



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE FELINE - FIFe

Hrušovany n/J, 26th of February 2017.

Dear members of the FFH Board, dear Alfred, dear Stephanie,

Mrs. Isabelle Maillard Chiavuzzo and Mrs. Joëlle Monney Pillonel, two International FIFe Judges from Switzerland asked the Board for advice on a similar matter.

Mrs. Maillard Chiavuzzo received an email from you in which you ask her to visit a cattery to establish if a female cat was suitable to be used for breeding and if she displayed any faults described in the standard. For this purpose, a special form was sent to her, which needed to be completed in addition to a veterinary certificate, which she also included. She asked if she as a FIFe Judge could do this or if she would be infringing on FIFe Rules when she did this. She believed that she was a FIFe Judge only in a show hall in the correct settings for a FIFe show and a training-outside-the-show hall session was only for student judges. She wondered if she could assess a cat if it was fit for breeding as a FIFe Judge.

Mrs. Monney Pillonel informed us of your decision that the kittens she had bred could only get an FFH pedigree if the mother, an NFO imported from SVERAK, had a breeding certificate. She had written various times to you questioning this requirement but was told that "the rules were the rules for everyone". She referred to article 3.1 of the FIFe Breeding & Registration Rules and to the Letter of Commitment she had signed in which she vouched to respect all FIFe Rules and asked if she had to break the FIFe Rules to get pedigrees for her kittens.

The Board discussed these matters and decided to send them to the Judges & Standards Commission and the Breeding & Registration Commission for a recommendation.

In their recommendation, the Judges & Standards Commission stated that all FIFe Judges agreed to sign the Letter of Commitment in which they committed themselves to follow the FIFe Rules. This commitment was directly to FIFe and not with their Member. It was, in fact, clear in the rules that FIFe, and not the FIFe Member, was directly responsible for the behaviour and actions of its Judges. In addition, FIFe Judges, in their function as Judges, could sign a variety of documents (show reports, student judge certificates, stage- and exam certificates and the yearly activity form) but this was all related to their function as FIFe Judges. The only clear obligations a FIFe Judge had toward the Member were related to the payment of the various annual fees. The JSC concluded that the Breeding Rules that presently apply in FFH are in evident contrast with the present FIFe Breeding & Registration Rules and that FIFe Judges cannot be obliged to perform services, in their position of Judges, required by their national Members.

In their recommendation, the Breeding & Registration Commission referred to articles 3.1 and 3.6 of the Breeding & Registration Rules and stressed that it was stated in article 3.1 that "**FIFe Members were not permitted to impose any further stricter breeding or registration limitations**" and article 3.6 stated that "**It was not permitted to consider cats**



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not allowed for breeding based on the sole fact they have not obtained whichever qualification at shows."

They stated that the Breeding and Registration Rules were very clear on this matter.

The BRC wrote that the FFH Breeding Rules on this subject were split in two parts:

- the first part which described that a veterinarian should check the cats for health-related matters, which was in line with the FIFe Breeding & Registration Rules.
- the second part, regarding a breeding evaluation to be done by a FIFe Judge was in direct conflict with the FIFe Breeding & Registration Rules. The BRC considered this second part to be a violation of the FIFe Breeding & Registration Rules which could not be permitted. They recommended the Board to instruct FFH to stop this practise immediately. They added that since these texts are in the FIFe Breeding & Registration Rules, also a Judge who participated in any kind of breeding evaluation, acted against the FIFe Rules.

**The Board discussed both recommendations and fully agreed.
The Board decided to issue a serious warning to the Swiss FIFe Member
FFH.**

The Board also decided to instruct FFH to immediately:

- synchronise their breeding rules with the FIFe Breeding & Registration Rules
- revoke all their documents and forms regarding the subject breeding permission, including their publication on and availability for downloading from the FFH website
- cancel any scheduled event and refrain from organising any future event intending to obtain breeding permissions issued by FIFe Judges
- forward this letter to their affiliated clubs
- publish this letter on the News page of the FFH website.

The Board takes this violation of the FIFe Rules by FFH very seriously and will therefore inform all other FIFe Members and Judges by separate email on this matter.

As per article 8 of the FIFe Statutes, we will forward any further violation of said rules by FFH to the Disciplinary Commission for their consideration.

We remain with our best regards and kindly request you to send us a confirmation of receipt of this letter.

By order of the Board,
Annette Sjödin - President

Eric Reijers - General Secretary

CC: Mrs. Maillard Chiavuzzo, Mrs. Monney Pillonel, BRC, JSC, DC, the Judges listed on the flyer of your shows scheduled on 04-05.03.2017