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2004 Best Cat in
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GP, NW Truluck Hot Rocks of Thorsgard

The American Curl— from Rags to Riches

by Dianna Clark, DBCats Cattery, American Curl Breed Council Secretary

Co-Authored by Caroline Scott, Procurlhareem Cattery, former Breed Council Secretary

What happened to that cat's ears? Are they broken or something? His ears are fine; Mother Nature made him that way. This is one of our "rags to riches" cats – an American Curl. There may not be many of them out there but those that are, are mighty.

The First Sighting

In June 1981, two young kittens, with very unique ears, showed up on the doorstep of an unsuspecting couple, Joe and Grace Ruga (Curliniques Cattery), in the Southern California community of Lakewood. Joe spotted the kittens as he returned from work one evening and estimated their age at about six months old. He approached his wife Grace, who was in the throes of being seven months pregnant with their first child, and while "trying hard not to do anything," he remarked, "Did you see those kittens outside?" When Grace replied that she hadn't, Joe continued, "Well, they look skinny; don't feed them."

According to Grace, Joe went into the other room to change clothes and Grace "promptly got the kitties something to eat," noting that they had "ears that curled back over their heads in a funny way." As far as Grace and Joe could tell, the kittens were sisters. One was solid black with long hair and the other one was black and white with semi-long hair; both of their coats were fine and silky. The kittens were named "Shulamith" and "Panda," respectively. Needing no further invitation than a good meal, the kittens moved in.

Even though Shulamith was very protective of her sister, Panda disappeared approximately two weeks after they moved in, leaving Shulamith to become the foundation cat of the American Curl breed. Shulamith ruled the Ruga house with a silken paw, making a place in their hearts and a place for herself in history. Joe soon forgot his admonition to not feed the kittens, and after working with Grace, has since become an eloquent leader and spokesman for the American Curl breed.

"Shu" became Joe's close companion and according to Grace, "The sun rose and set on each of them, as far as the other was concerned."

Before Shulamith showed up, the Rugas considered themselves "casual" pet owners; but after the birth of Shulamith's first litter in 1981, their outlook changed. Her unique ears had been passed on to two of her four kittens. They realized that Shulamith's unique ears may indicate that she was an entirely new breed of cat. They began intense research and test breedings, which eventually led to the official recognition of the American Curl in various registries.

Joe and Grace continued their casual breeding program, giving the kittens to relatives and friends. Out of three litters, Shulamith produced seven kittens with curled ears and five with straight ears. In 1983, their neighbor, Nancy Keister, saw these curled-eared kitties for the first time at the house of Grace's sister, Esther Brimlow, of Orange, CA. It was love at first sight. Several weeks later, she was able to acquire two Curl kittens, a Longhair brown tabby girl and a Shorthair brown tabby male. Realizing that she now had very unique cats in her possession, Keister contacted noted CFA Judge and Scottish Fold breeder, Jean Grimm. Ms.

Grimm agreed to look at these curly-eared kitties. After studying Shulamith, Nancy's two kittens, "Master Luke" and "Princess Leah," and some of the other cats given to friends and relatives, she announced that the cat fancy had never seen anything like them.

The Road to Championship

With Jean Grimm's help, they wrote the standard for the newly-named American Curl and began the difficult process of getting the breed recognized. Since Shulamith produced longhair and shorthair kittens, the ancestry of both hair lengths was well established. From the beginning, both hair lengths were written into the standard, against the suggestion of Jean to write one length at a time.

On October 23, 1983 at a CFA show in Palm Springs, CA, the American

Curl was first exhibited. Later, the American Curl Cat Club was formed to promote the breed, and anyone who had been given a Curl earlier was contacted and encouraged to participate to help further the breed. Little did these early Curl breeders know how long and hard the road to breed recognition would be.

The American Curls made cat fanciers sit up and take notice from the get-go. The uniqueness of their ears, combined with the fact that the breed had emerged from the domestic population and was never crossed to other recognized breeds, meant they were something totally new. Longtime breeders could not complain about their breed being used to establish a new breed.

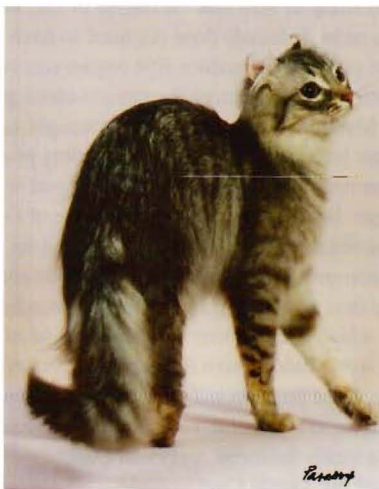
The American Curls were first accepted for CFA registration in 1986 and achieved Provisional status in 1991. Shulamith was the key contributor to the precedent that was set in CFA in 1993, when the Curls were advanced to Championship status. Shulamith, a Longhair, delivered her first Shorthair kitten in her third litter and later offspring followed suit, producing both Longhair and Shorthair Curls in the same litter.

This resulted in the American Curl being the first breed

to be admitted to the Championship class as one breed with two coat lengths. Due to their diverse domestic background, the American Curls come in both Longhair and Shorthair varieties and also come in any color of the rainbow or coat pattern, including pointed. Both coat lengths are presented in the Longhair Division at CFA cat shows.

Those Wonderful Ears

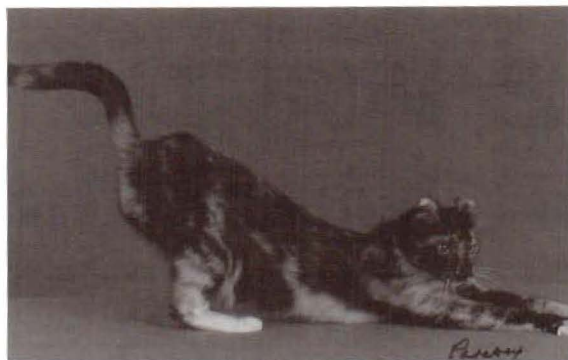
When Curls are born, their ears are straight and look like the wimple of The Flying Nun; but, within 24 to 72 hours after birth, their ears begin to curl back into tight little sausages, if they curl at all. For the first six weeks or so, the ears will stay tightly curled. Then comes the time that every Curl breeder dreads: the kitten's ears will gradually uncurl and curl in varying degrees, until they are permanently set at four months old. You hope and pray that the ears will uncurl enough, but not too much, and uncurl evenly. A breeder can have a beautiful curled-eared kitten at three months and at three-and-a-half months, those ears just let go and you now have a pet kitten. Once the kittens' ears are set, the breeders determine the kittens' quality – pet, breeder or show quality. The kitten's overall conformation to the breed standard and the degree of ear curl are key factors in determining



GC DBCATS Blue Rose, DM, a blue silver mackerel tabby Longhair female. CFA's 2nd Best of Breed in 2000 and the first one-litter, one season American Curl DM. She was also the Northwest Region's Best of Breed in 2000 and 2nd Best of Breed in 2001 and 2002. Br/Ow: Bruce and Dianna Clark.



Shulamith of Curlniques, black Longhair female. Foundation cat of the American Curl. Ow: Joe and Grace Ruga.



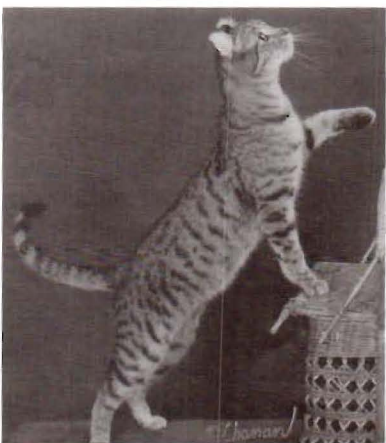
GC, BW DBCATS Lady Madona, a tortie and white Shorthair female. She was CFA's and the Northwest Region's Best of Breed in 2003. She was also CFA's 3rd Best of Breed and the Northwest Region's 2nd Best of Breed in 2004. Br/Ow: Bruce and Dianna Clark.



Daywarhim Apocurlypse Meow, DM, a cameo mackerel tabby and white Longhair male, the only male American Curl DM. Br: Dayna Newcomer. Ow: Caroline Scott and Michael Tucker.



GC, BW, NW Procurlharem Curl Hand Luke, a red spotted tabby and white Longhair male. CFA's 12th Best Cat and Best of Breed as well as the North Atlantic Region's 3rd Best Cat and Best of Breed, 2000. He was also CFA's 3rd Best of Breed and the North Atlantic Region's 2nd Best of Breed in 1999. He is also the only American Curl national winner in championship. Br/Ow: Caroline Scott and Michael Tucker.



GC, BW Curlniques Rock-Of-Ages of DBCATS, a brown mackerel tabby Shorthair male. CFA's Best of Breed in 1998 and 2002 and 3rd Best of Breed in 1999 and 2000. He was also the Northwest Region's Best of Breed in 1998 and 2002, and 2nd Best of Breed in 1999 and 2000. Br: Joe and Grace Ruga. Ow: Joe and Grace Ruga and Bruce and Dianna Clark.



A young litter of American Curl kittens: (from left to right) GP DBCATS Angel Face, GC DBCATS Touch-Of-Class, GC DBCATS Work-Of-Art of Musique, GC DBCATS Heartbreaker of Siriukse and GP DBCATS All That Jazz. All five littermates granded in one show season, making their dam, GC DBACTS Blue Rose, DM, the first one-litter DM.



This litter of American Curls all went on to grand, making their dam, GC, RW Procurlharem Drew Curlynor of Wimpl, DM, the second American Curl one-litter DM. Ow: Carol and Frank Dickinson.

quality of a kitten: the first degree (pet) is between one degree of curve and 45 degrees; the second degree (breeder) is between 46 and 89 degrees; and, the third degree (show) is between 90 and 180 degrees but not touching the back of the head (a disqualification). Since none of us carry a protractor with us to shows, some breeders will do the "penny test" on adults, a "dime" for kittens, to show the arc of a cat's ears and the degree of the curl. To do the penny test, take a penny and place it so that the arc of the ear starts at the middle of Lincoln's head. The ear should arc up over the penny, with the tip of the ear ending near Lincoln's nose.

It is interesting to note that the degree of curl of the parents' ears has no effect on how an offspring's ears will curl. A male or female does not need to have a third degree curl ear to produce a third degree ear. Two third degree parents can produce first degree ears or even straight ears. Since the curled ear gene is dominant, a third degree parent can carry the straight-eared gene in their background and have it show up sometime in the future. Many breeders will use their straight-eared offspring in their breeding program, or they will sell them to other breeders for use in their breeding program.

Unlike normal feline ears, which are soft and supple, the cartilage of an American Curl's ears is firm. This firm cartilage should be present from the base of the ear to at least one-third to two-thirds of the height of the ear, with the remaining one-third of the ear, the tip, remaining flexible.

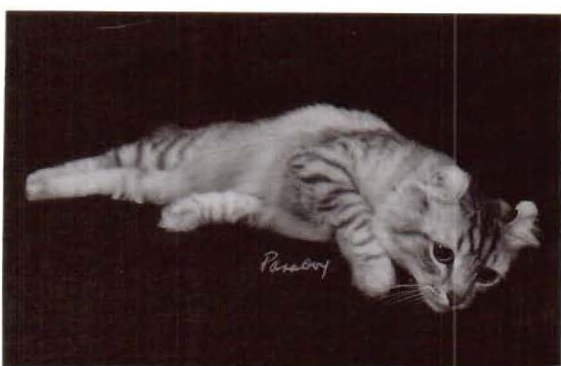
A common question in the minds of breeders and judges alike is about the size of the American Curl's ears: What is the desired ear height? The current standard calls for "moderately large" ears that are "wide at base and open," which is consistent with the ear type of most of the early Curls as well as the Curls being shown around the world today. From the beginning, American Curl breeders have been striving to breed a cat that is well-balanced and proportional. This indicates the ear height is in balance with the overall size of the cat's head and still maintains a graceful, smooth arc. The greatest challenge for the American Curl breeders is to breed a cat who is a totally balanced American Curl.

Discovery of the Aussie Curl

The *National Cat Magazine's* July 1996 issue announced that Queensland, Australia breeder, Margaret Hayes, had launched a breeding program for a curled-ear cat who was accidentally discovered at her vet's office. "Waltzing Matilda," or "Tilly," was believed to be the first Australian Curl due to her curled ears and foreign body type, which conformed closely to the CFA American Curl Breed Standard. Curl founders and enthusiasts waited eagerly. After recuperating for a month from a badly crushed rear leg, Tilly was ready for a test breeding to determine if she indeed carried the curling gene. Mrs. Hayes received approval from the



GP, NW Procurlharem Oscurl Wilde, a red mackerel tabby and white Longhair neuter. CFA's 14th Best Cat in Premiership and the North Atlantic Region's 4th Best Cat in Premiership, 2003. He is also the only American Curl national winner in Premiership. Br: Caroline Scott and Michael Tucker. Ow: Roger Chari.



GC Curlhiques Lil Two Bits of DBCATS, DM, a silver mackerel tabby Longhair female. She was CFA's 3rd Best of Breed in 2000. She was also the Northwest Region's Best of Breed in 1998 and 1999, as well as 2nd Best of Breed 2000. Br: Joe and Grace Ruga. Ow: Bruce and Dianne Clark.



CH Earesistible Linda Luvcl of DBCATS, a calico Shorthair female. Br: Linda Lou Tipich. Ow: Bruce and Dianna Clark.

Queensland Feline Association (QFA), as a result of expert guidance from CFA's American Curl Breed Committee member, Pat Krook (Mihit Cattery), to commence a breeding program with five sound guidelines: foundation stock, first cross, progression of generations, showing, and finally full registration of Australian Curls.

Tilly was bred to a cream and white domestic shorthair of similar type, producing four healthy kittens in October 1996. To everyone's excitement, their little ears curled back on their heads; but, a red flag went up, as this did not usually occur with American Curls. They are usually born with straight ears, then over a period of 5-10 days, the ears gradually curl back. This was just the opposite.

Unfortunately, when they were only five days old, "Matilda" became extremely ill with a temperature of 102 degrees. Margaret hand-reared the kittens and they were delightful. All eyes were watching from around the world but unfortunately, after about 10 days, their ears stiffened and straightened. Margaret could see that they were not going to recur as they did not have the curved cartilage that Matilda had. All involved were very disappointed. Matilda was spayed, along with her mate, and homes were found for the kittens. Matilda is now living with Margaret for what she hopes "will be many uneventful years."

At the time of this writing, August 2004, Shulamith still remains the sole curl gene producer in the world.

The Decade to Consistency

Even though the Curls passed into Championship with flying colors in both coat lengths, there was still the stigma of no pedigreed cats being allowed to be used as an outcross. Many purists shuddered at the thought that we were using barn cats and street cats in our gene pool. To say that the early Curl breeders had a lot to prove was an understatement. The founding Curl mothers and fathers had no idea of the problems future breeders would have establishing their cats as being competitive and just as deserving of a final as a Persian or a Maine Coon.

In early years, there were regional differences within the American Curl breed, as with other breeds. Variations in ear type were the most common differences, with head shape and body length following close behind. These differences occur in part due to the use of domestic cats in the Curl breeding program, but also due to the geographical distance between breeders. Breeders from the East Coast bred their queens to studs from other East Coast breeders; breeders from the West Coast bred queens to studs from the West Coast. There is also the difference in look between a Longhair Curl, soft and pleasant looking, and a Shorthair Curl, stark and muscular. Under all that coat, a Longhair Curl should be the same cat as a Shorthair Curl.



GC, BW, RW Procurlharem Lauren Bacurll, DM, a brown patched tabby Longhair female. The first American Curl female DM. She was also CFA's Best of Breed and the North Atlantic Region's 13th Best Cat and Best of Breed, 1996. Br/Ow: Caroline Scott and Michael Tucker.



GC, GP, NW Procurlharem Lookin For Mr Goodcurl, a brown patched mackerel tabby and white Longhair spay. CFA's 19th Best Kitten and the North Atlantic Region's 2nd Best Kitten, 2002. Also, CFA's only American Curl national winner. Br: Caroline Scott and Michael Tucker. Ow: Hilary Helmrich, C. Scott and M. Tucker.



GC, BW, RW DBCATS Little Rock, a brown spotted tabby Shorthair male. CFA's Best of Breed 2000 and 2001 as well as 2nd Best of Breed in 1999. He was also the Northwest Region's 15th Best Kitten in 1999 and 13th Best Cat in 2000. He was also the Northwest Region's Best of Breed in 1999, 2000 and 2001. Br/Ow: Bruce and Dianna Clark.



GC, RW DBCATS Ali McCurl, a brown mackerel tabby and white Longhair female. She was the Northwest Region's 20th Best Kitten in 2003 and Best of Breed in 2004. Br/Ow: Bruce and Dianna Clark.



GC, BW Russicurl's Kasper of DBCATS, a black smoke Shorthair male. He was CFA's and the Northwest Region's Best of Breed in 2004 and 2nd Best of Breed in 2003. Br: Svetlana Ponomareva. Ow: Bruce and Dianne Clark.



GC, BW, RW Procurlharem Steve McCurl of DBCATS, a brown tabby and white Longhair male. CFA's Best of Breed and the Northwest Region's 8th Best Cat, 10th Best Kitten and Best of Breed 2001. Br: Caroline Scott and Michael Tucker. Ow: Bruce and Dianna Clark.



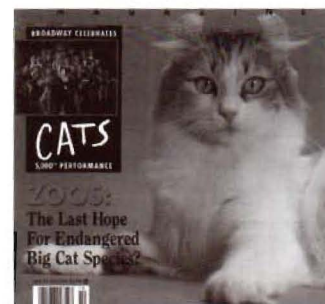
GC Evesgarden Proud Shinobe Sasuke, a cream silver mackerel tabby and white Longhair male (Japan). CFA's 2nd Best of Breed and the Japan Region's Best of Breed, 2004. Br: Elena Mochizuki. Ow: Sanae Hasegawa.



CH Bear-Sun (Sweden). Br: Anna Simonova. Ow: Satu Hanalaineh and Harika Nystrom.



CH Manyee's Chocolate Prince With Silk (Hong Kong), a chocolate silver tabby point male. Br/Ow: Virginia Chiu and Raymond Ng.



GC, RW Fortissimo Yamato Tacurl, a cream mackerel tabby Longhair male (Japan). CFA's 2nd Best of Breed and the Japan Region's 14th Best Cat and 2nd Best of Breed, 2003. Br: Megumi Yamashita. Ow: Megumi and Akemi Yamashita.

Abacurldabra Talulah of Alizara. Br: Jeane and Shorty Camarena. Ow: Debbie MacInnes.

For years, judges would see Curls at shows on the East Coast that looked different than Curls they were seeing on the West Coast. The East Coast Curls had slightly heavier bones and more coat than the Curls on the West Coast. Judges were always asking which look was the "correct" look. Breeders being breeders always said that each one has their look, and that there was no "correct" look.

In early 1999 a kitten, CH DBCATS Lil' Bigman, aka "Bandit," was purchased from Bruce and Dianna Clark by East Coast breeders, Caroline Scott and Michael Tucker. The following year, Bruce and Dianna, in turn, purchased a kitten, GC, BW, RW Procurlharem Steve McCurl of DBCATS, aka "Stevie," from Caroline and Michael. The results from the melding of these lines can be seen in litters on both coasts which look very similar. Kittens from both of these crosses have gone to Europe and Russia, bringing the look of all the Curls around the world closer together.

Around the World in 10 Years

On the international scale, the Curl has flourished significantly during the last decade, continuing the ever-widening circle of Curl breeders that span the globe. The watchful mentoring and trust of stateside breeders to ship their lines outside the U.S., has not only increased the Curl's popularity and progeny but has also broadened that ever-important gene pool, that closes shortly to allow only Curl-to-Curl matings in 2010. Several transatlantic breeders have exchanged their offspring from domestic-to-Curl breeding with other U. S. breeders' Curl-to-Curl offspring, making for a much more diverse gene pool, since procuring stateside domestics has proven more and more difficult each year due to early spay/neuter programs.

The first CFA Curl export with breeding rights was Suncurl's Eddy Vancurlen, a blue and white van Longhair (third degree), who was sent to to Osaka, Japan on June 8, 1989. Countries/cities making significant strides in CFA Curl registrations include: Japan, Hong Kong, Russia, Finland, Poland, Germany, Sweden, Austria, Beijing, South Korea, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Israel. Curls are very popular in Asian countries, as is the American Shorthair, because some of those countries like to emulate American fashion, trends, products and cats with the word "American" in the name.

There have been Best In Show awards given to Curls as well as numerous international finals. At a CFA show in Hong Kong in 2002, there were 12 Curls entered, which jumped significantly in 2003 to twenty-four! After returning stateside one CFA Allbreed Judge recalled that he turned around in a ring and gasped when he realized all 10 championship ring cages were filled with Curls, and again in the Kitten class! "And good ones too!" he said smiling.

Curls have been on numerous international magazine covers and in many breed articles. In Hong Kong, where Curls are most popular by the number of breeders, there have been numerous pet magazines that have devoted the entire issue to the American Curl. Here are some very notable Curl breeders around the world, making tremendous strides with the breed in only a few short years.

Japan, Fortissimo Cattery: Megumi Yamashita is CFA's most prolific Curl breeder in Japan, Region 8. She has recently completed her eighth trainee class and will become a Longhair Judge in February 2005. Megumi



GC Procurlhareem By The Dawncurllylight, a brown spotted tabby Longhair female (South Korea). CFA's 3rd Best of Breed as well as the North Atlantic Region and the International Division's Best of Breed, 2004. CFA's Best Cat in Show, So. Korean Cat Club, 2004. Br: Caroline Scott, Michael Tucker and Ed Davis. Ow: Sun Mi Choi and Christine Choe.



GC Procurlhareem Curled Eastwood, "Woody" (Hong Kong). He was the first American Curl to grand in Hong Kong. Br: Caroline Scott and Michael Tucker. Ow: Virginia Chiu and Raymond Ng.



Woody's kittens featured in popular Hong Kong Pet Magazine.

began her Curl breeding program in 1998 with GC, BW, RW Procurlhareem Hannicurl Lecter, CFA's first American Curl double Regional Winner in two different regions, in the same season.

Megumi has bred nine CFA Grand Champions, eight regional winners and in the 2002-2003 season, Japan's first American Curl Distinguished Merit, CH, RW Procurlhareem Faye Curlaway, DM.

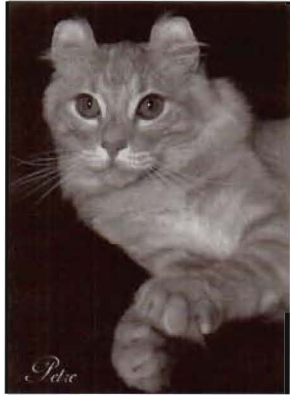
Sanea Hasegawa, of Bayleaf Cattery, a new Curl breeder in Japan as of the 2003-2004 season, is the proud owner of CFA's Second Best of Breed in 2004, GC Evesgarden Proud Shinobi Sasuke.

Hong Kong, ManYee Cattery: Virginia Chiu and Raymond Ng are the owners of CFA's most accomplished and prestigious Curl cattery in Hong Kong. They started breeding Curls in 2000, using imports from Procurlhareem, and granded their first American Curl Grand Champion at Hong Kong's December 2003 show. They primarily breed Longhair Curls and have registered a domestic shorthair outcross for their program. They own an outstanding example of the Shorthair Curl, CH ManYee's Chocolate Prince, a seal-lynx point male. They have attended the five CFA shows held in Hong Kong each December, so it is understandable that granding there is quite an event.

Finland, Siriuxsen Cattery: Satu Hämäläinen, a FIFe judge, and Marika Nyström. They imported the first Curl to Scandinavia and also had the first litter. So far they have bred six Curl litters. Their CFA Curl sire is CH Bear-Sun, a blue silver longhair tabby. Scandinavia does not have CFA shows so someone has to fly to Central Europe to grand a cat. But because they are in FIFe, they do have some 30 FIFe shows in Finland every year, with 300-600 cats competing in each! Satu and Marika have been showing their Curls at FIFe shows in several countries, including: Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Italy, Romania and Denmark. They were showing Curls even before they had their certificate status in FIFe, in January 2003, to create public relations for the breed and educate Satu's colleague judges. Her first Curl, "Karmen," was the representative of the Curl breed and was with her during the FIFe presentation when the breed gained recognition in FIFe in Portugal on May 25, 2002. Satu gave a lecture on the American Curls at the FIFe judges seminar in 2002. Marika and Satu have been writing for several cat magazines throughout Europe, giving breed presentations and doing their best to get Curls better known in Europe. Articles have been published about Siriuxsen, and their Curls are often featured in Finnish pet magazines. Satu is the secretary of the FIFe American Curl Breed Council and as a FIFe judge, she has guest-judged Curls at a CFA show in California.

Russia, Russicurl Cattery: Svetlana Ponomareva is well known in Russia and started her Curl program in 2000 by importing three female curls from the South African Samoa Gems cattery. She granded CFA's first American Curl in Russia, GC Procurlhareem Murphycurl, in 2002. She currently works with three CFA Grand Champions, GC Russicurl's Blue-Bear, GC DBCATS Touch-Of-Class and GC Procurlhareem Darryl Strawcurly. Since Russia is dominated by WCF and FIFe shows and only has two CFA shows a year, granding takes time, as it does in Hong Kong. One other new Curl breeder in Russia is Olga Murashko, who has produced six Curl litters.

South Korea has two new Curl catteries and one new breeder on the scene: Cat Flower Cattery, Song Kyeong Seok and Curlyelfin Cattery.



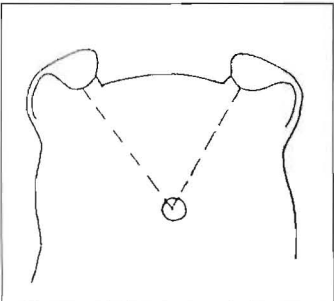
Siriuxsen Urbanboy (Finland). Br: Satu Hamalainen. Ow: Anneli Surgas.



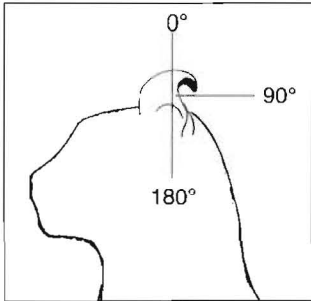
CH Hunters Glenn Mary Rose of Sarcenet (Spain). The first odd-eyed American Curl Longhair. Br: Doug and Gayle Hunter. Ow: Mark Hack and Lisa Aring.



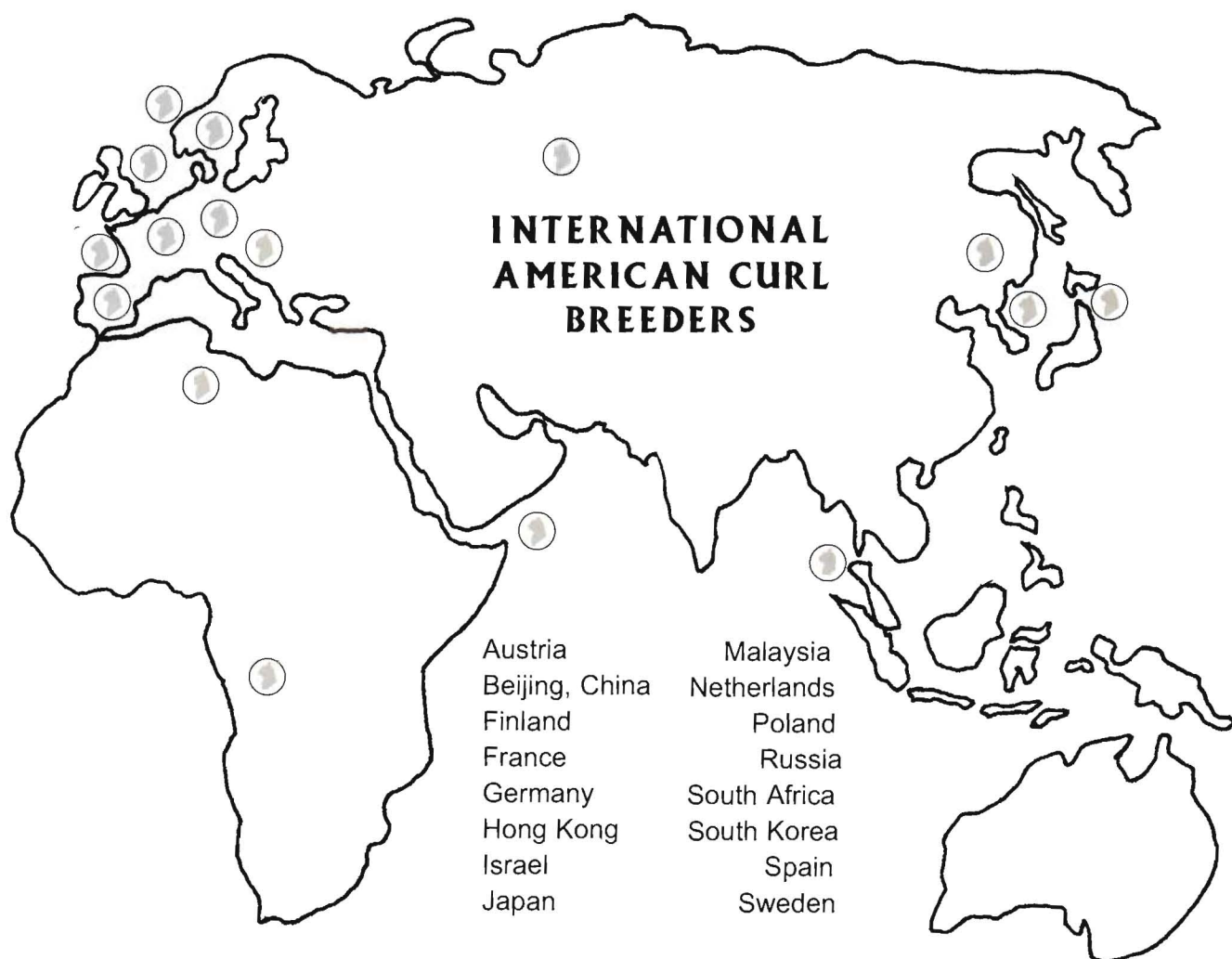
CH Russicurl's Red Cap, a tortoiseshell Shorthair female (Russia). CFA's 3rd Best of Breed, 2002. Br/Ow: Svetlana Ponomareva.



Ears: Degree minimum 90 degree arc of curl, not to exceed 180 degrees. Shape: wide at base and open, curving back in smooth arc when viewed from front and rear. Size: moderately large.



Waltzing Mathilda, thought to be Australia's first Curl.



Europe and Elsewhere: Barbara Cassetari, of Gaelicurls Cattery, lives in Etampes, France and has been breeding CFA registered Curls since 1994, when she acquired her first pair from Grace Ruga. Barbara is partners with Amy Stadter, who lives in Aglasterhausen, Germany. Other Curl catteries in Europe include: Anneli Sargas in Sweden, John Rudolf in the Netherlands, Eveline Preiss in Austria and Danuta Bazier of Poland with Blue Eminence Cattery; in Israel, there is Viacheslav Bykov of Curl-Aviv Cattery and in Beijing, China there is Ma Fongfei. All of these breeders are contributing to the future international success of the American Curl. They are an emerging crop of new globe-spanning Curl breeders that have a determined spirit, just like the breed itself, who compete and evolve with the best of them. And equally as important is passing on careful mentoring, as they have done, to ensure that the integrity of the American Curl stays sound and healthy in all parts of the world, for generations to come.

We Are Here To Stay

The 1999-2000 season saw the first American Curl crowned as a national winner. Caroline Scott and Michael Tucker of New York, who have been breeding American Curls since 1986, saw all their hard work for the Curls pay off. Their boy, GC, BW, NW Procurlharem Curl Hand Luke, became CFA's 12th Best Cat and first American Curl national winner. Then in the 2001-2002 season, Caroline and Michael achieved the first national winning kitten, GC, GP, NW Procurlharem Lookin for Mr Goodcurl, CFA's 19th Best Kitten. And in the 2002-2003 season, Caroline and Michael's friend, Roger Chari, achieved the first Premiership national winner in his first season of showing with GP, NW Procurlharem Oscurl Wilde, aka "Simba," CFA's 14th Best Cat in Premiership.

In 1999, the first American Curl queen earned her Distinguished Merit title. She was GC, BW, RW Procurlharem Lauren Bacurll, DM (Breeders/Owners: Caroline Scott and Michael Tucker). In the 2001-2002

show season, GC DBCATS Blue Rose, DM (Breeders/Owners: Bruce and Dianna Clark), became the first American Curl to become a Distinguished Merit by one litter in the same season. Her kittens showed in their first show in August 2001, and the fifth of the cats granded in March 2002. The 2003-2004 show season saw the second American Curl queen become a one-litter Distinguished Merit: GC, RW Procurlharem Drew Curlymore of Wimpl, DM (Breeders: Caroline Scott and Michael Tucker; Owners: Carol and Frank Dickinson); it also saw the first American Curl male achieve a Distinguished Merit title, Daywarhim Apocurlypse Meow, DM; his breeder is Dayna Newcomer and he is owned by Caroline Scott and Michael Tucker.

A Big Thank You

All the current American Curl breeders here in the states, and around the world, owe a big thank you to all of the early breeders. Without them, we would not have our beautiful babies. Of the early breeders, only Caroline Scott and Michael Tucker are still breeding and showing their American Curls. Some of the other early breeders are: Joe and Grace Ruga – Curlniques Cattery (the owners of the original Curl); Nancy Keister – Patriot Cattery; Lindalou Tipich – Earesistible Cattery; Patricia Speciale-Krook – Mihit Cattery; Paula Van Derven – Suncurl Cattery; Paula Morgan-Moya – Tintagel Cattery;



CH DBCATS Lil' Bigman of Procurlharem, a silver mackerel tabby Longhair male. Br: Bruce and Dianna Clark. Ow: Caroline Scott and Michael Tucker.

Sandy Dartt – Sandybears Cattery; Dayna Newcomer – Daywarhim Cattery; and, Jeane and Shorty Camarena – Abacurldabra Cattery, just to name a few.

Author Biographies
Dianne and Bruce Clark

My husband, Bruce, and I met our first American Curl and the owners of the original American Curl, Grace and Joe Ruga, at a cat show in San Francisco in October 1994. Our first Curl was pet-quality but we decided to grand him in Premiership. We started working on granding him in August 1995 and on New Year's Eve that year, he became a Grand Premier.

In September 1996, after a great deal of searching, we got our first show quality American Curl: GC Curlniques Lil Two Bits of DBCATS, DM. The following March, we added her brother, GC, BW Curlniques Rock-Of-Ages of DBCATS, to our household.

Our first Regional Winner was GC, BW, RW DBCATS Little Rock – the Northwest Region's 15th Best Kitten in 1998-1999 and 13th Best Cat the following season, 1999-2000. To date, he is the only Shorthair Curl to win a regional title. In the 2000-2001 show season, our boy, GC, BW, RW Procurlharem Steve McCurl of DBCATS, became a double Regional Winner – 10th Best Kitten and 8th Best Cat in the Northwest Region.

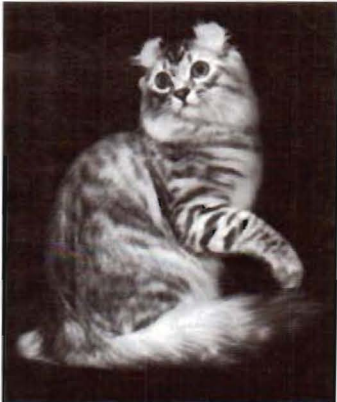
We have had two queens earn the award of Distinguished Merit. In the 2001-2002 season, GC DBCATS Blue Rose, DM earned her DM with one litter of five kittens becoming either Grand Champions (3) and Grand Premiers (2), all in the same season. "Rose's" mother, GC Curlniques Lil Two Bits of DBCATS, DM earned her DM during the 2002-2003 season.

These past few seasons, we have been concentrating more on getting our cats in front of people across the country, not particularly concentrating on any one cat. We are currently showing our 6 1/2 year old Shorthair boy, "Little Rock," along with one or two of our Longhair cats so people can have a chance to see the differences between the Longhair and Shorthair Curl. We have a few kittens we are looking at to get out there, as well.

Caroline Scott

Since 1986, Procurlharem's Caroline Scott and Michael Tucker, of New York City, have been showing and breeding Curls exclusively in CFA. Caroline and Michael have proudly achieved three national wins, one in each class of Championship, Kitten and Premiership. They also hold the highest spot in Curl Grands at 34, along with 19 Regional Wins and seven Distinguished Merit awards, including in 2004 CFA's first and only male American Curl DM. Significantly, GC, RW Procurlharem Drew Curlymor of Wimpl, DM became Procurlharem's first five-grand one-litter DM. To mark their decade of exhibiting in CFA, they have achieved eight out of 10 National Best of Breed awards. They are responsible for assisting a significant number of international Curl breeders in the beginning of their programs, and continue to mentor breeders in the U.S.

Caroline is a retired fashion model and has her own hat design company in Manhattan. Michael, known as Helmut Krackie in his art profession, is a well-received international artist as well as manager in a city-based advertising company. Caroline was also CFA American Curl Breed Council Secretary for five years.*



GC, RW Procurlharem Drew Curlymor of Wimpl, DM, a silver patched mackerel tabby Longhair female. CFA's 16th Best Kitten and 3rd Best of Breed as well as the Southern Region's Best of Breed, 2002. She was one of five grands which made "Treena" CFA's second one-litter American Curl DM. Br: Caroline Scott and Michael Tucker. Ow: Carol and Frank Dickinson.

DISTINGUISHED MERIT CATS

SHOW SEASON	NAME
1997-1998	GC, BW, RW Procurlharem Lauren Bacurll, DM
1998-1999	GC Procurlharem Samantha of Magicurl, DM
1999-2000	GC Procurlharem Louisa May Alcurll, DM
2000-2001	GC, BW Procurlharem Sandy Hooks, DM
2001-2002	GC DBCATS Blue Rose, DM*
2002-2003	CH, RW Procurlharem Faye Curlaway, DM**
2002-2003	GC Curlniques Lil Two Bits of DBCATS, DM
2003-2004	GC, RW Procurlharem Drew Curlymor of Wimpl, DM
2003-2004	Daywarhim Apocurlypse Meow, DM***

- * First One-Litter, One Season DM
- ** First DM in Japan
- *** First Male DM

BREED WINNERS – LONGHAIR DIVISION

SHOW SEASON	NAME
1993-1994	GC, BW, RW Lachatterie Chevalerie
1994-1995	GC, BW Procurlharem Sandy Hooks, DM
1995-1996	GC, BW, RW Procurlharem Lauren Bacurll, DM
1996-1997	GC, BW Musique Scooby Doo
1997-1998	GC, BW, RW Procurlharem Hannicurl Lecter
1998-1999	GC, BW, RW Procurlharem Kurled Vonnegut
1999-2000	GC, BW, NW Procurlharem Curl Hand Luke
2000-2001	GC, BW, RW Procurlharem Steve McCurl of DBCATS
2001-2002	GC, BW, RW Procurlharem Evander Curlyfield
2002-2003	GC, BW, RW Procurlharem Dimondsracurlsbesfrend
2003-2004	GC, BW Wimpl Sterling Alphacurl

BREED WINNERS – SHORTHAIR DIVISION

SHOW SEASON	NAME
1993-1994	CH, BW Sandybears Revolver of Greatfield
1994-1995	GC, BW Sandybears Sagan's Legacy
1995-1996	GC, BW Subet's Commandcurl Will Riker
1996-1997	GC, BW Subet's Commandcurl Will Riker
1997-1998	GC, BW Curlniques Rock-Of-Ages of DBCATS
1998-1999	GC, BW Subet's Commandcurl Will Riker
1999-2000	GC, BW, RW DBCATS Little Rock
2000-2001	GC, BW, RW DBCATS Little Rock
2001-2002	GC, BW Curlniques Rock-Of-Ages of DBCATS
2002-2003	GC, BW DBCATS Lady Madona
2003-2004	GC, BW Russicurl's Kasper of DBCATS

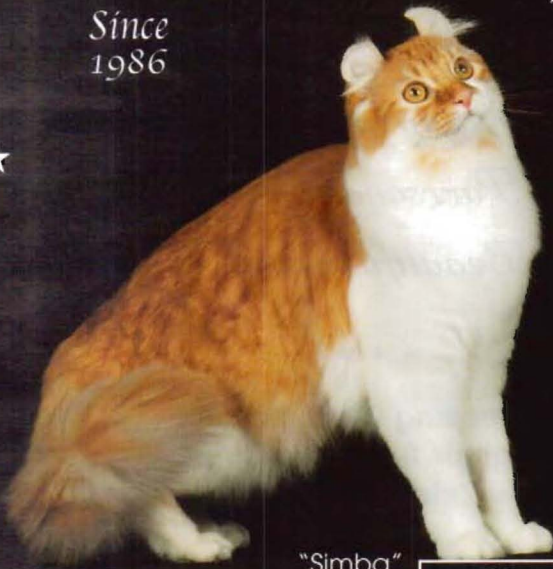
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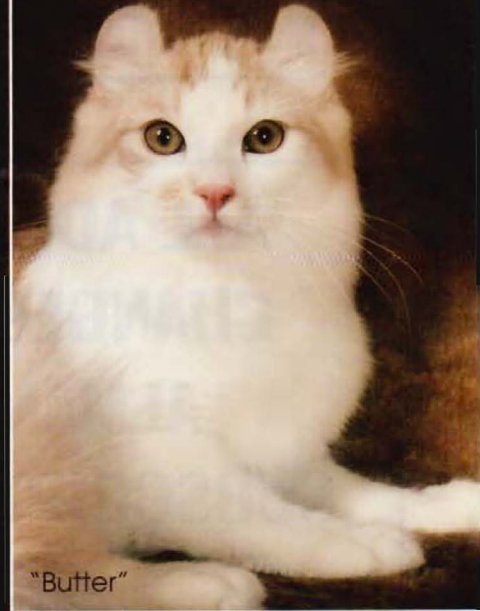
"Simba"



"Goody"



"Luke"



"Butter"



"Pie"



"Kurt"

OUR HISTORY-MAKING DECADE OF CFA FIRSTS

American Curl National Win in Championship
GC BW NW PROCURLHAREM CURL HAND LUKE (LUKE)
Owners: Caroline Scott-Michael Tucker

American Curl National Win in Kitten
GC GP NW PROCURLHAREM LOOKIN FOR MR GOODCURL
(GOODY) Owners: C. Scott-M. Tucker-Hilary Helmrich

American Curl Male Distinguished Merit
DAYWARHIM APOCURLYPSE MEOW, DM (BUTTER)
Owners: Caroline Scott-Michael Tucker

American Curl One-Show Grand in Championship
First American Curl Grand Champion in Japan
GC BW RW PROCURLHAREM HANNICURL LECTER (KURT)
Owner: Megumi Yamashita

American Curl National Win in Premiership
GP NW PROCURLHAREM OSCURL WILDE (SIMBA)
Owner: Roger Chari

Female American Curl Distinguished Merit
GC BW RW PROCURLHAREM LAUREN BACURLL DM (PIE)
Owners: Caroline Scott-Michael Tucker