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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **THE PERSIAN CAT ... IN ALL ITS GLORY EXHIBIT TO OPEN IN ALLIANCE**

Alliance, OH – April 24, 2014 - The Cat Fanciers' Association Foundation, Inc. announces the opening of a special breed collection -- The Persian Breed Exhibit-- on Thursday, May 1, at the Feline Historical Museum in Alliance, OH.

According to registration statistics from The Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA), the Persian is the most popular of the forty-two recognized breeds of pedigreed cats. This new breed exhibit will take a look at the Persian breed through historical documentation regarding the early beginnings of the breed, and its development over the centuries, as well as show the Persian cat in various styles of art and collectibles.

The Persian cat has a history in Alliance:

- Photos of blue and silver Persian cats, belonging to Alliance resident Mrs. Chester Naylor, graced the covers of *The Cat Gazette* magazine in the mid-to-late 1930's.
- In 1977, black Persian cats belonging to Alliance residents Gene and Patti Darrah won the titles of Best Kitten and Best Cat under their Surrey Hill cattery name.
- Evelyn Prather, a resident of Alliance for numerous years, received national awards for the exquisite Persian cats she bred in her Prim-Pet cattery.
- Donna Jean Thompson, now an Alliance resident and current Director of Operations for CFA, bred Persian cats under her cattery name, Jeannel. During the 2006 show season, she showed a brown mackerel tabby and white Persian to Best Cat in Premiership (a special class for neutered and spayed cats).

Joining us on opening day, between 1pm and 3pm, will be Gene Darrah, a long-time resident of Alliance and now an Allbreed judge for CFA. Mr. Darrah is one of few breeders to have achieved the win of Best Cat (Surrey Hill Secret) and Best Kitten (Surrey Hill Miss Priss) in a single show season. Also in attendance will be retired Allbreed judge and Alliance resident, Evelyn Prather of the famous Prim-Pet cattery. Her cats received national recognition and were greatly admired for their excellent grooming.

On opening day we will also have a special feline guest - Angelspur Juicy Fruit of Ladiluck, an 8-month old Persian kitten will spend the day roaming the Feline Historical Museum and greeting visitors. Juicy Fruit is a brown patched mackerel tabby and white, one of the most outstanding color patterns in the Persian breed.

The Persian Breed Exhibit will run from May 1 until October 31. The CFA Foundation's Feline Historical Museum is located at 260 East Main Street in Alliance, OH. Museum hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, and Saturday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Admission is free. For additional details phone 330-680-4444, email [info@FelineHistoricalFoundation.org](mailto:info@FelineHistoricalFoundation.org), or visit our web site [www.FelineHistoricalFoundation.org](http://www.FelineHistoricalFoundation.org).

### **About the CFA Foundation, Inc.**

The Cat Fanciers' Association Foundation, Inc. was founded in 1990 as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that collects and preserves the history of the cat and the cat fancy. A Feline Historical Museum, which displays the artifacts of the foundation, was opened in June 2011 at 260 East Main Street, Alliance, OH. For additional information on the CFA Foundation, visit their web site at [www.FelineHistoricalFoundation.org](http://www.FelineHistoricalFoundation.org), their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CFAFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/CFAFoundation) or call the museum at 330-680-4444.