

ACF AoE Brz, CCCA Db1 Gr CH & Supreme Db1 Gr Pr (Gr Ch) VIVACE HAZY SHADE OF WINTER (aka Hazy, Beauty, My Love, Miss Knicks)

Vital Statistics:

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| <i>DOB</i> | <i>1-Oct-02</i> |
| <i>Parents</i> | <i>Dushara Silver Catch who Can Sil\$ (Imp DNK) X Dushara Dirty Woman Sil\$ (Imp DNK)</i> |
| <i>Hobbies & interests</i> | <i>Toys, especially feathers, Ham & bacon, cuddling people, relaxing with her special feline friends. Collecting titles.</i> |
| <i>Hates</i> | <i>Baths, not being the centre of attention, not having a rosette on her cage</i> |

When we first started our relationship with Somalis, and showed an interest in breeding silvers, we were told various things by the locals in Adelaide, based on their own prior experiences.

- They are very timid, not like normal Somalis. They won't make good show cats
- If people come to buy kittens, hide your tawnies or no one will want the silvers.
- Judges don't like silvers, and the rufous problem is always against them so they will always be placed at the bottom.
- Silvers aren't up to date with the rest of Alys and Somalis, they all have the old type

This was the state of silver Somalis in Adelaide.

Our first litter, between our Danish Silver cats, gave us Crazy Little Thing, a neuter shown by Lorraine Graham to great success on the east coast. He had a beautiful face, clear coat and was obviously the pick of the litter. While we were delighted that 'Craze' had a lovely life of a neuter, we were somewhat rueful that we had not kept such a lovely cat for breeding.

We were extremely vigilant to watch for more 'Crazies' with the repeat mating of Crazy's parents, Dushara Silver Catch who Can and Dushara Dirty Woman. One little girl stood out, partly because early on her ears seemed to almost overbalance her...

Hazy seemed to become more beautiful with each day. That breathtaking face – the lashings of thick black mascara, the vivid green eyes, and the captivating expression that they show. The ears....There was no question that she would be bred, however her breeding career was shorter than we hoped for. Unfortunately we



"Hazy" at 8 Years

didn't keep anything from her. Her first litter gave us 3 kittens; two were shown briefly, but the owners lost interest. One kitten died in the nest, and had been born without a bladder☹. We were hoping for her next mating to have one to go on with, however that litter consisted of a single kitten with a fatal deformity. We, and our vet, felt that it was the best decision not to pursue breeding with her. Upon spaying, she was found to have cysts in her uterus.



“Hazy” being judged by Cheryle U’Ren

She has been shown for 8 years now, and we have seen the changes during this time. Exhibitors who previously had no time or appreciation for Somalis became interested in the breed. People in other groups started taking notice of her. Judges who had previously never placed a silver Somali and Aby started changing their minds.

She still loves to strut her stuff in public. She is a consummate professional; she knows the system so well, but woe betide a judge who doesn’t put her up. All they will see of her from that point is her tail. Somehow she stays in perfect condition, even at age eight years and

having had kittens, while younger cats show their ‘love for the food bowl’.

It was after her breeding career ended that her real importance emerged. She became a star show cat. She developed a show persona that was energetic, entertaining and utterly professional. She set many records, made firsts. Owing to low entries at that time, special awards would be combined as best Abyssinian or Somali exhibit. Frequently Hazy beat all comers including adult tawny male entire Abys, often being held up as an illustration for the correct ear set. And she could destroy a feather teaser in a nanosecond.

Some of her most history making achievements have been:

- Supreme exhibit, Cat Fanciers show 2005 from 460 exhibits
- 5th best in show, Adelaide Royal, 2003, beating approx 455 cats. She is the only Somali to make the top 5 at the Royal, so far.
- Best desexed cat of the year, Abyssinian Breeder magazine
- In 2010 she was the first Aby or Somali to achieve the highest title in Governing Council SA of Supreme Double GRAND premier [60 GCSA challenges after Gold Double Grand Premier]

We have tried leaving her home from shows to be given a frosty reception on our return. But she doesn’t hold grudges once she’s made her point – and I think she still wants to pick up those last couple of CCCA certificates to get to Triple GCh. We are slowing her down a bit, we don’t want to overstress her physically but it is certainly not because she has lost interest. She loves to see the other exhibitors and beg [very charmingly!] for their bacon.

Nowadays people at shows wonder what a show could be without her. And people are very respectful about the possibility that a Silver Somali, or other colour, may just beat their Russian, or Burmese, or Rex... Far from being dismissed as a minority colour of a minority breed; the Somali, even or especially the Silver, is seen as a competitive cat of great personality and beauty and a very desirable companion. This is what she has helped achieve, so much down to her own special charm and charisma. This is why she was, and is, a CAT who matters.

Rita Bruche
Vivace Somalis & Abyssinians