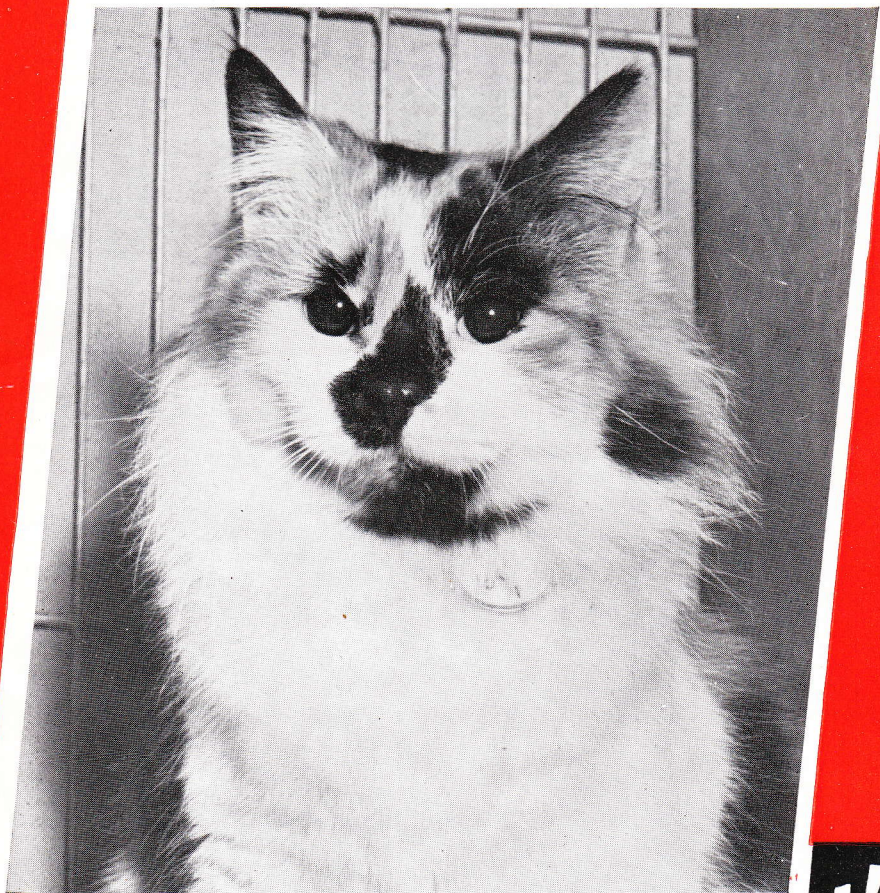


Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING
COMPREHENSIVE



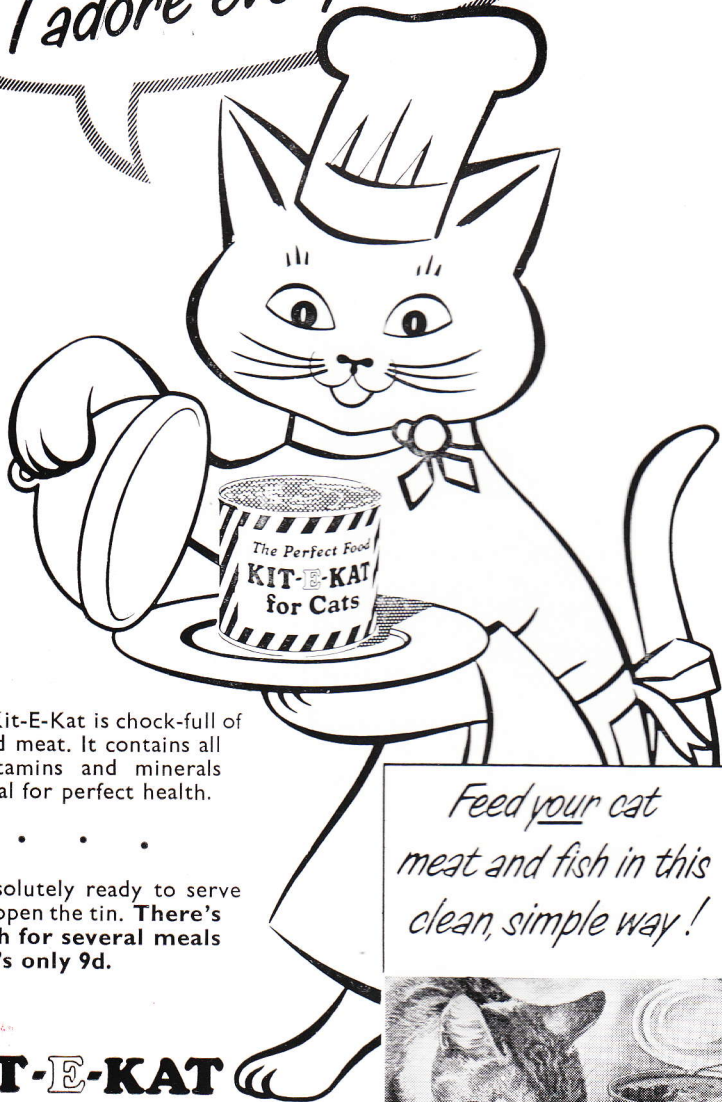
*"The Tortoiseshell cat
She sits on the mat,
As gay as a sunflower she;
In orange and black you see her blink,
And her waistcoat's white, and her nose is pink,
And her eyes are green of the sea." Anon.*

*The poet's lines fit so admirably to our picture of CHAMPION SHEEPFOLD
PAINTED LADY. Some interesting details about this outstanding Tortoiseshell
Longhair will be found on page 21. Photo by Sport & General Agency.*

MAY 1954

1/6

*This is the dish
I adore every day!*



Yes—Kit-E-Kat is chock-full of fish and meat. It contains all the vitamins and minerals essential for perfect health.

. . .
It's absolutely ready to serve—just open the tin. There's enough for several meals and it's only 9d.

*Feed your cat
meat and fish in this
clean, simple way!*

KIT-E-KAT

the complete and nourishing
cat food



Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

Published every month with the best possible features and illustrations and circulated to Cat Lovers of every kind throughout the world. Our editorial purpose is :

- (1) to spread a wider understanding and a better appreciation of all cats, their care and management ;
- (2) to encourage in every way the breeding, handling and showing of pedigree cats ;
- (3) to work for the suppression of every form of cruelty to cats ;
- (4) to act as a link of friendship and common interest between cat lovers in different parts of the world.

VOL. 6 No. 5

MAY 1954

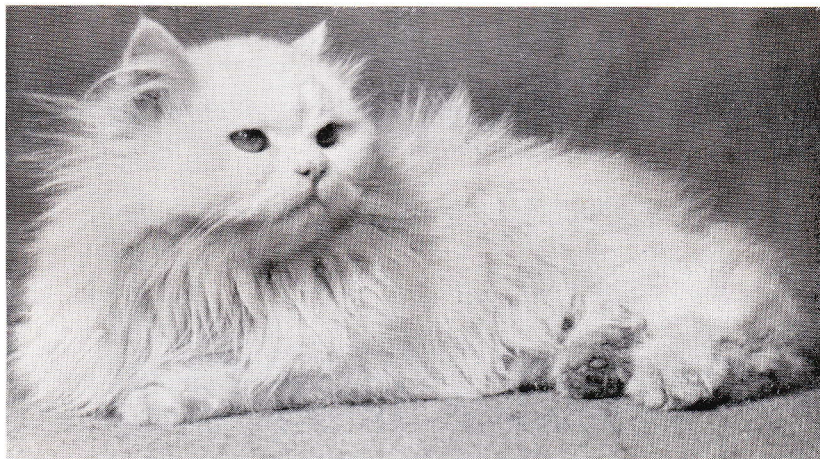
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ARTHUR E. COWLISHAW
4 CARLTON MANSIONS
CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9


American Associate Editor :

MRS. BILLIE BANCROFT

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



MYRWAL CHINA CHIP, a handsome Orange-eyed White Longhair at six months belonging to Mrs. W. Gaskin, of Herne Hill, S.E. London. The sire was Mrs. Beedell's Magyar Yonus, a Blue Longhair.

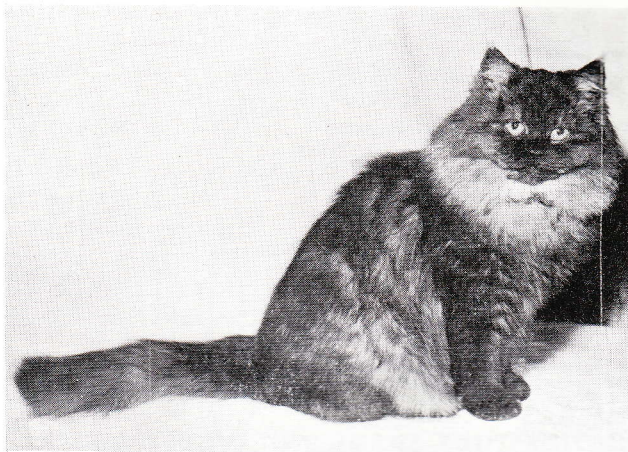
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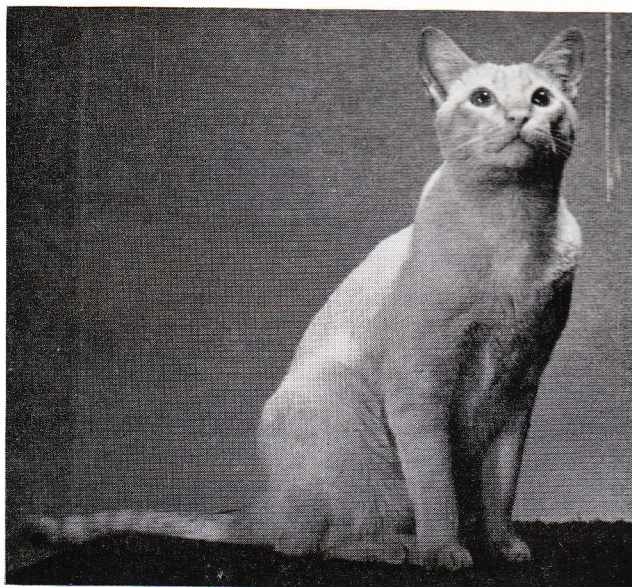
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SORAYA ULD NYEHORST, a charming Dutch Smoke kitten at 8 months who was made "Best Kitten in Show" by Miss Kathleen Yorke at Haarlem last December. She was bred by Mrs. Doeksen-Jansen and is now owned by Mrs. Dels-Mackens, of Hilversum. Soraya was sired by the Champion Smoke Tarzan uld Nye horst (a son of Southway Wizard and a Silver queen) who unfortunately went for a stroll a short while back and has never since been seen by his owner.



CHEYNE RED EMPEROR (known as "Bingand") is a striking Red Pointed Siamese owned by Mr. and Mrs. Lynn, of St. John's Wood, London. Breeder is Mrs. K. Dunks.

Nursing the Sick

By M.R.C.V.S.

GOOD nursing plays an important part in the successful treatment of severe illnesses ; in fact, it is often thought that some cases would progress as favourably without medicinal treatment as with it, provided the hygiene and dietetic conditions left nothing to be desired.

The first consideration then is the provision of a capable and conscientious nurse, and adequate housing accommodation for the patient. As the latter is not one of the least important factors in our routine treatment, it shall be dealt with first.

A bright, cheery and clean environment is very essential, for when an animal—no less than a human being—becomes weak, exhausted and depressed, it is often the word of encouragement, the cheery glow of its apartment and the constant little attentions of the nurse, which serve to remind the patient it is still alive, give it some temporarily-renewed interest and, for a while, help it to forget its pains and weariness—perhaps sufficiently long to bring it safely over the crisis.

We know from painful experience that when patients are left long alone, perhaps in the dark or in a low temperature or in evil surroundings, they lose heart, rapidly sink lower and lower, and die. Therefore, let the room be light, clean, warm and absolutely dry, with all provision made against draughts, yet with an ample exchange of air.

A cat suffering with distemper, for instance, is probably best accommodated in a spare room at the top of the house (unless one has a properly equipped isolation cattery), as it is thereby allotted a sufficient cubic air space without being actually exposed to external air, and this

is important in view of lung complications in distemper.

It is a popular fallacy that a patient which is the subject of pneumonia should be coddled up in a hot room with all doors and windows closed ; but never was there a greater mistake, for the more frequently fresh air can be substituted for used air, the better, commensurate, of course, with the maintenance of an equable temperature and an absence of draughts or swiftly moving currents. Intelligence must be exercised as regards which windows should be open and which closed, as dictated by the direction and intensity of the wind.

Hot Water Bottles

The temperature of the room should not be high, and the optimum will be found at 65°F. It is a mistake to overheat the sick room as this tends only to make the patient more than ever susceptible to cold, and in any case, is oppressive.

If there is a fire in the grate, it is an equally bad practice to allow it to go out when the owner retires for the night, or to extinguish any heating appliance, as the early hours of the morning are the coldest, and alterations of temperature are harmful.

If hot water bottles are ordered for a patient, this does not mean that they are wanted only during the day or when the nurse is on duty. They are wanted even more urgently at night. The nurse must see, therefore, that they are regularly filled and are never uncomfortably hot. Rubber bottles containing hot water should be only half-filled, as to fill them completely causes them to present a convex surface, upon which no cat can settle comfortably.

Furthermore they should be placed beneath two or three thicknesses of

blanket in order (1) to protect the cat from undue heat, and (2) to retain the heat as long as possible. It should be possible for the cat to get away from the hot water bottle, as occasionally the latter may cause distress.

Very excellent electrically heated blankets are now obtainable from Windak Ltd., of Cheshire. The heating element consists of woven gauze mesh of stainless steel embedded in a chemical-resistant insulating plastic. It is thus waterproof and easily cleaned. These blankets are especially useful after pro-

longed surgical operations when the patient's vitality is at a low ebb; and they appear to reduce detoxication time after general anaesthesia.

Electric bowl-fires or other apparatus should not be directed either upon the patient, or towards any woodwork, but should be stood on the floor and directed towards the ceiling. A carelessly placed apparatus might cause a fire, or might occasion great discomfort and distress to the patient.

After all, their object is to warm the room, and not to cook the cat.



BIRCOTTE MODEST MAIDIE, lovely Blue Longhair kitten bred by Miss I. Sherlock, of Betchworth, Surrey, and exported to Mrs. Lakshoel, of Norway. Modest Maidie was Best Kitten at the Oslo Show in December and this picture was taken at the airport on her arrival in her land of adoption.



In the Siamese World



This is the second of a new series of features for devotees of the Siamese breeds which we hope to be able to present in alternate issues for a long time to come. Our contributor is KATHLEEN R. WILLIAMS, breeder, judge and show organizer of many years' standing and now Hon. Secretary of the Siamese Cat Club which is probably the largest specialist cat club in the world.

SETTling down to write these notes on a sunny April day, a squirrel hops leisurely across the lawn. My kittens, sensing something unusual, scamper madly in pursuit—they are too late! The squirrel is now half-way up the beech tree.

It is extraordinary how something unforeseen brings to mind vivid memories. This incident recalled my visit to America, in particular, my stay with Mr. and Mrs. A. Pinney, at Scarsdale, N.Y., where these little grey fellows abound, for they are protected by law. I saw them, there, jumping from branch to branch of the interlaced trees at the road side.

Our recent move has occasioned the usual sorting out of books, catalogues, magazines, etc. It has given me great pleasure—and food for thought to scan once again the catalogues so kindly sent to me over the years from U.S.A., Sweden, Denmark, New Zealand, South Africa, and other countries. British stock figures in most of these catalogues. Breeders may be interested in the

Kitten Matches held in The States. The Match catalogue I have before me was sponsored by the specialist Siamese Cat Club, and held at the home of Mrs. Anthony Avata. It is interesting to note that progeny of imported British stock is usually amongst the winners.

An experiment on these lines might be an attraction to breeders in this country.

I heard recently with regret of Miss Maud Lantry's death in New York. I spent some interesting hours with her in her apartment, where I saw pictures of her beautiful cats. We talked as cat lovers do of cats in particular and cats in general. Miss Lantry was a kindly lady, devoted to her cats and she will be sadly missed by her American companion breeders. I shall always remember her kindness to me.

This year's Annual General Meeting of the Siamese Cat Club, held at The Reubens Hotel in March, was very well attended, and lively in its discussions. Its six hundred odd members and others



"Hastings & St. Leonards Observer"

Don't bother to count 'em ! There's eleven altogether in this record Siamese litter born in the healthy Sussex air to Mrs. E. F. Morrison's Pearl. See story below.

interested spread all over the world will be interested to learn that it was unanimously decided :

- (1) To continue the News Sheet in an amended form ;
- (2) That in future no new judge can be added to the Club's list of judges unless they have bred or owned Siamese for at least seven years.

Beauty, a queen belonging to Mrs. E. F. Morrison, of Hastings, has given birth to 12 kittens. One died and eleven have been reared successfully, which is quite an achievement. Keeping a fire going night and day, Mrs. Morrison slept in a camp bed in order to feed the kittens every two hours. At one feed Beauty suckled six, the other five being fed by hand. At the next feed, the order was reversed. They were fed first on dried milk, later a baby food was added. I *do* hope the queen will have a long rest before having another litter. A picture of this remarkable litter appears above.

Champion Bluehayes Foxy, with two of his kittens, made their bow to T.V. viewers this month. The kittens were

inclined to wander but under the guidance of Miss Joan Gilbert, they were brought within camera range. Mrs. Coldham tells me her cats watch television with great interest. I feel that cats are particularly sensitive to sound and movement. I wonder how yours react ?

Mentioning the fact that the kittens shown—a Blue Point and a Seal Point—were of the same litter, caused much interest. Breeders will know the explanation, but for those readers not so well informed, the explanation is that where sire and dam carry a Blue Point factor (that is a B.P. ancestor) there is a likelihood of this link producing both colours in one litter.

In recent weeks, I have received many letters telling of kindnesses received from breeders. In any group of people drawn together by a common interest, kindness is one of the qualities which shines through. Help, advice, support and sympathy in one way or another should be and generally are forthcoming at the moment of need. Not only in these Isles of ours, but the world over.

In Cairo, the wife of a newspaper correspondent took in a stray and made arrangements for its well being on her balcony, despite the fact that she had already a very jealous and possessive Siamese. When the stranger is recovered and ready, a home will be found for her. Readers, before you voice the thought "Oh! that is in Egypt where cats may not be so well treated," let me tell you of three wandering Siamese found in England during March and April. Their owners cannot be traced. One, a female, quite wild from exposure, now calmer with the attention and care given to her, was found at Eastbourne. Second, a male, on the outskirts of Croydon. Third, a kitten now claimed. I hope that ere this reaches you the other two will be reunited with their owners.

I feel I must share with you the story of a B.B.C. correspondent who was suddenly recalled from New York. Having a queen and six kittens of which to dispose, he was not a little anxious! Mrs. Hood, who has an International reputation as a "cat woman," told him to bring them to a party she was giving. I quote: "And what a success they were, they were petted and cared for by all. Husbands had difficulty in getting their wives away from the party—so the kittens had homes from which to choose, and though this wasn't a moral way to find homes for cats, it was better than a dose of chloroform." I should have loved to have attended that party. As kittens are such discerning creatures I think they would soon have their owners under their paws!

From Continental friends I hear of the wonderful show held in Copenhagen, Show manager Mrs. Rudy Eisenhuth. Letters are enthusiastic about the arrangements, layout and general happiness of the Show, which attracted 10,000 visitors. Mrs. Magnusson exhibited two English exports, both winners—Waldo Precious (breeder Mrs. Dunkerley) and Pristine Petaling (breeder Mrs. Priston). I understand the Best Male was Exiote Gigolo (by Sabukia Sinbad ex Quantocks

Gossamer). Congratulations to show manager and exhibitors.

It is good to hear of our exported stock and their progeny. Another export is Doneraile Brun Malvana, who went to U.S.A. I quote from her owner's (Mrs. Naugle) letter:

"Last week-end at Washington Show, our little girl was Best Chocolate Point in the Siamese Specialist Show, under Mrs. Lester O'Neil and also Best Chocolate Point in the All-Breed Show under Mrs. Revington. She is now a Champion. Everyone was pleased with her. Other breeders of Chocolate Points said they were perfectly satisfied to go down to such a beautiful cat." Congratulations to Mrs. Naugle and Good Luck to those sporting exhibitors.

Mrs. M. Steward, of Canada, an old friend of mine, writes of her imported C.P.s, of which I will write later.

Regarding Ringworm

Skin troubles in cats have cropped up again and again during the last twelve months. Several cat owners have contacted me regarding ringworm—one was actually contemplating putting mother and her kittens to sleep. I advised against this course, the little mother and her kits were cured—kits are, in fact, now adults. Do not be discouraged. At the first sign of trouble, the cat should be isolated and your veterinary surgeon called, for there are two definite cures. One I heard of only recently through the kindness of Mr. F. Carman.

The Siamese Cat Club arranged a visit to Messrs. Brands factory on April 20th. This well known medical product is much used by cat breeders. Indeed, "Brands" means Brands Essence. Members spent a most enjoyable afternoon and were most impressed by the process involved in the production of beef and chicken essence. Every care is taken and jars are sterilized at each stage in the filling. We all felt that we could have no better product for our animals. At the conclusion of our visit the management very kindly entertained us to tea.

A page for the proletarian puss No. 44



Keystone Press Agency

Pulling on his Wellingtons preparatory to a stroll in the garden with his favourite Tabby companion is that remarkable veteran A. E. Matthews who at the age of 84 is probably the oldest of our working actors and certainly the oldest of any prominence. As the woolly, airy Lord Lister in a new comedy, "The Manor of Northstead," Mr. Matthews is the bright star at the Duchess Theatre.

Cats in Paint & Print

By SIDNEY DENHAM

Sidney Denham is the author of "Cats Between Covers" and with Helen Denham collected the exhibits for the "Cats Through The Ages" Exhibition of pictures, ceramics, books, etc., in London last year. Under the title "Cats in Paint and Print" he will write regularly about cats in books and the arts and will welcome interesting items from readers or answer their questions.

"*POOR Minette : The Letters of Two French Cats*," published by the Rodale Press as one of their "Miniature Books" is an interesting addition to the cat book collector's library. It is claimed as the first translation into English of P. J. Stahl's story of Minette, the cat in the famous "*La Vie Privée et Publique des Animaux*," a book to which Alfred de Musset and Balzac contributed, first published in 1842.

Most important, the charming illustrations of Grandville are reproduced in colour. Carl Van Vechten in his famous "*The Tiger in the House*" wrote that when he first came across Grandville's drawings he "almost shrieked for joy . . . for Grandville not only solved the conflicting problems of grace and strength, he also solved the far more difficult problems of individuality and expression," adding in a footnote "Grandville asserted that he had observed seventy-five different expressions in cats."

Van Vechten thought Grandville the supreme master of cat art and describes one of his pictures as "the acme, the alpha and omega, the A and Z, the Carpaccio and Shakespeare, the Gluck and Stravinsky, the Napoleon and Mohammed of all cat pictures." I cannot go so far as I prefer my cats in their own fur and not dressed in human fashion. But as caricatures of human beings in cat form, Grandville's pictures alone make "*Poor Minette*" worth five shillings.

This year marks the centenary of the Crimean war which lends special interest

to a letter in *Country Life* from Faith Compton Mackenzie, accompanied by a photograph showing a stuffed cat with the inscription in gold leaf: "TOM, taken out of the Ruins of Sebastapol. Departed this Life Decr. 31st 1856."

Faith Compton Mackenzie says she bought the cat some years ago and hopes that it may be possible to trace through some family record the story of its adoption by some regiment.

Obviously Tom was highly prized by his owner and returned to this country with the survivors of the war, but did not take kindly to English weather and ways (or perhaps was already old when rescued from the ruins of Sebastapol) and died with the coming of peace. The taxidermist has done a remarkably good task and the cat seems almost alive. It appears to be a spotted tabby, with the "foreign" type head and well pricked ears we associate with Mediterranean cats.

We must hope that this relic of the Crimean war is identified, for I know of few instances of soldiers on active service bringing home the cats they adopted. The difficulties in the case of Tom a century ago must have been immense, and the overcoming of them the measure of his rescuer's affection.

A novel item at this year's Edinburgh Festival will be the first performance of Mr. T. S. Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" to settings by Alan Rawsthorne. This was specially commissioned for the Festival and will be played by the B.B.C. Scottish Orchestra on August 26th, which means, I imagine, that it will be broadcast.

In these days there are several additions every year to the catalogue of cats in music. Not long ago I heard Wilfred Mellors's setting of a number of poems about cats at The Royal Festival Hall and Ruth Pitter's delightfully onomatopoeic "Matron's Song" has also been given a musical setting.

Van Vechten lists only eight musical works in his bibliography of cats, including Stravinsky's "Berceuses du Chat," four songs for a woman's voice and three clarinets, composed about 1917, and the delightful and familiar dance for Puss in Boots and the White Cat in Tschaikovsky's "Sleeping Princess."

Mrs. Necker, who has made a serious study of "cat music," when she was on a visit to England from the U.S. last year showed me a list of items filling several pages—enough to make a musical festival of cats on their own!

In talk about Basra in the Home Service recently, Lawson Steni mentioned the bracelets and necklaces to be seen in the local jeweller's shops, made up of

squares of camel bones, each exquisitely painted with a miniature. The paintings are of "turbanned and jewelled youths languishing for love beneath cypress trees, cutting their fingers with fruit knives in despair, whilst maidens in flowery silks simper coldly at them."

These paintings are made in Persia a short distance away, executed with a brush consisting of a single hair. "The conscientious artist keeps a cat beside him, a large and moulting Persian cat, for replenishments."

This suggests a profitable occupation for Longhair owners with artistic gifts during the months when their cats are out of coat and unable to appear in the show pen!

* * *

"Dining in the coffee room this evening, I thought Kipper looked out of sorts. Could you arrange for a vet. to see him in the morning and send me the bill?" —Note from a member of the Traveller's Club to the secretary, quoted in *The Daily Telegraph*.

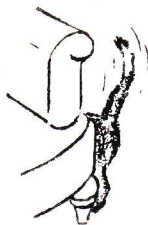


BANCHOR BLUE STORM, happy young Blue Point Siamese bred by Mrs. McPherson and selected for export by Mrs. E. B. Martin to Lt. E. M. Beaver, Albany, Georgia, U.S.A., in early 1953. This picture was supplied by "Stormy's" delighted new owner.



Tailpieces

*A regular newsy feature
with a selection of the best
items from home and overseas*



TOWARDS the end of the Queen's stay in Ceylon, Her Majesty and Prince Philip attended a ceremony of welcome by the Kandyan chiefs. As a spokesman was reading the address, the Queen smiled suddenly, and as quickly became grave again. Out of the corner of her eye she had seen a tabby cat move stealthily across the hall in front of the thrones.

Here's a little cameo : The cat was picking her dainty way across the garden. Suddenly she grew tense, crouched and then sprang on a tiny mouse. She played with it for a while, letting it go, then chasing it. The mouse, in a desperate bid for freedom, dashed towards the poultry run and through the wire-netting. A hen on the other side was watching and the tiny mouse disappeared into the open beak like a train going into a tunnel. Now, the lady who saw the incident and owns the hen says she will never touch another egg !

Peter Coke (pronounced Cook), who is well-known to those who enjoy the Paul Temple series of adventures in the Light Programme—he plays the name part—has no wife to share his dangers in private life. But in his flat near Buckingham Palace there lives an important personage Kim-Ching, a temperamental Siamese about whom Mr. Coke has written a radio play. Its title is "Kim-Ching" and, says Mr. Coke, the idea for it came when the gasman called one day to read the meter but refused to do so until the cat was locked up. He had heard that Siamese were dangerous and liable to fly at strangers. The cat detects a murderer in the play.

When a Stepney labourer was fined £5 for stealing a cat, a detective sergeant said the case might have "rather more sinister implications than appeared." Many inquiries had been received by letter and telephone about pets being lost in the area. The defendant said he wanted to take the cat home to his daughter.

When a dog chased a cat through a house in Coventry the cat found refuge by jumping over the burning embers in the fire grate. It then scrambled up the chimney and sat inside on a piece of sheet metal. The fire was damped down and firemen called in to effect a rescue.

Charlie, a house-trained rabbit, lives in a Handsworth residence with five cats as constant companions. He sprawls by the fire, takes the best seat and is even washed by them. Charlie has not been told that his carnivorous friends are very fond—of rabbit meat. It might hurt his feelings !

A fine and costs totalling £10 9s. 6d. were imposed on Dora Barton, of Heath End, Pelsall, who admitted causing unnecessary suffering to two cats. According to her own statement her cat was in a neighbour's garden with other cats. To disperse them she threw a saucepan of hot water over them. A veterinary surgeon testified that both cats had suffered considerable pain from scalding. The woman said she was not aware the water was so hot.

"There is evidence that the cat was known and appreciated in the pre-Inca period, to us prehistoric, Peru. It is

useless to hazard a date, but the cat to be mentioned must have lived before the great Egyptian temples were built and dedicated to Bast, the Cat Goddess. I refer to the little-known painting of a cat on a Tiahuanaco beaker found on the coast of Peru. The painting of a primitive type shows the head of a cat and the spotted forepaws. Now a spotted cat is unknown; even the ancient mummied cats of Egypt show no signs of spots. But anatomists tell us that bars, stripes and patches on fur are all evolved from spots. So the spotted cat must be prehistoric." So runs an interesting extract from an address given by Muriel Barber at Hastings for the Cats' Protection League.

It was disclosed at the inquest on a 60-year-old Swiss woman who was found gassed in a room behind her Paddington (London) shop that she had been grief-stricken over the death of one of her three cats. A neighbour described how he had found her weeping after her pet had been killed. An open verdict was returned.

Noticed in the cattery at Hackbridge Kennels on Valentine's Day. A brightly coloured valentine pinned up over a Persian boarder which read: "I'm smitten with you, my valentine."

Mr. Richard H. Gebhardt, who is probably the youngest Club President in the feline world, writes me from East Orange, New Jersey, to say that his Club,

the Garden State Cat Club, Inc., is hoping to be able to have an English judge again this year. He adds: "We are all very proud of our fast-growing Club. Our social committee is right on the ball. Activities such as lessons on grooming, judging, clerking, lectures by a vet., even dances and card parties are being planned. We are finding that the Fancy needs a little more social and friendly get-together to hold the interest of new fanciers." Lucky Garden State to have such an enterprising and energetic figure-head!

Mrs. H. Hurrell, one of the R.S.P.C.A.'s honorary workers in the East Ham (London) area, has told the following amusing story about a cat over whom some hot tar had been thrown. The cat, who belonged to a neighbour, came to Mrs. Hurrell's window crying. He was taken to a veterinary surgeon and the fur had to be shaved away to reach the burn. The cat was three weeks at the veterinary surgeon's. Afterwards Mrs. Hurrell took charge of the cat and a neighbour's child, seeing that new fur had grown, asked: "Did you buy a new piece of fur for Nigger's coat and put a patch on him?"

His Grace the Archbishop of Liverpool has consented to fill the position left vacant by the death of Archbishop Downey, and is the new President of the Catholic Study Circle for Animal Welfare, publishers of "The Ark."

All fanciers should read

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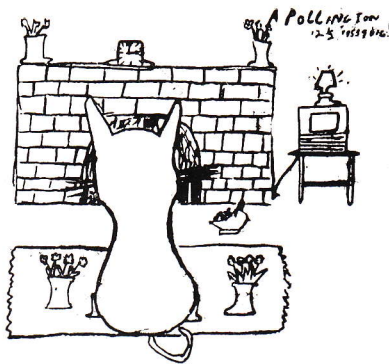
May I appeal to our readers to support the R.S.P.C.A. campaign for the abolition of the gin trap ? Now is the time for action as the Pests Bill is soon to come up for its Second Reading in the House of Commons. Here's what to do. Write to your Member of Parliament at the House of Commons, S.W.1, urging him to voice his objection to Clause 8 of the Bill, which would empower the Minister of Agriculture to abolish the use of the gin trap only *in four years' time*. In 1951 a Government Committee stated : "The gin trap is a diabolical instrument which causes an incalculable amount of suffering. Its sale and use in this country should be banned by law within a short period of time." Here we are in 1954 and nothing has been done. Tell your M.P.—as a private individual—that Clause 8 must be amended to allow of more immediate steps towards the abolition of a cruel instrument of torture.

The American Feline Society claims that dogs still outnumber cats in America by 24 million to 21 million. But the curve in the growing popularity of the cat still points upwards. Veterinarians report astonishing increases in their cat practices and a prominent Cincinnati breeder of Siamese claims that many more men are "discovering cats." "The day is past," she said, "when the cat can be looked upon only as an old woman's pet. Not only are men taking to them as pets but they are becoming active in the breeding and raising of them."

Dr. Norman Haidy, an American veterinarian with long experience in the handling of small animals, has established a dream hospital exclusively for cats at Los Angeles. The reception room has concealed microphones emitting soothing music and elsewhere there is a modern X-ray room, a laboratory and surgery all fitted with the newest and most complete aids. The ward where patients are kept has cages of ceramic tile with chrome doors. Germicidal lamps are concealed

in the wall and the cages are sterilized regularly from a live steam outlet.

"Cats on the Hearth" is the title of a new film prepared by the R.S.P.C.A. It runs for ten minutes and copies in 35mm. and 16mm. are available on free loan to schools, clubs, etc. The film is a friendly and informative one in which the narrative is spoken by the well-known radio actor Howard Marion-Crawford, who stresses the need of a recognized place in the home for the domestic cat. The boys of an East Molesey (Surrey) school submitted sketches to illustrate the title card used for the film. The winning drawing was made by P. Stubb, who recorded that he was "Just six." One of the unsuccessful drawings is reproduced below.



"Cats on the Hearth"

—a schoolboy's amusing conception.

Edgar Llewellyn Stevens was sentenced at Bow Street to three months' imprisonment for killing a kitten by throwing it on to a furnace. Sir Laurence Dunne, the magistrate, told Stevens, who lives at Ruskin Avenue, Leyton : "I cannot imagine any example of sheer wanton cruelty more grave than this."



BESSIE

MRS. D. M. COOTES
of 13 Wellcroft Road,
Welwyn Garden City,
Herts, writes :—

“For some time past, I have been meaning to write and tell you of the great benefit Bessie, one of my cats, has derived from your Kit-zyme.

Bessie came to me as a stray in a very poor state and suffering from a non-contagious skin trouble which I was told could never be

completely cured. The condition usually became worse during the Spring and Summer months.

I decided to try Kit-zyme and, after only a three weeks course of the tablets, I was amazed to find that the skin trouble had completely disappeared. This was exactly a year ago and, up to the present, Bessie has had no further trouble.

I am now starting Bessie and, of course, my other cats on another course of these wonderful tablets as a Spring Tonic!”

KIT-ZYME WILL BENEFIT YOUR CAT TOO . . .

It is a natural Tonic and Conditioner—NOT a purgative

Kit-zyme

VITAMIN-RICH YEAST

Promotes resistance to: **LISTLESSNESS, FALLING COAT, LOSS OF APPETITE, SKIN TROUBLES**
50 (7½ gr.) Tablets 1/6, 250 for 4/6, 750 for 8/-

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Ref. No. 92

Words of Warning

By P. M. SODERBERG

Author of "Cat Breeding and General Management" and other widely-read books.
Chairman of the Siamese Cat Club.

I WONDER why all the world's a bit mad except thee and me, and "There's a bit queer" ? That is not a personal expression of truth, but it does seem to be the attitude of so many cat owners whom one would regard as being eminently sensible in their everyday lives.

If you were to offer these people a dose of cyanide of potassium, they would refuse it because they know only too well how quick and fatal the results would be. I suspect that we all pay far too much attention to drugs these days, and I am glad that wise legislation makes it difficult to get hold of them unless they are actually prescribed for a particular condition by a doctor.

When we are cat owners what do many of us do ? We put some of the new antibiotics on one side when we get hold of them because we feel certain that one of these days our cat may need them. The trouble about this sort of thing is that the majority of cat owners do not know the potency of these antibiotics and unless they are trained to the job they cannot have the faintest conception of what the correct dose is, nor any clear idea of the particular diseases for which such substances should be prescribed. It is so often a case of "fools step in where angels fear to tread."

Did you know that in at least seven cases out of ten terramycin will cure snuffles in cats ? Perhaps you did, although I know that terramycin is not easily come by over here and that is a

fortunate thing indeed. Because you happen to have heard that your friend's cat was cured by the vet. who used terramycin, and you know the dose given and how long the treatment was continued, that does not necessarily mean that the same dose will do for your cat.

What a wonderful array of curative substances medical science has provided over the last twenty years, and the important thing for cat owners is that most of them have a place in veterinary science. The list of the "sulfa" drugs is so long these days that it exceeds the length of your arm, and all of them are used for cats from time to time with the most beneficial results.

Time to Stop

I have made it my business as well as my interest to learn all that the layman can about these substances, but I hope that I shall never be tempted to use them in the future without expert advice and that means under the direction of a veterinary surgeon. Of course, I have dabbled from time to time myself, but only with those particular drugs which I have obtained from my vet., and I have never used them unless I have learned the safe dose for a cat of a particular age.

From the letters I receive from time to time I learn that there are cat owners who feel perfectly competent to deal with these matters without professional advice. If you are one of these, it is time to call a halt.

Perhaps as far as animals are concerned I am too sentimental, although it may be just an excess of imagination. But,

whatever the cause, I do not like the idea of amateurs using a hypodermic syringe on cats. There may be occasions of extreme urgency when such a course is essential to save life or perhaps to end it, but these occasions must be very rare.

There was a time when vaccines against F.I.E. were not obtainable in this country, but quite a number of fanciers had friends either in the U.S.A. or in Switzerland who would send over quantities sufficient for the immunization of several cats. Most of the recipients of this very welcome gift handed it over to their vet. for injection, but there were others who did the job themselves. It cannot have been that they could not afford the small fee which the vet would have charged for this service, but merely that they felt quite competent to do the job themselves.

Of course, there are amateurs at this sort of thing who have taken the trouble to learn the technique and have become competent, but for the majority I would suggest that they practised with the needle on themselves before they try it out on a cat.

In the majority of cases the mere use of the hypodermic is unlikely to produce fatal results unless there is crass ignorance and gross carelessness, but what human is there who has not experienced the discomfort and actual pain produced by an injection which has been badly given by someone who ought to have been able to do the operation efficiently?

Beauty Marred

I know of one Siamese which was treated by its owner with, I think, sodium pentothal by injection into the vein in the leg to permit the cat's teeth being scaled without the fuss and bother which often occurs when this task is performed on a cat possessed of all its faculties. A careless injection produced a slight wound with the drug getting on to the skin surface and into the hair follicles. The cat had a sore leg for a few days, but until the day of its death it possessed a wonderful patch of white hairs in one of

its stockings. For a show cat that would have marked the end of a career.

Another word of warning and this time on the subject of synthetic vitamins. I am myself a great believer in their use if I have the slightest suspicion that my cats are not getting these from the food I supply. A normal diet, which means one consisting of the essentials of sound nutrition, will provide these substances in abundance, but some cats are finicky creatures with such marked likes and dislikes that they scrupulously avoid some things which I know they ought to have. It may be that they know better than I do what is good for them although I doubt it. Thus I supplement the diet with what I think has been missed out, and so far I have not run into any trouble, but I do know that vitamin poisoning is a possibility. Do you?

Vitamin Poisoning

To take just one example. One single drop of a synthetic vitamin may contain as many as 160 International Units of Vitamin A. For a cat that is apparently fit but which may not be eating those foods which contain vitamin A, one drop would be an adequate dose for a week. If the cat is suffering from any deficiency disease the vet. would have to prescribe, but there is no need for you to poison your cat with kindness even in the shape of vitamins.

Well, there it is. And may I end with the words of the poet, Pope, "A little learning is a dangerous thing." That applies to me as much as to most of you, but happily few of us are not too old to learn.

Next Month! Mrs. Billie Bancroft will resume her popular "American Personalities" series in our June issue with a profile of Mrs. S. S. Strange, Texan breeder of Siamese and Manx.

*Star of the World
National and Inter-
national champion
'RONADA ONAWAY'*



SHE'S A REAL PIN-UP GIRL!



'WHAT A LOVELY LITTLE LADY!' was the reaction of Tibby, the Tibs Reporter, when he saw this charming photo of 'Ronada Onaway', during a visit to the famous breeder, judge and writer on cats, Mrs. D. Brice-Webb, of "Ronada," 249 Chilwell Lane, Bramcote, Notts.

Tibby learned that 'Ronada Onaway' is now in Sweden — she went there over two years ago. He also learned that this international champion is a Tibs cat. When an authority of Mrs. Brice-Webb's

standing recommends Tibs it is a good lead to follow. Her 'Mayblossom of Pensford' (Best Blue Cream Kitten, Governing Council of the Cat Fancy Show, Oct. '53) and her sire of champions, 'Oxley's Smasher' both show the benefit of a Tibs upbringing. Tibs provide vitamins A and B which are so essential for the bright eyes, silky coat and all-round good-health that win shows. Cats love the liver flavour and one Tibs a day keeps them in top condition.

FAMOUS
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SAY:

TIBS

10d. and 2/-



KEEP CATS KITTENISH



Exhibitors and visitors from many Continental countries attended Racekatten's fine show at Copenhagen. This happy little party includes representatives of Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.



Judging in progress at the Racekatten Show. Mr. Braeckmann, the Belgian judge, is assessing the points of Waldo Precious (Best Siamese) and Pristine Petaling. The stewards in attendance are (right to left) Mrs. Lorscheid (Germany), Mrs. Svenningsen (Norway) and Mrs. Saether (Norway).

Report on Racekatten

Over 10,000 see fine Copenhagen Show

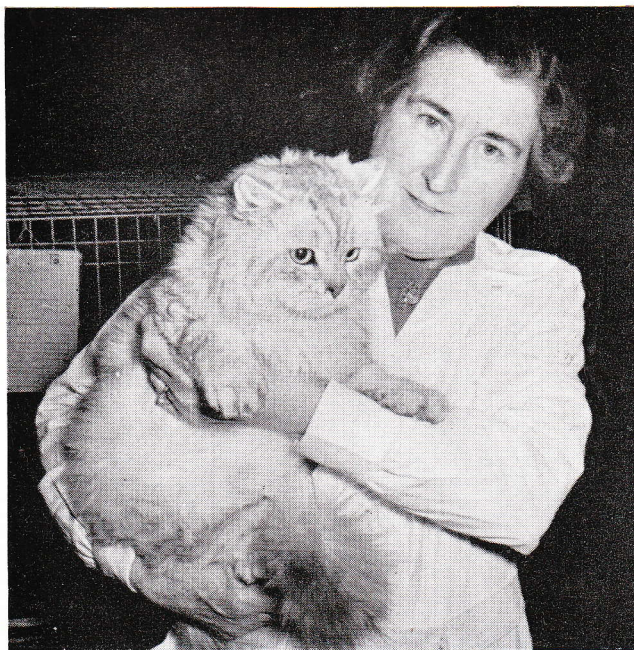
IN March (writes Mrs. J. M. Newton) I had the great pleasure of judging at the 3-day International Show held in Copenhagen by Racekatten.

The President (Mrs. Rudy Eisenhower) most ably organized this event and was never absent from the hall during the three days. She was assisted splendidly by her Committee and everything ran so smoothly that months of hard work must have taken place in advance. The hall was a beautiful sight with spring flowers, shrubs and small trees, while the cat pens were decorated in soft colours to harmonize. Over 10,000 people visited the show during its run and I should like to

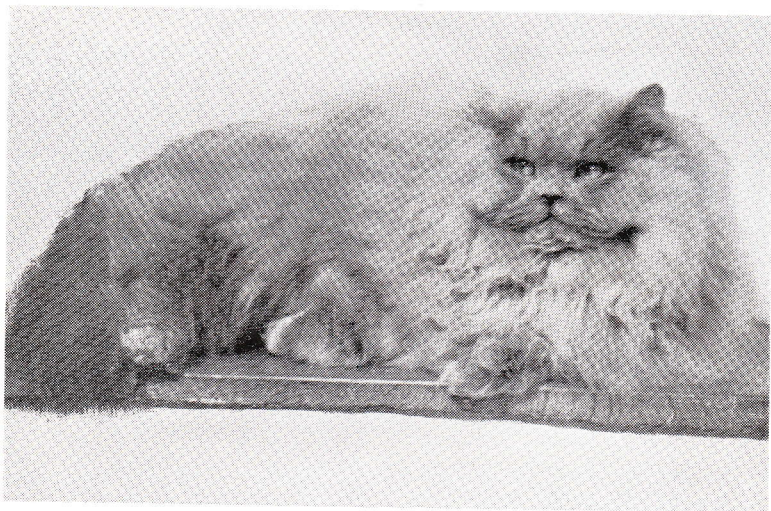
congratulate all concerned on such a wonderful result.

I judged Longhair cats and neuters and found them good. Best Exhibit in Show was a fine Cream Boumabamba de la Viamala from English parents and owned by Madame Sandoz, of Switzerland, who had already won high honours at other shows on the Continent. Champion International Certificates were won by Twinkle of Pensford (Blue Cream) and Chadhurst Linda (Black), owner Frau Ruusunen. A good White Cheri, owner Frau Tingwall, won his final Int. Ch. Cert.

(Continued on page 33)



Mrs. J. M. Newton, English judge of Longhairs at Racekatten, is seen here with one of the exhibits penned by Frau Lily V. Bach—Gyldenlund Tramp, a fine Silver Tabby Longhair, who won a C.A.C.



DERRY OF DUNESK, Mr. L. Owen Jones's promising young Blue Longhair stud by Ch. Dylan of Allington ex Ch. Southway Josephine.
See details on opposite page.



ASHDOWN BLOSSOM makes a lovely study at the Cheam (Surrey) cattery of Mrs. I. P. Hughes. Blossom is a young Blue Longhair queen sired by Mrs. Stephenson's well-known Woburn Sunshine.

Surrey & South London Picture Service



Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

MRS. JOAN THOMPSON —popular and active figure in the Cat Fancy for many years, breeder and International judge — turns the pages of her diary to reveal the most interesting entries concerning personalities, both human and feline.

Blues and Torties

MY very mixed post of the past month included a very interesting letter from Mr. Leslie Owen Jones, a keen breeder and exhibitor who lives at Jacob's Well, Guildford, the Surrey town which has for long been a centre of considerable activity in matters feline. Mr. Jones writes :

"I was particularly keen to have Derry of Dunesk partly because he is a son of Ch. Dylan of Allington (he is very like his father, particularly his head) and secondly because of the line breeding connection between Derry and Lilac Lad (the latter by Cedric of Hadley). As you know, Derry is out of Ch. Southway Josephine and Lilac Lad is out of Ch. Wildviolet (Josephine's daughter). This makes them very suitable sires for each other's progeny."

"I had several enquiries from people with Lilac Lad's daughters and at that time had to refuse them. Derry is a very keen and skilful sire, but I would rather recommend Lilac Lad for the more nervous queen."

"My Blue queens comprise Yvette of Dunesk (by Ch. Baralan Boy Blue ex

Gaydene Wildrose (Best Blue Kitten S.C.S. 1953), Avernoll Willow Star, by Sir Roger of Dunesk (sister to Avernoll Willow Blossom, who did so well as a kitten) and also two granddaughters of Lilac Lad's who are by Avernoll Knight Anthony (Sheepfold Gilded Rose and Fanny Rosa). My four Blue queens are now mated to Derry."

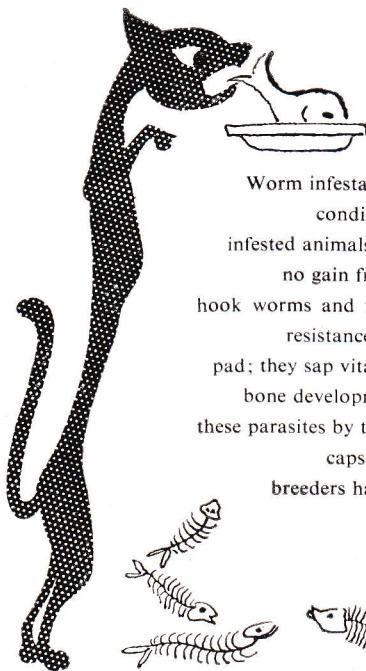
"As a second fiddle or sideline, I am interested in Tortie-and-White Longhairs and my first queen Sheepfold Painted Lady became a Champion in 1953. She is now in kitten to Lilac Lad. Her daughter Sheepfold Neapolitana has recently visited Miss Fraser's Barwell Derry and I do hope she will present me with another Tortie-and-White. Whilst my first love will always be Blues, I am interested in Tortie-and-White Longhairs and would like to produce one that will win in a mixed class (e.g., improve type, eyes, etc.). I would be thrilled to have such a cat or kitten who would be Best Longhair at a Championship Show."

"Painted Lady was Best Exhibit at Surrey and Sussex Show 1953. Her colours are exceptionally vivid and she is well patched. But she is not my idea of what a *perfect* T. and W. should be. Nevertheless, she has given me wonderful publicity."

And British Blues

It was a pleasant Spring day to visit Mrs. Hughes at Cheam, Surrey, and her family of British Blues and two Longhairs. She became interested in breeding cats in 1944 when she purchased a Siamese female kitten by Oriental Silky John on

(Continued on page 23)



is your pet ravenous yet thin?

Worm infestation is probably one of the most common conditions from which dogs and cats suffer and infested animals often have a ravenous appetite but show no gain from their feed. In young growing animals, hook worms and round worms cause anæmia and lowered resistance to such infections as distemper and hard pad; they sap vitality and check healthy growth and sturdy bone development. Your pet can be completely freed of these parasites by the simple administration of NEMA worm capsules. Veterinary surgeons and dog and cat breeders have used this proved Parke-Davis product for over 25 years. Ask your Chemist about NEMA worm capsules!

Don't let your pet Suffer!

Keep ZEMOL handy
— just in case !



This amazingly effective remedy will be found a most reliable healing agent for cases of:—

ECZEMA, MINOR WOUNDS,
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“Chlorophyll PLUS”

VETERINARY OINTMENT

by the makers of KIT-ZYME



Small size - - 2/2

Large size - - 6/6

(4 times the quantity)

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An amazing little story comes from Peterborough in which the chief characters are a 16-year-old boy, a Siamese cat and a starling. It certainly stretches out the long arm of coincidence to its full extent. The boy David Spires wants to be a vet. when he leaves college so he spends most of his holidays with Mr. T. F. Tunney, a local veterinary surgeon, who is the proud owner of Haden Jasmine, a handsome queen bred by Mrs. R. N. Plant, Siamese fancier of Glatton, Huntingdon. David is fond of all animals and birds so he scolded Jasmine when she evaded authority one day and caught a starling. He took the starling away from her unharmed and on a closer examination of the bird David discovered that it was wearing a numbered leg ring, of the kind used by students of bird migration. He took the number of the ring, compared it with a list which he himself kept and was amazed to find that the starling was one he had caught, ringed and released during his Christmas holidays two years previously.

the recommendation of Miss Gold. She boarded it with a friend when she went on holiday. Unfortunately it died from feline distemper a few days after her return and she was so upset she felt she could not have another Siamese.

Eventually a Blue Persian was bought from the late Mrs. Jackson, a female by Timothy of Knott Hall and a mother of unknown pedigree. This queen usually had Blue and White kittens but she also was destined to a premature death in giving birth to kittens. Although dismayed, Mrs. Hughes was unbeaten and she again tried another variety, this time to win success without tragedies and only the minor upsets which come to all breeders from time to time.

Mrs. Peters was a well-known breeder of Blue British Shorthairs before the War and from her she purchased Carla, a daughter of Twinks of Blagdon. She has proved a most successful brood queen and has reared several typical kittens. To prove if she was pure for Shorthairs Mrs. Hughes mated her to a Longhair but she produced three Blue Longhairs and two Blue Shorthairs. Mated to the Rev. B. Rees' British Blue, Sylvan Timmy, one of her daughters Broughton Penelope has proved herself pure for Shorthairs as she has had a litter of five Shorthairs when mated to a Blue Persian.

Suitable Stud Wanted

All the time Mrs. Hughes has striven to improve type and to breed smaller ears. It was most interesting to see from a series of photos how she is attaining it. She kept one of these pure Shorthairs and mated her to Sylvan Quickie and kept the best Blue male which she named Broughton Nimrod. This cat is now at stud but can only be used occasionally for her own cats as he is so closely related.

Mrs. Hughes finds that British Blues sell very well and has disposed of over 40 kittens to be neutered or spayed and

about eight of the females are brood queens. One of them, Mrs. Connell-Watson's queen is expecting a family by Mrs. Cattermole's Champion Mingswyk Blue Prince (pictured in OUR CATS, December last). Both these breeders would like an unrelated stud cat as their stock is similarly bred but it is difficult to find one with orange eyes which Mrs. Hughes is so anxious to retain.

A Happy Family

One of her kittens, Broughton Amanda, went to Mrs. Harvey-Millar of Idaho, U.S.A., two years ago and she is so pleased with her she has ordered a male. The two Longhairs at Cheam are the Blue-Cream Broughton Beverley, dam of the pale Cream kitten, Mrs. Sorvik-Janson's Broughton Primrose, Best Longhair kitten at Stockholm, and a very pretty daughter of Mrs. Stephenson's Woburn Sunshine and Annabella of Dunesk. All of them were in excellent health and kept under happy conditions with quite a lot of time spent in the home, except the male Broughton Nimrod, and as he has proved an adept at looking after himself he is given liberty.

The notes are very brief this month but I have been so very busy at home. With the lighter days and better weather I hope to find time to accept some of the kind invitations I have had. *So au revoir* for the present.

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Pedigree Forms of excellent quality with space for four generations are obtainable at 2s. 0d. per dozen, post free from

OUR CATS MAGAZINE
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QUARRIER CATTERY

Seal Point Siamese

At Stud :

SPOTLIGHT PRINCE

(Ch. Clonlost Yo Yo ex Spotlight
Pepito)

Fee : 2 gns. plus carriage

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This small but select cattery combines some of the best bloodlines in the country.

Beautiful, healthy and country-reared kittens from 3-6 gns.

Limited number of Siamese boarded. Home conditions and excellent food. 25s. per week. Open-air exercise. All cats met main line (Newcastle).

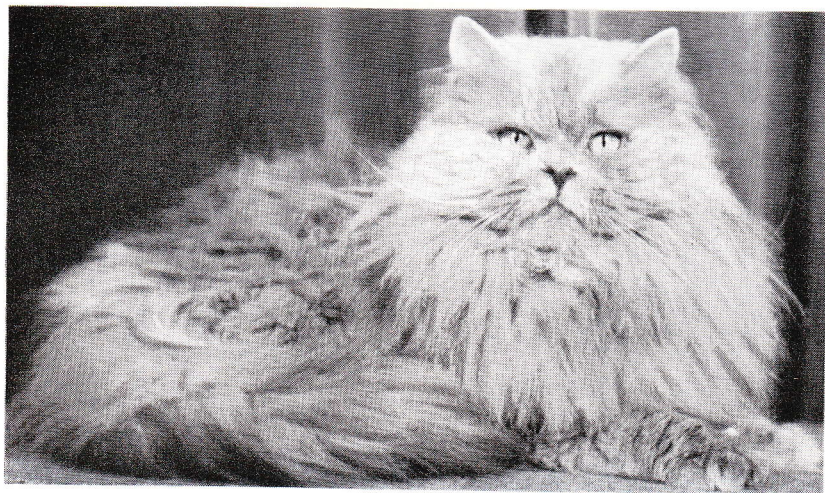
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ALMA MURRAY
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Telephone: 319

At the April meeting of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy held in London, Miss Kathleen Yorke was elected to serve as Chairman for another term. Her deputy will again be the Rev. Basil Rees.

The popular American journal *Cats* has had to increase its prices to subscribers because of higher production costs, postage and other expenses. The new price is three-and-a-half dollars as against three dollars for a year's subscription. The change takes effect from 1st June and some concessions are given to those readers who renew for a long term.

It is well to remember that flies can cause serious illness to cats at this time of the year. So cats should be discouraged from eating them and special care should be taken when fly papers containing DDT are used in the house.



PENNHOMÉ PIERRE, Blue Longhair stud, is making a name for himself in the Midlands. Bred by Mrs. L. Guess from Oxleys Smasher ex Charnock Jemima, he is owned by Mrs. D. Brice-Webb, the well-known Nottingham exhibitor and judge.

CHAMPIONS OF 1953/54

Compiled from information supplied by the Governing Council of the
Cat Fancy

<i>Name of Cat</i>	<i>Breed and Sex</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Breeder</i>
ALBYN JERA	Abyssinian (F)	Miss Bone	Mr. and Mrs. Oswald
BOURNESIDE BLACK TURVY	Black L.H. (F)	Mrs. E. G. Aitken	Owner
BINTANG DUA KALI	B.P. Siamese (F)	Mrs. A. Burge	Mrs. Davison
BARWELL CHERRY	Red Tabby S.H. (F)	Miss Hardman	Mrs. D. Fawell
BRIARRY MACSUCH	C.P. Siamese (M)	Mr. B. A. Stirling-Webb	Owner
BLUECROFT BUTTERSCOTCH	Cream L.H. (F)	Mrs. D. Nash	Mrs. P. Udall
BLUEHAYES FOXEY	S.P. Siamese (M)	Mrs. K. R. Williams	Miss King
CHINKI YONG JETTA	Burmese (F)	Mrs. L. France	Owner
CHOCOLATE DRAGEE	C.P. Siamese (F)	Mrs. D. M. Clarke	Mrs. Morland
COMBERMERE CARROUSEL	Russian Blue (F)	Mrs. V. Ray	Owner
CULVERDEN CEINWEN	Silver Tabby (F)	Mrs. Thake	Miss F. I. Robson
DUNLOE KERA	Russian Blue (F)	Miss M. Rochford	Owner
DALMOND DAMARETTE	White L.H. (F)	Mrs. Dallison	Owner
DORSTAND DOMINIQUE	Silver Tabby (F)	Mr. and Mrs. Gurney	Owners
FOXBURROW FRIVOLOUS	Blue L.H. (M)	Mrs. J. Thompson	Mr. P. M. Soderberg
FOXBURROW FAERY	Blue L.H. (F)	Mr. G. Dugdale	Mr. P. M. Soderberg
FERNREIG ZYN	B.P. Siamese (M)	Mrs. Mathewson	Owner
HOPE OF ROCKVILLA	Red Tabby L.H. (F)	Mr. B. A. Stirling-Webb	Miss M. S. Paton
HEATHERPINE ISIS	Abyssinian (F)	Miss Wiseman	Mrs. Earnshaw
JESSICA O' THE NOR' EAST	Tortie L.H. (F)	Mrs. G. Budd	Mrs. Gilbert
KALA MOONMIST	Smoke L.H. (F)	Miss D. M. Collins	Owner
KALA TAMARA	Smoke L.H. (F)	Miss D. M. Collins	Owner
LAUREL OF ALLINGTON	Chinchilla (M)	Miss E. Langston	Owner
MUSIDORA OF ALLINGTON	Chinchilla (F)	Miss E. Langston	Owner
MINGSWYK BLUE PRINCE	British Blue (M)	Mrs. I. Cattermole	Owner
MARK OF ALLINGTON	Chinchilla (M)	Miss E. Langston	Owner
PURLAND PALE MAIDEN	S.P. Siamese (F)	Mrs. Butler	Owner
PENCHAR TWEETIE PIE	Tortie (F)	Mrs. A. Richards	Mrs. W. G. Harriott
PRISTINE BANDOOLA	C.P. Siamese (F)	Mrs. H. B. Priston	Owner
SARISBURY SACHARISSA	Black L.H. (F)	Mrs. K. Carbert	Mrs. E. C. Warren
SARISBURY SHEBA	Black L.H. (F)	Mrs. E. C. Warren	Owner
SHEEPFOLD PAINTED LADY	Tortie and White (F)	Mr. L. Owen Jones	Owner
TWILIGHT JOHN	Cream L.H. (M)	Miss Henton	Owner
WHIREHAUGH CINDERELLA	White S.H. (F)	Mrs. H. Challoner	Miss Alexander
YANGAM GREEBA	Manx (F)	Mrs. Hamilton	Mrs. J. M. Twining

The Champions for 1953/4 number 35 as against 26 for the 1952/3 season and the fact must not be allowed to go unrecorded that the "ladies" have scored very heavily at the expense of "the mere males"—27 female Champions as against 8 male Champions.

DANEHURST CATTERY

Owner : Gordon B. Allt, F.Z.S.

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caused by the ear-mange mite can be definitely cured by three or four applications of the wonder-drug



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which combines an anti-parasitic, antiseptic and local anæsthetic

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SKIN DISEASE

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STRENOL ECZEMA CREAM

an outstanding and well-tested remedy. Quite safe if licked.

Pots 2/- (post 3d.)

Strenol Products Ltd. 461 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex.

Quiz!

In which "thirsters after knowledge" are handed over to our panel of experts. Readers are invited to submit their questions —by post please, marking their envelopes "Quiz" in the top left-hand corner.

G.C. Not a Club

I am very interested in cats and cat welfare and I have been told that there is a Governing Council which controls cat shows and also works for cat welfare. Is it possible to join this Council ?

The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy is not a club and cannot be joined. It is the central authority which controls cat shows and registers pedigree cats. The members of the Council are delegates from the various clubs which are affiliated to it. Thus, to get on the Council it normally means that a person is first a member of a cat club. The delegates are chosen by the members of the clubs.

No Steady Income

If one keeps a stud cat and three or four breeding queens of one of the popular breeds is it possible to make a small but steady income from this hobby ?

The chances are that if you keep cats as a hobby you will also have to keep them even more literally. There may be a few people whose income from cats exceeds their expenditure, but they must be very few and the margin of profit exiguous. Cat breeding is not a paying hobby and it is most unlikely that it ever will be. Some breeders who possess a really first-class stud cat may have good years, but over a period of time they will find that the balance is on the wrong side.

The above remarks are probably more true to-day than they have ever been

before. The keeping of cats is a pleasant hobby, but it does not bring monetary rewards.

Persian Eye Colour

A Blue Persian should have orange eyes yet I have seen well-bred kittens with blue eyes. Is this usual ?

Yes, quite usual. All Blue Persians have blue eyes when they are young and it is months later before one sees the brilliant orange which will be the eye colour of the adult cat. The change takes place very gradually from blue to a muddy brown and then later to orange. When the change is apparent depends upon the individual cat, and one can never be quite sure of the final colour until the kitten is about four months old. As the cat grows old the eyes usually fade and lose their brilliance.

Catching a Cold

Can a cat catch a common cold from a human being ? If so, is the reverse also true ?

This is really a question for the Harvard Hospital near Salisbury. There are few diseases indeed which can be transferred from a cat to man and the converse is equally true. As far as one can tell from experience, few cats seem to catch a cold in the head which is another name for the common cold. It is most unlikely that the human virus will set up the same symptoms in a cat. Your own experience will probably have

proved that even when you have a heavy cold your cats do not develop the same symptoms. Running eyes and nostrils are found in cats and are called colds, but the common cold is still very much of a mystery even after years of painstaking research.

Longhaired Siamese

I hear that there are Longhaired Siamese. Is this a breed which is recognized or is it just the result of experiment for a Longhaired cat with Siamese markings ?

The Siamese cat is a Shorthair so there cannot be a Longhaired Siamese. For many years breeders have experimented by cross mating to produce a Longhaired cat with all the Siamese points. Such cats are no more than experiments and have received no official recognition. What was called the Royal Cat of Siam existed more than thirty years ago. It had Siamese points, long hair and white toes. It was not, however, a Siamese cat in the sense that we usually use the expression.

NONPAREILLE SIAMESE

At Stud :

SUKIANGA PÉPÉ LEMOKO

(Sire : Ch. Clonlost Yo Yo
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**1st and Ch. Sandy 1953.
Over 40 other awards
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EXCELLING IN EYE COLOUR,
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BACK NUMBERS

We frequently receive inquiries from readers here and overseas as to the availability of back numbers of this Magazine, which is now in its sixth year. For the convenience of those who may wish to obtain odd copies to complete their sets we give below details of the present stock position. An asterisk against the date indicates that we have fewer than six copies of this particular issue.

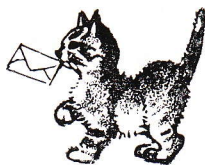
- 1949. January, February, March, April, June*, July*, August, September, October, December.
- 1950. January, February, March, April, May, June, July, September, October, November.
- 1951. February, March, April, May, June, July/August, October, December.
- 1952. February*, March/April, May*, June, July, August, September*, October, November*, December.
- 1953. All 12 issues except February.

Price 1s. 6d. per copy, plus 1½d. postage for up to 2 copies, 2d. for up to 4 copies, 3d. for 6 or more copies. U.S.A. 25 cents a copy including postage.



Correspondence Corner

Readers are invited to send contributions to this feature and so to join in the useful exchange of ideas, experiences and knowledge. Letters should be concise and deal preferably with items of general interest.



CATS ON BUSES

I would like to refer to the letter in OUR CATS (February Issue) by Mr. Owen Jones of Guildford about cats travelling on buses.

While I cannot speak for London Transport's policy, I can speak for myself—and I have recently become a conductor on London buses. Any person carrying a cat—in or out of a basket—will be accepted with open arms, and if my bus could be waiting outside one of the show halls I should be only too delighted !

I don't think there is any regulation laid down on the matter of cats—or other animals—travelling, but it is left to the “discretion” (much overworked word !) of the conductor, and he or she may feel that some untoward incident may occur. I think most people working on buses are animal lovers, and Mr. Jones and other cat owners may be sure of a welcome from

CAT-LOVING CONDUCTOR.

I must remain anonymous as we are not allowed to indulge in signed letters to papers and magazines.

LOST—AND RETURNED

I have always heard that British people are strong and brave but I did not know that they are so honest.

You know how it sometimes happens that your little pencil disappears at a cat show. It happened to me at the Coronation Cat Show in London last October. My little red pencil disappeared and with a sigh I bought a new one.

At the Copenhagen Show last month

I met Mrs. Newton, who was judging the Longhairs, and suddenly she produces from the depths of her bag—my little red pencil ! There was a little note wrapped round it with the message: “This pencil lost in my car belongs to Mrs. Svenningsen, Norway. Mrs. Price.” Mrs. Newton had kindly brought it all the way to Copenhagen although she could not have known with certainty that I should be there.

Then I remembered that after the London Show, Mrs. Price took me in her car to a nice little cottage in a wood where a delicious meal awaited us. Then we went on to see her Siamese and a special Tortoiseshell who is the house pet. Thank you very much, Mrs. Price !

Mrs. M. SVENNINGSSEN,
Hovik, Norway.

AND ANOTHER LOST

Please could you bring to the notice of your readers that I am caring for a stray Seal Point Siamese cat (female) at the address below. She is known to have been homeless for at least six months ; people have fed her without being able to get near her, but she was finally caught in the grounds of an Eastbourne hospital.

After a fortnight the cat could be handled and she is in sound condition although very thin and nervous. Enquiries and advertisements locally have brought no sign of the owner, so I am beginning to think that the stray must have come some distance.

I should be very pleased to answer any enquiries and to send or deliver the cat to her rightful owners, provided I am

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Arrangements have been made with the makers of the well-known EASIBINDER to supply readers of **OUR CATS** with their self-binding cases and accessories. Each EASIBINDER—see illustration below—will hold 24 copies of this Magazine. It enables subscribers to keep their copies clean and undamaged. The issues can be inserted or removed at will with the aid of steel rods supplied with each Binder. By means of a special device, the EASIBINDER is just as useful when only partly filled and the pages will always open flat. Full instructions for use are supplied with each Binder.



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satisfied that we've found the *right* cat for them !

Miss P. M. SIMMONS,
49 Mill Road, Hailsham, Sussex.

THEY KNOW THE TIME !

From time to time we have acquired our two dogs and four cats, now ranging in age from 10 years to six months.

I have set aside 10 a.m. as the best time to give them their heaviest meal and it has interested me greatly to watch their attitudes. At that time in the morning I take a little time to rest between breakfast and lunch and enjoy my rocking chair a short time in the living room. A few minutes before ten I start to have company. The dogs come near, the younger cats play a bit chasing each other around and the two older cats sit demurely, never taking their eyes from me.

When they are all ready, I start for the kitchen door two rooms away but the cats don't follow ; they lead happily with their tails in the air ! When breakfast is served to all, strange to say, they take turns in eating, even though there is room for all. The youngest, Squeaky, digs right in first and the oldest cat waits until the others have finished.

Yesterday, instead of sitting in my rocker, I lay down in my bedroom wondering how my menagerie would figure out this problem. They certainly did. All six were there at the right time and all eyes were centered upon me, their willing slave. I love it ! Were they fed as usual ? Just ask them.

Mrs. WESLEY E. M. ARDELL,
New York, U.S.A.

About that letter you were going to send us. Why not sit down and write it NOW ? Correspondence Corner is YOUR feature. Please help to keep it interesting and of value to other cat lovers.

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SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

This is our busy period of the year for subscription renewals. Will readers therefore please help us to economise in office work and record - keeping by responding promptly to the first application for renewal ? Any change of address should also be notified promptly.

The following letter was recently received from an old subscriber and we reproduce it because it reflects a kindly and considerate spirit of co-operation that is all too rare nowadays :

Dear Editor : I am not able to renew my subscription to OUR CATS. This is due only to lack of funds and I shall renew again when and if funds increase. I shall miss it very much as it is completely delightful.

Rather such a response than none at all !

The Cats of Italy

By ISABEL QUIGLY

UNTIL I went to live in Italy I think I probably had the usual English notion that Italians were not specially fond of animals and tied tin cans to any possible tail they came across.

So the first thing that surprised me was the smartness of the donkey's overcoats on cold mornings. Every donkey I met that spring, whenever there had been a frost or was still a nip in the air, wore, not just any old blanket flung over him, but a proper tailored-looking overcoat, with straps and sometimes buttons, and occasionally in all sorts of bright colours. It looked as if someone had taken a good bit of trouble over him.

Then the cold spring mornings gave place to warm summer ones, and round about Easter the crop of delightful straw hats that came out on these same donkeys was something worth seeing. With ears sticking up through holes in the crown, and the brims decorated with ribbons and flowers or embroidered with raffia, they looked the nearest thing to human hats, only prettier on the whole.

This gave me the first inkling that Italians are as fond of animals as we are, and just as sentimental ; perhaps more so. I kept meeting just as many families as you find in England in which the whole family routine seemed to revolve round the cat or the dog, and certainly I never met so many cats about the place in all my life.

Rome, of course, is the cat-city of the world, where at times cats seem to outnumber humans, and have quite a special position, because they aren't so much private and domestic cats as rather pampered vagrants who get fed regularly

by all sorts of people, and have their regular haunts and are treated with great respect. Maybe this respect is the result of the Roman respect for cats in imperial times, a respect that came from Egypt where the cat was a sacred animal ; so even in times of war, they say, the Roman cats stood a pretty good chance of survival. In fact people will tell you the pedigrees of these Roman vagrants are just as long as most of the pedigrees of the noble families of Rome to-day, or even longer.

Happy Florentines

But Florence was where I really got to know Italian cats. It swarms with them, not strays as in Rome, but private and very well looked-after cats, even in quite poor families cats with fine coats and a well-fed look that is surprising. Dogs are supposed to be muzzled, and go about looking sad when they are (though the order isn't always enforced) ; but cats lead a fine independent life in a city full of markets and eating out-of-doors.

There is the great meat market near the church of San Lorenzo, which seems to be a rendezvous for Florentine cats before the summer gets too hot ; there are the dozens of little restaurants with tables out of doors in that brilliant weather, where the customers never seem too busy eating nor the cooks too busy cooking to forget the wistful but not scrounging-looking cats that walk about looking hopeful.

That is a pleasant thing about Florentine cats : they don't look hungry, however hopefully they may eye you. It is the hope of the small boy who wants sweets, not the desperate look of the beggar who needs bread.

There are all sorts of Italian superstitions about cats. Or maybe it is just that

Italians admit to being superstitious rather more openly than we do. It's terribly unlucky to meet a black cat on the pavement ; the way to cross out the bad luck is to sprint across the road before it crosses you. Some people think it's unlucky to see a cat looking out of a window at you, which perhaps explains why you seldom see a cat on a window-sill there, though you often see some friendly dog eyeing the passers-by in the street of an evening.

Black cats are witches, sometimes, or devils, or simply harmless ghosts, but with something magical about them ; but at least they haven't the kind of political aura about them I found on the island of Ibiza last summer—if you can call it quite political—where I saw a group of small children one day peering at the drawing of an artist in a particularly picturesque street.

"Look," cried one of the children, seeing he was sketching in a black cat that was sleeping luxuriously in the sun, "he's even put in *el Morito*."

To Spanish children anything black has a Moorish nickname to it, even a small black cat : and it seemed strange to find them applying what must have started as a term of fear and abuse affectionately and naturally to a sleeping cat.

RACEKATTEN SHOW

(Concluded from page 19)

The Best Neuter was a lovely Brown Tabby Longhair called Puk, owned by Frau Schlosshauer.

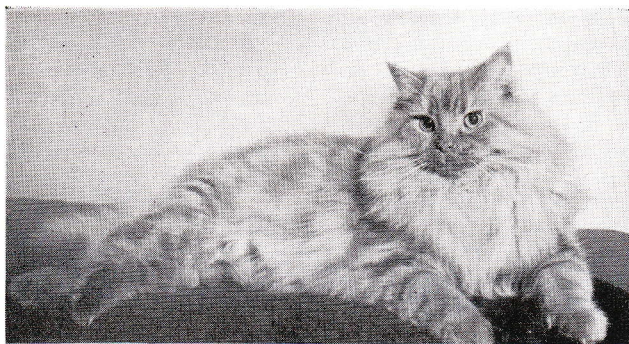
Cats of almost every breed gained their Ch. Certs. A Silver Tabby owned by Frau Bach was a fine cat with a sweet expression. Five good Torties all bred in Scandinavia were level in quality—Ch. Cert. winner was Josetti, owner F. Jensen. Winning Blue Male was Caesar of Pensford, owner Frau Smith, and Frau Gustafson's Despotie Ann led the Blue females. Best Black was a

female Sarisbury Miriam owned by Frau Rathje. Other winners were Siggie, a nice Red Tabby female owned by Frau Hansen, Blakint, a pretty Blue Cream, shown by I. Tingwall and Tarzan, a Chinchilla female owned by Frau Olesen. All these exhibits were very well shown.

I am much indebted to Racekatten Club, their President and my stewards Mrs. Lorentsen, Frau Revholt, Frk. Pedersen, and to the Treasurer Herr Hansen for all the kindness and hospitality which I received in Copenhagen.



The magic password to produce this appealing effect on little DEEBANK PRINCESS BLUEBELL is "turkey!" At least that was how it started when she was a kitten. Now her owners, Mr. and Mrs. Basil Stephenson, of Blyth, Northumberland, report that "Blue" spends half her day sitting up for everything. Bluebell was bred by Miss Marjorie Bull, of Thornton Hough, Cheshire.



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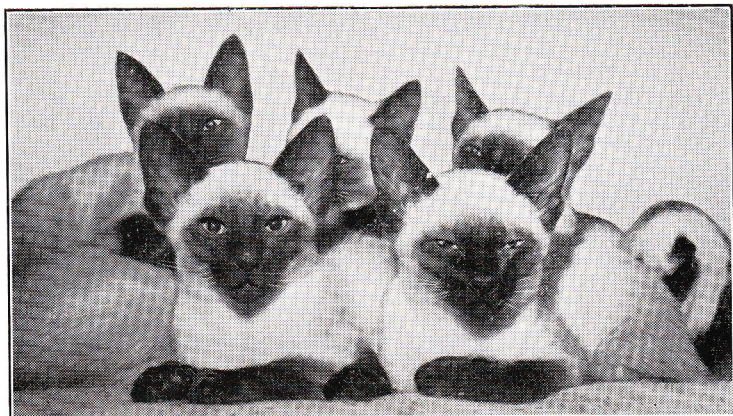
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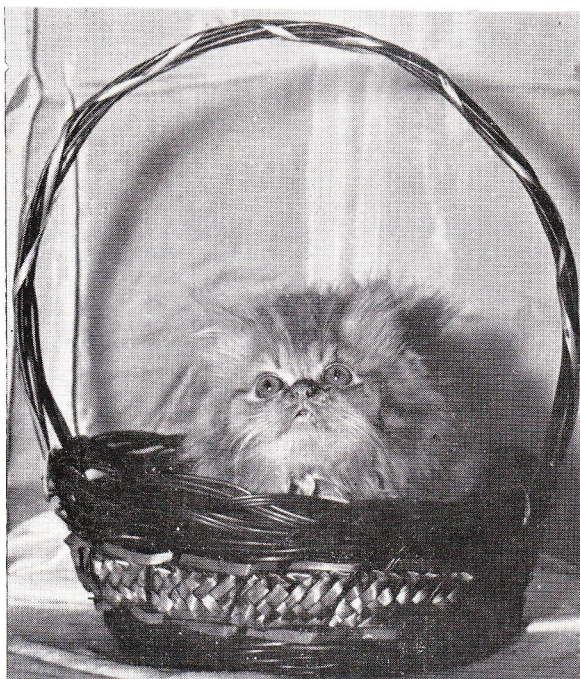
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