



Russian Cat Interest Group of South Africa

CONSTITUTION OF THE RUSSIAN CAT INTEREST GROUP

1) NAME

This Association shall be known as the Russian Cat Interest Group. (Herein referred to as RCIG). RCIG shall be a Voluntary Association.

2) HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters shall reside in Cape Town, or as decided by the group from time to time.

3) OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the RCIG are as follows:-

- 3.1 Ethical, Reputable & Responsible Breeding.
- 3.2 To encourage the breeding of quality pedigreed Russians and ensuring the registration of cats and kittens alike.
- 3.3 To promote the welfare of the South African Russian and the improvement of the breed.
- 3.4 To promote a **close working relationship** between the current Russian Breeders in South Africa.
- 3.5 Assisting, educating and training potential and new Russian cat/kitten owners about raising their new family member and keeping them healthy, happy and safe.
- 3.6 Assisting new Russian kitten owners on the show bench.

4) AFFILIATION

The group is affiliated to SACC.

5) MEMBERSHIP OF THE GROUP

- 5.1. The Group shall consist of Members, who shall be persons elected as such by the Committee in accordance with the Rules. Membership shall be in 4 categories:-Life, Annual, Family Members or Honorary Member.
- 5.2. **All Members in good standing** shall be entitled to vote in the election of Officers and proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Group.
- 5.3. Membership of the Group is divided into two categories Voting and Non-Voting, in respect of all issues pertaining to changes to the Russian Standard of Points.
 - 5.3.1. Voting
Voting rights are restricted to those Committee Members who qualify as Voting Members under the rules of SACC.
 - 5.3.2. Non-Voting
All other Members not qualifying in terms of rule 5.3.1 above.
- 5.4. Honorary membership may be conferred on any person deemed helpful to the Group, by two thirds (2/3) majority vote of those Members present at a meeting and, where applicable, shall entitle them to attend meetings, receive agendas and minutes of meetings and the newsletter. Honorary Members will not have voting rights as specified in rule 5.2 above.
- 5.5. All persons are eligible for membership unless suspended from RCIG/SACC activities or services.
- 5.6. Committee Membership or Group Membership of the RCIG charged at R45.00 per annum, payable in January of each year or a once off payment of R450.00 for a "life" membership (10 Years).
- 5.7. Once all breeders or (2/3) majority have voted in favour of a new novice breeder to join the breed group, the new novice breeder is requested to sign an Agreement with the RCIG, which gives the new novice breeder permission to breed under the guidance of the existing RCIG breeders as mentors, with the following lines: Azreal, Davante, Esky, and Zingara, under their own prefix. Each Breeder will be elected onto the RCIG Committee, once they have successfully bred their first Russian litter and own at least one stud. Agreements may be updated and signed by the Russian Breeders, following changes within the Constitution from time to time.
- 5.8. Anyone can approach the RCIG or our breeders if they are interested in becoming a Russian Breeder. It is recommended that such individual has a pet Russian, has been involved in the cat fancy i.e. showing, is actively involved in the RCIG or with our breeders and has a good general understanding of the history of the Russian, as well as enormous passion for the Breed.

6) APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 6.1. All applications for membership shall be made to the Secretary by email, application forms can either be requested from the secretary at solveig.rcig@gmail.com or can

also be found on the website under the documents and forms section <https://rcig.weebly.com/documents--forms.html> the completed electronic form can be emailed to the secretary of the Committee or any other Committee member, in the format prescribed by the Committee and shall be accompanied by the necessary subscription fee.

- 6.2. The acceptance or rejection of such application shall be made at the sole and absolute discretion of the Committee and its decision shall be final and binding on the candidate. The committee shall not be obliged to give any reasons for its decision.
- 6.3. The Secretary shall notify the candidate by e-mail of election or rejection as a Member. In the case of election, a copy of the Constitution and a membership certificate shall accompany such notification. Such a Member shall be bound by the Rules from the time of election. In the case of rejection the subscription shall be returned to the candidate.

7) SUBSCRIPTION

- 7.1. The Annual Subscriptions for the categories of membership of the Group shall be laid down at the Annual General Meeting, it may be altered by a simple majority vote at a General Meeting.
- 7.2. The first Annual Subscription shall become due on election and the Annual Subscription thereafter, on the first day of January each year.
- 7.3. Life membership shall be calculated at ten times the Full Annual Subscription.
- 7.4. Life membership is optional to those who have been members for five (5) consecutive years.

8) RESIGNATION

- 8.1. A Member shall be entitled to terminate his membership by written notification to that effect to the Secretary. Such termination shall take effect from the date of e-mailing a written acceptance of such resignation by the Secretary to the member concerned.
- 8.2. Any Member so resigning shall not be entitled to a refund of any subscription or any other dues paid by him in accordance with the Rules and shall have no claim whatsoever against the Group or its property.

9) CONDUCT

- 9.1. Every Member shall conform to the Rules of the Group and of SACC and not commit any breach thereof or act in opposition to the Rules and/or to the fundamental objects and principles upon which the Group had been founded.

- 9.2. Every Member shall show proper respect for the authority of the Chairman and Committee and shall conform to all the decisions duly made by them or by the duly authorized Officers of the Group in accordance with the Rules.
- 9.3. **Every Breeding Member shall comply with the RCIG Code of ethics contained in Annexure A to this Constitution.**
- 9.4. It is the responsibility of every member of the group to promote the breed and the group.

10) EXPULSION OR SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS

- 10.1. Any Member who has been found by the Committee, after due and proper investigation, to have committed a breach of the Rules, may be expelled or suspended from membership of the Group by the Committee subject to the right of appeal at the next General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting.
- 10.2. In the event of any Member being so expelled or suspended, the Committee shall place before the next General Meeting a report of the investigation so held and the decision of the Committee.
- 10.3. In the event of Committee Member(s) not having paid their annual membership fee in January of each year or returned their annual Committee Membership Application form for voting members in the first week of December of each year, the Committee Member will be automatically released from the Committee.
- 10.4. If a Committee Member (Breeder or Non-Breeder), is no longer actively involved within the Group, does not participate or communicate with fellow Committee Members in more than a year and does not exercise his or her voting rights, nor pays the agreed kitten fee of R45.00 a kitten on behalf of the new owner for their first year of membership to the RCIG, nor logs kitten births at the same time as birth registrations with SACC, the Committee Member will be automatically suspended from the Committee. In the event of a Breeder Member being suspended from the Committee and no longer wishes to breed under the RCIG, no further South African bred Russian kittens will be approved or permitted to enter the breed home of such Breeder for breeding.

11) TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Any unethical, cruel or unacceptable behaviour towards people or animals alike will not be tolerated and any member conducting him/herself in such a manner will be suspended from the RCIG with immediate effect.

12) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- 12.1. Annual General Meetings, which shall be held no later than the last day of May each year.

- 12.2. A written notice of every General Meeting shall be emailed to all Members by the Secretary not later than 21 days before the date of such a meeting. Such notice shall specify the date thereof and the agenda.
- 12.3. In the case of an Annual General Meeting the Agenda shall include the following:
 - 12.3.1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
 - 12.3.2. Chairman's Report
 - 12.3.3. Treasurer's Report
 - 12.3.4. Election of Officers
- 12.4. The Agenda may include any other business, which a General Meeting is entitled or obliged to deal with and/or decide upon.
- 12.5. The Agenda may include any other business.
- 12.6. No other business save that appearing on the Agenda shall be transacted at a General Meeting.
- 12.7. It is physically and financially impossible to expect our committee members and members to attend a meeting or General Meeting at a given address on a specific day, as our committee members and members, reside throughout South Africa. Once a General Meeting is called, an e-mail with the agenda points will be sent to the committee for action, comment, voting and feedback. Action, comment, voting and feedback is expected to be given to the Group Chair at a date no later than 14 days after the e-mail meeting and agenda has been sent. Telephonic, Skype or Zoom committee member group discussions can be scheduled for pressing issues to be resolved. All members will be entitled to vote for or against member elections or amendments to the constitution.

13) COMMITTEE

Leanne Hewitt)
Alma Pretorius
Jennie Hattingh
Solveig Klahr (Group Chair, Editor Social Media & Website, Secretary, Treasurer)
Laurelle Abnett (Group PRO)
Janet Joos (Group Pro-Active & New Ideas Planner)
Vanessa Howell (Delegate to the Breed Council)
Cyril Howell
Joelene Draper (Treasurer)
Bernadine Geldenhuys

14) DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE

As listed above, our committee members are the only voting members and are all responsible for promoting the group and breed, as well as educating other breeders and the public about Ethical, Responsible & Reputable Breeding and Pet ownership.

15) DELEGATE TO THE BREED COUNCIL

15.1. The Delegate to Breed Council must be a Voting member of the Group in terms of Rule 5.3.1 above

15.1.1. If a Delegate appointed to attend a meeting cannot attend, then the Committee shall designate the proxy to be substituted and the Delegate shall execute the applicable proxy.

16) BREEDER FEES & MEMBERSHIP FEES

14.1 Fees are payable by breeders for each kitten sold into an account for future imports, advertising and shows, this will also cover 1 year's subscription for new kitten owners to RCIG. Names and contact details (incl. e-mail address) must be provided to RCIG.

14.2 Fees are payable by all members of the RCIG on an annual basis.

16) BANK ACCOUNT

RCIGroup
FIRST NATIONAL BANK
Account Number: 62928977844
Branch Code: 250655

17) INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES

The Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the Rules or Regulations made hereunder and the decision of the Committee upon any question or interpretation made hereunder and the decision of the Committee upon any question or interpretation or upon any matter affecting the Group and not provided for in the Rules shall be final and binding on Members.

18) DISSOLUTION OF THE GROUP

The Group may be dissolved by the Resolution to that affect at the General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting summoned in terms of the Rules with the express purpose of voting upon such a Resolution. Such a Resolution shall only be passed by a majority of two thirds (2/3) of the Members entitled to vote at such a Meeting. Such a

Meeting shall decide upon the manner of the disposal of the assets of the Group after payment of all liabilities and shall vest power to carry out the Resolution and decisions of such a Meeting for the purpose.

**ANNEXURE A TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE RUSSIANCAT INTEREST
GROUP OF SOUTH AFRICA - CODE OF ETHICS - RULES AND
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BREEDER MEMBERS**

1. PREAMBLE:

A breeder member of the RCIG shall at all times in his breeding endeavours be mindful that:

- 1.1 Russians should primarily be bred for the purpose of improving the breed.
- 1.2 All the cats in a member's care should be kept in a safe, clean, healthy and happy environment and have access to veterinary care when they become ill or otherwise need it. Cats have a right to a stimulating environment enriched with toys and adequate exercising opportunities.
- 1.3 Kitten buyers have a right to expect a healthy and well-socialised kitten that has the potential to develop into a well-adapted companion animal.

2. BREEDING POLICY RULES:

- 2.1 The maximum amount of breeding Queens allowed per larger breed home are 4 and 2 to 3 for a smaller breed home. The maximum amount of Studs allowed per breed home are 3.
- 2.2 No queen may be bred before she is of a suitable age and physical development and thereafter according to her condition. A queen **may not** have more than 3 litters in 2 years (24 months – this works out to 1 litter every 8 months minimum) or at a rate faster than that, which would allow her to sustain, or regain quickly, her condition over the duration of her breeding career.
- 2.3 Kittens may under no circumstances be sold to pet shops or through any other form of broker or agent. Kittens may not be sold at events or premises (such as flea markets) where a kitten might be bought on the spur of the moment decision without the breeder adequately evaluating the suitability of the new home.
- 2.4 Kittens must not be allowed to go to their new homes before at least 12 weeks of age.
- 2.5 Kittens must be properly housetrained, have had two inoculation, be neutered or spayed (ENS), must be micro chipped, de-wormed and be in excellent health before being allowed to go to their new homes.
- 2.6 When selling a kitten, **a Kitten Manual a kitten starter pack, a kitten diet sheet or at the least full details of the kitten's diet**, as well as any other information relevant to the well-being of the kitten, is to be provided and explained to the new owner. Furthermore, Vet Booklet, Health Certificate, a Copy of the Pedigree Certificate and any Transfer Documentation, must also accompany the kitten once s/he goes to their new home.
- 2.7 Should a kitten in a litter die from a contagious disease e.g. FIP, the remainder of the litter must be kept for at least 30 days before they are allowed to go to their new homes.
- 2.8 The relevant registered pedigree and SACC transfer form are to be provided to the new owner immediately if they are at hand, **or as soon as SACC has made them available to the breeder**, but at the latest when the kitten is 6 months old.
- 2.9 All affiliated Russian breeder members to this group must register kittens with SACC by no later than 20 weeks of age so that pedigree and transfer papers are supplied to the new owners by 6 months of age (latest) see point 2.8. The RCIG must be copied on all SACC registrations. All Russian un-neuter/spay adults must be registered as breeding cats with SACC according to their rules. All SACC rules, regulations and ethics apply, should an affiliated breeder with this group found to be in contravention of any SACC rules/regulations and expelled and/or suspended from SACC the same status shall be applied by this group.

- 2.10 The terms of any stud contract/agreement entered into between the stud's owner and queen's owner must be honoured by both owners.
- 2.11 Breeders will not sell any kittens for breeding unless to an established partner breeder. **An exception to the rule at the discretion of the breeder can be made with the consent of the RCIG**, new owner, novice breeder and partner breeders, under a mentor program, which all member breeders to this group must approve (see point 3.4). All other kittens will be ENS before going to their new homes and will be registered as such.
- 2.13 All Russian Kittens/Cats sold or exchanged for breeding between South African or International Breed homes, need to be accompanied by an ethically sound agreement, signed by both parties, which includes, either the local RCIG or International code of ethics.
- 2.12 Breeders are responsible for the health of any cat or kitten leaving their premises for a period of up to 3 days, provided the new owner follows the breeder's instructions, including those pertaining to the kitten's diet. It is strongly recommended that the new owner takes the kitten(s) to his/her vet, 3 days after the arrival of the kitten(s) into the new home, for a health check.

3. BREEDING POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 3.1 Cats used for breeding should be healthy, of sound temperament, of good quality and free from any defects as listed in the SACC Standard of Points.
- 3.2 It is desirable to select cats of good size and vitality for breeding programmes.
- 3.3 Females should be spayed if they turn out unsuitable for breeding. All neutered breeding cats should, as far as possible, be kept and loved as part of a family and may not be discarded, OR they may be rehomed into a well selected home, as a loved show pet or pet, once they have been neutered or spayed.
- 3.4 Kittens sold for breeding to a partner or novice breeder should be of superior quality and of sound genetic background. **Please note: Only kittens for breeding will be kept entire, and only partner breeders or novice breeders under mentorship of established breeders, will be allowed to breed Russians. All other kittens MUST be spayed/neutered.**
- 3.5 Breeders selling a kitten for breeding to a novice breeder should offer advice and support and act as a mentor to such breeder. **Please note: Committee members do have an obligation to vote 3/2, for or against bringing a new Russian novice breeder onto the RCIG team. Current breeders must play their part in the mentoring to such breeder.**
- 3.6 A brood queen's inoculation should be dated within 12 months of the date when her litter is born, as this will maximize the immunity of the kittens.
- 3.7 Studs should be tested as negative for FeLV and FIV at least every 12 months. Queens should be tested as negative for FeLV and FIV within 24 hours prior to mating.
- 3.8 The breeder should ensure that kittens only go to homes where the responsibility of cat ownership is understood and where it has a reasonable chance of having a quality life and will receive adequate physical and emotional care.
- 3.9 Registered breeders must register ALL kittens with SACC.

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