

GRC. MORVERN LITTLE BOY BLUE



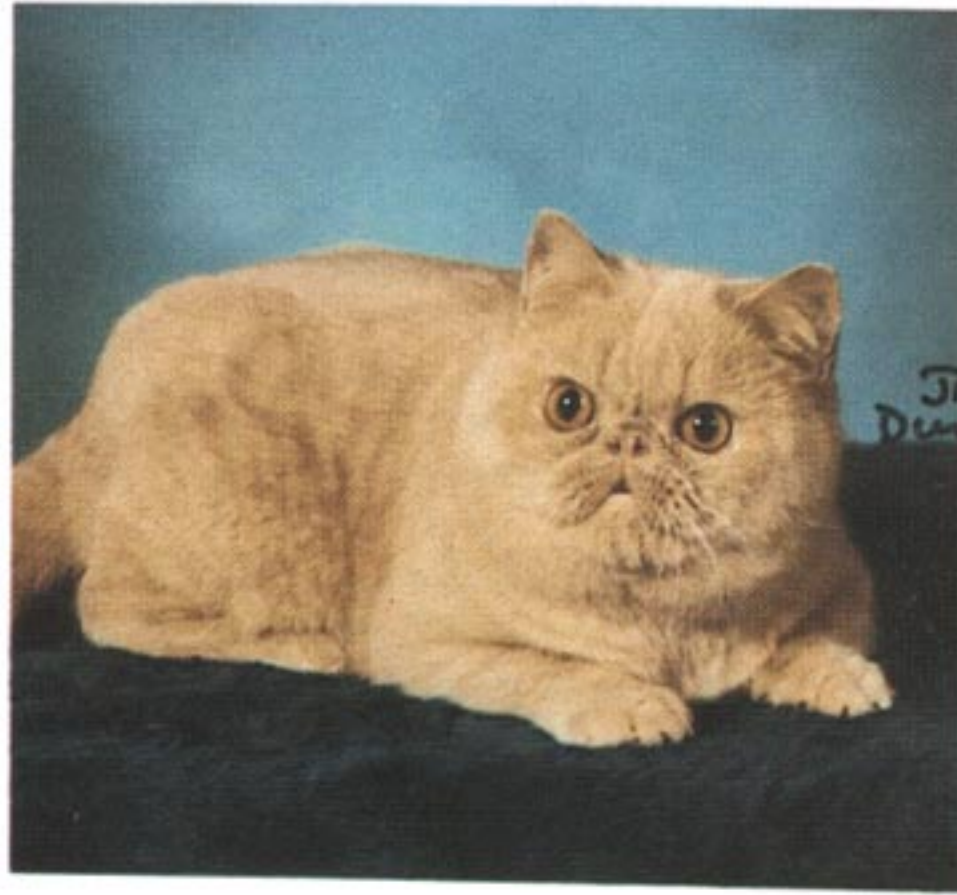
PURRFUN'S GINGER SNAP



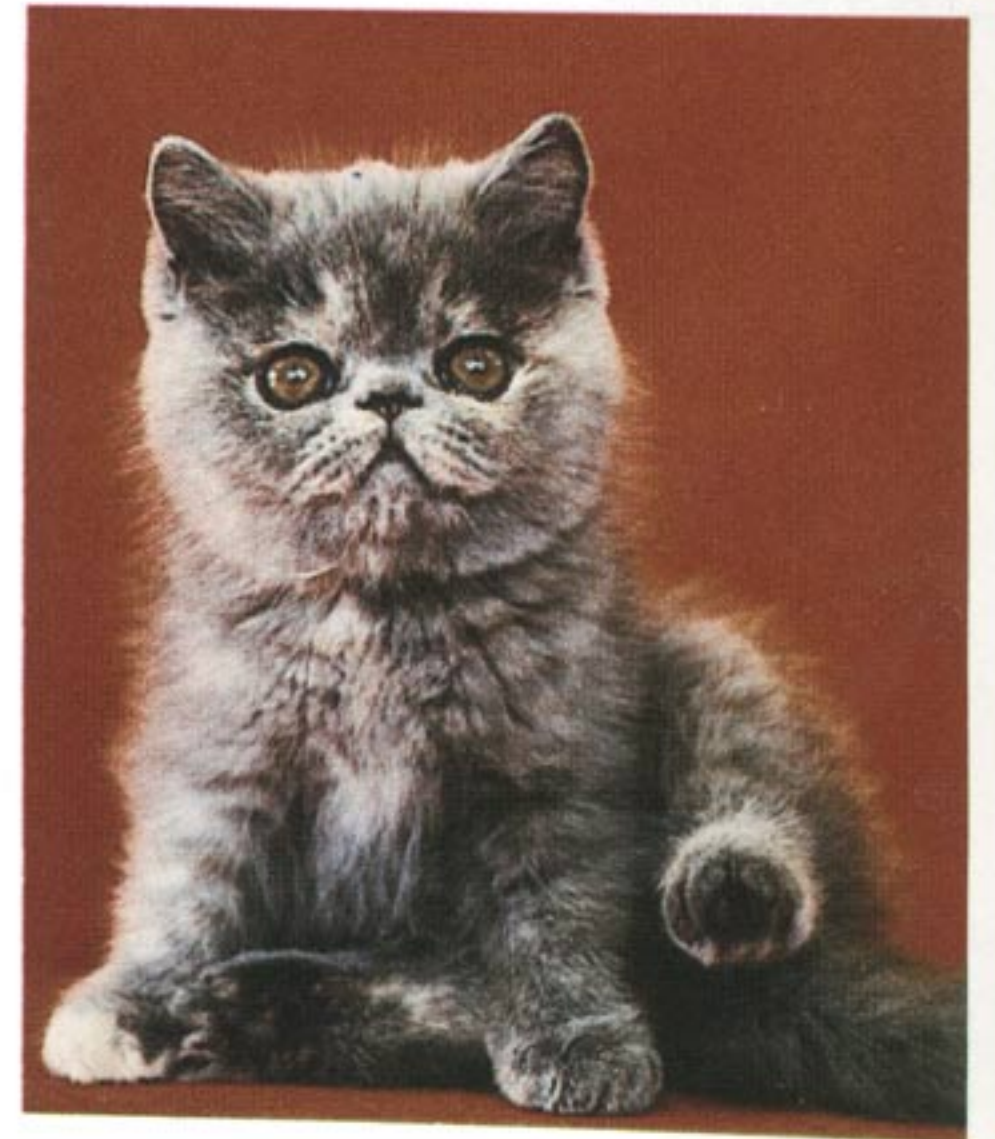
GRC. ARIAGUS SWEET DREAMS



GRC. JENITA'S TRIUMPH



GRC. NEW DAWN TOP O THE LINE



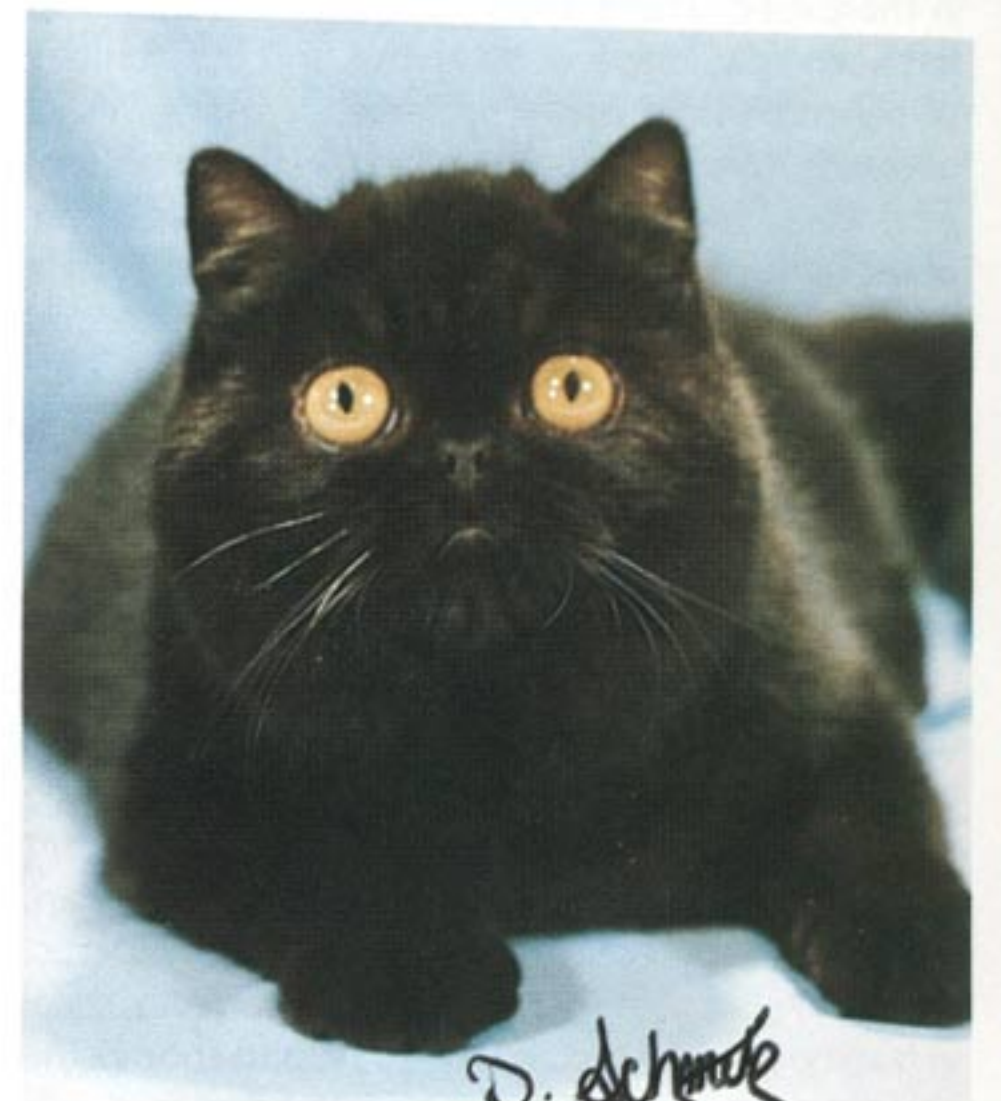
DESMIN D'LITE



GRC. DESMIN DESIREE OF DEJA



GRP. PURRFUN'S UP-IN-FLAMES



NEW DAWN TOUCH THE STARS

who is the result of linebreeding on descendants of **Misty Mornin' Conquest**. The combination of the two lines has proved to be very rewarding for us.

The Proper Coat

It says in the standard for the Exotic Shorthair: "Coat: . . . Dense, plush . . . medium in length." (Ref. 2) There are two factors here—Quality and Dimension. Let us analyze coat quality first. I have heard people comment that the dilute Exotics, the blues, creams and blue-creams, are winning more than other colors. A look at the statistics of the Exotic Shorthair grands confirms this statement. Dilutes comprise 39.8% of all Exotic Shorthair Grands. However, color is not the responsible factor. One explanation is that, in the past, the dilute Persians have been the better cats of this breed. Only recently have the blacks and reds become so *typy*. Also, there is a distinct difference in the quality of the hair in the dilute Persians, best described as cotton-like or woolly. Most of the blacks, reds, torties and calicos have a sleek, heavy, silky coat. The same is true for the Exotic Shorthair. In addition to the different texture of the guardhair, the dilute Persians carry a much denser, thicker undercoat than most Persians of the dominant colors. This thick undercoat is passed on to the Exotics as well. Therefore, it is understandable that the coat of the torties, reds and blacks appears flatter than the cottony, woolly coat of the dilutes. The thick undercoat, in combination with the light, fine guardhair, allows the hair to stand out from the body. This enhances the desired appearance of the Teddy Bear look. I also find that Exotic Shorthairs derived from original Burmese crossings (even the creams and blues) have a different, in my opinion, less desirable, coat texture than Exotics from Persian x American crosses. At least this is true for early generation Exotic Shorthairs. It is one of the reasons why Burmese have lately been banned for creating Exotic Shorthairs (even though the Burmese might yield a better Exotic Shorthair type). The best coat texture, however, seems to come from crosses to Russian Blues (Bard and Desmin Exotics). The already dense, fine, plush, double-coat of the Russian Blue provides the ideal basis for the perfect Exotic Shorthair coat. However, Russian Blues are no longer allowed as an outcross breed.

Hair length is a controversial subject in the Exotic Shorthair. Just as there are differences in coat length in the Persians, there are differences in coat length in the Exotic. There appears to be no relationship between coat length of an animal and the number of generations of Exotic x Persian crossings in its pedigree. We are now working with sixth (6th) generation Exotic Shorthairs (Fig. 3), without ever breeding Exotic to Exotic, and we are still getting the same length of hair as in the first and second generations. However, there are some differences. First it is becoming more difficult to determine if a newborn kitten is going to be a longhair or a shorthair. Second, and more important, the coats are getting denser.

The length of the hair on a **shorthaired** Exotic Shorthair does not have any influence on the number of longhair or shorthair kittens it can produce. Likewise, a shorter coated Persian will not produce more shorthair Exotics. Of course, just as we want the longest possible coat on an exhibition Persian, we want a relatively short coat on a show Exotic. If I had to judge between two Exotics perfectly equal in quality, except for coat length, I would choose the shorter coated cat. But, because the standard calls for medium coat, a cat with a slightly longer than

average coat should not be penalized. Unless, of course, the cat has a flowing coat, a ruff or tail "feathers." If a kitten appears to be a longhair for the first few weeks, but turns out to be a shorthair—it is most likely to be one of the longer coated ones. **GRC Desmin Doppelganger** was such a kitten. We thought he was going to be a longhair until he was four to five weeks old. But he turned out to be a definite shorthair, except that his coat was just a bit on the long side. Still, in his first show as an open, he was highest scoring cat. He graded with 348 points in two shows and 17 out of 18 judges finished him!

Coat Length Genetics

In addition to the challenge of producing a cat of type and balance as described in the standard (Ref. 2), coupled with good health and temperament, the Exotic Shorthair breeder has the added burden of breeding for a dominant, the shorthair gene. The heredity of coat length in the cat follows fundamental genetic laws. With the help of the checkerboard diagram (Fig. 1 a-f; Ref. 4) it is easy to visualize the possibilities of gene combinations from different matings.

Longhair, as the mutant gene, is recessive. For a recessive gene to be expressed, such as in the longhair cat, both genes have to be the recessive alleles. Therefore, a longhair cat can only give a longhair gene to its offspring and if bred to another longhair can produce only longhair cats. (Fig. 1f) Longhair is inherited in the same manner as, for example, blue—a blue bred to a blue will only produce blues.

The shorthair gene, unfortunately, is a different story. A shorthair cat can be homozygous for shorthair, in which case both genes are the shorthair alleles. And such an animal will produce only shorthair offspring. (Fig. 1a&d) But, a shorthair cat can also be heterozygous for shorthair—and most Exotics are. In this case we have the recessive longhair allele (l) and the dominant shorthair gene (L) present. Due to the dominance of the shorthair gene, the recessive longhair (l) is not expressed and the animal is a shorthair. This animal can give longhair (l) or shorthair (L) to any of his offspring. (Fig. 1b, c&d) A homozygous shorthair is not visually distinguishable from a heterozygous animal. The genotype can be determined only through the outcome of matings. The quickest way to verify the genotype for coat length in a shorthair cat, is to breed it to a Persian (or any other longhair). If all kittens in a relatively large litter (four or five) are shorthairs, there is a good chance that the cat is homozygous. If, however, there is only one longhair kitten, the cat is heterozygous. If the animal had a longhair (l) parent, then the cat has to be heterozygous. (Fig. 1a&b)

Many feel it should be the ultimate goal for the Exotic Shorthair breeder to produce homozygous Exotic Shorthairs. That is, Exotics who will produce only shorthairs. This goal can only be achieved through repeated breeding of Exotics to Exotics. But, before any such breeding is attempted, the desired Persian type should be solidly fixed in the Exotics. I have seen several Exotic to Exotic breedings (one of them my own) which have produced only pet quality kits, even though both parents were of excellent type. I think it is generally much too early to breed Exotic to Exotic. A breeding of two shorthairs should be attempted only if both Exotics are closely related, and if they have a good quality Persian pedigree.

In one case, however, two unrelated Exotics have produced an excellent cat—**GRC Cyndi-Kits Paper Tiger**. (Cyndi-Kits Faline x GRC Squire's Zuper Hot). The combination of these two Exotics is also the combination of Persian lines, which have produced some of the best Persians in the country including: Shennen (Prim-Pet), Misty Mornin' and Jo-Le. The question now is, can Paper Tiger produce good Exotics with outcross Exotic Shorthair females? A better way to breed him (as has already been done) is to linebreed him to his mother or her sister Muffins. I would like to use this breeding as an example to demonstrate possible further developments of the pedigree to achieve homozygous Exotic Shorthairs. (Fig. 2)

Although Paper Tiger comes from an Exotic to Exotic breeding (Fig. 1c), and could be a homozygous shorthair, since he has already produced longhair kittens, he is heterozygous. (Ll). Two shorthair female kittens were born from a breeding of Muffin to Paper Tiger. These two shorthairs have a 25% chance of being homozygous shorthair and a 50% chance of being heterozygous. (The 25% chance of being longhair is eliminated, since their phenotype is shorthair.) If a girl, of the genotype Ll (let us assume Tabitha), is taken back to a heterozygous shorthair male (Paper Tiger, for example), then chances are again 25% LL, 25% Ll, and 50% Ll. This could go on forever. With a moderate amount of luck, one of the offspring is a homozygous (LL) (in Fig. 2, it is Felicity). Offspring from a mating of Felicity (LL) to a heterozygous (Ll) male (Zuper Hot, for example, to maintain type) will have an increased chance (50%) of being homozygous shorthairs. 100% homozygosity can only be achieved by breeding two homozygous cats (Fig. 1e) If however, an extreme Exotic Shorthair relative, like Zuper Hot, is not available, a breeder would have to go back to a Persian, reintroduce the longhair gene, and start all over again. As you can see, it will take a long time to produce only homozygous shorthairs, of good Persian type.

Several people have been trying to breed shorthair to shorthair just because there is an increased chance of getting shorthair kittens. I think this is a mistake. I would rather have only one very good shorthair in a litter, than have three shorthairs of poor quality. When one takes a heterozygous (Ll) Exotic Shorthair to a Persian (ll), there is **always** a 50% chance of getting shorthair kittens (Fig. 1b). It does not matter how many generations of Exotic x Persian crosses are behind this shorthair cat. The chance of getting more longhairs does not increase. It will always be 50%. But, as I have mentioned elsewhere in this article, the coats are getting much thicker and woolier when breeding repeatedly back to Persians. This phenomenon is due to the involvement of polygenes. (Ref. 4) Through years of selective breeding, most Persians now exhibit not just a long coat, but also a thick, long, woolly undercoat. As Exotic Shorthair breeders, we have the opportunity to take advantage of this established quality and transfer it to the Exotic. We do not simply want a short coat. We also want the thick, dense, double undercoat, to make the hair stand out from the body. This type of coat quality can only be achieved by repeatedly breeding back to Persians. Therefore, I would refrain from breeding Exotic Shorthair to Exotic Shorthair too soon.

Often I have been asked about the use of longhair Exotics in the Exotic Shorthair breeding program. With respect to coat length, the longhair is, as shown in Fig. 1-f, genetically a Persian. Because it has only

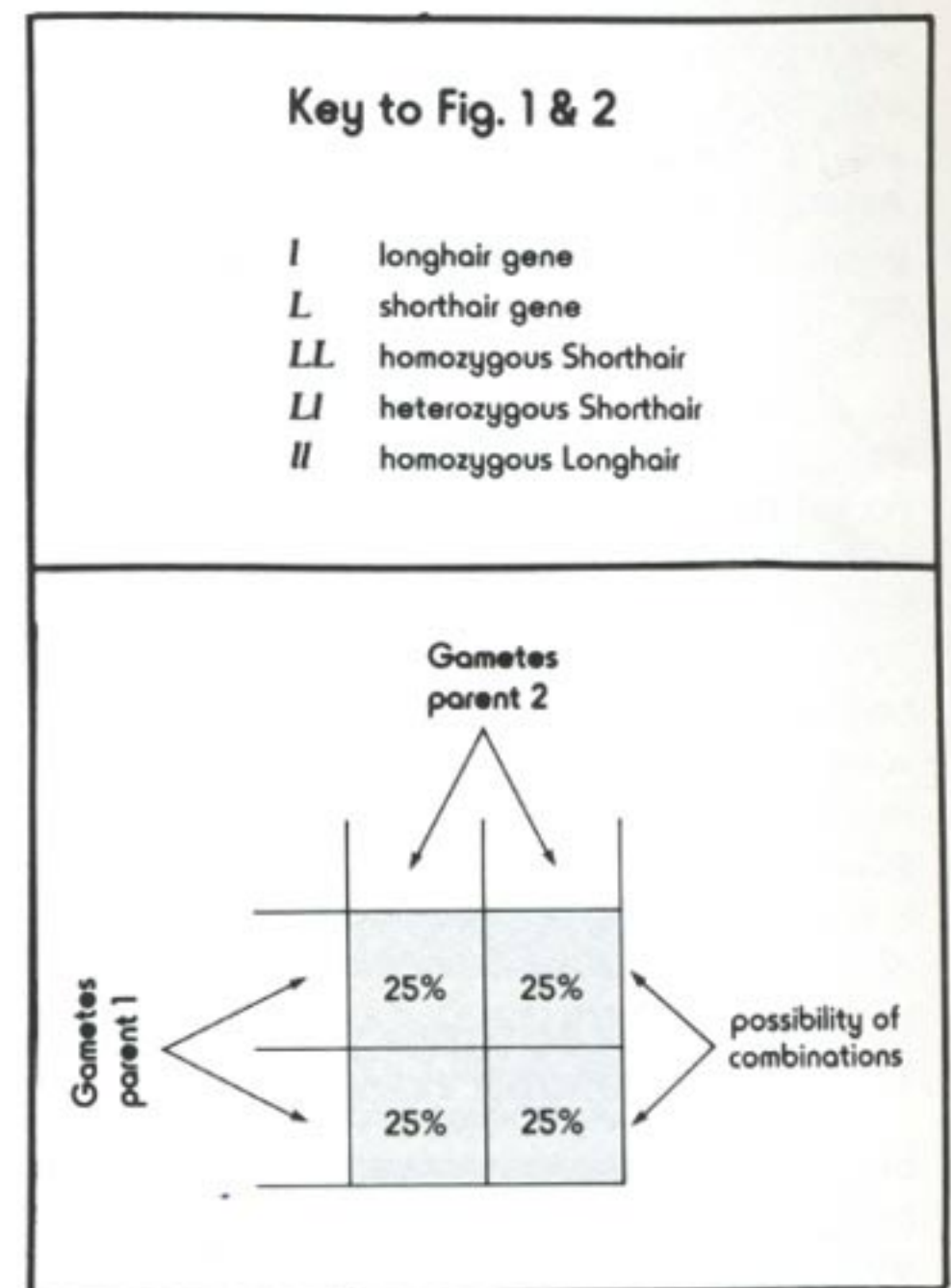
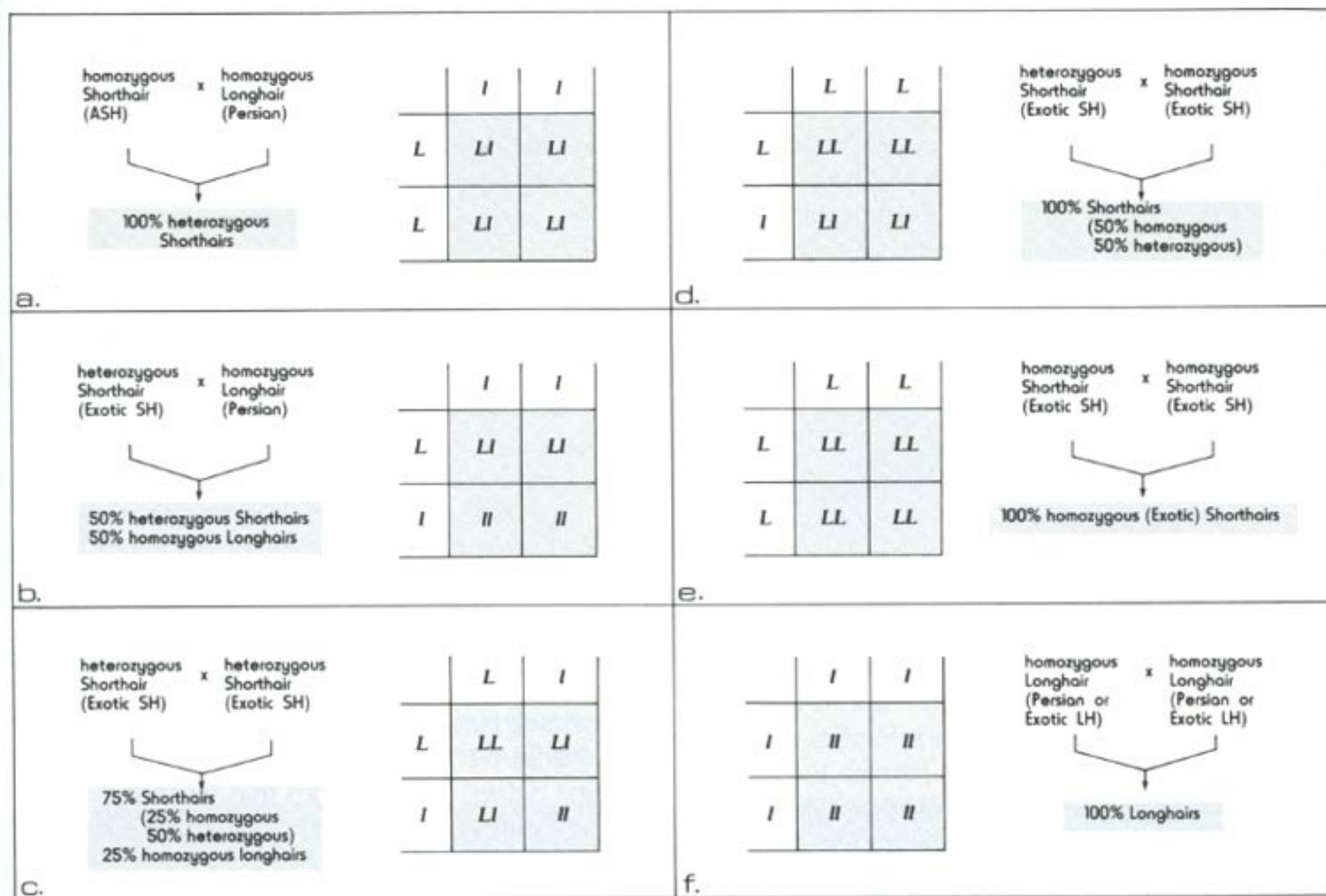


Fig. 1: Checkerboard Diagrams for Longhair and Shorthair Gene Combinations.

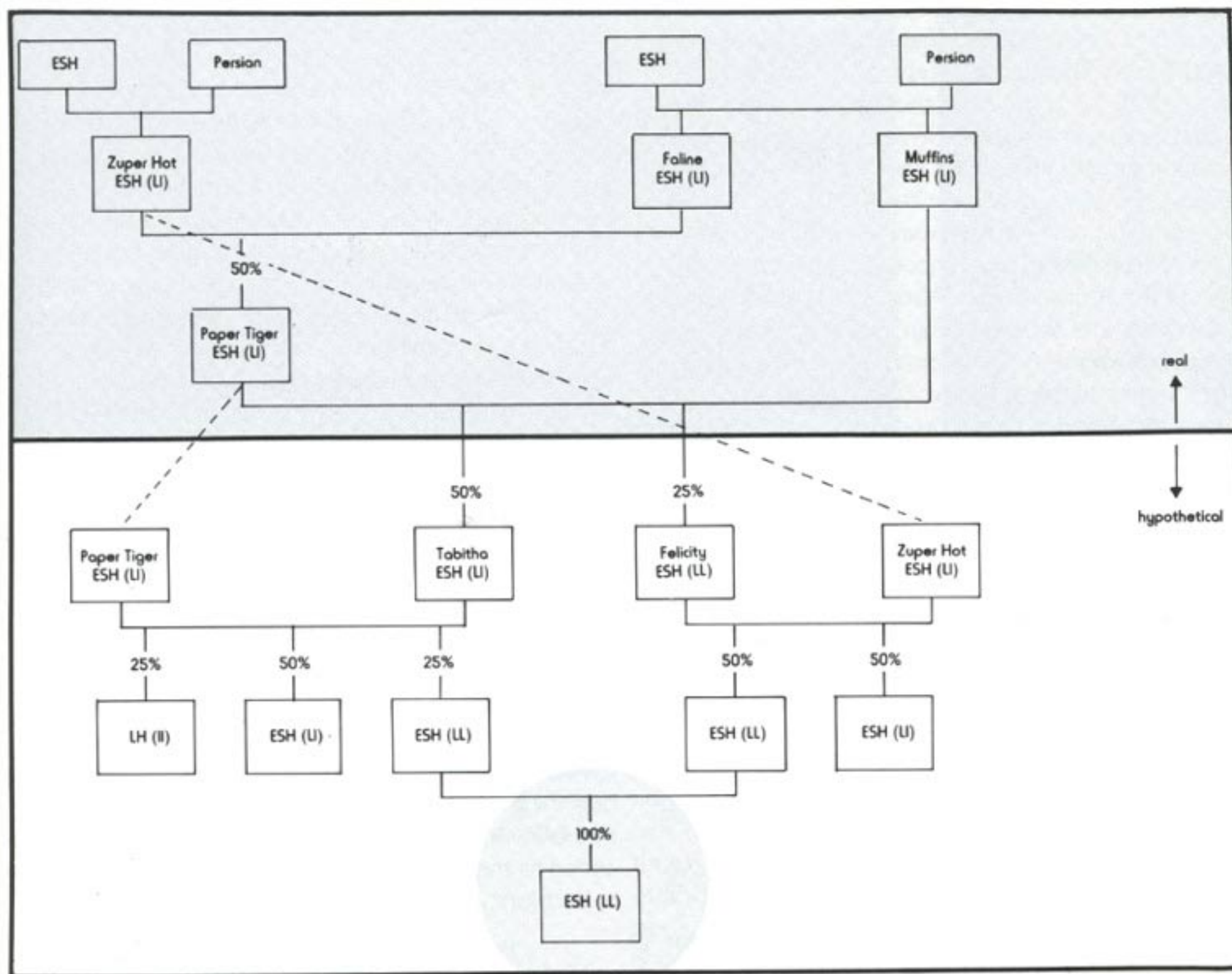


Fig. 2: Hypothetical Continuation of a Partly Existing Pedigree to Show Increase in Possibilities for Shorthair Homozygosity.

the longhair alleles, it does not contribute (in any way different than a Persian) to the production of a short coat. For all intent and purpose, it can be considered a Persian. If this longhaired Exotic Shorthair has a very good pedigree and is more extreme than any available Persians, I would consider using him. If this cat does not produce good, typy kittens in the first litter, I would have the animal altered and give it to a dear, little, lonely lady. I would also use a longhaired Exotic where it is part of my inbreeding program. In general though, I would not advise the use of longhaired Exotics because better Persians can probably be found. Offspring from longhaired Exotic Shorthairs are always only heterozygous for Shorthair.

Where Do We Belong?

As this paper is written, the Exotic Shorthair breeders are experiencing the most tumultuous time since the existence of its breed. At the October 1983 Board Meeting, the Directors of CFA decided to re-group several breeds. The Exotic Shorthairs were to be judged in the same group as the Persians. Endless discussions at the shows and sky-high phone bills at home followed. The reaction was, in general, not favorable. . . .

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines "breed, 1: . . . a group of animals . . . presumably related by descent from common ancestors and visibly similar in most character. . ." If you compare the Persian and the Exotic Shorthair standards, you will find that they read quite the same. Word for word, in fact, except for one characteristic—coat. "Long and thick" for the Persians, "Medium, dense, plush . . ." for the Exotics. Wouldn't you agree then that we are trying to breed a Persian cat, with a medium coat? Let's analyze the "common ancestors". I have drawn a pedigree of one of our Exotic Short-

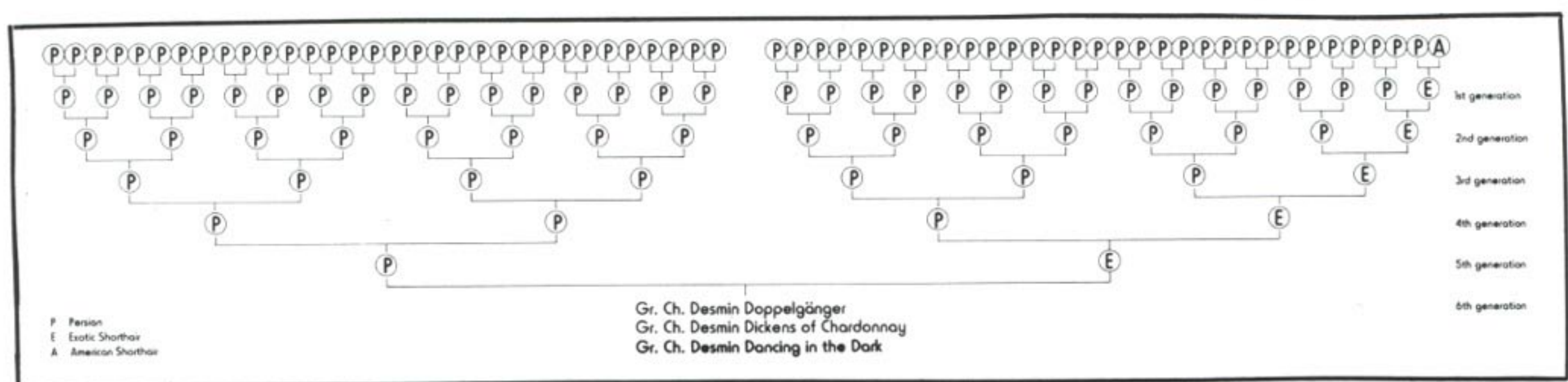


Fig. 3: An Exotic Shorthair Schematic Pedigree

hairs (Fig. 3) following it back to the original crossing seven generations ago. (I would assume that some other Exotic Shorthair pedigrees look similar.) There are 120 Persians, six Exotic Shorthairs and one American Shorthair in the pedigree. For seven generations we have selectively bred toward the Persian type and a short coat.

The Exotic Shorthair breeder is diligently trying to achieve the Persian look, the Persian bone-structure, the Persian body, the Persian nose and the Persian ear-set. We are looking over the shoulders of the Persian breeder to adopt their breeding practices. 95% of the cats in our pedigrees are Persians. Yet, so many breeders do not want their Exotic to be judged by the Longhair Judge who is most familiar with this breed! I believe that a judge, who is not yet licensed to judge Persians, should not be considered qualified to judge Exotic Shorthairs. It simply wouldn't make sense! It was most unfortunate that, when Exotic Shorthairs became accepted seventeen years ago, they were regarded as shorthairs and not immediately placed in the Persian specialty.

I have heard many opinions from Exotic Shorthair breeders concerning this subject. Many disagree with me. Strangely enough, most people who are vehemently against being judged in the Longhair Group want to be able to show their longhair Exotics as Persians someday. Wouldn't that be confusing? Longhair Exotic Shorthairs in one specialty and Exotic Shorthairs in the other! Why are so many people opposed to being judged with the Persians? Everybody is concerned that Exotics are no longer winning as they were when judged in the SH specialty. I have not heard a single scientifically substantiated argument.

Of course, we all want to get some recognition in the ring for all the work at home. But most of all, we want to produce good cats and work to improve the breed. The Persian cat is primarily judged on type, refinements and balance. There are no separate points allocated for coat length. (Even clipped Persians have been shown and judged on rare occasions.) If we are not winning today could it be that our cats are just not yet good enough? Look at your best Exotic at home. Then look at the picture of **South Paw Sunburst** or **Rambo's Rocky Mountain Sunrise**. Can it compare? Or does the Exotic need a few more generations of improvement? It took one hundred years to make cats like Sunny and Rocky. As the saying goes, "Rome wasn't built in a day." I strongly believe that the Exotic Shorthair is going to make a comeback among the finalists as the breed is being improved and more and more Exotic Shorthairs are being shown.

By the same token, the Exotic Shorthair will become more noticed by the Persian breeder, and hopefully this will stimulate more interest in this lovely cat. So many Persian breeders still cringe when I mention that our best Persian is bred for Exotics. With more exposure to the Exotics, perhaps the Persian breeder will slowly change his attitudes and start to recognize the Exotic Shorthair as an equal! The number of breeders working with Exotics is still minute when compared with the number of Persian breeders. In my opinion, competing with the very best cats the fancy has produced has given the Exotic breeder an added incentive—a greater challenge to produce better cats.

Future

Apart from continuously improving our Exotic Shorthairs, what other goals should we have and what lies in the future for our breed?

After reading the previous chapter, you probably think that the first thing I am going to suggest is, "The Exotic Shorthair should be incorporated into the Persian breed." Granted, this would make it easy to solve the problems of selling our longhair kittens. And it would provide an easy way to eliminate the "Shorthair" part of the name. And, it would provide a legal place for showing the longhair Exotic Shorthair! Yes,

scientifically, genetically and visually the Exotic Shorthair, both longhair and shorthair, is a Persian cat! A look at the dog world provides us with an analogy. Several breeds of dogs come in both longhair and shorthair. Dachshunds, for example, come with both coat lengths. Both types are Dachshunds, and they are both judged in the Hound Group. And, yes, a longhair Exotic can **never, ever** produce a shorthair cat, when bred to another longhair. It therefore breeds true!

Nevertheless, I do not think the Exotic Shorthair should become part of the Persian breed. Not yet, anyway. It took the Himalayan breeders more than forty years (Ref. 5) to achieve this, and many years after Siamese outcrosses were no longer allowed. The longest any Exotic Shorthair breeder has worked with these cats is twenty-five years. The number of breeders working with Exotics is still very limited. Combine this with the fact that we are working with a dominant, rather than a recessive gene, the advancement of the Exotic Shorthair will continue to be slow. Granted, there are many Exotics, if wearing a Chedreux, could pass as a Persian. But, there are not enough. Our first goal should be to produce consistently good Exotic Shorthairs.

One of my arguments against moving into the Persian breed, however, has to do with coat. There is more to it than just longhair and shorthair. As I discussed earlier, the dense double undercoat of the Persian cat can gradually be bred into the Exotic Shorthairs. I have noticed that longhair kittens from early Exotic Shorthairs breedings do not have the same thick full coat, even though they might have a coat as long as that of its Persian parent. Therefore, I think that until the Exotics (longhair and shorthair) exhibit the same quality in their coats as the Persians and not until we have many more Exotic Shorthairs of true Persian type, should they become a division of the Persian breed. Also, as long as American Shorthairs are allowed as an outcross breed, any discussion about merging Exotic Shorthairs and Persians seems to be academic. Only many years and many generations after outcrosses to American Shorthairs have been discontinued, should we address this issue.

The question has been raised, "Should Persians be discontinued as an outcross breed?" To me this seems unthinkable for the near future! I hope that I have substantiated my arguments on this point sufficiently. There are simply not enough good Exotic Shorthairs to warrant this move. As long as pet quality Exotic Shorthair kittens look like "non-descript cats," the Persian type is not fixed in our Exotics. If we now start breeding only Exotic to Exotic, we will very quickly lose the type and revert to a much different (British Shorthair) look.

Another question is, "Should the longhair Exotic Shorthairs become eligible for championship status?" Every Exotic breeder has thought about this at one time or another (usually when the best kitten in a litter turned out to be a longhair). But, almost everyone answering my questionnaire wrote that they became interested in breeding Exotics because they loved the type and temperament of the Persian, but had neither the time, nor the desire, for daily grooming. Or they would say, "We loved that Teddy Bear look." It seems to me that the people, who want to show the longhairs, want to have their cake and eat it too! The longhair Exotic is an unfortunate by-product of a breeding program. But they are lovely and sweet pets - not at all difficult to place. Granting Championship status to the longhairs would be like accepting straight-eared Folds, smooth coated Wirehairs, or Manxes with tails. (I realize that these analogies are, for genetic reasons, not absolutely correct. But we all know that the Manx breeder and the Scottish Fold breeder will always have to contend with tails or straight ears respectively.) The Exotic breeder entered into the program to breed and exhibit shorthair cats of Persian type. We believe that the Exotic breeder's ultimate goal should be to pro-

duce **only** shorthair cats, once the extreme Persian type and the desired coat have been established. Longhair Exotics may be useful, to a limited degree, in a breeding program, but they do not portray what we have set out to create. Therefore, we believe that the longhair Exotic should be regarded as a pet, or breeder, and remain in the AOV status. There is, however, one issue which I think should be addressed as soon as possible. That is . . .

Is A New Name Feasible?

If you advertise "Exotic Shorthair" kittens in your local newspaper you will probably be asked, "Are they Ocelots?" In the **1971 CFA YEARBOOK**, an article can be found titled "The Fight Over 'Exotics' Goes On." But, Roger Caras is writing about Lions and Panthers! "Shorthair" is also misleading, since the standard calls for a medium length coat. If an Exotic is called a shorthair, what then is a Rex? A VSH (Very Short Hair)? I had the opportunity to discuss this subject with Mrs. Martinke shortly before her untimely death. She also felt that the name was not suitable, but nobody was able to come up with anything better! She admitted that, even though it was her "brainchild", it should be changed. That was more than eleven years ago! Are we stuck forever with the Exotic Shorthair name? Generation after generation of Exotic Shorthair breeders will be cursing us because Exotic will always mean Exotic and Shorthair will always mean Shorthair. How involved would it be to change to something more appropriate? "Siberian Snowcats," (in the interest of De-tant) or "Kashmir" (after a region in India where the "Kashmir" goat is raised for its fine, soft, woolly undercoat), or "Chamois" are possibilities. "Teddy Bear Cat" has been suggested. Although this would be descriptive, it does not sound very professional! The longer we wait to approach this issue, the more difficult it will be to make a change. Many people have become discouraged with breeding Exotics because it is so difficult to sell shorthair pet quality kittens. A new name might help this issue. I am convinced that the name of the breed is a sales factor. I am also convinced that Joan Wasthuber is correct when she states that more people will work with a breed if it is easy to sell pet kittens. (Ref. 6)

The New Colors

In January of 1985, the Exotic Shorthair Breed Council members were polled on the issue of automatic adoption of all colors which are accepted in the Persian breed. The breed council voted in favor of this issue, and this change was approved at the CFA Board Meeting in February. Therefore, with the beginning of the new show season on May 1, 1985, the following colors and color combinations were added to the already existing thirty-nine Exotic Shorthair colors:

Peke-Face Red	(7712/7713)
Chocolate or Lilac	(7720/7721)
Blue-cream Smoke	(- /7723)
Pointed Colors	(7794/7795)

The Peke-Face Reds, as Don Williams pointed out to me, are most likely not going to appear soon in the Exotics. It would take many generations of Peke-Face Persians in the immediate pedigree, and this is unlikely to happen. More likely to be shown soon is the chocolate, due to the fact that some of the Exotic Shorthairs have evolved from Burmese crossings and might already carry the necessary color gene. A pale lilac Exotic Shorthair would also be a beautiful cat.

The pointed Exotic is probably the first new color we will see appearing soon. I do not envy the breeder who is undertaking the task of breeding these cats. But, whoever succeeds in producing typy, well balanced and extreme Pointed Exotics will find his efforts well rewarded. I think these cats are going to be absolutely charming! And, I would venture to predict that they are going to become extremely