

PART 2 The Show!

by Christin Gilbert

PART I Christin, a soon to be Bengal owner, researched our cats on the web and finally picked up her Sweets at the airport. Her beautiful Sweets got sick, got well, played alot and entered her first cat show!

Well, Sweets came, she showed but she did not conquer. We bathed and we brushed. The bathing was not as much of an ordeal as I had anticipated. Sweets actually seemed to enjoy it! Then we trimmed the nails (not as much fun). And we stroked and we stroked and we got nervous. And I sewed cage curtains. So off to the show hall we went. And Sweets was OK. In her benching cage.

In the ring, she was not quite so well behaved. If anyone was at a show where there was a little Bengal kitten hissing and spitting and screaming bloody murder at anyone and everyone, then you probably met Sweets. She finalled in one ring, but overall the judges were NOT impressed with her behavior.

Oh, the embarrassment!!!! Oh, the dismay!!!!

My beautiful sweet kitty was not so aptly named after all! Of course, everyone begged me not to give up. I had more advice on how to show train a kitty than could fill this bulletin. So we went home and we started preparing for the next show. Sweets started spending daily time in her

cage. She went for car riders. She went to see the neighbor's cats. She was "judged" by me and my friends several times a day. Then off we went again!

And again, Sweets managed to transform into the hissing and snarling Bengal. By the end of the first day, she had got a best of breed through some twist of fate, but nothing else. And she was MAD. The cats in the benching cages next to her were getting upset. And then as I carried her from the last ring to her cage she gave a scream so heart-wrenching and so terrifying that I nearly sank into the ground. She was MOST upset. So, I pulled her from the show the next day. My poor little pussycat.

Sweets is now retired from showing. She is turning out to be one of the prettiest cats I've seen, but I won't do that to her again. Of course, this has resulted in me succumbing to the Bengal Domino acquisition syndrome (I have bought another kitty) - but that's another story!

Back at home, she has now taken to bathing with my one-year old. She circles the bath while it's filling and plays with the toys in the bath when it's full. And she plays with my son out of the bath too. He sits with a toy and shakes it around while turning his face away. He knows she can "miss" the toy occasionally, so he shuts his eyes tightly! She is ever the sweetest kitty in the household.

And we are now looking forward to her first heat. ...then choosing a stud.... then going to visit... then babies....???



Keeping Perspective:

The ALC Opinion Poll

By Anita Klinger

I wish to acknowledge the TIBCS members who responded to the opinion poll. I received 33 ballots, and the vote was almost equally divided, with a few voting to close the registry in the year 2000, but not immediately.

All comments were read and appreciated. Many of the comments were questioning the numbers of ALC's who actually have produced offspring.

The issue of closing the book has many facets, and I wish to focus on the reason why it is being considered in the first place. The concern with TICA is not with the Bengals but with other hybrids being created. TICA is a domestic cat registry and does not plan to become a registry to wild cat crosses. Public safety is a concern, especially with some of the wild cat crosses being fairly large.

If TICA decided to close its doors to any wild cat crosses, it would be to our advantage to have all currently used ALC's and their offspring already grandfathered in for the life-span of the cats. If we could agree to do that now or in



the near future, that would protect the cats who are now in production.

This is something of a political move that must be considered along with genetic facts. If TICA needs to reinforce the fact that it is a domestic registry, then we need to give them the means to accomplish this without upsetting our breeding programs. If this issue goes to a general ballot, everyone needs to keep in mind that TICA needs to remain a domestic registry.

As to the nature of the statistics on ALC's and which ones have produced, many people may not realize that when leopard cats are counted, the Amur leopard cats are being counted right in with the ALC's. When looking at genetic statistics, it would be helpful to know which F1's produced were from small, short-haired ALC's, and which were from the Amur leopard cats. Their registration certificates would all look the same, but the traits carried would certainly be different.

