

29th Abyssinian Breeder Show

Sunday, 19 May 2013

You will recall that we changed things last year, so that for the first time, the Birman All-Breed show was on Saturday, followed by The Abyssinian breeder and Birman specialist shows on Sunday, starting earlier than normal. This was done to combat two new rules: animals could no longer be brought into the passenger terminal at Canberra Airport, and the cargo carrier, Australian Air Express, not staffing their airport receiving counter beyond 3 p.m. at weekends.

This worked extremely well last year, and was brilliant for those of us who drive, allowing us to get home a couple of hours earlier on Sunday.

We propose to run things in 2013 just like last year, with an early start, packing up from 1.45 p.m. and thus plenty of time to get to the airport before 3 p.m.

The Abyssinian Breeder show will again be a 3-ring show, with a European judge who is making a welcome return visit, a brand new American judge, and a NSW judge who also new to our show. Both shows will be held at the current

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 at a reasonable distance 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 the closest point in Canberra where a show can be held!

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 2013 Show

Ring 1 – Klaas van der Wijk (Netherlands)

I was born in the North of the Netherlands in the province named Friesland. Friesians are a little bit different from the other Dutch people. We speak Dutch, but we have also our own language. Many of you will know the famous black and white cows bred in Friesland. I had two cousins who were world-famous with their "Adema" cattle—they exported cows and bulls all over the world.

I am married to Addy Perey; it is the second marriage for both of us. I was trained as a teacher and as a speech-therapist, and I worked with disabled and deaf children in a school in Amsterdam. I am now retired. Since I was a child, I always had domestic cats, and in 1965 I got my first pedigreed cat: a Siamese female. This cat was from a family who wanted to go on holidays and did not want her anymore! I was very happy with her and I thought that she was the most beautiful Siamese in the world. Because I wanted to have two Siamese cats, I decided to breed with her. As I came to the house of the stud owner, I saw really beautiful Siamese and I decided to buy such a

beautiful cat. A year later I went to a show and my kitten became Best Siamese! Since that moment, the "cat-world virus" came into my life. I started to breed cats, helped to organise shows, worked as a steward on shows and so on and on. As you all know, the cat world is a way of life!

I started in 1974 as a pupil judge. In 1976 I did my first examination in Siamese and Abyssinians in France. In 1986 I completed my examinations and became an all-breed judge. In the meantime I bred, beside Siamese and Abyssinians, British, Orientals, Somalis and Colourpoint Persians.

I have judged in several countries in Europe: Ukraine, Russia, Israel, England, and Cyprus, as well as Brazil and Australia [1992, 2004 and 2007] and in New Zealand [2004 and 2007]. I love New Zealand and Australia very much and if I was younger I would not hesitate to move to DOWN UNDER.



You also asked me about some personal things. Because I am a speech therapist I love human voices and specially those of trained singers. I love opera and I saw several operas in Russia. I think that the East European opera singers have wonderful voices. My favourite colour is blue and I am always looking for blue flowers for my garden.

Every year Addy and I go to north Italy for skiing. I am not much of a sportsman, but I like that way of sport very much.

Now I am no longer a breeder, but my dream is to have once again a mother cat with her babies in my house. It does not matter what breed it will be. Even a litter of domestic cats would make me very happy!! I look forward to meet you all!

Klaas van der Wijk

{Klaas sells his breeding rather short. For over two decades from 1968, his Aby and Somali "Benvenida" cattery was one of the most productive and famous in Europe, with exports from The Netherlands to Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, France and the UK. Also, he has already judged at The Abyssinian Breeder and CCCA National shows — Ed.}

Ring 2 — Teresa Keiger (CFA USA)

My husband, Rob, and I started our adventure in the cat fancy back in 1993 in the same manner that so many others have. We bought a neutered Russian Blue as a pet and his breeder noted that he was good enough to show in Premiership – and so we did. By 1995 we had established the Platina Luna cattery with foundation females from Diana Doernberg (Velva) and subsequently from Kay Wentling (Kaybills).

Our first win of any sort ever was in 1999 when our male GC, BW, NW Platina Luna's Time Bandit became CFA's 24th Best Cat and Best Russian Blue. His daughter, GC, NW Platina Luna's Time Out-of-Mind earned the title of CFA's 16th Best Kitten the following year. Her contemporary GC, RW Platina Luna's Lone Star was Third Best Russian Blue and the Region's 12th Best Cat the same year. In 2003, GC, BW, RW Platina Luna's Dreamtime would be CFA's Best Russian Blue. Her mother GC, RW Platina Luna's Songline was a 2001 Regional Winner out of GC Platina Luna's Aurora Australis, DM.

In 2008 we brought out the Russian Blue seen round the world. GC, BW, NW Platina Luna's Blade Runner earned Regional Wins as both a kitten and an adult in 2008. He took off in the 2008-09 show season in a



blaze! He earned Best Cat in all 8 rings of the

prestigious National Capital Show in Washington, DC, a feat that had never been accomplished before. He later won Best in Show at the CFA CATS! New York show and appeared on the television show "Live With Regis and Kelly" the following morning. He was well on his way to becoming CFA's Best Cat when his hormones caught up with him in November. After a few months away from the ring, he came back out to be exhibited in the US and in Europe. But again, his hormones got the better of him and he retired with a month until the season's end. Still, he remained in first place until the final month.

I joined CFA's Judging Program in 2007 and was ultimately advanced to Approved Allbreed in 2012. Along my way in my training I exhibited LH Manx Spay to 11th Best Cat in Premiership Regionally and a Solid Persian Neuter to 18th Best Cat in Premiership Regionally. I also exhibited American SH, American Wirehair, Abyssinian, Japanese Bobtail, Javanese, Ocicat, Siamese, Maine Coon, and Birman.

My judging assignments have taken me across the United States and Germany. In 2013, I will be judging in Sweden, Finland, and Kuwait.

Within CFA, I am Developer & Chair of CFA NewBee Program (www.cfanewbee.org) for new exhibitors and co-chair New Exhibitor/Mentor program, staff member and design layout for "Cat Talk" (CFA magazine), a Member of CFA National Marketing Committee, and was co-chair for CFA International Show in Atlanta 2009.

Professionally, I am a photographic re-toucher and digital graphic artist for a commercial photography studio. I also have my own small web design and digital graphic business. But here again, cats play a large part. I have created display booths for CFA & several regions; breed booth displays for various breeds; artwork & graphics for CFA World Show. I have been truly fortunate to the world of the cat fancy enrich both my personal and professional endeavours, and lead me literally around the world and establishing friendships that I otherwise never would have.

Teresa Keiger

Ring 3 – Valerie Hurry (NSW CFA)



As an only child, I have always had cats as companions within the house. Over the years, they came in various sizes and colours. However, I did not acquire my first pet Siamese until I was married with one son in 1966, and two more sons later, another Siamese came into my life. She was from a local breeder, and it was suggested that I join the newly formed local club, Illawarra Pedigree Cat Fancy. After

a very short period, I was initiated into the wonderful world of showing, breeding and active involvement in the cat world. This filled a void in my life as I had recently retired from netball to take the boys to football and swimming.

After 10 years, I was invited to join the then current course for training shorthair judges. After successfully completing the course, I became fully qualified as a shorthair judge in 1978. Around this time I also diversified my breeding programme to include Orientals, Abyssinians, British Shorthair, and eventually Cornish Rex with which I had considerable success on the show circuit. Having successfully completed the course for training longhair judges, I became an All-Breeds judge in 1995. As well, I devoted many years to being a member of the Management Committee of NSW CFA and attending CCCA Delegates' meetings as one of their representatives. I am a life member of Illawarra Pedigree Cat Fancy and of the British Shorthair Cat Club. Several years ago I was honoured with a Life Membership of NSW CFA.

I am no longer a breeder but still remain active and interested in other areas concerning the cat world. My other interests include genealogy, all sports, and maintaining a garden.

Val Hurry