

The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.
2011 BREED COUNCIL POLL

TOTAL MEMBER – 32

BALLOTS RECEIVED – 19

60% OF VOTING – 11

50% of Voting - 10

DEVON REX (revised)

- 1. PROPOSED:** To indefinitely extend the Devon Rex allowable outcrosses to American Shorthair or British Shorthair.

Current:

Devon Rex allowable outcross breeds: Devon Rex, American Shorthair or British Shorthair. Kittens born on or after May 1, 2013 may have only Devon Rex parents.

Proposed:

Devon Rex allowable outcross breeds: ~~Devon Rex~~, American Shorthair or British Shorthair. ~~Kittens born on or after May 1, 2013 may have only Devon Rex parents.~~

RATIONALE: Devon Rex breeders have consistently supported outcrossing for the sake of the genetic diversity of their breed. This is critical, given that all Devon Rex have a pedigree that goes back to a single cat. In addition, as the nature of the cat fancy changes, as members of CFA age, and as breeders “retire”, the available number of registered Devon Rex of breeding and show quality has decreased. This has the potential to be devastating to a minority breed. Outcrossing improves the health of the breed by introducing variability to the existing gene pool. It has the ability to strengthen and reinforce desirable traits, while mitigating potential genetic flaws. For any breed defined by a single, recessive gene, this is a very straight-forward endeavor, since it is always perfectly clear which offspring from outcross programs have the required characteristics for showing and which are AOV’s. There is also no impact on the breeds being used for outcrossing, as these offspring would not be eligible to be shown as American Shorthairs or British Shorthairs, nor is it the intention to ever do so.

At the time that Devons were accepted for championship, it was stated that the intent was to outcross indefinitely; only CFA policy at that time forced the establishment of deadlines. Removing this deadline would assist the Devon Rex as it takes several generations following an outcross to return to the preferred standard with regard to type and coat.

YES: ___18___

NO: ___1___

ABSTAIN: ___0___

The following proposal is to be considered if # 1 does not pass:

2. **PROPOSED:** To extend the Devon Rex allowable outcrosses for 15 years.

Current:

Devon Rex allowable outcross breeds: Devon Rex, American Shorthair or British Shorthair. Kittens born on or after May 1, 2013 may have only Devon Rex parents.

Proposed:

Devon Rex allowable outcross breeds: ~~Devon Rex~~, American Shorthair or British Shorthair. Kittens born on or after May 1, ~~2013~~ 2028 may have only Devon Rex parents.

RATIONALE: Devon Rex breeders have consistently supported outcrossing for the sake of the genetic diversity of their breed. This is critical, given that all Devon Rex have a pedigree that goes back to a single cat. In addition, as the nature of the Cat Fancy changes, as members of CFA age, and as breeders “retire”, the available number of registered Devon Rex of breeding and show quality has decreased. This has the potential to be devastating to a minority breed. Outcrossing improves the health of the breed by introducing variability to the existing gene pool. It has the ability to strengthen and reinforce desirable traits, while mitigating potential genetic flaws. For any breed defined by a single, recessive gene, this is a very straightforward endeavor, since it is always perfectly clear which offspring from outcross programs have the required characteristics for showing and which are AOV’s. There is also no impact on the breeds being used for outcrossing as these offspring would not be eligible to be shown as American Shorthairs or British Shorthairs, nor is it the intention to ever do so.

At the time that Devons were accepted for championship, it was stated that the intent was to outcross indefinitely; only CFA policy at that time forced the establishment of deadlines. Extending this deadline would assist the Devon Rex as it takes several generations following an outcross to return to the preferred standard with regard to type and coat.

YES: 17

NO: 1

ABSTAIN: 1

3. **PROPOSED:** Update the Penalize and Disqualify section of the Devon Rex Standard clarifying what constitutes a coat that is too long and updating the description of the incorrect head type.

Current:

PENALIZE: narrow, long, round or domestic-type head; extremely short muzzle; misaligned bite; small or high set ears; short, bare, or bushy tail; straight or shaggy coat; bare patches.

DISQUALIFY: extensive baldness, kinked or abnormal tail, incorrect number of toes, crossed eyes, weak hind legs. Any evidence of illness or poor health.

Proposed:

PENALIZE: Heads that are long and/or narrow, and/or those tapering in the fashion of a “V”; heads with flared ears; heads that are round, or have the appearance of a mixed breed; ~~narrow, long, round or domestic type head~~; extremely short muzzle; misaligned bite; small or high set ears; short or bare, ~~or bushy~~ tail; straight ~~or shaggy~~ coat; bare patches.

DISQUALIFY: extensive baldness; excessively long, and/or shaggy coat; long hair on the tail; kinked or abnormal tail; incorrect number of toes; crossed eyes; weak hind legs; any evidence of illness or poor health.

RATIONALE: There has never been specific clarification regarding a longhair Devon Rex, in contrast to a Devon Rex with a dense or plush coat. The Devon Rex is a shorthair breed. Due to recessive genes, occasionally a long-coated Devon is born. The appearance of these cats is in marked contrast to what the Devon Rex standard describes. The longhaired Devon Rex has a coat that is too long and may appear shaggy, most obviously on the back of the ears and the tail. Given the lack of conformity with the existing standard, cats with this coat presentation should be disqualified.

The Devon Rex head defines the breed. The head is a modified wedge, it is not a tapering wedge or V shape, nor should the head resemble a mixed breed type. The ears are 10 points and it is time to start penalizing those that flare, since the flare comes from a combination of improper set and shape, two-thirds of the ear value.

YES: 14

NO: 5

ABSTAIN: 0

4. PROPOSED: Add to the Devon Rex Standard the definition of AOV.

Current:

None.

Proposed:

AOV - class is not currently used

RATIONALE: When the Devon Rex breed was accepted for Championship status in 1983, there were certain colors not accepted. Now, all colors are accepted and Devon Rex breeders do not currently show in the AOV class. We do not want to eliminate the AOV class, but simply define it at this time.

YES: 13

NO: 1

ABSTAIN: 2

5. PROPOSED: Change the word slender to lithe, in the body description.

Current:

BODY: hard and muscular, slender, and of medium length. Broad in chest and medium fine in boning, with medium fine but sturdy legs. Carried high on the legs with the hind legs

somewhat longer than the front. Allowance to be made for larger size in males, as long as good proportions are maintained.

Proposed:

BODY: hard and muscular, ~~slender~~ lithe, and of medium length. Broad in chest and medium fine in boning, with medium fine but sturdy legs. Carried high on the legs with the hind legs somewhat longer than the front. Allowance to be made for larger size in males, as long as good proportions are maintained.

RATIONALE: CFA judges have advised us the word “slender” brings to mind oriental-type, tubular bodies; whereas, the term “lithe” as found in both the Russian Blue and Abyssinian standards, brings the visual of a slender, muscular body which perfectly describes the Devon Rex.

YES: 15

NO: 1

ABSTAIN: 0

- 6. PROPOSED:** Redistribute the point scoring on the Devon Rex Head and Body, adding 5 points to the overall Head score from 35 to 40 points total, and reducing the Body score by 5 points from 30 to 25 points total.

Current:

POINT SCORE

HEAD (35)

Size and shape.....	10
Muzzle and chin.....	5
Profile.....	5
Eyes.....	5
Ears	10

BODY (30)

Torso	10
Legs and Paws.....	10
Tail	5
Neck	5

Proposed:

POINT SCORE

HEAD ~~(35)~~ (40)

Size and shape.....	10 <u>12</u>
Muzzle and chin	5
Profile and Chin	5 <u>6</u>
Eyes.....	5
Ears	10 <u>12</u>

BODY ~~(30)~~ (25)

Torso and Tail.....	10
Legs and Paws.....	10
Tail.....	5
Neck.....	5

RATIONALE: The proposed change to the point distribution is based on the need to emphasize the unique aspects of the Devon Rex. Historically, the most defining characteristics of the Devon Rex have been its wavy coat and “impish” or “alien” appearance. The coat remains a critical defining characteristic, but in the face of three other CFA recognized wavy/curly coated breeds, there is a need to emphasize the unique Devon Rex head. The features of the head are what make it distinct from those other breeds with curly coats, give it its “impish” appearance, and make it easy to identify as a Devon Rex.

The redistribution of points does not reduce or diminish the value of the Devon Rex coat. Instead, it looks to emphasize to the Judges the need to attend to the head, in addition to the coat, as a means of effectively preserving the defining characteristics of this breed.

This might be best illustrated by the following: TWO Devons with 30 point coats will have the tie broken by the superior head, while TWO Devons with 40 point heads will have the tie broken by the superior coat.

YES: 15

NO: 4

ABSTAIN: 0

Ballots must be returned in the envelope provided and be RECEIVED in the Central Office by Thursday, December 15, 2011.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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