

Annual Report 2025

General information

Felis Belgica vzw
Tiensesteenweg 121
3380 Glabbeek
Company number: 0897 851 596

Accreditations under the Breeding Decree:

- Coordinating association under registration number F-24-CV3 (12/03/2025)
- Studbook association under registration number F-24-SBV9 (12/03/2025)

Introduction

Annual Report 2025, as discussed and approved by the General Meeting of Members, which took place in Aalst on 31/01/2026.

The meeting was held in a hybrid format (in person and online), in accordance with the Articles of Association, and is legally competent to take decisions. The attendance list is available for inspection at the secretariat.

Report on General Operations

2025 was a difficult and intense year. Following the entry into force of the Flemish Breeding Decree, all breeding programmes had to be aligned with the Animal Welfare Service in order to obtain recognition as a studbook association. This was achieved on 12 March 2025. Currently, only the breeding programmes for Manx, Cymric and American Bobtail have not been formally approved.

Consequently, a great deal of adjustment work was required behind the scenes to the studbook programme, so that pedigrees issued are also in accordance with the Flemish Breeding Decree. This came into force on 1 July 2025. During implementation, a few bugs were found in the programme, which were systematically addressed and resolved.

At the same time, the website and the members' platform underwent a complete overhaul. These updated versions were also rolled out in 2025. With regard to the website, it should be noted once again that only catteries are published that have indicated in the members' portal itself that they wish

to be published on the website, so that, in accordance with the GDPR, no unwanted information about members can be disclosed.

Felis Belgica vzw remains an official member of the Brussels Council for Animal Welfare. Here, we contributed to the advisory opinion regarding the ban on yoga classes involving puppies or kittens and were part of the working group on the revision of the kennel decree for the Brussels-Capital Region. We also systematically respond to every enquiry from the Walloon and Flemish animal welfare services and/or the regional councils for Animal Welfare and remain willing to cooperate further in the future.

Following on from the 2024 event (Call to Care for Animal Welfare), Felis Belgica also took part in European-level surveys on animal welfare, insofar as they were relevant to cats, and we participated in the Choose Health Coalition

Exclusive Launch of the **CHOOSE HEALTH COALITION** Baseline Report



Training courses 2025

- 25/01/2025: Explanation of the inbreeding coefficient and the Flemish Breeding Decree for members
- 31/05/2025: FIFe judges' seminar – lecture by Prof. Leslie Lyons on Dominant Blue Eyes and how to deal with extreme breed characteristics. Seminar organised by the FIFe Judges and Standards Committee, open to all.

Disciplinary Committee Report

Three formal complaints were received regarding two catteries registered with Felis Belgica and one cattery registered with Felikat. For reasons of confidentiality, no names are mentioned.

- 1) 08/01/2025: Dispute regarding the genetic correctness of a pedigree application. DNA evidence from the sire was requested (HCM carrier). Following the submission of the necessary tests, registration certificates were issued marked 'not for breeding' due to serious doubts regarding the breeding ethics of the breeder in question and the inability to confirm paternity. The breeder in question is no longer an active member of Felis Belgica.
- 2) 15/08/2025: complaint regarding the sale of kittens with hidden defects and failure to comply with legal requirements. Although the breeder in question was not an active member of Felis Belgica, a cattery name was still registered with FIFe via us. The breeder in question was given notice to rectify the situation. Following a categorical refusal and a demand for deregistration, the request was granted and FBe asked FIFe to deregister the cattery. Furthermore, the competent authorities were informed of the legal infringements for further action.
- 3) 12/12/2025: complaint against a Dutch cattery by a Felis Belgica member regarding sick kittens and kitten mortality. The cause was alleged to be the use of a 'sick' stud cat from the Dutch cattery. However, evidence and symptoms were not demonstrated and were inconsistent. The complaint was therefore not pursued further.

The Commission reminds members that member discounts are available from laboratories upon simple request.

Show Committee Report

Three shows were organised by Felis Belgica:

- 1) Merelbeke 22/06/2025, 2-cert., 1-day show
- 2) Glabbeek 16 & 17/08/2025, 2 certificates, 2 one-day shows, split by categories
- 3) Arlon, 22 & 23/11/2025, 2 certificates, 2-day show

Average number of cats per show: 202. This also represents a decrease in the average number of entries compared to 2024 (-14%), with the caveat that in 2024 the North Sea Winner Show took place in Court-St-Etienne, which skews the average figures somewhat. A notable trend: more Belgian exhibitors compared to foreign exhibitors.

Number of cats		%
Category 1	252	20,8%
Category 2	347	28,6%
Category 3	352	29,0%
Category 4	256	21,1%
House Cats	6	0,5%
Non	0	0,0%
XLH/XSH	0	0,0%
TOTAL	1.213	100,0%

The Committee reminds members to respect the entry deadlines (3 weeks before the show). Failure to do so is disrespectful to the volunteers.

A call is also being issued for a new photographer. Contact: samantha@felisbelgica.be

Club Report

Club Italia

General:

Club under Felis Belgica

Stable membership numbers – 74 active members

Positive financial result

Activities:

- Administrative support for the Felis Belgica studbook
- Online seminar on changes to regulations and standards
- Webinar on the interpretation and understanding of breed standards
- Lecture on the FIFe structure and rules



Belgian Ragdoll Club

General:

Breed club for Ragdolls

Stable membership numbers – 60 active members

Positive financial result

Activities:

- Webinar on judging the Ragdoll and the breed standard
- Online workshop on silver in the Ragdoll

The board of the Belgian Ragdoll Club will temporarily transfer the management of the club to Felis Belgica in 2026. The transfer is currently underway.



Feline Teddy Bears

General:

Breed club for British Shorthair and Longhair and Selkirk Rex Shorthair and Longhair

Strong membership growth: +40% – 50 active members

Positive financial results

Activities:

- 3-day course in feline genetics
- Cat walk
- Magazine



Financial Overview

Indicator	Results 2025
Turnover	€89,229.71
Net result from general operations	€539.97
Net result from the studbook	€19,934.05
Net profit from shows	€5,488.33
Total net profit	€25,061.12

A healthy operating reserve was built up in 2025 thanks to the efforts of all the volunteers. The losses incurred in 2022 as a result of organising the FIFe World Show and in 2024 as a result of the North Sea Winner have been fully recouped. All activities for the association were carried out on a voluntary basis. Felis Belgica vzw now has a healthy working capital, which means that in the coming period, extra resources can be allocated to training and further investments in the members' portal and studbook programme.

The Audit Committee has reviewed the accounts and reports to the General Meeting that no irregularities have been identified.

The General Meeting of Members discharged the treasurer from his responsibilities for the financial year 2025.

Budget and Outlook for 2026

The 2026 budget is proposed by the treasurer. A balanced budget of €97,400.00 is proposed.

Key investments:

- €7,500.00 for the development of training courses and seminars
- €1,000.00 for technical equipment for shows

The General Meeting of Members approves the budget for 2026.

Three shows are planned for 2026, possibly a fourth:

- 1) Merelbeke 28/02 & 01/03/2026, 2-certificate, 2-day show.
- 2) Arendonk (BE) and Reusel (NL) 16 & 17 May 2026 in collaboration with Felikat, 2 certificates, 2 one-day shows, split by categories – registration for both shows possible
- 3) Glabbeek 22 & 23/08/2026, 2 certificates, 2 one-day shows, split by categories



Board and elections

The General Meeting of Members discharged the board from its responsibilities for the 2025 financial year.

The position of treasurer was up for election. There were no candidates. The role will be filled by the board pending the co-opting of a new treasurer.

Proposals for the General Meeting

FELIS BELGICA

Adopted by the General Meeting

- 1) Remind Minister Weyts of the importance of a campaign to promote pedigrees. Possibly collaborate with the other recognised studbook associations to fund our own campaign if the minister fails to fulfil his promises.
- 2) Amend the IW regulations: take into account a maximum of 5 results per country instead of 10

Not retained by the General Meeting

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FIFe

Approved by the General Meeting

- 1) Inclusion of parentage verification via DNA on FIFe pedigrees
- 2) Re-submission of the FBe proposal regarding show rings
- 3) Formalisation of the FIFe fund
- 4) The rule that kittens may not be shown within three weeks of each other is impossible to enforce when it comes to non-FIFe shows. It is best to remove this rule.
The General Meeting agrees with this, but does not see a priority in submitting this.

Not adopted by the General Meeting

- 1) Always register all XSH / XLH kittens born to two purebred parents as the breed, but in an 'X' variety rather than as XSH / XLH (e.g. Pointed Russians)
Not retained due to emotional debate within certain breeds and respect for tradition.
- 2) Allow two FIFe members per country
Not adopted due to the impossibility of splitting a national FIFe studbook.

World Cat Congress

Submitted

- 1) DNA parentage verification as a strong recommendation and inclusion on pedigrees
- 2) Launch a study into the functionality of whiskers and the potential consequences of the lack of whiskers for indoor cats. Request a budget from all WCC federations
- 3) Launch of a study on Manx & Cymric in collaboration with Leslie Lyons. Request for funding from all WCC federations
- 4) Standardise the mandatory health tests across all federations as much as possible
- 5) Include the microchip number on all pedigrees across all federations

Contact and Acknowledgements

If you have any questions or feedback regarding this annual report, please contact us at info@felisbelgica.be. On behalf of the whole team, we thank you for your trust and look forward to a successful 2026!