

At this meeting CFA (PAGE 4) agreed to accept all three patterns into the Miscellaneous class, but as a result of protest by the Birman breeders CFA changed their minds and chose to only accept the Bicolored Ragdolls. The Ragdoll Breeders could continue to register their Mitted and Colorpoints.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear RAG Members,

Since our last newsletter, we received the distressing news that the mitted and colorpoints will no longer be permitted in the Miscellaneous class at CFA shows. Only the bicolor will be allowed to be shown in Miscellaneous. Gail and myself were under the impression, from a letter from Thomas Dent (see page 4) that this would take place in the 1994-1995 show season. It is unfortunate that a few Ragdoll exhibitors had so much trouble showing their mitteds and colorpoints at shows since the last newsletter.

No one said getting to Championship in CFA was going to be easy. It seems as if we are riding a rollercoaster. We have the ups, such as the great reception the Ragdolls received at the CFA International show (article on page 5), and the lows of the mitteds and colorpoints no longer being allowed in the Miscellaneous class.

Personally, I believe that CFA Championship is worth being pursued. However, I would like input from the rest of the RAG members. I know some of you are getting really discouraged; but as we haven't even been with CFA a year yet, please give it more time. Personally, I will still bring mitteds and colorpoints into the show hall, under exhibition status.

With the above in mind, the RAG Board members voted unanimously to still award points, toward year-end awards, for mitteds and colorpoints shown in CFA exhibition class. Bicolors, however, must be shown in the Miscellaneous class to qualify for year-end awards.

Pam Wilson

RAG NOTES

Welcome to the January, 1994 issue of **The RAG Sheet!** As you've probably noticed, **The RAG Sheet** has a new look. So much information was coming in for publication that the smaller page size just wasn't working as well anymore. So, how do you like it? Let me know, good or bad!

Along with the new layout is a new advertising rate schedule. Take a look on page 2 for the rates - I'm sure that you'll find them very reasonable. Please feel free to advertise, as it helps the RAG treasury, which in turn, will help the Ragdoll in CFA.

Hope you enjoy this issue!

Gail Nettles

CAN YOU HELP?

Recently, a wonderful lady passed away from cancer, leaving behind her beloved cat, Katie. Having no relatives, she asked RAG member Nancy Gellerman to please find a good home for Katie, who is a black mixed-breed household pet

According to Nancy, Katie is very sweet and in good health; however, Katie is 16 years old, and has only 3 legs. It doesn't stop her from enjoying life, though.

Do you know someone who would like to adopt Katie? She has all of her shots, is strictly an indoor cat, is well-mannered, and likes people and attention.

Please direct all inquiries to Nancy Gellerman at (305) 345-9264.

A LETTER FROM CFA

The following is a letter that was received by Gail Nettles, from Thomas Dent, Executive Director of CFA, in November, 1993, after The RAG Sheet was distributed.

Dear Ms. Nettles:

Thank you for sending copies of "The RAG Sheet" volume 1, issues #1 and #2 to the Cat Fanciers' Association central office. For your information, we maintain permanent collections of all breed oriented newsletters and we hope that you will continue to send all future issues. The column entitled "Showing CFA" should be especially useful to your readers and should you ever need assistance on any particular aspect of CFA please feel free to contact us.

I noted that in one of your newsletters, reference was made to breeders of another breed who were upset by the decision to accept the Ragdoll. In fact, I did bring a letter to the attention of the CFA Executive Board during the October, 1993 meeting pertaining to this issue. In response to the writer's concerns, some members of the Board recalled (and this is the point that Ragdoll breeders should take note of) that the breed was accepted with the understanding that only the bicolors would be considered for advancement to championship status. To underscore that understanding, the Board moved that wording would be added to the 1994-1995 Show Rules which would specifically limit Ragdolls being shown to that pattern.

I realize that getting a breed "off the ground" in CFA can be a true test of breeders' dedications and perseverance. And my intent in writing is solely to help avoid misunderstandings that sometimes result in delays and disappointment. That everyone is aware of the "ground rules"

upfront can only be helpful to everyone concerned.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Dent
Executive Director

I did not immediately distribute copies of this letter to RAG members, as the wording indicated that this ruling would not take effect until the 1994-1995 show season, **beginning May 1, 1994**. I thought that I would simply publish this letter in the January issue of **The RAG Sheet**. While I may not have been happy with the Board's decision, I felt it was kind of them to give us six months' notice, so as to get the word out to our members.

Within 4 weeks of receiving this letter, I received calls from 3 RAG members, indicating that their cats were not allowed to be judged at CFA shows, as they were not bicolors! These people were told that the Board decided in October that only the bicolors could be shown, so they (the judges) would not handle any non-bicolor Ragdolls. I mentioned I had received a letter containing such information from Mr. Dent, **but that the ruling was not to take effect until May 1, 1994**.

(As to why they were not showing bicolors, they said that they currently did not have a show-quality bicolor, but that they entered because they felt that it was important to not only get the Ragdolls out there in the show ring, but to also to support CFA!)

Before anyone gets upset and starts writing to CFA, please be sure to read the article on the following page.

Ragdolls at the CFA International Show

By: Camma L. Roberts
Ragdolls of Cedarberry

The largest cat show to date in North America, the CFA International Show, was held in Nashville, Tennessee on November 19, 20 and 21, 1993. The show had 902 entries, however, due to the American Airlines strike, not all were able to attend and an unofficial count was around 850 cats. CFA invited the Ragdoll breed to exhibit at this show under Miscellaneous Breeds, so JaNeil Cillesen brought her blue bicolor female, Dolly, and I brought two of my Ragdolls, a seal bicolor female, Baby, and a blue colorpoint male, Beni Blue.

It had been decided previously not to bring any of our mitted patterned cats because some Birman breeders are upset over our cats being accepted by CFA, and since we were at this show by invitation, we felt it was best not to step on any toes. However, contact with a couple of Birman breeders at the show was very good. One breeder came over to our Ragdoll cages, was very friendly and also commented that she was not aware that our Ragdolls came in other patterns, while another breeder wished us (Ragdoll breeders) good luck.

An extremely nice Japanese CFA judge, Yaeko Takano, came to our cages and studied the three Ragdolls we brought to the show. She was very interested to know about the Ragdoll breed, asked many questions, handled the cats and took a copy of the CFA Ragdoll standard with her. She asked that we send her any additional information we have about the Ragdoll, as she would like to learn more about them.

While speaking with a representative at the CFA booth and identifying myself as a Ragdoll breeder, she said they were very happy to have the Ragdolls at this show. She also told me they always had many people asking about the Ragdoll breed at the CFA shows, so the interest in Ragdolls is definitely there!

A special thanks to Gail Nettles for all the work she put into compiling the excellent Ragdoll information which she sent for us to hand out at the show. We handed out more than 300 copies of this Ragdoll information to the people who came to the show and were interested in knowing more about the Ragdoll breed. The comments were very positive and we even had two individuals, who, after spending several hours looking at all the cats there at the show, came back and said they voted our Ragdolls "Best in Show".

Even though our cats were not actually shown or even looked at by the show judges, it was a great show and even greater exposure for our beautiful Ragdolls!

As you can see from the above article, it's not all bad news. I might also mention that not only did CFA invite the Ragdolls to the show, but also gave the Ragdolls benching cages at no charge.

Hanging in there until the Ragdoll gains Championship status in CFA may not be easy, but I think it will be worth it.

I welcome your comments and suggestions.

Gail Nettles, RAG Breed Chairman