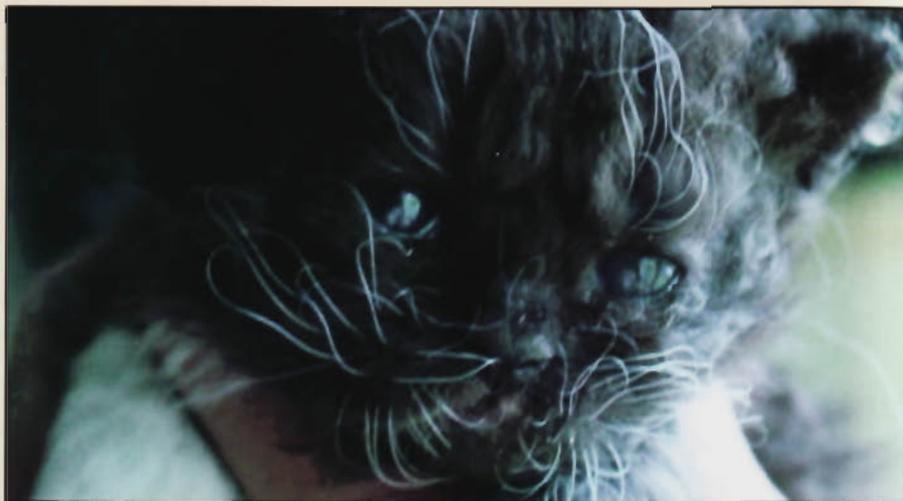


Selkirk Rex

by Fred Weaver



*Nite Wind Brillo Puss, a black and white longhair female, born May 30th, 2002.
Br/Ow: Mary Jones.*



Oaktree's Socrates, a red longhair male. Br/Ow: Nancy McMullen.



CH Glomoon Twilight, a black longhair male. Br: Kelly Ann Grant. Ow: Kelly Grant and Fred Weaver. CFA's 2nd Best of Breed, 2001.



*GC. BW. RW Deenewski In Town, a red spotted tabby shorthair female. CFA's Best of Breed and the Northwest Region's 10th Best Kitten and Best of Breed, 2002.
Br/Ow: Jeri Newman and Debra Kallmeyer.*

Introduction

Selkirk Rex owners are the luckiest people in the world. These cat lovers have the privilege of living and sleeping with a real, live, plush teddy bear. There is no possibility that a warm human body can resist touching and cuddling with those living masses of curls. In the show hall, people constantly stop a Selkirk Rex owner with anxious hands, wanting to pet and feel this soft, plush pet. The fortunate humans are those who can take these live teddy cats home for hugs.

History

The original cat, "Miss DePesto," came to live with the breed originator, Jeri Newman, in 1987. The cat had originally lived with Kitty Garrett Brown, who called her "Curly-Q." Ms. Brown ran a shelter out of her home called "For Pet's Sake" in Sheridan, Montana. She placed Miss DePesto at a young age with someone else, but Miss DePesto "bounced back" because she cried and was *rambunctious*. She was placed *once again* at nine weeks when Peggy Vorthees of the Bozeman Humane Society brought Miss DePesto to Jeri in Livingston, Montana, because of her unusual coat. Her whiskers were curly; her ears were full of "brillo" hair and her body looked like a "body wave" (Neuman, 1996). "She survived her teenage phase at my house, and remained a very inquisitive, mischievous cat all her life. She was very prone to earring and bathtub plug thievery, and had an interesting affinity for water!" (Newman, 2002). "Pest" is an 11-pound, blue-cream and white shorthair that is known to carry colorpoint and longhair genes. She has a narrow muzzle with a strong whisker break, prominent cheekbones, slanty green eyes and a wide flat spot between her ears. Jeri has been known to describe her as the world's worst Devon Rex with a Chartreux body.

As of June 1997, Miss DePesto's mom cat was still alive. She is a dilute calico that is missing a foot and was caught in a trap before she was rescued. Upon further inquiry, Jeri discovered that Miss DePesto's mother and five littermates were all normal-coated. No other curly cats were found in the area, leading Jeri to believe that Miss DePesto was the locus of a new mutant gene.

On July 4, 1988, Pest had her first litter of kittens. After spending 72 hours in the company of Miss DePesto waiting for her to deliver, Jeri took a nap on a real bed. When she returned downstairs, Jeri found that Miss DePesto had escaped from her kitting area and little meows were coming from all directions. The father was Jeri's Persian male, CH Photo Finish of Deekay. Of the six kittens in that litter, three had very curly hair, and of the straight-haired kittens, two were shorthair and one was longhair. A perfect ratio of curlies and straights indicated a dominant gene. The kittens were: one black and white curly shorthair male (Noface Oscar Kowalski), one black curly shorthair female (Noface Sheela of Frostypaws), one tortoiseshell curly shorthair female, two black straight-haired shorthair males and one black straight-haired longhair female. These characteristics indicated that the gene carried was different from the Cornish or Devon Rex gene, as outcrosses from those breeds would produce only straight-haired kittens in the first generation. These characteristics indicated as well that "Pest" carried the longhair gene. The next year, the black and white curly male was bred to his mother. On July 15, 1989, Pest had one curly shorthair flame point male, two curly shorthair torties and one black shorthair straight-haired female. Pest was bred a total of five times, once to "Photo Finish," twice to "Oscar," once to Mr. Rogers (a local stray cat Pest encountered when she escaped outside) and once to a shaded golden Persian (CH Razberrilane Furrpow'r of Bigsky). Out of the Oscar to Pest breeding, several homozygous curly cats were born, which was another indication of a complete dominant gene.

The breed was named after the Selkirk Mountains in Western Canada and after Jeri's stepfather, whose name just happens to be Selkirk. The Selkirk Mountains are about 75 miles from the birth-

place of Miss DePesto. Later, Jeri found that the name of Selkirk was used to name a creek within about twenty miles from the point of origin. She did not want to name her new breed "American Rex," as the Cornish and Devon were named for their areas of origination. She instead decided to honor her stepfather but used the explanation of the Selkirk Mountains.

Jeri decided that to achieve the type she wanted, she would use the American Shorthair, British Shorthair, Persian and Exotic breeds. She felt that each of these breeds had something to contribute. Later, removing the American Shorthairs proved to be a wise decision since coat and body are so different.

Selkirk kittens go through some amazing phases where their hair just looks strange instead of curly; as a result, not many people were impressed. Because of this cat's interesting gene pool, Newman decided that all colors and both hair lengths would be allowed from the start.

In 1989, Oscar Kowalski was bred to his mother, Miss DePesto, again to see if any other genetic quirks came with the curly hair, and when Oscar appeared at a CFA show with his flame point son, the cats drew a crowd.

The first CFA show to witness the introduction of the Selkirk Rex was at Salt Lake City, Utah in January 1990. The two cats that were shown were Oscar and "Snowman," Oscar's flame point son. Miss DePesto stayed home as she was known to hate shows and remove the cage from the table!

In Miss DePesto's third litter there was a kitten, Noface Grace Slick, that became the originator of the European Selkirk Rex. On February 10, 1990, "Gracie," was born of Miss DePesto of Noface and Noface Oscar Kowalski. Gracie was a blue point female with white socks. In September, Gracie started her long distance journey to Europe, where she went to Mary Harrington in Switzerland. Gracie had three litters of kittens in Switzerland, with a total of twenty-one kittens. The publication of Gracie's picture and an article in *Atout Chat*, the French cat lovers' magazine, caused an outright sensation. Many breeders wanted to have a cat like Gracie, as they were particularly charmed by her blue eyes. Regine Lohre (Cattery Du Clos Des Anges) contacted Mary Harrington, and soon Gracie went to live in France where she produced the first Selkirks born there. In 1992, one of the kittens born to Gracie in France, "Helosia du Clos des Anges," moved in with two ladies in Saarlouis; she was the first Selkirk Rex in Germany. Regine Lohre was the pioneer of our new breed in Europe where the breed continues to grow.

In February 1992, CFA accepted the Selkirk Rex for registration. Roy Robinson's report from this board meeting states:

I have examined the Selkirk hair samples. In both neck and tail samples the hairs are very fine, being shorter and thinner than normal. In the neck samples there is a complete absence of guard hairs, but some which are slightly thicker than down hairs which could be awn hairs, more or less reduced to the size and length of down hairs. On the other hand, in the tail samples there are many long thin hairs which could be either guard or awn hairs.

The Selkirk Rex coat is clearly different from the coat of the Devon Rex, since the latter typically has all three hair types, even if they are short and crooked.

At the October 1992 board meeting, the breed was put into the Shorthair class as a Miscellaneous breed.

Jeri took Noface Oscar Kowalski, Lil'BoPeep's Lambert and Lil'BoPeeps Mouton Rouge to the board meeting where she presented the Selkirks for acceptance by CFA. Some of the original breeders who were part of the registration process were: Pam Swenson (Frostypaws), Nancy McMullen (Oaktree), Sue Servies (QT), Sharon Kleager (Aristocurl), Wendy McGuire (Sunthief, Ramblin), and Ruth Pasley (Wld Cedar). After acceptance into Miscellaneous status, other breeders who joined the effort were: Pam Sharp (Pamac), Donna Bass (Pixelpoint, Woolibaar), Rebecca Romans (Banbury), Joy and Ebe McCabe (SoJoy), Ric Dirlle (Elrid), Rebecca Warren (Purwaky), Kim Bailey (Sotacats), Don Finger (Finger, Judon), Lorraine Shelton (Featherland) and Fred Weaver (Mummers Meow).

In 1998, the Selkirk Rex advanced to Provisional status (breeders in attendance for the advancement: D. Bass, S. Lowenstrein, N. McMullen, C. Rigoni, and D. Sutherland). At the board meeting there was a concern that the coats being exhibited were too similar to the LaPerm breed. Variety in type of coat could be seen in 1992 in Maine Coons, Wirehairs and Devons. Selkirks distinguish themselves from LaPerms in that LaPerms go bald during the kitten period; they have no curly whiskers and cannot be distinguished at birth as curly.

In 1995, there were 43 litters with 154 kittens born. In 1996, there were 36 litters with 136 kittens born. As of December 1997, there were 404 Selkirk Rex registered. During 1997, there were 232 kittens born in 62 litters, with 131 cats registered. These are such significant numbers when you consider that in 1987, there was only one cat: Miss DePesto.

On February 6, 2000, the Selkirk Rex was accepted into Championship class. Cindy Stryker, Roseanne Davis (appointed breed committee chair) and Nancy McMullen were present at the board meeting in Houston, Texas. The vote was 13 yes, 5 no and one abstain.

"Jeri already had a background of knowledge in genetics before Miss DePesto set paw in her household. The program was managed intelligently and logically from the very first breeding. Unless you start talking with other folks about how other breeds got started, you can't fully appreciate just how easy our road is compared to other breeds without such an advantage. What a wonderful foundation you laid for us, Jeri. Thank you!" (Shelton, 1995).

Several cats have been sent to Australia and have done well there. CFA's own Gary Veach made such a good impression with his presentation of the Selkirk Rex to the main cat organization in Australia, that they were advanced to Championship easily.

Appearance

The first Selkirk Rex characteristic noticed is the coat. A curly kitten is curliest at birth. The amount of curl at birth seems to be an indicator of how curly the mature cat will be. As the kitten grows and develops, the coat can fluctuate in curliness. At about one year of age, the



Noface Oscar Kowalski, a black and white male. Br/Ow: Jeri Newman.



GC Sheeplet Lamb Chop, a copper-eyed white shorthair male. Gulf Shore Region's Best of Breed, 2002. Br/Ow: Judy Bender.



GC Finger's Chewbaaka of Spellbinding, a red tabby shorthair male. CFA's 2nd Best of Breed and the Southwest Region's Best of Breed, 2002. Br: Donald Finger. Ow: Jan Mellinger.



Nite Wind Bedazzled, a cream mackerel tabby and white shorthair female. Br: Mary Jones and Jennifer Siemens. Ow: Mary Jones.

Selkirk Rex Breed Standard

HEAD (30)

Skull	10
Muzzle & chin	10
Ears and eyes	10

BODY (30)

Torso	15
Legs and Feet	10
Tail.....	5

COAT (30)

Texture, Curl, Density	30
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COLOR (10)

Including Eye Color	10
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Pamac's Calypso, a seal smoke point longhair male CFA's 3rd Best of Breed, 2001 Br/Ow Pamela Sharp



Woolbaar Woollette of Oaktree, a blue cream point longhair female Br Donna Bass Ow Nancy McMullen



GP Woolbaar Sugarfoot, a seal point shorthair male Br Donna Bass and Pam Sharp Ow Donna Bass



Woolbaar I Am Curious (Blue?), a shaded blue-cream point female Br Donna Bass Ow Jeri Newman and Debra Kallmeyer



CH, PR Woolbaar Bruce Woolis, a cream point and white shorthair neuter Br/Ow Donna Bass

GENERAL: the Selkirk Rex is the result of a dominant, spontaneous mutation that causes each hair (guard, down and awn) to have a gentle curl giving the coat a soft feel. This is a medium to large cat with heavy boning that gives the cat surprising weight and an impression of power. Females may be less massive than males but not dainty in appearance. The Selkirk Rex is an active cat with a sweet and endearing personality.

HEAD: Skull: round, broad and full-cheeked in both males and females. Round underlying bone structure with no flat planes. **Muzzle:** the muzzle is medium width. The underlying bone structure is rounded with well-padded whisker pads to give the impression of squareness. The length is equal to 1/2 the width. Profile shows a muzzle, clearly visible beyond the curve of the cheek. The tip of the chin lines up with the tip of the nose and the upper lip in the same vertical plane. Profile reveals a nose stop. The nose has a downward slant with a convex curve and is set below the eye line. **Chin:** firm and well-developed, balanced in proportion to rest of head. **Ears:** medium in size, broad at the base, tapering, set well apart. Should fit into (without distorting) the rounded contour of the head. Furnishings, if present, are curly. **Eyes:** large, rounded, set well apart. The eyes should not appear almond or oval-shaped and inside and outside corner of eyes are in the same level horizontal plane.

BODY: Torso: medium to large and well-balanced. The substantial muscular torso is more rectangular than square, but not long. Back is straight with a slight rise to the hindquarters. Shoulders and hip should appear to be the same width. **Legs:** medium to long. Substantial boning. Should be in proportion to the body. **Feet:** large, round, and firm. **Toes:** five in front, four behind. **Tail:** medium length, proportionate to body. Heavy at base, neither blunt nor pointed at tip.

COAT: Coat length: two lengths - short and long. The differences in coat length are most obviously seen on the tail and ruff. On the shorthairs the tail hair is the same length as the coat (approximately 1"-2") and tail curls are plush and lie compactly around the tail. The ruff is the same length as the coat fur. On the longhairs, the tail curls are plummy and stand out away from the tail. The ruff hairs are also longer and frame the face. **SHORTHAIR - Texture:** the coat texture is soft, plushy, full and obviously curly. **Density:** the coat is dense and full with no bald or thinly covered areas of the body. The coat stands out from the body and should not appear flat or close-lying. **Curl:** this is a random, unstructured coat, arranged in loose, individual curls. The curls appear to be in "clumps" rather than as an all over wave. Although curl varies by hair length, sex and age in an individual, the entire coat should show the effect of the rex gene. Curliness may be evident more around the neck, on the tail and the belly. Allowance should be made for less curl on younger adults and kittens. **LONGHAIR - Texture:** the coat texture is soft, full, and obviously curly. It does not feel or appear to be as plush as the shorthair coat, however, should not appear to be thin. **Density:** the coat is dense and full with no bald or thinly covered areas of the body. The coat may stand out from the body but may appear and feel less than plush, but not close-lying. **Curl:** this is a random, unstructured coat, arranged in loose, individual curls. The curls appear to be in "clumps" or "ringlets" rather than as an all over wave. Although curl varies by hair length, sex and age in an individual, entire coat should show the effect of the rex gene. Curliness may be evident more around the neck, on the tail and the belly. Allowance should be made for less curl on younger adults and kittens.

PENALIZE: Excessive cobbliness or sleek oriental appearance.

DISQUALIFY: Extreme nose break, lack of visible muzzle, malocclusion, tail kinks, crossed eyes, obvious physical deformities, including polydactyl feet, no evidence of curl.



CH Sotakats Creamstarkurl of Calumet, a cream tabby shorthair male CFA's 3rd Best of Breed and the Midwest Region's Best of Breed, 2002 Br Kim Bailey Ow Cynthia Striker and M Bloom



CH, BW La Purr Fect Rappunzel of Deenewkurl, a calico longhair female Br Debra Sutherland Ow Jeri Newman and Debi Kallmeyer

coat settles down and becomes closer to its mature stage. Even during this intermediate stage, the coat should exhibit some curl around the neck and on the tummy. From one year of age on, the coat becomes curlier and softer.

A mature male or spayed female will have the best coat. In the best examples, the curling is strongest on the flanks, tummy and around the neck, with some curl on the back. The hair on the back seems to be the most difficult with the least amount of curl, regardless of the softness of the rest of the coat. A mature female, however, can at times appear either curly or nearly straight, depending on the state of her hormones. While in heat, pregnant or lactating, a female's coat looks nearly straight, between heats, the coat curls to its regular state. Look for a coat that is not too soft or too hard, but thick. Remember that the coat of a growing Selkirk may not be much like the coat that he will have as an adult (M. Jones, 2002).

The whiskers are the second most noticeable characteristic. More than one Selkirk Rex exhibitor has been asked why they cut off the whiskers. Before a newborn Selkirk is even dry, it can be classified as either curly or straight by its whiskers. Curly Selkirks have curly whiskers at birth. Even if the coat appears nearly straight later on, the cat has the curly gene and retains the curly whiskers. If the whiskers are straight, the cat is also a straight-haired and will never pass on the curly gene. The whiskers on a Selkirk can be described as short, curly and sparse. Because the whiskers are curly and brittle, they break off when they get too long, even though a long one is occasionally visible. The whiskers do not change as the cat grows older, if the whiskers are curly at birth, they will be curly as an adult.

Look for: Roundest head and broadest muzzle available, prominent whisker pads (as opposed to gently rounded), round eyes with level-set, plushy curls in the shorthairs and long, loose curls in the longhairs.

Avoid: Flat heads, slanty eyes, narrow muzzles, hard coats, light boning, small size, short and cobby bodies, tiny ears, short tails or cats with a break above the eyes.

Homozygous "Curlies" The Selkirk Rex gene is a true dominant in that approximately 25% of the kittens produced in Selkirk-to-Selkirk breedings are homozygous curlies. The homozygous kittens look like their heterozygous, non-curly siblings until approximately three weeks of age. At that point, these cats appear different with angular, pinched faces, large ears, sparse coat (including hair loss) and pear-shaped bodies. Kittens born from a homozygous cat will all be curly. A homozygous cat is born when a curly is bred with a curly. At this time in our history, the recommendation remains not to breed a homozygous cat with another homozygous cat (remember the definition of homozygous is different from curly). The Selkirks have a limited amount of time for outcrossing (2010 for Persians and Exotics and 2015 for British Shorthairs). There is nothing more important than the health of the breed and the expansion of the gene pool is imperative.

The cats that are homozygous for the curly coat factor have a sparser, tighter coat than those who only have one Selkirk parent. Right now, it appears that the heterozygous cats most closely fit our standard, but the homozygous cats are very valuable to our breeding programs as every kitten produced by them will be curly.

The Selkirk Rex genetic factor does not appear to be debilitating in homozygous form. However, some transient problems have been seen in a few homozygous cats, most probably due to breeding too closely on the original cats, rather than because of the nature of the genetic mutation.

At this time, outcrossing is our primary focus: to help build the foundation gene pool upon which our breed will depend in the future.

Breeding Selkirks means attention to the basics. Interest in colors and patterns are secondary to the basics. "I would like to see a row of Selkirks at a show with bodies, heads, and coats that look stamped out of the same cookie cutter before we start focusing on what strange new colors we can create" (Shelton, 1994).

Oaktree's Socrates

How many Selkirk breeders became involved because of "Socrates" (a red, longhair, patient boy who looks like the Cowardly Lion) and his owner, Nancy McMullen? The answer is most of us. Certainly this was the scenario for myself. I was away on a business trip in 1996 and trying to connect with home, when I bought a *CATS USA* magazine. I was thoroughly entertained by studying each picture but was overwhelmed with envy when I saw this red curly cat, "Socrates." Since then, I have discovered that many had the same conversion experience. Socrates was used on the first Selkirk Rex breed pamphlet, inspiring many. The only problem was that there was only one Socrates. Finding my first Selkirk on the East coast was a challenge. My experience is duplicated in the words of Stephanie Zabel. In the following quote, Stephanie visits a cat show for the first time hoping to become a breeder.

"You would never believe the negative response that I got at that show in regard to my cat! I believe that a less determined person would have been crushed by this. The light at the end of the tunnel was a woman showing a big red curly cat. There was such a crowd around her that we couldn't even get in a peek, the bit I overheard her say was that Persians were being used in the breeding program. My friend and I made a point to keep cruising that area until the woman was free. That woman was Nancy McMullen and that big red curly cat was Oaktree's Socrates. I was totally intrigued! I asked Nancy for more information and she found me a chair and talked to me at length about her cats, the breeding program and the possibility of my breeding Selkirks" (Zabel, 1995). Jeri is the originator, but for the Selkirk breeders, Nancy is the queen.



Mummers Meow Cheerio, a brown mackerel tabby longhair female Br/Ow Fred Weaver



GC Nite Wind Tsunami of Deenewkur, a blue cream longhair female CFA's 3rd Best of Breed, 2001 Br Mary Jones Ow D Kallmeyer J Newman and M Jones



GC BW Pamac's Winnie The Blue, a blue shorthair male The Northwest Region's 2nd Best of Breed, 2002 Also CFA's and the Northwest Region's Best of Breed, 2001 Br Pamela Sharp Ow Pamela Sharp and D Bass



GP Calumet Toni Home Perm, a tortoiseshell longhair spav Br/Ow Cynthia J Straker



Selkirk Rex kitten at 6 days of age, a Nite Wind cream longhair, born June 9, 2002



Nite Wind Bedazzled, a cream mackerel tabby and white shorthair female Br Mary Jones and Jennifer Siemens Owner, Mary Jones Also, Nite Wind Sizzlon, a cream point shorthair female Br Mary Jones and Jennifer Siemens Ow. Mary Jones



CH Nite Wind "Prissy" of Countrycurls, a cream point longhair female CFA's 2nd Best of Breed, 2002 Br Mary Jones and Linda Mercer Ow. Sheri Lynn Hendersen



GC Reigningcats Jamaican Sunset, a blue longhair male CFA's 3rd Best of Breed, 2002 Br Karon Schmitt Ow Patricia Simmes



GC Spellbinding Cmc.o, a red tabby and white male Br/Ow Jan Mellinger

Nancy was breeding British Shorthairs when she was approached during a show by Jeri Newman, who explained that she was starting a new breed that used Brits as outcrosses "Well, I used the money from selling the Brit kittens to buy Noface Chocolate Ripple of Oaktree the 17th Selkirk Rex to be born Later, I sent two of my British Shorthair females to Montana for breeding, and also bought Lil'BoPeep Sweet Charity of Oaktree from Jeri" (McMullen, 2001) Her goal has been to start other breeders with this marvelous cat. She has achieved her goal, for many of us have received our first bits of encouragement from Nancy Socrates has passed on some of his characteristics to his offspring His son, CH Oaktree Showing My Socs of Pamacs, is the father of CFA's first Selkirk Rex grand, GC, BW Pamacs Winnie The Blue

Show Results

In the 2001 CFA show year, there were a total of 43 longhair and 86 shorthair Selkirks shown. In the 2002 CFA show year, there were a total of 44 longhair and 75 shorthair Selkirks shown.

GC, BW Pamacs Winnie The Blue was the first Selkirk Rex grand. He was bred by Pam Sharp and is owned by Pam and Donna Bass "Bear," as he is called, is a blue shorthair and was the Best Selkirk Rex Shorthair in Championship at the CFA International Cat Show in 2000

GP Woolibaar Sugarfoot was the second Selkirk Rex grand and the first grand premier. "Sugar" is a seal point shorthair that was bred by Donna Bass and Pam Sharp and is owned by Donna Bass He was the Best Selkirk Rex Shorthair in Premiership at the 2000 CFA International Cat Show

GP Calumet Tom Home Perm was the third grand, the second grand premier and both the first longhair and female to grand. She is a tortoiseshell bred and owned by Cynthia Stryker

GP Dahozho's Daghlesh of Ginjar is the fourth grand, and the third grand premier in CFA He was bred by Jean Kelly and is owned by Jennifer Baird. He is a cream tabby shorthair male

GC Sojoy Camelot of Sweetmewsic is the second grand champion Selkirk Rex in CFA He is the oldest to grand, being almost seven years old

GC Nite Wind Tsunami of Deenewkurl is the first female grand champion, as well as the first longhair grand champion, and was bred and owned by Mary Jones. She granded in March 2001 During the 2001 season, "Tsue" won the Best Selkirk Rex Kitten and then the 3rd Best of Breed awards

GP Jumping Jack Flash of WHF is a cameo shaded longhair neuter, who granded on April 28, 2001.

GP Sweet Mewsic's Mr Big Stuff is a black longhair neuter who granded on July 7, 2001

GC, BW La Pur'fect Bluebell is a blue shaded and white longhair female that granded on November 3, 2001

In November 2001, GC, BW, RW Deenewkurl In Town became the first eight month, two-show

grand. "Townie" is also the first regional winner In 2002, she was Best of Breed (SH) and 15th Best Kitten for the Northwest Region She was bred and shown by Jeri Newman and Debi Kallmeyer

GC Reigningcats Jamaican Sunset is a blue longhair male that granded on July 6, 2002.

GC Nitewind Divydo of Deenewkurl granded on August 4, 2002

The Breeding Statistics on page 97 should prove interesting to all breeders What if you wanted to use one cat for an entire breed? How would the process unfold? The above tells us. There are few surprises except for the speed of growth. Personally, I believe the numbers have increased so quickly because of the popularity of curly and big boned cats The explanation is probably not any more difficult than popularity Shorthairs are increasing at a faster rate than longhairs Longhair curls sometimes receive criticism from Persian breeders and judges. Exhibitors feel that they spent a lifetime keeping their Persians from appearing like our longhair curls. From personal experience, longhairs are more difficult to breed As kittens, they are sometimes more fragile because of Persian heredity influences, compared to the strong, healthy genetic background of British Shorthairs

Grooming

1. Bathe using a grease removing shampoo.
2. Next, bathe with a moisturizing shampoo. Shampoo must not have a conditioner in it or your cat will come out "dirty," according to the judges
- 3 Rinse until you and the cat can't stand it anymore!
4. Dry. Use a towel to take as much water out of the coat as possible. Judicious use of a dryer can speed the process, but do not overdo the drying. Do not use a dryer with your combing. Remember that Persian breeders use this technique to remove curls
- 5 Comb the cat. Yes, you feel as if you are combing out the curl The fur should curl again after ten minutes If the coat is then not curly, spritz the fur with water and scrunch the curl Do not show a cat with loose hair to a judge
- 6 At the show hall when the judging is almost ready to begin, spritz the cat lightly and plump up the hair to form curls. One recommendation is to use a coat rehydrater

Selkirk Rex Breed Club

The Selkirk Rex Breed Club began in the summer of 1993, after Donna Bass got her first Selkirks and became involved in the effort to bring the Selkirks to championship status in CFA As part of the process to advance the Selkirk Rex to Championship status, a breed club was recommended This club was the result

The first ten members of the club were drawn from the original group of breeders that Jeri Newman enlisted in her efforts to get the Selkirk Rex registered by CFA, the first step towards championship

This small core membership grew over the next five years to total more than 50 members, located in all CFA regions in the continental US and Canada. From isolated small towns in the backwoods of Canada to the largest metropolitan areas in California, the club's members are a diverse group of individuals, working to improve the breed's Championship status in CFA. The catch phrase of "A cat in sheep's clothing," is a designation often used by the breed club.

Conclusion

This breed is not for the uptight, organized breeder or pet owner. These cats' humans must be prepared to take all kinds of hair jokes. The breeders were polled and these are the remarks heard most often: "This is a Selkirk Rex - spell that W-R-E-C-K-S;" "Mutant," "Looks like a poorly groomed Persian," "Bedhead," "Just-woke-up-

look," "Raggedy Ann," "Afro-Cat," "Bad hair day cat," "Stuck a paw in a light socket," "Wash and wear breed," "mop," "rug," "Curly cat poodle," "Curly Brit.," "Dustmop" and "Unmade bed." Like a "picked-on" cat, we have learned to live with all of your remarks. But do remember this - if you think you are original, you probably aren't. Also, take a good look at the person; maybe this is not the day to be insensitive or maybe this is the day to joke. We know that one of the best features of this breed over any other is that this cat can make you laugh! My unoriginal comment made often during the Provisional status days when a win was never possible is: "They may not always win the beauty pageant, but they always win

the title of Miss Congeniality." In 2002, especially in the western and mid-western regions, they are winning the beauty pageant plus retaining their personality titles.

My role in writing this article is that of compiler. The above information consists of quotes from J. Newman, D. Bass, R. Davis, D. Kallmeyer, L. Shelton and "The Woolgathering" the breed newsletter. The above breeders, plus their many converts, have faithfully documented each stage of development, and have been meticulous in encouraging the highest standards in breeding. My role has been small but committed. In region 1, I consistently showed "Cubby," "Cherrios," "Shadow" and "Brillo." Without all the regions involved, Championship would never have been possible. *

Breeding Statistics

Data in the following chart was provided by the author.

Color	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Color	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	
Shorthair											Longhair											
White	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	Copper-Eyed White	2	2	4	6	9	18	23	24	24	26	
Copper-Eyed White	1	3	6	8	9	12	15	17	19	19	Old-Eyed White	0	1	1	1	1	2	2	4	4	4	
Odd-Eyed White	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	Blue	1	5	3	5	6	7	9	11	14	17	
Blue	2	4	5	7	9	10	12	16	20	25	Black	2	3	3	4	5	6	10	15	24	33	
Black	11	12	15	20	24	31	38	44	53	60	Red	2	3	4	4	8	12	14	17	17	19	
Red	1	2	2	3	4	4	6	7	12	14	Cream	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	
Cream	2	2	2	4	4	7	6	12	15	16	Dilute Calico	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
Cream Cameo Smoke	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	Shell Tortoiseshell	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	
Dilute Calico	2	2	2	2	6	8	11	11	15	15	Chinchilla Silver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Blue-Cream Smoke	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	Shaded Silver	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	4	5	7	
Chinchilla Silver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Black Smoke	0	0	0	0	1	3	5	6	8	11	
Shaded Silver	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	6	6	6	Silver Tabby	0	1	2	3	3	3	1	4	5	6	
Black Smoke	0	0	1	2	2	2	3	5	7	9	Red Tabby	0	0	1	2	3	8	8	11	11	14	
Silver Tabby	0	1	4	4	4	4	5	6	6	7	Shaded Tortoiseshell	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	4	4	4	
Blue Tabby	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	Brown Tabby	0	0	1	1	2	6	6	7	7	9	
Red Tabby	2	3	6	10	12	19	24	25	33	42	Tortoiseshell	2	2	2	4	7	13	15	18	21	24	
Shaded Tortoiseshell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Calico	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	7	
Brown Tabby	3	3	6	8	10	11	12	13	14	15	Blue-Cream	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	5	7	8	
Tortoiseshell	4	7	13	14	17	19	21	28	31	36	Blue Tabby	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	4	4	
Calico	0	0	3	6	9	12	14	14	20	23	Cream Tabby	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	
Blue-Cream	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	7	7	8	Blue Shaded	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	
Blue Tabby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	Bi-Color	0	0	0	3	3	8	16	21	29	43	
Cream Tabby	2	2	2	2	3	8	10	15	24	27	Cameo Shaded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	
Bi-Color	10	11	14	21	27	33	41	53	68	84	Red Smoke Cameo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	
Cameo Shaded	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	Cameo Tabby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	
Red (Smoke) Cameo	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	Blue-Silver Tabby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Cameo Tabby	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	4	3	3	Shaded Tortie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Blue Silver Tabby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	OSRC	0	1	3	5	10	15	16	17	19	21	
OSRC	2	6	17	25	37	48	52	58	62	66	Silver Patched Tabby	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	
Silver Patched Tabby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	AOV-LH	0	1	0	2	2	2	3	3	4	4	
AOV - SH	1	4	4	7	9	12	14	16	19	25	Chocolate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	
Chocolate	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	Lavender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Lavender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	Chocolate-Tortie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Chocolate Smoke	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	Natural Mink	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	4	
Lavender-Cream	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	Sable	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	
Sable	0	1	2	3	8	8	8	9	9	9	Cream Point	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	5	
Champagne	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Cream Lynx Point	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Cream Point	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	5	5	Chocolate Point	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	3	4	
Chocolate Point	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	Seal Point	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	4	6	
Seal Point	1	1	2	2	3	4	7	11	15	15	Lilac Point	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	
Blue Point	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	6	7	8	Blue Point	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	3	5	
Flame Point	1	1	1	2	2	4	4	6	6	7	Flame Point	0	0	0	1	1	4	4	6	8	8	
Tortie Point	1	2	2	4	4	5	6	6	7	9	Chocolate-Tortie Point	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	
Lilac-Cream Point	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Tortie Point	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	6	7	9	
Blue-Cream Point	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	5	5	Lilac-Cream Point	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	
Chocolate Lynx Point	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	Blue-Cream Point	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	
Seal Lynx Point	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	Total Longhair	9	19	25	46	66	128	159	208	259	339	
Blue Lynx Point	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	Grand Total	57	89	137	203	273	404	501	624	775	928	
Total Shorthair	48	70	112	157	207	276	342	416	516	589												