



An excerpt from "**Shorthair**" **Cat of the Year** **A CFA Anomaly**, by *Ande DeGeer*, originally published in the *Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. 2005 Yearbook*, © 2005 Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.

Sharyn and Sigfrid (Sig) Hauck were mesmerized by the sensual beauty of the muscular, satin-coated black panther, with the luminous golden copper eyes: the Bombay. Then they experienced the loving disposition and friendly nature of the breed and were hooked. The second litter from GC, RW Caricature's Isaac Hayes and CH Caricature's Jamaica Kincaid, DM, produced **GC, BW, NW Caricature's Colin Powell**, whose date of birth was 9/11/02 (thus his name, as Caricature names of all their cats and kittens after people of color who have made a difference in the world).

When "Colin" as four months old, it was obvious to the Haucks that he was show quality. They suggested that Gloria and John Clark, who were showing GP Caricature's Pvt. Reuben Bibb, USCT, take Colin along as "Reuben's" companion. That eliminated the conflict of the Haucks showing two kittens in Region 1 at the same time. The Clarks fell in love with Colin. Gloria asked if she could purchase Colin for John's birthday. He was purchased as a "pet," with the condition that he be shown at least through his Grand Championship. The Haucks retained all the breeding rights to Colin. Colin reached adulthood on May 11th and became a Grand Champion by the end of May 2003. A few judges encouraged the Clarks to keep Colin out.

Colin did not breed during the show year, nor did he live with cycling females or studs who were actively breeding. He never lost weight or his appetite. He loved the hotel rooms and was a patient traveler by car and air. During shows, he often sat out on his grooming table and viewed the spectators and exhibitors (the Bombay isn't loyal; they go to anyone, anywhere, anytime; their nickname is "lap fungus"). He was stroked with a pink cotton cloth from a local flea market (many exhibitors wanted

one for their cats, as they were convinced it had a secret ingredient). However, his coat was all a matter of genetics and conditioning - "grooming" from the inside out.

Colin had a very successful summer and fall. He overtook one cat after another, often placing as highest scoring cat in show. He moved into first place, appropriately, that September. However, the foursome (Sharyn, Sig, Gloria and John) was convinced he would end the year in second place, losing first place to a white Persian that they believed would overtake Colin in March. Colin stood his ground and when the final bell rang, he was ahead by 114.35 points.

We have now come full circle in this 40-year story, to finish with a medium-boned, well-balanced cat, with a sweet expression and soft, round lines, but with SHORT hair. It is appropriate that we conclude with the breed that Nikki Homer, breeder of our first "Shorthair" Cat of the Year, strived to have recognized. Nikki was quoted as saying of the 1988 CFA Invitational Show, "When I walked into the show hall with those sky-high ceilings that had big white banners hanging down over each breed section, and I saw the one that said Bombay, I thought, 'By golly, people won't remember all the cats and all the wins I've had over the years, but when I'm gone, the Bombay breed will still be here.'" She was correct. Although she passed away in 1996, Nikki still added one more jewel to her crown. Her woman-made breed, an anomaly in of itself, is CFA's 2003-2004 Cat of the Year.



CFA's Best Cat in 2004: GC, BW, NW Caricature's Colin Powell, a Bombay male. Br: Sharyn and Sig Hauck. Ow: J. and G. Clark and Sharyn and Sig Hauck.