

Proposal to Change the Breed Name from "Cherubim" to "Cherubim Ragdoll"

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By Christine Lupo

It is respectfully requested that the name of the newly established "Cherubim" breed be officially changed to "Cherubim Ragdoll" if it is not feasible to change the Mink, Sepia, and Solid cats back to SBT/Ragdolls prior to the 5/1/25 date. This alternative, this change is vital for preserving the historical integrity, genetic lineage, and public understanding of the Ragdoll breed and its accepted variations.

1. Preservation of Ragdoll History and Ancestry

The most critical concern surrounding the automatic reclassification of Mink, Sepia, and Solid Ragdolls to "Cherubim" is the potential loss of their recognized Ragdoll lineage and ancestry. These cats, bred and purchased in good faith as Ragdolls, are now appearing in official records and pedigrees under a breed name—Cherubim—that did not exist at the time of their registration, breeding, or titling (New Trait Merits Awards). This undermines both historical records and the confidence of breeders and owners who expect breed consistency over time.

2. Breach of Expectations Based on Initial Guidance

Our [original proposal](#) to establish the Cherubim breed and a Ragdoll breed group, effective May 1, 2025, was developed based on communications from Martin Wood, the Chairperson of the TICA Rules Committee. We were advised that breed changes for cats registered prior to this date would occur only at the owner's request. However, post-approval implementation has significantly deviated from that understanding. Cats registered well before the creation of the Cherubim breed—including those deceased—have been retroactively reclassified without owner request or consent. This deviation undermines the original agreement and erodes trust in the process.

3. Narrow Approval Margin Reflects Divided Breed Section

The proposal passed the Ragdoll Breed Section vote by a very narrow margin of 52.35% to 47.65%—a difference of only 4.70 percentage points. Additionally, in an unofficial poll aimed at determining community preference, 44.83% supported "Cherubim" as the breed name, while 40.34% supported "Cherubim Ragdoll," a difference of only 4.49 points. This near-even split reflects a division within the breed section and highlights that the name "Cherubim" does not carry strong, unified support. Under the current circumstances, a compromise in the form of

"Cherubim Ragdoll" offers a more balanced solution if it is not feasible to change the Mink, Sepia, and Solid cats back to SBT/Ragdolls prior to the 5/1/25 date.

4. Support from Expert Committees for a Ragdoll-Based Name

Feedback from both the Rules Committee and Genetics Committee, on our original proposal, suggests that the current name "Cherubim" is inconsistent with how similar genetic variants are handled in TICA:

- The Genetics Committee noted that breed groups differentiated by a single gene typically retain the base breed name, citing examples such as *Maine Coons* and *Maine Coon Polydactyls*, or *Selkirk Rex* and *Selkirk Rex Longhairs*. The "Cherubim" name encompasses the colors of Solid, Mink, and Sepia in this case.
- Their recommendation was that these cats should remain under the Ragdoll umbrella with clarifying terms such as "Non-Pointed Ragdoll," rather than adopting a completely new name.
- The Rules Committee acknowledged that "designer names" are discouraged, but not prohibited, and that this is a matter of policy, not binding rule.

5. Administrative and Pedigree Inconsistencies

Automatic reclassification has already led to confusion:

- Pedigrees for many cats are now inaccurate or misleading, with cats changed to a breed they never were and could not have been.
- Breeders are still able to register Mink, Sepia, and Solid cats as Ragdolls through self-service work, which conflicts with their official reclassification.
- A consistent, practical solution is needed to prevent further administrative confusion and to protect the integrity of existing records.

6. A Practical Compromise: “Cherubim Ragdoll”

Changing the breed name to “Cherubim Ragdoll” strikes a necessary balance:

- It respects the historical and genetic connection to the Ragdoll breed.
- It preserves the integrity of both past and future pedigrees.
- It aligns with TICA’s handling of other breeds with single-gene variations.
- It does not require a full reversal of prior changes, which would place a significant burden on TICA systems and clients.
- It resolves concerns raised by both individual TICA members and committee advisors, including those from Ammanda Jimmink and myself.

Given the narrow vote margin, the policy—not rule—regarding breed naming, expert committee feedback, and the administrative confusion now occurring, the Board of Directors is urged to adopt “Cherubim Ragdoll” as the official breed name if it is not feasible to return the Mink, Solid, Sepia cats back to their prior (5/1/25) status of SBT/Ragdolls. This compromise maintains breed history, upholds breeder and owner expectations, and brings clarity and unity to the evolving Ragdoll breed group within TICA.