

**MARCUS & TAKI** - In 1975, Mark Hannon decided that the Exotic Shorthair appealed to him more than any other breed. He felt that they had stamina, were hardy with few health problems, and could deliver kittens with relative ease. Since then he has produced seven Grands and exhibited several Exotics to Regional and National wins. He received four Best of Breed awards for the Exotics he exhibited! The Persians he believes have contributed the most to the development of his own Exotics are **GRC Curle Cats Chrissy**, **GRC Willow Glen Baccarat** and **Olde Calico's Different Drummer**. He considers his most important Exotic Shorthair to be **GRC Tamri's Red Ted**. Red Ted is the sire of **GRC Marcus Cassini of Ariagus**. Ted is a combination of Rodabi/Bat-tohadi/Silva-Wyde and Ben-Mar Persians and Tamri Exotic Shorthairs.

During 1978 Mark exhibited **GRC's Tamri Red Devil** to 6th Best Cat. **GRC Marcus Deviled Egg**, a lovely calico of his own breeding, was 20th Best Cat in 1980. He also showed **GRC Woodland Warrior of Tamri** in 1979 to 13th Best Cat. In 1985, a red tabby and white neuter, **GRP Marcus Original Cin**, was 2nd Best Cat in Premiership in the Southern Region.

#### The Newer Breeders

Between 1976 and 1984, the number of people who began breeding and showing Exotic Shorthairs has rapidly increased! Many of these breeders have produced and shown outstanding cats. We hope that the number of cats in all Exotic classes at the shows will continue to grow, in spite of the difficulties in producing these lovely animals. We also hope that people who have recently started and have been successful will not give up their programs when they encounter their first failure or setback.

It is an impossibility to name every one who is currently working with Exotics. I am certain you can understand that I have had to narrow the listing to those people who, in my opinion, have made significant contributions to the Exotic Shorthair breed.

**ARIAGUS** - Chuck Hickman and Larry Crouse were the proud owners of **GRC Marcus Cassini** when he was awarded 8th Best Cat in the Great Lakes Region and Best Cream Exotic Shorthair Nationally. His dam is the lovely blue-cream Persian, **GRC Curle-Cats Chrissy of Marcus**. Cassini is now owned by Gene and Wanda Odom (Wangen) of Columbia, S.C. Chuck and Larry also owned **Desmin Dawne of Kapa** when she received her DM. When Dawne (color-bred blue from Ben-Mar, Vi-Jon and Dunhova lines) was bred to **GRC Lullaby Abracadabra of Midas** (son of **GRC Prim-Pet Yankee Doodle Dandy DM** and **CH Pegsden Periwinkle**) she had two lovely, black, shorthair girls. They were **GRC Ariagus Sweet Dreams** and **GRC Ariagus Georgia Jackson of Lakota**. These two girls were 4th and 5th Best Kittens in 1984 in the Great Lakes Region and completed Dawne's list of five Grand Champion offspring.

**CESTEE** - Linda Dreigert has bred and shown CFA's first Cameo Mackerel Tabby Exotic Shorthair. He is **GRC Cestee Patrick O'Shay**, who was Best Exotic in the North Atlantic Region in 1984. Patrick is (like Georgia Jackson and Sweet Dreams) a fourth generation Exotic Shorthair bred from American Shorthairs. His Persian great-grand sires are **GRC Misty Mornin' Conquest**, **GRC Wil-O-Rose Prodigal Son** and **GRC Marlboro Diablo of Cyndi-Kits**.

**COLBYSHIRE & MANORBORN** - Bob and Kitty Colby (Colbyshire) and Gia Reve Bates (Manorborn) are working together in their breeding programs.

Their cats have been developed from Burmese derived Exotics (Bryn Mawr) and Mrs. Colby's own blue Persian line. **GRC Surrey Hill Master Charge** has made a strong, positive impact, and some of their best Exotics are his children or grand-children. Littermates **GRC Colbyshire Covenant Waikiki** and **GRC Colbyshire Covenant Wahini**, two lovely blue girls are only third generation Exotic Shorthairs. Kitty, another of our judges breeding Exotic Shorthairs, writes, "We all know that it was a very controversial item when our Exotics were taken out of Group II and placed with the Longhairs in Group I. Many felt that our Exotics would "get lost" as the only Shorthair among the Longhairs. May I say, as a Judge, the very contrast of their shorter coat makes them a joy to handle in the ring. I look forward with real anticipation to my Exotic classes. One only has to review the finals at most any show to prove that our Exotics are very well represented in the top decisions of most all of our Judges."

**CYNDI-KITS** - Mrs. Jane Stephens, who has been breeding Persians since 1965, made a second attempt to breed Exotic Shorthairs in 1980. When Mrs. Nancy Winans (Ran-Win) died in an automobile accident, Jane acquired a blue mackerel tabby, **Ran-Win's Rhapsody in Blue**. She bred Rhapsody to **GRC Shennen's Yancy of Cyndi-Kits**. This combination produced two blue tabby girls—**Cyndi-Kits Faline** and **GRC Cyndi-Kits Blueberry Muffin**. Faline, bred to **GRC Squire's Zuper Hot**, produced a fabulous cat—**GRC Cyndi-Kits Paper Tiger**. (Paper Tiger is co-owned by Mrs. Stephens and Mrs. Nancy Davis.) Jane is now breeding Paper Tiger to Muffin, an excellent linebreeding which has already produced **Cyndi-Kits Tabitha** and **Cyndi-Kits Felicity**, two winning tabby kittens.

**Paper Tiger** is the result of an outcross Exotic to Exotic breeding, but he is a combination of Persian lines, which have been proven to work in the Persians. It is exciting to see that the same criteria holds true when applied to Exotic Shorthair breeding.

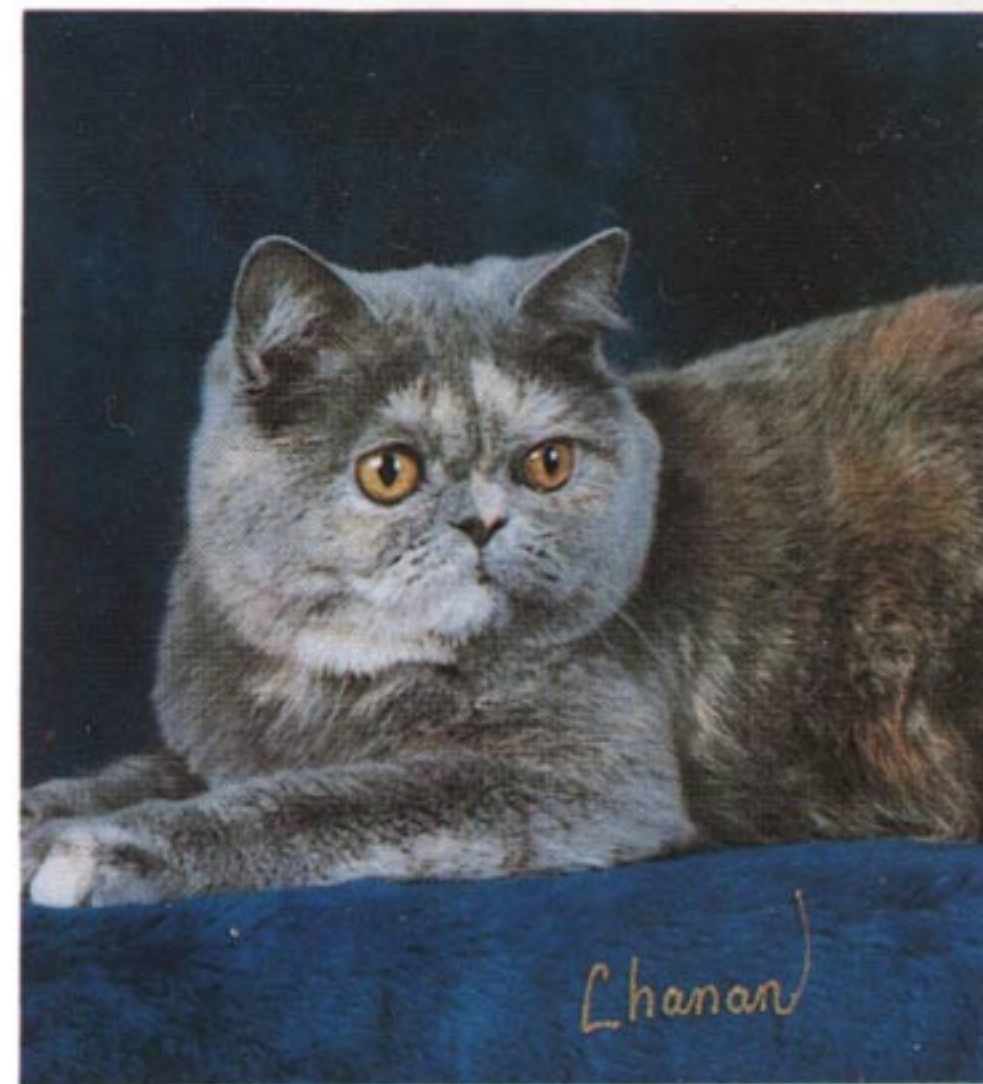
Jane's main interest today lies in establishing a line of extreme and very sweet-faced tabbies.

**EVEREVE** - Becky and Stan Nelson started with their Exotics in 1978 when they received **Lee's Bouncing Butter Ball** from Bill and Gayle Lee. They have since produced four grands, one of them was CFA's first tabby & white Exotic Shorthair. Their **GRC & GRP Evereve Yoda** was Best Blue Exotic Shorthair in 1983 and 7th Best Cat in Premiership in the Great Lakes Region in 1985. **Evereve All Star** is among the Great Lakes Regional winners for 1985 as 10th Best Kitten. Becky and Stan's main interest is to produce bi-color and calico Exotics in the dilute and dense colors.

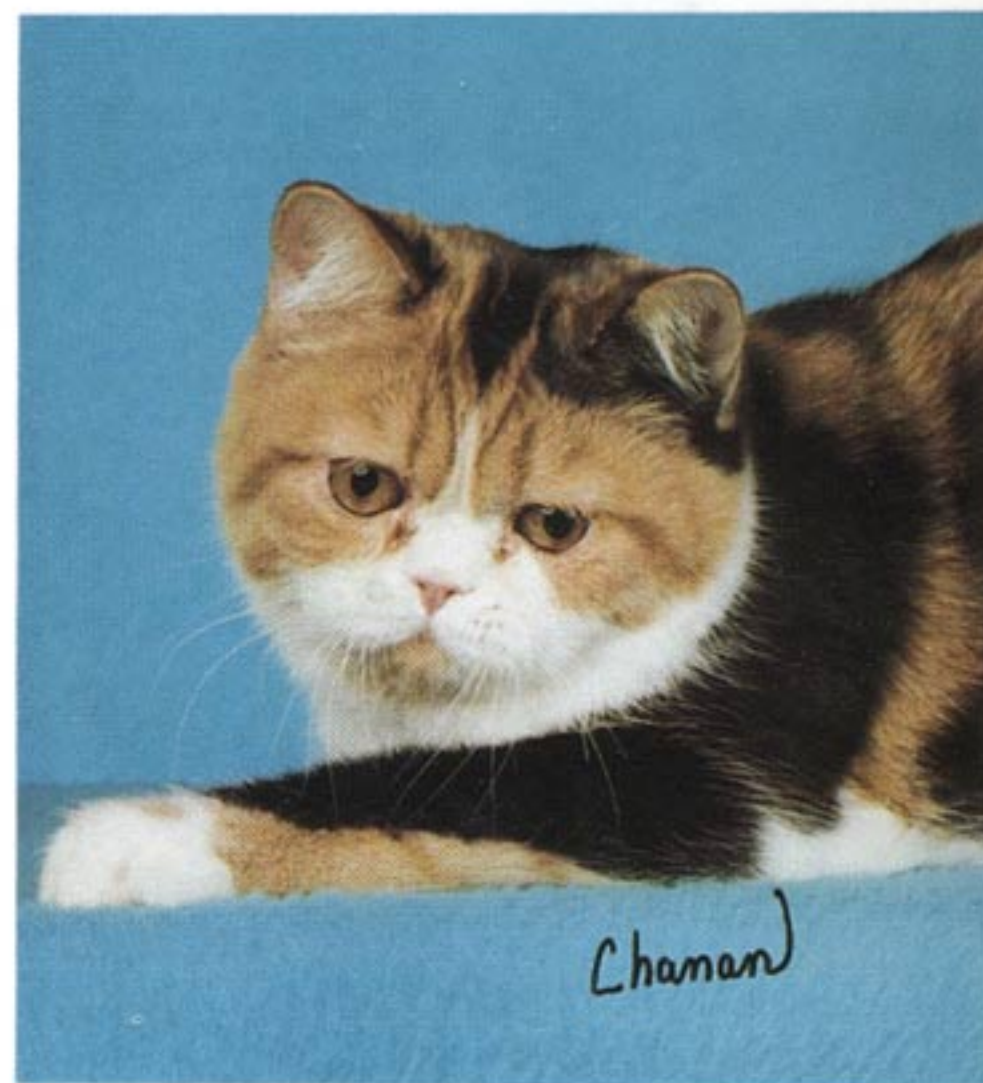
**JENITA** — Jean and Anita Freedman started to breed Exotic Shorthairs in about 1980. They are now the proud owners of **GRC New Dawn Short-Stop of Jenita**, who was previously owned by Rita and Sandy Krebs.

The Freedmans linebred on Short-Stop with a New Dawn female, and then outcrossed to **GRC Tabbyland's Timothy of Goldcoast**. From this breeding they got a beautiful brown mackerel tabby male, **GRC Jenita's Triumph**. Triumph was CFA's Best Brown Mackerel Tabby and Best Exotic Shorthair in the Southern Region in 1984.

Anita writes that, "it is my goal to develop a top line of tabby Exotic Shorthairs, with its own special look. This look is perfectly reflected in Triumph."



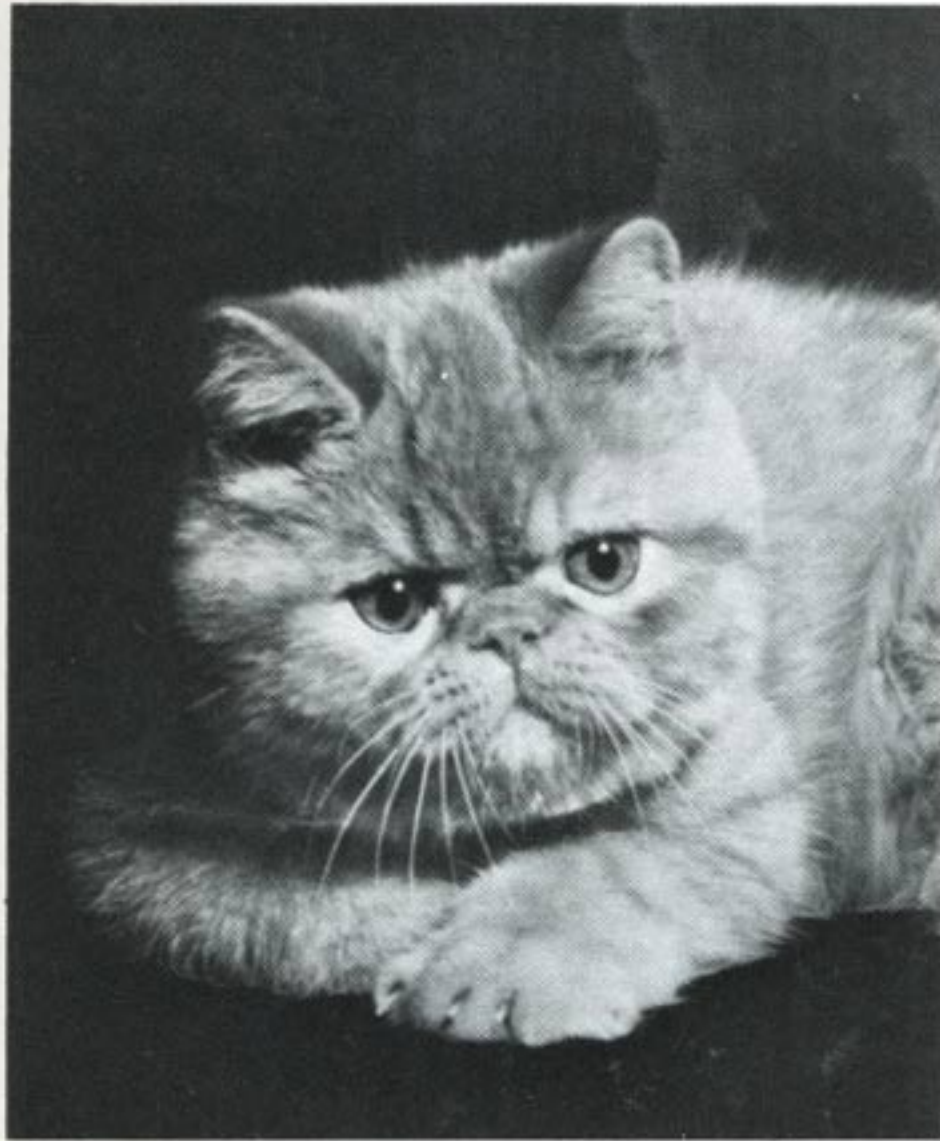
**GRC. KAPA'S KELLI**



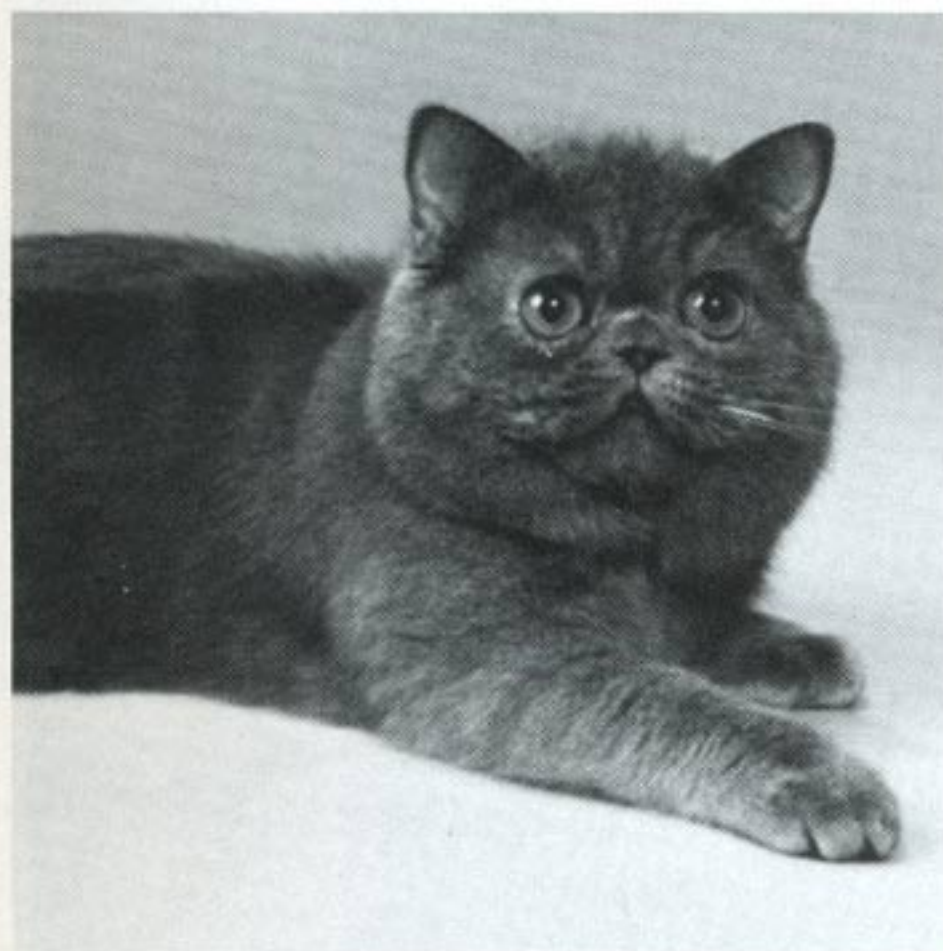
**GRC. MARCUS EGG ON MY FACE**



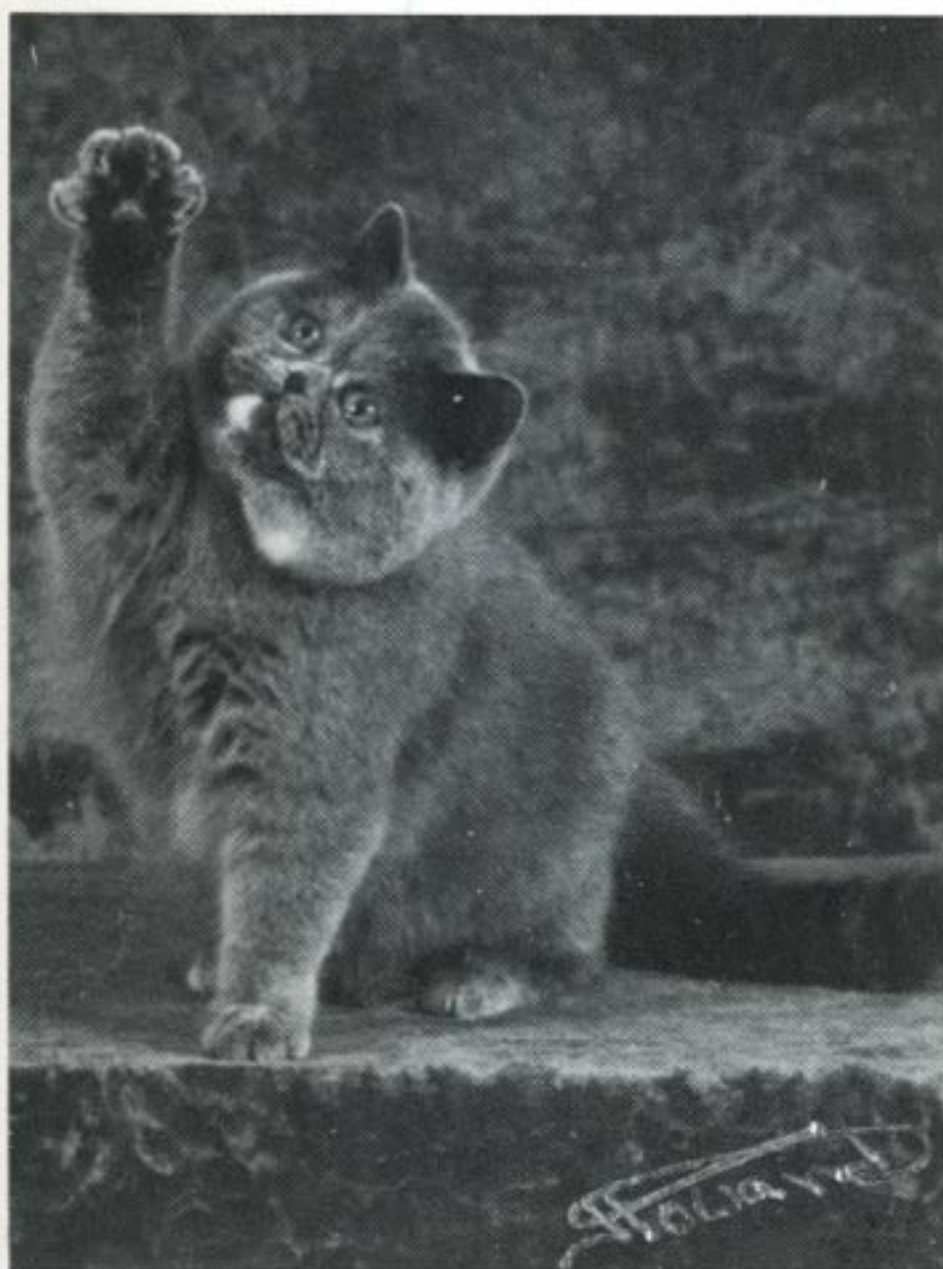
**GRC. DALA TWILITE ZONE OF GRANDARIES**



**GRC. SQUIRE'S ZUPER HOT**



**GRC. & GRP. EVEREVE YODA**



**GRC. Q-T CATS SURPRISE**

**MORVERN** - Bette Beatson, a breeder of Persians for several years, did not start to breed Exotic Shorthairs until 1982. It took her only two years to produce 1984's 10th Best Cat, **GRC Morvern Little Boy Blue**, a third generation Exotic. His great-great grand-sire is **Adam's Rib Something Else**, a red tabby American Shorthair. **Little Boy Blue** is line-bred on **Countryview Cachet of Fawnlake**, who's sire is **GRC Iran's Saracen of Fawnlake**. Bette is now showing, with great pride, **CH Ariagus Still Dreamin** and a son of Little Boy Blue, **CH Morvern's Short Cut**, a brown mackerel tabby.

**OLDFURRYWAY** - During 1982-1983, Eileen Butler (Boysen) exhibited a magnificent black Exotic male, **GRC Dala Twilite Zone of Grandaries**, bred by Larry Busgen. Zone received awards as 2nd Best Cat in the Southwest Region and 16th Best Cat in the nation. Zone's pedigree is interesting. He is the result of an Exotic cross, which was a linebreeding on **GRC Kalamar Sweet Pea of Swany**. The sire of Zone, **Swany's Red Trumpeter**, is a longhaired Exotic Shorthair. Therefore, Zone is a heterozygous Exotic and will produce longhair and shorthair kittens. (See Fig. 1b) **GRC Grandaries Amaranth of Mystichill** is one of his remarkable offspring. **GRC Oldfurryway's Olympian of Catslair** is currently being shown in Hawaii, where she received 2nd Best Cat in 1985.

**PURRFUN** - was established by Lynn Brookhouser and Sandy Taylor. Sandy, however, has settled elsewhere and Lynn is now the sole proprietor of the cattery. The foundation Purrfun cat was a chocolate female (still an AOV color in 1979) by the name of **Pumko Bambino of Purrfun** (Bambi), bred by Jean Heap from New Dawn lines. Bambi, for her first litter, was bred to **Can-Do Morning Sun** and produced three grands. Lynn noticed that every cat out of Bambi carried or exhibited chocolate, or chocolate smoke. She suspects that this color came from the New Dawn line in Bambi's pedigree. One of the Purrfun males from this line of Exotics, **GRP Purrfun Up-In-Flames** was born as a colorpoint - even though there is no colorpoint in the pedigree! This too can be attributed to the Burmese color gene from the New Dawn Line. Lynn is very enthusiastic about the recent acceptance of the chocolate color. She feels that it is a worthy addition to the Exotic's palette of colors. And, since all of her current Exotic Shorthairs go back to Bambi, she hopes to produce this color again. In addition, Lynn has two Windborne males as hopefuls for her Exotic Shorthair breeding program. One of them **Windborne Steuben**, is the sire of a lovely, quite extreme, cream male, **Purrfun Ginger Snap**, whose picture (at four months) is included in this article. So far, Purrfun cattery has produced five Grand Champions and has received several regional awards.

**Q-T CATS** - Leon and Marcia Samuels have been known as breeders of exquisite Persians for many years. We'll let Marcia tell her story about her adventures with Exotics. "**GRC Q-T Cats Surprise** was born on September 14, 1981. She was sired by **GRC Squire's Zuper Hot**. Her dam is **GRC Erina's Joy of Q-T Cats**, a blue-cream Persian bred by Leon and myself and Nora Russo. The litter consisted of three blue-cream females (two of them shorthair). It was a great experience for Leon and me, since this was our first litter of Exotics. They were raised in our bedroom. We nicknamed them the "fun kids" after it became apparent how different their personalities were from the quiet, passive Persians we were so accustomed to.

"Prize's" show career started as a kitten and in a limited amount of showing, she was Best Shorthair and 2nd Best Kitten in the North Atlantic Region. What made it doubly exciting was that "Joy", her dam was the Best Cat in the North Atlantic Region for the same show season. We had a great deal of fun traveling and showing mother and daughter together. . . . As an adult in 1983, "Prize" continued her family's winning ways. She was exhibited all over the country and received "Best Cat in Show" awards in each of the seven regions. With 10,000+ points, she became the highest scoring Exotic in the history of CFA. She earned the title of Best Cat in the North Atlantic Region and 2nd Best Cat nationally."

### Caring For The Exotic

Is the Exotic really a lazy-man's Persian? As a matter of fact, no animal is good for lazy people. The Exotic, just like the Persian, just like the Abyssinian, just like the Rex, will reflect in their appearance any neglect, any little bit of carelessness, any degree of messy housekeeping or unclean quarters and poor nutrition. A clean, bright, uncrowded, happy environment, and proper feeding are essential to keep all cats healthy and in their proper reproductive cycles.

Too often we see people who acquire or keep more animals than they can properly house, and care for. Overpopulation happens very quickly when working with a hybrid breed. Many articles and books are written about the subject of health care and I do not need to elaborate. But, there are a few points which I think might be of specific interest to the Exotic Shorthair breeder.

**Grooming:** Daily combing as with the Persian, is not vital, since the coat of an Exotic does not mat. Nevertheless, the Exotic benefits from a brief, quick combing every day. Especially in the spring and early summer this becomes important. The Exotic Shorthair's thick, double undercoat, is being shed continuously, and even more when the weather gets warm. It is incredible how much hair you can get out of an Exotic! (I am sure that it would be very detrimental to the animals digestive tract to ingest all this hair.) A fine metal comb is best for the job. I also bathe our Exotics about every week or two. Since the introduction of the new organic Hills Flea and Tick Shampoo, this chore has become almost a pleasure. Fleas or no fleas, this shampoo cuts the oils on the hair and penetrates to the skin quickly without the help of any other remedies. It leaves the coat beautifully bouncy and shiny. Thorough rinsing and immediate blow drying are as important as with any other cat. An Exotic Shorthair is a beautiful animal. A freshly bathed Exotic is heavenly!

**Grooming for Show:** The person who is experienced in bathing and grooming Persians for show already knows how to prepare an Exotic for this event. Exactly the same rules apply.

You will need your favorite shampoo, a toothbrush, one or two facecloths, a boiler full of warm water, two bath towels, a blowdryer and one hour of time per animal. Start at the face before getting the rest of the cat wet. With the help of the toothbrush and a facecloth, gently wash the face. Scrubbing gently with the toothbrush helps dissolve the oils on the base of the ears. Remove the soap from the face using facecloths and plenty of water. Be careful not to get any soap in the eyes. When the face is washed and rinsed, dry it with a fresh face cloth.

The rest of the cat is easy! Shampoo twice, and rinse very, very thoroughly. Then dry the cat (as much as possible) with towels before starting to blow dry. For drying I use a hand held hair dryer and a

short-tooth Belgium comb. I put the cat in my lap and, as I blow it dry, I comb the hair against its natural fall to fluff it—just as is done with the Persians. I completely dry the animal before putting it in a carrier to adjust the cat slowly back to room temperature. If your cat is well bathed, you will have plenty of time to socialize at the shows, because there is nothing left to do! And you will be the envy of every slaving Persian exhibitor! But, all the grooming and all the bathing wouldn't help if the animal is in poor health, if it has internal or external parasites, and if it is not fed properly, and not kept in clean quarters.

**Feeding:** I am not an advocate of vitamin and mineral supplements. A well balanced diet should contain all necessary nutrients. But, the Exotic's appearance, more than any other breed, seems to benefit from one supplement. That is unsaturated fatty acids.

The diet is simple. In the morning we feed commercial cat food. All flavors are acceptable, but we do not use any which contain fish. When kittens are present, we often add some cottage cheese. Dry chow is always available during the day for nibbling. (Our male gets only Science Diet, which I sometimes soak in water. He likes it either way.)

Night feeding is a little more involved but, since it has become routine, it doesn't take much more time. The main ingredients are: **dry Science Diet**, **raw beef** (coarsely ground), **chicken** (pressure cooked and ground - bones and all), **Pet Tab F.A.** (principally as a source of unsaturated fatty acids), and a pinch of **calcium powder** (to balance the high phosphorous content of the beef). Occasionally I will add a **raw egg yolk** (never the white!) I soak the dry food in hot water until it is completely soft and soupy. To this I add the calcium and the Pet Tab F.A. and mix well. Then I add the beef and the chicken. The chicken is prepared in advance in large quantities, and then frozen into daily portions.)

**Sanitation:** To prevent internal and external parasites, fungus or other disease, our cattery is kept meticulously clean. Litter pans are changed routinely twice a day, approximately one half hour after meals. Cage floors are washed every day with water and once a week with a very low concentration of Clorox. The cattery floor (400 sq. ft.) is swept twice daily and washed with a mild detergent and some Clorox once a week—more frequently if necessary. We do not use any disinfectant (other than our occasional cleanings with Clorox) or any deodorant. To make thorough cleaning easier, all of our cages and other furniture in the cattery are mounted on casters. Since we live in the south, we have to be constantly on the alert for fleas. For this reason, we keep carpeted furniture (such as climbing trees and scratching posts) to a minimum. Bedding consists of small, quilted pads, which can be machine washed.

**Birthing:** In general, cats do not require much assistance when delivering kittens. And the Exotic Shorthair was thought to have few problems due to the breed's heterozygosity. For us, that was several generations ago. Even though our cats are not inbred, they often need more than assistance. Frequently they require Cesarean Section. (This could be due to the fact that their bodies are getting so short now and the babies' heads are so big.) We have delivered sixteen litters (a total of forty-seven kittens) by C-Section since 1980. The success rate, thanks to our very competent and cooperative veterinarian team, Dr. Bruce Gradous, Dr. Edward Gross and Dr. Patricia Coryele, has been 100%. We have neither lost a mother nor a single kitten!

Because we have come to expect problems at

delivery time, I let my girls breed only for one day. This narrows the window for delivery, and allows me to accurately predict the delivery day.

We keep a small Alco carrier, equipped with a heating pad and numerous small, white facecloths, strictly for deliveries. On the sixty-first day, I start heating it up. Even if the delivery is normal, this comes in handy. But should a C-Section be necessary, I simply take the already warmed carrier (and the prospective mother) to the vet. I plug the heating pad in again when I reach the clinic.

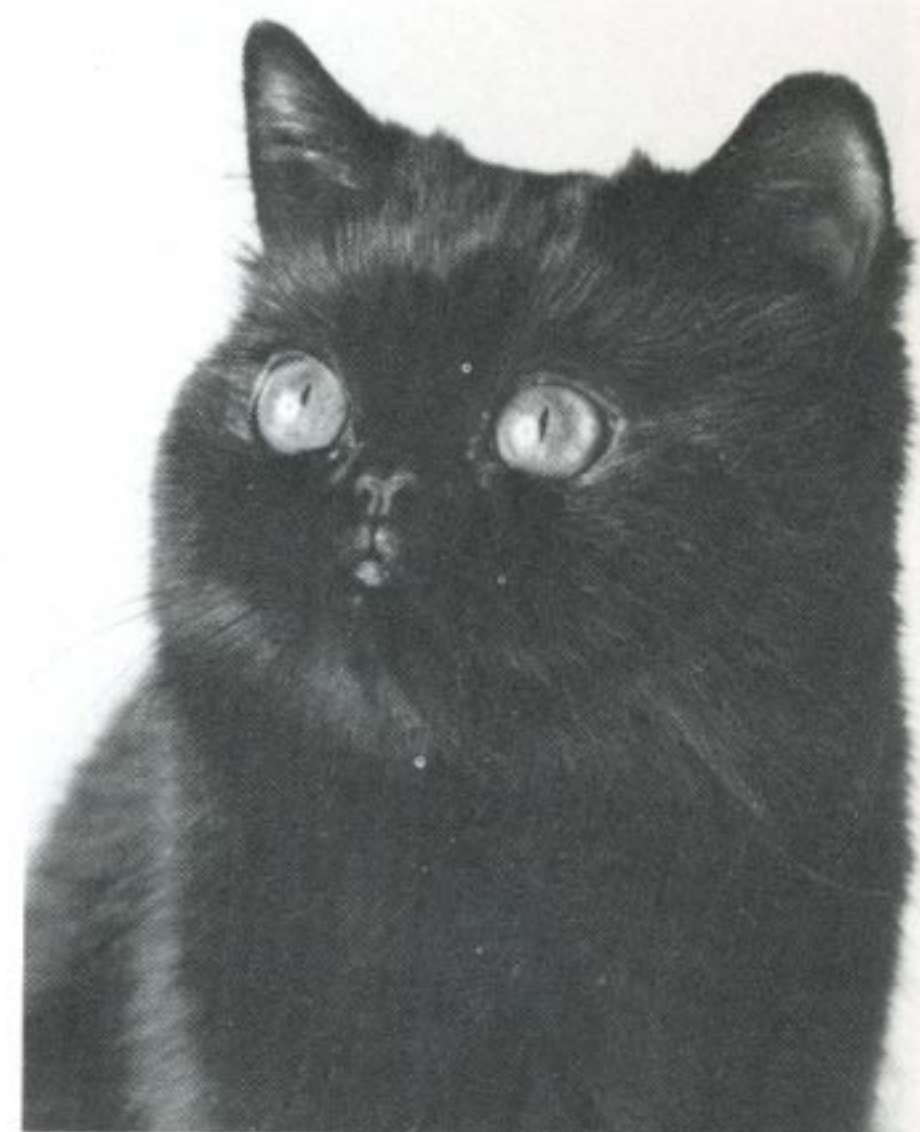
I have been asked several times how I know a cat needs a C-Section. When delivery time comes, I watch my girls very carefully. They usually give me subtle indications that they will be coming into labor within the next few hours. It is important not to miss the onset of active labor. If my girls have not delivered a kitten within one and a half to two hours from the time contractions start, we get in touch with our vets—whichever one is on call at the inevitable 3:00 a.m. At the clinic the cat will be examined. Sometimes we will try some extra oxytocin, but surgery has most always been necessary! Dr. Coryell writes, "There are several good regimes for general anesthesia in cats, but most will have a depressing effect on the fetus. We have been using **half the regular dosage of Ketaset** and a local at the incision site. This gives adequate patient control, without severely depressing the fetus. We also try to deliver the kittens as quickly as possible following induction of anesthesia. Therefore, with cooperative patients, we will do much of our surgical prep (clipping, washing, disinfecting) before inducing anesthesia and instilling local. Then the patient is positioned, final prep done and the incision is made."

If the delivery takes place at night, we will help with the kittens. As they are handed to us by the surgeon, we clear their noses and mouths of fluid with a clean washcloth. Then the kittens are rubbed vigorously until they start to breathe. Most kittens delivered with this procedure start breathing very quickly. As soon as they are breathing, they are placed in an infant incubator, which has proper heat and humidity control. We never leave the mother and babies at the clinic. As soon as the surgery is finished, the babies go into the warm carrier and the entire family goes home with us. It is very important that the babies are kept continuously in a warm environment for at least a week.

The mother must be kept in a confined place, such as a cage, until she completely regains coordination. It can take up to eight hours. I usually do not give the babies to a mother until she is fully coordinated for fear she might accidentally smother one. Until I can put them with the mother, I tube feed the babies. Basically, I follow the same procedure that Dr. Audrey Hayes describes (Ref. 7), except that I mix a little raw honey with the KMR. Thanks to Ginny Wolfe, who taught me the procedure twelve years ago, I have no problem with tube feeding. But, if you are reluctant to try this method, feeding carefully with an eye dropper is just as efficient—only much slower! When the mother is fully recovered from the anesthesia, she will be happy to see her babies and they will be ready for the nipple.

#### The Exotic's Look

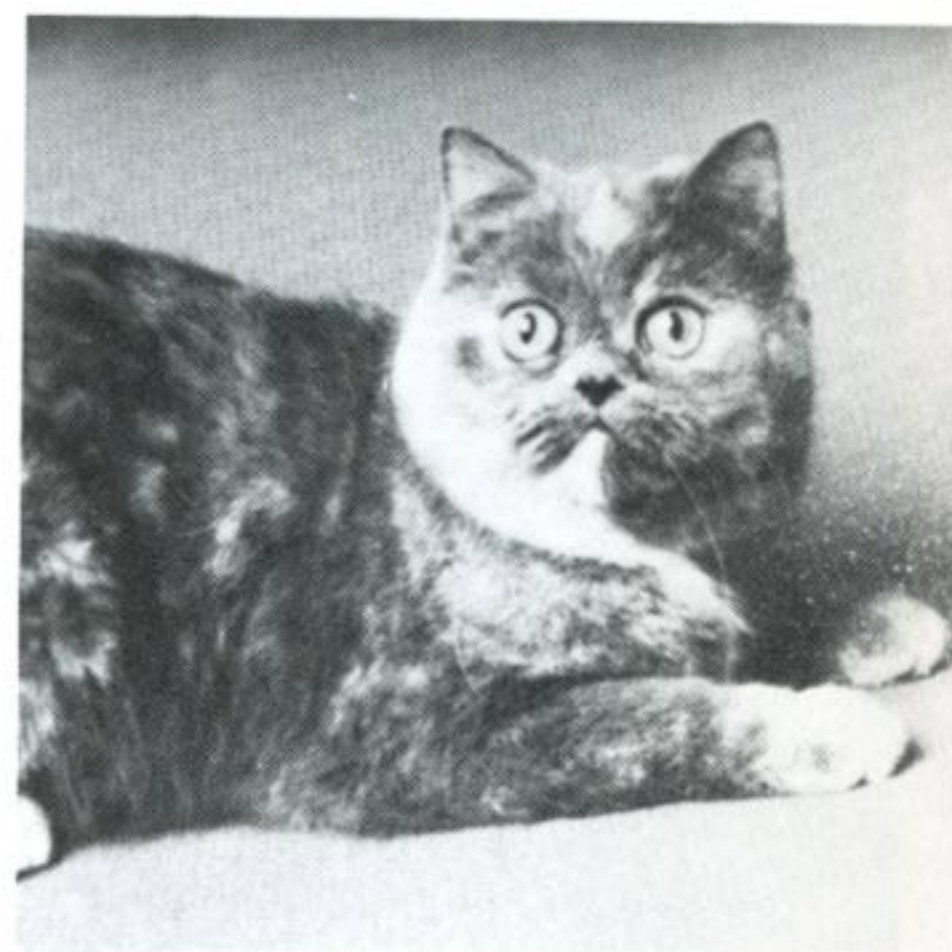
The "look" of Exotic Shorthairs which are exhibited today is not uniform. Frequently the overall appearance and the facial expression of the cats vary so much that it is difficult to believe that they are representatives of the same breed! These variations occur for two reasons. First, the Exotic Shorthair is a young, recently developed, hybrid breed, where



GRC. DESMIN DANCING IN THE DARK



GRC. COLBYSHIRE COVENANT WAHINI



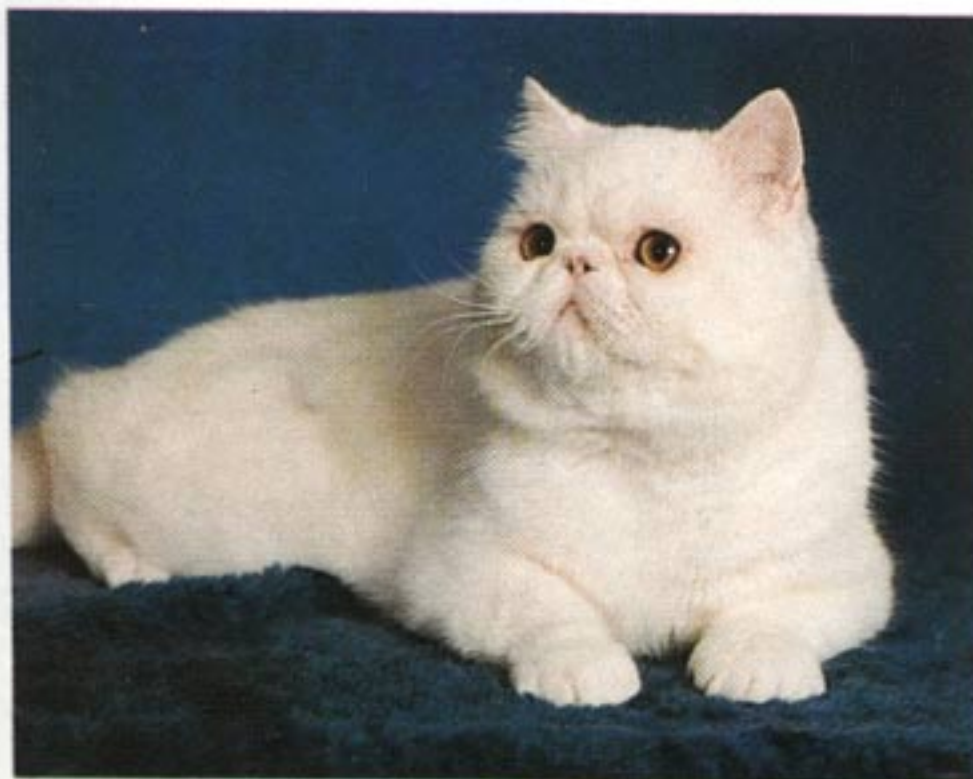
GRC. ASHMONT IN THE MOOD OF BEN-MAR



GRC. CYNDI-KITS PAPER TIGER



GRC. BARTOS LITTLE BIT



GRC. NEW DAWN SNO-FIRE SALUTE OF GWENLAR



GRC. ARIAGUS GEORGIA JACKSON OF LAKOTA

original crossings are still allowed. Second, and more importantly, until very recently, any shorthair breed was allowed to be used as the original outcross. I am sure we would see much more uniformity among the Exotics today, if all of them came from American Shorthair x Persian crossings. However, this was not the case.

Today there are Exotic lines which come from Burmese crossings, for example: New Dawn, Bryn Mawr, and Tamri. Lowlands, Ro-Cha, Kalamar, Tamuff and Morvern are lines which were developed from American Shorthairs. And Russian Blue ancestors are in the Bard and Desmin lines. Because of the use of such opposing breeds as the Americans, Burmese and Russians, the "look" of the Exotics vary greatly. Furthermore, until recently, Exotic Shorthair lines have not been cross-bred. (Almost all Exotics are only bred to Persians, or to relatives of their own bloodlines.) Gradually, through repeated breeding to Persians and through cross-breeding of different Exotic Shorthair lines, we will approach the **one** ideal look the standard proposes.

During the last few years, some breeders have either started cross-breeding different Exotic Shorthair lines, or have acquired breeding stock for future cross-breeding. Chuck Hickman (Ariagus) has had noticeable success with Tamri-line Exotics bred to Exotic Shorthairs going back to Desmin. Drs. Jim & Debbie Hahn (Deja) are now crossing Exotics from New Dawn, Desmin, Candyland (Tamri), Cyndi-Kits (Squire/Lowland) and Ariagus (Tamri) lines. Gene and Wanda Odom (Wangen) are planning to incorporate Marcus (Tamri), Ariagus (Desmin and Tamri) and Bartos (New Dawn) cats into their Exotics. Eileen (Boysen) Butler is using Dala (Kalamar) and Hasul (Bryn Mawr) in her breeding program. We (Desmin) have recently introduced Ro-Cha and Ariagus (Tamri) lines. Ben & Margaret Ehrhardt (Ben-Mar) have an Ashmont (New Dawn) and a Waneepaw (Desmin) Exotic Shorthair for use in future cross-breeding.

Since none of the original outcross shorthair breeds have **all** the qualities we need in the Exotic, I think the crossing of different Exotic Shorthair lines (with intermittent breedings to Persians) will benefit the breed. The Burmese has, without a doubt, produced the best head-type and body-type (within fewer generations of crosses to Persians) than any of the other breeds. However, coat texture, coat color genes and often finer bone structure have presented problems. The Russian Blue offered an ideal coat in color and texture, but head and body type and bone structure were totally undesirable. (Fortunately for me, most Russian Blues from fifteen years ago were less refined than they are today!) The American Shorthair, on the other hand, contributes everything in moderation. And, without question, the American Shorthair is the only breed which has provided the heavy bone structure we need in the Exotic Shorthair.

### Breeding Exotic Shorthairs

I do not feel at all qualified to discuss breeding practices, even though we have produced a total of fifteen grands (nine Exotic Shorthairs, three shaded silver American Shorthairs, two Persians and one American Wirehair). Neither do I consider myself an authority on this subject, nor can I say that I know pedigrees by heart. I do admire people who always know exactly what they are doing and who know exactly the kind of kittens a certain combination will produce.

I feel that we are still at the beginning of our breeding program. Nevertheless, I do know a few rules, and I would like to share the little I know with

you. But, before I discuss any breeding programs, I need to emphasize that accurate record keeping of pedigrees is absolutely essential to insure reproductibility. The pedigree is the breeders most important tool. If you don't know with certainty the sire or dam of a litter, any further breedings will become guesswork. It is imperative to mark the dates of matings as they take place, and to record the color and sex of the kittens as they are born. If more than one male is in the cattery, make **absolutely** sure that the female to be bred is **only** with the proper male. The Exotic females are often very quiet when they are in heat and don't always show obvious signs of oestrous. Also be aware that an Exotic Shorthair male will most likely begin siring at an earlier age than his Persian counterpart.

As I mentioned earlier, I started breeding our Exotic Shorthairs with a sort-of-Russian-Blue. She had very little to contribute to the goal of producing a Persian type cat. Her only attributes were that she was definitely a homozygous shorthair (something which is not always true for an American Shorthair), and that she had a light blue, dense coat of a texture which proved to be ideal for the Exotics. In type, however, she was far removed from the Persian and I knew that I had a difficult task ahead! I knew about inbreeding and linebreeding to fix or enhance certain traits. But before I was able to do this, I wanted to get as many different Persian bloodlines as possible combined in my Exotics. Persians, I need to add, who possessed all (or at least some) of the qualities I was looking for. Gradually I was hoping to improve the type with as much heterozygosity as possible to maintain health and stamina. My plan was to outcross with the best Persian lines available, until I felt that my Exotics expressed, or could possibly carry, most of the traits which I wanted to see combined. Starting to inbreed at this point would hopefully enable me to produce good quality animals with a high degree of consistency.

In order to fix desired traits, I was planning to start inbreeding and linebreeding (Ref. 3) when we had the following: a) two excellent Exotics—a male and female, from outcross breedings to a strong, common Persian parent. These two Exotics would then be used for a half-brother/half-sister breeding, and; b) one good Exotic from an outcross Exotic Shorthair/Persian mating for breeding back to the Persian parent (a daughter/father or son/mother breeding). The Persians used in the a & b breedings were not to be related. Then, in the following generation, I planned to cross the offspring of these two inbred lines. This concept, however, will work best if the two Persian parents used cross well. In order to verify this, we have crossed the two unrelated Persian lines prior to the start of inbreeding. The result was a healthy litter of five, including three show quality females. One of them was a CFA grand at eight and a half months! I accept this as sufficient proof that these two lines will work reasonably well together. We are now planning the first inbreeding. (This is why I say we are just beginning.) It took me twelve years and seven generations to get here. Another twelve years will prove me right or wrong! But I am confident that with the good foundations we have in our Exotic Shorthair pedigrees (Vi-Jon, Ben-Mar, Ol-Ray, Bryn Mawr, Lowlands, Prim-Pet, Misty Morrin', Pegsden, Simbelaire and Rambo) we will be able to continually improve our Exotics!

Even though we have not yet done any inbreeding ourselves, the Persians we are currently using (or which are in our pedigrees) are to a certain degree inbred and linebred cats. These include: **CH Circle C Blue Max of Chandelle** - inbred on **GRC Bryn Mawr Benji of Oakway**, and **GRC Rambo's Carnival**,