

I am pleased to be on the ballot once again following a narrow loss in the previous election, and I hope to earn your support as I seek the opportunity to serve our breeds in a greater capacity.

As a Cherubim breeder with 13 years of experience showing both breeds in TICA, I bring a perspective shaped by years of hands-on involvement in breeding, exhibiting, and advocating for the advancement of the mink Ragdoll. My experience extends beyond the show ring. I have been actively involved in the development and advancement of the Cherubim, participating in every stage of the process, including signing the proposal that ultimately resulted in the compromise to recognize the Ragdoll and Cherubim as two distinct breeds while retaining them within the same breed group.

Having been directly involved in this process, I understand the complexities of navigating change while balancing the interests of breeders, exhibitors, and the future of both breeds. I believe this experience provides valuable insight into the challenges we face and the opportunities ahead.

Since the 2025 changes, I have remained committed to promoting the Cherubim under its new breed name and showcasing the remarkable variety of colors the breed offers. I expanded my breeding program to include solids and maintained an active show schedule, attending one or two shows per month throughout the 2025–2026 show season.

This dedication resulted in achieving both Best Cherubim Kitten and Best Cherubim Adult for the season, as well as 5th Best Regional and 5th Best in the Ragdoll Breed Group. While the latter is not an official award, it is a noteworthy accomplishment, particularly considering that the cat achieved this standing despite not reaching adulthood until halfway through the show season.

These achievements reflect my continued investment in promoting the breeds, supporting their development, and demonstrating their quality and diversity to the broader TICA community.

My Priorities if Elected

My goals are centered on thoughtful progress, meaningful education, improved communication, and stronger relationships within our breed community.

1. Implement Standard Changes Thoughtfully

Significant changes have been introduced in a relatively short period. Moving forward, I believe proposed standard changes should be implemented in a measured, incremental manner rather than all at once. Providing breeders and exhibitors with clear explanations, adequate preparation time, and opportunities to understand each change will help facilitate a smoother transition while supporting the long-term goals for both breeds.

2. Develop an Educational Seminar for Both Breeds

I would like to establish a new breed seminar that gives equal consideration to the Ragdoll and Cherubim. The seminar should include clear visual examples illustrating the extremes we are working to avoid in each breed, helping breeders, exhibitors, and judges develop a consistent understanding of the standards and their intended application.

Education is essential to the responsible development of our breeds, and a well-designed seminar would provide a valuable resource for both established breeders and those new to our breed group.

3. Establish an Annual Breed Group Show

I would like to see an annual show dedicated to celebrating our breed group and attracting breeders and exhibitors from across the country. Such an event would provide an opportunity to showcase our cats, exchange knowledge, encourage collaboration, and strengthen relationships among members of our community.

Equally important, it would create an opportunity to bridge the divisions that have existed within our breed group. Although we may have differing opinions on certain issues, we share an interest in the continued success and responsible development of these breeds. Creating opportunities to work together would be a meaningful step toward building a more united community.

4. Improve Communication and Transparency

As elected representatives, we have a responsibility to keep the breeders we represent informed about our work, our priorities, and the progress being made on their behalf.

I would advocate for regular updates to the breed section and the introduction of a quarterly newsletter outlining committee activities, ongoing initiatives, proposed changes, and other matters relevant to our breeds. Consistent communication would help ensure that breeders remain informed and engaged, while providing greater transparency into the committee's work.

I believe effective representation requires not only listening to our community but also ensuring that members understand what their representatives are doing and how they can participate in shaping the future of our breeds.

A Continued Commitment to Our Breeds

Regardless of the election outcome, my commitment to breeding, exhibiting, and promoting these beautiful cats will continue. My involvement has never depended on holding a committee position, and it will not in the future.

I will continue to be a preservation breeder, guided by my dedication to the cats, the integrity of my breeding program, and the responsible advancement of the breeds I have spent so many years supporting.

I believe my 13 years of experience showing both breeds, my direct involvement in the Cherubim advancement process, and my continued efforts to promote the breed group provide a valuable perspective to bring to the committee. I also recognize that effective leadership requires a willingness to listen, consider differing viewpoints, communicate openly, and work collaboratively toward shared objectives.

If elected, I will bring that experience, commitment, and collaborative approach to the role, with the goal of helping both the Ragdoll and Cherubim move forward thoughtfully and successfully.

I respectfully ask for your vote next and the opportunity to contribute to the future of our breeds. Your support, confidence, and participation are sincerely appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amanda Nicodemus

CastleReign Ragdolls and Cherubim