

# Acton cat breeder is purring along nicely

By ALAN MACKIE  
The Herald

Dainty, svelt, slim, a good coat, pointed face, big ears and a long plumb tail makes for a show winning Balinese cat, Madge Turner, an Acton cat breeder, says.

Ms. Turner has bred cats for about seven years and at the moment has six cats and five kittens living with her in her Acton residence.

The kittens are not yet 12-weeks-old, the age when they will be sold, but have already started on a solid nutritious diet.

They are fed one part evaporated milk to one part water with an egg yolk mixed. This provides a good coat, Ms. Turner said. Some of the kittens will go off the taste when they're older and some will never want anything else, she added. Cats, just like humans, have their own individual personalities, Ms. Turner said.

Ms. Turner, who moved to Acton about a year ago, specializes in breeding Balinese cats, which she describes as a type of long-haired cat that evolved from the Siamese breed.

"They are beautiful; even though I say so myself," Ms. Turner said.

Before selling the kittens, they have to be vaccinated and checked by a veterinarian to make sure they are in "perfect health," she said.

The five kittens Ms. Turner has are only about a month old and will not be staying for long. "You don't keep them for yourself," she said.

Ms. Turner has bred a number of prize-winning cats including the top-rated Balinese in Canada, Maximillion, owned by Lynn Sharkey. "He has become Canada's Balinese Master," she noted. Maximillion is Canada's fourth-ranked cat of all breeds in his class. The feline has been shown all over Toronto and the surrounding area, she said. Maximillion has gone to shows anywhere within reasonable travelling distances, she added.

In an Alberta competition, another of her cats, Bewitching Morris, was in the top ten picks of every judge, she said.

Another of her cats, Prince Igor, is headed south, but not for a vacation. Prince Igor is going to live in South Africa with its new owner, Ms. Turner said.

Ms. Turner has a number of rules her cats live under. One of the rules she has is not allowing the cats to go outside. There are too many feline diseases to let them out, she said. They also do not

"need to be out to be healthy," she said. If they want fresh air they can be let out on a balcony but should not be allowed to roam free, she said. "If they're pets you must have them fixed," she said. That way the owner will have less problems to worry about.

Breeders should only breed their females once a year to ensure good quality cats, she said.

Declawing is like "mutilating" a cat. "Teach them to use a good scratching post and they'll keep off the furniture," she said. "You can not show a cat that's declawed," she added.

Kittens should have their shots before they are 12-weeks-old and then receive booster shots with their annual checkup, she said.

On misconception she has been trying to correct is that female cats are more loving than males, "and they're not."

Both male and females are just as loving but it depends on the individual cat. Some are natural show cats, grooming themselves before the judges approach, and some are beautiful enough to be show cats but are also too nervous, she said.

Ms. Turner breeds the cats under a company name, Labelinka. The name was derived from her four granddaughter's names.

Labelinka is comprised of herself and her husband William Turner, although she does receive some help from her granddaughters.

The company breeds only Balinese cats.

The name Balinese came about because of the cats graceful movements which reminded pioneer breeders of dancers from the Island of Bali, Ms. Turner noted.

The Balinese come in the same four colors of the Siamese cats; seal point, blue point, lilac point and chocolate point, she said. "The silky fine-textured coat is much different to the thick double coat of other long-haired cats," she noted, using a Persian cat, bred by Shirley Gunter of Brampton, as an example.

Because the Balinese cat's coat lies so closely to its skin and does not have a thick undercoat, it sheds very little and needs very little grooming.

Balinese are loving parents usually sharing in the care of the four to six litter of kittens, she noted.

Viewing Ms. Turner's cats will be relatively easy since they will be at the May 27 "No Name Cat



Snuggling up with a basket full of kittens is an easy way to relax. These are five of the kittens that Madge Turner, Balinese cat breeder, will be selling shortly.

One of Ms. Turner's prize-winning show cats gives Ms. Turner's granddaughter, Lara, a hand by stopping any kittens from leaving the basket.

Club's Cat Show" held at the Chris Gibson Recreation Centre on McLaughlin Road in Brampton.

"All our shows are non-profit," Ms. Turner said. The money made by the show goes towards Canadian feline research, promoting the welfare of cats and to the University of Guelph's Veterinarian School.

Five Canadian Cat Association judges will endeavour to select the best purebred cats, kittens and the mixed breed household pets from among approximately 200 entries.

"You meet a lot of nice people who care about cats at shows," Ms. Turner said. There are a lot of excellent Canadian breeders at the shows, she said.

Tickets cost \$3 for adults, \$2 for children or seniors and a special \$8 family rate. Further information on the upcoming show can be obtained by phoning Madge at 519-853-4872, Shirley at 416-454-3218 or Kay at 416-438-2757.

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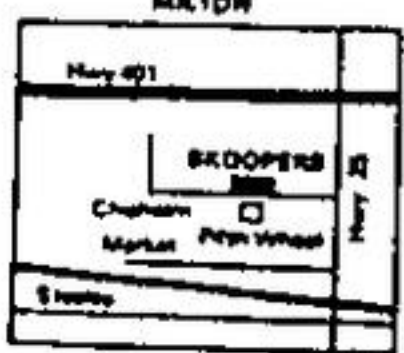
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