
SIAMESE

Re-Elected Breed Council Secretary: Mary Kolencik, Jessup, MD

Total Members: 59

Ballots Received: 41

1. Question: Do you feel the acceptance of the Toybob would be detrimental to the Siamese?

RATIONALE: A group of breeders has asked for recognition of the Toybob breed and the board will consider that application at the February 2019 board meeting. The purpose of this question is to determine whether our breed council believes accepting the Toybob breed will be detrimental to the Siamese breed.

The Toybob is a small cat with a bobbed tail. These cats look like small bob-tailed apple head Siamese. www.toybob.org includes information about the breed, including photos and relevant links.

The Toybob application does not include the Siamese breed as a progenitor however the Siamese breed may be behind these cats. According to the breed application, some Toybob pedigrees include the Thai breed, but going forward the Thai will not be an outcross. The Thai breed is descended from the Siamese breed and is supposed to be a Siamese cat of the “original” type from the late 1800s. The Thai breed has the same ancestry as the Siamese, but the breeders selected for type in a moderate direction rather than adhere to the show standard. If Thai cats were used in the creation or foundation of the Toybobs, then Siamese were used to create them because Siamese cats created the Thai cats.

The question for us to consider is how acceptance of the Toybob breed will affect the Siamese breed.

Many of you have heard comments from spectators at shows and the public that today’s show quality Siamese do not look like the original Siamese, or do not look like the Siamese of their childhood. “I used to have a Siamese and it didn’t look anything like that” is a comment that we usually hear several times a day at a well-attended show. This is because most people do not realize that the pointed gene is in the domestic population, and the Siamese of their childhood or the Siamese that their friend/relative has or had was likely a pointed domestic cat and not a CFA registered Siamese. Furthering the confusion is the proliferation of the pointed trait throughout so many breeds. If CFA accepts the Toybob, it will be accepting yet another breed that includes the pointed trait and will contribute to the public confusion over what is or is not a Siamese.

The Toybob is a small (actually tiny) moderate cat with a bobbed tail. The breed includes non-pointed colors, but the photos we see in google searches are predominantly pointed cats. A CFA Siamese breeder or any CFA breeder would likely not mistake the Toybob for a Siamese. However, the public will definitely look at a pointed Toybob and ask, “is that a Siamese?” That is definite, it will happen, someone will look at one of these cats and think the cat is a Siamese simply because it is a pointed cat and has a head structure reminiscent of the pointed domestic cat they once had or once saw in a friend/relative’s house that they thought was a Siamese.

The confusion will happen, guaranteed. The question for our breed council is whether that confusion is detrimental to our Siamese breed. Another problem to consider is the miniaturization of any breed. The Toybob will effectively take CFA down the path of the infamous “tea-cup poodle” trend of making miniatures of popular dog breeds. The miniaturization of cats is a disturbing trend. Will we hear spectators refer to Toybobs as “tea-cup Siamese”?

YES: 29

NO: 9

ABSTAIN: 3

Information Only.