

Cat Fancy Biography of **Norm Auspitz**



Winter 1970 -- mid 1975

In November of 1979, I bought my first show cat, a red lynx point Siamese/ Colorpoint Shorthair and selected a cattery name, KYTU, which is an acronym of "Keep Your Tail Up." I also joined a Canadian Cat Association (CCA) cat club in Galt, Ontario, Canada called Felines Unlimited Cat Club and later renamed Mohawk Trails Cat Club. I went to a number of CCA shows in Southern Ontario during the next few months and he became a champion.

Mid 1975 – Winter 1980

By mid 1975, I was convinced to become a CCA judge and applied as a shorthair judge. In the meantime, I had obtained a female Abyssinian mix which I bred with my Siamese producing black smoke, ticked tabby and spotted tabby kittens. To me they were "proto-Ocicats." I continued to show and judge local CCA shows. In early 1976, I bought my first longhaired cat, a seal point Himalayan. I was then able to get my CCA allbreed judging license.

Winter 1980 – Summer 1982

In winter 1980 I attended a CFA International show, where I was able to handle some well-known CFA cats of the time, such as Nightlighter, a beautiful black Persian Grand champion, owned by Bill and Gail Lee; Zane Grey, a beautiful Russian Blue, owned by Donna Fuller; and Nerus, a beautiful ruddy Abyssinian grand champion owned by Alfred and Joan Wastelhuber. In addition, I was able to handle 2 young red (cinnamon) Abyssinians from Abizaq cattery bred by Martha Skidmore. I decided this was exactly what I needed for my Abyssinian breeding program. After a cattery visit, and many hours on the phone, I finally was able to meet Martha in Elizabethtown, KY. We were married in July 1982, and we kept the Abizaq cattery name,

CFA Summer 1982 – Summer 1991

In May 1982 I moved from Southern Ontario Canada to Louisville, KY to marry Martha Skidmore. Her Abyssinians were much better than mine, so we adopted the Abizaq cattery name for the two of us. We attended a number of Great Lakes shows. At one of them Becky Jones, the Great Lakes regional director, and Shirley Cohoe, a prominent American Burmese breeder convinced me to apply to CFA to become CFA judge. To satisfy some of the requirements we got a Manx from Marion Hall that we were able to show to grand champion. In addition, we obtained a black Persian kitten out of a Copacats sire and a Ronlyn dam. At the 1991 annual, I was accepted as a CFA SH Apprentice judge.

Summer 1991 – Summer 1996

We obtained our first Maine Coon from Chris Buck, GC Bucktails Dancing Colors, who was the first Bucktails female grand champion. We bred her to a Bucktails male and had our first Maine Coon litter. In 1989 we had our first Abyssinian national winner, GP Abizaq W.P. March, a red Abyssinian who was 5th Best Cat in Premiership. In June 1996, I was invited to join the CFA Protest Committee as the liaison to the CFA Judging Committee. I was also invited to join the CFA Credentials Committee as a Great Lakes region member.