

As you may know, modifications to The Cat Welfare Association's Bylaws were approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting on July 21, 2020. The proposed changes reflect a myriad of revisions ranging from minor updates to a few substantive changes.

The current Bylaws, a summary of the proposed changes, and the proposed Bylaws are posted on our web site. The current Bylaws are posted on the "About" tab under the "Board" category. The summary of the proposed changes and proposed Bylaws are accessible via links on the home page. Paper copies are available at the shelter.

Written comments will be accepted through Monday, December 21, 2020 via email to bylaws@catwelfareassoc.org, or postal mail to The Cat Welfare Association, Attn: Helen DeSantis, 741 Wetmore Road, Columbus, OH 43214.

A membership meeting to vote on the recommended changes will take place on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 7:00 pm. The location will be announced on our website, social media and in the December/January Feline Forum. You have voting privileges if you are at least 18 years of age and have been a paid member of The Cat Welfare Association for at least 12 months preceding January 2021.

Summary of Recommended Bylaws Changes

The Bylaws Revision Task Force was created by the Board of Directors of The Cat Welfare Association (CWA) to exam (1) how the CWA Bylaws restrict the attraction of qualified board members, (2) what else could be done to attract them, and (3) the need to make additional changes or updates to the Bylaws. After numerous meetings and much discussion, the Task Force has made its recommendations. Many of them are minor updates, corrections, clarifications, or conforming changes. Others are substantive changes. The only way you can determine whether any proposed change is important to you is for you to carefully read the revised Bylaws as proposed. As a convenience, the Task force has prepared this summary of the proposed revisions. They are as follows:

Entire Document:

Updates the name of the organization to "The Cat Welfare Association" per the Board's vote in 2018 to have that be the official name appearing on documents and accounts. In the current Bylaws, the name of the organization shows as The Cat Welfare Association, Inc., Cat Welfare, CWA, and Cat Welfare Association.

Renames the category of Active Member to Supporting Member.

Article III, Members:

3.1(b)(1) & (2) The last sentence in each section (regarding who has the right to vote) has been relocated to 3.7(a). (See below.) In addition, the definition of "supporting member" has been changed to "any person who supports the work

of the organization by paying the required dues..." (rather than "any person who expresses a desire to actively participation in the work of the organization and who has paid the required dues...").

3.2(a) The amount of time after a supporting member allows his/her membership to lapse before being removed from the membership registry has been changed from four months to two months.

3.3 (a) The Bylaws state that the annual meeting of members is to be held in May. It was missed this year due to COVID-19. The wording is being updated to allow for flexibility regarding when the annual meeting is held.

3.4 Removes the option for meetings of the members to be held out of state.

3.5(b) Requires members to provide a physical mailing address.

3.7 The heading for this section has been updated to include the words "Voting Privileges".

3.7(a) A new division (a) has been added relative to voting eligibility.

Article IV, Board of Directors:

4.1(b)(2) The words "and develop" have been added after "objectives,".

4.1(b)(11) Removes the requirement that the Board approve on an annual basis all continuing resolutions. (The Task Force was concerned that continuing resolutions could be eliminated inadvertently if the Board failed to specifically approve them.)

4.5 (a) Reduces the membership requirement to serve on the Board from the two years immediately preceding the election to the twelve months immediately preceding the election. Changes the word "ongoing" to "active", so the requirement is that the individual shows "evidence of active involvement with the Association".

4.7(a) Removes the option for Board meetings to be held out of state.

4.8(a) Currently, written notice of any non-emergency meeting must be given to Directors and the Executive Director at least three days prior to the meeting. That number is increased to at least seven days.

4.12(d) The amount of time a Director can be removed from office has been shortened from ten years to five.

Article V, Committees:

5.4 Wording in this section has been updated to more accurately reflect the Finance Committee's role. In addition, the number of Board members, not including the treasurer, required to be on the committee has been changed from two to one.

5.5 Changes the number of Board members that are required to be on the Human Resource Policy Committee from two to one.

Article VI, Officers

6.5(d) The duties of the Treasurer have been reorganized and clarified. In addition, the Board is expressly given the authority to hire a qualified individual to serve as Treasurer if a qualified, unpaid volunteer cannot be recruited.