

I have been a TICA exhibitor since 2004 and raised my two children in the TICA Junior Exhibitor program of which I was a founding member. I have served as the Northeast Region's first Junior Exhibitor Committee Member, Liaison, and junior mentor to dozens of children in the program for nearly over 20 years. I have been and am currently involved in putting on many shows in the Northeast Region. My children and I started with household pets and gradually became proud owners and breeders of Himalayans and Persians, many of whom went on to become regional and international winners. Now that the children are grown, I have begun showing Egyptian Maus having first been acquainted with this magnificent breed through one of my own TICA mentors and judges, the late Donna Madison. Donna worked with Dot Mardulier of Maullenum Cattery and both had a great passion for the breed's survival that surpassed their own love of showing.

One of Dot's goals in the early 2000s was to work with imported (Egyptian) bloodlines to help increase the diversity of the Mau gene pool in the U.S. and ensure the natural breed's continuity. Both Dot and Donna worked diligently to educate the TICA community including judges from around the world in appreciating and understanding one of the (if not THE) oldest natural domestic cat breeds, and certainly nature's only spotted domestic cat. With their gooseberry green eyes and their beautiful, natural random spotting, the Egyptian Mau has been revered by its human counterparts for over 3,000 years and we must not let them disappear from the world (and I know this to be true from my own experiences as a professional classical archaeologist [ancient Rome and Greece]).

I am thrilled to have been entrusted with my "own" Celestialspots Maus for over four years now (shout out to Denise!). And I am proud to say that my precious Gaia has achieved her Alter class title to "Supreme" along with regional and international wins, and now her "great nephew" Seti is well on his way to a great show career in the kitten and now Champion classes. I work very hard to keep my Maus healthy and happy and in top show condition. I take every opportunity at TICA shows to educate the visiting public, fellow exhibitors, and even judges to the special history of the breed and their unique physical characteristics, strength, and personality. While not yet venturing into the breeding realm, I am 100% devoted to exhibiting them throughout the eastern U.S. and Canada, and working with breeding members of the committee to foster successful programs that focus on health and temperament. I firmly believe that TICA judges need to "see" Maus in their rings and learn more about their breed standard and whatever qualities or changes the committee wants to work on.

If you choose me for breed committee, I will be a stalwart TICA ambassador for our beloved Egyptian Mau and will advocate for their well-deserved place among the more "popular" (and not so ancient) breeds.

Respectfully yours,
Sue Cherau