

Minutes of the Section Meeting Small Rodents of May 14th. 1999, 8.00am in Hotel Benczur in Budapest, Hungary

Attendance:	According to attached sheet
Apologies for Absence:	Samuel Boucher, France & Representative of Belgium
Chair:	Evelyne van Vliet, England
Minutes Secretary:	Trudi Binz, Switzerland

Agenda:

1. Opening
2. Recording Attendance
3. Minutes of the last section meeting in Erfurt of May 22nd. 1998
4. European Show in Brünn of November 20th. - 22nd.1998
5. New members - how to activate and help
6. Existing members - how to activate and help
7. Expanding the section Small Rodents?
8. Standards Committee and their job description
9. European Cavy Standard
10. European Judges' List
11. European Cavy Magazines
12. Report of Executive Meeting of May 13th. 1999
13. Annual General Meeting of Saturday May 15th. 1999
14. Animal Welfare
15. Ideas and Suggestions
16. Any Other Business

1. Opening

The Chair, Evelyne van Vliet, welcomed all delegates at 8.10am to the meeting of the section Small Rodents and asked each in turn to introduce themselves briefly.

Switzerland: Trudi Binz President of the Swiss Cavy Society

Switzerland: Martin Zaugg Secretary of the Swiss Cavy Society

Germany: Gerd Lang President of the German Cavy Society

Austria: Fritz Marhann Head of the Austrian Cavy section within the Federal Association

Holland: Rene Hut Secretary of the Dutch Rabbit Association

She also welcomed, as special guests, Mrs. Therese Tompers from Luxembourg, who informed the meeting that a cavy section had been started in Luxembourg early 1999; we hope to be able to welcome an official Rep. next year. Our second guest was Mr. Istvan Siklosi from Hungary, who expressed an increasing interest in cavies in Hungary.

2. Attendance

Six delegates from 5 countries were present, see attached sheet.

Belgium should technically have been represented as well, but for the fact that a brand new Executive had been installed recently and they needed a bit more time to get organised. Their Rep. assured the attendants that they will be represented as from next year.

Apologies from Samuel Boucher, France.

3. Minutes of the last section meeting of May 22nd. 1998

The minutes were approved as read by the meeting having been sent in September.

4. European Show in Brunn of November 20th. 1998

A good number of 176 cavies at this show, 110 from the Czech Republic, 36 from Austria, 16 from Germany and 14 from Switzerland. All were judged over two days by Evelyne van Vliet, who also judged the 20 gerbils. Trudi Binz assisted as her book steward. After judging was completed both ladies talked to some of the Czech exhibitors who confessed that most exhibits were not purebreds. Static lice and running lice and general lack of condition was rife amongst a lot of exhibits.

We have learned from this show that the enthusiasm to breed and show cavies does exist in many countries, but that a lot has to be learned as regards husbandry and daily care.

There were problems with food for the cavies. Despite promises at last year's meeting that greens and roots would be available, we found out upon arrival that this was not the case. Trudi Binz suggested to prepare a list of greens and roots that need to be available for the cavies at European Shows and that this list is sent to every organisation of a European Show, to make sure that the correct food is available in plentiful supply; irrelevant whether the organisation in question has experience with Cavies.

5. New members -how to activate and help?

Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovenia are showing interest in purebred stock. These countries need help in obtaining sound breeding stock and also as much information as possible with regard to the upkeep and showing of Cavies. To this effect Evelyne van Vliet suggests to produce a booklet within the section in three languages including the following items:

- A. Feedstuffs
- B. General Husbandry and Maintenance
- C. Show Preparation
- D. Ailments, Illnesses and their Cure
- E. Line Breeding
- F. List of Books and professional Literature concerning Cavies

Fritz Marhann suggested that this booklet is better put together by experienced breeders such as Evelyne van Vliet and Trudi Binz. It was decided that Evelyne and Trudi will make a start on this booklet and a draft will be presented to the section next year and enlarged upon. Hopefully the booklet will be ready in time for the European Show in Wels in December 2000.

6. Existing members -how to activate and help?

The Executives of affiliated countries offered their help re. breeding stock, help and information to other countries making a start with breeding and showing cavies. They are prepared to organise and export sound breeding stock, should the need arise. All enquiries and deals to go via Evelyne van Vliet, who will liaise with the national Executives in an effort to avoid situations where enthusiastic, novice fanciers fall victim to individuals.

7. Expanding the Section Small Rodents?

The cavy judge at the last European Show was confronted with a section of gerbils as well for which she had no competence. A discussion was started on whether we want to remain being named "Small Rodents" section. Species like rats, gerbils, mice etc. were not bred and exhibited in a vast majority of the affiliated countries and so far their national executives had never shown any interest in affiliating to the EE. Evelyne van Vliet also mentioned that it was highly impractical to hold meetings of a multitude of animal species in one room; apart from the fact that we lack the elementary knowledge of these animals. Furthermore the new EE letterhead and logo only incorporates an image of a cavy and the new name reads: European Association of Poultry, Pigeon, Rabbit and Cavy Breeders. The section decided that Evelyne

van Vliet was to propose at the AGM the following day, May 15th. 1999, that the wording of "Small Rodents" in the Rules and Regulations of the EE be changed into "Cavy / Cavies" throughout.

8. Standard Commission and their Job Description

The following people were duly elected for the Standards Committee:

Gaby Prust - Germany; Fritz Marhann - Austria; Samuel Boucher - France; Trudi Binz - Switzerland; Vacancy - Holland and in her capacity of President of the Section Evelyne van Vliet as President. Evelyne van Vliet urges Rene Hut for Holland to appoint a member as soon as possible as the first Standards Committee meeting will have to take place by the end of this year, to enable us to have a draft European Standard to work with at the next European Show in December 2000.

9. European Cavy Standard

A concerted attempt will be made to produce a draft European Standard in German to work with at the next European Show in December 2000.

10. European Judges' List

Austria, Germany, France and England had submitted their international and national judges' lists which were handed out to all delegates at the meeting in an effort to acquaint the affiliated countries with each other and intensify their contacts.

11. European Cavy Magazines

The following countries have a cavy journal:

Germany: "Meerschweinchen News"
Austria: "OKZ - Osterreichischer Kleintierzuchter"
England: "Cavies"

Copies of which were handed out to the delegates.

Holland: articles and show reports in "Fokkersbelangen" and "Avicultura"

Switzerland: articles and show reports in "Tierwelt"

(At this point Evelyne van Vliet welcomes the retiring General Secretary, Adi Rudolph.)

12. Report of Executive Meeting May 13th. 1999

- The Thuringer Federation has offered to host the European Show in Erfurt in 2006;
- A suitable candidate to fill the vacancy of the retiring Secretary was found in Gion P. Gross from Switzerland;
- The EE has had badges made which are obtainable from the Treasurer, Willy Littau at DM15 for standard version and DM 20 with golden wreath;
- New EE medals are needed and will be manufactured; this means that the Cavy section will have its own featuring a red Dutch cavy;
- EE-Meeting 2000 in Mayrhofen, Austria from 1. - 4. June
- EE-Meeting 2001 in Thun, Switzerland from 24. - 27. May
- EE-Meeting 2000 in Sweden from 9. - 12. May

13. Agenda General Meeting of Saturday, May 15th. 1999

The agenda of the General Meeting was discussed. Evelyne van Vliet to propose on behalf of the section that the sentence "Small Rodents" be deleted from all letterheads and all articles of the Constitution and be replaced by "Cavy / Cavies"

14. Animal Welfare

All attending representatives reported that there were no problems in this field whatsoever in their countries.

15. Ideas and Suggestions

Luxembourg: Would like to see the European standard printed as soon as possible.

Germany: Would like to urge the new Secretary to send out all correspondence to affiliated countries quicker plus would like to receive the section minutes as soon as possible after the meeting.

The Netherlands: Would like to see juvenile members integrated more in our hobby.

Hungary: Expresses his desire to receive as much information and other material from the section to support their formation of a cavy club.

E. van Vliet: Would like the section to have its own Web Site.

Urges the section to compile a Feedlist to send to the organisers of future European Shows to avoid repeats of what happened in the Czech Republic.

16. Any Other Business

European Show in Wels, Austria, 2000

Every member that shows 4 exhibits at this forthcoming show will receive a souvenir-medal of around 7cm in diameter. Certificates can be won for European Champions.

2nd. International Cavy Show in Switzerland

To be held on October 9th. and 10th. More information available from T. Binz.

The Vice President of the Belgian Small Animals Society drops in to the meeting, informing everyone that a new Committee has been elected. Cavies do not form a separate section in Belgium, but resort under the Rabbit Council. He assures us that the outstanding affiliation fees will be paid and that a cavy representative will attend next year's meeting.

The meeting closed: 12.45pm.

The President

The Minutes Secretary

Evelyne van Vliet

Trudi Binz