



Janet Spain Rohrbaugh

I am excited to run for the Savannah breed committee. I would serve the breed committee with great pride as Savannahs are my passion. I have been working very diligently since the beginning to make the Savannah a distinguishable breed. I will be an asset as I have actively been showing, breeding, educating the public since we were exhibition only.

In 1999, I heard about the Savannah cat and I was so intrigued and had to have one. In 2001, after waiting over a year I got my first Savannah, an F1, named Puddens. Puddens changed my life forever and began my love affair with one of the best breeds on earth!

In the beginning, I had a great time doing exhibition outside the show halls and discussing the Savannah cat and answering questions. A bit later, I decided it was time to bring in a lower generation into my family so I could show. Showing cats changed my life for the better, I was no longer a workaholic that spent all my weekends working. Not only did I get to have a good time with friends, learning about genetics and animal husbandry but I was able to learn a lot about the Savannah breed, what strengths my program has and what needs to be worked on per our standard. I have even been asked to present the breed by judges on many occasions. Showing my cats around the U.S. and abroad seeing many different looks to the breed I dedicated my efforts to my breeding program. It was so important to breed a very healthy cat that could go to shows week after week and be handled by the judges and spectators and remain healthy. It was so important for a judge or spectator to look at my cat and say that is a Savannah not an Oriental shorthair or a Bengal. That is a Savannah! It was very important to have a distinct head with a wild look and a domestic personality. It was very important not to have a long whippy tail; to have a judge look and say look at that tail it is so short. I needed not to have rib barring and to have the proper eye shape. All of this took time it has not happened overnight. Breeding to the standard is a long thoughtful process. Along the way over the years I have encouraged many of my pet buyers to show their cats in TICA cat shows and many have gone on to start to breed as well and I have enjoyed to mentor them. I wish to continue to mentor and help new breeders.

We have been in Championship now since 2012 and I feel we need to look closely at our breed standard as it was written as preparing for championship. I feel as though I will be objective and well qualified regarding any changes to our written standard.

Challenges of a new breed are difficult. There is a definite need for breed seminars. We need to revise and update our original breed seminar presentation and focus on the SBT cat in these breed seminars. We need to educate. We need to compare our SBT's to Savannahs not Servals. We have come a long way to breed better cats with great show temperaments. And still a big challenge for our breed is the myth about size this is a big problem for us with the growing popularity. I believe we need to protect our breed as well as educate.

In addition to my regular show participation, I am also President of the West Chester Feline Club and we are nonprofit and as well as putting on TICA cat shows we raise money for cats wellbeing and health every show we put on.

My Savannahs and I have also participated in many events that raise money for rescue. And my Savannah cats have been on TV regularly. As you can see I am extremely dedicated and very involved in TICA and cats. Outside of TICA and showing I work a full time job as a Department Manager in an international corporation. In this capacity I am responsible for decision making, timely execution of new projects and managing staff.

I will continue my passion with great pride and enjoy to help others..

My Goals as a Breed Committee Member are:

- Educate the public about the breed
- Encourage Savannah Breeders to show as much as possible
- Protect the breed, including preserving the aspired look
- Work in conjunction with other committee members to put on breed seminars to educate the judges about our breed standard and history.
- Actively seek to change laws that ban Savannahs

Sincerely,

Janet Spain Rohrbaugh

“Time spent with a cat is never wasted”