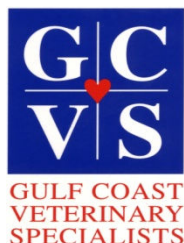


Media Contact: Becky Carazzone (713-666-8003; rcarazzone@gmail.com)
Show Manager: Magali Wehrley (281-497-0790; Dale.Wehrley@sbcglobal.net)
Club President: Becky Carazzone (713-666-8003; rcarazzone@gmail.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Diamond Jubilee !!!



WHAT: The Houston Cat Club's 60th ANNUAL CHARITY CAT SHOW
WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, January 5-6, 2013
WHERE: George R. Brown Convention Center, Hall A - 1001 Ave de las Americas, Houston, Texas 77010; (713) 853-8000
HOURS: 10 to 5 Saturday; 9 to 4 Sunday
ADMISSION: \$9.50 for Adults; \$7.00 for military and seniors 65 and older; \$4 ages 5 - 12. Free Admission for 4 years old and younger.
City of Houston Parking Fee: \$10 per car

BENEFICIARIES:

HOUSTON AREA Animal Welfare Groups: The Houston SPCA, Citizens for Animal Protection, the Homeless Pet Placement League, The Houston Humane Society and The Winn Feline Foundation. Over the last 58 shows, the Houston Cat Club has donated over \$875,000 to these and other local charities as well as to the Winn Feline Foundation. In addition, the shelters receive free space at the show to show off their beautiful cats available for adoption. **Donations come from spectators' admission fees.**

AMERICAN CAT IDOL:

Walker, the 25 pound Maine Coon Ambassador Cat will be at the show for a meet and greet! Come snuggle with the handsome hunk and enjoy Walker and other magnificent Maine Coons, America's native longhaired cats.

****FOR THE 7th YEAR! CFA FELINE AGILITY COMPETITION****



You've all heard about dog agility competitions, and have thoroughly enjoyed watching the dogs whip through the obstacle courses with determination and speed. Amazing how they can climb up and down those high steps and race through those weave pole areas. Now, can you actually imagine a cat lowering its dignity enough to do that?

But, of course! Cats are definitely trainable and most are willing to follow a feather or dangling toy anywhere! It can also be pretty funny to watch, too! Some cats take to the course like a duck to water, and have it down pat when it comes to running through tunnels and jumping through hoops. Others, though, seem to be more curious about the course, and will thoroughly inspect each obstacle before even thinking about tackling it. And then there are those competing cats who think the idea is to put their owners through the course paces, and give the humans a really good work-out while trying to coax them out of a tunnel or over a jump.

Come Watch the Feline Agility Competition at the Houston Charity Cat Show!

PEDIGREED CAT COMPETITION: As many as 300 pedigreed cats and kittens will compete for awards given by 8 judges from the Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. Top ten finalists in the pedigreed division, consisting of 39 recognized pedigreed breeds (such as Abyssinians, American Shorthairs, Balinese, Birmans, Burmese, Chartreux, Maine Coon Cats, Cornish and Devon Rex, Persians, Russian Blues, Scottish Folds, Siamese, Selkirk Rex, Sphynx Cats [hairless cat], and Tonkinese) will earn points towards titles of Grand Champion, Grand Premier and Regional and National Awards for the 2011- 2012 Show Season.

HOUSEHOLD PET

COMPETITION: Everybody's favorites, the Household Pets, have the opportunity to be judged by 8 CFA judges and are eligible for ribbons and rosettes in each ring!

Special competitions will be held for Best Costume, Best Tricks Performed by Cats, and Best Decorated Cage.

OF SPECIAL

NOTE:

Dr. John R. August, Professor of Feline Internal Medicine at Texas A&M University, will be our special guest. He was the Deputy Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at TAMU from 1995 through 1997 and is currently the Editor in Chief of *Consultations in Feline Internal Medicine*.

BOOK SIGNINGS: Book Signings by local best-selling authors Dean "Miranda" James, medical librarian and author of the "Cat in the Stacks" series, and Amy Shojai, known for her feline health care books, will be held at the 60th Annual Houston Cat Show on the afternoons of Saturday, January 5th and Sunday, January 6th at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Mr. James' cat-themed books made the extended NY Times Bestseller List in April 2011 and May 2011. *Murder By The Book* will have copies of his books for sale, and he will happily autograph them for the purchasers. These books include: Dean "Miranda" James: *Murder Past Due*, *Classified as Murder*, and *File M for Murder*. And, writing as "Jimmie Ruth Evans", the "Trailer Park Mysteries" series, including *Flamingo Fatale* and four other titles.

Ms. Shojai will have copies of her books for sale, and of course will sign them for the purchasers. These books include:

Chicken Soup for the Cat Lover's Soul (2005); Chicken Soup for the Dog Lover's Soul (2005); PETiquette: Solving Behavior Problems in your Multipet Household (2005); Complete Care for your Aging Cat; Complete Kitten Care; New Choices in Natural Healing for Dogs & Cats' and The First-Aid Companion for Dogs & Cats. This year, The Board of Directors of the Winn Feline Foundation unanimously awarded the 2007 Winn Feline Foundation Media Appreciation Award to Amy. Recently, she authored particularly informative pieces on feline infectious peritonitis (FIP, a fatal disease which most often affects kittens). In doing so, Shojai has promoted Winn's Bria Fund, which raises money for investigators determined to find a treatment or cure for FIP.

ASK THE VET

KIOSK -

The Ask-The-Vet-Kiosk will be manned from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Saturday and Noon to 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Spectators have the opportunity to discuss their pet cats' health with highly qualified veterinarians from the Houston Area.

CHILDREN'S

EDUCATION

Children of all ages will enjoy learning about different breeds of cats and what all those ribbons hanging on the cages mean. Coloring Contest! Games! Prizes!

SHOPPING:

A Kitty Shopping Mall - a variety of toys, treats, beds, climbing posts, premium cat foods, combs, brushes, and even shampoos are available for purchase. The latest in human and kitty attire, as well as jewelry and articles for the home with cat motifs, will be on sale. Just the Place to Purchase Gifts of a Feline Nature...

Everything a Cat Lover Could Want!

Visit our web site: www.houstoncatclub.org

Come join in the fun at the purrfect family event for feline lovers. The 57th Annual Houston Charity Cat show will be held January 10-11, 2009, in Hall A at the George R. Brown Convention Center. It's a Feline Extravaganza of cats, both pedigreed and non-pedigreed, sponsored by Gulf Coast Veterinary Specialists. The Houston Cat Club is an all volunteer club that has been supporting local animal welfare organizations for 60 years. From the previous 57 shows they have donated over \$860,000 to local organizations like the Houston SPCA, the Houston Humane Society, Citizens for Animal Protection, Homeless Pet Placement League, and HOPE. Additionally they support feline medical research through the Winn Foundation.

Pedigreed and non-pedigreed cats will be judged on beauty and personality by judges from the Cat Fanciers' Association. The non-pedigreed cats, also known as Household Pets, also participate in cage decorating contests, trick contests and costume contests.

The most exciting event is found at the Feline Agility ring where all cats entered in the show can compete for timed runs through the agility course. Cats are definitely trainable and most are willing to follow a feather or dangling toy anywhere! It can also be pretty funny to watch! Some cats take to the course like a duck to water, and have it down pat when it comes to running through tunnels and jumping through hoops. Others, though, seem to be more curious about the course, and will thoroughly inspect each obstacle before even thinking about tackling it. And then there are those competing cats who think the idea is to put their owners through the course paces, and give the humans a really good work-out while trying to coax them out of a tunnel or over a jump.

The Houston Charity Cat Show is one of the largest in the United States. Hundreds of beautiful cats compete each year for awards that go to regional and national wins for the show season. Spectators enjoy watching the judges handle and talk about each cat. The children's education area has all kinds of fun coloring books to teach them about the different breeds.

Need to shop for kitty? A Kitty Shopping Mall - a variety of toys, treats, beds, climbing posts, premium cat foods, combs, brushes, and even shampoos are available for purchase. The latest in human and kitty attire, as well as jewelry and articles for the home with cat motifs, will be on sale. Just the Place to Purchase Gifts of a Feline Nature

Have a vet question? Come to the Ask-the Vet booth and get answers!

What: Houston Cat Club's 60th annual Charity Cat Show
When: 10am - 5pm Saturday, January 5, 2013
9am-5pm Sunday, January 6, 2013
Where: George R. Brown Convention Center, Hall A
Cost: \$9.50 Adults; \$7.00 for Military and seniors 65 and older;
\$4 for children ages 5 - 12
Free Admission for children 4 and younger
City of Houston Parking Fee: \$10-\$12 per car

More Info: www.houstoncatclub.org



GULF COAST
VETERINARY
SPECIALISTS



Interview with Dr. Beale

1. Tell me about the upcoming show, when is it and where is it?
The 57th annual Houston Charity Cat Show is January 10-11 at the George R. Brown Convention center. It starts at 10am on Saturday and end at 5pm. Sunday we start at 9am and end at 4pm. We really appreciate Gulf Coast Veterinary Specialists for sponsoring our show for the third year.
2. How much are the tickets?
\$9 for adults, \$4 for children and seniors. Children under 4 are free.
3. What happens at the cat show?
The show is sponsored by the Cat Fanciers' Association and the cats are judges by expert CFA judges. We have both pedigreed and non-pedigreed (or household pets) cats entered in the show. Our 2008 show was the largest in the nation that weekend and we were 5th largest in the nation for the 2007-2008 show season.
4. Are there any special activities?
We have trick and costume contest for the household pets. The audience chooses the best costumed cats and best trick. We also have Feline Agility, similar to dog agility, except often the owner gets more exercise than the cat. Some of the cats are very talented and zip through the course while others are more deliberate in investigating every obstacle before tackling it.

Dr. John R. August will be at the Texas A&M booth both days. We also have an Ask-the Vet station where Dr. Dan Jordan of the Animal Avian Hospital of the Village will be available to answer questions Saturday afternoon and Dr. Bill Folger of Memorial Cat Hospital will answer questions Sunday afternoon.

We also have 50 vendors with all kinds of cat toys, cat trees, cat food, and cat oriented gifts and clothes.
5. How many cats will be there?
This year we had 384 cats entered, 43 of which were household pets.
6. Are there a lot of different breeds?
There are over 50 different breeds recognized by the Cat Fanciers' Association ranging from the hairless Sphynx to Persians with so much hair they look like furry pillows.
7. Does your cat walk around the show hall like the dogs?
No! They spend most of the day in their benching cage. When their number is called they go to the judging ring and sit in a cage until the judge is ready to look at them. The most feared words at a cat show are "cat out" and

which point all the doors slam shut and everyone is on the lookout to nab the escapee.

8. Can you buy a cat or kitten at the show?

Many breeders have pedigreed cats or kittens for sale. We also provide free space for the local shelters to bring beautiful and friendly cats and kittens for adoption.

9. How do you get a cat ready to go to the show?

It depends on how much hair the cat has, but first you clip his claws. No cat entered in the show has been declawed. We believe that this is not a healthy procedure and have taken a stand against declawing for many years.

After clipping claws on all 4 paws the cat is bathed, including multiple shampoos and rinses if the cat is a Maine Coon or Persian, and blown dry with a hair dryer.

10. Tell me a little about the Houston Cat Club.

The Houston Cat Club has existed since the 1920's and officially incorporated in 1949. We are an all volunteer organization and we have put on 56 charity cat shows. Proceeds from the shows have allowed us to donate \$860,000 to local animal welfare organizations and the Winn Feline Foundation for Medical Research.

11. Where can I go to get information about the show?

www.houstoncatclub.org