
CatTALK
A Publication of the Cat Fanciers' Association®
Volume 11 | Issue 2 | April 2021
The Kitten Issue

You stay happy, pets stay FREE!



SAVE 15%

at 500+ Red Roof properties nationwide!

Visit www.redroof.com or call 800.RED.ROOF
and use **VP+/Promo Code 526223** to receive your discount.*

Don't forget to bring your furry friend along because

pets stay free!

Red Roof | Red Roof Plus+

*Some black-out dates may apply. May not be combined with other discounts or offers. Restrictions may apply based on availability.



Let Them Lounge in Comfort!

Dogs, Cats, and many other small animals live safely in our enclosure



#320A - 50”x36”31”



#515 - 6’x4’x3’



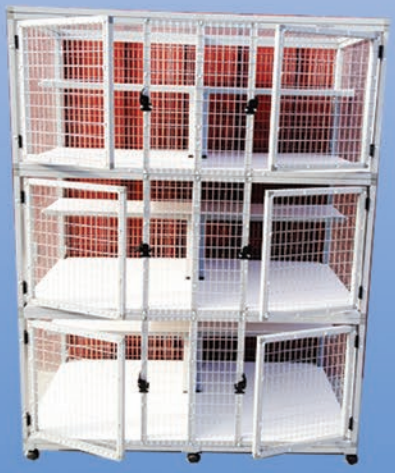
#535 - 6’x5’x3’



#200 - 26”x36”x22”



#520 - 66”x56”x31”



#460 - 72”x58”x30”



#360 - 6’x3’x31”



#935 - 78”x56”x31”

Now available!

BOLT IN SYSTEM

Goes together in a few minutes

• Safe • Quick & Easy to clean • Unsurpassed Durability

• Easy Breakdown & Assembly• Indoor & Outdoor Use

ULTRA LITE ORIGINAL

1-888-858-7298

1(541)299-0133 (Canada)

www.CatCages.com

Ultra Lite Original pioneered the animal enclosure industry in 1985 and now proudly offers an all new line of enclosures for the 21st century. Our line consists of superior construction grade one inch square Vinyl Composition tubing and ABS fittings clamps, and latches. Our custom enclosures are made of kennel quality, .14 gauge, 1” 2” galvanized wire, and are available powder coated. All of our products are made in the U.S.A. by Ultra Lite Original

CatTALK
A Publication of the Cat Fanciers' Association
Volume 11 | Issue 2 | April 2021

Kittens
Tidbits for New Breeders....7
Ultrasound vs. X-Ray....9
Milk Replacement Options....10
Tips For New Pet Owners....13
Feline Heart Health....15
State Breeder Laws....16
Effective Show Management pt 2....19
What You Don't Know About Persians....23
My Special Cat....26
Up Close and Purr-sonal....28
Fur Names....30

Editor .... Teresa Keiger
Assistant Editor .... Candilee Jackson
Contributing Writers.... Mike Altschul, Jacqui Bennett, Laurie Coughlan, Kelly Crouch, Lucy Drury, Dennis Ganoe, Judy Gunby, Kathi Hoos, Candilee Jackson, Nancy Kerr, Cathy Scarbrough, Ann Strople, Iris Zinck
Lead Copy Editor.... Iris Zinck
Copy Editors .... Jean Aldrich, Laurie Coughlan, Leah Dow, Nancy Kerr, Jacqueline Loehlein Dawn McClure, Barbara Stone-Newton
Layout.... Teresa Keiger
Staff.... Charlotte Shelburne, Shelly Borawski

Cat Talk is published bi-monthly, and may be ordered online at www.cfa.org, or directly from The CFA Office, 260 East Main Street, Alliance OH 44601-2479, USA. 330-680-4070.

Subscription – 6 issues at $49.00 per year, includes shipping. For delivery to Canada or Mexico, add $10.00. International subscription rate is $79 per year, includes shipping. Single issue price – $10 excluding shipping.
Digital issues available via www.magzter.com or Kindle Newsstand for $49/year or $10 per issue.

Copyright 2021 by The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited unless expressly authorized in writing by the editor.

Copyright for all photographs is retained by the individual photographer and pictures may not be reproduced without permission in writing from photographer and editor.

Any opinions, ideas, statements, claims, or views expressed in Cat Talk are not necessarily those of The Cat Fanciers' Association Inc., its Board of Directors or the editorial staff.

President's Message



CFA President Darrell Newkirk

CFA continues to be adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, we have recently lost some very special people in CFA to the devastating effects of this virus. We keep those family members in our thoughts and prayers.

The CFA Board continues to host our board meetings on the Zoom platform. We utilize the webinar function for our open session agenda items and the meetings function for our closed session agenda items. At our last Board meeting a decision was made to take the 2021 CFA Annual meetings to a virtual format. New York not for profit law governs not for profit corporations and they amended the laws to allow for virtual meetings for organizations like CFA. This amendment is in effect until the end of 2021.

The Legal Advisory Committee and the CFA attorney have been very busy working in coordination with our law firm in New York. There are two main areas of concern that we must update in order to be compliant with NY-NPC law. One is our very outdated articles of incorporation and the other is our Constitution. In order for the CFA to be compliant with NY-NPC law both of these documents must be updated. I appointed Cyndy Byrd to head up this committee and she has done a great deal of work, picking up where Mary Auth left off with the Constitution committee work.

A Genetics Advisory Committee was appointed at the last Board meeting. Thank you to Carol Johnson, DVM for taking on this committee chairmanship. This will be a standing committee that will work with the Breeds and Standards Committee on genetic issues affecting our breeds and additionally, to assist Central Office with complicated genetic issues that may arise from time to time.

As mentioned above, our 2021 Annual meetings will be going virtual this year. The Annual is just a few short months away and there was no predicting how COVID-19 would impact our ability to meet face to face. It was a difficult decision, but a committee has been appointed and is being chaired by Rich Mastin. The details of the virtual meeting planning will be made public so that everyone will know what is expected to complete a successful virtual Annual meeting. There may be some bumps in the road ahead, but we are resilient and we will rise to meet the challenge.

COVID-19 vaccinations are now available to front line workers and some elderly age groups. The guidelines are being implemented by the individual states and they vary greatly. It is up to each of you to decide if the vaccination protocol is right for you. I have received my first vaccine and will receive my second dose the middle of March. The verdict is still out on when we will be able to return to

continues p. 5

On Our Covers

Spring brings us hope...and kittens!

front cover: Abyssinian kittens owned by Susan Kidder. Photographer: Chanan
back cover: Bengal kittens owned and photographed by Melody Boyd.

News

CFA and TrapKing's "From Feral to Fancy" Cat Photo Contest Reaches its Successful Conclusion



CFA and Zymox report an exciting – and surprising – outcome to their partnership with rapper-turned-trapper Sterling "TrapKing" Davis! The three organizations collaborated on a virtual cat competition – The TrapKing From Feral To Fancy Contest – with ten internet-celebrity judges. Although CFA is best known for its focus on pedigreed cats, over 85% of 850 entries were rescued cats that had never previously participated in any sort of cat competition!

Cats from the US, Canada, Europe, even as far away as South Africa battled it out to win their share of 150 prizes sponsored by ten prominent cat-related businesses: Zymox and Oratene, Kitty Poo Club, CUDDLY, Hauspanther, Yeowww! Catnip, Purrniture, Catalyst Pet, Tomahawk Live Trap, even Tabby Dates, "the cat person's dating app." Judges included cat product designer and author Kate Benjamin of Hauspanther, talk show host and columnist Arden Moore, Laura Moss of Adventure Cats, cat experts and brand parents The Two Crazy Cat Ladies, Sunglass Cat, Nathan The Cat Lady (aka Nathan Kehn), the Cowboy Cat Wrangler (aka Bob Lynch), the Mad Catter (aka Angelo Ruffo), Dobby the Sphynx and Lobo the Lykoi from South Africa, and of course, TrapKing himself. Cats competed in categories such as "Beautiful Eyes," "Purrfectly Impurrfect" and "Where's Your Cat At?" First place winners' photos in each category will be featured on a 23-story-tall Times Square billboard in New York on March 10-11, 2021.

Davis was thrilled by the virtual cat contest's success. "This event was so amazing!" he says. "I loved all of the cats' pictures and looked at each and every one of them. I wish everyone could have won a prize." He believes the contest has helped fulfill his dream of uniting cat people, "no matter if they're feral or pedigreed, we all come together for the sake of cats . . . and you don't lose cool points for compassion." The event will help support cat rescues all over the country through TNR education or directly for spay/neuters of feral cats to prevent cat overpopulation.

According to CFA Marketing Director Desiree Bobby, "Davis is on a mission to bridge gaps between contrasting groups of cat lovers . . . men and women, supporters of rescue/TNR programs and responsible breeders . . . we're all connected by our love of felines and our dedication to doing right by them." Supporting his efforts reflects CFA's policy of promoting equal participation without discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin or disabilities. It also shows CFA's commitment to preserving, protecting and celebrating all varieties of domestic felines.

President's Message, continued

some semblance of normalcy. The future predictions of herd immunity are varied. The CDC guidelines are to continue to mask up, socially distance, and continue frequent hand washing.

CFA shows are starting to be held in some areas of our exhibitor base. The ability to host a show varies depending on the parameters of how many people can gather together. Our clubs have come up with alternatives on keeping crowd size limited. If your club is planning on hosting a CFA show, make sure that you are checking your local/state laws and following CDC guidelines.

Central Office has been diligent in sending out notices via the CFA News Release of our Board meetings. You are welcome to observe the open session agenda discussions. I hope to see you there in the future. Until then, stay safe and healthy!



Sturdi Products

www.sturdiproducts.com

For traveling pets and their people!



Portable
pop-up shelters

SturdiBag™
flex-height pet carriers

Sturdi Products: preferred by pet professionals who travel extensively with their companions.

1-253-884-2368



Tidbits For New Breeders

Kathi Hoos

In our past article we discussed some tips for breeding and early pregnancy. Now we will move forward in time to late stages of pregnancy. As your cat comes closer to delivery time, there are few things to keep in mind:

- That big belly makes eating a full meal difficult, so offer smaller meals more often.
- Her nipples need to be kept clean, so keep the edges of the litter pan as clean as possible.
- Nesting may start, and cats will get into the nest area and do a lot of purring. This may or may not indicate the first stage of labor. Early labor is difficult to discern and may take many hours.
- Vaginal discharge is not uncommon in late pregnancy and does not usually signal a problem. This discharge may be from slight vaginal irritation or may be part of the mucous plug. It does NOT mean labor is coming immediately, just that the cervix is starting to slightly open. Concern over discharge should come if it is foul-smelling, green-colored or contains a LOT of blood. If any of those occur, your vet will most likely put the queen on a course of Clavamox.

One of the best hints I have received is: CATS DO NOT READ THE BOOK. The time and length of labor may vary considerably, just as it does in humans. Do not try to time things to the minute from books, the internet, or on the advice of anyone but your vet. Patience is the best medicine during labor and delivery.

As Labor Begins

Once you are fairly certain your queen is in labor, give the long-acting penicillin shot if you are following the strep G protocol. (This should have been discussed in advance with your vet prior to breeding). Strep infections are not uncommon in catteries and cause premature death in kittens, small litters, and what some call "fading kitten syndrome." If you are experiencing these problems, please talk to your vet about the possibility of strep infections.

As the second stage of labor proceeds, the queen starts to push. As long as she rests nicely between contractions, there is not a ticking time bomb as to how long this stage could take.

Once you see the presenting part of a kitten, head or tail, monitor progress. Is the part moving forward? With a first-time mother, this takes longer. It also takes longer if the kitten is in a breech position (tail first). The longest deliveries occur when the kitten is not living. Most of the time, when a deceased kitten is delivered, it expired prior to labor. Placentas remain attached and kittens have oxygen and blood supply from the mom until delivery.



Breech kittens are not uncommon and many litters have a 50% breech position rate. Since the largest part of the kitten is the skull, patience is essential in breech delivery. Do not yank or pull on the kitten. The skull pressing against the cervix helps to open it, so head-first babies speed their own arrivals. You must allow for the same thing to happen—more slowly— with a breech where the body is already out. Simply support the body of the kitten and lift it slightly … and WAIT.

Signs of Trouble?

Once the first kitten is born, you can give a sigh of relief. The cervix is open; the mother is able to deliver. The problems are few after this. One could be malpresentation, where perhaps the head is not tilted forward but is tipped backwards. A signal of this is two front feet first. Veterinary intervention is required. Another problem might be a kitten that is too large. Again, veterinary assistance is required.

If the queen is pushing HARD and zero progress is being made after an hour, the vet needs to be called. If it is during the night, a trip to your ER vet is in order.

Let me provide a brief word on the use of oxytocin. The use of this drug is both an art and a science. If given too early, it can cause uterine rupture and/or fetal demise from too-early separation of placentas. If repeated, it can cause the uterus to stop responding to it. Oxytocin is something you should talk to your vet about in detail and not something to simply Google.

What to Do After Delivery

Contrary to popular belief, cats do NOT need to eat the placentas in order to have milk. Our Creator designed cats as wild animals. Since newborn kittens need their mom to keep them warm for the first few days, eating the placenta provides her with protein and nutrition so she does not have to leave the nest. While placentas do contain some oxytocin, which helps milk production, cats that undergo C-sections typically manage to nurse well. I remove placentas since they can cause some loose stool, and I have never had a mom

that did not have a full milk supply. It is up to you if you want the mom to eat the placentas or not. I like to examine them to be sure there are not pieces missing that I need to watch for later, and to know what a healthy placenta looks like.

I do intervene and tie cords and dip the cut cord tip in iodine. I weigh the kitten and give the long-acting penicillin injection. I then examine the kitten for cleft palate, deformities or problems. I also test its righting reflex and sucking reflex. The righting reflex means the kitten can turn over if it is on its side or back. The sucking reflex, of course, means that it is ready to nurse. If either is missing, I mark the kitten and watch it closely. If both reflexes do not appear by the time the queen has delivered all kittens, I know this kitten will need tube feeding and special attention.

When the queen has delivered all of the kittens, I provide her with a hand-fed meal, usually baby food meat or human boiled chicken to prevent hypoglycemia. Then the nest material is cleaned and mom and kittens are left to rest. Kittens cannot regulate their own body temperatures for several days, so be certain the room is warm. If you provide extra heat, make sure the queen and kittens can get away from it if they are too hot.

After several years of the frustration of trying to get kittens to latch on, I finally learned to leave that issue to mom. I check hourly and find that the kittens are latched on within an hour or two at the most.

The above is far from a primer on labor and delivery care but is meant to be some hints to assist new breeders. If you need more assistance, CFA has a mentor program on their website. Most experienced breeders are open to questions, so contact one of us.

Raising the Little Ones

Following birth, I weigh kittens both morning and night for two weeks, then once a day for two weeks. If they are gaining—or at least not losing—I do not intervene. If one kitten is not gaining, I may hand feed a larger one to allow the smaller kitten to have more access to mom, or I may simply supplement that particular kitten for a few days.

I make sure mom is on a firm mattress or bedding since it is difficult for her to feel kittens under her in soft bedding material. I do change bedding daily at weigh-in time in the morning.

As the kittens grow, make sure all of the kittens are achieving the same growth and development goals at – or nearly at – the same time. A kitten who is not standing or moving about like its siblings requires investigation into the reason why.

While your queen is nursing, she should be fed as much as she will eat – and often. Keep plenty of fresh water available.

I allow kittens to wean themselves unless the queen has a large litter and is losing weight, in which case I encourage the kittens to eat from the dish sooner, and may even remove the queen for a few days.

Strep G Protocol

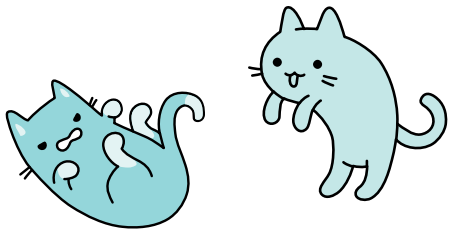
- At the onset of labor, give the queen 1 cc of long-acting penicillin* (one brand is DuraPen) subcutaneously. Use at least a 22-gauge needle as the penicillin is thick.
- As the kittens arrive, give each one 0.25 cc of DILUTED penicillin† at a 1:6 dilution with normal saline to each kitten subcutaneously.
- Since the object of Penicillin is to prevent colonization there is NO NEED TO REPEAT the penicillin either for the queen or kittens.
- If you are not certain how to make the proper dilution, please ask your veterinarian, a nurse or pharmacist for assistance.

*Long-acting penicillin is a suspension containing 150,000 units penicillin G benzathine and 150,000 units penicillin G procaine per ml. This type of penicillin is available online or at stores like Tractor Supply. It needs to be refrigerated after opening.

† Dilution of long-acting penicillin: 0.1 cc of penicillin is mixed with 0.6 cc of normal saline for injection. This will provide two kitten doses with some left over to discard. Use a 22-gauge needle to mix but administer with a 25-gauge needle.

Some litters may have weaning diarrhea. This can come from eating food that is too rich, so be sure to use kitten food. Queens can also get loose stools from eating too much kitten food. It is a balancing act. Weaning diarrhea can also come from an overgrowth of E. coli bacteria in the kittens' digestive tracts. This needs to be treated by your vet, possibly with Clavamox for a few days. Some vets prefer you try a probiotic first, so be certain to check with your vet as to how to proceed.

I hope these hints help you get started on the way to raising healthy, happy kittens.



ULTRASOUND VS X-RAY

Which One Do You Need?

Iris Zinck



The more we know about what's going on inside our pregnant queens, the better prepared we will be to cope with whatever challenges a particular pregnancy might present. Abdominal ultrasounds and X-rays are the two most widely used procedures to evaluate our mothers-to-be, but breeders can sometimes be confused.

Why Do an Ultrasound?

Because an ultrasound can determine pregnancy as early as 15 days after breeding, it is the gold standard to use if you need to find out quickly whether a breeding has "taken". It is, however, advisable to do the ultrasound approximately 22 days post breeding, when the fetal heartbeats can be detected. This can provide you with a better indication of whether you have a normal pregnancy or not, even before the cat has "pinked up". In this era of personal pet transport, long-distance breedings are less common than previously, but if you have a queen in for stud service and the breeder is going to fly to pick her up, an ultrasound is highly recommended before that plane ticket gets purchased.

What if you aren't quite sure of the breeding date? Ultrasounds can help assess gestational age, thereby enabling you to better forecast the due-date range. Measuring the cross-sectional diameter of the kittens' heads and chests can determine how many more weeks of intrauterine growth the kitten needs. One source noted that a kitten with a head diameter of 1.9 centimeters likely has two weeks to go, whereas a head diameter of 2.2 centimeters has about a week to go. However, larger litters often produce smaller kittens, which can affect the reliability of these measurements. You may want to consider an X-ray for a more precise determination. Another clue to the due date is the presence or absence of surrounding placental fluids. Midway through gestation, the ultrasound generally displays a lot of fluid surrounding the kittens, but as the due date approaches, the amount of fluid decreases.

The third key reason to do an ultrasound is to establish the viability of the kittens. Let's say it is day 67 and mom is doing absolutely nothing. You might do an ultrasound to check the kittens' heart rates. The normal, healthy kitten will have a heart rate above 200 beats per minute, which slows to 200 or slightly below when labor is imminent. If the heart rate falls below 180, it is a sign of trouble and your cat will likely need a C-section to get that kitten out as quickly as possible. The clearness of the image and the surrounding fluid should also be evaluated, as cloudy fluid and indistinct outlines of the organs could be a sign of a dying or dead kitten. Finally, an ultrasound also provides the sonographer the opportunity to see the kittens moving in real time.

Ultrasounds are generally less stressful for the queen than X-rays as she does not need to be as heavily restrained for proper imaging. Some vets will insist on shaving the belly before an ultrasound, which may actually be desirable for long-haired breeds as it makes the nipples more accessible to the kittens.

Why Do an X-Ray?

The kittens' skeletons will not be visible on an X-ray until 40-45 days after breeding. Therefore, while an X-ray can certainly be used to determine pregnancy, it requires you to wait longer to verify the queen's status. For many of us, the best use of an X-ray is to get an accurate kitten count, which is typically done by counting and matching up the number of skulls and spines. If you are expecting a larger-than-average litter, you want to be prepared to supplement the kittens and to be sure to have a feeding tube and plenty of formula on hand. A smaller-than-average litter could mean larger kittens and potential birthing problems, which might suggest scheduling a C-section (usually considerably less expensive than having to do one as an emergency). But the true value of an X-ray is shown when the number of kittens delivered does not match the number shown on the X-ray. If five kittens were found on the X-ray and only three arrive, a trip to the emergency room will likely be necessary in order to find out what happened to numbers four and five!

An X-ray is considered more accurate than an ultrasound for due-date forecasts because more precise measurements of the kittens' sizes can be obtained. Crown-rump lengths (the distance from the head to the bottom of the pelvis) are difficult to detect on an ultrasound but are more easily determined on an X-ray and can be used to ascertain gestational age. The vet can also assess the kittens' head sizes relative to the size of the birth canal and help you anticipate potential problems in this regard. Reviewing the positioning of the kittens can also be helpful; if they appear to be lining up for a quick exit, you could have a happy event in the car on your way home from the vet! You might also see a kitten positioned in such a way that it is unlikely to be able to be delivered normally. Again, it is usually better to plan a C-section than to have to do one as an emergency.

While X-rays can be more stressful for your queen than an ultrasound, they do not require shaving and are quite safe for the kittens.

story continues p 12

"Got Milk?"

If Not, Here's What to Do

Candilee Jackson



The Kitten Issue

Way back, some twenty years ago, I entered a Tonkinese partnership with a long-time and well-respected breeder. Although I was excited to learn the ropes of this new hobby, I was, at the same time, petrified by the pending arrival of my first litter. On one hand, I felt like the fictional character, Prissy, of *Gone With The Wind* fame, and wanted to shout, "But Miz Scarlett, I don' know nuthin' about birthin' no babies!" There was so much a breeder-midwife needed to know, and of course, I knew these babies would be born in the dead of night with everyone in the entire world asleep and unavailable for hand-holding except me. I had all the accoutrements required for proper feline midwifery, including a borrowed baby monitor from a friend whose children were now in high school. And "sure as shootin'," those kittens were born between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m., in the dead of night, with snow and ice falling. My husband slept soundly through the entire process, overhead fan light on the whole time.

So now what? What if they don't nurse? I could not leave something as important as this up to Mother Nature, or could I? Fortunately, Fur Elise turned out to be the "purrfect" mommy cat. But having the first mommy cat doing a proper job did not answer my query: what happens when kittens do not latch on and nurse? I wanted an answer so I could be ready for anything!

Naturally, I knew about milk replacer and heads wiser than mine have long insisted KMR was the "best out there; just follow the directions on the can." At 2 a.m., I have few choices to find KMR, especially with a driveway covered in black ice. Waiting until the local pet store opened at 10am the next morning might well be too late. Thank heavens for computers and breeder friends who are night owls! They had answers for everything: condensed milk mixed with a bunch of stuff in my cupboard, and I was introduced to "kitten glop." In researching for this article, I had to laugh as in one of the sites I visited, the term "kitten glop" was actually still used!

When to Use Milk Replacer

While there are clinical protocols for the use of milk replacers, credit should be given to the breeder in asking the appropriate questions:

1. Are the kittens thriving?
2. Are the kittens crying because of hunger?
3. Is the queen producing enough milk?
4. Are the kittens gaining weight?
5. Are the kittens having difficulty latching on?

Of course, there are other concerns:

- Hypothermia
- Dehydration
- Congenital abnormalities
- Low birth weight
- Competition from siblings
- Death of the queen
- Fading kittens

Goat's Milk Versus Condensed Milk

Based in Northern California, Tailspring is one of the largest purveyors of goat's milk product and has been in the business of providing milk replacement products since 1937.

"We believe that goat milk is the G.O.A.T., the Greatest Of All Time. Sometimes it is referred to as the "universal mothers' milk" because it is easy to digest across many animals' species and provides rapid energy absorption. True mother's milk is always the top option for our furry friends, but when it's not available, goat milk is the very best choice to help them thrive." (Tailspring)

For kittens, goat's milk is easy to digest. As Tailspring explains, goat's milk "has smaller fat globules and forms smaller, softer curds in the stomach than cow's milk. Especially for very young animals, this allows the digestive system to break down compounds quicker and absorb nutrients and energy faster, making it easy to digest."

All mammal milk contains casein, a natural protein. Many "adult cats can have difficulty with the AlphaS1 casein found in cow's milk which causes allergies comparable to those experienced by people." Goat's milk is low in AlphaS1, but contains AlphaS2 casein, giving the milk a hypoallergenic value." (Tailspring)

While not toxic to kittens, cow's milk can have adverse effects. Well-fed adult cats on a nutritious diet of top-grade foods do not need milk in their diet. Many cats and kittens "are lactose-intolerant, which means the lactose in milk and milk products produces stomach upsets, cramps and gassiness." (Revival)

Beside being tasty, goat's milk is a superior dairy product that is "formulated with additional nutrients that are necessary for kittens." When compared with cow's milk, goat's milk" naturally contains 18% more calcium; 43% more potassium; 40% more magnesium; and 104% more vitamin A." (Tailspring)

Types of Milk Replacer

There are a variety of milk replacers on the market, and depending on where these products are purchased, prices can vary, and coupons are available online for most. The most popular milk replacers are KMR, PetLac, and Breeder's Edge Foster Care Feline Milk Replacer.

Both KMR and PetLac are manufactured by the same parent company, Petag, Inc. Both products come in powder and liquid. KMR and PetLac Kitten powder are both nutritionally complete for kittens, newborn to 6 weeks of age. They do differ in composition and guaranteed analysis. KMR powder contains 42% protein and 25% fat, whereas PetLac kitten powder contains 33% protein and 18% fat. (Petag)

Made and marketed by Revival Animal Health, Breeder's Edge Foster Care Feline Milk Replacer is an excellent product for kitten support "when the queen's milk is not enough." This product has "all the essential amino acids necessary to help with tissue growth, repair and maintenance. The lower levels of lactose make it easy to tolerate, reducing GI irritation, diarrhea and vomiting. It contains increased levels of carbohydrates, fats, proteins and energy to meet the nutritional needs of rejected, orphaned or fading kittens." (Revival)

Sources

2017. "Kitten Rescue Los Angeles." *Recipes for Homemade Kitten Formula*. Mar. Accessed Jan 31, 2021. https://kittenrescue.org.2017/03/recipes-emergency-kitten-formula.

n.d. "Pet Web MD." *A Guide to Newborn Kitten Care*. Accessed Jan 31, 2021. https://pets.webmd.com/cats/guide/newborn-kitten-care#1.

n.d. "PetAg." *Products For Kittens*. Accessed Feb 02, 2021. https://petag.com/animals/kittens.

n.d. "Rivival Animal Health." *Milk Replacers*. Accessed Jan 31, 2021. https://www.revivalanimal.com/product/breeders-edge-foster-care-feline-milk-replacer/cat.

n.d. "Tailspring." *Why Goat's Milk?* Accessed Jan 31, 2021. https://tailspring.com/pages/why-goal-milk?gclid=Cj0KCQiApY.

Feeding a Newborn Kitten

Prior to the birth of your kittens, a few supplies need to be purchased and at the ready. Supplies such as bottles, nipples, etc. can be purchased through Amazon, Chewy, Revival, or Petag which has an entire section dedicated to the needs of newborn kittens on their website (https://www.petag.com/animals/kittens)

1. Small baby bottles or syringes (without needles)
2. Tiny nipples for kittens
3. Milk replacer product OR recipe and ingredients for making homemade milk replacer
4. A small notebook to keep daily record of the time and amount of milk taken as well as weight gain or loss

Heat the formula until it is just warm, testing a few drops on your wrist to check the temperature. Microwave ovens should be used with GREAT care: consider warming water in a measuring cup and placing the formula in a smaller container (syringe or bottle) in the hot water to warm.

"Keep the kitten in a natural feeding position on its belly and offer warm formula every three to four hours until the kitten begins to wean to solid food. Kittens should eat about eight milliliters of formula per ounce of body weight a day. This means if the kitten weighs four ounces, they should eat about 32 milliliters of formula total in a day, so you can give eight milliliters of formula every four hours" (The Spruce).

"If constipation occurs, add one drop of vegetable oil to each kitten's formula no more than once daily until the problem is resolved." (The Spruce)

Submissions

Cat Talk is always looking for stories and items of interest. Have an idea to contribute? A story that you think our readers might be interested in?
A photo that we might be able to use?
We welcome all suggestions.

Please contact Teresa Keiger at tkeiger@cfa.org

Give the Gift of Cat Talk

Have a cat-loving friend, a fellow breeder or veterinarian for whom you'd like to do something special?

Gift them a Cat Talk subscription.

We will also send them a card notifying them of your gift!

Available in print OR online for the same price!

http://catalog.cfa.org/cattalk-almanac.shtml
or on Kindle Newsstand or Magzter

Recipes for Kitten Glop

There are several recipes for kitten glop, some using condensed milk, goat's milk, cow's milk, and basically which to select is up to you and your cat and kittens. The recipes below came from several websites including Pets Web MD and Kitten Rescue Los Angeles, as well as my Tonkinese mentors.

Kitten Replacement Formula #1

- 2 cups whole goat's milk
- 1 teaspoon light Karo syrup
- 1 tablespoon nonfat plain yogurt (made with goat's milk preferably)
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 packet unflavored gelatin

Put the goat's milk in a saucepan and add gelatin. Heat the mixture just until the gelatin is dissolved and then remove it from the heat. Whisk in the remaining ingredients and refrigerate. It will keep up to one week in the refrigerator or freeze in an ice cube tray or small storage containers (salad dressing size).

To use, place frozen glop in a small container and microwave for 7-10 seconds, until melted. Be VERY conscious of the temperature!! Make sure the formula is not too hot.

Kitten Replacement Formula #2

- 8 ounces homogenized whole milk
- 2 egg yolks
- 1 teaspoon salad oil
- 1 drop liquid pediatric vitamins (optional)

Mix well and keep refrigerated, or freeze it

Kitten Replacement Formula #3

- •1-part boiled water to 5-parts evaporated milk
- •½ teaspoon bone meal per 16 ounces fluid

Mix well and keep refrigerated.

Kitten Replacement Formula #4

- 1 small can evaporated milk** (5 ounce can)
- ½ cup water
- 1 packet unflavored gelatin
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 tablespoons corn syrup
- 1 tsp imitation vanilla
- 1 drop liquid human pediatric vitamins (optional)

** Do not use Eagle Brand because the sugar content is too high.

Dissolve gelatin in ½ cup of hot water, whisk in the vanilla, corn syrup and vitamins, and add condensed milk. Whisk in egg yolk and pour into small storage containers to refrigerate and freeze.

Ultrasound vs. X-Ray *cont. from p. 9*

Sometimes You Need Both!

When you have an obvious problem pregnancy—kittens are unusually late in arriving or labor has stopped without results—the two imaging methods may be used together to reveal the nature of the problem. In this writers' experience, the ultrasound is typically done first, to check the fetal heart rate and see if one or more of the kittens are in distress. The X-ray may follow to establish the position of the kittens. Perhaps one is stuck in the birth canal or elsewhere. If nothing remarkable is showing up via either imaging technique, you may be able to solve the problem with an oxytocin injection to stimulate labor. Otherwise, you will likely need to proceed directly to a C-section. In this case, the vets will be able to determine the status of the delivery and can address the situation more quickly.

In difficult situations, of course, you should always rely on the recommendation of your vet with regard to the selected imaging approach. But if all appears to be well, we hope this information will help you decide which one to pursue to obtain the information you need about your cat's pregnancy.

SOURCES:

O'Meara, Shauna *Is My Cat Pregnant? How to Diagnose Cat Pregnancy* Pet-Informed website http://www.pet-informed-veterinary-advice-online.com/cat-pregnancy.html

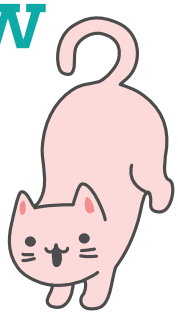
Davidson, Autumn P. *Pregnancy Determination in Dogs and Cats*, Merck Veterinary Manual https://www.merckvetmanual.com/management-and-nutrition/management-of-reproduction-dogs-and-cats/pregnancy-determination-in-dogs-and-cats

Wright, Michele *What You Should Know About Feline Pregnancy* TexVetPets website https://www.texvetpets.org/article/know-about-feline-pregnancy/

Tips For New Pet Owners

Nancy Kerr

The Kitten Issue



Getting a new cat or kitten is very exciting, as we as breeders well know from our own acquisitions. However, there are some important things that that new owners outside the fancy should be aware of and\or understood. It is essential to make sure they are prepared for their new family member before they bring them home. Proper preparation makes for a far less stressful transition for the cat or kitten and their new pet owners as well.

"Gotcha" Day

For starters, it is a good idea to schedule the pick-up for the new addition when the owners will be able to invest some time in getting it acclimated. So many people want to get a kitten around the holidays, but this is generally a bad idea. Holidays are already busy and stressful for the humans. That type of commotion will make it even more stressful for a kitten entering its new home. Better to delay sending a kitten to its new home until after the holidays and explain why to the new owners.

New owners should be given a check list of what they should have on hand before they actually pick up the kitten. It's a good plan to email this out about 10-14 days before the pickup date so there will be time to mail order any hard-to-find items. This way, your cat clients are not driving all over the place, getting supplies with the kitten in the car. This will also enable the new owners to spend more time with their new kitten once they arrive home.

Breeders should be careful to give the new owners a taste of the cat or kitten's personality. If the kitten is shy around new people and situations, having everyone in the family\neighborhood over to greet the kitten as soon it comes through your door is not a good idea. Allow the kitten to get used to its surroundings and the people who live in the house before doing show and tell. In the meanwhile, photos or videos can be emailed or shared via Zoom.

Nip Litter Issues in the Bud

Starting off with the right litter is KEY. New owners will need to know what type of litter and litter pan the kitten is currently using. The litter pan should be made of plastic. They should buy a litter pan for the kitten's comfort and not because they like it or think it will make things easier for them. Covered litter pans, especially with the flap, often do not go over well. Some kittens do not like a covered litter pan and the kitten could become trapped or concerned in the pan—especially if there are other cats in the household. Automated litter pans are becoming increasing popular, but if a cat or kitten faces one for the first time in its new home, it could be frightened by the noise. These are also not good choices if your kitten likes to spend time scratching in the box after going. Being forced to immediately use a different type of litter, could cause issues with the kitten going outside the litter box. Please make sure that owners pay close attention to the kitten's litter box use and are prepared to take the kitten to the vet to rule out an UTI (urinary tract infection) if any problems ensue.



Start with the Right Food

If your cat client is acquiring his or her first cat, advice should be provided about the type of food and water bowl to buy. Some new owners may not know enough to get bowls made of a non-porous material that is easy to clean and doesn't allow for bacterial growth. The wrong bowl material can cause feline acne which will need to be treated. This will not be a good thing if they are going to show their kitten. Flat-faced breeds such as Persians require special food and water dishes. Proper care of the bowls is a must. Water bowls should be refilled with fresh water every day and food bowls should be washed at least once a week. If the kitten doesn't appear to be eating dry food, empty and clean the dish ASAP. Some kittens do not like any residue from dry kibble around the top of their bowl. If the kitten is still not eating after that, a visit to the vet should be scheduled to rule out any dental issues.

Point out that cats need to drink enough water to maintain healthy kidney function (ensure that males do not have a blockage of the urethra). Explain that if the kitten does not seem to be drinking enough water, they should consider getting a pet fountain. The metal ones can be cleaned in the dishwater. The motor can even be taken apart and cleaned, which is definitely less expensive than purchasing a new motor.

Explain to new owners what food is currently being fed to the kitten. Cats have sensitive stomachs and should not have sudden changes to their diet. The importance of feeing the kitten the same food that they have been eating cannot be stressed enough. Any changes

should be made gradually. Explain what happens if a kitten's food is suddenly changed. Some cat breeds excel at getting runny poop\ loose stool on every surface that their tail can touch! Also, explain to your clients that they need to follow the guidelines on how often to feed the kitten. Kittens are very good at trying to convince new owners that they have not eaten for a week and are starving to death. Their meowing can rival the noise made by baby birds. Unfortunately, it is way too easy for the weight to go on and way too hard for it to come off. Explain that a good quality food can also mean less to clean-up in the litter box.

Meeting the "Family"

Talk to the new owners about the proper way introduce the new kitten to the rest of the household. It is important to do this so that the new addition has the best chance to properly met the existing pets and get acquainted with its surrounding. The kitten is not a contestant on "Survivor." Here's a trick that many breeders recommend: If there are already cats in the household, explain to them that when they come to pick up the kitten, they should bring a blanket that smells like the other cats in the house. The new kitten should be rubbed with that blanket, then both should be placed in the kitten's carrier. Now the kitten will smell like the current cats in the household.

Explain to the new owners that they will need keep the kitten in a separate area in their home for the first few days. It is usually a good idea to keep the kitten in a single room to begin with, so they have time to adjust to the new surroundings (especially if there are another animals). Make sure that they understand that that they need to kitten-proof the room that the kitten will be staying in as some breeds are more active than others and will not think twice of swinging from the drapes or checking an object on top of a dresser.



Some new owners have the ability to initially house the kitten in a bathroom, as it is small and does not provide many places for the kitten to hide should it feel afraid at the beginning. No matter which room is used, inspect it thoroughly before leaving the kitten alone in the room. Cats are great at getting into box springs, behind cupboards, into walls, etc. Another option is to use a large crate. It should be large enough to accommodate the litter pan and food and water bowls while still allowing the kitten space to play. It is important to explain to them about the different types of soft-side crates or play pens if the other pets will be able to have access to the area where the kitten will be staying. They will likely jump on top of it, while smaller pets may bounce off, the heaver ones will probably cause the top to cave in. Even Sturdi tents will bend under the weight of a having a cat jump or lie on top of them. A soft-sided crate with a steel frame should stand up to other pets jumping or lying on top of it. After the time period is up, introductions should be made gradually. The goal to have them become friends, not contestants in a gladiator match.

Maintaining Grooming and Health

Breeders are experts are making kittens look their best but the owner will need instruction. Make sure that new owners understand what is required to look after and groom their new kitten, otherwise, a long-haired kitten could soon end up with a lion cut. Different breeds have different grooming requirements, and some may require work on a daily basis. Persians and Sphynx will require more daily grooming than a Maine Coon or an American Shorthair. Your clients should also be shown what combs and other grooming tools to purchase. The damage done by Furminators and slicker brushes generally takes a while to grow back in.

Make sure that new owners know to take the cat to the vet as soon as possible for an exam\checkup. This will provide a baseline for the kitten's health. This will also make it easier if the kitten gets sick and has to see the vet. Stress that the kitten will be healthy when it leaves the breeder's home, however the stress of traveling, etc. can cause the kitten to become sick. If a pet courier\pet nanny is required to transport the kitten, make sure that it someone who does this on regular basis and does not transport animals from multiple households at the same time. This will help to cut down on the chances of the kitten picking up an infection, etc.

Finally, be sure to educate your cat clients about the value of pet insurance. If you offer a trial policy, practice what you preach and insure some of your "keeper' cats so you will be familiar with policy setup, deductibles, etc. and be prepared with stories and examples. Some type of insurance should be purchased in advance if the kitten is being shipped. You can also advocate for the use of the trial PetPartners policy offered at the time of CFA registration. . . and it's a great way to encourage the client to mail in the registration paperwork as so many forget to do!

Feline Heart Health

Recent Findings at NCSU for Sphynx

Judy Gunby



Primary heart muscle disease is the most common form of heart disease among the feline population. Inheritable heart disease is found in various breeds of cats as well as in populations of domestic cats. In fact, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is the most common inheritable heart disease in humans as well as various other mammals. Now, we have a new way to combat the effects of this horrible condition.

How HCM Works

The diagnosis of HCM is made by echocardiography. When the muscle wall of an affected heart has become thickened, it struggles to pump blood effectively through the heart. The heart is overworked and becomes enlarged because it cannot relax enough between contractions. Therefore, blood backs up and forces fluid into the lungs, causing edema and shortness of breath. HCM can be somewhat elusive until in its advanced stages because its expression can be slowly or rapidly degenerative, and may not even affect the appearance of a cat's health until it is well past breeding age.

Sphynx Mutation Identified

HCM has long been an issue in the Sphynx breed and until recently, breeders did not have the tools they needed to fight it. Now, thanks to the many dedicated breeders of the Sphynx breed, and the tireless work of Kathryn Meurs, DVM, PhD (Cardiology) with North Carolina State College of Veterinary Medicine, one genetic mutation that is contributory to HCM in the Sphynx Cat has now been identified. Because we know there is more than one genetic mutation in the Sphynx, Dr. Meurs and her team are now working to identify the second genetic mutation.

A breeder must consider all the factors, such as the presence of a known gene, penetrance, and parentage. It is important to remember that echocardiograms are still the best identifier of disease expression at this time. In other words, if a cat is negative for the known mutation, it doesn't eliminate the possibility the cat will develop disease, so it is important to follow the same protocol of clinical assessments.

According to Dr. Meurs, it is possible that genetic penetrance and the expression of disease can also be resultant of environmental and genetic factors, such as diet, stress, genetic background and daily activities. This new genetic test will identify those cats "at risk" of disease, but should not be used to diagnose whether or not a cat is affected.

Breeders can now submit samples through a simple cheek swab, revealing whether or not any given cat in the program has one or two "copies" of the identified gene, or if the cat doesn't have the gene at all. This test should be used as a guide to help breeders take the necessary steps to identify those cats that have a higher percentage of likelihood to develop the disease, regardless of penetrance, or other factors.

Where Do We Go From Here?

The ultimate goal is to use this information to determine which cats are carrying the gene, and more specifically, whether a cat carries one or two copies of the gene (heterozygous vs. homozygous, respectively). Understanding how the test works will affect decisions that are important to a breeding program. Ideally, all cats who are homozygous for the gene (carrying two copies) would be eliminated from the program. The heterozygous cats would be bred only to non-carriers who do not have the identified gene, eventually producing all non-carriers.

However, Dr. Meurs warns all breeders NOT to overreact to these new findings, or to become too diligent to remove affected cats. This is because other problems could result if all genetically affected cats were removed from the program. With a dramatically smaller gene pool, the risk of other feline diseases—heart anomalies, kidney disease, deformities and even cancer—might well increase. The Sphynx breed needs genetic diversity.

The purpose of this article is to present to our breeding community the latest scientific findings for the Sphynx cat. Dedicated breeders have always had a keen desire to raise not only the "best of the best" for type and disposition, but also for health. I am reminded of all the research given in other breeds with similar issues, like the Ragdoll, and the Maine Coon. Working together, research for any one breed can be potentially advantageous to all breeds of cats. Identifying this one known gene is a huge step forward for Sphynx cats and, with careful guidance and mindful consideration, our breed will become healthier by far. It effectively can eliminate the need for our "best guess" in our breeding programs. What a fantastic breakthrough!

State Breeder Laws Every Resident Fancier Should Know!

CFA State Breeder Law Series, Part 6 – U.S. States of Region 7: Georgia, District of Columbia, Florida, North Carolina, Maryland, Virginia



Kelly Crouch, Legislative Information Liaison
Sharon A. Coleman, Legislative Legal Analyst

The Region 7 states with breeder laws, including the District of Columbia, take varied approaches to animal welfare laws. Georgia licenses cat and dog breeders as well as breeders of other pet species. Whether a particular breeder is subject to licensing can be a little hard to figure out. The District of Columbia offers a more significant challenge to understanding. Florida has no state breeder license but does have requirements in its animal protection laws for every cat and dog sold. It also has consumer protection laws with low thresholds for identification as a pet dealer. North Carolina has a pet dealer law inspired by the federal Animal Welfare Act. Maryland and Virginia license dog breeders only. Region 7 also shares "ownership" of Tennessee, a state noted for repealing its state licensing law. Tennessee was covered in Part 2 of this series and will not be discussed here. Readers interested in the history of Tennessee's breeder law can read Part 2 at https://cfalegislativegroup.wordpress.com/resources/

This article is a starting place for readers to begin their analysis of the law and determine whether and how it applies to them. This article is not intended as a legal review.

Georgia

For many years, Georgia has licensed breeders of cats, dogs, and other pet species which have more than one litter in a 12-month period under the state's Animal Protection Act. Fanciers may be wondering what happened to the higher threshold in the statute, which can be tricky to understand. In the Act, a "Pet dealer" or "pet dealership" means:

> any person "who sells, offers to sell, exchanges, or offers for adoption dogs, cats, birds, fish, reptiles, or other animals customarily obtained as pets in this state. However, a person who sells only animals that he or she has produced and raised, not to exceed 30 animals a year, shall not be considered a pet dealer under this article unless such person is licensed for a business by a local government or has a Georgia sales tax number. The Commissioner may with respect to any breed of animals decrease the 30 animal per year exception in the foregoing sentence to a lesser number of any animals for any species that is commonly bred and sold for commercial purposes in lesser quantities. Operation of a veterinary hospital or clinic by a licensed veterinarian shall not constitute the veterinarian as a pet dealer, kennel, or stable under this article."

Pursuant to the authority in this definition and under the exemptions provided in §40-13-13.07 of the Rules, the Commissioner has historically required anyone whose cat, dog, or other pet has more than one litter in a twelve-month period to be licensed. In the regulations, the number "30" is limited to adult animals and "sells more than one litter" is the licensing threshold for non-adult animals. The rules define an adult cat as a domestic feline over eight months of age, while an adult dog is a domestic canine over 12 months of age.

The Commissioner has also set up a schedule of pet dealer licenses. The license fee for pet dealers located within the state is based on gross pet sales and there is a flat rate fee for dealers not having a permanent fixed facility in Georgia. The Commissioner, or his designated agents, are authorized to enter any public or private property to inspect a pet dealer's business premises for the purposes of enforcing the Animal Protection Act and rules. The regulations also set forth the standards of care, facilities management, display of license, pest control, and record-keeping to which the pet dealer must adhere.

More information can be found at http://agr.georgia.gov/animal-protection-faqs.aspx

District of Columbia

In 2008, Washington, D.C. considered amendments to its Animal Control law. With national animal protection organizations headquartered in the area posing additional risks for breeders, cat fanciers were concerned. Proposed, and later adopted, changes included an amendment to the existing Animal Hobby Permit with a new provision for a Commercial Licensing Requirement for commercial animal breeders. The licensing requirement also applies to commercial pet care facilities, other than pet shops, such as daycare and grooming. In the amendments, the Animal Hobby permit threshold was increased from "5 or more animals" to "7 or more animals." In this section, animal refers to animals larger than a guinea pig and over the age of 4 months. The Health Department illustrates this with a picture of a guinea pig next to a rabbit and specifies on the application, "Dog, Cat, Rabbit." The permit cannot be issued to an owner who has not "obtained the necessary animal licenses as required by law" or "who maintains mammals for commercial purposes." Note that cats are not licensed. Also, for purposes of this section, "commercial purposes" shall not "include the sale of offspring if such sales are occasional and are not the primary purpose for maintaining the animals."

A commercial animal breeder is defined as "any person, firm, organization, or corporation engaged in the operation of breeding

and raising more than 25 animals per year for sale or in return for consideration." Read in the context of the animal hobby permit, it would be construed as a de facto limit to permissible breeding under an animal hobby permit. The Department of Health Animal Services Program processes Hobby Permit Applications and conducts inspections. The current cost is $25 a year. No specific information is provided for either a commercial animal breeder permit or commercial pet care facilities.

The law is available at https://code.dccouncil.us/dc/council/code/titles/8/chapters/18/subchapters/II/

Florida

Florida state law has requirements applicable to all sellers of cats and dogs as well as consumer protection provisions that apply only to those who exceed the threshold of the pet dealer definition and sell directly to the public. The pet dealer provisions are part of a forty-year-old, much broader section within the main animal law code. It is known by its chapter number alone, 828.29, more than its title, "Dogs and cats transported or offered for sale; health requirements; consumer guarantee." Under 828.29, the threshold for cat breeders is relatively low for the pet dealer definition that reads as follows:

> "For the purposes of subsections (5)-(12) and (16), the term "pet dealer" means any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other association which, in the ordinary course of business, engages in the sale of more than two litters, or 20 dogs or cats, per year, whichever is greater, to the public. This definition includes breeders of animals who sell such animals directly to a consumer."

The consumer has certain rights if a veterinarian certifies that the animal was unfit for purchase. This is strictly a consumer protection provision and lacks all the elements of breeding laws that seek to ensure the welfare of dogs and cats used in breeding. These laws include care of the breeding animals and offspring, the physical facilities where they are maintained, operations, including record-keeping, and inspections to verify compliance. Over the years, efforts to enact comprehensive state breeding regulation have failed, but local ordinances proliferated in different styles and are increasingly challenging to breeders.

Although the pet dealer definition applies only to the consumer protection provisions, other sections apply to all cats (and dogs) offered for sale. Each cat offered for sale must undergo specified testing, anthelmintics, and vaccinations appropriate for the cat by a veterinarian licensed in the state. Dogs offered for sale have similar requirements. Each animal must be examined within 30 days before the sale, and the current official certificate of veterinary inspection must accompany the animal offered for sale. Cats and dogs under the age of eight weeks may not be offered for sale or transported into the state.

For fanciers wanting to study the law in detail, it is available at http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0800-0899/0828/Sections/0828.29.html

North Carolina

In the spirit of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA), North Carolina enacted its Animal Welfare Act in 1977. This law created the Animal Welfare Section within the Animal Health Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Like the federal AWA, it sought to protect animals in commerce and included "dealer" its definitions. Under state law, Dealer means:

> "any person who sells, exchanges, or donates, or offers to sell, exchange, or donate animals to another dealer, pet shop, or research facility; provided, however, that an individual who breeds and raises on his own premises no more than the offspring of five canine or feline females per year, unless bred and raised specifically for research purposes shall not be considered to be a dealer for the purposes of this Article."

Also, like the AWA, dealer licensing is provided:

> "No person shall be a dealer unless a license to deal shall have been granted by the Director to such person. Application for such license shall be in the manner provided by the Director. The license period shall be the fiscal year and the license fee shall be seventy-five dollars ($75.00) for each license period or part thereof, beginning with the first day of the fiscal year."

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services includes in its license required list, "Dealer: Sells puppies/kittens to other dealers, pet shops or research facilities." However, it does not define "other dealers" as is done by the federal AWA scheme of exclusions from the Act and exemptions by regulations. And it does not have separate information for pet dealers. In 1989, Senate Bill 278, which was not enacted, included an amendment to the dealer definition that would have added "to the general public," as the first category, i.e., "to the general public, another dealer, pet shop, or research facility." This suggests that the definition either had not been intended to apply to sales to the general public or was not being construed this way. No clarification has been forthcoming in over thirty years. Pet Dealer licenses for those who fit the statutory categories would likely be available through the same application process for shelters, boarding kennels, pet shops, and public auctions. However, no applications for pet dealers are available, nor is the category listed on the pull-down menu for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services License System Search Application. The Act expressly excludes dealers in possession of an active AWA license. In the absence of general breeder regulation, there have been unsuccessful efforts to enact a state breeder law with direct requirements and prohibitions based on a threshold. There is also a patchwork of local breeder ordinances.

For more information, readers should go to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services website at http://www.ncagr.gov/vet/aws/

Maryland

Maryland's state law impacts dog breeders only, not cat breeders. Two different state statutes apply to dog kennels based on dog breeding, or the number of dogs maintained to ensure the welfare of the dogs. Dog kennel licensing by local governments are mandated by the Local Government Article, Section 13–108 about kennel licenses for breeders. The licensing requirement applies to a person who "(1) owns or has custody of 6 or more unspayed female dogs over the age of 6 months kept for the purpose of breeding the dogs and selling their offspring; or (2) sells dogs from six or more litters in a year." Local licensing agencies must collect specific information from kennel licensees

and report it to the state department of labor. Counties may set fees to cover additional reporting costs and enact stricter laws.

Under Maryland Criminal Code, Section 10-616 authorizes a humane society director, accompanied by a sheriff or a deputy sheriff, to inspect specified premises to determine if the dogs are inhumanely treated. The premises subject to local inspections are dog kennels where "(i) a person is engaged in the business of buying, selling, trading, or breeding dogs; or (ii) of a kennel where 25 or more dogs are kept." This does not apply to "where hunting dogs are housed, if the buying, selling, trading, or breeding is incidental to the main purposes of housing, keeping, and using dogs," nor research facilities or veterinary premises.

In 2009, the unsuccessful Maryland Senate Bill, Criminal Law – Crimes Relating to Animals – Limitations on Possession of Breeding Dogs would have capped at 50 the number of "breeding dogs" over four months old that could be possessed. It would also have imposed several requirements for each dog if more than ten breeding dogs were possessed.

Please read the statutes in their entirety for detailed information: https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/laws/statutes

Virginia

Virginia does not regulate cat breeders but enacted its commercial dog breeder regulation in 2008. A commercial dog breeder means "any person who, during any 12-month period, maintains 30 or more adult female dogs for the primary purpose of the sale of their offspring provided that a person who breeds an animal regulated under federal law as a research animal shall not be deemed to be a commercial dog breeder." In addition to the threshold in the commercial dog breeder definition, a cap was also set by statute under the Commercial Dog Breeding Operations section. A Commercial Dog Breeder may not keep "more than 50 dogs over the age of one year at any time for breeding purposes unless a higher number allowed by a local ordinance after a public hearing. Any such ordinance may include additional requirements for commercial breeding operations." The breeder cannot breed dogs without a valid business license issued by the breeder's locality. The Commissioner, State Veterinarian or his assistant, animal control officer, and local public health or safety official may, upon receiving a complaint or upon the inspector's motion, investigate any violations of this law.

For more information, the law is available here: https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title3.2/chapter65/

Summary

For those wanting to understand the breadth of ways state laws may apply to breeding, the states of Region 7 provide an excellent start to the process. There is a variety of regulation methodologies represented by these states. Not all of them are breeder licensing laws though. Florida demonstrates a method of providing some protection to animals purchased in the state without the mandates frequently seen in breeder licensing laws to protect the animals in the breeding program. Some are pet dealer laws, such as North Carolina's law which was influenced by the federal Animal Welfare Act. Even if becoming an expert on all existing state laws is not your goal, knowing your state's laws impacting your hobby is a necessity.

State laws are the start of the journey, however, not the end. People should review local zoning, business, and animal ordinances where they live. Homeowner Association rules may also apply. Looking beyond state boundaries, the United States Animal Welfare Act applies to a breeder meeting designated thresholds. Familiarizing yourself with applicable laws may save a lot of heartache and money down the road. However, laws can always change. Be your own advocate and continuously review applicable laws.

Nothing contained in this article is to be considered as the rendering of legal advice for specific cases or situations, and readers tare responsible for obtaining such advice from their own legal counsel. This article (and references, etc.) is/are intended for educational and informational purposes only.

GIOVANNA FLORA (Tiny Little Ragdoll Girl)

(Dancing in the Snow)

A Female Seal Dark Brown Ragdoll

Sire: Kion Dam Fleur



Congratulations to Giovanna Flora, she was the 6th Best Household Pet in John Webster's Ring at the 2019 Garden State Cat show held in Edison NJ.

Everyone is so proud of you and loves you.

Breeder - Kristopher John Bogach

ROLLING CREEK RAGDOLLS

Owner - Roxane Mancuso

Effective Show Management

Part 2 of 3

By Mike Altschul, with Teresa Keiger

Although show management these days has brought a whole new set of Covid-related challenges, show managers still need to know the basic essentials of running a show. So, we are continuing to focus on the Show Manager's To-Do List.



Set up a show checking account

1. Link your club account with PayPal and/or Square, plus an online ticketing service if possible.
2. Decide who will be your show treasurer.
3. The show treasurer should arrange to have cash on hand for any needs that may arise on show day.

   a. Have change available for people paying cash for their entries at the door during check-in.

   b. For the gate, usually $400 to $500 in cash (small bills) if a good gate is expected.

   c. The raffle usually needs at least $200 (small bills) for seed money, in addition to being able to accept credit cards.

   d. Ensure there is enough cash on hand to pay the clerks and stewards, with a little extra, as judges sometimes want part of their fees in cash.

Have cash on hand if you are selling food

(preferably small bills)

Decide how and when to do cash pickups during the show and identify a secure location to store the cash!

Decide on the show's feature events

1. One of the easiest and most attractive show features to guests are daily costume contests. There are many different ways to hold them. You can use one of your CFA judges in their ring or a local celebrity to judge them. We give rosettes for the top 10 winners. Show Rule 7.01
2. Stuffed-animal contests and cat look-alike/dress-up contests are other popular events. It is a good idea to have prizes for the top three winners of all contests. Gift cards are excellent prizes.
3. Agility contests are popular and fun but harder to set up. A ringmaster and agility setup are required. There are usually awards for the top 5 agility winners each day. See Agility site and manual for more information. https://cfa.org/agility/ https://cfa.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2020/03/agility-rules.pdf
4. CFA does provide a $300 sponsorship if you do agility. The agility logo is required on the flyer. https://cfa.org/cfa_agility/
5. An education ring and/or meet-the-breeds ring can be a good draw for gate, plus long term engagement for the guests.
6. A cage decoration contest that is based on the show theme is always a lot of fun. Have prizes for the top winners.

Secure your stewarding team for the show

Show Rules: 9.09, 16.04

1. Youth groups, Scouts, rescue groups are often good places to start.
2. Pay them for their good work. If you have individuals instead of a group, we usually pay $25 per day, per ring. Plus, we provide their lunch and drinks throughout the day. If we contract with a charitable organization, we give the group a lump sum, usually $400 - $500 for the weekend (depending on the number of rings) and provide drinks for them but not food.
3. Make sure the stewards arrive well before the start of the show so they can be trained by a knowledgeable clerk. Remind them that they need to stay at least through the posted show hours.
4. If you do not have good reliable stewards in place, the show will run late and poorly.

Show sponsorships

1. Apply for CFA show sponsorship. Currently, in the U.S., it is $1,000 per show. Additional money may be available for first-time club shows and in-conjunction shows (with another association doing one day of the show).
2. This is not the same as an additional club being a co-sponsor of the show.
3. Application form and rules are at https://cfa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/show-sponsorship.pdf

Decide on a show theme

(a good one always makes the show more fun)

1. Be creative and timely. Look at the calendar for ideas. Holidays make a good theme to build on, such as St Patricks' Day, March Madness (sports theme), Voting/Election Day, or National Chocolate Day.
2. Many long-running shows also tie in with anniversaries, for example, "69th Annual," etc.

3. Choose artwork and colors that coordinate between the flyers and the catalog. You can have a cage decoration contest based on the theme.

Create the show flyer

Show Rule 5.01- 5.06

1. Show Rules specify the many things that are required to be on the flyer.
2. Make it attractive and easy to read. It is best to make a .pdf copy of it so it is easy to email. It is usually easier to read if both sides of one page are used.
3. The official CFA logo must be included but may not be stretched to fit. https://cfa.org/cfa-logo-and-link-buttons/ https://cfa.org/cfa-club-media-kit-and-publicity-guide/
4. The name of the show hall, street address, city, state, ZIP code, and phone number must be on the flyer.
5. Decide on all fees—compare with other shows of similar format, but ensure that your fees will make the club profitable and within budget.
6. Do not forget to state what date entries will BEGIN to be accepted!
7. Prizes specified in the flyer must actually be given. ***Show Rule 11.36***
8. Submit flyers to the Regional Director and to all of the judges.
9. Submit flyers to the regional website, plus to Catshows.us, if advertising there.
10. It is a good idea to put show hotel information on the flyer (especially if there is a minimum number of rooms required) along with an online link and show code.

Submit the flyer with the license application

Show Rule 4.04

1. The entry confirmation, whether it be in the form of email, fax or regular mail, must be accompanied by a show flyer or link to a web page containing the show flyer for emailed confirmations, along with driving directions from nearby major highways to the show hall.
2. Make a separate spectator flyer to use for publicity, if needed.

Contract a show service or make other setup arrangements

1. Show services usually provide all benching, judging cages and other equipment needed for the show. ***Show Rule 2.03***
2. Many clubs own their own cages, at least for the judging rings.
3. If exhibitors are expected to bring their own benching cages, this must be on the flyer, and clubs must have some cages (inexpensive pop-ups from big-box stores are fine) available for sale or rental. ***Show Rule 5.01j***

Invite vendors

1. Many clubs keep a list of vendors to contact. Other nearby shows are a good place to find contacts. Local cat-related businesses are a great place to find new vendors.
2. Consider inviting a mix of both far-away and local cat-related vendors.
3. If you are expecting a great gate, many non-cat-related venders will want to sign up and attend.
4. This is a good source of income that helps the show (depending on space available).
5. A nice group of vendors makes the show more fun for both your exhibitors and your new guests!
6. It is highly recommended that you use a vendor contract and require fees in advance.

Invite a show photographer

1. We sometimes charge the photographer for their booth.
2. We do not usually pay for transportation or lodging.
3. They will always need an electrical connection.
4. Having a good photographer will encourage more entries! Make sure you list them on your flyer.

Decide on your show committee members and their duties

Show Rules 2.28, 4.05, 6.26, 7.09, 9.09, 10.24, 11.03, 11.20, 12.05, 16.01-16.05, 17.01, 19.02-19.03, 21.04, 35.03-35.09

1. Your show committee should be experienced and familiar with the CFA Show Rules. Should a problem arise during the show, they have the final say in solving the situation. They are responsible for many things at a show.
2. The show committee is listed on the show license.
3. Secure your raffle team – for soliciting donations, table setup and sale of tickets. Access to taking credit or debit cards will double your income!
4. Decorations: You want the rings to look nice, but keep it on a tight budget.
5. Hospitality team

   a. Organize hospitality/needs for the show hall (water, paper towels, ice, ice chests, etc.).

   b. Plan for judges' lunches.

   c. Attend to the judges', clerks', stewards' and master clerk's food and drink needs. Make sure you know their drinks of choice and any special food requirements.

   d. Many will want coffee in the mornings.
6. Gate team

   a. Plan for them to have breaks, and watch out for any needs they have.

   b. They are critical not only to control access to the show but for the first impression the show and club make to the world.

   c. Decide what device you will use to accept credit cards. We use Square, as it is cheap and often provides free devices to take credit cards. If you do not take credit cards, you are losing out on up to half of your gate. Young people do not carry cash. An ATM machine nearby is not a sufficient way to handle this! It is critical in publicity communications that

the admission price is specified and that you take credit and debit cards.

7. A special-events coordinator should be designated to watch over costume contests and any other special events.
8. If the judges' rooms have a goody bag (water and snacks), decide who will be taking care of this.
9. If giving judges' gifts, plan who is doing that and how they will be given. Keep it reasonable. We usually give a $10-$15 Starbucks gift card. Show Rule 11.37
10. Catalog ad team – some shows have good success at selling catalogs ads.
11. Plan for a judges dinner, if one is going to happen. If not, make sure to have someone responsible for taking the judges to dinner and not leaving them stranded. They are your special guests and need to be treated as such.

Invite rescue/shelter groups

Show Rule 8.08, 10.14, 10.24, 10.25

1. CFA is for the betterment of all cats. It is our duty to reach out to rescues and shelters.
2. Rescues work out best to be near the entrance or just outside the show hall. It is a chance for our guests to get to touch and hold some kitties – and maybe take one home! Be sure to have hand sanitizer available for them before they move on to the show area and the show cats!
3. By partnering with rescues, we insulate ourselves from many animal rights attacks.
4. By tapping into a rescue's social network, we can ask many more people to come visit the show.
5. Their volunteer network is a great source of help for the show – stewarding and even some setup/teardown in exchange for a donation to their organization!
6. It highly recommended that you use a vendor contract even though you do not charge them.

Contracting a show hotel

1. Clubs MUST make hotel arrangements for the judges for the night before through the night after judging. Other conditions apply for judges on an international assignment. ***Show Rule 20.05***

   a. Consider the advantages/disadvantages of having judges stay in a hotel by the airport which provides a shuttle service versus having judges stay near the show hall.

   b. This can be to both parties' advantage in the event of flight delays, etc.

2. In deciding on a show hotel, there are many things to consider. Certainly willingness to accept cats, as well as a pet deposit, are things to discuss. The quality of the rooms is something every club should confirm. Always preview the rooms! They will often negotiate reduced rates or give 'comp' rooms with so many room nights sold.
3. Book your judges' rooms, and get the confirmation numbers to provide to the judges and to your transportation coordinator. Usually a club debit card will be needed to hold the rooms. ***Show Rule 19.01, 20.04, 20.05***

Prior to the Show *(at least 3 months out)*

Order rosettes

Show Rule 8.01 – 8.07

1. Regardless of the type, rosettes MUST have certain information on them ***(see Show Rules).***
2. There are many options (with many different costs) available. The traditional rosettes are seldom seen in many areas, since pretty, printed, flat awards or sticker awards— with each exhibitor getting a single rosette to put them on— have become common.

Confirm that sufficient 'flats' are available

Most clubs have permanent flats for each ring, with enough non-permanent ribbons to offer those who want their ribbons. This is required by ***Show Rule: 8.07.***

3. Household flats (Household Pet Merit Award) are often taken home by their newer exhibitors, so make sure there are enough red and white, white with red lettering, or the new green HHP ribbons.
4. If not using permanent flats, make certain that you have enough flats or ribbons for the judging rings.

   a. These MUST be certain colors (colors are specified in Show Rules).

   b. Can be paper, cloth or plastic.

Begin publicity

Show Rule 5.03

1. Submit PSAs to area community calendars via their websites. Consult the CFA publicity kit for ideas: https://cfa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/publicity-guide-090910.pdf
2. Plan Facebook and other social media campaigns. It is important that an experienced cat show Facebook marketing expert be contracted. I have seen many clubs think they can do it and waste thousands of dollars with an ad agency or someone inexperienced at cat show Facebook promotion. It is a difficult task to do correctly and effectively.
3. Many shows use electronic media or billboards. In some markets, this can be effective if the cost is reasonable. If there is a local pet specialty magazine with good distribution available, it may be a place to consider advertising. Newspapers will NOT attract new young people anymore and are a waste of money. Electronic media (radio and TV) are difficult to afford if enough is bought to make them effective. Otherwise, do not consider.
4. Newer social media platforms such as Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Pinterest and TikTok can be useful if there is a good following on the user's profile.

Print spectator guides to hand out to the visitors

Since they are expensive to print, I usually try to hand out one per group/family as they enter. This is one of the most IMPORTANT things to do, to help ensure the future of CFA. By doing this, not only do our guests have a great guide of the show, but they can take home the next step: becoming one of us! https://cfa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/spectator-brochure.pdf

Determine transportation arrangements

Show Rule 19.01

1. Club or hotel picking up the judges? Be careful if the hotel is doing this, as they may strand your important guest who is officiating the show!
2. Have a spreadsheet with all flight information and judges' phone numbers.
3. Let the judges know at least a week out where they are staying, with their confirmation number, who is picking them up and who their contact person is along with that person's cell phone number.

Show secretary sends info to judges

Show Rule: Article XIX

1. Show flyer.
2. Letter detailing all arrangements: who the pickup person is, their information, hotel information, including reservation number.
3. Contact information for show committee.
4. Find out their drink needs, along with any lunch special needs.
5. This is often delegated to another show committee member.

Show package arrives

1. This will have been sent to the show secretary or entry clerk (whichever was indicated on the show license).
2. Open immediately and make certain that all forms, signs, etc., are there and notify CFA Central Office if something is missing from the package. https://cfa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/show-box-checklist.pdf

Show hall layout

1. Get the measurements and layout of the show hall.
   a. Note where the electrical drops are located.
   b. It may be easiest to do this in Excel to get the layout to scale.
2. Determine where the judging rings, benching area, master clerk, vendors and anything else will be located.
3. Use show hall measurements to determine how many rows of cages to lay out and the area for each judging ring.
4. It is a good idea to consult with the venue regarding local fire marshal requirements for space between rows, clearance around doors, number of people allowed in the hall, etc.
5. Try to provide maximum aisle space, along with lots of space between the benching area and the judging rings, if possible.
6. Give your vendors and rescue groups premium space near the front entrance.
7. Turn in show hall layout to facility if they are setting up your tables.

Acquire cat litter

Show Rule: 9.07

1. Some areas will have a free source of litter in exchange for catalog ad.
2. Vendors can be another source of litter.
3. In some areas, it may be provided by your cage service.
4. On average, the amount needed can be based on 2 to 3 pounds per cat entered.

Show ring sanitation

Show Rule: 9.05

1. Paper towels for the judges and stewards. We usually figure on a paper towel (or 2 half size sheets) per cat, per ring. Usually, a paper towel will go longer than one cleaning so in most case this should be sufficient to also include finals. Example: 200 cats entered in 10 rings; 200x10= 2000 sheets minimum.
2. Disinfectant spray: Make sure you get one safe for cats but also effective for killing against viruses, bacteria and fungi! A concentrated product available online is Top Performance 256 Disinfectant and Deodorizer. 1 gallon of concentrate will cover a show and all the spray bottles. We use 32 oz. bottles for stewards and prettier 16 oz. for each judge. Be sure you have spares as one or two bottles will quit or get broken. Refill as needed but check every bottle at the end of the show Saturday!

First aid kit

Show Rule: 9.06

1. The show manager must provide a first aid kit, as required in the Show Rules.
2. Usually, the best location for the kit is the master clerk area.

Several weeks before the show

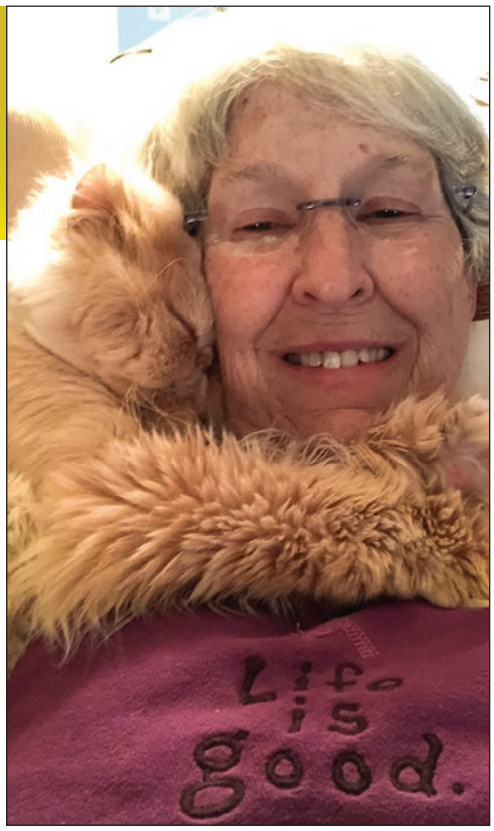
1. Follow up on ring clerks and stewarding teams to make sure all are in place. Along with the judges, a show cannot happen without them!

Next installment

It's the week of the show! And there is a lot to do before, during, and after the show.

What You Don't Know About Persians

Candilee Jackson



Introduction

A desert at sunset, magic lamps, a marketplace, flying carpets and a grand palace with fountains, tiled floors and plush, tasseled pillows. The scene is set, and sauntering slowly into view is the queen of the palace. Not a beautiful princess, but something equally exquisite, gentle, compassionate, groomed to the hilt, and totally royal in bearing with a plumed tail—yes, the Persian cat!

Named for their country of origin, Persia (which is now modern-day Iran), Persians have a sweet, gentle nature. They thrive in serene environments, but can adapt to boisterous households. Persians are not known to be particularly vocal, choosing instead to communicate with their expressive eyes, soothing their caretakers and headbutting their family. Most Persian voices are soft, non-abrasive and melodic. "Playful but never demanding, they love to pose and will drape themselves in a favorite window or chair, enhancing the decor in much the same way as a treasured painting. Persians are tremendously responsive and become a constant source of joy and delight to their owners." (CFA Breeds)

Divided into seven divisions, the Persian comes in a wide variety of colors and coat patterns, including the Solid Division; Silver and Golden Division; Smoke and Shaded Division; Tabby Division; Parti-color Division; Bi-color Division; and lastly, the Himalayan Division. (CFA Breeds)

A Little History, Please ...

As with most older CFA breeds, the actual beginning of the Persian is cloaked in mystery, enhanced by romantic tales of derring-do in the marketplaces of Persia and the equally mysterious travels of camel driven caravans across vast deserts.

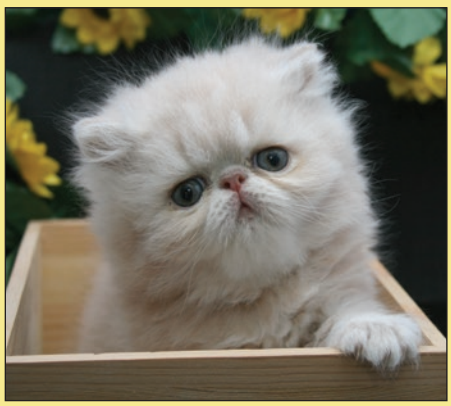
In 1620, Pietro della Valle, an Italian aristocrat, traveled to Persia "and took a liking to the exotic, long-haired gray cats he spotted at a bazaar. He purchased four pairs of them, and brought them home with him to Western Europe, "The breed moved westward to Europe with the Crusades where they were "popular among the nobility, including Queen Victoria of England." (Mueller) Of course, sailors, travelers, or merchants might have also carried Persians with them from the Middle East to the Continent." (Fawcett)

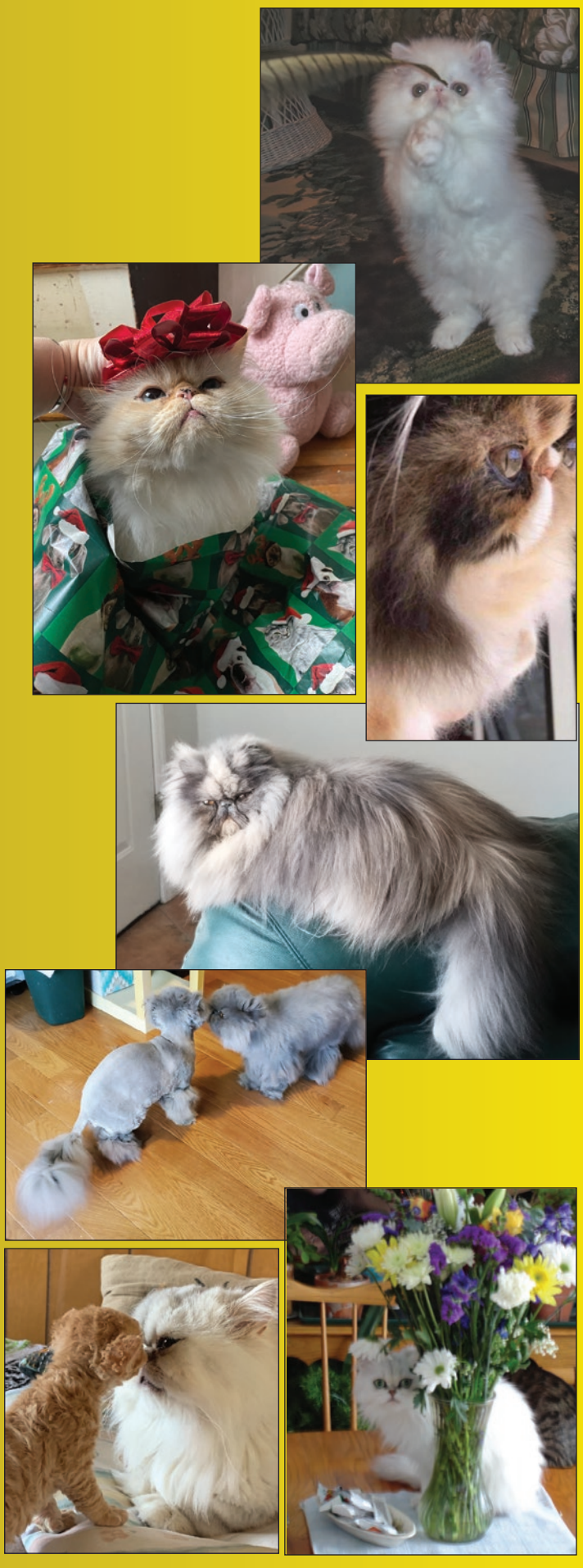
Anna Sadler, an historian for the Persian Breed Council, has written extensively concerning the historical background of this feline. "Today's Persian is a living, playing, purring result of more than 150 years of loving, astute breeding. Over time, breeders have molded what Mother Nature gave to mankind into a shared vision of beauty and serenity. They were an instant success, especially in England, France and Italy, and were much in demand, eclipsing in popularity the native domestic cats in those countries, which had short hair. Then, as now, the beautiful long hair might have created the spark of interest, but the gentle nature cemented the relationship of people with the Persian." (Sadler)

"Some naturalists believe that mating between the European Wild Cat or the Pallas Cat, both of which have a longer, denser coat that evolved to protect them from harsh climates, with the earliest domestic cats, introduced the long hair into the domestic cat's gene pool. Others believe that a genetic mutation occurred spontaneously rather than by slow evolution. In either event, the long hair was to become the hallmark and the crowning glory of the Persian." (Sadler)

Taking London by storm, the Persian was first exhibited at Prince Albert's Crystal Palace in 1871 where the cat wowed visitors. The next logical step was importing these





long-haired beauties to the United States in late 1875. The Cat Fanciers' Association, newly formed in 1906 in the United States, was the first to register the Persian for championship. (Fawcett)

Living with Persians

Persian Breed Council Secretary, Carissa Altschul of Joshua, Texas, co-owns Cacao Cattery with family, and was a fount of information! Carissa is "a child of CFA," having grown up in show halls. Her parents began breeding and exhibiting in 1971; she was born in 1978, and has lived with Persians her entire life. While Persians take a lot of time and care with intensive grooming, clipping their coats make this task easier. "They generally are not high energy, so I don't have to worry too much about what I keep on my shelves!," says Carissa. "Other breeds I have owned, both long-hair and short-hair, have done shelf-clearing! While Persian hair vacuums up pretty easily, I find they shed a lot less than other breeds." Carissa notes most Persians like to be with their human family, and they "love to spend the night on the bed and sleep with me." Their personality is "generally laid back, although they do have their moments of spasticity, running around the house, then laying down like there were not just running around crazy," Carissa shared. Most Persians begin the grooming process as kittens so they "generally tolerate the required bathing and drying without much drama," she continued. Carissa also stated that cooler homes were much more comfortable whereas "warmer homes tend to make them crabby. They like to watch what is going on, but usually don't feel the need to actively participate. Since they don't like being alone, it's better to have Persians in pairs."

Jeanne Nangle calls Ballwin, Missouri, home, and has owned MacGlen Cattery for nearly fifty years. When asked why she chose the Persian, Jeanne replied, "Because when I was a kid, I wanted a dog, a Pomeranian, and my parents said no. So, in my mind, a Persian was the closest I was going to come to getting a Pomeranian!" Jeanne has been a member of the Persian Breed Council for forty years and is very proud to have a Cattery of Distinction. She purchased her first Persian at age fifteen. "I paid $15.00 out of my babysitting money, fifty cents an hour, for a kitty without papers," Jeanne remembered. It was not much later than she acquired her first Persian with papers, and they attended their first show in 1967. Jeanne began breeding bi-colors, especially blue-cream and white, after meeting Bobara Pendergrass of Palmar Persians of Memphis, Tennessee, and was part of the movement to have Bi-Colors accepted into CFA championship in the mid-1970s.

Donna Isenberg, hailing from Santa Monica, California, began working with Persians when her brother gifted her with a female Himalayan kitten in 1978. "She was a purebred Himalayan, and I was in heaven. Ch Wilobruk's Creme De Coco used to walk by our bed and her tail would proudly stick up like a periscope on a submarine (little did I know it was not a great feature). Anyway, we were so proud of Coco, we asked the breeder if we could show her ... and the rest is history," remembered Donna. Once she and hubby Bruce had decided to pursue showing and breeding, their daughters came up with their cattery name, Catsafratz, to reflect a fraternity or sorority of cats. Starting with Himalayans in 1980, they expanded by breeding blue-eyed whites, and had the first Blue-Eyed White CPC national winning kitten in 1990. In keeping with the meme, "dogs

have owners, but cats have staff," Donna stated, breeding "Persians is not for everyone: the devotion to their needs is morning, noon and night."

Although she adores her Persians, these felines are not the Einsteins of the cat world. "I have always said the Persian is the dumb blonde of the cat fancy," Donna stated with a giggle. "I hope no one takes offense, because the Persian is not exactly the smartest cat, but they are amenable to being fussed over, and that is a good thing!" Donna reminisced about just how far they went to keep their kitties happy. "We would order a Steak 'n Shake sandwich, with instructions to hold everything except the steak … silly and expensive, yes, yet nothing was out of the question if the cat was happy and ready to show!" Today, Donna looks back on 40 years of showing and notes, "It was definitely worth the endless hours of sharing our love of cats with my beloved husband, hours of laughter, even suffering and pain cannot take away the best years of our lives together in the cat fancy."

A specialist in blue Persians, long-time breeder, Nancy Petersen of Corona, Iowa, has been showing since 1974. Her cattery name, Goliada, translates to a feminine version of "little giant" (as in Goliath) in Spanish. When just a young girl growing up on a dairy farm with many barn cats, Nancy remembered someone had dumped off a fluffy blue cat: "I thought this fluffy blue cat was the neatest thing I'd ever seen." Nancy acquired her first blue Persian from a nearby Amish breeder. As a young adult, Nancy's work took her to England, and it was there she began to show. Upon her return to the states, she had English-bred Persians, and the grooming regimen was somewhat different than the USA. Wonderful new friends took her in hand and helped her update her grooming techniques to meet United States show requirements.

Besides Persians, Nancy also bred Cornish Rex for fifteen years. When asked about the difference in personality between the Cornish Rex and the Persian, Nancy stated, "To me, the Cornish are little animals, but the Persians are little people." She found her short hairs were always in trouble, getting into things, but the Persian personality was much more loving. "Definitely not into agility or track racing, Persians are beautiful cuddlebugs that simply want to be adored."

Julie Noble calls Iowa City, Iowa, home, and she shares her abode with four of Nancy's lovelies. "My former boss is a long-time dilute Persian breeder, and I first learned about Persians from her. I got my first two Persians from her seventeen years ago. I've had eight over that time period, with four right now." Julie has enjoyed spending time with Nancy via helping at her cattery as well as traveling with her to participate in cat shows. "I love the sweet faces of the Persians as well as their human-like personalities; some might say dog-like, but I wouldn't want to insult them! They are truly warm and fuzzy, especially males, and are what I call my meet-and-greet kitties: they want to visit anyone who walks in the house. I find them atypical of other cat breeds, and believe they are teddy bears. They love playing with catnip toys, laser lights, and each other," explained Julie. With regards to grooming, Julie finds their combing and face washing are labors of love.

And the Last Word …

Usually reserved for the breed council secretary, this last word goes to several who assisted in the piecing together of this column. BCS Carissa Altschul's comments were straight from her heart: "While I have been around other breeds and even owned some, Persians will always have my heart. While all cats are awesome, there is something so dramatic and awe-inspiring about presenting a well-groomed Persian in full coat at the shows. There is simply no other breed that takes the amount of work and skill than a Persian in full coat." However, pet owner Linda Hornberger wins the Einstein Award for her closing comment, "MAJOR NEWSFLASH! Persians suck at mousing! There's a mouse in this house filled with Persians, and not one cares!"

Author's Note: So many kudos to the Persian family for sharing their thoughts and insights about this gorgeous breed! Thanks go to Carissa Altschul-BCS, Cacao Cattery, Joshua, Texas; Jeanne Nangle, MacGlen Cattery, Ballwin, MO; Donna Isenberg, Catsafratz Cattery, Santa Monica, CA; Linda Hornberger; Julie Noble, Iowa City, IA; Nancy Petersen, Goliada Cattery, Corona, IA, Linda Lyon, Lincoln, NE; Lynda Smith, Posiepurrs Persians, Palmer, MA; Jennifer Barr, Beaubarr Cattery, Hemlock, NY; Charyl Copher, Neshamasheli Cattery, Joplin, MO; Andrea Cavanaugh, Short 'n Curly Cattery, Eugene, OR; Kathy DePietro, Mikkat Cattery, New Egypt, NJ; Linda Selsmeyer, Greenbay, WI Special thanks to Richard Katris, Chanan Photographer extraordinaire, for making the impossible possible!

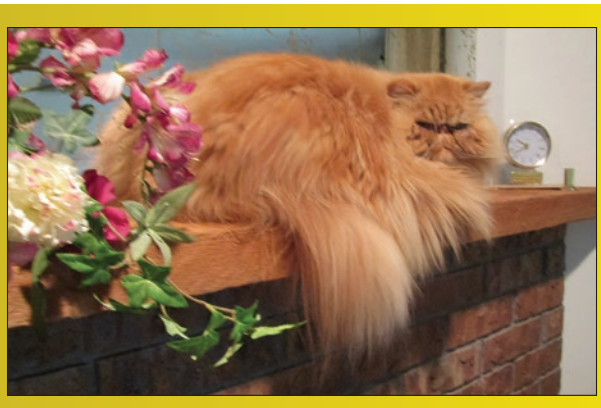
Sources

n.d. "CFA Breeds." *About the Persian*. Accessed Jan 04, 2021. https://cfa.org/persian/.

Fawcett, Kirstin. 2015. "Mental Floss." *10 Fancy Facts About Persian Cats.* Nov 20. Accessed Jan 04, 2021. https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/71010/10-fancy-facts-about-persian-cats.

Roos, David. 2019. "How Stuff Works." *Facts About Persian Cats, Kings of the Lap-Nappers.* Nov 04. Accessed Jan 04, 2021. https://animals.howstuffworks.com/pets/persian-cats.htm.

Sadler, Anna. n.d. "Persian History, Part 1." *The Persian Cat - The Beginnings*. Accessed Jan 04, 2021. https://www.persianbc.org/history1.php.



My Special Cat

Coordinated by Laurie Coughlan

Most of us have had that special cat—a heart cat with whom we had a deep connection. It may have been the cat we had as a child, or the one that saw us through a troubled time, or one with whom we bonded as we exhibited at cat shows. Whether the cat found us or we sought it out, those connections cannot be denied. These are the stories of some of those special cats and what they mean or meant to us.

Feral Family Friend
Red Man

Stephanie Thompson







Sometimes a feral cat can become part of the family, even as he maintains his complete independence. Our wonderful feral cat, Red Man, was with us for 20 years and was just an amazing boy to have living on the property. He came here on his own and it took us over a year and a half to even get him to eat commercial cat food. He was used to rural food in the form of mice, voles and birds, and used to actually dig up moles out of the ground.

He brought other friends with him, and all but one of them were red. The first was, like him, a red mackerel tabby we called Brother. He and Brother defended their food bowls from a fox and coordinated their hunting activities. Brother distracted a pesky chipmunk on the roof long enough for Red Man to climb up the corner of the log house and bag the chipmunk from behind.

The next friend Red Man invited to the Thompson family buffet table for felines was a deep red classic tabby we called Beanie. A class clown, Beanie acted anything but feral. He was a very lovable boy as well, often lounging on the bags of mulch, as if he were in a bean bag chair, hence the name Beanie.

The final cat Red Man brought up to the house was a female blue-point and white bi-color Ragdoll, who brought a short coat Ragdoll youngster with her. Beanie fell in love with the Ragdoll youngster, who we called Shorty because of her coat length. Shorty arrived pregnant, and Beanie helped Shorty raise her unplanned litter of kittens After her litter was raised, she was spayed and became Beanie's "wife."

Red Man was quite the wildlife manager on the property, and he had some interesting adventures over his 20 years here. Unable to find him on a weekend Jim was gone judging cats, I walked the property looking for him. Where was he? 20-30 feet up in a cottonwood tree. I figured something chased him up the tree. I called to him and he came down, jumping out of the tree about 10 feet above the ground, and then took off to the house. Another time, Jim threw an apple out towards the magpies to see if Red Man could catch one of those birds. Instead, Red Man was occupied with the fox that come up behind him. Red Man smacked that fox right in the face.

Red Man was very aware of his surroundings and he seemed to really enjoy his life. He had access to water on the deck or from streams, springs and springlets in our meadow. He had both commercial cat food and rural food available, and various places he could get in out of the weather and away from predators.

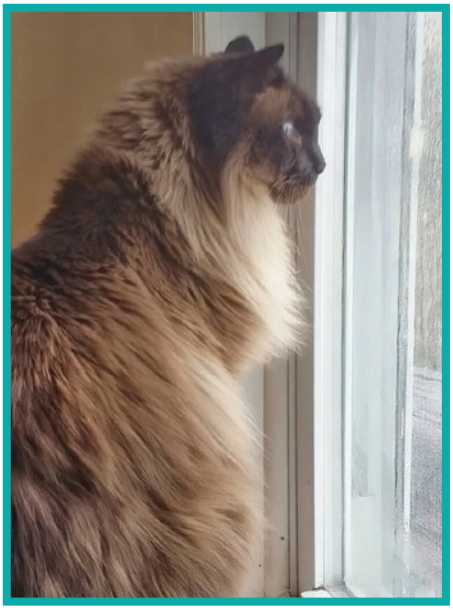
He was such a joy, and we were blessed to have him and all of the friends he brought to us over the years. We still have Shorty. Whether we will acquire another feral friend will depend on what next spring holds for us. But we will always remember Red Man for his antics and the feral cat's love that was so wonderful to have. For the last several weeks of his life, he actually enjoyed canned cat food, which he'd never previously touched, preferring dry food and what he could catch himself. It just goes to show that you can teach an old cat new tricks. Thank you, Red Man for so much joy and the teachings of life with feral cats. Thank you, Father God for bringing Red Man and his friends to us. We are truly honored to have them here.

My Special Cat

We have all had that one special cat whose memory we will treasure for the rest of our lives. He might be a show cat, companion cat, or a friend gone too soon. "My Special Cat," looks at that the bond between you and a a cat to whom you will always be connected with.

Share your memories of a special cat who has been in your life and why he was so special to you.

Contact Laurie Coughlan lecoughlan@aol.com for details



Soul Mate and Sweet Boy
Alexander

Kory Shaughnessy

I used to think a soulmate was a significant other, a boyfriend or a girlfriend, a husband or a wife. My cat Alex showed me different. He chose to share with me a special bond of understanding and connection. He also had a lot to teach me in our time together. Soulmates come into your life for important reasons. They are there to love and connect with, of course, but they may leave you with an important lesson for life. Time would prove that Alex had an important purpose in my life.

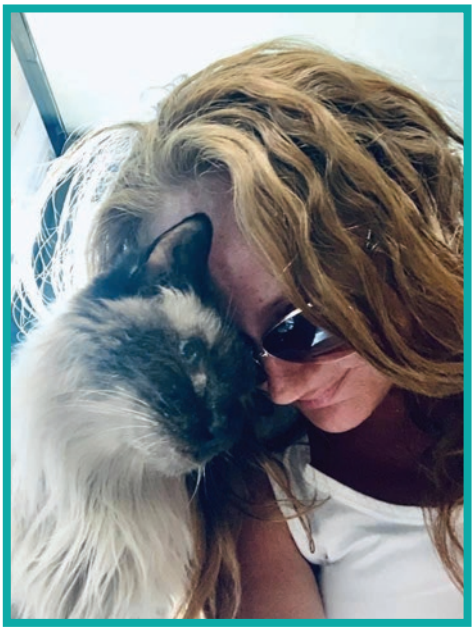
He was a beautifully intense seal point Ragdoll. We were together for 18 beautiful years, and it is hard to remember life before him. Alex started out as this crazy wild kitten who once came running down the stairs growling with a tissue box over his head, and knocked over our Christmas tree. However, he became this one-of-a kind magnificent soul. He was strong, yet so gentle, extremely docile, patient and private. He was even bashful at times. He was everything I wanted in a friendship and more. If I could sum Alex up in one word, it would be graceful.

Our bond grew stronger over time. He was my home, and he never judged. He knew when I was not quite myself and somehow, he would take it all away. I would bury my head under his chin and the world would just melt away. I called it "hide me". He would just sit, patient and still, while I cried or just de-stressed. No matter what it was, he would sit like that for as long as I needed him. I would look into his frosted turquoise-blue eyes and see the most unexplainably sweet look staring back at me. I could see his soul through those eyes, and it was as pure and honest as one could ever be. It was pure love. Our connection was different than anything I had ever experienced before. One day I came across a story that explained the true meaning of a soulmate, and I realized that Alex was without a doubt mine.

I want to share a story that I do not typically share because of judgment. When I had my son, who is now 23, I kept waiting for the "maternal bond" to kick in. That bond did not come for 17 years. Now I loved him—do not get me wrong—but something was missing for me. Maybe it was because I was 19 and alone when I had him, following an abusive relationship with his father, or because I did not yet know who I really was. My son and I got along fine nevertheless and decided to get a cat. My childhood cat, a seal point Himalayan Persian, was sweet and docile, so I contacted our breeder who was then breeding Ragdoll cats. She had a male seal point Ragdoll kitten ready in a few weeks. That is when my Alexander entered my life.

We bonded intensely, and I realized that this is how it should feel for my son. As time went on, Alex showed me how to open my heart completely, how to love unselfishly and how to put someone before yourself without question. My son and I grew closer and eventually I found my way with him. We were happy. I never considered having another child but 21 years later, I found myself pregnant again at 40 years old. The fears set in. What if I am not maternal? I even had nightmares about it. Happily, the very second I held my new baby girl, my entire world stopped. She was everything to me. Alex is my true soulmate because he showed me how to really open my heart and love unconditionally and intensely. I named my daughter Grayce Alexandra, both names after him.

I watched Alex age gracefully over the years. He struggled from several health issues toward the end including a long-term battle with asthma. I knew when it was his time. I loved him too much to allow him to suffer and had to do the hardest thing I had ever done. I wrapped him in his blanket and with my childhood teddy bear I had given him. He slept with that bear every day for years. I felt it comforting to let the bear go with him.



Waiting in the car for the vet to call us in, I held him on my lap as he was never one to be cuddled. As I cried, he stood up and placed his arms and head over my shoulder. He held me so tight I can still feel it to this day. Through his hug I felt his goodbye, how much he loved me, and that he knew how much I loved him. He thanked me for such a beautiful life. He seemed to say that whenever I needed him to "hide me" just call him and he would be there. When the vet texted saying they were ready, I heard Alex sigh. I asked him to tell me something, to give me a sign. "Do you want to go home because we will, or are you too tired boo"? He turned his head, kissed my nose, which he had never done before, and rested it on my chest telling me it was time. He held me until the vet came in. I put him on the table with his bear and put my forehand on his and told him how much I love him, but that it was ok to let go now, and he did. No sound or struggle, just peaceful release.

The next day was surreal. I simply could not accept he was gone. I went outside to get some air and there was no wind at all. Out of nowhere a long breeze gently hit my face and I felt a rush of warmth go through me. I felt Alex, surrounded by joy and peace. It was then I knew he would never truly be gone, as we are forever one and will always be connected.

UP CLOSE AND Purr-sonal

Teresa Keiger

Arden Moore

Viewers of CFA's weekly online program Meowy Hour might sometimes find themselves asking the question "Who is this enthusiastic woman who knows so much about cats and dogs? And how did CFA find her?" That enthusiastic woman would be Arden Moore, and to answer those other questions, we decided to get "up close and purr-sonal."

Arden's original intersection with CFA began within the Cat Writers' Association, which she joined in 1999. Some readers may remember that CWA had its origins with CFA, as it was founded by Michael Brim (CFA's former publicity director) and author Amy Shojai. They originally held their meetings in conjunction with the CFA International Show. Arden and a few CFA folks (including myself) would often cross paths at CWA or other cat-related events. When CFA decided to develop Meowy Hour as an outreach vehicle to the general public, Arden was the natural choice for host.

Like most of us in the cat fancy, Arden had a life BC&D ("Before Cats and Dogs"). For twenty years, she was a reporter in south Florida, working for the Sun-Sentinel for nine of those years. Her beats included education, state politics, and sports. Towards the end she wanted something more than trying to hit a daily deadline. About that time Rodale Press (remember their health, wellness, and gardening books?) hired her as an in-staff senior writer to write for their books and magazines.



Welcome to the new Cat Talk series "Up Close and Purr-sonal." While we might know what someone breeds and shows, we often have no idea about what their life and interests are outside of the show hall. And we are surprised at what we are learning about them as well!

Do you have a recommendation for someone to interview? Let us know! Email Teresa Keiger at tkeiger@cfa.org.



When Rodale began its *Pets – Part of the Family* magazine, Arden began writing pieces for it. She soon realized that the subject matter there resonated with a lot of her own interests. Her passion for writing about pets was ignited! Soon she was writing for other pet-related publications including the well-known (and now gone) magazines *Cat Fancy* and *Dog Fancy*. She also edited Tuft's Veterinary School magazine *Catnip* for eight years, getting a good foothold on the science behind pets. In addition, her background in journalism prepared her well to do interviews and research.

In 2007, she launched the podcast *Oh Behave!* on Pet Life Radio, making it one of the oldest podcasts and the first podcast about pets. Oprah even selected it twice as one of her top three favorite pet podcasts. Interviewing hundreds of guests made Arden a leading spokesperson on pet care, and she began appearing on television and radio segments.

As if that all were not enough, she has developed pet first aid/CPR and safety classes for cats and for dogs, earning her the name of "America's Pet Health and Safety Coach." She is now also blogs for PetKing brands (Zymox, Oratene).

Cat Talk wanted to know more about what drives Arden's passion for all animals.

Tell us a bit about the animal influences in your life.

My childhood in rural Indiana was filled with all kinds of pets. My first cat was a Siamese named Corky. He liked to go hunting and fishing with me and I even trained him to come when I whistled! He was with me throughout my childhood right through college. I couldn't have asked for a better first cat.







Arden, along with Casey and Kona, teach pet first aid to a variety of populations. As many other educators have done, she conducts her classes on Zoom, reaching an even larger segment of pet lovers.

We're a cat-centric publication obviously, and it's obvious that you adore Rusty and Casey (your companions on "Meowy Hour"). But who has been the heart cat of your life? (if you can pick favorites...)?

It's a three-way tie. Corky was a great first cat. Zeki was a Turkish Van-mixed rescue. Lots of people have met her as she was my first pet safety cat. She loved turkey and I was happy to oblige her. I gave her the name, Zeki, which means clever and courageous in Turkish. Then there's Casey, a six-year-old neuter from the San Diego Humane Society whom I adopted at four months old. He is my current first aid cat, and very smart and adaptable. Casey is just an innate communicator and loves going with me to conferences. He really misses that during quarantine. He has been to 13 states and is just a great traveler who is always up for anything.

What adventures have your animal companions led you on that you might have otherwise missed?

Having a real cat doing first aid was an opportunity to do classes for major groups. Audiences loved having a live cat, as Casey gives people a real life example of what cats are about. Casey was co-emcee with me at the CWA awards banquet, giving paws up and nose kisses to the winners.

Speaking of awards, you have won more than a couple awards for your work. Tell us some of the ones that mean the most to you?

Winning the CWA Michael Brim Distinguished Service Award in 2017 was such an honor for me! And I'm also proud of Catnip winning CWA's Best Newsletter award every year during the eight years I was its editor. I just wrote A Kid's Guide to Cats in 2020, and it's already in its second printing!

Meowy Hour has really been your introduction to CFA. What has been your biggest surprise? Or something that you really weren't aware of before?

I never knew that there were so many types of Persians! I now know the official color and pattern of my boys (red tabby and red tabby and white). And I discovered that CFA is inclusive of ALL cats! That was a nice surprise!

I know that you've been fascinated by a couple of the breeds featured on MH. Has one really stood out for you?

Several. I'm captivated by the Singapura; it seems small but mighty and confident. Conversely I love the Maine Coon because those cats seem easy going, huge, mellow, and beautiful.

What I've also enjoyed is being a judge for some of the "fun" VCC categories. And I absolutely love working in partnership with CFA as I'm being both a student and a teacher.

If Rusty and/or Casey were going to talk to us about you, what would they have to say?

Rusty: "She likes to play and shows me new things!" (Rusty started out in life as an Acrocat and has learned to come on a whistle and jump through hoops)

Casey: "Give me a job! I'm SO missing people! And thanks for expanding my horizons." (Casey is usually with Arden at conferences, sitting on a table and taking photos with kids).

Both boys: "Arden gives the BEST treats!!"

Any reflections in closing?

My goal with all of my activities is to present good information in an entertaining way, and to bring out the best in pets and in people. I'm not rich, but I've been enriched by living with cats and dogs.

FUR NAMES

From the files of: Nancy Kerr



Full name: GC, BW, NW PinUpCats Supa Dupa Fly of Kuorii, DM

Nicknames: Supa

Likes: Sleeping next to you at night. Warm bed covers. Hand-fed treats.

Dislikes: Getting up early in the morning.

Special Talents: Having her own fan club.

Names. Oh, what an important choice in the life of cat! It is how a cat will be known in the show rings and in daily life. A name can alternate between words of delight or new forms of cursing. Each name tells a story and this is the story of PinUpCats Supa Dupa Fly of Kuorii

Born on May 5, 2015, Supa is a most stunning black and white Sphynx female bred by Cyndee Hill and co-owned by Cyndee Hill, Sophia Staples, Paolo Carnevaletti, and Paola Scardaccio. Paolo and Paola breed Sphynx under the Kuorii cattery name.

When Supa was a very young kitten, Cyndee sent some pictures to Paolo Carnevaletti. As soon as he saw them, Paolo started looking for a name with the word "fly"—the kitten's ears were so big, she looked ready for takeoff! A fan of American rapper Missy Elliott, he decided to take his inspiration from one of Elliott's songs and name her "Supa Dupa Fly."

She was shown for a full kitten career, beginning at the age of fourmonths, and receiving many Best Kittens over that time frame. One of her highlights of her kitten career was receiving Best Kitten in every ring at the prestigious Cotton States Show. She was also Best Shorthair Kitten at the CFA 2015 International Show, participating in the Best of the Best finale. It was an extraordinary record for a Sphynx. Cyndee, Paolo and Paola celebrated an even greater triumph at the end of the show season, when Supa finished as Kitten of the Year for 2015-16. Much of this was due to Sophia Staples, who supported them in showing her to perfection. Sophia proved during that show season why she is the queen of grooming, always presenting Supa in spectacular condition. She was flawless at every show, which is not an easy feat for a Sphynx.

While showing her during the 2015-16 show season, Sophia enjoyed shouting out the kitten's name when it became clear she would end a final as best kitten. Everyone in the show hall knew Supa and would help cheer her on. She had such a stellar presence on the judge's table that it was hard not to fall in love with her. According to Cyndee, she loves to sleep next to you at night and eat treats from your hands. For many, she is one of the finest examples of the Sphynx breed and considered the epitome of the breed standard.

Supa was Best Kitten in CFA regions 1-9 that season. As an adult she gained the title of BW "Best of Breed" and more recently, she has achieved the "Distinguished Merit" title for producing five grand offspring. Her full title is GC, NW, BW, PinUpCats Supa Dupa Fly of Kuorii, DM

Since retiring from the show hall, Supa has been enjoying a very spoiled life in Italy near Venice. She currently lives with Paola Scardaccio and is "Queen Boss" of the house. They have plans to breed her during 2021 and look forward to showing her future offspring. Perhaps they too will have their own fan clubs, along with names that tell a story.

Supa recently took time off from her retirement to compete in the Top Cat Virtual Cat Competition qualifiers. She placed high in the rankings in the qualifiers and was best kitten overall in the photo event for the CFA International Top Cat Challenge Virtual Cat Show.

SUBJECT LAST SEEN:



petpartners

Cat Fanciers' Association Pet Insurance Partner

A Healthier Tomorrow

Starts Today



www.petpartners.com/cfa • 1-877-232-4441

Plans and coverage vary by state. See plan terms and conditions for a full description through PetPartners, Inc. Coverage is offered by PetPartners, Inc. to all U.S. residents and is underwritten by American Pet Insurance Company, 6100 4th Ave S., Seattle WA 98108.


MELODY·BOYD
2016