

Savannah Breed Committee Candidate Statement 2026

I am proud to have served on the Savannah Breed Committee for two terms, and I would be honored to earn your vote for Savannah Breed Committee Chairperson in my next term.



LA SGC NitroKatz Mariatu

During a previous term, I worked alongside dedicated Breed Section committee members to advocate successfully for reversing a standing rule change that could have harmed the future of our breed. I would welcome the opportunity to continue guiding the Savannah Breed Section as we prepare for changing regulations, including the anticipated prohibition of continued exotic-cat species hybridization. Close collaboration with the chairpersons of other exotic-derived hybrid breeds will be especially valuable as we navigate these challenges.

Priorities for the Next Term

- Continue educating judges and the public about correct Savannah type and temperament.
- Evaluate the overall health of our emerging breed and promote practices that support a positive long-term trend.
- Create a readily available library of materials that Savannah breeders and pet owners can use to host effective breed displays.
- Develop a regular Savannah newsletter and facilitate the creation of forthcoming Savannah Breeding Guidelines with input from Breed Section members.

Breeding Experience and Philosophy

I have shared my life with Savannahs since 2012 and have bred and shown them under my hobby cattery, NitroKatz Savannahs, since 2015. We have always been—and will remain—a small, home-based cattery focused on quality rather than quantity.

My goal is to produce healthy, well-rounded, typey, and thoroughly spoiled Savannahs for carefully selected families. I match each cat's personality with the right home and provide lifelong friendship, support, and guidance. To date, we have achieved that goal with every litter.

I am passionate about promoting a positive, accurate understanding of Savannahs and educating others about proper breed type. I also believe the long-term success of any breed depends first on health and temperament, followed by breed type. I proudly identify as a Savannah preservation breeder and am establishing a purposeful outcross program to improve genetic diversity and support the long-term health of SBT Savannahs.

Education, Outreach, and Advocacy

I have represented the Savannah breed at several AKC/TICA Joint Venture Meet the Breeds events and regularly host public Savannah breed displays at local shows. I provide breed-standard information, including pictorial examples, and invite the public to interact with my show cats to help dispel the misconception that Savannahs are "wild."

My cats and I have participated in Parade of Breeds and served as Pet Me cats. I facilitated Sav-annual in 2024 and co-facilitated Catology Savannah Cats in 2026. I also co-authored and co-presented a two-hour Savannah seminar for breeders and judges at Catology Cats, where I serve on the board of this education-focused cat club.

I have also assisted Savannah breeders with Fish and Wildlife import/export compliance—both proactively and retroactively when international sales occurred without adequate import guidance.

Showing and Organizational Experience

I have shown Savannahs extensively throughout the United States and Canada, including in areas where many attendees had never heard of the breed or met a Savannah in person. My homebred and acquired cats have earned multiple

Supreme Grand Champion titles and Regional Winner honors. One of my homebred cats also achieved International Winner status and a Lifetime Achievement Award.

I have served TICA show committees in a range of roles:

- Ring Clerk
- Master Clerk
- Entry Clerk
- Show Manager

Professional Leadership

In my professional life, I am a project manager in healthcare. My work requires leadership, process ownership, organization, people management, and consistent compliance with rules, guidelines, and established processes. I demonstrate these skills daily, and they provide a strong foundation for leading the Savannah Breed Committee.

I would be honored to apply this experience to support an informed, collaborative, and healthy future for our breed.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Heather Jackson

NitroKatz Savannahs