

Burmese Bombay Breed Group--Margaret Stevens

I am writing to introduce myself to all of you as I want to be a member of our vital Burmese/Bombay breed committee. First, I have owned, bred and loved Burmese now for almost thirty years. My husband, Ray Stevens and I breed under the cattery name Graymark. Our first Burmese was a lilac female as I have always loved this exquisite shimmering color that does not quite exist the same way in any other breed. This beautiful female lived to be twenty-two years of age. We began to show Burmese with our first litter.

We have also become breeders of Bombays more recently. Our friend Denise Hall provided us with a very nice Bombay female that began our Bombay career. Since then we have bred some quite amazing Bombays. In TICA, we have had, in both Burmese and Bombay, numerous regional and breed winners.

We belonged to an international Burmese association known as the United Burmese Cat Fanciers and for a while they had a very good *Newsletter*. Several other breeders have told me I have “the eye” for picking out show quality kittens when quite young so I was asked to write an article for our newsletter. Always willing to help others in their breeding, I wrote an article, *Breeding for the Standard: Recognizing Quality in Kittens*. It was published in the UBCF *Newsletter* in April 2008.

In my personal life I am a college history professor. Up until last year I was full-time tenured but I retired and now teach as emeritus. Many of the students I had over my 29 years as full-time have gone on to do amazing things. I not only taught history but analytical thinking which I consider to be an important skill in our society. Students needed it for the writing they do in advanced history classes. I use this skill personally also in reading and understanding Burmese and Bombay pedigrees, which I find invaluable. This leads me to a crucial point about our breed.

When we show our Bombays, sometimes people will tell us isn't it time for the Bombay and Burmese to be separate breeds. There are not that many Bombay breeders here in the United States. We do not see them in the show hall unless we show them ourselves and people call us from all over the United States looking for pet Bombays. They can not find them. The Bombay appears to in trouble in this country, too few in numbers. I think the Bombay needs the Burmese and they are not ready to be separated.

My number one responsibility as a breeder is to promote both breeds wherever I am, to breed and show healthy Burmese and Bombays. I have always been a spokesperson and advocate for them in the show hall; I would continue this as a member of the breed committee, and support ideas that promote this in our breeds.

I would ask for you to vote for me so I can be an advocate for both our breeds as I love them as I know the breed members do. As a long time breeder, I understand both breeds strengths AND what issues challenge both breeds; I ask for your vote as a committee member.

Thank you for reading my statement and your vote, Margaret Stevens