



THE BIRMAN SOCIETY INC.

A Society for the Appreciation and Advancement of the Sacred Cat of Burma

NEWSLETTER

Volume 19, Issue 2, September, 2011



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Next Meeting
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 17th 2012 AT 8PM
At the GCCFV office
4/170 Underwood Road, Ferntree Gully
Secretary: Gaye Downes
Ph: 9431 5161

BIRMAN LEGEND

“The reincarnation of souls and a deep respect and love for priests is the bases for the legend of the Sacred Cats of Burma”

"Once upon a time, before the days of Buddha, the Khmer people built beautiful temples to honour their gods principally the god Song-Hyo and the goddess Tsun-Kyan-Kse. One of these temples was the temple of Loa-Tsun where a golden figure of the goddess, with sapphire eyes, was kept - and also 100 pure white cats. One of these was Sinh, the companion of an old priest, Mun-Ha, whose golden beard was said to have been braided by Song-Hyo himself.

One night Thai raiders attacked the temple, killing Mun-Ha as he knelt before the figure of the goddess. Immediately the cat Sinh jumped on the body of its master and faced the goddess. The priest's soul entered the cat, and as it did so the white hair of its body became golden (like the goddess, or like the old priest's beard, according to different versions of the story) and its eyes became sapphire-blue like those of the goddess. Its legs turned brown, except where the feet rested on its master – there they remained white. The transformation inspired the other priests to drive the raiders off but, seven days later, Sinh also died carrying with it into paradise the soul of Mun-Ha. The next morning all the other white cats of the temple had undergone the same transformation as Sinh. From then on the priest's guarded their sacred golden cats, believing them to have custody of the souls of the priests.

The original Birmans of France are said to have been a gift from the priests of a new temple of Lao-Tsun in the mountains of Tibet. Two cats were reputedly sent to France one - a male - dying in transit. The female, already pregnant, is said to have survived to become the founder of the pedigree Birman breed of Europe.

It is intriguing when, that in 1960, a pair of 'Tibetan Temple' kittens was given to a North American cat lover, they had colouring identical to the Birman and were accompanied by the same legend - even down to the 100 temple cats.

Whatever it's true origin, the Birman is a fascinating variety which became very successful in France until WW II decimated the feline population. After the war the breed was again reduced to two individuals and it was a long time before it could fully recover. Birmans were first taken to England from France in the early 1960's and were accepted for championship competitions in 1966.

The legend also has it that when a priest dies his soul was transmigrated into the body of a cat and upon the cats death the priest's soul's transition into heaven has been accomplished”

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Members

I thought that I might share with you some of my experiences judging in Kuala Lumpur. I was invited to judge there at the beginning of June 2011. It was to be an all breeds show, incorporating domestic cats, and was to be held at a Pet Expo in a shopping centre in Kuala Lumpur over 2 days, although the cats were on the Sunday only.



I arrived on Friday morning at 9am and the temperature was already hitting 28 degrees C. I was taken on a sightseeing trip around KL, one of the highlights being a visit to Khali, the golden goddess. On the left of her statue you can see the steps that went up behind and above her, giving a great view out over the city and the surrounding countryside. I managed to make it to the top and the boys decided that I was therefore fit

enough to judge their cats.

Saturday was the first day of the Expo and a free day for me so I wandered around the shopping centre and went and had a look at the Expo. It was quite an experience. There were all kinds of animals including hamsters, lizards, snakes, tarantulas, cats, dogs and rabbits. I was very impressed with their condition and also with the number and variety of cat products, food and toys that were available.

The pedigree animals that were available were quite highly priced. What was obviously a cross-bred Persian kitten was \$A500 and a Chow puppy was \$A4000 with a Malamute puppy fetching \$A1200. The clip on some of the dogs was interesting with one Chow sporting a poodle cut. I had hugh blisters by the end of the day.

The cat show was on the Sunday and there were about 80 domestics and 40 pedigreed cats. Mostly they were in excellent condition, but a lot of the domestics were entire. I got quite a shock when I put my hand around the rear of the first male. Some of the entire males were a bit feisty, and two of the stewards got bitten, (I had 4 male stewards and 1 female), but the cats kept coming. The pedigreed cats were mainly Persians, Maine Coons, Siamese and the occasional Bengal. I had to write a



written report on each pedigreed cat. The highpoint of the day was the Supreme judging with the sponsor being called in to assist with the Supreme domestic, which bit its owner and got loose, running under the stage. The prizes were wonderful: money, a gold trophy, litter, food, a bed and a carry box. There were also novelty classes, including The Best Dressed Cat, all adding to the carnival atmosphere. My Supreme Pedigreed Exhibit was a lovely Persian from Holland. The presentation was exquisite .

It was also a requirement that Clubs are required to develop their own breed and here is a photo of the KL cat



Cheers *Lesley Freemann*

PET BIRTHDAYS



June

Shaylee	Mr Blair Powell	16-Jun	2 years
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August

Wispa	Mrs Carmen Phelan	18-Aug	4 years
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Wilson	Mrs Vida Lowry and Mr Neil Lowry	17-Aug	1 year
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September

Sophie	Mrs Helen Stephenson	1-Sep	4 years
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Mr Keeran	Ms Emma Stephenson	2-Sep	5 years
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Matisse	Mrs Beverley Jose	11-Sep	8 years
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Romeo	Mr John Newman and Mrs Trish Newman	16-Sep	10 years
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October

Lady Jasmine	Mrs Eve Kalker	4-Oct	11 years
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Star Gazer	Mrs Andrea Davenort-Burns	5-Oct	1 year
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MacFinnigan	Mrs Andrea Davenort-Burns	5-Oct	1 year
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Indigo	Mr Peter Dawson Ms Karin Whitehead	6-Oct	8 years
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Dandy Misty	Ms Emma Stephenson	8-Oct	3 years
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Beau Blue	Mrs Beverley Jose	11-Oct	9 years
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Jasmine	Mr Peter Dawson and Ms Karin Whitehead	13-Oct	8 years
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Jokorda Agung	Mr Roland de Salle du Real and Mrs Neta de Salle du Real	23-Oct	6 years
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November

Mickey Blue Eyes	Mr Riley Miegltz	18-Nov	2 years
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December

Kemara Shan	Mr John Newman and Mrs Trish Newman	19-Dec	10 years
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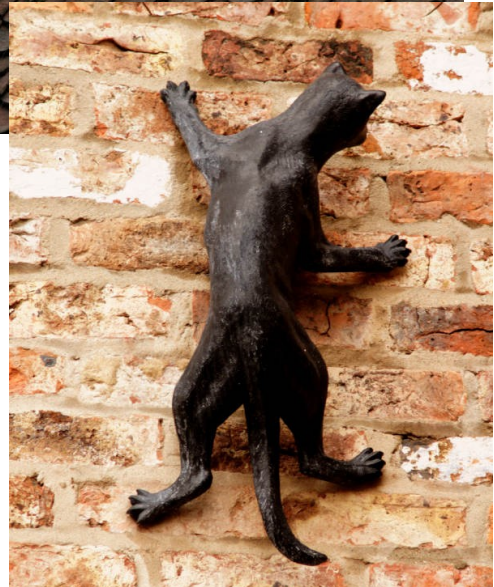
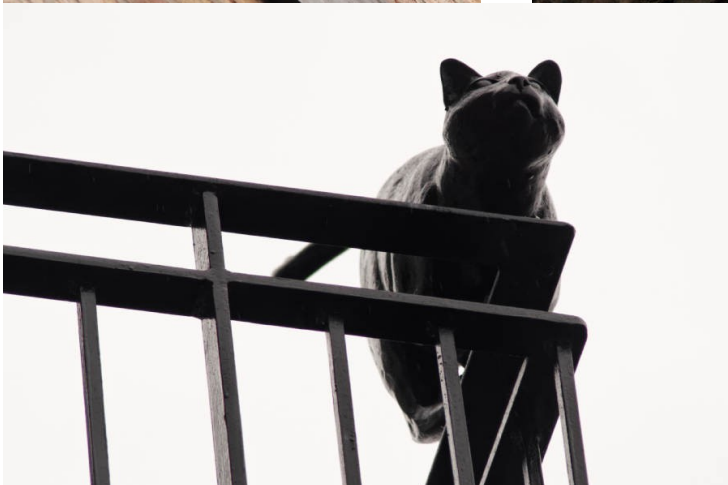


YORK CAT TRAIL

In York in the U.K., a long awaited trail of York's architectural cats has been unveiled

The trail comprises sixteen cat sculptures, which have been placed on city buildings over the past 90 years and is estimated to take two hours, this seemed about right though we didn't time ourselves.

The first cat sculptures were made in 1920 by Sir Stephen Aitcheson who placed two of them on his building in Low Ousegate, the concept was continued by architect Tom Adams from 1979 who put cats on all buildings he designed.



MY "ROAD" TRIP TO THE NATIONALS JULY 2011

Well I have not been Interstate to a CCCofA Nationals for a long time and this year as it was in Sydney I decided to go. The flight was booked, cat carrier spaces booked and I was all set to take Tess and Ellie - which in itself is a bit of a joke as they are the same colour and in the same class. Then.....I realised how afraid they are of the "lawn mowing contractors" - they dive for cover when the noise gets close and I realised I did not want to do that to them.....sitting on a tarmac at the Airport would not be a good experience so I decided to drive up myself.

Now driving distances is not new to me but as I get closer to 70 I don't quite have the same stamina as I used to have and I try not to drive at night so it was a bit of a challenge as this decision was made after everyone who might have accompanied me had made other arrangements. I had somewhere to stay - thank you Deb - Kriska Birmans - and I needed to be in Sydney by 7.00pm for a birthday tea for her son.

The car was set up with a wire crate loaned by Suzanne Parkinson - think it once housed a Beagle or two....and I had a pp40...nice little donut beds and a litter tray and the girls were installed.....cages faced towards the lift up back door. By the look of everything packed I was going to the moon. In fact it was a seamless trip....even on my own.

I left at 5.30am and stopped every couple of hours to get petrol or take a coffee break. Each time I stopped I opened the back of the car and had a word with the girls who were travelling quietly and in comfort. At Gundagai I pulled in to MacDonalds and put the girls together in the wire crate and gave them some cat biccies and a drink - both of which were received happily. When I pulled out I left them in the same crate.

Using Tom Tom - very helpful sometimes - I thought I was on the right track but it got dark as Sydney approached. "Whatever you do - stay off the M7 was ringing in my ears",,,,,well I did. Managed the M5 toll gates and thinking I was following instructions - "get off at XX exit and turn right over a bridge and then first turn right"...Duh!! Followed that to the letter only to find myself back on the same M5 - having to pay another toll!! Thank heavens for mobile phones and electronic stuff...It took me 11 hours but I arrived in time for dinner.

I arranged an extra day in Sydney both before and after the two day show so that the girls could be free in the house and not caged - they settled in as if they had always lived there.

The show was wonderful. Entry was 547 and the management excellent, Judges - all 6 of them - from America, New Zealand and various States of Australia. Neuters and Spays were judged separately - a much more rewarding system for those showing females as it is often that the BIG boys beat the little girls. The Top 5 are found in each section and then the Top 15 in the Group were judged.

My girls were handicapped as they were in the same class - 8 Birman Spays altogether - not sure how many Birman Neuters. The girls did very well in the Top 15 and came home with 8 Rosettes between them. I had the added delight of seeing Sharada Makin Dreams become a National Show Champion - given to the cat that can gain a challenge at 3 different Nationals, Sharada Moonlight Dreamer who is a National Show Champion gained her NSW Gold Champion title - now retired I think and Mango who is shown in companion and another boy that I am proud to have bred finished Supreme in one ring. I think Janet was suitably chuffed. I

also enjoyed socialising with Birman Breeders and Persian Breeders – thanks to the latter for turning on a scrumptious shared lunch.

Saturday evening saw me enjoying a turn in the Hot Tub at Deb’s place while poor Deb had to sort out some health difficulties that saw her elderly mum end up in hospital, the “spare” day I visited with Kimbarra Birmans – lovely outing with Barb and Kim – saw some beautiful cats.....my “girls” did what they normally do and slept most of that day on my bed.....and then Tuesday I was on the road to head home leaving in the early hours. The girls well seasoned travellers by now.

All was going well – same procedure stopping every two hours but this time there was an added hazard – very thick fog!! From Gundagai onwards I kept hearing in my head “you need a sleep – you need a sleep” and feeling it was unwise to ignore this I pulled in at Wodonga and hired a Pet Friendly Cabin for the night....Girls were delighted. I cooked up my dinner – girls got some beef strips and slept well. Arrived back in Melbourne at the Village at 2.00pm after a thoroughly enjoyable week.....felt like a day or two as it had gone that fast.

Moral of the story – if you want to do a road trip with cats – do it!! Cats are remarkably adaptable little furry people and I think we are planning for another.....but next year the Nationals are in Launceston and a Ferry trip is somewhat scary even for me.

By BK Heather

Sharada Birmans



Ellie and Tess and the Nationals

CCCA NATIONALS AT CASTLE HILL—BIRMAN RESULTS

Saturday 16th July, 2011

RING 1

KITTENS

10th Best Rasharnee Errol Flynn

ENTIRES

4th Best Bindura Blaze
5th Best Bindurra Nuggett

DESEXED

4th Best Sharada Impossible Dream
5th Best Shalimar Butterfly Kisses
7th Best Gramar Touch of Majik
10th Best Eldorato Mickey Blue Eyes
11th Best Sharada Tigress Dreaming
13th Best Sarikamajik Hugh Jackman

RING 2

KITTENS

9th Best Furkidz One N Only
10th Best Minosa Milly Rose

ENTIRES

4th Best Rasharnee Mind My Mojo
7th Best Zaeshinwa Kandi Stripes

DESEXED

3rd Best Sarikamajik Hugh Jackman
5th Best Shalimar Butterfly Kisses
10th Best Sharada Salaminca
12th Best Sharada Moonlight Dreamer
13th Best Conde Bajazzo

RING 3

KITTENS

6th Best Furkidz One N Only
9th Best Chalfont Krackerjack

ENTIRES

14th Best Eldorato Francesca

DESEXED

4th Best Sharada Makin Dreams
5th Best Conde Drama Girl

6th Best Arakan Georgie on Ice
8th Best Sharada Impossible Dream
12th Best Zaeshinwa Tallulah Belle

Sunday 17th July, 2011 Results

RING 4

KITTENS

Reserve in Show Furkidz One N Only
4th Best Chalfont Krackerjack
12th Best Rasharnee Porsche Rose

ENTIRES

6th Best Bindura Nuggett
9th Best Eldorato Sassy Miss

DESEXED

Reserve in Show Sarikamajik Hugh Jackman
8th Best Shalimar Butterfly Kisses
12th Best Eldorato Mickey Blue Eyes
13th Best Arakan Georgie on Ice
14th Best Sharada Tigress Dreaming

RING 5

KITTENS

5th Best Furkidz One N Only

ENTIRES

Best In Show Fionella Bette Boop
5th Best Cymaron Ecuador Dark
13th Best Bobbysocks Crème Brulee
14th Best Bindura Blaze

DESEXED

3rd Best Shalimar Butterfly Kisses
5th Best Sarika Sir Laurence Olivier
10th Best Sharada Impossible Dream
14th Best Conde Drama Girl

RING 6

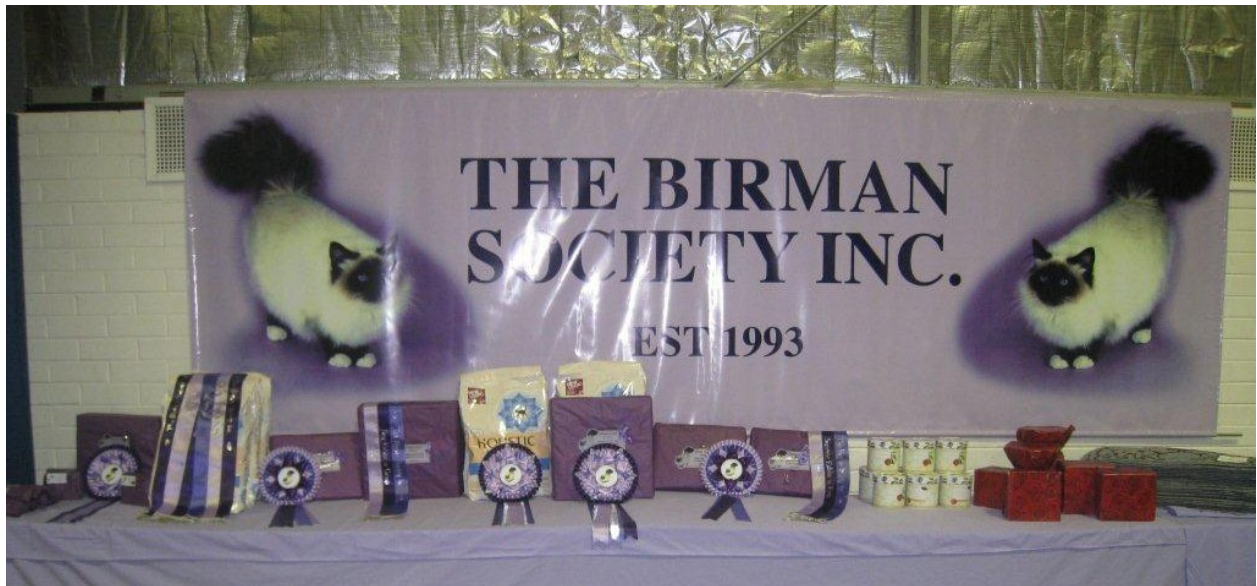
KITTENS

13th Best Furkidz One N Only 6

BIRMAN SOCIETY CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 2011

Another successful, busy, fun filled day marked the club's Championship show for 2011. Thanks go to all who helped set up, pulled down, drove trucks, picked up or delivered judges, entered cats, didn't enter cats, found prizes, sourced ribbons, or any of the 1,000's of other things that go on behind the scenes. Full results can be found on the G.C.C.F.V. web site.

A big congratulations must go to Anne & Glenn Davies and the beautiful Chelsea who won so many things that it all didn't fit in Anne's car to take home!!



Chelsea and some of her loot!

MY FAVOURITE THINGS.....

For Outdoors



For the Kitchen



For the Bathroom



Go and have a look at The Cat Gallery UK web site.

They have some super things available and with the strong Australian \$\$ at the moment, it's easy to buy things from overseas.

www.thecatgallery.co.uk

CATS FACTS

What's in a Cat Name?

The Egyptian name for cat was Mau. This also means "to see."

The classical Greek word for cat is ailouros.

Other words for cat used around the world are:

- Kat - Holland and Denmark
- Katt - Sweden
- Katze - Germany
- Kot - Poland
- Kots - Russia
- Gatta - Greece (modern)
- Gato - Portugal and Spain
- Gatto - Italy
- Chat - France



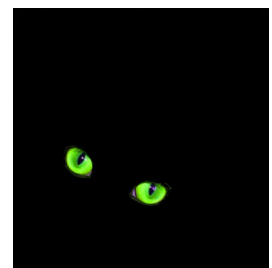
What's that Smell? The Cat's Nose Knows

1. Cats are said to have a sense of smell that is 30 times better than humans.
2. Cats enjoy the smell, and the effects, of catnip, but only if they've inherited the gene for it. For other cats, the smell may be intriguing, but catnip will have no effect.
3. Cats are born with their sense of smell functioning, and it is highly developed by about three weeks of age.
4. Their sense of smell means that felines are extremely sensitive to tainted food, and perhaps this has contributed to their finicky reputation. Cats are hunters, and in the wild, would rarely eat stale meat. Carrion is for scavengers.



I See You! Cat Eye Facts

1. The night vision of the feline is legendary. In order to see, they need only one-sixth as much light as a human. They cannot, however, see in total darkness. When enough light is not available, they use their whiskers to feel their way around.
2. Your kitty's eyes offer her almost 285 degrees of sight in three dimensions. Ideal peripheral vision for hunting.
3. Cats do see in color, and can distinguish yellow, blue, and green hues. Their eyes are best, however, at detecting movement, and shades of gray.



WHY OWN A CAT?

There's a danger you know
You can't own just one, for the craving will grow.
There's no doubt they're addictive, wherein lies the danger
While living with lots, you'll grow poorer and stranger

One cat is not trouble, and two are so funny,
The third one is easy, the fourth one's a honey
The fifth is delightful, the sixth one's a breeze.
You find you can live with a houseful, with ease.



So how 'bout another? Would you really dare?
They're really quite easy, but Oh Lord, the hair!
With cats on the sofa and cats on the bed,
And crates in the kitchen, its no bother, you said.

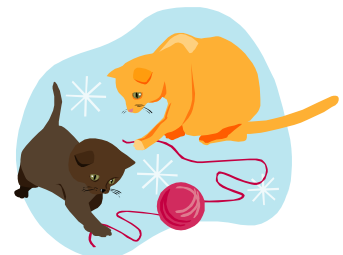


They're really no trouble, their manners are great.
What's just one more cat and one more little crate?
The sofa is hairy, the windows are crusty.
The floor is all footprints, the furniture's dusty.

The housekeeping suffers, but what do you care?
Who minds a few noseprints and a little more hair?
So let's keep a kitten, you can always find room.
And a little more time for the dust cloth and broom.

There's hardly a limit to the cats you can add
the thought of a cutback, sure makes you feel sad.

Each one is special, so useful, so funny,
The food bill grows larger, you owe the vet money.



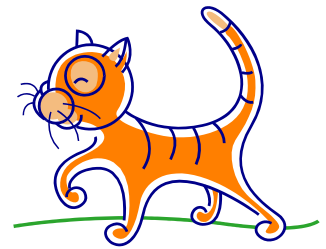
WHY OWN A CAT? Continued.....

Your folks never visit, few friends come to stay,
Except other cat folks, who live the same way.
Your lawn has now died and your shrubs are dead, too.
Your weekends are busy, you're off with your crew.



There's cat food and vitamins, grooming and shots
And entries and travel and motels, which cost lots.
Is it worth it you wonder? Are you caught in a trap?
Then that favorite comes up and climbs in your lap.

His look says you're special and you know that you will
Keep all of the kittens in spite of the bill.
Some just for showing and some just to breed
And some just for loving, they all fill a need.



Late evening is awful, you scream and you shout
At the cats on the sofa, who refuse to get up.
The cats and the cat shows, the travel, the thrills
The work and the worry, the pressure, the bills.

The Whole thing seems worth it, the cats are your life.
They're charming and funny and offset the strife.
Your lifestyle has changed, things just won't be the same.
Yes, those cats are addictive and so's the cat game!



Author Unknown



NEWSLETTER

The Birman Society Inc.

*A Society for the Appreciation and
Advancement of the Sacred Cat of
Burma.*



www.thebirmansociety.com
