

# SE Region May 2011 Newsletter



## Meet Your Neighbors



**Name: Honey Gilmore**  
**Location: Birmingham, AL**  
**Catsanhata**

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

My first husband and I first decided to work with British Shorthairs. While we were showing my HHP Shadow (the first cat I ever had win a ribbon) at the 1994 SE Regional, we saw Inkblotz London Fog aka Bear, owned by D'Ann & Maricia. In the cage next to him was a litter of kittens - repeat breeding. One of the boys was coming home to Birmingham. In January 2006, we acquired a male kitten sired by that young man. We adored Simon and he was quite the specimen. But at about 5.5 months, he decided he did not want to participate. When my first husband and I went our separate ways a year later, Simon went with him. Beautiful to this day. Since then, I have shown Devon Rexes, although not many and not often (enough). I have always shown HHPs. I LOVE showing in these classes. Showing in HHPs has given me exposure to many breeds over the years and I have had the opportunity to learn quite a bit about all breeds. Showing HHPs is a great way to learn about breeds and meet breeders. You can make decisions about breeds you may want to work with. Over the years I have also had a Somali and have had the opportunity to help groom/show Tonkinese and Exotic Shorthairs in particular.

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

Oh, I would love to have another British. There are many breeds I love. My new husband and I have decided that breeding may not be the best idea for us. We do take in rescues and place them and this alone is really tough. We cannot imagine how hard it is to place kittens you have planned for, bred, helped the queen raise, etc. Anyway, another Brit, a Fold, an Aby, another Somali. My husband would like to have a Maine Coon. Tonkinese, Singapuras and Japanese Bobtails also catch my eye regularly.. And my first love - the Manx. My grandmother took one in from a vet tech long ago, papers and all. She was adorable. In the show halls, learned more about the issues that can arise with the spinal column mutation and realized I would love to own one, but probably not breed them.

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

Wow! What a touch question. There are few critical ones - The first ribbon any cat ever won, my Shadow at the local 'other association' show. Every ring my HHP Ollie made. Simon (the Brit) taking best in 5 of 6 rings at his first show (one day show) Sierra - my older Devon, supreming her in Ashville, NC when I never thought I would see that. And her being BOTB alter at her final show of her first year with me. June - our beloved Devon girl. When Marilyne Dombroskie told me she was one of the best Devons she had ever seen. Ruby - there is no beginning or end with Ruby. Every ring is precious. I will never forget bathing her in a hotel room not even my own to show her the next day. Had never seen her before - or her me. And there were wonderful moments with Saffie, Brandi, Sierra, Tabby, Gumper and Jag. I cherish all the times I have spent in show halls.

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

While I was still in college, I saw an ad on TV for the other association's show. I decided to enter Sparkle, our family pet. She didn't place all weekend, but I loved it - even though one exhibitor thought me a fool for asking what made an Exotic Shorthair exotic, another quit speaking to me for being there with an HHP and yet another nearly lit me on fire when I called a cat 'grey.' 2 years later with different cats - I met Glen Popiel who introduced me to TICA. I never looked back.

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

Good question - we all should have other hobbies. There is more to life than just one thing. I used to love to snow ski - but haven't in years. I love a lot of athletic events - especially at the University of Alabama. I am a season ticket holder & member of the booster club for the women's gymnastics team. My husband and I enjoy travelling for any number of reasons, including cons - or conventions for folks with unusual interests, i.e. Star Trek, Star Wars, etc. Good music, theatre, etc. My family remains very important to me - and always will be. It can be hard to work in all the things I want to do at times. I even enjoy watching dog shows and we try to go see the local ones when we can. And I almost forgot horse racing - absolutely LOVE to watch these elegant, yet powerful creatures perform. I wanted to be a jockey when I was younger - but grew too tall and too heavy.

Honey

# **Meet The Breed**

## **The Devon Rex**

### **General Description**

Devon Rex are the pixies of the cat fancy with their impish looks and mischievous personalities. The Devon Rex have large low set ears and big impish eyes set in a head with a short muzzle and high cheekbones. It is a small to medium sized cat with a muscular body covered with a short, velvety soft coat that ripples with waves. They are often described as resembling the Gremlins from the film Star Wars while the waif-like tousled curls of their coats are reminiscent of Little Orphan Annie's tousled mop.

### **History**

Buckfastleigh, Devon, England is the ancestral home of the Devon Rex where a feral tom cat with a curly coat lived in an abandoned tin mine. In 1960, a tortie & white stray adopted by Miss Beryl Cox had a litter of kittens sired by the feral tom. One of the kittens was a brownish-black male with a coat just like his sire's. Miss Cox kept the kitten and named him Kirlee. Aware of Kallibunker (the first Cornish Rex) and the work to preserve that new gene, she wrote to Brian Sterling-Webb thinking her Kirlee could contribute to that program. However it turned out that the gene creating Kirlee's curly coat was different to the one producing Kallibunker's marcelled waves. There were a number of differences in the coat between Kirlee and the CR. While Kalli had whiskers that were bent and curled, the gene from Devon resulted in missing or stubby whiskers. Kirlee had tight curls but not as uniform as those of Kallibunker giving them a windblown appearance. And Kirlee had huge, low-set ears giving his head a pixie-like look that was accentuated by the large, inquisitive eyes and short nose. Breeders started developing a program to conserve the gene discovered in Devon too. The gene discovered in Cornwall was designated Gene 1 and that discovered in Devon Gene 2. Sterling-Webb (Briarry) now worked to conserve this gene as well along with Mrs. Agnes Watts (Du-Bu) and Mrs. Madge Shrouder (Hassan). All Devon Rex trace their ancestry back to Kirlee who was sadly killed in a car accident in 1970.

### **Personality**

Devon Rex are intelligent, mischievous and highly active. They are very playful and want to be involved in everything - and they are powerful jumpers no spot goes unexplored! Expect to find them perching on the top of doors or climbing to some previously unexplored spot. Although they are interested in everything going on around them, Devons are very people-oriented and prefer to share their investigations with you so expect their company no matter what you are doing. They will perch on your shoulder watching you make supper (food is another of their favorite things!), curl in your lap while you read a book, and snuggle under the covers to sleep with you at night. They aren't particularly talkative but do chirp when they feel they absolutely need you to look at something that has caught their interest.

## Traits

Devon Rex are well-muscled, mid-sized cats weighing on average from six to nine pounds, with males being heavier than females. Their soft, short, curly coats vary from cat to cat - the ideal show coat is an even, full coat of loose curls but individual cats will have coats ranging from a tousled mop of curls to a thin suede-like coat. Some cats may also have almost bare patches as well. The coats often vary over the life of the cat and when molting the coat will often break off so no curl is apparent until the new coat grows back. Kittens often go through this stage. The whiskers and eyebrows are also short and crinkled like the coat.

*(Taken from the TICA breed pages.)* Laurie Patton

## Recipe Of The Month



Cinco de Mayo



### Layered Spicy Black Bean Dip

#### Ingredients

1 (8-oz.) package cream cheese, softened

1 (16-oz.) jar spicy black bean dip

1/2 (8-oz.) package shredded Mexican cheese blend

Toppings: sliced green onions, chopped tomatoes, sliced black olives

Assorted tortilla and corn chips

#### Preparation

Layer cream cheese, dip, and cheese in a 1-qt. serving dish. Add toppings, and serve with chips.

Submitted by Laurie Patton

## Quote Of The Month

The future depends on what we do in the present.

- Mahatma Gandhi



# Southeast Regional

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



July 30 & 31, 2011  
Columbia, SC

**“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](mailto: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 per star. This is a foil gold star with your personalization and you get to take it home after the show..!!..  
Get your stars today contact Laurie Patton – [Pirateslairmc@aol.com](mailto:Pirateslairmc@aol.com)

**Goodie bags** will be available for dinner guests courtesy of Kitt Flicks Productions. You are welcome to mail your gifts to me so they can be included in the bags ahead of time. I would estimate 100 –125 gifts for the banquet. 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..!!..

**Best Celebrity Look A Like Contest** – Winner gets \$25.00 Gift Card – **Need a Sponsor**

**Best Hollywood/A”cat”emy Awards decorated cage** - Winner gets \$25.00 Gift Card – **Need a Sponsor**

<http://www.seregiontica.org/Shows/KittFlicks/kittflicksflyer.htm>



Laurie Patton, Show Manager  
[PiratesLairMC@aol.com](mailto:PiratesLairMC@aol.com)



**You’re Invited..!!..**

## PET TALK WITH RENE KNAPP



### HOW TO GRIEVE

*When I come to the end of the road and sun has set for me,  
I want no rites in a gloom filled room, Why cry for a soul set free?  
Miss me a little, but not for too long, and not with your head bowed low.  
Remember the love that we once shared, Miss me – but let me go.  
For this is a journey that we all must take and each must go alone.  
It's all part of the master plan – a step to the road home.  
When you are lonely and sick of heart, go to the friends we know  
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds – miss me – but let me go.*

*Anonymous*

No matter what we do to prepare ourselves for the death of a beloved pet, even if we knew it was coming, the heart still breaks when that final moment arrives. If you have ever experienced the intense pain of losing one of your furry friends, then you will relate to this column. Our animals do not live long enough and I am sure that all of my readers will agree on that!

My 13 year old red tabby lies with me as I type this column. His breathing is labored because of the lung cancer, but he continues to purr. We talk about what a wonderful cat he has been and how he came to us. He was the littlest kitten with huge ears sitting in a box at the vet's office waiting for his first shot. I remember my daughter looking at me with those pleading eyes and saying, "But mommy, we don't have an orange cat." She was right, so of course we had to bring him home right then and there. The woman who brought him in was a volunteer for a rescue group (this was in my pre rescue days) and, in fact, she became a very close friend and now sits on the Board of Helping Paws.

We brought the little guy home and he immediately took over the house like gang busters. His name jumped out at us – Capone! He was always sweet and affectionate and a little shy with people. As he grew to be 17 pounds, his name was shortened to Pony. He is now at the end of the winter of his life. I know he is going to leave us very soon – but I will still be surprised when he is gone. The years we have shared together will always be a part of my family. I do know that the painful memories will become comforting, as with the loss of any family member.

So when you lose a pet, allow yourself to mourn, much as you would mourn the death of a person. Some people who are grieving the loss of a long-time animal companion may find that the grieving is even worse than that of losing a human being. And if friends and family do not understand your grief, it somehow minimizes the loss and intensifies the feelings of being alone. So do not allow your family and friends who have never experienced a strong bond with a pet, minimize your pain. Seek out the comfort of people who understand. Grief, like death, affects us all, no matter who we are. And if you do not have anyone who you can share your feelings with, feel free to write to me, as I will always understand.

There are generally five stages of grief and mourning, beginning with denial. This is our built in defense

mechanism that allows us to forget the truth of the death for awhile. Although it is only the beginning, and only a temporary response, it helps us begin the grieving process.

With acceptance, comes anger. It may be directed at God, at our vet, at our pet or even ourselves. We don't really know why we are angry, but it is good to get that anger out of you. And then comes what I think is the worst stage – guilt. We start with the what ifs. What if we had seen that something was wrong sooner. What if we had gotten a second opinion. What if we hadn't made the choices we made? The blame has to go somewhere – and we have to work it through because we are now suffering the intense pain of reality.

Depression – It manifests itself in different ways – some people become silent. The majority find a wave of sadness surrounding us. It can be hard to function normally, carry on conversations, laugh, or get involved with life in general. Depression can last a long time. I have a friend who ended up in the hospital after losing the battle of keeping her young cat alive. The degrees of depression depend on the person and what else they have in their lives. Eventually most people reach stage five – acceptance. With acceptance, the anger and the sadness begin to leave us and we are comforted by the many memories we hold in our hearts.

I will miss Pony – but when it is time, I will let him go.

Submitted by Rene Knapp

Happy Mother's Day to all..!!..

Did You Know..??..

**Article Nine – Responsibilities of Show Management**

**29.1.1.5 The show management shall not permit caging to be dismantled during advertised show hours.**

Taken from TICA Show Rules



## The 2010-2011 Show Season Is A Wrap

Wow what a season it was for me! I started my ring training in January 2010 and finished November 2010. I traveled all over the country and the world for that matter!

I met new friends, reconnected with old friends, and had the time of my life handling all the cats! I have trained with the best judges in the world as well! Sue Becknell is one of those in a million judges and I wish you all have an opportunity to see her judge and listen to her stories! My first shorthaired cat for the judging program was a beautiful lilac point Siamese, name Ilsa. Alexy La Belle Aurore came from Bruce and Dianne Alexy and I thank them so very much for entrusting me with her! The second shorthaired cat came from Anne McCulloch. Catiators Airrace of Pirateslair or Racer as he is called. This cat just crawled into my heart. During my training I had to have an agent for him and he has sooo many stand in moms. I want to thank Anastasia McKenzie, Judith Milling, John & Bonnie Charvat, Judith Johnson and Gladys DiNunzio for taking such good care of my Spotty Body! Without all of you he would not have been able to get to shows and rings. Thank you to all the alters in our region. Do you know in the top 10 alters internationally in TICA, 3 or more of our own alters are there! What a year for the SE alters!

I hope for you all the very best in the coming show season and the best for your kittens, cats, alters, HHP kittens, and HHP adults. We have the very best that TICA has to offer right here in our own region!

Racer & Laurie Patton

**Please donate to the American Red Cross or our own SE Disaster Fund ..!!..**

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](mailto:PiratesLairMC@aol.com)

**I am in need of some Meet Your Neighbors...**

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!