



Russian Cat Interest Group of South Africa

Russian Blue. White. Black. & Spotted Tabby

Issue 10

1st October 2016

RCIG NEWS

by: Solveig Klahr

Dear RCIG Members,

Our new look Newsletter is here! What a challenge it has been! Wow, but it's done! I would like to take the opportunity to welcome our new Russian kitty owners who got their little bundles of blue fluff in the past couple of months. We hope you will find our newsletters informative and fun, although it will be a shorter Newsletter this time round.

Our 2016 Show season has come to an end, and our Russians are getting into the summer mode by spending more time in the fresh air, shedding their thick winter coat and do what they do best, RELAXING.

On the 6th August 2016, 5 x Russians were chosen to represent our favourite breed at SACC COTY 2016 (Cat of the Year 2016). 4 x Russian Blues and for the very first time in the South African Cat Fancy History a Russian Black was present at COTY as well.

Our COTY 2016 Russians were placed as follows:

Vader 28th, Vlad 23rd, Spirit 22nd, Tara 20th, in the adult section and Dani was 10th best kitten.

We would like to thank all of you, who take the time to show your Russians, it is so important to get them out there and into the faces of the judges and the public.



Bernadine, Vanessa and Jenny showing off their Russians at one of the Gauteng shows this past show season. (Toner ran out!)

Cape Top Cat was held in Cape Town on the 27th August 2016 and to our absolute and utter surprise our Russian Black boy, Vader, was placed in 8th position and our Russian Blue boy, Vlad, in 9th position.



Showing Your Cat

Our 2017 Cat show season is scheduled to start in March 2017 and ends in September 2017.

Each region has their own Cat Clubs affiliated with SACC, of which the RCIG is also a Breed Group member.

All regional clubs hold cat shows throughout the season and after each show add up all the points, which your cat accumulates over the season. Once the points are calculated, your cat could either get to represent his/her breed at the regional show or on a national level. The national show will be held in Cape Town in 2017.

Please send me an e-mail if you wish to show your Russian in 2017, at solveig.rcig@gmail.com



Leanne with Iggy

Kitten Season 2016/2017

Our kitten season is under way with our first 4 litters born, and a number of females that have been mated in the past two weeks. Litters born between September and October, 1 x Esky litter, 2 x Azreal litter and 1 x Davante litter. Looking forward to seeing some of these kittens in the near future.

If you wish to be placed on the waiting list for a kitten please contact your breeder now, to get onto their waiting list as soon as possible.

If you would like to get onto the waiting list for a Russian White, please contact Alma Pretorius, for a Russian Black, please contact Saskia Vet and for a Russian Blue Spotted Tabby, please contact Vanessa Howell. If you would like to be placed onto the Russian Blue waiting list, please feel free to contact Leanne Hewitt and Joelene Draper, as well as the other three breeders who also breed our colour Russians.

You can also contact me to refer you to one of our five registered Russian Breeders here in South Africa.

Vet Visit Reminders

Please ensure that your Russian's annual booster vaccines are done by your vet at this time and that proof thereof is in your kitties' vet booklet.

It is particularly important to do this now, as the December holidays are around the corner and if your kitty has been booked into a cat hotel, they need a copy of the vaccinations or may require the physical vet book from you for the duration of your kitties stay with them.

Cat Health

If you want to keep your Russians health in tip top condition, you can purchase a product from your vet called Felisine Paste. This paste is a palatable immune booster, which contains L-Lysine and can be given daily or twice daily. Not only is it used in managing complications caused by Feline Herpesvirus (FHV-1) infections, but it also keeps your cat's mouth and teeth healthy.



Felisine Paste – Immune Booster

RCIG Membership Fees 2017

Our RCIG annual membership fees will remain the same, at R40.00 for 2017. The membership fees are due in the beginning of January every year

If you wish to turn your Annual Membership into a Life Membership (10 Year) the cost is a once off payment of R400.00.

The RCIG currently has 27 Life Members, which include all our Breeders and Committee Members as well as some of our Group Members. Well done!

-X-

Russians Rule!!!!



Join our Facebook Group

We urge all our new kitten owners to join our Facebook Group, this way you will receive support from everyone on the group, whether you have questions about your Russian(s), or would like to share something you have learned with us or just brag with beautiful pictures and stories about your kitty. You will also have access to all documentation that is posted to our Group in the File section.

The RCIG Facebook Group is a happy family place where we can get together and cat around. Every paid up member has a place and we would like to keep it that way.

If you need show assistance, cat health assistance, general cat queries, or an idea that we can implement, this is the place to do so, we have all our breeders on this platform and we are happy to guide and assist where possible. If you want to ask a question off the Group, you can email me at solveiq.rcig@gmail.com



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RCIGroup/>

Our Committee Members

Our committee members & breeders are as follows:-

Alma Pretorius (Esky Russians)
Russian Blue & Russian White
almapretorius@gmail.com

Leanne Hewitt (Azreal Russians)
Justin Hewitt (Azreal Russians)
Russian Blue
leanne@perform.co.za

Saskia Vet (Ruskia Russians)
Chris Vet (Ruskia Russians)
Russian Blue
sask@webmail.co.za

Vanessa Howell (Devante Russians)
Cyril Howell (Devante Russians)
Russian Blue and Russian Blue Spotted Tabby
vanessah193@me.com

Joelene Draper (Zingara Russians)
Russian Blue & Russian Black
zingararussians@gmail.com

Laurelle Abnett (RCIG)
lmabnett@iafrica.com

Solveig Klahr (RCIG)
solveiq.rcig@gmail.com

Please visit our RCIG Website too....
<http://rcig.weebly.com/>



How many Colours of Russians are there?

The Russian cat comes in a number of colours, Blue, Black, Blue Spotted Tabby (BST) and White. These are the four Russian Colours that South Africa breeds. When we breed a Russian Blue cat, we try very hard to ensure that both parents are from true blue lines. There are various reasons for this but the main reason is to keep the Russian Blue lines “true”. In other words if you do DNA testing, you only find Russian Blue DNA, generation after generation.

When it comes to the Russian colours, Black, Blue Spotted Tabby and the White, we only breed with them to keep the colour alive and improve on the type of the colour Russian. The colours are slowly gaining more recognition and popularity throughout the world.

South Africa is the only country in the world that breeds the Russian Blue Spotted Tabby. Australia used to breed the BST but 10 years ago Australia stopped their BST breed program and sent their last entire girl to Leanne in South Africa. Vanessa Howell in Johannesburg is now the only breeder in the world to breed the BST.

As a rule over the years when it comes to colour breeding we put a Black to a Blue, or a White to a Blue or a BST to a Blue. This way there will be a 50/50 chance of getting solid colour kittens in the colour of either mom or dad.

The only reason why a colour kitten might be kept entire, is for the purpose of future breeding if the kitten is outstanding in type and if it is able to contribute to the colour genepool. All other siblings will be neutered and spayed and will be placed into pet homes.

The same is done with Blue to Blue mating’s, if a kitten is of a particular type and can contribute to the genepool it will be kept for breeding. In most cases though, the breeder knows when the time comes to retire a queen or stud and therefore plans ahead to breed for an offspring to continue a particular line.

Are Russian Cats sold on OLX, Gumtree, Junk Mail, etc?

Our registered Russian Breeders, of which there are 5 in South Africa, and the only with true Russians that come with pedigrees longer than all our arms put together do NOT EVER advertise Russian kittens for sale on any junk platforms.

If you see an ad for Russian Kittens for sale on these platforms, you can be 100% sure that (1) these are not Russian kittens, (2) these are probably scammers (3) Back Yard Breeders who breed with grey domestic cats and trying to sell them as Russian Cats.

If a kitten does not come from **Azreal, Esky, Davante, Ruskia or Zingara**, or without a personalised signed pedigree certificate, stamped and dated by SACC or CFSA, it is NOT Russian.



Raise ‘n Rescue

There are so many cat rescue organisations in South Africa with Raise ‘n Rescue in the Western Cape being one of them. These rescue organisation do a lot of work day and night, doing what they can for the kittens and cats that come through their door, with limited funds and resources.

The rescue moms and dads deal with kittens and cats of all ages all the time 24/7/365 days and nights a year. The unwanted or destitute kitties just keep coming because people, are irresponsible. People just don’t neuter and spay their cats and thus more and more unwanted kittens are born every day, they roam around and fight for food, life and shelter. Often Raise ‘n Rescue, rescue pregnant cats who they assist when they give birth to their kittens. They help mom raise her litter, spay mom and her babies and then rehome them all.

All the kitties that come to R’nR, are tested for FeLV and FIV, thank goodness in most cases the kitties and cats test negative and will be afforded the opportunity to find their loving forever homes. These rescue moms and dads give each cat love, understanding, medication and loads of attention during their stay at R’nR.

If you wish to sponsor a kitten while he/she is in residence with Raise ‘n Rescue, please follow them on Facebook.

Here is a link to the Raise ‘n Rescue website so you can take a look what goes on in a rescue home, and how you can make a difference in a Raisen’s life.
<https://raisenrescue.org.za/>

Cat Humour



-X-

Russian Blue, - Black, - White, - Blue Spotted Tabby