

HISTORY OF THE RAGDOLL CAT

as written by Lorna Wallace, with excerpts from the book

The Definitive Guide To Ragdolls

by Robin Pickering, David Pollard, and Lorna Wallace

"Below I will quote several paragraphs from the books, which were Robin Pickering's interpretation of our interview with Ann. I hope they answer some of your questions."

Ann (Baker) stated that Josephine belonged to a neighbor, Mrs. Pennels, and was frequently seen in the area. She often produced kittens but, like Josephine, they were all wild. At some point Josephine was indeed hit by a car, and she lay at the curb side for some 2 days. Ann Baker's neighbors worked at the local university, and it was these people who went to Josephine's aid. They found her injured, but alive. She was taken to their place of work where she was nursed back to health. She had indeed suffered head injuries and, as Ann clearly stated, had lost one eye.

Queen: Josephine (Angora appearance) with her pointed and solid kittens.



Ann went on to relate that in the due course of time, Josephine returned home (to live with the Pennels -- at no time did Ann own Josephine) and resumed her reproductive traits, the kittens though were now different than those born prior to the road accident; instead of them being wild, they were quite the opposite. The kittens were very playful, loving and relaxed; they seemed to crave human attention. In fact the owners, the Pennels, regarded them as something of a nuisance and were only too happy to part with them. It seems it was at this point that Ann's interest in the kittens was aroused further. She recognized the change in their temperament and this led her to begin acquiring some of the kittens, Buckwheat being her first.

Queen: Buckwheat (Burmese appearance)



At the time Ann had been borrowing one of Josephine's older sons to sire progeny in her Black Persian breeding programme. This son had the appearance of a Black Persian and she named him Blackie, and it was on one of her visits to borrow him that she saw Blackie's brother. He appeared most impressive, and in Ann's words, had the appearance of a Sacred Cat of Burma (Birman). Having already established the owner's trust, she was also permitted to borrow this cat to mate with her own females. She was most taken with this son of Josephine and named him Raggedy Ann Daddy Warbucks. What Ann clearly states is that Blackie and Daddy Warbucks are both sons of Josephine, but with different sires. In the IRCA booklet it would appear to indicate that Blackie's father was a 'black cat from the East', that appeared 'more Persian than Burmese'.

Stud: Blackie (Black Persian appearance)



Stud: Daddy Warbucks, a Seal Mitted with a Blaze and White Tail Tip (Birman appearance)



During detailed questioning, Ann confirmed that no-one had ever seen the father of Daddy Warbucks, and he was the only kitten in that particular litter of Josephine's. This being so, makes it difficult to take the origins of the breed further. Both in the IRCA booklet and in Ann's own words, an earlier litter of Josephine's had been acquired by the widow of a preacher who lived in the mountains. When she moved back to the neighborhood, Ann managed to obtain this litter also. By now Ann Baker must have owned the daughter of Blackie and Josephine, a black self colored female called Buckwheat. Buckwheat was described as appearing similar to a Burmese, but she was thick furred, and it is pointed out that she was not part Siamese in breeding. Apart from owning this daughter of Josephine, Ann Baker was also given another; although this time her sire was Daddy Warbucks. She called her Raggedy Ann Fugianna. Fugianna was in essence a badly marked Bicolour [see picture on page 5 of Def Guide]. She possessed a wide inverted V on her facial area, a large amount of white on the body and could be further recognized by the fact that her ears were both dark and white. Having now acquired both Buckwheat and Fugianna, and with the continued stud services of Daddy Warbucks, the foundation stock of the breed was laid, as it was from these three offspring that Ragdolls are descended.

Ann Baker and Fugianna (Seal Bicolor)



Whether or not Ann Baker would have used any further offspring of Josephine's we will never know, as after obtaining Fugianna, Josephine remained protective of her litter and fought with the family dog. Following one altercation between the two animals, the owner's husband [Mr. Pennels] gathered up the kittens and Josephine and had them all destroyed; the founding Queen of the Ragdoll dynasty was gone.

It must be apparent to almost every reader that much of the story is incredible, but certain facts do come to the surface. Certainly the foundation cats being Raggedy Ann Daddy Warbucks, Raggedy Ann Fugianna and Buckwheat were all Josephine's offspring and in checking the pedigrees they do all appear accurate and this will be demonstrated later. Why they were all blessed with a unique disposition is open to conjecture, but it remains the opinion of the authors that it was not due to some kind of genetic engineering; perhaps quite simply the foundation stock all had the ability to be sweet natured when given a good home environment. Perhaps a more plausible explanation is that this chance combination resulted in cats that over the future years would be bred for the qualities of good temperament, large size, good coat quality and striking appearance. Within the history of the evolution of mammals stranger qualities have been selected by the unseen force of Mother Nature herself.

Following the tragic loss of Josephine, Ann Baker was now left with the three essential cats: Daddy Warbucks, Fugianna and Buckwheat. From the appearance of each female, she decided to split any resulting kittens into two groups; those from Fugianna would be termed 'the Light Side', whilst those from the black self, Buckwheat 'the Dark Side'. Apart from dividing the kittens into two groups, Ann Baker started to formulate her own breeding policy that she believed would preserve the purity of her newly developing breed. Her plans are set out in the 1978 IRCA booklet, but to be truthful they are very hard to follow and understand.

It was Ann's firm belief that her strict breeding policy had to be adhered to, without deviation; if it was not, then the resulting cats could not be called Ragdolls. Without any doubt Ann Baker's breeding programme is founded on the most unusual thinking, even going so far as to use an example of a woman giving birth to one armed children to various fathers and then isolating them on various islands - all to prove the theory behind her thinking! Perhaps more credibility might have been offered if a more conventional method of scientific rationale had been used to support her hypothesis.

In more simplistic terms, the IRCA booklet describes the breeding programme as follows. A new franchisee was sold a cross of Fugianna and Tiki; they then had to line breed for seven generations, never using any of the resulting male offspring for breeding purposes, only the male purchased originally. After reaching the seventh generation they then had to use another direct son of Josephine's at which point they could breed 'authentic' Ragdolls. Despite all these propositions and the complexities of the breeding programme, Ann Baker embarked upon her own course to produce the Raggedy Ann Ragdolls.

THE RAGDOLLS ARRIVE

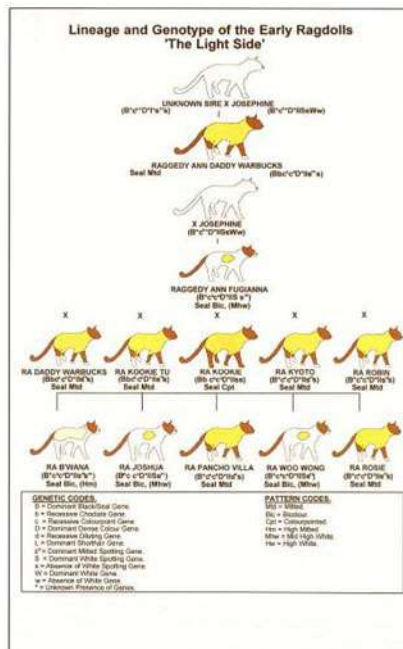
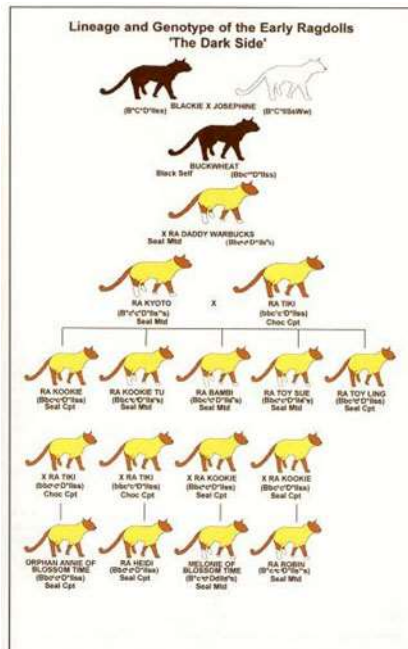
With her foundation stock of one male and two females, Ann Baker now embarked on her breeding programme that would eventually see the Ragdoll as a breed, establish itself world-wide. She mated Daddy Warbucks to his half-sisters, Fugianna and Buckwheat, and allocated the resulting offspring into the two groups as described. Again the reader must bear in mind that the research has been made only into the Ragdolls which founded the original British lines that were exported by Denny and Laura Dayton. For overseas readers it will be just as easy to trace your Ragdolls using the methods described later in the book.



Ann Baker with Ragdoll Kittens

The very first Ragdolls were born to Daddy Warbucks and Buckwheat, when they produced a litter of four kittens and all with a distinct difference. Of the four kittens, there were two colourpointed kittens and two black self colored kittens; though all possessed similar physical type. The differences were just as distinct between each pair. One of the self colored kittens had white mittens, similar to that of its father, Daddy Warbucks; whilst the sibling resembled its mother, Buckwheat. The two kittens were named Gueber and Mitts, and both were destined to become the parents of kittens that would be registered as Experimental Persians, though in the future Ann Baker decided to call these cats, Ragdolls Tu. Although they lacked the distinctive pattern of the Ragdoll, they were in essence the same; they differed only in the absence of a recessive colourpointed gene.

To return to the other kittens in this litter, these were both Colourpointed; the male was almost identical to his father, Daddy Warbucks, though he lacked his white nose blaze. These two kittens were a male Seal Mitted, named Raggedy Ann Kyoto, and a female Chocolate Colourpoint named Raggedy Ann Tiki. They were born in the summer of 1965 and Ann Baker registered both Kyoto and Tiki as Ragdolls--the Ragdolls had, at last, arrived.



THE DARK SIDE

The birth of Kyoto and Tiki heralded the beginning of what Ann Baker was to term the 'Dark Side', and all kittens directly descended from Tiki were to be placed in this category. Once these two sibling parents had matured, they too were mated together, just as their half sibling parents had been at their conception. What may strike the reader as strange is that the writers feel that if the Ragdolls were to be line bred according to Ann Baker's own breeding policy, then perhaps Tiki would have been mated back to Daddy Warbucks and likewise any female offspring that they produced.

However, this was not the case and Kyoto and Tiki produced their offspring and among the kittens were Raggedy Ann Kookie, Seal Colourpointed male, Raggedy Ann Kookie Tu, a Seal Mitted male, Raggedy Ann Bambi and Toy sue, both Seal Mitted females and finally Raggedy Ann Toy Ling, a seal Colourpointed female. In turn these offspring of Kyoto and Tiki grew up and were also incorporated into the breeding programme. Kookie Tu was mated back to his mother, Tiki, which in turn produced Raggedy Ann Heidi, a female Seal Colourpointed. Kookie, meanwhile was also mated to:

Heidi, his niece and half-sister, produced a Seal Colourpointed male, Raggedy Ann Buddy [Denny & Laura's first stud boy].

Toy Sue, his full sister, produced a Seal Mitted male, Raggedy Ann Robin.

Bambi, his full sister, produced a Seal Mitted female, Melonie of Blossom-Time.

Tiki, his mother, produced a Seal Colourpointed female, Orphan Annie of Blossom-Time.

All these Ragdolls had been produced directly from Tiki, none as yet being mated to a descendant of Fugianna. The Ragdolls forming the 'Dark Side' had now been bred, but also two females that were to be part of the Blossom-Time line.

THE LIGHT SIDE

Apart from Daddy Warbucks and Fugianna, the only other cat from the 'Light Side' parents that would ultimately become an ancestor of the early British Ragdolls, was a Seal Bicolour female, Raggedy Ann B'wana; she herself being the offspring of Warbucks and Fugianna. Fugianna did produce other offspring, she was mated to different sires which included:

Kookie Tu, a sire of a male Seal Bicolour (Mid High White) Raggedy Ann Joshua.

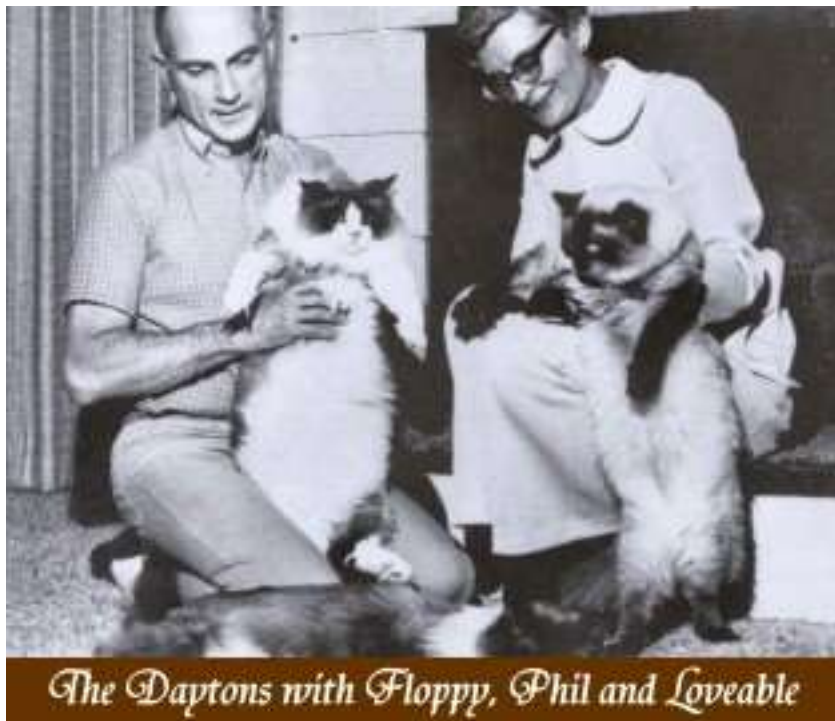
Kyoto, sire of a male Seal Bicolour (Mid high White) Raggedy Ann Woo Wong.

Kookie, sire of a male Seal Mitted, Raggedy Ann Pancho Villa.

Robin, sire of a female Seal Mitted, Raggedy Ann Rosie.

With this number of Ragdolls now bred, the breed itself was well on the way to becoming firmly established.

THE BLOSSOM TIMES BLOOM



It was in 1969 that Laura and Denny Dayton entered into the story of the Ragdolls. Laura had seen a newspaper advertisement for the Ragdolls and their curiosity led them to the home of Ann Baker.

They were enchanted by these huge cats with such a loveable nature and in agreement with each other they bought a pair. The young male was a delight but the female just did not seem to settle and Laura felt it was in the cats and their own interests to return her and obtain a replacement.

Their first pair was Raggedy Ann Buddy, a Seal Colourpointed male and Raggedy Ann Rosie, a Seal Mitted female. With the arrival of Rose and Bud the idea germinated that the cattery would be called Blossom-Time and it was Laura's wish that the future Ragdolls they bred would be named after plants, flowers, etc. following a theme of things that would flourish and grow.

At the time of purchase they had never signed any further agreements with Ann Baker and they in turn came to sell a pair of Blossom-Time Ragdolls they duly informed her of the sale as a courtesy. It came as a complete surprise when Ann Baker attempted to implement a franchise agreement and demanded more money. Relationships continued to deteriorate and became even more involved with attorneys and court appearances until another Ragdoll addict stepped in to assist. In Brigadier General Robert Truby the Daytons found a true ally who stayed with them right through the whole difficult period and proved to be a true benefactor to the breed throughout his life. Without his friendship and support Denny wondered if they would have ever continued with the breed. Despite claims to the contrary, Ann Baker never did manage to bring a law suit against Laura and Denny, in fact it was Ann who was subjected to a restraint order to prevent further bad propaganda against the Daytons.

Apart from the obvious upset that these altercations caused, Laura and Denny continued to progress. By chance, other would-be breeders fell by the wayside, unable to enjoy their hobby as they were subjected to a similar pattern of correspondence from Ann Baker. It was the Ragdolls good fortune that these cats were bought by the Daytons and added to the Blossom-Time programme, individuals such as Joshua, Pecos Bill, Lolita, Miss Chef and Little Orphan Annie all arrived in this manner.

Denny was also an excellent record keeper and began charting the accurate pedigrees of all the Ragdolls. Today it has grown into an International Genetic Chart that is updated annually [by kind courtesy of Charlie Myers], it is a huge task and one which most would have never taken on. Had Denny not begun this work it is reasonable to assume that the present day pedigrees would have never been known."

"I hope the above extract from The Definitive Guide to Ragdolls answers some of your questions. On page 11 of the book there is a copy of Raggedy Ann Rosie Cat's 4 generation ACFA pedigree signed by Ann Baker [kindly lent to us by Denny and Laura]. Rosie's sire is Raggedy Ann Robin whose date of birth is given as 27 May 1967 and her dam Raggedy Ann Fugianna's date of birth is 5 May 1965. Fugianna's sire and dam are Raggedy Ann Daddy Warbucks listed as a brown and white Ragdoll and Josephine detailed as a White Persian. When we asked Ann on the video whether Josephine was a Persian cat, she described her as looking like an Angora, but she was not. Raggedy Ann Robin's sire is given as Raggedy Ann Kookie, a brown and white Ragdoll and his dam is Raggedy Ann Toy Sue, a brown and white Ragdoll. As far as Ann made us aware during our interview - the 'original' Ragdolls only stemmed from Daddy Warbucks, Buckwheat and Fugianna."

Lorna Wallace

Secretary of The British Ragdoll Cat Club

RECAP AND MORE INFO...

Ragdolls are known for their substantial size, docile and affectionate temperament, long non-matting coats, striking appearance, blue eyes, and the tendency to relax in a person's arms, and for their infamous flop; hence, their namesake: Ragdoll. Ragdolls are referred to as the "Golden Retriever" of the cat world, as well as puppies in cat suits. The Ragdoll breed was first created by a woman, Ann Baker, who was breeding black Persians and Apple headed lilac Balinese cats in Riverside, California in the 1960s. The name of her cattery was Raggedy Ann. Ann Baker's client entrance attached to her home. The story of the mother of all Ragdolls is interesting and includes both the famous first cat, Josephine, and her breeder, Ann Baker. Ragdoll cats were bred from preexisting breeds and, as the years went by, the traits that were more desirable were kept and the undesirable traits were bred out of the lines. The results were large, exquisite Ragdoll Cats with serene dispositions. You can see beautiful Ragdolls at cats shows in your local area.



Black Persian



Traditional Lilac Balinese



According to Ann Baker, the foundation cat, Josephine, produced unremarkable kittens until she was struck by a car in the early 1960s. After her recovery, all of her subsequent litters produced kittens that displayed characteristics that are today referred to as Ragdoll traits. Josephine lived next door to Ann Baker. The neighbors who claimed ownership of Josephine were the Pennels. Ms. Baker decided she had to have some of the kittens from Josephine. After the car accident, Josephine mated with a feral black and white mitted long-haired tom and produced a solid black Persian looking male kitten that Ann Baker kept as a stud named "Blackie". Another unplanned litter by Josephine followed which produced a seal mitted male named "Daddy Warbucks." What Ann clearly states is that "Blackie" and "Daddy Warbucks" are both sons of Josephine, but with different sires who were unknown and undocumented. Ann Baker created her own registry for Ragdolls in 1971 called the International Ragdoll Cat Association (IRCA). In the IRCA booklet it would appear to indicate that Blackie's father was a black cat from the East, that appeared more Persian than Burmese.

During detailed questioning, Ann confirmed that no-one had ever seen the father of Daddy Warbucks, and he was the only kitten in that particular litter of Josephine's. Many versions of the history of Ragdolls incorrectly state that Daddy Warbucks was of Birman descent. It should also be noted that the white spotting gene in the Bicolor and Mitted Ragdolls is quite different from that which produces the white gloves and laces in the Birman. Daddy Warbucks did have front mittens similar to Birman cats. However, while Daddy Warbucks may have looked Birman, he certainly was not a Birman. The Ragdoll's white spotting gene is definitely not the same as in the Birman breed. This has also been confirmed by TICA's Genetics Committee Chairperson, Dr. Solveig Pflueger, M.D., Ph.D. This being so, makes it difficult to take the origins of the breed further. According to letters sent to Blanche Herman, Ann also used some of her Black Persians and Lilac Balinese to breed with her Ragdolls, although Ann Baker did not want this to be common knowledge.

Even though 'Blackie' and "Daddy Warbucks" were Josephine's sons, Ann Baker bred them back to Josephine, and then bred daughters from those matings back to their fathers. This is referred as in-line breeding, and some Ragdoll breeders have relied on it. This type of inbreeding can result in healthy offspring, but some genetic abnormalities are usually produced. Ann Baker documented that she believed seven generation of females needed to be bred back to their original sires. Ann Baker kept control of the Ragdoll breed by making it into a franchise operation, where she was paid a royalty fee for all of the kittens that were sold and she was also paid for the cats that she had sold as breeders.

The first group consisted of Buckwheat, the daughter of Blackie and Josephine, and was called "The Dark Side." An interesting fact is that the first litter between Buckwheat and Daddy Warbucks produced four kittens of ragdoll history; two solid kittens and two pointed kittens. The two solid kittens were named Gueber and Mitts, and although they were used for additional breedings, and eventually were used to breed Ragamuffins, they were not registered as Ragdolls. **This leads us to believe that solids were indeed part of the original Ragdoll family;** however, their pointed siblings, Kyoto and Tiki, were registered and crucial to the formation of Ragdolls from "The Dark Side."

Queen: Raggedy Ann Tiki (Chocolate Colorpoint Ragdoll)

Stud: Raggedy Ann Kyoto (Seal Mitted [photo below] eventually took Daddy Warbuck's place)



"The Light Side" consisted of lighter kittens mainly in the patterns of bicolor and mitted from Josephine and Daddy Warbucks. The second group's queen was Fugianna, the daughter of Daddy Warbucks and Josephine. Both Josephine and Fugianna mated with Daddy Warbucks to produce the first Ragdolls on the light side. Ann Baker's dedication to Josephine's offspring and her two new programs led her to register them as a new breed, Ragdolls, in 1965 with the National Cat Fanciers Association (NCFA). She eventually registered Josephine's litters under the new breed name of Ragdolls. It is from the five cats, Josephine, Daddy Warbucks, Fugianna, Blackie, and Buckwheat, that 100% Traditional Ragdolls are descended. Only two were registered as Ragdolls, Daddy Warbucks and Fugianna, in the NCFA in 1966. Kyoto and Tiki are also considered to be part of the Traditional Ragdoll lineage. They are as follows:

Daddy Warbucks, a male seal mitted with blaze, was registered as #66-0577-6 and was said to be bred by Merle Pennel (Light Side).

Tiki, a female chocolate colorpoint, was registered as #66-0578-6 and was said to be bred by Ann Baker of Raggedy Ann Ragdolls (Dark Side).

Kyoto, a male seal mitted, was registered as #66-0579-6 and was said to be bred by Ann Baker of Raggedy Ann Ragdolls (Dark Side).

Fugianna, a female seal bicolor, was registered as #66-0580-6 and was said to be bred by Merle Pennel (Light Side).

Ann's breeding program was a strict one. The IRCA booklet described Ann's breeding program as follows. New owners were sold a cross of Fugianna and Tiki kittens. They had to line breed for seven generations and not use any resulting male offspring for breeding purposes, only the male originally purchased. After the seventh generation, they had to use another direct son of Josephine's, purchased from Ann, at which point they could breed "authentic" Ragdolls.

Original Ragdolls

1975 Patent: 3 patterns and 4 colors for Ragdolls by Ann Baker

On the 9th of September of 1975, that was ten years after the registration of her race, Ann Baker put a patent on her race (supposedly until 2005), on the three pattern **colorpoint, mitted, and bicolor** and on the 4 colors **seal, blue, chocolate and lilac**. She hoped that her race Ragdoll would last in its appearance. Because of this patent, and the Denny Dayton genetic chart, the founder stem of the Ragdoll retained in its original appearance like it was patented. We call this Ragdoll, today, the **Original Ragdoll**. To maintain this original line, the name Original-Ragdoll is used. www.original-ragdoll.ch.

Lilac and Chocolate Ragdolls

Due to breeders not completely understanding color and genetics, the colors of chocolate and lilac were all but lost in breeding. There were some breeders that did like them and continued breeding them, but most breeders ignored them and sold them as pets. Breeders that would have lilacs and chocolates probably thought their colors were just 'poor' blues and seals. Some breeders try to find the last remaining lilacs in the gene pool from 100% traditional lines, but that is close to impossible. There are a handful of other Ragdoll breeders who started to out-cross to other breeds like the Birman, the Himalayan, or the Balinese, in the mid- 1990s to re-introduce the chocolate and lilac genes. If it were not for out-crossing, there would be no Lynx Ragdolls, no Red, nor Tortie Ragdolls. Ragdoll breeders are an extremely opinionated group and there are breeders on both sides of the fence on whether they think out-crosses should EVER be used for Ragdolls. In the cat associations, usually a cat that is NOT a ragdoll has to breed through THREE generations before the kitten is considered a full-bred Ragdoll with a Stud Book Traditional (SBT) title. Many of these Ragdolls, initially, often do not have the right fur, markings, boning, musculature, eye color, and temperament, and many have acquired some of the health problems of their ancestor's secondary breed. The reason a breeder would consider outcrossing most likely is due to the fact a breeder needs to perfect their cats' health, temperament, and/or conformation to breed standards. It is, however, a definite fact that the Ragdoll is a unique, (wo)man-made, American breed.

Red, Tortie, Lynx, and Blue-Eyed White Ragdolls

On the subject of outcrossing, it was stated that Red, Tortie, and Lynx marked Ragdolls were produced by breeders utilizing another breed to introduce into the lines those colors and/or patterns they desired. These aforementioned Ragdolls are registered in all cat associations and accepted for championship, as they are blue-eyed pointed cats. Blue eyed white Ragdolls, that we see today, are produced through the introduction of a Persian, Angora, or other white cat used as the foundation. They are considered SOLID cats, but they have blue eyes and mask a pointed color under the white. Ann Baker's Josephine was not any particular breed and her history was unknown. When she was bred to a male Burmese type cat, they produced solid and pointed kittens. The blue-eyed pointed kittens were kept and bred to be known as the Ragdolls that you see today. The blue-eyed white Ragdoll will produce both pointed and solid white kittens. They CAN be shown in certain organizations, such as The International Cat Association (TICA), under "New Traits." Likewise, Cat registries will deem an animal Stud Book Traditional (SBT) after three generations removed from the foundation cat.

DARE I say it...Mink, Sepia, and Solid Ragdolls

Minks, Sepias, and Solids (that are not blue eyed white)do not adhere with the breed standard of multiple organizations and clubs that state that a Ragdoll is a blue-eyed pointed cat. Ann Baker bred Buckwheat, a Burmese cat in appearance, to Daddy Warbucks that produced kittens carrying the Burmese and pointed genes. These Ragdolls can be traced back to the original Ragdolls. Outcrosses to Tonkinese, Burmese, and Ragamuffins have also been utilized in order to produce these colors and patterns. Breeders have produced Ragdoll cats that are not pointed and with various eye colors. Minks, Sepias, and Solids are not registerable in all cat associations, for example, CFA. They are not currently accepted for championship in North America. Many Ragdoll clubs do not allow breeders of this variation to join or advertise their non-blue eyed kittens. The Minks, Sepias, and Solids may be shown, however, in TICA, under "New Traits." Like the Red, Tortie, and Lynx Ragdolls, after breeding to true Ragdolls for three generations removed from the foundation cat, they are able to receive SBT designation and recognition as a Ragdoll in TICA.