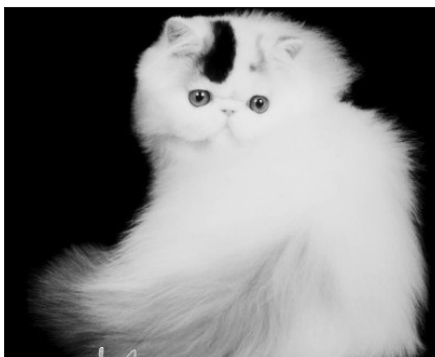


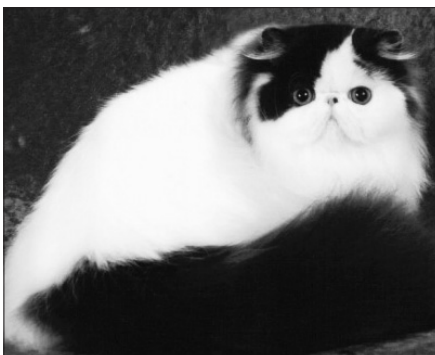


Hear Me Roar, fondly called Roary, was named the Cat Fanciers Association Cat of the Year for 2010-11. He also has earned titles as grand champion, breed winner and national winner.

Cat photos courtesy of Gloria Busselman



Persians come in many colors, with varied markings. This is Easter Bonnet, a grand champion, grand premier and distinguished merit winner who has traveled thousands of miles with the Busselmans.



Two more Persians raised by Gloria are I'm So Pretty, above, and Il Divo of Validian, right above.

Fancy Felines

Cat enthusiast Gloria Busselman has bred, raised and shown champion Parti Wai Persians for 15 years

By Gail Clark

Gloria Busselman sat patiently watching her Grand Champion Persian Parti Wai Too Cute for any signs of distress. “Cute” had just given birth to two healthy kittens.

“I was up most of the night on and off checking on Cute every hour,” says Gloria. “This is her first litter, and I want to be sure all goes well.”

She was relieved when two more healthy kittens arrived a couple of hours later. After some clean up and settling all the new kittens in with their mom, it was time for everyone to take a rest.

“I handle the kittens soon after their birth to get them used to human contact,” says Gloria. “We enjoy watching the kittens grow up.

They are so cute when they are running around the house playing. I usually have a cat on my lap when I’m sitting down or working at the computer.”

Gloria has raised and bred Persians in her Parti Wai (pronounced Party Way) Cattery for about 15 years. Her specialty is bi-color Persians, but she occasionally breeds solid whites.

Gloria’s hobby is time-consuming. She bathes and grooms her cats weekly. This attention to their care and grooming has paid off. Her Persians often return home from cat shows with the title of grand champion or distinguished merit. If a kitten does not have champion

characteristics, it goes to a loving pet home.

The Busselmans’ home has long been a haven for animals. Before their recent move to a West Richland neighborhood, the Busselman farm was home to llamas, an alpaca, sheep and a miniature donkey.

“I wouldn’t be surprised if she told me to make room in the garage for a giraffe,” says Gloria’s husband, Gary. “I’d just get ready for its arrival.”

Gloria also has raised cockatiels and became interested in genetics and cross breeding.

“I wanted to produce an all-yellow cockatiel, but was never able to find the right genetic cross,” she says.

Next she raised and bred dogs—first Maltese, then Shih Tzu—and became an

American Kennel Club handler and judge.

“After 35 years of raising Shih Tzu, I decided I needed a new challenge,” says Gloria. “I bought my first Persians with the intention of just having house pets. I liked the elegance and glamour of Persians. When they are bathed and groomed they just look stunning.”

She bought her first two from a breeder in Eugene, Oregon.

“I went to my first cat show and thought, ‘I can do that.’” she says. “I do love competition, so I began to research bi-color Persians. I researched the genetic qualities of the type of Persian I wanted.



Good breeding is a combination of good quality cats, good genetics, good pedigrees and lots of luck.”

Gloria is particular about the quality and appearance of her cats.

“There is a breed standard, of course,” she says. “I look for big round eyes, a smooth round-domed head, small well-placed ears, good bone, short back and a big coat.”

Gloria’s labor of love earned her and Parti Wai the Cat Fanciers Association’s top bi-color Persian breeder from 1998 to 2008.

“We have bred numerous CFA Grand Champions and had many winners in other cat organizations,” says Gloria.

Most recently, her red and white male Persian Parti Wai Hear Me Roar—known as Roary at home—won the coveted title of CFA Cat of the Year for the 2010-2011 show season. Roary’s titles also include grand champion, breed winner and national winner.

Gloria attended the annual CFA awards banquet in Washington, D.C., in June. Roary, meanwhile, was home relaxing while Gloria accepted the awards and accolades he earned.



Despite the small size of her cattery, Gloria is known around the world by lovers of beautiful bi-color Persians.

“I’ve shipped cats to many countries,” she says. “I cannot keep them all, even though I wish I could!”

Gloria’s daughter, Penni, who lives in

Gloria Busselman loves to raise and show Persian cats, but has also bred dogs and even cockatiels.

California, also raises cats known as exotics, a short-haired variety of Persian.

“My daughter and I confer frequently, discussing health issues, whom to breed to whom and what cat shows to attend,” says Gloria. “Penni has also bred many GC (grand champion) exotics.”

“It’s difficult to breed and show the cats and have a normal life,” says Gloria. “I’ll be 75 soon and am planning to slowly reduce the number of cats I have to bathe and groom. We’ll likely spend more time traveling in our motor home with three cats along.”

Bonnie—Parti Wai Easter Bonnet—is a grand champion and a seasoned traveler. She has logged more than 125,000 miles in the couples’ motor home, traveling to Alaska, Mexico, New England and the Florida Keys.

Gloria may be ready to slow down as a breeder of Persians, but with her curiosity and love of animals, time will tell what new project will pique her interest. ■

For more information about Parti Wai Persians, go to www.partiwai.com or the Cat Fancier’s Association at www.Cfainc.org.

Persians Among Top 10 Most Popular Breeds

According to the Cat Fanciers Association, Persians are in the top 10 of most popular cat breeds. Persians, with their long flowing coats and open, pansy-like faces, have sweet, gentle personalities. Their long coats require proper maintenance to prevent tangles and hairballs. An occasional bath will keep the coat clean, healthy and beautiful. The large eyes are prone to tearing, so a daily face wash is recommended. Keeping a Persian indoors keeps it safe from disease and the dangers of urban life.



Persian kittens cuddle with one another.