

# **Russian Cat Interest Group of SA**

**BLUE. BLACK. WHITE. BLUE SPOTTED TABBY.**

JULY 2014

ISSUE 3

## **RCIG NEWS**

Hello all RCIG Members,

Let's start with the most exciting news! The Russian Experience that was hosted by The Big Cat Club under the auspices of SACC and sponsored by Hills on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

28 Russians were entered into our show but 3 had to withdraw before show day. Saskia Vet flew from Natal with two of her young studs to participate in the kitten section, and it was truly wonderful to have her show with us here in the Cape.

We had 20 Russian Blues, 4 Russian Blacks and 1 Russian White on show! A HUGE thank you to everybody that put their Russians on show! You made our day.

To Krystle Callaghan and the BIG Cat Club you put on an amazing show, thank you for putting a Russian Best of Breed together. To the two out of town judges, thank you Ngaio Crawley (KZN) and Gail Nel (JHB) for spending your day with us in cold rainy Cape Town.

## **The Russian Experience!**

Our winning Russians from 10<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> are as follows:-

10th Best Russian on Show  
Azreal Targaryen Thunder  
Owned by Leanne Hewitt

9th Best Russian on Show  
Azreal Sashina Saharz  
Owned by Antoinette Malonas (Top 5 Kittens on show)

8th Best Russian on Show  
Tr Sp Ch Kimara Jazz N Blues Azastar of Azreal (IMP) NQ  
Owned by Leanne Hewitt

7th Best Russian on Show  
Ch Azreal Pavlina Pinot  
Owned by Leanne Hewitt

6th Best Russian on Show  
Pr Azreal Quisby Quinn (Now a Premier)  
Owned by Melanie Hofhuis

5th Best Russian on Show  
Gr Pr Azreal Faberge  
Owned by Janet Joos

4th Best Russian on Show  
Sp Pr Azreal Huckleberry Hush RQ  
Owned by Adele Visser

3rd Best Russian on Show  
Pr Azreal Quisilla Querida (Now a Premier)  
Owned by Jean Korb

2nd Best Russian on Show  
Gr Ch Azreal Nikimara Narzulah  
Owned by Leanne Hewitt

***Russians Rule!***

**1st Best Russian on Show (Top 5 Cats on show)  
Sp Ch Kimara Zaris Evelina of Azreal N.Q (IMP)  
Owned by Leanne Hewitt**



The lovely Evelina above, will travel with Leanne up to Johannesburg in July, as she is a SACC Cat of the Year 2014 National Qualifier Finalist.

We wish Evelina and her slave Leanne Hewitt the very best of luck in the competition, we will all be thinking of you and of course we hope that Evelina will be crowned CAT of the Year.

#### **CAT OF THE YEAR (COTY) 2014**

**Date:- 12<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

**Time:- From 10am to mid afternoon**

**Venue:- Sunnyside Park Hotel, Princess of Wales Terrace, Parktown, Johannesburg, Gauteng**

**COTY is open to the public to view South Africa's best cats on show.**

#### **SOME SHOW PICUTRES**



**Janet Joos, Ron Silke, Saskia Vet – Ruskia Russian Breeder & Laurelle Abnett**



**Leanne Hewitt – Azreal Russian Breeder**

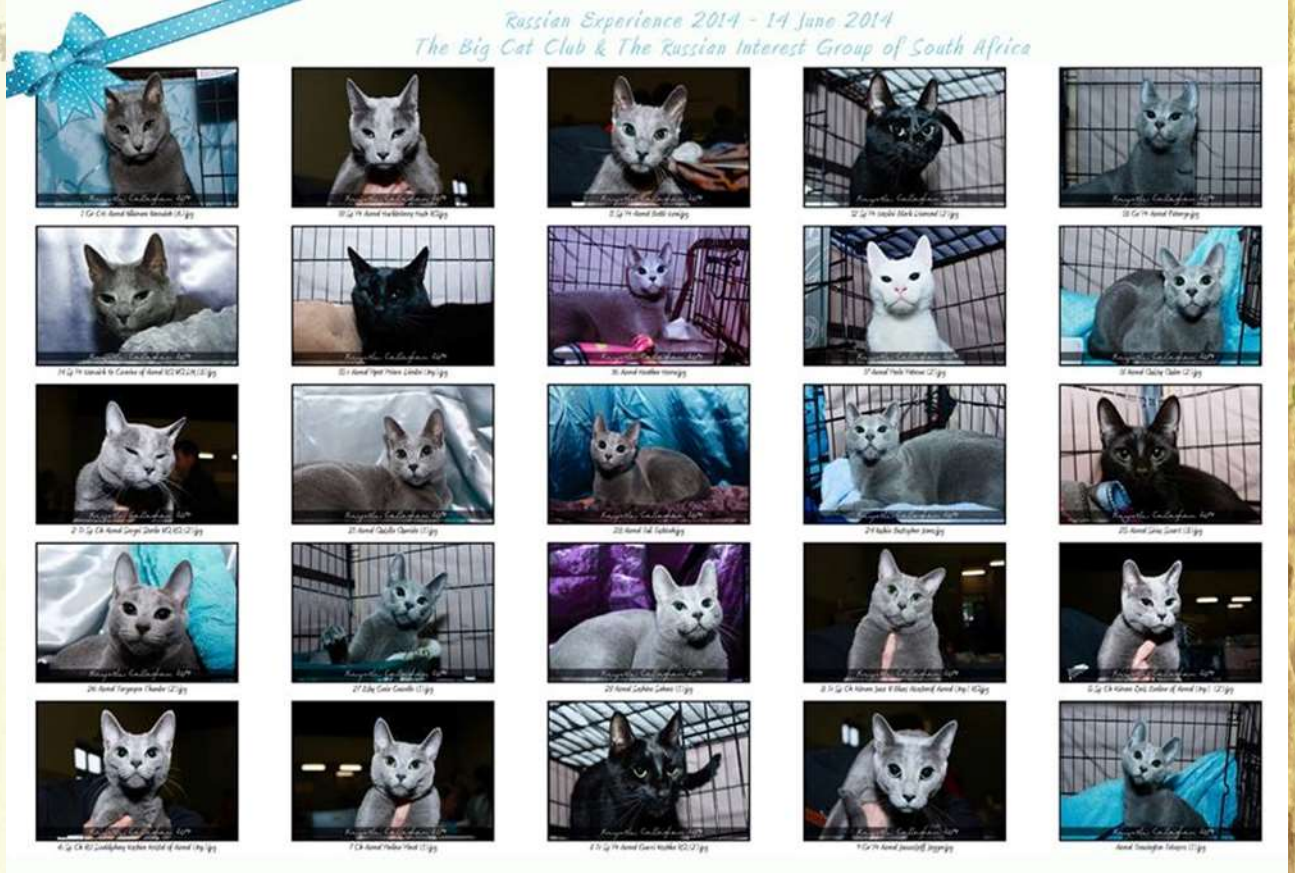


**Adele Visser & her mom**

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

## OUR 25 RUSSIANS THAT WERE AT THE SHOW

*Russian Experience 2014 - 14 June 2014  
The Big Cat Club & The Russian Interest Group of South Africa*



Krystle Callaghan running the entire show and photo's  
Krystle – Kriss Cross Oriental & Russian Breeder



Azreal Sashina Saharz – Top 5 Kittens

*Cats are People too!*

## Kittens and Cats Website

In March/April 2014 Mrs. Ngaio Crawley the Vice President of SACC approached me to assist in getting a website up and running that can guide potential kitten buyers. I had a discussion around this with Krystle Callaghan who took this idea, ran with it and created a website called <http://www.kittensandcats.co.za/> As we all know the scammers are alive and well on Gumtree, Junk Mail and the likes, scamming the public and taking their money. Please make your friends and family aware of this issue. —Krystle Callaghan, thank you!-

People claim to be selling pure bred cats on Gumtree, all of them are back yard breeders (BYB). Many claim to be breeding Russians that they then sell on Gumtree for half the price that our breeders do or less. These kittens are under aged when they leave the BYB, they are not neutered or spayed nor are they micro-chipped and also very seldom are they vaccinated. Often these kittens die or have behavioral problems as the mother was unable to socialize them.

It is common knowledge that kittens MUST stay with their siblings and mother until they are AT LEAST 12 weeks old. Ethical, Reputable and Responsible Breeders allow kittens to go to their new homes between the ages of 12 and 16 weeks. At this time the kittens are neutered/spayed, micro-chipped, vaccinated and well socialized.

## Ethical, Reputable & Responsible Breeders

Our focus is shifting even more onto the ETHICAL, REPUTABLE & RESPONSIBLE. As such RCIG has come to the decision to grade their 5 breeders. The breeders that do much more than what is expected of them are our VIP breeders.

It is of the utmost importance that all our breeders stay on the same page with one another. Communication and taking action is KEY. We want to be the shining example to all others and do what is right.

Also very important is that potential kitten owners are well vetted before the breeders agree to let them have a kitten and vice versa.



## Russians that were rehomed

**Bluebell** was rescued off the street in Sea Point by well-known **ex KFM Radio presenter Charmaine Noy** in March 2014. Charmaine went out of her way to find out what breed this cat most resembles and found that she looks identical to a Russian. Charmaine contacted me and sent me a picture of the cat and I was rather taken aback as this in my mind was a Russian. Yet nobody came forward as having lost a Russian. Everybody could account for their Russians and without pedigree papers there was just no way to identify her. **Jennifer Ehlers** who is an existing Russian cat owner offered to give Bluebell a home. Bluebell got the all clear from vet Steve Kitley who tested for Feline FIV and Leukemia, which came back as negative. Bluebell got all her vaccinations and now lives in a quiet setting with her new family.



Thank you for your picture and kindness Ehlers family.

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

## Linki the Model

In March 2014 a Russian Blue was requested to participate in a fashion photo shoot. Ch Azreal Pavlina Pinot aka. Linki agreed to do the shoot with human model Josefin van Max for Rooi Rose Magazine that went on sale in May 2014. The venue at which the photo shoot took place was in the Wine Tasting Room at LaMotte Wine Estate in Franschhoek.

Needless to say we so super proud of Linki the Model.



Picture from the Rooi Rose – May 2014

**Special mention to Browen and Jasper!**

**Congratulations on being awarded Best Foreign Neuter at the Easter Cape Show in May 2014.**

## Behavioral issues in Cats

If you find yourself in a situation where your cat suddenly displays behavioral issues for example showing aggression, weeing in places where they should not and excessive **scratching**, you may want to try the following:-

- Change your cats water and food daily
- Ensure that your kitty's litter box is cleaned out daily and that new fresh litter is added or that the litter is changed regularly into a clean litter box.
- Ensure that there is plenty play time between you and your cat/s.
- Ensure that there are plenty toys for the kitty or cat to play with during the day whilst you at work.
- Leave blinds open so that your kitty can sit in the sun and observe movement and birds from his/her view point.
- Spend cuddle time with your kitty and reaffirm your love for your kitty often.
- Allow your cat some supervised outdoor time to get in some fresh air, sunshine and to take in the surrounds.
- If you cat is not afforded the above, it may lead to depression.
- In severe cases, you may want to consult an Animal Behaviorist.
- Never surrender your Russian to anyone other than the breeder of your kitty or an RCIG Committee Member.

If any of you have an interest in TT or Tellington Touch for animals please take a look at the website <http://www.ttouch.co.za/files/companion/cats.php>

You can relieve discomfort, behavioral issues and fear using the TT techniques on all your companion animals.

Courses are available as well, please see the attached link if you have an interest in doing TT courses and becoming a qualified Practitioner.

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

## Plants toxic to Cats

Everybody has plants or flowers in their garden or home. But, a plant or a beautiful flower in your vase can become a deadly enemy for your cat companions. Please note that lilies, in particular, are very dangerous to cats if ingested.

If you see your cat nibbling or eating on a plant that could be detrimental to its health and life, please take your cat to the vet immediately and also take the plant/flower it ate along for easy identification.

Toxins/poisons affect the liver which could lead to severe live problems and or death due to the liver not being able to process various toxins.

For a list of the dangerous plants and flowers that could cause your cat harm please click on the following link:-

<http://www.cfainc.org/catcare/householdhazards/toxicplants.aspx>

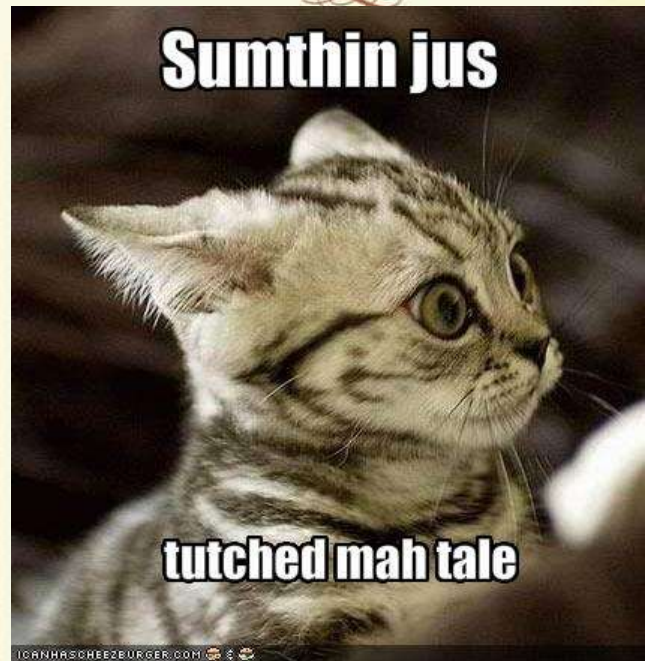
## The 11 most dangerous people foods for cats

- 1) Tuna
- 2) Onion
- 3) Garlic
- 4) Raw Eggs
- 5) Alcohol
- 6) Caffeine
- 7) Fat trimmings
- 8) Cooked bones
- 9) Milk, Cream & Cheese
- 10) Avocado
- 11) Chocolate

There are many more people foods that are dangerous or toxic to cats. Never try and feed your cat on a vegetarian diet. There are some people who think because they themselves are vegan or vegetarian that their cat(s) should be too. NO, NO, NO! It will kill a cat. Cats need a very high protein diet. Much higher in protein than dog food even.

## Cat Humour

LOL do any of your Russians do this when something invisible is touching them?



## Do you wish to advertise in our Newsletter?

Please contact the Russian Cat Interest Group of South Africa on [solveig.rcig@gmail.com](mailto:solveig.rcig@gmail.com) for more information.

We do the following:-

- 1 Page ads
- ½ Page ads
- ¼ Page ads

Fee structure available from Solveig.

Our Newsletter is made available by e-mail, Facebook and Issuu.com

*Russians own you – You are their slave.....*

*Before you purchase a pedigree kitten/cat, please spend time researching the breed and make sure that you approach an Ethical, Reputable & Responsible Breeder. Purchase cat magazine, visit the website <http://www.kittensandcats.co.za/> and see who the registered breeders are or call the SACC Registrar Johan van Rooyen to find out who the Ethical breeders are. 011 616 7017- <http://www.tsacc.org.za/> Please ask as many questions as you can possibly think of when dealing with the breeder of your chosen breed. We want to stand together against BYB as they breed "fruit salad" cats, harm their breeding cats, and simply don't care about anything as long as they make money of often sick, unaltered and underage kittens. Share this info with your family and friends.*



For Russian Cat Interest Group Members, follow  
us on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RCIGroup/>  
Or on the Web  
<http://rcig.weebly.com>



*Russian Cat Interest Group of South Africa*

Editor Solveig Klahr

083 272 2443

[solveig.rcig@gmail.com](mailto:solveig.rcig@gmail.com)

Thank s must go to Leanne, Krystle & the  
Ehlers family for the pictures for our  
Newsletter.