

UBCF

The United Burmese Cat Fanciers, Inc. Newsletter



FROM THE EDITOR

Dear UBCF members and Friends of Burmese,

The UBCF Newsletter has not been published for a number of years now, and so too have the club's activities dwindled. Well, we're back and the first order of business is to elect new Officers and Directors at Large. The UBCF nominating committee has proposed a slate and you will find a ballot listing these individuals and places for write-in candidates included with this newsletter. The ballot and your membership application must be returned to the Secretary postmarked by January 31, 2001. Once the new officers and directors are in place, we will move to elect Regional Directors.

I would like to ask everyone's assistance with our mailing list, which is a number of years old now. If you have moved and received this newsletter via mail forwarding or know someone who is or was a member and did not receive a copy, please drop me a line and help us get our mailing list up to date. Also, with the increasing popularity of the Internet, I am asking everyone who has email access to send us your address.

This issue and the Winter 2001 issue will be sent out gratis, to encourage membership. After these two issues are distributed, only active members will continue to receive subsequent issues. Since UBCF is a non-affiliated breed club, the club membership dues are the principle source of revenue to allow the newsletter to be printed and distributed.

In the past, UBCF has been a unifying force for the Burmese cat breed. It is responsible for the Burmese breed standard being significantly uniform across the various registries. For the benefit of the newer breeders, and a trip down memory lane for the old timers, we are publishing a transcription of a UBCF seminar presented in 1976 where Mrs. Doris Springer discusses some of the history of the Burmese breed dating back to the time of Dr. Thompson and Wong Mau. We hope you enjoy the reading and learn something new about our beautiful breed.

Art Graafmans
341 Cherrytree Lane
Newport Beach, CA 92660
agraaf@home.com

ON THE COVER

On this issue's cover is GC Bear Country's Godiva Demitasse – Sable female bred and owned by RoseAnn Wheeler, and Jeske Krispy Kreme of Bear Country – Platinum male kitten bred by Linda and Patricia Jeske and owned by RoseAnn Wheeler and Art Graafmans.

Photograph © Chanan Photography 2000

MEMORANDUM

TO: UBCF Membership at Large
FROM: Marianne Bolling, Secretary
DATE: November 10, 2000
SUBJECT: 2001 – 2002 Elections, Officers and Directors

It is with pleasure that the Nominating Committee composed of Chairperson Willa Hawke and Committee Persons Sylvia Chipp Insall and Marianne Bolling present this slate of candidates for the United Burmese Cat Fanciers 2001-2002 elections of Officers and Directors at Large. The Ballot is included with this Newsletter along with instructions for casting your vote. We encourage all of you to vote.

We also want to remind you there will be elections of Regional Directors later on and we encourage any of you who would like to serve in this capacity, to contact any of your Officers or Board Members.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee and the Board, it is a pleasure to submit this Slate.

Nominating Committee

Willa Hawke
Sylvia Chipp Insall
Marianne Bolling

ADVERTISING RATES – PER ISSUE

Litter Sale	\$5.00
Stud Listing	\$5.00
Business Card	\$5.00
Full Page Ad	\$40.00
Half Page Ad	\$20.00
Quarter Page Ad	\$15.00
Eighth Page Ad	\$8.00

All prices assume camera-ready artwork printed in black and white. Please contact the editor for further details.

TREASURER'S REPORT

November 10, 2000

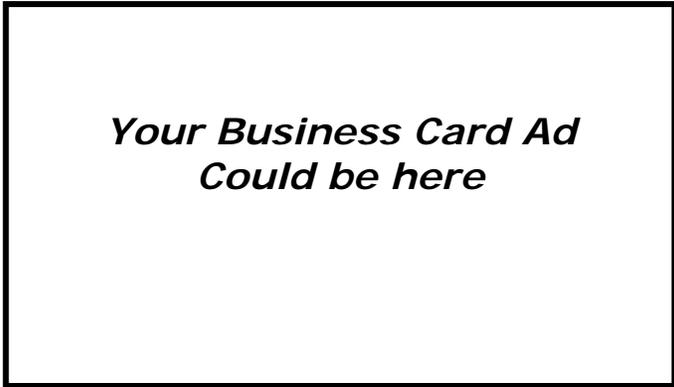
Balance Forward (as of 3/1/1998)		\$432.62
Monthly Service Fee for March	\$11.74	
Balance as of 3/31/1998		\$420.88
Monthly Service Fee for April	\$12.01	
Balance as of 4/30/1998		\$408.87
Check Paid (Refund of Membership Dues)	\$10.00	
Balance as of 5/31/1998 through 11/10/2000		\$398.87

NOTE: The above account was with Bank One but due to the inactivity of the account and the service fees charged by the bank, this account was closed. A check in the amount of \$398.87 was written to the United Burmese Cat Fanciers and is presently being held by the Treasurer.

Marianne Bolling
Treasurer

CALL FOR ARTICLES

The UBCF Newsletter is looking for interesting articles concerning the Burmese breed. If you have had valuable experiences with the breed, have an issue that you would like to present, or would just like to introduce yourself and your cattery, please contact the editor. We are interested in what you have done with Burmese and how you have done it.



Vaccines and Sarcomas: A Concern for Cat Owners

Those of us entrusted with caring for cats have two basic desires: first, we wish to help cats by preventing serious diseases and death; second, we wish to keep them from harm. Achieving both objectives at the same time seems simple enough. Unfortunately, few medical procedures are totally without risk, and sometimes procedures that are normally helpful can cause harm. The association between vaccine administration and sarcomas (specific kinds of cancer) is an example.

Is this something new?

Sarcomas are not new forms of cancer in cats. But in 1991, veterinarians began to notice a higher than expected number of sarcomas occurring on cats' bodies in places where vaccines are commonly injected. Subsequently, an association between vaccine administration and sarcoma development has been established. Most feline sarcomas are not linked with vaccines in any way—and those that are associated occur infrequently—yet veterinarians are deeply concerned.

I found a lump where my cat was vaccinated. What happens now?

It is quite common for a small, firm, painless swelling to form under the skin at the site where a vaccine was injected. The lump is almost always of no consequence and disappears after several weeks. Rarely, however, the swelling may progress to a sarcoma. To be on the safe side, your veterinarian will suggest that you periodically check the vaccination area for several months after vaccination. If you detect a lump, you should contact your veterinarian as soon as possible. Small samples of the lump will be sent to a laboratory for diagnosis if any of the following are true:

- The lump persists for more than three months after vaccination.
- It is larger than two centimeters in diameter (about the size of an olive).
- It is increasing in size one month after vaccination.

If the lump is found to be a sarcoma, your veterinarian may confer with or refer you to a veterinary oncologist (a cancer specialist) for management.

If vaccines are causing problems, why use them at all?

Disturbing as this issue may be, there is great concern that cat owners, attempting to keep their cats from harm, may forego vaccination entirely. The result? Though well-intentioned, these owners may be placing their cats at far greater risk of acquiring a fatal infection than any risk the vaccine poses. And in the case of rabies, human health is at risk as well.

So what's being done?

Even though vaccine-associated sarcomas are uncommon, the problem is receiving unprecedented attention by veterinarians and feline vaccine producers. The Vaccine-Associated Feline Sarcoma Task Force is a coalition of national veterinary organizations dedicated to resolving the dilemma. This group is devoting considerable human and financial resources to determine the true scope of the problem, the cause, and the most effective treatment of vaccine-associated sarcomas.

How should I respond?

Until this problem is solved, the best response is to discuss the issue with your veterinarian. In the vast majority of situations, vaccines are much more beneficial than harmful, and they continue to help protect cats from serious infection and disease. But one way to reduce the chance of sarcoma development is not to vaccinate unnecessarily. Veterinarians are being urged to evaluate each individual cat's risk of infection to guide in deciding which vaccines should be given. After considering both the vaccine and your cat's situation, your veterinarian will assist you in designing a vaccination program that not only protects against infectious disease but is as safe as possible.

Prepared by the Vaccine-Associated Feline Sarcoma Task Force. A combined effort of the AVMA, AAHA, AAFP, and Veterinary Cancer Society, the task force consists of representatives from each of the groups, veterinary researchers and clinicians, and representatives from the USDA/APHIS and the Animal Health Institute.



Joey Singh, bred by Ruth Gramley shows excellent type continuing through the “moratorium”
Photo and comment taken from the 1968 CFA Year Book

A BIT OF BURMESE HISTORY – Part 1

On August 7th 1976 the North West region hosted a UBCF seminar in Monterey California, which included a lengthy presentation by Mrs. Doris Springer about the history and progression of the Burmese breed since Doctor Thompson brought it into the United States. This program was put together by then President Willa Hawke, then Chairperson for the North West Region Suzi Beedy, and Mrs. Lee Arnold, the Recording Secretary for the seminar. This article is taken directly from Mrs. Arnold's written transcription, which derives from the tape recordings made at the seminar.

MRS. ROGERS: Doris Springer was one of the first Presidents of UBCF and certainly one of the most active members with the Burmese cat and shorthaired cats in general. She has been with cats since 1936.

MRS. SPRINGER: Thank you. It's a pleasure to be here. I will first mention a few factors that caused standard problems in the early days of cat breeding.

The early Siamese brought into this country caused problems among Persian breeders. The cats were big, heavy-boned, with round heads, some with flat tops, but there wasn't much difference between that type of Siamese and the Burmese we have today. (Photos were shown.) The Persian breeders did not want that Siamese standard to read anything like their Persian standard, so there was a great deal of friction, some almost violent, when the first Siamese standard in this country was set. You must also remember that in those days all the top association people, including the board and officers, were then Persian breeders. So, the Siamese breeder was kind of off in a corner in the beginning. Then the Siamese people got straightened out, their cats began to change, and they began to work a different standard. That had caused some conflict as some people in writing up the standard used the newer type of Siamese.

I'll read a little note here that I received from Mildred Scheis when she was still Recorder for CFA:

I thought you might be interested in this. The Burmese have greatly improved their standard

since 1935. I want to read you part of that standard.

Body color: An even sable brown, shading a little. 20 points. Points: Mask, ears, legs and tail clearly defined and a darker brown than body. Mask complete and, except in kittens, connected by tracings with the ears. (DS: A direct takeoff from the Siamese standard.) Medium in size, body long and svelte, legs proportionately slim. Hind legs long, tilt body downwards slightly from pelvis to shoulder.

Feet: Small and oval.

Eyes: Round, ranging from a golden turquoise to yellow, with no tendency to squint.

Head: Small, with width between the eyes, narrowing to a short, small muzzle.

Ears: Rather large and wide at the base. (DS: You see the discrepancy. Here is one portion of that standard that should really have been left.)

Coat: Very short, that is, shorter than any other breed. Fine, glossy and close lying. (DS: We've lost that coat over the years.)

Now, that is one standard that was done up by a small group of people, and they did it from what they had on hand. Their Siamese at that time were ahead of the rest of the Siamese in type by that day's standard. (Photos of early Siamese were shown. Top present day Siamese cats were shown, live, to point up the contrast.) The vast differences between the two types of Siamese caused great confusion in drawing up the standards in the early days.

This, now, is Wong Mau, the first import Burmese, and a kitten, and this is Ruth Gremley's

Joey Singh, an early cat born in the 40's. (Passed photos) As you can see, they kept the type out here. Billie Gerst, Mildred Alexander in L.A., Winnie Porter in New Orleans, and Donald Came in Boston, worked for what these cats looked like when they came in. (Photos of Blanche Warren's cats from 1953 were passed.) These people knew what the Burmese looked like and worked hard to keep it. But, in the meantime, on the East Coast, there were a few breeders who got a different type. They're the people who got this standard incorporated in the beginning.

Then at a CFA show, I believe in New York in 1947, Donald Came, who was working with Siamese, brought two Burmese kittens and three Sealpoint kittens to a show, sired by the same parents. He was hybridizing, but that was the only way he could make any progress. He had one Burmese female from, I believe, Billie Gerst. With one cat you certainly can't breed.

The powers that be in CFA took serious offense to this occurrence. There were threats of law suits (Donald Came was a lawyer of no mean repute). I don't remember if they were carried out or not. (The letter which CFA wrote as a result was read. Recognition of the "so-called" breed of Burmese cat as a pure breed was suspended indefinitely. They could not be judged at shows, nor be registered by CFA, and existing registrations were suspended.) However, although Burmese were stricken off CFA's records at that time, purebred Burmese were still heartily welcomed by CFF.

When I moved East, I started working around 1949-50 taking Burmese cats brought in from the West Coast to CFA club meetings. I was able to take them to the Empire Club at the time Julia Hunter was President. I stood them out on the table and pointed out that here were four cats registered in CFF, perfectly dark, perfectly solid, no white, no points. Then I went to the Newark Club, Elsie Hayden's club at that time. She was an Englishwoman and very well versed in genetics. She was a top breeder like Mildred Alexander, and had bred most breeds of cats and dogs as well. She was greatly interested in seeing these Burmese, and looked them over very carefully. I was very pleased that we were able to

get her approval on having Burmese reinstated. We took them to Philadelphia and up to Boston to have Mrs. Cobb see them. These people were top people in CFA, Board Members, and carried a lot of weight.

Once we finally got over the major hurdle of getting them reinstated, through a lot of letter writing by Billie Gerst, Mildred Alexander, Winnie Porter, Jewell Croll, and others, many more breeders would then buy a Burmese. Regular CFA people who didn't want to show with other associations.

About the time we got them reinstated, a Texas attorney named Middleton, wrote me a nasty letter saying he didn't like the type we said Burmese ought to be because his Burmese cats all looked like Siamese. He further indicated that since he was an "important figure" in ACFA, he intended that their standard be typed after the Siamese, and we could call our Burmese "Brown American Shorthairs". We really got on the bandwagon then, and wrote CFA and Mr. Middleton many letters, resulting in Mr. Middleton attending an annual meeting, where he was poorly received. He then dropped his crusade to try to make us change our standard to suit the cats he had bought.

He also wrote Blanche Warren in Idlewild that he had bought 12 Burmese females, and he intended to raise kittens by the dozen, as he had raised rabbits and "knew just how it's done". She responded that, "You will find those Burmese kittens a damned sight tougher eating than your rabbits".

We were all pretty spirited in defense of these cats, because they are something rare and charming and lovely, and all of you owning them, I'm sure, realize by now that there is a very strong rapport between cat and owner. I may be biased, but I still think you get more from a Burmese than you do from most other cats. I'd better not say any other cats because of these Siamese breeders sitting here. But, I've had people look at them at a show and say they wouldn't have one. A woman told me that once, and then later she came and bought one. She called me a couple of weeks ago and said she had

to have another Burmese immediately. They do take hold of a person.

Now, with these early cats you must realize that they were all hybridized in the beginning. The idea of the early breeders was not to start some other breed or keep them in a hybridized condition. The idea was to take the darker cats with the better type and breed them together. That's what Billie Gerst, Jewell Croll and Mildred Alexander, and Winnie Porter did.

Now, another problem began to beset the breeders. There was not enough outcross coming in. Two of the people who were working with these cats, Mildred Alexander and Winnie Porter, noticed they started to get small. Instead of 12-15 pound females, they were getting 7-8 pound cats, and they didn't like it. They also began to get finer boning and thinner heads. So what they had to do was trade cats. Trade a cat for a heavier cat. So that's what went on out here and in New Orleans to keep a type like Joey Singh. When you work that hard to get something, and a group of people try to shove Siamese type down your throat, it doesn't set very well. (Many comparative photos were passed around at this point.)

They tried to discard Wong Mau's hybrid color kittens if they could get enough dark ones to breed.

Mrs. Gerst was a very interesting person who had a degree in animal husbandry from Ohio State University. She was very well educated and intelligent, with a tremendous knowledge of animal breeding, diet, and disease. She was also a breeder and exhibitor of Chow dogs, and did very well with both her dogs and cats. I think that if Billie Gerst hadn't put her hands on these cats we would have lost them.

Dr. Thompson, being a Navy Doctor, was often at sea. When he first became interested in the Burmese, the U.S. Navy sent a ship to the Burma area to chart the Irawaddy and Rangoon Rivers. I had an uncle in the Marine Corps who went along on that trip as a guard, and he told me about these strange cats that Dr. Thompson had found over there. So, I came to look at them.

Dr. Thompson's wife did not have the interest in cats that he did, which is one reason why Billie Gerst took most of his cats to her place. Billie Gerst lived in Palo Alto, and there was a doctor in Millbrae named William Hand. There was another down the road named Dr. White, who many of you may remember. We now have in San Mateo Dr. William Hand's son, Bill Hand, who as a boy cleaned his father's cattery and used to work for Billie part of the time. He's been with the Burmese since he was a little boy. He has the most tremendous ability with a sick animal. (I believe that some people have an inherent ability to heal.) I've seen him perform miracles with cats when they were sick. He has told me that he learned a lot of his touch from Billie Gerst.

I'll speak for a bit about the personality and disposition of the Burmese.

They were quite like the Doberman dog, particularly the males, in the early days. They didn't seem to care for strangers. Oddly enough, many of these males, when presented with a female, flatly refused to breed it. I know of one breeder who told that when he put the female down the male leaped up on his shoulder, caught his shirt with his claws, and cuddled, and after repeated attempts to breed, he turned on the female quite viciously. They were really one-man animals. I've also had an opportunity of speaking with a number of servicemen who had been in Burma. Burmese cats are wild in parts of the Burmese jungle. I had a couple of Marines tell me that when they were camped in the jungle, the Burmese cats came out at night and ate everything loose in the camp, including the leather strings in their shoes and leather buckles. They could climb any tree and jump any distance down towards anything that was tied up. The only way they could keep them off was to have someone stay up all night.

I also knew a lot of pilots, some of whom flew the hump during WWII. They were in North India and Burma. Several of them told me of seeing cats in India, where they were considered very good to have, as they are very good at catching snakes. I think it's quite likely that the Burmese cat may have gotten into Burma from North India, as those people moved into Burma

in bygone years, leaving their architecture and their religion.

A pilot brought in a cat from Burma for Nan Pyle, named Bilotti, at the end of WWII. I saw Bilotti once. He was a very large cat. Not a deep sable, he was a medium brown.

QUESTION: From what you've said then, apparently it has been established that the Burmese is a true, natural breed, as opposed to an established hybrid?

ANSWER: Colonel Art Casmir is a pilot and a natural, I think, when it comes to breeding animals. One of the most interested in the animal itself. Being a pilot, he flew all over the U.S.A. visiting most of the breeders. He found in Burma and parts of Thailand, I believe he told me, another type of brown cat, but those cats had four-white feet. They were roughly a type like the Burmese, they were not a thin cat, they were heavy. He brought back photographs of those, and they would be about equal with pretty good Burmese today. So, it is quite possible there was an interbreeding between these white-footed cats and the Burmese at some time, that set the little white lockets that Burmese used to have.

QUESTION: There is a new breed of cat being proposed for recognition in CFA, called the 'Copper Cat'. It's from Thailand. I handled one at Spokane last year. It was remarkably like a Burmese cat of perhaps 20 years ago, in terms of the older type, but I'm wondering if that might not be this original brown cat, that they called the Burmese cat, from Thailand.

ANSWER: I've seen several other imports in San Francisco and in the Islands—several very dark, cobby Burmese as imports, and three or four that were longer of body and leg, and it might be that we have two different breeds there altogether.

COMMENT: Mrs. Barbara Smith then commented about her experience with imports. She imported two cats from a breeder in Thailand, which are registered with CFA as Foundation Burmese, and is now in the third generation breeding them here to registered Burmese. The woman from whom these cats

were purchased died recently, and the U.S. breeder, who purchased her entire remaining stock, numbering 11 cats, is the party who is trying to have them recognized by CFA as a separate breed called "Copper Cats". They are in fact, half-brothers to the Smiths' cats. She feels it will be difficult to maintain these cats as a separate breed utilizing only the 11 imported cats because the necessary in-breeding in a case like this can be disastrous within a couple of years. She will breed herself out of business.

QUESTION: If the Burmese cats do exist as a natural breed in Southeast Asia, why are they not brought into this country like every other breed does?

ANSWER: That's the point I was just going to make. I have been quite irate with CFA, and it was one of the reasons I decided to just cut out of both breeding and judging. Every other breed of cat can be imported from somewhere, but CFA would never permit breeders to bring in a cat from Burma and register or work with it. I've asked repeatedly why, or why not. That's been one big problem in breeding Burmese. As you were just mentioning about this cattery up north. In the beginning there were about two people working with Burmese out here, that was Mrs. Gerst and Mrs. Alexander. And then Ruth Fisher, who was a Siamese breeder, started to work with Burmese. That was three in the area. In those days, shipping by plane was practically unknown; you shipped them by train. Winnie Porter was way over in New Orleans, and Donald Came was in Boston. We had one other person in San Francisco, and I can't remember her name, but her husband was Chef at the old Palace Hotel.

(TAPE CHANGE HERE)

Gerst, Alexander and Fisher in California, and Porter and Came in the East worked with imports. I personally think it would be a good idea to import. As cats decrease in size, stamina may begin to go.

Do any of you know what causes a cat to go on his hocks? It happens every now and then with Manx. Have any of you ever seen a Manx that couldn't walk out? It's something about the

tendon or nerves. Betty Youngman and Harvey Cedars from New Jersey went over to the Isle of Man on vacation and brought back a very fine Manx male some years ago. She bred him to every female in her cattery, and none of the males could get off their hocks. I wish we'd thought to ask the veterinarian about that. Now, what caused that to happen? I don't know about whether or not any more of them had that or not, it's been a long time ago, and he's now vanished from the scene, but I had at that time a sneaking suspicion that this was a hereditary factor, because two or three breeders on the East Coast who had some of these cats in their line suddenly vanished from the Fancy, and the kittens vanished. So, I don't know whether they got it, and they took them out.

Burmese carry, because of this inbreeding, various faults, Dwarfism is one. You like a nice, well-built cat, call it cobby, or heavy, or whatever you wish. I saw, from a female about that long and heavy, a female kitten who, as an adult, was no bigger than this (very small) in body, and almost that wide. She had all the traits of Dwarfism. Instead of the legs being straight out, they were bowed. That could have been a calcium deficiency, but she had the undershot chin that you find in cattle, the mouth hung open, and she drooled. The cat was not bright, and she couldn't tell the toilet tray from your hat. Of course, that's rather common, but this was a thing that went on incessantly. It really should have been put to sleep. The breeder bred her then she had her spayed. And I've noticed several like that. If I got one like that, I would never breed the parent cats again, or I would breed the parent cats out to other cats and see where it was coming from.

Now, I did at one time buy a female, a very handsome cat, and from that cat out of five kittens I got two with inverted chest bones. Instead of being rounded, they tucked in. Those kittens had to be put to sleep, as they got older, because they couldn't breathe properly. They began to gasp for breath. So, I spayed and neutered the rest, and I never bred the female again. Since I had bred the male innumerable times, I didn't think it was coming from him.

But, in this close breeding, in in-breeding, or in line-breeding, if the specimens you're breeding are perfect physically, that's probably what you'll get, but nothing in this world is ever perfect. You set your bad traits as well as the good, and the only way you can ever tell what you're going to get is by trial and error. I'm afraid that a number of Burmese breeders in bygone days weren't too careful. If it looked alright, they'd sell it, and that perpetrated the faults. But, I believe that today most of that's been bred out.

I would like to say that at the last cat show I attended I was tremendously pleased at what I saw. The cats looked healthy, better bones, bodies and heads-and I see the eye color coming back.

(At this point a five-month-old Burmese kitten was displayed and passed around the room for viewing by all.)

Now, this little cat has very good eye color. The early Burmese had it, but when they were crossed with the Siamese you had your eye color diluted by blue, and it went green. For many years, it was considered a real feather in your cap if you could get a Burmese kitten whose eyes turned yellow or orange instead of green. That's been one of the most difficult faults to breed out.

How many of you present have orange, or at least yellow eyes in your Burmese? (Most did)

I dare say that 15 years ago I don't think there was that many breeders in the whole United States who could say they were getting a deep yellow or orange eye color. I can remember at least 10 or 12 years of judging when I never saw a single cat with the proper eye color. I think Mrs. Strange in El Paso was one of the first to get it back, and when I got one of her cats to judge, I couldn't believe it. It had been so long since I'd seen the orange eyes. That was another woman who was a marvelous breeder.

COMMENT: As recently as 12 years ago, in the judging ring, the sponsoring clubs would never allow cloths on the table to be green, because it accentuated the green eyes in the Burmese. That's something that isn't even thought about anymore.

It's been remarkably taken care of in the last ten years.

DS: I think of all the cats that have been brought into this country, the Burmese breeders have had the most difficult problems to face. We've had fewer cats, fewer imports, and in the beginning far fewer breeders. It was a great disappointment to people to buy Burmese and breed them, and what they got might have a white spot, or a kinked tail. The ears would be big and stand up on top, green eyes, and sometimes out of two very dark cats you would get an off-color coat, too rusty or too light. Now, it's been my personal opinion from the beginning of this thing, with Burmese, that we had two colors in Burmese, and I'm not now speaking of Champagnes or Blues. I think we had sable and we had chestnut; because at Bar Harbor, Maine, when the first tests were run on Burmese to try to find out whether this was a true color or what they called at that time "a sport", the doctors who were working with these cats stated that we had two colors, chestnut and sable.

I don't want to say too much about Champagnes and Blues, as it's a very controversial color question, and many people become quite angry about it. I don't think people should be angry, I think they should discuss it logically. I bred Siamese for many years, and have quite a lot of old pedigrees. In running those English pedigrees, one came out of a seal-point cattery a long time ago, and there was one cat absent, there was just a blank. After that, blue points started appearing, so you can use your judgment as to what happened, a blue got into the cattery.

Now, I believe that because of the introduction of Siamese into this breed, which you can see by some of these cats, it's been my personal opinion that the Champagne is what you put in 1940, or 1935. You may not get out until 1950 or 55 or 60, but if it goes in there, it's going to come out. I don't mind saying that, in my personal opinion, I don't really have any enthusiasm about the Blues or Champagnes. I got four over 20-25 years of breeding. Both times the cats were very closely related. With three of the cats that I was able to follow as they became adults, three of them were seal by the time they were about a year old, the

fourth went to Los Angeles, and I lost track of it. I spayed and neutered all of these cats. I have seen two Champagnes bred together. Not all the kittens were Champagnes. Whether that means anything or not, I don't know, but I'll leave that issue now.

QUESTION: I wish you'd talk about sable color as opposed to black, and the variations. You mentioned two different colors of Burmese, and I think you're quite right, but we're finding an awful lot of these very sound, still sable (when you get them under a strong light they're still brown), but it's darker, I think, than the standard would like, and I wonder if you could lend any light to this.

(At this time, a very dark-coated male grand champion Burmese was shown to Mrs. Springer.)

DS: I have never seen a Burmese, except in one cattery, that I considered too dark. This particular cattery put out Burmese with a coat that really looked black, and when you brushed the coat forward there was a grayish undercoat."

(Mrs. Springer comments on the cat shown) "I think I'll start breeding again. This is an extraordinary cat. One thing about him, too, I said I thought we had lost the short coat - this cat has a better Burmese coat than I've seen for many years. This is true Burmese color. He is not too dark. He's right on. I'm not saying that others are wrong, but this is what the early people were after.

I've seen three from Burma, brought in by seamen. I used to work in a law office in the Seamen's Union Building in San Francisco. This was the color. I have seen some others of the other color, which I still claim, in my own mind, is chestnut, but when the ladies in the beginning were sitting (Billie Gerst and others), trying to decide what to call those Burmese, this is the color they were working with. They said that it looks like a Russian Sable. I always wanted my Burmese to look so dark that in a half-light they looked black. If they didn't look like that I didn't breed them, because I didn't want that color. That doesn't mean that I criticize the lighter color in other people's cats. In judging you have two

things to work for, one is color, and the other is type. Type is a permanent factor in an animal once it has it, it's there to stay. This cat won't lose color, but many cats will lose color (say cats in San Jose or Sacramento), will burn out from the wind and the sun in the Summer, particularly if they're out of doors. I've seen cats come in to shows early in September, and they look rusty. Ruth Larson's Mote used to rust every summer in Los Gatos, but by Christmas time he was dark, not this dark, but he was dark.

This cat has some of the best color I've seen in a long, long time, and he also has a fantastic head. He's just a beautiful all-around cat. It makes me very happy to see this cat. He's got the proper head type, and also perfect color; I couldn't fault his color. He's moving backwards towards the old original coat, and I think that's one of the finest things I've seen in years. If I had any breeding females, I'd certainly breed them to that cat. This is proof of what I said a while ago. If you put it in in 1940 or 50 it's going to come out again sometime. He was probably born in 1975. It's been a long time since I've seen a coat like that.



Yindling's Dark Moon, 1956
Photo taken from the 1968 CFA Year Book

This concludes part 1 of Doris Springer's presentation. In parts 2 and 3, Doris continues with more discussions about the disposition of the early Burmese cats, their size and how they have become smaller over time, the use of imported cats from Burma/Thailand and the difficulties in registering them, and more.



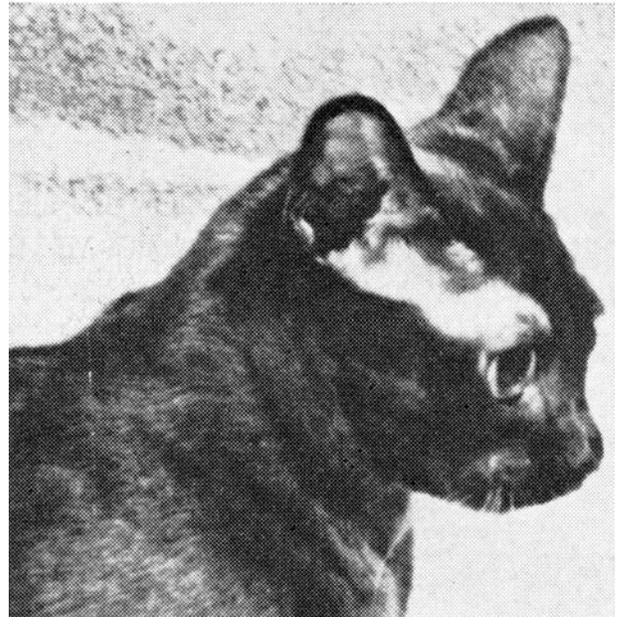
Mrs. Doris Springer with 2 of her Burmese cats.
Photo taken from the 1968 CFA Year Book

Mrs. Doris Springer was a breeder of Seal-point and Blue-point Siamese, Abyssinians, Burmese, and Manx. She Judged for CFF in 1952 and ACA in 1953-54. She was President of UBCF in 1959-61, became a CFA Judge in 1954, and served as Vice-President of the CFA Judges Association in 1962 as well as being board member of the Association. She was also served on the CFA Board of Directors, was a member of both the Foundation Grant Committee, and the Burmese Breed Committee. Her cattery name is Yindling.

Mrs. Springer was a member of the Peninsula Cat Club, the Camelia City Cat Club, the Sacramento Valley Cat Club, and served as President of the Tri-County Cat Club and the Bay Area Burmese Club.



Prince Pogo of Regal was owned by Doris Springer – Photo taken for the 1968 CFA Year Book



GC Yindling's Temple Dancer of LeShin-Wieler – Photo taken from the 1968 CFA Year Book

UBCF NEWSLETTER IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE UNITED BURMESE CAT FANCIERS, INC. AND IS SENT TO ALL MEMBERS QUARTERLY.

SEND MEMBERSHIP DUES CHECK PAYABLE TO UNITED BURMESE CAT FANCIERS WITH YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS TO:

**MARIANNE BOLLING, TREASURER
2395 NE 185th STREET
N. MIAMI BEACH, FL 33180**

MEMBERSHIP DUES \$10.00

PLEASE RENEW PROMPTLY!