

30th Abyssinian Breeder Show

Sunday, 18 May 2014

As for the past two years, the Birman All-Breed show will be on Saturday, followed by The Abyssinian breeder and Birman specialist shows on Sunday, starting earlier than normal. This 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 in 2012 and 2013, and was brilliant for those of us who drive, allowing us to get home a couple of hours earlier on Sunday.

The 2014 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 be a 4-ring show this year because it is our 30th anniversary, with new American and European judges, and a Victorian judge who is making a

welcome return. 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 2014 Show

Ring 1 – Kathy Calhoun (CFA USA)

Kathy Calhoun is an all-breed CFA Judge from Chicago, Illinois USA. Kathy's primary breed is the Maine Coon, but she has also bred American Shorthairs, American Wirehairs and has worked with Persians, Orientals, Abyssinians, Chartreux, and Devon Rex. She and her son founded 5800 Dreams Cattery in 1991. Kathy is a member of a number of show-producing CFA clubs in the Midwest and Great Lakes Regions. Kathy served as CFA's Treasurer for 10 years and is currently the Midwest Regional Director for the Cat Fanciers Association.

Kathy works in for PepsiCo in Chicago in the Tropicana Division as a Senior Project Manager. When not enjoying the cat fancy, Kathy loves theatre, travel and visiting zoos whenever she has an opportunity. Kathy is thrilled to be visiting Australia, its beautiful landscapes, new and different sites and wonderful people.

Kathy Calhoun



Ring 2 – Kurt Vlach (TICA Austria)



I was born in 1962 in Vienna, Austria, where I still live. I have 2 Maine Coons and one Oriental Shorthair, whose sire was TICA's Cat of the Year once and was born in Australia.

I had my first cats in the 1980s (Household Pets) and my first pedigreed cat in 1991. It was a brown classic tabby Maine Coon. I joined one Austrian FIFE-Club and had my cattery registered under the name "Skywalker". Later I registered my cattery in TICA and CFA under the name "Dreamhunter".

The Maine Coons I bred were quite successful - I had a FIFE-World Winner and numerous

Regional Winners in TICA before I quit breeding in 1999. In 2001 one Siamese joined the Maine Coons, followed by another Siamese and an Oriental Shorthair. I had one litter in 2002, but since then all of the cats are neutered as due to the fact that I am judging so often there is no time left for breeding.

In 1996 I organized the first TICA-Show in Austria and subsequently founded the first Austrian TICA-Club - the "Blue Danube Cat Club". I joined the TICA-Judges Program and became in 1999 the first Austrian TICA-Judge. Right now my status is Approved All-breed Judge and I am working now on the exam to become TICA Ring- and School-Instructor.

I helped TICA develop in Northern Europe which has become now the biggest region of TICA. From 2004 to 2005 I was a member of the TICA Board of Directors until I resigned for personal reasons.

I am working for Austria's biggest bank-group as organizer in the Private Banking & Asset Management Division and have a background as head of one of Austria's largest Online Brokers.

My other devotion is music - I am writing critiques for two Opera Magazines and am often to be seen in the Vienna State Opera or at the Musikverein, a concert hall that is the home of the Vienna Philharmonic orchestra.

I am frequently travelling - this year I am on the road for 24 weekends and my schedule gets me throughout Europe, in Russia, Japan and now for the second time in Australia.

Kurt Vlach

Ring 3 – Nick Tricarico (VIC GCCFV)

I am an All Breeds cat judge with the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (Aus & Vic) Inc., better known as GCCFV.

I completed my Group 2 (Siamese/ Balinese/ Oriental/Foreign White) course in 1998 and in 2002 I extended my licence to include Group 3 (all other shorthair). In 2008, I successfully completed Group 1 (longhairs).



My breed interest is the British Shorthair, and my wife, Cathy, and I have been exhibiting and breeding these cats since 1994 under the prefix of 'Bevington'. We specialise in the colours of blue and black. We dabbled with the Siamese/Oriental and Selkirk Rex breeds for short periods in between as well. We have been fortunate enough to have experienced a lot of success over the past years winning Group 3 Adult and Kitten of the

Year. On top of this, we won Group 3 Breeder of the Year in 2010.

I have completed many local and interstate judging assignments in Australia. I have also been fortunate to judge at the Co-ordinating Cat Council of Australia (CCCA) National Shows in Brisbane in 2004 and in Melbourne in 2007. I also judged at the Royal Sydney Show Kitten Carnival in April 2010, at the Royal Perth Show in 2011 and at the Royal Brisbane Show in 2013, as well as at the World Cat Congress Show in Melbourne in May 2010.

I have also been lucky enough to have judged at numerous assignments in New Zealand over the years including Palmerston North, Rotorua, Taranaki, Wellington, Hastings, Auckland, Dunedin, Christchurch and Oamaru, to mention a few, as well as at the New Zealand National Show in Nelson some years ago.

Cathy and I lived in Canberra from 1977 to 1990 in the suburbs of Wanniasa, Kaleen and then Mackellar so Canberra is special to us and holds a lot of memories for us. We still have good friends living in Canberra.

In my private life, I have been married to Cathy for 39 years and we have a son and a beautiful seven year old granddaughter, Emily.

Nick Tricarico

Ring 2 – Philippa Holmes (TICA UK)

I originally come from Edinburgh, Scotland but when I qualified as a dentist I went to live on the south coast of England. I now live in a sleepy sea side town with my cats and dog. I'm lucky to work part time which allows me time for my fabulous hobby.

I started in the cat fancy in 1987. I breed Maine Coons - a breed I am quite passionate about. I have also owned Siberians, Norwegians, a Brit, oriental SHs, Birmans and household pets -the cleverest bunch. Currently I have Maine coons and an Oriental LH.

I started showing my cats in 1990 in GCCF. I became a steward and worked in show

management because it stopped me spending too much money and helped keep me out of trouble. I love running shows but best of all I love handling the cats. So I became a judge. I



started in GCCF in 2000 and specialised in Semi long hairs. I became a TICA judge in 2009 where I judge all breeds.

This will be my first visit to New Zealand and my third to Australia. I'm thrilled to be invited.