

# 40<sup>th</sup> ACF National Show

Over the 2012 June Queen's Birthday long weekend, Abyssinians and Somalis from around the country jetted their way to Melbourne for the Australian Cat Federation National Cat Show. It was the 40<sup>th</sup> ACF National and was held at the Melbourne Showgrounds. Abyssinian and Somali cats and kittens from four Australian states were represented. Nine Abyssinian kittens lined up to be judged while there were five in the desexed cat section along with two tawny Somalis. The entire section was well represented with five beautiful females consisting of two tawny, one cinnamon and two silver exhibits and five males including three tawny exhibits and two silver exhibits.



Sixty-seven Group 3 cats strutted their stuff in the entire cat section. Chrissy Mangin's Lucky, Osiris(V) Lucrezia Borgia [ABOVE] certainly lived up to her name and was Best of Breed in Ring 1 going on to be Best Group 3 Entire Cat under judge Heather Roberts (TICA USA). Ring 2 belonged to the richly coloured cinnamon, Narleekatz Roxy, who as reserve Abyssinian in Ring 1 had placed 8<sup>th</sup>. Roxy who is owned and bred by Kaylie Goodrick was Best of Breed in Ring two and went on to be Reserve Group 3 Entire Cat under New Zealand judge Marg Harris. In Ring 3, Osiris(V) Chanel No. Five followed in Roxy's footsteps and was Reserve Group 3 Entire Cat under Tasmanian judge Greg Little.

The male Abyssinians were a little outshone by the females; however, Karel and Eileen Pittaway's tawny male Merindalee Dumbledore gained two of the three available challenges with the other going to Nareira Orion Black bred by Debbie Thomas in Sydney and owned by Michelle and Sarah Bedford in Queensland. The male Abyssinians missed out on the Best of Breed awards although each of the above fore-

mentioned male cats gained a reserve Best of Breed with Dumbledore going on to be awarded a 9<sup>th</sup> placing in Ring 1 and 10<sup>th</sup> in Ring 3 for the Top 15 Group 3 Entire Cat awards.

There were also some Silver Abyssinian cats, bred by Kerstin Jones, who gained challenges towards their ACF National titles, however; they did not place in the Top 15 awards.

The kitten class was well represented with Abyssinians although only tawny coloured kittens made it to the show day. Merindalee Harrison Ford [BELOW, with Eileen Pittaway] led the way with the Best of Breed win in Ring 1. He has a rich coat and an expressive face that the Canadian TICA judge Amanda Bright found irresistible. He followed up the breed win with the Best Group 3 Kitten award going on to be judged for Supremes but just missing out on the top award.

The Ring 2 judge Gaye Teague from New Zealand awarded the young, spritely Osiris(V) Im A Gun the Best of Breed award and placed him fourth in her Top 15 for Group 3 kittens. In Ring 3, Fiona Hawkins (GCCFSA) judged the kittens and awarded the richly coloured Swift Champagnesupernova [NEXT PAGE] the Best of Breed ribbon. Fiona was so impressed with Supernova's intense colour



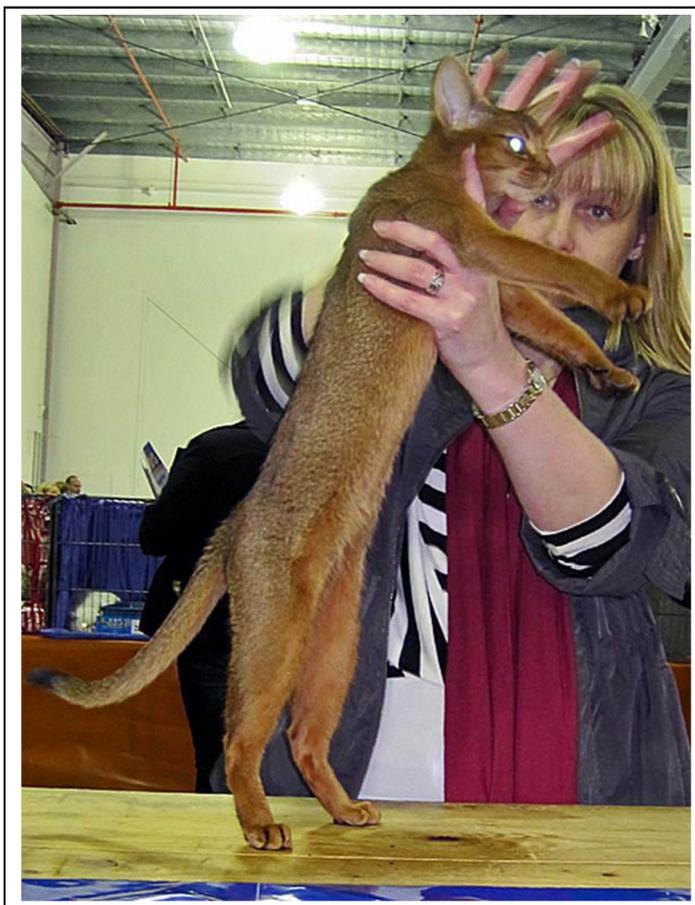
and friendly temperament that she gave her the Reserve Group 3 Kitten award out of eighty-six Group 3 kittens. The very sweet, Narleekatz Cutie Kai was a consistent performer gaining two reserve Abyssinian kitten awards and a 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the Top 15 Group 3 Kitten awards she placed 10<sup>th</sup> in Ring 1 and 6<sup>th</sup> in Ring 2.

The desexed Abyssinians and Somalis just missed out on the top place with A. Ashby's young tawny neuter Osiris(V) Lightning Jack gaining the Reserve Group 3 Desexed Cat award in Ring 1 under TICA judge Heather Roberts. Osiris(V) Fast Talker repeated the feat in Ring 3 with Greg Little placing him second in the Top 10 out of thirty-seven desexed exhibits. Talker was the best placed Abyssinian or Somali in Ring 2 gaining a fourth with the New Zealand judge, Marg Harris.

The only Somalis at the show were the well travelled and highly titled Joylinar Sun God Amun Ra (Tarek) and his side-kick, Nareira Calvin Cline (Rossi) both owned by Lynne Moorman from Western Australia. Tarek got the challenges in Ring 1 and Ring 3 and was placed 8<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> respectively in the Top 10 awards. With Tarek gaining another National Show Challenge, it enabled him to become an ACF National Show Champion so his title has become even longer. Rossi took out the Challenge honour in Ring 2 followed by a 7<sup>th</sup> Desexed Cat in Show award.

*Wendy Newton*

Swift Abyssinians, Sydney



This show highlights the wonderful quality of Abyssinians and Somalis that are being bred and shown around the country. With such a high class line-up of Abyssinian and Somali exhibits there were many deserving felines and it is a shame we cannot all be winners all of the time.