

Minutes of the Section Meeting Small Rodents of May 22th. 1998, 9.00am in Hotel Inter City in Erfurt, Germany

Attendance: According to attached sheet
Apologies for Absence: None
Chairman: Jo Vanhommerig, Holland
Minutes Secretary: Evelyne van Vliet, England

Agenda:

1. Opening
2. Attendance
3. Minutes of the last section meeting of May 9th. 1997
4. Report of Executive Meeting in Erfurt / Germany of May 21st. 1998
5. European Standard
6. European Show in Brünn of November 20th. - 22nd.1998
7. Agenda General Meeting of Saturday, May 23rd.1998
8. Possible new members
9. Animal Welfare
10. Magazines
11. Judges
12. Chairman of Section
13. Ideas and Suggestions
14. Any Other Business

1. Opening

The Chairman, Jo Vanhommerig, welcomed all delegates at 9.10 am to the meeting of the section Small Rodents.

He also welcomed as special guests Mrs. Therese Tompers and Mrs. Lydia Burkert from Luxembourg, who wished to attend the meeting to orientate themselves as a cavy organisation might be started shortly in Luxembourg.

2. Attendance

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

Belgium should technically have been represented as well, but for financial problems preventing them from paying the contribution and sending two delegates (one for rabbits and one for small rodents) to the meeting.

3. Minutes of the last section meeting of May 9th. 1997

The minutes were approved by the meeting with the additional remark that the address list had not been attached.

4. Report of Executive Meeting in Erfurt / Germany of May 21st. 1998

5. European Standard

6. European Show in Brünn of November 20th. - 22nd. 1998

The President of the EE, Mr. Edwin Vef and the Chairman of the Poultry section, Mr. Ernest Berthle represented the EE at this meeting with the European Union. The main issue was the

transport of animals and the duration of such transports. It is very pleasing to know that in future the EU will consult the EE before drawing up legislation for animals.

7. Agenda General Meeting of Saturday, May 23rd. 1998

As was mentioned earlier under item 1 of the agenda, no new associations have joined our section since last year, although the Chairman has received the application documents for membership from Sweden. Perhaps the General Secretary had also failed to send this country an invitation to the meeting.

At last year's meeting, there were two gentlemen from Spain that expressed an interest in joining with their cavy club, but so far no further contact has been established.

The German delegate, Mr. Gerd Lang, had received letters from Poland and Luxembourg expressing an interest in joining our section; the names and addresses would be passed on to Mr. Vanhommerig.

The Austrian delegate, Mr. Fritz Marhann, suggested for the section to write to all Presidents of Cavy associations in Europe who have not yet joined our ranks. Evelyne van Vliet thought that only the Scandinavian countries should be considered for membership and pointed out the co-operation between Denmark, Sweden and Norway in jointly organising their annual 'Nordic Championship Show'. She also suggested to compile an information packet on the EE to send to prospective "new Cavy associations", as the EE had never been heard of in most cavy associations.

Trudi Binz thought it might be an idea for the delegates to contact the Hamster-, Gerbil-, Mice- etc. clubs in their own countries to get to know each other with a prospective view to holding a joint show of small rodents together in the future.

Evelyne van Vliet will compile an information package about the EE and send it to Mr. Vanhommerig for approval.

8. Possible new members

Mr. Marhann presented the new Austrian Standard; a very good publication in a ring binder. The standard is based on the German translation of the Dutch standard with a photograph on the left page and the corresponding standard text on the right hand page. 500 copies have been printed of this standard.

Mr. Lang presented the new German Standard that was still in the draft stage. This standard too is based on the Dutch standard plus the English standards for those breeds that are not recognised in the Netherlands. A problem was immediately visible as this standard recognises the Salmon Agouti and the Argente as two separate breeds. Evelyne van Vliet explained that these were one and the same breed which was renamed from Salmon Agouti to Argente in England as the British do no longer recognise pink-eyed Agouties since ten years. 1000 copies will be printed of this Standard.

9. Animal Welfare

All delegates had sent their national standards to Mr. Vanhommerig so that he could compile a list of breeds that were recognised in the various countries, with a view to compile a European Standard in future years. A breed can only be accepted in the European standard if it recognised in at least three affiliated countries.

The following breeds are recognised in all eight affiliated countries:

All Agouties except for the Orange- and Cream Agouti; all Self breeds except for the DE Golden, Buff, Saffron and Slate; all Marked breeds except for the Bicolour, Dalmation, Roan and a few colours in Dutch; all English Cresteds except for the marked varieties; American Crested except for Buff and Self coloured; all Abyssinians, all Self Satins except for the Marked varieties -satinised Abyssinians are only recognised in Austria; all Longhaired breeds are at least recognised in three countries except for the Merino which is only recognised in two countries; Rex are recognised in most colours in at least three countries with the

exception of France who do not recognise Rex at all.

10. Magazines

The draft schedule for the European Show was presented to the Executive which caused Mr. Vanhommerig to notice that caviars were not catered for. This was a genuine mistake and would be rectified immediately.

The entry fees for four exhibits, inclusive of catalogue and administration costs, will amount to 1890 Czech kroner, around 100DM.

11. Judges

The agenda for the General Meeting was discussed very thoroughly. Starting at item 8 - Election of Section Presidents, Mr. Vanhommerig announced that there were no other candidates, so the Presidents would be returned unopposed.

Item 9 - Propositions: A few of last year's propositions had been postponed to this year's meeting, the first one of which was from the German Rabbit Council, stating: "when a European Show has to be cancelled, the costs that are borne collectively will be divided differently in future. One third will be borne by the Councils partaking in that show through a set basic amount. A further third part will be borne by the European Association through a security fund. This fund can be enhanced by an amount that every organising country pays to the Association. The entry fee per exhibit will be raised by 1DM of which 50 Pfennig flows into the security fund. The last third is financed by deducting 30% of the reimbursed entry fees to every exhibitor". The cancelled European Show at Herning served as an example: the overall costs amounted to 100.000DM. One third (i.e. 33.000DM) would be borne by the participating Councils, let's say there were 20 of them, amounting to 650DM. Such an amount could never be raised by the relatively smaller cavy Councils, so it was decided that the Section Small Rodents would vote against this proposal. The Executive was also against this proposal, but was very

much in favour of forming a security fund. Mr. Vef would have a word with Mr. Jakobs, President of the German Rabbit Council, before the General Meeting to request him to withdraw or change this proposal.

Another proposal came from the joint Councils in the Netherlands, stating: "that the Honorary Presidents' expenses for attending the European Meeting will be borne by the European Association". The Executive was against this proposal as well, as it was generally felt that these costs should be borne by the joint Councils of the country whom the Honorary President was representing. The Section Small Rodents would also vote against this proposal. The last proposal was put forward by Luxembourg, stating: "the official seat of the European Association should be at Luxembourg and this should be amended in the Constitution". So far the official seat had always been at the residence of the President, therefore changing very often. The Section Small Rodents would vote for this proposal.

Item 10 - Affiliation of new Councils. There was a request for affiliation from Russia. It was decided that this request would not be dealt with until the Russians have paid the bills from the meeting in Bergamo, Italy in 1996. Other Yugoslav states had requested information for affiliation for their Pigeon-, Poultry and Rabbit Councils; the Executive decided that these requests would not be dealt with until the political situation in those states had improved.

Item 11 - Report of the 1998 European Meeting which will be held in Erfurt, Germany from the 21st. - 24th. May. This meeting will be organised by the BRDG (Poultry & Pigeon Council) as the ZDK (Rabbit Council) had withdrawn from the preparations in view of their differences of opinion. The fees for this meeting are again very reasonable, namely roughly 288DM for twin rooms and 377DM for single rooms. The programme was circulated.

Item 13 - Mr. Marhann gave a verbal report of the preparations of the European Meeting in Mayrhofen, Zillertal, Austria in the year 2000.

The 'Noordshow' in the Netherlands had put in an application to organise the European Show again from 27th. October - 2nd. November 2003.

Every delegate will be given the Show Regulations and the Articles of Constitution of the European Association at the General Meeting.

12. Chairman of Section

None

13. Ideas and Suggestions

Mr. Lang gave a talk on how the German Cavy fancy was currently organised. They started off with a body comprising of three cavy clubs. After a flood of differences, one of the clubs went its own way. Shortly after this a constitution was drawn up for the MFD (Frankfurt / Main) and the VDM (Bonn). The VDM had opted out after one year, so that the MFD is currently the sole Council for cavies in Germany.

Mr. Boucher reported that there are two cavy standards in France; one that dates back to 1989 and the other one is included in the Rabbit standard. As soon as enough money can be raised, a new cavy standard will be produced and published. He also told the meeting that the French Standards Committee consists of the following members: one third are rabbit members, one third are cavy members and one third are combined rabbit / cavy members.

Finally, Mr. Lang thanked the Chairman for the co-operative spirit during this meeting.

14. Any Other Business

The meeting closed: 15.10pm.

The President

The Minutes Secretary

Jo Vanhommerig

Evelyne van Vliet