

## HAVANA BROWN BREED COUNCIL MEETING – 2003 ANNUAL – ST. LOUIS

Date: Saturday, June 21, 2003

Attendees:

BC Members: Anne & Ray Edwards, Reba Head, Elaine Law,  
Candice Massey, Norma Placchi, and Brenda Wood.  
Guests: Susan Accetta and Diane Mounib

Although our allotted time quickly ran out, we had a most informative and friendly meeting which was continued in the hotel lobby so we could complete our discussion.

### Joint Meeting of the Breed Council Secretaries Summary

Breed Council Secretary, Norma Placchi, had attended the Joint Meeting of the Breed Council Secretaries with the members of the CFA Board. She reported the following highlights of the meeting.

A new deadline date of August 1<sup>st</sup> has been set for breed council ballot submissions. (No suggestions for changes to the existing Havana Brown standard were submitted so there will be no breed ballot this year.)

Breed Council Secretaries serve as the protectors of their breed. It is essential that we breeders promote our breed in other associations and countries as well as in CFA. Cooperation amongst breeders was strongly stressed. All need to work together for the good of the cat. Take the time to sponsor and mentor new breeders.

A Breed Council Secretaries online list will be moderated by Peg Johnson, Breeds & Standards Chairman. Peg asked to be copied on any individual breed issues of importance.

Among the new services to be offered online are Championship Confirmations, Breeder Directory, and Show Calendar.

The fact that pre-paid registrations are not included in the count of kittens registered was discussed. Tom Dent was asked to establish a method to include these pre-paid registrations so a more accurate accounting of actual kittens registered can be achieved.

Cats Ancestry Tracking Service (CATS) is a method to track cats that do not meet the CFA registration requirements. It will stop the practice of breeders who use other registering bodies to attain the proper number of generations for CFA registry.

CFA desperately needs new marketing techniques to attract the general public to the world of the purebred cat. Several Board Members suggested that CFA should aggressively court the pet industry, as is done by the Dog Fancy.

A new class will be offered at shows - the Veteran's Class - for CFA registered cats seven (7) years and older. This will be a wonderful opportunity to showcase those breeds that are slow to mature and to create interest in exhibiting the older, retired show cats.

Jo Ann Cummings has produced two new CDs that will be available for sale:  
*Cats Around the World* and *Breed Identification*.

Several Breed Council Secretaries mentioned that they utilize their breed booths at events other than cat shows.

### Phyllis Hill

Phyllis Hill, Hav-A-Hill Cattery, has had back surgery. A card was signed by those present wishing her a speedy recovery. We all miss you Phyllis, and hope you are soon up and about again.

### Out-Cross Program Update

The next item of discussion was the out-cross program. Ed and Chris Powell, Four Paw- Haus Cattery, and Karen Rogers, Havacat Cattery, were unable to attend the meeting but submitted letters that were read to the group. Karen also sent photos of two (2) females produced from her out-cross breeding program.

The letter from Ed and Chris follows:

“When we first started with Havana Browns in 1997, we knew their gene pool was limited, but when it took us almost two years to acquire unrelated breeders, we knew the breed had a severe problem. The result of the Winn Foundation study was a total confirmation. We had acquired our first female from Rich Bilello. Rich, who was our Havana Brown mentor, was outcrossing with a black cat, but outcrossing was not sanctioned at the time. We were interested in outcrossing, but with a CFA registered Chestnut Oriental cat, so we waited until outcrossing was permitted. Finding an Oriental breeder who was willing to allow an outcross took a while. Fortunately, we had become friends with Terri Zettler of Kuroneko Cattery and Anne Brocklebank of Psyche Cattery. At the Classy Cats Show in St. Petersburg, Fl. in Dec. of 2000, Anne brought us Psyche Rockbiter who was perfect. He was a Chestnut Oriental who looked like a Havana Brown. He had a square muzzle, green eyes and a super personality. Anne said cats like him occasionally turned up in her breeding program and she hoped he would be right for ours. She gave him to us with no strings attached. Thank you Anne! Norma was a judge at this show and got to briefly see him. We took him home and waited and waited for him to mature. Fortunately, the penny finally dropped and we had our first outcross litter of three boys on 1/31/2002. They were all brown and looked like Havana Browns except for a slight narrowness of the head. Eye color was great in two of them. We kept the best boy and Ed named him Ratso, because he was an outcross, outcast as was Ratso in the movie *Midnight Cowboy*. We easily sold the other two boys to people on our waiting list who felt if it looked like a Havana Brown that was fine with them. Unfortunately we thought Ratso had bred with one of our Havana Brown females, so we placed him with another Havana Breeder. To our dismay the pregnancy did not take, so we have had to wait for another F-1 to mature. We now have a very nice F-1 female who is almost old enough to breed. We plan to breed her with our GC Thunderball and are looking forward to the results. We have been pleased with the results of our outcross program and are more than willing to help other breeders who are interested. We feel the more Havana Browns who are visible, whether as pet or show (Kitten, Championship or Premiership) the better the outlook will be for this charismatic cat. It is our hope that more Havana Breeder will participate in the outcross program.

Ed and Chris Powell  
FOUR PAWHAUS CATTERY  
Havana, Fl.”

The following is the letter received from Karen Rogers:

“Dear Norma Placchi and Havana Brown Breed Council:

This letter comes to you from Karen Rogers (Havacat) in Mississippi. Regretfully, I could not attend this meeting. I started my Havana Brown cattery in 1996, primarily with the help of Richard Bilello. Richard strongly encouraged me to participate in the outcross program verbally and by providing me with copies of data from previously generated genetic research. I did so, using a black DSH female. I have enclosed two pictures of her descendants for you to see, flaws and all. I do believe the outcross program is a viable way to help increase our diversity of lines. Beware, whoever does so must be prepared for rigorous culling in order to eventually achieve an excellent Havana Brown that has the quality to Grand and produce show quality offspring.

To the best of my knowledge, it is still difficult to find (and/or use) “less related” Havana Browns of excellent status in order to maintain and improve our wonderful breed. Because our genetic pool is small, and breeders have a natural tendency to maintain control of their best cats, I do feel our genetic diversity is still too limited.

I appreciate all of you who have made the effort to attend this meeting, and do respect your opinions singly, and as a group, whatever you decide.

Sincerely, Karen Rogers, DVM”

Candice Massey, Acapella Cattery, prepared a large poster with photos and pedigrees of her out-cross program. Everyone took time to study her work. Unfortunately, the poster can not be reproduced here. Thank you for all your hard work, Candice.

Brenda Wood, Kitao Cattery, put together a PowerPoint presentation of her out-cross program. She surprised us by all by presenting pictures of her latest litter!! You can view her presentation at [http://icats.crosswinds.net/kitao\\_outcrosses](http://icats.crosswinds.net/kitao_outcrosses)  
Excellent presentation, Brenda!

### Summary and Upcoming Meeting

To sum up the out-cross discussion; to date the program has been very successful. It is encouraging that several breeders are diligently doing out-cross breedings and producing cats that are show quality. It is also most encouraging to hear that the majority of kittens born have been brown.

Thank you all for attending and making this such an informative and enjoyable meeting.

The next Breed Council Meeting has been scheduled during the International Show in Houston, which is from November 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Breed Council will meet during dinner on Saturday evening, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. All Havana Brown Breeders and HB Exhibitors are welcome to attend this meeting. Hope to see you there!!