

Burmese and Bombay Committee Members

I am Ray Stevens; Margaret Stevens and I breed and show as Graymark.

I am currently a member of your Burmese/Bombay breed committee and ask for you to vote for me in this coming election.

I will never forget the day many years ago I met my first Burmese. When we entered the breeder's home her cats came right up to us and wanted to be picked up. This was the cat we wanted and we have had these cats ever since then.

Our first cat was a lovely lilac female and in her first litter, was our first show cat. She was a blue female that we graded in CFA as a GP, or grand premier. Although we had much success in CFA, we decided to leave that association because they split our breed into two and come to TICA. We have been warmly welcomed in TICA and our Burmese have done well here.

Several years ago, my wife, Margaret, wanted a Bombay and we now have a Bombay breeding program as well. Many thanks to Denise Hall for our first Bombay female. We have had remarkable success with both breeds in TICA. We rarely see other Bombays in the show hall and we have come to know that Bombays are in trouble in TICA at least in the U.S. People ask us for them as pets and we do not have many to share.

Some have said we need to split the breed group apart. Without the Burmese in the United States there would be no Bombays. We do not have enough Bombays to breed them together without doing too much inbreeding. We need a solution for the Bombay or the breed is likely to disappear, at least in the United States.

Both my wife and I have always been advocates for the Burmese and Bombay. People follow us around in the show hall, want to pet our kittens, tell us about their cats or come to see us because they have one of our cats and would like another one or want one for the first time. They are fascinated by these lovely cats, the Bombay and the Burmese. They come to our home to see them and we often have a wait list for our kittens. People have flown in from all parts of the U.S. or driven great distances to get one. People loves these breeds as we do.

I want to represent our breeds in this committee as I know and love them as you do. I also understand the issues that face us in TICA. I hope that you will vote for me as well as other candidates who have both breeds.

Thank you for your vote, Ray Stevens.