

Dear TICA members,

As we approach the 2017 Breed Committee elections I am writing to you to thank you for being part of the incredible journey the Donskoy has embarked on these past five years. Your membership in TICA and continued work with the breed has helped us advance to the Champion status to which we now belong.

This path has been a long and exciting one full of challenges. When I joined TICA in February 2012 with my first Donskoy there was no other Donskoy being shown in the entire country. The breed had been in Preliminary New Breed since 2005 and was not successful the one attempt to move up to Advanced New Breed. I decided to make it my mission to reintroduce this wonderful breed and work to advance it to Champion status where it surely deserves to be.

In 2015, after meeting all our needed requirements, I presented the breed to the Board of Directors in Texas and we were unanimously voted to advance to Advanced New Breed on May 1, 2015. In 2016 I petitioned to advance to Champion status and we were once again successful. We are now in the second of three years of probation and I would like to elucidate some of the work needed to reach the goal of full, non-probationary status.

Simply put, we have yearly requirements and goals that must be met. These include: a set number of breeders, registered litters and geographic distribution of breeders. To meet these requirements requires diligence in reaching out to Donskoy owners and breeders to introduce TICA and encourage membership and registration of cats and litters. I have worked across language barriers and those unfamiliar with TICA and found that while there were many interested Donskoy owners and breeders worldwide, at times financial concerns restricted people from joining TICA, registering cats and litters and paying show fees. To offset these cost barriers I started a fund to pay these fees where necessary and this has opened the door to TICA for breeders and owners that might otherwise not have joined our organization.

In 2015 I became the working breed chair for the Donskoy. Part of my charge with the breed is to mentor new breeders and to encourage ethical breeding and selling of cats and kittens. I have worked as a mediator between buyers and sellers when asked. My professional background as a clinical psychotherapist and personal code of ethics has enabled me to effectively work through disputes as they present themselves.

I look forward to continuing my work with the breed and am excited and hopeful that we will successfully meet all requirements to secure Champion status permanently in 2018. I encourage all of you to continue your personal work with the breed and hold the standard to the original intent; to breed responsibly and ethically and to continue to support TICA in reaching our goal of champion status. Please continue to show, register litters and encourage others to join TICA. I thank you.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Eden

Working Breed Donskoy Chair

