

World Cat Congress Seminar and Open Meeting – Melbourne 2010

The World Cat Congress was established to promote better understanding and co-operation among the world's major cat associations in matters of mutual interest, and concern such as cat legislation and feline welfare which affects all cat lovers, from pedigree breeders to the pet owner.

Membership of the World Cat Congress is comprised of the world's major cat fanciers, including the European Federation Internationale Feline (FIFé); US bodies Cat Fanciers Association (CFA) and The International Cat Association (TICA); World Cat Federation (WCF); Australian Cat Federation (ACF) and Coordinating Cat Council of Australia (CCCA); New Zealand Cat Fancy (NZCF); UK Governing Cat Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF); and Southern African Cat Council (SACC).

Since the first meeting in 1994, the World Cat Congress Annual Meeting has become a regular event. The meeting is hosted by one of the Member organisations and scheduled to coincide with a cat show at the meeting site.

This year, CCCA hosted the World Cat Congress Conference in Melbourne in conjunction with the 2010 CCCA 8 ring National Cat Show.

The Seminar and open Meeting was held on Friday the 30th April in one of the conference rooms at the



World Cat Congress President Pam DelaBar

Melbourne Royal Show Grounds. Helen Norwood and I, along with Sue Jentsch who was helping at the meeting, attended.

On our arrival we were presented with clipboards that each contained an array of leaflets, a CD of the day's presentations and a program of events. The Seminar was opened by the President of the World Cat Congress, Pam DelaBar. After a welcome from the Vice President Cheryle U'Ren, each individual delegate from the member organisations spoke about what was happening in the cat fancy in their respective countries.



Sue Jentsch with Yon (Sil Gr Ch Osiris(V) Influenced Buyou)

Throughout the day, there was a series of presentations that were very informative and varied. The subjects covered included a presentation from the sponsors, Royal Canin, the Australian Mist breed, Australia's only home grown pedigree breed, as well as talks on the CFA Disaster Relief Fund, breeding cats to improve cat welfare and human well-being, cat legislation, preaching to the converted, translating legislation into practice, the Victorian Heritable Disease Code, and the Feline Health Research Fund.

The CFA Disaster Relief Fund presentation by Pam DelaBar was particularly moving, especially for those who had suffered through the Victorian Bush Fires last year. It

made me stop and think and assess whether I was prepared in case anything were to happen to our home. At the end of the presentations, the audience were given the opportunity to ask questions of the delegates and guest speakers.

However, the highlight of the day for me was the presentation of Breeders' Best Cat. All attendees were provided with a ring bound booklet containing information on each of the cats presented. It was a

great opportunity for breeders to speak directly to the audience, to have their face, their cats and their information carried to far flung corners of the world.

All in all it was a very informative day. Helen Sue and I and of course Yon headed home to get ready for the show the next day.

Lynne Moorman

CCCA National Cat Show Melbourne 2010

Desexed Section

In the Group 3 desexed section at the National Show, there were 38 impressive cats, including 3 Tawny Abyssinian neuters and 2 Tawny Somali neuters. As I walked around the venue it suddenly became very daunting to be there at the show with International, Interstate and local judges commenting and handling your cats.

Joylinear Sun God Amun Ra aka "Tarek" and I were attending our third CCCA National Cat Show together, with one goal in mind. Tarek needed just one National Challenge to become a CCCA National Show Champion. As the first ring of judging started I waited nervously to see how Tarek would perform at

such a big show. I need not have worried as it was not long before I could relax as Tarek gained his Challenge in the very first ring of the day. Tarek had a fantastic weekend, gaining Best of Breed Awards in 7 out of the 8 Rings. He also went onto place in the Top 15 in all 8 Rings, including two 3rd placings under the two international judges.

Lori Fergusson's Tawny Somali neuter, Vivace El Tigre De Oro was at his first CCCA National cat show as a desexed cat, having previously competed in Brisbane in 2008 in the kitten section. "Sal" as he is fondly known, was a little nervous to start with, but as the weekend progressed he settled down and gained a Best of Breed Award in one Ring and went onto place 4th under judge Julia Nicholls.



Lynne Moorman's Tawny Somali Neuter, CCCA Ch & Diamond Gr Pr Joylinear Sun God Amun Ra with FIFé judge Dietmar Sagurski

There were also 3 beautiful Tawny Abyssinian neuters entered in the group. Helen Norwood's boy, Jodaerin Armani, also had a specific goal in mind. He too was attending his third CCCA National cat show and just needed one more National Challenge to become a CCCA National Show Champion and join the ranks of Westalaam Mad Rastus, Nile Phantom of Hope and Osiris (V) Chief Cherokee, who have all previously gained this prestigious title. Helen and I waited anxiously as Armani was judged. Could he do it? We could only

hope. You could not wipe the smile off Helen's face when Armani gained his Challenge with judge Kerry Fowler. Armani went onto gain a 13th place in the same ring.

Osiris (V) Levi, owned by the Voogd family, entertained the audience and the judges with his personality on the bench. He was a typical Osiris (V) cat, full of beans and always on the move. The judges had to hold onto Levi in case he flew off the table after the feather wand. At his first CCCA National Levi gained 4 Best of Breed Awards and 4 Top 15 placings over the weekend, including a 3rd place under judge Rod U'Ren. His owners were thrilled with Levi's performance.

The third Tawny Abyssinian Neuter in the Group was Abysmystique Lightning Strike owned by Peter Oakes. As another debutant at a CCCA National, he was a real smoocher on the bench with the judges and



Helen Norwood Tawny Aby Neuter, Diamond Gr Pr Jodaerin Armani with FIFé judge Dietmar Sagurski

totally unfazed by such a huge cat show. He gained 3 Best of Breed Awards over the weekend and went onto gain a Top 15 placing in 4 rings, including a Reserve in group under judge Julia Nicholls.

Lynne Moorman

A Somali First

Joylinar Sun God Amun Ra, "Tarek" to his friends, is a well-travelled Somali. My husband often reminds me that Tarek has flown more around Australia than he has, and maybe I should try and get Tarek his own Qantas Frequent Flyer card.

Tarek started his CCCA National Show campaign in 2008 in Brisbane; This was an 8-ring show over two days. He placed in the Top 10 in 6 out of the 8 rings, including Best Group 3 Desexed Cat under Judge Mary-Lise De Landsheer from Belgium.

2009 saw the CCCA National to come Tarek's home turf in Perth. Again it was an 8-ring show over two days. This time he placed in the Top 10 in four out of the eight rings. He was now two thirds of the way to becoming a CCCA National Show Champion.

CCCA National Cat Show in 2011, so the nerves started to kick in. Could this be Tarek's last

opportunity to gain the 3 elusive National Challenges from 3 different judges at 3 different CCCA National



Tarek

Cat Shows? He needed just one National Challenge to become a CCCA National Show Champion. Could he do it? I sat nervously as the judging got under way. It wasn't long before I could relax as Tarek gained his Challenge in the very first ring of the day. I rang Carole Carroll; Tarek's breeder, straight away and told her the fantastic news. Tarek went onto be placed in the Top 15 in all 8 Rings. You could not wipe the smile off my face that weekend.

If I am not mistaken, *[you're not – Ed.]*Tarek is the first Somali to become a CCCA National Show Champion. I am and will always be forever grateful to Carole Carroll who entrusted Tarek to Martin and me. He has brought so much joy and a lot of fun into our lives. I am so proud of him, my very special boy.

Lynne Moorman