

To my TICA Bengal community, I ask you to consider me to serve on our Bengal breed committee.

For those who may not know me, I have been breeding Bengal cats since 1997 when I met my first Bengal and fell absolutely in love. Subsequently, I became a member of TICA. Since then, I've witnessed our breed develop and grow into the vision we've achieved today. I am deeply grateful to Jean Mill for our amazing Bengal breed, to our inspired early breeders who strove to move us forward, and to you for your dedication and hard work.

About me:

Almost as far back in time as I can remember, I have always adored cats and have rarely ever been without feline companionship in my life.

Since I began as a Bengal breeder, I've worked to promote an understanding of animal husbandry, including breeding for good temperament along with breeding to our standard and for good health. I ardently advocate DNA testing, HCM testing, and micro-chipping. Although my breeding program may be relatively small, my focus is to produce quality cats that are to our standard, beautiful, healthy, sweet, sociable, and have longevity.

Before coming to TICA, I was a member of CFA since the early '80s and remain a member in good standing. When I joined TICA, I discovered TICA to be refreshing and vibrant, and I soon felt welcomed and at home here.

In my early TICA days, I showed BSTs, but then added marbleds, then snows, silvers, and most recently BGLs. Several years ago, along with other dedicated international breeders, I worked with Wendy Symmes, who at that time was serving on our breed committee, to move the BGLs (Longhair Bengals) through New Traits and into Championship class. We remain grateful to her. Sadly, Wendy crossed the Rainbow Bridge far too soon.

As a long time member of Christmas City Cat Club, I've had the opportunity to serve several terms as our club secretary. I've helped put on numerous shows, including serving as show manager and in other capacities, and have been privileged to work as a master clerk, assistant master clerk and, for many years and many shows, as a certified ring clerk.

For the past decade, I've also trained Bengals to do commercial work. We have a wonderful agent who has sent us on many interesting jobs, including on TV with

Steven Colbert, NY State Lottery, John Oliver, a Mark Ronson music video, still and video work for Bergdorf Goodman, Real Simple, More, A Children's Place, Bloomingdale, Demarchier, The Company Store, and West Elm, Kate Spade and Allure multiple times. My Bengals like working and meeting people, and I take pride in showing off how delightfully intelligent and cooperative Bengals are on the job.

Thank you for taking the time to read my candidate statement. Please give me the opportunity to bring my experience and knowledge and enthusiasm for our Bengals to serve on our breed committee by casting your vote for me.

Helen Mitchell