

Introduction To The Breed Standards Council

Welcome to the BSC! Here is some information that may be helpful to you as a new member.

BSC Business

Our two main areas of responsibility are evaluating and approving (or not) experimental breeding programmes, and maintaining, updating, and considering proposed changes to the standards of points for each breed. We also consider applications for acceptance of new breeds (breeds new to New Zealand, new colours or traits in an existing breed, or occasionally a completely new breed developed here in New Zealand.). And we oversee the breed sections – the chair appoints breed reps if no-one is nominated or if someone resigns.

We are still working out some procedural issues in relation to our responsibilities.

The BSC Email Group

Most of our business is carried out by email, although we can meet in person once a year (more often if we can make a good case and the NZCF can afford it). The membership of our email group is as follows:

1. All current members of the Breed Standards Council
2. The BSC chair (the Breed Standards Council portfolio holder on the Executive Council) – Zena Pigden
3. The chair of the EC (Dara Robbins)
4. The IT Portfolio holder (Peter Hanley) who is the owner of all official NZCF email groups
5. The Registrations portfolio holder (Bill Gunn) who is the buddy of the BSC portfolio holder and follows BSC activity so that in the event of an emergency they will be aware of what has been going on.
6. The LH registrar (Annette Dunn) and the SH registrar (Michelle McGrath) and the Provisional registrar (Avon Aspden), who is also our secretary.
7. The Standards of Points Officer – Raylene Finch.
8. Joan Hill – a wonderful resource due to her longtime involvement with the NZCF

The EC chair, the Registrations portfolio holder, and the IT portfolio holder are normally silent guests on the list unless they have a specific question or contribution relevant to the discussion.

How We Operate

Generally when a new issue arises, the chair or the secretary will post an email to the group about the issue. (However any member can raise an issue that has come to their

attention and comes under our responsibilities). Breeding programmes are circulated in hard copy to all BSC members and the SH/LH registrars, and the chair posts an email summary of the programme to the list to start discussion.

Discussion will then continue for a couple of weeks. ALL members of the group are expected to contribute, but it is OK to say that you are not sure, to ask questions (there is no such thing as a stupid question) or contribute ideas without committing to being 'for' or 'against' whatever the item under discussion is. At the point when a decision needs to be made the chair will indicate a deadline and if you have not responded by then, a decision will be made on the basis of those replies that have come in.

While the outcome of discussions is included in the report from the BSC chair to the EC, the content of discussions is confidential and so are the details of breeding programmes submitted to us.

Our decisions about breeding programmes do not have to go to the EC for approval (unless we are unable to arrive at a majority decision), but any standards changes, new breeds approvals, or new colours in existing breeds approvals go to the EC as a recommendation. Our recommendations are usually accepted! If an applicant is not happy about the outcome of a breeding programme application, they can appeal to the EC.

Discussion is welcome and disagreement is allowed. We don't all agree on every issue and it is far better for members to speak up and have open debate than to feel at odds with the expressed opinions but say nothing.

Personal attacks on other members are not allowed.

Breed Sections

Requests for standards changes will usually come via a breed rep. At some point in the process the breed section MUST be consulted on such changes. The consultation is not binding, but we would need a good reason for disregarding a majority opinion, especially if a good proportion of the breed section have voted. There is an education pack for breed reps. In deciding whether to recommend a change or not we also take into account overseas practice, especially in the country of origin of a breed. All recommended changes must go the EC for approval

Annual Meeting

There is provision in the constitution for us to meet once a year and our expenses are met by the NZCF. The face to face meeting is usually very productive. The location is selected according to what will work best for the BSC members at the time (including our secretary).

BSC Portfolio Reports

The BSC Portfolio holder is required to provide a report to each EC meeting and to the AGM. The EC meeting reports usually need to be in about two weeks before the meeting. Reports are cc'd to the BSC list and any alterations or late additions can be brought to the EC meeting.

Elected and Appointed Positions

The BSC normally has three elected positions. Further appointments are made by the EC to ensure balance, and that the requirements of the constitution are met (the BSC must include a genetics advisor, a longhair judge and a shorthair judge). Appointments are usually made at the December EC meeting, but may be made at any time of the year. All appointments are reviewed annually.

If an elected member resigns before their term is up, a replacement is appointed to take their place until their term is complete, when an election is held.

Issues and Concerns

If any member has any concern about the way the BSC is operating, they should raise it privately (in the first instance) with the BSC chair. If they are not happy with the outcome, they may raise it on the BSC list.