

Judge's Profile – NICK TRICARICO

After many years of owning domestic cats and attending a number of cat shows, my wife and I agreed on the British Shorthair. So we officially entered the 'cat world' in 1994 when we purchased and started showing a Black British Shorthair female with the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (Aust & Vic) in Victoria. Small successes on the show bench increased our enthusiasm.

We commenced breeding British Shorthairs shortly afterwards under the prefix 'Bevington'. Today we breed Orange-Eyed White and also Blue British Shorthairs. 2002 was a tremendous year for 'Bevington' with our stud, Bevington Royal Albert, a Blue, winning Group 3 Adult of the Year with the GCCFV.

My interest in the cat world led me to become a Steward in 1995 and I have assisted many local, interstate and international judges since then.

Stewarding led me to the next obvious step, cat judging. I entered the Group 2 judging course in 1998 as this basically involved one breed with slight variations and as I thought I would be impartial given I did not own any Group 2 cats.

Subsequently, and partly in an endeavour to widen my experience as a Group 2 judge, I purchased a Chocolate Silver Spotted Oriental neutered male and then a Lilac Silver Spotted Oriental female, both from 'Daphine' in South Australia. I dabbled in the breed for almost four years, hoping to concentrate on breeding spotted and classic patterned Orientals. However, breeding problems ended my long-term plan with Orientals.

In 2001, I undertook a most gruelling but successful 2 year course to extend my licence to Group 3.

I have completed many local and interstate Group 2 assignments.

2004 promises to be quite a busy year for me as a cat judge, locally, interstate and internationally.

Cat judging is the ultimate to me. It not only provides the opportunity to travel interstate and internationally to judge and to speak to cat breeders, but more importantly, it provides me with the opportunity to handle and judge the many different and beautiful cats. I just wish I had entered the cat world when I was so much younger.