



# October 2005

Volume 2: Issue 4

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### Committee:

Danel Muller—Chairperson  
Grant Leih—Secretary  
Wilma Hyman—Treasurer  
Johan Muller—Other

### SHOW SUCCESS !!

2005 will indeed be noted the year of the rise of Rex and Sphynx with our beautiful cats walking away with many a coveted award. In this issue we report back on a successful 2005 show season.

- Danél Muller

## 2005 SACC Cat of the Year : Neuter of the Year



Proud owner Wilma Hyman with  
Sp Ch Les Beaux Chats Pansy of Spandau RQ



  
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Please send comments and contributions to this newsletter to the editor at [info@lenad.co.za](mailto:info@lenad.co.za)—Thank you!

Catch us on the web—<http://www.rexandsphynx.org.za>

## History and Mythology of Cats

The exact history of human interaction with cats is still somewhat vague. The earliest written records of the attempt to domesticate cats date to ancient Egypt circa 4000 BC, where cats were employed to keep mice and rats away from grain stores. However, a gravesite discovered in 1983 in Shillourokambos, Cyprus, dating to 7500 BC, contains the skeletons of a ceremonially buried human and a type of young cat. Since cats are not native to Cyprus, this suggests that cats were domesticated (or just tamed) at least this early. The cat found in the Cyprus grave was more similar to the ancestral wildcat species than to modern housecats. Statues from Anatolia created around 6000



*An Ancient Egyptian figurine of a cat, from the Louvre museum.*

BC have also been found depicting women playing with domesticated cats, which implies that cats were domesticated there around the same time period. Ancient Egyptians regarded cats as embodiments of the goddess Bast, also known as Bastet (emphasising the female -t suffix) or Thet. The penalty for killing a cat was death, and when a cat died it was sometimes mummified in the same way as a human. Recently, deep scans of several mummified felines indicated they had suffered broken necks before mummification. It is unclear why, but researchers theorize that some cats may have been

sacrificed to honor Bast.

Vikings used cats as rat-catchers and companions, and are sometimes credited with the domestication of the Norwegian Forest Cat, or Skogkatt. In Viking mythology, Freya, the Viking goddess of love, fertility and war, was strongly associated with cats. Freya's chariot was driven by two large cats, Bygul and Trygul; and kittens were often given in her name to brides, linking together Freya's influence over both cats and romance.

In the Middle Ages, cats were often thought to be witches' familiars, and during festivities were sometimes burnt alive or thrown off tall buildings. Some historians theorize that widespread superstition-induced enmity towards cats accelerated the Black Death (generally held to have been an outbreak of Bubonic Plague). The speed with which the Black Death spread through 14th century Europe led many to believe that the Devil was responsible for the disease. This belief led the Pope to declare that cats, which were known to roam freely, were in league with the devil. Because of the declaration, a great many cats were killed in Europe. The sudden decrease in the cat population led to a massive increase in the number of rats, the number of plague-carrying fleas that fed upon them, and the number of human plague victims, which is what the declaration had aimed to reduce (although cats were also a carriers of fleas of the type responsible for spreading the black plague).

Today some people still believe that black cats are unlucky, or that it is unlucky if a black cat crosses one's path, while others believe that black cats are lucky.

Cats are still to this day associated with witchcraft. Black cats in particular are associated with Halloween festivities (because of this, many cat rescue



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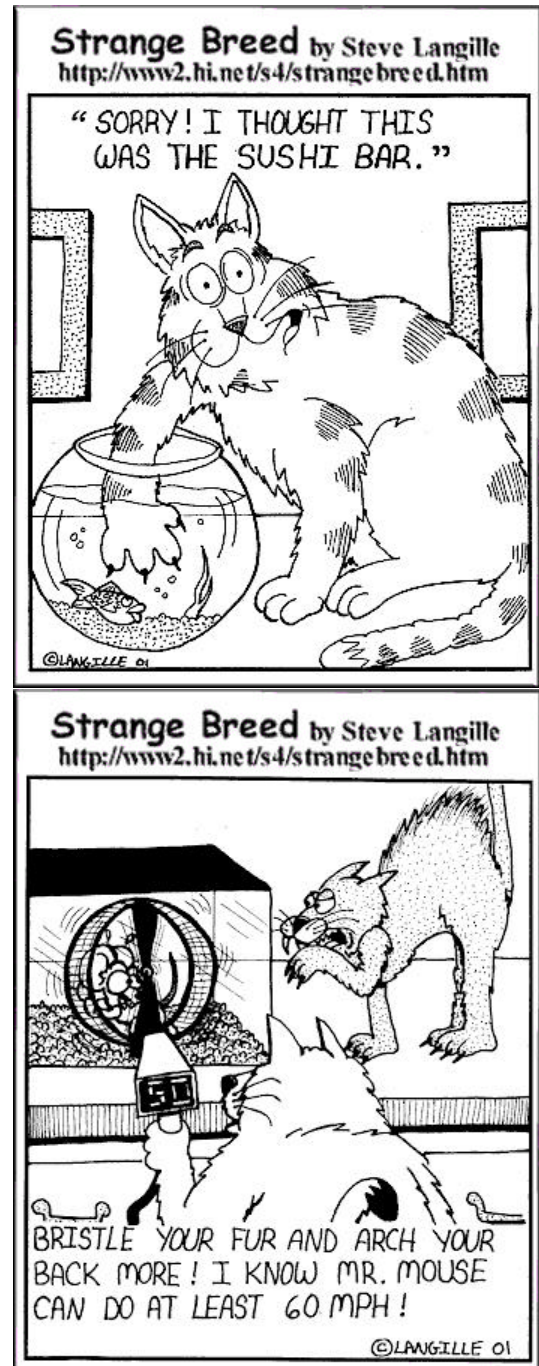
## History and mythology of Cats

groups will not adopt out black cats during the month of October). Wiccans and other practitioners of Neopaganism believe that cats are good-natured animals that are attuned to the spirit world and can sense evil spirits.

In Asia, the cat is one of the animals in the 12-year cycle of the Vietnamese zodiac. It does not, however, appear in the Chinese zodiac. Legend holds that the rat, who invited the animals to the Jade Emperor's Palace to be chosen for the zodiac, forgot to invite the cat, so the cat declared the rat its natural enemy.

In most Western cultures, cats are rarely eaten outside of extremely desperate times. However, cat meat is sometimes used to prepare regional dishes in some areas of China and Korea. Some outrage has been generated when cats have been confused with the Civet cat (also sometimes called a "bearcat"), an Asian animal related to the mongoose that slightly resembles the domestic cat and is occasionally used as a source of human food.

Folklore dating back to as early as 1607 holds that a cat will suffocate a newborn infant by applying its nose to the child's mouth, sucking the breath out of the infant. A jury in England once found that a child met his death from a cat sucking the breath out of him; this conclusion was probably reached because of the widespread acceptance of the tale. Many explanations are given to attempt to support it, the most common of which is jealousy from the cat towards the infant, as a result of the level of attention that the infant receives. Another explanation advanced is that the smell of milk from the infant's mouth attracts the cat to do so. However, it has been shown that, unless the cat had been raised on milk, they prefer to drink water rather than milk.



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## Show Results : COTY 2005



**NEUTER OF THE YEAR 2005**  
Placed 3rd Overall

### SP PR LES BEAUX CHATS PANSY

GAUTENG

Sex: Spayed Female  
Colour & Breed Description: Blue Tortie Point Cornish Rex  
Owner: Wilma Hyman  
Breeder: Johan Lamprecht



5th Best Neuter—Placed 9th Overall

### SP PR DIVA'S ROQUEFORT

GAUTENG

Sex: Neutered Male  
Colour & Breed Description: Black and White Sphynx  
Owner: Willie Strauss  
Breeder: Willie Strauss



10th best ADULT—22nd Overall

### SP CH EXPOSED SANPELO CHIPPENDALE

WESTERN CAPE

Sex: Male  
Colour & Breed Description: Brown Mackerel Tabby & White Sphynx  
Owner: Anthony & Theresa Aldum  
Breeder: James Thoene

Full results at <http://www.cotysa.co.za>



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## Exhibition : Glen Fair Shopping Centre—Pretoria

Our exhibition at the Glenfair Shopping Centre in the East of Pretoria caused quite a stir in the community and young and old gathered around to look at all these strange looking cats.

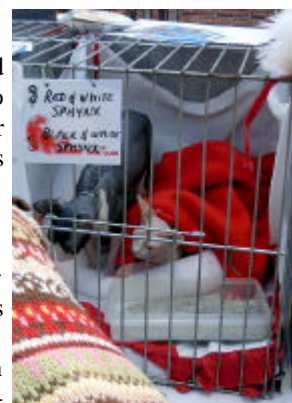


Grant's LaPerm stud Kitchwa was in his element getting ALL the attention he always craves. We also had some other visitors that described the cats with their traditional "Eisssh!". I wonder what they told their families that night at supper !



All the exhibitors enjoyed the day thoroughly, but were exhausted after spending the whole morning explaining that "we don't shave the cats", "we don't perm them", and "yes, their ears are SUPPOSED to be that big", "no, it isn't abnormal for the Devon kittens to climb around on the inside of the cage roof!", "thank you, if you think my cats are ugly I know my breeding program is well on the way!!"

We had 18 cats from the Rex and Sphynx breeds represented and the committee would like to thank each and every exhibitor for your participation in this event. We know we can always count on you!



The public was asked to vote for their favourite pet and this caused quite a quandry as many couldn't make up their minds. In the end it was a close call between the cute little calico LaPerm kitten Grant along,



Wilma's bare "pink" Sphynx lady or the adventurous playful Devon Rex kittens of Johan and Danél. The Devons won the contest with a few votes in the end.

Mr Scheepers of La Montagnes name was drawn as Royal Canin sponsored prizewinner as well as a lovely cat igloo sponsored by Petland in Glenfair Centre. Here he poses with his wife and the ever bubbly Twanette from Royal Canin.

The Breeders of Rex and Sphynx would like to thank our sponsors once again for their generous support in this educational adventure. Without you, it is impossible to host events like this.



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## Gauteng Invitational

Buitengeluk Conference Centre Fourways, 27 August 2005

The following cats owned and bred by Breedgroup members were in the top 10 finalists among the Gauteng Invitational Show this year.

Registered Adults and Registered Neuters that make it into this all breeds round, acquire the SACC title "Regional Qualifier", which may be denoted as RQ behind the cat's name.

Congratulations to all of you for all the hard work you've put into your cats!

All the work was worth it!

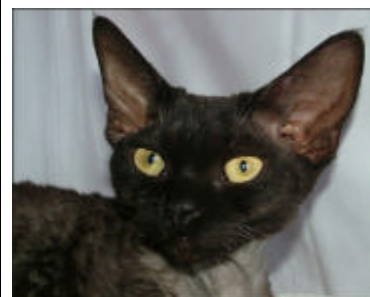
### Neuters 5th



#### **Les Beaux Chats Pansy RQ**

Blue tortiepoint Cornish Rex female  
Owner: Wilma Hyman  
Breeder: Johan Lamprecht

### Kittens 4th



#### **Imoya's Elgan**

Black Smoke Devon Rex male  
Owner: M Heydenrych  
Breeders: Johan & Danél Muller

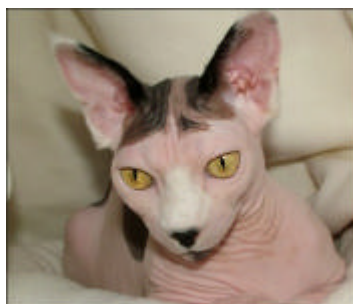
### Adults 5th



#### **Imoya's Saskahan Pinar RQ**

Brown tabby Devon Rex female  
Owners: Johan and Danél Muller  
Breeder: S de Wit (Germany)

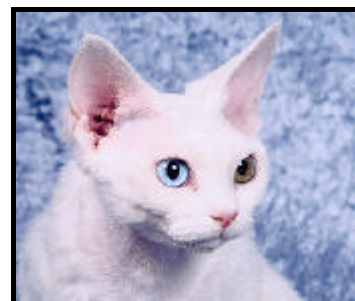
### Neuters 9th



#### **Nakit Bodhi RQ**

Blue Harlequin Sphynx male  
Owner: R Haarhoff  
Breeder: Kathy Hoole/Ruth de Jager

### Kittens 7th



#### **Imoya's Eden**

White Devon Rex female  
Owners/breeders: Johan and Danél Muller



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## Cape Top Cat

3 September 2005

The following cats owned and bred by Breedgroup members were in the top 10 finalists in the Cape Top Cat Show this year.

Registered Adults and Registered Neuters that make it into this all breeds round, acquire the SACC title "Regional Qualifier", which may be denoted as RQ behind the cat's name.

Congratulations to Anthony and Ernie!



### Cape Top Cat Judges

Yvonne Akersten  
Dewetia Sleigh  
Lynel du Toit  
Kim Cutter  
Karen Pepler  
Jane Slabbert

Now this is something that you DON'T attempt if you own a Rex or Sphynx!

Anne McGregor-Matthews' Chinchilla posing in the fantasy garden in the centre of the show venue.

This show was something to remember!



### Entires 5th



#### Sp Ch Exposed Sanspelo Chippendale (Imp) RQ

Sphynx Brown Mackerel Tabby & White  
Owner : A & T Aldum  
Breeder : J Thoene

### Entires 8th



#### Sp Ch Exposed Bluechip Apollo of Chaterley RQ

Sphynx Black & White  
Owner : E Bester  
Breeder : A Aldum



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## The Expression of the Cat

Workshop by Rod U'Ren FCCVc Australia—July 2005

On his recent judging trip to South Africa, we were fortunate to attend this workshop by Rod U'Ren. He once again emphasized the importance of the overall look of the cat that is created by its expression. The breeds he discussed were: Persian, Oriental/Siamese, Devon Rex and Abyssinian.

I would like to highlight a few of his ideas on the Devon Rex.

*“The Devon Rex is the extreme cat of the fancy, at least when it comes to its face. The Standard tells us that its most distinctive feature is its head, which has exaggeratedly full cheeks, large lustrous eyes and oversized, flared ears. “*

### The IDEAL Devon has:

- **Head:** exaggerated, short, broad
- **Ears:** oversized, low-set, flared, cupped
- **Cheeks:** prominent, broad, very full
- **Eyes:** Large, oval/almost round, browed
- **Nose:** Short, broad, very marked stop
- **Muzzle:** short and broad
- **Whisker break:** clear
- **Chin:** Very firm

It has an extreme “ET” expression and the head is generally broader than it is long if the structure of the head is correct. Every feature must be exaggerated.

*The key to the Devon Rex expression being ‘right’ is in other words the—*

- *Oversized, flyaway, low set ears*
- *Broad, very full, high cheeks*
- *Large, oval/almost round, well spaced, browed eyes,*
- *Very marked stop*



*Imoya's Eden was chosen as Best Foreign at the Rand Cat Club Show in July by a panel of judges led by Rod U'Ren.*



### Rod U'Ren

"I've been breeding Persians (beginning with Whites) for just on 40 years and co-own Persian and Singapura breeding prefixes with my wife Cheryle and Denis Turner.

I began judging in 1978 and have been an all breeds judge for 17 years.

I am the current Group 1 Tutor Judge, regularly lecturing at our National Annual Judges' Conference. I was the co-ordinator of the new national breed standards for CCCofA (our National Cat Council), a mammoth task which took more than 4 years.

My principal interest is in colour genetics. I was Chair of the Breed Sub-committee of the FCCV for a number of years and am currently involved in operating the data base of FCCV's records.

I enjoy talk-style shows and enjoyed participating in your show."



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## Gallery



*Aren't we just SO lucky if we can find the right owners for our pet kittens? This is Imoya's Armani now being "Spoilt Rotten" by Johan and Melanie Heydenrych.*

*I got the fright of my life when I received an email telling me that neutered boy Squeek now has his own baby! Then I opened the attachment :-)) Both these babies belong to Jannie and Jane Lombard of Pretoria*



**PLEASE SEND YOUR KITTY PICS TO BE INCLUDED ON THIS PAGE : THE EDITOR AT [info@lenad.co.za](mailto:info@lenad.co.za)**

## NEWS—NEWS—NEWS

### New Imports

Wilma Hyman has just imported 2 Sphynxes from Texas. Here she is taking the first of many pics of them, at the airport just after they arrived. We wish you all the best with your breeding program Wilma! They promise to make a wonderful contribution to the Sphynx breed in South Africa.



### Breeder Members

Please contact me urgently if you are interested in placing an ad in the Breeder Referral Service on the website that we are launching from 1 November '05.

#### Rates:

R30 per month  
R150 for 6 months  
R300 for 12 months

You will be able to place and maintain your ad online. Every ad will allow you 3 photos.

#### BRS Members Only

Contact: Danél  
Tel: 012 3483766  
[info@lenad.co.za](mailto:info@lenad.co.za)



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**Join our group :**  
Membership form on the web.  
<http://www.rexandsphynx.org.za>

## So, you've decided to become a cat show exhibitor... Part 2



The show officially starts with the Show Manager welcoming everyone over a crackling PA system. Your neighbor is frantically scrubbing away the last dirt from her cat's eyes. The Show Manager introduces a couple of people standing in the front of the hall as the judges for the day. Good.

"The people in the white jackets are the judges?" you ask your friendly neighbor. "No, those are the stewards—they help the judges."

Stewards. Another foreign term. You see the stewards pair off—each with another person, assumingly the judge and then shoot off to their first cat. The show has begun. Numbers are being called and people rush up and down the rows of cats.

As the judging gets closer to your cage, you get a constricted feeling around your chest. What if the judge doesn't like your cat? The steward approaches you and asks: "Do you want to steward your own cat?" Your bewildered look gives the answer. "Don't worry. I'll take it." The steward deftly extracts Kitty from her cage and shouts over his shoulder:

"You can come and watch if you want to." and struts off to the Judge at a merry pace

with you in tow. He plonks Kitty on the cold steel table in front of the judge and she takes a peek at her judging sheet before saying:

"What have we here?" You are just about to explain that you have the most perfect specimen of your breed when you catch the Steward's eye and he signals you not to say anything. He moves to your side and whispers:

"You are not to talk to the judge unless she asks you a question." OK, now you know. Another rule: Don't speak unless you are spoken to.

The judge inspects your cat from her head to the tip of her tail and looks at you over her steel-rimmed glasses.

"These paws are not Omo white, you know. If you don't know how to groom a cat with white feet, ask the Persian breeders with the Whites. They'll be able to give you a few pointers." She looks at the Steward and nods. He smiles, scoops up Kitty and makes a bee line back to the cage. Grasping, you catch up with them as he deposits Kitty back into the cage.

"I did bath my cat" you try to explain.

"The paws are still dirty between the toes. This is a beauty pageant. They must be pristine—got to go. We've still got a million to do." And off he goes.

Between the fizzing and buzzing, ring 3 and 4 you gather enough courage to look up the Persian breeders with the Whites. You find them. Huge white puffs of flowing hair—assumingly with a cat inside. White—Omo White.

"How do you get them like this?" you ask the beaming owner.

"Oh, we bath them at least once a week and a couple of baths a day before shows. They are brushed with 5 different brushes and combs every day." She flashes open her grooming basket with tools. You roll your eyes involuntarily as you remember your Kitty bathing session. Every day.

"... but don't you worry, I see you have a Rex. You people groom with a face cloth, don't you?" She giggles. You put on a brave smile and move off.

Back at your cage you find that Kitty has (not) used the litter box. She missed the box and cleverly hid her "mistake" by scratching every last bit of cat litter to hide the evidence. Your friendly neighbor produces a plastic shopping bag.

"I never go without these. Trust the Rexes to make the biggest, stinkiest poohs in the cat fancy."

As you clean the cage to the best of your ability, you notice the rosette and little card attached to your cage. There is a 1st on the ribbon.

"What does this mean?" you ask the neighbor.

"Oh great! Your cat won the class and is nominated for Best Foreign—congratulations!" She sees the bewildered look on my face (again).

"After the judging, they are going to call all the nominated cats to the front. You'll have to take her up. They form a line up and there is a judge-off for Best Foreign. If your cat wins, it will go into one of those pretty cages in front. They choose the best kitten, best neuter and best adult of Persians, that includes the Exotics—those're short haired Persians, Medium Hairs—the Main Coons, Wegies, Birmanians and Turks, the Siamese/Oriental and the Foreigns. Our cats are Foreigns. Then they choose the best of the Groups and between the Best of Group they choose the Cat of the Day."

Needless to say, Kitty doesn't do better than just the nomination, but what an experience! While packing up the steward from the first ring comes past and asks:

"Hope you enjoyed your first show. Wasn't it great? Next show is in two weeks time. See you there!" Bubbling over, shouting goodbyes, he rushes off.

"Yes" you tell Kitty. Next show in two weeks time. You proudly take the Rosette off the cage and neatly folds it around the Nomination card.

"You'll see me Mr Steward. It wasn't so bad. Showing cats is contagious. It has a nice vibe about it."

You smile and take Kitty from the cage.



  
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