

CFA's Top 25 Cats in CHAMPIONSHIP 2013-2014

by Claire Dubit

Showing a cat in championship to a top 25 win is no easy feat! With thousands of cats showing in 328 shows worldwide, earning the title of "National Winner" takes real dedication.

Top competitors show almost every weekend of the year. They travel thou-

sands of miles with their beautiful cats, by car and often by plane. Often they must travel from the time they get off work on a Friday through to Monday morning! It is not for the faint of heart! But to have a "National Winner" is worth all the time, effort and

expense for it is breeders' and owners' dreams come true.

Here are the stories of these beautiful cats on their journey to becoming CFA's National Winning Championship cats for the 2013-2014 show year.

Best Cat in Championship GC, NW, BW BELAMY'S DESIDERATA OF CINEMA

Calico Persian Female

Breeder: Monika Vowe

Owner: Connie Stewart, Blake Mayes, Dennis Adler

Submitted by by Blake Mayes

Dennis and I received a call in April of 2013 from our good friend Connie Stewart. She was attending a show in Europe and told us she had seen a calico that was maybe one of the best cats she'd ever seen. We listened with interest because of how excited Connie was about this calico. We decided to look her up on CFA's Herman and were shocked to see that she was a one show grand with 680 points! We both became very interested in her, so when Connie called me two weeks later to tell us the cat could be purchased we didn't hesitate. Within a few emails the deal was done, money wired and just like that Desi was ours.

Now the question was what to do with her? Dennis and I already co-owned a white male with Connie that we were campaigning nationally. He was our breeding, and we felt one of the best cats we'd bred. Now, we were faced with showing two adults at the same time. We were nervous, but decided we were up for the challenge.

The plan was simple, or so we thought.



Desi would fly from Germany to Los Angeles. I would fly from Boise to Los Angeles the same day and arrive around the same time. Connie would pick me up at the airport, we'd

collect Desi and I would fly back to Boise. Desi would have a few days off and then join Valentino and I at what would be her first show. Easy enough.

I arrived in Los Angeles as scheduled, went to curb side and called Connie. No answer. After an hour I knew something was wrong. Dennis and I began calling anyone we could think of. Finally Dennis called me back with the horrible news he had received from Connie's house keeper. Connie was ill and unable to come to the airport.

I was on my own and didn't know what to do, but since Desi was coming from Germany I figured Lufthansa airline was a good place to start. The person at the counter confirmed that Desi had arrived and was at cargo, which was a few miles away. I rented a car and a GPS and found the cargo office. Desi was there, but she was in Connie's name and they could not release her to me. Worse yet, she would be going to a shelter at 5:00 pm and returned to Germany the following day. I was in a full panic! Our only hope was the breeder, Monika Vowe in Germany who would have to change the air bill from Connie's name to mine. I was down to a four hours before 5:00 pm. Monika called Lufthansa and thru a German translator they began the process of changing the International air bill from Connie's name to mine. Finally at 4:30 pm the paperwork was done, but I still had to go to US Customs which was a few miles away. Racing against the clock, I received the stamp I needed, raced back to Lufthansa and claimed Desi at 4:59 pm. I could not believe we'd made it.

Desi and I flew back to Boise the following morning with only one day rest now. Friday morning Desi, Valentino and I were on a plane headed to Kentucky. Desi handled the whole ordeal with ease and was highest scoring cat at the show. I began showing Desi and Valentino every weekend and it didn't take long to realize what a special cat Desi was. Word quickly went around the world about "the calico" and soon she had a large fan club. It was incredible to go to a show and have so many exhibitors come up to me and want to see or touch her. It was one of the best experiences of our entire show career in CFA.

At the end of July Connie took the two cats and began her time with them both. Dennis and I stood by and every Friday afternoon would check the CFA epoints for the latest results. The weekend Desi pulled ahead of Valentino in the national standings Dennis and I decided we needed to sit down and decide what we were going to do. I think it must be every breeders dream to produce COTY and we are no exception. By this time Valentino had a legitimate shot at COTY, but there was one major obstacle standing in his way -----Desi. We discussed it at length with Connie and ultimately made the decision to just keep showing them both together and leave it up to the judges. It soon became clear. Desi was destined for COTY and she began pulling away from the pack, and each week moved farther and farther ahead. It was amazing to watch and even better to be a part of it.

Looking back at the season there were so many highlights of Desi's campaign. She was Best of the Best at the world show and went Best cat across the board at multiple shows. She obtained Best cat in 212 rings to count. She was the one cat that everyone dreams of having. Not only was she absolute perfection by the standard but was a true show cat. As exhibitors we all have our little "tricks" to help a cat look as good as we can in a ring. However, Desi never really needed anything. She carried huge coat factor, and great weight. She never closed her eyes, never licked her ruff, and never got upset or sick of the shows. Desi just did everything you'd want or hope a show cat to do.

Of all her accomplishments our favorite memory of Desi will always be watching her being judged, while we stood in the back, behind all the exhibitors and spectators. There are so many competitive personalities in the show hall and everyone is there to compete and show their cat. However, when Desi was on the judging table everyone was quiet and watched her being evaluated. Dennis and I always stood in the back and watched the crowd. It was as if everyone just knew how special she

was and they all wanted to see her. It was a humbling experience to know we were in some small way a part of a history making year in CFA. Exhibitors who we had known and respected for years would ask to just touch her or take her photo. Personalities aside, everyone collectively knew she was one in million and everyone seemed to want to be part of it. Desi's campaign and rise to the number one spot was smooth and without issue. She effortlessly moved into the number one spot and stayed there until the very end of the season well ahead of the pack.

I attended a show in March in Los Angeles called Sushi Cats. I was there to get grand points on a champion, but mostly I went to see Connie and Desi. Taking Desi back from a judging ring I realized she had started to cycle. Connie, Dennis and I had decided we would never risk her breeding future regardless of where she stood nationally. Desi had over 9200 points and could not be caught. We knew it was time to be done. It was an emotional weekend that we did not plan, but we knew it was time. She went best across the board and Connie said good bye to her calico buddy Desi. I took her home and a few days later Dennis and I shaved her magnificent coat. She cycled back a few weeks later and as I write this article we wait impatiently for the three weeks to go by to see if Desi "pinks" up.

As I sit here and write this article about Desi and all that happened this year, both Dennis and I still have a hard time getting our mind wrapped around it all. So many wonderful things happened. So many new friends made and wonderful experiences. So many life long and life changing events and new memories. What a year we had. It's absolutely not what we had planned in the beginning, but so much more than we dreamed in the end.

To Monika Vowe, thank you for trusting us with Desi.

My husband Dennis, Connie Stewart, and Cinema Persians: WE DID IT!!!!

Second Best Cat in Championship GC, BW, NW CINEMA'S VALENTINO OF WISHES

Copper-Eyed White Persian Female

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

Submitted by by Blake Mayes

Dennis and I purchased an adult tortie named Topcattery Confetti of Cinema specifically to breed to our male GRC, NW, BW Artemis Stardust Memory of Cinema, and anxiously awaited her first litter. Unfortunately, after three failed pregnancies we knew it was probably time to spay her and find her a good pet home. Plans were made to have her spayed; however before her appointment date we realized she was pregnant. To our surprise she carried this litter to term and delivered one kitten, a white male who was very small and not thriving. Dennis decided he would do whatever it took and dedicated all his time for the next several months to supplementing the kitten around the clock. His hard work paid off, and by the time the kitten was 12 weeks old he was doing great and looking even better. At the time we thought we did not need another male and started offering him for sale to a few breeders, all turned him down. At one point I even offered to give him to another breeder for free and she too turned him down. We didn't realize at the time just how lucky that was for us. With no one interested we decided we would keep him until he was an adult and show him.

By the time Valentino was 5 months he was looking very promising. By six months even better and by the time he turned 7 months we knew we had something extra special. He was changing daily and we were amazed at how well he was coming together. Valentino turned eight months May 1st and we decided to take him to a one day show in Georgia to see what he could do. He was an open and we were hoping for a one show grand. He did far more than just grand. He made multiple best cats and was also highest



scoring cat in show. With the excitement of his first show we partnered with our friend Connie Stewart and hit the campaign trail.

Valentino's success was immediate and he quickly went to the top spot in CFA epoints. It was thrilling to show him and be part of his immediate success. Sometimes it was even a little emotional to see him achieve best cat or highest scoring cat in a show knowing how tough his early kitten days had been. I often think back to the around the clock nights Dennis spent with Valentino and all his hard work. Without Dennis' commitment to Valentino things would have been very different. I also often think back to the little scrawny kitten that nobody wanted. It still bothers me to think how close we came to parting with him. Neither of us could imagine at the time what he

would turn into, or how far he would go.

As the show season progressed, the other cat we were showing was a calico named GRC NW BW Belamy's Desiderata of Cinema. Desi had pulled ahead of the pack and was the front runner for cat of the year (COTY). Originally we had high hopes of COTY for Valentino, but now realized he had a shot at the breed win and second best cat. At the time it seemed unrealistic for Valentino to also take the second spot, but it seemed within reach and we knew we had to go for it. With Valentino in third place, we turned all our focus to trying to get him into second and secure the breed win. Every show and every placement counted. It was absolutely nerve wracking for those last six weeks of the show season.

Valentino seemed to blossom the last few months. He had come into full coat and weight. He seemed to really be enjoying the shows and showed himself off well for the judges. It was as though it was “his time” and he was unstoppable. He was doing really well at each show and adding major points to his total each weekend. During his show career it was as if Valentino had taken a back seat to Desi, but now he effortlessly went center stage and it was his time to shine.

Two weeks before the season ended, Valentino had obtained enough points to move into second place and secure the breed win. It was a thrilling week-

end. We had such high hopes for him and he accomplished them all.

Valentino showed the entire season starting with his first show as an open in Georgia. He performed well every weekend and handled himself like a true show cat. Dennis and I were lucky enough to have had the opportunity to show him for the first three months, but after his co-owner Connie took over, his campaign elevated to a completely different level. I will never be able to thank Connie enough for everything she did for Valentino this season.

Valentino is the son of our male GC, NW, BW Artemis Stardust Memory of

Cinema (Duster). Dennis and I have personally always felt that Duster is a very rare gem. He is the foundation of our entire breeding program and we have always been aware of how lucky we were to have him. Although he’s still going strong we have remained aware of the need to start thinking of keeping one of his son’s to ensure the continued lineage in our breeding program. As coincidence would have it, exactly 10 years ago in 2004 Duster was also second best cat in CFA and achieved the title of breed winner as well. What a wonderful end to Valentino’s campaign to follow so closely in Dusters history to obtain the exact same title 10 years later. It could not be more perfect.

Third Best Cat in Championship
GC, NW BOBERAN’S MY FAIR LADY OF LOX-NOTT
Copper-Eyed White Persian Female
Breeder: Randy Primmer and Robert Farber
Owner: Yooni & Sophia Staples, Randy Primmer, and Robert Farber
Submitted by Sophia Staples

You may know her as GC, NW Boberan’s My Fair Lady but to us, she is just sweet Mya. The first night I saw Mya it was a cold, wintery night in Iowa when this little white ball of fluff came bounding out of a carrier. Bob Farber and Randy Primmer had brought her over to the hotel and I couldn’t be happier when I saw her. She was young but I saw so much potential there, I had no idea I was in for a very long ride.

Showing a female, we never expected that Mya would make it through an entire season, let alone past September. Yet one show after another she held on and several Best Cats and Best in Shows later, we were on a roll. September came and went; Mya still hadn’t come into season. Mom and I decided keep going, always knowing that when she went into heat she would be done, no matter where she was nationally. Mya proved that she was more than up to the challenge, even gaining the title Best of the Best at the World (Red)



Show. Even with the tough competition Mya did more than we ever expected, finishing out the season at CFA's 3rd Best Cat in Championship and the North Atlantic Region's Best Cat in Championship.

Whether it was the "Pam-isms", dinners in the rain under the bright lights of Dallas or selfies on the beaches of California, I could not be more thankful for my friends who kept me sane through it all. I've made so many

memories that I will cherish forever. Thank you to my travel buddies Pam DeGoyler and Donna Zimmerman, could not have done it without you. Bob and Randy, thank you so much for entrusting us with our girl!

Fourth Best Cat in Championship GC, BW, NW MISTYSPRINGS CHICAGO FIRE

Red Tabby Manx Male

Breeder: Gay Van Weelden

Owner: Omar Gonzalez, Gary Veach, and Gay Van Weelden

Submitted by Omar Gonzalez



GC, BW, NW Mistysprings Chicago Fire – a red classic tabby Manx bred by Gay Van Weelden and co-owned by Omar Gonzalez, Gary Veach and Gay Van Weelden is CFA's Fourth Best Cat and Best Shorthair for the 2013-2014 show season. Fire is a short bodied male with the most beautiful pattern and contrast of color. We actually named Fire after the great Cameo tabby American Shorthair,

GC, BW, NW Adam's Rib Chicago Fire. We always loved the name and thought it would be fitting considering his bold color and contrast. Fire has wonderful head type to go with his well-muscled frame. He was a one show grand last show season and was going to be campaigned at that time but as luck would have it, conflicts with my work schedule and Gary's judging

assignments made it impossible. We did not decided to show him until this past season with his first show being mid-August. Fire is one of the best tempered laid back males one can ever hope for. He traveled well throughout the show season and loved the hotel rooms. Between October and December he was shown sparingly in order to campaign his first daughter, GC, NW Briar-Mar Catching Fire who went on to become this year's Fifth Best kitten and Best Kitten in the North Atlantic region. After his daughter was solidly in Nationals we concentrated on Fire's campaign.

Fire was ranked in the top three cats of almost every show he competed in. He was a pleasure to show and a wonderful asset to our fledgling Manx breeding program. Already a successful sire, we look forward to more beautiful kittens from him. Gary and I would like to thank his breeder Gay for her generosity and for sharing Fire with us.

Fifth Best Cat in Championship
GC, BW, NW KAT-TRES LA FOX
Ebony Tabby and White Van Oriental Shorthair Female
Breeder/Owner: Kathy Treleani
Submitted by Kathy Treleani



Kat-Tres La Fox, known as “Angel” was the first born of GC, BW, NW Kat-Tres Paris. The other kitten in the litter only lived one day. Paris was a fine mother for all of two and a half

weeks. She then ran down the steps with Angel hanging from her mouth, dropping her at my feet, running off to do other things. Motherhood was just too boring. Luckily, I was able to get

a nursing female from a friend. Star took good care of Angel until I could take over.

Angel was a natural ham from the beginning. She loved showing, putting on performances for judges and audiences all over the country. She really liked jumping on the shoulder of judges when they took her out of the cage, sometimes scaring a judge who hadn't met her before.

As a kitten I showed her to a Regional Win. When I took her out as an adult I had no real expectations except to have fun showing. I'd run her mother two years before and didn't want to go through the stress of that again in my lifetime. But sometimes life has other ideas. This time it was fun. More fun than I thought possible. We flew all over the country laughing most of the way, Angel charming everyone she met.

Angel is sitting here with me now, helping me write this. She has agreed to raise one litter of kittens before going back to showing, this time in premier-ship. We had too much fun not to do it again.

Thank you all for being part of our fun

Sixth Best Cat in Championship
GC, BW, NW MAINE LVRS PHOENIX OF ABIZAQ
Red and White Tabby Maine Coon Male
Breeder: Michelle Chaffee and Anne Jones
Owner: Martha & Norman Auspitz and Tom & Beth Feininger
Submitted by Martha Auspitz

GC, BW, NW Maine Lvrs Phoenix of Abizaq, a red tabby and white male Maine Coon was bred by Michelle Chaffee and Anne Jones, owned

by Martha and Norman Auspitz and Beth and Tom Feininger. He is CFA's 6th Best cat in championship and Best Maine Coon. He is only the 2nd Maine

Coon in CFA to get national wins in both kitten and championship divisions.



Part of Red Robin's charm is that even though he is rather large, (just being large earned him the nickname of "The Yeti"), he has no signs of coarseness, i.e. everything is in proportion. One of the things spectators like to do is to have a picture of one of their children taken with him. Red Robin loves children and just thrives on the attention. To give you an idea of the scale, Martha, who is 5'4" tall, has a picture of herself with Red Robin, back paws on the floor head taller than her naval!!!!

One thing we did is to pick and choose our shows from the very beginning, so as not to tire out Phoenix. We took many weekends off when the counts were just not there. Towards the end of the season, he ended up in several large shows, but never showed any signs of being stressed or tired. He was as enthusiastic about shows in his last ring as he was in his first ring. He also was happy to talk to all the girls who were on the judging bench and also would carry on conversations with some of the judges. We just love this cat!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thank you to all the judges who liked him and all the other exhibitors who shared the camaraderie of showing championship this season.

But on with the story:

After Phoenix's excellent kitten season he finished the 2012-2013 season as CFA's best in red tabby/white Maine Coon. He continued to grow proportionally and his color continued to become better having deep mahogany tabby markings on a field of red.

Phoenix (A.K.A. Red Robin) continued his winning ways into the 2013-2014 show season. He still enjoys the shows and being on display to the spectat-

ing public. Depending on his mood from ring to ring, he might go up the pole; he might just stand and strike a pose. This earned him the nickname of "Stare Bear". He might also just wander off the judging stand to see if there is any food for him to filch, or he just might lie down and look beautiful. Maybe all the time he has spent with shorthaired cats (Abyssinians and European Burmese) has rubbed off on him?!?!?!?

Seventh Best Cat in Championship GC, NW MAINE LVRS CHARLIE BROWN

**Brown Tabby and White Maine Coon Male
Breeders: Michelle Chaffee and Anne Jones
Owners: Carol Allen and Judith A. Bemis**

Submitted by Carol Allen

I still remember the phone call from Martha Auspitz 2 years ago telling me about this wonderful litter of Maine Coon's. She told me there was a brown and white boy that just had to go to a show-breeding home. I told Martha I just didn't need a second stud boy but, she convinced me I did. So the decision was made and Charlie came to my house when he was 6

months old. He was such a beautiful kitten. It was love at first sight!

I didn't show Charlie much as a kitten, just a show here and there. Once he turned 8 months old, I took him to the Phoenix Feline Fanciers show and he walked out of that show just 14 points shy of becoming a Grand Champion. He received those last points plus lots

more at the New Year's show in Las Vegas two weeks later. Charlie ended the 2012-2013 season as Fifth Best Cat and Best Maine Coon in Region 2.

We started the new season slowly, only averaging 2 shows a month. Then came the World Show. Charlie walked away from the biggest event of the year as Third Best Cat and Best Maine

Coon in the Purple Show. What a thrill that was! It was then I really started to think a national win just might be possible.

The season seemed to be so long at times but Charlie always seemed to be ready for the next show. January found us in California attending the big shows. Then a gift, a trip of a lifetime from a dear friend, found us on our way to Rome and Moscow. The shows in Rome and Moscow will always be the highlight of this show season. The 13 days spent with my dear friends Cindy Yanez and Liz Armitage exploring ancient Rome, walking through Vatican City and the Sistine Chapel, exploring the back streets around Trevi Fountain and experiencing what it's like to be in St. Peter's Square surrounded by 100,000 people during the Wednesday audience and blessing of Pope Francis is beyond words. Then we were on to Moscow to walk through Red Square next to the Kremlin and explore St. Basil's Cathedral. March and April found us in a show hall most every weekend for that last push.

Charlie took everything in stride. He was always happy in the show halls and loved the attention he got from all the spectators. The crowds of spectators in Rome would have tested the patience of any good show cat but Charlie just accepted all the people reaching out to touch him. He never fussed about the long hours spent on plane ride after plane ride

or all the miles he spent in his tent in the car. He always had to tell Dad all about his adventures when Steve picked us up at the airport or came out to the car to carry him into the house after another long car ride home. Charlie truly is a gentleman and a perfect ambassador for the Maine Coon breed.

To Martha Auspitz and Judy Bemis, I send my heartfelt thanks for your help, encouragement and unending support throughout the show year. Without you both, Charlie's NW would never have happened and I love you both. Judy Friedman, WOW, I will never forget the trip you gave to Charlie and me. Your friendship and love of Charlie goes above and beyond. You will always be in my heart. To Cindy and Liz, I love you both and I'm so glad that my plea on the list for a ride from the airport in Newark to the hotel in Somerset was answered by you guys. Best friends forever!!! To my daughter Crystal, thank you for letting Charlie, Moses (my dog) and me invade your apartment for 5 weeks so we could attend the California shows. Your patience and love deserves a metal. Trudie Allen, thank you for being a member of Charlie's fan club. I will always remember the advice you shared with me from what you learned and went through from your NW run with Jesse. You are a true friend. And last but certainly not least to my husband Steve. Honey, there are no words that I can use to



tell you how much your love and support this past year has meant to me. You worked long hours all week just to come home and do all the cat chores, dog chores, housework, grocery shopping, Petsmart runs and cooking for yourself because Charlie and I were always off to the next show. You always had a smile on your face and a hug for me when I walked in the door no matter how tired you were. You are my rock and I love you.

Eight Best Cat in Championship GC, BW, NW DANDYS HEY JUDE OF IVY CAT

Cream Spotted Tabby Exotic Male

Breeder: Natalie Blakeley and Pam & Rick DeGolyer

Owner: Natalie Blakeley and Pam DeGolyer

Submitted by Natalie Blakeley

Walking through a cat show in Phoenix three years ago, with my entire family of five at my side, we couldn't help but notice the beautiful exotic shorthairs being judged. My wonderful husband,

Daniel, and I knew we had found our breed. We purchased one breeding quality Exotic Shorthair from a dear friend, Karen Williams, who also let us use her male. Let's just say when those

babies were born, I was hooked. We searched the internet, the CFA breeding site and countless exotic websites looking for a top show quality Exotic. That is when we met Pam DeGolyer,

of Ivy Cat cattery. Pam has been our mentor and friend throughout our journey to a National Win.

When our first litter of Exotic Shorthairs was born we had six beautiful healthy babies! A fantastic shorthair solid red tabby boy was in the running with an equally beautiful shorthaired cream spotted tabby boy. Pam was invaluable. I sent her pictures, practically daily, of the babies from all different angles. Her input was greatly appreciated. Since we only sell to pet homes, if we did possibly keep one, we wanted it to be just the right one!

I remember calling Pam from Palm Springs after a show and telling her that my little cream spotted tabby boy was turning into a dream. That is when I threw the proposition her way of co-owning the little guy if she could do most all the showing. She was very pleased to help us out in this way. We had become good friends! So, when little Jude was about 12 weeks old, Pam came to a Phoenix show and picked him up! Jude's start was slow, but steady. Leave it to a pro like Pam to double his weight and get his coat in luxurious condition. Jude finished his kitten season with a Regional Win in Region 5.

After he showed no interest in the girls, and with him continuing to look better every week, we decided to try for a small National Win. Pam began to take him out to smaller shows. When Jude began to do well, we did all we could on our part to help Pam, who was also showing her own breeding for a Premier Win. Boy, did we run into some obstacles!

Over the hotter months, he lost his coat and weight. The National Win looked like it just might slip through our fingers. Pam is no quitter. With all the right bathing, training, and care she took for Jude, he was in tip top shape and ready to hit the big shows by the beginning of the year.

My family cannot thank Pam enough for the immense amount of daily work it takes to show a cat...and she was showing two! Trying to help with the terrific expense of weekly showing was the very least we could do to help our baby on his way! I suppose the rest is history! With perseverance, a few tears, tremendous sacrifice, and a lot of elbow grease, Pam somehow made it to each and every show and Jude did the rest! To make it even more special for my family at home, each weekend she would send videos, emails, and pictures of Jude consistently pleasing the judges in just about every state!! Weekends were special as we awaited the final tally of Jude's points! Pam never failed to make it seem like we were all there, cheering him on!

The end result was not just a National Win on Dandys Hey Jude, but also a Breed Win! Although the precious little boy was born and cared for here at our home in Arizona, we could have done nothing without the tireless help and perseverance of our very dear friend, Pam Degolyer of Ivy Cat Cattery. My husband, Daniel, myself and even our three kiddos, know Pam as a member of our family. We would also like to thank Pam's devoted husband, Rick, who made it possible for Pam to be gone nearly every weekend toward



the end of Jude's showing. Cleaning up after cats, keeping the house tidy for his exhausted wife, and even delivering kittens after working long hours is no easy feat! We would especially like to thank each and every judge who thought Jude was as special as we did, and made it possible for his National Win! Pam, we truly thank you from the bottom of our hearts, not only for an incredible year of showing Jude, but for giving us the help, the information, and the "real" start that all newbies so desperately need to make a go of this wonderful hobby!

Ninth Best Cat in Championship
GC NW PARTI WAI EX ROUTE 66 OF JOYCATEX
Brown Spotted Tabby and White Exotic Male
Breeder: Penni Richter Owner: Long Zheng (Allen Chen)
Submitted by Long Zheng

In China, he is called “66”. In all other countries, he is called Rudy. Named after the famous highway, as he has traveled a long highway himself! Rudy is the first cat from China, shown only in China, shown only by a Chinese national, to receive a National Win. Rudy also won the title of Best Cat in the International Asia/Latin America Division. This is a very big honor for our country and it’s growth in CFA!

This show season was a marvelous time for Allen and Rudy. It was Allen’s first time to show a cat by himself, owned only by him. Allen learned how to feed, groom, show and breed his cats from Penni Richter and felt confident that he could do a good job. Allen is very thankful to Penni for her trust with this beautiful cat. Rudy was Highest Scoring cat in show 11 times this season.

Rudy came to Shanghai in May of 2013. At that time he was 11 months old and had just lost his kitten coat. Allen took him to his first show in June, to see how he would compare to other Exotics in China. He did just so-so, and Allen saw that Rudy needed more conditioning and maturing to be competitive. Allen also saw that Rudy had the potential to do very well once he was ready! Rudy stayed home and received the most love and care...a bath every three days, the best quality food and vitamins, lots of love and playtime...a happy kitty makes a good show kitty!! Rudy even learned how to play “ping pong” with my wife Angela!! In September, when shows started up again in China, Allen felt Rudy was ready. It was a big surprise to everyone to see Rudy, now mature with a plush, thick coat, a larger, more mature body and a big round head! Rudy received his GC on the first day of the show



and had a very good performance the second day as a Grand Champion.

Allen loved Rudy and loved the way he looked on the judging table and his playful, easy going personality and decided to continue to show Rudy the rest of the season to see how far he could go! He knew it was going to be tough competition, as most of the cats in the shows in China are Exotics, many very, very nice Exotics!

Allen and Rudy really got a taste of showing in CFA FAST! They attended shows almost every week end, most of them included very long driving trips, or airline flights to different parts of mainland China/Asia. Rudy was such a trouper! Never complaining, always happy and easygoing, taking everything in stride.

November was a very busy month for Rudy and Allen. They had a show all

five weekends, the first one flying to Chiang Mai, Thailand for a large 12 ring show. The competition was fierce. Rudy ended up Best Cat in show, a very big honor for Allen! The third weekend in November Rudy and Allen flew to the CFA World Show, held in Novi, Michigan. Rudy was given the honor of Highest Scoring Exotic and Third Best Cat in the Red Show. It was a very busy and exciting month!!

After November, Rudy went from 45th in the National standings to 18th!! It seemed that possibly Allen’s dream was going to come true...he would have a National Winner!

The whole season Rudy was a happy, healthy, playful kitty that stayed in great condition and kept himself together. Allen was having a fabulous time, enjoying Rudy’s success, but also becoming very tired from the stress and the traveling. This was a learning experi-

ence for him and he is excited to do better and better in the cat fancy!

Rudy ended up Ninth Best Cat in CFA...a top ten win!! Allen would like

to express his gratitude for all of the support he and Rudy received from his friends, old and new, during the show season. He would like to thank the judges for loving Rudy, and to Penni

Richter for all of her help and believing in him! Without her, there would be no him! With a grateful heart...

Tenth Best Cat in Championship GC, BW, NW WAN-LEA BOND GIRL VESPURR

Platinum Point Tonkinese Female

Breeder/Owner: Bob & Claire Dubit and Wanda Martin

Submitted by Claire Dubit

My name is Wan-Lea Bond Girl Vespurr and I am owned and loved by mama and papa, Bob and Claire Dubit and my grandmama Wanda Martin. When I was born, my mama told everyone I looked like a little ET alien. She had no hopes for me in the show ring. But I had other plans! My cat mother, Wan-Lea Bond Girl Jinx told me she only need one more of her kittens to Grand and she would be a Distinguished Merit Cat. So I had a goal, to DM my mom!

I worked hard on eating a lot and growing and it worked. My human mama started noticing me more and decided to keep me and try showing me along with another kitten two weeks older than me. At first he did better than me, but as I got older, I started catching up to him and the first week I became an adult, I Granded in one show! And I met my goal, I DM'ed my mom! Then we were off to the races...

We started travelling all over the place, going on long car rides and in January, we even went on a plane to California! What a trip. Mama and Papa friend Russ Haller got stuck in the airport all night with his Ocicat and to top it off, they lost his luggage. When Russ finally got to the showhall on Saturday, it was really neat to see all the exhibitors pull together to help him out. Francois Akers loaned him cage curtains, Sophia Staples loaned him grooming supplies, mama and papa gave him a cat bed and Linda Martino made sure Russ had



everything else he needed for showing. Unfortunately no one had clothes for Russ so he was stuck wearing the same clothes all weekend as his luggage never caught up with him in California!

I sure had a great time showing during the season. Now I'm home making babies and mama and papa are very happy about that!

From Vespurr's Parents:

Bob and I had the best year showing Vespurr. She had the best show cat personality, always playful on the Judges podium, always happy, always willing to be petted by spectators and

a great traveler. Vespurr liked to come out of the cage on the judge's shoulder. And the first thing she would do in the ring is stretch, and then climb the pole. Perfect show manners!

One the best things about showing Vespurr all season was the terrific new friends we made and the time we got to spend with old friends. We would like to thank our mentor and partner Wanda Martin for manning the home front and taking care of all the kittens, which allowed Bob and me to travel together and show Vespurr. Since this was our first "campaign," the advice and help we received from Beth Casely was invaluable, thanks Beth. There

are several judges whose advice and feedback were very helpful to us during the year and we would like to thank them – Melanie Morgan, Sharon Roy,

Gary Veach and Jeri Zottoli. We are very grateful for the wonderful year we had, the terrific friends who supported us and for being a part of the CFA Family.

Eleventh Best Cat in Championship GC, BW, NW TRUEBRIT MISSISSIPPI BLUES

Blue Selkirk Rex - Shorthair Division Male

**Breeder: Sarah Ng, Kathie Von Aswege, Colin & Jo Cornwall, and Christene Shek
Owner: Colin & Jo Cornwall, Kathleen Lawton, Teddy Cohen, and Laura Jo Barber**

Submitted by Jo Cornwall

As fate would have it GC, RW, BW, NW TrueBrit Mississippi Blues bred by Colin and Jo Cornwall, Sarah Ng, Christene Shek and Kathie Von Aswege and owned by Colin and Jo Cornwall, Teddy Cohen, Kathleen Lawton and Laura Jo Barber would become 11th Best Cat Nationally.

Jo writes:

It is a funny thing how fate works. I think there is a Chinese proverb or something that says “Be careful what you wish for.” Colin and I had no idea that when I admired a very lovely Shorthaired Selkirk Rex female kitten bred by Sarah Ng of Silencedryad Cattery in Hong Kong and said “if you ever get another one like that, please send her to the U.S. And I will Grand her and send her back to you because I do not want to breed another breed.”

Well, fate had another plan and that lovely girl would soon be living at our house thanks to Sarah’s generosity. That part is a long story but to make it shorter, said lovely girl came into season, frequently, and the only cat we had to breed her to was our Blue British Shorthair, GC, BW, NW Atzelhof Crazy’bout The Blues (of TrueBrit) co-bred by Michael and Brigitte Schleissner in Germany and Colin and I.

Before we knew what we were getting into we had a litter of five Selkirk Rex babies. One had a straight coat, and four were curly with one that appeared really curly. My friends and fellow British Shorthair Breeders, Kathleen Lawton of Beansidhes and Teddy Co-



hen of Taylor Baron were as impressed with him as I was but I am the first to admit that I did not know what I was doing so I turned to Laura Barber for advice. Laura is the Selkirk Rex Breed Council Secretary and had shown and co-owned most of the past 4 yrs of Breed Winners and Regional Winners, so we went to her for suggestions and opinions about a curly blue fella named TrueBrit Mississippi Blues. We decided to call him... Edy.

Strange how that fate thing works! We thought we could show Edy to a Regional Win but Colin was ill and get-

ting sicker and showing was soon to be absolutely out of the question. Thankfully, fate (and Laura) intervened again. The rest is the story in her words.

Laura writes:

Colin and Jo asked that I take Edy and get him out to Grand and just see if we could get a nice Regional Win. Since I would be doing most of the showing it made sense for me to have Edy at my house so Colin and Jo gave me co-ownership and moved him to Region 7.

We started with National Capital. He graded on Saturday and made his first final on Sunday. Judge Jeff Janzen gave

him his very first final. From then on Edy had no problem collecting Best Cat finals at every show he attended. Incidentally, Jeff last saw Edy at the Mesquite, Texas show and gave him his final BEST CAT. Utilizing Jo and Colin's suggestions and experience I started planning shows for Edy.

Edy is the highest decorated Selkirk Rex ever in CFA history. He is the second ever National Winner of the breed. He has a Regional Win as a kitten and being 11th Best Nationally, makes Edy the highest National winner for a Selkirk Rex ever.

Edy has charm and attitude that fellow exhibitors and judges alike enjoyed.

He has a very busy tail that would round and round like a propeller and slapped back and forth happily. Edy was known for head bumps and lots of kisses. He knew to take his paw to ask for a toy. His temperament is the very best. He loved the shows and showed himself like a pro. He was always ready for the judges. Everyone loved to get their fingers into his beautiful curly coat.

My friend Dana Taylor, who helped show Edy, was seen at shows walking him down the show hall floor with only a feather in front of him to guide him to the show ring. No need to pick him up...he followed the feather, occasionally stopping when distracted by some-

one's shoes or pant leg. He is such a happy cat, nothing fazes him. Everyone who got to handle him threatened to steal him!

It has been an important season for me to enjoy the company of fellow "runners" and their furry children and to learn the joys and sorrows experienced on "the campaign trail". Longhair and shorthair alike we had a close group of friends to cheer Edy on together.

I am grateful to Jo and Colin for sharing their beloved Edy with me. He is unique indeed and a cat no one will soon forget. I am grateful Fate sent him our way.

Twelfth Best Cat in Championship GC, BW, NW CLOWNTOWN'S SHINING SILVER MYSTERY

Shaded Silver American Shorthair

Breeder: Howard Webster & Hazel Shaffer

Owner: Howard-Veda Webster, Cindy Petrovich, Thomas Rowley

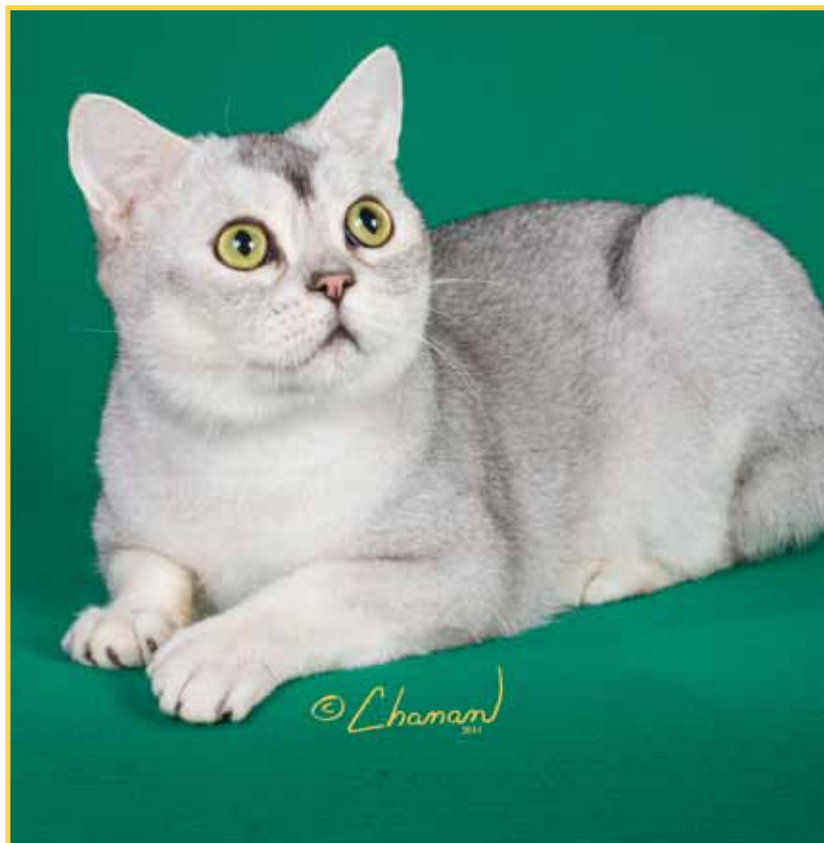
Submitted by Howard Webster

GC, BW, NW Clowntown's Shining Silver Mystery is the culmination of 17 years of my breeding and exhibiting of shaded silver American Shorthairs.

When most people think of an American Shorthair, perhaps the first thing that comes to mind is a brown or silver tabby, but the ASH comes in many colors. Although the beautiful shaded silver ASH has graced homes and show halls for more than 40 years, its popularity has waned in recent times. Clowntown and Carol Johnson of Melody-garden are perhaps the last ASH breeders working with this wonderful color in CFA.

I began breeding cats in 1971, working with Balinese, Siamese and Orientals. I saw my first shaded silver ASH in Chicago in 1979, but I didn't fall in love with the breed or color until I met CH Norpark's Mai-Tre-D, a fantastic shaded silver bred and owned by Wayne Park. Ten years later, I purchased GC Norpark's Cortez of Clowntown and began working toward producing a top shaded silver American Shorthair. It has been a long road with many challenges, but it was a dream worth pursuing.

In 2012, I bred Clowntown's Silver Mystery, a silver ticked tabby, to her uncle, GC, RW Clowntown's Shining Silver Dollar. Right from the start, the biggest kitten in the litter stood out. He was very special. Combining his parents' names, I called him Clowntown's Shining Silver Mystery.



Mystery graded easily in March 2013, then he remained home for a few months to mature. By the time I entered him in the Superstition Cat Club show in Phoenix, AZ at the beginning of the 2013-14 show season, he had it all together – type, coat and incredible color. The judges recognized his quality and Mystery finished the show with a pawfull of rosettes. Diana Heinzen of TNT Perfect Persians came up to me afterwards and declared, “That is a national quality cat”.

I just laughed. In the history of CFA, never had a shaded silver American Shorthair been a national winner. But even as I smiled, somewhere, deep down, I wondered. Was it possible? Could a shaded silver reach the highest rung on the CFA ladder?

We had to try. So Mystery and I hit the campaign trail . . . and Mystery held his own against the best cats in CFA. Sadly, my old friend and mentor Wayne Park had passed away in 2003, but I knew he was looking down and watching over us. Many times judges

remarked, “Wayne would be so proud.”

It was a busy campaign schedule. When I couldn’t make it, my partner, Thomas Rowley, took Mystery to the shows. Mystery was shown in all seven regions in the US. He even flew to Italy when our good friend, Cherylee DeYoung of Derry Downs, took him overseas for a competition. Afterwards I realized that Mystery forgot to bring us back a souvenir T-shirt!

As the months passed, the finals kept coming, and Mystery’s name moved up the rankings and into the top 25... 21... 17...

By the end of the season, GC, BW, NW Clowntown’s Shining Silver Mystery was a national winner — CFA’s 12th Best Cat in Championship—and a breed winner! How I wish that Wayne Park could have lived to see his dream come true.

At the end of the season I was contacted by Lee Harper of ShowCatsOnline.com, the online magazine devoted to breeders and exhibitors of pedigreed

cats. Lee was interested in writing an article about Mystery’s rare color and his history-making accomplishments. In June 2014, Mystery was featured in an article at <http://www.showcatsonline.com/tc-sco/ClowntownsShiningSilverMystery.shtml> and showcased on the ShowCatsOnline.com homepage. Mystery was my first cover cat! But that wasn’t our only “first”.

It was my first national campaign. It was the first time that a shaded silver American Shorthair was Best of Breed. It was the first time that a shaded silver American Shorthair was a national winner. It is a dream come true . . . but the dream did not begin with me. It was Wayne Park’s dream “first”. So, this is for you, Wayne. It has been an honor to continue your work, to promote the shaded silver American Shorthair, and to introduce it to the next generation of fanciers. Already I have been able to mentor new breeders in Kansas. Perhaps more shaded silvers will enter the show ring in the coming years.

And so the dream continues . . .

Thirteenth Best Cat in Championship GC, BW, NW BRUMAR JUST A GIGOLÒ OF KUORII

Shaded Silver Male

**Breeder/Owner: Bruno Picasso, Siumara Melit, Loredana Fipaldin,
Marie-Jeanne Beck, Roberta Canal, and Paolo Carnevaletti**

Submitted by Bruno Picasso

The only thing planned about Gigolo’s story was the breeding of his parents, all the rest happened by chance and developed day by day.

The six co-owners of Gigolò wanted the opportunity to work together and share the success of showing a top 25 quality cat. We all had experience breeding Persians and Roberta and Paolo also had experience showing a Silver Persian kitten.

When Gigolò was born, he was the smallest of a litter of three males, but from the beginning he was very prom-

ising. He grew and developed very well. Super cobby body., short and heavy, strong bones, excellent type with a super sweet expression, green big eyes and last but not least a special temperament, the kind of kitten with everyone falls in love with. So at the age of 4 months we decided he could start his show career.

Due to his birth date, Gigolò was shown as a kitten across two show seasons and ended his kitten career as 12th best kitten in the European Region. During this time he was few times Best Kitten in Show, not very easy for a silver that have to compete

with many beautiful exotics and persians in the solid and bi colors’s class. In the summertime we worked hard to keep Gigolò in condition, which is not that easy due to the very hot weather. Even though he was not in full coat we decided to show Gigolò in the big show in Moscow in September 2013, hoping to grand him. What a great event, he was 2nd Best Cat in show and a one show grand with 510 points.

As soon as we realized that he could do so well, we decided to try for BW and possibly a NW. So this is how started the journey and had the pleasure of showing our beautiful Gigolò. He attended only 15 shows and in seven of



them he was Best Cat in Show! Ultimately, he became the 13th Best Cat of the Year, Best Cat in Region 9 and Best of Breed Silver and Golden Persian for the 2013/2014 Show Season!

We are so proud of the comments from some of the judges about about our Gigolò:

“WOW he looks like a solid Persian cat” or “HE can wear any color and he will be the Best cat in my ring” or “perfect head and structure, great example of the breed, super coat color, deep green eyes, always present to perfection. The best silver ever judged.”

Thanks to all the support given to Gigolò and our team during this year.

Fourteenth Best Cat in Championship GC, BW, NW CHAMSEY'S KILIKANOON

Lilac Tortie European Burmese Female

Breeder/Owner: Robin A. Bryan

Submitted by Robin A. Bryan



Sometimes dreams do come true. This time it was Chamsey's Kilikanoon – my lilac tortie European Burmese, a fifth generation Chamsey cat and the second National Winner of my own breeding. I'm proud of Kili's accomplishment – from my small, boutique cattery where the numbers are low (under 5) and usually only one litter per year.

I'd like to say that I knew from the moment that she was born that Kili was destined for great things. But, I can't. Oh, don't get me wrong! I was sure she was “grand” material, but didn't consider anything past a regional win. That is until the World Show. Kili did well there that I started to rethink her show career and to dream of a national breed win.

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you

did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.” That is my favorite Mark Twain quote. And boy, did I start to dream! Could Kili get the Breed Win? Could we maybe get into the Top 25? It was already the end of November. Could Kili do it? I wasn't sure but I knew that I had to explore her options and discover her true potential. It was time to throw off the bowlines and catch those trade winds!

The next five months turned into a fantastic and fabulous journey. We had crazy weather, wind storms, snowstorms, treacherous roads and delayed flights. We had 70 degrees and then snow on the same weekend. We had dogs next door and Texas Bluebells

and so many priceless moments that are now precious memories. We had a heck of a ride, and I am so thankful for all of my friends who shared it with me. A special thank you to Sharon McKenzie for being the keeper of the spreadsheet, Mark McKenzie for your constant positivity, Kay Janosik for helping me plan and strategize, Mark Janosik for sharing your lovely wife with me, Bobbie Weihrauch for doing our happy dance, Tom Lukken and Jack Nichols for being chauffeurs extraordinaire, Kevin Richardson and Cam Clow for being Switzerland, Lauri & Michael Henry for being part of the cheering section and to Judy Bemis and Norm and Gerry Urban for so graciously giving me every chance to make finals.

Thank you, too, to the judges who so faithfully supported Kili in your finals: Mary Auth, Brian Pearson, Lois Jensen, Pam and Brian Moser, Wain Harding, Larry Adkison, Darrell Newkirk, Cathy and Jim Dinesen, and Paul Patton. There were many others but you were the ones who were the most consistent and I thank you with all of my heart for loving my little girl.

Dreams do come true. Not just the dream of a Top 25 Win. Not just the dream of National Best of Breed. Not just the dream of the Midwest Region's Second Best Cat. But also the dream of knowing I have friends across this country, a hobby that gratifies me and a chance to represent the European Burmese in the show ring.

Fifteenth Best Cat in Championship GC, BW, NW LAC HONG HARLEM DESIR

Bombay Male

Breeder: Mireille Sicart Owner: Mireille Sicart and Isabelle Marchand

Submitted by Mireille Sicart

Harlem is the fruit of friendship, trust and sharing.

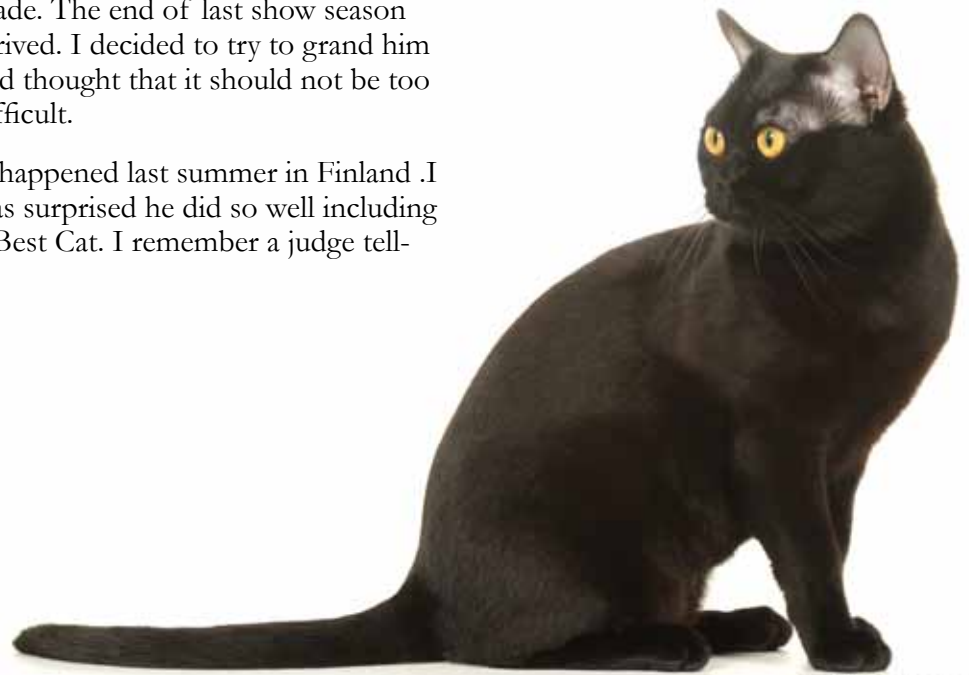
His mother is from my very good friend in Canada, Isabelle Marchand (Burmania Cattery). Her name is GC, BW, DW Burmania Yoko May of Lac Hong. She is a wonderful sable Burmese girl who became Breed Winner and Division Winner in Europe a few years ago. His father is from Rita Baligad (Edens-Pearls Cattery) in California. GC RW Edens-Pearls Valentino of Lac Hong is very muscular, strong and heavy. He is a really nice boy and perhaps the best cat Rita ever produced.

So these 2 cats traveled to Europe and I decided to breed them together to produce my own outcross. One year later Harlem arrived. He was born by c-section along with a litter mate. I was present during the c-section and I remember this little kitten I was trying to warm up and I was thinking, "He looks really cute!"

He was growing up nicely and I was sure he was the one I had to keep for my program. I didn't show him as a kitten. Harlem was growing and I didn't really pay attention to him as the decision to keep him had already been made. The end of last show season arrived. I decided to try to grand him and thought that it should not be too difficult.

It happened last summer in Finland. I was surprised he did so well including 2 Best Cat. I remember a judge tell-

ing me "it's not the one from last year but the potential is there". I started to cogitate....why not try a Regional Win? He was just one year old.



In the months that followed, he blossomed and turned into a handsome Boy. I decided to enter him at the World Show, just to see what he could do. Isabelle Marchand was coming too, so no matter what, we would have fun! He surprisingly finished 3rd in the Red Show.

My friend Isa also fell in love with him. It is then that I realized the quality of

this cat, and never looked at him in the same way anymore.

I continued showing him the rest of the season, slowly, one or two times a month to keep him in the Magic Number 25 ...

This year was so different from the previous one with the FIRST NW. No stress, no pressure, just the pleasure of confirming that I am on the right path.

To conclude I would like to thank Isabelle and Rita again who made this possible. Thanks to my friends in Europe: Bruno, Olivier, Monique, Teo, Oscar and Henny. Thanks to my husband who showed Harlem when I couldn't and took care of our cats when I was away. And a special thank you to Isabelle and Nancy (Envycats Cattery) for your friendship, your cheerfulness and your support throughout this campaign.

Sixteenth Best Cat in Championship GC, BW, NW AMBER SNOW CHOCLATMOUSSE OF RK GEMS

Brown Tabby & White Longhair Scottish Fold Male

Breeder: Marilee Griswold Owner: Randy & Kay Bertrand

Submitted by Kay Bertrand



It started when I fell in love with a kitten photo of GC, BW, NW Amber Snow ChoclatMousse of RK Gems aka “Choco”. His big eyes and sweet expression melted my heart. Our friend Marilee Griswold, his breeder, had sent my husband, Randy and me photos of several kittens she had available. When I mentioned it to Randy, his first reaction was that we didn't need any more cats right now — until he saw the photos and he was in love too!

I flew to North Carolina in March of 2013 to pick Choco and knew right

away that he was something special. Though Choco was not sure that he wanted to go anywhere with me at the moment, he was a great traveler at the airport and flying home, so I had hopes that he would also be a wonderful show boy.

Our original goal was just to show Choco to a possible regional win. When I took him to our first local show of the season in May, he made 5 out of 6 top ten finals as an open. He granded at the next show and at his third show, a 6 x 6, Choco made all 12 finals. By that point, Choco had

a fan club of his own and many were asking if I was going to “run” him. He was such a beautiful Scottish Fold how could I say anything but yes to the question.

And so we began....from Vegas to Atlanta, from California to Virginia — through temperatures of 107+, whiteout snowstorms and torrential downpours and even an earthquake, we traveled. Choco was indeed a wonderful show boy and a great traveling cat. My biggest challenge was maintaining that longhair coat all season, especially since for the most part I consider myself a shorthair breeder.

Choco's fan club grew as the year went on. Many people would say to me that they liked him so much that when I was not looking that they just might take him home. I eventually started joking that they had to get in line and take a number! By the end of the show season, Choco would sit on the judges table just staring out at the spectators as if he knew that his “subjects” were admiring him once again.

I want to thank everyone who made this show season such a pleasure and joy for us. Randy and I especially want to give a very special thank you to Marilee for letting us bring this beautiful boy into our lives. It has been a very special year in so many ways.

Seventeenth Best Cat in Championship
GC, BW, NW, AG CHAOCI MU SHU OF OCIMANOR
Cinnamon Spotted Ocicat Male
Breeder: Debbie Metz, Linda Rogge, and Jacqui Bennett, Lessee
Owner: Russell W. Haller
Submitted by Jacqui Bennett

GC, NW, BW, AG Chaoci Mushu of Ocimanor (or Moosher's for short) was bred by Jacqui Bennett, Linda Rogge and Debbie Metz and is owned and adored by Russ Haller of Ocimanor ocicats. Born on a rainy day in Georgia with his cinnamon silver sister and his cinnamon solid brother, Mushu came into the world with a roar! At 3 weeks, Jacqui told Russ "I think this one's gonna wind up being pretty darn nice" and so he is.

Mushu went through a series of kitten growth spurts and Russ said he felt he could grand him, although it might take a while. Eleven rings later as an adult, Mushu was on his way. Each show he went to he kept exceeding any reasonable expectations until it became clear that he had chosen to be a campaign cat. Well who are mere humans to stand in the way of Draconian achievement?

From his first ring to his last, Mushu never met a stranger Just new humans who haven't had the privilege of adoring him yet, and he did his best to rectify that in show halls up and down the eastern seaboard. Deeply dedicated to his Papa Russ, he entertained many a show hall chirping for him when he felt Russ had been away from the benching area too long.

He took his name seriously sowing dragon style chaos in the show halls and never meeting a toy or scratching pole that didn't earn his full and immediate attention. Like all dragons, he soared to greatness being CFA's first ever cinnamon ocicat to earn the title of National Win or Breed Win and the first ever non-chocolate Ocicat to earn the title of National Winner in the Championship class. While all of his



many titles are impressive, his personal favorite is as Papa Russ's best buddy!

Mushu has asked us to add a personal note to this since typing is hard on his paws so from his dictation ...

Dear everyone,

Boy did I have fun last year and there are some super special people I want to thank!!!

First off I want to thank my Auntie Joan who is my hair stylist and nail technician. Not only does she gives the bestest head butts in the bath tub and made sure I looked my very spotted best, but she saved me special fishy parts from work!

Thank you to Ms. Jan and Mr. Francois who made sure Papa Russ didn't forget

to eat and take care of himself (cuz sometimes he forgets).

Thank you to Grandma Linda for coming to see me at so many shows and cheering me on.

Thank you to Ms. Linda Martino who loaned Papa Russ and me everything we needed to set up in California when the airplane people lost all of our luggage.

Thank you to Mr. Bob and Ms. Claire who drove Papa and me all over and took us shopping and kept us safe when we were far far from home. (And a shout out to my feline buddy Vespurr who did so well. GO TONKS).

Thank you to Granny Jacqui who saw my potential and was sure I was really special even when I looked like a little

spotted sausage and decided to let me go to Papa Russ cause he's my most favorite person in the whole wide world.

Thank you to Mr. Omar, Mr. Bruce and Ms. Donna who were there for Papa Russ and me with moral support

and advice when things got rough after Papa got so sick after our California Trip.

And thank you to my tons and tons of new friends (I would count, but I ran out of toes) who loved me and gave

me pets and let me play with their toys and gave me pretty stuff. It has been such a good time getting to know you and I love you all!

Eighteenth Best Cat in Championship GC, BW, NW LYUBOBURM SHAULA

Blue Burmese Female

Breeder: Alexander Goncharov Owner: Natalya Gnatyuk

Submitted by Alexander Gonchatov and Prudence Dorazio

"I wonder," he said, "whether the stars are set alight in heaven so that one day each one of us may find his own again..."

— Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince*

Hello, everybody! My name is LyuboBurm Shaula. I was born in Moscow, Russia, in a cattery named LyuboBurm. This is a combination of two words: "Lyubo" means love in Russian, and "Burm" comes from Burmese. In my country, they say, "a ship will sail the way it is named". This is why my littermates and I from the Stardust litter have unique names after actual stars from the sky. I am named after a big, blue star named "Shaula" from the Scorpio constellation of the zodiac. Why Scorpio? I guess it is because my owner, Natalya, was born under the Scorpio constellation.

My Mom and Dad are "true Americans." They were exported to Russia from our dearest US friends, Prudence and Ernest Dorazio of Mouse Island Burmese cattery.

Last show season, my Mom, GC DW Mouse Island's Tallulah of LyuboBurm, became Best Platinum, Second Best of Breed and Division Winner. My Dad, GC Mouse Island's Benedict of LyuboBurm, became Best Blue Burmese, Tenth Best of Breed. So, I am



very proud of them, and now they can be proud of me, as well! This show season, I became Best of Breed and a National Winner in Championship! For the first time in CFA, a BLUE Burmese has been awarded a National Breed Win and a National Win. I have done my best, and I am proud to be blue in color!

My Star's track in CFA's cat show universe was started in Moscow, Russia. Then my path went through Finland, Sweden, The Netherlands, France,

Ukraine, Spain, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and Bulgaria. I finished in St. Petersburg, Russia.

As they say, every Star from the sky has an indispensable duty to execute ones innermost wish. I am happy to have performed a number of wishes; those of my owners, friends and everyone who supported me on my way!

Nineteenth Best Cat in Championship
GC, BW, NW OMNIA MEA CITIUS ALTIUS FORTIUS

Red Abyssinian Male

Breeder/Owner: Olga Beresneva

Submitted by Olga Beresneva



On a cold winter night, on Orthodox Christmas Eve two burning-red kittens were born. They were just like two athletes, big and strong animals. One of them was particularly beautiful. His satin-like soft fur coat was shining with copper red color. I used to call him Our Fair Sun, like the Russian Prince. As the days passed by, a small creature grew into a nice and a very special kitten. He was different from his brother and all the other kittens at our house. When he was 2 months old, my husband said “Look, this cat has everything for a great show career. This will be an Olympic Year Show cat!” And so we called him Citius Altius Fortius, like the Olympic motto.

Citius grew older, nicer and ever more charming. And the day had come when this flaming beauty entered his first show. That was his moment of glory, as Citius became a one show Grand Champion. And that was the beginning of a truly Olympic path to Citius becoming a National Winner. The first part of this journey was quite an easy one. After a just couple of shows he was in the top 25 cats. Citius was truly faster, higher and stronger than most of his competition. Then our Olympic hero had to fight against the difficulties and overcome the obstacles and make it through the traumas. As it has

always been with Olympic heroes he came through it and became a winner at the end. For me this victory is a very special one, because Citius is a cat from my house, from my cattery. He is a result of 4 generations of my breeding. For the first time in history an Abyssinian of Russian breeding has become a Breed Winner and National Winner.

Twentieth Best Cat in Championship GC NW PURRTEK RIESLING

Platinum Mink Tonkinese Male

Breeder: Beth Cassely Owner: Beth Cassely and Jane Manly

Submitted by Beth Cassely

Where do I start this story? Riesling was born 4/23/12 and I showed him to a National win as a kitten 2013. I graded Riesling at Sternwheel Cat Fanciers and he went to live a life of leisure with Jane Manly.

In June 2013 I decided to show Riesling as a new Grand at our Regional show. He had a very nice show, so I decided to see if a Tonkinese who was a National Winning kitten could make another National Win as an adult.

Here we go again “running” another cat, but I wasn’t going to show every weekend. But this time I was trying making history for our Tonkinese breed. Claire and Bob Dubit were showing a beautiful platinum point girl. I knew we would be at the same shows which could make it hard as judges rarely final two Tonkinese.

Jane went with me to Garden State. The worst thing happened he got loose and I thought that was it for his show season. But he didn’t like running around the show hall he came right back and jumped into his carrier.

Our next big show was National Capital. Now this is my husband favorite show of all. Bill goes to a lot of shows, but National Capital is his favorite and he really enjoyed showing Riesling at the show. Next we went to the World



show. Riesling was the highest scoring cat in Championship.

At the Dixieland show, Claire, Bob and Bill and I showed up with our 2 beautiful Tonkinese. It was a good judging slate for both cats. Well this slate of judges put both Tonkinese in their finals. Now for some breeds this is not a rarity but for our breed is was special. We couldn’t believe it.

In January I started having health problems. As a result, we missed several shows. Riesling ended his show season

at the America’s Heartland show. Jane showed him and I worked the kitchen. I was a great show season ending for a very sweet cat. GC, NW Purrtek Riesling is the first Tonkinese to make a National Win as a Kitten in 2013 and National Win as Adult the very next Season.

Jane and I want to thank all the judges that finaied him which earned him CFA Twentieth Best Cat.

**Twenty-first Best Cat in Championship
GC, BW, NW DE SILSANOS KOKO**

Brown Mackerel Tabby Persian Male

Breeder: Oscar Silva Sánchez Owner: Oscar Silva and Teodoro Vargas

Submitted by Oscar Silva Sánchez



To talk about Koko is to talk about a dream. He was born on May 1st 2012 in a litter of six kittens and weighing only 55 grams. His other five brothers and sisters were bigger and stronger. We decided to have him raised by another mother, GC De Silsanos Summer Sunshine DM, who had a litter only a few days before and she readily accepted her new baby.

His mother is CH Luxor Cats Julia of De Silsanos DM, our foundation female, who started this amazing tabby program and for which I will always be thankful to her breeder Cyndi Sawyer. The father is GC DW De Silsanos Manhattan; our first home bred Divisional Winner.

Koko's first few weeks were not easy, starting his life with his natural mother and then being raised by his adoptive mother. However, he was growing gram by gram from such a low birth

weight, quickly becoming a strong and energetic boy, always awake and ready to be fed. At almost 4 weeks of age he was a small and round boy with only two large eyes on his tiny face and that is how we gave him his name.

During the following weeks he kept growing and growing and three months later I made a small video. It was when I made this video that I had a revelation. I knew then that I must bring him to the show halls.

His first show was a 6x6 in Italy and the results were unbelievable! However, we could only show Koko in a limited number of shows because of work commitments, and the fact that we were also showing another cat from our cattery, GC RW D'Arnaud Ambar, with the hopes of obtaining a regional title with her.

Koko only attended three shows in kitten class, 24 rings total, and earned enough points to remain in the region's Top 25 Kittens. After his brief but successful kitten show career, he stayed home, waiting for the right moment to attempt his GC.

His first show in Championship class was in Madrid where he made several points. We were happy with the results as the Spanish show always has a large number of Persians and Exotics and is very competitive. His second show was in Moscow where he earned his GC title making his mother a DM. This was even more special for us because I was fulfilling a promise I had made to Cyndi.

At that point our season had ended and it was time to have new kittens and new plans for the future. During the hot summer in Malaga, Koko lost his entire coat and I came very close to shaving him down, but something inside me said NO.

In August I started to bath him every week. The goal was to put him back in full coat for a photo session, as all the pictures we had of him had been taken at 5 or 6 months of age and I wanted to have some new ones now that he was a fully mature cat.

We never gave any thought to showing him further in Championship class. We had planned on showing our exotic, De Silsanos Sunshine Corazon but after a few shows we realized that she did not enjoy the shows. We had already booked many flights to shows for her and the day that Teo was sending the entries for Sunshine for the Moscow show, I asked him to bring Koko just for fun and in a supporting role,

but.....SURPRISE, he was Highest Scoring Cat in Championship!!

When Teo returned from Moscow we had a long talk and decided to try to for a Breed Win. In previous seasons we had come very close, but the NW title was not in our plans. And this season two cats were ahead of us with more than 3000 points and we were only starting our season.

Koko's show season was planned from

this moment like a challenge but with always keeping in mind our golden rule. We would be showing him only as long as Koko was happy and healthy as we were aware that such a large number of flights and shows could take their toll on Koko.

Thank God Koko was happy in many of the shows that he attended. I could write at length about the shows, but all can be summarized in numbers: 9 countries visited; 5 months campaign-

ing; 107 rings where Koko was shown and 100 finals.

Dreams DO come true when you work hard with integrity, keep your soul clean, and have the support of your close friends to keep your dream alive.

Thanks to my partner Teo. Without his help this would not have been possible.

Twenty-second Best Cat in Championship GC, NW STEDAM'S STERLING SILVER OF CRISP

Silver Tabby American Shorthair Male

Breeder: Dawn Skupin

Owner: Dawn & Jerry Crisp and Dawn & Michael Skupin

Submitted by Jerry Crisp

CFA's Twenty-second Best Cat for the show season 2013 – 2014 is GC, NW Stedam's Sterling Silver of Crisp bred by Dawn Skupin, and owned by Dawn and Jerry Crisp, and Dawn and Michael Skupin. Our experience with Sterling began when we met our friends, Dawn and Michael Skupin, at a cat show in Indianapolis.

The Skupin's had five kittens in their motor home and asked us to pick the one we wanted. We chose Sterling.

Sterling showed well as a kitten and graded easily as an adult. He actually graded twice. We had inadvertently entered an incorrect birth date. Sterling went on to capture a Southern Region win in championship for the 2012 – 2013 season.

We decided to try for the Grand Champion of Distinction award in September, 2013. Sterling did so well that we decided to go for a National Win.

Sterling's best show was at the World Show in November, 2013. He was second highest scoring cat in Championship in the Red Show.

Sterling is the complete showman. We always had an open door policy with him. He would spend a good deal of time on his grooming table at the shows, ready and eager to meet the spectators as they came by to admire him. We allowed the spectators to pet him in order for them to experience his kind and gentle personality. One of our best experiences was at a show where an older lady came to visit. She was wheelchair bound and could not get close to the grooming table where Sterling was surveying his admirers. We picked him up and placed him in her lap. The look on the lady's face was priceless.

Sterling had the support of many judges, including John Colilla, Hope Gonano, and Pam Bassett. These judges always gave him no less than second best. Thanks to all who supported him.

And most of all, thanks to Dawn and Michael Skupin. Without their support and tutelage, we would not have been successful.



Twenty-Third Best Cat in Championship

GC, BW, NW CURLFECT'S APHRODITES OF MARCUS

Chocolate Silver Patched Mackerel Tabby and White Devon Rex Female

Breeder: Terry and Stephanie Michaud

Owner: David Raynor, Linda Peterson, Terry and Stephanie Michaud

Submitted by by Linda Peterson

Aphrodite started her show career in Maine when Terry took her to her first kitten show where she was Best Kitten in Show. Several judges told Terry “that kitten needs to be campaigned!” The following weekend Terry slipped and fell, breaking her wrist. She called me and was very discouraged as it would be quite some time before she would be able to get Aphrodite out again and did I know of anyone who might be interested in showing her. Having seen a video and pictures of this beautiful little girl, I immediately called David and asked if he would be interested. He agreed, as long as I was involved and a co-owner. No problem there!

We did not get Aphrodite until the first of June, during a time when kitten counts were low and shows were limited, and she was already five and a half months old. Regardless, she did extremely well and finished her kitten career as Fifth Best Kitten in the Southern Region.

Aphrodite granded the end of August and went to National Capital as a baby Grand Champion where she did very well. We did not set out to campaign for a National Win; however, it was obvious that she was maturing into a beautiful cat so we continued to show her at local shows. I showed her at the World Show in November and she was Sixth Best Cat in Championship in the highly competitive Purple show. It was shortly after this that David’s partner, Mark (Hannon), aka “the Devon Whisperer” decided she needed to go for it! Without Mark, this National Win would not have been possible. He whisked her off to places David and I could not get to, showing her beautifully. We cannot thank Mark enough for his support.



Aphrodite is a beautiful example of her breed. She has lovely head structure, beautiful large expressive eyes, large low set ears, a beautiful body, and an amazing coat (which never ever molted) and gorgeous color. Her parents are GC Curlfect’s Isitt Bella and BMy-Companion Ricola of Curlfect. Ricola is an imported male, coming to Terry from Kim B. von Allmen in Switzerland.

Memorable moments that come to mind include the fun responses Aphrodite received from the judges about her incredible lush, wavy, and multicolored coat, how she would lounge on her hammock in her show cage rolling over to greet whoever was admiring her

(sometimes rolling off the hammock!), and the support of so many others this past show season. Thank you to all our friends and judges for your support this past year.

Aphrodite loved to show and as long as there was someone there to admire her, she was happy. Well, to be honest, she was always happy! She adored showing off on the judge’s stand, stretching up the pole and giving the judge a loving look.

Thank you Terry and Stephanie for entrusting us with this beautiful little girl and we are very excited to see what her future brings to all of us!

Twenty-fourth Best Cat in Championship GC, BW, NW CHOCOLADO'S PRINCE HARRY OF SHERONA

Blue Point Siamese Male

Breeder: **Ralph & Cindy Yanez** Owners: **Ralph-Cindy Yanez-Liz Armitage**

Submitted by Liz Armitage, Ralph and Cindy Yanez



Thanksgiving was almost here, and Aria was pregnant. We laughed about a previous Thanksgiving litter that Ralph had named Tom Turkey, Butterball and Jenny O. Aria wasn't keen on her babies having such names and decided that she would have her kittens on 11/15. One blue boy (Liz's favorite color) and one seal girl. Both grew up to be nice correct Siamese. Ya Ya, the seal girl, came on fast, with stunning color, and a beautiful hard body, deep intense blue eye color and did very well, a one show grand!

Harry was supposed to live with Liz, being a blue point, but that was not to be. Harry decided it was Cindy who would be his first love! Cindy knew he was too pretty to pet out and decided to keep him even if he was blue and the love affair began. He tolerated Liz, and when they traveled he would sleep

in the bed with her, but if Cindy was there, Liz didn't exist.

Now, "Harry" was a little slower to come into himself, his head was always there, a beautiful flare to the ears and absolutely stunning dark blue eyes, wide open but with the correct aperture. As Harry matured he grew longer and longer, his body hardened up and he became heavy to carry through the airports! His color was that dark slate blue, perfectly even on all his points, as he shaded, as all blues do, there were no ghost markings, just even shading throughout as the standard states. Harry began to get a following among the judges he showed so well. He loved to show off that long body and would even stretch his little toes, as if to say "look at me, look how long I am!"

Harry loved to play on the judging table and show off but don't you dare forget his baby food treat after each ring. He was a happy boy in the show halls. There never really was intention to campaign Harry, it kind of took on a life of its own. Over the summer while we attended local shows the competition was tough. Most shows would have 7 to 9 Siamese grands entered and it always was the survival of the fittest. As the summer went on the grands went down in numbers and Harry continued to climb the charts and that is when we decided to follow the campaign trail to see where it would lead us.

We decided to go to a show in Rome in February, and thought, "well in for a penny, in for a pound, let's do some sightseeing and then fly over to Moscow and do that show the following weekend." Harry took all this in his stride; he was used to flying, and the long trips were fine with him, as long

as Cindy was with him. Our hotel in Rome had a small patio with plants and flowers and Harry loved to lay by the window and watch the birds while we toured the city. Then it was off to Moscow, where there was snow on the ground. Harry just snuggled in bed and purred. In the show ring he was quite the hit, charming the judges and public alike. Then it was time to go home. We arrived back at JFK after a 10 1/2 hour flight, during which Harry never made a peep, he could see us the whole time and was satisfied with that. While waiting to board our connection to take us home to Las Vegas, we put up his Sturdi tent in the boarding area and gave Harry his litter box, food and water, he stretched out and rolled around entertaining our flight crew and those around us. While Harry was named after a Prince he was always adored by all that met him and treated like a King.

Well, the season ended with Harry as the Breed Winner, 24th Best Cat Nationally and 3rd Best Cat in the SW Region. It is a special year for the Siamese breed, for the first time in 31 years and only the second time ever in the history of CFA, we have a Siamese in each category for National Wins. A huge congratulations to GC NW Thaifong Santorino of Ayuthaya on his Kitten win and to GP NW Maiyah That Old Black Magic on his Premiership win. We are honored to be a part of such an historical place in CFA's History.

Congratulations to all the Siamese shown this season, there was fierce competition in every class. And a big thank you to all the judges that supported Harry, on his way up to his NW to follow in his father's paw prints. He is now looking forward to being the playboy he was named after!

In closing Prince Harry could have cared less about the accolades and fan fair. As long as he was allowed the luxurious accommodations and privileged

company of “Queen” Cynthia and the other peasant (hand maiden Liz), when the Queen was not available for their weekend excursions he was happy.

Twenty-fifth Best Cat in Championship
GC, BW, NW PURRMATIX SILVER BULLET
Ebony Silver Tabby Oriental Longhair Male
Breeder: Terrie Smith Owner: Terrie & Bruce Smith
Submitted by Terrie Smith

Getting a National Kitten win in the 2012-13 season with Coorey, a magnificent ebony silver ticked tabby Oriental Longhair was a breeze. He made well over 500 points as a 4 month old baby at the World Show, and two other great shows in St. Louis, and San Diego pretty much sealed the deal. Even though Coorey went to very few kitten shows, he ended up 15th Best Kitten in CFA!

Coorey was born in an amazing litter of 5 kittens out of GC, BW, NW Purrmatrix Headline News, DM, the sire of more grands than any other Javanese male in CFA history, and CH Noxx Rockin’ Rosie of Purrmatrix, a gorgeous Finnish import that became the first, and only one litter Oriental Longhair Distinguished Merit dam. Yes, all 5 kittens in the litter graded, rather easily! Thank you to Nina-Maria Tigerstedt for giving me this phenomenal girl who continues to produce beauties in all of her litters.

After the kitten season was over, and all of his littermates had also graded, I decided to “test the waters” and started out the new season showing Coorey, his brother Linus, and his sister Nina. The first show of the season, Coorey, Nina and Linus all finaled in two rings, and Coorey ended up having a phenomenal show. After a couple of months, Nina was pulled to be bred, and another month later Linus was retired, and in only three months Linus



held on for a Top 25 Regional Win, and 2nd Best of Breed in CFA!

I would like to thank George Cherrie for encouraging me to get over my fear of flying

and giving me the confidence to go to Europe for the very first time. Coorey accompanied me. He made 5 best cats in Rotterdam and also did quite well in Rome. They were two of the most amazing journeys of her life. Coorey is the second Oriental Longhair to be a National Winning kitten and adult in CFA history!!

I am very thankful to my friends from Russia, France, Finland, the Netherlands, Italy, Ukraine, Spain, Canada and of course the USA! Your support has meant so much to me during this very trying year. I hope to visit Europe several more times in the new season, and may even make it to Asia! Thanks my shining Silver Bullet, with your gorgeous emerald eyes, long hard body, magnificent coat, stunning head and loving temperament for making the 2013-14 show season one never to be forgotten!!