

# 28th Abyssinian Breeder Show

The 28th Abyssinian Breeder show will be held in Canberra on Sunday, 20 May 2011, in conjunction with the Canberra Birman Cat Club's show, but with arrangements differing somewhat from the last few years. There are two reasons for the changes. The first is a new rule at the new Canberra airport, whereby animals may not be brought into the passenger terminal. The second is the decision of the cargo carrier, Australian Air Express, not to staff their airport receiving counter beyond 3 p.m. at weekends. This position has remained unchanged despite pleas from many organisations and individuals.

To overcome this, the all-breeds show – inherently longer than the Birman and Aby/Somali specialist shows – will be held on the Saturday, when several overseas judges will also be officiating.

There will be a very early start for both The Abyssinian Breeder and Birman specialist shows on Sunday; the schedule will be:

- 7.15am – show hall opens for benching (45mins)
- 8am - judging commences
- 10.45 - 11am – short morning tea break (15mins)
- 1pm – judging completed (5 hours)
- 1.15pm – start of presentations (30 – 45mins)
- 1.45 – conclude presentations and pack up
- 2.00 – exhibitors depart from venue
- 2.00 – late lunch for judges
- 2.00 pack up venue

Every effort will be made to ensure that the show is concluded and exhibitors are able to start packing up at 1.45 p.m. That should give a big safety margin for getting to the airport before 3 p.m.

Ours will again be a 3-ring show, with one US judge who is making a welcome return visit, a new New Zealand judge, and a new NSW judge. Both shows will be held at the current venue, the All the shows will be held at a new venue, Pavilion M at the Canberra Exhibition Park (aka EPIC or showground), located on the North-East (Sydney) side of Canberra. According to Google maps, it is the same distance as Burns Club from the Queanbeyan motels where most of us stay, and a few minutes closer to the airport. If you are driving to/from Sydney or Melbourne, it is about 30 minutes closer.

The closing date for the Abyssinian Breeder Show will be in the last week of April. Schedules will be e-mailed to all subscribers and any non-subscribers who attended last year, in March. They will also then become available for downloading from the home page of my Web site at <http://www.nileabys.com/>. The schedule will also provide contact details for obtaining the Birman All Breeds show schedule, and a location map for the show. Let us hope we can continue the past few years' excellent attendance.

*G.K.*

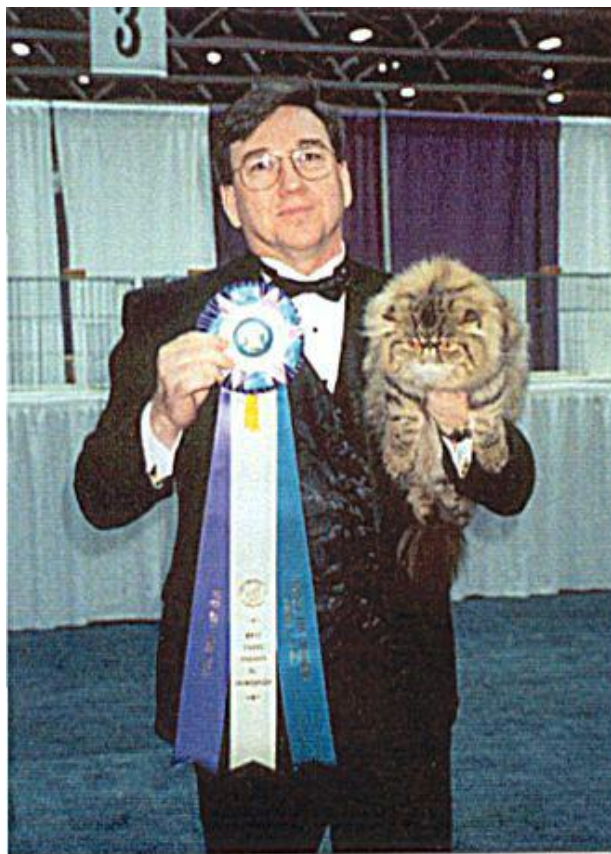
## Judges for the 2012 Show

### Ring 1 – Darrell Newkirk (CFA USA)

In 1984 my wife Beth and I decided to explore the world of purebred cats. We had no idea of cost or standards, but we looked in the paper and bought a "show quality" seal tortie point Himalayan. We named her Peaches Premonition and prepared to set the world on fire with our new love. However, fate would intervene, for our perfect "Nisha" was not quite perfect. She had the dreaded tail fault and a nose like a fox terrier! Happily, we figured this out before ever entering her in a show and next set our sights on obtaining a silver Persian. As we visited a local cat

show in late 1984, we saw our very first Abyssinian and the rest has become "our history." We fell in love with a blue male Abyssinian, Dearabi Hillstreet, who was bred and owned by Halsey and Cornelia Tichenor of Dearabi Cattery. But our first purchased Abyssinian was Van Dyke's Abi Alexis of Purssynian, a ruddy female, bred by Lila Rippy.

Our second acquisition was a one year old blue female bred by Cher Gagnon, Cher-Non's Ruffian. She was very handsome, but did not have a



warm undercoat colour. She did eventually attain her Grand Champion title, but it took several shows and a couple of litters before she completed her Grand. Ruffian was one of the early Blue Abyssinians to grand.

Our first stud was a ruddy named Gr Ch Dearabi Tai-Grr-Man. Cornie Tichenor of Dearabi Cattery was a great mentor to us in those early years. She had concentrated her efforts with the dilutes, especially fawns, and she was very generous and shared much of her dilute Abyssinian breeding knowledge. When Dearabi Hillstreet became a stud, we used him with Ruffian for several breedings. Gr Ch Purssynian Reggae Strutt was the most prominent of that breeding. Reggie had a very light undercoat colour, but he was able to pass on to his offspring a warmer undercoat color than his own.

We have continued to breed Abyssinians since those early years of our venture into the Cat Fancy. We exhibited our cats in ACFA and CFA in the beginning. Since 1994 we have exhibited and registered our cats only in CFA. We have achieved 5 DMs (distinguished merit awards), including 2 fawn males: Gr Ch Purssynian Sunhawke, DM and Gr Ch Purssynian Jambe Finete, DM. We have shown over 35 Abyssinians and other breeds to Grand Champion status and produced a number of National colour winners and Regional winners.

When I decided to become a judge, we knew we had to bring several more breeds into our home. We worked with Cornish Rex approximately four years. Other breeds who have shared our home briefly include Scottish Folds, Maine Coons, Birmanis, Somalis and of course, Persians. Our first Persian was a Bluecream, Gr Ch Windsur's Athena. She created quite a stir at the first show where I exhibited her. We also exhibited a Copper-Eyed White Persian kitten, RW Windsur's Dulcinea of Purssynian, to a CFA regional kitten win. We also had one Bicolor litter of kittens from Biloe's Nellie. Two of her offspring graded: Gr Ch Purssynian Domino Lisa and Gr Ch Purssynian Judy in Disguise. Beth and I are the owners of Gr Ch Purssynian Jambe Finete, DM. "Jammer" as he is known by his many friends is the CFA registered cat that has produced the greatest number of Grands of any breed in CFA history. Jammer has produced 62 Grand Champions and Grand Premiers.

I entered the ACFA judging program in 1990, advancing to All breed Training Judge and remained there until April 1995. I was accepted into the CFA judging program at the June 1995 CFA annual meeting. I was licensed as a Shorthair apprentice judge in February 1996. I entered the Longhair training program in October 1996. I was advanced to approved All breed judge in June 1999.

Professionally, I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anaesthetist. In 1974 after completing a four year term in the U.S. Air Force, I was accepted into Three Rivers Nursing Program and completed my RN training in May 1977. I entered and completed a course of study in Nurse Anaesthesia in 1981. I completed my undergraduate education in 1986 at Webster University with a major in Nursing and a minor in Business Management. I have enjoyed employment in a group of 18 Nurse Anaesthetists and 37 Anaesthesiologists for the past 15 years.

Becoming a CFA judge has allowed me to view much of the world I would otherwise not have known. I have had the pleasure to be invited and have judged in Australia, Japan, Russia, the Ukraine and Europe on several occasions over the past 16 years. It is a wonderful experience to travel to other parts of the world to share with other breeders and exhibitors our common goal - the advancement, improvement and preservation of our beautiful purebred cats.

***Darrell Newkirk***

*(Darrell did not provide a photo, so I used the one from his previous visit – Ed.)*

## **Ring 2 – Joanne Millar (NZCF)**



I first began showing with the New Zealand Cat Fancy a Seal Tortie Point Siamese in 1978. In 1985 I began breeding Siamese and Orientals under the Ramaltal Prefix and Burmese in 1989.

For the past 17 years I have been breeding British Shorthairs and Scottish Folds under the successful prefix of Intrigue. I have actively promoted the delightful Scottish Fold throughout NZ and was

fortunate enough to breed New Zealand first Gold Double Grand Champion Scottish Fold, Gold Dbl Gr Ch Intrigue Immortal Memory. Eight years ago my father died after a long battle with cancer and I joined my mother's prefix of Kirov and am now assisting her in breeding the beautiful Russian Blue. In 2008 I was fortunate enough to have bred and exhibited New Zealand's Best other Shorthair Entire Cat, a British Blue male, Gold Dbl Gr Ch Intrigue Sir Larfalot.

I have an extremely busy life, working full time as Office Manager for a mining company and running a small boarding cattery along with my husband, Lindsay. My spare time is dedicated to our cats, our Bull Mastiff dog, my horse and our local Volunteer Fire Brigade of which I am a member.

I have been on the Judges panel since 1989 and am an All Breeds Judge for the NZ Cat Fancy Inc. and have consistently accepted appointments nationally as well as completing assignments in NSW, Queensland, the ACT, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

I believe it is important to produce a professional result, which contributes to the success of the show and enjoyment by exhibitors and spectators. Shows should be fun: entertaining, educational and interesting. I thrive on the professional challenge of judging the wide variety of cats on the show bench and it is a privilege to judge and enjoy the beautiful cats entrusted to me on show day.

My aim when judging is to give an honest educated appraisal, and to be fair and consistent with all exhibits, and above all else to enjoy myself.

*Joanne Millar*

## **Ring 3 – Wendy Hamilton (NSW CFA)**

I am a CCCA International All Breed judge, having started my judging licence with Group 1 in 1997. I judge regularly around Australia, New Zealand and have been fortunate to have also judged in France, Belgium and Netherlands. I am a Life Member of the Birman Cat Club of Australasia Inc. and currently the President of the NSW CFA.

Judging is both a joy and a privilege. To be allowed to handle so many wonderful felines is a great pleasure. This is a hobby for all of us in the Cat Fancy and binding us is our love of cats.

My involvement in the Cat Fancy began in my late teens, when I first moved to Sydney and needed a pet for myself. This was my introduction to the Siamese and the world of pedigree cats as I had only experienced the domestic variety till that time. With my curiosity wetted, I visited a cat show and there, my eyes fell on the Burmese. So began my hobby, with my first 'show cat', a blue Burmese and into the realm of pedigree cat breeding at the age of 19.



been fortunate in winning numerous Best in Show awards with my Burmese.

It was at a Federal Show, back in the days of it being in Sydney Lower Town Hall, spanning 2 days to

*Wendy Hamilton.*

accommodate so many entries back then, that I discovered the Birman breed. Such a stunning breed and it took me some time to acquire my first girl as they were quite rare. I bred both Burmese and Birmans for a couple of years but when the baby humans arrived I found the Burmese so demanding and I spayed my last 2 girls in '88. So my Birman breeding became my focus.

Again, my love of the chocolate and lilac colours motivated me to import as they were new to Australia at that time, so it was that 3 boys joined our home over a number of years to establish those colours in my cattery. The program succeeded when it produced Best In Show winning Birmans in Australia, New Zealand, Europe and Scandinavia.

Now my hobby has gone full circle, back to my original Siamese and Oriental, the wonderful modern European style Bi-Colours really caught my attention while judging in Europe and I have recently imported two to help me with this. So now to a new venture.

In my private life, after time in Real Estate, State Sales Management, and Information Technology State Business Development manager and now into our own family I.T business, life is as busy as ever. My husband Michael and our two adult sons have been an integral part of this Cat Fancy hobby, keeping all the kittens occupied!