

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

TOTAL MEMBERS – 106

BALLOTS RECEIVED – 62

60% OF VOTING – 37

50% of Voting - 31

SIAMESE

1. **PROPOSED:** Should the Siamese registration rules CONTINUE with the 8 generation requirement for registration by pedigree or revert back to the pre-1996 requirement of 5 generations?

Currently, the CFA Rules for Registration require an eight (8) generation pedigree to register a Siamese from another recognized association without prior CFA litter registration (if the sire and dam are not CFA registered).

At the July, 2011 CFA (teleconference) Board Meeting, Breed Councils requiring more than five (5) generations to register via pedigree were directed to poll their members to reconsider the requirement.

The Siamese Breed Council **RATIONALE** for requesting the 8 generation pedigree in 1996 (and confirming that by ballot in 2004) still stands today: to preserve the integrity of the breed by discouraging the introduction of non-traditional colors, coat factors and structural changes to the existing Siamese gene pool.

The eight-generation pedigree is of great importance to the Siamese breed. The Siamese is one of the few remaining natural breeds, and CFA is one of the only associations in the world that has maintained the integrity of the breed. Not only is the Siamese treasured for what it is, but it serves as a valuable resource to other breeds. It is in the best interest of the CFA registry to keep as protected as possible a breed that so many others find indispensable as a genetic resource.

Genetic testing is improving for cats, but there are currently no tests that define all the characteristics that make up the Siamese breed. At this time the 8-generation pedigree is the best tool we have to protect and preserve the Siamese and to ensure that undesirable recessive genes (including coat and color factors, as well as health-related genes) that can linger for multiple generations are not inadvertently introduced into the CFA Siamese gene pool.

As a rule, American Siamese breeders do not import Siamese from continental Europe. The interbreeding of European Siamese with Orientals and the use of other breeds in their gene pool has forever changed the breed and resulted in a style of Siamese that are distinctly different from that bred by CFA breeders. It could be detrimental to introduce genes that

could negatively affect not only the appearance of this historic breed but health issues that cannot yet be identified.

As Siamese breeders, we are proud that CFA is one of the few registries that have preserved the Siamese gene pool for future generations, and we work tirelessly to improve the appearance and health of our breed. It would be tragic to destroy the integrity of this historic, natural breed forever.

___49___ YES, Keep the 8 generation requirement to register by pedigree

___13___ NO, Change to a 5 generation requirement to register by pedigree

2. PROPOSED: Add the following phrase to the GENERAL section:

Current:

GENERAL: the ideal Siamese is a medium sized, svelte, refined cat with long tapering lines, very lithe but muscular. Males may be proportionately larger.

Proposed:

GENERAL: the ideal Siamese is a medium sized, svelte, refined cat with long tapering lines, very lithe but muscular. Males may be proportionately larger. Balance and refinement are the essence of the breed, where all parts come together in a harmonious whole, with neither too much nor too little consideration given to any one feature.

RATIONALE: Sometimes, a judge favors or disfavors one particular feature far greater than its worth in the point structure. The Siamese must be bred and judged on the whole presentation without fixation on a particular feature. No feature, be it ears, chin, color, body, profile, etc., should be over- or under-emphasized. The whole cat must be balanced and refined.

This statement appears at the beginning of the Persian standard and should be well known to all of CFA's judges. It applies to the Siamese as well and says perfectly that the ideal example of the breed is more than the sum of individual features.

YES: __51__

NO: __11__

ABSTAIN: __1__

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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