



**Reading Eagle: Susan Keen** | America Boy, a Persian, at the International Cat Association Inc.'s Mid-Atlantic Regional Show at Riveredge in Greenfields on Saturday.



**Reading Eagle: Susan Keen** | Wizard, a Sphynx, is carried by his owner Sandra Rauch of New York.



**Reading Eagle: Susan Keen** | A judge examines a contestant.



**Reading Eagle: Susan Keen** | Samantha McConnell of Goshen, Ind., with her cat Lady, a minuet.



**Reading Eagle: Susan Keen** | Bengal kittens wait to be examined by the judge.



**Reading Eagle: Susan Keen** | A Bengal kitten is judged.

# Cat show searches for the 'purr-fect' feline

Sunday August 21, 2016 12:01 AM

By [Steven Henshaw](#)

Greenfields, PA

Cats typically aren't very social creatures like dogs, so cat lovers can't get together with other feline enthusiasts for play dates.

But cat shows such as The International Cat Association Inc.'s Mid-Atlantic Regional Show this weekend at Riveredge in Greenfields are mega play dates for those who connect through their love of cats.

"I get to see people I normally don't see," said Jay Davis of Westminster, Md.

Davis entered two cats for judging, a Bengal and a short-haired minuet, a cross between a Persian and a short-legged munchkin.

"He was a rescue cat," Davis said, holding his large, spotted, friendly Bengal named Bacardi. "Someone had him and didn't want him anymore and dumped him, and I have a thing for rescue Bengal cats."

Davis entered Bacardi under the household pet class because he lacked documentation to prove its pedigree to compete as a pedigreed.

The show that began Saturday and continues through today is the largest show in the Mid-Atlantic Region and drew people from as far as Illinois, Idaho and even France, said Anthony Hutcherson, one of the show's organizers, from Port Tobacco, Md.

More than 108 cats of dozens of breeds - including Australian mist, Bombay, British short hair, Japanese bobtail, Sphynx, toyger and Turkish van - were registered.

"TICA is the home to people who love cats," Hutcherson said. "Our motto is 'fabulous felines, friends and fun.'"

TICA is the world's largest registry of pedigreed cats, said Hutcherson, who entered two of his silky, spotted cats in the pedigree Bengals class.

The cats compete for top prizes that go from champion to supreme grand champion.

"TICA allows for the exhibition and registration of cats that are pedigreed, bred to a specific standard, and household-cat pets, so any cat from anywhere whether it has a long pedigree or is just in from the street can be shown and become a champion," he said.

The cats are judged on how closely their overall appearance is to the ideal for their breed.

The Mid-Atlantic show is an annual opportunity for Samantha McConnell of Goshen, Ind., to see other cat owners, as well as her family in the Ephrata area, where she grew up.

McConnell entered two long-haired minuets.

She enjoys the friendly atmosphere of the shows.

"The judges are amazing," she said. "They're very involved with the cats. They love to handle them. They seem so happy each weekend. It doesn't matter if you're bringing out a new kitten or a cat that's been shown for three years, they judge them each weekend like it's the first weekend they've seen them."

Contact Steven Henshaw: 610-371-5024 or [shenshaw@readingeagle.com](mailto:shenshaw@readingeagle.com).



Steven Henshaw | Reporter

Reporter Steven Henshaw covers the police and crime beat for the Reading Eagle.

**Phone:** 610-371-5028

**Email:** [shenshaw@readingeagle.com](mailto:shenshaw@readingeagle.com)

