

Happy New Year

SE Region January 2011 Newsletter



Meet Your Neighbors

Robin Higgins

Location

Athens, Georgia (However, I am not from the south...I am from Middleboro, Massachusetts (about 40 miles south of Boston)...came south to college at the University of Georgia. I lived in Atlanta for a while, Florida and then back to Athens, then Tennessee and then in 1994 back to Athens.

Cattery - Sartoris

1. What breed do you work with...??.. How long...??..

Most people think of me with the American Shorthairs but I actually started as a Himalayan breeder way back! I bred Himalayans up through the early 90's. I also bred Persians, Exotic Shorthairs and Burmese. I got my first American Shorthair when I went in the judging program in 1982 and found they suited my current life style better so since the 90's they have been my only breed.

2. If you could, what other breed of cat would you like to work with...??..

I love the Devon Rex, a very difficult breed to work with

3. What is your most memorable win...??..

Supreme Grand Champion Sartoris Arkady was 1997 11th Best International Cat. He was the 1st red tabby American Shorthair to place in an international Win. In other showing and wins, I had always had a partner, someone helping...this campaign came after I had moved out on my own and it was Arkady and me....our win! When Larry Paul supremed him and he set me out to campaign. "Kady" was a very special cat and changed the traditional showing of American Shorthairs in TICA!

4. How did you start in the world of cats...??..

I always had cats...I grew up in an area where there were barn cats...I loved the tabbies and varied colors and I used to catch any kitten I was especially taken with and close it in my bedroom for a "taming" period. My first pedigree cat was a Siamese given to me while we were in college. I was reading the Faulkner book "Sartoris" at the time and named the cat Sartoris....when I got our first Himalayan and registered the cattery...back in 1971(probably one of the oldest catteries still active) I named it after my Siamese who ran the household!

5. What, if any other hobbies...??..

Cat take most of my time..I've always loved reading and when I have a chance that is what I do....historical fiction is my main interest and some mystery. I became a fan of University of Georgia football while a student and still am a football fan.





Meet The Breed



American Shorthair

General Description

The American Shorthair, our native shorthair breed, is one of the most adaptable breeds for any type of household; for a single person living alone, the American is an excellent companion; for a senior citizen the American is a calm, devoted pet; for a family with children, the good natured, playful American, known to be excellent with children, fits right in; for a busy household, the non-demanding American keeps itself entertained, ready for the time they have for relaxation. Apartment living suits them as well as a house. One of the natural breeds, the American Shorthair is a medium size cat, muscular with a firm, well-balanced body. They have easy care short, lustrous coat in a range of colors and patterns.

History

Although not listed on ships rosters, the American Shorthair came with early settlers to this country bringing their diverse backgrounds to form an "American" cat. They were "working cats" protecting the ships' stores on the long journeys. These early American cats were strong, hardy cats that earned their living status here with their hunting skills but were soon noticed for their intelligence and many varied colors and patterns. In early cat exhibitions in the 1900 the shorthair cats then known as Domestic Shorthairs were represented. As more shorthair breeds were imported, dedicated breeders of the domestics began selective breeding to develop a cat of specific type. Although the American Shorthair is a natural breed, it is the process of selective breeding that has developed the American as we know it today. It was not until the early 1960s that the breed was renamed American Shorthair and began its rise in recognition and as a contender on the show circuit.

Personality

Americans are good-natured, easy-going cats, popular with families, as they are known to be very tolerant of children. They can be calm but are also playful even into old age. Female cats tend to be busier than the males; males are more easygoing. In general they are intelligent cats and quite interested in everything around them. Many Americans retain their hunting instincts with any insects that should venture into the house. They also like to watch birds and other activity from a windowsill. They enjoy the company of their people but retain their independence. Many are lap cats, while some prefer just to be nearby.

Traits

The standard relies heavily on the term medium. It is not a large, heavy boned cat as is the British. It is a very balanced medium size, medium boned cat, with a firm muscular feel to the body, well proportioned in all parts. The head is slightly longer than wide and with an open, sweet expression. Eyes are wide-set, medium to large in size proportionate with the size of head, rounded, which means the upper lid is shaped like half an almond and the lower lid is a fully rounded curve--the eyes should not be round as are the Exotic Shorthairs. The muzzle is medium-short with a full strong chin giving it a squarish appearance; ears are medium in size and slightly rounded at the tip set twice the distance between eyes. The coat is short, hard in texture, lustrous, dense enough to give a natural protective appearance. The color of the cat seems to affect the texture to some degree with the ideal coat most often found in the brown tabbies. Color and pattern are weighed equally with clarity of the marking in the patterns most desirable. The coat requires little extra care so unless being shown, a bath is rarely necessary; a weekly combing to remove dead hair will suffice. When bathed for a show care must be taken or the coat ends up too soft or fluffy.

(Taken from the TICA breed pages.) Laurie Patton



Recipe for the New Year

Hoppin' John

Ingredients:

- 1 pound dried black-eyed peas
- 2 small smoked ham hocks or meaty ham bone
- 2 medium onions, divided
- 3 large cloves garlic, halved
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 cup long-grain white rice
- 1 can (10 to 14.5 ounces) diced tomatoes with chile peppers, juices reserved
- 1 medium red bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 green bell pepper, chopped
- 3 ribs celery, chopped
- 1 jalapeno or serrano pepper, minced
- 2 teaspoons Cajun or Creole seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cumin
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 4 green onions, sliced

Preparation:

In a large Dutch oven or kettle, combine the black-eyed peas, ham bone or ham hocks, and 6 cups water. Cut 1 of the onions in half and add it to the pot along with the garlic and bay leaf. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat to medium-low, and simmer gently until the beans are tender but not mushy, 2 to 2 1/2 hours. Remove the ham bone or hocks, cut off the meat; dice and set aside. Drain the peas and set aside. Remove and discard the bay leaf, onion pieces, and garlic.

Add 2 1/2 cups of water to the pot and bring to a boil. Add the rice, cover, and simmer until the rice is almost tender, about 10 to 12 minutes.

Mince the remaining onion then add to the rice along with the peas, tomatoes, and their juices, red and green bell pepper, celery, jalapeno pepper, Creole seasoning, thyme, cumin, and salt. Cook until the rice is tender, 5 to 8 minutes. Stir in the sliced green onions and the reserved diced ham. Serve with hot sauce and freshly baked cornbread.



Southeast Regional

Rolling Out The Red Carpet The A “cat” emy Awards



July 30 & 31, 2011
Columbia, SC

Ring Sponsors and Judges Dinners Sponsors are available.

Don't miss the “**show premier**” party on Friday Night at the hotel – Including hors d'oeuvres & BYOB.

Parade of Breeds – We will have a special area with as many breeds present as possible for the public to see. Columbia has wonderful cat lovers and they flock to the show. Please contact Judith Johnson - johnsondj@comcast.net

Star Wall of Fame and Remembrance – We will have a wall of stars that will be personalized remembering a friend that is now gone or celebrating a win. Cost is only \$5.00. This is a foil gold star with your personalization..!!.. Get your star today contact Laurie Patton – Pirateslairmc@aol.com

Goodie bags will be available for dinner guests courtesy of Kitt Flicks Productions. You are welcome to bring your gifts announcing your wins for the show year as well.
Get your thinking caps on now!

VIP Treatment Package also available - \$100.00 Gets you premiere benching, lunch and no waiting in line for check in..!!.. Very Limited..!!..

Laurie Patton, Show Manager
PiratesLairMC@aol.com



Find The Breeds

J	R	O	T	G	Y	A	B	M	O	B	Y
M	I	A	M	A	N	X	H	G	N	Q	C
I	A	H	T	B	E	N	G	A	L	R	Z
C	Y	M	R	I	C	H	J	I	A	M	O
M	B	P	E	R	S	I	A	N	F	D	C
R	S	A	C	M	D	S	U	B	T	S	I
F	I	T	R	A	G	D	O	L	L	O	C
H	A	V	A	N	A	L	O	G	R	M	A
O	M	B	E	H	B	O	D	P	O	A	T
G	E	P	H	K	O	R	A	T	K	L	O
D	S	W	C	U	R	O	M	C	A	I	P
L	E	X	F	S	P	H	Y	N	X	R	M



Quote of The Month

“Another fresh new year is here . . .
 Another year to live!
 To banish worry, doubt, and fear,
 To love and laugh and give!

This bright new year is given me
 To live each day with zest . . .
 To daily grow and try to be
 My highest and my best!

I have the opportunity
 Once more to right some wrongs,
 To pray for peace, to plant a tree,
 And sing more joyful songs!”

William Arthur Ward



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Anyone wanting to submit articles, recipes, trivia or anything you think others would like to read can send me the info at PiratesLairMC@aol.com

Thanks to all who contributed this month..!!..

Laurie

Don't forget that the SE Region is on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=300505338191>

Until next month!

