

What is CFA BAP-BRP and How Did It Start?

Charlene Campbell, BAP-BRP chair

Our BAP Board of Directors (BOD) recently approved a program name change. We are now CFA Breed Assist & Breed Rescue. Soon we will have a new updated look on the CFA website. I have been with BAP since 2006 when it was started by Linda Berg, Paul Patton, Pam Delabar, Leslie Falteisek, and a few others.

Recently, there has been some confusion and I felt it necessary to clarify how our program began 17 years ago. The original BAP board of directors had seen a need and better course forward in order to offer breeders resources, counsel, aid etc. in natural disasters, health events, loss of job, divorce, etc. and/or to help our pedigree registered felines in the event of a breeder's death, and to assure the felines would not overwhelm an animal control agency and face the possibility of euthanization. We also wanted to preserve almost extinct breeds when possible in case of hospice care or death of breeder, or to get pedigreed felines into small breed specific rescues to vet and re-home. We wanted to improve our cooperation and understanding within the animal control and rescue community being part of the solution vs. part of the problem. We have been successful working with these communities over the years, making new alliances and friends.

I wanted to be a volunteer in SW Florida as I saw we had needs in Region 7. I also showed and loved Persians! I had rescue experience to bring to the table. I was a volunteer and past president of and also ran a no-kill shelter for 5 years, using an all-volunteer staff with 300+ various animals at any given time, plus managing our TNR program, all the while working full time at Lee County. I wanted to bring my rescue affiliations to our program.

In 2006 our group participated in by-law discussions and the writing of our CFA BAP-BRP by-laws, program forms, etc., required to apply for incorporation and 501-C-3 status. With the guidance

of attorney Fred Jaccoberger, in Minnesota, Linda Berg and Leslie Falteisek applied for our stand-alone, not-for-profit 501-C-3 status. During the past 17 years the program has progressed. I grew along with our program taking on more volunteer responsibility.

We started out on a shoestring and mostly used our own credit cards to pay for vetting as we raised funds along the way for rescue operations. Right out the gate we had a couple big animal control seizures to work out in Region 7. We rolled up our sleeves and went right to work, calling on breeders to help us transport, foster, spay/neuter and adopt-out. That was a bit difficult and not a good fit for many breeders. We changed course and went to enlisting rescues to be our fosters, vetting needs, spay/neuter, adopt-out managers and rescue coordinators and that seemed to work smoother! It was also instrumental in keeping things CONFIDENTIAL.

Recently, the rescue of 60 TICA Ragdolls caused a very big controversy on Facebook. CFA was maligned and our CFA Breed Rescue Program was maligned and called names, disparaged on the Facebook posts on a platform called "Unofficial Cat Fancy Discussion Group." I tried several times to explain we could not spend CFA Breed Rescue Program funds for TICA cats to rescues, BUT, in the background, we still we aided in looking for rescue space for these Ragdolls.

What disparagers do not know is we aid looking for rescue space for TICA breeders quite often, every couple months. Right now, we have a TICA breeder we are helping her with 14 Donskoys, funded by our affiliate rescue.

Regardless of my attempts to explain the BAP position, I was blocked by the site for not knowing what our BAP program is! Wow. Say what??? I guess we need to put forth information.

To clarify: Folks DO NOT KNOW about these efforts because we are a **CONFIDENTIAL** program:

We had been aware of the 60 cats via email request I received from a breeder. Our volunteers were working behind the scenes to get the cats into rescue for more than 2 months, at the height of kitten season. All rescues were full, plus we just finished getting space for 25 TICA Ragdolls a couple months earlier – and we have our own CFA cats on wait list needing space.

Our volunteers worked hard, calling, reserving space for the TICA cats. They even sent a transport for the first 15 Ragdoll cats. The breeder refused the transport. We were at a standstill, too many folks involved.

Another outside rescue person independently took over and did a Go Fund Me on their cat fancy Facebook group. That is where things went off track. Explicit pictures were posted of the physical conditions of some of the cats. Folks were all up in arms because we did not rush in and get all 60 cats. And the rescues were overwhelmed. Right now, we have a wait list for over 223 cats around the country needing to get into rescue and foster care.

We **CANNOT** pay CFA Breed Assist-Breed Rescue funds for TICA cats. We have a fiduciary relationship with CFA and CFA exhibitors. I emailed TICA and ask them to take up collections for the rescues that take the cats, but so far there is little response. TICA does not have a program equivalent to CFA Breed Assist-Breed Rescue.

Unfortunately, a couple of people who were involved in the beginning of BAP misrepresented our beginnings on this Facebook group, saying that BAP was for “all” cats, they took “all” cats. But, this is NOT true. BAP cares for CFA registered cats. Our work is dependent on donations by our CFA family. Our fiduciary duty is to CFA registered cats.

Disparagement of our work on a Facebook group, read by many CFA members, hurts CFA cats and it hurts available funds we can give to rescues for the feline care. Our income is slim. We carefully spend our funds to serve CFA cats. 98% of our funds are spent on CFA cats. Our program was set up for CFA registered felines. This is first and foremost. We hope our CFA family will continue to support BAP. We work harder than you know in order to serve CFA cats, confidentially.

Our CFA website page:

<https://breedersassist-rescue.cfa.org/>