The Australian National Cats Inc (ANCATS) Constitution

(adopted 6th November 2022)

PART I

1. PRELIMINARY INTERPRETATION

1.1. In these rules, except in so far as the context or subject matter otherwise indicates or requires –

1.2. **"Appeal Committee"** means an appeal committee established under the Disputes and Discipline Procedure.

1.3. **"by-laws"** means any rules and regulations made under Rule 44, as amended from time to time.

1.4. **"Disputes and Discipline Procedure"** means the document by that name made by the committee under Rule 44, as amended from time to time.

1.5. **"Disputes Committee"** means a disputes committee established under the Disputes and Discipline Procedure, and shall for the purposes of these Rules be taken to include a reference to the Appeal Committee, if the Appeal Committee is used.

1.6. **"full member"** has the meaning given in clause 45.

1.7. **"ordinary members"** means a member of the committee who is not an office-bearer of the association, as referred to in Rule 14 including Rule 14.3.

1.8. **"secretary"** means the person holding office under these rules as secretary of the association, or where there is no such person holds that office - the public officer of the association.

1.9. **"Special general meeting"** means a general meeting of the association other than annual general meetings.

1.10. **"the Act"** means the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

1.11. **"the Regulation"** means the Associations Incorporation Regulation 2016.

1.12. **"Written", "in writing" etc.** includes a document in electronic form.

PART II

MEMBERSHIP

2. MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

2.1. A person is qualified to be a member of the association if, but only if:

2.1.1. the person was a member of the association immediately before the commencement of the Act, and, being so, has not ceased to be a member of the association at any time since the commencement of the Act; or

2.1.2. the person is a natural person who has been nominated and approved for membership of the association in accordance with Rule 3.

3. NOMINATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

3.1. A nomination of a person for membership of the association –

3.1.1. Shall be made in writing, in the form set out in Appendix 1 to these rules or as otherwise determined by the committee from time to time; and

3.1.2. Shall be nominated by a current member of the association; and

3.1.3. Shall be lodged with the secretary of the association.

3.2. As soon as practicable after receiving a nomination for membership, the secretary shall refer the nomination to the committee, which shall determine whether to approve or to reject the nomination.

3.3. Where the committee determines to approve a nomination for membership, the secretary shall, as soon as practicable after that determination, notify the nominee in writing of that approval and request the nominee to pay within the period of twenty eight (28) days after receipt by the nominee of the notification the sum payable under these rules by a member as entrance fee and annual subscription (see Rule 8).

3.4. The secretary shall, on payment by the nominee of the amounts referred to in Rule 3.3 within the period referred to in that clause, enter the nominee's name in the register of members and, upon the name being so entered, the nominee becomes a member of the association.

3.5. Where the committee determines to reject the nomination, the secretary must notify the nominee in writing of that decision. There shall be no right of appeal against a decision to reject a nominee for membership.

3.6. Members of the association shall not be eligible to be elected to the committee until twelve (12) calendar months have elapsed from the date their nomination to join the association was accepted by the committee. Notwithstanding this clause the committee may, at its sole discretion, vary this rule from time to time.

3.7. The committee may, for any reason it thinks fit, refer the question of approval of a nomination for membership of the association to the next General Meeting for decision, at which approval of the nomination shall be decided by special resolution.

4. CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

4.1. A person ceases to be a member of the association if the person -

4.1.1. dies

4.1.2. resigns that membership;

4.1.3. is expelled from the association; or

4.1.4. fails to lodge the membership renewal form or pay the annual membership fee within 60 days after that fee becomes due as required under Rule 8.

5. MEMBERSHIP ENTITLEMENTS NOT TRANSFERABLE

5.1. A right, privilege or obligation which a person has by reason of being a member of the association –

5.1.1. is not capable of being transferred or transmitted to another person; and

5.1.2. terminates upon cessation of the person's membership.

6. RESIGNATION OF MEMBERSHIP

6.1. A member of the association is not entitled to resign that membership except in accordance with this rule.

6.2. A member of the association who has paid all amounts payable by the member to the association in respect of the member's membership may resign from membership of the association by first giving notice (being not less than one (1) month or such other period as the committee may determine) in writing to the secretary of the member's intention to resign and, upon the expiration of the period of notice, the member ceases to be a member.

6.3. Where a member of the association ceases to be a member pursuant to Rule 6.2., and in every other case where a member ceases to hold membership, the secretary shall make an appropriate entry in the register of members recording the date on which the member ceased to be a member.

7. REGISTER OF MEMBERS

7.1. The secretary of the association shall establish and maintain a register of members of the association (whether in written or electronic form) specifying the name and address (which may be postal, residential or email) of each person who is a member of the association together with the date on which the person became a member.

7.2. The register of members shall be kept (or if kept in electronic form, accessible) at the principal place of administration of the association (or, if not in New South Wales, at the association's official address in New South Wales) and shall be open for inspection, free of charge, by any member of the association at any reasonable hour.

7.3. If a member requests in writing that specified information about that member contained on the register not be available for inspection, that information must not be available for inspection.

7.4. A member must not use information about a person obtained under this clause other than for the purposes of sending that person a newsletter, notice of meeting or other event of the association, other material relating to the association, or as required to comply with the Act or Regulation.

7.5. Where the register of members is kept in electronic form it must be convertible into hard copy, but the register need not be so converted unless requested by a member exercising their rights under this Rule.

7.6. A member may obtain a copy of the register in hard copy (or, at the sole discretion of the committee, in electronic form) on payment of a fee of $1 per each page provided, or such other amount as determined annually by the committee.

7.7. The committee may refuse to allow a member to inspect or obtain a copy of a document under this clause:

7.7.1.1. that relates to confidential, personal, commercial, employment or legal matters, or

7.7.1.2. if the committee considers it would be prejudicial to the interests of the association for t he member to do so.

8. FEES, SUBSCRIPTIONS ETC

8.1. A member of the association shall, upon admission to membership, pay to the association a fee of $10.00 or, where some other amount is determined by the committee, of that other amount.

8.2. In addition to any amount payable by the member under Rule 8.1., a member of the association shall pay to the association an annual membership fee of $30.00 or, where some other amount is determined by the committee, of that other amount -

8.2.1. except as provided by Rule 8.2.2. before 1st January in each calendar year; or

8.2.2. where the member becomes a member on or after 1st January in any calendar year - upon becoming a member and before 1st January in each succeeding calendar year.

8.3. Payment of the annual membership fee shall be accompanied by a membership renewal form in the form determined by the committee.

8.4. For the avoidance of doubt, the committee may set annual membership fees at different rates for different categories of membership, and may offer discounts to classes of persons as it thinks fit.

9. MEMBERSHIP LIABILITIES

9.1. The liability of a member of the association to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the association or the cost, charges and expenses of the winding up of the association is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid by the member in respect of membership of the association as required by Rule 8.

10. RESOLUTION OF INTERNAL DISPUTES

10.1. Disputes between members (in their capacity as members) of the association or between a member or members and the association shall be referred to the Disputes Committee in accordance with the Disputes and Discipline Procedure for resolution, except as otherwise provided for in these rules.

10.2. Disputes that are not resolved under that policy or these rules shall not be further referred to any external body.

11. DISCIPLINING OF MEMBERS

11.1. Where the committee receives a complaint (which shall be in the form, and accompanied by the fee, if any, prescribed by the committee) about the conduct of a member who -

11.1.1. has refused or neglected to comply with a provision or provisions of these rules;

11.1.2. has engaged in conduct likely to bring the association into disrepute; or

11.1.3. has wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the association,

or the committee otherwise considers that circumstances warrant referral, the committee may refer the matter to a Disputes Committee, which shall be constituted for that purpose in accordance with the Disputes and Discipline Procedure.

11.2. The Disputes Committee shall investigate the matter in accordance with the Disputes and Discipline Procedure and impose any sanction it considers warranted in the circumstances, including to -

11.2.1. expel a member from the association, or

11.2.2. suspend a member from membership of the association for a specified period and on such terms as it deems appropriate.

11.3. In the case of a determination of the Disputes Committee to expel or suspend a member under Rule 11.3.1 or 11.3.2 only -

11.3.1. the determination shall be taken, once made, to be a resolution of the committee; and

11.3.2. the secretary shall, within seven (7) days after the determination is made, by notice in writing inform the member of the outcome and of the member's right of appeal under Rule 12.

11.4. A resolution of the committee under Rule 11.3. does not take effect -

11.4.1. until the expiration of the period within which the member is entitled to appeal against the resolution concerned; or

11.4.2. if within that period the member exercises the right of appeal, unless and until the association confirms the resolution pursuant to Rule 12.

12. RIGHTS OF APPEAL OF DISCIPLINED MEMBER

12.1. A member may appeal to the association in a general meeting against a resolution of the committee under Rule 11.3, within seven (7) days after notice of the resolution is served on the member by lodging with the secretary a notice to that effect.

12.2. Upon receipt of a notice from a member under Rule 12.1., the secretary shall notify the committee which shall convene a general meeting of the association to be held within twenty eight (28) days after the date on which the secretary received the notice.

12.3. At a general meeting of the association convened under Rule 12.2. -

12.3.1. no business other than the question of the appeal shall be transacted;

12.3.2. the committee and the member shall be given the opportunity to state their respective cases orally or in writing, or both; and

12.3.3. the members present shall vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the resolution should be confirmed or revoked.

12.4. If at the general meeting the association, by simple majority of votes cast, votes in favour of the confirmation of the resolution, the resolution is confirmed. Otherwise, the resolution is revoked.

PART III

THE COMMITTEE

13. POWERS, ETC OF COMMITTEE

13.1. The committee shall be called the committee of management of the association and, subject to the Act, the Regulation and these rules and to any resolution passed by the association in general meeting –

13.1.1. shall control and manage the affairs of the association;

13.1.2. may exercise all such functions as may be exercised by the association other than those functions that are required by these rules to be exercised by a general meeting of members of the association;

13.1.3. has power to perform all such acts and do all such things as appear to the committee to be necessary or desirable for the proper management of the affairs of the association; and

13.1.4. has power to create and amend by-laws as required for the purpose of conducting shows, regulating breeding pursuits of members and other activities.

14. CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP

14.1. The committee shall consist of –

14.1.1. The office-bearers of the association; and

14.1.2. Ordinary member (1),

each of whom shall be elected at the annual general meeting of the association pursuant to Rule 15 (save that if the term of office of an office-bearer or ordinary member as set out in Rule 14.3 below is not due to expire at that annual general meeting, there shall be no election for that office in that year).

14.2. The office-bearers of the association shall be

14.2.1. the president;

14.2.2. the vice-president

14.2.3. the treasurer; and

14.2.4. the secretary.

14.3. Each member of the committee shall, subject to these rules, hold office for a two-year term expiring immediately before the second annual general meeting of the association following the date of their election as follows:

14.3.1. The President and Treasurer shall be elected in each year of an odd number commencing in 2023; and

14.3.2. the Vice-President, the Secretary and the ordinary member shall be elected in each year of even number (which shall include years ending in zero) commencing in 2022.

14.4. In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the membership of the committee, the committee may appoint a member of the association (not being a current member of the committee) to fill the vacancy and the member so appointed shall hold office, subject to these rules, until the annual general meeting next following the date of the appointment.

14.5. All committee members shall be, on the expiry of their term of office, eligible for re-election without restriction.

14.6. No committee member can hold more than one position on the committee at a time. However, there shall be no restriction on existing committee members being nominated as candidates for other committee positions.

14.7. Where, at a general meeting, a committee member, not being a member whose term of office is expiring at that meeting, is nominated and elected to a second committee position, that committee member shall be deemed to have resigned from their existing position and that position will be deemed a casual vacancy.

15. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

15.1. Nominations of candidates for election as office-bearers of the association or as an ordinary member of the committee –

15.1.1. shall be made in writing, signed by two (2) members of the association and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form and nomination); and

15.1.2. shall be delivered to the secretary of the association not less than seven (7) days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting at which the election is to take place.

15.2. If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the committee, the candidates nominated shall be deemed to be elected and further nominations shall be received at the annual general meeting.

15.3. If insufficient further nominations are received, any vacant positions remaining on the committee shall be deemed to be casual vacancies.

15.4. If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated shall be deemed to be elected.

15.5. If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot shall be held.

15.6. The ballot for the election of office-bearers and ordinary members of the committee shall be conducted at the annual general meeting in such usual and proper manner as the committee may direct.

15.7. A nomination of a candidate for election under this clause is not valid if that candidate has been nominated for election to another office at the same election.

15.8. A person nominated as a candidate for election must be a member of the association.

16. SECRETARY

16.1. The secretary of the association shall, as soon as practicable after being appointed as secretary, lodge notice with the association of his or her address.

16.2. It is the duty of the secretary to keep minutes (which may be kept electronically) of –

16.2.1. all appointments of office-bearers and members of the committee;

16.2.2. the names of members of the committee present at a committee meeting or a general meeting; and

16.2.3. all proceedings at committee meetings and general meetings.

16.3. Minutes of proceedings at a meeting shall be signed by the chairperson of the meeting or by the chairperson of the next succeeding meeting.

17. TREASURER

17.1. It is the duty of the treasurer of the association to ensure that –

17.1.1. all money due to the association is collected and received and that all payments authorized by the association are made; and

17.1.2. correct books and accounts are kept showing the financial affairs of the association including full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the association.

18. CASUAL VACANCIES

18.1. For the purpose of these rules, a casual vacancy in the office of a member of the committee occurs if the member -

18.1.1. dies;

18.1.2. ceases to be a member of the association;
18.1.3. is disqualified from managing a corporation under Part 2D.6 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth)
18.1.4. Resigns office by notice in writing given to the secretary.
18.1.5. Is removed from office under Rule 19.
18.1.6. becomes of unsound mind or a person whose person or estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under the law relating to mental health;
18.1.7. is convicted of an offence involving serious animal cruelty (howsoever described) for which the maximum penalty is not less than 3 years imprisonment;
18.1.8. is convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty for which the maximum penalty on conviction is not less than 3 months imprisonment; or
18.1.9. is absent without the consent of the committee from 3 consecutive meetings of the committee.

19. REMOVAL OF MEMBER

19.1. The association in a general meeting may by resolution remove any member of the committee from the office of member before the expiration of the member's term of office and may by resolution appoint another person to hold office until the expiration of the term of office of the member so removed.
19.2. Where a member of the committee to whom a proposed resolution referred to in Rule 19.1. relates makes representations in writing to the secretary or president (not exceeding a reasonable length) and requests that the representations be notified to the members of the association, the secretary or the president may send a copy of the representations to each member of the association or, if the representations are not so sent, the member is entitled to require that the representations be read out at the meeting at which the resolution is considered.

20. MEETINGS AND QUORUM

20.1. The committee shall meet at least three (3) times in each period of twelve (12) months at such place and time as the committee may determine.
20.2. Additional meetings of the committee may be convened by the president or by any member of the committee.
20.3. Oral or written notice of a meeting of the committee shall be given by the secretary to each member of the committee at least forty eight (48) hours (or such other period as may be unanimously agreed upon by the members of the committee) before the time appointed for the holding of the meeting.
20.4. Notice of a meeting given under Rule 20.3. shall specify the general nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting and no business other than that business shall be transacted at the meeting, except business which the committee members present at the meeting unanimously agree to treat as urgent business.
20.5. Any three (3) members of the committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the committee.
20.6. No business shall be transacted by the committee unless a quorum is present and if within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present the meeting stands adjourned to the same place and at the same hour of the same day in the following week.
20.7. If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting shall be dissolved.
20.8. At a meeting of the committee -
The president or, in the president's absence, the vice-president, shall preside; or
20.8.1. If the president and the vice-president are absent or unwilling to act such one of the remaining members of the committee as may be chosen by the members present at the meeting shall preside.
20.9. A committee meeting may be held at more than one location using any technology permitted by the committee, and a member of the committee that participates using such technology is taken to be present at the meeting and is entitled to vote as if they were present in person.

21. DELEGATION BY COMMITTEE TO SUB-COMMITTEE

21.1. The committee may, by instrument in writing, delegate to one or more sub-committees (consisting of such member or members of the association as the committee thinks fit) the exercise of such of the functions of the committee as are specified in the instrument, other than -
21.1.1. this power of delegations; and
21.1.2. a function which is duly imposed on the committee by the Act or by any other law.
21.2. A function the exercise of which has been delegated to a sub-committee under this rule may, while the delegation remains un-revoked, be exercised from time to time by the sub-committee in accordance with the terms of the delegation.
21.3. A delegation under this section may be made subject to such conditions or limitations as to the exercise of any function the subject thereof, or as to time or circumstances, as may be specified in the instrument of delegation.
21.4. Notwithstanding any delegation under this rule, the committee may continue to exercise any function delegated.
21.5. Any act or thing done or suffered by a sub-committee acting in the exercise of a delegation under this rule has the same force and effect as it would have if it had been done or suffered by the committee.
21.6. The committee may, by instrument in writing, revoke wholly or in part any delegation under this rule.
21.7. A sub-committee may meet and adjourn as it thinks proper.

22. VOTING AND DECISIONS

22.1. Questions arising at a meeting of the committee or of any sub-committee appointed by the committee shall be determined by a majority of the voles of members of the committee or sub-committee present at the meeting.
22.2. Each member present at a meeting of the committee or of any sub-committee appointed by the committee (including the person presiding at the meeting) is entitled to one vote but, in the advent of an equality of votes on any question, the person presiding may exercise a second or casting vote.
22.3. Subject to Rule 20.5., the committee may act notwithstanding any vacancy on the committee.
22.4. Any act or thing done or suffered, or purporting to have been done or suffered, by the committee or by a sub-committee appointed by the committee, is valid and effectual notwithstanding any defect that may afterwards be discovered in the appointment or qualification of any member of the committee or sub-committee.

PART IV

GENERAL MEETINGS

23. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS - HOLDING OF

23.1. With the exception of the first annual general meeting of the association, the association shall, at least once in each calendar year and within the period of six (6) months after the expiration of each financial year of the association, convene an annual general meeting of its members.
23.2. The association shall hold its first annual general meeting -
23.2.1. within the period of 18 months after its incorporation under the Act; and
23.2.2. within the period of six (6) months after the expiration of the first financial year of the association.

23.3. Rule 23.1. and 23.2. have effect subject to any extension or permission granted by the Commissioner under section 37 of the Act or as prescribed by the Regulations.

24. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS - CALLING OF AND BUSINESS AT

24.1. The annual general meeting of the association shall, subject to the Act and to Rule 23, be convened on such date and at such place and time as the committee thinks fit.

24.2. In addition to any other business which may be transacted at an annual general meeting, the business of an annual general meeting shall be -

24.2.1. to confirm the minutes of the last preceding annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since that meeting;

24.2.2. to receive from the committee reports upon the activities of the association during the last preceding financial year;

24.2.3. to elect office-bearers of the association and ordinary members of the committee; and

24.2.4. to receive and consider any financial statement or report required to be submitted to members pursuant to the Act; and

24.2.5. to elect Life Members.

24.3. An annual general meeting shall be specified as such in the notice convening it.

25. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS - CALLING OF

25.1. The committee may, whenever it thinks fit, convene a special general meeting of the association.

25.2. The committee shall, on requisition in writing of not less than 5% of the total number of members, convene a special general meeting of the association.

25.3. A requisition of members for a special general meeting may be lodged in electronic form and -

25.3.1. shall state the purpose or purposes of the meeting;

25.3.2. shall be signed by the members making the requisition;

25.3.3. shall be lodged with the secretary; and

25.3.4. may consist of several documents in a similar form, each signed by one or more of the members making the requisition.

25.4. If the committee fails to convene a special meeting to be held within one (1) month after the date on which a requisition of members for the meeting is lodged with the secretary, any one or more of the members who made the requisition may convene a special general meeting to be held not later than three (3) months after that date.

25.5. A special general meeting convened by a member or members as referred to in Rule 25.4., shall be convened as nearly as is practicable in the same manner as general meetings are convened by the committee.

26. NOTICE.

26.1. Except where the nature of the business proposed to be dealt with at a general meeting requires a special resolution of the association, the secretary shall, at least fourteen (14) days before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting, cause to be sent to each member a notice specifying the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting.

26.2. Where the nature of the business proposed to be dealt with at a general meeting requires a special resolution of the association, the secretary shall, at least twenty one (21) days before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting, cause notice to be sent to each member in the manner provided in Rule 26.1 specifying, in addition to the matter required under Rule 26.1., the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution.

26.3. No business other than that specified in the notice convening a general meeting shall be transacted at the meeting except, in the case of an annual general meeting, business which may be transacted pursuant to Rule 24.2.

26.4. A member desiring to bring any business before a general meeting may give notice in writing of that business to the secretary, who shall include that business in the next notice calling a general meeting given after receipt of the notice from the member.

27. PROCEDURE

27.1. No item of business shall be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members entitled under these rules to vote is present during the time the meeting is considering that item.

27.2. Five (5) members present in person (being members entitled under these rules to vote at a general meeting) constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting.

27.3. If within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of a general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting if convened upon the requisition of members shall be dissolved and in any other case shall stand adjourned to the same day in the following week at the time and (unless another place is specified at the time of the adjournment by the person presiding at the meeting or communicate by written notice to members given before the day to which the meeting is adjourned) at the same place.

27.4. If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting, the members present (being not less than 3) shall constitute a quorum.

27.5. A general meeting may be held at more than one location using any technology permitted by the committee, and a member of the association that participates using such technology is taken to be present at the meeting and is entitled to vote as if they were present in person.

28. PRESIDING MEMBER

28.1. The president or, in the president' absence the vice-president, shall preside as chairperson at each general meeting of the association.

28.2. If the president and the vice-president are absent from a general meeting or unwilling to act, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside as chairperson at the meeting.

29. ADJOURNMENT

29.1. The chairperson of a general meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of the majority of members present at the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting at which the adjournment took place.

29.2. Where a general meeting is adjourned for fourteen (14) days or more, the secretary shall give written or oral notice of the adjourned meeting to each member of the association stating the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.

29.3. Except as provided in Rule 29.1. and Rule 29.2., notice of an adjournment of a general meeting or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting is not required to be given.

30. MAKING OF DECISIONS

30.1. A question arising at general meeting of the association shall be determined on a show of hands and, unless before or on the declaration of the show of hands a poll is demanded, a declaration by the chairperson that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority or lost, or an entry to that effect in the minute book of the association, is evidence

of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against that resolution.

30.2. At a general meeting of the association, a poll may be demanded by the chairperson or by not less than three (3) members present in person or by proxy at the meeting.

30.3. Where a poll is demanded at a general meeting, the poll shall be taken -

30.3.1. immediately in the case of a poll which relates to the election of the chairperson of the meeting or to the question of an adjournment; or

30.3.2. in any other case, in such manner and at such time before the close of the meeting as the chairperson directs, and the resolution of the poll on the matter shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting on that matter.

31. SPECIAL RESOLUTION

31.1. A resolution of the association is a special resolution if it is supported by not less than three-quarters of such members of the association as, being entitled under these rules so to do, vote -

31.1.1. at a general meeting of which not less than twenty one (21) days written notice was given in accordance with these rules specifying the terms of the resolution and stating an intention to pass the resolution as a special resolution; or

31.1.2. in another matter as directed by the Commissioner.

32. VOTING

32.1. Upon any question arising at a general meeting of the association, a member has one vote only.

32.2. In the case of an equality of votes on a question at a general meeting, the chairperson of the meeting is entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.

32.3. A member is not entitled to vote at any general meeting of the association unless all money due and payable by the member to the association has been paid.

33. APPOINT OF PROXIES

33.1. Each member shall be entitled to appoint another member (who must also be entitled to vote at the meeting in respect of which they are to be appointed) as proxy by notice given to the secretary no later than 24 hours before the time of the meeting in respect of which the proxy is appointed

33.2. The notice appointing the proxy shall be in the form determined for that purpose by the committee.

33.3. No member shall hold more than five (5) proxies

PART V

MISCELLANEOUS

34. INSURANCE

34.1. The association may effect and maintain insurance.

35. FUNDS-SOURCE

35.1. The funds of the association shall be derived from entrance fees and annual subscription of members, donations and, subject to any resolution passed by the association in general meeting, such other sources as the committee determines.

35.2. All money received by the association shall be deposited as soon as practicable and without deduction to the credit of the association's bank account.

35.3. The association shall, as soon as practicable after receiving any money, issue an appropriate receipt.

36. FUNDS-MANAGEMENT

36.1. Subject to any resolution passed by the association in general meeting, the funds of the association shall be used in pursuance of the objects of the association in such manner as the committee determines.

36.2. All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments shall be signed by any 2 members of the committee or employees of the association, being members or employees authorized to do so by the committee.

37. ALTERATION OF OBJECTS AND RULES

37.1. The statement of objects and these rules may be altered, rescinded or added to only by a special resolution of the association.

38. COMMON SEAL

38.1. The common seal of the association shall be kept in the custody of the public officer.

38.2. The common seal shall not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of the committee and the affixing of the common seal shall be attested by the signatures either of 2 members of the committee or of 1 member of the committee and of the public officer or secretary.

39. CUSTODY OF BOOKS ETC

39.1. Except as otherwise provided by these rules, the public officer shall keep in his or her custody or under his or her control all records, books and other documents relating to the association.

40. INSPECTION OF BOOKS ETC

40.1. The records, books and other documents of the association shall be open to inspection, free of charge, by a member of the association of any reasonable hour.

40.2. The committee may refuse to allow a member to inspect or obtain a copy of a document under this clause:

40.2.1. that relates to confidential, personal, commercial, employment or legal matters, or

40.2.2. if the committee considers it would be prejudicial to the interests of the association for the mem ber to do so.

41. SERVICE OF NOTICES

41.1. For the purpose of these rules, a notice or other document which may be, or is required to be, served by or on behalf of the association or the committee upon any member, may be either personally or by sending it by post to the member at the member's address shown in the register of members or by sending it by any form of electronic transmission to an address specified by that member.

41.2. Where a document is sent to a person by properly addressing, prepaying and posting to the person a letter containing the document, the document shall unless the contrary is proved, be deemed for the purposes of these rules to have been served on the person at the time at which the letter would have been delivered in the ordinary course of post.

41.3. Where a document is sent to a person by any form of electronic transmission, the document shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed for the purposes of these rules to have been served on the person on the date it was sent.

PART VI

OPERATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

42. Name of Association

42.1. The association will be known as Australian National Cats (ANCATS) Inc.

43. Object of the Association and Mission Statement

43.1. To be a totally professional organisation focussed on providing quality in all services and products to cat owners, breeders and exhibitors in a clear and transparent manner.
43.2. To be responsive to the needs of all cats, their owners, breeders and exhibitors.
43.3. To provide quality show systems, registrations and information, and share knowledge in an environment that promotes friendly relations between its members and cat fanciers around the world.
43.4. To act with integrity honesty and respect.

44. Rules & Regulations

44.1. The committee may, in its absolute discretion, create the following by-laws:
44.1.1. the *Show Rules and Regulations;*
44.1.2. the *Breeders' Code of Ethics*;
44.1.3. the *Judges' Code of Ethics*;
44.1.4. the *Disputes and Discipline Procedure*;
44.1.5. the *Procedure for the Registration of Cats*;
44.1.6. the *Members' Code of Ethics*.
44.2. The Disputes and Discipline Procedure shall provide *inter alia* for a member's right to be heard and a right of appeal to an Appeal Committee.
44.3. All members of the association, as a condition of membership, are bound by, and must adhere to, the these by-laws.
44.4. Breach of these by-laws by a member shall render the member liable to the disciplinary procedure in Rule 11.
44.5. The committee may alter, rescind or revoke these by-laws from time to time as it sees fit.

45. Membership Categories:

45.1. **Full Membership**

Any person admitted to membership of the association shall be considered a full member of the association with all the rights, privileges and obligations pertaining thereto, unless another category of membership below applies to that person.

45.2. **Junior Membership**

Any person under the age of 18 years, with parental/guardian consent may be admitted to membership of the association as per these Rules, but shall not be entitled to vote at any general meeting of the association, nor be eligible to be elected to the committee until such time as they attain the age of 18 years.

45.3. **Foundation Membership**

45.3.1. Any person who is a financial member of the association prior to December 1997 shall be called a Foundation Member and shall be entitled to use that title.
45.3.2. Founding Membership carries no other additional rights, and shall otherwise be considered for the purposes of these rules a full member of the association.

45.4. **Honorary Membership**

45.4.1. Any person nominated by the committee or approved by resolution of members at an Annual General Meeting, may be appointed to the position as Honorary Member.
45.4.2. An Honorary Member shall not be entitled to vote at general meetings and shall not be eligible to be elected to the committee, but shall otherwise have all rights and privileges of a full member of the association.
45.4.3. An Honorary Member shall not be subject to any member obligation under Rule 8.

45.5. **Life Membership**

45.5.1. Life membership can be conferred upon any Full Member of the association.
45.5.2. A Life Member shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of a full member of the association, but shall not be subject to any member obligation under Rule 8.
45.5.3. Nomination for Life Members will only be considered as in Rule 24.2., at an annual general meeting.
45.5.4. Any five (5) full members, or the committee, may nominate a person for Life Membership by completing the Life Membership Nomination Form.
45.5.5. A resolution for Life Membership must be passed as a special resolution.

45.6. **Patron**

45.6.1. The committee may at its discretion appoint a maximum of two (2) patrons.
45.6.2. Recommendations will be received by the committee for the recommendation of a patron.
45.6.3. A patron is a recognized citizen or corporation who will support and enhance the association and its mission statement.

46. Affiliates

46.1. The committee may, in its absolute discretion, accept an application to be an affiliate organisation of the association from an incorporated entity, whether in Australia or otherwise, that has cat-related activities as one of its principal objects.
46.2. Such an entity shall be referred to as an "Affiliate" of the association and shall be entitled to hold itself out as such.
46.3. The affiliation may be on such terms as the committee thinks fit, and the committee may grant the Affiliate any other rights and privileges as it sees fit, save as prohibited under this Rule.
46.4. The committee may, in its absolute discretion, charge any fee or levy as a condition of affiliation.
46.5. The organisation's affiliation shall remain current until such time, and for such period, as the committee determines, in its absolute discretion.
46.6. An Affiliate must not act contrary to the interests of the association nor, by its conduct or that of its members, bring the association into disrepute.
46.7. An Affiliate may be represented at a general meeting of the association, but shall not be entitled to a vote at general meetings, shall not be taken to be a member of the association and shall not be entitled to any other rights or privileges of a member.

47. State Co-ordinators

47.1. The committee may, in its absolute discretion, appoint a co-ordinator to represent each Australian State or Territory, and the person so appointed shall hold that office only as long as the committee requires.
47.2. For the purposes of such appointments, all members of the association are to be allocated to an Australian State or Territory according to their address on the membership register.
47.3. A State Co-ordinator may attend meetings of the committee as required, but will not act as a member of the committee and shall not be entitled to vote at committee meetings.

47.4. A State Co-ordinator is to represent the interests of members of the region to which he or she has been appointed.

48. Products & Services

48.1. The association will from time to time cause to be conducted services such as:

48.1.1. Judges Courses
48.1.2. Stewards Courses
48.1.3. Cattery of Excellence Program
48.1.4. Marketing
48.1.5. Seminars
48.1.6. Veterinary Advice Panel
48.1.7. Internet Site
48.1.8. Registration and pedigrees

48.2. The association may provide other products or services that are in keeping with the mission statement of the association and all official publications as developed or approved by the committee in relation to the products and services will be considered to be part of these rules and regulations.

49. Confidentiality

49.1. The committee has the right, whilst negotiating contracts or offers withhold names, documents, or any other relevant item pertaining to the negotiation of firm(s)/trade/sponsor(s) or other individuals or groups that are deemed “confidential” from time to time until that firm(s)/trade(s)/sponsor(s) or other individual or group has accepted or rejected the offer or negotiation.

49.2. It is deemed that confidentially when negotiations are in place with a firm(s)/trade(s)/sponsor(s) or other individual or group is essential to avoid conflict with other organizations that may prejudice or benefit directly from the negotiations of this association.

50. ANCATS Affiliation

50.1. The association may from time to time affiliate with world cat organisations.

50.2. The committee shall appoint from the committee delegate/s to attend any national or international meetings relevant to any affiliations. Expenses incurred by these delegates during the course of their official duties will be met by the association and all receipts are to be tabled with the Treasurer within seven days of return.

51. Association is non-profit

51.1. Subject to the Act and the Regulation, the association must apply its funds and assets solely in pursuance of the objects of the association and must not conduct its affairs so as to provide a pecuniary gain for any of its members.

52. Distribution of property on winding up of the association

52.1. Subject to the Act and the Regulation, in a winding up of the association, any surplus property of the association is to be transferred to another organisation with similar objects and which is not carried on for the profit or gain of its members.

52.2. In this rule, a reference to the surplus property of the association is a reference to that property of the association remaining after satisfaction of the debts and liabilities of the association and the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the association.