

Connect Regulations

Constitution

The Board of Trustees of Cats Protection has established Connect as an advisory body in accordance with Rule 7 of the Rules of Cats Protection. The role, composition and procedures of Connect are set out in these Regulations approved by the Board on 23 November 2020.

1. Role of Connect

The role of Connect is to act as a consultative body that will help to inform the direction of the Charity by ensuring that the Board of Trustees, in carrying out its role, takes into account a wide range of perspectives and views from across the Charity.

The role of the Board of Trustees is to: govern the Charity; oversee its strategic direction; ensure that the Charity's resources are managed appropriately; and, to oversee the management of risks to its work for cats.

2. Composition and attendance at meetings

2.1 There shall be up to 20 members of Connect and no fewer than 5 members.

2.2 Trustees of Cats Protection will not be members of Connect but one of the Trustees will chair meetings of Connect (see paragraph 5 below) and other Trustees and employees of Cats Protection will be able to attend meetings as and when appropriate depending on the agenda.

3. Eligibility for appointment to Connect

3.1 Subject to Regulation 2.2 above, and 5.1 below, all Cats Protection volunteers are eligible to apply to be members of Connect.

3.2 Employees of Cats Protection cannot be members of Connect.

4. Appointment and Terms of Office

4.1 The Nominations Committee will consider applications against a role description, a person specification and a skills matrix and will make recommendations to the Board.

4.2 Having considered the recommendations of the Nominations Committee, the Board shall appoint members of Connect for a term of three years.

4.3 At its discretion and on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, the Board may appoint members of Connect to serve for a second consecutive term of up to three years.

4.4 A volunteer who has served two consecutive terms of office as a member of Connect will not be eligible to apply to serve any further terms of office on Connect for a period of three years from the end of their third and final term of office.

4.5 Termination

4.5.1 Membership of Connect shall cease if:

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- 4.5.2 A member absents himself or herself from two or more consecutive meetings of Connect without prior notice and the Chairman of Connect and the Board of Trustees resolves to remove the member from membership of Connect.
- 4.5.3 In the opinion of the Board, a member of Connect has behaved in such a way as to bring Cats Protection into disrepute and the Board of Trustees resolves to remove the member from Connect.
- 4.5.4 Any member so removed shall have the right to make written representations to the Board of Trustees before the Board makes a final decision.
- 4.5.5 The Board of Trustees shall be able to terminate membership of Connect for good and sufficient cause on the advice of the Chairman of Connect and can terminate membership of Connect based on performance.
- 4.5.6 If a member of Connect ceases to be a volunteer for Cats Protection because they have been asked to stand down as a volunteer then membership of Connect ceases automatically. Members of Connect who have otherwise, ceased volunteering for Cats Protection can continue to serve until the end of their current term of office as a member of Connect.

5. Chairman

- 5.1 The Chairman of Connect shall be a Trustee appointed by the Board of Trustees for a term of up to three years or, if sooner, to the end of his or her term of appointment as a Trustee.
- 5.2 At its discretion, the Board of Trustees may appoint the Chairman to serve for a second term of up to three years as Chairman of Connect.
- 5.3 If the Chairman fails to arrive within 15 minutes of the commencement of a meeting of Connect then Connect may elect one of the members of Connect present to chair the meeting.

6. Secretary

The Chief Executive will ensure that an appropriate member of staff will act as secretary to Connect.

7. Meetings

- 7.1 Connect shall meet at least twice a year.
- 7.2 Five members of the Connect including the Chairman shall constitute a quorum for Connect meetings.

Version	Comments	Date
1.	Nomcom/Connect sub group meeting amends	13.11.2020
2.	Approved by email by Trustees	19/23.11.2020