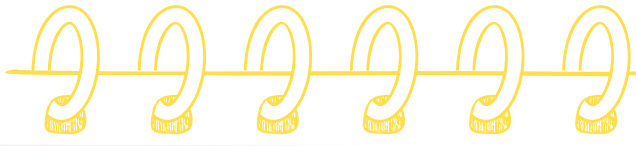


BREEDER DIARY



Meet the Maystar brood!

Our breeder diary is back! Let us introduce you to Devon Rex breeder Nicole Rankin and her naughty-but-nice feline family...

Introducing the Maystar pride is a joyous experience. Head of our pride is Ade, a very kind and loyal husband. Then, there is me. I am affectionately known in the cat world as 'King Slinky's Momma' and 'Nicole SJ Rankin, Feline Artist' to others. Together, we breed Devon Rex.

We are currently owned by five very naughty and hilarious Devon Rex cats. This number is soon to rise as our dear Faith, a four-year-old black smoke girl, is about to have a litter of kittens from our very handsome boy, two-year-old J-One, also a black smoke.

Faith's daughter, two-and-a-half-year-old chocolate smoke Lilibet, is very special. She was starved of oxygen at birth and then had blood poisoning from pyometra (a serious infection of the womb). She also has occasional seizures from a condition called Feline hyperesthesia syndrome (FHS). Being sensitive to change we are concerned that her mother having kittens may be a little confusing, but with

homeopathic remedies and play, we manage to keep her syndrome at bay.

The youngest member of our family is Gracie, a seven-month-old lilac and white kitten who is sweet natured and always purring, but quite a devious madam!

Finally, the most well-known cat in our pride, King Slinky. By genetic default he is void of fur, looking more Sphynx-like than Devon Rex. But all the same, he has earned his place in society by blogging and entertaining people all over the world.

Slinky has a dicky ticker due to his immense allergies (he's allergic to proteins, dairy and grains, and is on a drug for the rest of his life to stop his immune system attacking itself). He has surpassed his previously given five-year lifespan and has just turned nine! He is very tolerant and everybody's friend. Being one in a million does cost us a small fortune, but he's worth it.

Currently, we are looking forward to Faith's babies. Just entering her third

trimester, the babies are growing rapidly. We had her scanned at home and there are definitely some kittens in there. They are around 5cm long at the moment and they look like miniature cats and have their little triangular ears, toes, claws and fully formed eyes. Their cartilage is turning to bone and they have determined what sex they are already. Their Rex fur is the last thing to grow just a few days before they pop out.

We have the kitten room all prepared and Faith is already nesting, eating more and demanding her special china mug to drink from (Heaven help us!). We are at her beck and call now and I have moved into the kitten room for these final weeks. She is a real little queen bee and loves babies and lays chirruping to them — either that or she has wind?! Come back next month where we shall tell you all about the birth and what happens next. ■



Nicole.



Faith drinking out of her special mug!



King Slinky with Gracie.



Special cat Lilibet.



Mummy-to-be Faith.

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