The Bengal Times

Brought to you by

THE BENGAL CAT CLUB

AUGUST 2016

Welcome to our August 2016 Edition

Dear Members,

Thank you so much for your continued support of The Bengal Cat Club - the ONLY official GCCF Affiliated Bengal breed club in the UK!

This is our first 'Bengal Times' for 2016 and we will be producing a further edition in December for our end of year round up, to include all our club show news plus news on how the Bengals fare at the Supreme - The BIGGEST show for the GCCF Calendar. Don't forget to check out the schedule; It is out NOW!

Find out how our members cats are performing on the show bench; Have a look at all the fabulous photos and results on our 'Show Brags' page. Meet all of our committee including our new additions, say Hello! to our new members, and their cats, and help us say 'until we meet again' to those sadly no longer with us.

Your club needs YOU!

Do you have some news you would like to share? If so, do drop us a line! We would love to hear from you. We want to hear all about your show results, new arrivals, stories about your cats, Inc. LOTS of photos. Maybe you have some photos of your Bengal's silly antics , we would love to see just what they get up to. Maybe you would like to ask the committee for advice, which might in turn help our members to have a little Q&A in the next edition.

"This year the Bengal breed made history!

'Grand Champion Sunshimmer Vela Fleur Lilium' owned by Linda Whitmore & Bred by Sheila & Kieth Bradburn won TWO overall BEST IN SHOW awards - See our members corner page for more info! "

- Claire Workman

Minakatz Bengals; owned by Tracey Fordham & Steve Lott

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A Warm Welcome

The Bengal Cat Club would like to officially welcome Suzanne & Kevin Workman on to our committee as of July 2016.

We very much look forward to working with them.

The Bengal Cat Club Cup & Plaque Secretaries; Suzanne & Kevin Workman

"Suzanne & Kevin Workman have been passionate about animals all their lives, especially cats! They got their first two Bengals (Hazel and Jasper) in 2012 and were instantly hooked. Two more quickly followed in 2013 (Samphire and Willow) and Samphire had a litter in 2015 and 3 more were added to the Bengal gang (Indi, Orion and Merlin). Although not obsessive about showing, they have had various show successes and Samphire was judged the best adult female at the 2014 BCC championship show. Merlin won the best male Bengal kitten at the 2015 BCC championship show.

Suzanne runs Katz Whiskerz boarding cattery at their home in Woodbridge, Suffolk, assisted by Kevin who also works as a horticultural agronomist."

Ordering your club plaque

To order you title plaque, please email the following details to either:

Suzi.workman@gmail.com or Kevy.workman@gmail.com

Please include the following :

- Your Name
- Your Cat's name & new title
- The Shows & dates where the certificates were awarded
- The names of the judges who awarded the certificates

*Please Note : There has been a slight increase in cost of the plaques to £12.00. Once ordered they can be collected from the Supreme or our show in November.

Full Committee List 2016

President : Professor Tim Gruffydd Jones (BVetMed DipECVIM PhD MRCVS)

Vice President : Professor Danielle Gunn Moore (PhD BVMS MRCVS)

Chairman : Barrie Alger Street

Honorary Secretary : Annie Wedge Coak

Honorary Treasurer : Tracey Fordham

New Members Secretary : Julie Hyland

Welfare Coordinator : Tracey Wilkinson

Club Merchandise : Claire & Matt Workman

Cup Secretaries : Suzanne & Kevin Workman

GCCF Veterinary Officer : Susan Moorland MRCVS

Other Committee Members :

Steve Lott & Rosie Alger Street

Members Recommendations

Have you come across a bargain lately? Maybe something that really withstands your Bengals? If so we would love to hear from you. Do contact our Editor with your picks at **Claireworkman78@gmail.com**

Editor's Pick

I wanted to run a recommendation section to help our members get the very best products out there. Often you can find real gems that aren't located on the high street or a mainstream business; word of mouth is equally important, especially when you have tried and tested items yourself (or should we say your cats have!) With that in mind, let me introduce you to one of my favourites : "3 Fat Cats"

I first found out about '3 Fat Cats' on a cat fancy Facebook group and decided to test out their catnip spiders, which were a great success! It led me to going back to their website every so often and having a nose at their cardboard scratch furniture.

We have all, I am sure, tried out cardboard scratchers before and they tend to end up in a mess all over the carpet. However, the 3 Fat Cats ones looked strong, solid & very well priced considering the quality.

I decided to purchase a couple of pieces and they are still holding up very well over 5 months later. My absolute favourite is 'The Chesterfield Chair' Not only is it very durable it is very easy on the eye and fits in perfectly in our lounge. It has also stopped my naughty Bengals scratching up my new carpet - they seem to prefer horizontal scratching to vertical; so this is purrrrfect!

I would highly recommend trying one of their pieces or even just a little purchase of their catnip spiders. If you decide to, do let me know how you get on.

You can find more about 3 Fat Cats at their website **www.3fatcats-uk.co.uk**

- Claire Workman

The Bengal Cat Club would like to extend our thanks to 3 Fat Cats for their generous donation of one of their pieces of furniture to our raffle at this years show on 26th November 2016

Bengal Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA-b)

Since January 2016, UC Davis in the USA has been offering a Bengal Specific PRA test to help breeders in eliminating blindness from any cats they produce. Recently, Langford Vets in Bristol have rolled out a DNA test also (July 2016) It is imperative that only these Bengal specific tests are used when finding out the status of your cats.

The Bengal Cat Club have recently updated our breeding policy - which is currently with the GCCF for approval - and we hope to be rolling this out soon. The Breeding policy will give details of which mating's are acceptable and which mating's are not in order, to keep this disease from affecting any more Bengals.

If you would like more information regarding testing you can visit either of the two websites to the right, or you can contact Susan Moorland MRCVS, our veterinary advisor.

Don't forget that with Langford's ALL members get a Breed club discount of 20%

Where to test :

UC Davis California USA

www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/cat/

Langford Vets Bristol UK

http://www.langfordvets.co.uk/

Here is Gina and Spices PRA Story

"We had our first Bengal when I started working part time, I had always loved the breed but it had never been the right time. We decided to buy a queen on the active so we had the option to breed if we wanted to, my mum used to breed Burmese and always enjoyed it. To cut a long story short we fell in love with the breed and decided we wanted to breed from her. She had had a PKDEF test and was genetically clear and I intended to HCM test her.

I read about the new PRA-b test offered by UC Davis on the Bengal Cat Club Facebook page which I had just joined at the time. The test was new this year (Jan 2016) and there didn't seem to be many that had tested. I must admit as soon as I saw it my heart sank, 6 months earlier I had asked the vet to check her vision as she was bumping into things but the vet had checked her thoroughly and said there was not a problem, this could explain it. At the time we put it down to our inexperience with the breed and perhaps they were just quite clumsy!

I had to test straight away as I didn't want to risk producing blind kittens. I want to try my upmost to help improve the breed and produce healthy kittens otherwise I can't see the point in breeding. I am a bit of a perfectionist so I must admit I struggle to accept anything less!

The swabs were really easy to do, just a couple of cotton buds (cue tips), roll them round in their mouths to collect cells from their cheek and send them off to America. It took almost 2 weeks to arrive (have since sent other swabs and have only taken 5 days) and I waited nervously when I received an email informing me the swabs had been received. Two days later and the results were in - PRA/PRA, therefore affected. I asked them to run again because the vet had said everything was okay, they did and it still came back affected. I was heartbroken and couldn't believe the vet got it so wrong. As she turned 2 years old I noticed her degrading vision had turned into complete blindness. I feel so sad for her, such a young active cat, I look into her eyes, hold her for a cuddle and just look into nothingness. Selfish of me as she copes well and is happy but I feel a sense of loss for the cat she should be, I should be able to look at her and she look back at me with her big green eyes but she just sees straight through me (or doesn't as the case maybe).

Still, breeders are not testing and it is so cheap and quick and easy to do there really is no excuse. Please we need to try and breed this out of Bengals, I may be new to the breed but I do believe that if you don't health test you are really playing with fire, DNA testing is so easy."

- Gina Stokes

Members Story - Cat Scratch Fever

WHEN A CAT SCRATCH GOES WRONG

-By Brian Cartwright (Story submitted by Su Goodger)

We've all had a cat scratch at some point in our life, but do you realise how serious this can be? This is my cousin's story of just that, an innocent scratch that nearly cost him his hand.

"It all started Friday morning. We wanted to go Christmas shopping early December 2015. We always put the cats out, both domestic moggies but our pets. As I went to pick up Poppy she caught me with one of her claws right at the base of the thumb. Yes, it stung, but being small I didn't really take any notice of it. Friday evening it started to hurt and started swelling a little.

The weekend was really a blur!! A mix of pain and well it's only a cat scratch! I didn't want to waste the doctors time or money going out of hours so I said if it got worse then I would go up Monday.

Well Monday my hand was quite swollen so I went up the Doctors and they gave me antibiotics. Tuesday it hurt!! I mean it really hurt. The swelling had my hand 3 times it's normal size. There was like a blister forming at the base of my thumb. I again went up the Doctors and they gave me strong pain killers and changed the antibiotics to stronger ones saying if it is no better tomorrow I want to see you….

Wednesday - At 11am I went to the Doctors and he took one look and said Hospital. The infection was starting to track down my arm. You could see like a red line going down my forearm, and the pain..

The hospital started me on IV antibiotics 3 times a day, and for the pain; Morphine!! It was really that bad. By Friday my hand was 5 times the size of what it should have been. The Doctors were saying they were going to open the wound and wash it out under general anaesthetic. This went as planned and I had to have my hand elevated for 3 days as well as IV antibiotics.

Monday morning the Doctors came round and took off my bandage for the first time since Friday… some might find the image nasty. They said the white area of skin was dead and new skin would not grow underneath it. Surgical debridement was the next step, cutting away the dead skin in order to make a new area for a skin graft.

The debridement took place on the Wednesday afternoon. Still having the IV antibiotics and still in hospital 7 days after the tiny cat scratch. Friday they took the bandage off from the debridement and gave me the news that I would need a skin graft to cover the area.

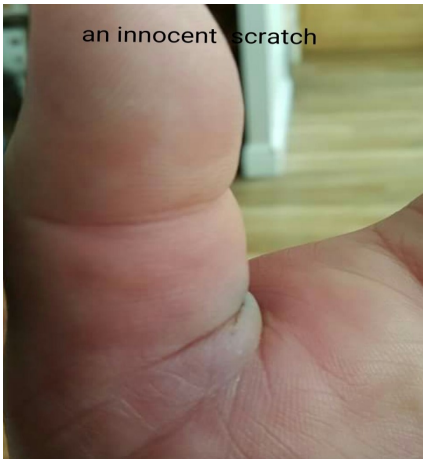
On Monday I was taken for a full thickness skin graft. They took a piece from the inside of my upper arm and placed it over the hole. This went ok and with it being close to Christmas they let me out the next day.

14 days of IV antibiotics, 2 operations & a skin graft all for a cat scratch! Then 4 months of physio from the hospital, around 14 miles each way. If someone pinches your web space between your finger and thumb you can't really do a lot. It took me 6 months to get some useable movement in it again. Psychologically it was hard.. I couldn't use my hand for 5 months, it felt like a life time.

If anyone does get scratched by a cat - PLEASE seek medical advice as soon as you can. I was lucky to keep my hand let alone my thumb."

Many thanks to Brian for sharing his story with us

WARNING! Please note this story may NOT be for the faint hearted. It has been included to highlight the importance of taking proper precautions if your cat or any animal scratches or bites you.



In Memory of

~ When the cat you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure

Dearly missed by Tracey, Dick & Family

Oobalou Lady Jane 2/12/2012 - 6/12/13

Oobalou Lady Jane, affectionately know as Janey was the most kindest and gentlest cat you could ever meet. She was such a beautiful girl, inside and out and was loved by everyone who met her. Sadly Janey was diagnosed with FIP near the end of October 2013 and we sadly had to have her PTS on the 6th November at only 11 months old. We were devastated. Janey did us very proud in her short life on the show bench, winning many of her classes as well as several Best of Breeds and Best of Variety Foreign Kitten awards. Janey is still very much missed by us here at Oobalou Bengals and to everyone that was fortunate enough to have met her. RIP beautiful Janey xx

Moonstorm Kalle Vela 23/7/2011 - 30/11/2015

Kalle was full of attitude, and showing was very much beneath her; she hated it! Kalle was a brilliant Mum but unfortunately was spayed due to a mammary gland infection. She stayed with us as a beloved pet until she sadly passed away due to a Brain Tumour.

Kalle is very sadly missed by all that knew her.

Sadly missed by Linda & Family

If you would like one of your beloved Bengals who is no longer with you featured in a future Members corner in Memory please do drop me an email to include a little bit about your cat and a photo.

Members Corner

If you would like to feature any of your show news, new additions or stories then do please contact us

CONGRATULATIONS to Su & Steve Goodger of

Soostee Bengals with their homebred Seal Lynx Neuter boy

Grand Premier Soostee Adagio for Strings

Adagio was also awarded his Imperial Grand Premier by Mr Cornish & Best of Breed by Mr Hansson.

Adagio was awarded Best in Variety Foreign Neuter AND Overall Best in Variety Foreign at the Eastern Counties Cat Show on 9th July.

CONGRATULATIONS to Tracey Fordham & Steve Lott of

Minakatz Bengals with their Seal Lynx Entire boy

Grand Champion Kalukikatz The Ambassador

'Mally' was awarded an Imperial Grand Certificate and a Reserve Imperial Grand Certificate plus 2 Best of Breeds, 3 1sts and a 2nd in his Misc. classes at the joint Eastern Counties & Kensington Cat Club shows on 9th July.

Mally was also awarded Best in Variety Foreign Adult at the Eastern Counties Show.

Huge congratulations to Linda Whitmore of **Vela Star Bengals** with her Brown spotted Girl

Grand Champion Sunshimmer Vela Fleur Lilium

'Lili' was awarded Best in Variety Foreign Adult, she went on to win Best in Variety Foreign AND Overall Best in show at the Northern Counties Cat Club Show on 28th May 2016!

But it doesn't stop there!

'Lili was awarded Best in Variety Foreign Adult, Best in Variety Foreign AND Overall Best in show at the Durham County Cat Club show also on 28th May 2016.

It STILL doesn't stop there! 'Lili' went on to be crowned

OVERALL Best of the Best Pedigree for 2016!

Linda's homebred kitten 'Larissa' was also awarded Best in Variety Foreign Kitten at the Northern Counties Show on the same day!

Meet Angela's Bengals

"These are my new additions to my family. They are Max and Mindy my first Bengals. They are 9 months old and very loving and vocal kittens. I took Max to his first show and he loved it, will be taking Mindy soon. Thank you for letting me join your club and hope to see lots of stories and photos from other Bengal owners. "

- Angela Dance

THE BENGAL CAT CLUB

2017 CALENDAR PHOTO COMPETITION

This year we are running two competitions for our 2017 calendar!

The first is for eleven Bengal cat photos for the months January to November

The second is for our very special December Christmas cat.

The competition will be held online and a link will be available when the

Competition closes which will contain all the photos for you to vote on.

****ONLY MEMBERS OF THE BENGAL CAT CLUB CAN ENTER****

****ONLY MEMBERS OF THE BENGAL CAT CLUB CAN VOTE****

RULES

1. The competition is open to all members of The Bengal Cat Club.
2. A maximum of three photos can be submitted per person for our January to November months competition.

   PLUS

   One photo can be submitted per person for our Christmas Cat competition.

   So a maximum of four photos in all if you enter both.
3. Photos **MUST** be 500kb or more, and in JPEG format. Any photos received that do not adhere to this will not be eligible for entry, so if you are using your phone or tablet as a camera, please remember to change the settings to the highest resolution.
4. Photos must not be taken by a professional photographer.
5. Please include the name of the cat/s, (including the prefix), the name of the breeder, your name and your email address when entering.
6. The photo can include more than one cat or kitten.
7. **CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES 16th AUGUST 2016**

   Photos will be published with a link for voting only after the closing date.
8. If two different photos of a single cat are amongst the competition winners, then the highest voted photo will be included in the calendar. This gives more people a chance to win a place in the calendar.

Please email your entries with **PHOTOS** in the subject line to anneeco@googlemail.com

DETAILS OF HOW TO VOTE WILL BE GIVEN WHEN ALL THE PHOTOS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND PUT INTO A VOTING FOLDER

GOOD LUCK

Thank you!

Many thanks to all our members who have contributed to this quarter's Bengal Times - If you would like to contribute to any further newsletters then please do. Please note however we cannot guarantee which edition we will feature your story, but we will include ALL submissions.

Our next Bengal Times will be December 2016 rounding up this year's news to include details of our Calendar competition winners, plus of course a special show round up of our own show AND The Supreme!

To submit any news or stories please email Claire/Matt Workman at :

Claireworkman78@gmail.com or Mworkman1977@gmail.com

The Bengal Times Editors : Claire & Matt Workman

Club Trophies

If you won one of our club show trophies last year (November 2015 show) Don't forget you will need to return them!

You can do this a number of ways :

*Return your trophy to the BCC table at the Supreme

*Return your trophy to the BCC show in November 2016 OR

Hand your trophy to a member that will be able to return it for you

Important dates for your diary

16th August 2016 - The Bengal Cat Club calendar entries close today!

22nd October 2016 - The Supreme Cat Show at The NEC in Birmingham - entries close 28th September 2016

26th November 2016 - The Bengal Cat Club Show!!! Schedule available after 26th August 2016

Cricklade Town Hall, High St, Cricklade, Swindon, Wiltshire SN6 6AE, UK

(Inc. Fantastic Raffle prizes, Club Member's Trophies, Exclusive goodie bags for all entries & discounted Club Merchandise)

A sneaky peak of just some of the treats going into this years goodie bags!

See you there!!