

Minutes of the Cavy Section meeting in Pula / Croatia on 2nd. May 2008

1. Welcome and Opening

Evelyne van Vliet opened the meeting at 8.23am and welcomed all delegates, especially our „new“ ones: Tatyana Ostashevich from Russia and Claude Brigelhuber from France, whose associations would be affiliated at the AGM. Also Co Korsuize, the successor of Gerrit Grooten from Holland and Petr Tejml, replacing Jitka Rudolfova, who was ill. Gaby Prust had retired, leaving the section without a secretary. Priska Küng volunteered to write the minutes for 2008.

Evelyne hoped for a constructive meeting and asked the delegates for their input and ideas, not just at this meeting, but also throughout the year.

2. Recording attendance



The whole „European cavy team“ pictured on the sunny terrace of the conference hotel

Evelyne van Vliet, England; Helmut Sakac, Austria; Tatyana Ostashevich, Russia; Petr Tejml, Czech Republic; Claude Brigelhuber, France; Lena Tysk, Sweden; Co Korsuize, Holland; Flor Dickens, Belgium and Priska Küng, Switzerland.

Guests included Joseph Rey-Bellet from the Animal Health and Welfare Sub Committee and later on briefly EE-President Urs Freiburghaus.

Apologies for absence were received from Germany, Portugal and Slovenia.

3. Minutes of the last section meeting in Piestany/SK on 18. May 2007

All delegates had received these minutes per email in the last 12 months and thus were taken as read. There were no questions or remarks.

Our thanks go to Gaby for compiling these minutes – we hope to „meet up with you soon again“!

4. Vacancy for Section Secretary's post through Gaby Prust's retirement

Gaby took a decision earlier this year to retire from the MFD Committee and therefore will no longer be delegated to the EE conventions.

She will be sorely missed because of her extraordinary qualities, her versatility and her never ceasing support to Evelyne. Gaby will probably attend the European Show in Twello, where we will hopefully be able to say goodbye to her properly.

We were therefore faced with a vacancy for secretary, but as there are section elections on the 2009 agenda, it was decided to leave the post open until next year. Priska kindly offered to write the minutes for this year.

4b. Infos from the Sub Committee by Joseph Rey-Bellet

Joseph Rey-Bellet was pleased that he was given the opportunity to attend our section meeting. He apologised for Prof. Schille's absence, but unfortunately he cannot be present at all meetings at the same time. The Sub Committee for Animal Health and Welfare currently consists of 3 members, but a new recruit from Holland had been found for next year.

Information from affiliated countries: Germany is currently heavily researching Enterocolitis.

A brochure has been published by the European Union Committee, called „New Animal Health Strategy for the European Union“ (Motto: Prevention is the best Medicine). The EE will participate in this project.

Dr. Rey-Bellet further informed our delegates about the EE presentation in the lobby of the European Parliament in Brussels in April of this year.

5. Correspondence and Information

Emails surrounding Gaby's retirement took up a lot of time.

A letter was received from Gerrit Grooten in which he announced his retirement as Standards Committee member as well as delegate.

Contacts have been made with Spain; a good cavy fancy is building up in that country. They have expressed their interest in affiliation to the EE. Unfortunately, there are currently 3 cavy clubs in Spain.

6. Reports of the Executive Meetings of 09.02.2008 and 1.05.2008

The situation, that in certain countries there are more than 1 club per section, was already briefly discussed at the February meeting. The EE Constitution forbids us to affiliate more than 1 association per section per country. In Serbia and Spain there are more than 1 association, that will never amalgamate. The Spanish (poultry and pigeons) pay their fees annually, but never attend the EE conventions or take part in any of the European shows. A second association has recently been formed which is extremely active, but in line with the current EE Constitution cannot obtain EE membership.

The Executive would like to amend the Constitution in such a way that it is possible for a maximum of 2 associations from any one section and country to affiliate to the EE. Each section per country would in future have 2 votes at the AGM and those countries that have 2 associations per section affiliated, receive 1 vote each. There will be a trial period of 6 years in which the association has to prove to be active (participation in EE conventions and European Shows). Each association pays the full annual affiliation fees.

Problems in Denmark (using German judges at their shows that are not officially judges) and Austria (a pigeon fancier in Vienna has formed a breed club).

Propositions for affiliation had been received from: Russia; rabbits and cavies, France cavies, Bulgaria pigeons and Rumania rabbits.

Closed rings: all affiliated countries use closed rings that do not only carry the country code but also the EE logo. Only birds (poultry, pigeons, waterfowl and cage birds) with the official EE rings will in future be judged at national and international shows. This new rule applies from 2009 onwards.

Claude remarked on the identification of cavies (and other small rodents) in France and Belgium - only show animals carry the ear tags. The same applies to Austria. The majority of countries are, however, vehemently against ear tags, because of the great risk of torn ears. A lengthy discussion evolved on this topic. Helmut remarked that the EE Rules and Regulations stipulate that only exhibits with identification are allowed to be shown. It was decided unanimously that cavies can be shown at European shows with or without ear tags. Lena objected by saying that: if in a certain country ear tags for cavies are obligatory, then only ear tagged exhibits should be allowed at our shows from such a country. Final decision: the EE cannot interfere in the domestic rules of its affiliated countries and will therefore accept cavies at their shows with or without ear tags, irrespective of their origin.

Further information from the Executive meeting, held the previous day, included: Urs Freiburghaus and Prof. Dr. J. Schille were invited to attend an agricultural fair in Barcelona, where this year the major theme was small livestock. They both gave talks about the EE and the Sub Committee for Animal Health and Welfare.

Future conventions:

2011 -Italy had to withdraw its proposal to host the convention; Hungary will most likely host us that year in Budapest.

2012 -Spain (of all countries! –the association that is very in-active. The venue has been changed 3 times already in one year (Madrid, Toledo, Bilbao). If no progress is made soon, the other association has offered to host the event in the Balearics.

European Show 2012: organised in Nürnberg by the pigeon and poultry association of Nürnberg and the rabbit association of Bavaria has not been confirmed yet. If not, Leipzig have already offered.

The show contracts between the EE and the show organisers of Nitra were to be officially signed that afternoon.

6b. Information by the EE-President

Urs Freiburghaus thanked the cavy section for all their hard work, which had not been easy in the last few years. We are still a smaller section, but more and more countries are lining up for affiliation. The publication of the European Cavy Standard is a great achievement.

The President had already started to promote the European Show in Nitra. Terms are being formulated to ensure a larger cavy entry, e.g. lower entry fees. He urged all delegates to start promoting this show in their countries from now on. The aim is for 20.000 exhibits in general and around 300 cavies in particular. All penning will be single tier, as there is plenty of space in Nitra.

7. Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of Saturday 3rd. May 2008

No special items with regard to cavies. There are no nominees for the elections. Proposals from 2 countries for affiliation to the EE cavy section.

8. Report of the Standards Committee Meeting

There were only 3 members present the previous day through the resignations of Gerrit and Gaby. The Committee comprised Helmut Sakac, Evelyne van Vliet and Flor Dickens at the moment. Helmut had written the minutes.

A letter had been received from Sweden, proposing Lena Tysk for one of the vacancies. A vote was held and Lena was elected unanimously.

The secretary's post in the Standards Committee will also be dealt with in 2009, when the Committee is complete again.

The second vacancy will hopefully be filled in 2009. Evelyne asked those countries without representation in the Standards Committee to consider nominating a candidate –all nominations to reach Evelyne by 31st. March 2009.

9. European Standard

Which breeds, not yet included in the European standard, had been standardised in the affiliated countries in the last 12 months?

Czech Republic: Lunkarya (also in Satin) and Icecream (PE Cream)

Sweden: Lunkarya, Harlequin and Lemon (PE Cream)

Germany: Lunkarya, Icecream??

The Czech Republic and Sweden have recognised the Skinnies and Baldwins –these will, however, never be accepted in the European standard (as well as the Cuys).

It was decided to publish a list of Guidestandard- and Unstandardised breeds on the EE homepage, as well as a complete list of all fully standardised breeds.

Some delegates had already taken possession of the new European standard, others received their pre-ordered copies now. 180 copies had been printed of which 146 had been pre-ordered. Further copies can be printed by Heinz Stephani in small batches. Production costs were €13 and purchase price €25, as per meeting agreement.

Claude offered to translate the standards into French and requested that someone would check his french version upon completion. This will either be done by Flor Dickens or the french-speaking members in Switzerland.

10. Affiliation of new members

A slight error had occurred on the agenda: it is not the section that confirms affiliation of new member states, but the AGM. So, from next year onwards, the item will say: „Discussion about the Affiliation of New Members“.

France: an association for pets had been re-organised into an association for purebred caviae. ARSF was formed in 2006. There are more than 1 association in France; these had now merged into a new umbrella organisation at the end of 2007 and comprise around 70 members.



Our „2 new delegates“: Claude Brigelhuber (France) and Tatyana Ostashevich (Russia)

Russia: the cavy association had been formed 1 year ago, although cavies have been bred and shown for a number of years. There are 300 members, who attend around 9 or 10 shows a year.

11. EE Judges Training

1. From 2009 onwards, Judges' Seminars will be held annually for fully qualified judges (just like in the other sections). Only judges that have attended these seminars are eligible to judge at forthcoming European shows in an effort to secure uniformity amongst judges at the shows.

2. Training courses will be organised for new judges; e.g. from those countries where there are no judges as yet.

Financial help will be offered from the sale of the standard books.

The third weekend in March was chosen as the annual date for the Judges' Seminars. 2009: Flor will try and organise the first seminar in Retie (Belgium, near the Dutch border).

Each affiliated country will delegate 2 judges to the seminar for a start. Expenses will be paid by the cavy section and the national association in equal measures. The theme for 2009 will be „Longhaired Breeds“ and, if possible, longhaired cavies should be brought along from all participating countries. The 2009 seminar will be fronted by Lena Tysk and possibly Jens Lindgren from Sweden.

Training course for new, prospective judges: written courses should be made available. All affiliated countries are requested to submit any written judges' courses. Judges will be trained in three tiers: C-judges are judges, who have passed one section successfully (i.e. smooth-, rough- or long coated section); B-judges who have passed two sections successfully and A-judges, who are fully qualified.

Trainee judges may attend all Judges' Seminars. Also any shows where EE qualified judges are officiating, where they could possibly do their practical exams.

12. European show to be held in Nitra/SK in November 2009

Comment by Helmut as regards the catalogue: the cavies should be listed entirely separately from the rabbits. Perhaps the cavies should be administered by means of a separate computer programme. As the cavy section had always fallen short of good administration at the last few

European shows; it was decided to run the cavy entry at future European shows under its own banner, just like the cage bird section had done in Leipzig.

There are no cavy fanciers in Slovakia, but the Czech association would be willing to run the cavy side; they have a show programme. A team from the Czech Republic as well as from Sweden would be guaranteed to look after the cavy entry for the duration of the show.

Evelyne has a checklist for European shows –this will be discussed at next year's meeting and amended where necessary.

A further item of discussion will be: which breeds are allowed to have various colours in one collection.

Mention should be made in the Show Rules about the identification of cavies.

Tatiana asked whether it was permissible to exhibit breeds that are not as yet recognised in the European Standard, e.g. Lunkaryas. It looks as though the Lunkarya is fully standardised in 3 affiliated countries, so these will be standardised in the European Standard in 2009. Breeds that are not listed in the European Standard, can nevertheless be entered at any European show, as long as a guide standard is included with the entry.

Petr has contacts with cavy fanciers in Poland and Hungary; he was asked to contact these people and invite them to come and show at the European show in Nitra.

13. Discussing the rules for organising Breed Specific European Shows for cavies

This item was postponed to 2009, as there will be a better discussion based on the hands-on experiences of the 2008 show.

14. European Show for smooth-coated cavies in Apeldoorn/NL on 7/8 June 2008

Last Friday was entry closing date for all foreign exhibitors; so far 25 exhibitors had entered 140 cavies from 8 countries; i.e. Switzerland, England, Germany, Spain, Portugal, France, Belgium and the Czech Republic.

The entry for Dutch exhibitors would close on 10th. May.

All specials had been ordered.

15. Information by the 'Internet' Sub Committee

International Show calendar: all dates of the most important shows for the next 12 months should be sent to Evelyne by 1st. July 2008 at the latest.

Further ideas for the Homepage?

E.g. Reports of shows (European Show and the big national shows)

International Judges' List: Mutations to send to Evelyne by 1st. July 2008 at the latest.

Email addresses of the contact persons of all countries.

16. Diseases

Osteodystrophy in Satins is being researched by the veterinary department at the university of Copenhagen. An article has been published in many cavy related publications accompanied by questionnaires. We are awaiting the results shortly.

In Finland, fanciers are now prohibited from keeping Satins.

17. Animal Welfare issues

New animal welfare regulations had been drawn up in Switzerland which are coming into force on 1st. September 2008 (0.5 m² for 2 cavies, for every other cavy an extra 0.2 m²).

Sweden: New legislation since 1st. September 2007 (0.3 m² for the first 2 cavies, for every other cavy an additional 0.15 m²).

18. Suggestions and Requests

None.

19. Any other business

A glossary of cavy terms and words had been prepared by Claude and was distributed to all delegates, who in turn should fill in all the gaps in their own language. Claude will collect all the forms at a later date.

Evelyne closed the meeting at 3.48pm. She thanked all for the constructive meeting and is looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the Breed-specific European Show in Holland.



Pula, 2.5.2008

Priska KÜng