

**The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.**  
**2009 BREED COUNCIL POLL**

**ABYSSINIAN**

Total Members: 86  
 Ballots Received: 46  
 60% of Voting: 28

**1. PROPOSED:** As of May 1, 2010, all newly registered ruddy male Abyssinians will have prefix 0380, all newly registered ruddy female Abyssinians will have prefix 0381, all newly registered red male Abyssinians will have prefix 0382, all newly registered red female Abyssinians will have prefix 0383.

**YES: 30      NO: 16**

**RATIONALE:** In the current Abyssinian registration rules, the following table of registration prefixes is used for ruddy Abyssinians or red Abyssinians born out of any dilute or alleged dilute carrying parent (either the sire or the dam or both):

Ruddy Male -- 360  
 Ruddy Female -- 361  
 Red Male -- 362  
 Red Female -- 363

By dilute carrying we mean a blue, fawn, a ruddy or a red born from a blue or a fawn, or from an alleged dilute carrier. By alleged dilute, we mean a ruddy or red with a 36x prefix.

Our current method of tracking cats as alleged dilute carriers is flawed in two ways: First, there are numerous instances of glitches wherein ruddies and/or reds out of 36x cats and dilute cats have been registered as 38x cats. When these have been discovered, they have been corrected, but not all instances have been discovered, let alone corrected. Furthermore, a 36x prefix is not necessarily an indicator of carrying the dilute gene, but a possibility that the dilute gene may be present. In the first case we have cats that may be carrying dilute that are 38x cats and in the second case we have 36x cats they may not be carrying dilute. According to information theory, having bad information is worse than having no information at all.

We have discussed this at length in breed council meetings on the Abys-List and the Abyssinian breed council list. Also, I have been in contact with the CFA Executive Director about the practicality of some of the suggestions many of the breed council members have made. At the Austin annual in 2007, there was a vote taken at the last meeting to put an item on the ballot to do with the continued use or not of the 036X prefixes for red or

ruddy Abyssinians that MAY be carrying dilute. However, given the Abyssinian protocol for putting things on the ballot and some pretty heated discussion ensuing after that meeting, I felt that we should wait another year and look at putting this on the 2008 ballot. This gave us both a deadline and more time for productive discussions about what the breed council really thinks the Board should direct Central Office to do about these prefixes. The vote at the Abyssinian breed council meeting at the Louisville annual to put this on the 2008 ballot in this form was overwhelming. Given our breed council protocol for putting things on the ballot, this has been discussed enough and is now time for a vote.