

Election: POLL TO BOMBAY BREED SECTION

Results by Question

"The Burmese and Singapura breeds have the lowest heterozygosity [genetic diversity] and the highest FIS [inbreeding coefficient] of any breed, reflecting the most intense inbreeding." "Given these results, Burmese and Singapura breeders should be concerned about genetic diversity..." ("The ascent of cat breeds: genetic evaluations of breeds and worldwide random-bred populations." Genomics. 2008 Jan;91(1):12-21. Lipinski MJ, et al.) To give you an idea of how severe our problem is, the following are the number of Bombays that have been registered in TICA since its inception in 1979, compared to the three most popular breeds (Bengal, Ragdoll and Maine Coon) and total registrations. (Note: the Bengal was not a recognized breed until the late 1980s or early 1990s.) The following figures are from the TICA Spring Agenda, pages 39 & 40, dated 4/24/13. They are not representative of the entire Bombay gene pool available throughout the world, but they do show how small a gene pool there is compared to other breeds.

Total: 427,593 BO: 1,080 (0.25%) BG: 98,003 (22.92%) RD: 63,410 (14.8%) MC: 48,342 (11.3%)

I have read and understand the above statements.

Total Voters:**26**

	Choice	Votes		Percentage
Yes		10	100	
No		0	0	

Most of you are familiar with Dr. Leslie Lyons' work and her recommendation for genetic diversity to help the health of the Burmese breed and, by their relationship, the Bombay. Therefore, there are several issues about which we need your feedback/opinion and we will address them in this poll. A separate poll is being sent to those in the Burmese breed section. If you belong to both breed sections, you will receive two polls. You have the right to respond to BOTH of them. If you do so, please make sure that you give the same response on both polls for questions that are identical to maintain consistency. The results of these polls will be included with the formal proposal that will go to the Genetics Committee, the Rules Committee and the Board.

Please keep an open mind when reviewing and voting on these issues. While you may not want to use a particular breed as an outcross, others may want to do so for genetic diversity. If a breed is later approved as a permissible outcross, you're not required to use it! Also note that breeds can be removed as permissible outcrosses in the future if the breed section decides that breed is no longer useful or needed for genetic diversity.

Note: On all of the breeds proposed, the PRO to using them is 1) increasing genetic diversity, 2) developing new lines of BOs and 3) being able to show good quality progeny prior to the 4th generation.

I have read and understand the above statements.

Total Voters:**26**

	Choice	Votes		Percentage
Yes		10	100	

No

0 0

1. The results of the poll sent to the Burmese and Bombay breed sections may indicate wide differences of opinions regarding outcrosses. If that is the case, would you agree to dissolving the Burmese Breed Group and having the Burmese and Bombays as separate breeds? If the separation were to happen, this would entail re-writing the standards for one or both breeds to show a substantial difference between the two of them. It could also require changing one or both breeds from Category I to a more appropriate category. It may also require the appointment of new committee members to one or both breeds.

If necessary, I would agree that the Burmese Breed Group should be dissolved.

Total Voters:26

	Choice	Votes		Percentage
Yes		9	90	
No		1	10	

2. The European Burmese (EBU) was going to be proposed as a NEW breed at the 2012 TICA Annual. However, the EBU breeders withdrew their proposal. In the event the EBU breeders decide they would like to resubmit their proposal and the Board approves the EBU as a new breed, this would have an impact on the diversity of our gene pool. Since Burmese imported from outside the U.S. are currently registered as BUs, BO breeders have full access to them for our breeding programs. Future imports from outside the US would be registered as BUs or EBUs, depending upon their owner's desires. The ones registered as EBU would NOT be a permissible outcross. Those wishing to breed to these EBUs would have to wait four generations to show any progeny from a BO to EBU breeding. Also of note, CFA currently recognizes the EBU as a separate breed. Approval of the EBU as an outcross would include the CFA registered EBUs. Therefore, please respond to the following:

The European Burmese should be a permissible allowable outcross for the Bombay IF it is accepted as a separate breed from the Burmese in the future.

Total Voters:26

	Choice	Votes		Percentage
Yes		7	70	
No		3	30	

3. American SH

Originally, the black American Shorthair (AS) was used to develop the Bombay and the breed was a permissible outcross. When Breed Groups were developed and the BO & BU were grouped together, the AS was removed as a permissible outcross. Although BO breeders could still use the AS for genetic diversity, they had to wait four generations. Most breeders weren't willing to wait that long to show and didn't use the AS, thus reducing genetic diversity. We want to know if BO breeders would like the AS reinstated as a permissible outcross.

CONS:

- 1) IF there is a breakup of the Burmese Breed Group, sepia-colored kittens (cbcb) in BO litters could not be registered or shown as Burmese anymore (UNLESS the BU breed section approves the sepia-colored BOs to be used in their breeding program). However, excellent examples could still be used in breeding programs as they had been in the past.
- 2) Some AS lines carry the BU head defect gene. When considering an AS as an outcross, testing for the head defect is recommended.

Reinstate the AS (black only recommended) as a permissible outcross for the BO.

Total Voters: **26**

	Choice	Votes		Percentage
Yes		5	50	
No		5	50	

4. Tonkinese

The Tonkinese breed was developed using the Burmese breed. Therefore, it shares common characteristics in both type and origin with the Bombay. Allowing the Bombay breed to outcross to Tonkinese will increase our ability to restore the health and vigor of the Bombay breed with little to no impact on type. NOTE: CFA has already approved the Tonkinese as a permissible outcross for Burmese. By permitting Tonkinese as outcrosses we would have access to a larger gene pool from TICA and CFA breeders, as well as other associations.

CONS: None known. Advise the use of sepias over minks and pointeds; however, the use of minks and pointeds is not precluded.

Allow Tonkinese to be a permissible outcross for the Bombay.

Total Voters: **26**

	Choice	Votes		Percentage
Yes		9	90	
No		1	10	

5. British SH

In Australia & New Zealand, the British SH was used to develop their version of the Bombay.

CON: Loss of coat type will initially be experienced. However, it can be recovered within a few generations. (Head and body type are compatible.) Additionally, some lines carry HCM, PKD Type B blood type and the longhair gene. Genetic testing for these would be highly recommended.

Allow British SH to be a permissible outcross for the Bombay.

Total Voters: **26**

	Choice	Votes		Percentage
Yes		2	20	
No		8	80	

6. Breeds from Thailand: Thong Daeng/Suphalaks (Burmese) and Ninlarat (black cats)

These breeds constitute a large, healthy, and diverse source of outcrosses. A Suphalak, Mod Daeng, has already been registered as an OIT Burmese and has had several litters. Indications are that these are healthy and hearty kittens.

CON: Initial loss of type. May take a few generations to regain the look to which we are accustomed.

Allow Thong Daeng/Suphalaks and Ninlarats to be permissible outcrosses for the Bombay.

Total Voters: **26**

	Choice	Votes		Percentage
Yes		7	70	

7. Mandalay (Australia – ANC & New Zealand - NZCF)/Asian (England - GCCF)

The Mandalay is a full color expression ["European"-type] Burmese cat and, as such, type must conform in every way to the Burmese Standard, the only differences occurring in coat and eye color. The cats of the Asian Group should have the same overall type as the ["European"-type] Burmese cat. The Mandalay and Asian breeds are essentially the same, just different names.

PRO: These breeds are already recognized in other associations, have specific standards and have known pedigrees.

CON: While their overall type is not what we are accustomed to, it is similar to the "European" Burmese that has already been imported. Some loss of type may initially be experienced, but can be relatively quickly recovered.

Allow Mandalay/Asian lines to be permissible outcrosses for the Bombay.

Total Voters: **26**

	Choice	Votes	Percentage
Yes		3	30
No		7	70

8. European SH (FIFe)

In terms of personality and appearance the European Shorthair is comparable to ordinary domestic European short-haired cats. The European Shorthair is a muscular, medium-sized to large cat, with a broad, well-muscled chest. The strong legs are average length and the paws are round. The tail is fairly thick at the base, tapering to a rounded point. The relatively large head is rounded, with well-developed jowls, but it is not as round as the British Shorthair's head. The ears are medium-sized, they are as long as they are broad at the base, with slightly rounded tip. They are quite wide-set and upright. The eyes are round and may be of any color. The European Shorthair's dense coat is short, soft and glossy, and should lie flat. All natural colors are permitted, such as black, red, blue and cream, with or without tabby or white markings. Pure white is also permitted. The eye color corresponds to the coat color and may be yellow, green or orange.

CON: Some loss of head and coat type may be experienced, but can be relatively easy to recover. Recommend using only solid cats, preferably black.

Allow European SH to be a permissible outcross for the Bombay.

Total Voters: **26**

	Choice	Votes	Percentage
Yes		4	40
No		6	60