

Dear Persian Breed Council Members:

My name is Noralyn Heisig and I am running for the office of Persian Breed Council Secretary. I have bred bicolor persians under the cattery name Velvetkist for 19 years. It has been a joy and a privilege to have bred, owned and shown many Grand Champions, Regional Winners and National Winners in the Cat Fanciers Association. Two of those National Winners were Cat of the Year and Premier of the Year. I take great pride in my cats as I have worked hard to produce persians that exceed the breed standard.

In addition to my show and breeding experience, I was both treasurer and president of the Shenandoah Valley Cat fanciers for several years. I was also show manager for National Capital Cat show for 2 years, as well as involved in show production in other facets at various times including the CFA International show.

In my personal life, my husband and I have a legal practice. I have worked in the legal field for over 30 years. I am a fair and just person and hold myself to my own personal high standard of integrity.

I have mentored and placed my cats with newer members of the cat fancy both abroad and in the United States. It is my pleasure to help those with questions about breeding, grooming and showing. I arrive early at the shows to offer assistance with other exhibitors about grooming. Many of you can see me assisting with grooming before shows begin and offering advice as needed. I field questions weekly from other breeders and exhibitors related to health issues, grooming and show advice. I am always happy to help.

Over the past several years, with the admittance of the Longhair Exotic into the showhall, there has been a discord within the Persian breed. If I am elected, my greatest hope would be peace, healing and mutual respect of a divided breed. For the LHE issue itself, personally I sit on the fence. I am open minded enough to see both sides of the issue and am mature enough to place value on everyone's passion in their belief. Having a difference of opinion should not affect or exclude any member of the breed council. Purist or Non-Purist seems to be the dividing factor of this breed council. I believe the definition of what is pure is subjective according to one's own beliefs. It is not the job of the Persian Breed Council Secretary to dictate what one should believe or to pursue their own agenda while excluding those with opposing beliefs. As breed council secretary, I would be unbiased and serve to listen to all points of view. I would serve the breed council as a whole with majority rule. I would not be discriminatory placing proposals to this council for vote. The council has the power. I would represent. I would remind everyone that a breed council is advisory to the Board. The Board has requested the LHE proposal not be returned to them. It has been earmarked by the Board as the main source of discord within this breed to the extent of issuing disciplinary action. If I am elected, I would expect this breed council to hold itself with highest integrity, fairness and a mutual respect for one another. You may not like one another or share similar views, however, I believe mutual respect is a common value everyone deserves and clearly has been deficient for some time within the council.

In closing, as Breed Council Secretary, it is not about me as an individual, it is about you -- the council as a whole and my ability to represent the majority vote with utmost integrity, honesty and fairness.