



## **TICA Vice President: Ralph Stadter**

Ralph Stadter was elected TICA Vice President by the Association's Board of Directors during the May 2018 TICA Board Meeting. The former Europe North Regional Director undertook the role left vacant by the untimely passing of Bobbie Tullo. Agata Kruszona-Zawadzka assumed his role as Regional Director for Europe North.

Shortly after Ralph took office, among other tasks, he began working with TICA President Vickie Fisher on the first upgrade to TICA's website in almost 10 years. He oversaw a team of TICA employees, volunteers and consultants who analyzed, compared and troubleshot the former website to implement a new operating system to add many new features such as a mobile-friendly design, integrated show calendar and the ability for members to manage their own information.

Ralph has been a TICA member since 2001 and has served as the Europe North Regional Director from 2005-2006 and then again for nearly a decade, from 2009-2018. He is affiliated locally with the club TICACats in Germany and resides in Aglasterhausen, Germany.

He received his BA in Computer and Business Sciences in 1997 from University of Mannheim and has held positions from SAP business software Developer to Development Architect mainly in the areas of Corporate Group Consolidation and General Ledger Accounting with a focus on business process analysis and optimization.

In 1993 he married to his high school sweetheart Amy, originally from Arizona. They have four children Aydria, Ashleigh, Alana and Christopher.

He credits Amy with getting him involved with cats. They started breeding cats in 1997 and have been showing in TICA since 1998. They mainly breed Ragdolls, but have bred and shown numerous other breeds, including American Curls, Siberians, British Shorthair, Cymrics, Scottish Fold Longhair, and Household Pets.

Both Ralph and Amy have been actively involved in organizing 45 licensed TICA shows in the last two decades, including five Regionals and the first TICA Annual that was held outside North America in Hannover, Germany, in 2006.

The top three issues he sees facing TICA today are:

**Legislative developments in different areas of the world:** “There is not much I can do to address these things personally, since these changes are "local" to different areas of the world and really require local support. However, I will support any effort being made to try and make sure that cats and cat breeders are represented in a sensible manner when decisions are made.”

**Online Services for TICA clients:** “While TICA has invested a lot of time, effort, and money in IT over the last decade, there has not been much improvement for our clients,” said Ralph. “Over the last couple of months we were able to make decisions and start making changes in that area which are a good basis for future developments.” He vows to stay involved in driving these efforts forward and believes we are on the right track to report some significant improvements by the end of the year.

**Website redesign and content overhaul:** Ralph was instrumental in leading the group of professionals from various areas within TICA to create the new structure (including a responsive design for mobile devices) and content building that will continue to bring improvements to tica.org.

His vision for TICA over the next 10 years is to create a truly genetic registry, including verified test result information where applicable, e.g. parentage, color, etc. He hopes to optimize the user experience for members, clubs and clients through online services and will seek to find ways for TICA to support research efforts that will benefit feline health and be an asset to breeders. Naturally he intends to help TICA accomplish these goals mainly by investing in IT, an area he knows a little something about ;)

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#### **About TICA:**

TICA®, The International Cat Association® is the world’s largest genetic registry of pedigreed and household pet cats, the first and now the world’s largest–registry to allow household cats of unknown ancestry to compete for the same titles and awards as pedigreed cats. The knowledgeable breeding of pedigreed cats preserves the distinct characteristics of individual pedigreed breeds and ensures the continuation of predictable physical and behavioral traits for future generations. TICA supports the health and welfare of ALL domestic cats through education, knowledgeable cat ownership and proper care to the owners of millions of cats worldwide.

TICA is headquartered in Harlingen, TX, and administers the rules licensing and management of hundreds of cat shows annually across the globe in 104 countries. The Association currently recognizes 71 breeds of cats. Wherever you are, you’re in TICA’s world. Fabulous felines fun and friendships. To learn about TICA go to: [www.tica.org](http://www.tica.org)