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Американская короткошерстная кошка: история породы

В Америке аборигенные короткошерстные кошки известны уже несколько веков. Их предками предположительно были фермерские европейские кошки, которых брали на корабли для борьбы с крысами. Прибыв на континент, многие из них оставались на суше вместе с переселенцами. Долгое время порода американская короткошерстная формировалась в природных условиях без особого участия человека, но в середине 19 века, когда Сан-Франциско охватила золотая лихорадка, люди вспомнили о прекрасных крысоловах. Боясь чумы, которую разносят грызуны, шахтеры отдавали по полсотни за кошку, домашних короткошерстных становилось все больше. Эту кошку можно было найти на фермах, ранчо, около сараев или домов, где она осуществляла "санитарный контроль", неутомимо борясь с грызунами и становясь стабильной, крепкой, здоровой породой.

В Европе американские короткошерстные кошки были впервые представлены на Лондонской выставке в 1871 году, но не обратили на себя особого внимания.

Документированная история породы начинается лишь в начале XX столетия. В 1904 году Американской ассоциацией любителей кошек (CFA) был зарегистрирован черный дымчатый кот по кличке Бастер Браун, родословная которого прослеживалась от Британских короткошерстных кошек.



Британцы, так же, как и другие кошки благородных кровей – бирманцы и персы – тоже в свое время перебрались через океан.

С появлением большого количества завезенных персидских и ангорских кошек порода утратила былую популярность и оказалась на грани полного исчезновения.

К ним относились как к обычным дворовым котам и называли просто - «домашняя короткошерстная кошка».

Именно в те времена для стабилизации Американской короткошерстной как породы, отличающейся от ее европейских предков, была разработана четкая программа разведения. К 1930 году стал заметен прогресс: за небольшое число поколений заводчикам удалось добиться стабильного типа и множества окрасов – иными словами, можно было говорить о стабилизации породы.

И в 1934 году в Америке на Нью-Йоркской выставке американский короткошерстный кот по кличке Микки занял почетное второе место, уступив золото персу.

В 1950-м году CFA издала первый каталог производителей домашней короткошерстной, в эту книгу вошли 50 представителей новой породы.

К счастью для породы все изменилось в 1965 году, когда заводчики хором проголосовали за изменение ее названия на **«американская короткошерстная»**.



Именно под таким названием в 1966 году эти кошки впервые появились на выставках, и с тех пор регулярно в них участвуют.

Более того, в CFA кошки, внешне отвечающие стандарту Американской короткошерстной породы, регистрировались как домашние короткошерстные вплоть до 1985 года. В настоящее время в разведении американской короткошерстной кошки участвуют только чистокровные производители.

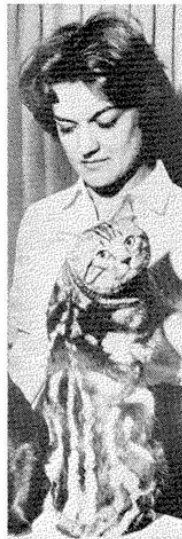
SHAWNEE

The Greatest Name in Cats
Exclusively CFA

Look for our beautiful Blues in the Grand Champion Parade. Grand Champion Shawnee Jubilette (Best Cat — United Persian Society October 1966 — Judge McPhee Racine, Wisconsin) and her son Grand Champion Shawnee Voo Dee Doo Dee. Last year Shawnee completed six Grand Champions. **The Highest Number in CFA.**

BURMESE
AMERICANS
Black • Silver Tabby

Grand Champion Shawnee Trademark—Three time American SH of the Year—1965 Cat of the Year

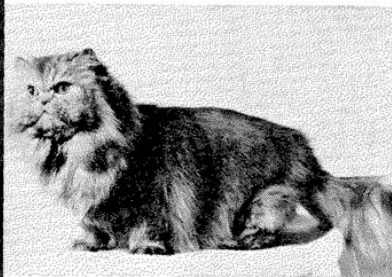


We are proud to be the only exhibitor to score in all four divisions in the past two years and this year exhibiting in only seven shows to be in two Divisions of the Top 5 All Stars. We made other wins in the All-Star Breed Divisions. Look for Daniella, #5 Shorthaired Female and White Wash, #2 Longhair female in the All Star awards.

LONGHAIRS
Whites • Blues - Creams
Blue - Creams
Solid Reds



Grand Champion Shawnee Anti-Septic
#5 Longhair Male 1964-65
#2 Longhair Male 1965-66
Exhibited only one show 66-67



Grand Champion Shawnee Painting The Town Red II
Consistent Best in Show
All-Breeds — 65-66-67
All-Star Red Female

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GR. CH. HEDGEWOOD'S GREATEST AMERICAN HERO

What's In A Name?



Ande and Gar DeGeer

On March 1, 1982 a litter of four silver tabby American Shorthairs were born in Peachtree City, Georgia. Big deal, right? At the time it seemed like a nice litter, but nothing out of the ordinary, especially if one is partial to brown tabbies! As the days passed, one little boy seemed to cry out, "Hey, guys, look at me. I like attention, I think I'm special, I want to be somebody."

Look at him we did. He was looking good. His head was developing nicely, he had a great body, heavy boning and a beautiful pattern. But those ears. Would he ever grow into those ears? He looked like he could fly.

If he were to be shown, he had to have a name. Dumbo seemed appropriate but a little unkind. We tried several other names but nothing seemed to fit. Then one night while watching TV, we had it: "Greatest American Hero." That was a pretty weighty handle for such a little guy, but we were leaving it up to him. Could he really fly? Could he live up to his name?

In July, Mr. H, as he was to be called, was put to the test; his first show in St. Louis, Missouri. He finished in all four rings and seemed to say to everyone, "This is great. I'm a born star. I told you I could do it. When do we go again?" He was about to fly us to each end of the country and himself to a show career that spanned twenty-two delightful months. (Longer than his namesake, the TV series, I might add.)

Mr. H matured rapidly. He had to; he had to finally catch up to his ears. As each week passed, he more thoroughly enjoyed the shows. His finals were as important to him as they were to us. He reveled in the spotlight and the applause.

His kitten career, which earned him a high spot in the Southern Region, was accompanied by his first litter which arrived when he was seven months old. This was followed at eight months by his first adult Best Cat presented by Jeanie McPhee as she Granddied him in Oklahoma City. Mr. H took it all in stride. Gar calmly knocked off his glasses, lost his catalog and dropped a cigarette which burned a hole in his shirt. Cats certainly cope with success better than their humans.

Mr. H spent the remainder of the 1982-83 season siring more kittens and earning in addition to his kitten win a Top Ten adult win in the Southern Region. We were very pleased with his success, but had hoped he would make a National win. Could he do it? "Of course," he said, "Next season."

Next season...how hard it is to believe that is already Last Season.

It went by so fast, but left us with memories to last a life time. From start to finish, the 1983-84 Show Season was a year to remember.

The first weekend of May, Gar, Mr. H and a Mr. H daughter, as was to be the pattern throughout the year, were in the air, while I sat home and avidly scored every show in the country! This first six ring show in Toledo was a "mixed bag." Mr. H missed two finals entirely, but made Best Cat in the other four rings. As it is in all competition, the bad is designed to keep one down to Earth and the good to make one fly. We decided to gamble on the stars.

By the end of July, after five shows, we felt Mr. H was headed for a spot in the Top Twenty. July 31st, the anniversary of Mr. H's first kitten show, and Gar's birthday found them in Seattle, Washington. As Gar celebrated his birthday with a cake from Judy Rambo, Mr. H was presenting him with a most memorable birthday gift. Mr. H became the first, and to date, only cat in CFA to earn eight Best Cats in a single show. Again, Mr. H took it all in stride. Gar could have flown back to Atlanta without the plane.

In October, Mr. H attended his first of several shows in California. Gar was greeted with a cake from American Shorthair breeder, Jasmine Tucker, welcoming them to the West Coast. Then and throughout the year, we made and renewed many wonderful friendships. Everyone was very supportive and the season sped by in an exciting blur with people telling us that not only could Mr. H make a National win but that he could be on Top.

On New Years, Diane Silverman gave Gar a T-shirt which had "Who's Behind You?" printed across the front. It was Gar's obligation to wear it the last show of the season with "Everybody" printed across the back and "Except..." with a list of those cats who were ahead of Mr. H.

How unbelievable it was to attend Daytona Beach the last weekend of April with a T-shirt that said "Everybody!" It was beyond our wildest dreams when we reached for the stars. It was an emotional end to his career when, for the last final of the season and Mr. H's last Best Cat win, Don Williams presented the win by standing Mr. H on the table and saying, "I can now say, he will always be my Greatest American Hero." That time Gar was not the only one to come unglued. It brought down the Show Hall!

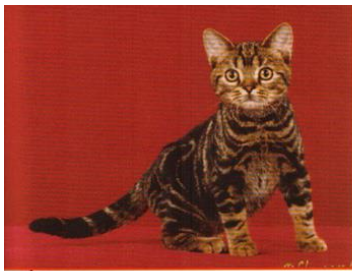
The Annual Awards Banquet was a beautiful finale for a perfect year. Everyone made it seem as though it was all for us. We received cards and flowers and congratulations from all over the country. Alice Thompson made a sign for the door of our suite that proclaimed "The Home of Mr. H." Just as Gar and I stood to accept the Best Cat Award, I was presented with a stunning bouquet from our wonderful Atlanta friends. After accepting the trophy, Gar and I turned to see a room full of friends waving American flags to the accompaniment of the theme song from "The Greatest American Hero." The only thing missing was Mr. H. He would have loved to hear, just one more time, the applause that was meant for him. Because to paraphrase his theme song: "Believe it or Not.....I'm walking on Air.....I can't believe it myself....." he really had lived up to his name!

Ande DeGeer



GCNW Hedgewood's Greatest American Hero, DM,

(Мистер Эйч для друзей) был удостоен столь же высокого титула CFA «Кот года» в 1984



GC,NW SOL-MER SHARIF
1995-96 BEST CAT
A Special Cat!

by Mary Jo Mersol-Barg

many nationally winning kittens; for the American Shorthair breed, kittens are notoriously slow to develop and become competitive. Considering the fact that both of Sharif's parents did poorly as kittens, it was particularly unusual that Sharif had such early success in the show ring. One would think that his accomplishments as a kitten are enough for any show career; however, Sharif still had a few more things to add to the CFA history book...

Sharif is the first shorthaired breed of cat to be CFA's Best Cat in over a decade and is the first Cat of the Year from the Great Lakes Region since 1980. He is also the only brown tabby American Shorthair Cat of the Year in CFA history. Sharif accomplished all of this in 22 regular season shows and was awarded a total of 117 Best Cat wins from 58 different judges. At CFA's International Show in November, 1995, which is heralded to be the largest cat show ever held in the western hemisphere (with over 1200 entries), Sharif went on to be the overall Best in Show cat. Sharif now holds the distinction of being the only cat in the history of CFA Invitational/International shows to be Best of The Best Kitten one year and overall Best In Show the next year.

You may wonder what made Sharif worthy of such high honors when there are so many beautiful cats shown throughout the year. First and foremost, he meets the American Shorthair standard and exemplifies features that are difficult to produce. Sharif's head and body are balanced perfectly; when he was on the judging table, all elements of his conformation fit smoothly together. Beyond meeting the written standard, Sharif genuinely enjoys being a showcat. More so than any other cat I've known, Sharif seems to understand what people want from him—and he gives his best effort to please. A judge would place him on the judging table and Sharif would strike a pose. If the judge wished to get a different view, Sharif would move in the required way and then hold the pose until given further instructions. Lois Jensen remarked that judging Sharif was like "judging Westminster." At the big Houston show, Kenny Currie joined the throng of spectators to watch as Sharif remained standing on the table, looking over the crowd, glowing in their admiration. Patty Jacobberger so appreciated Sharif's desire to please that she joked "if this cat were a man, I'd leave Fred!"

Show after show, Sharif would always stand on the table, wanting to please everyone and enjoying the resultant attention. Wain Harding once draped a rosette over his back and Sharif just stood as if it were a blanket of roses at the Kentucky Derby, drinking in the applause. It was only fitting that in the last ring of his last show, during his final "Best Cat" presentation given so eloquently by Loretta Baugh, the entire audience rose in a standing ovation—and Sharif sat down. It was as if he was memorizing the moment to take with him into retirement.

Although now officially retired from the showing, Sharif was invited to be the star attraction at the World Cat Exhibition in Tokyo, Japan during the summer of 1996. Fortunately, my husband and I were invited to go along! Once again, for the entire ten day exhibition, Sharif posed and preened for the thousands of people who came to see him. Spectators would marvel at his tremendous capacity to show himself and to please his audience. I would just smile like a proud parent because I have had the joy of accompanying Sharif to many shows and have seen him play to many audiences. I also have the incredible good fortune to have worked long and hard to produce this cat through my breeding program. But best of all, I have the pleasure of his daily company. It's a joy to look at him and to share life with him. What a rare gift this special cat is! The Japanese press labeled Sharif as the "one hundred million dollar cat." CFA has given him the title of "Cat of the Year." I think of Sharif as the epitome of why I've been breeding pedigreed cats for nearly twenty-five years.



GCNW Sol-Mer Sharif

Был удостоен этого же высокого титула CFA «Кот года» в 1996 ГОДУ



Starting out as a four month old, and gaining confidence at each succeeding show, Sharif practically radiated delight whenever he was in the showing. During the 1994-95 show season, he went on to be CFA's Fifth Best Kitten and received the ultimate honor of being chosen as the Best of the Best Kitten at CFA's International show. It was at the International show when I began to understand that Sharif was unlike any other cat I'd bred—and yet, he was the embodiment of all that was best in his pedigree. It occurred to me that after all those years of breeding American Shorthairs, perhaps this one kitten had brought all the pieces together. Shorthaired breeds generally don't produce



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Тем не менее, Международная федерация европейских любителей кошек (FIFe) по сей день не признает этой породы. Американских короткошерстных кошек чаще можно встретить в Японии и в Китае, нежели в Европе.