



THE CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

World's Largest Registry of Pedigreed Cats

The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. 2014 BREED COUNCIL POLL

EUROPEAN BURMESE

Outgoing Breed Council Secretary: Robin Bryan – Champaign, IL
 Incoming Breed Council Secretary: Perry Coleman – Gaithersburg, MD
 Total Members: 29
 Ballots Received: 29

- The Burmese Breed Council has a proposal to allow them to register Burmese from other associations that have the colors “Red, Cream, Tortie or Blue Cream” in the pedigree as long as the parents conform to currently-accepted Burmese colors and are not registerable as European Burmese. Here is their proposal, followed by the question about whether to support the proposed changes.

Part I – Burmese Rules of Registration Changes

PROPOSED: *Change rules of registration for Burmese cats from other registering organizations to allow registration of cats with red, cream, tortie, or blue cream in generations two through five, provided said cats are not eligible for registration as European Burmese*

Current:

FOREIGN-CAT REQUIREMENTS (if different from above):

<i>Date: (02/11) one time acceptance Mod Daeng as sable mink through CAT</i>	<i>All offspring registerable if DNA tested and shown to be one of acceptable Burmese colors</i>
<i>Date:</i>	

Proposed:

FOREIGN-CAT REQUIREMENTS (if different from above):

<i>Date: (02/11) one time acceptance Mod Daeng as sable mink through CAT</i>	<i>All offspring registerable if DNA tested and shown to be one of acceptable Burmese colors</i>
<i>Date: (02/15) <u>Accept cats from other associations with five generation pedigrees as long as they are one of the</u></i>	

The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.,
260 East Main Street ~ Alliance, OH 44601

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<u>currently accepted Burmese colors, do not have a parent that is Red, Cream, Tortie, or Blue Cream and are not registerable as European Burmese.</u>	
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Per European Burmese rules of registration cats that are eligible to be registered as a European Burmese are those with an eight generation pedigree free of CFA Burmese and also free of Bombay or Tonkinese.

Burmese Breed Council Rationale: Most non- CFA registries recognize only one Burmese breed with 8 color variants-sable, champagne (aka chocolate), blue, platinum (aka lilac), red, cream, chocolate tortie, dilute tortie (blue cream). Many Burmese cats from other registries are barred from registry as European Burmese due to the presence of sable Bombay or CFA Burmese in their 8 generation pedigree. Thus, they are NOT European Burmese. Yet they are also barred from registry as Burmese because of the presence of the red gene in the pedigree. Since the red gene is dominant its presence in the pedigree is not a hindrance to registration as a CFA Burmese as long as the cat to be registered does not show evidence of the gene. It has been suggested that Burmese from other registries would not be acceptable for breeding in a CFA Burmese breeding program because they do not meet our standard. Many cats are used in a breeding program that do not meet show standards but nevertheless add valuable elements to the program as evidence the number of DMs of all breeds who do not carry a show title. The proposal would not impact the European Burmese breeding program as it specifically prohibits cats that are acceptable for registration as European Burmese.

European Burmese Breed Council Rationale: The Burmese Breed Council is going forth with a ballot item to change the rules of their registration. Basically, they want to import European Burmese into their breeding programs without going through the proper channels of requesting their use as an out-cross. Keep in mind that the Burmese have already been granted the use of the Sable Bombay and the Tonkinese as allowable out-crosses. They have also been granted the ability to import and use cats from Thailand to help broaden their gene pool. They now also have the DNA test to identify carriers of the head defect, which essentially gives them the access to lines within their own breed here in the US that they wouldn't have considered using in the past.

These options have all been granted within the last few years and the ultimate results may take time. They may lose some characteristics with the out-crosses that may take a few generations to regain. This is what a good breeding program is all about. It is selective breeding which takes planning and patience. Instead of giving those options time, they are now looking to our European Burmese for more immediate results.

The Burmese breed council wants to be able to use cats that have European Burmese in (as close as) the second generation. For instance, a Burmese litter born in Europe has a CFA (American) Burmese in the 5th generation, making a kitten from this litter ineligible to be registered in CFA as a European Burmese. A chocolate kitten (with the red gene showing in the 2nd generation) from this litter is imported to the US by a CFA Burmese breeder and registered in CFA as a Burmese. Another kitten from this litter remains in Europe and is

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bred, producing a litter in which the CFA (American) Burmese shows up in the 6th generation which is beyond our 5 generation requirement. Offspring from this ensuing litter are now eligible to be registered with CFA as European Burmese. This results in almost identical pedigrees eligible for both the Burmese and European Burmese. Two separate breeds; one semi-identical pedigree for both.

They are focusing on avoiding the red gene however, there is much more to our European Burmese than just the red gene. If allowed, they will be using cats that will introduce OUR eye shape, OUR ear set, OUR head type, OUR body type...essentially, OUR standard into their breeding programs. The implications of what this will do in the show ring are very clear. The two breeds will begin to look more and more alike. We have spent years educating our judges, our fellow exhibitors and the public on the differences between the two breeds and what makes our European Burmese unique. All of that will be thrown out the window with this proposal.

If the Burmese Breed Council were asking to use the European Burmese as an out-cross, they would have to address issues such as how to register offspring and put a time limit on the use of our breed. By changing their registration requirements, they are by-passing those issues and, in essence, poaching our breed.

For all of these reasons, and for the love and preservation of our breed, I urge you to vote no on this proposal.

Are you in favor of allowing these cats from other registries as discussed in the proposal to be registered as Burmese?

YES: 1

NO: 25

ABSTAIN: 3

REGISTRATION ISSUE (fails)

Votes: 26

50% of Voting: 13

EUROPEAN BURMESE BREED COUNCIL SECRETARY BALLOT
For the Term January 1, 2015 – April 30, 2017

Ballot for the Election of
EUROPEAN BURMESE
Breed Council Secretary
For the Term January 1, 2015 – April 30, 2017

18 Perry Coleman
Gaithersburg, Maryland

11 Wayne Trevathan
Hollywood, Florida

0 Abstain

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