

**WHY THERE ARE TWO:  
THE STORY OF THE CORNISH REX AND  
THE DEVON REX**

*BY ANN GIBNEY, PH.D.*

©86  
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**GRC Blu Sprs Cleopatra**  
black smoke Cornish Rex female  
br/ow Ellen Weiss



**GRC Jelliekatz Diva of Blu Sprs**  
calico Cornish Rex



**GRC Rataat Honkytonk Angel of Jo-Ni**  
Gold eyed White Cornish Rex female  
Br Sharon Knight, Ow Linda Jones

**D**eightfully, distinctively different. Constantly, charmingly captivating. No question about it: once seen, a Rex is never forgotten.

That both Devon and Cornish Rex are very different from other cats is instantly obvious — they display their greatest distinction over every inch of their bodies. Both breeds bear coats which are the results of rexoid mutations that modified the guard hairs and deepened the wave on the remaining hairs, hence their common name, Rex. Different builds, different heads, unique ears, these traits are revealed on the second look. That both breeds are smaller, lighter and exotic looking will be the main impressions of an introduction to the breeds.

Yet the differences between them are as fundamental as those which set them collectively apart. To begin with, and central to the status of the two breeds today, they resulted from *different* mutations. The coats are not the same (though both are rexed) as careful observation will reveal. The lack of commonality is proven by crossbreeding: crossing the one with the other will produce only straight-coated offspring. From this fact comes their different names, Cornish and Devon. Their head shapes and body confirmations will be seen to be basically different, as discussed below.

### PERSONALITY

Rex need people. This need drives much of their behavior. Active, inquisitive, playful, responsive, intelligent — all these adjectives will come to mind the first time one observes a group of Rex in action. Many individuals spontaneously retrieve tossed toys, given free choice, all will spend the bulk of their time with their people.

Rex also enjoy the company of other Rex. When they are free to choose their own sleeping places, they will be found in sometimes startlingly large groups. This is partly due to the desire for warmth which their thinner coats gives them, but gregariousness is almost as strong a motive. Mutual grooming is an important form of communication and should not be discouraged, even though it can be responsible for some hair breakage, especially in Devons. Because they are active and social, Rex benefit from the maximum of freedom. Of course, many breeders do cage their cats and successfully raise loving, healthy animals, but isolation should never be the first choice. Lots of jumping room and at least a cagemate will make life more enjoyable for the cattery Rex. Cornish in particular tend to become vocal when lonely.

A Rex on the loose in the house — or preferably more than one — may seem a bit intimidating at first, as they have a tendency to do everything but walk on the ceilings. But patient training and regular claw trimming will remove the drawbacks, and leave only the wonderful advantages. Rex at play are joyous creatures. Conversationalists par excellence, they will converse with you almost in words. Cornish have rather more piercing voices compared to the small voices of Devons, but all will respond to the spoken word.

Both breeds of Rex are very vertical cats. Plenty of cat trees around the house will help satisfy their love of heights. But Rex owners learn not to be surprised at rippled UFOs occasionally flying about their heads or landing on their backs! In fact, one Devon owner has posted a sign reading "Beware of low-flying cat!"

**"A REX WILL TURN YOUR LIFE UPSIDE DOWN"**



**GRC Scattergold Ribbit**  
br/ow Dr Ann Gibney  
brown McTabby Devon Rex female at 6 mos



**GRC Enshallah Sitamun**  
white Devon Rex female  
br /J Benitez/J Gallagher, ow /J Gallagher/J A. Gay



**GRC Celine's Exquisite Lydia**  
Best Devon Rex 1985 and 1986  
br /ow Celia Graddy

**Nike Marker**  
Cornish Rex  
br Sue Dugle, ow Joyce Boyd

Rex are very alert to their surroundings. In general, they enjoy being handled even by strangers, but sometimes their outgoingness makes it hard for them to handle all the input from a busy, noisy showhall. Lots of handling when young, and introduction to as many people as possible are good training for the show Devon or Cornish



**Kallibunker**  
First Cornish Rex, 1950

## THE FIRST CORNISH REX

Bodmin Moor is a Cornish highland of rocky tors, heather, grassy sweeps, clouds and wind. A few farm houses cling to the land. In 1950, the Ennismores farmed this difficult land. Of course, on a farm even the cats work, and the females must produce more mousers. Serena, a tortie and white shorthair, was no exception. Her litter of that year numbered five — but one was very special: he had waves of fur all over his body! In addition, he was racy and sleek with a long head quite unlike his mother. He was a cream and named Kallibunker. [Note: the colors of Kall and Serena have been variously quoted over the years, but those given above are directly from Mrs. Nina Ennismore's records (Ennismore, 1971).]

Rex mutations occur with fair frequency in mammals. Five have been recorded in mice and three in rabbits (Jude, 1953). The first of these latter was in 1920, in France. The mutant was something like the same color brown as a beaver, and the mutation was dubbed "Castor rex" after the Latin name for the beaver (Scholten, 1985). When later similar mutations — wavy undercoat, no or modified guard hairs — were discovered, the name rex was borrowed from Castorrex to describe them all. Thus the word came to apply to the coat quality and not the color.

How fortunate that the Ennismores had bred and shown Rex rabbits, and knew that the early examples had been wavy, even though later breeders had selected away from the wavy coat and towards a more plush one. When Kall's fur did not straighten out as he grew older — as Mrs. Ennismore half expected it to — she knew she had something altogether different, and resolved to keep him as a pet.

Mrs. Ennismore originally had no plan for Kall, but her veterinarian and the geneticist, A.C. Jude, prevailed upon her to begin a breeding program.

The program included his dam, on the hypothesis that the mutation was recessive and carried by her (as well as by his unknown sire). Many of his progeny were kept too, so that the project began to be quite expensive. Mrs. Ennismore kept records of breeding. Some records have been lost, but from 1951 to 1956, some sample litters included 10 breedings between Rex and rex carrying hybrids, producing 22 Rex and eight hybrids. Three litters from Rex x Rex produced 10 Rex and no straighthairs (Ennismore, 1971).

Naturally, a hybrid program requires the maintenance of a number of cats. Mrs. Ennismore at first destroyed at birth all hybrids in a mixed litter, but she must at some point have realized the folly of this, for she began saving them for breeding. The cattery house grew to 40 cats, but they were reported to be friendly and healthy (Lauder, 1974).

The expenses and effort eventually took their toll. Mrs. Ennismore resolved to cease the program. She reported that she tried to sell the Rex but could not find anyone who would pay what we would consider a fair price, therefore, rather than give them away she had most of the cats destroyed in 1956, including Kall and Serena (Ennismore, 1971).

This would have been the end, except that she had managed to interest a few others in these wonderful cats: Brian Stirling Webb, Mrs. Rickards, Phyllis Lauder, Phyllis Hughes, Effie Aiken, William and Mollie Lamb, and Nancy Hardy all were early breeders. Mr. Stirling Webb took, among others, Poldhu, Kall's fertile blue-cream son. Poldhu had sired with Mrs. Ennismore, but a minor surgical procedure to obtain tissue for chromosome count was done carelessly and rendered him sterile. By 1960, through mischance and mortality due to inbreeding, only one Rex male remained in Britain. He covered a number of Burmese and domestic shorthairs at Mr. Stirling Webb's, and so the breed began anew (Weiss, 1965). But this multiple outcrossing to heavier breeds took Rex type in a new direction — the British descendants of these hybrid breedings are rather larger and heavier in boning than Kallibunker was, with less exotic looking facial features.

Also significant for the breed was the export of Lamorna Cove, in kitten to her father Poldhu, to Mrs. Blancheri of California, in 1957 (along with the male Pendennis Castle, who never sired). In her litter were Diamond Lil of Fan T Cee and Marmaduke of Daz-Zling, from whom all Cornish Rex in America descend.



**Marmaduke of Daz-Zling**

Inbreeding was taking its toll in fading kittens from these early imports. Mrs. Weiss, who bought Marmaduke, "for some time sought in vain" for domestic shorthairs to breed to him (Weiss, 1965) and so used Siamese. This pivotal decision gave us our Cornish of today, with bones slightly finer than Kall's, a longer tail, and head one third longer than its width. It also introduced the point restriction gene.

Mrs. Alison Ashford imported Rio Vista Kismet to England from Canada (Ashford and Pond, 1972) and restored some of the original refinement, but there is still a difference between North American and European Rex.

All this took place in the late 50's and early 60's, when only this one mutation had been publicized. The cats were known simply as Rex, and so competed, recognition was granted in 1964 in CFA to this single curly-coated breed.



**GRC Katzenreich's Bianka**  
GEW (German) Rex female  
br /ow Bill and Madeleine Beck



**GRC Rodell's Reglise of Royal-Lu**  
Black Cornish Rex, 1972  
br Bob and Dell Smith, ow Unknown  
Note strong Roman nose



**Kirlee**  
First Devon Rex, 1960, England

## THE FIRST DEVON REX

Barely 50 miles away from Bodmin Moor, Cornwall, in the neighboring county of Devon, lies the village of Buckfastleigh. In a nearby abandoned tin mine there lived an occasionally seen tomcat with curls all over his body. A tortie and white stray had an assignation with him in 1960. Miss Beryl Cox kindly took the pregnant queen in, and was amazed when the resulting litter contained a dusty black kitten, also covered with curls. Having recently read in the newspaper about the increasingly famous Rex, she contacted Mr. Stirling Webb in 1961.

Joy reigned supreme in the Rex breeding community. Here, they reasoned, was another Rex male, hopefully only distantly related to the only one then extant, who would contribute much needed vigor to the inbred Rex.

Kirlee, for Miss Cox had so named him, was her pet. He walked a tightrope, sat up, and played fetch, with affection his only reward, and spent much time on her shoulder. But Mr. Stirling Webb convinced her of Kirlee's breeding value, and she allowed him to be taken. All efforts to trap his wild sire, who was as with Kall presumed to be related to the dam, were in vain.



**Broughm**  
black Devon Rex male  
b 1965, son of Kirlee

When he reached maturity, Kirlee was mated to nine Rex queens, with 29 kittens resulting (Robinson, 1970), all normal coated! The bad news was that Kirlee could not help the Rex program. The good news was that another kind of rex gene had been discovered, this was dubbed Gene II, and the previous one was called Gene I so that they could be distinguished.

Kirlee was mated to several British shorthairs, and his daughters were taken back to him by the people who involved themselves with this new program. These included M. Schrouder and Alison Ashford. The latter also began her extended Gene I program at this time.

Kirlee appears to have sired nine litters (Scholten, 1985). He was neutered by Mr. Stirling Webb in 1964, and had a happy pet life until 1970, when he was killed in the road.

Early matings of Gene II and carriers of this gene gave 29 normals and 23 Rex, Gene II x normals, 40 straight-coated kits, hybrid x hybrid gave nine normals and six Rex, Gene II x Gene II gave 34 Rex. Thus, as discussed below in more detail, this new gene was shown to be an autosomal recessive (White, 1972).

The Rex breeders agreed never again to cross breed the two Rexes. Both programs proceeded independently.

Kirlee was a cat of "foreign" type, slender body and modified head, but his boning was not quite so light as Kallibunker's. Though both cats had unusual heads, they were very different from each other. Kalli had a longish wedge with rather high set ears and a rather straight nose. "elegant" is the first adjective to come to mind to describe him. Kirlee, by contrast, had a rather short and very broad head, with a stop in his nose in profile and very low set ears. This set was enhanced by longer tufts of hair around the base of the ears, these "earmuffs" were unique to him. His broad head was set off even more by a long slender neck. The best word to describe him was "cute." This elfin cuteness remains to this day in his distant descendants (Gibney, 1979).

When the British breeders had enough data, and a large enough registry, they drew up standards for the two breeds and applied to the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy for recognition. In 1967, this was granted, with the addition that "Gene I" and "Gene II" were changed to the more appropriate Cornish Rex and Devon Rex.

Soon after, Devon Rex journeyed across the Atlantic. The first were Annelida Smokey Pearl imported by Mary Carroll, and Annelida Callidor. But the earliest breeding program was begun by Marion and Anita White of Texas in 1968, with Annelida Aubretia and Wigmel Black Witch, both of Anglo Tex. Other early breeders were Rebecca Curneen, Frank and Wendy Chappell, Fran Kirkham, and Bob and Shirley Lambert (White and Gibney, 1979).



Annelida Pink Ling  
white Devon Rex female from the 60's

## REX IN NORTH AMERICA

Cornish Rex had a head start. This was logical considering that the mutation predates Devon by 10 years. There were many established breeding programs and some recognition by 1968, when the first Devons came. Recognition by CFA was already achieved for these earlier Rex, being in 1964. In contrast, Devons remained rather rare. Recognition in several associations had been achieved by 1972, and several Devons achieved All-American wins, but the CFA situation was untenable. The policy was adopted that all curly-coated cats should be registered as the same



Rio Vista Kismet  
Blue Cornish Rex Male  
Exported from Canada to England



Annelida Sunset Gleam, and litter of Devon Rex, 1972

breed, genetics notwithstanding. Of course, all Devon breeders recognized the disaster that would follow if they should attempt to introduce their cats into the general gene pool, so they held their stock separate (White and Gibney, 1979). Still they might, as was suggested by one CFA Executive Board member, have bred their cats to the accepted standard (called simply Rex, but written for the Cornish) without trying to cross them with Cornish. Not one breeder was willing to sacrifice the pixie look to this end, so Devons remained unique by grassroots policy. But the breed remained rare, with only about 10 breeders active at any given time through the 70's.



Du-Bu Butterfly  
English Devon Rex female kitten, 1965  
Note continuity of type to the present day

The one breed policy did, however, have some effect on other Rex mutations, notably German. This strain came to light in 1951, when Dr. Scheuer-Karpin of East Berlin adopted Lammchen, a black female. Lammchen was apparently several years old at the time so she probably was actually chronologically the first Rex mutant, at least of those preserved by the hand of man (Wollner, 1983). Her head was rather rounded but foreign looking. It is perhaps a curious coincidence or perhaps a genetic necessity that all of the founding Rex mutants have displayed "foreign" or "Oriental" type in startling contrast to their littermates and parents, but her body was rather heavier than Kallibunker's. Although cat breeding was hardly popular in Germany in the 50's, some of her descendants were sent to the U.S., where test matings showed the mutation to be



CH House of Lee Eroica of Leo's Lair  
black & white Cornish Rex female  
br Lee Sorensen Jennings, ow Leo Lightner  
First Cornish Rex, DM



Eu, GCI Delphine von Sierra Leone  
white Devon Rex female  
ow Lisolotte Boerner

at the same locus as the Cornish German Rex were nevertheless held separate by some breeders, both here and in Europe (Scheuer-Karpin, 1985). In the U.S. the breeders selected for a more Cornish type, while in Europe, Lammchen's model was followed. The perhaps predictable result has been that the German Rex descendants in this country have mostly merged into the general Gene I pool, while FIFE has granted the German Rex partial separate status with a separate standard.

There have been other rexoid mutations reported, all more than 25 years ago, in Ohio, California, and Oregon. The Ohio Rex was pursued only briefly, no test mating with other strains is known to have occurred. The Oregon Rex was first recorded in 1959, with Kinky Marcella. A mating with a Cornish hybrid produced all normals, so the gene possibly was not Gene I. No details are available of test matings with Devons, but hair examination (Robinson, 1977a) suggests that the Oregon Rex was distinct from both Gene I and Gene II. Unfortunately, after 1964, nothing is known of these cats. The California Rex was a longhair, Bob and Dell Smith and Mrs. Blancheri chose the name Marcel and avoided calling this a Rex since it was long-haired, but the genes are not connected, and this was a true rexoid gene. Two normal coated shorthaired kittens resulted from "Marcel" x Cornish hybrid, when these two were bred, they had three shorthaired Rex offspring. It is impossible to tell from this small sample whether the longhairs were Gene I with longhair or some other rexoid gene. Because longhair Rex cats were judged to be rather unattractive, no further breedings were done (Weiss, 1965). So far as is known, none of these American strains is represented in today's Rex gene pool (it is worth mentioning at this point that a recent rex mutation has been recorded in Holland. It actually goes back to 1960. This gene is DOMINANT, and to this writer is reminiscent of American Wirehairs. Breeding with this mutation, which is different from both Gene I and Gene II, is being actively pursued.)

In North America, therefore, the Rex scene was eventually occupied almost exclusively by Cornish and Devon Rex. But in CFA, both were shown under the Rex banner. Some few Devon breeders did register and even show their



Anglo-Tex Agnetha of Apex  
tortie Devon Rex female  
br Marion and Anita White  
ow Anita White



**GRC Blu Sprs Florestan**  
*blue and white bicolor Cornish Rex male*  
*Perfect Cornish Rex Roman Profile "The Schnoz"*  
*CFA National Best Rex 1983/84*  
*br/ow Ellen Weiss*



**GRC Taneë Justa Nother Blu of Tammerisk**  
*blue Cornish Rex female b 1982*  
*br Sandy Madsen ow Carol Fiege*



**GRC Heatwave's Dynamo Hum, D.M.**  
*Cornish Rex*  
*br ow Cheryl McGee*

Devons in CFA only their care prevented unproductive crossbreeding, and, of course, Devons did not go far in the show ring under a Cornish type standard! Two efforts in the 70's by the Whites to obtain separation for Devons met with no response. However, in 1979, with the Whites' help, Ann Gibney represented the Devon breeders at the February Board meeting. Devon Rex were at last granted separate registration. Thanks to careful record keeping on the part of the Devon breeders, all the Devons which had been registered as Rex were identified and given Devon numbers.

Both breeds continued to grow and prosper, with Rex winning and Devon Rex advancing in 1981 to Provisional and 1983 to Championship. However, although application was made at all levels for Devons to be recognized in all colors, the Siamese spectrum of colors were kept at registration level. Finally, in 1984, after a unanimous breed council vote, Devons were fully accepted in all colors, the only breed to be so. This is logical since pedigree studies show that Kirlée may well have carried the point restriction gene (White and Gibney, 1979b).

Another very important change occurred in 1984. The last remaining use of the breed name Rex in the world finally ended. Rex and Devon Rex had shared the show bench since 1979, causing confusion and questions in spectators and novices. But by vote of the Rex breed council and ratification of the Board, in that year the breed officially became known as Cornish Rex to CFA, as it was to every other registry in the world. The word Rex resumed its appropriate meaning — a collective for all the strains.

1985 saw the most recent change — the Siamese spectrum and several related patterns were accepted for competition, after years of debate and divided vote. The Rexes now have the same status in CFA that they have held for several years in all other associations worldwide.

### THE MECHANISM AND EFFECTS OF THE MUTATIONS

The rex mutations are both simple recessive and autosomal. This means that a single gene is responsible for each, that each is completely dominated by the presence of its normal or wild type original allele, and that neither is sex-linked. These facts combine to produce the ideal situation with a breed. The Rexes always breed true. Any Devon mated with another Devon will always produce Devons. The same is true with Cornish. Furthermore, if a Cornish, say, is mated with a normal coated cat, and the resulting cat is mated with a Cornish, half the kittens, on average, will be Cornish. If two hybrids are crossed, 1/4 of the progeny will be Rex. This full recovery of the Cornish gene in the rex-coated kittens in a single generation from outcross (and similarly with Devon outcrossing) means that these breeds meet the very strictest definition of the term breed.

Conventionally, the Cornish gene is designated *r*, and its wild type dominant original, *R*. Thus a normal is *RR*, a hybrid is *Rr* (*R* from one parent, *r* from the other) and a Cornish *rr*. Then the above breedings (Rex, outcross, hybrid x Cornish, and hybrid x hybrid) may be tabulated as

$r$	$R$	$r$	$r$	$R$	$r$
$r$	$rr$	$R$	$Rr$	$R$	$Rr$
$r$	$R$	$r$	$Rr$	$r$	$Rr$
$r$	$R$	$r$	$rr$	$r$	$rr$

The Devon gene, which is entirely unrelated to the Cornish, is symbolized as *re*, its wild type original is *Re*. Similar tables to the above may be drawn. These are the famous Mendelian ratios for a recessive trait.

Over a very large sample these ratios will hold true, for smaller ones, they will only occasionally be matched exactly, just as two flips of a coin will often turn up a head and a tail but also sometimes two heads. When a proportion is observed of say, Cornish to normal, as Mrs. Ennismore obtained, it may be treated mathematically to see if its deviation from the hypothesized proportion is statistically significant, given the size of the sample. This measure of the significance is represented by the square of the Greek letter chi, thus

$$\chi^2 = \frac{\text{Total kits} [ \text{rex}_A \cdot \text{hyb}_B - \text{rex}_B \cdot \text{hyb}_A ]^2}{\text{no. kits}_A \cdot \text{total rex} \cdot \text{no. kits}_B \cdot \text{total hyb}}$$

$$\frac{\text{total}}{2}$$



**GRC Tammerisk Starburst of Curlicutes**  
*Calico Cornish Rex*  
*br C Fiege ow Patty Weber*



**Marya's Makin Waves of Loganderry and Marya Wavininthebreez of Loganderry** (foreground) kittens at 6 weeks  
*ow Gerri Logan*



**GRC Jakai Racing Silks**  
*black and white Cornish Rex male*  
*br ow Sheila McMonagle*

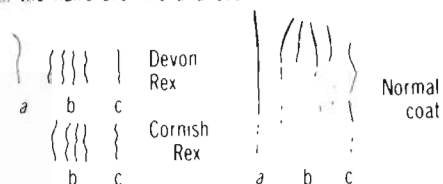
The math is rather detailed and is of only historical interest, since the simple recessiveness and independence of the rexoid mutations Gene I and Gene II are now beyond question. Therefore, it will not be worked through here. It is interesting to note, however, that all of the early Devon breedings supported the Mendelian predictions and so did Devon x Cornish (since *no* rex kittens resulted). (Scholten, 1985b). On the other hand, both Ennismore's reported results and Weiss' produced rex/normal ratios which differed significantly from prediction. This must have caused some consternation until enough breedings had been done to approach the predicted result.

The famous hypothetical double rex has been much discussed. Geneticists would be very interested in seeing a cat produced in which both genes would be present, so that with Cornish mates, it would produce Cornish, and with Devons, Devon (Robinson 1977b). Of course, some of the progeny of the early crosses between Kirlee and Cornish queens did find their way into breeding programs of both breeds. But at this distance of time, the effect of such crossings is only a tiny fraction of one percent of the heritage of any given individual and may be discounted.

This is fortunate from the breeder's standpoint, for the genetics of such crossings are incredibly complex. The tables (from White and Gibney, 1979) show several generations of Devon x Cornish. It is straightforward though tedious to work through. The problem for the breeder would arise in trying to determine which gene was being expressed (if indeed not both) in rex coated offspring.

As stated above, the effect of the two mutations is to modify the guard hairs and to increase the natural waviness of the remaining hairs. However, the mutations do so to differing degrees.

The sketch below shows normal hairs of the guard (a), awn (b) and down (c) types. The Cornish guard hairs, as shown, are completely gone or made identical to the awn. All the hairs are fine and even.



The Devon, on the other hand, shows some much altered, reduced guard hairs as well as the other two types. Polyfactor genes can modify the degree to which these hairs are altered, making for a rougher or softer coat. Since some guard hairs are present (though much reduced) the coat often appears less wavy than a Cornish one would. More important to note are the thick awn areas on the numerous awn hairs. The Devon mutation reduces the amount of keratin (protein) in the hair, which, combined with the irregular awn hairs, make the coat susceptible to breakage (Robinson, 1978). Environment and hormone levels (in the sire male) also seem to have more effect on Devon coat than on Cornish (Scholten-Klein, 1982).

It is these combined effects which have made it such a challenge to establish reliably good coat in Devons, while Cornish have had such beautiful marcelled waves since a much earlier date.

These effects have also led to speculation that the Devon mutation is related to the Sphynx hairlessness. Geneticists have long argued against this (Robinson, 1978), saying that a single Sphynx gene would be easy to breed out of Devons, the very challenge of coat weakness shows that it is due to polyfactors. Now at last three breedings have proven this stance, at least with one particular Sphynx mutation. Two separate crosses in 1986, between Devon and Sphynx in the US and one in the Netherlands in 1983, produced *all* Sphynx. This shows that this Sphynx mutation is a *different* mutation of the same gene as Devon, and it is *dominant* to Devon (Pfleuger, 1986, private communication). This is much the same situation as the classic and mackerel tabby alleles, with mackerel dominant to classic. Just as a classic tabby may have a mackerel gene (if it did it would be expressed), so a Devon must not have a Sphynx gene, or it would have no hair follicles at all.

Many breeders feel that an associated effect of the mutations has been to alter the type of cats to something rather Oriental. This does seem to be true, and seems to be supported by the observation that often the hybrids in a litter will be domestic looking, while their Rex littermates

look Rex typey. On the other hand, traits from outcross breeds, such as straight profiles from Siamese, tend to be carried into the Rex descendants. These can be very difficult to breed out, apparently showing that type need not be connected to rex coat.

The latter hypothesis is probably the true one. That has little to do with the breeds as they are today. The fact is that both the founding mutants were exotic in build and head. The Cornish type has evolved somewhat away from Kallibunker, in different directions here and abroad, while Devons worldwide show an astonishingly consistent faithfulness to the type of the founder, Kirlee.

## THE SHOW RING AND THE STANDARDS

Cornish Rex have had success in the show ring in the past ten years. Best of Breed (and Second Best since it has been scored) are listed below. There have been five winners above breed level, in 1980, 1981, 1982, and 1983, as will be seen from the list. There are also to date three Cornish Rex to achieve the title Distinguished Merit. These are Heatwave's Dynamo Hum, Blu Sprs Leonore, and House of Lee Erica of Leo's Lair.

Devons, of course, got a late start. So far, there are no DMs and no national wins above breed level, but after all, there have only been three championship seasons. There have been, however, five Grand Champions, and since they are the "winningest" Devons so far, they deserve mention. They are Enshallah Sitamun, Celine's Exquisite Lydia, Vicrock Lola, Scattergold Ribbit, and Anuket's Monqqi.

## CORNISH REX WINS

**1977 Best Rex:** GRC Rhea's Olivia of Keni Katz, ow Bernadette Madden

**1978 Best Rex:** GRC Fenway Blossom, br/ow Nancy Dodds and Robert Maiorisi

**1979 Best Rex:** GRC Fenway Obian, br/ow Nancy Dodds  
**2nd Best Rex:** GRC Daz'Zing Winnah of Tiki, br Helen Weiss, ow James and Marjorie Kilborn

**1980 9th Best Kitten:** GRC Blu Sprs Rosina, br/ow Ellen S Weiss  
**Best Rex:** GRC Sandvika Purex, br/ow Jayne Larson  
**2nd Best Rex:** GRC Blu Sprs Rosina, br/ow Ellen Weiss

**1981 19th Best Cat:** GRC Leo's Lair Mike of Accolade, br Leo Lightner, ow George Woodard, Al Darcey  
**2nd Best Rex:** GRC Catacombs Black Bart, br/ow Charles and Catherine Ash

**1982 16th Best Cat:** GRC Kaylin Bonnibelle, br/ow Hans and Karen Lindblom  
**4th Best Cat in Premiership:** CH and GRP House of Lee Little Owl, br/ow Lee S Jennings  
**2nd Best Rex:** GRC Blu Sprs Lulu, br/ow Ellen Weiss

**1983 3rd Best Cat in Premiership:** GRP Blu Sprs Adina, br Ellen Weiss, ow Anthony Pagano  
**Best Rex:** GRC Blu Sprs Za Za of Lumiere, br Ellen Weiss, ow Carol Sennett  
**2nd Best Rex:** GRC Blu Sprs Cassandra of Akarakul, br Ellen Weiss, ow Mrs Robin Sherman

**1984 Best Rex (Cornish):** GRC Blu Sprs Florestan, br/ow Ellen Weiss  
**2nd Best Rex (Cornish):** GRC Shel-Mar's Shazam of Jelliclekatz, br Robert Fleet, ow A Travis Travaline

**1985 Best Cornish Rex:** GRC Rippley's Sportin' Life of Nufurs, br Jessica Everhart ow Jessica Everhart and Susan Nuffer  
**2nd Best Cornish Rex:** Elgatorey Angel of Kay Gee Cats, br Joan and George Spencley, ow Bonnie Machin

**1986 Best Cornish Rex:** GRC Blu Sprs Cleopatra, br/ow Ellen Weiss  
**2nd Best Cornish Rex:** GRC Goliada Little Ruth, br/ow Michael and Nancy Petersen

## DEVON REX WINS

**1984 Best Devon Rex:** GRC Enshallah Sitamun, br James Gallagher and John Benitez, ow James Gallagher and John and Adele Gay  
**2nd Best Devon Rex:** CH Celine's Exquisite Lydia, br/ow Celia Graddy

**1985 Best Devon Rex:** GRC Celine's Exquisite Lydia, br/ow Celia Graddy  
**2nd Best Devon Rex:** GRC Vicrock Lola, br/ow Larry and Ellen Crockett

**1986 Best Devon Rex:** GRC Celine's Exquisite Lydia, br/ow Celia Graddy  
**2nd Best Devon Rex:** CH Celine's Snow Promise, br Celia Graddy, ow Lynn, Roy Wilkerson

There have been shows worldwide devoted exclusively to the Rex breeds two in CFA (1980 and 1982) and three in the Netherlands, as well as a Rex specialty in Germany. This is a unique achievement for minority breeds. The



GRP Scattergold Wave Weview  
black Devon Rex male  
br A Gibney, ow Michelle Lynne Berge  
CFA's first Grand Premier Devon Rex



Devenshire Farley My Boy  
tabby Devon Rex male  
br/ow Dr Jean Mundy



GRC Anuket's Monqqi  
white Devon Rex male  
br/ow John Adele Gay



GRC Vicrock Lola  
black Devon Rex female, b 1981  
br/ow Ellen and Larry Crockett

tradition continues, with shows being planned in the U.S. and the Netherlands

## SUCCESS IN EUROPE:

European Grand Int Ch

All the Grands in one group (e.g. SH females, LH males, Semi-LH neuters, Siamese OSH spays) compete for one point. One judge judges all the cats in that one group, and decides on the best one. That cat is then compared with the cat which is chosen best of breed from the regular classes. Both judges compare the two cats and make the decision as to which is better. If the Grand is chosen, it can be nominated for BIS (by the Grand judge). If the cat from the classes is judged better, it can be nominated (by the class judge). If the Grand is judged better, the other does not lose any points which it may have gained toward a Grand Int Ch. Three points must be won in the cat's home country and three points in foreign countries.

This is a new award which has just been instituted in FIFE this past show season. The first whole cat to earn the title "European Grand International Champion" is a Devon. She is Delphine von Sierra Leone, a blue-eyed white female owned by Lisolotte Boerner. Just recently, a spay became the first altered Devon to reach the title. She is Brassica's Eriza, a seal lynx point si-rex spay owned by Ulla Clemens-Pesch.

Grand Int Champions are quite common in the Devons. Daffi vom Suellberg, Miss Poes van Plezier, Chopiniana's Pulcinella, Brassica's Evita and Vicrock Lola are some of the females. Aron van Xavier, Phu Quoc's Andy to name two of the males. Among the altered cats, Brassica's Eriza and Brassica's El Lute are two which come to mind.

The Brassica "E" litter was a very successful one. Three cats from the litter listed above became Grands, one as a whole cat and two as alters. Eriza was 3rd best alter in all of West Germany in 1982-3.

For a "minority" breed, there have been more than the fair share of national award winners in West Germany. Brassica's Eriza mentioned above, Vicrock Lola, 13th Best Cat that same year, and Delphine von Sierra Leone, 10th Best Cat in 1984-5.

Vicrock Lola is unique among Devons in that she is a national award winner on two continents. As well as a national award in Germany, she has twice been a regional Best of Breed in CFA, and in 1984-5 was CFA's 2nd best Devon nationally.

The Cornish Rex are not as popular in "lower" Europe, as they are in Scandinavia. There are several grands listed for the Cornish in Sweden. Apache Kid av Panavon, Fuirando Ra, Fuirando Gakko (the first Cornish Grand in Sweden), Chaumiere, and Fuirando Gaika-Hokko.

There are several breeders in Holland, France and Denmark working with Cornish, but in Germany, the German Rex is more popular.

## THE STANDARDS:

The two CFA standards, Cornish and Devon are presented in the Standards section of this Yearbook. They are the product of continuous efforts worldwide since 1966, to describe these almost undecipherable cats. Back then, the British Cornish breeders were attempting to recover the fine-boned type of Kalkbunker after years of outcrossing (Ashford, 1982). The original standard was drawn with this in mind.

Some comparisons of the standards are in order. The first is that the Cornish standard gives 40 points to coat, in contrast to the Devon with 30. The principal difference is in waviness, with 20 for Cornish, 10 for Devon — appropriate since the Devon coat has vestigial guard hairs, and is rippled rather than marcelled.

The 10-point difference appears again in the head section, except in the reversed order. Here the Cornish have 25 and the Devon, 35. Much effort has been put into describing these unique heads, and most breeders still feel that the perfect words have not yet been achieved. Both heads are modified wedges. The Cornish wedge line is broken by the whisker pads and in fact the head is egg-shaped; the Devon wedge is even more heavily modified by prominent whisker pads and very well developed cheekbones.

Of course, the heads of the two breeds overall are very different. The Devon profile shows a short head, and Devon breeders are very firm in their determination that shorter is not better and that extremely short heads are to be discouraged. The ears could almost be described as "jug handles" with their wide bases and low set. The Cornish head is narrower, with the ears high and rather erect. The

profile shows the famous Roman nose. There is continuing debate about the configuration. The standard clearly calls out two convex curves, with the break between them being where forehead becomes nose. The point of debate is whether the two curves join convexly or with a dip between. Most of the accompanying profile photos show a dip. In any case, it is clear that a single-curve Roman head is undesirable.

If Devons have the largest ears, Cornish have the finest bones, and reference is made in the standard to their small size. Certainly these can be seen in winning Cornish today. But muscle mass should remain solid, it is probable that the trend towards smallness should not continue any further.

After boning, the most noticeable difference in body in the two breeds lies in body shape. The Cornish has the famous "tuck up" of the abdomen, caused by the naturally curved spine. In this the Cornish resembles a Whippet.

The Devon, on the other hand, has a straight body. Although not as fine as the Cornish's, the Devon's body is finer than its leg boning would suggest, and is somewhat tubular. It gives the Devon a rather "bottom-heavy" look, like Popeye the Sailor.

The accompanying line drawings are by Anita White (Anglo-Tex and Apex), breeder of both Cornish and Devon Rex since 1968. The lead drawings show the preferred body types sans waves, which is the most direct way to view muscle and bone structure. Full-face and profile drawings are presented for the heads — so important in both breeds — and are accompanied by drawings showing many common head faults. These line drawings provide the ideal contrast between the types of the two breeds.

## BREEDING

Devon and Cornish Rex are very rewarding to breed. They produce their kittens easily in the vast majority of cases, and they make excellent mothers. An informal survey of Cornish breeders yielded an incidence of Caesarian births of four in 125 litters. Oxytocin (pituitary hormone) injections to enhance contractions were needed only once. The average litter size in this survey was three to four, with an average weight of two to three oz. This accords with information for 1985 published by CFA Central Office (Cat Fanciers' Almanac, 1985), with litter registration applications showing an average of 3.155 kittens per litter. This is up slightly from 2.906 kittens per litter in 1975. The ratio of males to females was 1.647/1.508.

Devons show similar trends. The number of Caesarian sections in 100 litters was one lower even than the very low Cornish incidence. Breech births occur occasionally in Devons — perhaps one in 12 births — but they nearly always are born without incident or trauma, and without the use of oxytocin. Birth weight is about 3-3½ oz. This is up in the past five years from 2½-3 oz., a healthy trend. CFA reports for 1985 a litter size of 3.054. The male/female ration was 1.59/1.459 (Cat Fanciers' Almanac, 1985).

Rex mothers are tolerant and loving. Kitten neglect is almost unknown. The kittens are born looking quite skinny in both breeds, but within 48 hours, their tummies bulge like panniers on a donkey. Eyes open at about five days, ears begin to open at 2½ weeks. Most kittens are competent walkers and runners at five weeks. Almost all kittens are born with lots of wave. Devon kittens still have a tendency to moult at about five to six weeks. Cornish kittens, with 10 more years of selective breeding behind them, no longer do this. However, their fur does often lose its wave at this age. Usually by the end of kittenhood, Cornish are developing their adult marcel waves, and Devons are recovering their rippled coats.

Rex mothers are tolerant of long-term nursing. Most breeders do not force the kittens from the teat. The little ones become interested in solid food at perhaps five weeks, but will continue nursing as long as allowed. This is all to the good, because these smallish breeds can use the extra boost of immunity that mother's milk provides.

## THE FUTURE

These lovely breeds have made a great deal of progress since nature so recently produced them. By the CFA statistics (Cat Fanciers' Almanac, 1985) for 1984, (the latest year for which reasonably complete statistics are available), the Cornish Rex ranked 12th, and the Devon Rex ranked 21st of 32 breeds in litters registered.

As pets, Devons and Cornish share in the enormous growth in popularity of cats in recent years. As show cats, their growth in numbers has meant that the days of shows with no Rex entries, once fairly common, are virtually over.

With their charm, affection, intelligence, and beauty, and with such dedicated breeders, the Rex will continue to grow in popularity — of that there can be no doubt.

Here's to the elegant Cornish Rex and the pixie Devon Rex. Long May They Wave!



Homeacres Dolly Purrtion  
Lilac Lynx Point Devon Rex female  
Born Feb '86 Br/Ow Roma and Lajla Lund



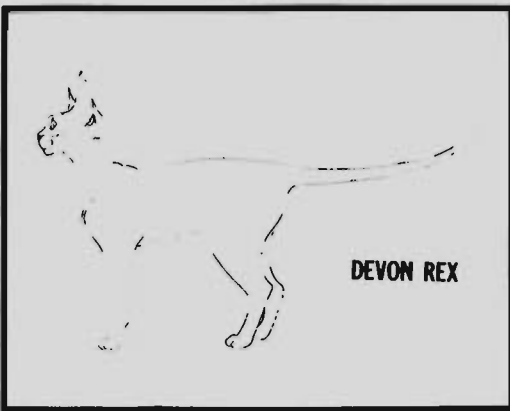
Katzenhaven Cornish Kittens  
ow Diane Parish



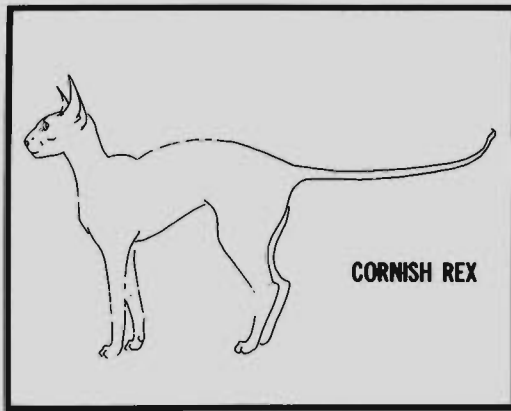
GRC Shal-mar's Saturna of Jelliclekatz  
and GRC Shal-mar's Shazam of Jelliclekatz  
Calico Cornish Rex  
Br Robert Fleet, Ow A Travis Traveller



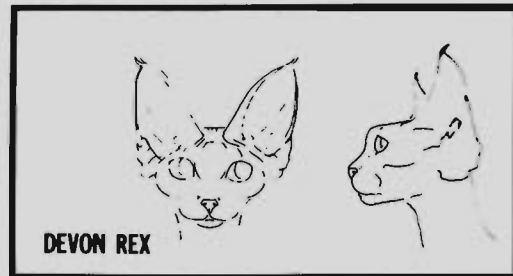
"The World is His Oyster", Sweet Rebel Skeletor  
Devon Rex male kitten, Netherlands  
br. Y. van der Vlist



DEVON REX



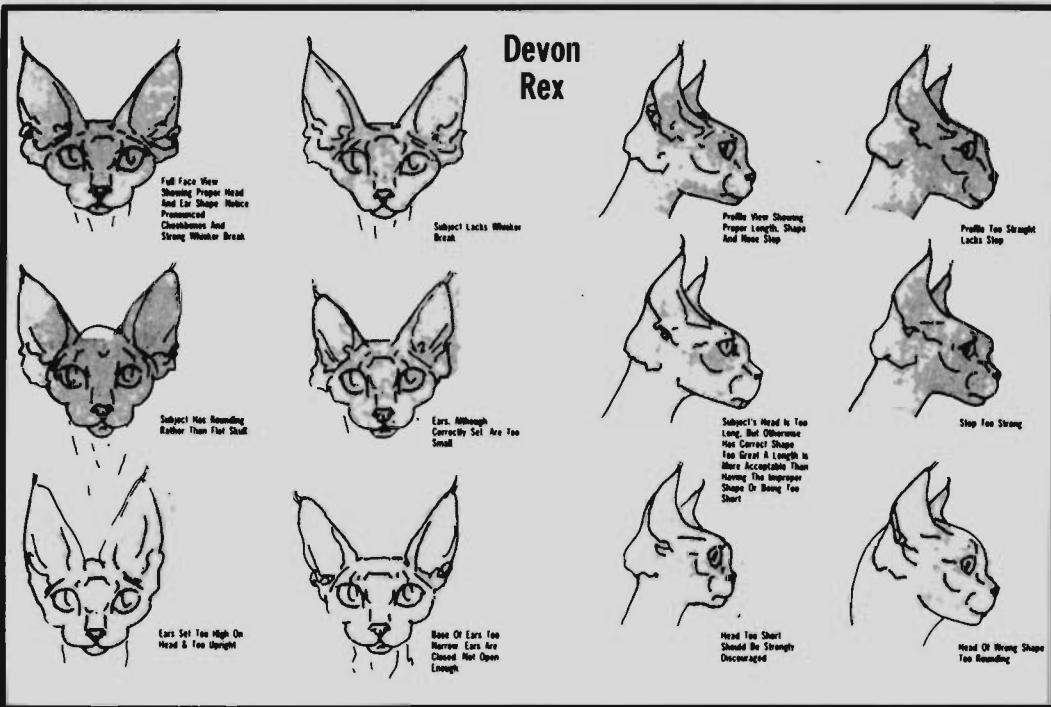
CORNISH REX



DEVON REX



CORNISH REX



**Devon Rex**

Full Face View Showing Proper Head and Ear Shape. Notice Prominent Cheekbones and Strong Chin Break

Subject Lacks Chin Break

Profile View Showing Proper Length, Shape and Head Stop

Profile Too Straight Lacks Stop

Subject Has Rounding Rather Than Flat Skull

Ears, Although Correctly Set, Are Too Small

Subject's Head is Too Long, But Otherwise Not Correct Shape. Too Great a Length is More Acceptable Than Having the Improper Shape or Being Too Short

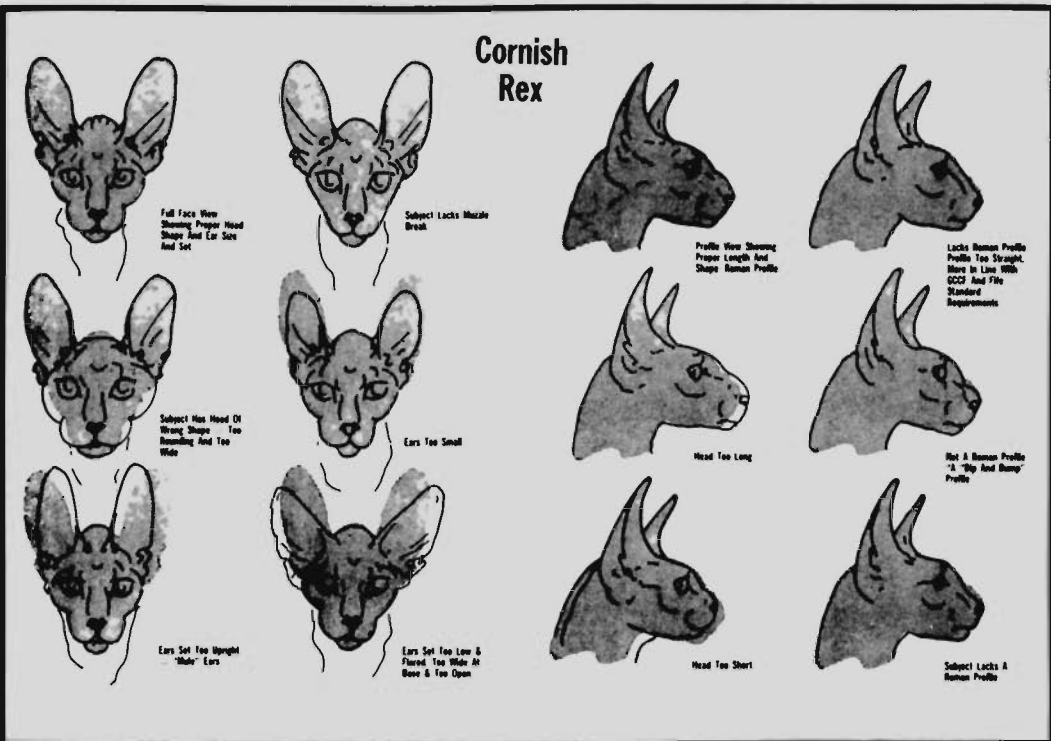
Stop Too Strong

Ears Set Too High On Head & Too Upright

Base Of Ears Too Narrow. Ears Are Closed, Not Open Enough

Head Too Short Should Be Strongly Discouraged

Head Of Wrong Shape Too Rounding



**Cornish Rex**

Full Face View Showing Proper Head Shape, Head and Ear Size and Set

Subject Lacks Muzzle Break

Profile View Showing Proper Length and Shape. Remain Profile

Lacks Remain Profile. Profile Too Straight. More in Line With GCCF And FFA Standard Requirements

Subject Has Hood Of Wrong Shape. Too Rounding and Too Wide

Ears Too Small

Head Too Long

Not A Remain Profile. A "Big And Bump" Profile

Ears Set Too Upright. "Mule" Ears

Ears Set Too Low & Floored. Too Wide At Base & Too Open

Head Too Short

Subject Lacks A Remain Profile

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**About the Author**

Ann Gibney began breeding cats in England, while obtaining her Ph.D. in theoretical chemistry. Her first cat, a seal point Siamese, produced her first litter in 1974. Ann lost her heart to Devons on first sight of one in 1973, further involvement in cat shows in London introduced her to the Cornish Rex, which she also grew to love. She registered her cattery, Scattergold, in CFA in 1977. Her first Devon litter came in 1978. She championed her first breeding Devon as a Rex, and was a member of the Rex Breed Council until the breeds separated. She became Devon Rex Breed Secretary in January, 1985. A life member of Last Chance Cat Fanciers International, Inc., and a founding member of the Devon Rex Breed Club, she also is a member of Rex Breeders United and Santa Clara Valley Cat Fanciers. She co-managed the first National Rex Show in 1980. She resides in Santa Clara, CA, where she supports her cat addiction by doing satellite battery development for Lockheed Missiles and Space Co.

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