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CANDIDATE FOR CFA REGIONAL DIRECTOR
EUROPE (REGION 9)



COMMUNICATION AND PARTICIPATION

You all have a voice, ears and eyes: **monthly Zoom meetings**, presence on **social media**, short **meetings at the shows** in a judging ring, our **WhatsApp** discussion group. You will be updated on anything that happens in CFA, you will know when a new club in Europe applies for CFA membership or if a judge from another association wants to join the CFA judges' team. You can also bring up anything that is important for you, and we will work on it together.

One time per year I would like to organize a **full day Region 9 meeting** with all interested people in Region 9 to exchange ideas, make plans and roll out a strategy that will benefit all of us.

We will discuss **potential amendments to the CFA show rules or the CFA Bylaws** that are important for Europe and if deemed interesting, we will write them and present them at the CFA Annual meetings.

Feedback from all of you should be a driving engine of new initiatives. Example: at a recent Region 9 Zoom meeting with the clubs, it was suggested to evaluate the 200 points that are currently needed to become a Grand Champion in R9. With the quality of the cats in Europe, it is not easy to grand a cat. Together we need to work out an acceptable compromise in order to keep our exhibitors motivated. Options to be discussed are: lowering the amount of points (with the risk of devaluating the GC title), **promoting the new OCP rings** (with 10 spots in the finals for Opens, Champions and Premiers) or increase the number of SSP rings.

Our **CFA R9 Website** should be an updated information platform, honoring the winners of the past and promoting the shows of the future.

The **CFA Yearbook** has always been our best promotion tool. We should support this publication and make sure that Region 9 and the Region 9 cats are well represented.



VISION AND APPROACH

I see myself as a **team coach** rather than as a captain on a ship.

In close contact with all European clubs, exhibitors and breeders, we decide **together as a team** on the priorities for Europe. I will **represent** all of you and speak for our common interests during the CFA Board meetings. Your opinion matters. It is **our collective wisdom and experience** that will ensure that CFA remains firmly established in Europe and can continue to grow.



PRIORITIES AND GROWTH

Our highest priority should be to **protect and support** our current R9 CFA clubs. We need to respect the hard work from all our show producing clubs in Europe and make sure that they can continue with their activities in a motivated and enthusiastic way.

Personally, I prefer a slow but **steady growth from within** and not a fast growth via other, outside organizations or by convincing their judges to come to CFA. We need to help and promote our own clubs and our own people.

Together we will create a **Region 9 support team** to help new and young clubs with organizing shows and other events with **advice and practical support**. Let's feed the team spirit between all European CFA clubs. We should not compete with each other. I am sure that the many experts that we have in Europe are willing to share their knowledge with others.



EDUCATION

Together we need to work on education. Region 9 needs **more clerks and more judges**.

We could offer **training for master clerks or entry clerks**, important positions for the continuity of our clubs and our shows. **Show management training, Feline health education** and **Breed seminars** can all be on our R9 schedule. Meetings can be online or in combination with existing shows.

We need to promote **Breed Council membership** and play an active role in the future of our breeds.

Let's roll out a program for **young exhibitors** and let's find a way to recognize and welcome **new exhibitors** to our CFA family in Europe. Even if their cats don't make any finals, we want them to feel good at our shows and come back.

We need to be better informed on new and upcoming **European legislation, restrictions on breeding and showing** in some R9 countries and should **continue to reach out to other associations**. They share the same love for cats and we should work together and form a united front against the laws that forbid certain breeds without any decent scientific arguments.



FINANCE

In addition to the financial support that our Region receives from CFA, we should work on raising additional funds to finance the R9 Banquet, the Awards and other initiatives we might want to spend money on (like attracting new and young exhibitors or anything else that the Region feels is important). A finance committee, together with the input of everybody in Region 9 can work on attracting sponsors of all kinds.



My Credentials?

I have organized CFA shows in Europe for more than 30 years. Our show producing club, Feline Fanciers of Benelux, has existed for 28 years and is now the oldest club in Europe. I don't manage our shows from behind a desk but from the showhall floor. I sweat and get dirty. I was a certified clerk, master clerk and master clerk instructor. I was an entry clerk for early R9 shows. I have been organizing and teaching at clerking schools and judging schools in Europe. For two brief but exciting years, I was on the CFA Board as a director of large. I have been on the CFA protest committee, the International division committee and the judging program committee. Active in CFA as a breeder and exhibitor of Exotics, Persians, American Shorthairs and Orientals. I was the first European to complete the CFA judging program and become a CFA AB judge. I have been judging for more than 23 years and only for CFA. I am a breed council member of the Exotic, the Persian, the ASH and the OSH breed council. You can communicate with me in English, Dutch, French and German. For other languages I know how to use Google Translate so you can write to me in your own language. By fighting for what I believe in, I have made a few enemies but also many, many friends all over the world. CFA is my home.

Questions? Do not hesitate to contact me: peter@vanwonterghem.com or via FB messenger.

Wishing you all the best and I look forward to seeing you soon at one of our great CFA events.

Peter



**THE CAT FANCIERS'
ASSOCIATION**