

Roxann Vass – My cattery is Creekcats Ragdolls. Creek is an anagram of the initials of my grandchildren's first name (until we had baby Julien – lol). I did not start working with Ragdolls until I retired and had the time to pursue this hobby. I have been breeding and showing about 10 years now. I was lucky to have some wonderful mentors who helped me recover from the beginner experiences (you know what I mean, most of us have stories about how difficult it was to get started, right?)

The first and most important issue I would like to address as a committee member is keeping the Ragdoll a blue eyed pointed cat. It is time for the solids, minks, sepias, BEW, to find another solution to their problem. Perhaps we can help with that but making them showable as Ragdolls is not acceptable.

The second most important issue I would like to address if I am elected to the Breed Committee is the great division, rancor and animosity I see on FaceBook, on Lists, and in the show halls among the Ragdoll Community. Of course, we do not all agree on everything BUT I think that Ragdoll lovers have more in common than they realize. While we are fighting, we are missing out on celebrating the great successes Ragdolls are accomplishing in the show halls, the great popularity they have as pets, and how lucky we are that they are one of the healthiest breeds when it comes to genetic illnesses. It is difficult to find any breed of cat that gets better press than the Ragdoll. I always have to remind kitten buyers that it is still a CAT, a really sweet cat, but a cat nonetheless.

We can also all agree that it is time for better communication between the Breed Committee and the Breed Group.

So a quick list of all my positions –

- Keeping the Ragdoll a blue eyed, pointed cat
- Improving communication, cooperation and understand in the Breed Group
- Cleaning up the Standard – 3 acceptable patterns, the flat plane language moved to the appropriate place, better description of the deeper blue eye color, remove spots and dots, tail kink dq, etc.

I am also open to hearing about issues or problems that others are facing in the show hall; it is important for our cats to show well. We are a big breed group and it only helps all of us to have Ragdolls as international winners, regional winners, and earning titles. If we had a way for people to express their showing concerns, perhaps we could address them which would benefit everyone. Again, this falls in the better communication area as communication works both ways. Breeders who do not show should also have a place where they can reach out for assistance and advise the board of concerns.

Ragdolls are also very popular internationally. We know that the number of Ragdolls in Asia has been growing at a rapid rate. I think the Breed Committee should step up and help all regions that need help. We have Ragdoll people giving seminars in China to help teach the standard. Wouldn't it be even better if the Breed Committee took on this job to help and mentor new breeders, give the breed seminar and help new people understand the standard?

I understand that these are some really big challenges. Still, if we have the attitude that we are all going to work together and support each other, we can make progress. Let's give it a try!

I would appreciate your vote and your support.