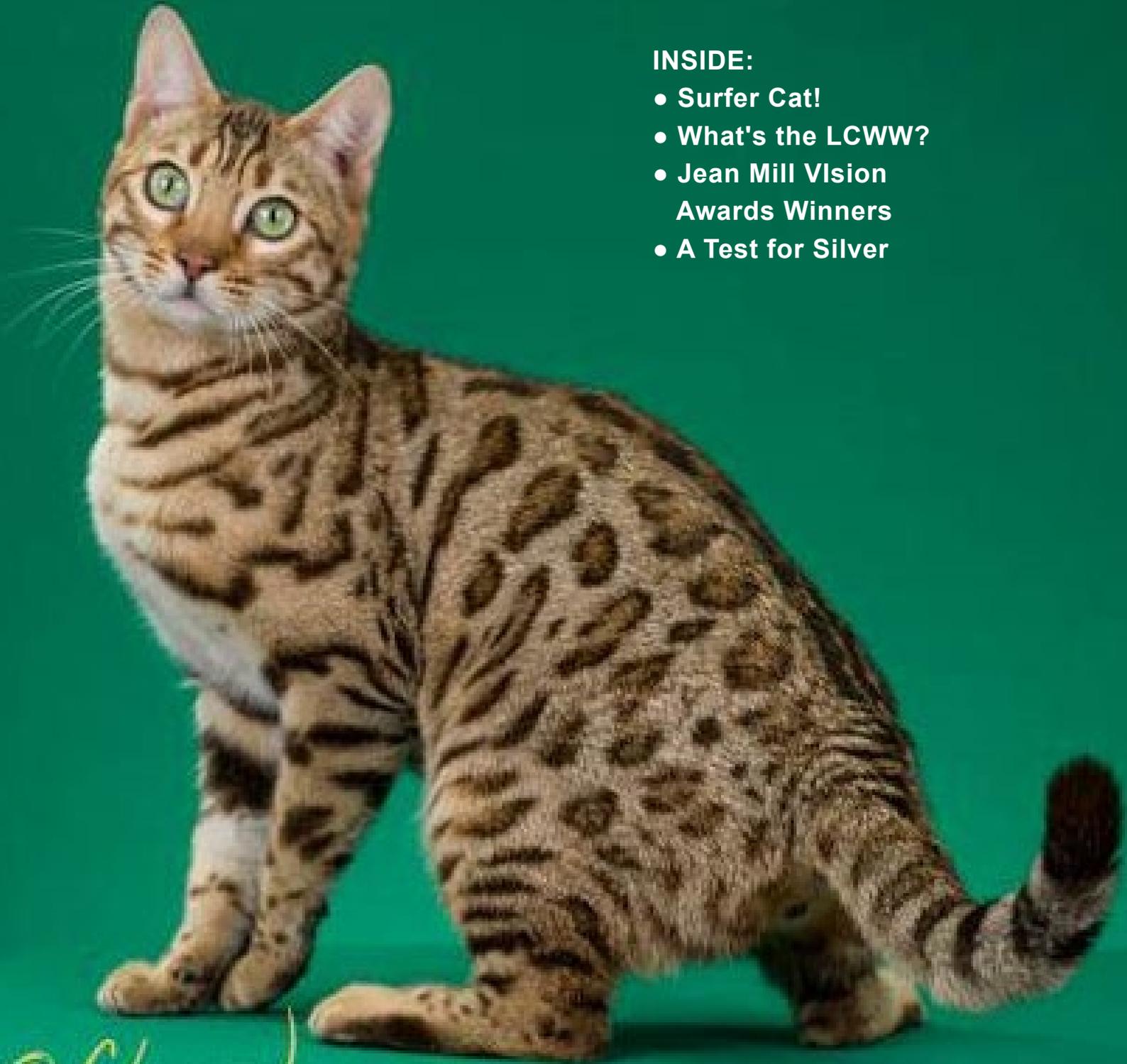


The **Bengal Bulletin**

Quarterly Publication of The International Bengal Cat Society
Vol. 35 - Quarter 1 - 2023

INSIDE:

- Surfer Cat!
- What's the LCWW?
- Jean Mill Vision Awards Winners
- A Test for Silver



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Welcome!

The Bengal Bulletin is the official publication of The International Bengal Cat Society, Inc. (TIBCS). It is the place to come for all the things Bengal owners want and need to know.

Founded in 1988, TIBCS is a nonprofit, volunteer-based, international organization dedicated to ensuring the future of our beautiful breed. We raise money for health-related research, for Bengals in need, for Bengal cat rescue, for the conservation of the Asian Leopard Cat, and much more. We ensure that 100% of your dollar is allocated to the protection and development of the Bengal cat and those who are privileged to own one! Our Code of Ethics holds our Breeder members to a high standard of care for their cats and the treatment of buyers.

Is your interest in learning more about the most popular cat breed in the United States? Enjoying the particular Bengal cat who rules your roost? Knowing the current treatment and research into health-related issues that may affect your Bengal? Discovering the genetics that make the Bengal unique among breeds? Winning titles for your show cat? Keeping up to date on the legal status of Bengals throughout the world?

If you are a responsible, ethical breeder or Bengal owner who wants to take part in influencing where our breed is going, join TIBCS and receive the issues of *The Bulletin* as part of your dues.

Whether you are opening this magazine for the first time or have been a member for decades, we promise that *The Bengal Bulletin* has special things in store for you and the Bengals in your life.

*Read about
everything
Bengal!*



The Bengal Bulletin

Volume 35 • First Quarter 2023

In This Issue

Features

- 6 LCWW - The New Registry in Town**
by Robyn Paterson, Quality Bengals
- 10 Nasal Hyperkeratosis Study Questionnaire**
*By Sarah Kiener, DVM-PhD student,
University of Bern, Switzerland*
- 11 Advertising Section**
- 16 Surfer Cat!**
By Kayla Tabish (@surfercatmav)
- 21 Genetic Color Test for Silver Bengals
Coming Soon**
- 22 Winners of the Jean Mill Vision Awards**

ON OUR COVERS:

Front cover:

One of the 2023 Jean Mill Vision Award winners: Best Bengal Female Cat, QGC Arkham Come to the Light, Breeder/Owner Will and Candie Losee.



Back cover:

Surfer Cat Maverick and his people enjoying Utah.



Shorts

- 5 President's Message**

The Bengal Bulletin

The objectives of TIBCS are:

1. To develop and promote high breeding standards through a Code of Ethics
2. To distribute and share information on the Bengal Cat
3. To serve as a forum for Bengal Cat owners and encourage cooperation and communication within TIBCS
4. To promote cooperation with other clubs and associations
5. To ensure the future of the Bengal Cat

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Submissions (articles and graphics)

- Must be sent to editor@tibcs.com
- Are due to the editor according to the following schedule:

Content Due / Issue Date

March 1 / March 31

June 1 / June 30

September 1 / September 30

December 1 / December 31

Items not received in time may be held for the next issue



** Re-elected in the recent elections. Congratulations! And thanks to all those who voted for your participation.*

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Message from the President



Dear Members of The International Bengal Cat Society,

As we welcome the arrival of spring, I am thrilled to address our community once again and express my gratitude for your continued support of our organization. This year is shaping up to be an exciting one for TIBCS as we focus on our commitment to growing the organization and continue to search for volunteers to help in the goal of promoting and advocating for the Bengal breed, and I am proud to share some of our latest updates with you.

Our commitment to education and awareness has continued to be a top priority. Recently Bengal breeders have been asked to participate in a study regarding the condition commonly known as "Bengal Nose" or nasal hyperkeratosis, characterized by dry, crusty nose leather. More information on how to participate can be found in this issue of the Bengal Bulletin and I urge members to participate in this study!

One of our beloved breed ambassadors has been featured on Netflix! Maverick, who also goes by SurferCatMav on Instagram, has inspired owner Kayla Tabish to start their brand, SurferCat Luxury, a line of specialty harnesses and cat leashes. Read about their journey in this issue of the bulletin and be sure to check out their website and store.

In addition, we have been working tirelessly to advance our mission of promoting responsible breeding practices and help educate both breeders and new Bengal owners. So, as a reminder as we head into kitten season, please be aware of the unscrupulous individuals that attempt to use our breed to scam potential buyers. As a buyer, do your research! Verify that your breeder is registered with one of the major associations like TICA or CFA. Trust your instincts; if a price is too good to be true, it probably is. A breeder offering kittens at significantly lower prices than other breeders is likely a scam or has cut major corners in regards to health testing and raising their kittens. Please consider supporting one of the many Bengal rescues, they continue to be a great option for those with a limited budget.

Sami Kerr

LCWW - THE NEW REGISTRY IN TOWN

by Robyn Paterson, Quality Bengals

For those in the United Kingdom, [Loving Cats Worldwide \(LCWW\)](#) isn't new. LCWW started as a TICA club in 2015, but in 2022, Steven Meserve decided to expand and turn LCWW into a registry. In 2022, LCWW mostly held shows in the United Kingdom, the United States, and Latin America. But in 2023, they have already expanded into Europe and Asia.

Most Bengal breeders register and show in one or more registry. Do we really need another registry? LCWW has a different focus from pre-existing registries. Their mission statement is: "We aim to increase the visibility of all CATS, educating EVERYONE to do their part with the overwhelming rescue situation, preserving our breeds, and protecting our ethical breeders, all while organizing ground-breaking interactive Cat Extravanzas in a city near you." It is this mission statement that creates the difference - and the difference is a massive boost for the Bengal cat.

The primary goal of LCWW is to "increase the visibility of all CATS." This goal automatically makes their shows different. All LCWW shows I've attended had over 5000 spectators. For the Bengal cat, this is an opportunity for over 5000



Steven Meserve examines SolanaRanch Patience.

people from the general public to interact with our cats. As a breed with a hybrid origin, we are the low-hanging fruit that Animal Rights activists pick from the tree first. Our breed is vulnerable to attacks. The most common public rants against the Bengal cat profess that our cats are unsuitable pets because they are aggressive, loud, and cannot be handled. Every LCWW event is an opportunity for Bengal breeders to show 5,000+ people that the image of the Bengal cat created by AR is wrong. People who have interacted with a friendly, loving Bengal cat will never believe AR activists' disparaging words over their own experience with a Bengal at a cat show. Every Bengal breeder should see an LCWW event as a way to fight the AR battle proactively by bringing a friendly Bengal to the show that the spectators can interact with.



The crowd around some rings. LCWW often attracts 5,000 people per show.

What exactly do over 5,000 people at each LCWW event do? They learn about cats. They are educated through the competition, the speakers, the vendors, and the exhibitors.

The competition at an LCWW event is two-fold in its purpose. Yes, it is a cat show, and the cats are judged against their standards. LCWW adopted the TICA Bengal standard with a few minor adjustments. Because the judges must talk while they judge, the audience, including the breeders, hears their thoughts on the strengths of each cat. The judges appear well-educated on what makes a good Bengal. The traits the judges comment on are traits the cat being judged demonstrates. It is disheartening when a judge talks about a Bengal using keywords from the standard, yet the cat being judged does not display the elements being discussed. I have yet to see this happen in LCWW.

I also appreciate the grace with which LCWW judges handle Bengals. I have shown both gregarious Bengals and shy Bengals in LCWW. Shy Bengals are treated with respect, and the judges explain why a show hall can be a terrifying experience for a cat as it goes against all of a cat's natural instincts to be in a building full of other cats. The cat is never blamed for less-than-ideal behaviors. Instead, the judges use them as teachable moments to educate the audience about natural cat behaviors. They do not deem a

behavior wrong; they explain why it is exhibiting whatever its current behavior is. They use hiding, hissing, peeing, and yowling as teachable moments on natural cat behavior. When the cats behave perfectly, they educate on the breed. I have yet to see an LCWW judge demonstrate fear of Bengal cats through their body language. Judges demonstrating fear of Bengal cats is extremely damaging to our breed as it supports the AR narrative on Bengal cats. Because LCWW is committed to making cats more visible to the general public, the demands placed on the judges are very high as they are the most visible educators at an event. LCWW judges are fully aware of how their words and actions impact our cats. LCWW judges are excellent stewards of the Bengal breed, both in how they judge our cats and how they handle our cats.

LCWW has three age categories. The Kitten class is from 4-6 months, Juniors from 6-10 months, and Adults are ten months and older. In addition, LCWW caps the number of cats that may enter a show at 135. By keeping the numbers down, the judges spend time with each cat to make the showing experience rewarding for the cat. If the cat is shy, judges will go slowly and gently, giving the cat time to adjust to being out on the judging table. If it needs security from them, they provide security. If the cat wants to play, they play. The judging experience is tailored to each cat's needs, so the cats look forward to returning to the show.



SolanaRanch Double Take shows off her ribbon as Best in Show Junior.

Throughout the day at an LCWW event, presentations are happening in the Kitty Corner regarding pedigreed and rescued cats. You will often see rescues on the schedule of speakers and breed presentations. Jon and I have been invited to do a breed presentation at all of the LCWW events we've attended. Again, this is excellent for the Bengal breed. The public can hear about the breed from people who have lived with Bengals; this offsets the published negativity. It also allows us to help the audience understand what responsible breeders are doing. Because our breed has a beautiful coat, there is a higher number of breeders who only breed pretty cat to pretty cat without ever considering health and temperament. Unfortunately, people often do not learn the difference between responsible and irresponsible breeders until they have experienced an irresponsible breeder. LCWW provides a platform to share this information with the general public before they buy a Bengal, 5000+ people at a time.

In addition to educating on responsible breeding, LCWW also provides a platform for rescues to educate. There are often over 50 rescue cats available for adoption at each event. The pedigree cat world and the rescue cat world are not enemies of one another; we are a united front working to better the lives of all cats. Seeing this connection benefits pedigree breeders, and having rescues there to see the difference between responsible breeding and irresponsible breeding helps break down the stigma that rescues often have against the pedigree cat world.



Kiki (SolanaRanch Double Take) playing in a lap.

Should you sign up for an LCWW show? No matter who you are, yes, you should. If you like competition, completing the steps in the LCWW competition is a challenge. At an LCWW show, cats only earn points if they end up in a final. Cats cannot move through the ranks by placing in their breed. Having the cats only earn points in the finals levels the playing field for colors and patterns within a breed and all breeds overall. To achieve the top title of Ultimate Grand Champion, a cat must earn 10,000 points, and it must earn four Best Cats from three different judges after it has earned its Supreme Grand Champion title, which is 7000 points, including two Best Cats from two different judges after being a Quadruple Grand Champion. LCWW also has Best in Show awards at the end of each event, which includes awarding the top three best Adult Cats, Juniors, Kittens, Alters,

and Household pets, along with their Best of the Best which is the very best of all the bests as chosen by the judges.

Breeders who avoid shows because competition isn't their thing should go to an LCWW show as a steward of the Bengal breed. Exhibitors spend all day talking to the 5000+ spectators about Bengal cats. That should be every Bengal breeder's favorite thing to do - talk about their cats. LCWW events provide a public platform to show the world what Bengals really are - sweet, loving, mischievous, intelligent, high-energy, beautiful pets. In the years that we breed Bengals, we are caretakers of the Bengal breed. It is our duty to uphold its public image by exposing the public to Bengal cats in a positive manner. LCWW has given us the means to do this; it is an opportunity that should not be missed.



Jon Paterson talks about Wildernesswell Island Rain. LCWW educates the viewers by discussing both a cat's good and not-so-good points.



Jon holds the Best in Show winner, Wildernesswell Island Rain.



Cats just hanging out at the show.

NASAL HYPERKERATOSIS STUDY QUESTIONNAIRE

**By Sarah Kiener, DVM-PhD student,
University of Bern, Switzerland**

Dear Bengal cat owners and breeders,

As previously announced by Dr. Chris Kaelin, I am contacting you regarding our ongoing study into nasal hyperkeratosis.

We are a group of researchers from the Institute of Genetics at the University of Bern in Switzerland, and we are investigating the genetic background of nasal hyperkeratosis. We kindly ask for your help with our study by filling out the following questionnaire about the health of your cats.

Please fill out one questionnaire per cat.

Link to the questionnaire: <https://forms.gle/if2onQNoeHC3tebN8>

The information you provide is extremely valuable, independent of whether you have heard of the nose condition, or whether or not you have had cats with nasal hyperkeratosis. To help better illustrate the range of the nose condition, we have included representative photos of affected and unaffected cats throughout the questionnaire.

The time needed to complete the questionnaire is about 5-10 minutes.

We are especially interested in getting health information on cats that have already been sampled and sent to Dr. Chris Kaelin. If you are not sure which of your cats were included in the earlier study, I am happy to send you a list of your cats and relevant identifying information.

Of course, you are also most welcome to fill out the questionnaire for new cats, i.e. those that have not yet been DNA sampled. These will help us to better understand the impact of nasal hyperkeratosis.

Please also feel free to share the questionnaire link with anyone interested.

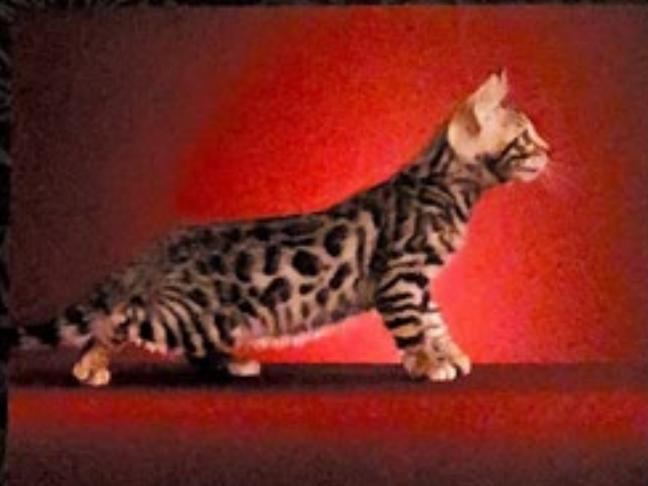
If you have further questions about the research project, opportunities to participate, or treatment recommendations, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you very much for your support. Your participation is extremely valuable to our study!

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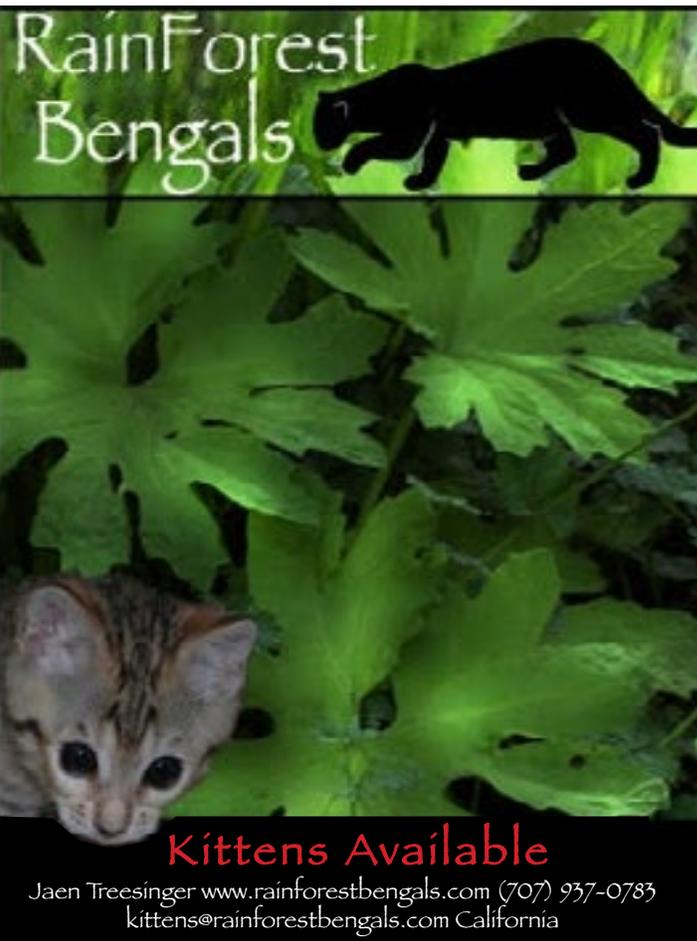
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Why Buy From A TIBCS Breeder?

All breeders whose ads you see here have pledged to uphold the Code of Ethics, which governs how we treat our cats and our customers—you. Go to TIBCS.com to see the full list of our responsible breeders. And if you feel that someone has violated the Code, you can contact seniorvp@tibcs.com. If you are looking for the perfect Bengal, no matter where in the world you are, look no further!



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SURFER CAT!

By Kayla Tabish (@surfercatmav)

About four years ago, my brother had a litter of Bengal kittens and I offered to help find them homes. Upon arrival, one of the kittens began walking with a limp. After evaluating that it wasn't a serious injury, I began carrying the injured kitten everywhere around the house with me. He would ride in the kangaroo pouch of my hoodie. We instantly bonded, and luckily when I shared this with my brother he decided to give him to me as a Birthday gift. Thank goodness because there was no tearing us apart from then on!

I quickly realized Maverick loved traveling with myself and my boyfriend. Anytime we'd leave the house, he'd be very vocal about wanting to come

with us. So instead of leaving him, we restructured our lives to take him along. He would come to work with me, go to cafes, and even do pet-friendly shopping.

We were using a pet store harness and leash to walk him around the streets of LA. One day as we were passing through a busier street, a loud car passing by startled Mavi. He immediately panicked and backed out of that harness. Luckily I was able to scoop him up and take him to the car. When I got to the car I just broke down crying. I didn't know until that moment how much he meant to me.

(continued on page 21)



*Maverick at Oceanside Beach, California.
Mavi is showing off his escape-proof harness and training/fun leash from www.SurferCat.com.*



Maverick at Moab, Utah



Nick and Maverick paddling along, very relaxed.

You can follow Maverick's adventures on his Instagram here:
<https://instagram.com/surfercatmav?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>



Kayla and Maverick on the water at Marina Del Ray, California



Maverick and Nick talking at Kimpton LaPeer Hotel, Beverly Hills, California.

This traumatic event motivated us to create our own escape proof harness design.

We knew that the pet store harness was not going to work if we wanted to continue adventuring with him. Most the cat harnesses out there are made by dog harness manufacturers, and they don't walk their cats. They have no idea how to make them. It's crazy really. Nick (Heaney) and I got to work, trying different styles until we had one that we knew would fit Mavi perfectly.

We're proud to have created something that gives kitties the freedom to explore, while also being escape proof and secure. That peace of mind is priceless. You can see our harness shop here: www.SurferCat.com

We taught Maverick over 35 tricks. He surfs real waves. He snowboards and sleds. One of his humans was an X-Games Pro Athlete so he comes by it naturally. Maverick has two shows on Netflix, Cat People Episode 6 and Hidden Lives of Pets Episode 4. He's been featured in People Magazine and on the Today Show with Hoda and Jenna.

We've learned over the years that there's this belief among a lot of people, that cats belong strictly indoors. From day one, we've been working to smash that perception. Seeing the joy that a cat feels when they're exploring with their owners is so heartwarming. They truly enjoy the outdoor stimulation and excitement.

These last four years with Maverick have been so adventurous. He has truly changed our lives for the better. I'm a huge advocate of mental health awareness and creating an open and honest dialogue about the topic.

I have lived with my depression throughout my life and having a support system has been crucial to being able to process everything. Maverick has helped me immensely. Feeling his love and energy and being able to put that love and energy back into him is amazing.

Maverick, Nick, and I were welcomed into the cat community quickly after starting our business. The support we feel from those we've helped and befriended is something that's truly special, and something we will always cherish.

BREAKING NEWS

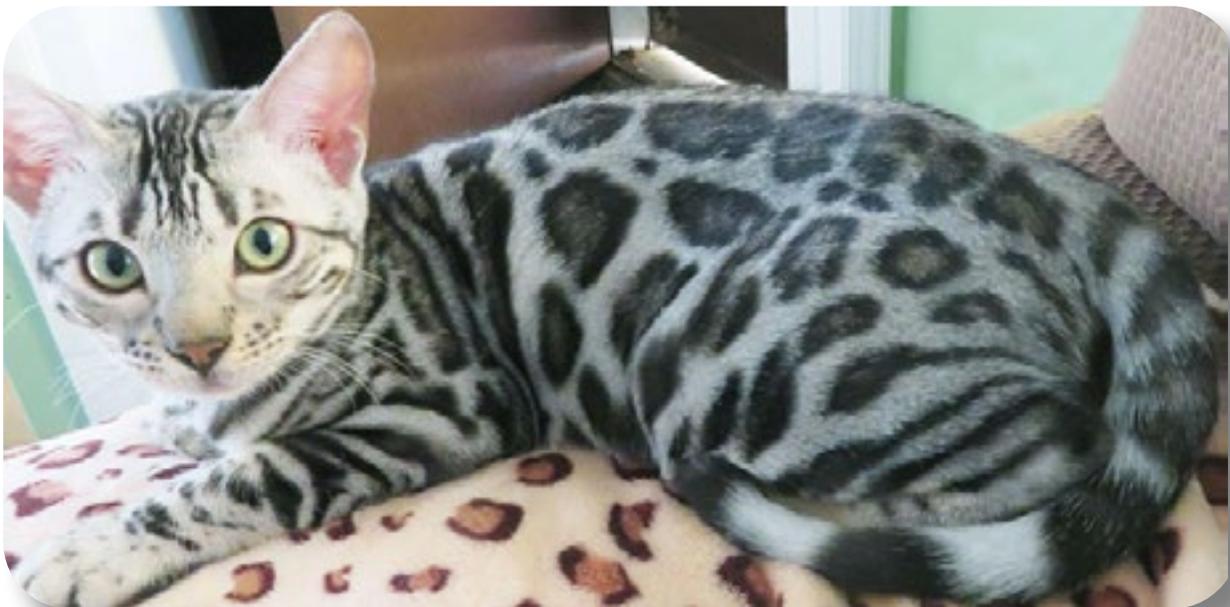
GENETIC COLOR TEST FOR SILVER BENGALS COMING SOON

UC Davis will soon have a color test for Silver Bengals, Dr. Lesile Lyons announced at the World Cat Congress in Tasmania on Monday, June 12. The existence of a genetic color test for silvers has been widely hoped for among breeders for some time.

"The mutations were found by her researchers in the gene regulating areas of the genome, rather than the areas that directly code for a protein," reports Lorraine Shelton of the TICA Genetics Committee. "Unfortunately, the actual

gene being regulated has not been definitively identified."

The UC Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory (VGL) and a laboratory in China are the only labs that will be offering this test in the foreseeable future because, according to Lorraine Shelton, "the type of test required to identify this trait is not amenable to the SNP chip technology used for the panel testing method used by the other commercial testing labs."



Ambersands Aspen of Oakland Hills

Winners of the Jean Mill Vision Awards



Six Bengals received the 2023 Jean Mill Vision Award at the SoCal ExoTICA show in Arcadia, CA, on January 14 and 15, 2023. The categories were Best Female and Male Kitten, Best Female and Male Cat, and Best Female and Male Alter. This year two cats tied for male kitten and there was no male alter.

The winners are:

2023 Jean Mill Vision Award for Best Bengal Female Kitten: **Equistice Maizie**,
Breeder/Owner Cynthia Guerra

Tie:

2023 Jean Mill Vision Award for Best Bengal Male Kitten: **Arkham Sebastian of Fractal**,
Breeder Candie Losee, Owner Marie A. Vodicka

2023 Jean Mill Vision Award for Best Bengal Male Kitten: **Justwild Cocolino of Starseed**,
Breeder Sarah Levi, Owner Eva Bukovinsky

2023 Jean Mill Vision Award for Best Bengal Female Cat: **QGC Arkham Come to the Light**,
Breeder/Owner Will and Candie Losee

2023 Jean Mill Vision Award for Best Bengal Male Cat: **QGC See The Moon Des Griffes De Feu**,
Breeder Nath Chiesa, Owner Julia Petersen

2023 Jean Mill Vision Award for Best Bengal Female Alter: **SGCA Karion Chantilly Lace**,
Breeder Darryl Chenoweth and Owners Darryl and Cheryl Chenoweth.

Congratulations to the winners!

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2023 Jean Mill Vision Award
for Best Bengal Male Kitten:
**Justwild Cocolino of
Starseed**, Breeder Sarah Levi,
Owner Eva Bukovinsky (tie)

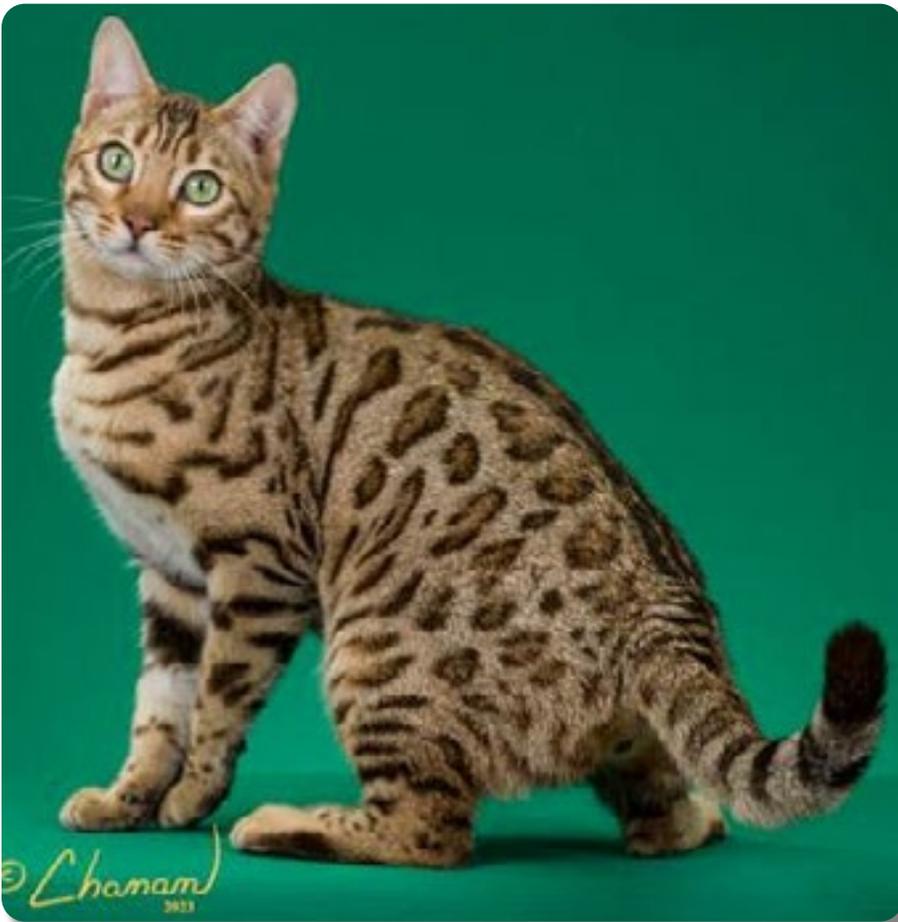


2023 Jean Mill Vision Award
for Best Bengal Male Kitten:
Arkham Sebastian of Fractal,
Breeder Candie Losee, Owner
Marie A. Vodicka (tie)





ABOVE: 2023 Jean Mill Vision Award
for Best Bengal Female Kitten:
Equistice Maizie, Breeder/Owner
Cynthia Guerra

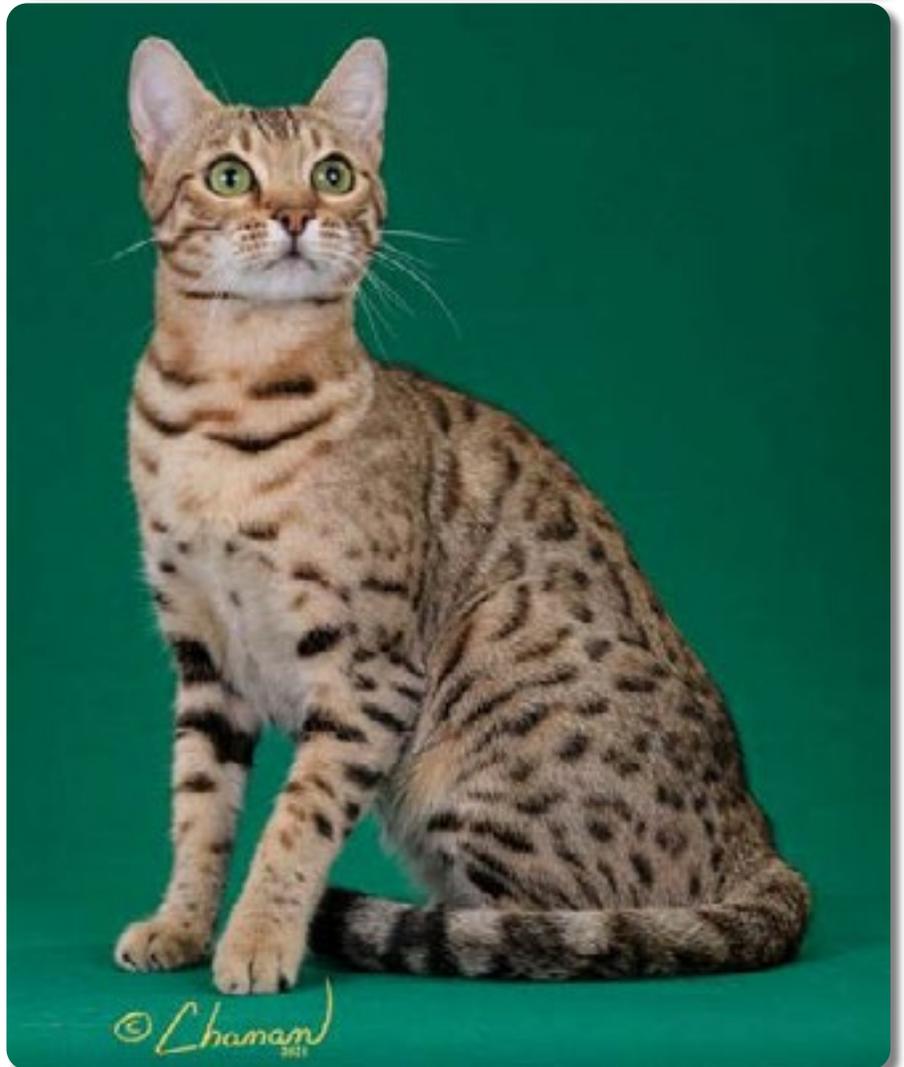


LEFT: 2023 Jean Mill Vision Award
for Best Bengal Female Cat:
QGC Arkham Come to the Light,
Breeder/Owner Will and
Candie Losee

2023 Jean Mill Vision Award for Best Bengal Male Cat: **QGC See The Moon Des Griffes De Feu**, Breeder Nath Chiesa, Owner Julia Petersen



2023 Jean Mill Vision Award for Best Bengal Female Alter: **SGCA Karion Chantilly Lace**, Breeder Darryl Chenoweth and Owners Darryl and Cheryl Chenoweth





*Surfer Cat Maverick, Kayla,
and Nick enjoying Utah.*