

CFA's Top 25 Cats in PREMIERSHIP

by Ronna Colilla and Bethany Clark

Like the expedition of Lewis and Clark, the Premiership class of 2013 established relationships across the land with exhibitors from other territories, who helped and supported each other. The journey that led them to the northwest brought them a wealth of knowledge and experiences.

The exhibitors came from all regions of the US covering 17 states, two from Canada, and even one from Europe. The Southern and Northwest regions were home to four each of the winners, but the Great Lakes Region led the trail with seven winners.

Along the journey some travel experiences brought relaxation – visiting the San Diego Zoo before the Food and Water Bowl show, cats insisting to sit on their owners lap, visiting hometowns, and shopping at Steinmart; excitement – fires at hotels, laptops fried with tea, spared deer in the headlights, GPS rerouting to winding back roads in the rain for four hours, and a runaway cart going downhill in the middle of the night with the cat still on it; and airport stress – vocal cats costing the ticket holder extra money, cancelled flights, and an escape artist cat strolling down the aisle while the owner slept!

Other travel pressures making the mission more challenging included owners dealing with weather such as desert hail storms, snow and ice storms advising pull over and use chains; car issues requiring new tires, timing chains and a new engine for a 2010 model; and returning rental cars at 4:00 a.m. The Canadian contingency had to deal with carpool coordination and border guards.

Health issues prevented some owners from flying while others dealt with their parent's health. Some had to juggle work schedules, classes and homework, and judging assignments caused some to miss the higher count shows.

The cats had their own issues with allergies, facial surgery to remove a tumor, temperament, being picky about their handler, heavy class competition, and not liking to fly.

The top 25 consisted of three Exotics, Maine Coons and Bi-Color Persians; and two American Shorthairs and Burmese. Other longhair breeds included Solid, Tabby and Himalayan Persians, and a Ragdoll. The other shorthair breeds were Abyssinian, British Shorthair, Cornish Rex, Egyptian Mau, Japanese Bobtail, Ocicat, Oriental Shorthair, and Sphynx. The breeds were evenly split with 13 longhairs and 12 shorthairs, but the spays outnumbered the neuters 14-11.

For ten of the exhibitors this was a first time achievement, but for another six, they accomplished back-to-back Premiership national titles.

This season had some historical significance for CFA with a Blue Abyssinian achieving a Best in any category, two littermates reaching a National Win in the same year and class, and the only cat to receive the Best-of-the-Best competition at both the National and World shows. The Exotics set a record by having two pointed NWs in Premiership, but one was the first pointed to achieve a second National Win.

The Egyptian Mau made history as the first of its breed to win the trifecta (an NW in all three classes), the Ocicat was the first tawny to get a National Win in any category, and Region 9 had its National Premiership win.

There was a time when the perception to achieve a National Win required being out every weekend, flying across the country to all the “campaign” shows; but the class of 2013 proved that chasing counts was more of a challenge and followed a more restricted, non-traditional campaign for various reasons.

The ten highest count shows had only two official counts in the 70s (Garden State Cat Club and CFA's Red World Show), three shows in the 60s (CFA's Purple World Show, GLR regional show, and Mid-Ohio Cat Fanciers), and five shows in the 50s (Greater St. Louis Cat Club, Mid-Ohio Cat Fanciers, National Birman Fanciers, Houston Cat Club, and Santa Monica Cat Club). There were more shows with counts in the 30s than in the 40s.

The expedition for some took them to as few as 19 shows in six states across three regions to as many as more than 40 shows in 21 states across all seven regions in the US.

Most of the top 25 cats in Premiership established a spot in the standings early on with a few exceptions that fell out, but there was one dark horse who didn't hit the show circuit until October and broke into the standings in March. For four cats though, the last show of the season determined which one would get the NW titles.

Showing cats is a hobby that should bring fun experiences and memories along the voyage. The class of 2013 has their own share of reminiscences.

During the season one exhibitor was eaten by bed bugs at a Timonium Red Roof while recuperating from pneumonia. The cat that was picky about his handler was being shown by someone else early on in the season and made an escape, only to be caught by one of the officiating judges. At Palm Springs,

keys were locked in the car trunk, Hertz wanted five hours and \$250 to get them out, but AAA did it for free in 10 minutes

Some will remember shopping at 6:00 a.m. in Wal-Mart for necessary supplies when the Sturdi show bag didn't arrive in Denver. One will not forget the teasing for having a "red-neck van" when she taped the fender together with duck-tape after an encounter with a coyote. Cats used to sisal poles were confused at

shows without them and then wouldn't "perform." At the AMB show an exhibitor was introduced to hosta plants, which are unknown to Idaho.

But the things all of them will remember are what the Premiership exhibitors are traditionally known for, friendships made by fellow exhibitors who were supportive and cheered each other on in the finals. Congratulations to all.

Best Cat in Premiership GP, NW ZEHNDER'S ROGER VIVIER OF NUDAWNZ

Blue Abyssinian Neuter

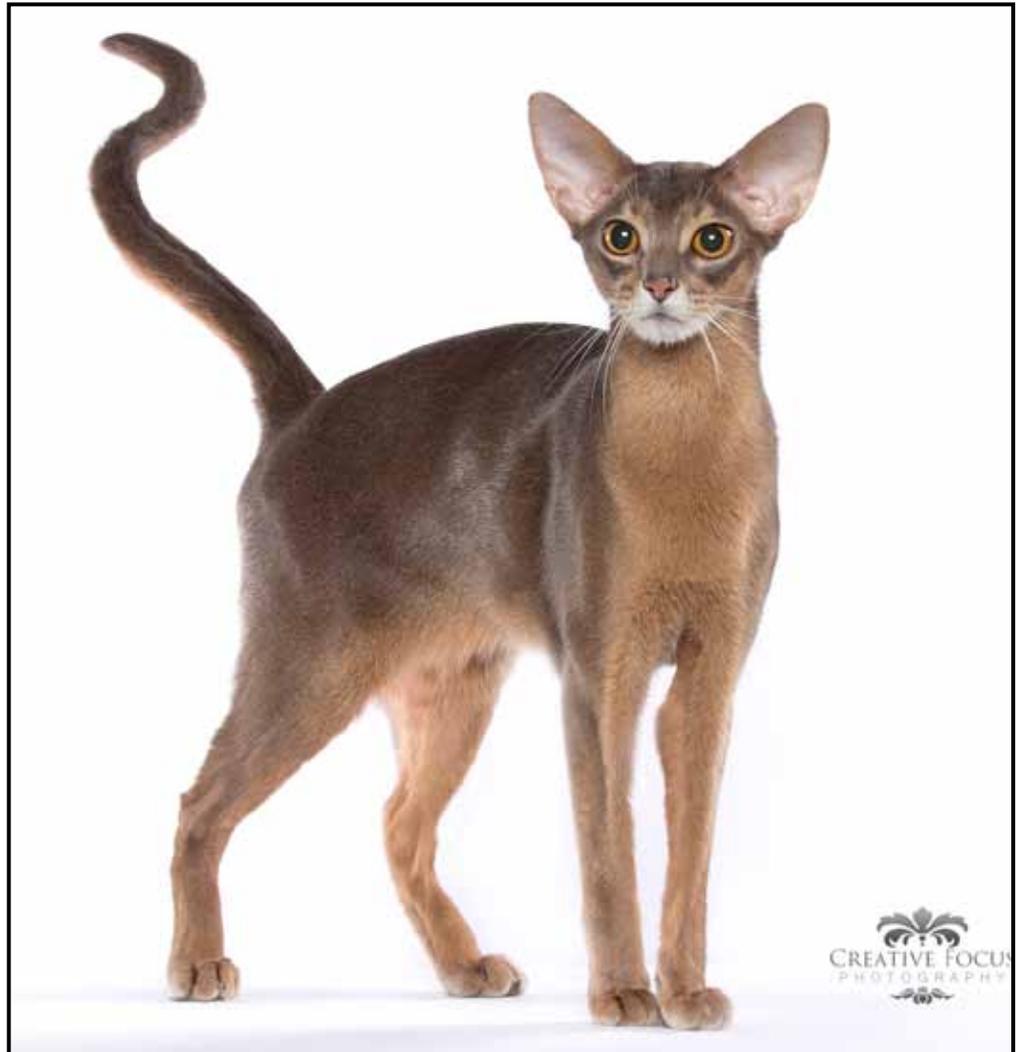
Breeder: Sue Vande Sande and Monica Zehnder Owner: Monica Zehnder, Lorna Friemoth and Seth Baugh

Submitted by Lorna Friemoth

"Roger" went to live with Seth and Lorna at three and a half months of age; Monica was one of Lorna's mentors as a child. Monica was told that when Lorna was eventually "winding down from her illustrious and successful breeding career" she would like one of the best blue male Abyssinians the breeder could make her to show in Premiership. Roger was named after Roger Vivier, the French designer of the stiletto heel, as a tribute to his French import mother.

As a kitten, Roger was adorable, but with long legs and huge ears that didn't quite fit the rest of his body, he initially resembled a mix between a baby giraffe and a baby elephant. During the 2011-2012 show season, he achieved 15th best kitten in the Great Lakes Region in addition to becoming a one-show Grand Premier at eight months old.

Lorna and Seth decided to start showing Roger right out of the gate in May and often. After 40 ring appearances and 39 finals in his first month of showing, Roger moved into the top spot nationally and remained there for the rest of the show season. They hoped he would hit 3800 points when



he reached 100 rings; and he exceeded their goal.

He only missed two finals in his first 100 rings, which he reached the week-end of September 8, and scored 4238.5 points through September – more than a 200 point lead on the second best cat. This increased to a lead greater than 300 points in October, which he held until January. From January to the last weekend of the show season he maintained a lead of more than 200 points. The final rankings showed Roger 145.45 points ahead of the second place contender.

Only shown in 31 shows, he was either highest, second, or third highest scoring in 74.1% of these shows. Roger was best cat in 29% of the 219 rings he was judged in and second best in 22.8%. This was a combined total of more than half his rings. In his first 100 rings he was amongst the top three highest scoring in each show. His best cat percentage in those first 100 rings was 40%.

The show season was not without its challenges. In the fall Roger had some allergy issues that came to light, this meant keeping him in condition

became a full time job. He decided his diet was no longer appetizing, causing Lorna and Seth to go through dozens of dry, canned, and raw diets to find something he would eat consistently. He even became bored of showing. Because of these things, and there not being many shows with usable counts, Roger only went to two shows in January, none in February, and one in March.

When his competition started “getting a little too close for comfort,” Roger was shown the last three weekends in April. It was only the third time all season he’d been shown in three back-to-back shows. He enjoyed his last three shows where he played like a kitten, and strutted his stuff like a pro. He was awarded four out of five best cats in his last show. Like many shows he attended, America’s Heartland was only a five-ring show for Roger because Seth’s mother, Loretta Baugh, was officiating.

Roger now spends his days prancing around Seth and Lorna’s home, where he will spend the rest of his days treated like the royalty that he is which is a “Good Thing.” They are forever grateful to the judges that made this

possible, to Monica and Sue for entrusting them with such an exquisite example of the Abyssinian breed, and to all of their “true friends for their support every step of the way.”

Favorite Moment From This Show

Season: *“We have two favorite moments that are equally important. Our first favorite moment was when Roger won the Beth Newkirk Memorial trophy at the Abyssinian Midwest Breeders show. Darrell Newkirk presented Roger with the trophy and said how lovely Roger was, one of the best blue Abyss he’d ever seen. He went on to say that Roger was a cat that Beth would be proud of. This was so incredibly touching; there weren’t many dry eyes in the audience.*

“Our second favorite was at the America’s Heartland show the last weekend of the show season. Darrell Newkirk’s final was the last final of the season at this show, and he spoke of the history of the blue Abyssinian, how they struggled to get the same intensity of color as the ruddy and reds, and how incredible it was that Roger had the intensity of color, plus the type, plus show presence, all combined into one animal. This is exactly how we feel about our special guy, and it was so incredibly special to have Darrell give him his last best cat.”

Second Best Cat in Premiership GC, GP, NW TOY TRICKSY SWEET EYES

Dilute Calico Persian Spay

Breeder: Galina Gurieva

Owner: Galina Gurieva & Rhonda Fox

Submitted by Rhonda Fox

“Asya” is an “amazing” dilute calico spay born in St. Petersburg, Russia to Galina Gurieva. Galina loved her from the start for her wonderful qualities and sweet disposition.

She was shown in Championship during the 2008-2009 show season. Galina was not able to travel to many shows without a visa, so she was only able to show her at four shows. Asya granded in one show and earned the DW title in addition to CFA International Divi-

sion’s 11th Best Cat in just those four shows.

Galina retired Asya from showing and began planning for “the amazing kittens” she was sure to produce. Unfortunately, that was not to be. Early in March 2012, Asya developed closed pyometra and was spayed in an emergency surgery to save her life. Galina was heartbroken to learn she would never have kittens, but was very happy she was going to fully recover.

Rhonda and Galina had been friends for several years, and while Galina was visiting the US a few of years ago, Rhonda also fell in with Asya and thought, “Can’t Take My Eyes Off Of You.” When Galina shared news about the surgery and recovery, discussion started about showing her in the US for the NW title.

As Asya healed, she began putting on weight and coat. By July 2012 she had grown enough coat for Galina to enter her in a Finland show. For the second time, she was a one-show grand. They continued their plans to show her in the US since the premiership counts in Europe are traditionally low.

The decision was made to take Asya to the CFA World Show in Novem-



ber 2012. Galina and Rhonda were in agreement, if she could do well there, getting a National Win would be possible. It was later in the season; but if she held her own against the top cats in Premiership, it was attainable. They

were elated when Asya earned Best Longhair Premiership Cat at the Red show.

Asya has one of those wonderful coats that can hold a grooming job very well.

She could make anyone look like a professional groomer. After the World Show, she went home with Rhonda to begin her run in the US for the title they felt she deserved. Rhonda became her hairdresser and chauffeur as they went to the shows.

With only 5 months to go, the only hope and expectation was to get Asya into the national standings. The run started in December and to everyone's surprise, she was in the top 25 by the end of the first weekend in January.

Asya ended the season having been highest scoring in show 29 out of 33 shows she attended. And was best cat 173 times. It was a challenge to find shows with good counts, but the support and encouragement of many judges, helped Asya earn the highest possible placement for such a short run.

Third Best Cat in Premiership

GP, NW SYRACOONS SIZZLIN SPECTACULAR SALVO

Brown Patched Tabby & White Maine Coon Spay

Breeder: Alexis Mitchell

Owner: Winnie Owens & Alexis Mitchell

Submitted by Alexis Mitchell



About three years ago Alexis' sister, Winnie, lost her beloved Maine Coon, Sh-boon, at 17 years old. She was a beautiful brown-patched tabby with white that was produced early on in Syracoons' breeding program. At that time her sister lived with her cat and three horses. Alexis tried several times to give her another cat, but Winnie said she had to mourn and someday she would be ready.

In the interim, Winnie was diagnosed with breast cancer. She had to undergo two surgeries, chemotherapy, and radiation. It was a difficult time and Alexis was staying with her to help with the horses. She thought how much better it would be if her sister had a cat for companionship because it was "difficult to bring the horses in for company." Winnie agreed that after the treatments, she would take a kitten.

Photos were sent to Winnie of what Alexis had, and of course her eye was on the two best kittens in the litter. She was torn, taken by the beautiful patched tabby that looked like Sh-boon and the silly black and white male . . . "Can I have two?" There wasn't anything Alexis wouldn't do for her, so two it was. They became Syracoons Sizzlin Spectacular Salvo, a.k.a. "Sally." (her granddaughter said she looked like a "Firework") and Syracoons Beatnik, Maine-ard G Krebs.

Winnie felt badly for taking the two best and agreed to let Alexis show them as kittens, and also agreed to let Sally have a litter. Unfortunately, Sally just missed a National Win. They thought both had nice Regional Wins instead; but Winnie learned quickly that not all of New York is in region 1 and Maine-ard lost his RW because he was not shown in the region where he resided.

The gesture that started out to help her sister get through her illness, turned out quite differently than was originally planned.

Losing the National Win was nothing compared to the heartache they went through with Sally's first heat when she was seven months old. Alexis thought Sally had a few "lady lumps" which turned out to be mammary hyperplasia. They were devastated, and after numerous horror stories, remedies, and treatments, it was decided to spay her.

Alexis was staying with Winnie, and one evening, she looked over on the couch after Sally was spayed, and there was her sister and her cat, both healing and recuperating from their breast issues. Suddenly, she felt her attempt to bring Winnie comfort went terribly wrong; but something happened during that time – a bond formed between them that couldn't be explained.

Later, Winnie asked about continuing to show them. She thought maybe Sally could go for the National Win she almost achieved as a kitten and Maine-ard could get his Regional Win. Alexis was more than happy to oblige.

After they were bathed and groomed for their first show as grand premiers, Alexis thought, "Gosh they are gorgeous!" She didn't know which one should go over the other in a ring. As it turned out, the judges didn't either! Both of them did very well, but Alexis was told she needed to pick one and asked, "Why?" She was told because it just wasn't done, not in the same class.

So while she tried to get enough points for Maine-ard's RW, Alexis continued to show both figuring she would keep Sally out once Maine-ard was done. People advised her to maybe run one this year and one the following year. Then she gave things more thought: given what her sister already endured, she opted to go for it, "Why wait? Who knows what next year would bring?" The quest was on!

Sally entered the top 25 in June and Maine-ard followed in July. They both stayed in throughout the year, but Maine-ard fell to 23rd the last month of the season and it was feared he would fall out. It was time to split them

up and with one great show in Virginia, Maine-ard moved back up and secured his National Win in St. Louis on the last weekend of the show season.

The Wednesday prior to the North Atlantic Regional Banquet Winnie's vet made a house call to put her 36-year-old Arabian horse, Heather, down because she was diagnosed with Cushing's disease. Heather is now at rest under a tree that shades where Sh-boon is buried. Alexis knows the loss of her beloved horse was made bearable by having Sally and Maine-ard with her. Winnie does not have children, so her cats and her horses are her family.

Winnie takes Sally and Maine-ard to their parent's home for Sunday dinner. Alexis keeps those images in her mind when she returns to Kansas and is away from her family.

"These cats have given me more joy than I feel I deserve. I have been so full of pride and emotion throughout the year it has been hard to contain, as most exhibitors will attest to," Alexis said. "Most importantly, they have given my sister companionship and focus.

"They are truly incredible to see together. Watching my sister with these two cats overwhelms me with emotion. This national campaign was so much more than just that, it was a true labor of love that involved my entire family and two magnificent cats that gave us all strength, hope and healing."

Alexis said this past year was filled with such good times, great people and gorgeous cats! It is a year she will never forget. A congratulation to all of the year's winning cats, their breeders and their owners.

Favorite Moment From This Show

Season: *"My sister's most memorable moment was in Philadelphia, where all the top Premiership cats were present. Winnie could not attend shows regularly, but it was sometimes possible when we showed in the North Atlantic Region. We were seated for the final in David Mare's ring and he did his usual outstanding presentation of each cat prior to awarding the placements. At the end he made Sally "Best Cat" which was one of her firsts, as she seemed to be the bridesmaid to Roger, our Best Cat in Premiership and then to Sweet Eyes, the gorgeous Persian from Russia. We all joked about Sally putting on her bridesmaid's dress all season! Winnie was thrilled; it was a very special moment."*

Fourth Best Cat in Premiership GC, GP, NW LAUREN ABBY LYNN OF CZARCATZ

Blue-Cream Lynx Point Exotic Spay

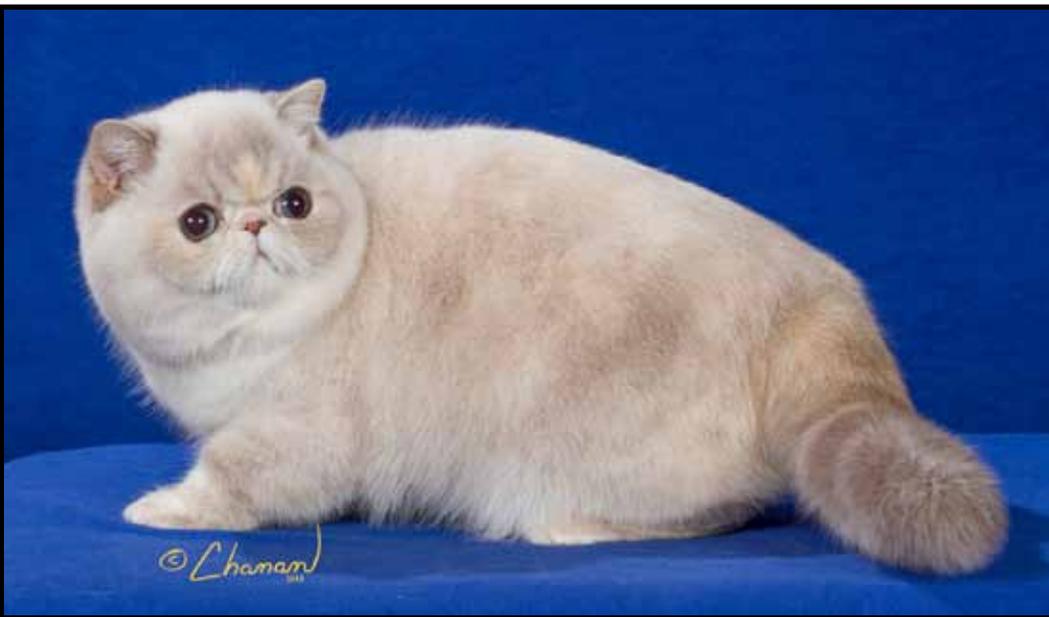
Breeder: Hope & Lauren Gonano, Jerry Kitchart & Steve Oster

Owner: Karen Godwin

Submitted by Karen Godwin

How Karen found Abby Lynn was pure fate. In 2011, Karen was looking for a longhair breed to show in order to fulfill the requirements to become a CFA Allbreed Judge. She approached Hope Gonano to ask if she had a show kitten available; however, at the time, Hope did not have exactly the right kitten for her.

Six months later, tragedy struck when Hope's best cat and companion, Abby Lynn, developed a severe urinary tract infection during pregnancy. The infection became unresponsive to treatment. Rather than risk Abby Lynn's life, Hope made the decision to spay her. The infection cleared up and didn't recur. Karen telephoned Hope once



more to follow up on their previous conversation about the availability of a show kitten. She replied, “I have something even better for you to show”. That conversation marked the beginning of Abby Lynn’s show career – for the second time.

It was during the 2008-2009 show season that Abby Lynn, as a kitten, became only the second pointed Exotic in CFA history to earn a National Win. So, Hope already knew Abby Lynn had the ability to become a national contender . . . again. Although it had been almost 3 years since she was shown, her coat was still as clear as her kitten coat was. Karen saw photographs of Abby Lynn on the Laureden website, and thought, “Isn’t She Lovely.” She immediately knew showing her would be one of those once in a lifetime opportunities.

Two months later, in April 2012, Abby Lynn was ready to show. The first order of business was to grand her in premiership. She showed well for just coming out of retirement and granded easily. Then they waited for the new show season to begin. Karen knew that the secret to any national campaign was to get to the highest count shows each and every weekend possible, and that is exactly what happened.

The hard work paid off because even before the end of September, less than five months into the show season, Abby Lynn already accumulated over 4000 points, black-lining one third of the shows she attended. Feeling confident that a National Win was within reach, by October, a decision was made to slow down and attend only select higher count shows. That decision gave Karen the opportunity to show another cat in order to complete the longhair requirements for the judging program. It also gave Abby Lynn a well-deserved rest.

Abby Lynn hadn’t been on the show circuit for almost three years; however, in spite of the passage of time, the number of people who remembered her as a kitten constantly amazed Karen. One of the most amazing memories for her was when Barbara Sumner told her about how she made this little four month old Exotic kitten her Best Kitten amongst the top national campaigners at the big CFA Cat’s New York show in Madison Square Garden.

Other memorable moments of the show season actually took place outside the show hall. Karen campaigned cats before, but decided that she wanted to do things differently this year. Instead of just travelling to shows, she wanted

to experience the destination also. One of the most unforgettable trips this season was to San Diego. Hope joined Karen for the trip and both arrived in San Diego a day early. The two spent the entire day visiting the San Diego Zoo.

“It’s been quite an amazing year,” Karen said. Abby Lynn is now the first pointed Exotic to attain two National Wins! Along with her National Win, Abby Lynn finished the season as Best Cat in Premiership in the Gulf Shore Region.

Karen would like to thank Hope Gonano for her friendship, generosity, mentorship, and encouragement throughout the entire year. Thanks also go to Lauren who requested to show Abby Lynn a couple times when Karen was unable to do so. Lauren had the thrill of handling her kitten all grown up!

Favorite Moment From This Show Season: *“First, Listening to Gary Veach in his premiership final at Garden State provide a lengthy, well-stated textbook description of the perfect Persian/Exotic head while making Abby Lynn his Best Cat.*

“Second, in years past, owners of premiership cats considered their cats “in” or “safe” for a National Win once they passed the 4000 point mark. At that time, most cats did not pass 4000 points until after the first of the year in the show season. Abby Lynn reached that mark at the end of the first five months in September. Although I’ve had a couple other national premiership wins, I have never had a cat climb so quickly to the top as Abby Lynn did. And it was a relief to know we could kick back and enjoy the remainder of the season without pressure.”

Fifth Best Cat in Premiership GP, NW CASTLKATZ LUNA LOVEGOOD

Blue-Cream British Shorthair Spay

Breeder/Owner: Paul & Ginger Meeker

Submitted by Ginger Meeker



The moment Luna's hair dried after she was born October 30, 2010, the glow of her face was dazzling and the Meekers knew she was special. Luna Lovegood is a daughter of GC, NW, BW Castlkatz Harry Potter, DM. She was named after a favorite character from the Harry Potter series. Something about this kitten was captivating – it was as though her eyes could see through you like “Hedwig” the owl.

Luna developed and played all the cute ways kittens do . . . until her baby teeth came in, one canine tooth was pointed directly at her tongue, making eating difficult. After much thought and discussion with their Veterinarian, they chose to have her spayed at the same time the tooth was removed. Jaw integrity was a question. She healed easily and the adult canine tooth came in straight and normal. Mouth fine,

teeth fine, jaw fine . . . absolutely lovely kitten now a spay!

Their show cat for the 2011-2012 season was a big blue girl in Premiership, GP, RW Castlkatz Helga Hufflepuff, DM. Luna became a grand premier prior to the National Show and was waiting to compete in Premiership the next season. Helga was entered into the CFA National Show; and Judge Joan Miller requested Helga for the Educational Ring because of her predictable and outstanding temperament on the show bench. Luna was substituted for Helga in the show and the rest is history.

At one point, a very well known exhibitor asked, “Where did SHE come from?” . . . and the obvious answer was “Idaho”. Luna proceeded to do well and not only received enough points

for her own premiership win in the Northwest Region; she also made the “Best of The Best” in the National Show, which certainly made the three-day drive back to Idaho a fun ride for the Meekers.

Luna's success was exciting and much encouragement was given by judges and other exhibitors to go for a National Win in the 2012-2013 season. Paul was retiring in October 2012, and his boss was supportive of him using up vacation time by being absent many Fridays and Mondays for four months during the summer when work was slower. The time and budget were there, but it would depend on her support system holding up to determine the outcome.

They had tentatively booked the first flight. A new black Sturdy carrier bag was chosen to avoid issues with other passenger's “allergy” concerns. People would start griping about their cat allergies the minute they saw a carrier on a plane. All products and food were carefully chosen to fit into very small spaces to avoid the “check-in luggage” requirement.

The first flight with Luna was a long one: Boise, Idaho to Concord, New Hampshire. The joking comments made, “You're a little out of your part of the country,” were received with good will. Luna complained on take-offs and landings for the first few flights and also made it clearly known that she was to be HAND carried – no bumpy luggage carts for her. The Meekers started a senior exercise program since hanging onto a 14-pound cat and walking briskly from one end of an airport to another was a serious physical demand.

Racing through airports with less than 40 minutes between flights was a challenge. They didn't even notice there were shopping options until more than half way through the season when there was more than 30 minutes between flights. They didn't miss any

flights or have any travel catastrophes, but the biggest challenge was always the rental car return, sometimes at 4:00 a.m. – dark areas, poor signage, and no humans to talk to – drop the car with the key and hope for the best.

Paul and Luna became Silver Medallion fliers on two airlines. Unfortunately, Luna didn't receive any mileage points. She was much better behaved than some of the "free" children passengers. Paul's biggest problems for all the flights were cramped legs and ensuring his bag with all of Luna's show provisions made it in the overhead bin.

The attention in private motel rooms, treats not available at home, and water bottle-cap hockey were favorites for Luna. She appeared to secretly prefer Ginger as company, because Luna was always found sleeping on Ginger's side of the bed when both Meekers traveled together. Luna was not fond of sharing her hotel time with other feline travelers. Lots of low growls could be heard as if to say, "I own this bed, do not think about it." On the second night of stay, she had no problems welcoming her guests.

Luna became somewhat addicted to freeze-dried chicken. Although she had several other likes, she was caught several times trying to burgle the bag where the treats were kept. Luna enjoyed playing, but had very strict toy

criteria – a fast moving feather slightly below her face. She disdained judges that made little effort to play with her and feathers being moved above her head got zero response. Certain judges were her obvious favorites, and it was quite touching to watch Luna perform for this fine group of judges.

At the beginning of the season, she was "best" for a while. This set a record for British Shorthairs while gaining both exhibitor and spectator support which she enjoyed and appreciated her fan club. Holding her own against all competition, she was again Highest Scoring Cat in Premiership at the Garden State Show in New Jersey. Lots of wonderful exhibitors aided Paul along the way with directions, food, treats, and getting him to the rings. When she was awarded the "Best of the Best" at the World Show in Columbus, her owners were exceptionally proud.

With only a few months left of the show season, Luna developed a small fatty tumor on her left cheek. The tumor progressed in size and was removed by a very nervous, but fantastic veterinarian the first week in February. She healed quickly and there was no trace left of the surgery. Many were worried about the surgical outcome and since her health came first, the surgery took precedence over her show career. Luna went back to showing in

March and competed in three more shows before the end of this season, much to the relief of some of her favorite judges. Paul and Ginger were filled with joy to share the good news of a benign tumor with all her friends.

Luna now enjoys the run of the house and just to prove herself, she has slimmed another quarter of a pound off her not-so-sleek body. "Built like a boy!" Is that a compliment for a beautiful full-bodied young lady? Luna thinks so . . . and finishing in the Top Five this season is a wonderful tribute to her, Ginger said. As a good friend said at the beginning of the season, "No one will remember where you placed, but they sure will remember how you got there."

Paul and Ginger thank all the exhibitors, spectators and judges this last season for the wonderful support!

Favorite Moment From This Show

Season: *"First, people stepping forward to help and making me feel welcomed at the show. Second, grandchildren and great-grandchildren helping us at the San Diego Food and Water Bowl Show. Third, anytime any of the other exhibitors commented positively on Luna and wished us luck."*

In the fall 2011, Dan received a call from Diane Castor telling him that she and Lori Kerr had a "top show" flame lynx point Persian boy with only one testicle. If he liked him, he would be his to show in Premiership the following show season; and he only needed to come to the National Birman/Fyfe and Drum show in October to take a look. If he wanted him, Hero was to be a gift from them.

Diane knew that Dan had been waiting for a potential National Winning flame point boy to show. Over a fifteen-year

period, she had not been able to find one for him she believed was good enough and that she could part with rather than use in her breeding program. He had about given up hope of ever finding one, and at his age, time

was against it. So with a big lump in his throat, he went to the show to meet Hero. Would he be the one?

Dan's friends were waiting for him. When they took Hero out of his cage

Sixth Best Cat in Premiership GP, NW CATBERY TAIL HERO

Flame Lynx Point Himalayan Persian Neuter

Breeder: Lori A. Kerr & Debra Evans

Owner: Teresa & Dan Kerns

Submitted by Dan Kearns & Diane Castor



and presented this six-month-old boy to him, it was love at first sight. From the first caress of this lovely kitten, he knew he was the one he'd been waiting for all that time. He knew if he took on this challenge, it would prove to be a difficult one because Dan would not be able to fly to any shows due to medical limitations; but he would give it everything he could.

After he had been altered and in Dan's care, they began to develop a relationship entirely different from any other cat he'd shown over the years. They bonded completely – learning the ins and outs of each other takes time. Hero was a dream cat to show. Not only was he a gorgeous specimen of a Himalayan Persian, he had a personality of a fabulous show cat. His deep blue eyes set him apart from any other cat.

Hero became a grand in Premiership in the second ring at the Straight 'n Curl show in Lebanon, Penn. at eight months and one week old. Patience was required to prepare for the march to a National Win. He was exhibited in a few shows to keep him on his toes as they continued to be devoted to one

another. He was a constant companion and at night, he would lie on the table next to Dan's lounge chair while he watched television or listened to music.

The rapport between the two flourished. Dan watched the cat's coat grow and Hero bulk up as his young body began to develop into a mature cat. He was a joy to bathe and groom and loved every minute of being a spoiled neuter. On the mornings they were getting ready to head out to the shows, Hero was excited and knew he was about to venture once again into the show rings where he could perform for the judges and spectators. Dan said Hero lived for show weekends, whether it was in the show hall or a hotel room, his enjoyment knew no bounds. There were toys to be discovered and he knew everyone by heart. Hero liked to do it "My Way."

They traveled by car four times to Ohio and three times to Virginia. Dan was thankful for his great friends, Diane Castor and Jim Land, who shared the driving which allowed him to make those trips. With a heart condition he couldn't take a chance that he might

be hospitalized because he worried about who would care for Hero; and fortunately that didn't happen, but the thought loomed over him.

Being computer illiterate, Dan went to Lew Llewellyn who graciously updated Hero's weekly points following each show so he knew the points achieved and discard rings for the National and Regional standings each Tuesday. A special thank you from Dan to Lew for all his help, which was most appreciated. "There were many people who helped out along the way, from personal friends, cat friends, and those judges who had grown to love Hero," Dan said. "He enjoyed performing for an audience."

The season progressed, the counts began to dwindle, and the pair found themselves staying home from shows where no points could be gained.

As with everything, there is a beginning and an end. All too soon the show season was over. Dan achieved his goal to show a fabulous Himalayan to a National Win in Premiership. He is extremely grateful to Diane and Lori for trusting him and giving him his wonderful boy. "You are the best," Dan said.

But the story is only their beginning. There is no end to Dan's love for Hero, and Hero's love for Dan. "Great gifts often come late in life and patience is still a virtue," Dan said. "I pray for many, many years of loving companionship with Hero in the future."

Favorite Moment From This Show Season: *"The final ring at Diamond State where Hero was Best Allbreed in all six rings"*

Seventh Best Cat in Premiership GC, GP, NW BOBERAN'S DANGEROUSLY IN LOVE

Black Persian Spay

Breeder: Randy Primmer and Robert Farber

Owner: Linda Fried, Randy Primmer and Robert Farber

Submitted by Linda Fried



In late May, a little ball of fur arrived after 15 hours of travel, starting Linda's "Dangerously In Love" affair with a huge pair of copper eyes and in turn, renewing her love/hate relationship with United Airlines. It took 15 hours from Waterloo to Denver. Although Bob and Randy pre-booked her through, and Linda confirmed the flight, the first pilot refused to transport "Good Girl". After several hours of negotiation, another pilot hand carried her through to Denver for them. She was said to be a great copilot.

She was and six and a half pounds of love; soaking wet, she weighed in at 6 pounds, 12 ounces. This remained constant throughout her entire show career.

It was an interesting run, with lots of good mates along the way. There were heaps of good dinners out at night (along with a few bad ones, as well), and groaning through 5:00 a.m. alarm clocks to bathe Good Girl. Seven shampoos with hours of rinsing ac-

companied by drying later, and she'd be ready to go show. "Thank goodness for all the great people at the shows with all the interesting and entertaining conversations," Linda said. Without all of you, I would not have been able to stay awake all day." Of course, Starbucks chai teas with ten pumps helped, too.

In January, Linda realized she wouldn't have to travel with Good Girl again; they would be Best Premiership Cat in

the Midwest Region. Between May and January, they visited 30 cities, 16 states, and exhibited in countless exciting shows. Linda only wishes she could have collected frequent flyer miles on the cat.

Linda gives thanks to Rhonda Fox and Linda Fischer who helped to make her best in Region 6. Alexis Mitchell, Jim Flanik, Rhonda Fox, and Jan Chambers allowed her to keep showing vicariously through their travails for the last months of the season. As painful as the withdrawal was, her pocketbook felt great.

A very special thanks goes to Donna and Bruce Isenberg for all the grooming help and suggestions. "You guys are the BEST!" Also, a special thanks to all the judges out there, to all the Premiership people – whether you achieved your goal or not, and to all the CFA members who worked so hard to put on these shows (particularly those in the Denver area – Kelly, Gary, Trudie, Dennis, and all the rest, so Linda didn't have to get on a plane). Linda said it was an interesting year and to repeat the phrase, "Thanks for the memories".

Favorite Moment From This Show Season: *When I was best cat at Santa Monica (a real surprise) or when I realized that I no longer had to travel to stay best in region*

Eighth Best Cat in Premiership CH, GP, NW QUERCETIN'S MIRA OF KARLETON

Sable Burmese Spay

Breeder: Charles and Mary Reich, Cheryl Peck

Owner: Eve Russell and Cheryl Peck

Submitted by Eve Russell

Mira is the daughter of NW Marchu's Electra of Karleton and the mother of NW Quercetin's Phaedra of Karleton. This constitutes a three-generation run of Sable Burmese in Premiership.

She came 1200 miles from Denver, Colo. to live with Eve for her show career and retirement years, "Forever and Ever, Amen." Described as a short, little brown bundle who loves everybody



and everything, traveling long trips was a pleasant event with and for her.

Eve and cats made the annual trek to Florida just before Christmas for the three months stay of January, February, and March. This was truly a challenge: 1200 miles over two days with six cats, three of which were over ten years old. Since the Florida shows are few and far between, the two took to the skies for a few shows.

Traveling with a cat and using a wheelchair makes flying to shows low on Eve's list. Mira took to it like a duck takes to water, but Eve didn't. Going through security was not fun for her with two replaced hips and one re-

placed knee . . . Mira could have cared less. Eve finally learned to ask for a private screening for Mira, easing the experience.

When Eve's grandson was married September 14 in Denver, owner and cat stayed over to take in the Denver show the following weekend. Mira's breeder, family and friends joined them for some good, old-fashioned cat show activities: late nights, early mornings, and great restaurants with friends of long standing. With a daughter, two grandsons and families, Cheryl and extended family made Denver a must on the show circuit.

The friendship of the 2012-2013 season will remain in the memory bank for years to come. The support within the Premiership community compares to none. The cats will change while the faces and memories will last forever.

Mira, Cheryl and Eve thank their fellow exhibitors for their never-ending friendship. The Great Lakes Region's seven National Winners in Premiership bonded as a team supporting each other through the thick and the thin. That's the true meaning of long lasting friendship. Yes, Eve lost the bet with friend, Jim Flanik. She owes him a quality dinner other than the golden arches!

"Special congratulations to all our Premiership winners for an outstanding year," Eve said. "Last but not least, we all thank our show reporters for their never ending reports."

Favorite Moment From This Show Season: *"The last weekend of the show season saw Mira and Eve off for a ten-hour drive to St. Louis where Cheryl joined them, along with good Burmese friends from the Southern Region and longtime friends from the Gulf Shore Region. After Eve's hail-storm experience at the same show last year, returning to St Louis was a concern. Her car sustained more than \$12,000 in damages, which took ages for the repairs to be completed. Mira, Cheryl and Eve joined their pals from the Gulf Shore, Midwest and Southern regions for the season's finale."*

Ninth Best Cat in Premiership GC, GP, NW DE BEARS KARA JANX

Champagne Burmese Spay

Breeder/Owner: Art and Kristi Graafmans

Submitted by Kristi Graafmans

Kara got her start from "a fantastic mom, Jeske's Jane Goodall, DM, and a gorgeous sire, GC, BW, RW Mouse Island's Déjà Vu of De Bears," Kristi said.

When Art and Kristi first set eyes on Déjà Vu they instantly fell in love with him. His breeders, Prudy and Ernie Dorazio, recognized that he was special too. They promised to take DeJa Vu to all the shows to see what he could

achieve, and he ended the 2009-2010 show year with a Regional Win in Championship and the national bred win. They had high hopes for their first Janie to Déjà Vu breeding and were not disappointed.

As a kitten, Kara was special, even when she was just a few months old. She never went through a gawky growing stage and was always a "Brick-house." Kristi picked her and a brother out as keepers for their breeding program.



When she was four months old they took her and her platinum girl cousin to the Phoenix cat show in December. There were over a 100 kittens, so it was top 15 finals. Kara made quite a few finals in the bottom 11 to 15 spots. They took her out as a kitten to all the Southwest Region shows and achieved a Regional Win on her.

Once Kara was over eight months old she granded in Championship and was put into the breeding program. After a

year of trying with no pregnancy, Kristi took one look at her and said “Maybe you’re not a momma after all; maybe you’re a show cat.”

Kara got a late start in the 2012-2013 show season as a premier. At her first show she was a one-show grand. She went to all the local shows they could take her to and Kara was always in the top five in Premiership at the end of the show.

Art and Kristi kicked around the idea that maybe this was their chance to go for a National Win.

So when the CFA World Show came up they entered Kara as soon as they could, bought their plane tickets, and booked the hotel.

“Wow, what a huge show the Columbus show was,” Kristi said.

She did exceptionally well and Sunday her number was called to all the finals but one. When they announced the top three cats for each category of kitten, champion, and premier, Kara was second best shorthair premier in the RED show. That kicked off showing her to the national level.

“Kara was a dream to show and I will miss her terribly when I travel,” Kristi said. “ But Kara is now our beloved house pet and she sits on my lap every day.”

Favorite Moment From This Show Season: *The end of the World Show – I have a picture of Kara in her cage with her rosettes. You can’t even see her through all the rosettes.*

Tenth Best Cat in Premiership GC, GP, NW OYATE AUGUST RUSH OF AVEC JOIE

Ebony Ticked Tabby and White Oriental Shorthair
Breeder: Cindy Crenshaw, Haley, Kaltenbach, Cook
Owner: Betsy F. Dark and Cindy L. Crenshaw

Submitted by Betsy Dark

One seldom thinks of Marilyn Monroe as Marilyn. For Cindy and Betsy, it is this same automatic linkage of first and last names when speaking of August Rush.

August Rush was born with all the confidence others might attempt to summon when facing a first job interview, or if artistic, that first live performance

on stage. Were August Rush to think of himself as a book title, he would choose Toni Morrison’s “Beloved” . . . not Ms. Morrison’s main character, but simply her title. Were he to think of himself as a popular song, he would choose Robert Palmer’s “Simply Irresistible”.

Never does one see a downcast ex-



pression on his face or in his attitude. He acknowledges no feelings other than those of full attention and full devotion; however, he believes this acknowledgement to be reciprocal. He is no one-way street in that regard. For example's sake, should he decide to discuss his show with you on the return trip home, and should you fail to uphold your end of the conversation, your failure will be broadcast in ever escalating episodes of vocal performance of "August Rush Rhapsody." He is of single purpose in that regard – his right to be heard and vice versa.

Let it be known that August Rush swings both ways. He was a one-show grand in Championship with Cindy and a one-show grand in Premiership with Betsy. From this platform, August Rush primarily became a seasoned traveler, be it by vehicular transport (50,000 road miles) or if necessary, by air (almost a frequent flyer).

As the season matured within the Southern Region, top position often found GC, GP, NW Emau's Dancing In the Dark of Mautrix, DM and GC, GP, NW Oyate August Rush of Avec Joie either in the first or second position in the region. Dell went to a show; August Rush went to a show; first and second positions switched. August Rush was at the top of the "flip flop" at the next to the last show in Richmond (which both cats attended), so what would happen at the last show? Would the positions once more flip at the last show of the season?

Fortunately, they knew what would happen and thank Melanie Morgan for sending the first word of congratulations for Southern Region's Best Cat in Premiership, after the Richmond show and before August Rush's last show at the Oriental Shorthairs of America show in Easton, Penn. In this congratulatory email, Melanie also told them that Richmond was her last show with

Dell, and that she hoped they would have as wonderful a last show with August Rush as she had with Dell . . . and they did.

So, another show season has ended with the national awards banquet and presentation over. They thank CFA and the many clubs for providing the venue for the experience of both showing and socializing with other cat enthusiasts. "We appreciate those who exhibit and those who judge," Betsy said. "Thank you."

In conclusion, who can end a season without learning a lesson? The lesson they learned is . . . well, so simple. Give your own August Rush your full attention and full devotion. Both of you will be happy then, and happy is the winning choice.

Favorite Moment From This Show Season: *Ending show at OSA with 5 Best Cats*

Eleventh Best Cat in Premiership GC, GP, NW EMAU'S DANCING IN THE DARK OF MAUTRIX, DM

Smoke Egyptian Mau Neuter

Breeder: Melanie Morgan & Laurie Coughlan, lessee

Owner: Laurie Coughlan & Melanie Morgan

Submitted by Melanie Morgan

"Dell" is not only a legend in his own mind, but also a legend for the Egyptian Mau breed as a whole. This season he became one of only a few cats to earn a National Win in every competitive category. He was CFA 2008-2009 Kitten of the Year and 24th Best Cat; and this year, with a little more than 100 rings, was 11th best cat in Premiership. This is remarkable for a number of reasons, but perhaps most amazing, because he is a minority color in a minority breed.

No question that once again the one and only Pounce (GC, BW, RW Emau's

Mau Pounce For The Ounce, DM) worked her magic with her son. The list of notable firsts and records for this cat are mind-boggling.

In addition to his three National Wins, he was the first (and so far only) smoke Egyptian Mau National Winner. He has earned more points than any other Egyptian Mau in CFA history, and he was the first smoke to be a one-show grand. Neutered before he was four years old, he went on to become the first Egyptian Mau in Premiership to go from Open to Grand Premier in one day, by earning every point pos-



sible of the 180 points available of the 75 needed. Dell also became the only Egyptian Mau to be a one-show grand twice; and both were at six-ring shows.

He was the youngest and only smoke male of his breed to earn the Distinguished Merit title with 22 grands to his credit. Among his lovely offspring is a legacy to be proud of indeed – their seventh National Winner, GC BW NW Emau's So You Think You Can Dance, a.k.a. "Tyce". Tyce sired this year's 6th Best Kitten and national Best of Breed GC, BW, NW Emau's Diamonds R Forever Of Emauge, which gave the breed, through Dell and her mother, GC BW NW Emau's Minuet, DM, their first-ever third generation National Winner.

Everything he shouldn't be – smoke, a male and smart as a whip – Dell took the breed to a whole new level with an elegant refined body, flawless head, and intense gooseberry green eyes.

"He is his mother's son, in that he knows no strangers and has a mind of his own," Melanie said. "Just ask him, he knows how to do everything, confident, loving, busy, and possessed of that special extra something that only the great's have."

Dell has the ability to stop people in their tracks and the ability to give strangers and fans goose bumps. Lovingly shown as a kitten by his co-breeder, Laurie, he came back to Melanie as a young adult; and giving her the thrill of showing him as an adult, then again as an alter. She said showing a cat like him is truly a once in a lifetime experience, an honor, and a privilege.

The deck was stacked against him as a smoke male, but Dell never cared. He came into the world ready to set it on fire and proceeded to do just that. He excelled at everything tried and epitomized the living definition of a control freak. His mantra? "You are not the boss of me," followed quickly with an ear flick and "I know how to do it." If he messed up, a warm purr was followed by a quick head bump, and "I am a good boy." Truly those intense green eyes could communicate

volumes and he appeared to be clear about his terms.

Melanie said Dell loved coming back out to show, and to this day, when he sees the carrier, he runs to get in it. He would sulk and fret when her schedule required long breaks for him and positively glowed when she put him in the car. Purring in her right ear, bumping and "Dancing in the Dark" in the carrier punctuated the long drives. He really loved it when she drove with someone else and he could travel lounging in her lap. A true gentleman as well, he loved it when people came to visit him in the hotel room and he would hold court.

Convinced that the sun rises and sets around him, no one so far has had the heart to dissuade Dell. Who would have thought that a five-year-old Egyptian Mau male would be willing to come out after a career as a stud

cat and show again? So much for the theory, in order for an Egyptian Mau to show they must show early and often. For Dell it was all about Dell. When things went his way he was very, very good indeed, and when they didn't? Well . . . not so much.

This cat is something rare, something special and something truly unique. "I know I count myself lucky to share my home and my heart with him," Melanie said. "This encore season for him and for me was incredibly special indeed and we thank all the judges, exhibitors and Mau folks who supported him throughout his career."

Favorite Moment From This Show Season: *"Dell's party at SEPS where all the Egyptian Mau people came to support him at his last show."*

Twelfth Best Cat in Premiership GC, GP, NW CACAO FIRE IN MY PACHETTE, DM

Brown Patched Mackerel Tabby & White Persian Spay

Breeder: Janet and Carissa Altschul

Owner: Christina Flores

Submitted by Christina Flores & Carissa Altschul

The most often asked questions about "Fire" were always, "Where did you come up with the name?" and, "How is it pronounced?" Her father's name gave them an idea. He was registered as GC, RW Cacao Pachelbel's Cannon, and called "Pachy," (pronounced Pocky). With Fire's spunky personality and adorable expression, she became Fire In My Pachtette (pronounced Pocket).

Fire was a very special kitten from the moment she was born. The intense brilliance of her red markings was the first thing noticed. It's rare to see such striking bold patching on a bicolor that isn't high white. Clearly this "Girl On Fire," they thought. When she got old enough to walk, Fire had this special vitality about her, something she never



lost. Her eyes were absolutely mesmerizing. She was adorable as a baby, easy to pick her up and never put her down – maybe just slip her into a pocket.

Her show career couldn't be termed easy. Janet and Carissa wanted to show her as a kitten, but were campaigning a beautiful black and white van that was 6 weeks older than Fire and they didn't want to interfere with their own cat. So Fire stayed home until the other aged out, and then went to a single show as a kitten – and as luck would have it, even though it was a small show, four other patched tabby and whites were in attendance. She did very well, making several finals including a couple of best kittens.

Since she aged out in February, Fire's Championship career was very short. In just 8 shows as a grand, she achieved over 2500 points in Championship; and was retired at the end of the season to become a mother for the next few years. Each of her litters was superb, and she earned her Distinguished Merit in December of 2009. Most of Fire's litters only contained one kitten, but in her last three litters, each of those kittens became Grand Champions, for a total of six grands to her credit before a closed pyometra ended her breeding career.

Originally Fire went to live with Christina to have her last litter, but nature had its own plan. She fell in love with Fire and decided she would be her permanent bed accessory, and began her retirement with Christina.

As Fire's coat grew out, Christina mentioned she might like to show her in Premiership. It had always been in the back of their minds to bring her out for a run in Premiership after her breeding career was over, but it was Christina who was able to make that plan come into fruition.

Fire graded quickly in the 2011-2012 show season, and went on to become Gulf Shore Region's 8th Best Cat in Premiership with limited showing. This light regional campaign was mostly to see if she still liked being at the shows. The more she went to shows, the more fun she had, purring and playing up a storm, so they made the decision to run her for a national win.

During the 2012-2013 show season, Fire competed against some amazing cats, especially in the bicolor division. They give congratulations to the owners and breeders of both GC, GP, BW, NW Budmar's Beyoncé of Inthewind, DM, and GC, GP, NW Toy Tricksy

Sweet Eyes. Both of these cats were stunning and they admired them all season long.

For them, the most important aspect of Fire's campaign was she never got tired of the shows, and she never was unhappy being there. While she wasn't exactly fond of the bathing process, as soon as the bath was done, she was purring and prancing, knowing what came next. She was quite a show off at the shows, always strutting around the judging table and often playing like she was a kitten. From beginning to end, showing her was fun for both owner and cat. "In the end, we believe that was the best part of it all – that she was happy!"

Favorite Moment From This Show Season: *"Our most memorable show of the season would be the CFA World Show (Purple). With intense competition, Fire held her own and was the only cat in Premiership in the Purple show to make every final. She also was the 2nd overall highest scoring cat in the Purple show, and highest scoring longhair. Her achievements at this show far exceeded our hopes and dreams!"*

It started out as the mother-daughter project when Ronna and Bethany Colilla got a blue-cream colorpoint-carrier Exotic kitten from Hope and Lauren Gonano. John and Ronna started trying to breed for pointed Exotics in 1985 using their Himalayans with Chuck Hickman's Ariagus Exotics, but it never came to fruition.

GRC, GRP Laureden City Sister of Believers was named by Hope for her friend, Lauren Castle Flynn, and nicknamed, Leta, by Bethany for the late CFA judge and Exotic Breeder, Leta Williams, because as Bethany said, "She would have loved this tortie – even if she was dilute."

Thirteenth Best Cat in Premiership GP, NW BELIEVERS BEAUTIFULSOUL OF DREAMERS

Blue-Cream Point Exotic Spay

Breeder: Ronna and Bethany Colilla, Hope and Lauren Gonano

Owner: John, Ronna, Phillip Colilla and Bethany Clark

Submitted by Ronna Colilla

Leta went back to Hope and was bred to GC Laureden Gravity and produced three pointed kittens and one solid, three longhairs and only one shorthair. Fortunately the shorthair was pointed.

From the nose down, "Souli" had a split face of half blue and half cream. It became her trademark and eventually described her "split personality." Betsy

Dark said she was her "favorite little bipolar kitty" – even her owners couldn't tell if she was happy or perturbed, talking or grumbling. But deep inside she was a "Beautiful Soul."

As a kitten she was extreme and lanky, and the Colillas decided they would wait to grand her after she matured and had kittens, since she kept cycling right



out of the kitten class; but motherhood was not in her destiny. After getting bred, Ronna was called home from work by her son, Phillip, because Souli was having her kittens two weeks early. None of the six survived.

Although the uterine infection was cleared up, she started cycling repeatedly and with no male for breeding, the decision was made to spay Souli for her health's sake.

Ronna teased John that their first four national Premiership wins were back-to-back and they should try for one on Souli coming off of his American Shorthair's National Win. John insisted they were not running another cat. So when he sent her an email at the beginning of June asking her if she wanted to go to St. Louis, Ronna replied, "Sure. Why?"

Souli had matured, filled out and grew a dense plush coat that fingers could get lost in its luxuriousness. John wanted to see what she could do.

She not only had competition in class at the Midwest Regional show, but in addition there was another pointed Ex-

otic, GRC, GRP NW Laureden Abby Lynn of Czarcatz, her "aunt." Souli took one brown ribbon and 6 orange ribbons in the eight-ring show and made seven finals.

This was the beginning of many shows competing with her aunt . . . or GP, RW Caliva, Bellaggio of Ivy Cat . . . or GC, GP, NW Ivy Cat Quarterback. It was also the beginning of many orange ribbons and the Colillas hearing again that maybe they "should wait until next year" and them not heeding the well-intentioned advice.

It also proved to be correct what Ronna said last year: "If they are good enough, they will use two." Regardless of brown or orange ribbons, it was not uncommon this past show season to see two Exotics in the finals, and many times two Pointed ones.

As with their other wins, they don't double-enter or fly, and Souli's show season was constrained by John's judging schedule. She missed several larger count shows including Garden State and the CFA World Show. Plus, there were shows she had to be absented out of Hope's ring because she was the co-

breeder; it was a double-edge sword.

Ronna was convinced the World Show would be the end of Souli's chances for the NW title, until her son-in-law, Bryce, gave her the fortune from his cookie at Sunflower Chinese restaurant. It read, "A fair face may fade, but a beautiful soul lasts forever." She knew it was fate and meant.

Souli would be a special National Win, not just because she was one of two pointed Exotics, but she was their first National Winner born and raised at their house. She carries Bethany's cattery name, Believers at the beginning and the Colillas', Dreamers, at the end.

Throughout the season, Bethany and Ronna couldn't stop thinking of Leta Williams and felt that she was always there watching over them. Bethany had a very special relationship with Leta who always said she was her Jewish mother "because every girl should have one." So with a cat who had a face that Leta "could just eat" and whose mother was her namesake, it was inevitable that she was on their minds.

Unfortunately the season had a low spot for the Colillas when GRC, GRP, NW Tra-Mar Loria of Dreamers crossed the Rainbow Bridge at the age of 19 years, 3 months and 2 days old. During her last few days, Souli watched over her.

Special thank you to Hope and Lauren Gonano for sharing Leta with them which led to another dream come true, to the judges who dared to use two pointed Exotics, and to Team Souli for texts and emails of encouragement and support.

Favorite Moment From This Show Season: *"At the National Birman Fanclubers show, in Hatfield, N.J. there were 55 cats present and Karen Godwin was there with Abby Lynn. Souli had one brown and nine orange ribbons. She made nine out of the ten finals and went home with 362 points – with NINE orange ribbons!"*

Fourteenth Best Cat in Premiership GP, NW BORDEAUX LTD'S CARROLL SHELBY

Seal Point & White Ragdoll Neuter

Breeder: Elizabeth A. Thurman **Owner: James Flanik**

Submitted by James Flanik and Liz Thurman



For Jim, the 2012-2013 show season actually started off on a rather unusual note with the acquisition of a seal point and white male Ragdoll. “Carroll” would follow in his Ragdoll roommate’s paw prints (GP, NW Bordeaux LTD’s Enzo Purrari).

Liz Thurman of Clearwater, Fla., called Jim and asked him if he could pick up Carroll because he was being returned to her. Of course, Jim said yes he would deliver him to her when he was showing down south. This is where the road to back-to-back National Winners began.

Jim picked up Carroll and returned home with him until he would be going down south to meet up with Liz. A week later she called to see how he was doing and he told her Carroll was doing just great, Enzo had taken to Carroll and they were the best of buddies. As time progressed, she suggested that perhaps he might like to keep him since both boys got along so well. Jim thought about it and agreed, because

he needed a Ragdoll to show the next year, it seemed to make sense.

When Carroll was neutered, Jim’s vet shaved off a lot of hair, and he didn’t realize it would take so long for it to grow back. They were worried he may not be able to show him; but he did well at his first show and was on his way to becoming a grand premier, which he achieved in two shows.

But the road got rocky. Probably because of the surgery, Carroll’s coat turned a very dirty looking color. He was shown as a grand premier, and did poorly. The comments by judges were that his coat was not up to show condition. Jim did not show him for almost a month while his coat was tended to and little by little it came back to life.

So it was time to take him back out and try again. In the next month, Carroll scored over one thousand points and thoughts of another National Win were being considered. Though not as large, Enzo, Carroll had a great disposition,

and just loved everybody he met. He was truly a show cat who loved showing. The race was on: Carroll was as high as 8th and in February 2013 was in the top 15. It looked like he could be the second NW for the Ragdoll breed and his owner.

The three owners who finished together the year before were in a friendly challenge this show season: both Eve Russell’s and Ronna Colilla’s cats jockeyed back and forth. Mira finished ahead of the pack and Souli just edged Carroll out. “Oh! Carroll” They all had a ton of fun in the process.

“Jim did it again this past show season with Carroll,” Liz said. “This is the second National Winning Ragdoll, who is sired by CH Sandollrags Walker of Bordeaux LTD, and with Carroll attaining his GP title, he earned his mom, CH Raggledazzle’s Olivia, DM, the title of Distinguished Merit.” Jim and Liz are proud that Carroll is now the second National Winning Ragdoll in the history of the breed with CFA!

Both Jim and Carroll would like to thank Liz Thurman for a great Ragdoll and his fellow exhibitors for a fun year, especially Dan, Jan, Betsy, Lorna and Seth, Linda, and all the other exhibitors this past show season. To all the judges for handling Carroll so well, a huge THANKS to each of you. “To my great friends and travel partners, Joel and Camelle Chaney, and dear friends Jon and Linda Bartley, thank you for your friendship and great times!”

The journey began when “Tommy” was born in April 2011 to GC, NW King of Hearts Royal Queen of Kelloggs, the first National Winner for the Kelloggs cattery, and GC, NW Kelloggs Aces High, who was shown last season to a National Win in Championship. Both parents were successful in the show ring, which evidently was passed onto Tommy.

He is a great example of the American Shorthair Breed and has the personality for a perfect show cat! It all started when Heinrich and Carly thought it would be fun to go to the CFA World Show and bring Tommy to see how the judges would receive him. He exceeded their expectations and ended up 3rd Highest Scoring Shorthair in the Purple show.

They were so proud of Tommy and wanted him to reach his full potential. Although they had never campaigned in Premiership, they thought it would be fun so they went to a variety of shows in various regions. Tommy continued to shine and as he quickly moved up in the national standings, the excitement and stress to stay in the top 25 grew. Because of starting so late in the season and trying to not go to a show every weekend, the stress increased; but they pushed on and as the season came to an end, they were very pleased to have stayed at 15th Best Cat in Premiership.

“The journey was very enjoyable and Tommy made it so easy because he was a dream traveler and just went with the

Fifteenth Best Cat in Premiership GP, NW KELLOGGS HEART BREAKER

Silver Tabby American Shorthair Neuter
Breeder/Owner: Heinrich & Carly Kellogg

Submitted by Carly Kellogg



flow,” Carly said. “He loved the one-on-one time and was a natural born show cat he knew how to show himself off!”

Tommy is such a lover and although his name indicates a “Heartbreaker” he never broke a heart, but rather stole the hearts of many.

“Another year filled with great memories, new and stronger friendships and the remembrance of why we do this hobby – for the passion, dedication and

love of our cats! They touch our lives in so many ways and we will be forever grateful. Thank you to all the judges who recognized Tommy’s beauty and supported us on our journey and the friends who cheered us on. Congrats to all the winners it was great sharing the journey with you!”

Favorite Moment From This Show Season: *“The one on one time I spent with Tommy and the bond we developed.”*

Sixteenth Best Cat in Premiership GP, NW MEOW MY SCOUT

Brown Tabby Persian Neuter
Breeder/Owner: Zayda Stephens

Submitted by Zayda Stephens

Poor, hard luck Scout. He was an afterthought in the Meow My breeding program. Not a top pick from the kittens born that year, he was only the second pick from his litter. He didn’t even get a cool name. Zayda was sitting at the computer, registering cats, talking to Bob, and said, “What are we going to name this one?” Since they had a

girl named Boo, he could be Scout for a reversal of boy and girl names from “To Kill A Mockingbird.” Oh well, what’s in a name?

By the time Scout was seven months old, he was turning into a very nice boy. He was promised to a breeder in Europe after he became a grand champion. Well, during his show bath at just eight months, Zayda noticed an important part was now missing. Shocked, Zayda took him to the vet, who proclaimed that an illness could cause the “Houdini” act. There wasn’t anything that could be done. He could have been used in a breeding program, since it wasn’t genetic, but Zayda was a stickler about having males with GC titles. The decision was made to neuter him.

So great, he could show as a premier and add to his mom’s and dad’s Distinguished Merit counts before being placed in a pet home. He became a GP at the end of the 2011-2012 show season.

Then they thought because he’s a nice cat, “He can get an RW as the second entry while showing a kitten.” A neuter makes a good companion for a kitten. Then in May, as the new show season started, Zayda had a serious accident and was unable to keep up with Scout’s coat. By the time she was able to get back to him, the knots had to be cut from his ruff. Back burner it was for Scout.

It wasn’t until October, that they took him to a show to see if his coat was good enough to compete. He was a tag along for the new kitten prospect, which is now GC, RW Meow My Ragtime Gal, “Spot”. Scout didn’t make a final. It was disappointing, but Spot and Scout were entered in the CFA World Show, so onward.

In November, Scout hit the World Show and made 8 of 10 finals. The exhibitors loved him and planted the seed



in Bob’s and Zayda’s brains, that Scout could get a National Award. At the time they thought, “No way!” He only had five months to do what most of the Premiership cats do in 12. It would take a lot of work, and frankly, Bob and Zayda didn’t want to work that hard. Besides, they’d have to fly with the kitten to get her to big count shows for her title and Scout would stay home those weekends. Poor guy was still on the back burner.

By the end of January, Scout’s show career took on a life of its own. They couldn’t figure it out. He was the same ol’ Scout but with something extra. The whole package came together. He was one of the top four at most every show. He placed over every cat in the top 25 that he competed with, at least once. The other exhibitors started pushing Scout in the right direction. “You’re going to this show, next. Right?” “Yes, if you say so.”

In about five months, Scout was driven to 23 shows in seven states. He was a trouper. Never complained. Always healthy. Always happy to be with his people. He enjoyed being the special one. It’s “What Makes You Beautiful.”

The difficult decision was made to retire Scout after the Mansfield, Ohio shows the weekend of Apr 6. Scout was solidly in the top 25 national standings and Meow My had new kittens coming. The biggest regret for them was missing the St Louis show on the last weekend of the show season and not seeing the cats and owners together one last time.

The Stephens say thank you to the Premiership “family”, especially those in the Great Lakes Region, who encouraged and believed in Scout. Also, special thanks to all the judges, who appreciated Scout for the special guy that he became. “Hard Luck” Scout truly blossomed into a Meow My Gem.

Favorite Moment From This Show Season: *“Eve Russell was sitting next to me in a final. They used her kitty before Scout and she says to me. ‘Good. Scout needs the points more than my girl does.’ That is the spirit I felt from the region 4 family: One for all and all for one. I can’t tell you how many times folks gave us encouragement and advice.”*

Seventeenth Best Cat in Premiership GC, GP, BW, NW BUDMAR'S BEYONCÉ OF INTHEWIND, DM

Dilute Calico Persian Spay

Breeder: Maurice D. Ruble Jr.

Owner: Linda A. Fisher

Submitted by Linda A. Fisher

Called "Princess" at home, she started her career with Linda as an open; and achieved her winners' ribbon easily with Best Cats. She was a one-day four-ring Grand Champion. Her owner Maurice Ruble just wanted to grand her, but she was too stunning to stay at home. With some begging, Linda was added as a co-owner.

The cat was at Linda's so she proceeded to show her. It was an incredible season finishing CFA's 2004-2005 3rd Best Cat in Championship and was Best of the Best at the 2004 International Show in Houston. She has been with Linda ever since.

Princess earned her Distinguished Merit title having produced other National Winners. Her daughter, GC, GP, BW, NW Intthewind Hollee'Berrie was a three time National Winner and her grandson, GC, BW Parti Wai Hear Me Roar was CFA's 2010-2011 Cat of the Year. She needed one more title to have them all so it was decided to show her in Premiership.

Linda didn't have a cat to show for the new season right at the start, so she decided to achieve Beyoncé's Premiership title. Her travel friend Sandie Morris had her new cat for the season, so they were ready to roll. In the past, Sandie stood by Linda in her quest for COTY and even traveled with her when she didn't show a cat. So it took Beyoncé to get her a cat to show.

Princess was doing well so Linda continued to keep her out even after she had a couple new cats to show. When she was Nationally ranked, it was hard not to keep going.

Garden State seemed to be a necessary show to attend, although it was almost a disaster. Beyoncé decided she wanted no part of flying. She freaked and pulled out a claw in the carrier on the way there. Needless to stay she was not a happy girl at the show. Even with



that set back she did well with much encouragement.

It was determined there would be no more flying. The rest of the shows were attended by driving. Sandie was a trooper doing a lot of the late night driving. They did the long trek to the CFA National Show in Ohio and were proud that Beyoncé achieved a tie for Best of Breed. Many people had not met Beyoncé' and were thrilled to meet her in person.

With four top bicolor Persians competing for top honors in the shows it was a tough season. Beyoncé was not particularly happy with showing and felt she had nothing to prove. When Sandie's kitty decided she didn't want to show any more, Beyoncé got to stay home, until the end of the season when Linda brought her back out to

maintain the national ranking. She was in the height of her condition, and did well in spite of being grumpy.

"I want to thank Sandie for being such a great travel companion and to all the judges that supported Beyoncé in her quest for her National Win and promised retirement. She is an awesome cat and a cherished pet along with her daughter." Have "Two More Piña Coladas."

Favorite Moment From This Show Season: *"Was glad it was over and that she made all 12 finals the last show of the season to secure her second NW."*



Eighteenth Best Cat in Premiership GP, NW SYRACOONS BEATNIK, MAINE-ARD G KREBS

Black & White Maine Coon Neuter

Breeder: Alexis Mitchell

Owner: Winnie Owens and Alexis Mitchell

Submitted by Alexis Mitchell and Winnie Owens

spotlight, often as best cat. Amazingly when he did take the breed win, he'd return to the pink cage he shared with his sister, Sally, and would immediately start to lick her, with his front paw wrapped over her shoulder, as if to console her with his apology.

"Maine-ardo" with his size, his shiny black coat, and his sweet disposition captivated exhibitors and spectators. At times, in the benching area, if he was out playing and being his goofy self, you could not get through the crowded aisle because spectators stood admiring him and murmuring, "That's the biggest cat I've ever seen," or "How much does that cat weigh?" There were a few exhibitors who also fell in love with Maine-ard, admitting, "His sister is gorgeous, but I prefer Maine-ard."

This year seemed to fly by for Alexis and Winnie with shows almost every weekend, and traveling to approximately 20 states for shows and passing every state in between to get to them . . . all by car! Maine-ard showed in all of CFA's seven regions in the continental United States.

One of their favorite moments was a rare weekend when Maine-ardo was not with his sister and a fellow exhibitor came up to Alexis and asked, "Where is the beatnik?" She loved that he had a nickname and his absence was noticed on the show circuit. Though usually called Maine-ardo, after that she would talk to him as the "beatnik", usually while grooming and singing to him "Suit and tie . . . all dressed up in black and white, your sister Sally in that dress I like . . . let me show you a few things," all the while, he would turn his

head side to side as if to say, "Comb here," and "Aren't I handsome?"

Maine-ard was the consummate show cat and is now retired, often lying on his red double decker hammock at the home of Alexis' sister, Winnie. The only difference now is he has insisted on being top cat to his sister, as he claims the top bunk and Sally must lie in the hammock beneath him. Did someone say retire? Sally is talking him into a race for GP of Distinction. "Oh no, here we go again!"

Race or not, their family is blessed and fortunate to have this outrageously wonderful and funny cat, and their hearts are filled with love for "the Beatnik, Maine-ard G Krebs."

Favorite Moment From This Show

Season: *"Probably the greatest show moment was at the last show of the season in St. Louis. We originally planned to split them up for the last show but then thought, they started together let them end together so, I picked Winnie up in NY, we drove to St. Louis and both had a GREAT show which made Maine-ard's NW a certainty. They both actually did it! A dream that started in June had come true. What a season!!"*

In any given year, one could look at this beautiful bi-color Maine Coon and say, "I'm going to try and run him for a National Win." Unfortunately, his biggest hurdle would be his sister.

GP NW Syracoons Beatnik, Maine-ard G Krebs was named for "Maynard G Krebs from Dobie Gillis" and started out a "silly goofy kitten that could charm anyone." He grew into a pretty big cat as sweet and gentle as he is large.

His show career, on its own, was spectacular, starting out as a kitten and continuing through his national Premiership win this year. He was always a gentleman with a heart as big as he is. He was more often in the shadow of his sister, GP, NW Syracoons Sizzlin Spectacular Salvo, even sharing a pink and sparkly show cage in the benching area all year.

There were judges who were charmed by him and supported him throughout the season and gave him his own

Nineteenth Best Cat in Premiership GC, GP, NW OCIGATOS BACCHUS OF BLUE TAWNY

Tawny Spotted Ocicat Neuter

Breeder: Kathy Gumm

Owner: Kristine Kaliszewski, Marc Haberly and Kathy Gumm

Submitted by Kristine Kaliszewski

Bacchus feels the first thing he should do is warn those cats and parents who wish to embark on this journey that it is not for the fainthearted and can be very agonizing.

So the expedition began at the first show of the season where he became a one-show grand. One of the judges said that he was National Winning material but his parents were skeptical. So one of their friends took him to Reno to see how he measured up. He did well, so Kathy took him to California. He did well again and even got some Bests in Show!

After California, Kristine and Marc started the campaign. Kathy warned them that it would take a lot of money and heartbreak, especially since he was a Tawny; but Kristine seems to need to do things the hard way. Jacqui, another breeder friend, told her “the stars would have to align.” They didn’t realize how true that would be.

Kathy’s good friend, Laurie, agreed to take Bacchus to the Garden State show in New Jersey, but he was really mean to her and didn’t stop talking in the carrier. The Sturdi carrier was destroyed, so she had to duct tape it for the way home! The funniest thing about that trip was a fire alarm in the middle of the night. The high point of the trip was meeting Laurie’s Mom, who didn’t even like cats, so Bacchus sat in her lap and won her over. She even brought him a toy!

His “parents” decided they were going to alternate traveling to shows. Out

east Bacchus met “Auggie,” an Oriental Shorthair and they were often next to each other in the judges’ ring. They kept running into, Paul, another Northwest Region exhibitor, who helped keep Kristine sane. “Blair,” a Sphynx and her owner became buddies with them as well.

Because of Bacchus’ talking on the plane, Kristine couldn’t handle the traveling and started getting more migraines, so traveling with her had to stop. Even Bacchus got sick at least once and had an abscess on his tail that she caught right away, so it was healed before the next show. Marc didn’t care about the airplane “chatting” and would take him out to wander around in the airports and meet people.

One show was in the area where their families lived and they got to meet Bacchus. He had them all wrapped around his paw and got away with anything because he can charm anyone like that.

Kristine made travel arrangements, and they started to double and triple enter the shows, not knowing where the count would be. This also meant multiple travel plans. Sometimes they didn’t even know until Thursday which plane Marc and Bacchus would be getting on the next morning.

Marc found an advisor and fellow commiserate who became their savior. So his benching request became Jan Chambers and her Exotic, Quarterback; and Bacchus would steal his food. Jan had a lot of experience, though claimed this last season was like



no other; and she had endless data that Marc used to make up his spreadsheet that helped, too.

When it got down to the last few weeks, it seemed Bacchus just couldn’t impress the judges well enough anymore. Even Marc was getting distressed, but it was even worse on Kristine. He had been nationally ranked around 18 or 19 for most of the season, but then fell to 26 just before the last show. California was a perfect show for them, the count was good and the stars did align. Bacchus raced back up to claim his spot in the standings

They never intended to do this, but they never had a cat as wonderful and Bacchus; and they picked the award song “Super Trouper” by ABBA to reflect how tolerant he was during the year (the lyrics also reflected the people and experience). A special thank you to Noelle, Jan, Angie, Paul, Karen & Scott, Kathy, Laurie and Ann.

“I am glad to just stay home where I bully the other cats, eat all the crunchies I want (no diet!), and am not forced to exercise anymore,” Bacchus said. “Now they tell me I have to go final in 30 more rings to get another award (GoD – sounds right to me

since my name means I already am one). But I won’t have to go on planes and it should be fun.”

Favorite Moment From This Show

Season: “During the last few weeks, we fell from #18 to #26 (at the very last week).

At the very last show of the season, zoomed from 26th place to 19th. Were asked how we did it: Good judges, favorable region, other cats picking the “wrong” shows and the stars aligning.”



Twentieth Best Cat in Premiership GC, GP, NW REX-O-RAMA FANCY ME OF TOSHI-KUN

Blue & White Cornish Rex Spay

Breeder: Bill and Nancy Gott, Elizabeth Koller and Dan Bridges

Owner: Dan Bridges, Elizabeth Koller, Bill and Nancy Gott

Submitted by Elizabeth Koller

Rex-O-Rama Fancy Me of Toshi-Kun was a gift to Dan Bridges and Elizabeth Koller from her breeders, Bill and Nancy Gott.

Fancy’s dam, GC, RW Rex-O-Rama Icee Blue Spots, was shown the previous season by Dan and Elizabeth to a Regional Win in Championship and then returned to San Diego for breeding. The result was a pretty little blue and white girl, fully coated that looked like a miniature of her mother.

After a season of showing a whole female Cornish Rex with the ups and downs of their personality, they decided to try to show her in Premiership without the challenge of hormones.

Shown as a kitten, she graded easily in Championship at the end of the 2011-2012 show season. She finished at the Mansfield, Ohio show in April;

and both Rick Hoskinson and Rachel Anger awarded her with best allbreed points to help her grand. Dan and Elizabeth were thrilled as both these judges had an appreciation for Cornish since they bred and showed them in the past.

When Fancy was spayed the instructions were not so shave her too much because that would hurt her upcoming career. She made her debut at the Kentucky Colonels show in Louisville and again easily became a grand premier in four rings.

She was a show off naturally on the judging table. Her blue and white asymmetrical spots along with her beautiful natural marcel-waving pattern, made her appealing to the audience. They had fun showing her.

If the judges would put her on the table and lightly tap their fingers along her back, she would naturally arch, showing her beautiful tuck and racy body style. Barbara Sumner loved how she showed off herself with very little encouragement on the table. The judges Fancy had trouble with were the ones who insisted upon stacking her to force the tuck. She would flick her tail and those in the audience would know her attitude was lurking.

In those first few months of the 2012 season, Fancy was placing high in the regional standings and reaching their goal; but by the first week in December at a small show in Vero Beach, Florida, something magical began to happen.

There had been several judges who became fans of her beauty and style, but at this show she made several Best Cats in Premiership with other judges besides the ones who were already her fans. Elizabeth called in her show report to Nancy and discussed how well she was doing at the local shows.

The discussions began about possibly entering her at the higher count shows and trying to get her nationally ranked, if it would be a possibility. They added the Gotts’ name back on the ownership of the cat to share with them in case Fancy did achieve this National Win title.

Dan Bridges had bred and shown Siamese for more than 30 years and never had an elusive National Win title. The year he met and courted Elizabeth, she was showing an Abyssinian in Premiership and he was trying to get a National Win on a lilac Siamese grand premier. Dan got his bride that season, but not the National Win.

Another season seven years ago, Dan and Elizabeth showed a lovely seal point Cornish Rex from the Gotts' and tried in vain to get the National Win. But this year the stars seemed to be aligned in their favor. They had a beautiful girl who loved to show; and the judges seemed to like her as well and were rewarding their efforts.

That is not to say there were not bumps in the road on the way to Vancouver. One show in Simpsonville in August 2012, a breeder friend brought them back a female from a breeding at her home that they kept in another cage in the benching area; and apparently Fancy did not like the way she smelled. She became like a cat obsessed and her temperament changed for the worst. She tried to bite poor Doug Myers' hand on the judging table and they had to absentee her from the rest of the show.

There were several other isolated incidents throughout the show season that Fancy got tired, or irritated for some reason, and was not herself when handled. The judges who knew and liked her, they were more forgiv-

ing of her behavior; but some of them reflected her bad behavior in the final placements.

Fancy enjoyed the one-on-one time she shared with them when they traveled to shows. There were only two shows they flew to this season: Houston and San Diego. Fancy was the perfect traveler in her carrier. She squeaked when she was traveling and as long as there were noisy children on the plane, no one was aware there was a curly-haired kitty in the cabin.

The cold winter weather did seem to annoy her though, and the hand warmers became their constant companions. The shows in Houston, St. Louis, and Indianapolis made them realize that they were campaigners, too, and Fancy held her own against the top cats. She did not make every final at those shows, but she made enough to stay in the top 20 nationally. They were very proud of the little curly girl.

There were judges out there that questioned the reasoning behind spaying such a lovely example of the breed, but there may be another plan in some cat's

lives and having kittens does not have to be the supreme goal. Dan and Elizabeth enjoyed this past year showing in Premiership. They made friends along the way, went to shows they would not have gone to otherwise, and met other Cornish Rex breeders that reinforced their opinion of the "Fancy Me" girl, that is always about "Me".

"I think all judges going through the Program should have to show and handle a Cornish Rex cat," Elizabeth said. "They are very special in their nature and almost dog-like in their antics and demands of their people.

"Were it not for the supreme generosity of Bill and Nancy Gott sharing their beautiful cats for us to show in a different region of the country, we would not have had this wonderful opportunity and experienced a National Win in CFA with Fancy."

This season has definitely been a "Magic Carpet Ride" for all of them that experienced Fancy.

Favorite Moment From This Show Season: *"The 4 Best Cats Fancy got at the show in Vero Beach, Dec. 2012."*

Campaigning a cat is often like picking out that special book to read, anticipating opening the cover and embarking on a new adventure. It's never just about the win or title; it is about the journey getting there – the year spent in the show hall with a special cat, meeting friends, visiting new places, and taking away precious memories of that adventure. Jan and Ed Chambers were given that special opportunity when Pam DeGolyer allowed Quarterback to come into their home, their lives and their hearts to share his story.

The preface and first few chapters of Quarterback's story had already been told – his birth at Pam's, his kitten career, his stint in Championship, his siring of some wonderful kittens, and his one-show grand in Premiership. But

Twenty-first Best Cat in Premiership GC, GP, NW IVY CAT QUARTERBACK

Brown Mackerel Tabby & White Exotic Neuter

Breeder: Pamela Davis and Dawn McClure

Owner: Jan and Ed Chambers, Rick and Pam DeGolyer

Submitted by Jan Chambers



the rest of his story was yet to unfold. Each cat show was a new chapter in his book. New adventures on the road and in the air, strange hotels, new friends, all filled the pages as his story was written. The campaign led them all over the country, introducing them to phenomenal new characters in each chapter. Bacchus, Roger, Vanna, Carroll, Abby Lynn, Souli, Beyoncé, Mira, Vinnie, Gangster, and others all became household names as the season progressed – the girls and “The Boys of Fall”. Some faded in and out as the story unfolded, some had a huge impact on the ending, others only minor roles.

Highlights of the unfolding chapters were old and new friendships: in show halls, online, at dinners, and through weekly phone calls. People such as Marc and Kristine, Jacqui, Noelle, Pat, Steve and Jeff, Jim, Linda, Eve, and Pam were all an integral part of Quarterback’s story. Memories of the shows, the anticipation waiting for e-point updates, late night arrivals and all-nighters on the road, scrambling for flights, wonderful dinners, and the amazing cats were imprinted on the pages of his story.

As the year progressed, new chapters brought new challenges for Quarterback. There were hurdles to overcome, twists and turns to navigate, strategy to work out. Choosing the right shows

became paramount to a successful ending. Double entering and double booking became commonplace this season, and flying to the west coast became an option, something never done previously. Changing plans kept a successful ending in sight.

For some, that ending was written long before the final chapter. Some had already met their goals; others had already given up reaching it. For some, it was a nail biting finish with the last chapter not inscribed until finale weekend. For a few, that final chapter was sadly a tearful end to their story. Like so many others, the only question that would be answered that last show for Quarterback, was placement in the standings. He was in the National Standings the first week of the season and throughout all the many chapters of his story; and as the book closes, he was nationally ranked 21.

No book is complete without extending thanks to those that made it a success. Quarterback’s story is dedicated first and foremost to Ed, whose unrelenting support made this fairy tale come true. Without his financial, emotional, and home support, it couldn’t have happened. He made it possible for the other cats to be left in expert hands and made it less stressful for them as Quarterback and their mom went in and out of their lives.

Secondly, without all of his Premiership cohorts and their owners, the clubs in the various regions who hosted the shows and the judges supporting him through each chapter of this campaign season, Quarterback’s story might have ended differently! And his story would never have been written at all without his “other mother”, Pam DeGolyer, who loved him enough to let him go, and loved him enough to be an integral part of his continuing story in his new home.

And last, but definitely not least, precious Quarterback – what a trooper he was, traveling by car and by plane, living out of a suitcase, never knowing where his stroller was going to take him next. Jan thanks you for sharing this amazing journey with everyone.

Although Quarterback’s National story is over, his book wasn’t complete without the epilogue. He was the very first cat to achieve the new CFA title, Grand of Distinction in July. The requirements are for a cat to have completed three successful seasons after granding, making 30 finals in each of them. With the final chapter written his story is truly OVER!

Favorite Moment From This Show Season: *“Meeting up with friends in the various regions and show halls all over the country.”*

Twenty-second Best Cat in Premiership GC, GP, NW TICKETYBOO NANKINMUSHI

Mi-Ke Tri-Color Japanese Bobtail – Shorthair Division

Breeder/Owner: Rosina and Jim McGlynn

Submitted by Rosina McGlynn

This Mi-Ke Japanese Bobtail Shorthair was literally born “On the Road”.

As a diva queen, dam GC, BW, NW Ticketyboo Wispa, DM has always done things her way, and in her own time. Determined not to be overshadowed

by the excitement of the McGlynn Household preparing to travel to the Great Lakes Regional show and banquet – which, incidentally was ONLY to celebrate what was to Wispa, the unbearable thought of another cat’s success – she was determined to steal the limelight.

She couldn’t be left behind in her delicate state, so Wispa settled into the Sturdi Shelter in the car, and waited. Reaching the Canada/USA border the audience was perfect – the more people the better – without a murmur, Wispa delivered her babies.

From the impromptu start, the litter returned to the home’s master bedroom settling in to learn life as taught only by a diva. One of the early lessons was Mommy needs her beauty sleep. This left the ever increasingly strong

and athletic offspring to design their own games. Scaling the bed skirt until under the covers was a favorite. Once there, one kitten in particular would run around causing one to think there was an unmentionable something infesting the bed. Hence, came the name “Nankinmushi”, Japanese for bedbug, known affectionately as “Bug”.

Born in front of a crowd, Bug never met a stranger. Be it from atop a sisal post, or from a visiting little girl’s arms, life was simply for enjoying in a no fuss, no nonsense way. From every viewpoint her vista was a pleasure to her. Every stop on her journey she made “home.”

An emergency evacuation due to an actual hotel fire lent itself to the opportunity of meeting with a group of children, visiting with them, and providing them with a distraction until

they could return to their rooms.

Another weekend, another hotel, helped management realize that codes were not always followed, and that a cat could run from the seventh floor to the second floor as stairway doors were wedged open. It also reassured Bug herself that, no matter what or where, she would never be alone. Whenever she turned to look back, her humans were following and would do so until she stopped, waited, and allowed herself to be scooped up and carried back to bed – smiling.

“One of the most gratifying things about being with an animal is when a pleasure is seemingly returned. Bug throughout her season often made those she recognized and with whom connected, know that she was once again happy to wear her heart on her sleeve, and that the pleasure was hers.”



Like Jim says, “Everything is Tickyboo!”

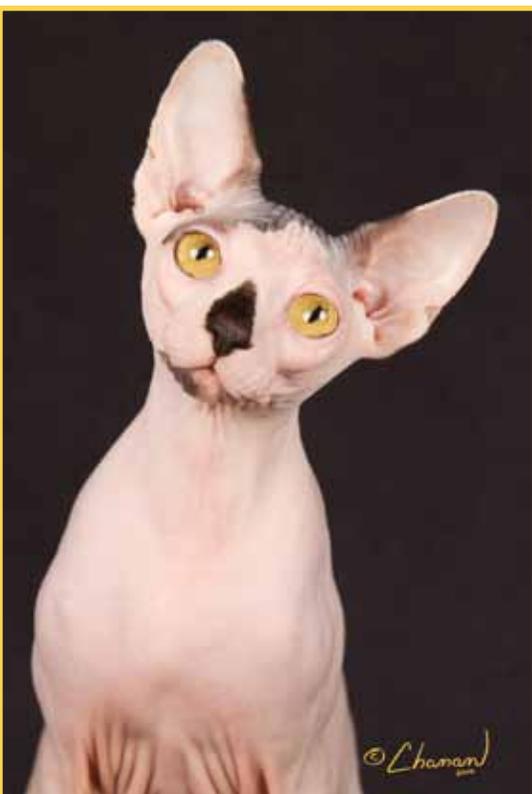
Twenty-third Best Cat in Premiership GC, GP, NW PINUPCATS DARK SIDE-OF-THE-MOON

Black & White Sphynx Neuter

Breeder: Cyndee Gause

Owner: Jovanna Edge, Dee Dee Cantley and V. Gary

Submitted by Jovanna Edge



“**L**uke” was born December 10, 2011 on his “mom’s” bed. He was born to GC, BW, RW PinUpCats Crush With Eyeliner, who is co-owned with Cyndee. This was their first litter ever, but the kittens had a rough start, and only two made it.

He was named after her favorite Pink Floyd album, Dark Side Of The Moon, because he had a black behind, which looked like an “Eclipse.”

Having a National Winner produced and raised at her home has been the most rewarding experience.

They knew Luke was going to be a star from the very beginning. He was shown as a kitten, and an adult; and got

his first best cat from Pam DelaBar at the Pacific Northwest Siamese Fanciers show in Issaquah, Washington; and was also a one-show grand as a Champion.

He is the most amazing traveler; and when they would go through the TSA line at the SeaTac Airport every weekend, the agents knew him by name. He liked to walk around on the table and greet everyone.

Before his career in Premiership he sired a number of National Winners in multiple associations.

“I want to thank Cyndee Gause for his beautiful mother, and all her help and support over the years,” Jovanna said. “I also want to thank Carly and Heinrich Kellogg for their friendship, guidance, and expertise this year, and Marion Yates for all of the encouragement she has given me. This wouldn’t have been possible without you guys.”

Favorite Moment From This Show Season: *“The last show of the season.”*

Twenty-fourth Best Cat in Premiership GP, NW KELLOGGS INFINITE DREAMS

Silver Tabby American Shorthair Spay

Breeder: Heinrich and Carly Kellogg

Owner: Bruce Calderwood

Submitted by Bruce Calderwood

And so the story begins with the arrival, into Canada, of a very flashy young American Shorthair spay. People were taken with her from the very first time she set her “paws” down on her new country home turf. Everyone, from the customs agents to the baggage personnel, admired her as she strutted her stuff on the counter of the Custom’s Office shortly after she was unloaded from the aircraft.

She was in her element as long as she was with “her people.” That attitude stayed with her during whatever show she was entered in throughout the season.

“Fina” (a.k.a. Fifi or Pork Chop) as she is known, entered her first show as a premier in Brockport, New York at the young age of eight months. To the surprise of her owner, she finished the first day of the two-day show as a grand; but to those more seasoned to the hobby of showing cats, they weren’t surprised.

It was then that the idea that just maybe a Regional Win could be accomplished as long as Fina continued to enjoy the show scene. It came as a complete surprise when Bruce was informed of her debut into the national standings.

The intention was never to try to achieve a National Win since her owner knew he couldn’t commit to the “perseverance” and “complete dedication” it takes to make that happen; but it did happen, all with the help of those who knew that Fina could do it.

People like Frances Volkman, Richard and Sandra Nabeta, Maureen Need-

ham, Shirley McCollow, and many more supported her along the way. Much thanks must also be given to the judges who recognized Fina’s qualities: sometimes a little “big”, or as Walter Hutzler would say, “Butch.” A diet and exercise plan was produced. All the qualities she possessed compared to the breed standard.

At her first big show in Philadelphia, Liz Watson waited for Bruce to return her to the benching area after the final. She waited; tapping her manicured nails against the judging table and her other hand was by her side.

When he finally entered the ring to get Fina and opened the judging cage door, Liz said, “Excuse me, sir, is this your cat?”

“Um, yes, why?” Bruce said.

“Did you breed that cat?” Liz asked.

“Um, no, she’s basically my pet.”

“Are you planning on showing this cat?”

“Um, well, I was going to show her a while. Why?” He replied waiting for the inevitable to happen.

“Well, it’s time to get serious because that’s one very nice American Shorthair and a female to boot at that,” Liz proclaimed.

Bruce returned Fina to her pop-up cage and wiped the sweat off his forehead, longing for a change of clothes.

Sometimes “Taking Chances” pays off in the long run.



It was quite a year for the two who had no idea this could happen, especially with the limited showing. All in all, they had a blast, made many new friends, and learned more than to be expected.

All the support that came their way, either in person or otherwise, was gratefully appreciated. Bruce is sincerely thankful to the Kelloggs for allowing him to own the very special feline, hoping they were able to help make their own “Dream” come true.

“Thank you Ms. Watson for the ‘pep-talk,’ it was one of the more memorable moments we had during the year.”

Favorite Moment From This Show Season: *“Constant gratification from the public about the cat, to see the joy on a disabled senior’s face when the cat jumped from the grooming table to the woman’s lap.”*

Twenty-fifth Best Cat in Premiership GC, GP, NW TEXAS BELLE VANNER BANNER, DM

Calico Van Maine Coon Spay

Breeder: Elizabeth Gaither

Owner: Pat Idleman

Submitted by Pat Idleman



From the first time Pat set eyes on the pictures her friend, Betsy Gaither, sent of Vanna's litter; she knew that baby was "mine." Being a van, the kitten stood out among her littermates. As anyone who knows Pat, vans and high whites are her preferences. They are called "Pat cats" by her friends.

Vanna was shown as a kitten, was an easy grand, and went on to earn a Regional Win in Championship after a very short season of eight shows. She produced five kittens; all were shown and granded to make her a one-litter Distinguished Merit cat. All of the 13 kittens she produced with sire GC, Miaw's Sir Charles Chaplin became grand champions or grand premiers, and seven of those offspring are regional winners.

Pat wishes to thank Lisa and Andrew Fuller for allowing the breeding to happen. This combination certainly

made outstanding Maine Coons. Unfortunately, the breeding was not able to provide one more kitten so Charlie would have his DM, even though he had one grand from another breeding. Additionally, Vanna's sire, GC, RW Idlemaine Butler of Texas Belle, DM has a record 45 grands, and four National Winners, two of which are calico females.

She loved being on the judging table and played as if she were a kitten, which always made her a fun cat to show. At seven years old at the beginning of the show season, Vanna was still in wonderful condition. Pat made the decision to try for a National Win, something she had not done before.

All travel was done by car because the human mom does not like to fly. On one trip to Denver she unfortunately hit a coyote, doing damage to the coyote and the front of the van. She was teased a lot about having a "Red Neck" van because they had duck taped the fender to keep it from coming apart.

Pat thanks her friend, Teresa Epperson, for all her help and support because she traveled with her for most trips and she was a tremendous help with everything from bathing cats to packing the van.

Around the end of December, Vanna began to show signs of developing a food allergy. She lost hair on her ears, face and neck area; and was put on a very restricted diet. All Pat could do was wait to see if she would get better and grow the hair back. It was fourteen weeks before she could resume the

campaign. During that time Vanna's placement dropped from 13th to 23rd before the last weekend of the season.

It came down to the last show and the last ring of the season, but she did it, "At Last." A big thank you is due to Jan Chambers for her knowledge and support that was a tremendous help to Pat.

Another thank you is due to Pat's husband who stayed home to care for the cats and the dog. Pat says a big "Thank You" to all of Vanna's supporters this season, judges and exhibitors alike. So many people during the season told Pat how much they admired Vanna and were rooting for the National Win. This achievement could not have happened without the encouragement and support of so many during the season.

It all means so much to Pat as it reflects how the CFA family can be so supportive of one another. What a great show season with all the wonderful memories!!!

"I want to say 'Thank you, Betsy, for this wonderful girl.' Vanna has achieved dreams far beyond what I ever thought."

Favorite Moment From This Show

Season: *those shows where Vanna was highest scoring in Premiership; and, of course, the last show where Pat and Vanna got so much support in the quest to stay in for the National Win!*