

# ***UBCF***

*The United Burmese Cat Fanciers, Inc. Newsletter*



*Issue 45, Number 1*

*Winter 2001*

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

Dear UBCF members and Friends of Burmese,

Since the publication of the Fall 2000 issue of the UBCF Newsletter, we now have 66 paid members and ten new Officers and Directors at Large. With the new officers and directors in place, it is time to seek volunteers for the eight Regional Directors. I have been contacted by a number of people, who have shown interest in becoming Regional Directors, and now is the time to throw your hat in the ring.

Again I would like to ask everyone's assistance with our mailing list. We have found a good number of names and address, which were returned for various reasons. 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 access to email to send us your address.

This, the Winter 2001 issue is being sent out gratis, as was the previous issue, to encourage membership. The Spring 2001 issue will only be sent to active members, therefore it is important to get your membership dues mailed in. 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.

A number of members have requested additional copies of the newsletter to give out to their pet buyers and friends. I feel that this is an excellent idea to help involve and educate the pet owners about issues facing the Burmese breed, and could result in new members. There is, however, the issue of cost to publish and mail these newsletters. Anyone who requests a copy of the newsletter can receive a free copy with the intention of gathering new members. Please forward their name and address to me and I will mail out a copy along with a membership form. Additional copies can also be bought for those of you wishing to hand them out.

In this issue, we continue with part 2 of 3 of the transcription of the 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. Please remember that part 3 will only be distributed to paid members of UBCF.

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

## **ON THE COVER**

On this issue's cover is GC Chin Hills Toffee Candy DM – Sable female bred and owned by Roger and Rochelle Horenstein. Candy produced the following Grand Champions in CFA to earn her DM status:

GC Chin Hills Kona  
GC Chin Hills Candy Kiss of Nightsong – Owned by Lois True  
GC Chin Hills Maple Candy  
GC Chin Hills Mika of Kelleycats – Owned by Pat and Laura Kelley  
GP Chin Hills Mei Li – Owned by Sandra Lord

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: UBCF Membership at Large  
FROM: Marianne Bolling, Secretary  
DATE: January 31, 2001  
SUBJECT: Election of Officers and Board of Directors

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It is with pleasure to announce the following have been elected the Officers and Directors at Large of the United Burmese Cat Fanciers for the years 2001 and 2002:

	Total Votes	Candidate	Write-In Candidates
PRESIDENT	66	*Jess Insall	
1 <sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT	63	*Shirley Belanger	Linda Anderson
2 <sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT	62	*Linda Anderson	Marianne Bolling
SECRETARY / TREASURE	64	*Marianne Bolling	Art Graafmans
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	63	*Art Graafmans	Shirley Belanger
DIRECTORS AT LARGE	66	*Virginia Deal	
	64	*Roger Horenstein	
	66	*Willa Hawke	
	65	*Lynn Butler	
	64	*Charles Farmer	RoseAnn Wheeler
			**Dennis Wheeler
			**JoAnne Wheeler

\*Elected Candidate

\*\*Membership suggestion for future positions

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

January 31, 2001

Balance Forward (as of 10/1/2000) and transferred to Peninsula Bank			\$398.87
12/11/00	Deposit (Membership Dues)	\$450.00	\$848.87
12/29/00	Interest	\$0.87	\$849.74
1/27/01	Deposit (Membership Dues)	\$350.00	\$1,199.74
TOTAL BALANCE as of 1/31/2001			\$1,199.00

NOTE: The above bank register does not show the costs associated with the printing and mailing of the fall 2000 newsletter. This is because Art and Kristi Graafmans have kindly offered to cover these costs for the club, so that we may re-establish an adequate treasury. The costs of producing and mailing this and future issues will be reimbursed.

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.



## ***MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT***

First let me thank the membership for electing me President of the United Burmese Cat Fanciers. We all extend our thanks to Art Graafmans for agreeing to be the editor of the UBCF Newsletter. Without the Newsletter, we could not exist.

Our mission is to resurrect UBCF with the primary purpose being to bring the Burmese back to the status they once enjoyed in the cat fancy. Without a doubt, we are all saddened by the decline of the Burmese over the past several years. Many of the older breeders can remember when there were 35 Burmese in the Championship class alone at a show. Recently, I have been at shows where there was only one Burmese in the entire show and it was in the Premiership class.

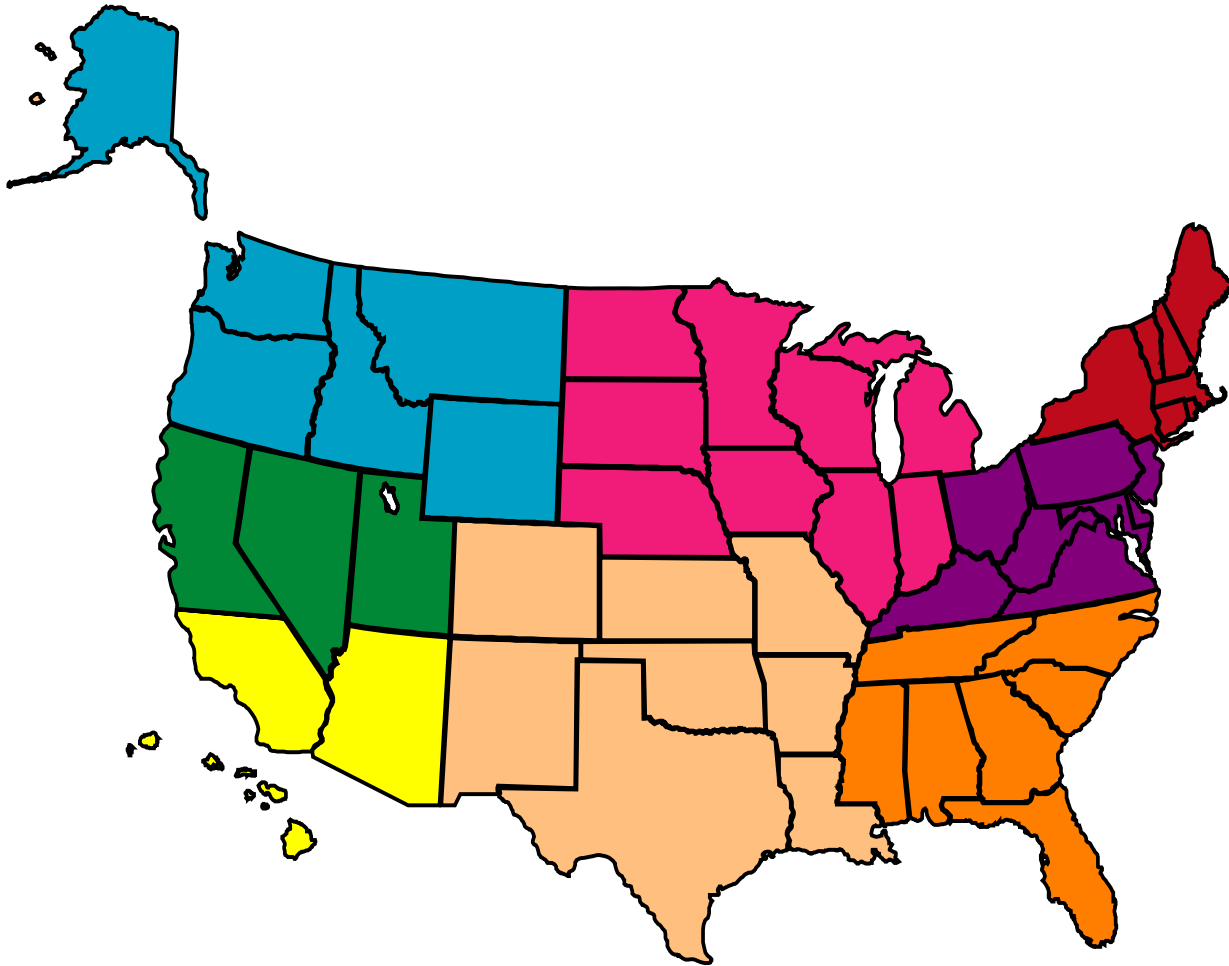
Since 1988, there has been in excess of 35% decrease in Burmese breeders, litters and kittens. The decrease in sable Burmese has been much more dramatic, exceeding 80%. There are a number of factors responsible for this decline, including the rising cost of breeding and showing, birth and health problems within the breed and the unwillingness of breeders to cooperate and work together. In addition, the national campaigners taking all the show wins has discouraged the local and regional exhibitors with good cats. It is these local and regional exhibitors who actually compose the vast majority of the fancy. We have no control over such factors as rising costs, but it is my hope that we can collaborate in solving some of the other problems.

Soon we will have Regional Directors in place and can begin holding regional meetings and seminars to discuss the important issues and work on solving some of these concerns.

Please let me have your thoughts and ideas that may help us to address ways to enhance our beloved breed. In the meantime let us work together to become what the name of our organization suggests - UNITED!

Jess Insall  
Arab'n Nts (Sable Burmese)  
5131 E. 23<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Tulsa, OK 74114-3705  
(918)744-5568

## **UBCF REGIONS**



## **CALL FOR REGIONAL DIRECTORS**

We are currently looking for volunteers to take the responsibility of Regional Director for the following regions:

North West  
Central West  
South West  
North Central  
South Central  
International

North East  
Mid East  
South East  
Eastern Canada  
Western Canada

Anyone selected for one of these positions will hold the office for the years 2001 and 2002. In the event that more than one person volunteers for a given region, the UBCF officers and directors will select the winning candidate. Volunteers should contact Marianne Bolling in writing by May 31, 2001 at 2395 N.E. 185<sup>th</sup> Street, N. Miami Beach, FL 33180.

## **THE MAIL BAG**

Excerpts from the members.....

Billie Brown: “Your Newsletter was a lovely surprise today. Welcome Back!”

Helen Jean Dierkes: “Dear Burmese Lovers: Enclosed is my membership. I would also volunteer for whatever I could do to help promote and maintain Burmese. For me it’s been 37 years of owning at least one Burmese, beginning with a male kitten, “Cinnamon”. We was with us for 18 years and was the ‘King’ here along with our daughter’s seal point Siamese and the latter’s offspring. Then I found our next traditional Burm male who made ‘Best Kitten’ until we retired him early in the game. “Cocoa’ tragically died last June at 19 years of age having given us unconditional love and antics and made veterinary history according to Jerry Dzenzell, DVM, former California Veterinary Association President. Our third Burmese, now 15 years of age was feeling the loss, so a few months ago, brought her a male kitten, ‘Bean’ to ease her loneliness. Thus, for all these years, we have enjoyed the companionship of four sables. As for the tales of the ‘tails’, I believe I could write a few good short stories.”

Larry Jelinek: “What a wonderful surprise, the U.B.C.F. Newsletter is back, it’s been a long time. As I emailed Art, I hope that with email we can submit articles and photos easily. I also think we should get all our email address and websites listed as well, for better membership communication. I’ve also taken the liberty to promote U.B.C.F. membership on my web site, as well as to the Burmese Cat Lovers e-group. It is also great to see familiar names up for election of officers, I wish everyone the best. Visit my web site at: [www3.simpatico.ca/ljelinek/ginger.htm](http://www3.simpatico.ca/ljelinek/ginger.htm).”

*Helen and Larry, we are always interest in a good short story for the newsletter, and would gladly accept them via email or snail-mail. We are also interested in photo, memorials and anything else of interest to Burmese lovers – ed.*

Mary Margaret Koloff: “Glad you’re back, United Burmese Cat Fanciers.”

Fred Kraushaar. “Nice to see activity, It has been a while.”

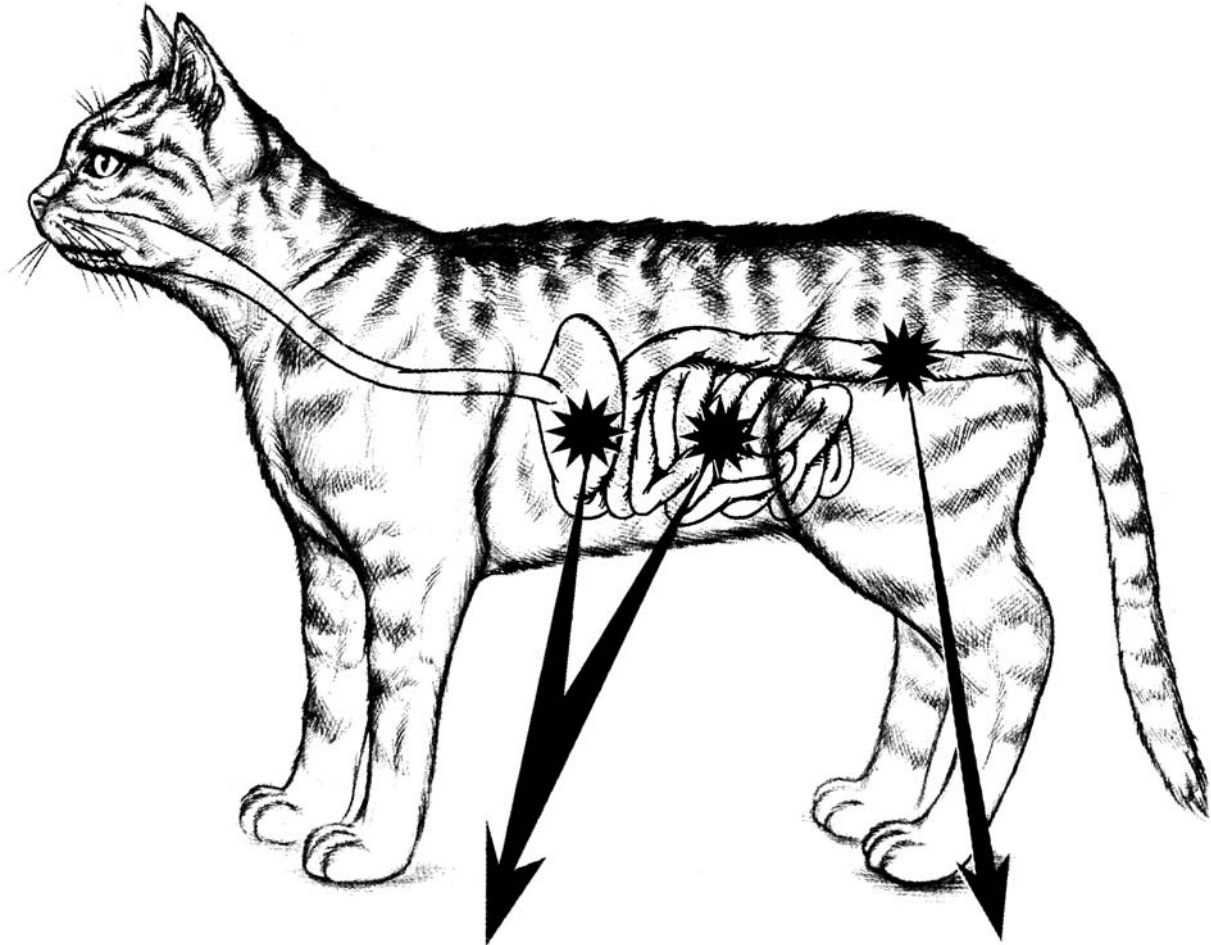
Dorothy R. Reminger. “So glad you’re back! Looking forward to further publication.”

Mignonne D Walker. “Enclosed photo postcard of ‘Brown Darby’ born Earth day 1989 (a Susie Page traditional Burmese) and a check for \$30.00 for my membership and two gift subscriptions for Penny Morton and Susan Dietrich, DVM.”

Susi Beedy: “Best wishes for a successful newsletter. There is nothing on earth better than a Burmese!” *Thank you and I couldn’t agree with you more! – ed.*

### Homing In On Suspicious Spots

Before going in to take tissue samples from your cat's intestines, your veterinarian will try to determine what parts of the GI tract are most likely inflamed. Your cat's illness signs will point your veterinarian in the right direction. Suspicious areas are then targeted for sampling.



#### Stomach and Small Intestine

If your cat's primary sign is vomiting with little or no diarrhea or if he shows *small-bowel diarrhea* (normal defecation frequency, no straining to defecate, and a watery or soft stool with no blood or mucus) along with vomiting his stomach and small intestine are probably inflamed.

#### Large Intestine

If your cat show signs of *Large-bowel diarrhea* (increased defecation frequency, straining to defecate, and small amounts of feces tinged with mucus or fresh blood) and some or no vomiting, his large intestine is likely inflamed.



## **INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE**

The following article was originally published in September 1998 by Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine in their newsletter “Catnip” No specific writing credit was given.

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Once again, your cat has vomited on the dining room rug. As you’re cleaning up, you realize you’ve been performing this chore on a regular basis for a couple of months. Perceiving that your cat’s problem may be more than the hairballs you’ve been blaming, you scurry off to your veterinarian with Sir “Vomits-a-lot” in tow. Your veterinarian explains that because there are numerous causes for chronic vomiting in cats, your cat may need a range of tests to discover the culprit. You give the practitioner the go-ahead and, a couple of weeks and several tests later, you learn your cat has *inflammatory bowel disease*.

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) – chronic inflammation of the intestinal lining – is one of the more common gastrointestinal (GI) disorders in cats. Veterinarians don’t know for sure what causes the disorder. They suspect the problem is triggered when an animal’s immune system becomes hypersensitive to various antigens that commonly reside in the intestinal tract and sends its warrior cells to the battle site, inflaming the tissues lining the intestine. Another possibility is that the intestinal lining is somehow damaged, which allows antigens to penetrate more deeply into the intestines than usual, causing an immune reaction. Most likely, IBD is caused by a host of factors that vary from cat to cat.

Because of its various causes, IBD is one of the most difficult feline GI ailments to diagnose. Plus, there’s no IBD test, and the most common signs – chronic vomiting and/or diarrhea – can signal many different

disorders. The only way to diagnose IBD is by ruling out other diseases. “It’s a diagnosis of exclusion,” says Dr. Orla Mahony, clinical assistant professor at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine.

### **Figuring Out What It’s Not**

If your cat’s been suffering from chronic GI distress, your veterinarian will likely start searching for the culprit by performing a fecal exam to check for internal parasites (including worms and protozoa such as *Giardia*) and perhaps a fecal culture to check for bacterial infection. The next step is likely an analysis of your pet’s blood to check for illnesses such as *feline leukemia virus* (FeLV) infection, *feline immunodeficiency virus* (FIV) infection, *hyperthyroidism*, and liver or kidney disease. And to rule out a food allergy, your veterinarian may put your cat on an *elimination diet* (see CATNIP, “Finding Food Allergies: A Process of elimination”, August 1998, p. 2). Occasionally, vomiting may signal other serious illnesses such as *pancreatitis*, *feline infectious peritonitis* (FIP), or *lymphoma*.

If the tests are inconclusive, your veterinarian may suggest taking a tissue sample (*biopsy*) from your pet’s stomach or intestines. Veterinarians have traditionally taken biopsies through an incision in the animal’s abdomen. But nowadays, many veterinarians slide an endoscope through the cat’s mouth or rectum and into its intestines to collect small bits of tissue from the intestinal lining (see CATNIP “Scoping Out Your Cat’s Interior”, March 1998, pp. 4-5). Your cat’s

signs of illness will guide your veterinarian to biopsy particular areas of your cat's GI tract.

When your veterinarian analyzes the biopsy samples, he or she will look for particular types of inflammatory cells and infectious agents. In most cases of IBD, many different types of inflammatory cells are present, but the majority are *lymphocytes* and *plasmacytes*. If a biopsy sample contains abnormally large amounts of other types of cells, your veterinarian may suspect a cause other than IBD. For example, an over abundance of *neutrophils* suggest an infectious disease, and a large number of *eosinophils* signals that your pet may have parasites or an allergy.

### **Treating IBD**

If your veterinarian diagnoses IBD, the next step is to formulate a treatment regimen. Most often, treatment involves a change in diet and anti-inflammatory drugs.

“Cats with IBD sometimes do better with special diets”, says Dr. Lisa Freeman, nutritionist and assistant professor of

medicine at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine. The specific formula that works best for your cat depends, among other things, on the type of IBD he has.

For some cats with mild IBD, a change in diet may be the only treatment they need. But other cats need medication as well. *Corticosteroids* – such as prednisone – help alleviate IBD by quieting the immune response to allergens. And some antibiotics have anti-inflammatory properties that can be useful in treating IBD. If your veterinarian prescribes medication for your cat, the practitioner will begin to gradually decrease the dose as soon as possible. We treat cats aggressively at the beginning to put the disease in remission, and then hope that we can slowly wean them off the medication”, explains Dr. Mahony. Some cats can go off medication completely, but others need to stay on a long-term low dose.

Although diagnosis often requires persistence, your veterinarian can do a lot to soothe your cat's intestines. So if your cat has chronic vomiting and/or diarrhea – even if it's intermittent – have your veterinarian check your pet.

## ***A BIT OF BURMESE HISTORY – Part 2***

On August 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

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I mentioned earlier in the day the disposition of the Burmese male, which was like that of the old Doberman. They didn't seem to care for strange cats, and they fought like a tiger. I bought Hasiempa Spydar from Peg Ball in New Jersey after a cat show down in Philadelphia. Judge Mack was a big woman, one of the few people I've met in my life who dwarfed me so I felt tiny and svelte. He got away from her on the judging table, they had to take her to the hospital, and the end result was 72 stitches. So, Peg Ball came up to try to get him, with 3 or 4 men. She had on a new ermine coat, and he cut one sleeve just to absolute ribbons. We got him in a carrier, and driving back to Chatham, she said, "Doris, I'd like to open the door and kick him out in the snow. I'll never take him in the house again." And, I said I'd take him. Half way up, he tried to break out of the carrier, so we had to stop and retie him. You could not walk into a room with Spydar and let him run around like an ordinary cat. I still have a bum toe joint where he put his teeth through it. I used to entice him into the carrier by tying a string on the carrier and pulled it through the wire of his room and lifted it up, then I'd open the door and fling a piece of fish in there, and he'd go in, and I'd let it drop, I'd run in and lock it, and then I'd go in the room and mop and clean it. I could be looking at Spydar's coat right now He had a beautiful head and this gorgeous coat, and he marked a lot of his kittens with the coat and the disposition. I bought Hasiempa's Rudra, his half brother, who had a better-body and type,

He was a slightly bigger cat, he had a beautiful head, and he behaved even worse than Spydar.

Rudra came up the cellar steps one day, as I was sitting eating a bowl of soup, and as I got up to take the bowl into the kitchen, he attacked me just like an attack dog. I jumped-back and picked up a chair and warded him off until I could get out of the room. After that happened twice, I sold him to a man who lived in Philadelphia. I can't remember his name.

I can remember many judges being bitten by these Burmese, and I remember in my own house once, an older stud getting loose and chasing a younger one. I had my husband, a fellow who was working in the yard, and two neighbors in there before it was over. We had two garden hoses coming in, one through the basement door, and one through a window. They finally got upstairs behind the washing machine, and as it was emptying I jerked the hose loose from-the connection and turned it behind the machine to get them out.

I don't know whether, I should tell this one or not, but I think I'll do it anyway. Christine Streetman sent me one of her studs on a little lease. I took him upstairs and put him in a bedroom. I was giving him treatment "A". He behaved just beautifully. He fell down on the bed and purred. I didn't have a female calling, but I called up a friend and told her she had to breed to this cat. He has that

gorgeous eye color and beautiful type. She said she'd bring the female over, which she did. Then, all hell broke loose. He turned on that female like a wild animal. We used the bedspread, tore coats from the closet, we finally caught him, but it was a near miss. He would have killed her if he could have caught her.

Now just why this disposition surfaces in some Burmese, I don't know. I bred a male once who would not breed females. Finally, after a lot of trouble, we wrapped the female's head in a towel, opened the cage door and poked her in, he bred her fast, we jerked her out and slammed the door. So, a lot of these cats had that particular and peculiar disposition. Do you find that any more in your stud cats? (Answer--No, not really. If you keep the females away from the males in the show ring, you usually don't have any trouble.)

I've noticed, let's say the Doberman Pincer (I love the breed and always keep them), they used to be called "Sharp", which wasn't too accurate, as a lot of them were pretty vicious. So, the breeders in this country, unlike Germany, decided that they wanted these dogs for show and not for protection. So, we're going to breed out this nasty disposition. We're going to get soft dogs who act like poodles or beagles. So, they've been working on that for a long time so they can take these dogs to a dog show, turn them over to a handler and have the judges open their mouths and touch them. Well, you can look around the streets of San Francisco, or anywhere else, and see these pathetic specimens. But, when they bred out the disposition from that group of dogs, they lost their bone, their stamina, they lost an awful lot. So, I'm not so sure that it's a good idea to try to breed these traits out of the cats. I would rather work with a rough Burmese that had stamina and a long life than I would to

work with one that was too sweet, that didn't have the stamina.

The other great battle with these cats has been to keep their size. Nan Pyle's import, Bilotti, was a huge cat. Pogo, I think, would have weighed 15-18 lbs. Ann Baker's Gerapudo must have weighed 15-lbs. I bought Gerapudo, you know, and he never bred anything; he was completely impotent. I've had some really ill luck with these cats. Rangoon was a Pogo son, and he was a very, very fine cat, so I bought him. I made one breeding of the cat and discovered he had worms, so I took him to the vet, to be wormed. The vet mixed his cards and neutered him. I'd just paid \$300 for the cat and got one breeding. That was really a very sad thing. (passed photos of Rangoon).

I bred a female I was very fond of, Yindling's Willie Waru. I thought very highly of her. She was quite a beautiful cat, exceptionally small ears and a big head, and very, very dark. But, she called all the time, so I gave her that pill you were talking about this morning, Willa (Promone or Depopriviera, now off the market), and the result was Pyometria. I lost her as a breeder, and almost lost her. So, I'm really afraid of those pills.

The Burmese tail should be thick and blunt; not pointed or tapered.

(Showed many photos of various cats, commenting-that most weighed 12-18 lbs.)

Now, here are some of the females (showed photos). This is a Spydar daughter out of, Rega's Kukuba of Yindling, and behind here were the Gerstdale cats. When you find Count Bruga or Jogwa's Appassionata. Jewel Croll sold Appassionata as a pet to Virginia Pond, but Virginia did not understand the fact that cats were'nt pedigreed, so she started showing him, and some of the Associations

didn't care. Well, the ladies had a set-to at a cat show when Jewel Croll was there and Billie Gerst was judging. Billie said, "That's my blood line, I recognize it. That cat's not registered and can't have its wins." The girls fought pretty fiercely for a year before they finally got it straightened out, and Virginia had registered the cat in CFF as Count Bruga and in ACA he was Jogwa's Appassionata. He was an exceptionally beautiful cat--there again is the dark coat.

The largest Burmese I've seen was one I bought from Nan Pyle, and I can't remember his name anymore. I'd say he weighed almost 30 lbs. A lot of these early Burmese you might describe as having had bodies more like badgers than other cats. They were extremely heavy, with great breadth across the chest. This cat was more of what I'd call a chestnut color. He had a big round head, almond eyes instead of round, and a little too much of a chin. I believe he was out of the import, Bilotti.

Question about importing Burmese.

DS: "I have a contact in the Orient, and what they could get I don't know, because they only travel, they would only see the cats in the common market. Probably Col. Casir would be the best one to contact. He's retired in Wyoming, and I'm sure I have his address at home. He went through as much of Thailand and Burma as he could. He was three times in Vietnam, and on his week break between flights he used to travel. He's very knowledgeable about the Burmese. I think Willa was his first teacher, he brought the cat there for a breeding. I bought several of Art's cats, they are really beautiful. He had a good copper eye, and it held pretty well in some of the adults. He made a lot of friends, so if you'd be interested, I'll send you the address.

This young lady (Barbara Smith) did it, has imported a cat, and is going to tell you where she got it and show you a kitten from it. You go ahead now and tell them about the cat."

MRS. BARBARA SMITH: "This kitten here is 11 weeks old. She is out of the import. She doesn't have as dark a coat as some of the Burm kittens I have from other breedings, but of course I've just laid the foundation, and the house is yet to come. She is out of a male I imported. He was only three generations out of the woods. The grandfather was caught only 70 miles from where Wong Mau was supposed to have come from. My import now weighs 13.1 lbs, and he's a little on the fat side. To date, I've gotten 59 kittens from him.

This kitten is typical of what I'm getting. This male import does not now carry a CFA registration. He carries an ACFA primary recording and an ACA primary recording street(?). What I did was work with this lady in Thailand and back-registered everything that she had there. The grandparents, and parents, and then my male, so that he's a primary recording street(?). This little female can go on ACA and Champion on the AGA show circuit today.

Regarding CFA: I've been working with Dr. Feltz. I would have to foundation record the male I now have, because CFA will not allow you to back-register. This means I would have to go the full three generations and prove 50 pure bred kittens from each generation. I've gotten six breeders in the U.S. that have purchased offspring out of this male and are also working on it. I didn't have all 50 at my house, not in a year and a half.

The eye color is not that fantastic, but it's not bad. I have seen worse eye color shown than what this kitten has. I've been awfully happy with the offspring of the Bangkok cats, as

healthy kittens, as compared with other litters I've had in the house at the same time."

QUESTION: "Was the lady you worked with in Thailand familiar with the U.S. standard. I know you didn't go over to be able to say this cat has better type than that one."

BS: "No, she sent me four of them. The younger male we've not yet bred. He's just a little over a year old, but not yet interested in girls. He's better type-wise all over than the male I've been using."

DS: "I find that very interesting because the early Burmese males did not breed as young as they do now. Lots of them wouldn't breed until they were past a year."

BS: "The older male is now three years old. Both males are from the same identical breeding, but at different times. The stud I'm using was used for stud before he came over here."

The lady that sent these to me just died 4-5 months ago. The entire lot of cats that she had left were sent to the Gormans up in Portland. They want to go Copper to Copper. The Gormans are giving me trouble on the fact that I'm already registered as foundation Burmese, and put them with my Burmese, and they're mad at me for putting them with my Burmese, and I've gotten 2-3 derogatory letters from her that I'm "ruining the purity of the copper line". But, to me, how can you take 11 cats that are mother, father and offspring and start a breed. I don't understand that type of breeding."

QUESTION: "What was your prime object in importing?"

BS: "It was for vigor and stamina. For a new line to breed to that wasn't so inbred."

QUESTION: "Is there a problem with health and vigor in the Burmese males as much as a few years ago?"

BS: "Not as much as there was say 5 years ago."

QUESTION: "What do you attribute this to?"

BS: "There are more active breeders now. There are more studs being kept to breed to. Seven years ago, maybe four people had studs. What do you do. Now there are a whole lot more people in the area that have stud cats, there's more variety to use."

QUESTION: "Mrs. Springer pointed out that the breed is tending to get smaller. Some of these older Burmese that were at 15-20 lbs. with fair regularity. They certainly don't exist today, which would suggest that maybe new blood is very worthwhile."

DS: "You know, if you show these pedigrees to a top dog or horse breeder, they just turn around and retch. They say, "God, you couldn't do it, you couldn't breed a thing that's that in-bred". I do believe that every breed needs new blood, and this is the only breed in the United States that doesn't allow imports. You can bring Siamese, Russian Blues, and Manx, etc. from England, Sweden or Holland or Germany, or what have you."

Remember, there have been no other Burmese imports since Mr. Fisher brought them in in 1947 or 1949, and Bilotti came to Phoenix around the same time. There have been no other imports. I still say it's a dangerous breeding program that doesn't carry new blood. In breeding Burmese, I brought in a new male every third year, whether I liked him or not, for out-cross. That was as much of an out-cross as I could get. Sometimes when you do that you might lose your type or eye color, but at least you're

bringing in something different. In-breeding is sibling and father-daughter and mother-son. Line breeding would be related cats like cousins or aunts, etc. But remember that on those pedigrees, those cats are in-bred. You've got Count Bruga, and you've got Pogo. You can look at them and see the type of breeding that went on.

The lines out here started with Gerstdale. My line started with it. Peg Ball (Regaline) started with it. Mildred Alexander started with it. Mrs. Strange started with Alexander or Gerstdale, I forget which. Mizpah started with the same thing. John Baker bought Mizpah, and I don't know what else. Now, where else did these other cats come from? The answer is, they didn't.

"I talked about four years ago to Betty and Dick Gebhart about what the British are doing. Now, I am not advocating hybridizing, I'm merely giving you the ideas. The British are fine breeders. Your Germans are excellent breeders. In Germany look at the dogs that have come out. The Doberman, Weimeramers, Danes, Shorthaired Pointers. These dogs were carefully bred for years. They were out-crossed in the beginning. Now, lots of breeders started. In this country, we started with a tiny nucleus. It's branched out to many breeders, but you've still got your foundation cats right in there. Dick and Betty told me they were quite surprised to note that in England the British had been doing a little hybridizing with various breeds. They said it's pretty hard to find a strain there now that isn't hybridized.

The first thing the British look for in their animals is stamina. And, if it begins to dwindle, I have an idea that they may have been popping something else in those lines, like in a blue point Siamese, they just toss in a Blue (domestic).

QUESTION: "When an association, such as CFA, prohibits or restricts a breeder, such as you Burmese breeders, from introducing new blood, there are, without mentioning names, Burmese breeders in this country that have from time to time recognized what was happening. Their litters were first getting smaller, the size of their cats were getting smaller, and they'd introduce a Black ASH every now and then, which does not appear on anyone's pedigree, but it's those kinds of parameters which force breeders to do that for the health of the animals. You can say that's a terrible thing, and in many ways it is, if we don't know it's there. They should have a vehicle for getting new blood without having to resort to unethical methods."

COMMENT: "The Patent Leather Kids" have been introduced back into Burmese several times and have shown up on pedigrees where they've been used."

DS: "Breeders were faced with the problem of having a fairly large-sized cattery, and then they started to die. The vets couldn't put their finger on it every time, and I can think of one cattery where there were about 14 cats, and there hadn't been a live litter in over three years. All of a sudden the next year I judge, I saw these kittens come on the judging stand very dark, very even, with a true copper eye color that told me something. Then, I went to judge another cat show. The order they came up: Smokes, they had a peculiar head shape. I could say, that these novices and kittens and opens and what not were all related, a fine looking lot of smokes. A couple of classes later, up came the Burmese; absolutely identical head shapes, identical. Brushed their coats forward, sort of smokey at the base. Well, that breeder had been out of the running for a couple of years too. So, I'm practically positive that they introduced blacks, here's Smokes, and there's the Burmese. They had a choice of no more

Burmese, of just quitting, or of adding in another cat. So, that's what's happened in the past, and it's going to happen again in the future.

When you take your animals, and you in-breed them like that group you were talking about, something's going to happen. You can't tell what. Back East at one time about maybe 10-15 years ago, breeders were complaining that they had osteogenesis imperfecta in their Burmese kittens. They would jump off the table, and they'd get green-stick fractures in their legs. They'd pick up a steak bone and get green-stick fractures through their jaws. I had correspondence with a doctor from Johns Hopkins Hospital, who was a specialist in osteogenesis in human infants, and he wrote to ask me if I had any information on this ailment in the Burmese cat. I replied that I didn't, and I didn't think it was a true osteogenesis. I thought it was a calcium leach over several generations. Breeding cats, you have to replace calcium in your breeding Queens. I think the best way is a two-fold addition of dolomite and bone-meal mashed up and sprinkled in their food occasionally. But, he receives several dead bodies, you know, Tommy Brodie went around the country soliciting cats for him that had this. But, these are things that happen, and they particularly happen in your in-bred lines. I can think of another cattery that had dead kittens problems. They just became rather languid and lay down, and the mouth tissue became pale. Well, that is indicative of a blood problem, anemia of some sort. This was a really very severe anemia, so that shortly after the cat stood still, just as though you had turned the key off in the ignition of your car. They did not eat nor drink, and when they were force fed, wherever it wound up it stayed. Some of them choked to death, if it got in the stomach it wasn't digested, it wasn't passed through. Several of these

kittens were taken to a veterinary clinic, where they did a lot of blood pathology. This was some sort of inherited problem which they couldn't exactly name. Pages of scientific data came out on what was in the cat and what wasn't in it. It wasn't leukemia or any sort of anemia that they could name. Those were two things.

Then, in other catteries, I'm thinking of one where for 4-5 years about 9 out of every 10 litters were born dead, or they died within 2-3 days. That was a case of Rh factor or closely akin to it. Would they have gotten these diseases or these ailments if they had had new blood? I don't think so. When I was appointed Chairman of the Health Committee for CFA, I received many, many letters from breeders, and I agreed in the beginning I wouldn't tell who wrote what. I would write up the disease and present it to the Board, but not say who .....

Tape evidently stuck here--a blank - sorry.

..... fell down and died. So, at that time the vet in the city, that I ordinarily use, was away at a convention, and I rushed the rest of them down to Dr. Hill in Burlingame. He had to use several antibiotics to save the ones that he did save. He fed them saline and glucose. What that disease was, I don't know, and he didn't know. But, I can remember hearing years and years ago of breeders who had a comparable type of thing. They felt it was a form of spinal meningitis. It had to be a virus. They were sick for two days or so, then the fever went up to a very high peak 105 to 106 degrees. We even wet towels and spread over the, last three and turned a fan on them to try to break the fever. We gave them antibiotics right away, but the four died very quickly. They might have been sick for two days. When the fever went up, that's when they began to do this twisting of the head and one of them that died just completely went



down on its back legs. He tried to walk and dragged them, and then he died within about four hours after that. Before they got sick, they were eating, and they must have been about 4 1/2 months old when this happened. I had them autopsied, as I do with all cat deaths, but they didn't find any malformation of anything, but what bothered me was where were these diseases coming from?

The veterinarians were puzzled by that particular disease. They didn't behave as if they had Enteritis, and I've been blessed with that three times many years ago. They normally seek water and crouch. But, these cats behaved differently, they squirmed. When they start getting Enteritis they crouch in--these cats would twist before this paralysis started."

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This concludes part 2 of Doris Springer's presentation. In part 3, Doris continues with more discussions about the health and diminished gene pool of Burmese cats, their size and how they have become smaller over time, the difficulties faced in the show ring, 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.

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