

# CFA's Top 25 Cats in CHAMPIONSHIP

*by Penni Richter*

With over 20,000 cats competing worldwide, it came down to the top 25 earning the coveted title of a "National Winner."

It is many a breeder's dream to see a cat's potential and wonder...what if?...could it be?...can we do it? For the top competitors in Championship it means showing almost every weekend...for almost a whole year! It may mean miles and miles of driving at all hours of the morning, or late into the night. For some it is many miles of flying, taking red-eyes out of town, getting on red-eyes late on Sunday night to arrive home in time for work, or sleep, by Monday morning. For these top 25 cats and their owners this was a dream that came true!

It is with pleasure that I present to you the stories of these beautiful felines on their journey to become CFA's National Winning Championship cats for the 2012-2013 show year.

## Best Cat GC, BW, NW PARTI WAI EX JACKPOT

Cream Spotted Tabby and White Exotic Male

**Breeder/Owner: Penni Richter**

*Submitted by Penni Richter*



CFA's Cat of The Year is GC, BW, NW Parti Wai EX Jackpot, a cream spotted tabby and white male, bred and owned by Penni Richter, sired by GC, RW Parti Wai EX Jokers Wild, a beautiful black and white male and GC, RW Parti Wai Emmanuelle, an exquisite brown patched tabby and white van Persian female bred by Gloria Busselman.

Jackpot, known as "Potsy", started out as a dream of Penni's, to breed Joker to Emm. Penni loved Emmanuelle and asked her mother if she could use her for a litter. After Gloria had a couple of litters out of her, she said yes! Emm was bred to Joker and produced three beautiful kittens thank goodness, all shorthair!! A brown patched tabby and white van female, a brown spotted tabby and white female and a cream spotted tabby and white male. Potsy was a big baby, maybe a little gawky as a teenager. While Penni had no plans to sell any of the babies, she really did not pay particular attention to how he looked, until one day, when he was 8 months old and a local show was coming up, she looked around for something to show and saw him! Oh...wow, she thought. He was looking pretty good. She decided to take him and try for some grand points. Some grand points turned into a 4 ring grand! The judges loved him and Penni thought he really did look good on the judge's table. However, he did not seem to like it very much. Penni decided to take him to another show two weeks later, a 45-minute drive from home, to see if he liked it better. He did! He had a fun time and was Best Cat in Show.

Now it was the first of May and a new show season, Potsy went to Reno, Nevada for a practice to see if he still enjoyed the ring. He was again Best in Show, and seemed to have a good time. Penni decided that she would continue to show him to see if a RW, or maybe even a NW would be possible. They went to one show in June, he was again Best in Show, and then came sum-

mer and guess what...BALD!! They went to a local show, Santa Monica Cat Club, to see how he looked on the table with semi-coat, not bad, he was Best In Show. However, now changing from summer coat to winter coat, they decided to stay close to home, or completely home until he was ready. They had a big rest the month of September and most of October, and finally decided he was ready to venture out again by November. The World Show was one of their highlights of the year. Jackpot ended up Best in Show for the Purple show, and was 3rd Best in the Best Of The Best competition! Penni was so very surprised and happy!

December was a first for Penni and Potsy, going to shows every weekend instead of staying home for most of the holiday month. At this point they decided to keep out there, in hopes of ending up a National Winner... hopefully somewhere in that "invisible middle", not struggling at the bottom, and not "fighting for the top"! By the end of December Potsy was 2nd in the National standings. They were comfortable that they would probably not fall out if they kept showing.

On the morning of January 20th, they learned that Jackpot had become CFA's Best Cat! Penni cannot describe the funny feelings she had at that moment; Unbelievable happiness and pride, horrible feelings of sadness and disappointment for the cat that was now 2nd Best, and immediate stress to either try and stay there...or go home!! (By the way, 2nd Best cat owners were MOST gracious...really honorable competitors!!)

She can't deny that the game became a little more stressful at that point. With encouragement from her husband Jon, her "mother hen" as she called Donna Isenberg, (who basically told her what she was doing and when and where!!), and the immense support of her good friend Allen Chen, who NEVER gave up the thought "Best Cat", they de-

ecided to keep going and see where they ended up. Words cannot express Penni's thanks and gratitude for everything they did for her and Potsy!

The rest of February and March gave them several good shows and a weekend home here and there for some much needed rest. Potsy was such a trouper! So many of the shows were very far away from home. HOURS of airplane trips, nights in hotels (his favorite), long days in show halls. He endured it all.

March gave us a hint that the end was coming up...YEAH!! It was a busy month, shows every weekend with good counts and loads of friends! By this time they had become good friends with many of their competitors and were really enjoying the time spent together! There is no better feeling than meeting other cat lovers, with beautiful representations of their breed and feeling so happy and proud for them as well. Jackpot had a good month, was Best in Show at every show in March and enjoying himself. Their highlight of the year was a trip to Kiev, Ukraine. Penni was so nervous for a show overseas (and excited to finally meet many on-line friends!). She greatly admired the beautiful cats in Europe and was excited and terrified to compete with them! There were 18 Exotics in competition in Kiev, a lot of them Penni had drooled over for the whole year!! In the first ring she was so nervous she could have thrown up. Then, as she was standing with the other exhibitors and excited onlookers from Kiev, she took a good look at all of those 18 Exotics and swelled with pride, ...thinking, "I love my cat!" She thought he looked beautiful, spectacular really. He truly did stand out and it was a feeling that brought tears to her eyes. Her dearest friends in the cat fancy since her very first show, Donna and Bruce Isenberg, joined her for the trip to Kiev! What a wonderful time they had. A beautiful hotel, wonderful restaurants, the most fabulous private

tour guide ever...Kiev was an amazing city, the people of the Ukraine are beautiful, on the inside and out! They cannot wait to go back some day!

As April came, they traveled close to home. In Pleasanton, California Penni had a great time spending the weekend with her two daughters who were living in the Bay area during college and Connie Wardlaw, one of her new found competitor friends with her beautiful "Baby Ruth". Potsy had the pleasure of once again being highest scoring at each of his shows in April, ending their show season the third week of April in Mesquite, Texas. A fun weekend, great hospitality and for them, the reality that they actually would stay Best Cat in CFA!!

Penni knows this story is about the cat, but can't leave out these personal thoughts about the people, the camaraderie, the care and concern for each person, each cat, even if they were your competition. I must thank Gloria Busselman, for the gift of GC, RW Parti Wai Emmanuelle, this was her last litter, and a treasure that will always be special in our hearts. I must thank my dear friend Peter Rogers of Validian Cattery for his unwavering support and friendship when I was tired and wanted to quit!! To Donna and Bruce Isenberg, I never could have achieved this dream if it wasn't for everything you did for me, with me and made me do!! To Allen Chen for his unwavering support and encouragement in every way! And to my family, for putting up with

me being GONE...and tired when I got home...THANK YOU!! To the judges of CFA, thank you so much for your support and the difficult decisions you sometimes had to make!! This year, this group of CFA people, our "cat family" was...well...amazing!! As each show came and went, it became evident that these people, competing for the highest position they could get, spending their time and money with their pride and joy nestled in their arms, being loved and babied like the adored pets that they are, were wonderful people!! Best Cat or 25th Best Cat, you just could not beat this year of respect and honor. It gives me a huge amount of faith and pride for the cat fancy!! To the people of CFA...you are the BEST!!

## Second Best Cat GC, BW, NW ASTECH'S SI DIOS QUIERE

Ruddy Abyssinian Male  
**Breeder/Owner: Sue Truesdell**

*Submitted by Sue Truesdell*



On January 5th GC RW Astech's Jefferson Airplane "Jeffie" gave birth to two kittens. The little boy had promise of color and type. I wasn't sure what the future would bring so we

named him Si Dios Quiere--God Willing, but his nickname has always been "Rabbit". The year 2012 started out with many family problems and many work problems. I was only able to

show him a few times as a kitten. His first adult show was a 6 x 6 in Richmond. He graded on Saturday and took several best cats on Sunday. I had to be at work on Monday morning so had to leave to catch a plane before Elyn Honey did her final. I later found out she would have made him best cat too! I was so surprised and proud of this baby, giving me such pleasure in the midst of some hard times. This started a whirlwind of travel and shows always having to be at work Monday morning and in Texas one weekend a month. Rabbit continued to do very well and receive many Best Cats and Best in Shows. A couple of months into his show season, we thought a National Win could be possible, if we could get out to enough shows. With the encouragement of several great friends, we kept on going as much as we could and soon realized yes, he was going to get a NW, and possibly even a breed win!! Never did we realize we would actually end up 2nd Best Cat!!

Rabbit was a trouper, enjoying the weekends we stayed home, and staying happy on the weekends we went showing! Standing proud and happy on the judges' table. It was a joy to watch him and hear the nice comments from my fellow competition. Rabbit's father is

GC BW NW Astech's Jet Stream and his grandfather is GC BW NW Truluck Stillwater of Astech. So he is 3rd in a line of national and breed winners. I'd like to extend my gratitude to Wain Harding for giving me great cats to work with.

It was an especially fun year because of the great people out there. My thanks to Penni Richter, Connie Wardlaw, Joel and Camelle Chaney, and Lauren Castle for being such great exhibitors.

## Third Best Cat GC, BW, NW LAC HONG GI JOE

Bombay Male

**Breeder/Owner: Mireille Sicart**

*Submitted by Mireille Sicart*

I was named G.I Joe. I'm not sure it was a good idea...many people will remember me as a big mouth.

I was just a few days old and I was already talking...loudly...always something to say. Some of you may think I'm aggressive or nasty but I'm not, I'm a sweet boy despite the appearances.

I was shown as a kitten and I did quite well. Later my Mom started to think of trying to go further...on the road again!! But something suddenly changed, Mom was sad...she just learned that her brother was very sick. She first thought that she would stop showing me but she finally realized that perhaps it would take her mind off things.

Running me was the distraction she needed and would help balance her concerns and fears.

Her brother was not coming to our home often but was following her breeding program from a distance but could recognize a good cat.

With my campaign things for her brother changed. He wanted to know every show weekend how I was doing.



My Mom had to text him after each final...and after a while, ring, count, E-points, Regional, National, ranking, had no secrets for him. He was very proud of me after the World Show.

Time was flying between shows and chemotherapy. But we had a plan. We would finish the season all together in France for the last show to celebrate

my success. But alas, the disease was stronger and didn't let us share one of those special moments.

He just had enough time to know I was Third Best Cat before he left us.

Now times are difficult and I will have to produce very nice babies to see a little smile back....

## Fourth Best Cat GC, BW, NW DOVON SIMON THE POSSUMM OF LYNZKATZ

Brown Tabby American Shorthair Male

**Breeder: Kathie and Doug Von Aswege**

**Owner: Linda, Jon, and Jacob Bartley, Doug and Kathie  
Von Aswege, Edmond Tang, and Christine Shek**

*Submitted by Linda and Jon Bartley*

Possumm was CFA's 4th best Cat, Best American Shorthair and the Great Lakes Region's Best cat.

Possumm had such a sweet face that was not too moderate or too extreme. He was a large cat with pattern and color that you could see across the room. He had a look that made you take notice!

Kathie had placed Possumm's two siblings in show homes (GC,RW Dovon Sallee in Brown of Janvier and GC,GPRW Dovon Sylvester in Brown of Yash) and asked Linda and Jon Bartley if they wanted to show Possumm as a kitten and then grand him to finish his dam's DM (CH Lynzkatz Cognac Diamond of Dovon, DM). The Bartley's had just finished showing GC NW Dovon Clark of Lynzkatz to his national kitten win, so they were happy to show Possumm for Kathie and Doug. Linda and Jon went to pick him up at a hotel in Columbus and Linda said to Kathie, you know he won't be coming back, don't you? Linda was in LOVE! He looked just like his dam and was Linda's type of American Shorthair.

Possumm did well as a kitten and graded quickly in championship so they decided to sit back and see who was ready to show in the new season, Possumm or Clark? When the new season started, they decided to start showing Possumm, as he just kept looking better and better. He was Best Cat in show at the Great Lakes Regional, Colonial Annapolis Cat Fanciers, National Birman Fanciers and Diamond State Cat club shows. They decided to see how he did at Garden State to see if they would be back on the campaign again. He made eight finals including



two Best cats, so they were off again! He continued to do well at shows and by August, he was the Best cat in CFA. He stayed there until late January.

Highlights were Possumm's getting to be second best shorthair cat in the Best of the Best at the World show's Red Show, with eight finals, including a Best Allbreed cat in show! Possumm had the support of many judges including never being lower than best cat for three judges: Gary Veach, Lorraine Rivard, and Bob Molino. The Bartleys appreciate the never ending support and encouragement of Kenny Currle, during this long season and special thanks to all of the Cat Fancier's Association judges, and know they appreciate all of your support for Possumm's campaign. The Bartleys are

so thankful to work with such a great group of American Shorthair breeders. It is a wonderful combination of all of our cats and lines that make the breedings successful. They also thank Ulrike Knueppel for her support and friendship, she is our partner in Europe, and we love the support and family that you all are to us.

*From Kathie Von Aswege:*

Possumm's story started several years ago – seven to be exact – when Doug and I returned to CFA and the showing of cats. At that time, the only people who would sell to us were Linda and Jon Bartley (Lynzkatz) and we purchased CH Lynzkatz Cognac Diamond of Dovon, DM. She is Possumm's dam.

Then, I was introduced to Edmund Tang by Bob Zenda. We flew to Hong Kong, met Edmund and Christine Lam and Christine Shek, and were impressed with the knowledge and experience these young people showed toward their cats and CFA. We were

then entrusted with the cat, GC, BW, NW Yatfung Hulk in Brown!!!, who would become Possum's sire.

For the past five years, we have worked closely with the Bartleys, Edmund, Christine and Christine. This working

partnership has produced five NWs, countless Grand Champions, several Lynzkatz DM's and, most importantly, has produced the people who, in my life, are my supporters and my family.

## Fifth Best Cat GC, BW, NW BURMANIA FIRENZE OF ECLYPSE

Sable Burmese Male

**Breeder: Isabelle Marchand**

**Owner: Isabelle Marchand, Rafael St. Peirre,  
and Dominic Lemaire**

*Submitted by Isabelle Marchand, Rafael St. Peirre, and Dominic Lemaire*



At first, we just wanted to learn how to show a cat in championship. The main idea and the goal of our first trip was to learn from our mentor Isabelle Marchand (Burmania Cattery), about the grooming routine, rules and protocol of a cat show. Firenze, a sable Burmese boy, was quite adolescent at that time and seemed great, from what we knew from the breed but we would never have guessed how handsome he would become. We all agreed Isabelle, Rafael and I to bring Firenze to at least three shows and see from there how it would go. It seemed pretty casual at first, enjoying the competition, the presence of other breeders and according to the plan we would have a

glimpse of what a cat show is and how to manage crossing the border, traveling with a cat and practicing how to handle a cat.

But then came Garden State show... Firenze was just amazing there. We made many points, other breeders and judges were impressed by him and started to ask questions about our plans and suggested a national campaign. From three shows we went to a national campaign. No need to say that it was a complete different deal and that the difference was huge. As new breeders we were pretty insecure about all that and most of all, people

started to ask us how we managed to get national championship material cat as our first cat? At first, let's be honest, Dominic and Rafael looked clueless. Firenze seemed to now be owned by a loud mouth and a silent one. Dominic was learning all he could about the cat and the grooming and Rafael was making contacts and learning the mechanics of a show. Dominic learned a lot of English during the campaign and Rafael managed a lot of communication, e-mail and conversations to gather as much information as possible on the topic. A national campaign gave us the opportunity to bond with our mentor and with a lot of great people in the cat fancy.

In November, Isabelle and her best friend Mireille Sicart, (with her splendid Bombay- Joe), attended the World Show and found themselves together in the Red show. A dream weekend for two friends while Joe finished BEST SH in show and Firenze, 3rd BEST SH in show!!!!

Then came a slight setback in our campaign. For flights, our exhibitor team downsized from three to two. Isabelle sustained a shoulder injury and could no longer fly with Firenze. Fortunately, Isabelle would continue to attend the shows accessible by car. So we moved forward, dividing the task...

The boy weighed 11 pounds! Even for two solid guys like us, after an hour or so at the airport our arms were killing us. Firenze was better than ever but so heavy! Even if it was frightening at first to be alone in the "Wild world", Rafael and mostly Dominic kept the campaign

running and continued showing Firenze. Dominic had to travel alone most of the time, by plane and with basic English language skills. All those trips to the south of the US, Florida, Indiana, Texas and Missouri improved his confidence in the success of Firenze's campaign and his ability to sustain a conversation in another language than his own.

During all those trips many problems occurred. We experienced missed flights, delays at airports, fire alarm during the night at the hotel but even with all those mishaps, Dominic man-

aged to maintain the cat in perfect health. Firenze felt confident enough with his owner and did not lose his condition. Breeders and exhibitors complimented the caring and exceptional grooming of Firenze. Who would have thought that new breeders, with their first cat, during their first year would have managed to run a national campaign and end up with the 5th best cat and a best of breed!! Isabelle, Dominic and Rafael all agree on one thing: Firenze is an exceptionally good-looking cat and the opportunity was there. Dominic and Rafael had to make a lot of important decisions

regarding Firenze, the process of cat showing was new to them and with help from new friends and from their mentor, Isabelle Marchand this campaign became a success.

It is mostly a story of hard work, trust and honesty and with collaboration everything became possible. Thanks to all of you who believed in us and were there with a helping hand, a smile and genuine kindness. Sadly we do not know you all by name but you know and we know who you are and be assured that we are grateful for everything.

**M**ambo is very special to us, besides being the second NW of our breeding, he is the first under our new prefix AOL and mostly, the first we exhibited ourselves.

His story begins at birth, a single kitten. It was a breeding we had been expecting with much excitement as it was the first litter from our blue male (GC DW Alemars Cornelius) who was 3rd Best Solid Persian in CFA in 2009-2010. From birth we were very fond of this kitten as he seemed very promising to us but unfortunately it was another male... the last thing we needed to keep.

We had decided to offer him to a breeder, only with the condition that he would be graded. We sent pictures of him at three months of age and the deal was on. In fact, the reason why his name is Mambo is because this is the name that the breeder picked.

However, when we delivered him at a show in Klagenfurt, he was still a tiny little boy and looked like an embryo in the rings compared to the much older and more developed kittens. It turned out this breeder didn't recognize the potential we saw in him and wasn't thrilled by him. So no worry, we took him back home. We had another male in mind we were planning to run that season but we liked Mambo a lot so we decided that we would keep him until

we graded him and then find a nice home.

He turned 8 months old for the last show of the season and so we took him for ring training but of course he wasn't ready yet and didn't make much impression.

## Sixth Best Cat

### GC, BW, NW AOL MAMBO

Black Solid Persian Male

**Breeder: Aleksejs Dergachovs**

**Owner: Olivier Grin and Aleksejs Dergachovs**

*Submitted by Olivier Grin and Aleksejs Dergachovs*



The next show in Europe was in August in Germany. Mambo was still not in great coat but he did most CH-finals and a few top ten including a Best Cat in specialty ring. The count was unfortunately not high enough to enable him to grand, by far...

His next show was only in September as there are no shows in Europe over the summer. He did very well, made several high placements in top ten and earned over 200 GC points that weekend which fulfilled the goal we had set for him.

At that time the other male we had planned to show still hadn't grown coat so we decided, why not trying for a RW with Mambo until the other is ready? So off we went, we gave ourselves two months to get at least 2,500 points which we estimated would be safe to keep him in the top 25 in Championship for a Regional Win. However, by the end of November, Mambo had already climbed up to second place regionally and 27th in CFA and still hadn't hit 100 rings yet. He was doing really great at most shows, sharing the

top placements with his main competitor, the wonderful Bombay of our dear friend Mireille, and seemed to love showing. So we saw the opportunity to get to the highest and most covered title. Encouraged by Mireille and other good friends, we decided to give it a try.

The rest of the season went by itself and Mambo kept climbing up and up in the rankings until the last weekend of April, where we were surprised to end up 6th Best Cat!

This story reminds the story of our first NW Alemars Lovebug, wonderfully shown by Connie Stuart. When he was a kitten we also unsuccessfully tried to sell him. So, now we seem to have a rule in our breeding program... if there is a kitten we like but cannot

sell, it means he should stay in the cattery and be run!

Mambo's final placement reaches way beyond our expectations and we want to share our pride with all the friends for the great moments together. We sincerely consider that the friendships that are born and develop at cat shows and these precious moments of glory and disappointments shared with these special people are the most important in all this "Cat Fancy" thing. We would like to mention our dearest friends who made this season and this win especially valuable: Mireille Sicart, Henny & Jos Wintershoven, Monique van Eijk, Connie Stewart and Clare Muscat Said. We also want to thank all the judges who supported Mambo along the season. What a fun ride!

## Seventh Best Cat GC, NW AHAVA-BURMS BABY T-RUTH OF CALCAT

Sable Burmese Female

**Breeder: J-E-M Herr and J. McGregor**

**Owner: Priscilla Eldredge, Jennifer and Michael Herr,  
Cyndi Lewis and Connie Wardlaw**

*Submitted by Connie Wardlaw*

One little Burmese, competing among some well-developed and muscular male Burmese, was designated by one of her owners as "The Little Cat That Could." She was persistent and determined to be considered even though her size, when she first became a champion, left her with some catching up to do. She seemed to sense that she'd have to try harder. And, she did.

Ahava-Burms Baby T-Ruth, along with her brother, Ahava-Burms Let Freedom Ring, was born on September 11, 2011, the tenth anniversary of 9-11. Hence, the names. They went to their first show in High Point, NC, the day they turned four months old. Each made a Best Kitten that day. It was also at that show that breeders, Jennifer and Mike Herr, offered to let Connie have the little female, Baby Ruth. A call to Bob at home cleared the way and Baby Ruth went home to Georgia to grow and develop into a Burmese that just kept getting better and better.

Once Baby Ruth let it be known that she was in charge, she went to work on developing some muscularity, refining her sleek coat and keeping her



*"There are no ordinary cats."*

— Colette

*...and even among the extraordinary ones competing toward the close of this past year's show season, those still in top form were in a class of their own.*

personality people-oriented by attending shows. Though she did well at the shows, she didn't seem to come into her own in the show hall until late summer. She was a two-show grand. At her first show as a champion, she made just four points; at her second, she earned well over 200! She was beginning to learn how to catch the eye of the judges. As for spectators, she always had them hooked with her outgoing personality, charm, antics, and her offer to any who visited her to take a Baby Ruth candy bar! She had become a show cat and loved every minute of it.

Baby Ruth logged quite a few miles during the season. One adventure was to the Food and Water Bowl, the big show in southern California, that also became a Squadron Reunion for Bob and some other former Marines. Included was a side trip to the San Diego Zoo to check out the "big" cats. This was the turning point and Baby Ruth knew it was time to get serious. She and Connie, sometimes with Jennifer and sometimes with Priscilla, would be out every weekend for the remain-

der of the season. Baby Ruth seemed to be saying: "I think I can, I think I can..."

What had begun quite slowly became a more rapid rise to the top ten in championship those last few months. Baby Ruth kept developing, becoming more muscular and well toned. Groomed to perfection and always maintained impeccably, she never lost her zest for the show hall and seemed obligated to play for and entertain both judges and spectators. She seemed to say to her owners, "You get me ready, and I'll take care of the rest!" And, she did. "I think I can" became "I did it!"

This was a team effort: Team Baby Ruth. Breeders Jennifer and Mike began the saga with the breeding of this wonderful cat. Connie persevered through the slow start because of her confidence and faith in the Little Cat That Could. Priscilla, with her many successful years of having bred beautiful Burmese, was there supplying suggestions because of this experience. Cyndi, groomer extraordinaire, became the weekly touch-up artist. It goes without saying that there was never

a renegade white hair in Baby Ruth's sleek brown coat or a stray hair that had a mind of its own. Lending her expertise with what she does best, Joanne was the scorekeeper. Toward the end, during those April shows, computers were watched for incoming mail while Joanne worked on tallying points, ring by ring.

All those who had a part in Baby Ruth's year-long adventure would like to make the necessary acknowledgements and give thanks:

– To all the other exhibitors who were friendly and kept alive a good spirit of camaraderie in the show halls; who were able to cheer on the wins of their competitors;

– To the judges who maintained their consistency and faithfulness, though as the season drew to a close, the finals grew tighter and tighter;

– To those cheering on and lending support from the sidelines;

– To a wonderful little brown cat, Baby Ruth, who is our dream come true!

This is the Italian cattery Settimocielo's very first National top 25 win. Shadow is co-owned and shown by Cheryl and Bob Lorditch. Shadow is the third cat that we have graded from Pier and Mary, all three from similar pedigrees and all having signature vivid eye color. Combined with a wonderful Boberan sire, whose line Shadow favors, he will be a great asset to our breeding program. We shall be forever grateful to our friends, Marie and Pier.

He was an unexpected purchase when our friend, Barbara Bosco saw Shadow as a kitten in France while showing for her National win. She recommended I inquire about Shadow. Shadow arrived in beautiful condition to us at six months, but acclimating him to our US food was a challenge.

## **Eighth Best Cat** **GC, NW SETTIMOCIELO SHADOW OF JOVAN**

Black Solid Persian Male

**Breeder: Marie A Actis Dato, and P. Castino**

**Owner: C-B. Lorditch-Dato-Castino**

*Submitted by Cheryl and Bob Lorditch*



It took him months to re-grow coat and get him used to our diet. He was ready to show in October, and granded in two shows, and obtained two keeper rings as an open. In a few shows as a grand he was getting accustomed to shows and never looked back. He was shown heavily in the NAR and had strong competition from a lovely red female, whom sadly just missed a

national win. Shadow matured as the months went on and got the best coat he ever had. He grew to enjoy himself as the weeks went on when the judges brought out a feather to play.

Shadow was Best Solid Persian at the World Show-Red in November 2013 in Columbus, Ohio as well as 2nd Highest Longhair in show. He also got two Best Cat wins at that show.

We met many new friends and shared and enjoyed the weekends with all. Thank you to all of CFA's wonderful judges for this opportunity.

We are now awaiting his very first 4 litters.

*Where do I start?*

Ahh...the song Move Like Jager was a hit on the radio. I loved the song and thought what a great name for a kitten. Two weeks later a litter of two was born. I looked at the boy and said, "You are Jager!" He was on the "move" all the time and he just kept getting cuter everyday.

I didn't show him as a kitten, but just could not pass it up for Championship. Jager was a one show grand and I was so very proud. My good friend said she thought we could get a National win on him. This has always been one of my dreams, but I always came up short. Noralyn said she was going to help me. And that she did! We went to a show just about every weekend. There were times we would laugh way too hard, and times of stress like when Jager got scared at a show from a speaker. But as time went on he got better, he was a laid back cat! We loved how he looked and the judges did too. When you felt that head, that was it. His huge eyes would melt your heart.

Jager showed until the last 3 shows. Our daughter was expecting her first baby and at 25 weeks decided he thought that was enough time. However he did stay put longer after the entire scare and was born July 13th. I really felt it was more important to stay home with Megan. In my life God

comes first, family second and then my pets. I love them all so much.

Jager did very good and started climbing up the points. We thought this could work. It took a lot of trips. Lots of fast food and of course Dairy Queen. Noralyn Heisig and Linda Bartley surely had the laugh of their life when I ordered my sundae. A chocolate mint sundae with "wet nuts". Where we live, if you don't tell them

wet nuts, you will get peanuts. Yuck... gotta have wet nuts! So the girls are ordering theirs and the guy on the other end is laughing so hard. When we pulled up to the window he had everyone in the restaurant looking out the window, laughing like crazy!! We will never forget that!

I have met so many friends this past year and have really enjoyed showing Jager. He is my first NW, BW GC.

## **Ninth Best Cat** **GC, BW, NW SEDER RENNES MOVE LIKE JAGER**

Blue and White Persian Bi-Color Male

**Breeder: Peggy Huffman**

**Owner: Peggy Huffman and Noralyn Heisig**

*Submitted by Peggy Huffman*



What a win...we are so very happy. A goal I always dreamed of turning into a reality. I want to thank the judges that supported him. I especially want to thank Noralyn for all her words of

encouragement. She helped me with Jager anytime she could. I will forever be indebted. You are the Best Friend Ever!!

Jager will have his first litter coming before this is printed. I'm so excited... just can't wait! Missing showing...miss everyone and hope to be out soon! God is Good!!

For the history of the British Shorthair and the its beginning in CFA, I direct you to [www.cfa.org](http://www.cfa.org). There are two informative articles in the British Shorthair section. This article is about the history of 2012-2013 MWR's Best Cat and 2012-2013 CFA's BOB British Shorthair and 10th Best Cat and his beginning in my life.

In 2008 I was the quintessential novice in CFA. I had met Jo Cornwall and Kathie VonAswege at a couple of Region 6 cat shows. I mentioned to them I was in need of a male BSH for my breeding program. They came to me later in the show and Jo said they decided to trust me with a kitten she and Colin had. She would email me a picture to see if I liked him. She and Colin both assured me if I didn't like him I didn't have to take him. It was love at first emailed picture.

When they brought him to the next show Colin again assured me I if I didn't like him I didn't have to take him. Enter TrueBrit St. Louis Blue into my life. Paper work, etc., completed and Louis started his show/breeding career. From the start this sweet blue boy showed such promise.

I started showing him as a kitten. At 8 months of age he gained the title of champion, then granded in the next two shows. In September we set out to see what else Louis could do. After a few successful shows we found ourselves in a run for a Regional Win and "gasp" a possible National Breed Win. What a learning experience for this rookie cat and his naïve owner! At the end of the final April show in St. Louis our Louis had attained a Midwest Region 2008-2009 21st Best Kitten, 7th Best Cat, and Best British Shorthair. As

the icing on our cupcake he was also 2008-2009 CFA's Best of Breed British Shorthair!

Louis came home to mature and enjoy life. He has never been caged in my home-maybe not always a wise decision. I have a neutered part Siamese rescue that is the oldest cat resident in my home and he has always let Louis know who the boss cat is. I think this is instrumental in Louis retaining his sweet disposition.

The 2012-2013 show season loomed as the perfect time for Louis to return to the show circuit to try for a National Championship win. He was 5 years old 16 ½ pounds of beautiful, mature British Shorthair. I started him back in St. Louis. Because of family commitments and other considerations, Doug and Kathie VonAswege offered to take Louis home and Doug would show him. Louis immediately bonded with Doug and the rest is history. One of

## Tenth Best Cat GC, BW, NW TRUEBRIT ST LOUIS BLUE OF OZ CREEK

Blue British Shorthair Male

**Breeder: C. and E. Cornwall and M. and B. Schleissner**  
**Owner: L. and R. Sturn and C. and J. Cornwall**  
**and D. and K. VonAswege**

*Submitted by Leah Sturn*



the shows I got to share was the World Show. Louis was in the Purple Show and did very well gaining best British Shorthair in that show.

Doug shared that Louis continued to love showing, playing with judges' toys

and lounging on motel beds. When the dust settled Louis was 2012-2013 Midwest Region's Best Cat, CFA's Best of Breed British Shorthair for the second time and 10th Best Cat. Thank you Colin and Jo for sharing this boy.

Thank you Doug and Kathie for showing him to a National Win, and thank God for cats!

**A**ngel Time was sired by GC, RW Dewisplear Treme of Nekoland. Treme now lives with Virginia Liu and Amigo Lee in Hong Kong. Angel's dam was GC, RW Dewisplear Claire Mayfair.

In case you were wondering where Angel Time got his name, it comes from a more recent Anne Rice novel involving Angels, time travel, and religious mythology. There were no Mayfair witches or vampires in her recent novel. Angel Time is about Toby O'Dare. After a lifetime of killing for a mafia-like organization, he is lured by the angel Malchiah, a seraph, to save rather than destroy lives. Toby serves Malchiah as a kind of divine vigilante dispensing justice.

Our story begins at the end of September 2011 when Angel Time was born. He was a split season kitten. The show counts were low enough that even though he earned numerous best kittens, we didn't think he would be a Regional Winner. We didn't intend to campaign Angel Time. Our initial goal was to earn a Regional this year and then campaign him next year. However, he became a Grand Champion the first weekend as an adult. Then he earned high placements at two Regional Award shows in early June. Then he was highest scoring cat in show twice in August. By Labor Day, Angel was one of the top five cats and we knew we were in till the end. Angel stayed in the Top five until February.

We usually show kittens sparingly at 4 to 5 months of age. However, Angel matured quite early. Angel was shown almost continuously from six months of age, and he still purred on the way

## **Eleventh Best Cat** **GC, BW, NW DEWISPLEAR ANGEL TIME**

Brown Tabby-White Maine Coon Male

**Breeder/Owner: Joel and Camelle Chaney**

*Submitted by Joel and Camelle Chaney*



to the rings and loved the show as well as his adoring fans. At a year and a half he is still developing and refining. His best feature is his head, which is moderate in type, he has always had a strong chin and muzzle with pronounced whisker pads along with a stunning profile. He has good boning and a strong fore chest and neck set. Angel always maintained a well balanced structure.

Angel contracted a virus in January. He lost weight and was lethargic at several shows. It wasn't until late February that we knocked out the virus. During that time he didn't play or show himself off to the judges. By the middle

of March, Angel was enjoying the shows and was playing for the judges again. After Monte's predictions came out we showed him sparingly. He had enough points for the National win and Breed win. We took the first three weeks off in April and only showed at the celebration show in St. Louis. Yes. We returned to Tornado Alley, the site of last April's hail storm, to celebrate the end of the show season. This year the weather was beautiful, the cats were outstanding, the competitors were friendly, and the food at the celebration party was great.

Again this year we did a number of road trips with Jim Flanik, who was

showing GP, NW Bordeaux Ltd's Carroll Shelby in Premiership. We didn't hit any tunnel walls and made it home safely every week. Most of the time Joe drove through the tunnels while Jim told Enzo "paws over your eyes". During our travels we made a lot of new friends both inside and outside our Region. The competition was tough, but when we had a grooming issue, other competitors provided sound advice. We enjoyed the fellowship, making us proud to be part of the CFA family. A big coon-gratulations to all of the BW, RW, NW, and DMs this year.

Please allow me to introduce myself...My name is GC, BW, NW Wildtracks Sojourner, but everyone calls me "Sojy". I don't know what all those initials mean, but my mom is very excited about it! I'm CFA's 12th Best Cat in Championship!

Born and raised in Colorado, at Sue Riley and Mark Henrick's house, I had lofty dreams of going where the weather is warm...FLORIDA! My dream came true, but since I'm not so good at this writing stuff, I'll let my Florida mom tell the story...Let the "Sojourn" begin...

WOW!...was all I could say to Sue Riley, after looking in Bootlegger's cage, at a show in Orlando, Florida. Inside, my eyes focused on a beautiful, chocolate spotted Ocicat kitten. His color, contrast and pattern was like none I had ever seen and with a stellar personality to match. I knew he was something special! Sue continued to show Sojy through his kitten career, to earn the title of Best Kitten in the Gulfshore Region for 2012. Sue graciously offered Sojy to me to co-own with Ann Jucha and Mike Wagner, to use as an outcross for our breeding program. I knew he would Grand easily, so Mike and I entered Sojy in the

## Twelfth Best Cat GC, BW, NW WILDTRACKS SOJOURNER

Chocolate Spotted Ocicat Male

**Breeder: Sue Riley and Mark Henrichs**  
**Owner: Arnold, Jucha, Riley, and Wagner**

*Submitted by Patty Arnold*



Columbus, Ohio show, at the end of the 2012 show season. The next weekend was the Melbourne, Florida show. I met Michele Lukic and Shelly Ducharme, who both told me I was crazy if I didn't run him, next show season. The thought never really crossed my mind. A Regional Win, yes, but a National Win – Really?

Let me preface all of this by saying, I knew I had the whole package, when after his bath, Sojy would walk into his carrier and wait for me to zip it closed. Now, that's what I'm talkin' about... What cat does that?! He was a wonderful traveler...flying, traveling in the car, always a hit going through airport security, or in the hotel room...cool,

calm and collected...a true example of a champion and great ambassador for the Ocicat breed!

Fast forward to Memorial Day weekend. Brand new show season and a 6 X 6 show. First day Best in Show. Second day 2nd Best in Show. Linda Alexander looked at me and asked, "You're running him, right?" I was so excited – I definitely had stars in my eyes! Sojy's next show was the Southern Regional, in Tampa, where he did well, again. I was introduced to Cathy Kennedy and Linda Haslow, who both live in my home town of Fort Myers. Cathy became my travel partner, flying to shows and sharing travel expenses. Cathy's show of support and encouragement for Sojy and I knew no bounds...what a great friend!

Garden State was a BLAST! Not only did Sojy do well, but he loved all his new toys (shopping was wonderful) and jumping up on the sisal pole in ev-

ery ring (his favorite pastime). He also represented the Ocicat in the breed showcase and was handled by representatives looking to apply for the judging program.

After conferring with Ann and Mike, we decided to take it show by show and as long as Sojy did well, we would continue campaigning. It was too early in the show season to worry about a National win, but he was already accumulating a lot of points.

Sojy continued, averaging two to three shows a month. Ocicats International proved to be one of Sojy's best...how befitting that an Ocicat was Best in Show! Cotton State was another favorite show...and then the World Show in Columbus. My thoughts at year's end were cautious, yet excited and hopeful.

The new year started and so did the anxiety about keeping track of Sojy's points and replacing rings. Sojy cam-

aigned like a trooper. He never did anything wrong, never got sick and stayed in perfect condition. You can't ask for anything more – what an amazing cat! By mid March, I was pretty sure I had enough points for a National win. What a great ride! My first National win! I love you, Sojy...I had the time of my life!

There were many people instrumental in making this dream come true. First, I would like to thank my friend and mentor, Ann Jucha, who made this campaign possible. Thanks to Sue Riley, who allowed us to have such a beautiful boy. Many thanks go to all the judges who supported Sojy throughout the show season. Thanks to Venus DeVoe, Sonja Moscoffian, Linda Alexander and my best champion, Cathy Kennedy.

## Thirteenth Best Cat GC, BW, NW TOPENG I'VEGOTNEWS4YOU OF PURRMATIX

Ebony Mackerel Tabby and White Oriental Longhair Male  
**Breeder: Marcie Siconolfi and Terrie and Bruce Smith**  
**Owner: Terrie and Bruce Smith**

*Submitted by Terrie Smith*

"Huey" started his show career as a 4 month old kitten the previous season with a Best All Breed kitten final from Hilary Helmrich, and there was no stopping this wonderful boy from that point on! He was a Best of the Best finalist at the 2011 World Show and finished the show season as Best kitten in the North Atlantic Region, and 5th Best kitten Nationally. He also received 15th Best Cat in the North Atlantic Region in just 6 weekends as an adult, as well as 2nd Best of Breed Nationally to Terrie's other Oriental Longhair, Chrissie.

In May 2012 Terrie started out the sea-

son with just the breed win in mind for Huey. He had become a bit of a "chatter box" in the ring, and Terrie was not sure if his behavior would hold up for the long road ahead. Well, living up to his very fitting name, Huey did have news for all of us. He was going to get his second National Win, chatter box and all!

Terrie remembers many wonderful things that happened while showing Huey in Championship, including being Best Cat in show a few times along with many, many Best Cat wins! The highlights being Best Cat in two rings



at the 2012 World show under Russell Webb and Melanie Morgan! What a thrill that was! Terrie says that she and Meg Lambert had one of the most

enjoyable “road trips” of their lives, laughing like crazy and driving all the way from Columbus to Long Island, arriving at 3:30 AM! They both want to thank Chris Giammarinaro and Deb Muratore for talking on the phone with them for hours to keep them awake!

Finally, there was a storybook ending to Huey’s illustrious career. Terrie’s Orientals had been “runners up” for four years in a row at the Oriental Shorthairs of America show. “The Silver Cat” and “Talkie” awards seemed just out of reach. Well, Huey was hav-

ing none of that this time! It was the last weekend of the season, and Huey finaled in all 12 rings with several Best Cats, and soared his way to winning those awards, which he so deserved! He showed himself off, staying in incredible condition all season. His emerald green, perfectly set eyes, wonderful large ears, lean, muscular long body, terrific coat and stunningly sweet expression made Terrie very proud to exhibit this beautiful boy, and make him the very first Oriental Longhair Double National winner!

Terrie would like to thank all of her friends, old and new for making the 2012-13 show season a truly remarkable year for her, especially Marcie Siconolfi for raising him for the first 4 months of his life. She says that her fellow exhibitors were all so supportive and friendly. She also thanks the judges for their patience with her chattering boy, and thanks them for their support! 13th in 2013 will never be forgotten!

## Fourteenth Best Cat GC, NW LIXIANG’S AMERICAN IDOL OF ENKO

Brown Tabby American Shorthair Male

**Breeder: Li Xiang and Amanda Cheng, Lessee  
Owner: Sharon Rogers, Amanda Cheng, C. Plummer**

*Submitted by Sharon Rogers*

“Bozo” to Sharon, a beautifully marked brown classic tabby with large eyes and an endearing expression!

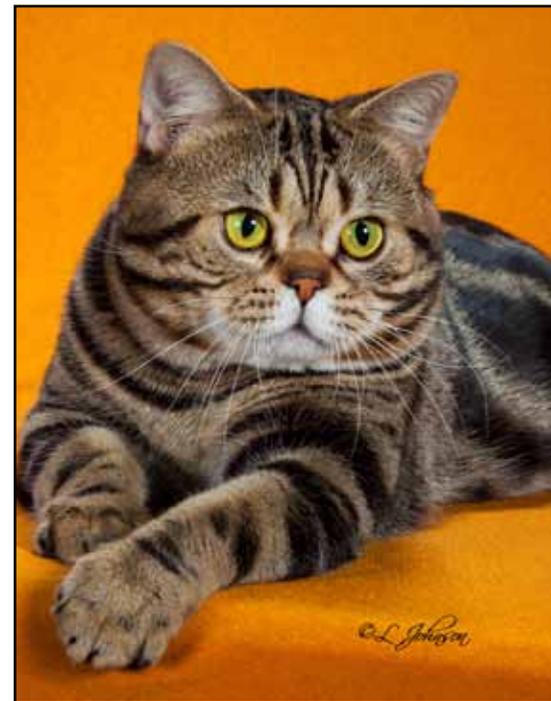
Sharon went to the World Show in 2010-2011. She was sitting with Jo Ann Cummings, judge extraordinaire, at the YFEP booth, when she first met Bozo. John Collila asked if she would be interested in showing an American Shorthair. Both Sharon and Jo Ann wanted to see the American before Sharon would be making a commitment. A little later Bozo was placed on the table by Amanda Cheng, Bozo’s breeder. Sharon and Jo Ann were extremely impressed with this boy. Sharon of course said, “Yes”. Arrangements were made to ship the boy to Sharon’s home.

Sharon was a little worried about putting Bozo on an airplane for the first time they traveled to a show but Bozo never batted an eyelash or made a sound. He panned for the TSA security people, crawled into his carrier and when the time came he curled up at Sharon’s feet and went to sleep. Bozo,

American Idol was a great traveler and a wonderful companion and thus began their show season travels.

Bozo became the consummate show cat. He was a sight to behold in the cage and on the table. He enjoyed himself whether on the judge’s table or in his benching cage or groom space. Bozo would lie on the grooming space and the spectators would come by and marvel at his beauty and at the fact that he just stayed there, and watch and played them. Other exhibitors also marveled at his just staying on the groom space and watching the people as they fawned over him or laying on his back for a tummy rub. Bozo never knew a stranger.

It was a long show year filled with many rewarding, and funny moments and great friends. Every week end he moved into his carrier, boarded an airplane, or took a long car ride or both and through it all he maintained his weight, his condition and continued to mature. Although he never asked to be a show cat he took to it like a



duck to water and maintained his love of being shown. He began his European travel with a trip to Klagenfurt, Austria a crown jewel in the European show schedule. On another, trip home from Europe he had waited to relieve him himself on the long flight from Frankfurt to Chicago. Getting through Customs was a long drawn out affair and he could not wait any longer so he had a powerful accident in the TSA line. I thought the terminal was going to be evacuated. The other passengers backed up a mile. If it had not been so embarrassing it would have been funny. I cleaned him and the carrier up, sprayed the carrier with Chanel

#5, and ran like crazy to the other end of the terminal to make our flight just barely on time. He finished the season with a trip to Compiègne, France. What a trooper and absolutely no more accidents!

There were so many beautiful cats that competed all season long. Among those were 2 very special American Shorthairs that Bozo had to continually compete against. The show season was tough on Sharon but Bozo didn't

seem to mind it at all, after all the name of the game was "show time" and he loved it.

Bozo, American Idol and Sharon would like to thank Amanda Cheng for her friendship and trust in turning over such a beautiful animal. We would like to thank Beth Cassely for all her help along the way, her guidance and friendship. They would like to thank the other exhibitors and breeders all across the nation and Europe for their warm

and welcoming support. Sharon would also like to thank the judges who supported this beautiful boy that made his National Win possible for without their extended hands this journey would have been impossible.

Congratulations to all the other National winner and Regional winners. We applaud your efforts, tenacity and hope you had as much fun in achieving your goals as we did ours. Best Wishes, from Bozo, American Idol and Sharon.

I showed Purrtek Barolo (platinum mink) and his brother Porto (platinum point), last year as kittens. They ended the show season as 8-month-old young men.

Who to show for this season, lord was that a nice decision and maybe not a nice decision?? I liked both boys. They both graded at our Regional show in St. Louis the first weekend of the show season, both in Loretta Baugh's ring!

Jane and I decided to show Barolo the Platinum mink. So we started our run at the

Great Lakes Regional show. We were off to the shows just like everybody else. We had a busy summer and we were driving all over the Midwest and the East Coast. One of my memorable shows was when I flew to Newark, instead of driving, for the first time, and met up with several other exhibitors going to Garden State show. I set up a shuttle for the ride up and back to Newark, and collected all the money and I didn't miss anybody, lose anybody, or leave anybody behind. I was so worried about the show ending on time and Gary Veach promised me that it would, and bless him it did. The shuttle was on time and we were off to Newark, with no sweat and it work out perfectly!!!!

Jane and I spent several weekends in the Baltimore area. One of the shows

## Fifteenth Best Cat GC, BW, NW PURRTEK BAROLO

Platinum Mink Tonkinese Male

**Breeder: Beth Cassely**

**Owner: Beth Cassely and Jane Manly**

*Submitted by Beth Cassely*



we enjoyed the most was Freestate Feline Fanciers and TBA (Tonkinese Breed Association). We competed against some very beautiful Tonkinese and ended up Best Tonkinese and also highest scoring cat in show! It was icing on the cake. May I pick the cake? I

pick chocolate - just what I can't have; glad it was just a saying.

My husband Bill ended up traveling to lots of shows with me when Jane couldn't go. He got into the swing of things and really enjoyed going to the

shows!! As most of you know, Bill very seldom attends cat shows. He stays home and takes care of our cats while I drive all over showing the cat for that season.

We even flew to CT for a show. I had Barolo and he had Riesling. Well I think he decided it was better to drive. He just could not get over all that we went threw to fly with our kitties. He had to deal with both cats because I have to be patted down because of my knee, and they even patted the cats down. Bill was in shock when they wanted to pat the cats down. "You got to be kidding me" was all he said. Well that was the last time he flew.

I missed several shows in December and Barolo had a bad experience in late December and he changed. He just would not show himself. It was a shame, but things happens. Sometimes he showed very well, but then I got sick and we missed more shows. We have such great judges that would take him out and show him that he wasn't going to be hurt. CFA does have great judges that work with and make our

cats stand out. WOW isn't that what it's about...for our cats to show themselves off.

Luckily he had a National Win in February so I stay home and got ready for our Midwest TGIF show the first weekend of March. I started having health problems and was trying to be careful for our show, but the Monday before our show I had to go to the Emergency Room. I called Sharon McKenzie to let her know and she called Mary Peters and they were worried about how they were going to do the show without me. Isn't it nice that they can't do with out ME!! Don't worry I made it and we had a wonderful show.

Jane showed Barolo while I stayed at the raffle table. We had two very nice friends, Michael and Stephanie, who are owned by two Tonkinese. They came down from Chicago just to help our club and us.

The last show of the season was at home NO real hard driving. Oh, how nice that was!!

And what a great way to end the season with so many cats friends that we and been with all season.

We all know its hard work—at home especially, so costly in numerous ways (body, mind, and soul - let's not mention \$\$\$). Is it worth it? You bet!

We all question this, even our judges as our leaders. So good luck to them – they will need it as part of the formulation and future of CFA.

We want to thank all the judges that use Barolo and all the friends we sat and cheered with. This was a very different kind of season for me.

So happy breeding Barolo. You've earned it as it is me, you, and the cats that shape the CFA we are proud to belong too.

Now Bill and I are off to England May 6th so this is it for our National Win this year.

Good Bye...Jane and I will see you next season

---

## Sixteenth Best Cat GC, NW ABYCASTLE MIDNIGHT IN PARIS

Ruddy Abyssinian Male

**Breeder: John and Lauren Castle Flynn and Gail Christie**

**Owner: Larn Castle Flynn and Chris Giammarinno**

*Submitted by Lauren Castle Flynn*

---

Lauren says number sixteen Lis..."sweet sixteen"...the sweetest gentlest whole male Abyssinian she has ever met. She was smitten from the moment Paris opened his eyes. Paris has the most beautiful expression that just melts your heart.

But how and why did Lauren decide to campaign a cat in championship? Her prior national wins were in the kitten and the premiership classes. In other

words, those campaigns were shorter or sans hormones and her previous Abyssinian wins had been reds.

Many had joked to Lauren that "we go to cat shows not kitten shows" and why not show a cat in championship and why not a ruddy and how about Paris? One thing lead to another and Lauren was "on the road again"...the road and the trains and the planes and the automobiles.

Lauren thought it would be fun to travel with Paris to Paris.

And, as fate would have it, there was a show the very last weekend of this season in France. What were the odds? So off to France they went. Paris, the cat, ever the trooper was more than happy to visit France.

"Mr. Laid Back" was a wonderful travel companion. He even went to Versailles. Paris had a wonderful show and wonderful leftovers from wonderful meals. On the flight home, the pair were upgraded to first class. The flight attendant offered Lauren a glass of



champagne and she settled in to watch a movie and reflect on the season.

Suddenly, Paris decided to “get the heck out of dodge.” That’s right... Paris broke out of his carrier! The tray

table was down and Lauren couldn’t move and with her headphones on louder than necessary she screamed, “Oh, s\*\*t my cat!” The champagne glass flew across the aisle and the flight

attendant grabbed Paris. Thank goodness! Peace was restored until the attendant returned to inform Lauren cats were not permitted in the First Class cabin. “Oh, no” she innocently replied to which he kindly replied with a wink and a smile... “I think we’ll let it slide... just this once.”

FIN

END OF SEASON

FADE TO BLACK

*Congratulations to GC, NW, BW Astech’s Si Dios Quiere, this season’s best Abyssinian and Second Best Cat in Championship and to GP, NW Zebnder’s Roger Vivier of NuDawnz, Premiership Cat of the Year. Thank you.*

## Seventeenth Best Cat GC, NW KCDANCERS THOR OF HANSONPALACE

Silver Tabby-White American Shorthair Male

**Breeder: Craig and Kathy Miller**

**Owner: Frank Dueker and Craig and Kathy Miller**

*Submitted by Frank Dueker*

### WOW , what a season!

We can still remember so clearly the time when we picked up Thor as a kitten in Seattle. From the first moment we laid eyes on him we were in love and we strongly believed in his success.

As a kitten Thor became the Title “Division Winner Int`Europe”, with only 4 shows. His Grand Champion title was also reached very fast. At the end of season 2011-2012, we reached the National Winner title with Thor’s brother (from a previous litter). Along

with Kathy and Craig Miller, the breeders of these two cats, we (Frank Düker and Markus Bierl), decided to try and reach the same goal with Thor.

We came up with the plan that Kathy and Craig show Thor in the USA the first few months of the season, which turned out to be a great success. Thor was Best in Show a few times. In November 2012 we flew from Frankfurt / Germany to Columbus show Thor at the World Show and take him back home to Germany. We were very excited to see “our baby” after all these months again and we were very

nervous about his reaction to us. But it turned out just great, he saw us and he reacted like we never had been apart :) ! Thor was Best American Shorthair in the Red show and made many finals.

As soon as we were back in Germany the showing went on.

Thor went to shows in Spain, France, Italy, Austria, Germany and Ukraine. With all the shows Thor did good in the National Ranking. We are very happy and proud to have a National Winner in our cattery this year again.



Thor, our American Shorthair male in the gorgeous color Silver Tabby and White, reached CFA's 17th Best Cat in Championship and on top of that he is 11th Best Cat in Region 9. We want to say thank you to all friends and fans of Thor. We are very grateful to the breeders Kathy and Craig Miller for giving us this gorgeous and wonderful male kitten!

It was a great season and we are so happy that we got the chance to meet old friends again and make wonderful new friends.

Thanks to all of you the show season was lots of fun.

Frank and Markus

American Shorthair Cattery  
HansonPalace Germany

## **Eighteenth Best Cat GC, NW D'EDEN LOVER GIULIETTA**

Blue Patch Mackerel Tabby and White Exotic Female  
**Breeder: Frederic Gaspard and Annie Leclerc**  
**Owner: Frederic Gaspard and Lydie Battesti**

*Submitted by Frederic Gaspard*



After showing in Europe for Divisional Winner title Julietta went to live with my friend Lydie in Marseille, France. One day Lydie called me and asked if it would be ok to send her to Connie Stewart to try for a National Win.

I thought it was too late as we were already in January. Julietta had around 2500 points and she needed a lot more to be a National winner!

We wrote to Connie to ask what she thought about it.

Connie was happy to come to France to see Julietta. She loved her and took her back to the U.S.

We were very excited and had a lot of stress because we knew the time will be short for her to collect enough points. It ended up that Julietta was in the National standings just before end of April.

Lydie and I were so happy about her results and thank Connie for all she did to have Giulietta in the top 25 in Championship.

Giulietta is now back in France, living with Lydie and her boyfriend Pepito. Both are happy to be together in the bed. LOL!

Thank you to Lydie and thank you to all the judges for their support and congratulations to all the National winners, especially Best Cat of the Year.



**B**orn to a mother who was herself raised as a foster by a Persian, “Mikki” was a singleton kitten. She grew with her Mother’s attitude of never judg-

ing anything by it’s appearance, four-legged or two, and that one could be comfortable in any company -- no matter how different they may first appear. With that outlook, Mikki quickly developed an enjoyment of the showhall, and life on the road. Many likened her facial markings to the “Hazardous Materials” symbol, with 3 black triangles meeting at their peak, and before long those distinctive markings were seen more and more as Mikki perused the audiences of many kitten finals. She finished her first season, 2010-2011, as CFA’s 12th Best Kitten.

After spending a year at home teaching every new kitten her recipes for fun, which incidentally included climbing unattended ladders, and

swinging from the chandelier, Mikki returned to the showhall as an adult. Although by that time, older than most females of her Breed typically are when shown in Championship, Mikki took everything in stride. Seemingly recognizing old friends who she was happy to re-acquaint herself with, her time spent on the judging table appeared to have retained all of the fun for Mikki. All she had to do was act naturally !!!

A wonderful, and pleasurable season was over so soon, but saw Mikki earning the distinction of Breed Winner. On behalf of the Breed she continued on to represent them in becoming CFA’s 19th Best Cat.

**I**t’s been hard to put into words what Kitzn’s Archeopteryx means to me as a breeder and an exhibitor. For many years I have been breeding with the only intent to produce beautiful, healthy cats that could be appreciated and admired by anyone wanting a magnificent creature of grace, beauty and strong healthy stature.

I was drawn to the cat fancy to meet others who would strive to have the same passion for the cats they cared for. It was a time to learn and share and teach others about one of the most rewarding things someone could come to cherish in their life.

## **Twentieth Best Cat**

### **GC, BW, NW KITZN’S ARCHEOPTERYX**

Brown Mackerel Tabby and White Norwegian Forest Cat Male  
**Breeder/Owner: Keith Kimberlin**

*Submitted by Keith Kimberlin*

I felt the Norwegian Forest Cat was the total package. A cat that was similar to many ordinary cats, but possessed unique traits of overall excellence, health and disposition. At first glance, a Forest Cat could appear to be just anyone’s cat or pet. But on closer inspection, one could see the unique traits of the wonderful breed.

The goal was to select all the traits of the unique appearance and disposition and bring them together to produce something very special. That is why in 1988, I started breeding the Norwegian Forest Cat.

Now after almost 25 year since my introduction to the breed and years

breeding and exhibiting, a new kitten would be born. From the minute Archie, was born, I knew he was special.

I was away on business at the time of his birth, and a co-breeder who I had mentored was staying at my house for a cat show at the time this litter was due. Archie was born that night. Kid-dingly I asked Kitty Barie, “OK, so is it a National Winner”? Kitty’s reply was “ I think he could be!”

As I watched little Archie grow I could see he was a quite special cat with his warm calming demeanor and playful disposition. Before he was old enough to be shown I would make comparisons of him with other kittens I was seeing in the show hall. To me, he looked quite different. He had large expressive eyes, which in my opinion looked quite unique over some of the other examples. The Norwegian Forest standard places a lot of emphasis on the head structure and the size and placement of the eyes. As kittens grow, their size and shape can change. This is a breed that grows into their look. I knew right from the beginning that his eyes were the perfect shape and set that we wanted to see on this breed.

I was very excited to bring him to his first show. When he turned 4 months old, I entered him in his first show. He was going to be against 7 other Norwegian Forest Cat kittens. When it came time to bring him out that weekend, he was winking his eye. I decided, as much as I wanted to see him next to the other kittens, I could not bring him in the show hall. What if he had something contagious? I opted to leave him home on the first weekend that he was to be shown. By Monday, everything was fine and he looked just right. He was just not meant to be out that weekend when he first turned 4 months. I waited until a show two weeks later and he was well received. Many of the judges saw the same thing in Archie that I saw.



I felt I had bred an example that I was very proud to represent the breed. After one or two more shows, I felt it was important to keep him out and let everyone see what a great example of a Norwegian Forest Cat he was. He was not only a good example, but he loved being in the show hall and being handled by the judges. He never hissed or acted up. He always acted as a perfect gentleman.

I continued to show Archie as a kitten and since he liked it so much was prepared to let him continue into adulthood. Sometimes this is very hard to do with an adult male. As they mature they go through different stages of development, which include the “ganglies”. Keeping Archie in top condition was going to be a challenge.

Then there was always the issue of the spraying male cat. Would he decide to? It would be more than I could handle! For some reason, Archie loved the attention and the showing more than I did. He seemed to always be on his best behavior. Many times I would

have to wake him from his nap to bring him to the ring. He would be a little sleepy, but he always behaved.

There is an interesting story about how Archie got his name; I went to a daylily open house for the hybridizers of daylilies in central Florida. I had spoken on the phone with Rachel Lamberton who lived with her husband Luddy in Lake Helen. We had conversations about the daylilies and our animals and having lived in the northeast, she told me how she missed talking to someone from the east coast. We seemed to really hit it off.

When I finally came to Florida, I felt as if I had known them all along. They were very hospitable and gracious. As Rachel led me around the garden, she showed me one daylily, called Archeopteryx, which she said Luddy named. It was named after what is considered the most primitive of all known birds during the age of the dinosaur. It was one of the most beautiful daylilies I had ever seen and it had such a unique name.

When it came time to naming Archie, I remembered the time in Florida and how the Daylily had been named. I decided that my kitten would be named after the beautiful daylily and the flying dinosaur. It was only after months and months of exhibitors asking me

about the name that he was nicknamed “Archie”.

Showing Archie was a joy because it renewed the time and spirit of many years before when we showed cats and went out to dinner and spent many

hours with friends. It opened up many doors to meeting new friends and acquaintances. It was a special time shared with so many people in the cat fancy that have similar interests and similar devotion to their cats.



In September, 2011, Dee e-mailed me a photo of a full brother to GC,BW,NW San-Toi’s Timbuctoo. He looked identical to his seal point brother, just with a different “paint job”. He was darling. We named him, “Timbucthree”, solely because he was a dead ringer for his older sibling. When I learned that he would come to live with me, I was over the moon!

If there were an award for “loudest vocalizations”, Buck3 would have won handily. His persistent, attention grabbing “talking” gained him much notoriety in airports, and in the judging rings. No amount of shushing, toys or treats worked for long. He just wanted to be out, interacting with people. I thought he would have a short career as his “noise” would annoy the judges,

but I was wrong. The majority either ignored him or laughed and a few found it endearing, talking back to him and making it a fun part of their finals whenever Buck3 was present. I also thought Buck3 might have a short career due to his motion sickness early on. I thank Buck3’s excellent veterinarian, Dr. Birgit Ankone, as she took a special interest in him, and kept him healthy his entire show year.

With his excessive talking and travel issues, running Buck3 for a national win was not on our agenda in the beginning. We were showing other cats, but I took Buck also as he got along with everyone. He started to gain some points in the fall and winter and was a two-show Grand! The Siamese breed did well at the World Show in Ohio and we were pleased with Buck3’s performance, too. His points were nearing the 3,000 range. It was very hard to decide whom to show the rest of the year. San-Toi’s lovely seal point female, Allegheny Moon, was a serious contender. As time went on, Buck’s consistency held steady and we kept going with him. Quoting Dee, “Buck showed best when there was a sisal pole to climb – he did it frequently and well – it was his forte. His long, hard tubular body was on display. One judge asked what he eats, and said it

must be “steel nails”! It was a pleasure to watch him get better with age and keep that beautiful, clear lilac coat. He was always a gentleman with a great attitude and loved the handling by all, even as a nearly two-year-old, whole male. That’s why he got the reputation for his ‘mouth’ - he would voice his opinion to the judges to hurry up and get him out of his cage so he could show off.”

We are very grateful for our supporters as it means so much to have friends provide encouragement over the many weeks of a long run. I thank Todd Dotson, Hiway, breeder of Buck3’s sire, GC,NW Hiway Souvenir of San-Toi, DM, for his unwavering support. We were able to go to a show together late in the season in Connecticut – it was a great weekend. We were not yet in the 5,000 point range and were wondering if it would be possible to reach Monte’s forecast for 25th Best Cat, 5,800 to 6,200, initially. Buck was hanging in around 23rd, 24th, then 22nd position. He fell out to 26th once, then climbed back up to 23rd, then 22nd. On Fridays, I did not want to look at e-points and was glad I was travelling to the next show! We were down to deciding where to go for the last show of the year. We returned from Texas on Monday, and had to de-

## Twenty-first Best Cat GC, BW, NW SAN-TOI’S TIMBUCTHREE OF KADABRA

Lilac Point Siamese Male

**Breeder: Dee Johnson and Connie Roberts**

**Owner: Linda Carlson, Dee Johnson and Connie Roberts**

*Submitted by Linda Carlson*

cide by Tuesday as one of our choices was the show in France. Many of the judges there had never seen Buck3 and, in fact, see few Siamese in Europe. We decided to take a risk and follow the count. We grabbed two Air France tickets and left LAX on Wednesday, twelve hours later we were in Comp-

iegne, an hour north of Paris. Buck made six finals and we could not be happier with how welcoming everyone was to us.

Dee, Connie and I are very proud of our boy and that we achieved our goal of having a Siamese represented in

the National standings. We are ecstatic he achieved 21st Best Cat and Best Siamese, and 3rd Best Cat in Region 5. We sincerely congratulate all the cats out this year and their owners. It was a lovely celebration in Vancouver! Thank you CFA – thank you Northwest Region!

## Twenty-second Best Cat GC, BW, NW NACHREL INNOKO

Seal Mink Tabby American Bobtail - Longhair Division Male

**Breeder: Barbara Graff and Lorna Friemoth**

**Owner: Barbara Graff, Lorna Friemoth, and Shelby Friemoth**

*Submitted by Lorna Friemoth*



Barbara allowed the Friemths to show Noki as an open at the Midwest Regional awards show, and he went from open to grand champion, making him the first American Bobtail one show grand champion. He was shown as a grand at the Great Lakes Regional awards show and did very well. While Barbara just wanted Noki graded, Shelby and Lorna saw what could be a very productive show season ahead of him and asked Barbara if they could continue showing him. This plan became a little complicated when Shelby decided to move to California, but Lorna showed him from the end of October through the World show, where he was 3rd Best All Breed cat in championship in the purple show. He went with Shelby to the west coast for a couple of shows in December, and then Lorna brought him back to the Great Lakes and showed him from late December through March. Shelby showed him on the west coast a couple of times in March and April, but as it became apparent that he was safe in the top 25, we let him relax as he was becoming very interested in girls.

We would like to thank all of the judges that made Noki's win possible, our friends for their support, and Shelby and Lorna Friemoth would like to thank Barbara Graff for allowing them to show Noki for the 2012-13 show season.

“Noki” was named after the Innoko national wildlife refuge, a theme taken from his father's name, who is GC, BW, NW NuDawnz Yukon Cornelius, whose father was GC, GP, BW, NW A Bebob Tail Yeti of NuDawnz, DM, making Noki the first third generation nationally winning American Bobtail. Noki was the third repeat breeding between Yukon and his mother, NuDawnz Wild Irish Rose.

The first two breedings produced a couple of breeder quality females. Barbara asked to use Rosie for a breeding as she was out of one of her males and she lost the line, so Lorna and Shelby agreed to send Rosie to Barbara bred to Yukon. As soon as Noki was born, Barbara says that she knew he was special. He was shown once as a kitten and didn't final, but Lorna and Shelby also saw a lot of potential in this boy.

## Twenty-third Best Cat GC, BW, NW LUSHELL HOLLYWOODSUNSET OF A KITKAT

Brown Patched Tabby Persian - Tabby Division Female

**Breeder: Lucia Hollabaugh**

**Owner: Sue Swaim**

*Submitted by Sue Swaim*

A couple of years ago, a mutual friend introduced me to Shelby Hollabaugh from Lushell Persians. Shelby was campaigning her male brown classic tabby at the time for a national win and had been a Himalayan breeder. I expressed to her my love for lynx point Himalayans and that I would be very interested in a CPC (color-point carrier) tabby kitten if she ever got a nice one. About a year and half later, she contacted me to let me know she had a darling CPC brown patch female tabby kitten from her NW tabby male and her flame point female Himalayan. She sent me pictures and I instantly fell in love with the kitten and added her to my cat family. She has a bright orange patch on her forehead that reminds me of a sunset. I work at CHLA, which is located in Hollywood, California on Sunset Blvd., so I decided to name my new kitten Lushell Hollywood Sunset of A Kitkat aka "Holly".

I am especially proud of this national win because Holly is a color-point carrier (CPC) Persian. The CPC simply means she carries the color point Himalayan gene. Therefore, if I breed her to a male Himalayan she can produce CPC tabbys or lynx point Himalayans. A CPC brown patch tabby has coloring very similar to a tortoiseshell except for the tabby markings most noted on their forehead and legs. There are many people that consider CPC Persians as "not really Persians". However, I would bet not too many people can tell my Holly is a CPC. She meets the Persian standard almost perfectly, having a round head; tiny ears; short, cobby body; a short fluffy tail; big round copper eyes; and a little nose right where it should be.

As a kitten, I showed Holly for the experience and also to see if she could possibly earn a RW as a kitten. She did okay at the shows but I only showed her a few times as a kitten for a couple of reasons. She was up against a dear



friend's male tabby that was also trying for a RW and I felt Holly needed more time to mature. I took her back out at 8 months old and she granded in two shows. I kept showing her as I wanted to get a RW and she was doing quite well at the shows and the judges seemed to really like her. That was my initial goal on this journey to a NW.

At the Santa Monica show, a friend who primarily shows tabby's said to me, "you know I am coming after you." I replied, "Coming after me, what do you mean?" She stated, "you don't even know do you?" I asked, "Know what?" She said, "your girl is in first place for the Breed win, and I am going to try to get the Breed win with my boy." I didn't know, so I immediately got on the CFA Online

Almanac and sure enough, she was in first place. I decided then and there I was going to continue to keep showing her so I could hopefully keep the breed win. Holly continued to do well at the shows and right before the World Show she was close to being in the top 25. It was at this time that I spoke to Shelby and we decided why not try for a National Win too. Since there are typically more shows on the East Coast, Shelby offered to meet me in Ohio and take her back with her to Virginia and help show her on the East Coast. This helped save me an enormous amount of travel expense and time off work. I will always be grateful to Shelby for helping me out!

In March, we decided it was time for Holly to come home, so I flew to the

Crab and Mallet show to get Holly and bring her back to California. I traveled throughout the country in April and May trying to accumulate more points. She fell to the 25th spot and I wasn't sure if I was going to be able to keep her in the running or not. Talk about stress, guessing which shows to enter and get airfares for right up to the very last show! I had to keep telling myself if she didn't get the National Win, at least she would have the Breed Win.

I know we sometimes focus on the negative within CFA, but I want everyone to know that there are some truly

wonderful judges and exhibitors in the Cat Fancy. I had the support and encouragement of so many people that it would be impossible to name everyone. However, I especially want to thank the following. Most of all, Shelby Hollabaugh, for taking such wonderful care of my girl from November to March and showing her so beautifully. Then there are my fellow exhibitors who never wavered in their support and encouragement - Lena Karachun, Heidi Murphy, Maggie Lombardi, Penni Richter, and Donna Isenberg. I would like to thank all the judges who

liked my girl and would take her to the finals. Last but certainly not least, my fiancée Kevin who was very supportive during this past year and my daughter Lauren, who in spite of being a typical teenager, I could not have done it without her.

It was a heck of a year and a truly special experience. I learned so much about campaigning in case I am ever crazy enough to go for a National Win again, and I got to meet so many wonderful people on this journey! Congratulations Holly!

## Twenty-fourth Best Cat GC, NW FANCYFLUFF'S LUCKY CHARM

Blue and White Persian - Calico & Bi-Color Division Male

**Breeder/Owner: Lily Newcomb**

*Submitted by Lily Newcomb*



After over 10 years of showing I am very grateful for this beautiful boy. When Lucky was born it was definitely luck. I had wanted a blue and white male for a long time. Every one I produced I held on to but none ever developed the way I wanted. The morning Lucky came he had a difficult delivery and all I knew was one more blue and white male to give a chance to. I wasn't sure if he would make it but he grew

very fast. Those big wide eyes popped open and he started developing into a beautiful kitten.

Unfortunately we were actually on a "break" from showing. Sometimes home and family life takes precedence. We took him to a close show as a kitten when he was around 5 months old just to see how he would do. He made several finals and everyone told us how

pretty he was. We still had to make the choice to enjoy our daughter's last months at home before shipping out to basic training for the National Guard. She had graduation and senior high school stuff.

When Lucky turned 8 months old though the timing was perfect for us to show again. We started out just to grand him but when he granded in two shows we decided to go to another show to see how he would do as a grand. He did rather well so we decided to keep going and try for a regional win since we did not have a regional win in the Fancyfluff Cattery name. At first we were timid, going to small shows. Then everyone started telling us what we had so we tested the waters and went to a bigger show where he also did rather well. Then we were told that he could be National. So we kept going to show after show. One of our favorite shows was Cotton States which we had never attended before and of course the World Show.

It was definitely a struggle near the end. We made mistakes through it all I am sure but we learned a lot. I have to thank all the judges who helped us. All our fellow exhibitors who cheered

us on and told us to never give up. The most special thanks goes to Pam from Topshelf Persians for entrusting me with the dam that produced this beautiful boy. So thanks to everyone

for your support and all the advice to get us through. I would never have even dreamed that our first Fancyfluff Regional Win would also be our first National Win.

---

*No article received for 25th Best Cat*