

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

Total Members – 54

Ballots Received – 31

60% of Voting - 19

TONKINESE

1. **PROPOSED:** Split the Solid and Point competitive color classes which each contain 4 colors into 4 individual color classes each.

Current:

Pointed Class	2636	2637
<i>(Natural, Blue, Champagne, Platinum)</i>		
Solid Class	2626	2627
<i>(Natural, Blue, Champagne, Platinum)</i>		

Proposed:

Blue Point	2630	2631
Champagne Point	2632	2633
Natural Point	2636	2637
Platinum Point	2638	2639
Blue Solid	2620	2621
Champagne Solid	2622	2623
Natural Solid	2626	2627
Platinum Solid	2628	2629

RATIONALE: The Tonkinese Breed Council is asking for separate color classes for each of our pointed and solid colors. With this change, each of our 12 colors will have equal standing in the judging ring and in eligibility for color class awards. The new show rules, which eliminate the restrictions on winners ribbons based on color classes, removes any and all reasons for continuing to place some Tonkinese colors in individual color classes, while grouping other colors into composite classes. In order to encourage all colors to be shown, the Tonkinese Breed Association has, for several years, given awards to the highest scoring of each of our 12 colors. This would make it easier for exhibitors to track the scoring during the season, so they can assess the status of their cats and the competition as they compete for the TBA color awards as the season progresses.

YES: 27

NO: 4

ABSTAIN: 0

Information Question

The Burmese Breed has been seeking outcrosses to improve the health and genetic diversity of their breed as they have had an 8 generation restriction and have a known small gene pool. Last year they asked, and were approved by the board, to allow their breed to outcross to imported cats from Thailand and reduce their generation rule to 5 generations. This year, they have ballot items asking to be allowed to outcross to other breeds, including Tonkinese. This would not affect our rules about who we can outcross to and would not make it easier to introduce such offspring into the Tonkinese gene pool.

2. POLL: Are you in favor of the outcross proposal (Proposal 3) as proposed by the Burmese Breed Council?

PROPOSED: *Allow the Burmese breed to be out-crossed to the Tonkinese breed for a period of 5 or 10 years.*

RATIONALE: *The genetic health of the Burmese breed is currently at risk. Dr. Leslie Lyons reported in "The Ascent of Cat Breeds," published in Genomics in 2008:*

"The Burmese and Singapura breeds have the lowest heterozygosity [genetic diversity] and the highest FIS [inbreeding coefficient] of any breed, reflecting the most intense inbreeding. ... Given these results, Burmese and Singapura breeders should be concerned about genetic diversity."

In addition to Dr. Lyons' genetic study, CFA statistics point towards a marked decline in registered Burmese. The number of Burmese kittens reported dropped from 987 in 2008 to 741 in 2010 (the most recent year for which data was available). This represents a 25% drop in just 2 years. Additionally, on an individual level, breeders are reporting less hearty litters, smaller adults, smaller litters, and immune system problems, all of which point towards inbreeding depression becoming more common.

The Tonkinese breed was developed using the Burmese breed. This breed, therefore, shares common characteristics in both type and origin. It is believed that allowing the Burmese breed to outcross to this breed along with native Thai cats (which as already been approved) will significantly increase our ability to restore the health and vigor of the Burmese breed with little to no impact on type.

13 Yes through December 31, 2016 (5 years)

9 Yes through December 31, 2021 (10 years)

7 No

1 Abstain

1 ballot did not vote at all on this issue – no one voted for both Yes options

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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