



SOUTHERN AFRICA CAT COUNCIL

P.O. Box 28732, Kensington, 2101, Tel 011-6167017,
Fax 0866168294, sacatreg@iafrica.com, www.tsacc.org.za

SACC e News Spring 2021

Spring 2021

Southern Africa Cat Council

P O Box 287

*Oudtshoorn, Western Cape,
6620*

Tel: 011 616 7017/082 549 2931

Fax: 086 616 8294

Email: sacatreg@iafrica.com

Website: www.tsacc.org.za

Office hours:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm

Friday 9am-1pm

SACC Management Team

President: Shirley Addison

Vice President: Karen Pepler

Secretary: Lashan Moodley

Treasurer/Show Manager: Jan van Rooyen

Registrar/Office Manager: Johan van Rooyen

WCC Delegate: Jan van Rooyen

Governing Council Delegates

ABCC: Colin Bubb

CFC: Elizabeth van Renen

ECCC: Rita Wiseman

NCFSCC: Wendy Welham

PCS: Jane Goble

RCC: Jan van Rooyen

TCS: Gail Nel

WPCC: Barbara George

Editor's Message

Isn't great to be on Level 1 lockdown - hopefully the reason for this is not only because of impending political rallies! On a positive note, according to the World Health Organisation, COVID cases are apparently on the decrease and the SA Government spokespeople are also saying our cases are decreasing.

If all continues to go well our Clubs should be able to make plans for Cat Shows and hopefully (fingers, toes and whatever else crossed) there will be a COTY 2022- as per the GC arrangement of 2019 this will take place in Gauteng and will be hosted by Transvall Cat Society (TCS) and Cat Fanciers Club (CFC) on behalf of SACC.

Remember if you want to vote for SACC Management candidates your completed ballot form should be received by the Central Office in Oudtshoorn or given to your club delegate by the 22nd October 2021, so that it can be counted at the SACC Governing Council AGM on the 23rd October. The meeting will take place via cyberspace.

In the absence of physical cat shows many organisations, cat clubs and breed groups world wide have hosted Virtual Cat Shows and I wish to mention 3 of SACC's exhibitors- Lashan and Sher Moodley Singh and Karen Beyers entered the majority (if not all) of these shows and proved that South African cats can most certainly hold their heads up high internationally- their results were astounding and they proudly let us know via their relevant Facebook pages. Congratulations and thank you for keeping the SA flag flying on the International Cat World Stage!

SACC COMMUNICATION



Website: All updated and/or edited documents which have been received have been uploaded to the relevant website page/s.

Just a reminder that the SACC Central Office and Registry contact details are as below- please note the addition of an alternative cell phone number :

Email: sacatreg@iafrica.com

Phone: 011 616 7017

Cell: 082 549 2931

Postal: P.O. Box 287, Oudtshoorn, Western Cape, 6620.

Google Business Profile: The article about the correct procedure to follow when thinking about purchasing a pedigree cat was well received by the public and was seen by 394 people according to Google stats. Hopefully more people wanting to adopt a pedigree cat will now do research and realize that kittens aren't available on demand!

Face book: The SACC Face book Group continues to grow. Please remember that this is a public group so SACC only related items are not posted. Present Membership is 643.

eNews: This will continue to be published 4 times a year (to coincide with the seasons of the year). Please could you put your thinking caps on and let me know if there is anything specific you would like me to do an article on. I don't mind doing the research, finding images etc but would like a little insight into topics which may be of interest.

Breed Standards: All SOPs are current. Many thanks to Ingrid de Wet, SACC Breed Council Secretary, for keeping our Breeders and Judges updated.

THE BRITISH SHORTHAIR

All images courtesy of Wikipedia.

There has been much interest in the British Breed on social media and 25% of our website traffic has viewed the British description and SOP.

So a short article on this amazing breed of cat.



The "classic" British Blue Shorthair.

The **British Shorthair** is the pedigreed version of the traditional British domestic cat, with a distinctively stocky body, dense and crisp coat, and broad, round head. The most well known colour is Blue, but the British comes in many colours and patterns, including tabby, silver, pointed and even golden.

It is one of the most ancient cat breeds known. In modern times, it remains the most popular pedigreed breed in Great Britain, according to the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF) - up to 25% of all kittens registered each year are British Shorthairs.

The breed's good-natured appearance and relatively calm temperament make it a frequent media star, notably as the inspiration for John Tenniel's famous illustration of the Cheshire Cat from Alice in Wonderland.

The Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA) states in its profile of the British: "When gracelessness is observed, the British Shorthair is duly embarrassed, quickly recovering with a "Cheshire cat smile".

History: The origins of the British Shorthair most likely date back to the first century AD, making it one of the most ancient identifiable cat breeds in the world. These cats were imported by the Romans who kept them to keep the camps clear of snakes, mice and insects.

These cats then interbred with the local European wildcat population. Over the centuries, their naturally isolated descendants developed into distinctively large, robust cats with a short but very thick coat, to better withstand conditions on their native islands. Based on artists' representations, the modern British Shorthair is unchanged from this initial type.



Early example of a British. Courtesy of "Book of the Cat" by Francis Simpson.

Selective breeding began in the nineteenth century. The best examples of the type were used, with emphasis on developing the unusual blue-grey variant the "British Blue" or "English type" in order to distinguish it from the more fine-boned "Russian type". Some sources directly credit UK artist and pioneering cat fancier, Harrison Weir, with the initial concept of creating a standard look for the breed. Others suggest a group of breeders may have been involved. Nevertheless the new British Shorthair was featured at the first-ever cat show held at Crystal Palace in 1871 organised by Weir- this show enjoyed great initial popularity

In the 1900s the newly imported [Persian](#) and other [long-haired](#) breeds became popular resulting in the British Shorthair falling out of favour. Breeding

stock had become critically rare by WWI. To alleviate the problem breeders crossbred British with Persians; the addition of the longhair gene would eventually become the basis for the British Longhair. At that time any long-haired cats produced were placed into the Persian breeding program. All cats with the blue colouration were judged together as variants of a single breed. The Blue Shorthairs, the result of British outcrossed to Russian, were also common.

After the war, in an attempt to maintain the breed standard, the GCCF decided to accept only 3rd generation Persian/British Shorthair crosses. This resulted in another shortage of pure breeding stock by WWII, resulting in the reintroduction of Persian and Russian into breeding lines. Some British Shorthair breeders also used the French Chartreux, another ancient breed, which although genetically unrelated to the British Blue, is a very similar cat in appearance. Breeders worked to re-establish the true British type, and by the late 1970s, the distinctive British Shorthair had achieved formal recognition from both CFA and TICA. Many other organizations followed and today the breed is accepted worldwide.

Appearance:



A mature male- note the jowls and "crisp" coat.

The head and face are round, the skull is broad with round underlying bone structure. Medium sized ears, set well apart and round, large, well opened eyes. The nose is short, broad and straight with a nose break which is neither too pronounced nor too shallow. Strong and deep chin. The neck is short and thick. The body is cobby with a short level back and a broad, deep chest. Medium to large in size but not rangy. Legs

are short and strong ending in round, firm paws. Tail is thick and medium length.

Coat, colour and pattern: The coat is short, thick and dense with a crisp pile which “breaks” when the cat moves.

The British Shorthair comes in many colours and the majority of patterns can be found.



A Golden Shaded kitten.



A Lilac kitten.



A Blue Bicolour adult.



A Silver Classic Tabby.



A Silver Shaded adult.

Temperament: Very easy going and dignified with a sweet nature. Said to be not as active as other breeds but certainly are devoted to their humans. They will tolerate a fair amount of physical interaction but generally prefer to have all 4 feet on the ground – preferring not to be picked up and/or carried around. They require minimal grooming and cope well with being 100% indoor cats. Just take care with the British diet because they can be prone to obesity.

**Although this article is only about the British Shorthair, there are a few British Longhair imports in South Africa and the Breeders will be exhibiting them in 2022 in order to attain CC status within SACC. The 2021 SOP for British Longhair can be found on the Standard of Points Page of www.tsacc.org.za

or

Visit Neverwinter Cattery and chat to Talita or Gerhard or visit Karnaki and chat with Karen or contact Ingrid, the Breed Council Secretary, for more info on the Longhair British.



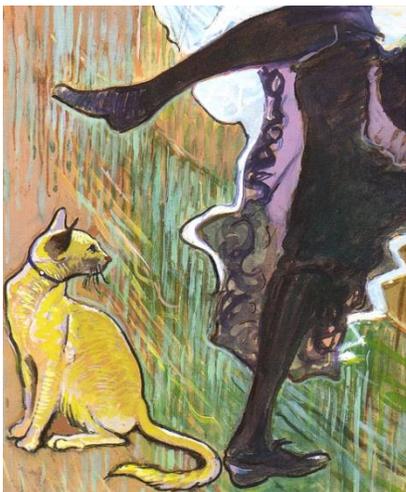
Neverwinter 9mm of Karnaki.

CATS IN ART

Many of you may not know but cats have featured in many works of art by famous, well known painters.

HENRI DE TOULOUSE – LOUTREC

The celebrated Impressionist painter, is now mainly remembered for his striking illustrations of French café life, but this little known painting captures the moment when a cat took an active role in influencing quite a different art form.



Courtesy of all-art.org

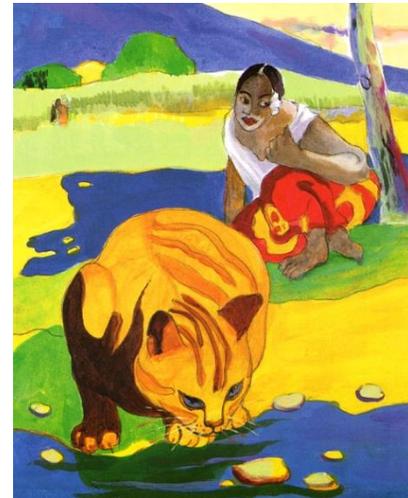
Jane Avril, a French cabaret singer in the late 19th century sang sad songs about the hardship of stray cats and was accompanied by her own cat which meowed and purred along to the songs. Toulouse – Lautrec was commissioned to paint a poster of the singer and her cat in exchange for free drinks.

Unfortunately a popping champagne cork frightened the cat which then run up Jane's skirt. Jane shrieked bring the can...can (cat food) and shook her upraised leg which ultimately showed her knickers sending the audience, including a visiting reporter, wild with excitement.

The following morning the newspaper headline was "Jane Avril dances the Can-Can" and a new dance form was born.

PAUL GAUGUIN

No-one could have foretold the events which caused Paris born Gauguin to change his life. This painting is believed to represent the turning point in his artistic career.



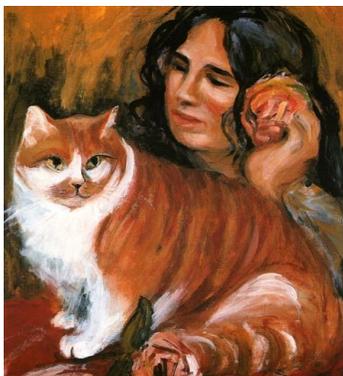
Courtesy of all-art.org

It was Gauguin's habit to allow stray cats window access to his attic room to keep him company while he painted. One day while washing his brushes in the sink he caught the reflection of a cat in the water which stared back at him and then disappeared. The artist turned to see a cat climb out of the window and take off across the rooftops. Gauguin realized that the cat encapsulated everything he wanted to be: free from responsibility and living outside the constraints of society- with this realization he gave up his marriage, successful career, house, in fact everything and set sail for Tahiti to live a more primitive existence which he did until his death in 1893. The painting remains as a symbol of that transitional moment when the artist saw himself as a cat looking into the crystal clear lagoon far away from the cramped and squalid studio in Paris.

Editor's note: I find it amazing and fascinating the influence and impact cats can have on the human psyche and in many instances the soul.

PIERRE-AUGUSTE RENOIR

There are many tales about Renoir including this one which involves a cat. Between 1907 and 1911 Gabrielle Renard was Renoir's artist model for a series of paintings about self adornment including the famous "Gabrielle with a Rose" which was not the original art piece. It is said that the series came about following a sitting with Gabrielle placed admiring a cat. But as we all know cats don't really appreciate sitting still for too long- and the approaching milk float was enough to cause the cat to run off at the exact moment when Mrs Renoir entered the studio to see Gabrielle with her top open holding a rose. The painting which Renoir intending to exhibit was left neglected at the back of his cupboard.



Courtesy of all-art.org

LEONARDO DA VINCI

For the great Renaissance master, cats have become the object of scientific research. "The smallest feline is a masterpiece," wrote Leonardo, filling the pages of his album with sketches of these animals washing, playing or hunting mice and birds.



Courtesy of arthive.com

CLAUDE OSCAR MONET

Between 1899 and 1900 the artist painted 17 paintings of the created lily pond in his garden in Giverny. One story is that he struggled to get the poplar trees right. Upon closer inspection he noticed that the odd shaped canopy, peculiar coloured leaves and irregular tree trunks were in fact cats....dozens of them had entered the garden to prey on the fish in the pond. He captured them and was very pleased with his finished painting.

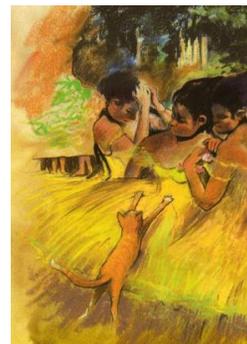


Courtesy of all-art.org

Unfortunately when Monet showed his painting at Durand Ruel's gallery in 1900 he was told that the cats had to go. He painted them out and the "cat less" painting was publicly loved.

EDGAR DEGAS

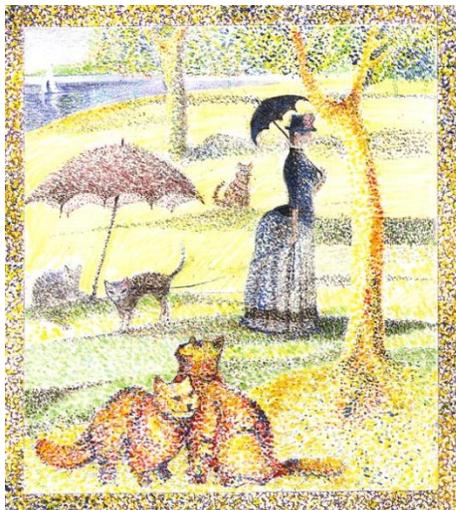
The story goes that Degas found a friendly cat while out walking and when the cat went through an open door he worried that it would get trapped so followed it. The cat was actually owned by 3 ballerinas who allowed Degas to watch and sketch their rehearsals. Degas' art shows the suppleness, beauty and grace of the ballet world.



Courtesy of all-art.org

GEORGES SEURAT

Many of you may be familiar with Seurat's famous Impressionist painting "Sunday Afternoon on the Island of Grande Jatte", an island in the River Seine which is popular with visitors. The artist was set up to paint the idyllic scene when 2 ginger cats caught his eye, he was fascinated by how the sunlight played on their dappled coats that he tried to reproduce the effect in paint – and it is said that is how pointillism was born. He was very pleased with his artwork that he recreated another version in full colour minus the cats for public display and kept the original version in his private collection which he titled "Sunday Afternoon on the Island of the Grande Chat."



Courtesy of all-art.org

PABLO PICASSO

Cats and Cubism, it turns out, result in something that is altogether quite unsettling.



Courtesy of the culturetrip.com

While many cats in art are very much presented as either docile house cats, sitting patiently — or sullenly — on laps, or possibly in slightly odd scenarios, Picasso's Cat Devouring A Bird portrays a cat in its natural way of being — as a hunter, devouring its most famous foe. There is no evidence of whether this was Picasso's cat. It is mostly seen as an allegory of the Spanish Civil War, with the anger in the cat's face being almost human-like. It takes a great master to make a picture that captures the essence of a cat's nature while saying something wider about humankind.

SALVADOR DALI

Many do not consider photography as an art form because almost everyone has a camera or a cell phone with camera capabilities. But when you get someone so committed to art, Dali, who teams up with the portrait photographer, Philippe Halsman you have to truly appreciate the work which goes into the composition. In 1948 the duo made a series of Surreal photographic projects with "Dali Atomicus" being the most iconic because it had to be composed in situ and without the help of modern technology or Photoshop- this piece took 28 attempts to get the final photo meaning that the cats had to be catapulted through the air 28 times!



Courtesy of the culturetrip.com

LOUIS WILLIAM WAIN

Wain was born in 1860 to an English father and a French mother. He was the eldest of 6 children and the only male. He was born with a cleft lip and was often truant from school. He attended the West London School of Art and at the age of 20 had to support his mother and sisters following the death of his father. None of his sisters married and his youngest sister was declared insane and sent to an asylum. He married his sisters' governess at the age of 23 but sadly she died 3 years later of breast cancer. He had always drawn animals and hoped to be a dog portrait artist but it was his wife's cat that started him sketching cats as he watched the cat fill his dying wife's days.

In 1886, Wain's first drawing of anthropomorphized cats was published in the Christmas issue of the *illustrated London News*, entitled "A Kittens' Christmas Party". The illustration depicted 150 cats, many of which resembled his wife's cat, engaged in activities such as sending invitations, holding a ball, playing games, and making speeches. The picture as a whole spreads across eleven panels. The cats remain on all fours, unclothed, and without the variety of human-like expression which would characterize Wain's later work. For the next 30 years he was a prolific artist but although he was popular he lacked business sense and was often scammed.

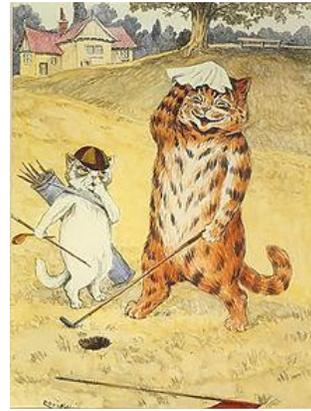
In time his style of drawing changed- and the use of abstract patterns as backgrounds became the norm.

He became mentally unstable in the early 1900s and eventually due to bizarre behavior and violent outbursts he was put in a mental institution with the diagnosis ****"Schizophrenia"**- he died while institutionalized in 1939. ****The diagnosis of Schizophrenia was disputed in 2001 and the new diagnosis offered was Autistic Spectrum Disorder.**

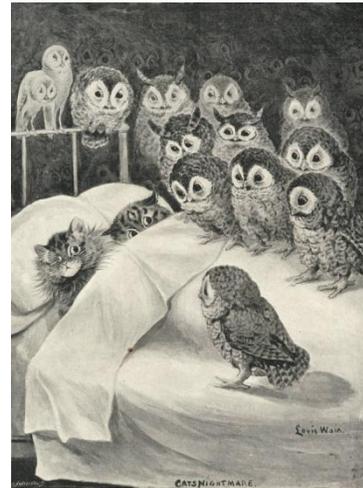
This fascinating "cat" artist who also did cat ceramics is the subject of a biographical movie "The Electrical Life of Louis Wain" starring Benedict Cumberbatch.



Early work courtesy of wikipedia



Classic Louis Wain. Courtesy of Wikipedia.



1890- A Cat's Nightmare. Courtesy of illustrationchronicles.com



Abstract backgrounds in his later works.
Courtesy of Wikipedia.

QUIZ TIME

1. Who wrote in 1889 “My first love will always be for the short haired domestic cat.”?
2. From 2011-2015 a British Shorthair held the record for World’s Loudest Purr 67.7 decibels- name this cat.
3. What was the name of Loius Wain’s wife’s black and white cat.
4. Who said “He has made the cat his own. He invented a cat style, a cat society, a whole cat world. English cats that do look and live like Louis Wain’s cats are ashamed of themselves.”
5. Which cat is played by Taylor Swift in the movie “Cats”?
6. Who had a song titled “Pads, Paws and Claws”.
7. Which pop group sang “Phenomenal Cat”?
8. What is the name of the tiger from Hindu mythology?
9. What is the were-jaguar of Olmec mythology.
10. Who wrote the poem “The Galloping Cat”.

1. Harrison Weir
2. Smokey
3. Peter
4. H G Wells.
5. Bombalurina.
6. Elvis Costello
7. The Kinks.
8. Dowan
9. A shape shifting jaguar spirit..
10. Stevie Smith.

A POEM by EMILY DICKINSON

She sights a Bird—she chuckles—
She flattens—then she crawls—
She runs without the look of feet—
Her eyes increase to Balls—



Her Jaws stir—twitching—hungry—
Her Teeth can hardly stand—
She leaps, but Robin leaped the first—
Ah, Pussy, of the Sand,



The Hopes so juicy ripening—
You almost bathed your Tongue—
When Bliss disclosed a hundred Toes—
And fled with every one—

