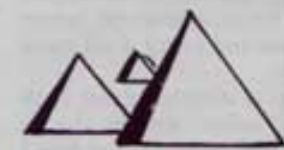
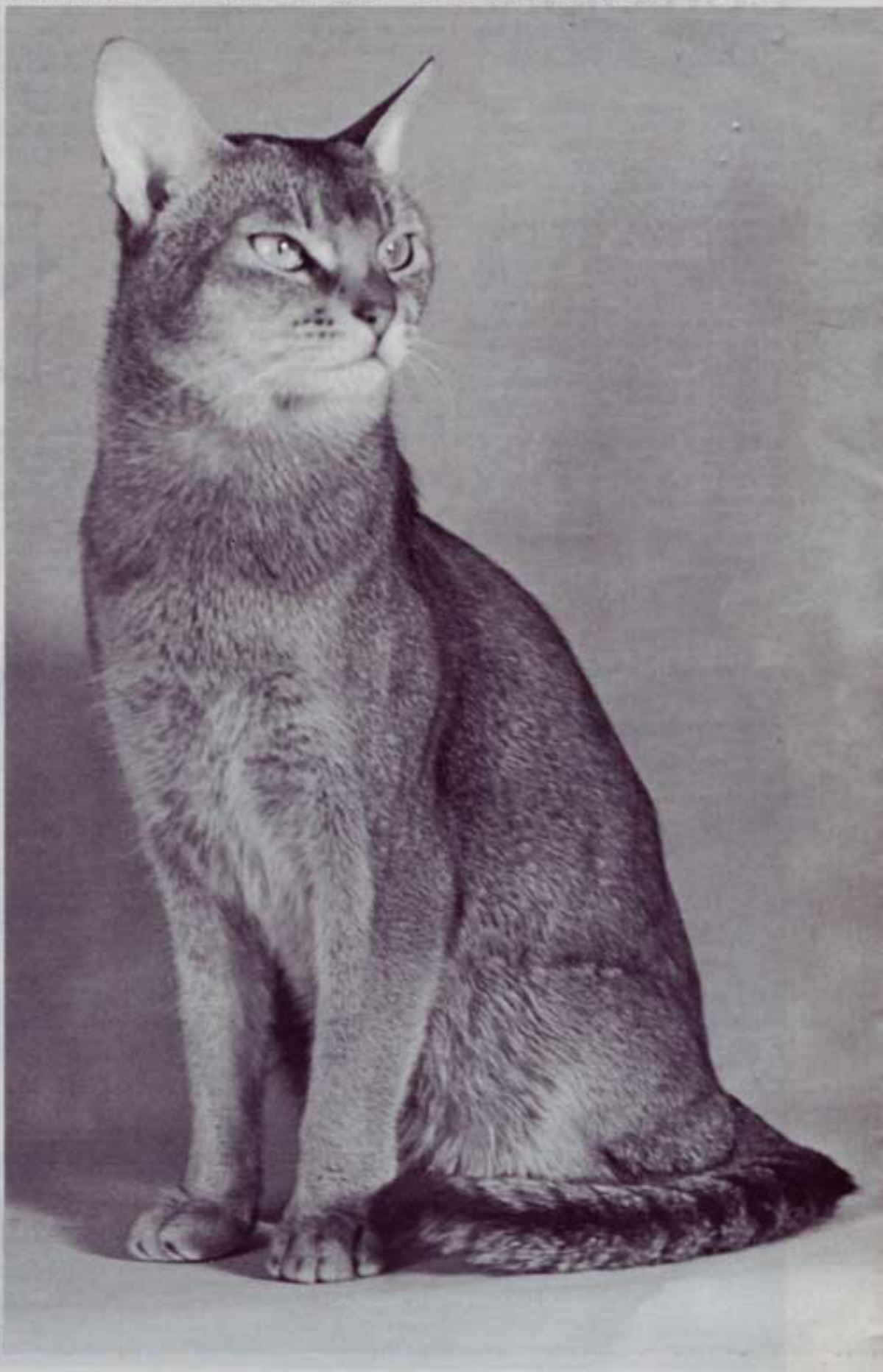


GR. CH. PHAROH CITATION OF SWINGATE — Best Cat — CFA National Awards — 1972-1973



THE ABYSSINIAN

by Kim Everett



KIM EVERETT IS FROM PORTLAND, OREGON AND HAS BRED AND SHOWN SOME OF THE TOP ABYSSINIANS IN THE WORLD INCLUDING PHARO H RAMESES II, 1966 ALL AMERICAN CAT OF THE YEAR AS WELL AS BEING 1965 #2 ALL AMERICAN CAT OF THE YEAR AND 1967 #3 ALL AMERICAN CAT. SHE ALSO BRED AND SHOWED THE 1973 C.F.A. NATIONAL AWARDS BEST CAT AND ALSO A BEAUTIFUL FEMALE ABY WHO WAS #5 SHORTHAIRED FEMALE IN THE C.F.A. NATIONAL AWARDS AND WAS BEST NORTHWEST REGION SHORTHAIRED. KIM'S TOP WINNING ABYSSINIANS MAKE HER EXTREMELY WELL QUALIFIED TO TELL OUR READERS ABOUT THE ABYSSINIAN BREED.

THE ABYSSINIAN

by Kim Everett

CFA All Breed Judge Kim Everett with Gr. Ch. HOLIDAY HILL MAN O WAR OF PHARO H, Sire of Citation.



favorite person, from that day on he knows he will have his every whim catered to. I have had other breeds of cats, but must admit, the Aby has never ceased to keep me amused. I am always amazed at their high degree of intelligence. They are very easy to train to do such things as sitting up, rolling over, shaking hands, retrieving, and walking on a lead. We have a pair of Abys who dearly love to go for walks in the evening presenting quite a sight for the neighbors as they take their dogs on a leash - we take our cats. Dogs do not bother the Abys as they are practically fearless. You can raise dogs with your Abys, and they get on very well.

The Aby is among the largest of all domesticated cats and is extremely powerful and fast. They are ideal for apartment dwellers as they have a soft bell-like voice. Only if they are really aroused do they become what I would call very vocal. They often make a soft chirping sound when "talking" to you. The male Aby is quite a bit larger than the female, the same as the stag is to the doe in deer. He is more powerful looking and generally has the more outgoing personality. The females are beautiful, however, and are a bit more aloof. Both make wonderful pets.

GR. CH. CHOTA-LI KAHINA OF PHAULKON

Breeder - Edna Field

Owner - Sylvia Fitzgerald, San Diego, Ca.



The next question will be of cost of an Aby kitten. Generally speaking, kitten prices start at \$100.00. They are expensive, and rightfully so since this breed is rare and litters are small. The Aby is the oldest breed in existence, thought to have come down from the Pharoahs when they used to guard the temples of the Kings. Mummies have been found of the Aby taken from the tombs of famous Egyptians.

When selecting an Aby for a pet, breeder or show, you should look for the aggressive kitten; one who is playful, outgoing and healthy. Avoid the kitten who is shy or has a tendency to bite in other than a playful manner. The Aby standard specifically states that the animal must be amenable to handling, should be alert and stand as though on tip toe. Obviously, the cat who cannot be handled or who is timid does not meet the requirements of the standard, nor would he do for a pet.

As for conformation and color, for top show you should look first for the kitten with *type*. The perfect Aby is described as being medium long in body, having a modified wedge shaped head with a strong, powerful chin, huge ears, almond shaped eyes which are large and expressive, fairly long legs, and a long tail which is thick at the base and tapering at the end. Next you should look at the color and the coat.

The color should be clear and even whether it be apricot or dark sienna. The standard specifies *UNMARKED* which means no bars on the legs, necklaces or belly marks. Also, look for the kitten with no white on any parts of the body other than the upper throat and chin area and below the nostrils. You will see a lighter area of color circling the eyes; this is part of the Aby, more of a cream color, and is desirable. You should check the under coat *very* carefully. Be absolutely certain that there is no evidence of grey, black or smoke color anywhere in the undercoat next to the skin. Check not only the spine line, but flanks, hips, chest, belly and pants. This is a very difficult fault to eliminate and the standard calls for



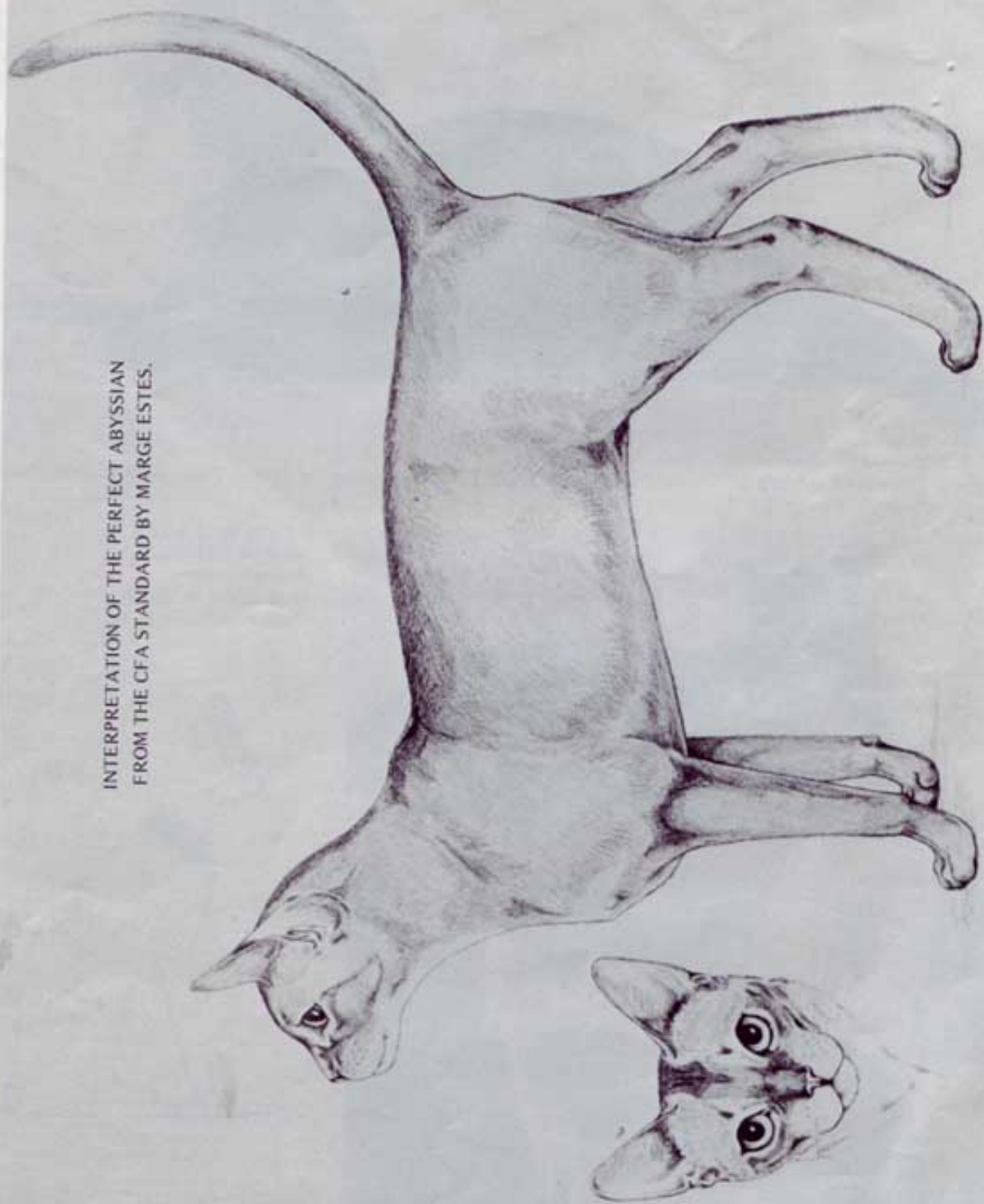
GR. CH. CHOTA-LI R.S.T.

Breeder - Edna Field

Owner - Jean Soper Pittman, New Jersey

Photo - Lew Soper

INTERPRETATION OF THE PERFECT ABYSSIAN
FROM THE CFA STANDARD BY MARGE ESTES.



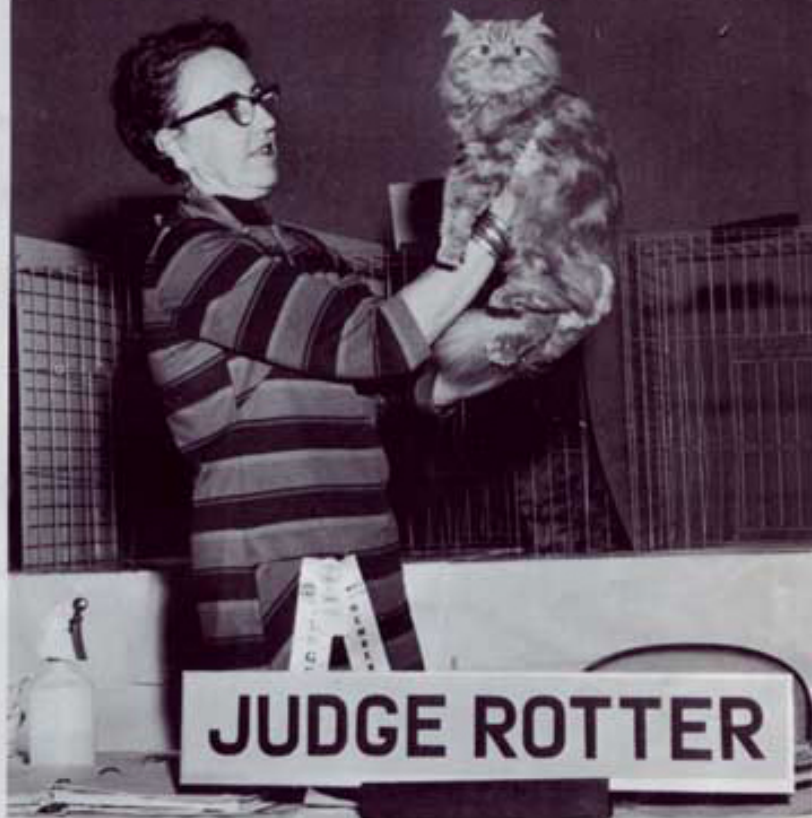
© 1994 MARGE ESTES

disqualification. The ticking is the next consideration. The perfect specimen will have even ticking all over the coat except for the insides of the legs, chest and belly areas. The top of the skull will be dark brown or black as a cap. The ears of the Aby will be tipped in dark brown or black. The show specimen can have either dark brown or black ticking. The eye color can be gold or green. Nose leather should be brick in the Ruddy and rose in the Red Aby. Paw pads dark brown or black in the ruddy and pink in the red. The body of the Aby should be very hard and muscular. Often the female will not possess quite the color of the male. What is very important to remember is that you should look for the Aby not just for the color (which is only 15 points of the standard) but for type, temperament and CLARITY. There is no perfect cat of course; look for the cat that has the least serious faults.

Coat texture should be soft and silky to touch, and resilient. Resilient means long enough to accommodate 2 to 3 bands of ticking and when snapped forward on the body should snap back. The coat is not plushy or thick but does have an undercoat and is not as close lying as the coat of a Siamese or Burmese. It has a slightly padded effect but not as plush as the coat of the Manx or Russian Blue. The hair shaft is unlike any other breed as it is soft next to the skin, then as the shaft gets longer, it is harder to the touch. There is a band of black or dark brown or chocolate in the case of the Red Aby, then another band of burnt sienna and then tipped at the end with black, dark brown or chocolate. The longer the last band (tip), the better coat the cat will have as well as the illusion of more color. The color will have an almost translucent look. In judging the Aby I always go by type first, coat and color next, along with condition. Clarity of coat is a big factor. Young kittens, I should point out, often have unbroken necklaces and faint leg bars and belly marks. If these are a reddish hue and NOT TO THE SKIN, they may very well blend in later on and the kittens may turn out to be top quality.

The pictures accompanying this article illustrate some of the best Abys. Today, there are many beautiful Abys seen in the shows. If you think that the Aby, either the darker toned Ruddy Aby or the lighter toned Red Aby is the cat for you, go to a cat show in your area and talk with the Aby owners at the show. Perhaps they will even let you hold one of these elegant, resilient coated heart stealers. I'm sure that if you once have an Abyssinian as a member of your household, you'll never want to be without one.

cat celebrity



OUR CAT CELEBRITY – MATIL ROTTER ALL BREED JUDGE FOR THE CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION, INC. FOR 34 YEARS

Over the years, the look and style of pedigreed cats has changed a great deal. The change has been brought about through the work of many breeders and the cat associations. Many times, the comment is heard that the breeders work for cats that the judges will give the wins to. One person who has, as a result, had a great effect upon the look of today's cats in this issue's Cat Celebrity, Matil Rotter. Over the past 34 years, Matil had judged about 350 cat shows. Her opinion is highly regarded all over the United States. A judge second to none, she has had a lasting effect on the show cats of today.

Born in Heron Lake, Minnesota, Matil attended country schools in Northern Minnesota. There have always been animals in her life. Her cattery, Briargate, C.F.A. #734, was registered November 15, 1935. Mrs. Rotter is well known for her Persians, Siamese and Manx which bear the Briargate prefix. She and her understanding husband, Cyril F. Rotter, maintain a country home near Remer, Minnesota, but spend the bulk of their time in their lovely home in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Matil's collection of cat pictures, statues and 'cat things in general' is outstanding. As you can imagine, she is still surrounded with beautiful Persian cats – five in number at this time – as well as her three Pug dogs.

She has served as a member of the C.F.A. Executive Board for a total of seventeen years. Matil Rotter, a great judge, a great cat lover – a true Cat Celebrity.