



Rex Files



No. 1
March 2011

The **Rex Cat Fanciers of SA** is a **GCCFSA-affiliated club** for lovers of Devon and Cornish Rex. The club aims to promote these breeds in a fun and friendly manner. We welcome breeders as well as pet owners and show exhibitors. Members get together on a regular basis for meetings and social events. The club brings out a quarterly magazine and holds a show every year.

Joining is easy: just fill in one of the membership forms and return it with the fees.

For more information, visit <http://rex-fanciers.weebly.com/>

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Welcome to the first of four newsletters for the year. Any suggestions on what you want to read about or any comments are welcome.

If you want to know when and where the next meeting is, please contact us and we look forward to seeing you soon.

The Rex Cat Fanciers of SA - Cat Show

23rd July 2011 - keep this date free in your calendars. This years Rex Cat Show will be held at St Martins School at Princess Road, Greenacres.

Rex members must enter at least one ring to be able to go in their special ring. Two ring cost is \$17.00, Members \$15.00. Special ring and the other 2 rings are \$20.00 for the Rex. Side Classes are included.

There will be interstate judges and a raffle plus food for sale on the day.

Cat Show Results

At the Kitten and Neuter show on 12th March 2011 Devon Rex kittens did very well.

Kasherei Callisto Rhapsidy owned by Jenny Simmons of Astracan cattery was awarded Best Cornish or Devon Rex kitten and reserve kitten in group, ring one, judge Mrs J Overy.

Kasherei Callisto Snow Princess owned by Leisl White of Kraftykatz cattery was awarded Reserve Cornish or Devon Rex kitten and 4th kitten in group, ring one.

Astracan Vanilla Kerl bred & owned by Jenny Simmons was awarded Best Cornish or Devon Rex kitten and 5th best kitten in group, ring two, judge Mrs K Hill.

Astracan Kirlee Temple bred and owned by Jenny Simmons was awarded Reserve Cornish or Devon Rex kitten, ring two.

Kittens for Sale

Astracan Cattery has Devon Rex kittens for sale. Colours available include a red & white male, plus a tabby and white male. If interested please contact Jenny Simmons on 0447 660 018 or hindbulk@optusnet.com.au





Brookside Cattery has Burmese kittens for sale. Colours available are Choc Torti female's, and Lilac, Chocolate, and Brown males. If interested please contact Dianne Dolman on 041 205 1766 / (08) 8447 2489 or brookside@internode.on.net

Article

The Rex Cat Club of NSW Inc have provided the following article on a skin condition that was found in two Devon Rex cats.

Cutaneous neurofibromatosis in two Devon Rex cats from Australia

There has been some discussion online about a new condition affecting Devon rex cats that we are currently researching. We need to make it very clear that so far the condition has only been reported in TWO individual cats in Australia, and we (a team of veterinarians and pathologists) have been investigating this in our own time to date.

The condition is a previously UNREPORTED neoplastic disorder of the skin and subcutaneous (below the skin) tissue. Both affected cats were taken to different veterinarians (one to Dr Richard Malik, one to Angela Phillips and Anne Fawcett) for treatment of multiple lumps ranging in size (up to 6cm in diameter). Tumours ulcerate as they grow.

The diagnosis was made on the basis of histopathology of lumps submitted to the University of Sydney.

Cat 1, a 5-year-old male neutered cat, was adopted from a welfare organization. He had healed scars evident at the time of adoption, suggesting previous surgical removal of tumours. We wondered (but do not know) if the tumours and recurrence thereof were the reason for his surrender.

Cat 2 is a 7-year-old male neutered cat who was a previous show cat. He has been healthy for most of his life but has had these recurrent lumps since 2007 - so quite an extended period.

Aside from the skin lesions, both cats are physically healthy. Chest x-rays of cat 1 show no evidence of secondary tumours, which are likely to occur with aggressive cancer. Both cats have excellent appetites and neither have lost weight.

Cat 1, which lives in a multi-cat household, developed aggression directed principally at other cats. This has largely been controlled by ongoing

therapy with phenobarbitone and gabapentin, but recurs when drug dosages are reduced. We have no evidence to suggest that this is related to his skin condition but we cannot rule it out. There is always a possibility that Cat 1 is uncomfortable or painful and aggression is related to that. But intercat aggression is not uncommon in multi-cat households.

The cats are from different breeders and different lines.

So far we have not been able to treat the condition successfully. When we remove tumours, they simply recur at other sites. Tying-off, cryosurgery, intra-tumour injection of chemotherapeutic agents etc have all been attempted.

The occurrence of virtually identical disease in two cats of a very rare breed **SUGGESTS BUT DOES NOT CONFIRM** a familial origin. We have sought the pedigrees of both cats to a) check if they are related and b) find out if other cats in these lines are affected. As far as we can tell, the sires and dams of affected cats have not developed similar lesions. So IF the problem is familial, it is likely recessive in nature. To fully understand we need to analyse DNA from affected cats, and more than two are required to draw any meaningful conclusions.

It was our hope to be able to provide some more information before we made formal enquiries to breed societies to find out if any other cats were affected. It has been brought to our attention that concerns have already been raised on discussion boards so we wanted to let everyone know what we know NOW.

Because we have only assessed two affected animals there is much we do not know.

- We do not know if the condition is likely to progress in these cats. The extended clinical course of both cats suggests that this is not an aggressive disease process; we will monitor these patients closely.
- We don't know if or how the condition is inherited - we could better understand this if more cats were affected.
- We do not know how closely this condition resembles neurofibromatosis in people. Certainly the human form of the

disease can be more aggressive than it appears to be in these cats.

- We do not know how to CURE this condition.

We do however want to stress that we are not suggesting that this condition is linked to a particular breeder or breeders, or particular lines.

The only way to diagnose this condition is for a lump or a biopsy of a lump to be submitted to a veterinary pathology laboratory for histopathology and for special stains. So far samples have been submitted to the University of Sydney.

Although we don't have much information, we will try to answer specific enquiries if possible. Additionally if you do have a cat that you think may be affected by the same condition, please let us know. ALL CASES WILL BE TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY.

Please don't be alarmed about this condition. At this stage we need people to be patient as further investigations and research are ongoing. We will keep everyone posted with more information once it becomes available, but these investigations can take months to years. We are committed to the welfare of all cats.

We are contactable via the RCC on rara@iprimus.com.au which is a dedicated address.

Once again if you have any suggestions or comments please let us know.

~~~The end~~~