

Ambassador Report: November Online Newsletter 11/5/2014

Lots of excitement as the revitalized Ambassador Program takes baby steps to get moving again. Fingers and pawpads are crossed that the new Ambassador brochures, pins and stickers are printed and delivered in time for the World Show in Oaks, Pennsylvania. Jane Ramey, welcome booth hostess, is geared up to send out tours into the show hall, vendor, education and agility rings. Still on tap, vinyl Ambassador banners are being designed and should be in regions by January (or sooner!), and the Ambassador handbook is still in the editing processes. The biggest project facing the Ambassadors is the online training module ... the script is partially written, pictures are being collected, musical underscoring search underway and the voice over personnel has been selected. Timeframe is hopefully early 2015.

Region 1 Report : Geri Fellerman

There has been lots of fun and activity going on in Region 1! The National Birman Fanciers' show took place on October 18-19, followed the next weekend by the Liberty Trail Show on October 25. Both shows were Halloween themed and a lot of fun was on tap for spectators. Nothing is on tap for November in Region 1, but we are proud to host the World Show.

Region 2 Report: Mary Sietsema, Meghan Noecker

Mary: The Golden Gate Cat Club held their annual CFA show in Livermore, CA on Saturday Nov 1 and had a great show!

The club had many signs out to direct exhibitors and spectators to the show! They had several local businesses supporting the show, including an animal hospital, two vet offices and other "cat friendly" places!

The biggest hit of the show for spectators – the FREE children's stuffed cat judging! Vicki Nye and David Mare graciously accepted the honor of judging the stuffed animals that the children proudly presented for them! The children were allowed to bring their own stuffed animal or choose from a big selection of "adoptable stuffed animals" in a decorated show cage! There were 18 children present and most were spectators with their parents. Each child was asked to come up and talk about their kitty then presented with a ribbon of honor! The smiles were everywhere and the best part was hearing how excited the parents were! Several of the children asked when the next show was or when they could do this again!

We had several Region 2 and 5 CFA Ambassadors on hand to help out during the entire show. It was great to see two regions working so well together!

Meghan: Emerald Cat Club hosted a terrific show on October 18-19 in St Helen's, Oregon. While there weren't a great number of spectators when compared to other shows, there were a lot of people who enjoyed petting my cat, including several families with small children. There were also several older ladies who watched my cat in a couple of rings, and even came to say "good-bye" to him before leaving. Probably the neatest interaction was a pair of firefighters from the Columbia Fire and Rescue who came to check out the show. They watched the action in the rings, came back to pet my cat and ask to see him out of the cage. I think they were completely enthralled as one firefighter asked to have his picture taken holding my cat!

Region 3 Report: Janice Walkingstick

There have been no shows in this region during the current reporting time frame,

Region 4 Report: Mariane Toth

Region 4 had 2 great shows this month: the Cleveland Persian Society, in conjunction with the Tonkinese Breed Association, held a show October 11-12 in Parma, Ohio. We had a lot of spectators who attended the show. Some of them were returning spectators while a few of them were newbees. Both sets of spectators had a lot of questions: those questions I couldn't answer I directed them to breeders themselves. The spectators seemed to be very enthusiastic and plan on returning in January.

Next up was the Great Lakes Great Maines show held on October 25, in Brockport, NY. This 6X6 show was hosted by held the Hallmark Cat Club. Though I only attended on October 25, the spectator base was small, but they enjoyed the cats. There was a great deal of interest on how to show HHPs.

This was a great show for me as I am usually clerking, and I finally got to enjoy interacting and talking with the spectators!

Region 5 Report: Donna Isenberg

There have been no shows in this region during the current reporting time frame,

Region 6 Report: Candilee Jackson

The fall is the busiest time for the MWR clubs, with a show nearly every weekend between October and November. The Indy Cat Club hosted a terrific show in Plainfield IN, and experienced a wonderful gate, with folks full of questions. Illinois Feline Fanciers opened the doors of the Illinois State Fairgrounds to host a show in late October. The gate was an interesting assortment of spectators: going on at the same time was a dog show and a horse show! Many dog and horse show folks were curious about just what happens at a cat show ... the club even had dog show JUDGES stop by for a look-see! Tiger's Lair traded weekends with TGIF for this year, and hosted a show in Sedalia MO, at the Missouri State Fairgrounds, and had 4-Hers and Girl Scouts come through, working on merit badges and educational components. GARFIELD showed up and even purred when judge Jim Dinesen awarded him Best of Breed.

Region 7 Report: Jayne Wood

Cotton States Cat Club held their 76th annual cat show November 1 & 2 in Duluth, Georgia. The theme this year was "Confections" and it was a sweet success! There was candy available in every ring - a lot of candy! There was a contest for the best decorated cage this year and I'm proud to say that I was the big winner and received a cat bed beautifully embroidered with the name and date of the show, etc.

I spent most of the day Sunday being a good Ambassador talking to a nice couple from Alabama who were reigniting their interest in breeding Persians after a bad experience 10 years ago with some unscrupulous breeders. They left the show reassured that there are lots of kind, honest people in CFA who are willing to mentor them and see that they connect with supportive people. I look forward to seeing them at future shows - hopefully showing some of their own cats!

Region 8 Report: Takako and Masanaro Kojimi

There were no shows in Japan during this reporting time period.

Region 9 Report: Natalya Gnatyuk

Cat Friends of Germany held an OctoberFest theme show and several exhibitors dressed for the occasion. Looking smart was Michael Hans and Brigitte Schleissner.

Asia: Phebe Low

Congratulations to the first show of Hong Kong International Cat Club which was held Sept 27, 2014.

Thanks to the club management, we had an Ambassador Table set up at the show hall entrance. It was benched with my show shelters in T Shape so that our team and I could take care both showing cats and hosting the Ambassador welcome table.

The club prepared a power point including sponsor advertisement, an introduction of the judges, breeds and the Ambassadors. This was shown on two large CLD monitors in the show hall, and it was extremely eye-catching. This media let visitors get an idea of what a cat show was all about. There were many experienced breeders wearing Ambassador stickers as well as having cage toppers visible. The venue was the City Center in Hong Kong, with free entrance. Visitors walked in to see our beautiful cats and asked questions about how to enter the show; what breeds were in the judging rings; about cat care, cat breeds...tons of cat-related questions. Besides talking to public, the Ambassador table also served as newbie counter where some new exhibitors came to ask where they could find details on show mechanics, show rules and more CFA resources were introduced. Everyone had a great time.