



## CONSTITUTION

### Art. 1 NAME

This organization shall be known as ***Abyssinian Breed Club Europe (ABCE)***.

### Art. 2 AFFILIATION

This organization shall be a non-profit club affiliated with The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. (CFA) and shall take all necessary steps to preserve its status as a member of such Association in good standing at all times.. No part of any profit, dues, or donations to the organization shall be used for the benefit of any member or individual.

### Art. 3 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this organization shall be:

1. To promote, protect and advance the Abyssinian breed and promote the welfare of cats in general.
2. To promote the breeding of Abyssinians and other pedigreed cats to the standards as accepted by the CFA.
3. To promote the showing of Abyssinians and other CFA-accepted pedigreed cats in CFA and encourage registering them with CFA.
4. To promote Abyssinian breeders to join – if qualified - the CFA Abyssinian Breed Council.
5. To assist Breeders to register Abyssinians originating from foreign registries with CFA and fulfilling 8-generation-requirements.
6. To promote and provide assistance to novice breeders in all aspects of breeding practice.
7. To promote and provide information and education on CFA procedures so that members can fully participate in all CFA activities.
8. To sponsor and/or organize and produce cat shows held under the auspices of the CFA
9. To promote sportsmanship and friendship among cat fanciers and cultivate friendship and common interests among the members.

10. To give prizes, ribbons and honors in connection with exhibition of the Abyssinian breed and to maintain, develop and publish books, pamphlets, periodicals, forms, and other publications, all of which the Board of Directors may deem as assisting in forwarding the above objectives.

#### Art. 4 MEMBERSHIP

Membership fees and application procedure shall be provided in the bylaws. Membership in ABCE shall be in one of the following categories:

##### **Regular active Breed Members**

Individuals, over the age of 18, who bred and registered with the CFA at least one litter of Abyssinian cats and have shown an Abyssinian in any CFA competitive category (Kitten, Championship or Premiership) at least twice in the current show year. Regular active Breed Members may hold any office or directors, any poll for ratification of Board action, balloting on changes to the Constitution and By-Laws, and at any general Meeting of ABCE.

##### **Regular active non Breed Members**

Individuals, over the age of 18, who are interested in the objectives of ABCE, but who do not meet the requirements for regular active Breed Members. Regular active non Breed Members are not eligible to hold elected office in ABCE and shall not have voting privileges concerning the constitution, breed matters, but shall otherwise have all other privileges and benefits of regular active breed members.

##### **Associate Members**

Individuals, over the age of 18, who are interested in the objectives of ABCE, but who do not meet the requirements for regular active Breed or non-Breed Members. Associate Members cannot vote or held office. Associate Members are eligible for Regular Breed or non-Breed Members earliest after one year of associate Membership and upon meeting above said requirements.

##### **Passive Members**

Individuals who are interested in the objectives of ABCE, but are not breeders/exhibitors but can help the club with their knowledge.

##### **Honorary Members**

Honorary members are individuals who have made significant contributions to the declared objects of the Club (with or without past Club membership) and who were nominated for honorary membership in recognition of those contributions.

#### Art. 5 OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

The officers of this organization shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 Directors-at-large. These seven (7) individuals shall be elected by the membership and serve as the Executive Board. The officers need to be

actively breeding Abyssinians under the rules of CFA, or – if retired – have been actively breeding Abyssinians in the past for at least 10 years.

#### Art. 6 MEETINGS and ADMINISTRATION

Regular meetings for this Club will be primarily on-line via a mutually convenient computer chat forum as provided for in the by-laws. The ABCE Annual Meeting may be held at the Int. Division Award Show. If not, it will be held on-line or/and at a mutually agreed upon location/time. A member must attend at least two meetings per year or provide eight or more hours of service to the Club to maintain membership status and voting privileges.

#### Art. 7 DUES

Annual dues shall be payable on a yearly basis. The amount of dues shall be provided for in the by-laws. For the purpose of computing dues, membership is based on the current calendar year (January 1 to December 31). Members joining the Club after September 30 shall pay one years due for the balance of the current and the following calendar year.

#### Art. 8 DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of this organization, any property and assets shall be distributed to a non-profit organization consistent with the policy of CFA. In no event shall any such property or assets be distributed to any member of the organization, or to any private individual.

#### Art. 9 AMENDMENTS

This constitution and the accompanying by-laws may be amended by a two-third majority vote at any regular meeting of the organization, provided that the text of the amendment shall have been sent to all members two weeks prior to the meeting.