

To whom it may concern,

My name is Amanda Brass of RunaSoul Cattery. It is my wish to give my support and dedication to all Sphynx cat breeders (especially new ones) with the TICA Sphynx Breed Committee. My desire is to demonstrate that the promotion of the Sphynx breed is through all channels and breeders is best achieved outside of restrictive groups.

### **My Background:**

- I got my first Sphynx nearly 6 years ago and immediately fell head over heels in love with the breed.
- I started to research to learn more about our cats as we acquired two more which then spurred me on to successfully exhibiting in TICA.
- Based on my newfound knowledge the next natural step was to research what I needed to do to start breeding Sphynx to the healthiest highest breed standards.
- My research led me to interacting with Alessio Pasquini, Blake Gipson and with some TICA judges good enough to give me their time. I am looking to pay this forward and help other breeders and Sphynx enthusiasts.
- With these mentors I have been able to build a cattery that in a short space of time now holds the TICA International Breed Winner and Sphynx Cat for two consecutive years consequently winning a Lifetime Achievement (LA) Award.
- In addition, we now also hold the TICA International Breed Winner Sphynx Kitten and TICA International Breed Winner Sphynx Alter, both of which are from our own breeding.
- On our journey we ensured we presented most of our breeding program cats in shows for judge's critique. From this we also were awarded RW Kitten season 19/20, three RW's in Kitten, Cat & Alter in 20-21, eight RW's for one Kitten, four Cats & three Alters 21/22. 8 x RW's for four Kitten, two Cats & two Alters in 22/23.
- For the last four years I have actively campaigned my Sphynx in TICA. We consistently show across EW, EN and ES Regions of TICA. We have developed some fantastic relationships at all levels within the registry. At a recent show in ES region we held a mini breed discussion group for the judges with my kitten, cat and alter that I was showing against the breed standard. This was an open and frank discussion used for learning after the show had finished judging for the day.
- Today we carry on our breeding based on a continual improvement strategy.
- We organise and hold shows under our club name of TICA Naked Northerners. At our shows we promote ethical responsible breeding and hold breed classes to help exhibitors/breeders develop.
- In our showing we are now giving Sphynx Breed talks promoting the breed to the public and exhibitors alike.
- In this show season we are looking to hold a sphynx congress at atleast one of the shows we arrange or attend.

- I carry out yearly HCM scans on all my cats yearly with a Board Certified Cardiologist and only breed from cats that consistently have scanned clear. I encourage other breeders through help and advice to follow the same best practices. I keep in touch with the breeders within my cat's lines to ensure that there are no abnormalities occurring.
- My learning curve has been quick and steep, however based on feedback from various people within the registry, I have recently applied to become a Mentor on TICA's Mentor Program.

### **My Vision:**

- My principal belief is that the Canadian Sphynx breeding should be primarily for health and breed standard.
- I am not a supporter of designer breeding, that includes Sphynx variants.
- My preference is for the traditional looking Canadian Sphynx as per the existing breed standard.
- Mentoring new breeders without seeking personal gain, assisting them in sourcing breeding cats and ongoing assistance in all aspects of breeding our wonderful Sphynx babies.
- Breeder participation in shows with judge's critique and feedback to ensure catteries are on the right course for health and breed standards.
- Breeder co-operation outside of restrictive groups that only act out of self-interest.
- Actively promote the widening of the pedigree lines.
- Continue with all lines of medical research to eliminate HCM issues.
- Breed promotion at shows, exhibitions and on social media, it is amazing watching the change of attitude once the public understand the fabulous personalities of our 'aliens'. Widening the appeal of the Sphynx ensures a wonderful future.
- I will continue to promote the Sphynx breed in TICA through attending shows and being active in TICA Facebook groups offering support and advice.
- Hold a Sphynx Congress in Europe annually, bringing us together in the spirit of co-operation.

### **Summary:**

The Sphynx is my love and my passion, it is this approach that has given me so much in such a short space of time. Enthusiasm is infectious and I want everyone to catch the Sphynx bug for which there is no cure!

I will not hide that along the way I have made mistakes, nothing would please me more than to help, mentor and share these experiences in order to assist others to avoid them.

I have experienced some wonderful inclusiveness which I want to replicate on all our Sphynx

journeys. I have experienced the opposite too, I don't want this to happen to others, especially new breeders, it is my mission to help in every aspect.

Today my world is all about the Sphynx and nothing but the Sphynx.

I ask you to allow me to join you all in my next steps by allowing me to work for you on the TICA Sphynx Breed Committee.