Russian Cat Interest Group of SA

BLUE. BLACK. WHITE. BLUE SPOTTED TABBY.

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RCIG NEWS

Hello all RCIG Members,

Time is flying, January 2014 is done and dusted and the kitten season is about over. Breeding season is due to start again around August 2014.

In our last Newsletter we waiting in anticipation to find out whether Evelina was pregnant and in deed she was and delivered 6 healthy BAUTIFUL!!!! Kittens, in October 2013. Amongst those was 1 boy, the Black stud that we were so desperately waiting for. He left for his new home with Saskia Vet on the 17th January 2014. He is one magnificent looking little boy and we are hoping that he will successfully continue the Russian Black lines in South Africa.



Azreal Sirius Swart aka. Vadar

SACC Announcement

The RCIG welcomes the decision taken by SACC in January 2014 to promote responsible cat breeding.

The RCIG Breeders take Ethical, Reputable & Responsible breeding very seriously.

-----Published by SACC – January 2014-----

Responsible breeding has always been important, but in recent years it has become of critical importance to registering bodies worldwide. We are extremely conscious of the huge numbers of unwanted cats in South Africa, which is why we support organisations which care for them and carry out spayathons, and it is the main reason why more and more of our breeders sell only sterilized kittens. Additionally, there is the problem of "breeders" (mostly unregistered) selling unhealthy kittens, or those with inherited defects. We always appeal to prospective purebred kitten buyers to approach only reputable breeders, who register their kittens with us, or with one of the other cat registering bodies. However, it can be difficult for the inexperienced kitten buyer to tell whether or not a breeder is up to standard, and scams are becoming more and more sophisticated. This is why, over the next three years, the Southern Africa Cat Council plans to introduce a "Cattery of Excellence" scheme, which will give extra status to breeders who breed responsibly, and sell only healthy, registered kittens, who have been sterilized and micro-chipped, from parents who have been tested (where possible and

applicable) for genetic defects.

What is Ethical & Reputable Breeding?

This is a quick guide to Ethical & Reputable Breeding.

- Breeds only with Pedigree cats
- Invests in the breed (money, time, effort, love &
 CARE)
- Passionate about the breed
- Proud of the kittens and will send photo's/pedigrees
- The parents are pets first and foremost
- Housing conditions are (in house underfoot) and kept clean and germ free at all times
- Vet is consulted for any problems & all inoculations
- Cares about the development of the kittens
- Inoculates, deworms, defleas, spays / neuters / microchips
- Feeds premium vet food to ensure health
- Regulated by registrar and bound by code of ethics
- Cares about the homes kittens go to
- Cares about health & temperament
- Educates & supports the new owner
- Offers lifelong advice & assistance

Russians that were rehomed

Silversheen BoJangles of Ruskia a Russian Black now lives with his brother Silversheen Black Panther aka. BatCat a Russian Black he also shares his new home with a Russian White and a Russian Blue. The Russian Slave is **Charlene Vos** in Natal. Thank you very much for sharing your family and home with these beauties Charlene.

Silversheen Zina Jade of Ruskia a Russian Blue ex breeding queen now lives with her daughter Silversheen Maya Plesitskaya in the Eastern Cape under the care of Russian Slave Bonita Brooks. Thank you Bonita for opening your home and heart to Jade.

Daliena's Varvara of Azreal (import) a Russian Blue ex breeding queen finally got her wish to be an only cat in a loving and quiet pet home. She now lives with Natasha Bosh in the Western Cape. Thank you so much for offering this beautiful girl a loving forever home Natasha.

Azreal Safire Satin Sky a Russian Blue ex breeding queen and from the first S litter that was the best litter Leanne said she ever bred. A few best litters have been born since but the first S litter as well as the second S litter are truly amazing litters. Safire not lives with Annette Snyckers in the Western Cape. Thank you Annette for giving this shy little girl a forever home.

Pyret Prince Dmitri of Azreal (import) a Russian Black ex breeding stud and the grandfather of the Russian Black line in South Africa. This boy holds a very special place in my heart. Leanne imported him because I wanted a Russian Black. I own his first born black son and a black daughter from his 2nd last litter. Janet Joos has offered Neo a loving forever home, which he so deserves. Janet thank you for opening your heart to our special Black boy and soon AbFab will join him, may they bring you loads of love. Neo & AbFab will both stay in the Western Cape.

Written by Leanne Hewitt of Azreal Russians

Azreal Faberge a Russian Blue ex breeding queen will join Neo and Janet in April.

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

Esky Boo a Russian White ex breeding stud and Azreal Jade Jarohna a Russian Blue ex breeding queen have been rehomed together and now live with Anlerie Cilliers in North West Provence, thank you so much Anlerie for giving these two a new forever home.

In our Newsletter last October we featured Azreal Chynishka Russian Blue Pet who was looking for a new forever home in Cape Town, as her previous owners moved to Australia, but Nishka found a brand new loving owner. Tristan Voss thank you for adopting Nishka.

Then, remember Kikki the beautiful Russian type visually impaired 5 month old kitten?

Well she was snapped up by a young man who adopted from Co-Sanc before and wanted a companion for his kitty. Kikki is now a loved and happy little kitty cat and does just fine with her impaired vision.

COMPETITION RESUTLS

Between October and December 2013 we ran the Membership Renewal Drive Competition for 2014.
Sadly we did not have many renewals or new membership applications but at least we had 4 winning cats. The 4 prizes were identical and each was valued at R567.00



The 4 winning Russians are:-

1) Raskia Classic Carlito aka. Jasper



2) Azreal Lyrical Lexi aka. Lexi



3) Azreal Huckleberry Husk aka. Hushie



Cats are People too!

4) Esky Delilah aka. Susu



Well done boy and girl cats! We will do the same at the end of this year again.

New Russian Breeder!!!!!!!

It is with great excitement that we introduce a 5th Russian Breeder to our group. The past 18 months have been very anxious as we own the world's last entire Russian Blue Spotted Tabby. I am sure that many of you have heard about Leanne's Bubble? Bubble is the very last Blue Spotted Tabby that can produce kittens. Bubble is an aging Russian and not a young grasshopper anymore and thus we had to try and find a person who would be willing to continue the colour,............ or allow the colour to die out. The latter was no option.

Krystle Ann Callaghan from Kriss Cross Cattery has agreed to take on the very important task to save the Russian Blue Spotted Tabby. Thus over the next 18 months or so, some very technical breeding including various DNA testing will be conducted to ensure that we get to breed a Russian White female that will be able to produce all 4 colour Russians, when mated to a Russian Blue stud.

Krystle has just received her first Russian Blue female kitten. This kitten carries the Spanish Daliena's line, which is another line we wish to preserve here in South Africa.

Krystle, we welcome you to our Breed Group, the guardians of the Russians in South Africa. We will help and support you in your endeavor to save the very precious Russian Blue Spotted Tabby.

My name is **Kryslte Callaghan**, I have a small cattery in Cape Town (Kriss Cross Cattery) currently breeding Siamese & Orientals.

Kriss Cross Cattery was established in 2009 with the main focus being to improve the Oriental breed in the Western Cape. At the time, there were very few Orientals on the Cape Town show bench and equally few breeders. Since then I have bred a select few litters of both Siamese & Oriental kittens, bringing back to the show bench some colours that have not been seen in years.

I currently live with 3 Oriental girls (Jessie - a black calico, ChiChi - a blue calico and Sassy - a caramel calico).

In 2014 I am privileged enough to add to my cattery a little Russian Blue girl from Esky Russians.

I am extremely grateful to Alma and Leanne for allowing me to own and breed with this girl. I will continue breeding the Orientals but at the same time I will establish a Russian Cattery, breeding Blue, White, Black with a very special focus on preserving the Blue Spotted Tabbies in South Africa.

All Russian's are Neutered & Spayed before they go to their new Pet Home.....

Since we all own Pedigreed Cats the below is very very important.

What an indoor cat misses out on

- · Being hit by a car
 - · Animal traps
- · Poisoning, accidental or intentional
- Fighting with wild animals, cats or dogs
 - Exposure to disease from other animals
 - · Complaints from neighbours
 - · Rain, wind and cold
 - · Loneliness and fear
- Getting caught in a car engine or neighbours' garage
- · Fleas, ticks, parasites and worms
- Getting collar hung on fences, etc.
- Being stolen and used for dogfight bait
 - Cruelty from strangers.

New kitten owners meet and greet in CT and JHB

We will be holding a meet and greet for new kitten owners who will be showing their kittens this year.

The JHB Russian Mentor, Meet and Greet-

Date:- 8th February 2014 Time:- 11h00 to 14h00

Address:- Michelle du Plessis Residence 16 Wendy Avenue, Craighall Park, 2196 SACC Cat Show Judge: Karen Pepler

The CT Russian Mentor, Meet and Greet:-

Date:- 15th February 2014 Time:- 13h00 to 15h00

Address:- Leanne Hewitt Residence

11 Cheltenham Road, Little Mowbray, 7700

SACC Cat Show Judge: Kim Cutter

A Time To Say Goodbye

A tribute to the Russians that went over the Rainbow Bridge or missing in 2013.

Esky Eleganza (aka Nonsi)



Sadly Nonsi left us at only 1 year old in November 2013, it was a freak accident that took her life. RIP

Esky Abracadabra (aka Magic)



Magic left us at 2 years of age during a thunderstorm in November 2013, and was hit by a car that resulted in her death. RIP

Azreal Desdarmah Dushenka (aka Dante)



Dante went missing in September 2013 during a rain and thunderstorm and was never found again.

Russians are indoor cats only and need SUPERVISED outdoor time.....

Azreal Russian Breed Home Feature

It has always been my vision and drive that all Russian breeders in South Africa work together. I think I can very proudly state that currently we are the only group of breeders that share our lines, our cats and the Russians have benefited from it exponentially in type and in a very healthy and diverse gene pool thus claiming any glory for the Azreal Russians also belongs to the rest of the breeders as "together we stand, united we fall".

Since 2003 I have had the great privilege of importing 13 Russians from some remarkable breeders and lines (3 most recently have been co-shares with Saskia & Alma). We are all sharing in the benefits of these fantastic cats, most notable the 2012 National Australian Winner Sp Ch Kimara Zaris Evelina of Azreal who is having a huge impact on the South African Russian type, with as always HUGE thanks to Lucy Nikiforos of Perth Australia.

We have been VERY blessed here at Azreal to have had 8 litters over the past 12 months the "N2" – "U2" litters which resulted in 30 kittens. Some of you of course are already the very proud owners of your special Azreal Baby(s). I do rather look forward to seeing many of these special babies grow up on the show bench and for this I am eternally grateful to you the owners.

A very special little boy from the "S" litter Azreal Sirius Swart has gone off to join Saskia Vet as a future BLACK stud boy and considering how outstanding all the kittens were from this litter I am very excited especially as most of these babies will be shown. I have kept the very cute little Azreal Pavlina Pinot with great thanks to my dear friend Cat Murray who kept her pet boy Jazz entire to enable me to have this litter. Also from the "N2" litter early in 2013 is the future Azreal stud boy: "Azreal Nakimara Nikolai" who is of course from the stunning Evelina.

In 2011 I was incredibly lucky to win the title of South African breeder of the Year and again this past year of 2013 – I would like to thank every single Azreal Russian owner that showed their cats that have contributed to

this prestigious award, you guys fly the Russian flag high, considering what a small group we are (and with just a handful of breeding cats) this is quite remarkable.

I am rather excited to have had a hand in the South African Cat Council's new initiative toward Ethical and responsible breeding. Having practiced early neuter & spay from my second litter and now going into 10 years it is something I feel every single breeder SHOULD be doing as there are indeed way too many cat's in shelters as well as I believe the Russian is too special to ever end up with Back Yard Breeders — I am exceedingly proud to say not ONE Azreal has ever contributed to this.

For the future Azreal is focusing on some very exciting match making with the view to keeping a few special babies from the 2014/2015 breeding season.

Written by Leanne Hewitt





