

1. Great things start with little ideas! In the fall of 1978 Laura Dayton, one of the first Ragdoll breeders conceived the idea of having an award to inspire owners of Ragdolls to participate in more shows and encourage breeders to strive for higher quality in their Ragdolls. After much thought and discussion she and her husband, Denny, decided to take action and make a dream come true.

2. Laura discussed her idea of a trophy with a friend, Lauri Riegelman, who had three beautiful Ragdolls, whereupon Lauri offered to make Laura's dream become a reality by sponsoring a 20 year perpetual trophy.

3. Work commenced immediately. After careful consideration of an appropriate design and size, it was foremost in mind that the trophy should be a true work of art to represent the Ragdolls in the cat fancy. And what a beautiful and majestic trophy it is! Figure 1, a photograph of Blossom-Time Tribble, the first winner of the trophy, looking with adoration up to the trophy's top cat on its pedestal speaks for itself.

4. Shortly after the trophy project was under way, the Daytons mutually agreed that a companion award should be presented to remain with the winner. Ragdoll owner and lifetime Trustee of the Ragdoll Fanciers' Club, holding the rank of Brigadier General (as of 4/1/87 elevated to Major General) Robert N. Trubey, USA-RET., who had such benevolence toward the breed and its owners, offered to sponsor an 8"x10" walnut plaque for the twenty years. The plaque truly not only is a keepsake that remains with the owner of the best Ragdoll for the year, but catches the eye of anyone who views it, yet it blends in perfectly with any decor.

5. The Daytons fully realized that as the cat fancy continues to grow, it becomes more and more obvious that better specimens must be shown to compete with all other breeds for acceptance within the cat fancy. Since historically, whole cats do not compete equally with alters, the Riegelman trophy was originally intended for alters only to encourage more exhibitors. At a later time however, breeders with whole cats were allowed to compete for the trophy.

6. At the beginning of the 1989-90 show season the Daytons introduced another trophy to be awarded annually to the highest scoring whole Ragdoll within one's own breeding program. Not only did this correct an imbalance but the incentive was to encourage more breeders to accept the challenge of achieving a much higher echelon in blood lines through improved breeding techniques. Adhering to written standards and good cattery management most assuredly will continue to be the outcome of such endeavors.

7. The magnitude of the newest trophy is aptly captured in Figure 2. It is another outstanding piece of art along with the Riegelman trophy and the Trubey plaques. This "life-size" trophy is quite possibly the largest ever presented to any breed in the cat fancy. The two trophies earn considerable prestige by gaining the distinction of having the top whole Ragdolls of the year as a result of aggressively exhibiting these outstanding beautiful cats.

8. As in the past the staunch supporter of the Ragdolls, Major General Robert N. Trubey, USA-RET, ever mindful of the need to advance the Ragdolls in the fancy through awards, sponsored another series of 8"x10" plaques to accompany the perpetual trophy.

9. Details that must be adhered to in order to win these awards are listed under the RFCI Method of Scoring. The sponsors of the awards have requested that any exhibiting Ragdoll owner must be a paid up member in the RFCI during any show season of exhibiting to claim awards.

10. At the end of twenty years, the winner of the perpetual Riegelman Trophy retains the trophy for one year. After that time the President may decide what action, if any, shall be taken to offer a comparable trophy of any size, design and designated number of years. The Board must approve the President's action.

11. At the end of eighteen years, the winner of the perpetual Laura and Denny Dayton Trophy retains the trophy for one year. After that time the President may decide what action, if any, shall be taken to offer a comparable trophy of any size, shape and designated number of years. If the existing trophy is re-tagged and continues as a perpetual trophy, it is to be known as the Dayton Trophy. The Board must approve the President's action.

12. Should the RFCI disband, the Board shall decide upon the disposition of the awards.

13. Lauri Riegelman, Robert Trubey and the Daytons wish that all exhibitors could be winners—and of course they are! But truly, the ones that take possession of either trophy year after year and the recipient of the Trubey Plaques, should be very appreciative that the sponsors really cared. Through their generosity, they have shown unequivocal love for the breed, thereby guaranteeing the future of the Ragdolls of their rightful place in the cat fancy.