

Burmese Cat Association



Volume: 1 Issue: 1 September 2011

Editorial

Welcome to this first newsletter from the newly formed Burmese Cat Association which held its inaugural meeting on 14th August 2011 at Cossham Hall, Thornbury. No less than 52 people attended and a further 31 apologies were received - An encouraging start for this new club that aims to benefit Burmese cat owners and to uphold the type and colour of the breed. .

I hope you enjoy this first edition which aims to keep you up to date with the club's progress so far. Over the page you will find an extract from the Chairman's opening address and some brief notes from the minutes of the inaugural meeting.

As editor of this (as yet, humble) newsletter, I ask you all to please contribute (by email if possible) to the future content by sending me your news, articles, photographs, poems, stories, veterinary news and perhaps some puzzles too. I hope the newsletter will (like the club) grow in time... a magazine would be great, but for this to happen, I need your help please!

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Officers & Committee

Judy Potter	President
Maureen Smith	Chairman
Anna Virtue	Deputy Chairman
Elisabeth Amies	Membership & Fundraising
Yvonne Bruckel	Welfare
Helen Hewitt	Hon Treasurer
Sheila Kimmins	Hon Secretary
Christine Stalker	Editor

The BCA needs you!

Applications for the three remaining committee posts should be sent (by 30th September 2011) to:
The Club Secretary, together with a brief summary of the skills you could bring to the committee.

sheila@exertus-training.co.uk

Here are some photos taken at the 1st Meeting...



Extracts from the Maureen Smith's, BCA Chairman, Opening Address...

"In starting this club, the important thing to remember is what binds us together; our love for the Burmese cat, and our views about how the breed should progress.

We are determined to preserve the existing colours. We do not believe we need to outcross with other breeds to extend our gene pool but we feel it is important to promote out crossing within the breed, to improve on health and size.

We want this club to be for the cats and members first and foremost; with the Committee doing the members' bidding –within reason! To that end, we want you to tell us what you want from this club so please get in touch.

The plan is for us to stay in place until the AGM of 2012 to complete the establishment of the Club. Then we will be in a position to hold democratic elections.

There is a great deal of work to do and lots of opportunities for you to get involved. In particular, we have three places on the Committee and if you would like to stand or would like to nominate someone then please do so.

We also need committed volunteers for welfare work and providing advice to the public. Those of you who have done this before know that it is the first contact with the club and a very, very important job. We will also need help with driving cats to the very limited safe houses at out disposal.

For future shows we will need a Show manager and a team.

Fund raising is very important in these early months. We are particularly keen to organise social events, which we want to be an important part of the Club.

We are aiming to have our AGM on the 2nd Saturday in November, and to make it a little more interesting we propose to have a Christmas Fare during the course of the meeting to raise money for the welfare.

We have had a few attempts at a club logo and haven't come up with one we are all happy with, so can we give you all the challenge to come up with one? Also we would like your ideas for Club Colours... So we are going to put the ball in your court to come up with ideas that we can choose from – entries by 30th September please. The winner will have a voucher of their choice.

Our aim is of course, to have a show but that takes three years. However, we will have functions as often as we can, such as the Tea Parties, coffee mornings, events where we have cats present and learn and anything else you would like us to hold.

Finally, I would like you to give us some ideas on how you want your kitten list and stud list to run?

All of what I have said thus far is from all of us, this bit is me and from my heart. I love the Burmese breed always have and always will and want to do what is best for it, in a happy friendly way with every one being involved and having their say. You won't all get what you want but we will try and be fair and give you a reason why if something will or won't work.

We want to be an approachable club so if you start getting things you don't like please tell us, we can't put it right if we don't know.

We will make mistakes, of course we will, this is the first time any of us have started a new Club, but I hope you will tell us, before shouting!"

And finally, brief notes from the meeting's minutes:

Mrs Judy Potter has accepted the position of first President of the Club. A Vice President will be needed in due course. Proposals for the post should go to the Club Secretary please.

Good wishes for the club were sent from Margaret Somers.

John Burley proposed that Margaret Somers be the 1st Honorary Member; seconded by those present.

The present members of the Committee will remain in office for one year until the AGM of 2012, when there will be a democratic election.

The Rules of the Club were available; thanks were given to Phil Smith for all the work he had carried out in the production of this document.

Membership fees are to be £10.00 p.a.

A website is planned for the club and it is hoped that this will be up & running soon.

Generous donations have been received, totalling over £1000.00. The raffle raised £142.00.

Note: If you have not already done so, please complete the attached membership and join the BCA!