

**THE SOMALI BREED ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BREEDING POLICY FOR CATS OF THE 63 SERIES**

(To accompany the amended Registration Policy affecting all Somalis registered with GCCF from 24.10.2007)

INTRODUCTION

This document is seen as a way of ensuring breeders observe what is considered "best practice" in their involvement with the Somali and particularly in their Somali breeding programmes. Pyruvate Kinase (PK) Deficiency has been confirmed in Somalis with a percentage of the breed proven to be affected or carriers of the disease. We know the disease is inherited as an autosomal recessive trait, so a Somali can be carrying the disease without having any symptoms at all. Affected cats arise when two carriers are mated together. There are three statuses for cats: Normal (clear), Carrier and Affected. Fortunately a reliable test exists. This comprises a DNA test that is performed either with buccal (cheek) swabs or a blood sample. At present these tests are performed at two laboratories in the USA, the University of Pennsylvania and UC Davis. The details and addresses for these facilities can be found on the Somali Cat Club website (www.somalicatclub.com), or obtained from the BAC Secretary (address obtainable from GCCF).

AIM

It is the aim of the Somali Breed Advisory Committee to eradicate this disease from the breed through DNA testing and the setting up of a Genetic Register. This is "best for the breed" and for its ongoing health and welfare.

As an interim step, the Somali Breed Advisory Committee wishes to ensure no further Somalis are affected with PK Deficiency and have drawn up guidelines to achieve this aim.

GUIDELINES

As PK Deficiency has been confirmed in Somalis, breeders are urged to test all their breeding stock to establish their status for PK Deficiency using the Somali BAC recommended scheme.

The cheek swabs/blood sample must be taken by a Veterinary Surgeon on a cat that is uniquely identified (micro-chipped). A form completed by the owner and the Veterinary Surgeon is required for the registration of a Somali on the Active Register. All necessary paperwork/forms may be downloaded from the Somali Cat Club website (www.somalicatclub.com) or obtained from the Somali BAC Secretary.

It is recommended breeders buy only from stock that conforms to the amended Registration Policy Active Register approved from 24.10.2007 and to breed only from cats described above or with independently tested, micro-chipped cats whose status is Normal (clear) or Carrier. As the gene pool of normal (clear) cats expands, it will no longer be necessary to breed from Somalis with carrier status.

Cats that have been genetically tested as carriers may be used for breeding to continue a breeding line but the Somali Breed Committee urges that all kittens born from a "carrier" sire or dam must be tested to confirm their status and registered upon the appropriate register.

It is imperative that Somalis with carrier status are only bred to cats that have been tested normal (clear) for PK Deficiency.

Under no circumstances should any cat affected with PK Deficiency be bred from. It is recommended that affected cats are neutered and placed on the Non-Active Register.

Breeding Policy for Somali Cats approved by delegates at the GCCF Council Meeting
24.10.2007

It is not recommended to breed a cat placed on the *Genetic Register* to another on that Register. Cats on the *Genetic Register* should be mated to cats on the *Active Register* and any kittens from such a mating should be tested to confirm their status and registered upon the appropriate register.

Breeders should ensure that any Somali required for breeding is registered with the *GCCF* in accordance with the Rules in force at the time. It is recommended that any kitten not required for breeding should be placed on the *Non-Active Register*.

Breeders should ensure that any Somali required for breeding is of sound temperament, free from any known hereditary defects (including those listed in the *GCCF Standard of Points*) and conforms as closely as possible to the *Standard of Points*.

Breeders are encouraged to take advantage of any relevant official scheme that may be devised by the Somali BAC to test the soundness of the Somali breed.