

# On The Way to Grand..Under the New Show Rule!

By Barbara Whitman



In 1975, I remember when I first started showing silver Persians there were lots of specialty shows for the breed. As time has passed these shows have gone by the wayside, except for Dixieland and now silver Persians are competing all the time against all breeds. When I show it is usually no more than one show a month and with Lollipop I decided to show more often.

Lollipop was born July 12, 2011 in a litter of three where she was the only chinchilla golden. Her color was so light it was absolutely amazing. She is the best cat I have ever had in 36 years of breeding. What is so unusual about her is the clarity of her coat with no barring, her coat factor, large green eyes and sweet face, short cobby body and such a sweet disposition. I am cattery blind always thinking that my cats are not that good so I waited until she was five months of age

before entering our first show.

Her first show was in Nashville, TN the weekend of December 31, 2011 where she got into a couple of finals. In January 2012, I then entered her in the San Diego, CA show where she did fabulously making the top 15 of 100 kittens in most rings. It seemed as though she was progressively doing better as her color developed more as well as her weight. I had never had a kitten that did so well against all breed kittens.

I decided to do something with Lollipop that I had never done in my 36 years of breeding and showing silver and golden Persians to show as much as possible to see how many points we could gain while she was a kitten. So I embarked with some help from my friends on showing every weekend beginning in February. So, by the March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> show in Baltimore, MD she was second kitten in Region 7 after 7 shows. The judges loved her coloring, cobby body, large green eyes, clarity of coat and personality.

Quite a few of my fellow silver/golden breeders as well as judges expressed that Lollipop was a once in a lifetime cat. With the urging of many of these people, my friends and my daughter I decided to keep showing Lollipop before she came into season and lost her coat. For once I listened to the advice of my friends, daughter, and fellow breeders to keep showing Lollipop and work to get her grand even though I was burned out and tired from showing every weekend.

With the help of my daughter we headed off to Knoxville to the one day show with Lollipop. To my amazement we earned 195 points at this show. At the next weekend shows in Ohio Lollipop Granded in the first ring. It took one week to grand her once in a lifetime cat. I am so lucky to have been able to breed such a fabulous cat and will repeat the breeding. One only hopes that the parents of Lollipop can produce another cat of her quality of coloring and lack of barring.

**'Open' Class Abolished...The Thrill of Instantly Winning Grand Points!**