

NABB Meeting Minutes 2010

The 2010 NABB annual meeting was conducted by Billie Stiffler, Director-at-large, running the meeting for Linda Johnson, who could not attend due to family issues.

The new board was welcomed:

Renee Weinberger, re-elected secretary
Lynn Thompson, President, officially assuming the position as of the meeting date.
Marie Denoyer, Treasurer
Erika Graf-Webster, Director-at-Large
Billie Stiffler, Director-at-large



Business items:

Burmese Rescue is officially being set up as its own 501C3 so that donations can be tax deductible.

Membership report, presented by Renee Weinberger, Secretary:

Welcome to all the guests. NABB is an open-membership CFA club. There are no requirements for joining, but full voting membership requires that the member has either bred a litter of Burmese or shown a Burmese at a CFA show. So every one of the guests is welcome to join. We have a website, and our membership form, constitution, and by-laws are on there.

Most of the renewals came in in February. A few people did not renew. This included 24 voting members and 8 non-voting members. NABB has a total membership of 62, with 53 voting members.

The membership form contains an option to donate to rescue. The club raised \$1,074 in rescue funds. 29 members opted for a directory listing.

Treasurer's report, presented by Billie Stiffler via Megan Townsend, outgoing Treasurer.

The good news is we have overall \$20,000 in treasury, with \$10,100 earmarked for rescue (which we all hope we won't have to use.) The treasury is quite stable.

The floor entertained Motions to accept reports. Renee noted that we did not have quorum at the meeting.

The NABB Newsletter – presented by JD Blythin, Co-Editor

NABB puts out a quarterly newsletter, which consists of articles about Burmese and other cats. The newsletter is emailed, and a printed version can be obtained for a fee.

The current version has an article about Renee's and his trip to Thailand to meet and bring back Mod Daeng. There is another article about the breeds derived from Burmese, such as the Bombay and the Tonkinese. The newsletter also maintains a slightly 'behind' listing of the Burmese rankings throughout the year.

We need submissions in order to keep the newsletter going. There have been a lot of times, where we were trying to put out a newsletter and we had maybe half an article and a picture.

Members were requested to send photos of new grands right away so that it can be set up for the next newsletter in full color with a pedigree. Suggestions for interesting topics regarding Burmese are encouraged. We need people to take the initiative to write the articles. Most submissions end up in the newsletter, but sometimes they get bumped back to the next issue.

Recurring business: Show business:

Billie threw out to the floor the question of whether if anyone knows of an opportunity that they think we as a club, might be able to hook onto another show, as we have done for the past few years. This has worked out fairly well for us in the past. We do pretty well at the raffle table, when we share a raffle with a club, we get one day..

Donna Stewart asked if we have a show lined up. She asked if a representative of Los Colores would be interested, since it was started as a Burmese club. (It is not possible for this year; we need to consider it for next year.)

Brian Tripp said there are 4 members of TCCC, at the meeting, and Pat Jacobberger is also a member. It is a huge Burmese show, to begin with, in September.

Connie Wardlaw discussed Cotton States. She said they gave NABB the opportunity and gave them extra space. They allowed a two day raffle from which the club realized some good returns. Cotton States were up-front with visibility and posters. NABB was showcased. She said that such an activity does not really add anything to what the sponsoring club does, other than providing the space. It's just an added benefit. We used it for publicity. But, it's an easy thing and it was fun. Nowadays you don't see so many Burmese in a show, otherwise.



Brian said he would discuss it with his club at the next meeting.

Let's look at subsequent years, because we'd rather have it queued up ahead of time.

We did decide to do a yearbook ad, as a 1-page ad, and Art is helping us put it together. We did a 1-page last year, as well. Looking for pictures of top three in each category, total of 9 pictures. We always combine the sables and dilutes. The deadline for submission was August 15. The proofs that you get from Chanan are not sufficient; you can contact the photographer and tell them to forward the high quality version to Art.

New business from the floor:

Meet the Breeds is coming up, and we need cats and help. If nothing else, go to the event and participate in the festivities. Think about that, it's the 16th and 17th of October. If you can make it out to the city, that would be great. The breed council runs it, this isn't really NABB business, I just wanted to bring it up.

Guests introduced:

Alene Keating, European Burmese

Carolyn Osier

Robin Rommel, who showed a sable Burmese to a Regional win.

Eve Russell showed a sable Burmese to a National Win in the 2009 – 2010 season and has

shown Burmese in premiership for more than 30 years,
 Becky Drew-Traditional Cattery (recently joined),
 Marina Ivanitskaya-Russia,
 Fran Eiserloh-San Antonio,
 Lyoburm cattery of Russia,

We thank you all for coming, and ask that you please consider joining, our nicest draw is the newsletter, and our rescue program.

Donna Stewart asked about the status of rescue right now. We have some cats that need homes: how many mention the rescues when people ask for cats? (Many said they had links on their own websites). We had 5 up on the site.

Renee stated that restructuring Rescue might involve a structure on top, with a separate group of people who do it, rather than just going through one person. This would tend to minimize the chance of the director being burned out, a hazard when it is a one person position, one reason why it has always been a short-term commitment.

We're thinking of adding more coordinators and adding a structure on top. Tonkinese has it divided into regions.

Renee pointed out that Tonkinese rescue doesn't function, they have a great website and don't do anything. We're one of the very few breeds that have maintained a **success-**



ful rescue program from the beginning. A lot breeds get started, pick it up and then drop it. At one point CFA had an official program, but it doesn't any more. Our system, does put pressure on one person, but it does actually work.

It's going to be structured to remain part of NABB, but the details of its functioning are not finalized yet.

Donna Stewart stated that there is another rescue group run by a former NABB member and there is some confusion about who is who.

Renee advised that the restructuring hasn't been completely resolved and will involve consulting with professionals.



Prudence: wanted to bring up the topic of microchipping. I think any breeder should consider microchipping kittens from their cattery and listing themselves as secondary backup so that kittens can be identified and traced back to you in the event that they land at a shelter, or if somebody dies. I know of a case where a breeder's cat turned up at a shelter, and they called her and she got in the car and traveled hours, but that would help alleviate the burden on the coordinator. It takes a period of years. You don't necessarily have to take the cat back, but you can help with placement and bills, etc.

The problem is that most of our rescues don't come from shelters, they come from owners who don't want their cat anymore. It might not affect our rescue that much. Do shelters scan surrenders? Donna said they do. Prudence is not wanting a policy, just a suggestion. Donna thinks that we don't see the impact because only recently are kittens being chipped. Prudence said her clients love it. If anyone wants to know about it, they can contact her. Prudence does the chipping herself, but now she is comfortable, kittens don't flinch, it's very quick, and she immediately registers them in the name of the client.



Alene Keating chips but does not register the kittens in the client's name, it is registered in her name. Donna does the same. Prudence said that there is a primary and secondary contact and there is a place to write notes and she writes some important information down there. Alene said hers know it is microchipped, but Donna doesn't tell her kitten buyers that the kittens are chipped. Alene was motivated by Hurricane Katrina, and she thought, "Oh My God, I have cats down that way, and they wouldn't be able to get them." Donna: Avid has a paper trail with all of the chips, they can track who bought them, I didn't pay a single dollar to register them, they come back to me as the purchaser.

Connie: there was a rescue group that came to the show and microchipped any cat as a fundraiser for their rescue. And they can get



chips for cheap. Billie said part of disaster recovery is running microchip clinics.

Isabelle Ruysers wants to know which is the suggested chip. Canadian chips are different when cats go overseas VS the US. I tell my vets the universal, and the universal is 125-150 dollars. Donna: pricing structure: not everyone can get the chip for the same price. Rescues can get the chips for dirt cheap, the vets pay \$35, so if you order them from Revival, come across as a rescue group, and you'll get them for \$10. And here's the next thing, the idea of the Universal chip is waxing and waning. There are now getting to be universal readers, not chips, it's becoming less of an issue. If you're paying extra for that chip, you might not have to. Check the country it is going to, and call them and find out about the chip, for sure. You might not have to be paying that price.

This might be a good topic for a newsletter article. The deadline will be 8/31 this year.

Meeting concludes.