

31st Abyssinian Breeder Show

Sunday, 17 May 2015

As for the past three years, the Birman All-Breed show will be on Saturday, followed by The Abyssinian breeder and Birman specialist shows on Sunday, starting earlier as is the new normal. This, as you know, has been 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 has worked extremely well for the past three years, and was brilliant for those of us who drive, allowing us to get home a couple of hours earlier on Sunday.

The 2015 will continue these arrangements, 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 an American judge returning after 10 years, a highly regarded NZ judge and a highly regarded Queensland judge, whom we actually voted in. **Both shows will be held at a**

new venue, Lancaster Hall at the Wesley Uniting Church, 20 National Circuit, Forrest ACT. That is quite close to the city, south-east of Parliament House, and thus further than EPIC if you are driving in from Sydney or Melbourne, but correspondingly closer to the Queanbeyan motels where most of us stay. The distance to the airport is much shorter than from EPIC. The hall size is similar to the Mallee pavilion, there is plenty of parking, good kitchen and a room for judges. This is a nice area of Canberra, where more show visitors would be expected.

The closing date for the Abyssinian Breeder Show is 17 April. Schedules will be e-mailed to any non-subscribers who attended last year, in March. Meanwhile, the schedule is already available for downloading from the home page of my Web site at <http://www.nileabys.com/>. The schedule also provides contact details for obtaining the Birman All Breeds show schedule. Let us hope we can continue the past few years' excellent attendance.

G.K.

Judges for the 2015 Show

Ring 1 — Donna Fuller (CFA USA)

Donna acquired her first pedigreed cat in 1971, a Russian Blue neuter, and added a breeding quality Russian Blue female a year later. She registered her cattery name, TSAR BLU, in 1973. She has bred and/or shown Russian Blues to CFA National Awards many times, with top-25 Cat, Kitten or Alter placings on no fewer than 16 occasions.

She acquired her first Persian (a blue-cream) in 1977 and showed her to 18th Best Cat Nationally in 1979. Donna has bred Persians in solid-, parti-, and bi-colour divisions and Exotics in solid and parti-colour. She acquired a Birman female from Australia in 2001 and have produced a CFA Grand Champion and Regional Winner.

Donna entered the CFA judging program in 1985 as a shorthair specialty judge; advanced to all-

breed judge in 1989. She has judged in every region of CFA (including Japan) plus the International Division. Donna has guest-judged for other associations in Australia and New Zealand, including judging at the 21st Abyssinian Breeder show in 2005.

Donna has been active in numerous cat clubs since 1973, and has held every major office and show committee position. She was a founding member of the San Francisco Revelers cat club which held one of the premier shows in CFA in the 1990s, and has been treasurer of that club for many years. She was treasurer of CFA's International shows for several years and served as Treasurer of CFA itself from 1996 to 2000.

In "non-cat" life, Donna is a Certified Public Accountant. After six years with a public



accounting firm as an auditor, she spent 19 years in senior financial management positions with the major utility company in Northern California. As a result of an attractive downsizing package offered in 1993, her current occupation is occasional consulting and doing special financial projects for large companies in the San Francisco area plus devoting much more time to CFA work and general cat fancy activities.

Donna is also an avid needle-pointer and has entered a few competitions with her work as well as covering her walls and furniture with her works.

Donna Fuller

Ring 2 – David Scadden (NZCF)

My wife Jacqui & I have been retired from the breeding game after breeding Birmans under the Magwai prefix since 1985. We both originate in the Wairarapa in the sunny South Eastern part of the North Island of New Zealand.

We moved to Rotorua, in the Bay of Plenty in 2008, one of the major tourist destinations in the country. The scenery is striking, with the city taking the best city award several years running. We are very close to numerous lakes and other beautiful destinations.

Our other great love are our Bengals, which we originally imported into the country in 1996 and until recently were breeding under the LapLepid prefix. We have three children - Rachel (22), William (20) and Jeremy

(15) and a number of desexed Birmans and Bengals to keep us pretty busy. Other interests include good wine, family genealogy, music and a variety of 1960s to



1980s Ford Capris.

I started judging in 1992 and reached the status of All Breeds Judge in 2005, learning a great deal about all aspects of felines along the way.

I really enjoy judging and try to talk to and educate the spectators as much as possible on the various breeds. I feel that a cat show has to be entertaining and informative. I enjoy meeting fellow cat fanciers from around NZ and other parts

of the world. I have had the privilege of judging all three National shows in Australia and New Zealand over the few years and would love to be able to judge felines in other countries in the world.

I am looking forward to judging in Canberra at the two shows in May, as the Birman show was my first ever overseas assignment a number of years ago.

David Scadden

Ring 3 — Marisa Thistlewaite (QLD QFA)



I entered the cat fancy in 1991 and bred Birmans under my prefix Belshogar. Over the years I have proudly shown my Birmans and a Persian Neuter achieving numerous major awards at a local and also interstate level.

After 20 years of breeding this most challenging breed I decided to retire from breeding to devote more time to running a cat's only quality boarding cattery with my husband Garry while sharing our lives with 2 Poodles, 8 retired Birmans and my Persian. Then in 2011 during my Shorthair Judging course I decided to add to our clan a Burmese Neuter and was totally captured and smitten by the Burmese breed. I am now again breeding and showing Burmese with some very special cats.

I have held a number of positions over the years including CFCCQ Registrar, QFA Vice President and Shorthair Registrar and also Treasurer of the Birman Cat Fanciers of Qld which I am honoured to be a Life Member.

Marisa Thistlewaite