

# Woolgathering

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Selkirk Rex Breed Club, a CFA Affiliated Club

## International Coming Up!

### INSIDE

*Board Meeting Results* . . . . . 1  
*International Show In Kansas*  
*City, MO.* . . . . . 1  
*President's Message* . . . . . 2  
*Time to Renew* . . . . . 4  
*Pedigrees* . . . . . 4  
*Breed Council* . . . . . 4

### Board Meeting Results

The October, 1998 CFA Board meeting addressed issues raised at the February, 1998 and June, 1998 Board meetings, most specifically, the WIAB report and what was done to the pointed Oriental Shorthairs. Basically, the WIAB report has had its implementation postponed for a while and the Breed Council secretaries are invited to the Board Meeting in February to let the Board know of each BC's concerns about the WIAB report.

Oy, back to Houston!

### International Show In Kansas City, MO.

This year, the CFA International Show will be held in Kansas City, MO. November 20, 21 and 22. I have attached the official show flyer, giving details about the show. I hope everyone is making plans to attend. Please let me know (at the address listed to the left) what you are bringing and send me a pedigree (I want to do what I did at the Board meeting - put peds on top of the cages for everyone to see).

There will be a Selkirk Rex Breed Booth, with information about our breed. I will be seeing about putting an ad in the catalog for the show about our club. Last year, it was zero fun being alone. This year, so far, several have

indicated they are coming to the show. There can never be too many Selkirks!

I have been told by CO that we can have the judges present Best and 2<sup>nd</sup> Best of Color rosettes for each of the three classes (kitten, adult and alter), since that is how they are judged. So when you send in your entry form, next to the class number (4700 for males, 4701 for females), put a K if your Selkirk is between 4 and 8 months of age, put a P if your adult has been spayed/neutered. A blank will be judged in the adult (same as championship) class. Bring as many of the best Selkirks you can bring and try to win the Best of Color in your class!

If you are bringing another breed, you can ask to be benched in the Selkirk Rex area by indicating you wish to be benched in the SRX area on your entry form. Although there are only six cages in the official breed booth area, we can take as many as possible in the surrounding area.

I would like to have a club meeting on Friday night (maybe over dinner) at the show hotel. If you can make it, let me know and I'll get you the details.

The international is a great opportunity to talk to a lot of new people and other breeders about your breed.

#### Woolgathering

c/o Donna Bass  
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(925) 363-5488

*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.*

*Club Officers are:*

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

I would love to see 20 to 30 Selkirk Rex at this show! I want to overwhelm the judges (some of whom are against our breed!) with the quality of our cats. The sooner we can show them we have a lot of quality cats, the easier to get into championship status!

## President's Message

### *HEREDITY IN CATS*

Topic 1 How Animals Inherit Traits, How New Mutations Occur

By Nancy McMullen, ex biology teacher

Reviewed by Stephanie Zabel - our Minnesota cat geneticist.

No matter what breed of cat we own, it is fun to know the "whys" of their various characteristics, particularly if a friend asks you about this! It's nice to act knowledgeable about our hobby! This is the first of what can be a series of short articles on this subject if club members are interested.

### *HOW INDIVIDUALS INHERIT TRAITS* {Insert picture of cell} Figure 1

In order to know where the characteristics come from and how a mutation can form, we need to know the contents of the cell's nucleus. ("b" in figure 1.) The 38 chromosomes and their contents are what we are interested in. This is called a karyogram of a female cat's genes:

{Insert picture of chromosomes} Figure 2

Inside the cells of cats

there are 19 pairs of chromosomes. All 19 pairs are matched in a female cat. She has 18 pairs plus the "sex" chromosomes that are XX. The male cats have 18 matched pairs and one unmatched pair, the XY pair. That makes them males. When we get into the genetics of the red cat this is important to remember as it has to do with torties always being girls. (OK, I know you have all heard of boy torties - we'll get into that someday too - but it is an aberration of the genetic rules.)

Each regular body cell (skin cells, liver cells, blood cells, etc. in the animal has these 19 PAIRS of chromosomes (38 in all) in its nucleus. But the SEX cells (eggs or sperms) have 19 chromosomes only. (no pairs.) The ovary, for example, when making eggs splits a cell in half. It takes one chromosome from each pair and gives it to an egg. So an egg looks like this:

{Insert drawing of egg} Figure 3

A sperm cell has only half the number of chromosomes too, so if we drew a picture of it, it would look the same, except for one thing. Half the sperm cells have an X chromosome and half of them have the Y chromosome. When the sperm and egg join together, the chromosomes all pair up with their "New chromosome mate" and THAT is when the characteristics are decided for the new kitten. At this point, IF we could "peek" at the fertilized egg, we could tell if the kitten was to be a longhair or

shorthair, black or blue, pointed or solid, etc.

### *HOW NEW MUTATIONS OCCUR*

Cats have approximately 100,000 genes lined up on these 38 chromosomes. One gene alone can be made up of hundreds of thousands of nucleotides, which are the building blocks of DNA. If one of these little bits of DNA is changed, a new characteristic, not seen in the parents, can be formed. We humans call this a mutation, or a new mutant gene. How this happens, we're not sure. One theory is that certain "rays" from the sun happen to hit the old gene, or the piece of DNA in it, causing the change. Recent examples of mutant genes are the dominant curly gene found in Selkirk Rex and the recessive curly gene found in the Devon and Cornish Rexes. These could be caused by a single nucleotide change from the original (straight hair) gene. Humans spot these unusual characteristics and encourage their reproduction. A few kinds of mutations are more likely to occur repeatedly. One of these is Achondroplastic dwarfism, resulting in short arms and legs in humans, dogs (Dachshunds) and cats (Munchkins). Something about that gene makes it more subject to mutation. Curliness in cats is somewhat common too, showing up in various parts of the world, however, some of the mutant curly genes have been found to be lethal (causing kitten death if two cats with the same gene are mated.) A specific mutation will probably occur in a

cat once or twice per 100 million cats.

So, cats have been around for millions of years and got friendly with humans at some point in time. Humans, seeing some with different characteristics, started breeding them together. So lets imagine this scene- a long time ago.

All the cats in existence had no spots .(small "s" is the symbol for this). One day a kitten was born that had white spots. (Some radioactive ray from the sun zapped its DNA molecules and changed the "non spot" gene in one of the parents sex cells.) The humans thought this was interesting and made sure that

kitten was well taken care of. They bred it to a full colored cat and got half white spotted kittens. Well, that was fun. You can imagine they took care of those spotted kittens, kept breeding them - and so forth. The white spotting factor is a dominant gene, so it was easy to promulgate this new thing. (Capital "S" is the symbol for this new gene.)

Now, also, all the cats in the world at this time had short hair. (L is the symbol). People began to notice a few kittens with long hair running around. They bred these together and got whole litters of long haired kittens. (small "l" is the symbol). They bred one of the long haired kittens to one of the short hairs

and got all short hairs in the litter. Well, huh - they didn't know about dominant and recessive in those days. In fact, it took thousands of years for Mendel to come along and play with his peas.

Here is a partial list , on the left, of the main genes of the traditional "cat" found in the wild thousands of years ago. The new mutations that came along later are listed on the right. The symbols in CAPITAL letters are DOMINANT and the SMALL letters are RECESSIVE. You will notice that the new mutations came out either dominant or recessive to the "natural or wild characteristic."

- |    |  |                |   |
|----|--|----------------|---|
| B  | black  | b              | brown   |
| C  | full Color   | c              | albino  |
|    |  | c <sup>s</sup> | Siamese   |
|    |  | c <sup>b</sup> | Burmese   |
| D  | dense pigmentation (Ex: black)                                   | d              | dilute pigmentation (Ex:Blue cats)                                  |
| L  | shorthair  | l              | longhair  |
| m  | normal tail  | M              | Manx  |
| o  | normal pigmentation  | O              | all pigmentation turned to (not orange) orange (This is sex linked) |
| R  | Nnormal Coat: Straight hairs                                     | r              | Cornish Rex   |
| Re | normal Coat: Straight hairs (no symbol yet) normal straight coat | re             | Devon Rex (NO SYMBOL YET) Selkirk Rex curly coat                    |
| s  | no white spotting  | S              | piebald - has spots   |
| w  | full expression of all color genes                               | W              | dominant white masking all other colors                             |
| A  | agouti (tabby hairs-banded)                                      | a              | hairs not banded. Unicolored. Acts only on black/brown)             |
| I  | normal (full development)  | I              | inhibitor gene: suppresses pigmentation (color) (silvers)           |

## Time to Renew

Due to the confusion arising when everyone has a different renewal date, I would like to change everyone's renewal date to December 1 each year. This way, we can send in our list of members and be sure they are current as of January 1, 1999. Send in your name, address, phone number, etc. to:

Carolyn Koval  
1204 Fewtrell  
Campbell, CA

Dues are \$15 single/\$20 for two members in the same household.

If you have recently sent in your renewal, thank you and don't send anything in until next year.

## Pedigrees

As you may or may not remember, I have been asking for pedigrees for the various Selkirk Rex. I have also joined the shorthair and longhair line chasers to fill in blanks in various pedigrees that I got on my original cats. I have now been able to get anywhere from 12-21 generations behind Dovehaven Bobbkatt of Pixelpoint (a sable exotic shorthair). In fact, I was able to trace him back to the Burmese used by Carolyn Bussey in her early Exotic breeding program. (FYI, Flower Child of New Dawn, born 6/28/69, is the burmese that shows up in these pedigrees.)

Also, I was able to determine that a lot of Selkirk Rex cats are also descended from this cat. In a 15 generation descendent list,

there are 134 descendent in my database. If your pedigrees show Dancecats Molly B of Noface or Dancecats Snow Queen of Lil BoPeep, those two are descended from Flower Child. About the only Selkirks not descended from Flower Child are those from strictly Brit lines or strictly Persian lines (Socrates, etc.) The list of descendents include the following cattery names:

Frostypaws (all of the pedigrees I have)  
Castlkatz  
Lil BoPeep/NoFace  
Pixelpoint  
Ramblin  
Sunthief  
Woolibaar  
Britanya  
Pamac  
Ringlet Ranch  
Sisne  
Featherland  
Katzshack  
Oaktree  
Pinamadera  
Starstream  
Finger  
Sotakats

Needless to say, this is all perfectly legal and acceptable. What other way could we ensure such a wide variety of breeds in our outcross list than to use Exotics from burmese, american, and persian lines. Some of the exotics that have been used have been from americans but I don't have those listed separately.

This is just for your information, not to get worried about. Look at the birthdate for Flower Child (1969 - that was almost 30 years ago!). I have many exotics in my Selkirk Rex database that are not included on the descendent's list

from Flower Child!

Please send in your pedigrees, so that I can continue to trace these lines back. I would love to be able to trace them back to the earliest years, but it appears right now that I am only getting into the middle to late 60's.

Your help is appreciated!

Donna

## Breed Council

It appears that Diana Doernberg may have been wrong when she was so adamant about our having a Breed Committee not a Breed Council. As secretary of the Breed Committee, I got something indicating that I was a member of the Selkirk Rex Breed Council. If we indeed do have a breed council, then membership is open to those who meet the qualifications (litters bred, cats shown/granded, etc.). I've included a copy of the Breed Council membership form so that you can see if you qualify.

If you do, you can join the breed council, but only after January 1, 1999. Allene in the Central Office said that she would get clarification from the Board during the last meeting. If I hear anything different, I'll let you all know.

Log into the Selkirk Rex list to get email on what's happening. Send a message to [majordomo@fanciers.com](mailto:majordomo@fanciers.com) and in the body of the message, type `subscribe selkirk-rex` (without the quotes). Nothing else is

■ 5 October, 1998

Woolgathering

needed. You should get a confirmation that you have been subscribed. If not, wait a day or so and try again.

If you would like to be included on the web page, send in your information (name, address, phone, cattery name, email address, web page URL, info about what lines, hair length, colors, etc.) to me and I'll include it in the next update.

Also on the web page, I have included a page where you can get the Woolgathering on line. You need Adobe Reader, but if you don't have it already, there is a button you can click to go to download it.

[http://www.slip.net/~dbass/clu\\_binfo.html](http://www.slip.net/~dbass/clu_binfo.html) (click on the highlighted Woolgathering



*Dovehaven BobbKatt of Pixelpoint*

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Woolgathering - from the Selkirk  
Rex Breed Club