

ARTICLE XIV -- DISCIPLINE

Section 1. Power to discipline.

The Executive Board shall have the sole power and jurisdiction to discipline any member club, individual member, judge, clerk, show official, exhibitor, breeder, or any other person who participates in a Federation sanctioned show, has a cattery registered with the Federation, or who otherwise, by his actions, is subject to the Constitution, By-laws, Show Rules or any other rule, regulation or responsibility of or to the Federation.

Section 2. Conduct Subject to Discipline.

Disciplinary action may be taken against any person, club, or entity enumerated in Section 1 hereof as being subject to disciplinary action for:

- a) the violation of any provision of the Constitution, By-laws, Show Rules or any other regulation of the Federation.
- b) misappropriation or misuse of funds, or other property, of the Federation or a member club.
- c) willful misrepresentation in the registration of a cat, kitten or litter (registration to be construed as to include any action that requires notice to the Office of the Recorder and/or the issuance of any document by the Recorder).
- d) any other conduct which is detrimental to the best interest of the Federation.

Section 3. Form of Protest.

A Protest seeking disciplinary action be taken against any person or entity subject thereto shall be in writing and contain (1) a short and plain statement of the alleged misconduct, and (2) a demand for the disciplinary action sought.

Section 4. Filing of Protest.

Any member club or individual member may commence a Protest by the filing, with the Chairman of the Protest Committee, within thirty (30) days after the occurrence of the conduct or act which is the subject of such Protest, the following:

- a) an original and ten (10) copies of the Protest;
- b) an original and ten (10) copies of supporting affidavit or affidavits setting forth specific facts sufficient to warrant the requested disciplinary action, which affidavit shall be upon the affiant's own knowledge, information and belief; and, so far as upon information and belief, shall state that he believes the same to be true; and,
- c) a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) deposit, which shall, after the Protest, be returned unless the Protest results in a final determination of no probable cause, the person charged is found not guilty of all charges, or the Protest is terminated prior to a final disposition by the Executive Board, in which cases the deposit shall become the property of CFF.

Such filing shall be complete upon actual receipt by the Chairman.

Section 5. On Motion of Executive Board.

The Executive Board upon its own motion may hear and determine charges against any party or entity which, in accordance with Section 1 hereof, is subject to disciplinary proceedings. In such cases the hearing of the Protest shall be exempt from the provisions of Sections 4 and 6 of this Article XIV.

Section 6. Probable Cause.

The Protest Committee shall consider and investigate each Protest for the purpose of determining if probable cause exists for citing the offending party for a disciplinary hearing. If the Committee makes a determination of probable cause, the Protest shall proceed to a hearing as outlined in Section 7 below.

At each meeting of the Executive Board, the Protest Committee shall, in executive session, report to the Board on each Protest it has considered, on which it has not made a finding of probable cause. Such report, which shall not be binding upon the Board, shall briefly state the Committee's findings and contain resolutions to the Board regarding its recommendations. A separate report shall be made for each protest.

Section 7. Hearing Procedure.

If the Protest Committee or the Executive Board makes a finding of probable cause on a Protest, the Chairman of the Protest Committee shall, within ten (10) days of such finding and no less than thirty (30) days prior to the hearing thereon, send to the charged party, by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, written notice thereof, including notice that a hearing will be held and also including copies of the Protest and supporting affidavits. Such notice shall be considered properly given if sent to such address as is on record with the Federation as the address of such party's cattery, or if no cattery is registered to such party, to the most recent address as shown on any Federation record of such party.

The party accused may, but need not, within twenty (20) days after the receipt of such notice, file, with the Chairman of the Protest Committee, a written response to the Protest, which Response shall contain a certification that a copy thereof has been sent by first class mail, postage prepaid to all other parties to the Protest. Such filing is to be considered complete upon receipt by such Chairman.

The hearing shall be held before a hearing panel consisting of five (5) members of the Protest Committee and the Parliamentarian who shall be a non-voting member. The hearing panel shall include the Chairman of the Protest Committee, who shall chair the panel, two (2) Committee members selected by the person or entity who filed the protest, and two (2) Committee members selected by the person or entity against whom the protest was filed. If either fails to so choose two (2) members, the Chairman shall choose such members as are needed to complete the panel. At such hearing a party may present witnesses and may cross-examine any other party's witnesses.

No Committee member who is a party to a Protest, a member of a club that is a party to a Protest, is so closely related to any controversy or party in interest thereto as to affect his judgement thereon, or otherwise has an interest in the outcome of a Protest shall participate in the consideration of any Protest or hearing.

At the Executive Board meeting next following the hearing, the Protest Committee shall, in executive session, report to the Board the result of such hearing. Such report, which shall be presented orally only, shall include, without limitation, a synopsis of the written Protest and Response (if any), the Committee's findings and resolutions covering the disciplinary action it recommends to the Board.

The accused party shall then be allowed to make a statement to the Board, the Committee being allowed to reply. The accused and all other parties in interest to the protest shall retire from the meeting as the Board acts upon the resolutions submitted by the Committee. (It should be noted that a report of a committee or its resolutions may, prior to its adoption, be debated and amended by the Board).

In preparing the minutes relative to such report, hearing and vote, the Recording Secretary shall record only the names of the parties and the final action taken by the Executive Board. No report of the Committee, or discussions, deliberations or voting by the Executive Board in regard to a Protest, shall be tape recorded or otherwise transcribed or reproduced.

Section 8. Permitted Sanctions.

Upon a finding of guilty, the Executive Board may punish any offending party by the imposition of a reprimand, suspension, expulsion; suspension of any or all membership privileges and/or services; suspension or termination of the party's right to exhibit, judge, clerk or act in any official capacity at any show sanctioned by the Federation; or by the revocation or amendment of awards. The punishment of expulsion from the Federation shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote. All other punishments may be imposed by a simple majority.

The Chairman of the Protest Committee shall monitor fulfillment of punishment. Failure to complete punishment within two (2) years of the verdict shall result in automatic expulsion from CFF.

Section 9. Place or Time of Hearings.

There shall be no discipline hearings or related actions held on the premises of a cat show during show hours.