

CONSTITUTION: Breeders of Rex and Sphynx

Version 1.3 – 4 September 2004

Name

The name of the organisation will be “Breeders of Rex and Sphynx” (BRS), hereinafter referred to as “the Group”.

The Group will represent the following Breeds recognised by the South African Cat Council Rex and Sphynxclass:

- Cornish Rex; Devon Rex; Sphynx; LaPerm; Peterbald; Selkirk Rex; American Wirehair; Ural Rex and other curly/rex coated breeds; Don Sphynx and other bald breeds
- Any other breed to be included that can be seen as part of the Rex and Sphynx class.

Article 2

Objectives

The main objectives of the Group shall be

- 2.1 To encourage and promote the greater interest, appreciation and knowledge of all Rex and Sphynx cats in Southern Africa.
- 2.2 To encourage responsible breeding of healthy and pure breed Rex and Sphynx cats, to the standards adopted by governing bodies in South Africa, with the purpose of improving the breed.
- 2.3 To cultivate friendship and co-operation among owners, breeders and lovers of Rex and Sphynx cats.
- 2.4 To supply the information about breeding and keeping Rex and Sphynx cats, as well as other relevant matters to its members.
- 2.5 To educate and promote responsible pet ownership.
- 2.6 To promote Rex and Sphynx cats, by organising exhibitions and supplying information about the breeds to interested publications and magazines.
- 2.7 To ensure that each member has the newest standard accepted by governing bodies in South Africa.
- 2.8 To produce breed brochures and other publications promoting the breeds.
- 2.9 To provide members with the facility of regular contact so that issues concerned with the breed can be aired.
- 2.10 To provide an up to date list of suitable males, conforming to the standard of poets available for stud
- 2.11 To provide an up to date list of cats available for sale, wanted, loan or exchange by its members.
- 2.12 To further the knowledge of the breed, its history and future development.
- 2.13 To carry out studies of the breed and other associated subjects.
- 2.14 To provide a means of conveying the opinion of the group to others through approved communication channels.
- 2.15 To maintain funds for the purposes of meeting the above objectives.
- 2.16 To make use of the knowledge, input, co-operation and experiences of similar groups promoting the above breeds from all over the world in order to progress in line with international standards.

Article 3

Breeding Policy

- 3.1 To encourage the breeding of Rex and Sphynx cats which conform as closely as possible to South Africa Cat Council official Standard of Points.
- 3.2 To promote breeding of pure bred cats with good health, temperament, and conformation and without any defects known to be inheritable traits. The exception should be made for planned and approved outcrosses and breeding programmes, by the Group and the South Africa Cat Council.

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Article 4

Affiliation

- 4.1. The Group will be seeking the affiliation of the South Africa Cat Council. Group will aim to co-operate with similar national and international breeders groups as well as all the judges forums in South Africa

Article 5

Membership

- 5.1 Any person may belong to the Group, unless such a person has been suspended from activities and/or services in the South African Cat Fancy, or any other Registry in their country of residence; or such a person's activities and breeding policy is harmful to the breed.
- 5.2 The Members of the Group shall consist of Ordinary, Honorary and Pensioner Members.
- 5.3 Application for membership must be made in writing on the official form. This form must be completed and submitted with the correct fees to the Secretary, where after it may be accepted or rejected by The Committee. Rejected application fees are refundable.
- 5.4 Honorary Membership may be granted by the Committee in recognition of services to the Group and those Members shall be entitled to the same privileges and rights as ordinary members.
- 5.5 Every member shall promote the Objectives of the Group and shall notify the Committee of any matter contrary to these Objectives.
- 5.6 An annual Membership fee shall be payable by Ordinary members before the last day of March. The membership fees shall be reviewed annually by AGM.

Article 6

Officers and Committee

- 6.1 The Group shall be managed by the BRS Committee. The Committee will consist of at least five elected members, who do so voluntary and will not receive any salary or remuneration for their time and services.
- 6.2 Such elections shall take place at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). In case of resignation from the Committee the election for that particular position will be held at the next ordinary meeting of the Committee.
- 6.3 The Committee consists of a minimum of 5 members : Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Marketing Member and Ordinary Member(s).
- 6.4 Committee members will serve the Group for a year and will be eligible for reelection. No person can be elected for the same position for more than three consecutive years. No person can be a member of the Committee for more than four consecutive years.
- 6.5 Up to two members of the committee can be forwarded to the next year of committee membership by voting of the existing committee.
- 6.6 All committee members but Chairperson should have full voting rights to give a more objective and fair view of the BRS members. The Chairperson will only have the deciding vote.

Article 7

Duties of Officers and Committee

- 7.1 The Committee shall strive to carry out all the objectives of the Group and everything incidental or conclusive thereto.
- 7.2 The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings and ensure that such meetings are conducted in a proper and orderly manner in accordance with the Constitution. The Chairperson will be responsible to represent the Group to the governing bodies in South Africa.

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- 7.3 The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings, check accounts and pass them to the Treasurer for payment, handle all paperwork and general correspondence, notify members of meetings, etc.
 - 7.4 The Treasurer is responsible for banking all money received, the issue of receipts and the payment of invoices, having checked that these are in order. The Treasurer keeps the financial books of the Group in order and notifies the Committee if overspending occurs. The Treasurer is also responsible to arrange sponsors and finance for the Group to function.
 - 7.5 The Marketing Member is responsible for organising of exhibitions and newsletters to promote the Breeds the Group represent.
 - 7.6 The rest of the Committee supports these Officers and perform other duties as decided by the Committee.
 - 7.7 The Auditor shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting each year. His/her duty shall be to audit all the accounts of the Group and produce the certified balance sheet and statement of Income and Expenditure for the Group's financial year, ending 31 December of each year.

Article 8

Meetings

- 8.1 The Committee shall meet in person or in internet group discussions, at least once every 2 months, to co-ordinate exhibitions, newsletters and matters to be discussed on the Judges Forums.
- 8.2 The Group shall meet at least every third month.
- 8.3 A general meeting of the Group, called the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held not sooner than 15 February and not later than the 31 March every year.
 - 8.3.1 Notice of this AGM shall be given by the Secretary to all members not less than 14 days prior to such a meeting.
 - 8.3.2 The agenda of the AGM shall include:
 - 8.3.2.1 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM.
 - 8.3.2.2 Chairperson's report.
 - 8.3.2.3 Treasurer's report, which shall include balance sheet and income and expenditure statement, signed by the Auditor for the financial year.
 - 8.3.2.4 Election of Officers.
 - 8.3.2.5 Alternations to this Constitution. Such alternations must be proposed and seconded in writing by members before the 15th of January of each year.
 - 8.3.2.6 Members wishing any matters to be considered by the AGM must give exact details of such matters in writing to the Secretary before the 15 January of each year.
 - 8.3.2.7 Nominations for the election of Group Committee members, duly proposed and seconded by members of the Group and signed by the candidate, shall be posted to the Secretary. A complete list of nominations will be sent to members not later than 14 days before the date of the AGM.
 - 8.3.2.8 Only fully paid members in good standing will be allowed to vote at general meetings of the Group. In the event of an equality vote, the Chairperson presiding at such meeting shall have a casting vote. All decisions have to be approved by a minimum of 2/3 votes.
 - 8.3.2.9 Absent members shall be entitled to vote in respect of the business on the Agenda by postal vote only, providing they are resident outside a 60 km radius of where the General Meeting is to be held. Their votes have to be received by the Secretary not later than 48 hours before the meeting. This allows time to finalise votes for the AGM.

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- 8.4 AGM's and special general meetings may be convened by majority decision of the Committee of on request of at least two-thirds of the members of the Group.
- 8.5 The Committee shall meet at such times as are mutually convenient for the majority of members. The business of the Committee may be conducted by phone, fax, in writing or via email, and the votes or a majority of those voting shall be sufficient to adopt or ratify a proposal, so long as at least half of the members participate.
- 8.6 The Committee shall carry on the day to day operations of the Group.
- 8.7 Quorum for all meetings will consists of ¼of paid up members.
- 8.8 Changes to the Constitution shall require 2/3 majority vote of all members present. All other decisions will require a simple majority.

Article 9

Voting Rights

- 9.1 Voting rights will be granted as per Section 2 of SACC Breed Group Rules (Oct 2002). **

A) Voting rights in any breed group is restricted to those members qualifying for a minimum of 13 points as follows:

1.
 - a. *Own minimum of 2 neuters of the Breed; or (1 point)*
 - b. *Own 1 - 3 breeding queens; or (2 points)*
 - c. *Own > 3 breeding queens and (3 points)*
 - d. *Own 1 stud (1 point)*
2.
 - a. *Registered Breeder for 1 - 3 years; or (1 point)*
 - b. *Registered Breeder for 4 - 6 years; or (2 points)*
 - c. *Registered Breeder for >7 years (3 points)*
3.
 - a. *Number of active years in Cat Fancy 1 - 4 years; or (1 point)*
 - b. *Number of active years in Cat Fancy 4 - 6 years; or (2 points)*
 - c. *Number of active years in Cat Fancy >7 years (3 points)*
4.
 - a. *Is an active Exhibitor; and/or (3 points)*
 - b. *Is an active Steward; and/or (1 point)*
 - c. *Is an active Show Official (1 point)*
5.
 - a. *Is an active Club Committee member and/or (2 points)*
 - b. *Is an active Breed Group Committee member (1 point)*
6.
 - a. *Has bred a Champion or Premier of the Breed; or (1 point)*
 - b. *Has bred more than 1 Champion or Premier of the Breed or a GR CH, GR PR or SP CH or SP PR of the Breed (2 points)*
7.
 - a. *Is an active Judge for 1 Group (1 point)*
 - b. *Is an active Judge for 2 Groups (1 point)*
 - c. *Is an active Judge for all Breeds (2 points)*
8.
 - a. *Past Activity - Club Committee and/or (1 point)*
 - b. *Past Activity - Breed Group Committee (1 point)*

** *These criteria may change as/ when a vote at the SACC AGM proposals are passed.*

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Article 10

Discipline

- 10.1 The Committee shall have the power to reprimand, suspend or expel any member who:
- 10.1.1 Is prejudicial to the welfare, breeding or exhibiting of cats, or treats cat/s in a cruel or inhumane manner.
 - 10.1.2 Conducts him/herself in such a manner that proves to be damaging to character, reputation, interest and objectives of the Group.
 - 10.1.3 Is suspended from any activities or use of services within the Cat Fancy in Southern Africa, or from any other Registry in their country of residence.
- 10.2 Any member so charged shall be given notice in writing of the allegations together with copies of all documents submitted to substantiate the charge. The member charged will have 30 days to respond. The offending party may appeal against the decision of the Committee.
- 10.3 The results of the charge may be published in the media if the breeder is found guilty.

Article 11

Amendments

- 11.1 For any amendment to be made to the Group's Constitution, it must be proposed by a majority of the Committee; or submitted in writing setting forth the exact wording of the proposed amendment and signed by the proposing members.
- 11.2 Members will be notified of the proposed amendment/s in writing and have to respond within 30 days after the mailing of the notification.
- 11.3 The Constitution will be amended if the majority of members voting support the proposed amendments.

Article 12

Dissolution of the Group

- 12.1 The Group may dissolve if:
- 12.1.1 Is prejudicial to the welfare, breeding or exhibiting of cats, or treats cat/s in a cruel or inhumane manner.
 - 12.1.2 The total membership of the Group drops to below seven members, or less than five breeders.