

(52) **BREED COUNCIL SECRETARIES' MEETING.**

Saturday, June 25, 2022
10:30 a.m.

Newkirk: We will call this meeting of the board members with the Breed Council Secretaries. I would like to introduce Annette Wilson, who is the Breeds and Standards Chair.
Wilson: Good morning, and thank you for such a great turn-out. Thank you, Darrell and the board members, for giving up the latter half of their Saturday morning to listen to the Breed Council Secretaries. We always get a good turn-out at these meetings and it's because you guys are interested in hearing what the board has to say, and they are interested in hearing what you have to say. There are agendas and some short PowerPoint slides that were handed out. I have a few extra copies and I also just sent an email to the Breed Council Secretaries' list with these attached. I want to ask everybody to please use the microphones, and when you speak give your name and the breed you are representing. The first order is always to go around the room and give a quick introduction; which means, if you are representing it or if you are the Breed Council Secretary and the breed council you are representing.

Attendance List:

Joy Yoders Dey	Manx
Jeri Zottoli	Bombay; Birman
Claire Dubit	Tonkinese
Sheryl Zink	American Wirehair
Allene Keating	European Burmese
Laura Jo Barber	Selkirk Rex
Michael Blee	Cornish Rex
Carissa Altschul	Persian
LeAnn Rupy	Havana Brown
J. Brook Cole	Norwegian Forest Cat
Keith Kimberlin	Burmilla
Marilee Griswold	Scottish Fold
Dennis Gano	LaPerm
Iris Zinck	Siberian
Betsy Arnold	Siamese
Frederic Goedert	Khao Manee
Erin Kirk	Lykoi
Sonja Muscoffian	Ocicat
Marianne Clark	Japanese Bobtail
Lynn Cooke	Exotic
Bethany Colilla	Maine Coon
Cheryl Coleman	Korat
Alene Shafnisky	Turkish Angora
Samantha Kerr	Bengal
Carol Johnson	American Shorthair
Carla Bizzell	Chartreux

Charlene Munro	Somali
Bobbi Irie	Devon Rex
Laura Gregory	Ragamuffin
Melanie Morgan	Egyptian Mau
Annette Wilson	Russian Blue
Dotti Olsen	Oriental
Lorna Friemoth	American Bobtail

Mr. Darrell Newkirk (President)
Mr. Richard Mastin (Vice President)
Ms. Rachel Anger (Secretary)
Ms. Kathy Calhoun (Treasurer)
Ms. Sharon Roy (NAR Director)
Mr. John Colilla (GLR Director)
Mr. Howard Webster (SWR Director)
Mrs. Cathy Dunham (MWR Director)
Mr. Kenny Currie (SOR Director)
Ms. Yukiko Hayata (Japan Regional Director)
Ms. Pam DelaBar (Europe Regional Director)
George Eigenhauser, Esq. (Director-at-Large)
Mr. Mark Hannon (Director-at-Large)
Mrs. Carol Krzanowski (Director-at-Large)
Ms. Melanie Morgan (Director-at-Large)
Mrs. Annette Wilson (Director-at-Large)
Shelly K. Perkins, Attorney at Law, CFA Legal Counsel, Parliamentarian

Wilson: Everybody has an agenda. If you don't, if you raise your hand we can make a paper airplane and fly one to you.

1. Update on Color Genetics Project – Central Office

Wilson: The next thing after introductions is, maybe James Simbro will give us a brief update on where the color genetics registration project is. **Simbro:** Thank you. We have entered a second round of testing for the genetics project. Everything is ready to go, to integrate into eCats for people to use for registering a cat. The second round of testing is being performed by Paul Patton, who is doing our reviews of all registrations right now, to help staff catch any unique color combinations and basic training. We are fine tuning the logic. Everything is in place. Now, it's the nitty gritty details of getting that to work for every color of every breed. So, that's where we are right now. Hopefully in the next 3 to 4 weeks, we will be ready to launch that live on eCat. It will be kind of seamless. You really won't see much, other than instead of just having a blank text field to provide the color of the cat, you will actually get a drop down list of colors that are genetically possible. We do have logic in there. If for some reason the color is not listed or this is some unique situation, the user can click a box that says "my color is not listed" and then provide the color to us in a text field, which then get reviewed by staff. So, those don't get automatically processed. **Wilson:** Thank you.

Wilson: Does anybody have any questions about that? **Kimberlin:** Can you really explain more what the whole process is and what the outcome would be? Does this include registration numbers? Is this for all cats being registered? Is this for a group of cats? **Simbro:** The goal is going to be for all breeds. It's going to potentially lead to a path of being able to register cats instantly. It's going to take a little bit of time to make sure this works really flawlessly to allow that, but that's the direction we're moving. **Kimberlin:** Are we looking to have standardized colors, where there is a glossary of colors? Is that part of this process? **Simbro:** No. Certain breeds call ebony and black different things. The system automatically handles those. What we do is, we take the color, we put the genetic code or make-up background that it uses to calculate the genetics from that. **Kimberlin:** So, it will include DNA information then, if we had DNA done? Or are we going to add that to the database? **Simbro:** No. It does use DNA information. Steve Merritt was really the driving force behind this, but I know that it's based on Punnett squares where you're looking at, I believe, the genome makeup and doing all the calculations in the background. **Kimberlin:** I'm just trying to better understand what the purpose of this is. Anybody else there that knows how this will benefit – **Wilson:** I can speak to that. This is a way to help registrations better choose possible colors and patterns from the parents' registration. At this point, that's all this is. You might remember from the last annual or wherever it was when we were in person, and Steve Merritt spoke to us and then he counted the Breed Council Secretaries to make sure all the colors and patterns that they wanted or were possible in their breed were included so that this could be built. So, this is a registration aid at this point. **Kimberlin:** Thank you. **Tartaglia:** It's more than just for Central Office, it's for breeders and cat owners. The group of people we have here today, you're really good with your colors. The majority of the people who register cats do not, so if the breeder didn't help with the color, they don't have a clue, especially with some breeds that get a little complicated. So, it will help the consumer, the user-customer, and then it will fine tune it for us, as well, when we get those. We'll know that it's a genetically possible color.

Wilson: Anybody else have any questions? **DelaBar:** I forgot to ask this question of James earlier. If a breed decides it wants to, and the breed council decides that they want to mandate any kind of genetic testing. Can this system be worked to include that? **Simbro:** I'm not sure how it would be used for that. **Tartaglia:** I think we will first have to determine what is it you want to track. When you say "genetic testing", that's a lot of information. If we want to record – well, genetic testing would be another testing. What is it we're going to record to the system? What's it's going to check to? We can do anything, but we just have to know what we're doing and that, of course, comes at a cost. We have to ideally build it to begin with, not retrofit, which is what we do on a regular basis. **DelaBar:** If I can continue, many people will import cats from Europe and many of the associations and federations of these associations in Europe require. I'm going to give you an example for Norwegian Forest Cat. You have to have a current heart scan and you have to have GSD-4 [**Secretary's Note:** Glycogen storage disease type 4] testing, to get that information so you know you've got it and it's listed in your cat's profile. This is what I'm talking about, this type of thing. There are other breeds that have other requirements, as well. **Tartaglia:** That goes beyond what this project – way beyond color. **Keating:** I would like to find out, when you come into the program on eCats and you're looking for the color, is it breed specific or do you have to go through all the color-isms out there. **Tartaglia:** It will be breed specific, based on the litter and the parents. So, there are however many thousands of colors there are for Devon Rex, all those aren't going to come up. It's just going to be ones that are possible from the parents' colors. **Eigenhauser:** Will it also include

patterns – mackerel, classic, ticked? **Simbro:** Yes. **Kimberlin:** I have a question here about, when you have a silver and the color combinations that you can get with silver, if the cat is homozygous silver, they will produce only silvers. If they are heterozygous silver, they will produce others like goldens, so is this some information that you will have? Because you're saying you are going to make sure you know what colors are possible, and you can't know that unless you know the cat is homozygous silver or heterozygous silver. Is that going to be part of your data? **Tartaglia:** I think what you're talking about – Annette, correct me if I'm wrong – is similar to the red/red tabby situation we have where a cat will look different than what it is genetically. I don't have a definitive answer for you. Yes, that's something we want to do. I'm not sure how we're going to do that, but it's something that may need refinement. What happens with a project like this is, when we consider all the possibilities, we'll never get it done because it's just overwhelming. I think we'll be 95% there and then these little things we are going to have to fine tune. **Kimberlin:** There's one thing with the red tabby. You can find that gene in genetic testing, because there is agouti or non-agouti. In the case of silver, there's no DNA test for silver yet. **Tartaglia:** So, I guess my question to you would be, how would we test for that? How can we determine that, based on the litter and the parents? **Kimberlin:** Part of it is to have a sublist that would be in the silver, and you can maybe make an asterisk to say, "this is something that there is another possibility", and then you can have a little note on the bottom that says whether it is heterozygous or homozygous. **Tartaglia:** That would be a refinement. **Kimberlin:** It would help you in the Central Office if you had to go and check this out, and then you could ask some breed council members that work with those. **Wilson:** Thank you Keith. I think there's a lot of ways we can go with that. **Morgan:** Many of you may remember that Steve asked all of us – or maybe he didn't ask everyone. I know he asked my breed to provide a grid or spreadsheet that showed all genetic possibilities from two cats. Speaking directly to what you're saying, Keith, certainly if you have two silvers that are non-homozygous for the silver gene, you have an opportunity to produce bronzes or brown tabbies, blacks, etc., depending on what you have there. Steve took all of those possibilities into account when he put together this grid. This project is mammoth. In a breed that has so few colors as mine does, there were an amazing number of possibilities, because you add in all the other anomalies that might or might not happen. He took all of those possibilities into account, so were I to register a bronze kitten out of two silver parents, it would pop down as a possibility. It's already built into the system – at least, that's my understanding of it. So, might he have missed a few? He may have, but he spent the better part of several years working on this, so they should be showing up in your pull-down menu.

Ganoe: I had a question about the recessives, because often we'll get recessives popping up unexpectedly. Are recessives automatically considered one of the possible from two dominant-colored parents, or are we – because I did a litter where I had a red tabby bred to a mink, and I got a mink tabby. **Tartaglia:** There's anomalies in every breed. First I have to say, we love Bombays. We love the one-color breeds. They're wonderful, but when you're talking about a recessive that pops up unexpectedly out of two dominants, that's going to come in that drop-down menu where you say, "my cat is none of those colors" and then we'll have to review it and contact you. That's almost impossible to program for the completely unexpecteds that happen randomly. **Clark:** We have a problem in our breed in that we have a lot of low expression smokes and when they're born you may think maybe it's a smoke, but when it grows up it looks like it's a black and the judges insist that we can't call it a smoke because they can't see it, yet the cat produces smokes and Central Office says, "you can't do that, there's no silver behind them," but it is a low expression. There's no genetic test right now for silver, so all we

can do is, I guess we would have to do a genetic test on the parents to prove that's what happened, but it is a problem that we do get these low expression black smokes and you can't see that the parent is a smoke. We also have the same with the cameos. So, how would you handle that? **Simbro:** I want to maybe kind of back up a little bit. The way the system is initially being built is, it's going to – like Allene said – hit the most common combinations that we're going to get. These unique situations, this is where you are probably going to hit the point where your color is not listed or you know there's some anomaly in this breed. You say, "my color is not listed," you list it, you check the box, you provide the color. Those are flagged for us. Those are our learning tools. This is what we use then to build on the system to tweak the logic and try to adjust it, and then make it so you don't have to check the box. Your color shows up.

Altschul: I have a question with the way this new system is going through. This came up at a show recently. The judge called up a new breeder of a Persian cat and he said, "Your cat is listed as a classic tabby in the Persian breed. We don't put classic tabby in the color description. It's just blue tabby and white, and the classic is understood." Annette was at that show, and I think Melanie. We talked about it and were like, wait a minute. Half of the classic tabby Persians were listed in the judges' books with the word "classic" in there, and half of them were not. So, it caused a lot of confusion. I looked at my standards [alarm goes off] and in my color prefix charts it doesn't have the word "classic" in there officially. It's like my breed standard got changed without us being told, and it's not even being consistent. It's not like at a certain point all of the classic tabbies all of a sudden started being registered with the word "class" in them. It's hit or miss, so I'm just kind of wondering, is this a facet of this new program? Is it moving forward and I need to tell my people about it? **Tartaglia:** First, there was no change to the standard. The standard allows for classic, mackerel, whatever. What we were finding is, when people register their cats, they don't know that classic is the assumed color [*sic*, pattern]. I said earlier that the overwhelming majority of the cats we register are not from serious breeders like yourselves. They are from pet purchasers, new people. They don't understand, and what we were finding is that it's very confusing to people when they have tabby, mackerel tabby, and then they look at the standard. It was just a better defining of the colors [*sic*, patterns], so we modified the BCS code, the description, to better define what tabby is, what type of tabby it is – classic, mackerel. It's taking time. We didn't go back and change all the existing, it was just going forward. If you were to request a duplicate certificate, it might come up as a classic tabby if it was a new printed certificate. **Dunham:** I just wanted to address something that Carissa made a comment on. The classic or spotted or whatever type of pattern that's put in the entry clerking system is not necessarily always what the cat is registered as. They are two separate databases at this point, so while one cat may say classic tabby as a description and another cat that does not say classic – it's obviously implied in a standard – it's up to the entry clerk entering the entry to write the description as it is presented on the entry form. We don't go back and look at a registration slip, so when a judge's catalog comes out and 2 or 3 cats have classic or spotted or mackerel listed and other ones don't, it's because of how it was entered in our database for entry clerking right now. We are working to correct that and make it consistent, and so that eventually our entry clerking system will communicate with the Central Office registration database, but at this point in time the inconsistencies is because it's humans entering data. I just wanted to clarify that. **Wilson:** Thank you. **Eigenhauser:** Actually, I've seen it in Maine Coons as well and I'm kind of a busybody. When I see a problem at a show, I tend to get involved. I've asked exhibitors to see their registration slips and it says "classic" on it. It does happen, and I think part of the problem is, the way we do it now, we rely on the people registering the cats. They may be people with

very little knowledge of it. They send Central Office and their default assumption is, what you put there is right. Automating the process will prevent mistakes not just by the people making the registrations, but will also eliminate some staff mistakes, as well. So, let's not try to blame anybody here, let's look at a system now that by automating, by restricting choices, by getting enhanced review when there's a problem, we can eliminate a lot of these errors, but it does happen at the registration level, as well. **Wilson:** Thank you George.

Goedert: In the situation of the Khao Manee, we are like the Bombay, we have just one color. We have a health situation we would like to be concerned with, and we would like to make mandatory for the registration for blue-eyed white and odd-eyed white to be tested in order to know are they dominant white or not, and two make mandatory that two dominant whites cannot be bred together or we cannot register the kittens of such litters. So, this genetic test will help us at a certain point to claim and request this kind of test in order to be able to register litters?

Tartaglia: Again, I think you're talking about more than color. When you say "genetic test", it's really a DNA test. That's a whole other topic that we would be looking at. That's a huge project and a consideration, because if we want to start requiring DNA testing for every cat that's registered –

Goedert: Just the parents that have this trait of blue- and odd-eyed, because we know that there might be an issue if we breed dominant white to dominant white, so we want to stop that, but on the other hand, we would like to obligate the fact to breed two whites together.

Tartaglia: I think when we start talking about doing DNA testing for any breed and requiring it, it's really something we have to build into the entire system. When we start picking and choosing, "this breed is going to do this and this breed is going to do that," if most will require some sort of DNA testing, we need to build it into the system. To do it for just the Khao Manee and for just certain colors, again, anything is possible. It will delay things, it will take longer for registrations, and of course people will have to do that testing. **Goedert:** I think it's necessary, because like Pam just said, in Europe we are used to make tests. Tests are mandatory. The registration in our association for this and that, so we are just helping a breed to structure and to ask if there's a fact that we can breed two white cats together in a healthy way, just requesting this kind of test. This is a condition in order to be more consistent in the breed. **Tartaglia:** That would be a policy for the board. It's something we will discuss at a future time. Again, anything is possible. **Goedert:** Yeah, I think it can help us to be one of the real genetic associations. I can just connect what we are saying with something that can be officially proved by genetic tests.

Wilson: Thank you Frederic. This would be something to put on your ballot under Registration Rules for that breed, but you have to write up how it would work, a form that someone would use to register a cat, you would have to give instructions to people registering the cat, as well as instructions for Central Office. I think I sent you some examples for that. **Goedert:** Yes. We already tried to do that, but we will improve the way we present it in order to make it work.

Wilson: Thank you. **Shafnisky:** While I appreciate the sentiment, I think we need to be extremely careful if we're going to be talking about barring things based on genetic testing. I happen to work with a breed where we do breed white to white. That's legal in this country. It's not harmful for the cats in any way, so I think if we're going to talk about required genetic testing, we need to have some kind of rule in place that is going to insure the input of every breed potentially affected and possibly the board, because this can be dangerous. I don't know if a lot of you know, in Europe there are certain breeds that you can't breed, there are certain colors in breeds you can't breed, and once we start walking down that path voluntarily, we leave ourselves open for someone to come in and legislate that against us, and so you know what? "You think breeding white to white is bad? We're going to make that part of our laws." It's a

very, very dangerous slope to go down. I'm all for putting in the genetic testing, but starting to bar certain cats to be bred to certain other cats I think would be a huge mistake.

Olson: I did ask this question in New York when we had our last live [meeting], and I just want to make sure nothing has changed. I want to talk about that nasty little silver gene. I did obtain a cat some years ago, and it is registered as a red-silver tabby and white. Neither parent, however, was registered as silver because the mother's silver did not express itself until after it had received it's grand champion, and it was before the rule change that you could change color even after the title was won. So, she was never changed and I now have offspring and grand offspring that are expressing the silver gene. I just want to make sure that it's not going to come back and bite me when you go back and look at maybe a 3rd or 4th generation back and you don't see any silver. **Wilson:** It will not. Did someone else have a hand up back there? **[unidentified speaker]** As far as DNA testing, I was just wondering if microchipping was required, to prove that that cat is actually the cat. **Wilson:** It is not. **DelaBar:** But, you know, in Europe it is required within the EU, yes. So, if you get a cat imported in from especially an EU country, it's required and we should be able to capture that information, because that sets the vaccination history. It also sets any of the other required tests that may be required. If anybody wants to ask me at a later time about the country-specific problems we're having within the breeds, I can talk to you a little later on that one. **Wilson:** The CFA registration process at this time does not require any DNA evidence or any microchip. That's not to say it couldn't down the future, but right now it does not. Anybody else on this subject? Obviously, it's an important subject. I think we have building blocks in place, and where we expand from there is certainly predicated on input from breeders, so talk to your Breed Council Secretary about it. But, it has to be something that can be reasonably done and makes sense. As someone mentioned, this could come back to bite somebody. Anything else on this?

2. *Cats Ancestral Tracking Service (CATS) – is there a continuing need*

Wilson: Are we ready for the next item? OK, the Cat Ancestral Tracking Service. How many people know CFA has this? OK good. So, it's not being used. My question is, is it not being used because it's not being marketed, or we don't think of using it for certain things? There's a very good description on the CFA website of what it's there for. However, if Central Office is going to train people on how to use it, then it makes sense that we need to use it. Just like anything, if we don't use it people forget how to use it. So, my question is, do you see value in continuing to have the Cat Ancestral Tracking Service available? **Gregory:** For our breed, I think it does still have value. I have known people who have used it. I don't know if they are using it currently, but I know they have. We have some different outcrosses in different associations unfortunately, and we have a 5-generation pedigree rule to come to CFA. So, my understanding is, some of our breeders who have received a cat from another association that has an improper outcross, they like using that so they can track their generations with CFA. Then, they already have the pedigree for CFA there, and then they are ready to register when they get to the 5th generation. **Goedert:** My question is, recently we had an issue or several issues with British Shorthairs being shown in our shows in Europe and facing the fact that they cannot be registered with our association. They are British Shorthairs that might be with colors or length of hair that cannot be registered in the pedigree, and I requested from Monique van Eijk if we can have those cats at least registered with CATS. Her answer is no, they cannot be registered anywhere, even with CATS. So, I would like you to confirm me this information or not, because

we don't have actually 95% of British Shorthair in Europe cannot be registered with CFA and they represent between 20% and 30% of the cats bred in Europe and other countries in the International Division, so what can we do for those people waiting the time that maybe in the future they will be able to register? Is there a way through CATS we can do that? **Wilson:** Did you want to speak to that, Pam? **DelaBar:** Yes. This is one of the things that CATS was originally developed for. When I came back from China the first time, we had several cats that were obviously of a parentage specifically like Exotics, but there were no pedigrees to go with them. It started out being able to build pedigrees. Now, up until still I think to the present day, CATS is basically on a computer – not on a mainframe, but on a separate computer; being on a laptop. The other thing we found is like with Birmans that we were requiring generations that we weren't getting, especially out of France and some of the other areas, so it was there. We could put the Birman into CATS and once the cat was bred and subsequent generations were put into CATS, the cat developed a pedigree that allowed it to be moved into the CFA regular registry. Now, for British, you know how I feel. I am hoping that there will be a solution coming up, but I don't think that we are prepared right now to specifically talk and take up time on this right now. **Goedert:** But can we think about CATS being some kind of temporary – we have in Europe also registries that have what they call “temporary registration book”; something that is in the process of registration in order to be able to validate a pedigree. So yes, those Birmans with the silver and everything. It would help also with many breeds, in fact, because we have much more colors in Europe than we do in America, so if this registry can be this way to make people wait, it would be wonderful. **Wilson:** Thank you Frederic, and I think that was the intention of this. I don't think it actually states that on the CFA webpage; however, if a breeder wants to use this to record their own breedings and include cats that aren't acceptable currently for CFA registration in that breed, when they have enough generations, they are still going to have to follow our general rules for registration and the registration rules for that breed. So, they are still going to have to keep their certified pedigrees on those cats to prove that – in other words, we can't just use this as our own program. It's a way for someone to record a cat and get a record and use it as their pedigree program, but the individual registration rules for the breed are still going to have those requirements. **Ganoe:** One question I have is, I understand CATS was designed for this registration and transfer. I believe the transfer, when it occurs, if it occurs, is done manually. **Wilson:** That's correct. **Ganoe:** Right now, I'm of the opinion that it is totally not used enough and I think that's because knowledge is not out there. If we want to keep it, we should probably promote it and make it as easy as possible to get the cats into CATS. **Wilson:** I don't disagree. **Ganoe:** Right now, how does a breeder get their cat entered into the CATS system? Is that done by Central Office or can they do it via some interface?

Tartaglia: A lot of questions, and I will try to answer them. First, Pam was correct that it's a stand-alone program. It is not integrated in any way with the current database. We process right now approximately 3 or 4 of these registrations a year, so if you are talking about integrating it into our mainframe system, that's a big expense for something that may not be used properly. I'm going to give you an example of how some people are using it and how we have to turn them down. We just recently had somebody – she applied, it was an application. It's all manual. She applied for it. She said, “I have a Persian so I want to register it in CATS.” Her purpose was, she had what she thought was a Persian, so now I can register it in CATS, I can breed and eventually my “Persians” will be registerable as a CFA-registered cat. Well, those cats will never be registerable in CFA because they can't meet the requirements to be fully registered. So, that's what we're finding people are using CATS for. It appears to me from the conversation

we're having that the perception of CATS is, basically it's a pedigree software, which it is. It's like an off-the-shelf pedigree software, so essentially what we're doing is keeping pedigrees for people that really may not have pedigreed cats. When there was a new breed that was coming up, perhaps that would be a good use for CATS. They could start documenting their new breeds, but that's not what it is being used for, really. Have I answered your question? **Ganoe:** Well, you did. It's just that I was wondering if we wanted them to use them being breeders who want to eventually get their cats registered in CFA. We need to make that as easy as possible, and right now it sounds like it's not very easy, but then again you don't get but maybe one every quarter. **Tartaglia:** To have a full registration for breeding and showing, they would still have to go through the process of a pedigree review, just like we currently do for CATS. So, I'm not sure how easy the CATS system would make full registration for cats in the system. **Ganoe:** Obviously you've got rules that, when you want to take a cat into CATS, you have background information that you evaluate. Is it possible to present that evaluation criteria up front for users to look at and say, "your cat may qualify for CATS if ...", and then they can look at the list of things. "You have a registered cat, your cat is not of an acceptable color or not of an acceptable hair length" or whatever the criteria is to get it into CATS and then you can move that evaluation from the Central Office staff onto the cat owner, so that they can self-select themselves, going, "OK, I want to register, but I can't. Here are rules." **DelaBar:** As I said, one of the basic reasons to develop CATS was to provide a means of establishing pedigrees on these cats that we were finding, at that time, in China. But, we have others that, you go into South Africa and all of a sudden they are finding that there's a breed called a Traditional Persian. They have got basically if you want to look at the turn of the 20th Century and you look at the Persians from there, this is basically what they are calling "the Traditions". Do we take these cats into CATS so they can possibly develop into what Carissa wants to have for 8 generations of what these Persians will look like? Or, maybe they come in and they want to try to establish a breed of Traditional Persians or York Chocolates or any of the other things that we have had in the past. But, this was it; to build a pedigree and it was also to – like with the Birmans – was to be able for the cats to build the pedigree to allow them to qualify to be put into the regular CFA registry. So, some of the intricacies beyond that have to be looked at on an individual basis. There's no set rule on a lot of these, except for the fact that where we find cats that are obviously an Exotic or obviously a Japanese Bobtail that's on my feet as I am eating breakfast in Phnom Penh, it's to try to bring the known breeds that we have into our system. Colors and everything, that's going to go back to the breed councils. That's up to the breed councils to decide on their colors. If somebody wants to breed away from a color that was not accepted – and Frederic, I think this is sort of going to where you are thinking – if we have a cat that has a zebra striped British, let's say, and people want to get that away so they can qualify to register with CFA, this is the thing that I think we can use CATS to do, to allow them to try to breed away, officially establish the offspring in breeding away from that until they get the appropriate number of generations required.

Wilson: OK, we have other things we need to get to and we're running out of time. I think this is a very valuable discussion. I think maybe we can take it to the list. Basically, it was on here, if we're not using it, do we want to keep it and does Central Office want to staff and train for it? If we are all using different ways to accomplish the long list of things you can use this for, that's what we need to talk about. So, we'll take that onto the Breed Council Secretaries' list and hopefully everybody will participate and give their opinion, and then we will get back to Central Office on that. We have to move along. We're still on #2.

3. *Optimal Selection Genetic Screening*

Optimal Selection Genetic Testing

<https://cfa.org/dna-testing/>

Optimal Selection™
powered by **WISDOM PANEL™**

Optimal Selection

Our leading genetic testing panel for both pedigreed and mixed-breed cats includes 40+ genetic health tests, plus blood type, along with traits and genetic diversity.

The regular price is \$99.99 and CFA customers receive a 15% discount. Be sure to include the Promo Code when ordering: **CFAmember2022**. This promo code is good through December 31, 2022.

[Order Now](#)

Testing a new family member?

[Activate Kit](#)

Optimal Selection - Feline

- Results for over 40 genetic diseases, reported in terms of known relevance to the specific breed evaluated.
- Testing for 20+ traits including coat colors, coat types, and morphology.
- Testing for blood type
- Genetic diversity information for the tested cat, and the overall breed population
- Continuously updated research and breed information based on new discoveries



Silver Lining - Stryder's blood type is:





Genotype:	A/A
Transfusion Risk:	Moderate ▶

Results

Coat Color & Type


Coat Color
13 Traits

We found 2 special coat color genes in Silver Lining - Stryder's DNA.

-  Dilution
1 copy
No effect
-  Solid Color
1 copy
Banded hairs, tabby patterns likely

Coat Type
10 Traits

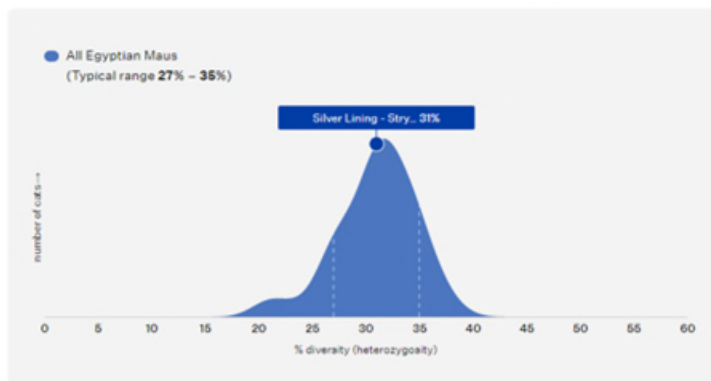
We found 1 special coat type gene in Silver Lining - Stryder's DNA.

-  Glitter

Genetic Diversity

Silver Lining - Stryder's DNA shows average diversity.

Silver Lining - Stryder's genome analysis shows an average level of genetic diversity when compared with other Egyptian Maus.



Wilson: The next item on the agenda is the Optimal Selection Genetic Screening that CFA offers through a link on the website directly to the vendor. We've had genetic testing options come and go. People have swabbed their cats and then wondered what happens to the swabs, but I'm going to have Melanie Morgan speak to this. Some of the slides she provided. That's the other handout here. They are just screen prints of some of the slides. I find it kind of more exciting and I ordered a bunch of kits. There's a discount if you link through the CFA

website, because first of all the reports on your cats are available to you directly on the company's screen. The part that I'm most excited about is the genetic diversity, if you look at the last page. It tests for a lot of breeds, but my breed has just one thing. It would compare not only your cat of the breed in the range as far as genetic diversity to other cats in the breed, but if you would for example send in testing on two siblings and the male is your stud, it would tell you which one of those siblings is more genetically diverse and you would have a lower coefficient of breeding if you kept and bred that one. So, I think it's valuable information, but it's only as valuable as the more breed information gets in there. So, I'll turn it over to Melanie to go through these quickly.

Morgan: I never do anything quickly, except for speak. Annette really touched on what I think is most important. I suspect that many of you sitting over there are already using genetic testing on your breeding cats. I myself find this optimal selection option phenomenally exciting and for the very reasons Annette mentioned – the heterozygosity is a fascinating exercise and so much more accurate than just a basic COI. They are ever expanding their options on color traits and health traits. That, for all of us, is hugely helpful, both in selecting for healthy, happy pets and show cats, and representatives of their breed, and also for fine tuning our color selections. I strongly urge everyone to test their cats they are going to be breeding, if only for the blood typing, etc., but most importantly these reports and those heterozygosity and diversity issues reports are only as strong as what we put into them. The more people we get to submit to the database and broaden that database, and the availability of information, the smarter all of us can be as breeders. So, I urge all of you as leaders and representatives for your breeds to get your people to add their cats to the database. I have even started pushing some of my pet owners because they find it interesting to have their little report on their kitty. I think Optimal Selection does a nice job. I just pulled one of the reports off one of my cats here, but they do a nice job of packaging it in a way that's palatable for both the serious breeder and also the pet owner. If you haven't already used them – I certainly am probably preaching to the choir – I think they are up to 50 genetic diseases they test for in this report. When we tested this boy, there were only 40. They test for all the coat traits. They are constantly adding things, including they added recently glitter, which is relevant for both the Bengal and my breed. They do charcoal, also relevant for the Bengal, blood type and the heterozygosity. You can kind of get a feel, if you haven't seen some of their results, for how they report them out. They've got nice drop down menus. Does anyone have any questions about any of the Optimal Selection test kits? They do a nice job in making it easy for you to swab your kitties.

Bizzell: I don't have a question, but I do have some comments. Orca Starbuck, who could not be here today, organized our entire North American breeding population of Chartreux to do a more than 50 cat Optimal Selection genetic testing for diversity, because we are concerned about the diversity of our breed. So, she got everybody on board. She knew which cats people had, she determined exactly which cats needed to be tested to get a full panel for the entire North America, and we did that. Optimal Selection used to have a breeder tool which they no longer have. If you are familiar with that, it would tell you the expected genetic diversity of the offspring of a particular mating. I feel a lot disappointed that, after we spent thousands of dollars doing these testings – we did get valuable information – we know we have some B1 and B2 blood types, and Optimal is one of the few houses that can test for the B2 version, so I still have to use it, but I'm a little disappointed they don't have the breeder tool. They keep saying some day it will come back, so that would be my comment, if there's any feedback to them. **Wilson:**

Thank you. Any other questions or comments on this? Roger Brown would be the one to provide feedback to on that specific issue about requesting additional information. **Johnson:** I just want to emphasize the power of that tool, because if you have two cats that are 31% diverse, they may have a completely different panel of diversity and it would be very valuable to be able to breed those together. That would be especially valuable if you were in need of outcrosses, because what they have right now, your Egyptian Maus have an average of 31% diverse. My particular breed is still open. Guess what? We also have 31%, so the question is, how would you use that tool? They have the data. There's no question that Mars has the data for that. The question is, can we leverage at least some things that we might be able to encourage them to let us use it.

Wilson: Thank you. We will look into that, and I think the reason, just like any set of statistics, the bigger your sample size and the bigger the database and the more samples we send in, better results you will get from this. **Morgan:** Carla, I totally agree with you. For awhile there when they were revamping their platform, they took away the heterozygosity reporting and actually cats that I had received results on who had come with heterozygosity numbers lost all that data in their reporting. For over a year, I didn't have access to it. I called, I emailed and complained quite a bit and they have finally replaced it, but moving forward with new testing and also for the cats that had already been tested, but we as an organization have a stronger voice than one individual person, so I urged Roger and our Breeds and Standards to add our voices to that, asking for that tool. It's incredibly valuable, I agree, and I too miss it and felt a little disappointed when they took it away. **Wilson:** Thank you.

4. Breed Outcross Proposals

Wilson: The next item on our agenda is breed outcross proposals. Dotti Olsen had asked to put this on the menu and I did send her some examples of what other breeds are doing for outcross projects. Dotti, did you want to speak to this, either specifically or overall? **Olsen:** I had asked to speak to this because – and I'm sure my breed is not the only one affected. I know Orientals and Siamese particularly, not only is our genetic pool diminishing as our breeder pool is diminishing with age, etc., but once our cats hit about 8 years old, we are all at that point where we're cringing and wondering if the cat is going to drop dead the next day. We have a lot of health issues, especially kidney. I know other breeds do, as well. There have been other projects in other associations where they have taken another breed altogether, not for the purpose of creating some designer breed, but to bring another breed into the line for one generation to create a little diversity and bring in hopefully some health, and then using the offspring and continue to breed back to your own breed and hopefully finding other healthy cats within your breed to use to develop that healthy line. It's being done in TICA and we have some breeders within our own association that are doing this kind of behind the scenes and going through other associations and then coming back and getting these cats registered in CFA because they feel like they have to do that in order to get them registered. Orientals only require a 3-generation pedigree, so it's not like it takes forever to get it done but I would like to see something where we can, with full authorization, love and compliance from CFA, be able to do something like that within our own association and work with breeders in order to be able to try and improve the health and longevity of our cats. As you know, most of our cats go to pet owners and when they start having their cats die at 6, 7, 8 years of age, they are heartbroken and you are heartbroken for them. We're just going to lose that whole market. I don't think of it as sales, but those people are not going to want to come back and have those cats again. I just think it's very sad and I think we need to find a really good way to do this within the organization.

Kimberlin: I'm aware of the outcross policies in other associations and I'm going to address it right here. TICA has a policy where, if you are looking to do an outcross, they have a system first of all when you do an outcross that's approved, your first generation is what's called an AOP. The P stands for "permitted". They also had a program where you can use a non-permittable outcross and your first generation is called an AON, standing for "non-permittable outcross". They are tracking each generation and it will take you 5 generations to get to an AOP. They have a process. They have some way that if a breed needs to outcross, and I can tell you even in the Burmilla we have outcrosses but we're still having a high incidence of FIP and we still need to outcross. I don't know what other issues. Kidney is another big one, so I think if CFA can address this as a policy where we can get this non-allowable outcross and then it is given a designation in the registration that will acknowledge that and give people the right to breed it, that may be a way to help. **Wilson:** Thank you. We do have breeds already using outcrosses. Their programs are specific to their breeds, which I think is a benefit here, so if your breed needs to outcross for health or your breed needs to outcross for whatever, then that's a registration proposal for you to put on your ballot. The Havana Brown registration rules, you can look at them online. Go to the Havana Brown breed [page], go to the registration rules, scroll down and it will explain what they do. It's a really nice template. You can just come up with it, put it on your ballot, get the buy-in from your Breed Council Secretary and bring it to the board. I will tell you that if you're going to use a breed to outcross to, you need to get their permission. So, that's the other thing. You need to let them know and you need to ask them. You should also, I highly encourage that you see what you're going to do with the offspring, so if the offspring don't look like this, then they are registered as this. But, this is definitely doable. While I understand, I think what you're saying is, we should have a process that applies to every breed. What we do instead is, we let every breed come up with a process that works for them because it's going to be different for every breed and the reason for doing it may be different in every breed. So, if as part of your outcross to another breed includes, you are now going to make cats that are not acceptable colors in your breed but they are acceptable colors in the other breed, what are you going to do with those? I will tell you, that other breed isn't going to want you registering as them. **Rupy:** For the Havana Brown breed, our breed was created from a domestic shorthair, just a barn cat basically, and a Siamese back in the 50's. As the years have gone by, we closed our registration for awhile and had open registration in the 90's for outcross and we went back to our foundation breeds, so for us that is domestic shorthair and Siamese. We can also use certain colors of Orientals. Most people have chosen not to because Orientals have everything behind them and it's much easier just to go with an 8-generation Siamese or a barn cat that we can do an Optimal Selection DNA test on, know what they've got, know if we want to put it in our breeding program, and then you get a generation or two of something that looks nothing like what you want and you sell them as pets or companions to a pure breed, and then by using generation 3 or 4, you are back at something that looks like your type. Now, we also are very fortunate to have extremely healthy cats. We have very low infant mortality rates, we have longevity – average 12 to 16 years for our breed – no known genetic issues, none in our breed that we are currently testing for, and I think that comes from using the Optimal Selection tool and doing the genetic testing. Every single stud in every breeding program has been tested, so there are no two copies of anything in our gene pool. Our biggest problem is like yours; it's a small gene pool so we have to do the outcross, and the outcross takes a lot of dedication. Not one breeder can do it. You need a partner, because you're going to produce kittens that you need to keep – an "heir and a spare" every generation – and just go down that path. You will probably

find if you go back to the healthiest of your foundation breed, that's where you're going to get your best outcross, so we go back more to the barn cats than we do to the Siamese outcross.

Wilson: So Dotti, there's your outcross.

Johnson: I'm just going to expand on what was just said. If you go to random-bred cats, you have 45% diversity, so why are you trading the narrow genetics from one breed to another? If you go to random-bred cats, you don't have any of the breed issues associated with them. Nobody is going to come back and say, "you can use our cats". That's where you're going to get your optimal diversity from. So, that's one thing that when you're thinking of outcrosses that maybe you should consider. Furthermore, if you go to different parts, even in the United States, the diversity of the random-bred population is going to be different in each area, so when you're thinking about these things, you might want to also think about using random-bred. It's still going to take 4 generations, 5 generations to get that back. **Wilson:** Thank you. I think that having patience as a breeder is one of the things we need to realize is what you need when you do these kinds of programs. **Kimberlin:** I want to agree with that. The random cat, the farm cat, would probably be the ideal outcross in a lot of these situations. I wish that CFA had some kind of a policy to allow that across breeds, and not just have to rely on breed council to do that. We've had breeds that in the past have had barn cats or whatever, like the American Curl I believe. Is it still open, the American Curl? **Wilson:** No. **Kimberlin:** OK, but they were able to just get cats from wherever and put them into their program. **Wilson:** Thank you. I think you're assuming that a group of feral or barn cats are not inbred would be a mistake. They are more likely more inbred than most of our pedigreed cats. Secondly, I think finding – it's hard to find a cat that's not neutered or spayed, so that's a problem. **Friemoth:** We just implemented a domestic outcross policy in our breed because we were finding, as Annette was just saying, colony cats are inbred. Cats are colony creatures. Finding cats outside that do not live in part of a colony, there's always that risk/reward factor when FIP is going to crop up because the cats are getting more inbred. We were working with Karen Thomas, who is a vet down in Atlanta, to find domestic bobtails. One of the males we brought from her had an FIP rate in his offspring of 55%, so we immediately eliminated the line. It's terrible, because we have so much work put into trying to find these cats in the first place, so that's why we went to just a domestic outcross policy. My mother and father test all of their American Bobtails and our average diversity is about 45%, so if you're looking for an outcross breed, I would be happy to help with our tailed cats. **Wilson:** I think it's important. There's people who will be happy to help with this and using this testing and getting these tests available is going to help all of us. I was surprised when I heard what the diversity in a colony of feral cats or whatever, because they don't care. Nobody is keeping them from breeding their offspring or whatever. They are very inbred.

Eigenhauser: First, we're not going to have a uniform registration policy for outcrossing. There are some breeds that really want outcrosses to improve their genetic diversity. There are some breeds that are trying very hard to keep out various things and they are very restrictive, not only for outcrosses. They don't even want cats from other registries that are of the same breed, so these different breeding philosophies are going to mean that there are going to be different solutions for different breeds. You need to think in terms of what works for your breed. If you're going to approach the decision to outcross, there are two possibilities; #1 an existing breed, #2 a domestic cat. If you're going to use an existing breed, please work together, make it mutual. This should be a marriage, not a shotgun wedding. Some of the biggest problems in CFA over the years have been with outcrosses that have produced look-alikes or mimics, and then they go to

war with each other. We have had knock down, drag out fights that lasted years, so it's important that you approach this with respect for each other, with consent. Domestic cats, as has been pointed out, there's 80 or 90 million domestic cats out there. That's a pretty diverse gene pool as a whole, but again where you've got a cat in the barn where father, grandfather and great-grandfather are all the same cat, you're going to get a lot of inbreeding. So, it's important that you do genetic testing if you are going to use any domestic cats as outcrosses. I encourage people, if it's at all possible, to use domestic cats because that prevents problems with the other breed later, but again, this is something that has to come from your breed. This isn't something CFA is going to do for you. You've got to tell us what works for your breed and then we'll look at it and see if that works for CFA, as well. **Newkirk:** We've got to cut things off. We only have 15 minutes and several things here to do. **Rupy:** I was just going to comment on the use of the domestic. One of the benefits of using a domestic, aside from what George is indicating is, we have found when our outcross is to domestic, they start eating real food at 3 to 4 weeks old and they automatically use the litterbox. They have those instincts that our purebred cats don't have. **Wilson:** Thank you for all the input on this. I hope, Dotti, that you've gotten some ideas here. Hopefully if Dotti contacts you, you will respond to her and let's all be cooperative.

5. *Declarations for BCS/BCC*

Wilson: The next item is declarations for Breed Council Secretaries or Breed Committee Chairs. Deadlines are coming up, so please. You have done a wonderful job of representing your breed council members, so consider continuing that. This is an election year so you need to get your declarations in. On the agenda page is a list of links, including to the Breed Council Secretaries/Breed Committee Chairs declaration form, of which I have one copy with me if you want to fill it out, so please let's do that. We have so far 6 declarations for the longhair breeds, 14 shorthair breeds have declarations. We have zero declarations for Breed Committee Chairs, so let's kind of, if you don't want to do this anymore, we might force you to. I'm teasing, but you don't want me to call you at the last minute and say, "I need you to do this, here's \$20." Maybe there's some members in your breed council, they might be shy about volunteering. If they are interested and they participate, ask them to do it, to stand for election. So, in a sense, it is an election year. There will be a ballot for every breed. That does not mean that it is no longer that a standard means nothing and you should just change it for fun. If you are considering a number of changes, extensive changes, housekeeping changes that cover the whole standard, please, please get it in early. It takes a huge amount of time to review those. The link for everything you need is also on here, where you can see how you write it. You no longer have to put the current and the proposed, you just put the proposed using underline and strike-out. If you don't know how to use Word and do that, then find someone in your breed council who does or pay someone to do it. I charge \$200/hour [laughter], but please, it really helps if they come in. I want to compliment everybody who sent proposals last year. It really was a delight to work with those, so the folks that have done it are starting to understand how it works. There are examples on there, and if you have questions I will be happy to answer them, but again please contact me earlier rather than later, because these all come in in a deluge. I want to thank the two breed councils/breed committees who already have their proposals in to me.

6. *Timeline for 2022 Ballot Items*

Wilson: The other thing that is linked on here is the Optimal Selection thing and the timetable for this year's breed council issues. Membership deadline is August 1. Deadline to

declare for Breed Council Secretary is August 1. Any new breed or new color applications and advancement requests August 1. August 15, any Breed Council Secretary that is proposing an item for the ballot that affects another breed must notify that other Breed Council Secretary by August 15 with a copy to me, please. September 1 is when all of the ballot items should be to the Breeds and Standards Committee for review. September 19, those will all be hopefully to Central Office for their review and for loading up into the ballot. Then the breed ballots should be out by November 1 if we can meet all those deadlines. I will be sending reminders out to the Breed Council Secretaries' list.

Wilson: Does anybody else have any items? **Zinck:** Very quick, short, sweet question. If a breed wants to make a minor change to its current registration rules – not the standard, the registration rules – does that follow the same timetable as everything else here? **Wilson:** Yes, because it goes on the ballot. Good question.

7. *Other items as time allows*

Wilson: That's all I have on the agenda. We have about 10 minutes for other items, if anybody has anything. Some things that came to me before this, this came up I think at the board meeting also is, what can we do to promote individual registrations of our cats? If anybody was at the annual meeting yesterday, you will notice that that was in the Treasurer's Report. Please encourage folks to use when you pre-pay your kittens and get these kitties registered, especially now that in July we're going to start having free insurance for 30 days when a kitten is registered. I believe if you pre-register the kitten, then once you add the name into it, that would go into effect. I don't know quite how it works, but we will let everybody know. There's definitely going to be benefits in getting these kittens registered. We need to get that number up.

Wilson: The other thing that has come up from someone was, anytime breed council membership. Currently, the breed council period follows the show season, so May 1 to April 30. However, people can pay their dues up to August 1. Sometimes someone qualifies November 15 and they are told they have to wait until May 1 to join. Obviously, if they join then, they don't get to vote but they still get to communicate with their breed council members and they can say they're a member of the breed council. That's important to new people that are just now qualifying, I think. I don't know if anybody has input on that. It's something we could ask Central Office if they could do. Obviously, it would not be discounted and they would have to be notified it's too late to vote, so you're joining at this period of time through this. Raise your hand if you think there would be interest in that. **Newkirk:** It's a "thank you Jesus". **Wilson:** OK, so we'll pass that along and see if that's something we could implement. I think, why not let people join whenever they want to? Why not? Take their money. So, that's the only two other items.

Wilson: Does anybody have anything else they would like to bring up, either a board member? **Kimberlin:** I do. **Wilson:** You're only allowed to speak twice and you are well over your allotted time. I'm teasing, Keith. **Newkirk:** Short and sweet please. **Wilson:** Use phrases, not sentences. **Kimberlin:** Recently – I'm going to bring this up as history first – the Scottish Fold just allowed to have outcrosses to another breed and it was to ones that could not be registered in CFA, so they can now register kittens from a litter when they use that cat via certified pedigree. Am I correct on all that right now? That means that if you have a cat that can't be registered in CFA but it's an allowable outcross in that breed, you then register the cats

individually. You can't litter register them, but you can individually register each kitten for a \$40 fee via pedigree. **Wilson:** As a Scottish Fold. **Kimberlin:** As a Scottish Fold. So now, if some other breed wanted to do that, is that an item that they have to put on their breed council [ballot] if it's a non-registerable cat? **Wilson:** You look at your registration rules and the registration rules of the breed you want to use. Then you would write a proposal that would resolve the conflict. **Kimberlin:** OK, thank you.

Wilson: We have a little time. Does anybody want to sing a song? Did anybody bring their hat from last night? **Altschul:** I'm not going to sing. This was something that came up with a group of us who were just sitting and talking. When we're helping new breeders, one thing that's kind of hard to tell them is how to set up a good cattery – cattery management, how to do their breedings, how to raise their kittens, how to wean their kittens and how to deal with some very common problems that come up with breeding that sometimes makes our new breeders quit before they have barely even started. Most of the Breed Council Secretaries, if not all of them, have extensive experience. I was wondering, maybe on our list, there are some of us where there's some interest in coming up with a short document, not a long document, because I know many of us like Niels Pedersen's Feline Husbandry but it's a 270 page book that was written decades ago and the language is a bit archaic and it's overwhelming for a new person to try to read that. It's wonderful for cattery management, but we need to come up with a more concise tool to help new breeders understand how to be good breeders so that maybe they have a better chance of succeeding. I think the Breed Council Secretaries is where to start with that. A show of hands if people are interested in working on it. **Wilson:** We have a number of hands. Maybe you could contact Carissa or go on the list. I think that's a great idea, it really is. I think the NewBee list has some information, but it's more towards showing rather than breeding, and who better as you said know about breeding issues than breed council members and secretaries. There are different issues in different breeds. Even explaining some of the registration rules and how they differ. It's very confusing to new people.

Muscoffian: The question I've got, Carissa was just talking about teaching people to be good breeders. One of the things that I noticed on the CFA website, under each breed the very last paragraph usually talks to people about the age that people place kittens. Why is there such a big diversity? I see on there where it says, "we place our kittens at 12 weeks' and then like Ocicat people, we place them after 14 weeks and they're already spayed and neutered. **Wilson:** I think that's an individual breeder decision. We can certainly encourage people to – it has to do with vaccination schedules, whether or not your vet does early neuter or spay, or if you can find a vet to do it. I think that 12 weeks is probably an average. Years ago it was probably more like 8-10 but now it's not. Certainly, that's information people could share amongst themselves.

Wilson: I want to go back to something before I close that Carissa mentioned. What she said was, a group of people getting together and sitting down and talking. It's so nice, after several years of not being able to do that, to be able to do this. **Eigenhauser:** I just want to remind people, we do have a Mentoring Program to try to initiate new breeders, new exhibitors into CFA. If you're interested in helping, I would suggest you contact the Mentoring Chair. It's an important part of CFA. We lose people all the time. We need to bring in and retain people, so if you're interested in mentoring, I would encourage you to work with the Mentoring Chair, as well. **Rupy:** Can I just say, we had talked about this the other night and the people who are most interested in doing this, I think, are people who are already involved in mentoring. We do a lot of

mentoring, and it would be helpful to bring in some other breed council members who maybe are struggling with getting new breeders, keeping new breeders, because they don't have the support they need and help them be better mentors to their breed.

Wilson: It's noon and our time is up. I want to thank all of the Breed Council Secretaries who traveled here and provided their input and enthusiasm. I know that the middle of this week when I look at the list of declared candidates, it will be full. Thank you.

BREEDS AND STANDARDS 2022 TIMELINE/DEADLINES

General Guidelines – Subject to Change

August 1: Breed Council membership deadline

August 1: Deadline to Declare for Breed Council Secretary/Breed Committee Chair

August 1: New Breed/Color Application and Advancement deadline

August 15: Breed Council Secretaries must be notified of any breed color or advancement requests that might affect their breed

September 1: Proposed breed standard/registration rule/color class ballot items to Breeds & Standards Committee for review

September 19: Breed Council proposed standard/registration/color class changes must be received by Central Office (upon prior review by Breeds & Standards Committee)

November 1: Breed ballots will be uploaded by Central Office and available for on-line voting

USEFUL LINKS

Breed Councils (everything you need!):
<https://cfa.org/cfa-breed-councils/>

CFA Timetable (including Breed Council):
<https://cfa.org/cfa-timetable/>

Optimal Selection (15% CFA Discount):
<https://cfa.org/dna-testing/>

BCS/BCC Declaration:
<https://cfa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/bc-declaration.pdf>
(for May 1, 2023 – April 30, 2025 term, send via email to: atartaglia@cfa.org)

(53) INTERNATIONAL DIVISION MEETING.

Friday, September 30, 2022

[**Secretary's Note:** Due to travel restrictions necessitated by COVID, the International Division Meeting was not held in conjunction with the CFA Annual Meeting, as it has been in past years. Rather, a Zoom meeting was held in September 30, 2022. The notes from that meeting are included here for reference.]

The meeting started with the introductions of CFA Board members and the International Division committee members. A listing of the International Division Committee members is as follows:

Attendance List:

Kathy Calhoun	Chair
Mathew Wong	Co-chair, International Division Representative
John Colilla	Subcommittee Chair, China
Wain Harding	Subcommittee Co-chair, China
Bob Zenda	Subcommittee Chair, Asia (outside China)
Kenny Currle	Subcommittee Chair, AWA/CSA
Eva Chen	China Representative/China West Area Advisor
Agnes Sun	Chair of Corporate Sponsorship in China
Phoebe Low	International Division Co-Treasurer
Allen Shi	China East Area Advisor
Wang Xiu Ran (5D)	China North Area Advisor
Sandra AlSumalt	Asia/West Africa
Suki Wong	Hong Kong, International Division Co-Treasurer
Allan Raymond	India
Eva Libranti	Indonesia
Jinson Choi	Korea
Muhammad Hafidz bin Rahmet	Malaysia
Nadia Jaffar	Singapore
Tsung Chih Tsai	Taiwan
Keratiya (Zuns) Cruvongpaiboon	Thailand
Brad Newcomb	AWA/CSA Committee Member

These meetings are conducted in accordance with Article IX e, CFA By-Laws.

As an agenda, the International Division areas were asked to address the following, as appropriate:

- Registrations
- CFA Growth Opportunities
- Shows - approval process and new shows.
- Clubs
- Travel restrictions by country due to COVID-19

- Associate Judging Program - Q&A and clarification
- Open Discussion - needs, wants and ideas

The Co-chairs for China reported COVID is still a problem and shows are shutting down. This does effect registrations which have declined. The Sponsorship Chair is scheduling meetings with sponsors. Shows must be approved by both John Colilla and Wain Harding prior to obtaining the necessary NGO to conduct a show. Some of the concerns and recommendations centered around establishing a CFA office in China which would relieve the need to obtain the NGOs and allow shows in more areas of China. Also there are concerns that the points required to obtain a grand champion (175) and national wins are too high considering the small count shows which are specialty rings only using Associate Judges. It was stated that the current situation with small shows in only certain areas makes it difficult to attract newcomers to CFA and the clubs feel they are losing out to local associations. One suggestion was to expand the Associate Judge program to double specialty and allbreed levels. The CFA Board will address these suggestions and recommendations at the upcoming board meeting this weekend.

The Subcommittee Chair for Asia (other than China) announced there were 32 clubs in this section of CFA with 2 more clubs coming up for acceptance at this weekend's board meeting. Clubs wanting to put on shows must first contact the designated show scheduler to get approval on a date, then the show to be approved by the Subcommittee Chair or the International Division Representative before the show license application can be sent to CFA Central Office. Basically most countries in this area are open with few, if any, COVID-19 restrictions. Awards banquets were held in Thailand, Hong Kong, with the Indonesian awards banquet to be held in October. Hong Kong's last show attracted 90 entries with 30 entries for the fun show. Possible anti-breeder activity could be a concern in Hong Kong. Malaysia has one club, Malaysia Cat Fanciers, and one Hong Kong club is loaning its club for shows. The Malaysian representative will check on government regulations and requirements for registering a new club in Malaysia.

The first 12 ring (6x6 back to back) show will be held in Bandung, Indonesia in October. Two 10ring (5x5 back to back) shows are now scheduled in Malaysia in November and December. The first CFA show in Vietnam will be held in Hanoi on 2022 December 10.

The AWA/CSA area has upcoming shows in Egypt in January and Kuwait in March.

Topics in the general discussion included those concerns over point requirements, advancement of Associate Judges to double specialty and allbreed status and the use of Associate Judges in India to help expand growth. Other concerns centered around the need of more localized communications to help answer questions about CFA, attract new exhibitors and give general information on what is happening within their areas - and to get to know the other breeders and exhibitors (establish a community). Clubs were informed to ask the CFA Board for exceptions to Show Rules, such as requirements for specialty rings in multi ring formats.

Everyone was reminded of the following important dates:

January 2, 2023, club fee and membership lists to be received in CFA Central Office for a club to be in good standing.

February 1, 2023, club fees and membership lists to be received in CFA Central Office for a club to be able to vote for directors-at-large (in addition to producing a show within the 20222023 show season).

February 6, 2023, Star Award nominations due to subcommittee chairs.

March 1, 2023, deadline for clubs to submit requests to host award banquets for the International Division.

June 1, 2023, deadline for clubs to have club fees and membership lists to CFA Central Office to remain with CFA membership.

June 21-25, 2023, CFA Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet, Tucson, Arizona USA

October 14-15, 2023, CFA International Cat Show, Cleveland, Ohio USA

There were seventy-two (72) participants in the Zoom International Division Council - the most ever participating in one of these meetings with the CFA Board of Directors and the chairs and subcommittee chairs in the International Division. This is definitely an indicator of vast interest and participation of breeders and exhibitors in the International Division. There will be more Zoom meetings of the International Division Council this show year, schedule to be announced.