

Selkirk Rex Breed Association Newsletter

Issue 1

Selkirk Rex Breed Association

November, 1993

Welcome to the Selkirk Rex Breed Association. As a new organization, we have a lot of bugs to work out, but we can do it as long as we communicate with each other.

That is the purpose of this newsletter - to create a forum for discussion among the members of the organization so that when the Selkirks are brought up for championship status in CFA, we will be able to present a cat and a standard that reflects what is happening with the breeders of Selkirks.

Enclosed for your edification is a reprint of the "New Breeds and Colors" rules from CFA. As you can see, there is a lot to do between 1991 and 1996 when Selkirks would be eligible for Provisional status.

a. As a way of beginning the process, I would like to suggest that you read the proposed standard for Selkirks and make your comments about this standard. Such comments could include (but are not limited to):

Language clarification (does it explain what a "perfect" Selkirk should look like?)

Color clarification (do you know what a blue shaded silver should look like?)

Deleting some colors (just because we can do it, should we do it?)

Adding colors (others that can be produced with the colors that are now allowed)

Any and all suggestions are appreciated, since everyone has a different way of looking at things. As long as no personal grievances are aired, we can present all the viewpoints and provide a way for everyone to share in the process.

b. Another topic for discussion is the proposed Constitution. Should the club have regional coordinators for each CFA region, or are three Directors enough? Should SRBA allow non-owners to be members? Other suggestions?

Other topics for discussion could be:

1. How can we encourage more people to get interested in the Selkirks?
2. What kind of promotion can we do at shows to "entice" viewers into accepting the Selkirk?
3. What kind of breeding practices should be encouraged (outcross two times before

allowing a Selkirk to Selkirk, no Selkirk to Selkirk until the fifth generation, etc.)?

c. One project I would like to enlist your aid in is a list of judges in CFA who have seen Selkirks. I think it is, at this time, more important to get as many judges as possible to see at least one Selkirk than it is for some judges to see a lot of Selkirks. Once most of the judges have had at least one chance to see a Selkirk then we can stress the variety of cats. And, since most clubs don't give a discount for Miscellaneous class, it can save money to limit your shows. So, if your Selkirk has been judged by CFA judges, let me know and I will publish the list for everyone. That way, you can pick shows with judges who have not seen a Selkirk and not waste money going to a show with judges that have already had the experience.

In addition to the names, if you could also include a recap of the judges' comments, we can use those comments to either highlight judges who may need more exposure or those judges who are not going to accept Selkirks regardless of the circumstances.

d. During a break from clerking, the judge and I began talking about provisional and miscellaneous cats. His problems with and suggestions for the new breeds were:

The breeders could not explain how their cat did or did not meet the proposed standard. If he would ask "what are its faults" he would be told "he has no faults". If you are showing a cat, know the standard and be prepared to explain exactly how your cat fits the standard. NO CAT IS PERFECT. Know your cat's faults - the judge learns as much from what's wrong as from what's right.

Notwithstanding my previous comments, there were not enough of the new breed being shown. It is very difficult to judge a new breed when only one example is shown on any particular day. Even with established breeds, a judge might like to put one cat's head with another cat's body for the "perfect cat". Show them examples of what the standard proposes, even if it takes three cats to show all the correct parts.

A good idea would be to have a "Judges Workshop" on the breed. Bring in several examples

and have someone who knows the standard inside and out present the breed and answer the questions. Some of the judges expect you to be letter perfect on the proposed standard for your breed. This also gives you a chance to show the judges what is expected from them with the cats.

e. This newsletter can also be a forum for getting our kittens more exposure. If you have a litter of Selkirk kittens, let me know the details. The litters will be listed in this newsletter so that when a particular sex or color is wanted but not available to you locally, you will know where to find it!

f. How about a name for the newsletter? How about a better name for the organization?

g. I am also willing (and able) to keep track of Selkirk pedigrees. Send me a copy of your pedigrees (and be sure you also send a copy to Jeri Newman!!), and I will send back to you a computer generated original to frame or use to make copies with. Also, if you could send me a list of everyone who has purchased a Selkirk (even pet-quality straighthairs) I will make sure they are notified of the club.

Part of the reason for the names has to do with my involvement with another breed - the Tonkinese. All of the early history -- from the origin of the name to the original breeders and cats used -- was never published and was lost in the mid-80's. I don't want to see that happen and am willing to keep the breed "archives" and publish them from time to time to make sure it doesn't happen with Selkirks. Your assistance is appreciated.

If you have any other suggestions, comments or critiques, let me know. You can reach me at (510) 798-9150 in the evening or fax me during the day at (415) 362-3635.

DONNA BASS
Secretary, Selkirk Rex Breed Association
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If you have anything of interest to let the others in the organization know, send it to me and I will include it in the next "issue". This newsletter will not be on any particular schedule until things are a little bit more organized, but I figure every two months (unless nothing happens!) is often enough to keep everyone informed.

If you need brochures to hand out to visitors at shows to let them know what a Selkirk is, I have enclosed a three-fold type flyer that I made from the

original one-page flyer and included the proposed standard. You can type or stamp your cattery name on the back to produce your own flyers. When I show a Selkirk, I hand a copy to the judge so they know what the standard reads.



Rules Governing Acceptance and Advancement of New Breeds and Colors (Effective May 1, 1979)

A new breed or color first must be recognized for registration before it can become a Provisional Breed and finally enter Championship show competition. CFA is willing to register any litter which fulfills the requirements for registration as set down in this outline. *Registration does not guarantee eventual progression to Provisional and Championship status.*

The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. is the largest registry of purebred cats in the world. For the purposes of registration, CFA has arbitrarily divided cats into the following groups: Natural, Hybrid, Established and Mutant breeds. Since the British cat fancy has been established long before that of the American, the artificial boundaries of four large groups was necessary to encompass those breeds present and those to come in the future. It should also be pointed out that registration rules need not also follow the laws of genetics.

The purpose of a registry of purebred cats is to provide a continuing history of cats as a service to breeders. Because of changes in registration rules that have occurred from time to time in the history of CFA, these rules have been prepared to offer guidelines to breeders interested in developing new breeds and colors of cats.

New breeds of cats occur either as spontaneous mutations or result from the hybridization of two previously known breeds. When two cats come together and produce offspring unlike either parent, a mutation is strongly suspected. It does happen that a different offspring may occur as a result of different breeds or colors in the ancestry of the parents. Such a kitten is not a mutation but rather a reflection of its ancestry.

Mutations take the form of skeletal changes (Manx, Scottish Folds), new coat forms (Cornish Rex, Devon Rex, American Wirehair), and new colors (Red Abyssinian). Examples of hybrid breeds are the Himalayan, the Exotic Shorthair and the Oriental Shorthair.

CFA wishes to impress upon those breeders who would consider hybridization to create a new breed the consequences of such an undertaking. Not only must the breeder consider the validity of the planned breeding program, but whether the product of this proposed hybridization will enhance the fancy by its addition. Will sufficient breeding stock be available from those breeders who will be called on to participate in the breeding program and, most importantly, is the proposal possibly simply a whim?

CFA believes that the import of these considerations must be weighed carefully. The future of the proposed breed depends upon just this evaluation; indeed, the future of the fancy is dependent on such conscientious, moral judgements.

Although CFA is eager to aid in the development of any cat offering a unique and healthy addition to the fancy, CFA does assume the position that not all hybrid crosses will be acceptable to the fancy. CFA feels that any new breed of cat should be an asset to the fancy both in health and beauty. Realizing that some new breeds will rarely attract the following of some older ones, CFA still insists that there be sufficient numbers of breeders and sufficient numbers of specimens of the new breed to warrant registration. It should be emphasized that registration of a new breed or new color does not automatically insure future championship status.

There are certain conditions that must be met for registration, while others, which are not required, are desirable.

I. Recognition for Registration requires:

- A. Formal application signed by at least 10 breeders, who state in the application that they are working with the breed or color, together with their cattery names, cattery numbers and addresses.
- B. Classification information.
 - 1) Breed or Breeds allowed in the pedigree. Breeders must determine into which category the new breed should be registered and what breeds will be allowed in the ancestry of the cat. They must also determine how long those breeds will be allowed to be used in the breed.
 - 2) To be classified as a Natural, Established, Hybrid Breed or Mutation. If classified as a Natural Breed from another country, import certificate or verification of import and of ancestry, if possible, must be provided.
- C. A tentative standard include a list of color acceptable for registration.
- D. Properly completed registration applications (with fees) for at least 50 specimens of the new breed or color. The applications must be by litter registration except that original stock may be individually registered if from unknown ancestry and unknown ancestry is permissible.

The application must be submitted to the CFA Central Office as a package. After all information is verified by the Central Office the application will be submitted to the CFA Executive Board for consideration. All applications for new colors within existing breeds must have a 60% favorable endorsement from that breed council's membership. **Although it is not essential, it is certainly desirable for breeders to form a CFA affiliated breed club and issue a newsletter as a forum for the exchange of ideas for improvement of the new breed. It would seem desirable to include the CFA Central Office and members of the Executive Board on the mailing list for such publications.**

Acceptance for registration of a new breed or color is at the discretion of the CFA Executive Board.

II. Recognition for status as a Provisional Breed requires:

- A. Request for recognition as a Provisional Breed may be made to the CFA Executive Board after not less than 100 individual specimens of the new breed or color have been registered with CFA over a period of not less than five years. The current breeder list must include twenty-five active breeders.
- B. Presentation of a definite standard.
- C. A list of acceptable colors for Provisional show status. (Note: Colors for Provisional Breed status need not include all colors recognized for registration.)
- D. The cutoff date for breeds allowed in the background ancestry.

- E. **At least one breed club, a CFA Member.**
- F. Recommendations for Breed Committee Members - Secretary and two other breeders familiar with the breed (to be appointed by the CFA Board).
- G. Sufficient facts to demonstrate the potential value to the fancy of the proposed breed, the differences between the proposed breed and existing recognized breeds.

Compliance with the requirements of these rules will not necessarily guarantee acceptance of the breed or color by the CFA Board.

It is highly desirable that examples of the breed or new color be presented to the CFA Executive Board at one of the regular meetings. It is essential that a breeder, thoroughly knowledgeable in the history of the new breed or color and absolutely familiar with every aspect of the breed or color present the cats and information to the Board.

Once Provisional Breed status has been achieved, there must be evidence of the new breed being extensively shown in all regions. Judges are required to submit objective reports regarding new breeds and color exhibited under them.

- III. Acceptance for Championship show competition. The Board on its own motion will accept any Provisional Breed for Championship competition when in the opinion of the Board, such action is proper. Again it is emphasized that acceptance at the two previous levels does not insure automatic acceptance for Championship status. CFA recognizes that quality and benefit to the fancy are more important than mere numbers.

Before such action, the CFA Board must have:

- A. A standard agreed upon by the breeders.
- B. A list of acceptable colors for Championship competition. (Note: Colors for Championship competition need not include all colors recognized for registration or Provisional Breed status.)
- C. Proof that at least twenty-five different cats have been shown throughout all the regions in CFA shows.

Every request for recognition, at whatever level, with all required material must be in the Central Office no less than sixty days prior to the Board Meeting at which formal requests for recognition are to be made.

New colors in older breeds face other problems. The most obvious of these is the prejudice of established color breeders. Breeders of such new colors must be prepared to present acceptable evidence that new colors have appeared spontaneously and are not the result of hybridization in natural breed classes or they must provide evidence of derivation of color from other breeds. Breeders must be prepared to present evidence of the dominance or recessiveness of new colors. This can be done by statistical evidence of all colors appearing in all litters bred for at least three years. New colors must request registration in the same manner as new breeds. New colors must be shown in the AOV class in numbers comparable to those required for new breeds.

Reprinted from material provided by CFA

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Selkirk Mother of the Year!

Lil' Bopeep's Cocomo of Pixelpoint, my first Selkirk Rex, came to me pregnant. I had planned to move her into my bedroom only a few days before her babies were due, since I had a Tonkinese queen who was due a week earlier who was already there and extremely jealous.

The day came when I thought I could move her into my bedroom. I had to go to physical therapy that day, and planned to move her after the early morning session. When I went into the other bedroom, where she had been staying, to feed the cats, I found her hiding under the chair in front of my desk, curled around seven (yes!) squirming, squealing little bundles of mostly dry fur. There was one placenta still attached, but other than that and a little blood on the carpet, everything was clean. Two of the kittens were still damp, but all the rest were dry.

I quickly set up the cage with the heating pad and a bed and moved mom and babies into it before I went to therapy. When I got back, I weighed everyone and checked them all out. Two were very tiny and I wasn't sure they would be strong enough to fight for a nipple.

I went out to get some KMR and when I got back, I found Coco and the two smallest off by themselves. She was letting them nurse without competition! I found one or the other of them outside the box on many occasions, and since she did not push them away or otherwise avoid them or try to hurt them, I figure she was doing it as often as possible to give them a fighting chance. What a mother!!!

It worked. Diamond Jim and Golden Lambkin are both doing well and look to be homozygous curlies -- one shorthair and one longhair. Without Coco's loving attention, they would not have made it!

The litter produced:

- 1 shaded golden lhc boy (Goldie)
- 1 shaded silver (or blue) shc boy (Silver)
- 1 chocolate & white shc boy (Diamond Jim)
- 1 shaded golden (or brown tabby) & white shsh boy (Boots)
- 1 shaded golden (or brown tabby)

- shsh girl (Tabitha)
- 1 blue smoke (or blue) & white lsh girl (Diamond Lil)
- 1 black shsh girl (Helen Wheels - boy, is she!)

What a collection!!!

Donna Bass, Secretary, SRBA,
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First topic for discussion: I raise Tonkinese and Tonk breeders are somewhat jealous about the "mink" terminology. Even though the process for producing "minks" can be done with our Selkirks, I would like to suggest that the "mink" name be changed for the following reasons:

1. Part of the "mink" designation is the feel of the coat. It really does feel like mink (or silk or satin, depending on the color).
2. Tonkinese breeders believe that any usurpation of the designation "mink" might dilute the Tonkinese breed's right to be considered a separate breed.

So what should it be changed to? Any suggestions? I have thought of "woolly" or "lambcoat". If you think of any others, or perhaps believe that I am all wet, let me know. Even though I am still working with Tonks, I don't want to alienate my Tonk friends by creating "mink" Selkirk Rexes. However, I do want to produce Selkirks with the combination of Burmese (from some Exotics) and Siamese (from Himalayans) coloration that make the Tonks so distinctive.

The names I suggest are:
 Natural (or Sepia) Woolly
 Chocolate Woolly

Blue Woolly
Steel (or Platinum) Woolly
Any comments? Let me know.

Second Topic: Fund Raising. Any ideas, contributions, etc? Are you creative and willing to invest your crafts in the SRBA? Possibilities include a raffle, a calendar, sales of crafts (with a Selkirk theme, of course), etc., etc.

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Unfortunately, we didn't get our paperwork into the Central Office in time to be considered at the February Board meeting, but we can get it in time for the June Board Meeting. Dick Kallmeyer, Regional Director, is willing to speak for the club! We have over 12 members with more possible every day! Beat the bushes for people to join!

SELKIRK REX BREED ASSOCIATION

President: Jeri Newman

Vice President: Lorraine Shelton

Secretary: Donna Bass

Treasurer: Carolyn Koval

Directors: Joy McCabe (East)
Nancy McMullen (Midwest)
Ruth Paslay (West)

Hair Designation Abbreviations:
shsh Shorthair straight
shc Shorthair curly
lhsh Longhair straight
lhc Longhair curly

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