

National Fancy Rat Society



Constitution, Rules and Show Regulations

last update December 2008

CONSTITUTION

I TITLE

The Society shall be called the "National Fancy Rat Society".

II OBJECTIVES

- a) To promote the propagation, study and exhibition of Fancy Rats.
- b) To publish one set of standards by which Fancy Rats shall be judged.
- c) These standards to be the only criteria used by breeders, judges and show committees in the breeding of rats and awarding of prizes.
- d) To support the showing of rats and to foster and maintain a high standard of excellence in judging and show management.
- e) To take all necessary steps to advance and protect the interest of Fancy Rats, both as exhibition animals and pets.
- f) To educate and encourage members to adopt and maintain high standards of management and care of Fancy Rats consistent with current agreed practice.
- g) To encourage all members of the NFRS to take a responsible attitude when passing on rats to other people and to adhere to best practice guidelines.

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

For the purpose of amending the Constitution, an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) must be called by no less than thirty members of the society or a two-thirds majority vote of the whole committee (EC).

If thirty or more members call an EGM, they shall sign a petition stating any proposed amendment(s) to the Constitution, and shall forward this to the Chairman and Hon. Secretary not less than twenty-eight days before the date of the proposed meeting. The date and place of the EGM will be decided by the EC.

The Hon. Secretary will circulate full particulars of the meeting and any proposed amendment(s) to the Constitution to all members of the society recorded at the time. There is no provision for votes by proxy or post at such an EGM.

At an EGM to amend the Constitution, thirty members present shall constitute a quorum.

An amendment to the Constitution may only be passed at the EGM by a two-thirds majority vote of those members present. Each amendment shall be voted upon separately. Any agreed amendment shall be referred to the EC for ratification.

The Executive Committee every 10 years starting from 2002 will review the constitution and present the findings for ratification at the AGM.

2 AFFILIATIONS

The society may accord affiliation with/to an organisation whose aims and objectives are similar to and in sympathy with the NFRS. All affiliations will be reviewed as necessary

3 MEMBERSHIP

- a) There shall be five grades of membership, namely:
 - i. Adult (within UK)
 - ii. Family (within UK)
 - iii. Concessions (within UK)
 - iv. Overseas (inside EU)
 - v. Overseas (outside EU)
- b) Life Membership shall be awarded for services rendered to the Society if approved at an Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- c) Membership shall be open to all persons in sympathy with the objectives of the Society.
- d) Juvenile members shall be at least six years old and not more than sixteen years of age. They may enjoy the privileges of ordinary membership, except the right to vote in the annual election and at meetings or hold any official position.
- e) Application for membership, accompanied by remittance of the appropriate subscription, shall be submitted to the Membership Co-ordinator (MC) who is empowered to withhold membership until the next committee meeting. The EC then may grant membership or in some cases invoke rule 5 if it is felt necessary.
- f) Payment of the first subscription shall be deemed to mean that the member agrees, and consents, to be bound by these rules.
- g) A register of the names and addresses of all members shall be kept by the MC and a separate copy by one other committee member. Access to this register shall be co-ordinated by the MC adhering at all times to current Data Protection legislation.
- h) Joint memberships (adult partnership or family memberships) have one vote only, both at the AGM and on the committee. Where two or more adult members of an adult partnership or family membership each hold a committee post, they still only have one vote between them (i.e. one vote per membership).

4 SUBSCRIPTIONS

- a) The annual subscription shall run for twelve months from the date application is received, in accordance with the rates approved at the previous year's AGM. If members wish to renew their membership prior to renewal, it will be at revised rates. Payment must be made in sterling. If members wish to renew their subscription at the AGM it must be at the revised rates.
- b) New memberships to run for twelve months from the date of joining, in accordance with the rates approved at the previous year's AGM.
- c) A member whose subscription is in arrears may not take part in any proceedings of the Society at the AGM, nor compete for special prizes offered by the Society, nor enjoy any of the privileges of membership unless a satisfactory explanation is forthcoming.

- d) The Executive Committee (EC) shall have the power to waive payment of the subscription of any special cases.

5 SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

- a) Any member or proposed member whose behaviour is considered harmful to the NFRS, it members, seriously affects the welfare of animals at a club meeting, or where a serious breach of the rules has occurred, shall be called to give account of their actions by the committee.

This shall be restricted to occasions held under NFRS auspices.

The EC shall give the person concerned 14 days notice of the hearing to which they may either submit a written reply, send a representative or attend in person. The person shall have the right to bring another member to the meeting with them.

At least five members of the committee must be present at the hearing and these must not include the person under investigation or their representative.

Following the meeting, whether or not the person attends, the EC may:

- i. Expel the member or refuse membership in the case of a proposed member.
- ii. Suspend the member for a set period of time, during which they shall take no part in society activities, shall not receive Pro-Rat-a and shall return all NFRS property including any cups etc.
- iii. Warn the member as to their future behaviour.
- iv. Withdraw the complaint if it is not upheld.

The committee's decision will be given in writing.

Within 14 days of the committee decision the member shall have the right of appeal to an EGM, whose decision shall be final. The member will have to inform the Hon Sec. within those fourteen days of their wish to appeal. If they do so then the Hon Sec. shall inform all members, giving at least 28 days notice of the date and venue of the EGM and stating the object of the meeting, at which no other business can be discussed.

There is no requirement to obtain signatures to call this meeting, but if no less than 8 persons, not including the person under investigation attend, then the earlier EC decision stands.

- b) Any persons shown to be bringing malicious complaints to the committee shall be deemed in breach of the rules and shall be subject to disciplinary action.
- c) Any persons holding any NFRS property or money, who does not return it within three months of a formal committee request (in writing), shall be suspended from membership until its return. The NFRS retains the right to refer the matter to the appropriate authorities.
- d) If the membership of a person ceases for any reason but they subsequently rejoin, then their period of membership shall be as from the date of rejoining unless they pay all due back memberships.

6 OFFICIALS

The annually elected Officers of the Society shall consist of ten:

1	President	7	Committee Member
2	Chairman	8	Committee Member
3	Hon. Secretary	9	Committee Member
4	Hon. Treasurer	10	Committee Member
5	General Show Secretary		
6	Membership Co-ordinator		

In addition the following nine posts shall be appointed by the EC as necessary and are not subject to annual election.

11	Archivist	16	Cup Secretary
12	Standards Officer	17	Judges Co-ordinator
13	Journal Editor	18	Pet Awards Scheme Co-ordinator (PASC)
14	Promotions Co-ordinator	19	Rosette and Show Admin
15	Enquiries Officer		

7 THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC)

- a) The affairs of the Society shall be conducted by an EC as enumerated in Rule 6 above.
- b) Arising out of Society affairs the EC shall have the power to decide any matter or arbitrate in any dispute not provided for in these rules.
- c) Should any vacancy occur on the EC, the EC may at its discretion fill the vacancy until the next election.
- d) The EC may co-opt further committee members as necessary.
- e) Co-opted and appointed members of the committee shall all have voting rights unless specified otherwise.
- f) The EC shall appoint Regional Co-ordinators (RC's) in accordance with the guidelines drawn up by the EC. All RC appointments shall be subject to review.

8 MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE

- a) Meetings of the EC shall be convened by the Chairman/Hon. Secretary when necessary, and at least fourteen days' notice of a meeting shall be given to each member of the EC. Any member of the EC, on a matter of sudden importance, may ask the Chairman/Hon. Secretary to convene an EC meeting.
- b) A quorum shall consist of five members.
- c) The EC may hold a meeting at any time but, in any case, should hold a minimum of four each year, the AGM to count as one and the others at approximately three monthly intervals.
- d) Minor business of the EC may be conducted by means of circulars, the internet or by telephone. The Hon. Secretary shall record the voting, and this mode of procedure shall be as conclusive and binding as if a meeting had been held. Matters dealt with under this section are not subject to fourteen days notice as specified in Rule 8(a).
- e) At any meeting where the Chairman is not present the members shall elect another Chairperson according to consent.

9 GENERAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

- a) The AGM of the members of the Society shall be held at a time, date and venue most convenient to members, in conjunction with a social function.
- b) Except in the case of a proposal to amend the Constitution (see Rule 1), eight members present shall form a quorum at General Meetings.
- c) A copy of any proposal shall be sent to the Hon Sec. not less than twenty-eight days before the date of the meeting. The Chairman shall, however, have the discretion to accept a proposal, notice of which has not been given.
- d) A member who is not present may have his views read out by the Chairman.
- e) Except in the case of a proposal to amend the Constitution (see Rule 1), EGM's may be called by twenty members of the Society who shall sign a petition stating the object of such a meeting, and shall forward it to the Chairman/Hon. Secretary not less than fourteen (14) days before the date of the proposed meeting. The date and place of such a meeting shall be decided by the EC.
- f) The Society may, at any time, be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and at least twenty-eight days' notice of such a meeting shall have been sent to all members of the Society, Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets, held by, or in the name of, the Society, provided that, if any assets remain after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, such assets etc shall be given or transferred to such organisation(s) having objectives similar to some or all of those of the Society as the meeting may determine.

10 ELECTIONS

- a) The annual election of the officials shall take place as early as possible after the thirty-first day of October.
- b) Officials shall be elected by means of a vote at the AGM by fully paid up members only (excluding Juvenile Members), subject to nominations received.
- c) After completion the nomination papers and proposals shall be scrutinised by the EC.

11 ACCOUNTS

- a) The Hon. Treasurer shall be responsible for the funds of the Society and shall keep a banking account for all monies received and paid on behalf of the Society, and shall present an audited statement of income and expenditure to the AGM.
- b) The balance sheet shall be audited by a person or persons elected by the EC and they shall not be a member of the EC.
- c) All monies must be sent to the Hon Treasurer within two weeks of receipt. To comply with the Cheques Act 1992 all cheques should be made payable to the NFRS.
- d) All claims for reimbursement must be made within three months from the date that costs were incurred.
- e) No reimbursement will be considered unless a receipt is produced.
- f) No payment will be made by the Society without prior consultation with the Hon Treasurer.

12 INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS

The minutes, register of members, accounts and all documents relevant thereto shall be open to inspection by members on request to the EC in writing.

13 ALTERATIONS TO RULES AND STANDARDS

- a) Subject to the provision of the next succeeding sections the EC shall have the power to make rules and standards, or alter, rescind or add to any existing rule or standard at any time if they deem it expedient in the interests of the Society to do so. All such rules and standards shall be submitted to the members at the next AGM for confirmation.
- b) Before a rule or standard may be made or varied, the majority of the members of the EC voting shall be in favour.
- c) Other than in exceptional circumstances, no show regulations to take effect until published in Pro-Rata.

14 RATTERY & STUD REGISTRATION & NOVICE AWARD

Etiquette

- a) A rattery or stud is defined as a collection of animals kept and bred at one location.
- b) No more than one rattery name or stud name per membership can be registered. I.e. it is not possible to register two rattery names or stud names on one membership.
- c) Any multiple memberships per rattery name or stud name must reside under the same roof.
- d) Custody of registered rattery names or stud names remains with the partner who registered or earned it or refer to the committee where dispute.
- e) Registered ratteries and studs will be listed on the NFRS website and regularly in Pro-Rat-a.
- f) The registered name shall be used as a prefix on family trees/birth certificates of rats bred by a registered rattery or stud. A suffix can be used to show the location of the rat if it is not owned by the breeder i.e. Aardvark Fred Abc
- g) All breeders wishing to be listed on the NFRS Breeders List must be registered as a rattery or stud, although it is not compulsory for registered ratteries or studs to be listed on the breeders list.
- h) Ratteries must enter their rats at shows under their given name and not their rattery name. Only registered stud names can have their stud name written on prize cards.

Novice Awards

- a) Any registered breeders who has not yet qualified for a stud name, is eligible to enter their rats for the novice award, given at all shows where NFRS stars are awarded.
- b) To be eligible the rat must be bred by and in the possession of the Novice exhibitor at the time of entry.
- c) The rat must have lived with the breeder since birth, the novice points are calculated annually and the winner awarded the trophy.

- d) If the exhibitor gains their stud name in the year the novice points will count until the time it is awarded, when the exhibitor is no longer eligible to enter.

Stud name Registration

Earning

- a) All wins must be earned under a fully paid up NFRS championship/show judge.
- b) The individual(s) must be paid up member(s) to qualify for earning a stud name and rattery name already registered with the NFRS as part of the Novice Scheme for at least one year (for ratteries registering before 1st May 2007 the individual(s) must have been a NFRS member for one year)
- c) The rat (or rats) in question must be owned and bred by the individual from a dam (or dams) also owned and bred by the exhibitor and attain either of the following awards:
- i. NFRS silver champion – 8 stars on one rat.
 - ii. 2 x BIS/BOA/ RBIS on one or two rats with two different judges, at least one win must be at a show where NFRS stars are awarded – the other maybe at a NFRS affiliated club show, providing the NFRS judge agrees in writing (or signs back of card) that the rat is of suitable quality (the changeover officially takes place from 1st May 2007, but under grandfather rules, any exhibitor, that has attained one of the required wins under the previous stud name registration requirements up to the 1st May 2007, can use this to count towards their stud name registration).

The application must be made to the EC along with supporting prize cards for the rat, the suggested stud name and the registration fee of the current rate

15 NEW VARIETY CERTIFICATES

The EC may grant a memento to any member who introduces a new variety of rat.

- a) The proposed variety shall be distinct from any standardised variety.
- b) Sterility in one or both sexes shall not necessarily disqualify a new variety if there is good chance that this can be controlled by selective breeding. The committee however reserves the right to withhold the right to show those mutations that are deemed inherently harmful to the rat.
- c) Homozygous lethals (that is, mutations where a double dose of that mutation is fatal), are not disqualified where the heterozygote is distinctive and healthy.
- d) Before showing a new variety for the first time, a member should apply to the Standards Officer enclosing the following information:
- i. Proposed name of the new variety. This should be wherever possible, follow established usage in other fancies.
 - ii. Proposed exhibition standard of new variety. This must conform to the layout of existing standards. Where necessary, the Standards Officer will advise. Standards must reflect the ideal and not describe the animal(s) to be shown. However it should take account of the animal's genetic make-up.
 - iii. Full information on the discovery and creation of the new variety together with parentage. If possible, a genetic description of the new variety should be provided.

This information will be scrutinised by the Standards Officer, who will advise on any necessary alterations. This information will then be passed on to the committee who will have the final say on accepting the variety. This process is not necessary if another fancier has already posted a standard. Multiple standards for the same variety will not be allowed. Where this occurs then the committee will have the right of arbitration, so that only one standard will be in use.

- e) It is the duty of the Standards Officer to send a copy of the new standard, when accepted to the Show Secretary, who will then pass it on to the judges and show secretaries.
- f) The new variety may be shown in the New Varieties class when approved by the committee.
- g) In order to progress out of the New Varieties class into standard classes the breeder needs to pay attention to the following points:
 - i. Improve the rat in line with the standard, correcting any faults.
 - ii. Show regularly in order to educate judges and other fanciers and to publicise the variety.
 - iii. Get other breeders to take up the variety.

The standard may need alteration during this time, the Standards Officer will advise.

- h) When it is considered that the variety has improved sufficiently to be able to make a good account of itself then the committee will consider it for a Guide Standard. During this time, the breeders should maintain contact with the Standards Officer to let them know of any developments.
- i) Guide Standard rats shall be shown in the Guide Standard class. After two years the standard shall be reviewed. The variety may then be: (i) retained in the Guide Standard class for a further year, (ii) progress to Full Standard, or (iii) be demoted to the New Varieties class.

Note that show regulations regarding imported rats apply to all animals, whether new or established varieties.

SHOW REGULATIONS

SR1. GENERAL SHOW REGULATIONS

- a) The EC shall have the power to accord the Society's patronage or support to any show provided that:
- A suitable classification is laid down.
 - Proper rules are laid down for the protection of exhibitors and the welfare of rats.
 - Entry fees and any prizes be approved by the Show Secretary in consultation with the EC.
- b) Members must arrive at a show allowing themselves time for setting up, in order that stock may be tabled fifteen minutes before the commencement of judging at the advertised time.

Exceptionally, if the Judge and the Show Secretary are agreed, judging may be postponed for up to thirty minutes for a member who is unavoidably delayed. It would be usual for this decision to be reached only when the aforesaid member had made efforts, prior to his arrival, to inform the Show Secretary of the circumstances.

- c) It shall be the responsibility of the exhibitor to ensure that each rat is entered in the correct variety and age class (kittens minimum age seven weeks and under thirteen weeks). Once judging has commenced no alteration will be allowed. In the case of inexperience exhibitors, assistance will be given by the Show Secretary or Show Manager before the commencement of judging.
- d) Any member who owns wild *Rattus norvegicus* will be barred from showing or selling any stock under NFRS auspices until they have had the wild rats blood tested for leptospira antibodies. If any member is found to be keeping wild *Rattus norvegicus* and still showing and selling stock without having the wild rats tested, they shall be suspended forthwith.
- e) All show stock should be in the possession of, and owned by the exhibitor at the time of entry.
- i. Kittens under the age of six weeks and nursing does shall not be brought to shows
 - ii. No stock shall be offered for sale at NFRS shows or events. Private pre-booked arrangements will be brought to the notice of the Show Secretary prior to the day of the show. A notice area will be provided at NFRS shows and availability of rats may be advertised by their owners at the show in the appropriate manner. The advertisement must include the rat's date of birth, colour and sex and the sellers, name, address and contact details, and it must be displayed in the area provided or deemed appropriate by the officiating Show Secretary or Show Manager on the day.
- f) All entries are subject to the discretion of the officiating Show Secretary.
- g) At shows held under the Society's patronage, rats must be exhibited in either of the two recognised 'standard' plastic fish tanks which measure either 30.5cm x 20.5cm x 20.5cm or 35cm x 23cm x 20.5cm together with the recognised wire mesh sliding tops available through the Society. A limited number of show tanks, for the use particularly of Juveniles, may be available at any show at the agreed hire rate, subject to availability and at the discretion of the Show Secretary provided at least seven days' notice is given. Exhibitors should provide their own substrate.

To facilitate ease of judging and stewarding only current pen number label(s) shall be visible.

The Show Secretary/Judge has the right to refuse permission for any rat to be tabled in a show tank, which in his opinion is in an unhygienic or unsafe condition. The decision of the Show Secretary/Judge is final.

The only marks of ownership allowed on a show tank shall be on its underside. Lids shall not be marked. No food bowls, bottles or bedding of any description shall be placed in or on the show tank once judging has commenced. Substrate used in tanks should be natural, pale brownish-white substances – e.g. aspen, pale wood shavings, hemp.

Kittens can be shown in tanks containing white shredded paper as bedding in addition to the normal substrate.

- h) Exhibits may be provided with one small piece of apple, carrot or cucumber per animal as a source of moisture.
- i) Only one rat to be exhibited per show tank. Kittens may be exhibited in pairs provided that they are of distinctly differing varieties and are of the same sex.
- j) At all shows and exhibitions officials and members are prohibited from smoking in close proximity to the stock.
- k) The entry fee charged shall be a block entry for breed classes, pets, guide standard and new variety classes. These fees shall be subject to review by the EC and shall be submitted for confirmation, with other rule changes, at the AGM.
- l) Breeders qualified to register a stud name will have a separate section within the pet classes at any show, but are eligible to win the overall Best Pet award.
- m) Any mutation that the Society deems harmful to the health of the rat shall not be permitted within in any class or event run under NFRS auspices.
- n) If a rat is disqualified at a show, for any reason, the owner or owner's representative shall be informed on the critique on the day of the show. The pink copy must be sent by the Show Secretary on the day to the Standards Officer, who shall keep them on file.
- o) Where any exhibitor has rats disqualified either for the presence of external visible parasites or ill-health, or the showing of visually under developed kittens, twice or more in any 6 month period, then all rats exhibited by that person must be inspected at the next three shows (at which NFRS stars are awarded) entered by that exhibitor before that person is allowed to compete. It is the judge's discretion to disqualify if they feel kittens are under developed and look to be under 7 weeks old. If, either visible external parasites are found on any of the rats entered by the exhibitor, or they are ill, then all of that persons exhibits must be withdrawn from the show. If all the exhibitors' animals pass inspection for three consecutive inspections then no further inspections will be necessary and normal entry procedures will resume. If visible external parasites or ill-health or any kittens are deemed to be visually underdeveloped are found during any inspection, then a further three consecutive inspections will be necessary.

Inspections may take place at NFRS shows and affiliated club shows at the discretion of the affiliated club, the show sec of the day and there being an NFRS judge available to do the inspections on the day who is not the judge at that show in any section. The form sent with the breach letter to be returned to Standards Officer on completion.

- p) Each rat exhibited will be given a written critique at the end of the show.

SR2. JUDGES

- a) Judges are to be arranged at the discretion of the Show Secretary but to be ratified by the EC.
- b) Judging expenses shall be paid by advance agreement between the Judge and Show Secretary in liaison with the Hon. Treasurer.
- c) Judges may claim reasonable expenses from the Show Secretary of the show for a meal and refreshments when judging all day shows.

SR3. JUDGING PANEL

- a) To qualify for a place within the scheme the prospective Judge must have:
 - A minimum of one year's membership.
 - Attended at least fifteen shows (this may be lowered at the discretion of the EC in the case of exceptional promise, or if the prospective judge lives a long distance away).
 - Shown a good knowledge of the Standards of Excellence and the points of each breed/variety.
 - It is desirable to have bred rats for exhibition that are deemed to be good examples of their varieties

- b) Trainee Judge

After having fulfilled the criteria in (a) the current training scheme as approved by the EC to be put into operation. The training scheme will be overseen and maintained by the Judges Training Co-ordinator.

- c) Show Judge

In order to proceed to Show Judge Status, trainee judges must provide documented evidence of having completed the first stage of the NFRS approved training which includes having stewarded at no fewer than six shows and sat in with Championship Judges at no fewer than six shows before being put forward by the committee for an assessment. The assessing judge will report back to the committee who will decide whether the trainee judge will proceed to Show Judge status or whether further training is required. All Show Judges must be fully paid up members of the Society.

- d) Championship Judge

After a time when a show Judge is considered to have "proved" themselves and has also undertaken all additional training and assessments that may have been requested of them by the NFRS committee, which have shown consistently good results, they may be considered for promotion to a Championship Judge by the Assessors which would be ratified by the EC. All Championship Judges must be fully paid up members of the Society. During their time as a Championship Judge a member may be requested by the EC to undertake regular assessments and training, if these assessments are not attended as requested or results show more training is required then the Championship Judge may be demoted to a Show Judge until standards have been raised. Decision to promote or demote judges will always be made by the Assessors and ratified by the EC.

If any Championship Judge lapses their membership they will be reconsidered for the Judging Panel by the EC when they re-join. Any judges who do not judge varieties at either an NFRS show or an NFRS affiliated club show within a 3 year period will be required to resit the Training Pack Assessment.

The EC reserves the right to remove judges from the panel. This is to be a unanimous decision of the full EC.

e) Championship Judge and Assessor

In order to promote best practice in judging and to assess judging quality, a small number of Championship Judges will carry out formal assessments. Assessors are approved by the EC based on experience and ability to teach and communicate judging excellence. These judges will carry out all judging assessments. Should there be a need to add an Assessor, the choice to be decided by the remaining Assessors and agreed by the EC.

f) NFRS stars can only be awarded by Show and Championship Judges. 3 star Championship shows can only have 3 stars awarded when judged by Championship Judges.

SR4. JUDGING

- a) The eligibility of a kitten (under thirteen weeks) shall be left solely in the hands of the officiating judge.
- b) A rat that has not won its breed class shall not be selected for Best in Show (BIS).
- c) A Judge must restrict their nomination for BIS to exhibits in their own breed classes.
- d) In order to determine BIS each Judge shall bring out the best rat from each class they have judged. From these the BIS shall be chosen. The exhibit gaining BIS shall automatically be awarded first in every class in which it is entered, except the Stud Buck class, the judging to take place before any duplicate classes are judged. The rat awarded Best Opposite Age (BOA) to the Best in Show shall automatically win any classes confined to its age, except those mentioned above.
- e) A Reserve Best in Show (RBIS) shall be awarded when second place in the Supreme Challenge is not BOA. This award shall carry the same number of points as BOA.
- f) An additional card shall be awarded at all NFRS shows for the following categories: Best Self, Best Marked, Best AOV, Best Rex, Best Dumbo, Best Stud Buck, Best Agility and Best Pet.
- g) Pet judges may choose, time permitting and at their discretion, and with the agreement of the show secretary, to present additional awards.
- h) If a rat has been entered into a particular class, then it must be judged within the class it has been entered unless it is disqualified under the rules.
- i) Except in exceptional circumstances the same judge may not officiate at more than one 3 star show per year.

SR5. VARIETY CHAMPIONS

- a) At all shows held under NFRS auspices, provided there are exhibits totalling fifteen or more from at least five exhibitors in the varieties section, the Judge shall decide the best of each variety (or varieties grouped together on the schedule) to which they may award stars. The minimum total exhibits/exhibitors does not apply to supporting shows as long as the main show has reached the stated criteria. The BOA and RBIS shall automatically be awarded variety stars. It is the Judge's responsibility to withhold stars if the best rat is not of quality.

- b) Only one set of stars is to be given for each variety class. Stars may be awarded to either the adult or the kitten at the Judge's discretion. In a case where BIS and BOA are from the same variety, stars may be awarded to both or where the variety star is awarded to a rat that comes higher in the supreme challenge than the BOA award, stars may be awarded to both (same class, whether adult or kitten).

Stud buck star(s) can be awarded at judges discretion – this would be same as number of stars for the show – i.e. if a 3 star show would be 3 stars. This would mean potentially a stud buck could take stud buck and BIS and class stars so max of 7 at a champ show. A Championship can be combined of variety and stud buck stars – A championship can only be gained over minimum of 3 shows. The number of stars awarded will vary depending on the pre-determined status of the show. Any changes to status will be agreed by the EC.

There will be three levels of show:

- One star shows: This status is awarded to ordinary shows and shows held by affiliated clubs.
- Two star shows: Around one third of NFRS shows held in any one year shall be given two star status. The GSS shall try to ensure that these shows are shared equally throughout all regions of the UK currently holding NFRS shows. Affiliated clubs may also hold two star shows as per current affiliation show regulations.
- Three star cup and Championship shows.

If a rat goes on to win BIS, BOA and RBIS it will then be awarded a further star. Stars awarded will be indicated on the prize card.

- c) The owner of a rat winning a total of eight stars may apply to be awarded a Silver Star Variety Championship, twelve stars a Gold Star Variety Championship and sixteen stars a Platinum Star Variety Championship. To qualify at least one of the rat's wins must have been as an adult and no more than two wins as a kitten will be considered.

- d) Star Sheet.

A list of all star winners shall be compiled by the Judge and Show Secretary at each starred show. This will be forwarded to the Standards Officer to enable verification of awards.

All UK affiliated clubs may apply for star status for their shows providing:

- i. The show does not clash with any major cup show (i.e. Bradford and London Championship Shows, Spring, Summer and Annual Cup Shows) or the NFRS AGM.
- ii. The schedule is approved by the committee.
- iii. They use NFRS standards and show schedule.
- iv. They use NFRS Show or Championship Judges.

All shows will normally be awarded one star status. However, two star status will be awarded for one show per year providing the show is expected to attract at least 40 exhibits (not to include New Varieties) and the club runs **at least 3** other one star shows per year.

Two star status may be awarded for two shows per year providing that the club runs **6 or more** one star shows per year.

The club applying for star status for their shows should do so by the published date in the previous year. This will normally be in the six months before the first one star show. Applications to be made initially to the NFRS General Show Secretary.

No **two star shows** will be awarded star status if held on the same weekend within a 50 mile radius.

Any affiliated club wishing to award NFRS stars must hold at least one open show per year where NFRS stars are offered. This show must be advertised in Pro-Rata and entry must be open to all members of the NFRS.

Where an area or other affiliated club has expelled an NFRS member, that member should not have an automatic right to show at the affiliated club's open star shows. Where the affiliated club objects to the said member showing then the club shall have right of appeal to the NFRS committee. This should be done at the time of application for stars.

SR6. PET CHAMPIONSHIP

- a) The Pet Awards Scheme Co-ordinator (PASC) is responsible for:
 - i. Appointing a pet steward for each NFRS show (see b))
 - ii. Collating Awards sheets, administrate scheme and present awards at the AGM
 - iii. Co-ordinating agility events and the Agility Awards Scheme.
- b) Pet Stewards.
 - i. All pet entries will be made and received as they are now. The show Sec for the show will prepare the paperwork as normal prior to the day. On the day the Show Sec will pass all prepared critiques, cards, paperwork and results slips etc to the Pet Steward.
 - ii. Pet Steward will steward for the pet judge on the day or in an emergency delegate someone to do this, but be on hand to co-ordinate.
 - iii. Pet Steward will complete all the pet show paperwork and rosettes on the day and sort out the presentation of the pet awards.
 - iv. Pet Steward will also either run the agility or delegate someone to run it, arrange for agility set to be at the show and complete all assoc' paperwork or rosettes.
 - v. Pet Steward will return completed Awards sheets for pets and agility to the PASC
- c) Pet Championship - This will be worked out using a points system.
 - i. Points will be awarded to a class winning rat at the judge's discretion.
 - ii. The Pet Steward and Judge will already know how many points are to be awarded by the status of the show. (i.e.3 star variety shows will award 3 stars in the pet classes)
 - iii. A point's sheet will be devised that is easy for the Pet Steward and Judge to fill out.
 - iv. As per the star award system, if a rat gains 8 points = silver pet champion, 12 = gold pet champion, 16 = platinum pet champion
 - v. An extra point will be awarded for Best Pet in Show regardless of the star status of the show.

SR7. SHOW CHAMPIONSHIP CERTIFICATE

On application to the Standards Officer a Show Championship Certificate will be issued at the next AGM to a member owning a rat that has fulfilled the following conditions:

- a) Has won BIS awards not fewer than three times, under at least two different judges with exhibits totalling fifteen or more rats from at least five exhibitors in the varieties section. The minimum total exhibits/exhibitors does not apply to supporting shows as long as the main show has reached the stated criteria.
- b) Or has won BOA/RBIS awards not fewer than five times.
- c) Or has won two BIS awards and two BOA/RBIS awards.
- d) Or has won four BOA/RBIS and one BIS.
- e) A rat gaining the title "Show Champion" twice shall qualify to hold the title "Supreme Show Champion".
- f) Qualifying shows must be judged to the official standards and under the Rules of the NFRS. These can be any NFRS affiliated club show providing the NFRS judge agrees in writing (or logo stamped on card) that the rat is of suitable quality.

SR8. CUP SHOWS

- a) Five Cup Shows shall be held each year which shall be: the Bradford Championship Show, the Spring, Summer and Annual Cup Shows and the London Championship Show.
- b) The Spring Cup Show shall be held at a suitable venue in April or May.
- c) The Summer Cup Show shall be held at a suitable venue in June or July.
- d) The Annual Cup Show shall be held at a suitable venue in September or October.
- e) The EC will arbitrate on all matters pertaining to these events.
- f) The EC shall have discretion to arrange shows on a Sunday or on a National Bank Holiday where this is deemed appropriate.

SR9. TROPHIES

- a) Winners of trophies shall sign a receipt for the trophy(ies), a copy of which shall be retained by the officiating Show Secretary. NFRS trophies will not be awarded to non-members.
- b) All trophies shall be returned to the Show Secretary upon written request and, in any case, not later than fourteen days before they are to be offered for competition.
- c) Any member failing to return trophies shall be suspended until such time as the trophy(ies) are returned.
- d) A maximum of 3 letters requesting return of trophy will be sent. The first letter to be sent before the show reminding of the requirement to return the trophy for the show. The second letter will be sent shortly after the show if the trophy is not at the show and the final demand letter; allowing a maximum of 28 days from the show date for return. If the trophy is not returned within 28 days of the show an invoice will be sent for the current agreed rate of the trophy in question.
- e) Certificates to commemorate cup wins will be issued free of charge upon application of the Show Secretary.

SR10. OBJECTIONS

- a) The Judge's decision regarding the placing or awards given to any exhibit is final.
- b) The eligibility of an exhibit, except on the grounds of age, may only be challenged by another member on grounds that would not be known to the Judge. Any challenge must be made in writing and accompanied by a deposit of £5.00 and handed to the Show Secretary before the close of the show. The Show Secretary, Judge and Standards Officer, if available, or a co-opted member shall investigate the matter and the majority decision of the investigation panel will be final and binding. In the event of the challenge being upheld, the deposit will be returned to the challenger and any other necessary action taken by the panel. If the challenge/objection fails, the deposit will be forfeit.