsletter will also contain items deemed to be of interest to all members.

Section 2. The newsletter shall be distributed to all members no less than twice a year. The Vice President shall be responsible for the content and distribution of the newsletter and shall insure that all correspondence received from C.F.F. or from members relating to the Association or C.F.F. matters are reproduced and included in the current edition of the newsletter. Any member wishing to submit an item of business for consideration or a vote by the Association, may send such proposal to the Secretary for inclusion in the current edition. If any item of business is presented which requires an immediate vote , a ballot shall be included in the newsletter for this purpose.

**Article V – DUES**

Section 1. The annual dues shall be \$18.00 for single Breeder Members, \$20.00 for Family Breeder Members (same cattery name), \$15.00 for Single Associate Members, \$18.00 for Family Associate Members (same cattery name), \$10 for Fancier Members. Payable in advance on or before January 1 of each year.

Section2. Any member in arrears by February 1 of each year shall be removed from membership, in accordance with Article I, section 9, of these By-Laws.

Section3. Reinstatement of membership due to the provisions of Section 2 of this Article shall require the same procedure as for new membership in accordance with Article I of these By-Laws.

Section 4. An application accepted into the Association in the period of July 1, to December 1 of any year shall be required to pay 50% of the annual dues for that year.

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**Article VI-OFFICERS**

- Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be a President, Bice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The above-named officers shall also be known as the Executive Council. Along with the most recent past President. No person shall hold of be a candidate for more than one office at a time.
- Section 2. Officers shall be elected for term of two calendar years and shall take office on January 1. The position of President may not be held consecutively for more than two terms.
- Section 3. Each officer shall hold office until his qualified successor is elected, unless by resignation, death, or otherwise the office is vacated, in which case the Executive Council shall fill the vacancy, except if the office of President should become vacant for any reason, the Vice President shall automatically succeed to that office.

**Article VII- ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

- Section 1. A Nominating Committee Chairman shall be appointed by the President no later than June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The Nominating Committee Chairman shall be responsible for ensuring that a slate of nominees for all elected offices is obtained before July of each year. The Nominating Committee Chairman shall appoint two members in good standing of the Association to the Nominating Committee, excluding any present officers.
- Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a proposed slate they have chosen. This slate will be presented to the Secretary to be circulated to all Breeder and Associate members in good standing no later than 15 days prior to the August Meeting.
- Section 3. Nominations may be brought from the floor of the August meeting provided the person nominated is eligible and accepts the nomination. Voting shall take place at the August meeting, proxies will be accepted.
- Section 4. Elections for President and Vice President will occur in even numbered years; the office commencing the following January 1. Elections for Secretary and Treasurer will occur in odd numbered years: the office commencing the following January 1.

**Article VIII- DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

- Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and of the Executive Council and shall approve all bills and invoices over \$500.00, except the bill for the Treasurer’s Bond which must be approved by the President. He

**Article VIII- DUTIES OF OFFICERS (continued)**

shall appoint the Nominating Committee Chairman and any other chairman deemed necessary. He shall be an ex-official member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. He shall order special meetings of the Association and Executive Council whenever they are deemed necessary or requested. He shall designate a teller when deemed necessary for votes on a special issue. He shall provide focus for the Association by presenting a mission statement the membership.

**Section 2.**

The Vice President shall act as a special assistant to the President, and as such be kept fully informed by the President of all administrative matters. In the absence of the President, or in the event of his inability to act, the Vice President shall exercise all of his powers and duties. He is responsible for the content and distribution of the newsletter. He shall also submit news articles about U.M.C.C.A. and its activities to the C.F.F. Newsletter whenever appropriate. He shall provide educational materials of speaker regarding Feline Health, Genetics, Breed Standards or other matters of interest to the membership at no less than one meeting each year.

**Section 3.**

The Secretary shall keep all minutes of all meetings of the Association and the Executive Council, and notify members of all such meetings. He shall be responsible for all books, papers, and records of the Association. He shall keep an accurate roll of members and their addresses. He shall perform all duties required for the procedures of admission of new members and for the expulsion of a member. He shall notify the C.F.F. Recording Secretary no later than February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year of the latest list of Officers, members and their addresses.

**Section 4.**

The treasurer shall have custody of all monies of the Association. He shall pay all bills and keep an account of all receipts and expenditures and shall render a financial report at each meeting. He shall be responsible for the collection of dues and advise a member when delinquent in payment of such dues. He shall be responsible for the submission of the Club dues to the C.F.F. Treasurer no later than February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. He will provide an annual Budget for the Executive Council by December 1 of each year.

**Section 5.**

The management of the business affairs of the Association shall be under the direction of the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall investigate all expulsion charges and furnish the accused member with a copy of such charges. They shall designate the quarterly meetings and any special meeting deemed necessary. In the absence of both the President and Vice President from any

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meeting of the Association. The Executive council shall, when possible, elect a chairman to preside at that meeting. The shall also be responsible for insuring

**Article VIII-DUTIES OF OFFICERS (continued)**

Section 5. cont. that the Association in represented at all meetings of the C.F.F. Executive Board by a delegate, alternate delegate or proxy. They shall be responsible to to appoint an Archivist to hold the historical information of the Association.

The Archivist shall have custody and control of all books. Records and memorabilia of the Association. And shall provide an inventory of such to the Executive Council in January of each year.

**Article IX-DELEGATES**

Section 1. The Association shall be represented at all meetings of the C.F.F. Executive Board by a delegate, alternate delegate, or by a proxy if a delegate or alternate is unavailable.

Section 2. A delegate shall be elected by the members in good standing to attend all C.F.F. Board meetings. His action shall be under the control of the Association.

Section 3. The delegate shall be responsible for providing the Secretary with all printed materials distributed and notes regarding the outcome of the business matters discussed at such meetings.

**Article X- AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. The Constitution and By-Laws of the Association may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the members in good standing with voting rights. At any meeting provided that a copy of such proposed amendment shall have been circulated to all members of the Association with voting rights at least 20 days prior to the vote. The Secretary shall mail ballots bearing the proposed amendments to each member and any ballot returned to the Secretary by mail. That arrives prior to the vote on such proposed amendment shall be counted as a bona fide vote.

Section 2. No amendments may be made which are in direct conflict with the objects of the Association or the provisions of the Constitution, By-Laws, Show Rules and Standards of C.F.F.

**Article XI- MISCELLANEOUS**

Section 1 The Association's Treasurer shall be bonded.



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Section 2. The Association will hire an qualified person or firm to conduct an independent audit of the Association's books and records, once every five years commencing December 2000.

**Article XI-MISCELANEOUS (continued)**

Section 3. Use of the Association's Logo, a portrait of the perfect Maine Coon Cat, commissioned by the Association in 1992; can only be used by the Association unless written permission is granted by the Executive Council.

Section 4. Purple and white shall be known as the Association's colors.

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