

# CFA's Top 25 KITTENS

*by Cindy Byrd*

This year's Top 25 Kittens were an exciting group of special, feline friends. From a thrilling, chocolate-spotted Ocicat, to a lovely black Persian and lots of beautiful friends in between, it was a very good year.

## Best Kitten GC, NW WILD RAIN LET'S DANCE OF DOTDOTDOT

Chocolate Spotted Ocicat Male

**Breeder: David and Carol Freels**

**Owner: David and Carol Freels and Roger and Nancy Brown**



The Freels - David and Carol, and the Browns - Roger and Nancy, have been working together for years. Roger and David spent time getting acquainted at a Frontier cat show in Kansas City, MO in the mid 90's. They had so much fun talking and sharing stories, the men decided to introduce their wives. Carol and Nancy immediately hit it off. They started telling "can-you-top-this?" husband stories, and before the weekend was over all decided to continue the friendship.

Through the years many cats passed back and forth between the Wild Rain and the DotDotDot catteries. Multiple GC, GP, RW and NW's were won by both catteries, and somehow they just knew this was going to be just one of those years.

GC, NW Wild Rain's Let's Dance of DotDotDot was born at the right time of year, between the Freels' sire, GC, BW, NW Wild Rain Priceless and the Brown's queen, CH DotDotDot Snow Princess of Wild Rain. Their first decision was easy. David & Carol suggested several names and it was a no-brainer for Roger and Nancy. Many of their winning dog show Maltese were "Dancers". The first show was small, but "Dance" took to the ring like

a pro. Then he went to a large show in Southern California and the text reports from that show about his wins, blew the four away.

Dance was always very loving and even tempered, BUT he had claustrophobia. Put him in a carrier in a car or airplane and everyone knew he was there and was unhappy....and that is a mild description. Luckily, that did not apply to a show security cage and he loved the attention from judges and specta-

tors, as well as going through airport security.

The two couples planned to go to the World show before Dance's career began. As time passed, they decided this would be a lot of fun and they would have time to plan their shared, Christmas cruise in the Caribbean. Somehow laughing and eating and having fun took precedence over planning, and to top it off, Dance was Best in Show!

The support from the Ocicat breeders and exhibitor at the show was incredible, and the group of Ocicat friends at the back, during the judging and after the winner was announced, meant so much!

The excitement of the Regional and National Awards and the fun of the four months of the kitten run has added to our lifetime of memories.

## Second Best Kitten GC, NW SEDER RENNES ESTÉE LAUDER

Blue Tabby and White Bicolor Persian Female

**Breeder: Peggy M. Huffman**

**Owner: Peggy Huffman and Noralyn Heisig**

*submitted by Peggy Huffman*

Where would I even start about Estée? From the day she was born I knew she was special. She had the cutest little face. I knew she was going to be spoiled rotten. She was a single kitten born to Caché. Being in the bridal business, I like names for girls consisting of designers, jewelry or perfumes. Estée Lauder seemed very appropriate. She looked as though she had just put eyeliner on those big beautiful eyes. The girls at the Estée Lauder counter loved her name and gave me several props for Larry Johnson to use for her photos – and they followed her success throughout the year.

I think going to the World Show last year exceeded all of my dreams and expectations. When Estée received Best Long Hair Kitten and 3rd Best Runner-up in the Best of the Best, I was on cloud nine. Years ago, I would go to the International and watch Lisa Smith of Catillak, or Christy Miller of Candirand, win the Best of the Best and think to myself, “Wow, that’s way out of my range.” Through the years I

have been blessed with some beautiful cats, but to have earned, not one, but two National Wins is so overwhelming; I am very humbled.

This dream would never have been a reality if not for Noralyn Heisig. She showed Estée, every weekend, to perfection, sacrificing a lot of time from home. The only thing she said to me was, “Peggy, I’ll show her and get us a National Win, but I will not take her spoiled-self home with me. You keep her during the week and I’ll show her on the weekends.” I don’t think Estée would have had it any other way - too funny! We call her “the Princess.” Hopefully someday she will present us with some heirs to the throne. However, right now, her attitude is, “Boys... Yuck!!”

Finally, in all of the traveling and tired feelings from weekend after weekend, I have gained so many friends. The one thing I truly have been blessed with is a friend like Noralyn Heisig. CFA can be a great organization. I very much wish,



that in your lives, God sends to you a friend that is as sincere as Noralyn.

If you just reach out to others, smile, and give those who need a hug a warm welcome each weekend, we can show the love and build the friendships that will last forever. That is what success is. And last but certainly not least, I want to say, “Thank you,” to all of the judges who have supported Estée. To our Heavenly Father be the Glory.

“Phoenix” was not only CFA’s 3rd Best Kitten for the 2012-2013 season, but also the highest ranking Maine Coon kitten, to date.

Phoenix’s story began when Martha, Norman, Beth and Tom saw a picture of him at 5 weeks of age. He was very “typey” and had a deep, rich, red, tabby color, even then. He was so cute; we just fell in love with him. And - being a grandson of GC, GP, BW, NW Tuvets Martha’s Pick of Abizaq, DM, made him even more appealing. A few weeks later, one of his breeders, Anne Jones, found out she had a very serious cancer. Anne asked Martha if she would help her find show homes for the 3 of the male kittens. Martha and Beth decided to ask for the red tabby and white. Anne and Michelle said, “Yes.”

We were earnest in our search for the appropriate name for this beautiful boy. After long deliberation, we decided to name him Phoenix. The name represents the Legend of the Phoenix, a brightly colored bird, with red and gold plumage and healing tears. It is believed that the Phoenix always rises from the ashes. So the name, Phoenix, was chosen - partly due to his vibrant red color - but more importantly, as a sincere tribute to Anne, while we prayed for her recovery from cancer.

As Phoenix began his show career, it was evident that he would be a large kitten. So, he earned some cute nicknames like, “Tiny Tim” and “the kitten that refused to grow up.” But the nickname that stuck was “Red Robin,”

**Third Best Kitten**  
**GC, NW MAINE LVRS PHOENIX OF ABIZAQ**  
Red Tabby and White Maine Coon Male  
**Breeder: Michelle Chaffee and Anne Jones**  
**Owner: Martha and Norman Auspitz and Beth and Tom Feininger**  
*submitted by Martha Auspitz*



to which he still answers.

In his first kitten show, Rachel Anger said, “Even though this kitten is large for his age, notice the skinny tail and shorter coat, remember him when he gets older.” As Red Robin grew older his red color became even richer and deeper. He also developed into quite a showman.

Red Robin loved to stand on the judge’s table and look out into the audi-

ence. Sometimes he climbed the pole, or played with toys or simply lied down and was just cute. The audience was always in awe of his size. He loved being the ambassador of the Maine Coon breed, as he let everyone hold him - or just rested in their lap. Red Robin carried on a conversation with anyone who visited. He was, and is, always full of surprises. We just love him.

Thanks to the many judges who loved him this past season.

**Fourth Best Kitten**  
**GC, NW MIKKAT DONATELLA OF LOX-NOTT**  
Blue Tabby Persian Female  
**Breeder: Kathie Depietro**  
**Owner: Kathie and Mike Depietro and Yonni and Sophia Staples**  
*submitted by Sophia Staples*

It’s the Sunday evening of Garden State, 2012. I was exhausted, but Kathy insisted I come visit and see Donatella.

“Fine but only for a few minute; I’m beat,” I said.

I had been there a few weeks before

to see the kittens, but was instantly enamored of this little striped ball of fur. We talked about me possibly showing her, as Kathy had family obligations at the time. To be completely honest, I really had no intentions of “running” after my campaign the year before – but, then I saw her. “Oh man, here we go again.....”

Donatella’s first show was Hidden Peak, in August of 2012. Kathy and

I both went together just to test the waters and see how she did. Many of the kittens there had already been to Garden State and already had a head start. It was an awesome show for us; we knew we had something special. "Ella," as I like to call her, came out of that show as Highest Scoring Kitten. Ella continued to climb the charts with several Best in Shows, even clenching the number one spot as Best Kitten in the country - as ephemeral as that may have been.

Hurricane Sandy was threatening to destroy the Jersey Shore and we were in Indianapolis. The show finished and I was on my way to the airport to catch my flight, that was still on schedule to get me home. When I arrived at the ticket counter, I was then told I would not be able to get home until Monday.

So, here I was stuck at the airport, and then I remembered Kathy Calhoun saying to me, "If you need a ride or something let me know." I quickly dialed her number. "Hey Kathy, remember that ride you offered? I'm going to have to take you up on that." Kathy was already on her way home, but graciously turned around to come and get me to bring me to my family's house, in Chicago, where I stayed for another 3 days until I could get home on Thursday morning.

Through hurricanes, losing coat and going into heats, Ella still finished very strong, as 4th Best Kitten nationally and Best Kitten in the North Atlantic Region. This is the first National Winner for Kathy DePietro and if things keep progressing, I'm sure it won't be her last. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share in this win with



our darling Ella and to Kathy Calhoun for rescuing me and trying to keep me calm when all I could think about was the storm and my family. Thank you!

## Sixth Best Kitten GC, BW, NW EMAU'S DIAMONDS R FOREVER OF EMAUGE

Silver Egyptian Mau Female

Br: Melanie Morgan

Ow: Tim Fowler and Patricia Summers

*submitted by Melanie Morgan*



Sometimes with kittens you just know. No doubt, no question, no "I wonder if?" Dreamy was one of those kittens. She had a way about her and from an early age she had an uncanny ability to steal hearts. To be fair, expectations were high for her. Her father, GC BW NW Emau's So You Think You Can Dance was himself a second generation National Winner and the son of the mighty Dell (GC GP NW Emau's Dancin Inthe Dark Of Mautrix, DM) and the lovely Minuet (GC BW NW Emau's Minuet, DM). Her mother was one of the most haunting Egyptian Maus I had ever seen - GC Emau's For Your Eyes Only. No question that she was born into Egyptian Mau royalty, but the pressure never seemed to affect her. Born a singleton, she was self-assured and confident from the age of three days. Right sex, right color, as a breeder I was overjoyed and totally, absolutely smitten when she arrived. It was hard to leave her. She was enchanting and I found I could lose hours just watching her sleep. I had saved a special name for a special kitten for years and I gave that name to her when she was three

days old... she was going to be Emau's Sweet Dreams Are Made-Of-This, AKA "Dreamy."

Singletons are hard though and her mother was less than dedicated. At three weeks, little Dreamy made her way out of the birthing box and there was nothing more heartbreaking than to wake up in the morning to find her mother snug under the covers with me and that little self-confident beauty toddling around amusing herself.

Grandmother Minuet, who was enjoying her first litter with her new owners, Jim and Marie, had a singleton kitten as well and he was only a little older than the precocious Dreamy. Hard as it was to think about giving her up so early, I made the tough decision that the best thing was to let her go. Both kittens needed the socialization that comes from having another kitten and Minuet, the perfect mother, was the right choice. So, at three weeks and two days, Dreamy left my house to continue her heart stealing ways. I stopped at Susan Henry's house on the way to pick up reinforcements and Dreamy visited the Persians and Jack Cook. We have a priceless picture of that moment.

I must admit, it was with a great deal of trepidation that I took Dreamy to Minuet. I knew already that this little one was a treasure, and letting go was incredibly difficult. I wanted her for ME and I was very concerned about moving a three week old baby. No worries though, it took Dreamy less than ten seconds to win over her new mommy. Minuet heard her squeak, put out a paw and pulled the little one to her. From that moment on, she joined a family full of love and doting attention. No one could have asked for a better home or a better upbringing. Marie and Jim were enjoying their first litter and they did an incredible job raising a well-adjusted well-loved kitten who was well prepared to take

on the world. The two kittens had doting parents in both Minuet and their uncle Zane (GP Emau's Might As Well Dance). Dreamy grew up spoiled and entitled and totally convinced the world revolved around her. This little lady was a spitfire with a mind of her own. Like Merlin visiting Arthur, I waited and watched from afar and I fretted. She was every bit as beautiful as I had hoped, but I worried if she would show.

Kittens like this do not come around that often, she had a legacy to fulfill, but I was not so sure that she was up to the challenge. She was willful and busy and totally independent. The day finally came when she was ready to leave and I told Marie that I really doubted that she would even make it into the show ring. I promised that if she did not, that I would bring her back and they could have her. But we all knew that if she did show, she was destined for Pat and Tim of Emauge, that had been arranged since the day that Hope decided that she chose me over them. I brought the three and a half month old Dreamy home. I had her a mere eight hours, and she stole my heart all over again. It is funny, there are very few cats out there that can make my heart turn with yearning. Dreamy is one of them. I had to laugh at myself for being jealous of Pat and Tim for having a cat that I had bred, but I was. I called them that night and told them that they had to come get her right away, that if I kept her any longer I would never let her go. She was THAT kind of kitten. They did and she stole their hearts too. So her journey continued, and the dilemma of her name became an issue. Bad enough that her father's name was too long to add the much deserved cat-tery suffix, we simply could not have that happen again. So using the Bond theme from her mother we renamed her Emau's Diamonds R Forever OF Emauge, another name I had been

saving for a special cat. Unbeknownst to me this name was doubly special in that her foster humans, Marie and Jim, are called "the Diamonds." Like many things in life, it was meant to be.

Of course all of this was moot if she chose to exert her right as an Egyptian Mau to be difficult. We still were not sure how this diva felt about a career as a star. The question of whether she would show or not was answered unequivocally at her first show. No question, this little silver girl was born for the show ring. She was a tiny thing with barely any coat, but she made three finals all the same. I called Marie with the good news/bad news that Dreamy had some history to make before she made her way back to them and she was on the way. She was still just four months old at the GEMS breed show where there was a huge class of Egyptian Mau kittens. She was a runaway for best Egyptian Mau kitten at the show and one of the highest scoring kittens there under a slate of judges known for their knowledge of the breed. She made ten out of twelve finals and shone like a star. Interestingly the next weekend she went to a show where she competed against many of the same kittens (all older) under different judges and made only one out of six finals – a Best Kitten (her first!). She was still four months old. As she matured she started to grow coat and the contrast came with it. By the end of September she had hit her stride. She did well at Freestate, but Cotton States was a break out show for her. By the time she hit the World Show she was ready to rock. She was highest scoring shorthair kitten at the Red Show and went to the Best of The Best. An interesting anomaly for a minority breed, she was the kind of kitten that appealed to a wide variety of judges and she knew how to command attention. Her confidence was amazing and she had that show presence that only the greats really have. She and

Tim made the perfect pair. He showed her to perfection and she doted on him. Happily she liked Pat too! In fact, Dreamy pretty much liked ev-

erybody. In becoming CFA's 6th Best Kitten she made Egyptian Mau history by becoming the first third generation Egyptian Mau National Winner. She

is also the first fourth generation Best of Breed winner. She is a heart thief extraordinaire and to know her is to love her.

## Seventh Best Kitten GC, NW CATSAFRATS VIVA AMORE

Tortoiseshell Persian Female

**Breeder: Bruce and Donna Isenberg and Joel Carron**

**Owner: Bruce and Donna Isenberg**

*submitted by Donna Isenberg*



**G**C, NW Catsafrats Viva Amore, "Amy," was one of four tortoiseshell females born on March 21, 2012, to GC, BW, NW Catsafrats Viva La Cielo and GC, RW Eurecat Zenka of Catsafrats.

Amy was a darling kitten, met the Persian standard quite well – and, she was a born traveler. She loved the hotel rooms, the extra attention she received and never missed a meal during her

show career. Yet, Amy was born a little timid and showing was not one of her favorite pastimes. Amy fluctuated between having a great time at a show, and wishing she were in any other circumstance or place.

In Baltimore, Amy made her way up the light standard, all the way to the top - not the usual for a Persian. Amy particularly loved that showhall and

had a memorable time enjoying herself to the fullest that weekend, and so did we, for it was wonderful when Amy was having fun.

Amy is very special. She is the granddaughter of GC, BW, RW Catsafrats Stars Above of Wishes, DM and great granddaughter of GC, BW, NW Catsafrats Shine On of Agonistes (Shine On was COTY 2003). While we treasure each cat for their individual personality, because we are breeders, their pedigrees have an even greater impact to our breeding programs. While I am writing this, Amy's kitten (a little black female) is playing and romping around my feet. So, she not only earned a National Win for us - she has given us a sweet, new kitten that perhaps has show-potential and will enjoy showing much more.

The showing part was essentially over, after Amy aged out and earned her Grand Champion status. Attending the shows, for us, was not – as Penni Richter seized the opportunity to show GC Partiwai Ex Jackpot to, hopefully, earn Cat of the Year - and indeed "Potsy" did just that!

We three had the most fantastic time traveling together with Penni, and Bruce and I had the time of our lives being in a showhall without having an entry. Since some of our most memorable times have always been Saturday nights, through the remainder of the season, we enjoyed evenings with friends; we continued to do what we like best - eating, laughing and enjoying our favorite cocktails!

We send our sincerest congratulations to Penni and Potsy. Tagging along was "the best" for us! We cannot forget Art and Kristi Graafmans, earning

their very first National Win, nor can we fail to mention Andrea Bohren and Cyndy Byrd achieving TWO National wins with their beautiful British Shorthair kittens; Hope Gonano and Karen Godwin enjoyed getting their great National Win on Abby Lynn;

Linda Fried's National Win, with her gorgeous black spay; and Sue Swaim hanging in there and not giving up, achieving her very first National Win. Yowza!!!!

Who said, "You can't have it all." They were wrong! We showed a kitten

that earned a National Win, enjoyed being with friends, watched and became a part of others seeking their achievements, traveled to the Ukraine and met darling people, both inside and out! To quote Frank Sinatra, "It Was a Very Good Year."

## **Eighth Best Kitten NW TREKUORII BOWIE OF CASEIN**

Russian Blue Male

**Breeder: Paolo Carnevaletti and Liz Watson**

**Owner: Liz and Mac Watson and Mauro Cassola**

He was a beautiful, very special, Russian Blue kitten. Liz picked him up in Italy, on a trip with Vicki Abelson. It was love at first sight. Even as a kitten, he was very refined, with a very pale plush coat and emerald green eyes. His head type was beautiful. He was sure to be a showy fellow.

He had a great first show at Garden State, as a four month old kitten, which foretold his amazing show career. He was a delight to show and did wonderfully in every ring. Although his show career was far too short, it was stellar. He brought joy and enriched hearts



Copy may have been born on April Fool's Day, but from the moment he opened his big, brilliant, blue eyes and stared at his breeder, Lori Kerr, he knew, that if he continued on the same path, he would be nobody's fool and show business was for him.

He came into my life when I received the first photographs of him from Lori, at three weeks of age. My heart flopped around and I knew this was the one for me to show during the 2012-2013 season.

Lori and I met in the parking lot of a diner at Blue Mountain Exit off of the Pennsylvania Turnpike in July of 2012, a spot we had utilized before for our "Kitten Picnics" as we dubbed them. She had brought her mother's van and had removed one of the back seats; that is where our picnic was held. I brought lunch and she brought kittens.

## **Ninth Best Kitten GC, NW CATBERY TAIL COPY CAT OF PLAYWICKEY**

Flame Lynx Point Himalayan Male

**Breeder: Lori A. Kerr**

**Owner: Lori Kerr and Diane Castor**

*submitted by Diane Castor*



I believe, if I recall correctly, there were eleven babies, all born within three weeks of each other. What a feast for my eyes. Since retiring from active breeding, I have been indebted to Lori for her willingness to share her beautiful babies with me.

After much oohing and aahing, comparisons of structure and personality, Copy Cat, so named for his NW father, became my baby in a co-ownership agreement with Lori. There never are any contracts between us, just mutual friendship and trust of one another. The transfer was made to my carrier and Copy and I began our journey to a National Win.

As with other kittens I've shown for wins, he came home and right into my bedroom where he could be monitored 24 hours a day. Copy was a headstrong, willful boy whose first love was play and second was food. An unbeatable combination for a show kitten but it took us awhile to learn each other's habits!

At his first show in August, Hidden Peak in Timonium, Maryland, Lori came east with a bundle of seven kittens for this prestigious show. Add in Copy Cat and Tweed, owned by the Lands, there were nine Catbery Kittens

competing. The Himalayan Division was breath-taking and the judges all commented on the magnificent display.

When the dust settled at the end of the Hidden Peak Show, Copy Cat had come out on top of the heap. And so, his career began and flourished. The judges loved him, with his sparkling eyes, beautiful Persian type, long flowing coat and his personality that never quit. From the moment he went into the first ring of a show until the last, he was up and playing with the judges. They enjoyed him as much as he loved being in the show ring. He was the "pole dancer" extraordinaire. Always ready to go to the top, which he learned from one of his favorite judges in Richmond early on in his show career and never forgot.

The competition this past season was extremely fierce with many top breeders from across the country all vying for those coveted Top 25 spots in CFA. Copy's debut at Hidden Peak began the circuit of the biggest kitten counts in a season. There was the NAR Coalition, Freestate, National Birman Fanciers and Fyfe and Drum and the Indy Cat Club. Between these last two shows, Copy and I were stranded in Indy due to Hurricane

Sandy. Then off to Cotton States and finishing his kitten career as the Best Himalayan Kitten at the World Show (red) in November. He was in 9th place, nationally, and would stay there throughout the full season. He is also the Best Himalayan Kitten in CFA.

The first weekend in December, at the Santa Paws Show in Maryland, Copy came out as an Open and went home on Sunday as a One Show Grand. His career was over. Now it was time to finish off the other Catbery Tail kids.

As always when I show a kitten to a top win, I am completely committed to that kitten from infancy to adulthood. Watching over this baby with devotion, love and care comes naturally to me. Campaigning is what I know how to do and enjoy all aspects of it, but when my job is finished, these babies go back to Lori. They were hers first and only lent to me for a brief time. I've come to accept this arrangement, but always, my mind has a difficult time over-riding my heart.

While I know tomorrows are more limited now at my age, I can still see a baby kitten out there waiting for me. Blue eyes shining and ready to learn all I can teach it about the wonders of "Show Business."

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## Tenth Best Kitten GC, NW KELLOGGS CRAZY TRAIN

Silver Tabby American Shorthair Male

**Breeder: Heinrich and Carly Kellogg**

**Owner: Heinrich and Carly Kellogg and Elizabeth Hamill**

*submitted by Elizabeth Hamill*

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"Ozzy" (as he is affectionately called) is the son of Heinrich and Carly's previous year's National Winning male, Kellogg's Aces High. He was chosen for his stunning color and pattern and large eyes, so green they just mesmerize you.

He came to live with me and made himself at home very quickly. He decided my National Winner, Alex, was going to be his buddy, whether Alex wanted to be or not. In short order they were snuggling together on top of the cat tree for hours at a time. This is such a testament to the temperament of the Kellogg's breeding program and

one of the reasons why their cats are so successful in the show ring.

We named this kitten "Crazy Train" because he was so toy crazy and we hoped he would not disappoint us with his show presence and ability to win over the judges with his sweet personality. Ozzy took to traveling like a typical kid. He cried sometimes and

always settled down when in the hotel room and snuggling in the bed. We were especially proud of him taking to the show table so quickly. One of his best achievements was tying for Best American Shorthair Kitten at the world show and holding his own at such a large competition at only 5 months of age



One particular thing Ozzy figured out very quickly was where the judges kept their toys, under the table. As soon as he got on the table he looked toward the area where the judges often kept their toys and waited until something emerged to play with. If he didn't like the toy they brought out he would look that way again, as if to say, "OK, nice but try again." At a show in Las Vegas, Rachel Anger, not having seen him in the past, was surprised when he jumped under her table to find a better toy. We all had a laugh because at first it appeared he was heading for the hills and then he turned to go look under her table for another toy to play with. She said, as she made him Best Kitten, "It was that drive that really shows the working ability of the American Shorthair breed."

Since the Kellogg's and Elizabeth co-own Ozzy, they took turns showing him at shows. All the crying he did with Elizabeth, while traveling, never



emerged with Carly and Heinrich. Elizabeth told Carly that there must be nothing like being home with his first momma and poppa. But in all reality, he is a gem, and it was the teamwork-attitude with Ozzy that allowed him

to grow up to be a handsome Kitten National Winner, Grand Champion and now a fine addition to the Kellogg's cattery

## Eleventh Best Kitten GC, NW PURRTEK RIESLING

Platinum Mink Tonkinese Male  
**Breeder/Owner: Beth Cassely**

*submitted by Beth Cassely*

**G**C Purrttek Riesling was a surprise from the very beginning. He was a cute kitten with a great personality and really great aqua eyes. I was already showing a cat in Championship and wasn't sure if I could show two cats, but I had to try. It's not every day you get a Tonkinese kitten ready to show for a win. He was young and I knew he was going to be good at the get-go.

Well, I took him to his first show in Richmond, Virginia; I was not sure of my "get-go." He did not do so well. I said to myself that it was his first show; he had to get his feet wet. His second show was not any better, but I knew what he was. He just had to get his feet wet or well dipped in mud.

His third show was Freestate, which was also the Tonkinese Breed show. This was the test. He went against at least eight Tonkinese kittens. He was best Tonkinese kitten and was 8th highest kitten in show, with 99 kittens.



We really were ready to go for a win. I was a busy little person – well, maybe, just little just short - because I was also running Purrtek Barolo and taking Riesling along for the ride.

Reisling just shot up in the standings and we were having fun. We could not wait for the World Show in Columbus, Ohio. He was 2nd highest scoring shorthair kitten in the Purple Show (he missed one final) and was in the Best of the Best of the Purple Show. We had over 2600 points, but, in early December, I got sick and missed two

shows. He was running out of time; on December 23, he would be eight months old. We had one show left.

So, off Bill and I went to Straight and Curl & Rainbow Plumes. That put him up there. He either had a National Win or not. We had to wait. Every weekend I would check the E-Points to see where he stood. He fell from 10th to 11th. After that, I didn't look any more I KNEW.

He was an open/champion at Stern-wheel Cat Fanciers and granded at the

end of the show. His show season was over now; his playing was with the girls – or, so I hoped. He is now living with Jane in Kansas City.

I had a lot of fun showing this boy. He has such a wonderful show personality - I wish Purrtek Barolo had taken a listen from him. Who knows you may see him next year as a young man.

I would like to thank all the judges who finaled him and his/our friends who supported us

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## Twelfth Best Kitten GC, NW D'EDEN LOVER GODIVA OF WISHES

Tortoiseshell Persian Female

**Breeder: Paolo Carnevaletti and Frederic Gaspard**

**Owner: Connie Stewart, Frederic Gaspard, and V. Boucher**

*submitted by Frederic Gaspard*

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I recall the day my friend called me to let me know the kitten's mother was at the vet for a C-section. As soon as the kittens were born, my friend told me about this tortie, saying, "She is incredible. She is your next National Winner! LOL - I smiled because she was only a few hours old – but even then, I knew she looked like a campaign kitten. I took her to shows in Europe, along with D'Eden Lover Huma, a dilute calico Persian, showing both together. Connie Stewart visited to see them. Both were loved by the judges and both won finals. So, Connie decided to take both girls back to the states and see who developed better for a run. Godiva was more mature with more coat and she became the star.

When Godiva returned to me after her campaign, she arrived with incredible coat and incredible condition. Thank you to Connie for showing her to perfection. Godiva is now a very good mother and we are very happy with her. Thanks to all the judges for supporting her at the shows and congratulations to all the winners of this year - especially to the Best Kitten of the Year!

## Thirteenth Best Kitten NW CINEMA'S OBSESSION OF WISHES

Copper-Eyed White Solid Persian Female

**Breeder: Blake Mayes and Dennis Adler**

**Owner: Connie Stewart, Blake Mayes, and Dennis Adler**

*submitted by Blake Mayes*



Dennis and I were about to leave on vacation to Mexico, for Christmas and New Years. We had two littermate sisters, a blue eyed white female and a copper eyed white female. They were about three and a half months old and I asked Connie Stewart to take care of them while we were gone. She graciously agreed. She was campaigning Chanel, who had already secured a national win, for us. Connie loved the kittens and emailed me to ask if she could put them in the Las Vegas show, the first week of January. She

was driving to the show and thought it would be fun to show them, plus as she convinced me, "It will be two extra points for Chanel." So we agreed and off they went.

Well, the results were much different than we expected. Obsession, who was 4 months to the day, beat Chanel. So, technically, Chanel became a point for Obsession. We talked back and forth and knew it was so late in the season. A National Win for Obsession was probably not going to happen, as

counts were falling by the weekend. However, Chanel had already secured a National Win, so why not give it a try. Pull Chanel and not go any higher with her points and start showing this little kitten we'd named Obsession.

The gamble worked, as for the next 5 weekends Obsession would be highest scoring kitten in every show, making multiple best kittens and go best across by board at one show. By the time she turned five months she had amassed enough points to secure a national win. It was thrilling to watch this little tiny kitten go into the shows and have to compete with seven month old males and come out on top. Connie showed her in a few more shows, but the count was gone. So at five and half months she went home, ending her Kitten career. In just six short weeks she had climbed all the way to 13th. It all happened so fast it was hard to keep up with her momentum and how fast she was climbing up the score board.

On the day she turned eight months she was a one show grand and she still continues to amaze us with her quality. Her campaign was not planned nor expected. We couldn't believe what was happening; it was surreal that we could end up with two kittens in the top 25, but it did happen and we had our best year ever.

We cannot thank Connie Stewart enough for everything she did. Connie, your dedication to the cats is amazing. You have my highest respect for the incredible work ethic you display, daily.

# Fourteenth Best Kitten GC, NW DANDYBLUE MR WONDERWORLD

Blue British Shorthair Male

**Breeder: Lyudmila and Mike Menshov**

**Owner: Paul and Ginger Meeker**

*submitted by Paul and Ginger Meeker*

toy. He never stopped eating and never had an accident!

It only seemed fair that Wonde be kept in Region 1 for his Kitten career so Mike and Lucy might enjoy a nice Regional win, if all worked out. They had been most generous in their trust in us and as a group we kept in touch and cheered Wonde to almost 2700 points and his National Win! At his last kitten show, the CFA World Show, he tied for Best BSH Kitten in the purple show with Stonehaven Usher of Chelsea Rose, who also went on to obtain a National Win.

Wonde would like to congratulate the other two British Shorthair kittens making National Wins this season, Stonehaven Usher of Chelsea Rose and Stonehaven Jubilee of Chelsea Rose. It's been a great season watching the Brit kittens compete, grow and develop!

After finishing the NW campaign in Kitten class, Wonde formally went into Region 2 and earned his Grand title and also a Regional Win in Championship this year. Wonde has remained a lovable fun male and continues to make us laugh daily.

Special thanks to Mike and Lucy Menshov for breeding this fine boy, to John and Robin Beckett who bred Wonde's mom and cheered for us along the way! Also thanks to all the folks who wished us well as Wonde traveled from show to show and performed admirably! We appreciate the support and hope the other exhibitors in kitten class felt our support in return.

The words of Uriah Heep's song, "Wonderworld", seem to catch the essence of this show season for us. From the lyrics of "Wonderworld:" "We freely speak of dreams, we marvel at what they conceal. But in my Wonderworld each sleeping vision is so real. So I believe and hope that all the things I see, may one day bring such truth and peace as we can feel."



As this is the year for the Lewis and Clark Adventure "...Head West," that's exactly and appropriately what happened with GC, NW Dandyblue Mr. Wonderworld, aka "Wonde." Wonde started out in West Paterson, NJ and ended up in Idaho! With Region 2 hosting this Annual and Ginger Meeker as Regional Director, it all seems so fitting and proper. While campaigning a blue-cream British Shorthair Premier, Paul Meeker began to admire a beautiful blue male British Shorthair Kitten being shown by Mike and Lucy Menshov. They had been benched together a couple weeks in a row and had an on-going conversation about how lovely the kitten was. Paul was asked if he liked the kitten and made a comment "I love him and I'd take him home in a heartbeat!" In

a week or so, "Wonde", named after a Uriah Heep song, was flying home from the Richmond, VA show with Paul and GP, NW Castlkatz Luna Lovegood!

As a six-month old kitten, Wonde flew to Idaho, on September 10, 2012, and made friends quickly with all the Castlkatz Brits. At this point in the show season, Wonde had about 1200 points and Premiership show counts were not particularly good for Luna. So, Paul headed out with Wonde to see what he could accomplish in Kitten class with this absolutely adorable BSH blue male kitten. Wonde traveled like a dream and really enjoyed the show scene, and traveling - especially racing around hotel rooms and playing with his frog



## Fifteenth Best Kitten GC, NW PURRMATIX SILVER BULLET

Ebony Silver Tabby Oriental Longhair Male

**Breeder: Terrie Smith**

**Owner: Terrie and Bruce Smith**

*submitted by Terrie Smith*

Silver Bullet is nicknamed “Coorey,” as Coors is the silver bullet beer! Coorey was out of a breeding between a lovely Finnish import, CH Noxx Rockin’Rosie of Purrmatrix, DM, bred to GC, BW, NW Purrmatrix Headline News, DM. Even more exciting, all of the kittens in this litter graded, making Rosie the very first one litter Distinguished Merit Oriental Longhair Dam!

Coorey did not start out as Terrie’s “pick” kitten. In fact, at first he was third pick, but as the kittens matured,

it was Coorey that matured first. Terrie decided after he made five finals as a four-month old at his first show, the World Show, that he would be the one to campaign. Coorey has what many judges described as the best coat they have ever seen on an Oriental Longhair. His silver ticked pattern is clear and free of any tarnishing. His eyes are emerald green and beautifully slanted, giving him an alluring “sexy” expression that Terrie loves! His body goes on forever, and he has long, tall legs, with an amazingly long, fluffy tail!

Terrie was also showing Huey in Championship, and both boys could not fly together, so Terrie left Huey home for six weeks to try to see if she could get a National Win on Coorey as well. It was a tough decision that ended up a little bitter-sweet as Huey fell from 4th Best Cat to 16th during those weeks. The good news was that Coorey took off and did very well at almost every show he attended, including making seven out of eight finals in San Diego!

After he was securely in, Terrie picked up with Huey and got him back up a bit in the standings. “Coorey” leveled out at 15th. Terrie then started to see if she could make a little more history by grading the whole litter – and one by one they all graded! The entire litter graded very quickly, with Coorey being a one-show Grand at the Cats Incredible show!

It has been an amazing season for Terrie, one she will never forget! She would like to thank all of the judges who supported Coorey. He will be shown again, as she just can’t leave this special boy home! He has already sired kittens, and has proven to be a cinnamon carrier, giving Terrie her first cinnamon silver kitten! Terrie would also like to thank her friends for their support, especially Nina-Maria Tigerstedt from Finland who gave her Coorey’s mother. Terrie had a blast showing with all of her amazing CFA family! What a fun year!

## Sixteenth Best Kitten NW STONEHAVEN JUBILEE OF CHELSEA ROSE

Blue British Shorthair Female

**Breeder: Barbara Sinbine**

**Owner: Tina and Joan Patrone and Cynthia Byrd and Andrea Bohren**

*submitted by Tina Patrone*

NW Stonehaven Jubilee of Chelsea Rose is the fourth National Winning British Shorthair Kitten for my mom, Joan, and me. “JuJuB,” as she became known, lives up to the adage that sometimes great things come in small packages.

JuJuB came to us from Cyndy Byrd and Andrea Bohren of Chelsea Rose cattery. They have had a great friendship with Barbara Sinbine of Stonehaven cattery through the years. Barbara decided that this year would be the last

for her breeding program and that she was going to breed her females one last time. It was out of one of these litters that Cyndy and Andrea chose JuJuB.

From the start of her Kitten career in August, JuJuB’s type could not be denied. Her huge, round, copper eyes, her thick pale-blue coat and her perfect balance, more than made up for her size. Cyndy and Andrea showed her on the west coast in her first three shows and she did very well, even making all the finals at the highly competitive Santa Monica Cat Club show. Cyndy



flew to the Rochester, New York show the first week in September, so JuJu could meet and go home with her east-coast moms. Through September, October and November, JuJuB continued

her winning ways. Mom and I were delighted with her love of the shows, although we lost count of how many bags of freeze-dried chicken treats we bought to keep her habit fed.

The first week in November was a highlight for Mom, as she finally got to experience Cotton States for the first time. JuJuB's last show with Mom and me would be the World Show, in Columbus, Ohio. It was very exciting because it would be the first time that all of JuJuB's moms, east-coast and west) would be together, including her first mom, Barbara. What fun we had watching JuJuB make finals in the Red Show and her very handsome younger half-brother, GC, NW Usher of Chelsea Rose, jump-start his national kitten win with finals in the Purple Show! At the end of the show, Mom and I had a very tearful good-bye, as JuJu went home with her west-coast moms.

Mom and I would like to thank Cyndy and Andrea for giving us a chance to show and love another beautiful Brit kitten. To Barbara: what a way to end one of the best British Shorthair breeding programs, with two National Kitten wins. Also, a huge thank you to all of the judges who supported little JuJuB. To sister Teresa: Mom and I could not have done it without you. What a year for the Brit's with five National Wins!

## Seventeenth Best Kitten GC, NW TOXICATE TINKER TOY

Black-White Exotic Male

**Breeder: Tracey Dalton**

**Owner: Tracey Dalton and S. Friemoth**

*submitted by Tracy Dalton and Lee Harper*

**M**y name is Tracey Dalton. My cattery name is Toxicate I specialize in raising quality Exotics and show exclusively in CFA. My homebred kitten, GC, NW Toxicate Tinker Toy was CFA's 17th Best Kitten for 2012-2013. I call him "Tink" for short—and this is his story

Tink's story actually begins long before his birth. You see, I never intended to be a cat breeder. I was just cat crazy

from a young age and enjoyed going to shows to admire all the wonderful cats. When I was 18, I bought my first Persian—an adorable pet calico. When I moved to California, I eagerly attended the San Diego Cat Show in Del Mar. I will NEVER forget my first experience with an Exotic. I walked by a cat cage, saw this Persian that had a short coat—looked at the breeder—and freaked out asking, WHAT'S THAT?

That was my introduction to Jeanne Snyder Scholz of Purfurvid Cattery. I bought my first Exotics from Jeanne. Then I met Penni Richter of Parti Wai Ex and got a cat from her too. Knowing full well that these two breeders lived close to each other, I never told either that I was buying cats from the other. I didn't want to hurt their feelings. Little did I know that they were friends and talked about me being their 'groupy'. This went on for a few years, until one day, Penni said NO MORE. I will sell you NO MORE cats until you start showing. She told me that the quality of the kitty that I wanted was more than she was willing to sell me unless I started to show.

Showing? Why in the world would I want to do that? I just could not comprehend why any pet person would become involved in showing, but since I wanted more cats, I agreed to start showing.

In 2009, I granded my first show cat, GP Sunsoar David Dinky Dinkleman. It only took a few shows to grand him. I was hooked. I wondered, could I show a cat all the way to a national win?

In 2009-2010, I showed my calico Exotic, GP, NW Parti Wai Ex Trava-gant to 8th Best Cat in Premiership. During that same season I also showed GC, NW Steeplechase Kaboodle to a national kitten win and GC, RW Can-dirand's Dream A'While to a regional win. What a year!

Having campaigned all three kitties, I now had nothing to show for the next season . . .

At our regional show, Jeanne brought her open cat to the show and he took Best of Breed in several of the rings. I immediately pounced and told her that he was my next cat to show. I cam-paigned GC, NW Purfurvid Tommy Gun of Toxicate to 18th Best Cat in Championship. At the same time I showed my premiership cat, GC, NW Calivan's Panda Bear of Toxicate, to a National Win too.

I knew that I was not going to be able to keep buying national quality cats to show indefinitely. I figured that I really needed to start producing my own show kitties. I discussed my situation with Jeanne and she agreed that if I wanted to start breeding, she would birth my cats while I was showing. Jeanne gave me Purfurvid Tick Tock of Toxicate and I bred her to my boy GC, NW Purfurvid Tommy Gun of Toxi-cate and got a dream baby—GC, RW Toxicate Nat Win Cho. "Natty Win" was Toxicate's first Regional Winner and my first homebred Grand Cham-pion. I was a very proud momma.



It was my first year of breeding, so I had no idea what to expect when I next bred Kissables Kiss Me Kate to GC Calivan's Caesar.

As Kate went into labor, out popped this bug-eyed little boy that was so precious I spent most of my time watching with amazement as he grew up. He just kept getting better and better and better. I named him Tinker Toy, Tink for short.

Because I have had so little experi-ence as a breeder, I found it difficult to believe when Tink kept develop-ing so nicely. I was waiting for him to fall apart. I kept thinking to myself, I wonder if "he" is going to be my next show cat?

6 weeks . . . 8 weeks . . . 12 weeks . . . 14 weeks . . . and he stayed together like a little 'box car'.

The time came when we were ready for our first show. It was scary wondering if the judges would see the same thing in Tink that I saw. We traveled to the Cat-a-Lina Cat Club show in Las Vegas and he made three finals! Woo Hoo!

Not bad for his first show with 67 present! I was so excited.

Off to his next show, the Houston Cat Club in Texas, where Tink made seven out of the eight finals, 3rd highest scoring kitten in show with 60 kittens present.

Lucky Tomcat was his next show where there were 80 kittens and he made six out of eight finals. That was it—I was sure I could get a regional win on this kitten. I was ecstatic!

Tink had a lot of personality. At one of his first shows, he positioned himself at the front of the cage with his front paws up in the air curled around the bars—sitting straight up. Tink would sit there the entire time waiting for his turn to be judged. It was so cute! He was definitely the talk of the ring.

I just told everyone that the weekend was his time to go to church and he needed to pray for what he wanted the most. And let's not forget the Tink kisses. He kissed everybody and every-one. He kissed the judges the most. He knew who to schmooze. Fun. Fun. Fun.

The beginning of February, Tink had his first Best In Show at the Miami Cat Fanciers show, Lakeland, Florida. He went on to have three more Bests In Show in February. Now the pressure was building. People were starting to talk. Could Tink be a National Winner?

It was almost season's end. The top Kittens in the national standings had been there awhile. With Kitten counts falling at the end of the season, most people assumed that it was too late for a new Kitten to climb into the top 25. Could Tink make it? I didn't think so. I felt like perhaps we were reaching too high.

We continued to scout out the shows—hoping and praying for large Kitten count. We were pleasantly surprised over and over again. I will never forget telling judge Donna Jean Thompson, as she made Tink her Best Kitten, that her final gave him the points that moved him into the top 25. I watched him continue to climb up the National standings, and was astounded that he was actually all mine!

On March 24, 2013 at the CFA Northshore Cat Club Show in Wheaton, IL, Tink became a one show Grand. He was immediately retired from the show ring . . . and took up stud-cat duties.

By the end of the show season, Tink was CFA's 17th Best Kitten for 2012-2013. It was exciting . . . and nerve-racking. GC, NW Toxicate Tinker Toy was my first homebred national winning kitten! What an incredible time we had together—this chunky, flashy, incredible zot kitten and I. Of course, what I am going to remember most about the campaign is Tink praying for a final at every show. His prayers (and mine) were answered.

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**M**y journey with Cora Belle started at the Gems show, in September 2012. Gina and I had talked about this “cute, little girl” she was planning to show there, so I had requested her for benching. When I saw that cute little face staring back at me, I melted. I had just started showing Ella (GC, NW Mikkat Donatella of Lox-Nott) at the time and I remember catching myself thinking, “Well, what's one more, right?” A few short weeks later, Gina met me at the Freestate Cat Fanciers show to deliver Ms. Cora Bella.

Cora and Ella were instant best buds, whether Cora wanted to be or not. In the beginning, Ella treated Cora like her own, personal, stuffed toy. This was NOT as a true Southern Belle should be treated and Cora quickly reminded Ella of that. Since then Cora and Ella have been inseparable and were the best of traveling companions. Cora soon climbed the ranks as quickly as Ella did and while not content playing second fiddle, she was more than happy to sit on the toilet and snicker at Ella during her show baths.

There were so many people who were drawn to Cora, as I was when I first met her, but only one had me worried. At the 2012 Indy show, All Breed

## **Eighteenth Best Kitten GC, NW COTN HILL CORA BELLE OF SOPHINE**

Brown Patched Mackerel Tabby and White Exotic Female

**Breeder: Gina Hargett and Colby Hollis**

**Owner: Gina Hargett and Sophia Staples**

*submitted by Sophia Staples*





Judge, Ken Currle, judged her and then all of a sudden picked her up and walked to the window of the hall to have a conversation for a few minutes. I remember worrying the entire time whether or not he was going to come back with her and how was I ever go-

ing to explain that to Gina; I can just imagine the phone call. He did bring her back, much to my relief.

Cora finished her kitten career as 18th Best Kitten Nationally and 3rd Best Kitten in the Southern Region. She

also went on to receive her Grand Champion title in ONE show! To Gina & Colby: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share in this win with our Ms. Cora Belle and for the years of friendship

Looking back at how we ended up in the top 25 with Chanel is still something I can't believe. I had a little, tortie kitten I was so excited about. I just knew she was "the one" and I talked to Connie Stewart about her all the time. Connie asked that I snap a few shots of other kittens we had; I did and emailed them to her. Her reply was "I want that white female." I kept pushing the tortie at her, but soon realized that she was not going to take "No" for an answer.

So, when Chanel was three months old, I jumped the car and made the 14 hour trip to Connie's house to drop off Chanel and left, hoping we'd made the right choice. Apparently we did. Chanel began showing at four months of age and was a big winner at every show she went to.

We were thrilled when she was second highest scoring long hair in World Show, red show - not bad for a five-month old kitten. Dennis met Connie at each show. We kept very involved in Chanel's campaign and watched her rack up points every weekend. By the time she was six months old she already had enough points to secure a National Win and I sat back and smiled, knowing it might have been a

different year for us, had I not sent the photo of the little white girl.

Chanel was not shown past six months; there was no reason to. So, she got to take a few months off, before granding as an adult. Now,

she is the queen of the house and is expecting her first litter next month. And - what about the torite? Well, I kept loving her and showed her myself. She went on to become the Best Parti-Color Persian in CFA this year.

## Nineteenth Best Kitten GC, NW CINEMA'S CHANEL OF WISHES

Copper-Eyed White Solid Persian Female

**Breeder: Blake Mayes and Dennis Adler**

**Owner: Blake Mayes, Dennis Adler, and Connie Stewart**

*submitted by Blake Mayes*



## Twentieth Best Kitten GC, NW STONEHAVEN USHER OF CHELSEA ROSE

Blue British Shorthair Male

**Breeder: Barbara Sinbine and Diana and Bob Belfatto**

**Owner: Cynthia Byrd and Andrea Bohren**

*submitted by Cynthia Byrd*

Usher was a wonderful, little show fellow. He loved the shows, the hotels, even security at the airport. Like all great show-cats, he loved the attention. Early in his career, he competed in the World Show and tied with 14th Best Kitten, GC, NW Dandyblue Mr. Wonderworld, for Best British kitten, beating his half-sister, 16th Best Kitten, NW Stonehaven Jubilee of

Chelsea Rose, who we thought would be the star.

His career went on from there, with several trips to very cold places – which is not so good for kittens from Florida/California and people from California. Who knew you should open the back door of the car first, when the car is piled with snow? It was a lesson we learned after spending a day with cold, wet pants. Who knew that you should not wear clogs – even if they were fleece lined – in snow? Cold feet teach a valuable lesson. We even experienced our more cold-weather-experienced friends laughing at our technique, while scraping the windshield and brushing the snow off the car. Really, you people? Cali-girls do not do snow.

It was a wonderful time, traveling, enjoying good friends, cheering on our Brit friends, supporting our special friends, Tina and Joan, and Penni and her COTY “Potsy.” Come to think of it, isn’t it all about friends – both human and feline?



## Twenty-first Best Kitten GC, NW ENKO SEEDIQ BALE

Silver Mackerel Tabby and White Maine Coon Male

**Breeder/Owner: Amanda Cheng**

*submitted by Amanda Cheng*

In 2006, I attended the first CFA 8-ring show in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and saw the Maine Coon of Felis Wonder. The beauty and the gentleness of this breed immediately impressed me. I offered to help Jimmy Lee of Felis Wonder show his male GC, DW Felis Wonder Lee Simon, who was the 2006-2007 2nd Best Cat in CFA’s International Division and CFA’s 10th Best Maine Coon, in China.

Later, in 2007, I acquired my first Maine Coon female, CH Felis Wonder SaiSee, and only male, GC, RW Versus Ice Dive Ferego Jr., from Japan. Ferego was the 2006-2007 Best Kitten in Japan. I keep my breeding program

very small. I only have 3 breeding cats, and work together with Felis Wonder cattery. I had my first DM female in 2011, CH Enko Snow Flake of Felis Wonder, DM. Together, Jimmy Lee and I have shown and promoted the Maine Coon breed in China, Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Philippines. We are proud to say the breed has gained very strong recognition in all of these countries.

I first showed Enko Seediq Bale in Guangzhou when he was just four months old and we won Best of Breed. After that, I showed him in



Malaysia and Thailand where he did very well. I decided to pursue his show career to see how good he was and headed for the Dayton Cat Fanciers show, in the US. It was a big show and he gained a considerable number of points there. After the Dayton show, he was shown in the Purple Show of CFA's World Show, where he was the Best Maine Coon Kitten and 3rd Best Kitten in Show.

We flew off the Frankfurt show and rented a car to drive to the Italy show. My husband, Kevin Lin, was with me all the while during the showing of Bale. Bale is a very happy, travelling cat and was always beside us in the airplane cabin and during the drive to Italy. He enjoys sleeping with us at all times. We are very proud of him because he has brought further recognition to the Maine Coon, in Asia.

My appreciation and thanks go to all the judges who have handled and loved him in their rings. Last, but not the least, my greatest appreciation and deepest thanks to my mentors and friends, Jimmy Lee and Yoko Noguchi, for letting me have my first Maine Coon.

## **Twenty-second Best Kitten GC, NW JAZZBLUES JACK BROWN**

Brown Tabby-White American Wirehair Male  
**Breeder: Yanting Xu and Lixiang and Amanda Cheng**  
**Owner: Dawn and Mike Skupin**



“Jack” as he is affectionately called, is the first Chinese bred National Winning Kitten.

Dawn has had a few previous dealings with Lixiang and, when she spotted the kittens picture on Lixiang's Facebook page at the age of ten days, she asked Lixiang for the kitten. Dawn has had two previous National Winning Ameri-

can Wirehair kittens in the previous two seasons and needed another to further her breeding program. The idea of bringing Jack to the US was put on the back burner until Dawn and Mike went to the Dayton show in November. Lo and behold, the kitten Dawn requested from Lixiang, appeared at the show! Dawn was quite surprised

as Lixiang did not notify her that the kitten was coming to the show. Dawn made arrangements to bring the kitten home. Jack was not shown at the Dayton show as he was just a little, tiny baby and was really exhausted from the long trip the day before.

Jack's first show in the US was the CFA World Show where he made four finals. From that point on, we were off and running. Jack made many, many Best Kitten finals. Dawn never kept track of his points, from week to week, as she knew she was playing catch-up to the top 25 Kittens and it would be hard to make it in. Jack did not even compete in shows the last couple of weekends of his season, as the counts dropped so quickly. We never set out to beat this cat or that cat, just to get in, and get in we did!

Dawn and Mike would like to thank Jack's breeders for sending such a high-quality kitten to the US. We would also like to thank John Hiemstra for assisting with “Campaign Duty” for several shows. Many thanks to the judges who used Jack in their finals.

## Twenty-third Best Kitten GC, NW TSAR BLU'S ZNOWMAN

Russian Blue Male

**Breeder/Owner: Donna Fuller**

*Submitted by Donna Fuller*



**H**is sire is GC, BW, NW Tsar Blu's Zinatra, DM who was CFA's 3rd Best Kitten and 6th Best Cat in 2001. His dam is GC, RW Valnika's Magnolia of Tsar Blu, a beautiful, little, outcross-girl, purchased specifically for Zinatra. Znowman is also CFA Northwest Region's 3rd Best Kitten and Best Russian Blue for 2013.

Znowman's National win was sort of an accident – but of the nicest kind. When he was a tiny kitten, I decided that he was the best of the litter, but didn't have any particular plans for showing him a lot. However, there were five shows that I wanted to attend in November and December and he was the only thing I had that was in show-shape. The five shows were: The World Show (I'd not been before.); a show in Southern California that was in a fun location with a great hotel; the Phoenix, Arizona and Lebanon, Pennsylvania Christmas shows (both always

a LOT of fun); and the New Years weekend show in Las Vegas (one of my very favorite locations!).

He finished his forty rings in Las Vegas and was in the top 25 at that point, but I was sure he wouldn't hold that placement with the January counts, yet to come. As I was judging the following five weeks in succession, I was resigned to coming close but not making it as he would age out before I could next show him.

However, my friend Connie Stewart couldn't stand the thought of him coming so close and not making it. So she offered to take him to whatever shows she could in January. The two weekends that worked out for her and Znowman were the third weekend in Cleveland, Ohio (a 6 by 6 show) and the San Diego Cat Fanciers show the last weekend. Each of these two shows involved some drama – surprise,

surprise. At the Cleveland show, all went well until the trip home when Connie forgot to re-zip the divider in the double-Sturdi and Znowman had a white Persian pillow all the way home – a fact that Connie didn't discover until Monday, when she was getting the carrier ready for the next trip. The highest drama was in San Diego when Connie thought someone had taken Znowman out of his exhibition cage! She had the entire showhall looking for him and spectators were being watched to be sure no one left the hall with him. Eventually, he was found --- in a judging ring where he'd been left past his class-judging time. Never a dull moment with Connie! Many, MANY THANKS to Connie, as without the points gained at those last two shows we would not have stayed in for the NW.

Znowman has two major claims to fame: first is his exceptional coat – very dense, silky and plush with pale color and very even silver tipping all over – he just glows! This combined with his overall balance – nothing too extreme but everything put together just right – made him an easy choice for many judges. Second is his personality -- he is super-sweet and easy-to-handle. He loved being handled by anyone and purred for all the attention he could get – even when he was being judged! He loved to try to play with whatever cat was in the next judging cage and never got upset at anything – I never saw him hiss!

A big thanks to all the judges who finalized him and to the other exhibitors who made this short campaign a lot of fun.

## Twenty-fourth Best Kitten GC, NW MORO N'VISION OF CUZZOE

Black Solid Persian Female

**Breeder: Anne Nenin and Roberta Canal**

**Owner: Justin Pelletier, Eric Valencia and Anne Nenin**

*Submitted by Justin Pelletier*

**G**C, NW Moro N'Vision of Cuzzoe is our third National Winning kitten to come from Anne Nenin, of Moro Cattery, in Belgium. She is also the third National Winner out of the fabulous combination that produced GC, NW Moro Allure of Cuzzoe from 2012 and GC, NW Moro Little Boy Junior of Cuzzoe from 2011. "Vivi", as we call her, was named after her incredible mother GC, DW Kuorii N'Vougue of Moro.

Vivi always gives you that look that melts your heart. She has the sweetest expression and a darling personality. One thing we like most about her structure was her top head. You can see, from across the room, how round and high it is. We always got a kick out of watching a judge handle her for the first time. They couldn't help but smile as they discovered she felt as good as she looked.

We had a lot of fun with Vivi, and enjoyed traveling the country together. One of her first shows, at four months old, was the CFA World Show, which was a very memorable experience. From there we traveled all up and down the East Coast, and even into the Mid-West a couple of times. Vivi



made multiple Best Kitten finals and was highest scoring Kitten in a few shows. One of those shows won her the coveted Mona Cherrington Memorial Award just like her sister, Allure, the year before. Vivi finished her show career close to home, going from Open to Grand Champion at a 6 by 6 show here in Raleigh, NC.

Vivi is now loved and cared for in Belgium, where we hope she will soon begin a new career...motherhood. We happily share her National Win as CFA's 24th Best Kitten with our dear friend, Anne Nenin. Over the years, our friendship has grown into a family and we look forward to many more family endeavors together, and with our cats and CFA

All in all, it was a very competitive show season for kittens. Such wonderful kittens promise a very competitive 2013-2014 show season and beyond.

*(Note: no articles were received for Fifth and Twenty-fifth Best Kitten.)*