

OUR EARLY YEARS

Part VI

by Robert H. Winn



After the 1950 Annual Meeting, Mrs. Myrtle K. Shipe, the new president, conducted the affairs of the association with great ability.

At the Board meeting held on April 10, 1950, a request that Domestic Short Hairs be hereafter called American Short Hairs was discussed. On motion by Mrs. O'Bryon, the name was so changed.

At the April 10 meeting, the resignation submitted by Mr. Winn, the CFA attorney, was accepted. It was agreed that CFA would secure an attorney to represent it who was not a personal friend of any Board Member.

A complaint was received and considered at the April 29 meeting regarding a kitten sold by Mrs. Carl Spencer to Miss Virginia Lee. Miss Lee claimed the kitten was sick at the time of the sale. On motion, the secretary was instructed to ask Mrs. Spencer for an explanation.

At the meeting on June 19-20, on the advice of Mrs. Schooner, CFA attorney, the secretary was instructed to write to Mrs. Spencer and to Miss Lee, advising them that the sick kitten allegation would have to be settled other than with the CFA Board.

The Silver Cat Club of the West was accepted into membership.

Mr. Anthony DeSantis was accepted as an Approval Pending judge for Solid Colors, and Tabby and Tortie Specialties.

Regional representation, and a constitutional amendment to provide for regional activities was discussed at the November 13 meeting of the Board. Mrs. O'Bryon was asked to formulate the recommendations into an amendment.

A special meeting of the Board was held on December 4, 1950. Apparently, a proposed revised constitution and suggested slate of officers was being circularized to the member clubs by a dissident group. Mrs. O'Bryon, and her activities as Secretary seemed to have caused the opposition. The Board was disturbed by this activity, and it was agreed that the Board should provide authentic information to the clubs.

Mr. William T. Mulcahy was introduced to the Board as an attorney with offices in New York, and he was employed by the Board to represent CFA at the upcoming annual meeting. The Board determined that the Constitution did not require that a copy of the minutes of the Board meeting be sent to Mrs. Shipe, the President, and Mr. Mulcahy agreed. Mrs. Shipe was not present at the meeting, and the record indicates that she was not in sympathy with the activities of the Secretary, and her followers. The Board then determined that no minutes of any Board meeting thereafter held would be sent to Mrs. Shipe.

On January 8, 1951, the Board met again. Mrs. Shipe again was not present. By this date the rift between Mrs. Shipe and Mrs. O'Bryon was more apparent. The Board, by motion, adopted a slate of officers which it, as a body, would support at the annual meeting. Mrs. Shipe was not on this slate.

Another Board meeting was held on February 14. The Emergency Committee had met on January 18 to discuss a letter which Mrs. Shipe, the President, had sent to all member clubs. Another letter had been sent to the members over the signatures of Mrs. Lucille Pelton, Mr. Robert Bruce, and Mr. Winn. The Board determined that both of these letters should be answered.

At this meeting, Mr. Mulcahy advised the Board that he would not be able to attend the Annual Meeting. Mrs. O'Bryon recommended a Mr. James O'Donnell as an attorney, and the Board authorized his employment.

The 1951 Annual Meeting of CFA was held at the McAlpin Hotel in New York City on February 22.

Two constitutional amendments covering regional representation were voted on; apparently one submitted by each of the two opposing groups. Both amendments were lost, neither receiving the required two thirds majority.

By constitutional amendment, New York City was fixed as the location of all future annual meetings. A two year term for Board members was established by constitutional amendment.

The elections at the 1951 meeting (except for the office of Treasurer) were all hotly contested. Mrs. Mabie was elected President over Mrs. Annie B. Revington. Mrs. Bess Morse was elected Vice-President over Mrs. Limpert. Mrs. Rotter was elected Second Vice-President over Mrs. Pelton and Mr. Deans Henderson. Mrs. Shipe was elected Secretary over the incumbent, Mrs. O'Bryon. Miss Goodwin was elected Treasurer unanimously.

Seven members of the Board were to be elected. It should be recalled that at this time officers were not *ex officio* members of the Board. The Board was composed of only seven persons, and to be elected thereto the candidate was required to be a Board delegate.

Seventeen persons were nominated. In view of the newly enacted constitutional amendment providing for two year terms for Board members, on a staggered basis, the meeting determined that the four nominees receiving the highest number of votes would be elected for two years; the three nominees receiving the next highest number of votes would be elected for one year.

The following were elected Board members for two years: Miss Elsie Hydon, Mrs. Marguerite Mabie, Mrs. Carl Spencer, and Mrs. John Hunter. The following were elected to a one year term: Mrs. Anthony Avata, Mrs. James O'Bryon and Mrs. Myrtle K. Shipe.

The Board meeting after the annual was most perfunctory, electing Mrs. Mabie as chairman of the Board, and Mrs. Shipe as Secretary of the Board.

The elections at the 1951 meeting resulted in representatives of both factions being elected as officers, and as Board members. It was

obvious that the delegates had voted for people who were known, and in whom the delegates had confidence, regardless of the charges and counter charges which had been sent to the member clubs.

The April 10, 1951 meeting of the Board established the number of entries present and competing required for the various allowable points. This was an annual chore. It also had the usual appeals from decisions of the Recorder, requests that more "points" be allowed for specific shows which had had an insufficient number of counters, and numerous letters from individual members of the fancy.

Mrs. Rita Swenson was added to the list of Approval Pending judges for Solid Colors. Mrs. L. Darrell Sample was also added as an Approval Pending judge, to judge Short Hair specialty shows.

Regional representation was again discussed, and the Board asked member clubs to submit recommendations.

The next Board meeting was on June 11. Matters having to do with the exclusive territories of specialty clubs were discussed. Many clubs were creating a problem by not selecting judges in the stated order of the three names listed in the application for a show license.

The Secretary reported that she had received only eleven letters from clubs in response to her request for suggestions regarding regional representation. She was instructed to again ask for suggestions.

On motion by Miss Hydon, the Board voted to ask Mr. Winn to again serve as attorney for CFA.

At this meeting Board members were asked to consider some method of instructing potential judges. This request was the result of a letter from the National Siamese Cat Club asking that applicants to judge Siamese be given training as student judges.

A tentative plan for "Apprentice Judges" covering all new applicants was adopted. The Secretary was instructed to submit this plan to the clubs.

Another meeting was held on August 18. Complaints were read regarding alleged misstatements in applications for Show Licenses from Angel City Cat Fanciers. The Secretary was asked to write Angel City regarding the allegations.

The Board voted to employ Mr. Winn as CFA attorney.

The next Board meeting was held November 9, 1951.

The Secretary reported that Angel City had not answered her letter. The Board voted to cancel the show dates theretofore reserved by that club.

It was voted to put into effect the plan for Apprentice Judges previously adopted. The Carolina Cat Club was accepted into membership. The Board allotted the territory west of the Rocky Mountains to the Western Tabby & Tortie Club, and the States of Michigan and Ohio to the Windsor Solid Color Club.

At the Board meeting held on January 25-26, 1952 litter registration was discussed, but no action was taken.

Mrs. Walker Johnston was accepted as an apprentice judge, to serve her apprenticeship at solid color specialty shows.

The first special committee to make recommendations for revisions of the Show Rules was appointed at this meeting. Miss Good-

win was chairman, and Miss Hydon and Mrs. Hunter were the other members.

The Board at this meeting voted to submit constitutional amendments to the next annual meeting which would, if adopted, greatly change the make-up and administrative operations of CFA. Regional Vice-Presidents would be elected, the President and the Regional Vice-Presidents would be **ex-officio** members of the Board (nearly doubling the size of the Board), and future annual meetings would be held in a "centrally located city."

At the meeting immediately before the annual meeting the Board rescinded its previous action establishing a system of apprenticeship judges.

The 1952 annual meeting was marked by delegates from sixty two clubs. The constitutional amendments proposed by the Board were adopted.

Mrs. Mabie, Mrs. Shipe and Miss Goodwin were unanimously re-elected President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The offices of Vice-President and Second Vice-President had been abolished by the constitutional amendments creating the Regional Vice-Presidents. For the first year, Regional Vice-Presidents were to be elected by the annual meeting rather than by a mail vote of the clubs in the respective regions. The following were elected:

North Atlantic Region	Miss Elsie Hydon
Great Lakes Region	Mrs. Lucille Pelton
Middle West Region	Mrs. Garvin
Southwest Region	Mrs. Bess Morse
Northwest Region	Mrs. Dorothy Denning

Inasmuch as Mrs. Mabie as President, and Miss Hydon as Regional Vice-President for the North Atlantic Region would be **ex officio** members of the Board, they resigned the Board seats to which they had been elected for a two year term in 1951.

Thereupon, Mrs. Annie B. Revington, Mrs. Rita Swenson and Judge William C. Bryant were elected to the Board for two year terms, and Mr. Anthony DeSantis and Mrs. J. Harry Day were elected for one year to fill the seats resigned by Mrs. Mabie and Miss Hydon.

At the June 1952 meeting, the Board authorized a combined show, with one set of points, to be held by California Cat Club and West Shore Cat Club. This was a compromise. These two clubs had earlier been denied licenses for joint shows.

A motion was made that odd eyed whites be accepted in championship classes, but the motion lost. A school for judges was discussed, but no action was taken. Various judges who had been accepted under the now rescinded apprentice plan were given approval pending status. These included Mrs. Richard O'Donovan, Mrs. Walker K. Johnston, Mrs. Lucille Pelton and Mrs. Horace Reed.

At the October 1952 meeting in New York, the blanket insurance policy for shows was first adopted. On the basis of several complaints the Board voted to bring charges against Angel City Cat Fanciers under the provisions of Article VIII of the CFA Constitution. The Board also instructed the Secretary as to obtaining nominations for, and the election of the various Regional Vice-Presidents.

On December 12, 1952, the Board met in New York. Difficulties in the Honolulu Club were noted, with two groups each purporting to be the club. The Board voted to return the checks submitted by each group for dues, pending a determination in Hawaii as to the situation.

Mrs. Sample was advanced to the approved list of judges.

After the luncheon recess, the Board took up the charges against the Angel City Club. The charges involved alleged misrepresentations in applications for show licenses. The Angel City club was represented at the heading by an attorney. After hearing the evidence, the Board voted that the charges had been proved, and then voted to expel Angel City Cat Fanciers from CFA.

At the next meeting of the Board, Long Hair and Short Hair specialty clubs and shows were discussed. In view of the long history of color and breed specialty clubs and shows, and the existence of such clubs as members of CFA, the members of the Board were opposed to changing the nature of the clubs.

A request from Angel City for a rehearing was denied.

The 1953 annual meeting was held in Chicago. The application of the Chicago Persian Society, a long hair specialty club, for membership in CFA was submitted to the delegates. This application resulted in a long and somewhat heated discussion. After numerous parliamentary moves, the application was referred back to the Board with the recommendation that the Board obtain the views of the existing specialty club members.

The reopening of the Angel City matter was discussed by the delegates, but no recommendation was made.

The meeting decided to hold the 1954 annual meeting in New York. Judge Bryant objected that New York is not "centrally located," and the decision of the delegates therefor unconstitutional. The chair ruled that "centrally located" meant reasonably accessible, and that the Constitution did not limit the place of meeting to the approximate geographical center of the country. The decision of the chair was appealed from, and upheld.

Mrs. Mabie, Mrs. Shipe and Miss Goodwin were unanimously elected President, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Mrs. Hunter Mrs. Spencer, Mr. DeSantis and Mr. Bruce were elected to the Board.

At the Board meeting after the annual, Judge Bryant reported that he had been advised that Angel City had evidence which had not been presented at the previous hearing. He moved that the Board conduct a hearing *de novo*. The motion carried.

At the next meeting in May, the Angel City case was reheard in its entirety. The Board again held the charges to be proved, and voted eight to two to expel the club from membership.

Mrs. Isabel Meader was accepted to the approval pending list of judges to judge any specialty show.

On motion of Mr. DeSantis that a championship class be established for odd eyed whites, after discussion, the Board turned down this recommendation, and then determined to accept them.

On motion by Miss Goodwin, the application for membership of California Persian Society was rejected. The individual Board mem-

bers were wedded to the preexisting type of specialty shows.

Litter registration was again discussed at the next meeting on September 19. No action was taken. Mrs. Naomi Favors was added to the list of approval pending judges, to judge any specialty except Siamese.

At the Board meeting before the annual meeting of 1954, Mrs. Harriett Wolfgang was added to the list of approval pending judges to judge Siamese.

The 1954 annual meeting was attended by delegates from sixty eight clubs. Numerous persons who had objected over the years to the functions of the CFA Executive Board were in attendance. Under the CFA Constitution, the Executive Board has in its hands "the government of the affairs of this Association" (Article VII, Section 1). The Constitution can be amended only by the member clubs, and the members of the Executive Board are elected by the member clubs. Other than these two functions, the Executive Board establishes rules, regulations, and policy. Those who opposed this legislative function of the Executive Board proposed a constitutional amendment which would have stripped the Board of its legislative and policy making functions, and made it a body which had only the power to recommend such matters to the clubs.

The proponents of this amendment took the position that a truly democratic body should have this power in the members. They stated that Show Rules, Registration Rules, rulings thereunder, and all policy questions should be determined by the delegates to the annual meeting, and that matters arising between meetings should be decided by a mail vote of the members.

Those who had worked for many years under the CFA system pointed out that the Board functioned with regard to the members exactly as the federal Congress or the respective state legislatures do with regard to the electorate. They stated that the complexity and interrelation of the problems presented to the Board did not lend themselves to being handled by changing groups of delegates, on a "once a year" basis. Mail votes would be unsatisfactory they said, because it is impossible for the clubs participating in such a vote to have the benefit of the background which is developed in the discussion around the Board table. The supporters of the *status quo* stated that the continuity of members serving on the Board was valuable in that experience and knowledge of nation wide activities by the member clubs, helped those who were entrusted with the legislative function. Also stressed was the fact that the members could, and on occasion had, changed the make-up of the individuals on the Board.

The amendment which would have changed the method of governing CFA was not adopted. Immediately after the 1954 annual meeting, American Cat Fanciers Association was formed by the group which felt that the members rather than an Executive Board should control the association.

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which felt that the members rather than an Executive Board should control the association.

Long hair and short hair specialty shows were again discussed. As a compromise, and in order to learn how such shows might affect existing specialty clubs, the delegates recommended to the Board that it license such shows by two unaffiliated clubs, in conjunction with an all-breed show, on a trial basis.

Houston, Texas was selected as the site for the 1955 annual meeting. Mrs. Mabie, Mrs. Shipe and Miss Goodwin were reelected, and Mrs. Annie B. Revington, Mrs. Lucille Pelton, and Mr. Thompson were elected to the Board.

The Board at its next meeting authorized the licensing of a long hair specialty show to be sponsored either by California Persian Society, or the Southern Long Hair Club.

At the next meeting, Miss Stella Harlos was added to the list of approval pending judges to judge Solid Color and Tabby & Tortie shows. Mr. Richard Gebhardt was added to the approval pending list of judges to judge Solid Color, Silver, and Tabby & Tortie shows.

Those who had held out for the traditional specialty clubs and shows capitulated in October 1954, and the Board voted to approve amendments to the constitutions of the various specialty clubs which would permit them to sponsor long hair or short hair specialty shows, in addition to their traditional specialties.

In January 1955 the Board was advised that the internal difficulties of the Honolulu Cat Club had been resolved, and permitted the change of the name of the club to Hawaii Cat Fanciers.

Mrs. Mabie, chairman of the Apprentice Judging Program committee reported for the committee with a recommendation for such a program, which was adopted. This program was put into effect, and has continued substantially unchanged to the present date.

At the meeting before the 1955 annual, litter registration was authorized on an optional basis.

The 1955 annual meeting was held in Houston, Texas, and the usual matters were presented by the delegates, but compared with other recent annual meetings, things were relatively quiet in Houston. Washington, D. C. was selected as the place for the 1956 meeting. Mrs. Mabie, Mrs. Shipe and Miss Goodwin were unanimously reelected, and Miss Hydon, Mrs. John Bloem, Mrs. Lester O'Neill and Mr. Bruce were elected to the Board.

In June 1955, the Board named Mrs. Sample, Mrs. Walker Johnston and Mrs. Pelton to the approval pending list to judge any specialty. Miss Harlos was moved up to the approval pending list to judge any long hair specialty, and Mrs. Naomi Favors was named to the approval pending list of all breed judges. The result of the change in designations of specialty shows was being reflected in the designations of the judges.

The June meeting also authorized the establishment of standards and classes for Frost Point Siamese, and for Calico cats.

Before the next meeting of the Board of the cat fancy was shocked and saddened by the death of Anthony DeSantis. Appropriate

resolutions were adopted by the Board, and at the 1956 annual meeting, expressing deep grief at the loss of this valued breeder, judge, Board member and close associate.

At this annual meeting the "novice rule" was discussed at great length, with no unanimity of opinion. The delegates recommended that all geographic restrictions governing shows by specialty clubs be removed. Judge Bryant suggested the wisdom of a "resolutions committee" for each annual meeting to screen matters to be presented for discussion.

A suggestion was made that the Show Rules be changed to prohibit Grand Champions from competing for Best of Show. Mrs. Mood, the recorder, explained the mechanics of, and the advantages to breeders, of litter registration. The delegates voted to hold the 1957 annual meeting in Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. Robert Bruce was elected President of the Association to succeed Mrs. Mabie. Mrs. Shipe and Miss Goodwin were reelected. Mrs. John Hunter, Mrs. Mabie and Mrs. Maurine Hoag were elected to the Board for two year terms. Mrs. Pelton was elected for a one year term to complete the term of office of Mr. Bruce.

At the Board meeting after the annual meeting, the Board voted to hold its autumn meeting in Chicago.

The meeting in June, 1956 was held in New York. The Show Rules were revised at this meeting. A requirement that all manx cats be registered with CFA as a condition precedent to entry in a CFA show was adopted. The majority of the time of the Board was consumed in the discussion of the novice rule.

On October 13, 1956 the Board met in Chicago, Ill. Mrs. Gladys Weirich was added to the list of approval pending all-breed judges. Numerous protests regarding the new novice rule were read and discussed.

On January 12, 1957 the Board held a meeting in New York. The Board was advised that Miss Goodwin was ill, and ratified the action of the Emergency Committee which authorized the Secretary to assume her functions.

Mrs. Blanche Wolfram having completed her apprentice assignment, was named as an approval pending judge for Solid Color and long hair specialty shows. Miss Stella Harlos was moved to the approval pending list for any specialty. The following were moved to the approved list for all-breed shows: Mrs. L. Darrell Sample, Mrs. Richard O'Donovan, Mrs. Walker K. Johnston, and Mrs. Lawrence Pelton. Mrs. Rita Swenson was added to the approved list for Any Specialty except Siamese. The Secretary was directed to advise the clubs that the delegates to the annual meeting would be asked to make recommendations to the Board regarding: 1. The novice rule; 2. The taking of Silver Tabbies from the Silver Division; and 3. The publication of a CFA news magazine.

The meeting before the annual was held in Dayton, Ohio on March 28, 1957. Mr. Gebhardt was advanced to the approval pending list of judges for any specialty. Mrs. Miriam Williams was listed as an approved judge for any short hair show.

At the annual meeting the recorder reported that 7,689 cats had been registered during the previous year. This was an increase of 447 over 1955-1956. Photographs of Himalayans, or "Color Pointed Persians," as they were referred to, were displayed. After long discussion concerning Silver Tabbies, the delegates voted to recommend that they be again placed in the Silver Division. The delegates also recommended that no cat be permitted to be a Best Novice, or Best Novice Opposite Sex, in more than one show.

A constitutional amendment was presented which would have prevented Board members ineligible to succeed themselves from becoming a Board Member by being elected a Regional Vice President. The amendment was not adopted.

At this meeting, a constitutional amendment was adopted which created the new Gulf Shore Region. It was carved from both the Southern Region, and the Southwest Region.

On the second day of the meeting the novice rule matter was reopened. Nothing was presented which was satisfactory to a majority of the delegates, and the whole problem was given back to the Board, with no recommendation.

A resolution which recommended compulsory litter registration was presented. After much discussion, the matter of compulsory litter registration was submitted to the Board without recommendation.

The possibility of CFA publishing a news magazine was considered. One consensus seemed available, that CFA not be financially responsible for such a publication. Any person interested in assuming such a publication, with advertising support from CFA, was asked to present a proposition to the Board.

The meeting was advised that Miss Hydon had asked that she be relieved of her duties as a member of the Board, and that Miss Goodwin was seriously ill, and would not be able to be our Treasurer for the ensuing year. The delegates passed suitable resolutions honoring these two ladies who had been such important assets to CFA and the cat fancy over so many years. It was noted that the resolutions be engrossed, framed, and presented to them. The delegates also voted that the Challenge Awards made by CFA each year be henceforth known as "The Hydon-Goodwin Challenge Awards."

The delegates reelected Mr. Bruce as President, and Mrs. Shipe as Secretary. Mrs. Gilbert Rose was elected Treasurer.

Mrs. John Bloem, Mrs. Esther Pruett, Mrs. Lester O'Neill and Mrs. Joan Van Zele were elected to the Board.

(The 1958 Year Book contains a condensed version of the minutes of the Board meeting held on March 30, 1957, immediately after the Dayton, Ohio, annual meeting. All later meetings are reported in that, or subsequent Years Books. Between the article entitled "How We Began," in the 1958 Year Book, and the articles "Our Early Years" in subsequent issues of the Year Book, and condensed minutes of annual and Board meetings, the Year Books already published, and those to come, provide a history of the Cat Fancy in America in general, and of the Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.)

This is the continuation and conclusion of the CFA History. Mr. Winn is the attorney for CFA.