

Woolgathering

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Selkirk Rex Breed Club, a CFA Affiliated Club

PROVISIONAL STATUS!!!

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Board Meeting Results

After what seemed like hours, the Selkirk Rex were advanced to Provisional Status as of May 1, 1998. Unlike the other two breeds that were discussed, we were not asked to change our proposal in any way! I haven't gotten the official word, but since they did accept our proposal, including cut-off dates, we will be able to use Persians and Exotics until 2010, Brits until 2015. This is the time to do those outcrosses - with the mood of the Board and the What is a Breed report, we may find these dates closed off sooner.

Nancy McMullen, President of the Selkirk Rex Breed Club, has written down her notes from the Board Meeting. Since I was rather involved answering questions, I wasn't able to get all the details that Nancy did, but if I remembered something that clarified what she said, I put in Editor's Notes.

So what's next for the Selkirk Rex? If you thought Miscellaneous was difficult to get through, just wait! Now they will expect **ALL** our cats to be grand quality! This next step can take a minimum of a year or forever - it depends on **US!** We have to make our presence known - show more than one cat, make sure all the cats meet the standard as best they can and are curly!

The specific rules are:

(From "Rules for Acceptance and Advancement of New Breeds and Colors, Revised 1979")

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 colors 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.***

Even though it doesn't state such, there

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A CFA affiliated breed club, organized to provide information and support the Selkirk Rex in CFA.

Membership dues are \$15 per year for individuals, \$20 for two members at the same address. Dues include the Woolgathering, published quarterly.

Club Officers are:

*President: Nancy McMullen
Vice President: Pam Sharp
Treasurer: Carolyn Koval
Secretary: Donna Bass
Directors: Sandy Babcock
Robin Bary
Kathy Hummer*

must be a high level of judge acceptance. If you know a judge is not going to look favorably upon the Selkirks, don't show in that judge's ring.

So, the bottom line is: get those Selkirks out there. Have more than one (preferably 3) at every show you attend.

President's Message

Nancy's Notes on CFA Board Meeting Feb 1998

After discussing the Sphynx and Ragdolls the board opened discussion on the SELKIRKS. Donna Bass stood up to answer their questions.

Don Williams had his same old comment regarding the fact that he had seen a cat with a long coat with ringlets when Jeri had originally presented them to the board in 1992.

Kim Everett read the analysis of the judges comments. 78 judges said the cats were consistent. No grooming problems were mentioned. *(Editor Note: 7% of the judges, not 78 - Diana had done the math already and did not give hard numbers - it was percentages)*

Craig Rothermel commented that he doesn't find the coats to be the same. Usually he only has one cat to see. Only now and then he sees more than one. The numbers (particularly in the longhair) are a problem for the coat to be consistent. Donna answered that we will get variation due to outcrosses. Now we can show our best. We can't show anything in CFA except the best because we'll get marked down negatively by the judges.

(Editor's Note: At the International he had an opportunity to see 4 Selkirk kittens, but said he "couldn't, because they are not entered" - a judge can look at any cat he/she wants; he/she just won't get paid for a non-entered cat. Instead, he saw one kitten! Plus the others were in the book as exhibition only cats!)

Kim: We see a variety of coats in the Wirehair and Devon and here we are telling the Selkirks they can't do this?

Don Williams: In Miscellaneous we are doing an injustice by not hanging ribbons.

Pam DeLaBar: I rank them. There is a wide variety of Maine Coons.

LaPerm Question: Is it the same gene? (My, Nancy's, comment in my notes is "and they aren't even in Misc!")

Donna answered that she found out the following differences based on her conversations with the original breeder of the LaPerms: They go bald. No curly Whiskers. Can't tell at birth if they are curly or not.

Question: Why do you chose both longhair and shorthair and all colors. Spread too thin. Narrow it down and you'll get there faster. Donna answered: color is not important.

Question: Why not produce the longhairs only. Donna: We do have shorthairs with lots of curls and some people don't want the grooming problem.

Joan's comment: I haven't seen a good shorthair. CFA should

consider ranking them.

Becky: started in on points 6 and 7 (from judges comments sheet) She said she thinks judges are saying "not...." They all jumped on her. She said "Delete me" (she had been looking at the wrong statistics.)

Stan: You say "We're trying to get...." "Why do you want provisional?" (I think he was implying that we should not be in the "trying to get" mode, but should "have it" already, if we are going into provisional.) Donna answered: To get a real official standard that the judges have in their possession.

Diana Dornberg comment: you don't get a breed council in Provisional. It's a breed committee, appointed by the board. Comment on the Ms DePesto picture that she looked darker than a blue cream.

Question on Homozygous body type. (p 15 in proposal): is it impossible to breed homozygous cats to the standard? Donna: Must look to the type of the parents. (I can't remember about this - was this having to do with the types of kittens we would get from a homozygous cat?) *(Editor's comment: Part of the question was, if in x years we are only breeding SRX to SRX, would we be changing the standard to match the look of the homozygous? I said no, we would still have straighthairs to breed to. I didn't say, but I also feel, as we get farther along, our homozygous will begin looking more and more like "regular" SRX rather than bad Devons - I have a couple that may be homozygous (lost hair, etc.) but in no way look devonish!)*

Diana Dornberg comment: It indeed may be a Devon Rex. Donna: it may be on the same locus but is a different gene. (My comment - ye gods she still doesn't understand the difference between dominant and recessive?)

Diana question: Why not the American Shorthair any more. Donna: The Am. SH is not the look we want, etc. Diana: So you're changing. Diana: Change the cut off dates

Comment from a male board member: Has seen substantial improvement in type etc. Point well taken that they need to get a decent official standard. Admirable to be studying the genetics. We have not asked for any breed to give us a specific loci in the past. (*Editor's Note: Phil Lindsley, probably the most reasonable voice on the Board!*)

Joan Miller: Concerned re Wirehair genetics. Interested in reading about incomplete penetrance. Donna: You never see a Selkirk with a full set of whiskers.

Joan Miller comment: They are ready for provisional.

Laina Aitken: concerned about homozygous not being according to the standard. Donna: We can breed a homozygous to a straight hair and get good looks.

Tom Dent comment: Don't set a retroactive cut off date.

Call for the Question: Voting no: Stan Barnaby, Betty White, Diana Dornberg, Craig

Rothermel and Becky Jones. (*Also voting no: Wayne Trevathan. In other words, it passed, 12 - 6, since there were only 18 in attendance.*)

Selkirk breeders in attendance: Donna Bass, Nancy McMullen, Cynthia Rigoni, Sandy Lowenstein, Debra Sutherland

Notes

Saturday morning, Feb 7, 1998 the CFA board, considered to be a more conservative board than last year, accepted the Selkirks into Provisional, the Ragdolls into Provisional and the Sphynx into Miscellaneous. (*Actually Registration Status - they can be shown in Miscellaneous as of May 1, 1998*)

The whole "tone" was different than in 1997. Last year I felt much antagonism in the questions asked - and much ignorance - that they hadn't read the proposal. This year the discussion among board members for new breeds gave me a much more positive feeling. The questions and comments by board members were more logical, letting the presenters of each new breed have time to answer.

The motion to pass the Ragdoll, including all colors, was defeated. The Ragdoll people were then asked to re-submit their proposal using only the bi-color for acceptance to Provisional. They went back to the drawing boards and later in the afternoon the board accepted their proposal, leaving out pointed and mitted colors. (*And outcrosses to domestic longhairs - it was felt that with 10,000 (!) Ragdolls already out there*

in the world, outcrosses were not needed, nor were they accepted by any other organization.)

78% of the judges sheets said Selkirks were consistent. 65% thought we should go to provisional.

Where do we go from here: It is a requirement for Provisional that we show in every region.
1. We need to show our best cats. We don't need to show anymore, the ones that need improvement "to educate the judges" as we did in miscellaneous. We used to show anything that had curls we were so pleased with our babies.

Now we need to watch ourselves and caution our new breeders not to show it just because it has curls no matter how we love it. We will be inviting negative comments on the judging sheets.

2. If you go to a show do NOT take your cats to the following judges' rings: Bradshaw, Atkinson, Becky Jones. During the discussion the board members did correctly bring up that there are different looks in every breed and that does not mean that they are in-consistent. However, in our opinion the above judges in the past have looked for only negatives and not given a fair evaluation. To be truthful we believe that they MAKE UP negative comments. Ex: cat not clean.

Other judges to watch out for are Diane Dunn and Craig Rothermel. Dianna Dornberg, breeds chairman, has consistently voted against us, however, she spent lots of time

on the 8 Selkirks at the Des Moines show which was a week after the board meeting.

We certainly don't want to boycott people that we may eventually win over. However the three mentioned above we believe are not going to help us and can certainly harm us.

3. Enter and show more than one cat. Ribbons will now be given to us for Best of Color and 2nd Best of Color. This is, of course, meaningless with only one cat there. Make them work for their money ;-) We need to know what shows you've

attended and how many cats you took (how many Selkirks were there). Donna will start making a list of judges that have seen Selkirks so that, if you are considering one show vs another, you can decide which show has judges that need to see Selkirk Rexes.

See information below about showing and winning with your Selkirks!!!

Breed Committee:
CFA Board selected Nancy McMullen and Donna Bass as Breed Committee members, with the third member to be selected

by Nancy and Donna. Donna was selected as Breed Committee Secretary. As soon as the third person has been named, we'll let everyone know. Any changes, suggestions, etc. should be addressed to the breed committee - the SRBC will no longer be making changes to the standard!

Breeding Statistics

From March 1997 *Cat Fanciers' Almanac*: Listed below are the registration statistics from CFA. It is interesting to see how we've grown since 1992!

Registration Statistics from CFA:

As of 12/31/97:

There were 404 Selkirk Rex registered (both LH and SH)

In 1997:

there were 232 kittens born in 62 litters
there were 131 cats registered

In 1996:

there were 348 kittens born in 70 litters
there were 72 cats registered

for comparisons:

Breed Registration Totals:

1997	1996	
39,119	42,578	Persians (Traditional, Pointed and CPC)
4,819	4,747	Maine Coon
2,657	2,965	Siamese
2,308	2,383	Abyssinian
2,037	1,981	Exotic
1,337	1,371	Oriental (LH and SH)
1,202	1,264	Scottish Fold (LH and SH)
1,072	1,032	American Shorthair
1,007	933	Birman
939	844	Burmese
868	802	Tonkinese
816	868	Ocicat
709	828	Cornish Rex
694	701	Devon Rex
544	575	Russian Blue

516	481	British Shorthair
508	466	Norwegian Forest Cat
504	555	Manx (LH and SH)
477	544	Somali
472	502	Ragdoll
425	508	Colorpoint Shorthair
336	299	Egyptian Mau
282	289	Japanese Bobtail (LH and SH)
237	228	American Curl (LH and SH)
194	203	Chartreux
184	210	Balinese
165	170	Turkish Angora
145	142	Singapura
131	72	Selkirk Rex
129	150	Javanese
99	91	Bombay
72	87	Korat
55	54	American Wirehair
46	44	Turkish Van
42	31	European Burmese
36	50	Havana Brown

In 1996, we were below the Javanese, Bombay and Korat. This year, we've move up considerably in the numbers of cats registered. Keep up the good work. Register all your kittens with CFA!



Loewenstein's Cat
(sorry, don't
remember the name)

Selki

rk Rex Best of Color

by Donna Bass

Now that the Selkirks have been accepted into Provisional status, we need to show CFA that we have more than enough quality cats to get into Championship status. In Provisional status, the judges are actually judging and ribbons are hung - best of color (essentially best of breed), as in regular judging - by sex, kitten, adult, alter, etc. - but we don't get any finals.

As a way to encourage more Selkirks to be shown, I have offered to provide Best and Second Best of Color rosettes for every show that has more than three Selkirks being shown. In addition, I would like to keep track of the results from **EVERY** show that has Selkirks at it for two reasons:

1. We need a **MINIMUM** of 25 different cats being shown, with cats being shown in EVERY region in the continental US. We need to keep track of those numbers ourselves, since we have gotten NO feedback or help from the Breeds and Standards chairperson during the Miscellaneous time.

2. At the end of the show year, I will provide Best - 6th Best of Breed Rosettes to the top 6 Selkirks (the ones that have accumulated the most "points" based on the number of other Selkirks "beaten" in the show ring. (BTW, these rosettes are being provided by my Grand Premier Tonkinese, Pixelpoint Chrystal Singer, who doesn't care whether she has them or not! - I am also getting donations from members of my

other club).

How does it work? For each ring, list which cats got what ribbons as listed below:

#156	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
#157	-	<u>1</u>	-	-
#158	<u>3</u>	-	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
#159	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
BOB	<u>156</u>	<u>157</u>	<u>156</u>	<u>158</u>
2ndBOB	<u>159</u>	<u>156</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>159</u>

Send me a copy of the page with the cats listed, as well as the names and addresses of the exhibitors (if you can get them) and I'll keep track of the points for each cat. For the above the point totals would be:

$$156 = 8.85$$

$$157 = 3$$

$$158 = 5.85$$

$$159 = 5.7$$

I hope we can encourage more exhibitors to show their Selkirks in CFA - we need the numbers, but more importantly, WE NEED THE QUALITY!

The International

The International is being held in Kansas City this year. I would love to see a HUGE class of quality Selkirks (I dream of 30, but I'm hoping for at least 15). Make arrangements now to bring your best kitten, adult or alter Selkirk Rex to the International Show in Kansas City. I want to overwhelm the judges with our gorgeous babies.

In addition, I will be providing rosettes for Best and 2nd Best of Color for each ring!. The points earned at this show will count towards the year-end Best of Breed/2nd Best of Breed Awards!

Web Page Announced

I have created a web page for the Selkirk Rex Breed Club. You can check it out at

<http://www.slip.net/~dbass>

There is a button on the home page that you can check if you would like to send comments about the web page. It will get emailed to me. Don't be shy, my feelings won't be hurt (well. . . maybe not too badly) by your honesty. It is changable - if it doesn't "work" for you, let me know.

Also, if you would like to be included on the list of breeders, write a brief summary of the colors, hair lengths, etc. you are working with, the outcrosses you are using (persian, exotic, brits - no specific lines, just general), your name, cattery name, phone number, *optional* mailing address, email address, web page if you have one and would like it linked and anything else you can think of. If you have a picture you would like to have as your "hot button" send it along, preferably already scanned!

Also, you don't need to have an email address to be included. I'll just indicate that you have to be called, and include your phone number. Free advertising!

Thank You!!!

By Donna Bass

Before I forget, I want to send a great big, huge THANK YOU to the following people who brought Selkirk Rex to the Board meeting:

Bob and Sandy Lowenstein - they had four SH Selkirks - very cute kids - some very curly, some not so, but still very nice.

James and Debra Sutherland - They brought two LH - the red boy that you see in front of their name on the

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web page (Sal) and Molly - a LH pointed, very curly girl. Kim Everett loved Sal's coat!

Dr. Cynthia Rigoni had a SH female kitten there. Since she had gotten her from me, I was thrilled to see her again - she's not as curly as she was at the International, but still a lovely girl.

Debra took pictures so I've included some of them here so you can see what we had.

Once again, THANK YOU to these wonderful Texans for taking the time to bring their kitties to Houston for the meeting.

CFA Yearbook Ad

Lorraine Shelton has volunteered to put together an ad for the CFA yearbook. The deadline for getting all the stuff into CFA is July 1, so Lorraine needs to know as soon as possible if you want to be included. She'll figure out the cost for each person, based on the number who want to be included.

This is a great way for us to get visibility before the CFA crowd and to make a permanent record of our first foray into CFA consciousness (provisional being of more importance than miscellaneous).

Donna Bass
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Molly, Sutherland's
Cat

Give
Lorraine

a call (see address list included) or email her at featherland@themall.net. The more people who get in on the ad, the cheaper it will be for all of us!

Register and Show your Selkirks in CFA

We need numbers - but they should be quality numbers. Register all your kittens/cats but show only your best! Try for the first ever "Best Selkirk Rex" award in CFA. See the rules for the best of breed award earlier. Your participation is wanted, needed and appreciated. You don't have to be a member of a CFA club to show or register with CFA. Show your TICA grands in CFA - show everyone what they are missing! The cats must be registered with CFA, however.



Woolibaar Raggedy
Anne - Cynthia's Cat

Judges Evaluations

At the Houston Board Meeting, Diana Doernberg presented the following information about the Selkirks:

1. Is this the first time you have handled this breed?
Yes - 6% No - 94%
2. Were the cats in good physical condition?
Yes - 96% No - 4%
3. Were the cats well-behaved?
Yes - 99% No - 1%
4. Were the cats consistent in type?
Yes - 78% No - 22%
5. Any genetic problems?
Yes - 2% No - 98%
6. Is this breed distinctive?
Yes - 76% No - 24%
- 7 Does this breed merit advancement? Yes - 65% No - 35%