

# Carissa Altschul

## Persian Breed Council Secretary Candidate 2019-2020

### CFA Breed Council Secretary Job Description taken from CFA's Website...

*"Adopt[ing] the role of guardian for your breed standard . . . would be considered a primary responsibility of a Breed Council Secretary."*

I am asking for your vote to continue as Persian Breed Council Secretary for a 3rd term. The Persian breed continues to be CFA's most popular outside of China, and is the most populous breed in both Regional and National Awards in Regions 1-9. Our Breed Council continues to have the highest membership in CFA. I still believe strongly in the importance of this guardianship role, an interest that many of you also share. While aware of potential conflicts with other breeds, my main focus is to better the breed by heeding the wishes of the Breed Council Members who work so hard and take such delight in the Persian breed.



**DEDICATION:** I was practically born into the Cat Fancy and CFA. My parents started breeding and exhibiting in 1971 and achieved their first Cacao GC with a homebred cat the same year I was born. My earliest childhood memories are of cats and cat shows. Raised in a worldview that respected and honored pedigrees, history and breeding of cats, my life has always centered around the cat fancy. In the 90's, as I began to be more active in the Fancy, I found myself increasingly wanting to share what I knew with others, and to somehow help enable their successes. When CFA officially implemented its Mentor Program, it was a natural fit; I have been a mentor since the inception of the program. I have mentored many new breeders to success, and they, in turn, have mentored other new breeders. I believe a key part in being a good breeder is sharing knowledge with others freely. In addition, I have served CFA in the position of Regional Director and a member of the Board of Directors.

**EDUCATION:** The future for any breed lies in welcoming and educating new breeders. The Persian breed as a whole lacks cohesiveness in this area, and that is one cause of the recent erosion of retention rates. We have enjoyed decades as CFA's most popular breed, which helped keep the flow of new breeders high, but we are losing ground now. I plan to continue to encourage the Breed Council membership to freely share information on grooming, health, genetics, and much more. While some of this information is available on the web, our Persian BC membership is a particularly rich resource we can tap. To that end, I have written several articles that have been published in Cat Talk, PandEcats, and the CFA Yearbook regarding the Persian breed, history, and other general cat fancy related topics. Additionally, I will continue to focus on welcoming new breeders and encouraging Persian breeders to do so as well. New breeders are the future of not just the cat fancy, but also our breeding programs. I will continue to work with Central Office staff by answering questions about color genetics and identifying colors for registration purposes. I believe that keeping our pedigrees as accurate as possible is a key role as Breed Council Secretary. The Breed Council Secretary must have a very good working knowledge of color genetics as well as the ability to identify colors in order to assist Central Office with registrations and keep Persian pedigrees as accurate as possible.

**PRESERVATION:** The Persian, with its long, flowing coat, is CFA's original signature longhair breed, from which the foundation for several other hybrid breeds has come. It is critical to recognize, particularly given the shrinking retention rate, that protecting the Parent Breed from mergers with the Hybrid Breeds that it has helped to create is vital to the survival of the Parent Breed. I believe that no sidestep, including manipulating show rules, should be used as a way to bypass a Breed Council "No" vote. As your Breed

Council Secretary, I will continue to work to keep Persians as their own breed if that remains the desire of the majority vote of the Breed Council. I strongly believe the Persian breed is worthy of protection. I am putting on the ballot this year to allow the Breed Council Secretary to review ALL pedigrees submitted for registration via pedigree to ensure pedigree accuracy. I believe it is important that the Breed Council remain advisory to the Board of Directors, rather than the Board of Directors dictating to the breeds.

I am asking for your vote again as Persian Breed Council Secretary because I feel I am qualified to continue in this position. I know the history of the Persian breed in detail, I know the color genetics of all seven divisions, I can identify colors with relative ease for both Central Office and breeders, I promote the Persian breed in all areas, I listen to the concerns of Breed Council members and act on those concerns, and, above all, I value the identity of the Persian breed and will not stop protecting it.

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