

The Joint Rex Breed Advisory Committee

DEVON REX (Breed 33a)

Breeding Policy

Introduction

This document is seen as a way of ensuring breeders observe what is considered 'best practice' in their involvement with Devon Rex and particularly in their Devon Rex breeding programmes.

The Devon Rex gene is inherited as a simple recessive.

The Devon Rex is a shorthaired breed.

Devon Rex, unlike most breeds, owe their origin to one cat - Kirlee. It should always be remembered that most of the females bred to Kirlee were very closely related as well as being immediate descendants of Kallibunker - the original Cornish Rex, as at that time it was assumed Kirlee resulted from the same mutation as Kallibunker. Inbreeding was then carried out in the ensuing generations to produce the three generations of Rex to Rex breeding needed to obtain breed recognition. This practice of inbreeding has continued. From the beginning, serious health problems have beset Devon Rex, i.e. Luxating Patellae, Coagulopathy and Inherited Myopathy (Spasticity).

Two blood types have been confirmed in Devon Rex - type A and type B. Type A is dominant over type B. This means that a cat with type B blood is homozygous for type B. Type A cats can either be homozygous for A or Heterozygous (carrying the B gene). Cats with type B blood have strong antibodies against type A red blood cells. These anti-A antibodies can cause two serious problems: Neonatal Isoerythrolysis (fading kitten syndrome) and transfusion reactions.

Aims

It is vital regular selective outcrossing be introduced and maintained to increase the gene pool and improve stamina and health. This is 'best for the breed' in its ongoing development.

Guidelines

Breeders and owners of Devon Rex and Devon Rex Variants are recommended to blood type test all their cats but more especially all breeding stock. Blood type A kittens resulting from a mating between a type A stud and a type B queen may die within the first few days of life if allowed to suckle their mother's colostrum. It is also important to know that cats with the relatively rare type B blood can die if given a transfusion of the common type A blood.

All cats used for outcrossing should be thoroughly researched, of sound temperament and free from any hereditary defects. In the case of British Shorthairs, only cats which have been certified clear under the FAB/PKD screening scheme should be used as outcrosses.

Breeders should ensure, to the best of their knowledge, that any Devon Rex or Devon Rex Variants from which they breed are of sound temperament, free from any hereditary defects, (including those listed in the GCCF Standard of Points), and conform as closely as possible to the Standard of Points (excluding the coat description where variants are concerned).

Devon Rex are not compatible with Cornish Rex, Selkirk Rex or LaPerm. Such matings are therefore highly undesirable. The product of such matings will be registered on the Reference Register and cannot be considered to be variants. They cannot be used in either Rex breeding programme and should be placed on the non-active register. It is considered to be in the best interest of the Devon Rex breed to keep it entirely separate from other incompatible Rex mutations.

Under no circumstances should any cat with Sphynx ancestry be introduced into the Devon Rex breed. Selection for hairlessness contradicts the coat quality requirements for Rex cats. The product of any matings between Sphynx and Devon Rex will be registered on the Reference Register. They cannot be considered to be variants nor be used in any Devon Rex breeding programme and should be placed on the non-active register.

Breeders are recommended not to breed from Devon Rex or Devon Rex variants with Longhair. The longhair gene has been present in the breed since the beginning, as Kirlee was a proven Longhair carrier. It is considered in the best interest of Devon Rex coat quality not to perpetuate this factor. Outcrosses made to breeds with Longhair ancestry should be undertaken with caution and where possible only to cats proven not to be carriers of the longhair gene.

Breeders shall ensure that any Devon Rex or Devon Rex Variants from which they breed, shall be registered with the GCCF in accordance with the Rules in force at the time.

It is recommended that the progeny from any matings that are not required or Devon Rex breeding, should be placed on the Non-Active Register, to avoid the introduction of the Devon Rex gene into other varieties of pedigree cats.

The majority of matings are most likely to be between Devon Rex x Devon Rex and Devon Rex x Devon Rex Variant, but to ensure maximum benefit from outcrossing Devon Rex Variant x Devon Rex Variant matings are also necessary. Normal coated progeny from Variant x Variant matings cannot be considered variants as this can only be proven by test matings.

Breeds which have been approved for use in outcrossing are: Abyssinian, Asian Shorthair, British Shorthair, Burmese, Korat. All other breeds are listed as non-approved.

Breeders will be encouraged to take advantage of any relevant official scheme, which may be devised by the Joint Rex BAC to test the soundness of the Devon Rex breed.

Note: It is recommended where the colour of a cat is in question a DNA test, (where such a test exists), be arranged.

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Registration Policy

Breeds which have been approved for use in outcrossing are: Abyssinian, Asian Shorthair, British Shorthair, Burmese, Korat. In addition, American Shorthair and European Shorthair are permitted in the pedigrees of imported cats. All other breeds are listed as non-approved.

Full Register

Devon Rex which have within the preceding three generations only Devon Rex.

Supplementary Register

Devon Rex which have within the preceding five generations only Devon Rex, Devon Rex Variants, Abyssinian, Asian Shorthair, British Shorthair, Burmese or Korat. In addition, American Shorthair and European Shorthair are permitted in the pedigrees of imported cats.

Reference Register

Devon Rex Variants which have within the preceding five generations only Devon Rex, Devon Rex Variants, Abyssinian, Asian Shorthair, British Shorthair or Korat shall be registered on the Reference Register with a Devon Rex Variant breed number. In addition, American Shorthair and European Shorthair are permitted in the pedigrees of imported cats. Devon Rex and Devon Rex variants which have within the preceding five generations any non-approved breeds, including non-pedigree cats, shall be registered on the Reference Register.

NB When kittens with one or both parents registered on the Reference Register are, under this Registration Policy, eligible to be registered on the Supplementary Register it is recommended that the person registering these kittens requests such registration and encloses documentary evidence of the five generations required. If this is not done the kittens may be registered on the Reference Register.

Normal coated cats produced from variant x variant matings will have no breed number only colour description and will be over-stamped 'may carry the Devon Rex gene'.

All cats resulting from matings between Devon Rex and any other rex coated breed will have no breed number and will be over-stamped 'not recommended for breeding'. Their progeny will remain permanently on the reference register'.

Any cats of Devon Rex appearance, either Rex or normal coated, with Sphynx ancestry will be registered on the Reference Register and be over-stamped 'must not be used for Devon Rex breeding'. No progeny will ever be recognised or registered as Devon Rex or Devon Rex Variants.

All cats resulting from matings between Devon Rex and any longhaired breed will be over-stamped 'carries the longhair gene'. Their progeny will be over-stamped 'may carry the longhair gene'.

NOTE :

Before the registration of any white Devon Rex or white Devon Rex Variant, a BAER certificate of freedom from deafness for the white parent(s) must be supplied to the GCCF. For identification purposes cats must be micro chipped prior to testing.