

QUESTIONS FOR NEW DAL CANDIDATES
From the Siamese Breed Council

1. What do you think CFA's core business is?

Per our constitution, we are a registry of pedigreed cats, and are incorporated with a mission statement that basically states that the Association will have at its heart the welfare of all cats. The objectives go further to identify what constitutes a pedigreed cat, and also to the oversight of local cat shows, and to promote the interest of breeders and exhibitors of those aforementioned pedigreed cats.

2. Do you think that CFA has fulfilled its stated mission to promote pedigree cats? If not, why, and what reasons do you think have contributed to this? How would you rectify this?

There have been a lot of divergent issues pulling at the association, not the least of which is a tremendous amount of rumor and innuendo. The emphasis on "winning" is taking the place of the camaraderie that used to exist within the cat fancy. Changing the way we award national wins must be addressed and more emphasis be placed on our breed accomplishments.

Concurrently, we are faced with tremendous pressures on litigation throughout this country, which CFA is working to fund, but budget shortfalls certainly cut into the effectiveness of those working for us in the legislative committee. Purebred rescue as well as disaster relief has been added to the portfolio of services within the world of CFA, and that takes time and funding. There are a lot of internal as well as external pressures on the fancy and CFA today, and this needs to be addressed.

I strongly believe that communication is absolutely the key to make the constituency of this organization feel that they are part of the same team in addressing the pressures that are facing our hobby. But the constituency must also step up to the plate and take responsibility in helping the entire organization succeed, going beyond the personal vendettas, and individual breed crises to make the whole strong. 19 people on the board cannot make this association work without your help and support.

3. Do you believe in:
- a. A phenotypic registry
 - b. A genotypic registry

 - c. A combination of a and b

Obviously a combination of a and b is the only answer here, based on our history. This is one of the interesting things about the inconsistencies that have occurred over the years, and probably was negatively impacted by WIAB. CFA is in my opinion, is neither at this time. In actuality it is a Historical registry. Cats are registered based on their history and the word of their breeder. CFA is opening the door for certification of pedigrees through DNA parentage testing but that only gives you validation based on the parents of the kittens/ cats that participate in this DNA registry. This is valid, however for the future only. What has happened in the past is non verifiable in the establishment past backgrounds, it is only forward looking. I think an important consideration for CFA breeders would include a stipulation that all DM's would be required to submit a buccal swab before they could be confirmed. This should be done in conjunction with a certified research (think university) facility that could work with CFA in developing this without exorbitant costs to our CFA breeders.

4. What can CFA do to increase revenues via our core business?

That is also a multi pronged approach. Partnerships with various pet food companies, certainly the marketing of CFA (like our current TOY program) will generate income and sponsorship monies to help fund ongoing CFA projects. We also need to encourage our breeders to register every kitten, and perhaps look at ways to facilitate their doing so. Marketing our hobby to the rank and file cat lover is an incredible opportunity and needs to be incorporated into a directed approach by CFA. To that end I am committed but until such time the board collectively puts forth that effort nothing will be accomplished. I am forever impressed by the unique ways various cat clubs get the message across in their communities but that is a very microscopic (although successful) section of the world. We currently have a marketing director that is tasked with increasing this revenue stream that is outside of the registration and related cat services that the regular exhibitor provides. Tapping the youth of America should be a key effort, and the Junior Showmanship program is a step in the right direction but has not gone far enough to make the necessary inroads to influence our youth.

5. What do you believe constitutes a "breed"?

A cat breed is a relatively new term within the cat fancy, and should be applied to only those cats that have registry history, i.e. a pedigree. That means, depending on the number of generations required, a piece of paper from a recognized registering body identifying the parentage of a specific cat has been documented has been generated. As the owner of that cat now with papers, you can say your

pet has a history that allows him/her to be part of the breed. A cat that does not have that particular piece of paper is said to be a look-alike. We all have had that happen to us in a show hall when the nice lady comes up and says, "My Fluffy looks just like your cat, therefore, she MUST be a Siamese". I would encourage all to not "grimace" which is our first knee jerk reaction, but be that true ambassador and inquire as to the color (what point color is he/she) or any of the other friendly comments that you can offer to make the person think that maybe having a pedigreed cat "next time" would be a good thing. Selective breeding has caused CFA to have an abundance of "new" breeds to be accepted into our association, and most have made a positive impact on the fancy providing our "consumers" to have more options to select from.

I would leave you with one comment regarding our beautiful Siamese cat. Siamese breeders should take GREAT pride in knowing that your precious breed was thought highly enough to be elevated to the status of "parent" to create some of these newer breeds. It is a tribute to the Siamese cat, whose history truly goes back centuries, to be revered in all cat associations throughout the world - definitely an "original".

Respectfully submitted,

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