

The Tonkinese Breed Club Gene Pool Fund



The Committee has set aside a sum from the Club's income to be used for grants. The object of the fund is to help support and sustain a healthy UK Tonkinese gene pool by contributing some part of the cost incurred during the import of Tonkinese, Burmese or Siamese cats - from lines unrelated/predominantly unrelated to existing UK Tonkinese. If required, the TBC Secretary may be able to help you with research into the breeding lines, including inbreeding co-efficient.

Applicants must be breeding Tonkinese and registering their kittens with the GCCF. They must have been a TBC member for the three years prior to the year of application and must make their application within six months of their imported cat(s) arriving in the UK. Naturally, any TBC Committee member who applies will have no part in the decision on their application. Each application, and all information provided with an application, will be treated in the strictest confidence.

DNA tests will be required and it is expected that, for a while, the imported cat(s) will be available to contribute generally to the Tonkinese gene pool (but the breeder will still retain their right to refuse unsuitable mates or unsuitable potential owners).

Full information is on the 'TBC Gene Pool - Application Form', which is now ready to download from the Club web site.

Naturally, we are hoping that this fund can be increased and maintained through fundraising and kind donations, especially from Tonkinese breeders who will be able to benefit from the availability of new studs and queens unrelated to any existing Tonkinese lines.



Editor's Notes

Hello again, everyone! Another year has passed, and this issue will bring lots of interesting news and updates from our committee and club. Thank you to everyone who submitted articles and photos.

With best wishes,
Esther

TONKINESE BREED CLUB OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President - Mrs Diana Harper
Vice-Presidents - Dr Sarah Caney BVSc PhD DSAM MRCVS
& Mrs Linda Vousden

CHAIRMAN: Dr Julia Craig-McFeely
Tel: 01865 241323 julia.cmcf@gmail.com

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mrs Jo Sturgess

HON. SECRETARY: Mrs Linda Vousden
Lansdale, 12 Robinhood Lane, Winnersh, Berks RG41 5LX
Tel: (0118) 9619444 tbc.uk@ntlworld.com

HON.TREASURER: Mr Mike Vousden
Lansdale, 12 Robin Hood Lane, Winnersh, Berks. RG41 5LX
Tel: (0118) 9619444 michael.vousden@btconnect.com

Mrs Valerie Chapple (**Rescue Officer**) val.chapp@btinternet.com
Mrs Jacqueline Leah
Mrs Hilary Goodburn
Mr Stephen McConnell

Delegate to GCCF Council - Dr Julia Craig-McFeely
Tonkinfo Editor – Miss Esther Anstice eanstice@gmail.com



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HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hello Fellow TBC Members,

I hope you and yours are enjoying the summer – isn't it nice to see the sun? I've heard people compare this with 1976, but they obviously weren't there (if you were, you'll remember crisp brown grass, woodland fires, dried up streams and lakes and queuing for water from stand pipes). That year was my final at Weymouth Teacher Training College – so I spent a lot of time on the beach, Happy Days!

Onwards ...

We've now retired the Annual AGM Awards, they've served their purpose with the results helping to promote the breed. Now we have to chase exhibitors for input – so clearly there is no interest in the Awards as such. Having said that, we do offer congratulations to Miriam Haas' Levi (IGrMC Chinktonks Giocoso) and Kiri (Pr Tallica Shining Star) for their AGM awards this year, and to all Club members who have so successfully shown their Tonks in 2016 – it was lovely to see you at the TBC show in December. Please remember to keep sending me news of any titles won.



We've some interesting news for you, so give this issue a good read. You may detect a theme "fewer breeders, decreasing gene pool", but we are hoping to find ways to improve things with your help.

Some breeders are working to import Tonkinese, Burmese and Siamese to establish new foundation lines. In June, the GCCF Council approved our Registration Policy change to permit registration of imported non-pedigreed Tonkinese from Thailand where they are a native breed. Naturally there are requirements that you need to understand before embarking on such a project. The Committee feel that our Club should help to support such projects for the future of the breed and, since the AGM, has been working on the "TBC Gene Pool" grant – more details in our front page article.

I shan't take up more space – please remember to buy at least one of the lovely TBC greeting cards and start making plans to show your Tonks at our show on 9th December.

Best wishes to all,
Linda



TONKINESE BREED CLUB 14th CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

December 9th 2017 – Bracknell Leisure Centre

Show Manager: Mrs Carol Pike

(Sharing with the National Cat Club Show)

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I'm just into my second term as Chairman of the Tonkinese Breed Club, and am enjoying it very much. To my surprise, although I've been a committee member for both Tonkinese clubs over the years, and have been on the TBC committee for a while now, being the Chairman seems to be something different, and I feel a much greater sense of the responsibility that the committee and the Breed Advisory Committee (drawn from the committees of the two Tonkinese clubs) has for the breed as a whole, for it's continuity and future, and for our small community of breeders. It's a community that has been hit rather too often in the last few of years by loss, both with breeders retiring, and most recently with the death of an active breeder, Jean Adams. There are fewer and fewer people breeding Tonkinese, yet the demand for kittens is high. This is because the reputation of the breed is so good: there are more and more people looking for Tonkinese who have not had one before, and that is one of the strengths of these lovely cats. They can win over anyone!

We need to keep an eye on our breeding viability: fewer breeders not only means fewer kittens, but also fewer bloodlines, and as the gene pool shrinks the future of our breed is in danger. Every time a breeder crosses their line with another and keeps a kitten to breed forward that effectively halves the genes available, and in time the only way to continue breeding is to mate between cats with some of the same cats in their backgrounds. As you can imagine, this does nothing for the long-term health of any breed.

It's not just a question of numbers of lines either. Few breeders keep studs, and if they do they may not be open to all-comers. Those few studs are the backbone of our gene pool, so every time one is neutered, the funnel narrows further. We need therefore to

find out just how many breeders there are currently working with the breed, and how many bloodlines those breeders represent. Quite often there is a cluster of breeders working together, but as all their cats are related they may only represent one bloodline. It's time to take a look at the larger picture of Tonkinese breeding in the UK so that we can be alert to potential bottlenecks and avert problems before the breed loses its viability.

Traditionally breeders have been very cagey about selling a breeding cat to someone they don't know, who has approached them because they want to start breeding. This wariness has sensible roots: kitten-farming is still commonplace and nobody wants to think of their lovely baby ending up being exploited, or just harmed by someone who doesn't know what they're doing. For anyone starting out the potential for something bad happening is always there, and often it's easier for us as breeders just to decide not to take the risk. Mentoring is all very well, but you can't be on hand all the time, and you can't do anything about someone well-meaning who just isn't observant!

Breeders have to change their ways though. If we don't become more pro-active about introducing new breeders... if we don't get over our anxiety about selling a kitten on the active register... if we don't ask one of those wonderful pet owners who looks really sensible if they would consider breeding... if we don't stop behaving as if only we can possibly be trusted as a breeder, then our breed will die out. Like having the carpet pulled out from under your feet: suddenly it will be gone, we will look for a new stud cat for the kitten we've kept to continue our lines, and find that there isn't one. There are several breeders willing to sell cats on the active register and to help

... Chairman's Message

mentor someone wanting to start breeding (many have already started new people on this amazing road), so if you've ever thought about this then there are lots of people to talk to about it and find out if it's for you. The breeder will ask you all sorts of questions and make sure as much as they can that their kitten will be in safe hands as well as whether this is a good thing for you too, so don't be alarmed if you get the third degree! If you want to know more then please do contact the club and we can put you in touch with someone in your area or just get together to talk about it.

The sustainability of the breed isn't just about having enough breeders and bloodlines though. It is also about the long-term management of the breed within the cat fancy as a whole. When I first started breeding, the AGM was an absolute MUST for every breeder. Nobody who wanted to be taken seriously in the breed would dream of missing an AGM. Perhaps that's because in those early days the breed was just getting established, but recently there have been game-changing events that affect all of us, and nobody seems to care enough to show up and be involved! The AGM isn't just a boring monologue, it is the best way to get in touch with the lifeblood and backbone of your breed: these are the people who bother to join committees, not because they're boring or bossy, but because they really want to be involved in the future of the breed, and they care deeply about what happens to it. If you're a committed breeder, then you have a responsibility to come to your club AGM: listen to the business that affects your breed, have your voice heard, and have your say in the future direction of the breed. You can also start to learn about the things that everyone needs to know to keep a breed thriving by joining a club committee.

A Club AGM is the chance to meet the people who are writing the breed standard; to have your say in future decisions; to meet other breeders; to find out about new bloodlines or new directions for the breed; to petition your committee for a change that you want. The recent death of one of our number brought home to me that our club committees are populated by the same people year after year and we're all aging: The committee know how things are done, and they can keep the breed alive and well in the cat fancy, but what happens when those people die or retire? There's nobody coming along who is learning the technicalities or management of a breed, nobody who seems to care about the wider breed and its needs. I don't really think nobody cares, but sometimes it feels like that. I know from my own experience that it's all too easy to assume there will always be someone else who will sit on committees, who will know what to do in a given situation, or who will sort out a problem. Unfortunately it's not the case. None of us are getting any younger, and before I lose my marbles completely I'd like to feel there was a new group of breeders and enthusiasts committed to the breed coming along who will ensure there will always be Tonkinese for those who want to share their lives with them.

The Tonkinese is moving now from the status of a 'new' breed, where we felt like poor cousins to the big established breeds, to a breed that is setting the standard for others, creating a registration policy that positively encourages widening the gene pool, tightening up our inbreeding policy, and looking at making testing for inherited diseases compulsory for all breeding cats.



Bringing your Cat to a Club Show



Julia Craig-McFeely

Thanks to several recent changes in the rules for showing Tonkinese – rules proposed and put through the technical hoops for acceptance by our hard-working club committees and brilliant Breed Advisory Committee – I was able to show many of my cats last year at the Breed Club Show when they had not been eligible to show before. These were cats with the Burmese or Siamese pattern (BCC and CPP) and cats of lower generations – closer to their Burmese and Siamese ancestors: I have been breeding from first generation lines for many years in order to maintain a healthy gene pool, but that meant I could not show because early-generation cats were previously ineligible. That has all changed – and it was thanks to action taken by the Breed Advisory Committee following a petition from members of both clubs. It was an exciting day out, and made all the more special by lots of people who had never shown before bringing their cats to help celebrate my 25th anniversary of breeding Tonkinese. It was quite a day, and quite a party! Owners were

thrilled by coming first in open classes, many also achieving Best of Breed, and everyone went home with splendid rosettes. For me the icing on the cake was to win my first Overall Best in Show.



... showing your cat

Showing is not for everyone: some people think it cruel. I think I felt that way too before I tried it, but I came out the first time because the breed needed cats to be shown in order to get promotion for the breed to full status. There were no titles to be won, and at that stage not even any first places, but many of us took our cats out so that we could prove the Tonkinese was here to stay, and was worth the work. Once I had done it, I realised that for most Tonkinese their idea of heaven is being admired all day by a succession of people who love cats, and I have always been amazed at how much the cats clearly enjoy what is happening and take an interest in everything around them. The Tonkinese below – out at their first ever show last December – certainly don't look unhappy!

The pens look small, but the cats feel safe and in control of their environment in the small space, and most of them snooze the afternoon away, something they wouldn't do if they were stressed out. Sometimes you see a cat who looks worried or hunches in a corner at first (though I see that more with other breeds than with Tonkinese), but they soon realise these people want to make friends, and they usually come out of their shell. If they don't then you know showing is not for your cat, and you just don't do it again. I had one who became such an old hand at it that if anyone dared put a blue or yellow card (second or third place) on his pen he would rip it off and chew it to bits, only allowing the red first prize cards to remain. His mother, on the other hand, was so disgusted that she sat at the back of her pen with that rude expression that only those with Burmese ancestors can produce, and I knew she wouldn't be coming out again!

As a breeder it's an important test of my breeding and rearing to be able to exhibit cats who are confident and outgoing in a show environment, and every breeder should be able to bring a cat or two out who will fly the flag for them and prove they are raising their kittens well. It's the best way to test whether you're getting their socialisation right. It's also useful if you have no experience of understanding how the standard of points works to find out whether you are breeding cats of correct type. Comparing your cats with others is also helpful in working out how your breeding measures up to the general trends, and it is a nice way to discover colours or patterns you might not have seen before or considered breeding. You may also get to meet the stud cats that you might one day be visiting with your girl.



... showing your cat

The show has another important purpose as well: this is a forum where people who may never have met a Tonkinese can come into contact with the breed, and see for themselves what they're like, not just in looks, but in temperament. Members of the public come to shows to meet and look around the breeds to find the one that will eventually become a large part of their lives. The show is therefore a very important contribution to the public perception of the breed, and we need everyone to be involved in that, not only breeders, but those of you who have lovely cats that you adore and take great pride in. Visitors will come and talk to you and ask you about your cat, what it's like living with him or her, and the breed as a whole, and this is an ideal place for them to meet both breeders and pet owners who can give them all the information they need. Our newest committee member is a breeder of British Shorthairs and show judge, and he met the Tonkinese while judging and at a breed seminar. He volunteered to join the club committee as he wants to be more involved with this lovely breed. (Here he is unable to keep his hands off Whisky at a recent breed seminar!)



If you've never shown before then it may seem terribly complicated, and even just getting hold of the right kit to dress your show pen seems like too much hassle, particularly if you only ever do it once! There is an answer: for my 'novice' owners last year I was able to sort out their show entries for them, and dress their pens the night before the show, so all they had to do was turn up with their cat and their vaccination card, and then wait for the class results to roll in! I don't think any of them expected to enjoy themselves quite as much as they did, never mind to win anything – one of the facebook feeds from an owner at their first show (with comments from friends omitted in between the owner's remarks) shows how they felt as the day went on...

“Should be an interesting day. Our first cat show, possibly our last, starring Chaos and Listo.”

“There are more than a few cats here!!”

“Listo is up for BEST IN SHOW!!!!”

“No Best in Show, but Best of Breed. So proud.”

“They seemed to take it all in their stride.”

It was lovely to see their surprise at winning their open class, everyone's excitement and pride at Best of Breed and waiting on tenterhooks for the announcement of Best in Show. But also for me as the breeder of their boys it was great to see the cats so confident and strutting their stuff, particularly as they were mature cats and had never done anything like that before. I don't suppose the owners will embark on a show career, but you can see they had a great day, and the cats had no problem with it. I gather when they got home they tore around the house, ate a huge supper, then went flat out to sleep. The cats were glad to be home, too.

... showing your cat

The Tonkinese is very fortunate that we have not one but TWO club shows: shows dedicated to the Tonkinese breed alone. To be financially viable these shows are usually held 'back-to-back' in the same hall as a major all-breed show, so there's lots to see for someone coming to their first show: the chance to encounter breeds you may never even have heard of (and chat with their owners), and you can even enter your cat in both shows, potentially winning two challenge certificates towards the three needed for your cat to gain a title.

The Tonkinese Cat Club Show is on 2 September at Perdiswell Leisure Centre, Worcester (back-to-back with the Wyvern Cat Club show). Closing date was 26 July, but come to visit to see what you think.

The Tonkinese Breed Club Show is on 9 December at the Bracknell Leisure Centre (back-to-back with the Sphynx and National Cat Club shows). Closing date to be confirmed, but usually about 4-6 weeks before the show.

At the Breed Club Show you will find an amazing colour split availability: we have individual colour classes for every colour and pattern available in the breed: 72 open classes! It means if you're a novice the likelihood of being able to go home with your first Challenge Certificate is very high indeed.

For a club member an entry costs anything from £24-36 (depending on the show), and that pays for entry to your open class (the title class) and three others of your choice. It includes 1 exhibitors pass, and you can buy discounted extra passes for a couple of pounds with your entry if you want to bring family along.

Why not give it a try? If you'd like to join us for the Breed Club show – or just ask for more information about it – do please get in touch with anyone in the club, or come direct to me. We can help you with the entry form, and if you need it will dress your pen with all the 'show whites' the night before so you don't need to buy any special kit, all you will need to do is turn up on the day with your cat and have fun! For the Cat Club Show the committee of that club will be happy to help you with your entry.



tonkinese
BREED CLUB



www.tonkinese.info



Club Greeting Cards

We are delighted to offer a selection of high quality large greeting cards (A5 size), with envelopes.

Single card – £1.00 & postage

Pack of four cards – £3.50 & postage

See our website for more details!

www.tonkinese.info

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KATY'S STORY

Hello, my name is Katy and I am nine years old. I love cats and spend a lot of my time at my grandma's house playing with her cats and kittens. Grandma says it's good for the kittens to have lots of people to play with because it helps with their socialisation, what ever that is.

I have started going to cat shows with my grandma, too. I like them very much, but there is a lot of waiting around in the morning while the judges look at all the cats. We usually sit in the car and eat a late breakfast or early lunch and play silly games to pass the time.

Grandma has bought me my own cat. She is a Tonkinese girl named Taleh Tonkano Luna, but her nickname is "Splodgey". She is a brown tortie girl with a very pretty face which looks as if she has been stealing honey from a honeypot and honey is smeared all over her face. Her turquoise eyes follow me all the time I am with her and she loves me a lot. She is about to visit with a stud boy so we have our fingers crossed for kittens soon.

I have an older sister who is 16 years old, and has four cats of her own but they live with grandma too as we have an English Bull Terrier at home who is not keen on sharing his home with a cat. But Mum says one day they can all come and live at our house.

When we go to shows there are not many young people there. It would be nice if other ladies at the shows brought their children or grandchildren with them. In years to come

when I am grown up and go on my own, I would know some young people too and we could enjoy our time talking together about "young people" things.

The only thing I don't like about Cat Shows is that I have to get up early as we often have a long journey to get to the show. I do like to win a rosette, but Grandma says "we always take the best cats home with us" so it does not really matter if there are no rosettes. I have been very lucky though and have always come home with the best cat and some rosettes. I take them to school to show my friends and I also show them the pictures I take on my phone at the show. I would like my friends to come to a show with me one day.

When my grandma is very old and no longer able to show her cats at shows, I will go on my own, or with my sister, and we can carry on showing our cats and hope that there are still cat shows to go to in the many years to come.

PS. If Splodgey has kittens, I will write and let you know what happens. Grandma says I can stay at her house all night and see the babies being born, if I promise to be quiet and gentle and not grumble if it takes a long time.

Love from Katy



COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

You may wonder what on earth the committee of a cat club finds to do with itself. Well quite a lot of what we do involves making sure there is a Club Show every year, and sorting out the logistics and finances involved in that. We're always looking for volunteers to help out at the show too, and helping with the 'table work' (writing up prize cards and recording results – it's a nifty way of avoiding having to pay an entry fee!).

We also deal with enquiries and letters about the breed and, together with representatives from the Cat Club committee, we organise breed seminars and work on the technical side of the breed, which involves the breed standard and the registration policy. These are sometimes quite complex things, and just getting to grips with the language is not easy. Recently we've had several rewrites in both our standard of points and registration policy, ranging from the inclusion of new colours to the addition of a registration policy for foundation Tonkinese imported from Thailand. I'm amazed at how much I've learned, but I still wouldn't want to attempt to write a document like this from scratch, which is what the original committee of the club had to do. The joint group, called the Breed Advisory Committee (BAC) also handles the appointment of new judges for the breed, which involves checking they have done all the required seminars and tutorials, studying their probationer show reports and advising them of anything they need to improve on.

Recently Jo and I took a club table to the two main Burmese shows (one of which was back-to-back with about 8 other specialist shows) to talk to people about breeding



first generation Tonkinese to broaden our gene pool. The table allowed us to show club publications and information with our club banners and to remain on hand all day to talk to visitors (which was quite exhausting!). We took Whisky with us, who had been such a start at our last breed seminar (picture on p.8) and had done well at his first show, so we knew he was a good ambassador for the breed. There was a lot of interest both in Whisky and in the breed generally, with lots of people coming over to talk to us and ask questions; Whisky was relaxed enough that he didn't have to stay in his pen, but sat on a chair in the busy hall to talk to visitors. Many people who had never met a Tonkinese were fascinated, and one lady said she and her husband had been arguing because he wanted a Siamese and she wanted a Burmese, and now she knew what to do!



The outings had a serious purpose, and that was to introduce more Burmese breeders to the Tonkinese and encourage them to breed first-generation litters for us. We met with limited success, and that's probably because the people showing Burmese are probably those very firmly committed to breeding only Burmese, and less likely than non-showing breeders to look outside their breed. However the time was not wasted as lots more people got to meet a good Tonkinese and some of the established breeders there talked to us about maybe breeding a litter so that we have some new lines coming into our gene pool.

Julia Craig-McFeely

SO YOU WANT TO BE A BREEDER?

Hilary Goodburn - Hylily Tonkinese

Rebecca Miller - Goldendragon Tonkinese



So you want to be a breeder, and why not? Breeding cats is the most wonderful and rewarding hobby provided you have the time, the room and the dedication to do it. You share your home with the most delightful and charming queens whose lives you become so involved in, and they share everything with you including your lap, your bed, your husband and your entire existence.

It is not a task to take lightly as there is quite a financial investment in all the equipment which will help you succeed as a good breeder and make your life and the cat's life much more enjoyable.

In the Tonkinese Breed Club you will always find an experienced breeder who will help and mentor you. They will guide you through the process and give you invaluable advice on what you need, where to get things, who to talk to and most of all, be at the end of a phone if needed.

I will never forget my first litter of kittens. They were born in my bed in the middle of the night and as inexperienced as I was, I was lucky all went well, just as the books and my mentor had said. Five tiny babies, all healthy and suckling from their new and inexperienced Mum. She was very tired but looked so proud and happy that I cried tears of joy just for her and relief for me. Three weeks later a second litter from my other queen was delivered and once again all went well. These ten kittens will live in my memory forever. The other great joy was to see both Mums suckling each other's babies and caring for all of them together. They took turns in feeding and resting, which proves that they are much cleverer than us humans in organising babies. We humans struggle with just one!

I was very lucky to have such an amazing start and I will be forever grateful to my friend and mentor Pauline Mason who gave unstintingly of her time and answered all of my questions to the best of her knowledge. She has been a dear friend ever since, and we still work together with our breeding programmes.

However, there are sad times too, and all new breeders must realise that sometimes things do go wrong. Nature can be very cruel and not all babies are born perfect or alive. We must also learn to deal with these natural downs. In my experience, the good births far outweigh the ones with problems, and a dedicated breeder will pick themselves up after a good cry and get on with the job in hand.



... breeding

As the years go by, the older the cats get. Our breeding cats become beloved and spoiled pets and we have new young studs and queens to carry on our fulfilling and demanding hobby. As years go by for us humans too, we start to realise we must deal with what happens as our beloved companions get older.

When I was a little girl my mother always told me that bad things came in threes. She would always find something to prove her point, but as I grew up I came to realise that this is not always the case. However, recently her theory has been proved and we have had the most awful two months of our cat breeding history.

My granddaughter Rebecca and I have some lovely cats between us and they all live with me as she is still at school and does not have the time for the full-on caring that is needed with breeding cats. Rebecca comes to me two or three times a week to help out, and also spends a lot of the weekend with her cats.



Just after Christmas my old lady Zoë (Toshiki Hylily Zodiac) had 2 tiny lumps appear under her arm the size of a sweet corn

kernel. Within 2 weeks they were the size of a pea, so off to the vet we went. After lots of discussion, a course of antibiotics were prescribed to discount some of the simpler diagnoses, but needless to say there was no improvement. During that week several more lumps appeared and within three weeks there must have been about 50 all over her body. The vet now told me honestly that he thought she had skin cancer, which is quite rare in cats, and that it was not curable. She was not in pain, but when the lumps broke through the skin and became sores then she would need to be relieved of her pain. It took less than two more weeks before these little sores erupted on her skin and so with the heaviest of hearts and many tears she was euthanised in mid-January. It was a very sad time for us all even though she was 14 years old.

We were all greatly cheered up when Rebecca's beautiful tabby girl Suli (Tonkyway Suli Goldendragon) gave birth on the 30th January this year, to nine beautiful bonny, bouncing babies, all fit and healthy. Mum and babies did very well, but with such a large litter we were supplementing her feeds even at 2 weeks. She was doing so well, and we checked on her and the babies all the time, but in the evening of February 16th, Suli died suddenly in her pen with the babies. You can imagine the shock and despair we felt, not just for us but for the nine little darlings who could not understand why their feeding regime had changed and cuddly mum was no longer there. I found myself now feeding them every four hours. Miraculously, they all survived and took to the bottle well. The four-hourly feed moved to five-hourly and as they grew six hourly. However the 4.30 am in the morning feed was the hardest.

... breeding

At five and a half weeks we managed to get them on to solid food and they thrived. Mum's postmortem revealed a Pulmonary Embolism caused by a clot from the uterus following the birth. I have discovered that this is not uncommon, even in humans.

So we found ourselves into March and trying to come to terms with our misfortune and our grief. So what else could possibly go wrong? Well, on March 11th the curse struck again, when I found my beloved Theo (Toshiki Etheodor of Hylily) had passed away in his sleep. He was Zoë's soul mate. I had bought them together from Lydia Lines

when she lived in Yorkshire and she was kind enough to trust me with them in 2003. There was only a month between their birthdays and they had been the best of buddies all that time. Theo was never the same after Zoë died, but we had hoped he was getting over her death. Theo has sired many wonderful litters of kittens and will always be remembered as the gentle, loving and beautiful stud boy that he was. I only hope now that the three bad things have completed the cycle. One of Rebecca's beloved breeding girls still has Theo in her pedigree, and in her most recent litter she bore a boy just like him, so his genes live on.



Being a cat breeder is the most wonderful and rewarding hobby. You don't make much money and there is a lot of hard work, but it is all worth it when you see the happy smiling faces of the new owners and you cuddle all those wonderful cats that you share your life with. Rebecca and I meet such lovely people when they come to choose their little darlings and we share a cup of tea or coffee and chat about them and their aspirations for the kitten they have just chosen. However, it is very important that we tell all would-be and new breeders that there are sad times ahead and it is not all sweetness and light. But the sadness is far outweighed by the overpowering joy of seeing tiny kittens born happy and healthy and seeing them go on to a full and much enjoyed life with the new slaves that have chosen them. I think Rebecca and I have had our share of sadness this year and we look forward to moving on with our breeding programmes and many more years of happy, healthy and delightful kittens.



What happens to the DNA samples I send for testing?

When you swab the inside of your cat's cheeks (buccal cell swabs) some cells are collected on the tiny plastic bristles, it doesn't hurt the cat. Once these cells, containing the DNA material, dry out they stick firmly to the brush, which is why you can then post the swabs anywhere using normal mail. DNA in this form is very stable and can be stored for many months at normal room temperature. Once the DNA swabs reach the laboratory they are briefly soaked in sterile water to rehydrate the cells, allowing them to fall off the plastic bristles for collection in test tubes. Chemicals are added to



break open the cell and release the DNA into solution. The DNA is then processed by removing any attached proteins that may interfere with the testing procedure. Now the DNA is ready for testing, or for simple storage at either 4 degrees Celsius, or at minus twenty degrees Celsius for longer storage.

Having a clear out?

It has been quite some time since my appeals for Tonkinese pedigrees have been successful, so the Tonkinese archives are way behind and we are losing many threads of our breed history. The internet appears to show a large number of breeders still, but many sites are over ten years out of date, and many breeders' own web sites have closed down. In the many years I've been line-chasing I've seen far too many errors due to replication of out of date details. The fresher the information the more accurate it is likely to be.

It is especially sad when we lose a breeder and the history and records of their work and their Tonkinese just disappear. So I am asking you to please send copies of your pedigrees or e-mail details of your kitten litters – and if you are going to give up breeding in the future please consider sending us copies of your Tonkinese records. Don't just bin them when you are having a clear-out, we would love to have them.

Linda
tbc.uk@ntlworld.com

IN SEARCH OF STRIPES



Julia Craig-McFeely

Many who know me will know that I'm a sucker for a stripey cat. My first breeding cat, a Siamese when I was just 14 years old, was a tabby point Siamese (in those days the tabbies were not given a colour, just registered as tabby). I never forgot that beautiful exotic-looking cat, and I think it's that which has carried on into a love for the tabby Tonkinese. There is such a spectacular variety in the patterning too, from the muted and subtle ticked pattern, where you might have to hunt for a stripe, to the extreme spotty and, if you're lucky, a classic. There are officially four tabby patterns: ticked, spotted, mackerel and classic, but the Tonkinese are registered simply as 'tabby', with no further definition of pattern. However, you can't fail to be aware of the patterning when you see it, and I'm particularly partial to the spotties, partly because I've had some gorgeously marked ones.

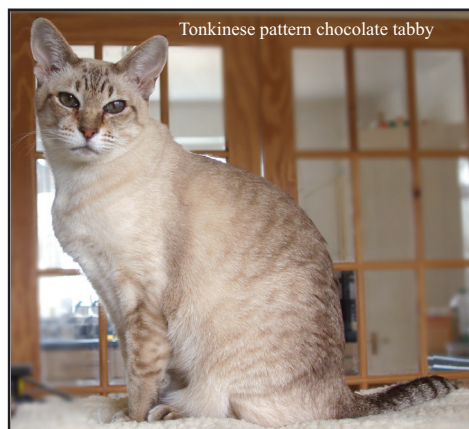
Tabbies however don't just come from the cats who show the tabby pattern. I've been interested for some time in self (non-tabby) cats, their barring patterns and the impact of our show standard on the development of the tabby pattern in the breed through the self lines. As you know, ALL cats have the tabby pattern, but you only see it in those who also have the agouti gene, allowing it to show in the coat pattern. Perhaps because I haven't

shown much, I've not been much concerned about what is called barring in self cats. This is the tabby pattern that shows through the plain colours in some lights (and sometimes all the time). The show standard treats barring as a fault, and serious awards are withheld on self cats showing barring. However that is a dangerous policy when it comes to the strength of the tabby patterning. Back in 1996 I read an article in the Tabby



... stripes

Pointed Siamese Cat Society Newsletter in which Julia May (sometime secretary to the GCCF, retired vet, and breeder of Siamese and Orientals) bemoaned the state of tabby points in the Siamese. She pointed out that the face markings were so blurred that they were almost non-existent, the tail rings had almost gone, sometimes surviving only in the darker tail tip, and leg bars were limited to a couple of flashes on the knees. I've seen this in many breeders' tabby Tonkinese kittens who can't even be registered until they're nearly ready to leave home, because the breeder doesn't know whether or not they are tabbies. This is amazing to me, as I've always bred extremely stripy cats, and I've never been in any doubt about whether they were tabby or not. This is probably because from the outset I've bred with spotties. The Siamese stud that I took my first Burmese queen to was a very dramatically spotted boy, belonging to an elderly breeder who no longer showed, so wasn't much concerned about whether her cat would win prizes or not. My first tabby tonkinese were therefore spotties, and that gene has persisted over the ensuing 25 years.



The difficulty is in the dominant tabby pattern, the ticked tabby. Julia May recognised that the problem of the disappearing tabby markings in the Siamese had a lot to do with the fact that the standard for Siamese requires a clear body coat, with the body as pale as possible. However in the cats whose underlying pattern was spotted, mackerel or classic, some body markings would likely be visible very early on, and heavier body markings would emerge as the cat matured. These cats were therefore not bred from because they were not favoured on the show bench (and even if not shown were considered undesirable since they did not show the ideal dramatic contrast between body and points of the Siamese). Instead, those with minimal markings were winning and became the favoured type both on the show bench and in breeding.

Fortunately for the Tonkinese, body markings are part of our standard, but unless you breed tabby to tabby, you will be combining the genes of your tabby Tonkinese with those of a self-coloured Tonkinese, and that's where the danger lies. Because the breed standard emphasizes the necessity for a 'clear coat' in the selfs – i.e. one without any barring, the self cats we select as having the best coat pattern, and therefore best exemplifying the ideal for the breed, are those whose underlying tabby pattern is ticked. A cat with the ticked pattern will show little or no barring, whereas one with an underlying spotty pattern will show a considerable degree of barring and spotting, varying in intensity depending on the quality of the underlying base pattern.





Young brown BCR Tonkinese clearly showing an underlying spotted pattern in her barring.

I now have a tabby stud boy, but it took some while to decide whether he was a tabby or not! He has no stripes at all, other than two flashes on each knee, and even the tip of his tail is barely a different colour from the rest. He is a ticked tabby, and because he does not carry the other patterns, all his tabby kittens are also pretty much stripe-free. We are waiting to see what comes out of a mating with a tabby queen who has a strong spotted pattern, but since the ticked pattern is dominant, unless he carries spotted or mackerel, all her tabby babies will also be ticked and barely striped at all. Note the complete absence of body, front leg and tail stripes on the pictures below.



Burmese coat restriction lilac-based caramel tabby

It's unlikely therefore that I would want to breed forward in the tabby line from this boy. However, as I've already noted, the lack of barring means that this boy will throw excellent clear-coated self

patterned cats, even from barred queens, since the underlying pattern will have to be

... stripes

one of the stronger ones for barring to come through. If he does not carry any of the other patterns, then his offspring will be consistently clear-coated.

The chocolate boy below looks like a ticked tabby with beautiful leg and tail stripes, but in fact when you look closely at his body he is a spotty – he just has very small spots!



Burmese coat restriction chocolate tabby

At the same time as this boy, I also brought in a new brown F2 stud boy (a self Tonkinese pattern). He was shown as a kitten and (quite correctly) had Best of Breed withheld because he was heavily barred. However he was exactly what I was looking for in a self cat to mate with my tabby line, because it was abundantly clear that his underlying pattern was the classic tabby, a pattern that is vanishingly rare in the Tonkinese. The oyster shapes on his flanks were clearly visible, and of course his legs looked as if he was wearing football socks. A lot of the barring has faded as he has matured, but the proof of the pudding was in his first litter, which produced classic tabby kittens (see picture opposite) from one of my spotty tabby girls, a first for me, and proof that those lovely heavy spots had carried the classic pattern behind them.



I don't show much, and the majority of breeders also don't show their cats, but we all try to adhere to the standard since it is the paradigm for a good Tonkinese, and it's important that we breed to a consistent

standard and that our cats look like what they are supposed to be. It is however a paradigm with dangers, since it's clear that if we want to keep a strong tabby stripiness in our tabby points, we cannot rely simply on the tabby cats to do that, we also have to look to the selfs to ensure we maintain good strong patterning, and that means using cats in our breeding who do not exemplify the perfect standard for self cats of being free from barring.

Tonkinese Registration and Breeding Policies

We still hear of breeders who have bought or used cats that are not acceptable in the Tonkinese breeding program. For your own sakes please read the Breeding and Registration policies carefully before opening your bank account! Visit the Tonkinese BAC web site to download a free copy of each policy and the current SOP, which has been re-designed for easy use on your mobile or tablet:

www.tonkinesebac.weebly.com

As a point of interest you might wonder why it is so important to only breed with Full registered Siamese. A Siamese that has anything other than Siamese (i.e. the 24+ or 32+ series breed numbers) within five preceding generations cannot be Full registered. Any Orientals in a Siamese pedigree could introduce full-colour expression (which changes the base colours) and/or the white into Tonkinese – a full colour expression brown is black.



Stud List, Kitten List and Breeders List

I mentioned earlier the decline in the number of breeder's web sites – often in favour of a Facebook page that has far fewer general visitors. However, this does mean that our own Stud list and Kittens for Sale pages have more visitors and hopefully more referrals for you (the TBC web site averages around 1,450 page views per week with the kitten list having 63% of those views). Visitors have told us that the list of breeders is more user friendly than

the breeder cards on some web sites, but are often disappointed with the lack of kittens listed – so please do make use of this free advertising service. Why not send in a photo to go beside your name (yours or one of your cats, or even your logo if you have one)?

Help keep the lists, particularly the stud list, up to date – and send some new pictures for our Gallery.

Cheers, Linda (tbc.uk@ntlworld.com)

REMEMBERING JEAN ADAMS

**Obituary for Jean Adams
(RIP 4 July 2017)**

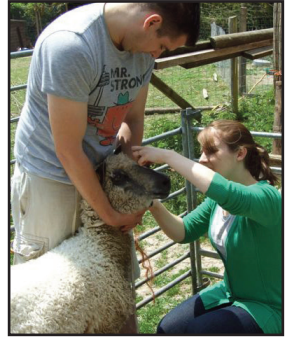
When I told a mutual friend of Jean Adams's death, the first thing she said was 'Jean was one of the nicest people I've met through the cat fancy' – I think Jean's kindness and steadiness is what people will remember most about her (along with her colour-shaded glasses!). She was always a rock you could lean on, she wouldn't have anything to do with gossip, she had great moral strength, and you could call her with any problem and get good sense, support and help.

I can't remember when or why I first met her – I have a feeling it was through the old-style Siamese (Jean's first cat was a Siamese) but it seems to me that she has been part of our small breeding community – and part of my breeding life too – for as long as I can remember, quietly doing her thing, breeding beautiful cats, and supporting the breed as a committee member and Rescue Officer for the Tonkinese Cat Club. I think it was she who told me that the mark of a good breeder was involvement in Rescue for your breed, and she followed that ideal unwaveringly.

Jean lived on a smallholding in Kent with her husband Peter and twin children Steven and Louise (both now grown up), where they reared or cared for all manner of animals



(ducks, chickens, goats, bantams, guinea fowl, horses, pigs, and rare-breed sheep), almost all of whom had come to them as rescues. Jean and Louise rode regularly, and with Stephen they showed their sheep. They



had quite a collection of working dogs too (many also rescues) who took part in agility training. The cats grew up in the midst of all this, loved in Jean's all-embracing way. Every animal who came into her hands was loved and nurtured, and her connection with all living things pervaded the atmosphere of her home. I was struck by how calm and self-



confident her cats were, how even the stud boys were clearly an integral part of the extended family.

Jean registered her first kitten in 1998 and bred many, many beautiful Tonkinese over the years under the prefix Whyoo. Although she never showed cats herself (I think she rather disapproved of showing!), one of her kittens was awarded overall Best in Show at the Tonkinese Breed Club Show in 2009. She was so pleased that the solid strength and good moderate type of her kitten had been recognised by the judge.

I was always impressed by her strength of character, never afraid to tell it like it was! You couldn't bully or wheedle Jean into

...Jean Adams



doing something she thought was wrong, and her opinions were a yardstick of ethical breeding for many. She was part of the group of breeders who got together in 2009 to plan and implement a breeding program to create new first-generation bloodlines to expand the Tonkinese gene pool, and she believed passionately in breeding the early generation cats to support the continuation of the breed.

She was one of only a few Tonkinese breeders prepared and able to keep stud cats, who are so essential to the continuation of a breed. We often assume stud cats will always be out there, but keeping them is difficult and time-consuming, and so few people can commit to doing it. She is the only person I've been prepared to sell a kitten to for stud, as I knew he would be loved and cared for with her just as much as a pet cat living in the house. In fact over the years she had two boys from me, and I had two girls and a boy from her. Her pride and joy though was the boy she



bred herself, the lovely Nehisi, now neutered, but still living at home. Jean stopped breeding briefly when she was diagnosed four and a half 5 years ago, but came back to it as soon as she felt able: her last litter was born in

January 2017, and I'm so immensely grateful that I was able to have a little girl from that litter. The easy way Pearl has integrated into my household of opinionated cats is a testament to the beautiful temperament of Jean's kittens, and that will go forward in the bloodlines of everyone who has a Whyoo cat in their pedigree.



Jean's indomitable will and the treatment provided by the NHS meant she was able to live long enough to know her first grandchild, Thomas, born very shortly after her diagnosis. She was a proud lady – I haven't given her date of birth as she never wanted people to know how old she was! – and her last years were marked by great courage. It is a very great loss to the Tonkinese world when a breeder of Jean's calibre leaves us, but we also mourn the loss of a true and trustworthy friend. The Club sends our deepest sympathy to Peter and her family, and also our thanks to them for sharing her with us, particularly in her precious last years.



Our Beautiful Breed

photos by Mike Smith



Our Favourite Photos from the 2016 Cat Show



TBC Recommendations For Breeders

In addition to the GCCF Code of Ethics the TBC strongly recommends that the following points are noted by owners of queens and studs.

- 1 If breeding from a Tonkinese on the REFerence register, ensure that it complies with the current Tonkinese Registration Policy - some cats are on the REFerence register because they have ancestors that are not permitted in the Tonkinese breed programme (eg. Orientals or cats of unregistered or unknown parentage).
- 2 A stud owner is not obliged to accept a queen to stud
- 3 Studs must be on the active register with the GCCF and must have their Certificate of Entirety (COE), micro-chip number & DNA test information lodged with the GCCF prior to the registration of their first litter. Stud owners should be able to show a copy of this information to the queen's owner.
- 4 Studs, and visiting queens, should be vaccinated against Feline Enteritis and Cat 'Flu (but not within 14 days before the mating). Homeopathic vaccinations are not acceptable. Vaccination certificates should be available for inspection.
- 5 The queen's owner has a responsibility to make arrangements, including the inspection of stud premises, well in advance of taking the queen to stud.
- 6 Studs must be regularly tested for FeLV and FIV, even if they are inoculated against FeLV. It is recommended that they are tested at least once per year and the documentation should be shown to the owners of visiting queens.
- 7 The stud premises should be available for inspection, by appointment, by the queen's owner prior to the queen being brought to stud.
- 8 The stud owner must make clear any conditions relating to the kittens, or repeat matings, **before** the queen is left with the stud.
- 9 The stud owner **must** supply the following for the queen's owner : a). A mating certificate that complies with GCCF Section 1 Rule 3d.. b) A full pedigree of the stud showing at least three generations with full registration numbers. c) A stud fee receipt.
- 10 Queens must be on the active register with the GCCF.
- 11 It is recommended that queens are tested for FeLV and FIV within 24 hours before visiting the stud, unless from a fully tested household, and the documentation should be shown to the stud's owner.
- 12 The queen's owner should be aware that the stud fee is for the services of the stud and is not based upon results - it should be offered at the time the queen is left with the stud.
- 13 The breeder **must supply** each kitten owner with a copy of the GCCF code of ethics; a valid vaccination certificate showing that the full course has been completed for Enteritis and cat 'flu; a properly completed pedigree certificate that includes at least three generations with full registration numbers and the pink registration certificate duly signed by the breeder for transfer of ownership.
- 14 **It is strongly recommended that, in addition to DNA tests for coat-pattern, breeding cats should be tested for Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) and for Burmese Hypokalaemia.**