

ISSUE: NOVEMBER 2025

# TonkiNews



**ZOOMIES GUARANTEED:**

**MEET THE F1 GENERATION!**



**Generation F1... Fun, Fabulous and Full of Mischief**

These wide-eyed wonders are not just cute - they are the start of something special!

Find out what makes an F1 Tonkinese so unique.

**Tarantela Tonkinese - A New Adventure in Breeding Read more on page 6**

Photo credit: Karen Hudson

## Welcome to a brand-new edition of TonkiNews - and with it, a brand-new chapter.

### Why We Have Gone Digital

After careful consideration, the club has decided to move away from producing printed copies of the magazine. Since Covid, the cost of printing has doubled, and postage continues to rise. While we understand that some of you may miss the feel of a glossy magazine, continuing in print simply no longer makes financial sense for the club.

### However, we are not cutting corners - we are evolving.

From now on, we aim to bring you more frequent issues of Tonkinews in this new, lighter digital flip-book format. These editions will be shorter than the previous thick magazine, but more frequent - keeping you regularly updated with all things Tonkinese.

You will be able to read each issue online or download and save it to your phone, tablet, or computer.

The format may be new, but the quality remains unchanged: rich content, beautiful photos, and stories that bring our Tonkinese community to life.

This format also allows us to include features we never could before - such as clickable images, video content, external links, and interactive surveys. You may find a link to a breeder's website, watch a playful Tonk video, or click to vote in a fun club poll - all within the pages of your magazine. It is a dynamic, modern way to share stories and connect with one another. So watch this space as we get to grips with the digital world and this magazine will evolve.

### Inside This Issue

In this issue, we are shining a **spotlight on the breeders who help shape the Tonkinese world**. We have featured both a UK-based breeder and an international breeder, offering insight into their journey and what it means to breed Tonks responsibly.

There is also a closer look at why your Tonk has a GCCF certificate - and why that matters.

### Looking Ahead

We hope you enjoy this new format of TonkiNews and continue to feel connected to the community it represents. As we move forward with more frequent digital editions, we will aim to keep improving and adding thoughtful features. Your feedback is always welcome - and we thank you for being part of our Tonkinese family.

Warm wishes and happy reading,

*Ulla*

Editor, TonkiNews

### Coming Next: Our 2025 Welfare & Rescue Special Edition

*In our next issue, we shine a spotlight on the heart of our club - Welfare and Rescue.*

*We will be sharing inspiring adoption stories from Tonkinese who have found wonderful new homes, as well as heartfelt pieces from families who reached out to us for support and welfare guidance throughout 2024-2025.*

*It's a warm, uplifting look at the real journeys behind the scenes — the challenges, the recoveries, and the happy endings that make the Tonkinese community so special.*





# GIVE AWAY WINNER 2025

## Meet the Five Tonks and a Box of Surprises!

I was absolutely thrilled to win the Tonkinese Cat Club Prize - and, judging by their reactions, my five Tonks were just as delighted! Each of them revealed their unique personalities the moment the parcel of goodies arrived.

**Lotti**, my eldest gal at nearly 14, is a lilac tortie and something of a dignified recluse these days. She tends to stay upstairs where she can enjoy peace away from the younger crowd. When the excitement had finally died down later that evening, she ventured downstairs - and immediately claimed one of the toys! Watching her happily playing made my heart melt.

Then the rest of the gang descended on the box, each determined to claim their treasure.



**Reesey**, my clever chocolate mink boy (now about 11), is the undisputed intellectual of the group. He instantly took possession of the Bob the Builder toy - and made it very clear that no one else was to touch it! He even brings it to my sewing machine when I'm in my workshop, proudly dropping it on the desk like a gift.

**Hershey**, his brother, is the family comedian - a handsome brown point with huge blue eyes that make him look far too innocent for the mischief he causes. He grabbed a bag of treats and dashed upstairs in triumph after sampling a few of the toys.

**Mella**, my gorgeous aqua-eyed brown tortie (around 8 years old), is affectionate, silly, and ever-so-clumsy. When she gets into one of her purring, love-struck moods on my lap, she becomes obsessed with shiny things - especially my gold necklace, which she tries to bite! Once the boys had settled, she dived into the box and proudly emerged with the feather stick - her new favourite.

**Toffi**, my youngest at 7 and a beautiful brown mink, is affectionately nicknamed the Dark Destroyer. He's a stealth bomber - silent until he launches a full-speed chase! The girls never see him coming. Beneath the bravado, though, he's a sensitive soul who needs gentle reassurance. He joined in every round of play, making sure nothing went untested. And I wasn't forgotten either - I received some wonderful prizes myself: a lovely mug, a smart cat bowl, and the most beautiful throw printed with photos of my Tonks. It's honestly one of the most special gifts I have ever received.

A huge thank you to the Tonkinese Cat Club for such thoughtful prizes and for bringing so much joy - to both humans and Tonks alike!

**Sally Atkinson**



## Behind the Scenes: Where Tonkinese Beginnings Begin

***Editor note: Most of our members know the joy of life with a Tonkinese - the cuddles, the chatter, the antics - but fewer get to see the careful planning and passion that goes into breeding these wonderful companions. In this issue, three dedicated breeders lift the curtain on their journeys: how they chose their lines, the genetics behind healthy kittens, and what it takes to preserve and strengthen Tonkinese bloodlines. Even if you are not a breeder yourself, we think you will enjoy this rare glimpse into the thoughtful work that makes your Tonk possible.***

### The Tarantela Tonkinese Journey

My name is Karen Hodson, and I breed Tonkinese, Siamese, and Oriental Shorthairs in Cheshire under the GCCF prefix Tarantela, which I have proudly held since 1997.

While I have many years of breeding experience, Tonkinese have been a newer and very exciting addition to my cattery—and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know this affectionate and intelligent breed.

I had always admired Tonkinese, and with two active Siamese boys on the full register, I felt their pedigrees could contribute positively to the UK Tonkinese gene pool. I decided to build my programme from the ground up by producing **my own F1 kittens**, and by mid-2025, I had produced two F1 litters.

#### **My Siamese boys are:**

**Mariol's Taran** – a seal tabby point from Germany, carrying chocolate and blue

**Sanmaurs That's Amore of Tarantela** – a seal point from the USA, carrying blue



To complement them, I was fortunate to be entrusted with **Catamarian Tarantela Chloe**, a beautiful chocolate Burmese girl carrying blue. She became the foundation queen for our Tonkinese breeding.



In 2024, Chloe and Amore **produced our first F1 Tonkinese litter** - six kittens in total: two males and four females. Two of the F1 girls stayed with us for our future breeding:

- Tarantela Toot Sweet**
- Tarantela Truly Scrumptious**

Both are brown, carrying chocolate and blue, fully DNA-tested and now on the GCCF active register.



Tarantela Toot Sweet



Tarantela Truly Scrumptious



Tarantela Titanium F1 (boy)

To take the next step in the programme, we needed a suitable male for our F1 girls. Thanks to Dr Julia Craig-McFeely, we welcomed **Rameses Tarantela Tito**, a chocolate tabby point F2 male. Tito is a big, beautifully typed boy and a key part of our plans going forward.



Rameses Tarantela Tito

We have also had great success on the show bench this year, with several Best of Variety wins and even a Best in Show. I am hoping it won't be long before I can start showing some of our F2 Tonkinese kittens.

Most recently, on 2nd June 2025, Chloe gave birth to our second F1 litter - this time to Mariol's Taran. She had eight kittens: five boys and three girls. One of the girls was a little small to begin with, but she soon gained strength with a little help. Several of the kittens showed tabby points, and we enjoyed watching their colours and characters develop.

By early September, all eight kittens had gone off to their carefully chosen new homes, and we are thrilled with how well they have all settled in. It's been a very busy time at Tarantela, but a truly rewarding one- and we are excited about the next chapter in our Tonkinese adventure.

**Written by: Karen Hodson, Tarantela Tonkinese**



Chloe & her eight F1 Kittens



# What Makes an F1 Tonkinese Special?



What makes F1 Tonkinese unique is that they represent the purest blend of **Burmese and Siamese** traits, often displaying a striking mix of both personalities and appearances. Their coats, eye colours, and behaviour can be more varied, and they sometimes retain quirks from their parent breeds that make them especially interesting to observe.

***From a breeding perspective, F1s are vital for introducing new lines and boosting genetic diversity in the UK Tonkinese population -***

something that is increasingly important for the long-term health of the breed.

In cat breeding, the “F” stands for filial - a way of tracking generations from the original parent breeds.

For Tonkinese, those parent breeds are Burmese and Siamese.

**F1 (First Generation)** Tonkinese are the direct offspring of a Burmese and a Siamese.

**F2 (Second Generation)** kittens are bred from either two F1 Tonkinese or one F1 and one Tonkinese of a later generation.

**From F3 to F6+**, kittens are the result of continued Tonkinese-to-Tonkinese pairings, each generation bringing more stability in appearance and temperament.

*Important note for show enthusiasts:*

Under GCCF rules, F1 Tonkinese are not eligible to be shown. Only F2 generation onwards can be exhibited at cat shows, once the breed characteristics have begun to stabilise and meet the required standards.





## **Someone missed the memo about stripes**

**F3 (3rd Generation) from Silkorchid  
1 chocolate Ticked Tabby  
2 Brown Spotted Tabbies  
1 Blue Ticked Tabby  
1 Solid Blue**

# Glorious Tabby Tonkinese

A rare treat for the eyes - meet the kittens that show just how beautifully diverse the Tonkinese tabby patterns can be, from spotted to classic, and everything in between!



## Tabby magic in the Tonkinese world

Did you know that Tonkinese can come in different tabby patterns? When planning my last two litters, I chose a stud specifically because he was a tabby Tonkinese. Both of my girls visited him on consecutive weeks so the two litters were close in age.

Eric is a **spectacular** Brown Classic Tabby BCR Tonkinese imported by Malgorzata of Toptonk Tonkinese. He is 6th Generation and was born in Switzerland.

I took my blue girl Sushi and my chocolate tabby girl Noodle, so I knew I had a very good chance of tabby kittens from both of them.

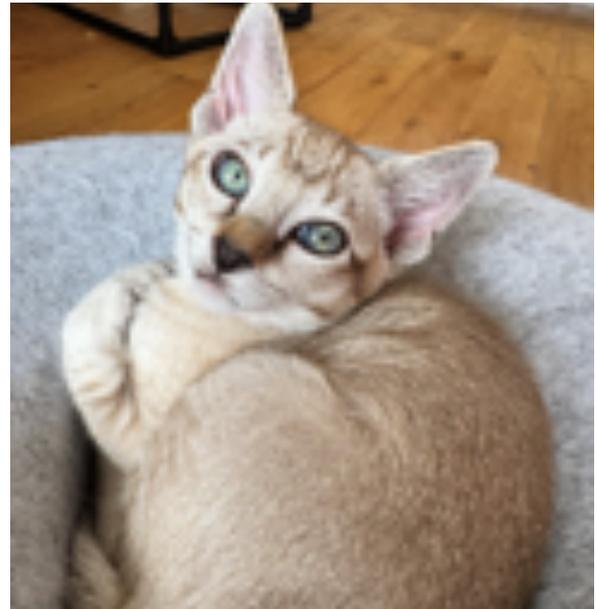
In total we had nine kittens (F3 & F4) - and not only did we get four tabby kittens, but **four different expressions** of the tabby pattern:

- **Blue spotted**
- **Brown spotted**
- **Brown ticked**
- **Brown classic**

**Sprinkled with charm, swirled with stripes - the tastiest Tonks in town**

## Sushi's 2 Tabbies

**Lilyput Rum and Raisin** – a stunning blue spotted tabby Tonkinese with Burmese coat restriction. He has the softest fur and lovely green eyes. He went to a lovely family in Jersey, where he's now called Ziggy.



**Lilyput Viennetta** – a brown ticked tabby with Tonkinese coat restriction. He has the most striking blue-green eyes and a very talkative nature. He earned his name because his legs are striped like a Viennetta dessert! He left us with his brown brother and is now known as Sidney.

## Noodle's 2 Tabbies

Noodle herself is a **Chocolate spotted tabby Tonkinese with Tonkinese coat restriction (TCR)** so I expected a higher percentage of tabby kittens from her. She had three kittens - and two of them were tabby boys.



**Lilyput Banana Split** – a brown spotted tabby with Burmese coat restriction. His spots are a little more blurred than the blue spotted boy's and almost appear striped. He's a funny boy with a loud cry and now lives with his new family as Charlie.

**Lilyput Fudge Sundae (Jasper)** – a brown classic tabby with Burmese coat restriction, **just like his father**. Cuddly, sweet, and wonderfully marked - Jasper will be staying here as a neuter because classic tabby Tonkinese are still so new to the UK.



## The hidden patterns

Even some of the non-tabby kittens showed faint “ghost” **tabby markings** - a glimpse of their underlying pattern.

Here’s one example: **Lilyput Mint Choc Chip**, a brown Burmese coat restriction kitten (now called Teddy), showing those subtle shadow stripes beneath his silky coat.

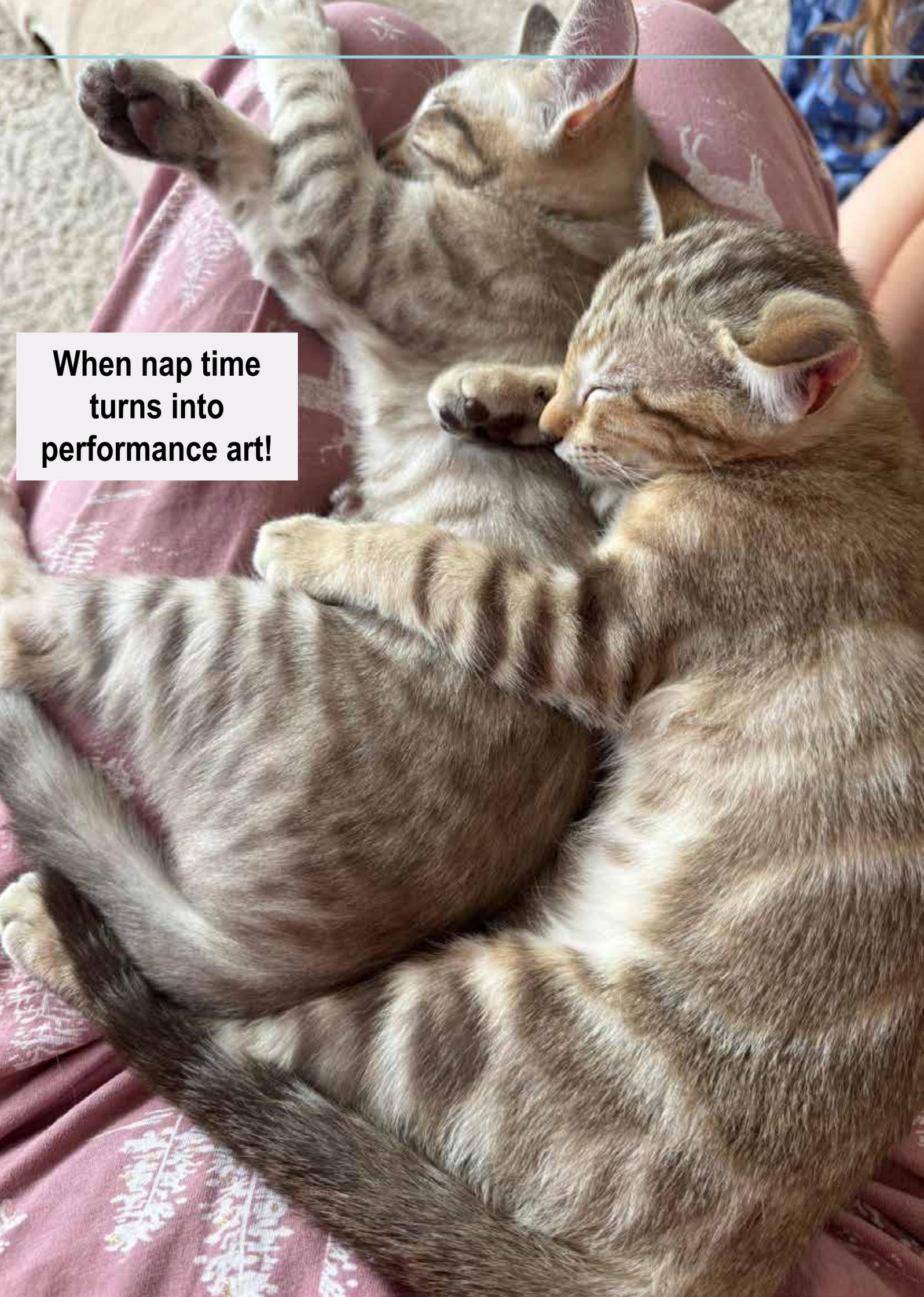


The Tonkinese breed can display a fascinating range of tabby patterns - from subtle ticking to bold stripes and classic swirls - all influenced by how their colour restriction (Burmese, Tonkinese or Siamese) interacts with the tabby genes.

For a deeper look into how these stunning patterns develop, explore Linda Vousden’s excellent presentation [here](#)

[Understanding Tabby Tonkinese – tonkinese.me/presentation---tabby-cats](https://tonkinese.me/presentation---tabby-cats)

Written by Lorraine Phillips, [Lilyput Tonkinese](#)

A close-up photograph of two young tabby kittens resting on a pink blanket with a white floral pattern. The kitten in the foreground is curled up, its eyes closed, with its head resting on the back of the second kitten. The second kitten is positioned behind it, also with its eyes closed, and its front paws are raised. The scene is brightly lit, highlighting the texture of the kittens' fur and the pattern of the blanket.

**When nap time  
turns into  
performance art!**

# From Cinnamon Dreams to Champion Lines – The Legacy of Cattery vom Ellerbek

*Over the past 15 years, Antje Marie Renk has quietly built one of Europe's most thoughtful and internationally diverse Tonkinese breeding programmes. Working from her home in Germany, she brought together bloodlines from the United States, New Zealand, Switzerland, Australia, and the UK — with a special focus on introducing the cinnamon gene to the breed.*

*As she prepares to retire at the end of this year, Antje reflects on a journey shaped by deep knowledge, strong friendships, and an unwavering love for these affectionate, balanced cats. In this article, she shares the story of Cattery vom Ellerbek, its champions, her mentors, and the final litter that will mark the end of an extraordinary chapter.*

## About Me

My name is Antje Marie Renk. I am 75 years old, a mother of two, and a proud grandmother to four grandchildren aged between 4 and 24. Cats have always been part of my life - particularly Siamese, who have been my companions since childhood.

Once my children had grown up, I felt a deep desire to start breeding cats. That was 15 years ago - and it marked the beginning of a journey that would lead me to the Tonkinese, a breed I had not previously known but quickly came to love.

## Discovering Tonkinese

At the time, I found that the modern Siamese had changed dramatically. Their extreme features - very large ears and elongated faces - no longer appealed to me. While searching for a more moderate type, I discovered both the Thai cat and the Tonkinese, still rare in Europe but full of charm, balance, and personality.

## Mentorship & Early Connections

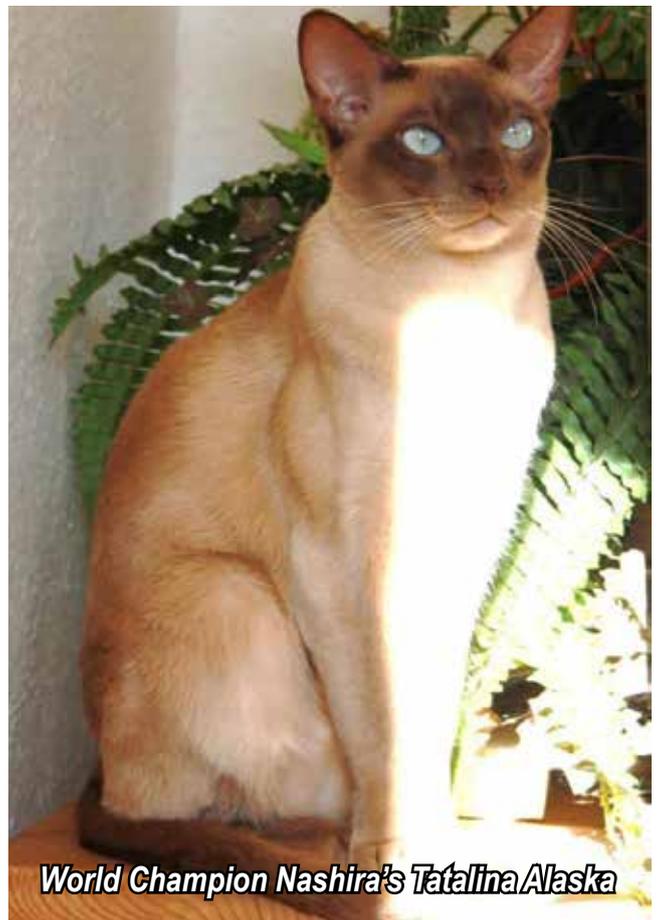
As I connected with other breeders, I met Ms. Lautz (Tonkinese von Lenne) and Ms. Susanne Larfeld (Tonkinese vom Oelchenshammer). Ms. Larfeld had a particularly striking male cat imported from New Zealand - **Angistri's Tonkinese** - in the rare fawn colour. She was also working to introduce the cinnamon gene into the European Tonkinese population, which I found fascinating.

## International Foundations

Through this network, I was introduced to Monika Wernli

in Switzerland, who had brought the cinnamon gene from the United States via her stud Shotoku Nashira's Boy O Boy, originally bred by Ms. Bernstein.

**Monika entrusted me with my very first breeding cat: World Champion Nashira's Tatalina Alaska, a cinnamon carrier with both American and European bloodlines. She was the cornerstone of my breeding programme.**



**World Champion Nashira's Tatalina Alaska**

Soon after, I added Gr. Eu. Champion Gioya vom Oelchenshammer, a solid cinnamon female from Ms. Larfeld, with German and New Zealand lines.



**Gr. Eu. Champion Gioya vom Oelchenshammer**

My first pairings were between **Angistri's Tonkinese** and Tatalina Alaska, combining New Zealand and American lines with the goal of establishing cinnamon in the Tonkinese breed.

It quickly became clear that I needed **my own stud** who carried the cinnamon gene. Finding such a male was not easy — the gene pool was limited, and I had to search internationally.

Eventually, I found my dream cat: **World Champion NZ\*Sirrahsunam Rua Tao (Tayo)**, bred by Dot Harris in New Zealand and carrying lines from Jenny Lovering (NZ) and Emmel Tonkinese (Australia).



**World Champion NZ\*Sirrahsunam Rua Tao**

In 2017, I imported my final Tonkinese cat from overseas: Anniesong's Kylie M., in partnership with M. Wecker, from breeder Vincent Railton.



**Anniesong's Kylie M**



**Qunai von Dachsleren**

**Gentle Kiss of Kylie vom Ellerbek**

My last breeding queen was Qunai von Dachsleren, from Judith Riedener in Switzerland. She introduced valuable new bloodlines from the UK and the overseas Rafjoey Tonkinese.

# It has been a joy...

*Over the years, I have proudly bred and shown several champions:*



**Int. Champion Ayumi Mio vom Ellerbek**



**Gr. Int. Champion Dilara vom Ellerbek**



**World Champion Emily vom Ellerbek**

One of my proudest breeding successes is *Imani vom Ellerbek*, who now lives and thrives with Malgorzata at [Toptonks Cattery](#) in the UK.

*Imani* has already produced 9 beautiful litters there, continuing the legacy of the Ellerbek lines and contributing to the strength and diversity of the breed in the UK.

My breeding programme has always been international in spirit and scope, blending bloodlines from the USA, Switzerland, Germany, the UK, New Zealand, and Australia.

It has been a joy to work with this intelligent, affectionate breed and to contribute to the development and recognition of Tonkinese cats across Europe.

At the end of this year, I will retire from breeding with a heavy heart - but not before welcoming one final litter, which I hope will be a fitting conclusion to 15 wonderful years of dedication and love for this special breed.

Written by Antje Renk, Tonkanesen Vom Ellerbek



**GrCh IMANI VOM ELLERBEK**

Photo credit: Malgozata Skuza

# Who is Behind Your Tonk's Pedigree?

## GCCF, TICA & CFA: Unlocking the Secrets Behind Your Tonk's Paperwork and How These Fancy Acronyms Keep Our Cats Fabulous.

*If you bought your Tonkinese from a reputable UK breeder, you probably received a registration certificate from the GCCF – the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy.*

*But what exactly does this mean, and how does it differ from other organisations like TICA and CFA, which you may also come across online or when looking at pedigrees?*

*Here's a closer look at the world of cat registration and why it matters for you and your Tonk.*

### GCCF

#### The UK's Governing Body for Pedigree Cats

The GCCF is the UK's leading registry for pedigree cats. Established over a century ago, it sets the official standards for recognised cat breeds in the UK, including our beloved Tonkinese.

If your cat is registered with the GCCF, this means:

- They have a verified pedigree tracing back generations.
- The breeder is officially registered and inspected, and expected to meet high welfare standards.
- Your cat is eligible to be shown at GCCF cat shows (if on the full register).

There is an official record of your cat's breed, colour, pattern, and ancestry.

Many UK breeders register their kittens with the GCCF because it upholds traditional British breed standards and provides a well-respected platform for

both showing and breeding.

**The Tonkinese Cat Club is affiliated with the GCCF, and the Tonkinese breed standard is maintained through its Breed Advisory Committee (BAC), made up of judges and experienced breeders.**

The GCCF also offers three types of registration:

Full register: for cats bred according to all GCCF rules, eligible for breeding and showing.

Supplementary register: often used for early-generation cats or those with partial pedigree.

Reference register: cats that don't meet full criteria but are recorded for information.

For pet owners, a GCCF certificate offers peace of mind that their kitten came from a responsible breeder and has documented lineage. Even if you are not interested in showing your cat, this registration offers accountability and traceability.

For more info:

<https://www.gccfcats.org/>

## TICA A Global Registry with a Broader Scope

TICA (The International Cat Association) is a US-based registry that welcomes both pedigree cats and household pets. It has a strong international presence, with shows held in the UK and across Europe.

TICA is known for its inclusive breed policies – for example, it recognises more coat colours and patterns in Tonkinese than the GCCF. Some breeders choose to dual-register kittens with both GCCF and TICA, especially if their breeding programme includes imported lines or they show cats internationally.

Unlike the GCCF, TICA does not have a mandatory breeder inspection system in the UK – but it does maintain its own code of ethics.

For more info: <https://tica.org/>



## CFA The US Standard for Pedigree Cats

The Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA) is one of the oldest and most prestigious cat registries in the United States. Like GCCF and TICA, it maintains breed standards and hosts shows – though its influence is mostly North American.

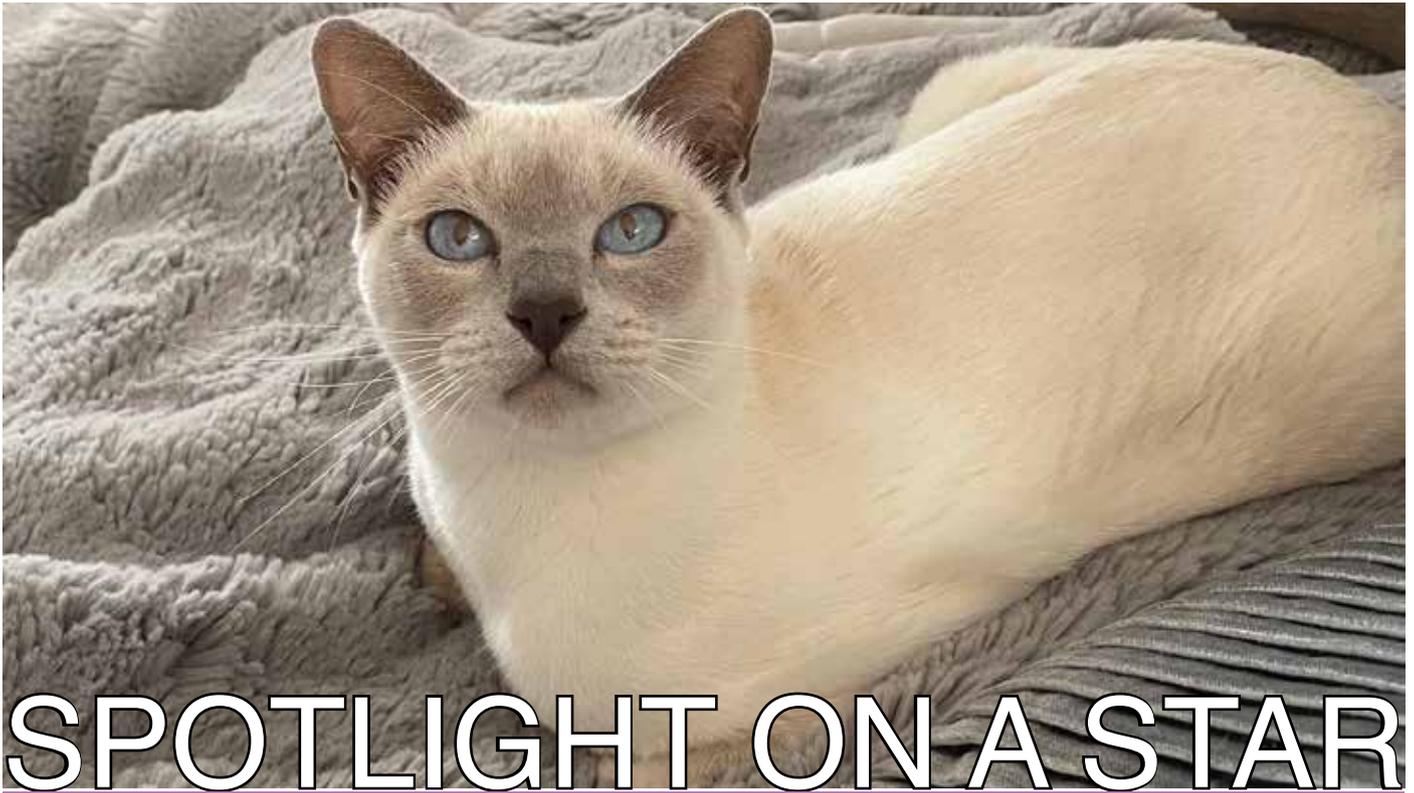
Tonkinese are recognised by the CFA, but with stricter limitations on allowable colours and patterns than the GCCF or TICA. CFA's focus is on maintaining traditional lines with uniform standards, which some breeders prefer.

In the UK, CFA registration is relatively rare, but you may encounter it if your cat has been imported or has American lines in their pedigree.

For more info: <https://cfa.org/>

For more info:  
**What are Registration Certificates  
and Why Are They Important For My Pedigree Kitten?**  
<https://www.registeredpets.co.uk/blog/what-are-papers-and-why-are-they-important-for-my-pedigree-kitten>





# SPOTLIGHT ON A STAR

Celebrating Asia's journey from kitten star to Best of Variety adult

## A Confident New Arrival

When Asia, a Lilac Point Tonkinese, arrived in her new home in southwest Scotland, it was clear from the beginning that she was something special.

Bred by Malgorzata Skuza of the Toptonk Cattery, Asia strolled in as though she had always lived there - calm, unflustered, and completely in control. For her new owner, a relatively new Tonkinese breeder, she was the perfect addition to a growing family of five much-loved Tonks.



## A Promising Show Debut

Asia was not just intended to be a pet. The hope was to show her and eventually breed kittens with excellent type and temperament.



Her show debut came at the Tonkinese Breed Club Show in September 2023, when she was just 8.5 months old. It was a long journey from the Scottish Borders to the Midlands, but it proved more than worthwhile: **Asia was awarded Best Kitten in Show, and then went on to win Best in Show Overall.**

# *It was so lovely to see our beautiful Tonkinese breed getting recognition*

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She took it all in her stride - calm in her pen, relaxed around the other cats, and seemingly unaware of the rosettes piling up. That day, her pen number was 152. A lucky number? Perhaps.

## **On Hold for Heartfelt Reasons**

After that promising start, Asia's show career was put on hold for the most heartfelt of reasons. Her owner was caring full-time for Inca, her elderly 19-year-old Tonkinese, who was battling CKD and required round-the-clock attention and syringe feeding. Cat shows - and indeed any time away - were simply not possible.

When Inca passed away in August 2024, Asia had just raised her first litter of four beautiful kittens. Once the kittens had gone to their new homes, the timing finally felt right to return to the show bench. However, this time Asia was no longer a kitten - she was a mature queen. Would the judges still be impressed?

## **Champion and Grand in Quick Succession**

The answer came quickly. In March 2025, she returned to the GCCF show scene and gained her Champion title within her first month back. By early June, she had achieved Grand Champion status.

## **The Road to Imperial**

Next up was the much more elusive Imperial title - a feat that requires five separate Imperial Challenge Certificates from five different judges, and ***not just among Tonkinese, but against all breeds in Section 5, which includes Burmese, Asians, Australian Mists, and Suffolks.***

On 21 June 2025, at the Kensington & Herts/Middlesex double show in Ware, Hertfordshire, **Asia entered pen number 152 once more.** Her owner had modest hopes: perhaps her first Imperial certificate, and maybe enough to secure Champion status for her sweet blue Tonk companion, Mui Mui.

**But once again, pen number 152 delivered.**

*Not only did Asia win her first Imperial Challenge Certificate, she was also awarded Best of Breed, then Best of Variety Adult – Section 5, and finally Best Overall Section 5 - an extraordinary achievement considering the strength of the competition.*

Up against the other section winners for Best in Show, the final title went to a standout Sphynx named Diddly Squat, representing Section 4 - but the recognition Asia received still left her owner stunned. "I kept checking the results to make sure I was not imagining things," she recalls. "Seeing that pen number again - 152 - it just felt surreal. And it was so lovely to see our beautiful Tonkinese breed getting recognition. It does not happen very often."





ASIA - TOO MANY ROSETTES TO COUNT

### A Breed Worth Celebrating

Asia's story is one of patience, passion, and pride - not just in one cat, but in the Tonkinese breed as a whole. She joins a growing list of Tonks that have made a real impression on the show bench in recent years:

- In 2023, **Phabbay Sweet Raspberry Jam**, a Lilac Colourpointed Tonkinese owned by Beth Noble, took **Overall Best of Variety Section 5** at the Teesside show.
- **Malu of MyMystic**, a Blue Colourpointed Tonkinese owned by Linda Voudsen, **won BOV Section 5** at the Wyvern Cat Club Show in the same month.
- And most recently, in November 2025, **Rameses Polo**, a Lilac TCR Tonkinese, was awarded **Best in Section 5** at The Colourpoint, Rex-Coated & A.O.V. Club Show and placed in the Top 3 for Overall Best in Show - a fantastic achievement for both Polo and the breed.

Written by Christina Gordon, [Silkorchid Tonkinese](#)



ASIA COMFY AT HOME

# Understanding Section 5 & Best of Variety

A quick guide for Tonkinese pet owners and new exhibitors

***“Section 5 is where our Tonkinese shine - and a Best of Variety win means they have outshone the entire section.”***

## What is Section 5?

GCCF divides breeds into “Sections” to group cats with similar origins and type.

Tonkinese belong in Section 5, alongside:

Burmese  
Asians  
Australian Mist

These breeds share a medium, elegant body type, expressive eyes, and a social, people-loving temperament.

Although each breed competes in its own classes, Section 5 is the broader category where Tonkinese are placed within the GCCF system.

## What is Best of Variety (BOV)?

After all Open Classes in Section 5 have been judged, the winners of each breed class are compared for Best of Variety.

There are separate BOV awards for:

Adult  
Kitten  
Neuter

To be considered for a BOV, a cat must:

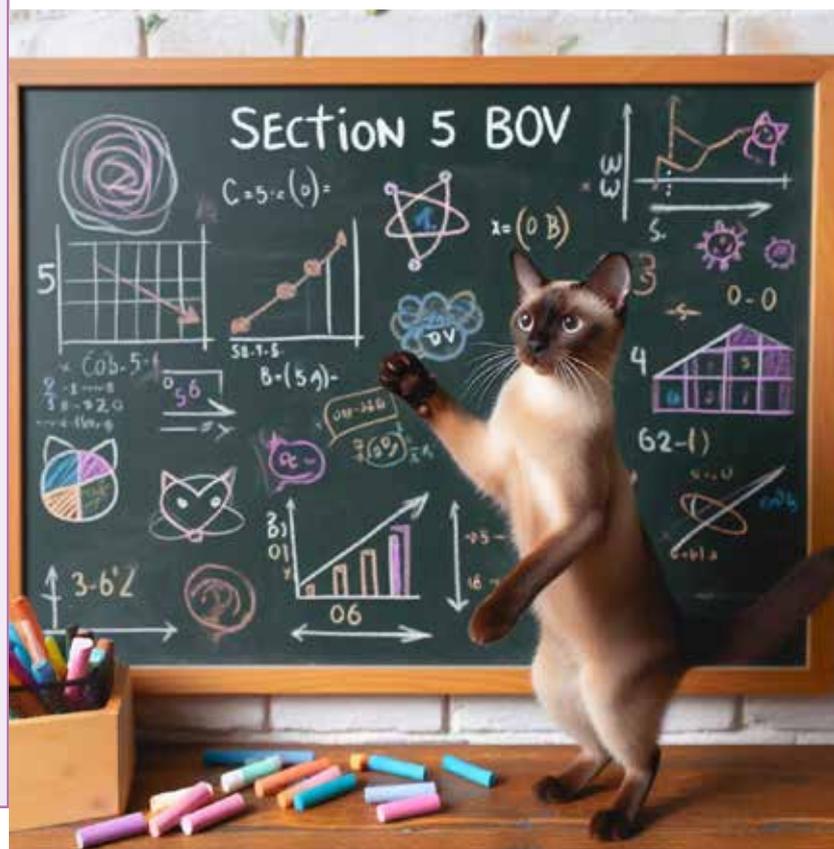
- Win its Open Class
- Receive the certificate
- Then stand out against all the other Section 5 winners in the same category

A cat chosen for BOV is considered the best example of Section 5 on the day - a huge achievement.

## Why it matters for Tonkinese

Tonkinese are a smaller breed in numerical terms, so Section 5 helps highlight them among other stylish and affectionate shorthair breeds.

A BOV win showcases the breed beautifully and celebrates superb type, temperament and show presence.



## COMMITTEE



**LORRAINE PHILLIPS: Committee**  
I have 3 Tonks. My love for Tonkinese started 18 years ago. I stumbled upon the breed when I called a Burmese breeder for a kitten to be told that she only had Tonkinese cats. So I came home with our first Tonk Evie. Our first litter came in 2011 and many more since. I enjoy going to shows and have made some great friends.



**ULLA KORTERMAN: Chairman, Welfare & Rescue, Club Secretary**  
I got my first Tonkinese in 2001 and today I have a Tonk trio - I have also bred 2 litters and loved the experience very much. I am very passionate about Welfare and Rescue and I am proud of the work our club does to help Tonks and their families.



**LORETTA SMITH: Vicechair & Membership Secretary**  
I'm a fairly recent Tonkinese owner and slave to three active felines, having taken on Juno and two of her kittens in April 2019. I am not a breeder but having considered other breeds I'd like to see the continuation of the 'purity' of the Tonkinese breed.



**PAMELA CROSS: Committee**  
I live with two female sibling 2-year old Tonks who fill my life and keep me well in order and 'under the paw'. They are my first Tonks but I had their antecedent breeds, Siamese & Burmese, for the previous 50 years. Thanks to the help from two TCC members, I found my Tonks during lockdown.



**LISA KNILL: Committee & GCCF Delegate**  
I'm a Tonk lover - 18 years ago I got a brother and sister, Mocha and Morpheus. Sadly we lost Morph last year so we bought Minstrel who has come into our house like a typhoon, and loves her old friend to bits. I also have experience in dog showing and breeding, quite different to cats.



**MALGOZATA SKUZA: Committee**  
My passion for Tonkinese cats started 9 years ago when I brought my first female home. As a mother of 3 kids I was looking for the most friendly and active companion for my family which was why we chose Amelia-chocolate TCR girl. She was the mother of our first litter. I really enjoyed raising the kittens & that was the moment I realised it was my true passion. I also discovered that cat shows are very fascinating.



**DAVID LINDOP: Treasurer**  
I've only been with the Tonkinese Breed for 5 years, and had a lovely litter of Tonks. Prior to Tonkinese I have had several Siamese for nearly 20 years. Whilst there are of course occasional practical problems and issues, I feel the upsides of the Tonkinese breed are much more significant. It's great to keep learning, and to share some time with these amazing cats.



**TAUFIQ ES HAQ: Committee & Social Media**  
I've been actively involved with the Tonkinese breed for a while now and have also had a litter of beautiful Tonkinese kittens. I look forward to many more years of breeding and supporting this wonderful breed the best way I can.

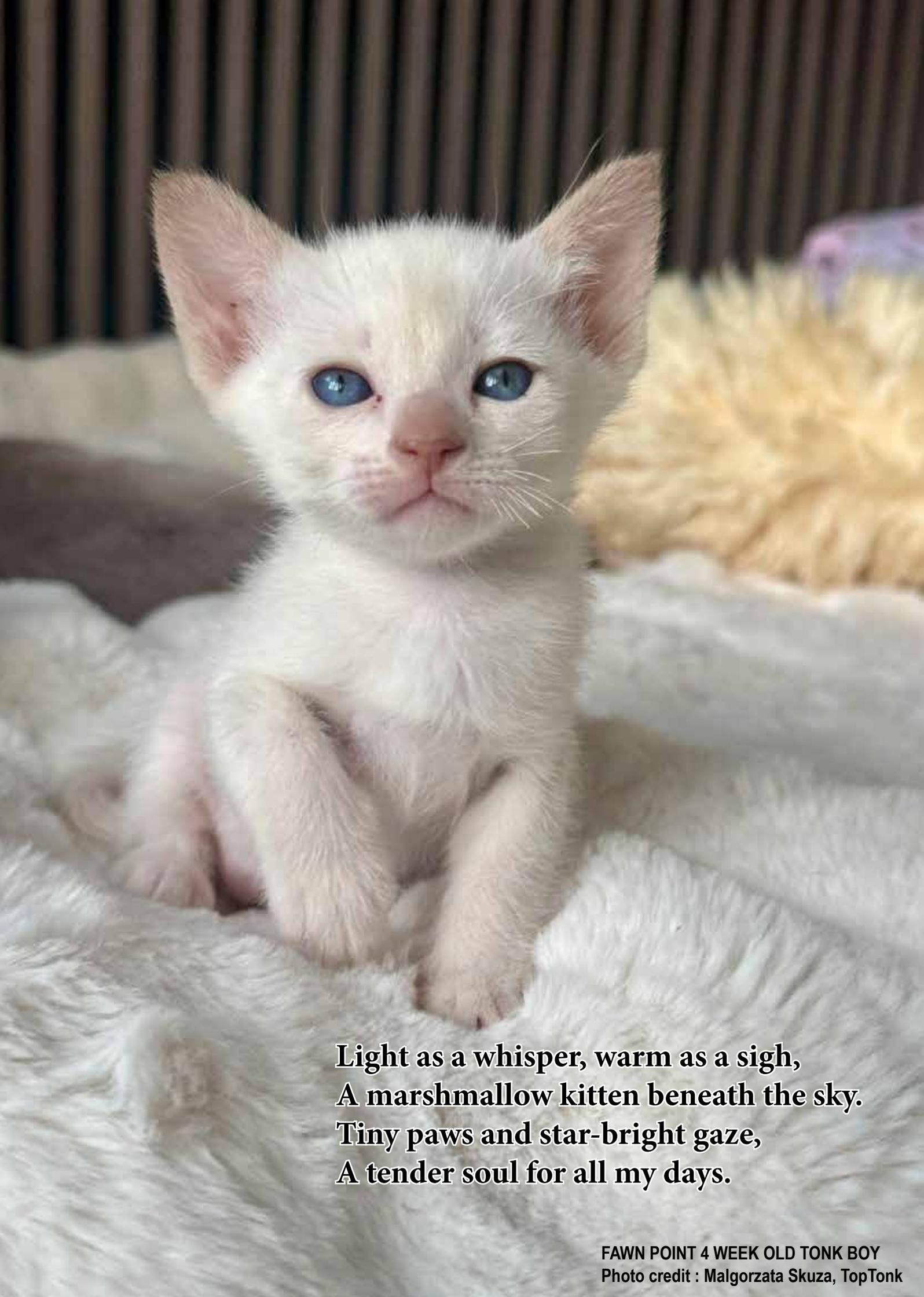


**CHRISTINA GORDON: Welfare & Rehoming Officer**  
My love for Tonkinese began in 2005 when I was fortunate to find two siblings Beau and Inca-since then 3 more lovely Tonks have joined us. I show occasionally and Biba my first queen has had one litter which was an amazing experience. I'm really enjoying my role in Welfare for the TCC it's a wonderful feeling when you rehome a Tonk to a new loving home and hear that they have settled.



**JO COUNSELL: BAC Delegate**  
I live in rural Devon with my husband. We have provided a home to several adult Burmese cats since 2003. We rehomed our first Tonk Roxy, in 2016 - currently we share our home with 2 Tonks. Lily was rehomed through the great work of the TCC in 2021, then we subsequently went on to rehome Bill privately in 2022. We feel fortunate to share our lives with these special cats.

If you have any feedback on the magazine we would love to hear from you, so please get in touch via [contact@tonkinesecatclub.co.uk](mailto:contact@tonkinesecatclub.co.uk)



**Light as a whisper, warm as a sigh,  
A marshmallow kitten beneath the sky.  
Tiny paws and star-bright gaze,  
A tender soul for all my days.**



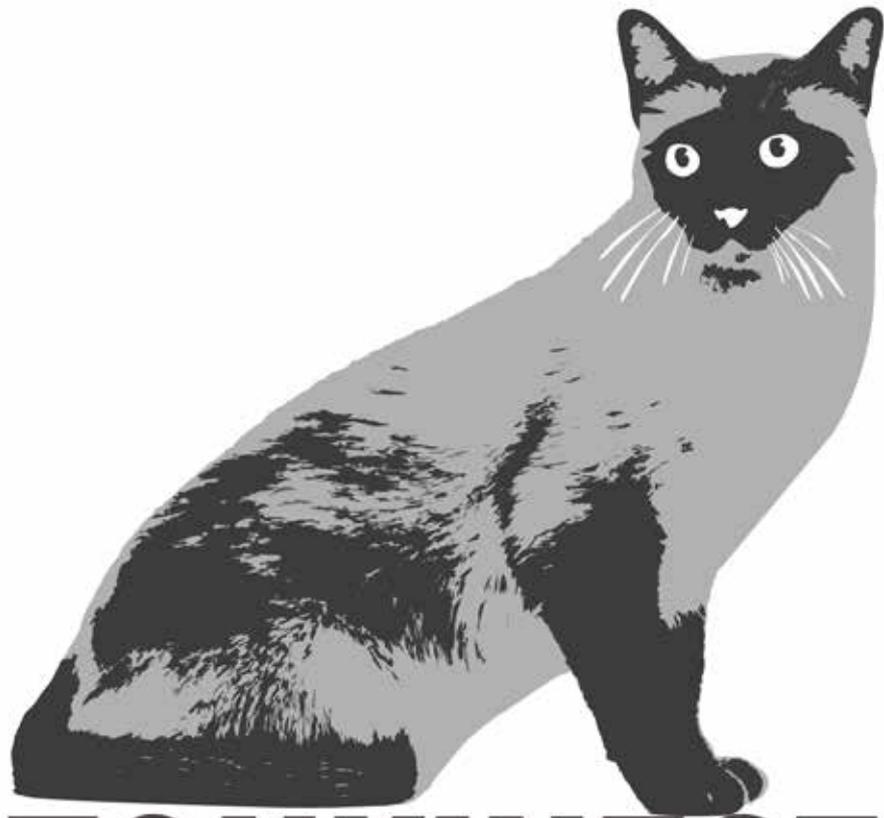
## **Basket of Little Tonks**

**A basket of Tonks—oh, what a delight,  
A kitten pops up like a star in the light.**

**Another does theatre with one giant yawn,  
Two cheeky plot-twisters are quietly drawn.**

**And over in the corner, in snuggle-soft sleep,  
A chocolate-toned prankster is primed for a leap.**





# **TONKINESE CAT CLUB**

**email: [contact@tonkinesecatclub.co.uk](mailto:contact@tonkinesecatclub.co.uk)**

**website: [www.tonkinesecatclub.co.uk](http://www.tonkinesecatclub.co.uk)**