

CFA's Top 25 Cats in PREMIERSHIP 2013-2014

by Lauri Henry

The 2013-2014 season was the season of the first time National Winner. Thirteen of the top 25 Premiership cats were owned and exhibited by first time winners. Winning cats were evenly split between 13 short hair and 12 long hair winners. Neuters were in the overwhelming majority, with 20 winning neuters. Only five of this year's top 25 in Premiership were spays.

Among the Top 25 cats in Premiership this season, there were multiple winners in many of the breed judging classes. These included five Persian winners: three in the Bicolor Persian class and two Persian Solids. The next largest number of winners within a breed judging class were the Exotic short hairs—three Exotic short hairs achieved national wins this season. Add in one Exotic long hair and that makes four total Exotic winners. Several other breed judging classes made room for two winners. There were two Burmese and both cats were dilutes. There were two short hair Japanese Bobtails; two American Shorthairs and two British Shorthairs.

Historical firsts included: The very first Birman to become the best national winning cat in any category; the first Bombay to achieve a second National award in Premiership; the first American Bobtail National Winner in Premiership, who was also the first blue eyed white American Bobtail National Winner; and the first platinum Burmese National Winner.

There were a number of other notable accomplishments this season: The Maine Coon was one of three Premiership National Winners from the very same litter, joining 2 of his littermates who won their Premiership NW titles in the previous season (2012-2013). The Siamese Premiership winner was part of a trio of Siamese National Winners this year, joining a Siamese kitten and a Siamese championship winner. The champagne Burmese was among the three youngest Burmese National Winners ever in Premiership, joining two other young winning Burmese in Premiership from many years ago who were within 2 weeks of his age.

In terms of the distribution of winners by region of residence, Region 4 came out on top with 7 National Winners in Premiership this season. The competitors were largely a mobile group and were not confined to their regions of residence. Nine cats were shown in all seven of the CFA regions in the United States and Canada and all 25 were exhibited in at least 3 Regions or more. Show attendance was fairly brisk as well. Only one cat went to 15 shows all year. The remainder of the exhibitors reported exhibiting their cats between 21-45 weekends for those who were able to keep track. One exhibitor said she went to “a lot!” of shows and left it at that.

The year was notable for the number of shows with 60 or more entries in Premiership. This season 23 shows

reached or passed 60 entries which compares to only 10 shows at that number in the previous season. This was the first season where only 60 entries were required to award top 15 placements in Premiership, and the rule change may have created an incentive for entries.

The challenges of exhibiting were succinctly put by one exhibitor: “weight, coat, maturity, and weather!” Then add in health, family and work, all to be juggled for a year more or less. Please join me in congratulating all of the cats, the owners, the breeders and the exhibitors. In addition to being exceptional cats, these cats have exceptional stories. There was plenty of drama and quite a few surprises. I hope you will enjoy reading about it all in their stories!

Best Cat in Premiership
GP, NW SANDESOX JUST SWEETNESS OF WHITESOX

Blue Point Birman Neuter

Breeder: Sandy Faust and Karen Lane

Owner: Karen Lane, Sandy Faust, and Yvonne Griffin

Submitted by Karen Lane

Most breeders see that special kitten in a litter and know this baby could be really something; this was not the case with Tommy. As a matter of fact Tommy started with the name of Tonic. Tommy was one of two brothers in their litter. I first saw Tommy when my sister, Sandy, sent a photo of the two kittens trying to learn how to eat. The kittens and their small bowl were placed on Sandy's bar. All I saw was a blur of two kittens, a bottle of Bourbon and a bottle of Tonic. That became their names from that point on.

Our friend, Yvonne, took our cat from two seasons ago to the show in Phoenix in December 2012. I asked her to take a look at the two boys growing up at my sister's house. Her comment, "they don't look like much."

Bourbon and Tonic went to their first show; the New Year's Show in Las Vegas, 2012. They were just four months old. They got little attention from the judges, but the attention they did get went to Bourbon, not Tonic. Sandy and her husband, Fred, did better in the Casino then either kitten did at the show.

I saw the boys when they came to me for our January show in Florida: a flashy seal tabby point and a shy blue point. I thought both boys were well marked, but nothing really special. We brought the boys to our club's 6x6 show that weekend. The first day belonged to Bourbon. Tonic was scared and clung to the back of the cage. I offered Tonic to a family at the show for a pet. They were going to think about it and come back on Sunday. On Sunday, Tonic decided that he wasn't going to be shy anymore and he became much more involved in the



judging ring. The family came back to the show and decided they did not want Tonic, but wanted to wait for a different color. By the end of the day Sunday, we had sold Bourbon to a lovely family from Michigan; then I told Sandy, I wouldn't show a cat named Tonic. So Tonic became Tommy and he was now going to be our show kitty.

Sandy left Florida and took Tommy with her back to Arizona, as she wanted to show Tommy in San Diego. This was a poor choice, as he did nothing at the show. His show career was now moving back to Florida and we decided to neuter him. Yvonne was still showing another cat of ours so I took Tommy to the shows and the more shows he went to the better he got. He seemed to enjoy the attention he got at the shows and he grew; in body, coat and personality.

We asked Yvonne if she was interested in showing Tommy. She was a bit tired after campaigning our other cats for three consecutive years, but she agreed to finish his kitten career and grand him in Premiership. He ended his kitten career as Second Best Birman Kitten.

His first Premiership show was in May, 2013, in Vero Beach; another 6X6 show. Tommy Granded on Saturday; and was highest scoring cat in Premiership as a brand new Grand Premier on Sunday. He was Best Cat in Premiership in eight of the twelve rings. Yvonne and I agreed that we certainly had a shot at getting a regional title; or at least we thought that way until September.

Right after the National Capital Show,

Tommy was in first place Nationally and the three of us got really excited and changed our goals for Tommy and got out the checkbook.

Yvonne is an amazing person, a person with "True Grit". She is doggedly loyal and genuinely sincere in her beliefs. She has always handled cats like they were "gold nuggets" and she grooms beautifully.

Tommy is a real showman and has a winning personality. He loves being at the shows and is a great traveler. However, if Yvonne is driving and the road is rough he will complain!

For Yvonne, traveling with Tommy offered lots of excitement too. She was tripped in the baggage area in Houston and did a full out "face plant." Fortunately nothing was broken, not her nose and not her spirit.

Coming out of the Parma show she discovered her rental car dented, and that is always a hassle with the rental people.

There was the dead car battery on a brand new Chevy Cruze on Easter morning in Frederick, Maryland; and yes, she made the flight home.

Yvonne and Tommy got stranded at the Atlanta Airport for a weekend, and they missed the Roanoke Show. Living in the Sunshine State, means you fly most everywhere.

Taking off from Orlando for St Louis, the last show of the season, an engine malfunctioned, fortunately before they were airborne. The airplane returned to the terminal and 2 and 1/2 hours later she and Tommy were on their

way again. Tommy went to 37 shows with Yvonne, in 33 states. He had 122 Bests, and consistently placed in the top five.

From Yvonne: *"A hearty thank you to all the judges and fans that supported this kitty, with the big heart! I can never find words to thank Karen and Sandy for their love and support. It has truly been a season I will never forget (and I have had a lot of them!)."*

From Sandy: *"For me, it was the journey getting here. The endless hours of thinking; just maybe, this could happen. Like Yvonne, I will never forget it!"*

From Karen: *"For twenty seven years I wondered what it would feel like to stand up at the end of the Awards Ceremony and celebrate a Best Award and now I know how it feels. I actually feel humbled by the entire experience and over-whelmed. Like Yvonne, I will never forget it!"*

We would like to congratulate all of the other Premiership Winning cats and to thank CFA for making us all so very happy!

**Second Best Cat in Premiership
GP, NW LEGGS FLOWER DRUM SONG**

Chestnut Ticked Tabby and White Oriental Shorthair Neuter

Breeder: Lynn Von Egidy and Lori Tollison

Owner: Gail & Dennis Rampke

Submitted by Gail Rampke



It was a dark and stormy night...well, not really, but I've always wanted to start a story that way. Actually, the weather was moderate, there were no significant portents or signs to be observed, and Leggs Flower Drum Song—aka Yoshi—came to our house like any other kitten we'd brought home in the past. I thought he was breathtaking. But I always think my cats are beautiful, so I tried to judge him dispassionately. I figured he would maybe be a one show grand, and would otherwise do very well, for most values of "very well." I quickly found that I had to revise my value of "very well" upward by a considerable amount.

Yoshi showed only twice as a kitten. He granded in the first four rings at his first adult show, and his second adult show was the 2012 World Show. As

a brand new grand, Yoshi finaled in 8 out of 10 rings at the Red World Show, ending up the third best shorthair in Premiership. Dennis and I came home rather stunned, and decided we needed to reevaluate our plans for little Yoshi. We had never campaigned a cat, even regionally, so our discussion was a bit on the fraught side. "It will cost a fortune!" "We'll never have another cat this good – this is our only chance!" "Your parents' health is bad and yours isn't all that great." "It will cost a fortune!" "We'll have to travel all over – even fly" "You'll have to go to a lot of shows by yourself." "We have no idea what we're doing!" "It will cost a fortune!" We paced, we argued, we made lists of pros and cons, and believe me, the cons list was much longer. Nonetheless, the final decision was "Let's go for it!"

Most of Yoshi's story is like any National Winner: he made lots of finals, found judges who thought he was fabulous and others who didn't agree. He was Best Premier in Show at Garden State, National Capital, Cotton States, San Diego Cat Fanciers, and many others. The moment that was the most touching for me was when he won the Beth Newkirk Memorial Award at Cotton States. There were many triumphant moments, and equally disappointing days.

While Yoshi obviously did very well, what I will remember most of all about his campaign year was his generosity of spirit. He is a perfect show cat. He never gave a single judge a moment's trouble. He traveled like the champ he is. He loves hotels, airports, and flying (I nearly got an ulcer before his first flight. Would he be so loud we'd be thrown off midflight with one big and one very small parachute? No worries. He talked throughout the terminal, but the minute he was shoved under the seat, he curled up and slept like a furry, bicolor log. He never said peep on any of his flights.) He stepped up to every demand we made of him, and came back for more each week. When things went wrong and he was pushed, pulled, and stuffed in or out of carriers, fell off of luggage carts, was hassled by the TSA, or shivered through sub-zero weather, he took it all with a bright-eyed "Yow-oww-oww!" which means, "Now, that was exciting!". He loved to ride in his stroller, sitting at the very front, watching eagerly for whatever would happen next.

Of all the surprises I encountered while campaigning, the greatest and most pleasing was the unstinting and constant support I received from the

very people who were my competitors. That I did not expect. I was helped at every turn, shoved in the right direction by force when necessary-- "You enter every show next weekend, ok? Every show! No more mistakes like last week when you missed the count!" We could never have gotten Yoshi to his final placement without the help and friendships of the 'Premiership club.'

Even though this is supposed to be the story of a national campaign, the most

important thing to me about Yoshi is he is my little guy—my buddy, my companion. The first night I brought him home, I had barely gotten under the covers when he crept onto the bed (after spending the day under it) tugged at the covers until I lifted them, confidently squirmed in and curled up in the crook of my elbow as if he'd done it all his short life. He put out a paw, drew my hand closer to him and rested his chin on my wrist. I was his from that moment, and he is mine. Yes,

Leggs Flower Drum Song is a National Winner; and I have to say I enjoyed every single minute of his campaign. I'm sure proud of all his ribbons and awards! But mostly, he's just my little Yoshi. Forever.

Dennis and I wish to thank Yoshi's breeders, Lynne Von Egidy and Lori Tollison, and our good friend Pat Summers, who helped us all to get connected and helped Yoshi find his way to us.

Third Best Cat in Premiership GP, NW SUAVERE'S DARK SECRET OF PENOBSCOT

Black Solid Persian Neuter

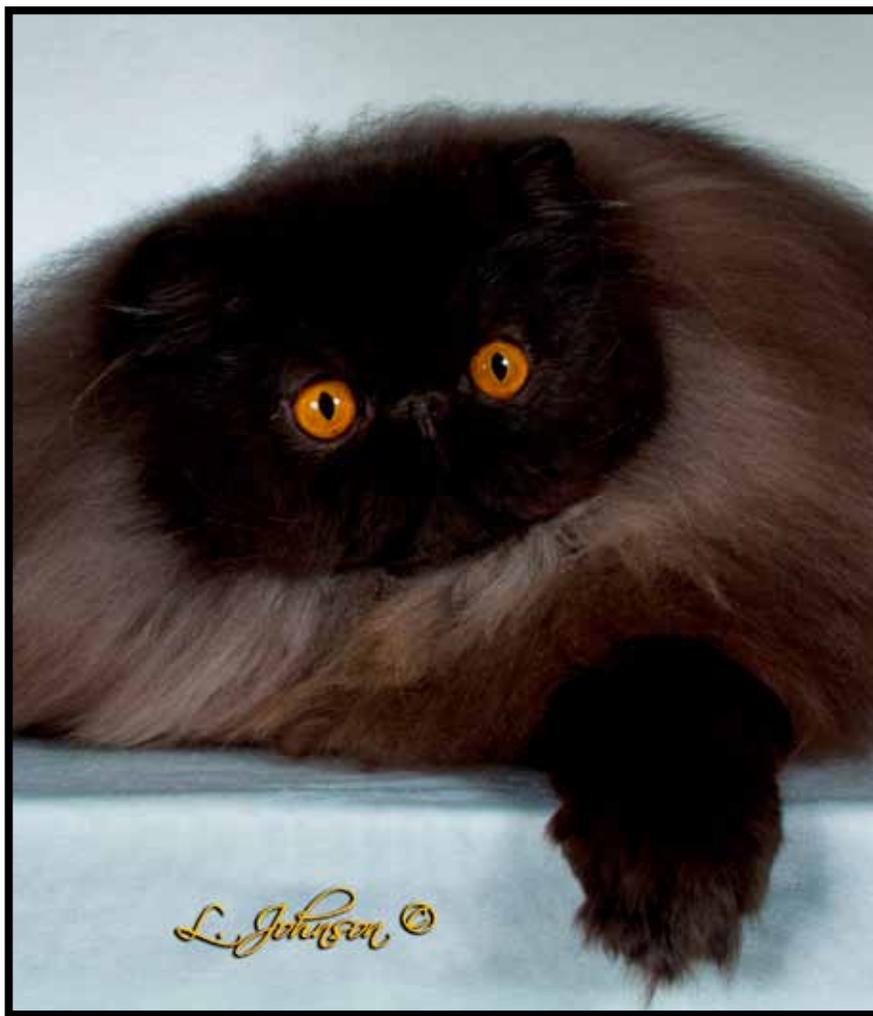
Breeder: Carolyn & Stephen Vogel

Owner: Ginger Gunlock, Joyce McKinster, and Carolyn & Stephen Vogel

Submitted by Ginger Gunlock

My search began a few years ago. I bred Persians for 35 years and I had some Persians who were getting old and would not be with me for long. I wanted to have a younger pretty pet to keep me and my older Persian friends company, so I asked Persian breeders to let me know if they had a male I could have to show and be my pet. Suavere's Dark Secret was born on January 24, 2012. I saw him for the first time in May 2012. I had a feeling he would come to live with me. My hopes were fulfilled when Carolyn called me in September 2012. When asked, I told her, "YES! I want him." He came to me in January 2013 and I immediately called him Bart. Bart was then neutered and he proceeded to blow all his coat, so we sat on him until July 2013. It was at that time we took him out to grand in Premiership and to see how he would do. He made finals as an Open and that overwhelmed us. We knew we had a good cat, but coming out after the beginning of the season to get top honors at a show was more than we anticipated. We then decided to take him out and let him take us as far as he would go. Bart proceeded to go from zero to 3rd nationally in 12 weekends.

Bart is a dream to show. He is easy to groom and maintains great condition. Bart is always ready to go. He loves to show as much we love showing him. A cat like Bart



does not come around very often. I have only had two other cats like him in all the years I have been showing cats.

Bart draws crowds wherever we go. The spectators love him so much we setup his own Facebook page, so they can “Like” him. Bart’s impressive coat and outgoing personality make him a

crowd pleaser. He loves the attention and the spectators are thrilled to be able to pet a show cat! Bart is a great Ambassador cat at each and every CFA show we attend.

Bart loves his old Persian friends at home. He is an easygoing cat and the others accepted him well. He is more active than they are, but they do try

to entertain him even with all of his energy. Bart is a wonderful show cat. More importunately, we are enjoying him as a wonderful pet.

I wish to thank the new and old friends, as well as all the judges on this journey. I especially want to thank his breeders, Carolyn and Steve Vogel, for entrusting me with Bart, but more importantly for being my friends

Fourth Cat in Premiership
GC, GP, NW CALIVAN’S TUFF TIGER
Brown Mackerel Tabby Exotic Neuter
Breeder: Kathleen P. Holahan
Owner: Kathleen Holahan, Noly Limjoco, and Richard Ashton
Submitted by Richard Ashton

Calivan’s Tuff Tiger and I first met in the fall of 2010 when I picked him up in Los Angeles on my way from San Diego to Portland. Tiger, one of only a few cats that Kathleen Holahan had selected to keep or bring back during their mutual retirement, was on his way home. My partner, Noly Limjoco and I had met Kathy months earlier when we purchased our first Calivan cat.

The start of the 2013-2014 show season was only a week or two away when it was first suggested by a friend that we consider running Tiger for a National Win. With his round, massive head and sweet expression, Tiger, at 7½ years of age, was a terrific example of a fully mature Exotic.

We decided to test the waters at a couple of local shows during May even though Tiger was not in top show condition. Although pleased by Tiger’s overall performance, we thought it wise to hold off for a few months to focus on conditioning.

We didn’t return to the show hall until the end of September. Largely unknown outside the West Coast, we would need to quickly establish ourselves as serious, competent national competitors. Many of the places we



would visit and judges we would encounter would be new to us.

Moving forward, Noly would be the face of Team Tiger. Kathy offered experience and support. My focus would remain strategy and planning. And, as the person left behind, I was charged with taking care of the cats and home, knowing I could never totally meet Noly’s standards! While Noly’s insistence on perfection in grooming and presentation served us well, it took its toll on him and the rest of us! Kathy, a retired physician, more than once mentioned, “There’s medication for that, Noly.”

The Denver show at the end of September marked the first time we had shown a cat in any region other than 2 and 5. It was a good show for Tiger who brought home nearly 350 points. We were finally on our way.

Our destination two weeks later was Parma, Ohio where our overall experience was positive. Good enough to propel Tiger into the Top 25. Following Cotton States we returned to the West Coast, then headed to the World Show. We were excited albeit somewhat apprehensive as the World Show approached, hopeful that – whatever the outcome - it would be an amaz-

ing experience. It was a whirlwind of a weekend with beautiful cats, familiar friends and new acquaintances. And an emotional couple of days with text messages going back and forth as Tiger moved from ring to ring. In the end, Tiger was the 3rd best cat in Premiership overall, moving to 13th place in the National standings.

Tiger's success at the World Show was pivotal and we were gaining momentum. We decided to enter as a "point cat" Tiger's sire, GC, GP, RW Calivan's Captain Hook DM as an open in Premiership in Portland's Lewis and Clark

show in early December. Although insufficient points were available to grand the cat in one show, he made good progress, and granded in the first 2 rings of the next show at age 13½ years! By the time we returned from Nashville three weeks later, Tiger was ending 2013 in the number four spot.

We began the New Year with clear goals: Keep Tiger healthy and hold our position over the remaining seventeen weeks. Although there was only one local show on our 2014 calendar, we were frequently able to remain on the West Coast. Interstate 5 became

familiar territory during several road trips between Portland and San Diego.

As Noly and Tiger returned from Denver in mid-April we wondered if it was possible this could be our last show. We entered multiple shows for the last two weekends of the season, but as the shows closed and breed summaries were released, we made calculated decisions – and stayed home. We had reached our goals and were grateful to many judges, fellow exhibitors and spectators for their kindness and support.

Fifth Best Cat in Premiership GC, GP, NW BEAR COUNTRY CHILL FACTOR

Platinum Burmese Spay

Breeder: Roseann Wheeler

Owner: Roseann & Timothy Wheeler

Submitted by Roseann Wheeler



Tori is a shining example of what can happen when all of the pieces fall into place. Her mother was CFA's first platinum Burmese breed winner (GC, BW, RW At's A Burm Sicily of Bear Country). Her father was also a breed winner (GC, BW, RW Mouse Island's DeJa Vu of De Bears); the father of a National Winner in Premiership last season and the grandfather of

another National Winning Burmese in Premiership this show season. With her well-muscled body and coat to rival her sable Burmese counterparts, Tori was a show cat from the start.

Tori started her show career at four months of age by being bundled up and packed into a carrier on a plane bound for the CFA National Show in

Indianapolis. After that big show most of her kitten shows were local. She ended her kitten season with a Regional Win and the title of Best Burmese kitten that year. The plan was then for motherhood. After granding in Championship she continued to do well on the show circuit until the hormones took over and it became impossible to maintain her show condition. And then a health scare changed everything. After consultation with Tori's veterinarian, spaying seemed the safest course of action. But the good news was we had a magnificent girl who was just going to get better with age, as Burmese tend to do. So at the end of January 2013 we decided to take her out for a National Win in Premiership. No platinum Burmese had ever won on a national level before.

This is the third national campaign for Bear Country Cattery. Armed with the knowledge that Premiership can be a long year, we did our best to allow for time off to rest and recharge in between shows for both cat and human. Tori was a trooper, taking car and plane trips across the country in stride.

It was difficult to break new ground in the show ring with Tori's beautiful but unconventional coat color. But her solid body and perfect conformation won the day. Judges came to believe that a platinum-colored premier could not only represent the Burmese breed with distinction, but she could also become a National Winner.

This campaign took us to quite a few places in the winter months. Driving in the snow for the first time in 33 years was the scariest thing I've had to do. One trip was especially memorable—in Cleveland it was snowing so hard I could not see the lines on the road. To make matters worse the GPS decided

it would be a great time to speak in another language. I managed to find my way home by following a salt truck in the blowing snow with a curt female voice giving directions in Afrikaans.

I also got to go to some shows I had always wanted to attend. We had an especially nice time at the Cleveland Persian Society Show in January. I grew up near Cleveland and spent many happy years there. My family came to visit us at the show, and the exhibitors and judges were very accommodating to them. My 4 year old niece had a ball with so many people allowing her to pet their cats. She plays cat show at home now with her stuffed animals.

And my very cat-allergic brother-in-law could not resist the chance to touch a Sphynx.

Support on the home front was in place. My husband Tim went to as many shows as he could with us. When Tim was able to be in the show hall Tori could usually be seen zipped inside of Tim's jacket, protected from the air conditioning. Tim also kept our campaign going by making excuses as to why I was not able to attend functions with him.

Finishing the campaign with a Best Cat at the last show of the season in the final ring was a great way to end the year.

Sixth Best Cat in Premiership GP, NW MOUSE ISLAND'S TIMBAVATI OF SINGITA

Champagne Burmese Neuter
Breeder: Prudy & Ernie Dorazio
Owner: Lauri & Michael Henry

Submitted by Lauri Henry

We have always dreamed of campaigning a Burmese for a National win. We had a small breeding program for about six years and could not continue as breeders due to our brisk travel schedules. We invited our good friend, Prudence (Prudy) Dorazio of Mouse Island Burmese cattery, to have pick of one of our last litters. Her boy GC, BW, RW Mouse Island's Deja Vu of De Bears was the sire. Our cattery, Singita, is named after a safari camp in South Africa and all of our cats have African names. We named the boy Prudy took home Nkosi, (Singita Nkosi of Mouse Island) which means "commander" in the Xhosa tribal language. When Prudy took Nkosi home we asked her if an extra special boy was born someday, a cat that she could not use in her breeding program, would she please send him back to us to show in Premiership. In December 2012 Prudy texted me that she had the kitten we were waiting for and our boy Nkosi was the sire. I was on a plane in two weeks to pick our kitten up.



We named our kitten Timbavati ("Timba") after the place in South Africa where the dilute lions were discovered. Timba was growing up fast and had almost aged out of kitten class by the time he came to live with us, so we did not have a lot of time to waste picking shows. For his very first show we took him to one of the biggest shows in the Midwest Region, the Lucky Tom Cat show, to compete in a class of 88

kittens. He was a little unsure about the show hall that first weekend, but he made several finals and Lois Jensen made him Best Kitten in her ring. That was the only sign we needed that we were on the right path with the right Burmese.

We showed Timba for 16 straight months starting with that show. We took very few breaks. The first season,

2012-2013, in only 3 ½ months, Timba achieved two Regional Winning titles: 10th Best Kitten and 23rd Best Cat in Premiership. We only showed him four times in Premiership that year. Timba granded in two shows, earning 74 grand points in the first show. We took him to two more shows that season as an 8 and 9 month old baby Grand Premier and that was that for 2012-2013.

We were uncertain if Timba's champagne color would remain the light even shade we prefer (Burmese coats are pointed and all of them darken with age). So we started in May 2013 and just kept on going. What Timba lacked in maturity those first few months, he made up with personality and charm in the show hall. Our biggest issue all year long was his age. He was a growing cat, which meant that he was essentially a different cat at every show for the first few months of the

season. We worked with his diet all season to accommodate his growth and maximize his condition. Timba started the season in May at 8 ¼ lbs. and he wound up to be a good sized boy at 9 lbs. 11 ounces for the remainder of the show season. His highest weight was a good bit over that. In the end he became a National Winner well before his second birthday, at the same time becoming one of the three youngest Burmese Premiership National Winners in history. He shares that honor with two other cats from many years ago with birthdates within two weeks of his own.

Because we live in the northern tip of the Midwest region, far away from most shows, we had to fly to almost every show. We flew on frequent flier miles, at five dollars per ticket, to all but a few. We flew so much that the TSA agents in Minneapolis knew Tim-

ba by name and they also knew what spot he was in nationally. They asked us about his progress every week.

One of the highlights of the year was Cotton States. It was as beautiful as a black tie wedding with rings covered in tulle and glitter. Cotton states was tied for the second highest Premiership count show of the year. It was our greatest honor that Timba was the highest scoring Burmese in Premiership at that show by over 100 points.

Timba kept us going through all of the highs and lows of the past year, making final after final and entertaining us with his antics in hotels. We never wanted the season to end. He is happily retired now, sleeping on my pillow every night. Mike and I especially wish to thank Timba's breeders, Prudy and Ernie Dorazio of Mouse Island Burmese for sending us this special boy.

Seventh Best Cat in Premiership GC, GP, NW IVY CAT ICE BREAKER OF GR8KATZ

Black Exotic Neuter

Breeder: Pam & Rick Degolyer

Owner: Gerald & Juanita Walker and Pam & Rick Degolyer

Submitted by Pam and Rick Degolyer

Ice Breaker is a beautiful solid black Exotic Short Hair. His father was our very first National Winner: GC, BW, NW Ivy Cat Black Ice of Purrelli, a solid black Exotic Shorthair. His mother is GP, RW Ivy Cat Sookie, a brown tabby Exotic Short hair.

Gerald Walker lives in San Francisco and had been on our waitlist for a top show cat in Premiership for 2 years. I decided that Ice Breaker would be a great cat to send him. Ice Breaker was a two show Grand in Championship and a one show Open-to-Grand in Premiership at the March 2013 TGIF show in Indianapolis, IN.

Gerald took Ice breaker to a few shows at the beginning of the season. He did pretty well, but Gerald became ill early in the season and had to be hospitalized. During that time, Ice Breaker be-

came depressed. He lost weight, blew his coat, and he dropped out of the National Standings. When Gerald was feeling better we talked on the phone about what we could do to help Ice Breaker get back in the National standings again. I asked Gerald to bring Ice breaker to the Garden State cat show in July and we decided to discuss it at that show.

Ice Breaker made 3 finals at Garden State, but his weight and coat needed work. Gerald and I decided it would be in Ice Breaker's best interest if I took Ice Breaker back home with me so I could work on getting him back in shape.

At the same time I was campaigning a cream spotted Exotic in Championship, GC Dandy's Hey Jude of Ivy cat. I did not have extra time or space but



I decided to drag Ice Breaker along with Jude for the rest of the season. Ice Breaker's weight eventually went up to 13 lbs. Jude was also a big boy at 10 lbs. I wound up traveling all over the United States with two big fat boys. It was challenging to say the least.

The flights were the hardest — lugging the 2 big boys around in airports, I had one in a Tutto on wheels and one in a double Sturdibag. I put the Sturdibag on top of the Tutto and wheeled both cats around the airport along with an emergency bag with a pop up tent, litter, litter box and food. Most of the time if there was a delay, I would take the boys to the family bathroom and let them run around in between flights. Right before my flight, I would zip the divider up in the Sturdibag and the boys would get right in and off we would go. I put them under the seat in front of me and I would put the Tutto up in the overhead bin of the plane and off we went.

Most of our high count shows were fly in shows and there was a lot of bad weather this year. We had a lot of flight delays including one delay where we got stranded in Houston, Texas for five days due to an ice storm in Indianapolis. Thank goodness we were there with friends to help us with companionship and with five extra days of expenses.

In Ontario, California we were in a hotel room on the 4th floor and a 5.2 earthquake hit the day we got there. My friend Donna was on the telephone in our room and all at once the building started to rock. I was in shock. Donna and I just looked at each other and said at the same time: "Earthquake!"

Ice Breaker has his father's sweet loving personality. My favorite memories are of carrying him to the judging rings. He would lay his head on my chest and look up at me with those big eyes and it made my heart melt. Once he was

up on the judge's table he would open his big eyes wide and show off. The judges could see how much he loved to show.

Thank goodness for my amazing husband taking on the heavy load while I was away! He cared for the cats and a few times he delivered kittens, he also had the house spotless clean for me when I got home. I am truly blessed!

What made this year's campaign so much fun was having traveling buddies. They helped with the expenses of hotels, car rentals and gas and made the time on the road go faster. I would like to thank Donna Zimmerman, who showed a Manx in Premiership and Sophia Staples who showed a Persian in Championship for being the best friends ever!

This will be Gerald and Juanita Walker's first National Win. Rick and I want to send our appreciation and gratitude to the Walker's for their help and support during this fun season. It was great teamwork!

Eighth Best Cat in Premiership GP, NW LADILUCK'S BARRONS

Red Mackerel Tabby and White Longhair Exotic Neuter

Breeder: Sharon Soules and Rich Mastin

Owner: Kathleen Doyle

Submitted by Kathleen Doyle

The first time I "met" Barrons was in a car-pool lot while dropping off cats I'd been showing for Sharon Soules and Brian Gravett. Brian said "Meet your new show cat!" as Sharon revealed a little puff of red and white fur. Barrons was a preemie who had been born so early that he wasn't expected to live. But he did live, and just to be spiteful he grew a lovely long coat, because that's just what every Exotic Shorthair breeder is looking for, right? As a result, he was being evicted from Sharon's program. He was 10 weeks old at the time and cute as could be. However, I had enough cats already, thank you very much, and not about to fall for the "show her the cute

kitten, she'll take him!" trick.

Despite saying that the "longhair needed to go", Sharon kept him because, in her opinion, he was the perfect cat except for "that hair". She also continued to send me increasingly adorable photographs of Barrons until she finally wore me down and we took him to a show. Soon after that we decided that I would try him in Premiership. Sharon assured me he didn't have to be permanent. She would take him back at the end. About 30 seconds after we got home I received an e-mail containing his signed registration and the news that he was mine. Hmmm. Maybe I fell for that trick after all.



The first time I took Barrons out in Premiership he was a tiny nine month old. He was cute as a button and loved to play, but boy was he small! Using his charm he was able grand quickly, and was a Regional Winner the next season. After that I had no intentions of running him again. But I liked to go to the shows and had no other cats to show, so I entered him in a few local shows (as in within an eight hour drive). Anyone who has seen Barrons in action knows he's a riot and he loves to be the center of attention. His antics made him lots of fun to show. He's fallen off more than one judging table, and if the judges let go of him he'll go off exploring.

Between seasons Barrons decided to mature and he started to do really well. So I kept showing him. When he did respectably at one of the "big" shows I decided it was on, and we were off running. I must thank Sandy and Richard Nabeta, and Dianne Lukas for the adventures that followed. This is because I had foot surgery very close

to the aforementioned show and I grossly underestimated how hard it would be (read: painful). I could barely walk, never mind drive, load/unload a car, and get the darn cat to the rings. They drove me to the show, carried my gear, and took Barrons to all the rings. That show ended up being the turning point in Barrons's career, which would not have happened without them.

Then we were off for a crazy year. I was away so much that I forgot what my husband looked like. We went to shows in 11 different states, and one province. We crossed the border almost every weekend, which is decidedly not fun. The lines can be hours long, adding a lot of time to an already long trip. The guards are also confused by the answer to "what is the purpose of your trip". Next question is "do you win money". I laughed out loud at that one.

Our trips averaged 10-11 hours each way. The longest was 18 hours to Atlanta GA, the shortest was 2.5 hours

to Cambridge, ON (and bonus points for no border to cross). I've visited a lot of rest stops. Being from Canada, there was snow to deal with. But really, what's more fun than driving through a raging blizzard? I know, driving through a raging blizzard in the middle of the night. We have a saying here: it's not a cat show without a snow storm. Then there were all the 4 am baths. That was when I wished that Barrons had, in fact, been born a short hair. But as I mentioned earlier, he's a bit spiteful.

Despite the driving, the border, the storms, and the bankruptcy that goes with showing, I am glad we did it. It was an adventure in which I got to see places I had never seen before, took a few detours (not all were exactly intentional), made new friends, and spent a lot of time bonding with my cat, whom I adore despite his deviousness. I would do it all again..... once I catch up on my sleep! PS, Thank you, Sharon for tricking me into taking Barrons!

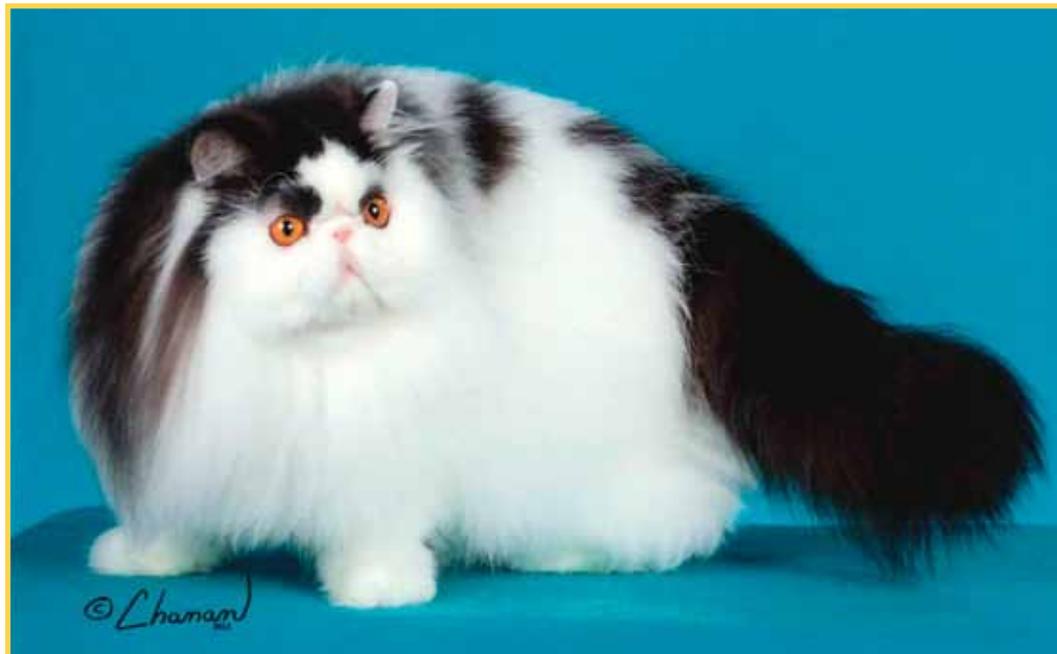
Ninth Best Cat in Premiership CH, GP, NW PURRCASSO'S STARRY NIGHT

Black and White Bi-color Persian

Br/Owner: Noelle Giddings

Submitted by Noelle Giddings

Starsky" was part of the first bicolor litter born at Purrcasso Persians out of CH Dreem Weever's Kalypso of Purrcasso (the first cat I ever showed), and CH Angel Paz Blu Nose of Purrcasso. He stood out with his flashy facial markings and not to be ignored personality. I was still very much a novice exhibitor when I took him to his first show at four months old and found out he was an instant showman! He was such a fun cat to show, making finals from the start. At his very first show he revealed his goofy side by drumming on the partitions in the judging cages and he earned himself a chastising from several judges for his disruptive behavior.



Starsky was shown limitedly as a kitten and in Championship as local shows (6-7 hours' drive away on average) were only once or twice a month at most and flying to shows was not a consideration. There was tough bi-color competition that season, but he did get some Best Cats in top 10 finals although he didn't grand as we didn't have enough time before the hormones hit and he lost condition. A few years later after retirement from my breeding program, I decided I wanted to show him in Premiership and he granded quickly in 1 ½ shows again with top 10 placements. I knew I wanted to see if I could get a Regional win on Starsky, but I contemplated if he might be able to do more because the judges were responding to him well even though he had not outgrown drumming. I sat him out after he granded and waited to test the waters when the new season started.

Starsky started the next season doing very well so I soon found myself going to shows in many states I had never been to before. We were averaging

about three shows per month, none of which were in my own state. It was a challenge to campaign from my home in northern Idaho which meant flying to a majority of the shows while working a full time job that required my presence first thing every Monday morning. It meant many late night arrivals and little sleep either at show locations or when getting home very late Sunday night. At times I did forgo attending certain shows due to overly expensive or impossible flight schedules. I was fortunate despite it all to dodge most of the bad storms that plagued much of the USA that winter. Two separate travel mishaps required spending the night uncomfortably at the airport, but overall I usually got where I needed to go even if often later than planned. With all the time spent in airports, I discovered Starsky's penchant for "walk-about" where he would like to stroll freely about the airport terminal totally unperturbed and visit people, even garnering a ride on a luggage cart once from a Delta airlines employee.

Starsky was a great cat to show for my first National Win. He enjoyed every single show and maintained a kittenish and playful attitude to the end, often failing to properly behave like a Persian although his spontaneous drumming did become less frequent. He earned many nicknames during the season due to his eyebrow markings: Groucho Marx, Charlie Chaplin, and Alice Cooper, to name a few. Starsky had many great shows including some Best in Show placements. He also was consistently up against competitive breed competition but in the end was highest scoring bicolor Persian in Premiership for the season.

I appreciate all the support we had along the way and was fortunate to make several new friends. Although I traveled alone, I always knew there would be a friendly face at the next show. I also extend special thanks to Carl Cacho of Dreem Weever Persians for giving me my foundation cats and sharing the knowledge and grooming skills to accomplish this win

Tenth Best Cat in Premiership GP, NW COUPARI EARS TO THE IRISH OF SNOTOZ

Brown Tabby and White Scottish Fold Neuter
Breeder: Melody Mathis and Donna Roberts
Owner: Melissa Darling

Submitted by Melissa Darling

Patrick was born in Nashville, TN over the St. Patrick's Day holiday weekend in 2012. When his breeder posted baby photos of him on Facebook, Barbara Jaeger suggested naming him "Ears To The Irish". Melody and I agreed to register the name and call him Patrick. However, our hopes to start showing Patrick in kitten class were abruptly dashed when he became gravely ill in early July 2012. He was in critical condition with low platelet and red blood cell counts. His breeders had to quickly decide whether or not to try to save Patrick. Patrick was given a blood transfusion from his sire to buy him some time, so antibiotic and immunosuppressive drugs could



start working to try to save his life. By October, Patrick had been weaned off all medications and neutered without complications. After Patrick's miraculous recovery, I was finally able to take him home to live with me in mid-October.

Patrick's show career started in November 2012 at 7 months of age to get him accustomed to the show environment. At the CFA World Red Show, Patrick earned Best of Best 2nd Best Shorthair Kitten out of 106 shorthaired kittens competing. Two weeks later, Patrick became a one-show grand. Patrick's grand title earned his dam her Distinguished Merit title. Another health checkup in December came back with normal test results. After competing in 17 shows held over 14 weekends in the last 5 months of the 2012-2013 show season, Patrick finished as the 8th Best Cat in Premiership in the Southern Region to earn a Regional Win with 2108.00 points in 82 rings.

In May and June 2013, Patrick only competed in 4 shows. I was not sure at that time if I could run Patrick for

a national title because I was being displaced from my job. During that timeframe, I landed a 6 month project assignment and resumed showing Patrick at the end of July with the intention of trying to run him for a national title. By the time my project was extended for another 6 months, Patrick had already started to replace his lowest scoring rings, having earned 3319.45 points by mid-December. Out of the 262 rings in which he competed, Patrick placed in 78.24% of the finals and of those finals 43.89% were top 5 placements. Patrick competed in 38 shows held over 29 weekends in 11 states. I drove my car approximately 23,100 miles to twenty Region 7 shows, four Region 4 shows, four Region 1 shows, and the CFA World Purple Show held in Region 4. Patrick exceeded all of my personal goals by finishing 10th nationally and 2nd in the Southern Region with 4106.45 points.

The show season was not without its challenges. I had to always ensure my hired pet sitter was scheduled to sit for my 2 Shetland Sheepdogs before

I could leave home for a cat show. I managed not to damage or wreck my car in spite of an encounter with a deer in late September and a treacherous snowstorm in February. We were absent from shows for a few weekends in January after my kitten broke his femur as I was getting ready to leave for a show. Patrick also needed periodic weekends off from being shown.

Patrick is a gentle sweetheart who has always shown calm and grace. He has large expressive eyes, a soft purr, and a baby kitten meow, which becomes insistent when he truly wants something. Patrick loves chicken and belly rubs, and he also answers to "My Little Man." Patrick has undoubtedly transcended all of my tentative hopes for him. I am grateful Patrick is a truly exceptional cat to show and thankful to the judges, his breeders, my family and friends who supported us. Patrick is foremost my much loved pet with whom I hope to share many healthy, happy years together.

Eleventh Best Cat in Premiership GP, NW FUZZY-FOOT'S ALL FIRED UP

Red Tabby-White Manx - Shorthair Division Neuter

Breeder: Cathy & Jim Dinesen

Owner: Donna Zimmerman

Submitted by Donna Zimmerman

The story began in 2012 at the March T.G.I.F. show in Indianapolis. A chance meeting with Jim and Cathy Dinesen started my show experiences in CFA. My education was significantly increased after a long trip to Kansas City and two days of intense training by Cathy Dinesen. At the World Show in 2012 Cathy introduced me to Fuzzy Foot's All Fired Up who had just made two finals at his first show. Just aging out of the kitten division Fire went home with me. Our first show was in 2013 in Cleveland Ohio. Fire was making Best Premier in all of the rings. New friend Rick DeGolyer, said "it looks like Fire is going to Grand today." My reply was



“what’s a Grand?” I had a lot to learn.

In May we started driving to shows with our good friend Pam DeGolyer, Rick’s wife. As a seasoned campaigner Pam taught me all the ins and outs of showing in CFA. We had many laughs and lots of “Donna moments.” Our travel experiences included all types of inclement weather. We had snow, ice, fog, sleet, hail, torrential rain, and high wind. While at a show in California we even experienced a 5.3 earthquake.

Fire continued to grow and mature. He continued to make more and more

finals. Pam told me he would have 3000 points by the World Show in November. I made a bet with Pam that if Fire had 3000 points by the World show she would be treated with a day at the spa. Well Pam got her day at the spa as Fire continued to make finals.

As a new person to the cat show world I never dreamed of winning a national title. The competition was very stiff and just making finals was so exciting. The shows were a great escape from the pressures of everyday life. The best part of attending the shows was

making new friends and cheering on fellow exhibitors.

Fire’s National Win would not have been possible without the support of Cathy Dinesen and Pam DeGolyer. Words cannot express the admiration and appreciation for these two wonderful people. Special thanks to Jim and Cathy Dinesen for sharing such a wonderful cat and thank you to Fire for loving me through all the up and downs. You are truly a very special kitty!

Twelfth Best Cat in Premiership
GC, GP, NW BENHANA LUCY ZOHARAH
Black-White Japanese Bobtail - Shorthair Division Spay
Breeder: Dawn Benaim & Kendall Smith
Owner: Jane Usatin
Submitted by Jane Usatin



Once upon a time, in a country far, far away from Southern California was born a Japanese Bobtail girl kitten named Lucy.

And once upon another time on a cool evening by the Bay area at a local full-service bar was a group of cat show people—judges, long-time breeders, and me. I’d shown a Cornish Rex and been captivated by the Japanese Bob Tails at the show that’d brought us all together at the bar afterwards.

I asked the group about acquiring a young JBT to show in premiership. After a lively discussion, the group vetted me to Dawn Benaim, owner of the Benhana cattery near Toronto, ON, Canada.

It all seemed b’sheret –fated—that Lucy and I come together that summer of 2012. She’d been born a month before the discussion in the bar. I passed the interviews on the phone with Dawn, and arranged to pick up my new kitten on a layover flight from Vienna to San Diego via Toronto—I had been spending summer vacation visiting my grandson.

Lucy was five months old when we started flying and showing around the country. She earned two Regional Wins in the 2012-2013 season. She became a Regional Winner in kitten

class, graded quickly in Championship, and went on to a Regional Win in Championship in the four months she was shown in that class.

In March Lucy “met the vet,” and was spayed. In April she graded in premiership: The new season was about to begin. My Southwest Airlines Rapid Rewards began to accumulate quickly. It never occurred to me to wait for local shows: All the shows were in the Midwest and along (what this Californian considered) the Atlantic Coast. Yes, I know; Pittsburgh isn’t on the coast, but it surely is far away from my place!

Within a few months Lucy and I had gone “A-List” on Southwest Airlines. Shortly afterwards, we were “A-List Preferred.” Then came the Fly-By check in and “TSA Pre” privileges. I no longer had to remove my Birkenstock sandals. Yippee! And lastly, the Companion Pass allowed a friend to come along. I love Southwest!

For the next twelve months Lucy and I were on the go. Our weeks developed into a routine: Friday, fly to show; Saturday and Sunday, show; Monday, fly

home; Tuesday, recuperate and unpack; Wednesday, teach (I do work one day a week); Thursday, pack, bathe Lucy, and prepare to leave; and back to Friday, when we fly away again. Over and over and over—for the entire season.

I must say, the weather in these far-flung regions tested my driving skills and the ability of my Birkenstocks to withstand snow and rain and ice

and salt. Even socks with the sandals weren't much comfort when I had to scrape the snow off my rental car in Parkville, MD. And Parkville (same place, different show) was where I lost my rental car keys and took a \$100-cab ride to the show hall so a friend could show Lucy while I went back to the agency and got another car. We weren't gonna miss that show!

As for keeping Lucy in show shape, her diet was the hardest on both of us. Otherwise, JBTs are a wash-and-wear breed.

Would I do it again? Sure! Lucy's nephew has taken over since Lucy retired to get happy and fat. So, we'll be on the road and in the air again this year

Thirteenth Best Cat in Premiership
GP, NW SHELBY THE BUMBLE OF NUDAWNZ
Blue-Eyed White Longhair American Bobtail Neuter
Breeder: Shelby, John, and Kelsey Friemoth and Tracy Dalton
Owner: Lorna Friemoth, Seth Baugh, and Tracy Dalton
Submitted by Lorna Friemoth

Shelbie The Bumble of NuDawnz is a blue-eyed white American Bobtail Longhair out of GC, BW NuDawnz the Gnome From Nome and NuDawnz Moonlight Serenade. He was born on May 1, 2012 and comes from a winning pedigree, as his great-great-grandfather is the first ever American Bobtail National Winner – GC, GP, BW, NW A Bebop Tail Yeti of NuDawnz, DM. He is named after the abominable snowman from the Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer Claymation special.

As a kitten, “Bumble” displayed all of the attributes desired in a top show American Bobtail – large boning, a solid body, the correct ear shape and placement, as well as the beginnings of a brow ridge that gives the breed its distinctive hunting gaze. As he neared the age where he could start showing, he went to live with Justin Pelletier and Eric Valencia, who had approached Lorna's parents, John and Shelby Friemoth, about showing an American Bobtail. Bumble was shown to a Regional Win as a kitten in the Southern Region. After Bumble became an adult, Justin and Eric showed him at the Absolutely Abyssinians show on January 5, 2013 where he became a one show Grand Premier. Soon after, Bumble returned to the Great Lakes region to reside with us.



During his time in the South, Bumble developed into a beautiful example of the American Bobtail. His outstanding type, paired with his easy going personality, made it a simple decision for us to continue to show him as an adult. He was too nice of a cat to keep home. We campaigned Bumble during the 2013-2014 show season, where he was shown 24 times in 8 different states and visited 4 different regions en route to becoming the first American Bobtail to obtain a National Win in the premiership category. One of our favorite

moments was when Bumble was the 3rd highest scoring longhair cat at the World Show – Purple in Novi, MI. In spite of his size, he was easy to bathe and traveled well. He loved to show and enjoyed interacting with spectators, particularly children.

Bumble now enjoys his retirement, keeping watch over the bedroom and making friends with any new kitten or cat that comes into our home. We would like to thank all of the judges and exhibitors who supported Bumble

all season. In particular, we would like to say a special thank you to John and Shelby Friemoth, who allowed their big jet puffed marshmallow baby to stay

in Region 4 and make our household a warmer place. Bumble remains incredibly sweet and is truly our gentle giant.

Fourteenth Best Cat in Premiership GP, NW STEDAM CAPT. MCTAVISH OF MACDUFF

Silver Tabby American Shorthair Neuter

Breeder: Dawn Skupin

Owner: Barbara Ley and Ron Dylewski

Submitted by Barbara Ley



Sometimes an e-mail can change your life. Really, it can. One short e-mail brought the amazing McTavish (aka “McT”) to us and our lives were never, ever the same again.

In the 2010-2011 season, we showed one of our Maine Coons, GP, NW Angtini’s Nick Charles of MacDuff to our very first national win. We vowed that the next time we “got serious” about campaigning a cat, it would definitely be an American Shorthair. In September, 2011 I e-mailed Dawn Skupin of Stedam American Shorthairs and told her that “one of these days” we would be looking for an American to run and hoped she’d keep us in mind if/when she got a special kitten. “We’re in no hurry,” said I. Much to my surprise, the

very same day, Dawn replied via e-mail: “I have a kitten. Not just any kitten but THE KITTEN.”

We showed McT successfully to Regional Wins through his kitten season and his first season as a young adult. When the 2013-2014 season began, we felt we were ready and, more importantly, he was ready to finally “rock and roll.” We began his run in earnest in June and he made it into the Top 25 in premiership in that same month. He was 2nd Best Cat in Show at the Great Lakes Regional, then Best Cat in Show at Capital Cat Fanciers in Gaithersburg. Just as we were beginning to hit our stride, in July, McT came down with a nasty urinary tract infection which sidelined him for a couple of weeks but by the beginning of August he was back in good shape and had a great show in St. Louis.

To complicate our lives even more (as if campaigning a cat in the hopes of getting a NW is not complicated enough!) we were simultaneously working on another CFA “campaign.” At the start of the 2013-2014 season our beautiful Maine Coon boy, GC, GP, RW Rickoons Rockford of MacDuff (aka “Harley”) was a mere 2 Grands away from becoming a DM. Getting #14 and #15 done for Harley became a quest every bit as important to us as getting a National Win for McT. In the spring we began showing a lovely Harley daughter, Angtini Tahiri of MacDuff (“Tati”) who soon became Harley’s 14th grand offspring. She stole our hearts and became McT’s traveling companion and BFF for the remainder

of the season.

September and October flew by with successful shows for McT in Chantilly, Denver, York and Hatfield. In October, Harley’s DM was achieved (hurrah!) and we were able to now concentrate all of our energies on McT’s run. We were on the go nearly every weekend, flying or driving all over the country. In November, Ron flew with McTavish to Atlanta. Initially, we had been a bit conflicted about showing McT at Cotton States. We knew it would likely be a huge show with tough competition. Then, the e-mails started coming from Ron. “Made Breed. Made Final.” McT took breed in the majority of the rings and made nearly every final, making Cotton States one of his very best shows to date. Three weeks later — The World Show. What a weekend. McT got 2 Bests, made every final and ended up 4th Best Cat in Premiership (and Best American Shorthair) in the Red Show. For us, it was truly a “November to remember.”

McT continued his winning ways in December and January but Ron and I found ourselves worn down and worn out. Colds, ear infections, bronchitis—the hits just kept on coming! We decided a little R&R was in order and flew to Florida in early February. Though there was a CFA show in our hometown (Pittsburgh) the weekend we returned, like the crazy campaigners we had become, we decided to drive to Charlotte, NC instead. We travelled from Miami to Pittsburgh to Charlotte all in less than 48 hours. Charlotte was the beginning of a hot streak for McT

which continued at shows in Ohio, NJ, Maryland and Tennessee where he made all the finals and found some new judges to make him their “Best Cat.”

As we headed into the home stretch we were thrilled to realize another goal --McT would be CFA's Best American Shorthair in Premiership -- Go McT! The final show of the season in Erie

was celebrated in style with friends and, even better, McT was “Best Cat in Show” -- an absolutely perfect way to end the season.

When I think of the season I remember so many things: packing and unpacking; making (and canceling) dozens of hotel and airline reservations; checking e-points every Friday and showing with some of the nicest, wittiest people we have ever known. But mostly, when

I think of the season, I think of McT: McT who would stand poised and perfect on a judging stand FOREVER if a judge would let him; McT who loved to leap out of his ring cage right onto my shoulder and purr and purr as I took him back to the benching area. McT, who began as a beautiful kitten and grew into an absolutely stunning show cat. McT, our “Best Cat” for every season.

**Fifteenth Best Cat in Premiership
GP, NW MARCUS MASHUP**
Black Persian - Solid Division Neuter
Breeder/Owner: Mark Hannon & David Raynor
Submitted by Mark Hannon



CFA's 15th Best Cat in Premiership is GP, NW Marcus Mashup, a black Persian neuter, bred and owned by Mark Hannon and David Raynor from Virginia. Many have asked what his name means. Our cats' names often start with the letter “M” so when I heard a radio show called “Morning Mashup,” I thought it might be a good name for one of our cats. That's a much simpler explanation than many expected. At home he is called “Charlie.”

The original plan for Charlie was to be placed in a pet home since we didn't need him in our breeding program. Things sort of got away from us and we never placed him. We had been sitting home for much of the 2012-2013 show season but when the 2012 Straight & Curl show at Christmas was coming up, a show we love, we looked around the cattery to see who we could enter. There sat Charlie in good weight and good coat. It was a 6x6 show but we only entered the Saturday show. He was a Premiership Open in a large

class filled with potential national and regional winners. Much to our delight, he made all six finals and was a one-show grand!

A month later we wanted to attend the Star City show in southwest Virginia. It is a 3 hour drive from our home and is a hotel show which we always enjoy. So we entered Charlie, again just to have something to show. He did great and we decided even though it was the end of January, we might have time to pull off a low Regional win. We did not show him every week; however, we showed him enough in the remaining three months of the show season to achieve our goal, a low Regional win.

Charlie had done well even when up against top cats, so we set a goal of a National Win for the 2013-2014 show season. May, June and July he did extremely well. Then came August and a new kid turned up on the block. Ginger Gunlock brought out a terrific black male Persian and it was a game-changer. Those brown ribbons our boy took the first few months were now hanging on Ginger's cat's cage while Charlie was now taking orange. We consoled ourselves with the knowledge that Ginger's boy had Marcus in his background. We had to change our strategy. Ginger was gracious and let us know her show plans so we could

avoid her cat when possible. We competed with her cat only when we felt confident that the slate liked Charlie enough to use him reasonably high in a final with an orange ribbon. That strategy worked and within a few months we felt comfortable that Charlie had earned enough points to pull off a National win and then we just coasted. The last half of the show season he was only shown sporadically. It was a challenge to find shows that had both a slate that liked our boy a lot and that had enough points that we could use.

We were fortunate to have picked up enough points early in the show season that we were not desperately looking for points later in the year.

At the World Show we knew that Ginger's boy would be in the Purple show, so we entered the Red Show and did very well. Charlie was 2nd highest scoring behind CFA's #1 cat. That was one of the highlights of the show season for us. The other was having Charlie take highest scoring at the Absolutely Abyssinian show and win-

ning the Mona Cherrington Award in Premiership.

Charlie enjoyed all the attention he received at the shows and was an easy cat to groom and keep in condition. His cage-mate at shows for much of the season was a darling Devon Rex who thought he was a fluffy pillow. She, too, achieved a National win. Now that the show season is over, our original plans for him have been realized. He is now in a forever home as a pampered pet.

Sixteenth Best Cat in Premiership GC, GPD, NW SYRACOON ASLAN THE LIONHEARTED

Brown Tabby-White Maine Coon Neuter

Breeder: Alexis Mitchell

Owner: Linda & Jeff Hempe

Submitted by Jeff Hempe

My story began in July of 2011. My wife Linda and I picked up a 16 week old male brown tabby and white Maine Coon kitten from Alexis Mitchell of Syracoon Cattery in Topeka, Kansas. He was an amazing little fellow. I say "little" in quotes because at 16 weeks he weighed in at nine and half pounds! Linda named him "Syracoon Aslan the Lionhearted" from the CS Lewis Narnia series, "The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe."

We flew Aslan back to Portland and loved him and started showing him in the usual kitten shows. Next came Championship and he got 190 points in his first show as a Champion, missing a one show grand by 10 points. It was time to alter him and this time he became a one show Grand in Premiership.

The beauty of this story is how Aslan changed Linda's life. Linda had some serious health issues and was confined to a wheelchair. But when we took Aslan to cat shows all of her troubles seemed to melt away and we had a wonderful time. That year we showed Aslan in local shows with one exception. I wanted Linda to experience at least one BIG show, so in November



of 2012 Linda and I flew Aslan to Columbus, Ohio, for the World Show. We met up with Alexis and had an incredible experience with over 800 cats in the two shows.

The trip to the World Show proved to be a very wise and timely decision because on January 31, 2013, I lost Linda. She passed away suddenly in her sleep. We had almost 46 beautiful years together, but now she was gone, and I had this incredible show cat sitting there looking at me. There was only one thing to do – I kept showing

Aslan. The CFA show people were an incredible comfort and healing group and they helped me go on.

In June of 2013 I had a watershed experience. I was at a show in Palm Springs, California, and CFA Allbreed judge, Bob Salisbury caught me after one ring and said, "What are you going to do with this cat? He could win, think about a National run." I thought about Linda and what this would mean to her, and decided to go for it.

So I talked to Alexis, and that was the beginning of the National Run. One of the funniest things happened right off the bat. She said, “You’ve got to get out there and be seen, you have to go to Garden State in New Jersey in July.” “New Jersey,” I said, you’ve got to be kidding, who goes to New Jersey for a cat show?” But Alexis was right. We flew to Somerset, NJ in July 2013 and – WOW – that is a tough show, time to grow up. Aslan made 2 finals, and picked up two judges who used him every time they saw him for the rest of the year.

In the end we went to 31 cat shows, 21 were fly in shows out of state. On

these flights it was not unusual to encounter a “Circus like” atmosphere with the TSA folks, because Aslan had grown up to weigh 26 pounds. When I took him out of the carrier the people would just stop and stare at him, and want to take pictures – It was great and I got good service!!

We kept at things and made it to a few Campaigner shows – National Capital, the World Show and San Diego and started working our way up the Top 25. All this time Aslan was very laid back. He had a good time; he played with the judges; and he almost toppled over the scratching posts on the judging tables at some of the Midwest and East Coast shows.

By the end of April we had hit 16th place nationally. We had a blast with the friendly competition among the top Premiership exhibitors. We owe an incredible debt of gratitude to Aslan’s breeder, Alexis Mitchell, for this beautiful cat. I would also like to thank Pam and Brian Moser for their friendship and support. When Linda was ill they visited her in the hospital and in our home.

Aslan is a true performer, a show cat for the ages and he has a sweet loveable temperament to match. For Aslan and I, this National Run was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I know Linda would have loved every minute of it!!

Seventeenth Best Cat in Premiership
GP, NW GINCHIKA RAJESH KOOTHRAPPALI
Silver Spotted Tabby and White Shorthair Japanese Bobtail Neuter
Breeder: Jennifer Reding, Nikki & Cory Crandall-Seibert
Owner: Jennifer Reding and Mark Campbell
Submitted by Jennifer Reding

Junior’s story begins with his mother, Veronica, a willful and far too intelligent girl with an ability to open almost anything. While she frequently let herself or her kittens out of cages, she had never before freed other adult cats, until the day that she decided to arrange her own breeding. When I heard the unauthorized breeding sounds, I ran upstairs to find her flopping on the floor with her very excited adult son watching her. Naturally, she had a litter of 3 kittens 9 weeks later.

While his two sisters were placed as pets, Junior was such a wonderful little prankster that he really stole our hearts. With his big blue eyes and goofy little attitude, we couldn’t bear to let him go, so we decided we should neuter him and show him in premiership. My husband Mark and I are fans of The Big Bang Theory, so we named him Rajesh Koothrappalli (because, of course, he couldn’t talk to girls!). We started out calling him Raj, but his attitude reminded us so much of his sire, GC,RW Ginchika James Ford, that Mark started calling him Junior and it stuck.

Junior loved showing from the very beginning, but as he was a split season kitten I didn’t push him that hard. He made all 6 finals and exactly 75 Grand points at his first show as an adult, our Regional Awards Show in June. We definitely planned on showing him Regionally, but still didn’t seriously consider trying for a National award until he made 9/10 finals and was third highest scoring at the big Las Vegas show in July. Mark and I talked about it, and we decided to go for it. We had to put off some renovation plans, and I was given a budget to stick to, so I tried to keep flying to a minimum.

I thought the campaign went well, but looking back, sometimes it seemed like what could go wrong, did go wrong. There was the weekend when, 10 minutes before we left for the airport, he pulled a pot of greasy butter water down on top of himself (yes, I hadn’t cleaned up completely from earlier—bad mom!). He was literally dripping from head to tail. I yelled at Mark to load the suitcase into the car while I put him back in the sink for his second



show bath of the day. He rode to the airport still wet, wrapped in a towel on my lap—which he seemed to enjoy immensely.

There was the weekend we were supposed to go to Cotton States, which happened to be the same Friday that a crazed gunman shot those TSA agents at LAX and shut down the airport for the rest of the day. We actually drove 45 minutes to the airport and found a place to park just in case they were going to reopen. Three hours later, the airline confirmed my flight was canceled, and we drove home.

We planned on taking him and Mary (CH, GP, NW Castlkatz Mary Poppins of Ginchika) to the World Show, leaving for the airport at the crack of dawn in the pouring rain. When we made it to the airport we discovered a hitchhiker—a 7 month old kitten had smuggled herself into Junior’s carrier! While Mark raced the 25 minutes for home, I checked the bags and nervously waited for him to come back. Mark came running through the airport

at the last minute, Security let us go in the “short” line, but we were still loading items into the X-ray machine as they were doing last boarding call for our flight. We ran for our gate with our shoes still in our hands. They were just getting ready to close the door, and had to pull two people off that they had put in our seats. But we made it!

Then at a show in Longview in February I almost thought we were done. It was the last ring on Saturday, and I was approaching his cage to get him out after judging. He did his usual pop up to greet me, and when he came down, he caught his lower left eyelid on a blunt piece of wire poking out over the top of the door. He hung there screaming, but I was only two steps away and was able to yank open the door and pop him back up with my hand, which released his lid from the wire. Fortunately, his eye seemed undamaged. However, the next day he was afraid of the judging cage, and he did terrible at the show. I opted to stay at a local show the next weekend instead of going to Lincoln State, and went to set

up on Friday, where friends helped me work with him both in a judging cage and on the table. By the end of the day Saturday, it was like he had forgotten anything bad had happened and we were back!

It was a good thing, too. Even though the first few shows in March didn’t get the count that we needed, we still had Sushi Cats, Crow Canyon, and Foot of the Rockies. He had good shows at all three, and we ended the season on a high note. I’m happy to say that except for the World Show, all of Junior’s points came from West of Denver. Junior is semi-retired now, and loves to go for walks in his harness, greeting the neighborhood dogs in a matter-of-fact manner, while their owners goggle at the leash-walking cat. He still sleeps with us every night, where I know he’s really content when he rolls off his place on my shoulder and onto his back so he can try to nurse on himself. He is by far the best “Oops!” that ever happened to me!

Eighteenth Best Cat in Premiership GP, NW CARICATURE SHEMAR MOORE OF EUPHORIA

Bombay Neuter

Breeder: Sharyn & Sig Hauck and Dianne Ewing

Owner: Jeri & Dan Zottoli

Submitted by Jeri Zottoli

CFA’s 18th Best Cat in Premiership is GP, NW Caricature Shemar Moore of Euphoria, a black Bombay neuter bred by Sig and Sharyn Hauck and Diane Ewing, and owned and obsessively loved and adored by Jeri and Dan Zottoli. Like people, some pets/companion animals come into your life for a reason. Have you ever had an animal look deep into your heart and soul and know that your journeys would be forever intertwined? Welcome to the 2.0 (2013-2014 show season) version of the journey of Shemar and I. During the 2010-11 show season, Shemar was shown to a nice Regional kitten win and then the following 2011-2012 show season, he graduated to the ranks

of Premiership and a National Win. He was very deserving of his NW at the time, even though he rather resembled a “pencil necked geek” (loosely translated to mean a young, immature, not quite all together young Bombay neuter). He did end up 23rd best cat that show season, and we thought the ride had come to an end...and that was OK as it was a fun ride.

When CFA developed a new title, “Grand of Distinction”, I thought “maybe it would be fun to try for 30 rings for the 2013-14 show season.” Shemar made his debut at the big Garden State show – only this was the new, revised, bulked up, fully mature adult



Shemar – three years old, muscled up like a prize fighter – but with the always charming, impish face. A lot of Shemar’s former “favorite judges” were on the Garden State slate and they would look in the cage, then at their judge’s book with an “is it you?” look on their face. And as Shemar turned on the charm, “his” judges realized that it was the new, improved Shemar flirting his way back into their hearts. “Trouble in a black fur suit” was back! He was 2nd highest scoring cat at Garden State – what a way to start those 30 rings!

So I thought we were off on the journey – me and Shemar on the road again – until a medical wrinkle jumped in the way. During the late Spring I discovered a lump on the right side of my neck, which was eventually diagnosed as Stage 1 non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Six rounds of aggressive chemotherapy sure threw a few road blocks into showing Shemar to those 30 rings, but we made the most of it. Ten days after my first round of chemo, we were at National Capital with me being pushed around in a wheelchair by whoever was handy - Shemar thought this was a hoot. Right after National Capital, Shemar thought he needed a new challenge and plucked some hairs out of his shoulder blades

and his chest. When you have a single coated shiny black short haired cat with white skin, this is never a good thing. So Shemar had to sit out two months of showing, while I went thru my chemo...I guess it was sort of ironic that I couldn’t go to many shows at the same time when Shemar wasn’t in tip top condition.

I will say that the cat fancy can be incredible in how it rallies around people and their animals. I have never felt so much love and support as during this health crisis journey, people I barely knew telling me “I hope you don’t mind but we put you on our church’s prayer list.” But Shemar was also a life saver too, a purpose to pull me thru the cancer battle. Unlike his previous campaign, he learned that you just don’t flirt with “some of the judges” if you happen to like them – you flirted with ALL of the judges and ALL of the people ALL of the time. The goal of the “30 rings” went by the wayside and Shemar took off in the standings, never looking back. He didn’t hit his 100 rings until March 2014, only went to 15 shows in 3 “drive to” regions (1, 4, 7), and never fell out of the top national rankings. He made so many friends, especially among our fellow premiership exhibitors who would always say “you know I just love that cat of yours.” No one showed Shemar but

me (We learned the last time around that Shemar is a mama’s boy!). The bond that began in 2010 deepened and Shemar is forever etched in my heart.

So as we sat at the last show of the show season in Easton PA and watched Shemar “play” his audience and one of his favorite judges one last time for that “last Best Cat of the show season” – I was crying, friends were sniffing and crying and Shemar was saying “yep, I did it....again.” But not only did Shemar “do it again” - he is the only two time NW winner Bombay in any category, and the first North Atlantic Region Bombay Premier of the Year (POTY). There won’t be another “go for the 3rd NW” – that’s just too crazy! But the 2014-15 show season will see Shemar on the show bench again going for those 30 rings to earn that Grand of Distinction. This show season, 2013-2014, well it was a heck of a lot of fun and showing the shiny black cat with the big personality who could charm anyone saved my life in so many ways I cannot even begin to describe. To “Nana” and “Pop Pop” who created this loving creature and blessed him into my life, the words “thank you” just doesn’t quite cover the gratitude I feel when I look at that magical little face with the huge copper penny eyes.

Nineteenth Best Cat in Premiership GP, NW PURRSIANPALS SAMELLIOT OF OLDE ROSE

Blue Silver Tabby and White Bi-Color Persian Neuter

Breeder: Nannette Schindler and Tina Heigl

Owner: Beth Hetzel, Diane Curfiss, Nannette Schindler

Submitted by Beth Hetzel

My story begins at the Cincinnati Cat Club show in April 2012 in Cleves, Ohio. I had asked Diane Curfiss, my friend of 20+ years, to keep her eyes open for a Persian breeder that was both honorable and that produced great cats. At that show I was introduced to Nannette Schindler, founder of the Purrsianpals cattery, who was showing Go-Teekatz Play Games “Gamer” at the time. Gamer had the

body and coat factor that Go-Teekatz is known for. I was impressed with both Nannette and Gamer and Nan and I hit it off immediately. Nan mentioned that she had females lined up for Gamer as soon as his campaign was done and she very generously offered me pick of Gamer’s upcoming litters.

Back home I poured over Nan’s website pondering the females Nan had mentioned to me. It was a happy day

for me when I met up with her at the Dayton Cat Fanciers show in November 2012 and finally got to see three of Gamer’s kittens. Love at first sight—that’s what it was for me. I was already in love with the kittens’ mother, Roggenstein’s Barbie Doll who had that sweet, open look that I had been searching for. The kitten I chose had his mother’s face and his father’s body. What a package! I had been away from



breeding and showing for a decade and finding a kitten to show in premiership someday was the best way for me to come back.

I would have never dreamed that a National Win was possible until the April 2013 Cincinnati Cat Club show held in Columbus, Ohio. After several best kitten ribbons at that show, Ronna Colilla suggested it was possible. At that point Diane Curfiss joined the team as chauffeur and co-owner. With my fondness for cowboys and Sam Elliott, my blue-silver tabby and white became Purrsianpals Samelliott of Olde Rose.

We traveled to shows in 11 states and Canada. Throughout our drives, we saw

some of the most amazing scenery and experienced a variety of weather. We learned early in our travels that Sammy liked the car at freezing cold temperatures. He also did not care for the radio. He could not tolerate country music and would handle pop for only a short time before letting you know it was time to turn it off. No matter how long the drive, Sammy never had an accident, never got car sick—what more could you ask for in a show cat. Sam just loved showing. Always a show off, he was like the Eveready cat on stage.

Thinking that Sammy would like a travelling companion, I acquired a red and white Persian neuter from Go-Teekatz. Rock'N Roll ("Rocky") had

all the "flash" that their cats are known for. Rocky traveled to many shows with Sammy. That lasted until we realized that Rocky was a winner on his own. They didn't travel together anymore since we were trying for a National win with Sam. Rocky got a regional award on his own as Great Lakes Region 20th best premier.

Sam has been a dream-come-true from the beginning. His enormous round eyes just seem to pull you in. I am grateful for all the judges who showed their support for Sammy, especially our wonderful Region 4 judges.

During the past year I have met many new exhibitors and made new friends. Special thanks to Kathy and Paul Reich, who came back to showing after being "gone" for a long while. Thanks to Cyndi Lewis for her words of encouragement. Praise to the Colillas for their help and guidance. Thanks to my new friend, Kathleen Doyle. Her knowledge and suggestions helped me through many rough spots. A huge thank you goes to Diane Curfiss. This win would not have been possible without you. How you always managed to stay awake for so many hours of driving is beyond me.

Having Sammy in my life has been such a wonderful gift. My deepest thanks go to Nannette Schindler, who gave me the chance to show Sam, and to my daughter, Morgan, who was my cat sitter for 45 weekends.

Lastly, this win is for my mother. She taught me that you can achieve a dream without compromising your honor or your values. I love you, Mom, and miss you every day.

**Twentieth Best Cat in Premiership
GC, GP, NW TYLONA'S TIN MAN OF KARLETON**

Silver Tabby American Shorthair Neuter

Breeder: Barbara & Tim Schreck

Owner: Eve Russell and Barbara & Tim Schreck

Submitted by Eve Russell



CFA's 20th Best Cat and Region Four's Sixth Best Cat in Premiership is GC, GP, NW Tylona's Tin Man, a Silver Tabby American Shorthair neuter. He was a joy to show and house as he loved everyone and everything. He was able to convince me to return to the American Shorthair breed after an absence of many years.

Tin man began his premiership quest at the Anthony Wayne Cat Fancier's show early in May as a newly neutered five year old weighing about nine pounds. Shortly afterwards his weight inched up to twelve and a half pounds causing some to question if this was the same cat. I tried to claim credit yet I know neutering was the key factor. That was especially true as his diet was the same regardless of where he hung his hat.

Tin Man's size and weight caused me to announce that he would not fly to any shows. He was far too large and heavy to be comfortable under the seat

of any airplane. That limited our show range from the get-go. Thus we racked up many a mile in the car getting to and from shows in regions four, six and seven.

In October I attended a family wedding in Florida followed by my annual antique shopping bus trip. In November I spent Thanksgiving with my Denver family. Each time Tin Man moved over to the Schreck's Bed and Breakfast. Living twenty miles apart made each transition an easy and comfortable event. Off to the shows he would go with his Russian Blue family.

Tin Man also stayed with the Schrecks in January, February and March while I was away from the Michigan weather at my winter home in Florida. My return to Michigan happens around the first of April just in time to complete the show season at some of my favorite shows with our hometown friends. Tin Man and I finished our show season

in St. Louis with our Region six pals. Some of those were old friends of many years. Some were newer friends who we have added to our forever friends list.

My favorite show this season was the World Show in Novi even though it was a working show for me. My mistake was entering both Tin Man and my Burmese kitten. Tin Man made all nine finals which kept me running. The kitten made several, too. In between some kind soul took it upon themselves to take my scooter. Show staff quickly replaced it when they saw my boiling point approaching. The World show gave me the opportunity to see many friends under one roof.

That was the best part of it all.

Premiership has a special place in my heart. The friendships that we make along the way are strong and run deeply. Most of us look after each other, cheer for each other and experience the ups and downs together. We are able to pick up our friendships where we left off even when we have been away from each other over the years.

One of the best things about this show season was the sharing between the Schrecks and myself. We discussed slates, guessed potential counts, went over show details after the shows then smiled and moved on. Barb kept the show stats which thrilled me. She could tell me when, where and why at any given moment. My thanks go out to them for allowing me to share this special boy.

Tin Man now resides in his forever home with my dear friends, Doreen Linfield and her husband, Doug. Doug lost his 18 year old American Shorthair thus was looking for another one.

Doreen saw me in the Toronto area in May of 2013. After watching Tin Man in a couple of rings she approached me wanting to know who would be getting Tin Man. My answer was something like whoever won the fight between the Schrecks and myself. After discussing it we told Doreen that she could “tag” him. Doreen and Doug came down to the World show to visit Tim Man and to confirm that they remained on the waiting list. Waiting an entire season seemed lengthy to me.

As the season neared the end our talks with Doreen and Doug increased. We found out that they feed the same food and use the same brand of litter. This made the transition an easy one. An added plus is that Doreen works for a vet clinic.

Tin Man has wormed his way into their hearts. He never missed a step in moving from my pillow to theirs. We couldn't be more pleased. Just the other day Barb remarked that it looked like he wasn't being returned thus we

won't be able to fight over him. Thanks to the Linfields for loving our boy even more than we could imagine.

It was a wonderful year of strengthening older friendships and creating new ones. I would like to thank all of our friends and all of the judges for making this season special. Thanks also to my fellow exhibitors for helping me get to the rings without telling me that I might need hearing aids. I wish everyone best of luck in the upcoming seasons.

Twenty-first Best Cat in Premiership
GC, GP, NW GO-TEEKATZ REDDY TO PLAY
Cream Mackerel Tabby and White Bi-Color Persian Neuter
Breeder/Owner: Tom Lukken and Jack Nichols
Submitted by Jack Nichols



Player was shown as a whole male and got his Grand Champion and Regional win during 2006/2007 show season. He then stayed home and entered our breeding program. He produced Grand Champions and Regional winners but our breeding program was getting tight and we decided not to use him anymore. Our original plan was to neuter him and move him upstairs as a pet. We kept looking at his wonderful large eyes and could feel his wonderful head type. So we decided to take him back out for a Grand Premier title.

His first show as a Premier was in Denver. He surprised us by earning his Grand Premier title in four rings. The show format was a 5X5 so we could not transfer him to a GP until his next show. We then decided to start traveling with him to see what he could do. Player loves traveling. When in the car he gets to roam and find a comfortable spot to sleep for the rest of the trip. His favorite car sleeping spot is in the back window. I got several comments from other travelers while stopped to rest or get gas.

His first major trip was a two day drive to Pennsylvania. At that show he met his competition in the Persian Bi-Color class. He was able to hold his own and we decided to seriously show him for a National Win. During the next six months, Player traveled extensively. He was shown in all seven regions of the continental United States.

He was always a hit at the airport. While going through security, travelers would stop and talk to him and us about traveling. He enjoyed the flights and not once during a flight had an accident. When at the gate area, he loved to be in his “pop-up tent” and watch the other travelers.

We met a lot of other fanciers during this past year. It was a great experience to meet folks from other regions and to compete with their wonderful cats. Player did have the distinction of competing against his son and his grandson at several shows. (His grandson is also a National Winner this year.)

We would like to thank all the clubs who hosted the shows we attended. As travelers, we were made to feel very welcome at each show. We would also like to thank all of the judges who appreciated Player and placed him in their finals.

Twenty-second Best Cat in Premiership
CH, GP, NW CASTLKATZ MARY POPPINS OF GINCHIKA

Blue-Cream British Shorthair Spay

Breeder: Ginger Meeker

Owner: Jennifer Reding and Mark Campbell

Submitted by Jennifer Reding

Late last summer I approached Ginger Meeker and told her that I was interested in showing a British Shorthair in Premiership, and wondered if she might have a cat that she would be willing to let me show. She got back to me and said she thought she had a cat in mind, but she wasn't sure whether I would like her or not. I was puzzled. Why wouldn't I like her? Well, Ginger explained, she was kind of in-your-face, very demanding of attention, for a British. I laughed and reminded Ginger that I bred Japanese Bobtails, not to worry, I was prepared.

We started to coordinate a time when I could take Mary home. In the meantime Mary granded in Premiership. Her first show as a Grand was the Denver show at the end of September, where she did quite well. I met Ginger's husband Paul at a local show the next weekend and took her home with me, and Mary started to go with us to every drive show. She was a good traveler, quiet and clean and always had a good appetite. Her only bad habit was her uncanny ability to know when we were ready to leave for the show hall and then find the smallest, most inaccessible hiding place. We pulled her out from under beds, from the back of closets, from behind large, heavy dressers only inches away from the wall. Really, if it was a place that you thought that there was absolutely no possible way a 14lb cat built like a tank could fit, she found it and managed to squeeze herself into it. Alternatively, she would go up—the top of entertainment centers, overhead cabinets, above the lights in bathroom. Fortunately, I am very accustomed to these kinds of shenanigans—see previous comment about breeding Japanese Bobtails.

Mary's only fly show in 2013 was the World Show, where she made seven



finals, including a Best Cat from Pam DelaBar. We were pleased, but I was concentrating on showing our Japanese Bobtail Junior (GP, NW Ginchika Rajesh Koothrappalli) for a National Win in Premiership, so I didn't really think too hard about how well Mary was doing. We drove to most of our shows, so Mary went along with us much of the time. She didn't pass 100 rings until March 2014. At that point I sat down and looked at her numbers a little more closely, ordered a ring report, and looked back at some printed out epoints at the cats above her. I told Mark that I thought if we pushed Mary a little harder we could squeeze her in to a National Win! By March it was difficult to find shows with enough count for Junior, so I started flying with Mary instead.

After the first weekend of March she was 33rd with 95 rings. A month later,

after Crow Canyon, she moved into 25th. After another good show in Denver, she moved into 22nd and stayed there for the final two weekends. The America's Heartland Show in St Louis the last weekend of the season was the only ticket I bought at the last minute (with points!), and it was the only weekend that I wasn't able to carefully control expenses. It was worth it—it was a really fun show, we ate some great steak, and Mark was willing to forgive me one weekend. Mary had a good weekend, everybody was there, and it was an exhilarating end to the season!

Mary now hangs out at home with us, watching TV and begging for ice cream. She and Mark have bonded over their love for frozen dairy products, and it looks like we have another permanent resident. She's a good girl, and we don't think she's pushy at all!

Twenty-third Best Cat in Premiership
CH, GP, NW JKZOO'S CHASING MOONLIGHT

Blue Patched Mackerel Tabby Exotic Spay

Breeder: Jerry Kithcart and Steve Oster

Owner: Kathy Reich, Susan Ingle, Jerry Kithcart and Steve Oster

Story Submitted by: Kathy Reich



I dream of a soft summer's evening, slightly cloudy, the world is cloaked in a blue haze and the wind is lightly blowing. The clouds are slowly chasing moonlight across the sky and little patches of soft glow come peeking through. But wait, am I actually feeling that breeze right now or is it a gentle breath? It wakes me from a sound sleep. I feel a soft paw on my cheek. It is 3 a.m. and Her Royal Highness, Chasing Moonlight, wants FOOD... NOW. I reach for her bowl from the nightstand and feed her...one bite at a time. To tell you how things got to this point, I need to go back to the beginning...

Originally JKZOO'S Chasing Moonlight was a gift from her breeders and co-owners, Jerry Kithcart and Steve Oster, to my good friend Susan Ingle. They wanted Susan to have a wonderful kitten and felt Moonlight was one

of the best, if not the best, they had ever produced. Even though Moonlight made nice finals as a kitten, she stayed small and when she started cycling regularly they feared she was too small to be bred as planned, so Moonlight was spayed.

I told Susan I would love to have Moonlight and was overwhelmed when, in the fall of 2012, Jerry and Steve agreed and this little package of perfection, my forever kitten, now my little Peanut, came into my life. Thank you "Team Peanut" from the bottom of my heart. If I had known that one of Jerry and Steve's other National Winners, JKZOO's Coco, had also been spayed for the same reason and then promptly proceeded to grow, I would have been prepared for what was about to come. Interesting that they had only produced a couple of kittens that were initially small and

both grew into National Winners.

Fast forward to June 2013: The Great Lakes Regional Show was coming up and I thought, "What the heck, might as well show my little cutie-pie just for fun." Yep, it was fun; she actually did pretty well at the show. Peanut, unbeknownst to me but "knownst" to Peanut, had grown, the little stinker! I hadn't even noticed. Gene Darrah sang "On the Road Again" as I picked her up from his final and that changed everything. So, her NW is really all Gene's fault. Thanks, Gene.

Paul and I decided to show Peanut just for fun and thought finals would come easily. WRONG! She was still on the small side, still growing, and needed weight. Several judges said how lovely she was BUT (always that "but") she needed more "oomph" in order to place higher in the finals. Peanut was quite content with her girlish figure. I coaxed and offered her every concoction under the sun. Then I made the fateful decision - I gave her food by hand and became her servant for life! According to Peanut, being fed was really spiffy and much to "Her Highness's" liking. My little kitten was no more; a gorgeous (but shamelessly spoiled) show cat was emerging.

Peanut's placements in the finals continued to improve and, at the Liberty Trail Show the end of October, Gary Veach awarded Peanut her first Best Cat! I cried - what a moment! I hugged Gary so hard I'm sure he thought a crazy woman was attacking him. Finally, acknowledged were all the things that I believed too, that she has such a perfect head and her body was now cobby perfection...well almost. She still needed a bit more weight to compete with the big boys. "Alrighty

then...come on Peanut...take another bite!!!"

I showed Peanut most of this season in blissfully-unplanned ignorance. The idea was to have fun, get out of the office and de-stress my life. I know, this sends us right back to proving the crazy woman theory. In January, Susan told me that Peanut was in and out of the top twenty-five so I did my due

diligence and properly scored, watched count, and traveled to larger shows. Paul and I drove everywhere and our first flight for this season – New Orleans for The National Awards!

We'd like to give a huge "THANKS" to "The Peanut Gallery" – all the judges and fellow competitors who helped us hang in there and rooted for Peanut to bring home a National Win! We will

cherish the friends and the memories forever.

Gotta go. Peanut's here - huge eyes staring at me over the monitor - wanting lunch. Hmmm, I might actually have to put her on a diet. At the end of the season Gary called her a butterball! Guess she's not a peanut anymore.

Twenty-fourth Best Cat in Premiership GC, GP, BW, NW KALOOPA WALTZING MATILDA

Blue British Shorthair Spay

Breeder: Carolynne Power

Owner: Marilyn Conde & Florence Marcorelle

Submitted by Marilyn Conde

Kaloopa Waltzing Matilda came to me as a four-month old kitten from Queensland, Australia, in 2004. I flew out to Los Angeles from Boston to meet her and, with much anxiety on my part, asked my friend who had come along with me, "What if she doesn't like me?" I'd never done this before and I was apprehensive. As for Matilda, once with me and in the hotel room, she bounced out of the carrier and her acceptance of me was immediate. All would be fine.

Matilda began her kitten career with me in early February, so she wasn't able to accomplish too much. I did learn immediately that she was a great show cat and enjoyed everything about the show scene: her bath, the show hall, the hotel rooms, the travel. She was living the life – and life was an adventure she loved. She rolled right into Championship and stayed out the next show season. She placed 26th in championship nationally in 2005. It's just the way it was. There were twenty-five other cats who had earned more points. We just moved on.

Next job on Matilda's list was motherhood. Though she had a few beautiful kittens, motherhood wasn't her strong point. There were some stillborns, and then, after a second c-section, that phase of her life was over. She would



stay with me, sometimes making guest appearances at breed presentations.

In the summer of 2013 I had decided to take out her son, GC, RW Naumkeag Braxton. My intention was to show him throughout Region 1, 4 and 7 to see how much he could accomplish. Though he did well with very limited showing, he wasn't enjoying the show scene. He was a little over four

years old, a proven breeder, and he let me know that he'd prefer to stay home. When they speak, I listen!

For the next two months, I attended local shows with Matilda. Though she had been spayed, I'd never taken her out to compete as a Premier. After earning her Grand Premiership and continuing to do well, I thought that she might be able to place regionally.

Then came Cotton States.

Cotton States is a big show that is more than a show: It's an event! I wanted to attend and had no choice other than to take Matilda. She was now ten years old and I didn't want to ask too much of her, but she seemed to understand that she was all I had. She hadn't flown since her seventeen-hour trip from Australia to LA in 2004 (and then five more hours to Boston), but she took this in stride. - Just another adventure. As for the show, she held her own against the nationally placed cats that were there and I decided that I might just keep her out to see what she could do.

Other than to Cotton States, Matilda never flew. She willingly stayed in her carrier for those moderate-length trips around Regions 1, 4 and 7, or was content to ride in her Sturdi Cargo tent for

the longer drives to the World Show in Michigan and the two shows in North Carolina that we attended. It was an adventure she was willing to share with me.

The judges seemed to be most impressed with her coat, her conformation, her age and her size. More than one judge would confess: "I thought she was a boy." A wonderful description was given by one judge who called her his Roller Derby Queen. I admit; it fit.

These accomplishments are never reached alone. Many thanks need to be given:

- To the judges who remained faithful and consistent; much appreciated;
- To friends who were there for

whatever needed to be done; e.g., "I'm calling to know where you are and if you're awake." (Those long rides home!);

- To the other competitors who were friendly and supportive;
- To those who always made sure I was included in dinner plans when I was "far away" and on my own;
- To Carolynne Power of Kaloofa Cattery for entrusting me with a wonderful cat, one that reflected well on her breeding program;
- To Matilda, who made all of this possible!

Many thanks to all!

Twenty-fifth Best Cat in Premiership GP, NW MAIYAH THAT OLD BLACK MAGIC

Seal Point Siamese Neuter

Breeder: Sheryl Polikoff

Owner: Claire Wolfe

Submitted by Claire Wolfe

In 2007 I first visited the National Capital Cat Show, where I met my mentor and friend, Cheryl Matteo-Kerney, and she uttered those fateful words: "You know, you can show altered cats in Premiership!" There was never any question which breed it would be. I have had Siamese cats since childhood. But I had never had a show quality Siamese, and I was completely smitten by their chiseled heads, extravagant ears, and elegant bodies.

Fast forward five years after walking into that first show. I was at the home of Siamese breeder Sheryl Polikoff. She had three gorgeous show quality kittens available - how would I choose? One was an incredibly rambunctious seal point with a promising show personality. One was a very shy chocolate point that I only saw briefly before he hid from view. And where was the third kitten? As I waved the wand toy in the air, a little seal point face with piercing blue eyes peeked out from behind the sofa. A little bit shy, this



kitten could not resist the toy and ran out from cover to attack it. Yes, this kitten was not too bold and not too shy. "Billy" was just right.

Billy granded in the 2012-13 show season, so in May, we were off and running. You hear about those "perfect" show cats - the ones who love to travel and perform on the judge's table. And then there is Billy. Billy hates to be confined in any way. In fact, "closed door" is not in Billy's vocabulary. So driving to cat shows and keeping him happy in the benching area presented a challenge. But as the season progressed, Billy began to get the hang of it. He learned that the drive went faster if he slept through some of it. He learned how good it felt to stretch up that pole on the judge's table. He even learned that the judges were not trying to kill him, and the toys they had could actually be fun.

Through it all Billy showed off his long, refined body and wonderful wedge with huge ears that perfectly frame his face. He has beautiful deep blue eye color, deep matching points, and wonderful coat clarity. Billy is one of those cats that just kept getting bet-

ter as he matured - a rare blessing in the Siamese breed.

We showed the entire year, with Billy in the top 25 for most of it. With just two weeks left in the season, Billy had slipped to 25th place. Several cats behind him were coming on strong. Could he keep this spot? The second to the last show of the season came and went; Billy was still at 25. Then just two days before the last show of the season, Billy developed a slight cold. I did not want to stress him with travelling, so I decided we would stay home. As Billy enjoyed his well-earned retirement, I was a wreck waiting for reports from the shows where his competition was. Of course, as Saturday wore on, Billy acted just fine - no further sign of that oncoming cold. Perhaps I was just imagining that little glint in his eye, saying "fooled ya!" Finally, early Saturday night, I got a call from my friend Liz Jennings: "So what color is your dress going to be?" Billy had done it! The other cats had not gotten sufficient points to push him out of 25th place. And two weeks later, when the final e-points were published, Billy was officially a National Winner.

Of course, no exhibitor can do this alone. Well, I suppose you can, but you shouldn't, because that is half the fun. There are many people to thank. Thank you, Cheryl, for your friendship and for getting me into this wonderful, crazy hobby. Thank you, Sheryl, for breeding a most exceptional show cat that has turned into my heart cat. Thank you to the judges who supported Billy throughout the year - I never tired of hearing you talk about him in the finals. Thank you, Liz, for your friendship, advice, and undying belief in me and Billy, and putting up with the countless times I despaired of ever accomplishing this goal. Thank you to the many wonderful people I met this year and whose company I enjoyed at the shows. It would not have been nearly as much fun without you to share the ups and downs of this year. And most of all, thank you, Billy, for putting up with your mom's crazy dream, and suffering through all those car rides, the plane ride, the endless judging, and still greeting me every day with a purr, a head butt, and unconditional love.