

## Election: POLL TO BURMESE 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 Burmese 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 Burmese gene pool available throughout the world, but they do show how small a gene pool there is compared to other breeds.

Total: 427,593 BU: 4,185 (0.98%) 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:**50**

	<b>Choice</b>	<b>Votes</b>		<b>Percentage</b>
Yes		24	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. 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 Bombay 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) being able to show good quality progeny prior to the 4th generation.

*I have read and understand the above statements.*

Total Voters:**50**

	<b>Choice</b>	<b>Votes</b>		<b>Percentage</b>
Yes		24	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:**50**

	<b>Choice</b>	<b>Votes</b>		<b>Percentage</b>
Yes		21	88	
No		3	13	

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, BU 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 Burmese IF it is accepted as a separate breed from the Burmese in the future.*

Total Voters:**50**

	<b>Choice</b>	<b>Votes</b>		<b>Percentage</b>
Yes		22	92	
No		2	8	

### 3. Tonkinese

The Tonkinese breed was developed using the Burmese breed. Therefore, it shares common characteristics in both type and origin. Allowing the Burmese breed to outcross to the Tonkinese will increase our ability to restore the health and vigor of the Burmese 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 Burmese.*

Total Voters:**50**

	<b>Choice</b>	<b>Votes</b>		<b>Percentage</b>
Yes		21	88	
No		3	13	

### 4. Breeds from Thailand: Thong Daeng/Suphalaks (Burmese)

These breeds constitute a large, healthy, and diverse source of outcrosses. A Suphalak, Mod Daeng, has already been registered as a 01T 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 to be permissible outcrosses for the Burmese.*

Total Voters:**50**

	<b>Choice</b>	<b>Votes</b>		<b>Percentage</b>
Yes		22	92	
No		2	8	