

Mrs. Virginia Daly
October 7, 1976

Note: Mrs. Virginia Daly (Dalai Cattery, registered CFA 1944) was the creator of the Ocicat. Unlike Evelyn Mague who early on was able to recruit enthusiastic young fanciers to her cause, Virginia struggled almost single handedly in her quest for recognition of the Ocicat. It took almost thirty years to gain CFA recognition of Virginia's beloved Ocicats.

Dear Mr. Del Pellegrino,

I thought you'd never ask!

For years I have held some vitally interesting information, that I thought someone would sometime like to have, but so long as I no longer raising my true love Abys, and I have almost no contact with Aby breeders other than my dear friend Alma Cowell (Du-Ro-Al), I surely thought I would pass on (now 67) and carry my thoughts on L.H. Abys away with me.

We are pretty careful giving out information that could offend others as so many breeders take any remarks as a personal affront, but I will try to give you what I feel about Somalis as no offense on any American breeders, as I think all the invasion of the Aby strain came from English breeders where it seems that the feeling is that any practice that could better a breed should be allowed and aired truthfully. Whether the Aby discretions were aired or not, I do not know, but in some other cases such as in the effort for multi-colored Burmese (perish the thought) information has been open.

No doubt my dear Deta Tim could have been the ancestor to Somalis. Deta Tim's sire, Raby Chuffa (import) is know to have sired a longhaired tortie in an Aby litter. I saw the cat and her owner. The cat being shown in the HHP classes in a

Buffalo show.

Experimental breeder friends have told me of finding fantastic brown tabbies in some of their work with Abys. I now have one such in a litter of Ocicats also a gorgeous chestnut classic tabby. Both parents are dotted Ocicats. The chestnut is chocolate brown markings on the lightest cream.

I feel that there was some work done in England to improve the ruddiness of the Aby undercoat. It is too bad that the English did not in the past give the two generations in the background of those cats imported from there as they do now in our stud books.

I wouldn't want to be without my stud books. I have #'s 5, 10, 22, 24, then complete 27 up. By studying that pedigree you can see that by being aware of some of the cats sired by Raby Chuffa and Disston's Bengal Boy that it looks as though there was some hanky panky going on with the Raby cats as Raby Ashanto was in both lines. Be sure to not confuse any of these doings with the great Wohl-Rabe cats in this country.

Some of you may feel that I am a dog in the manger with my own breed and down talking others who do likewise but I have only worked on producing cats that are unique. We do not need other black shorthairs nor blue shorthairs. A solid brown in pale tan with gold eyes would be different as in the longhair. My Abyssinian Point has not a bar or a mark on her anywhere. Otherwise she resembles a Lynxpoint. I hope my thinking on Somali's beginnings has been of some help and thanks for asking.
