

BEST LAID PLANS MEET MURPHY'S LAW IN PARADISE

The beautiful islands of Hawai'i are an idyllic Paradise of the Pacific – but that doesn't immunize CFA's Hawai'i Division from the dreaded impacts of Murphy's Law.

Case in point: The Hawai'i Hulacat Club's 2014 "Happy Holidays" show on December 6 in Honolulu.

The show was well-planned and widely publicized. The show hall was beautifully decorated in Holiday themes. We had four charismatic CFA Allbreed judges who excel at entertaining the crowd and promoting the cat fancy. Judge Hilary Helmrich had prepared an informational talk regarding CFA's new Household Pet program. We even had the president of the Pacific Pet Alliance advocacy group as an honored special guest. And, for the first time in several years, the air conditioning system was working perfectly! (Yes, sometimes we do appreciate air conditioning in our show halls, even in December.) We expected a sizable crowd of visitors and spectators.

But little did the show committee suspect that for most of our scheduled show hours, ***the only access roads leading to the show's venue would be barricaded for a bicycle rally in the neighborhood!*** We had been told to expect a higher-than-usual demand for parking spaces, but nothing was said about blocked access roads. (In the end, parking spaces were the least of our concerns!)

Fortunately, most exhibitors and vendors arrived early, before there was any hint of the impending roadblocks. But not long after the judging began, exhibitors' mobile phones at the show began ringing with calls from frustrated would-be spectators whose only routes to the show hall were now blocked by barricades and uniformed police officers. Children who had planned to see our lovely cats and kittens were pouting and crying. Their frustrated parents and aunties weren't too happy, either. Even our show photographer gave up trying to reach the show hall, as did several news reporters (to say nothing of exhibitors' friends and families who had planned to enjoy our show).

Needless to say, our entry fee gate receipts at the show were dismal. We'll have to scramble to make up for that unexpected shortfall. Our vendors also suffered, but they didn't complain and they still plan to support our future shows.

All frustrations aside, we nonetheless had a WONDERFUL time at our traditional Happy Holidays show! Spectators who managed to arrive either before or after the traffic barricades enjoyed lots of individualized attention from Ambassador Cat Kaluamoa Mister Peabody. Vendors and exhibitors had extra time to share their knowledge with visitors.

In other words, we managed to make tasty lemonade from Murphy's Law lemons.

You can see photos from *Honolulu* magazine's coverage of our show (yes, their reporter/photographer managed to arrive *before* the road blockade) at:

<http://www.honolulumagazine.com/Event-Photo-Galleries/December-2014/CFA-Championship-and-Household-Pet-Cat-Show-2014/>