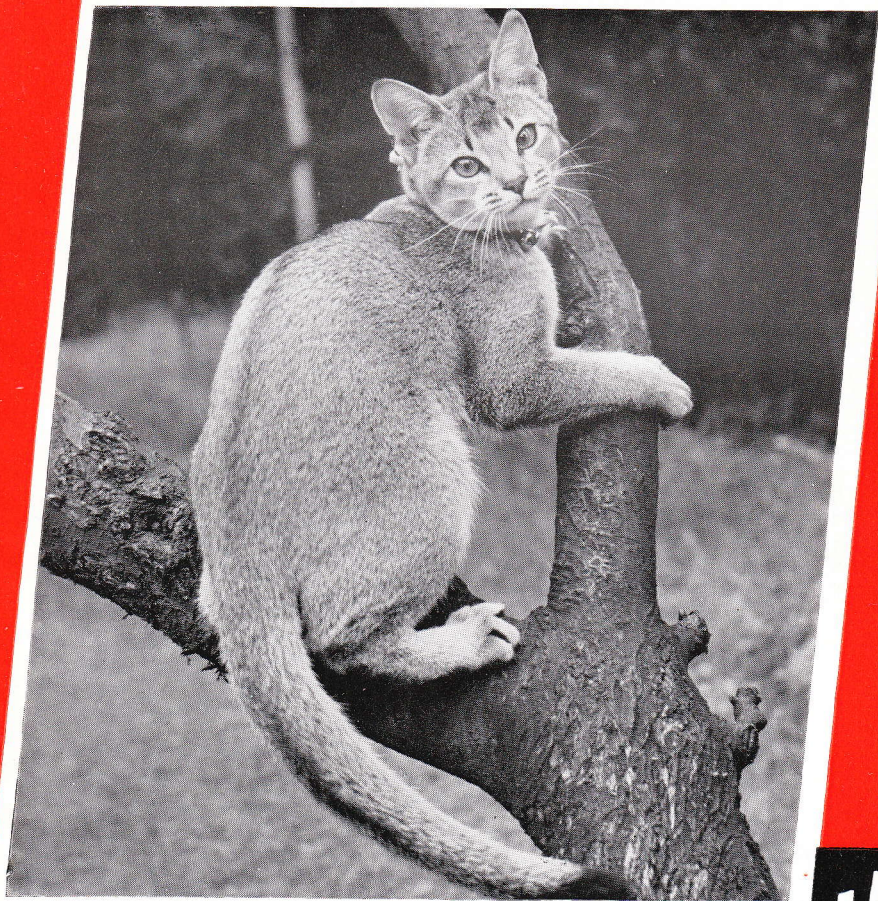


# Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE  
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ENTERTAINING  
COMPREHENSIVE



## ABYSSINIAN GRACE AND CHARM

Up a tree and inviting all comers to a game is ADRAH LOUELLA, a young Abyssinian female who was a prizewinner at the last Southern Counties Show. Breeder, owner and photographer is Mrs V. E. Major, of Gl. Bookham, Surrey.

JUNE 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.

. . .

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the complete and nourishing  
cat food

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



# 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.

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**JUNE 1954**

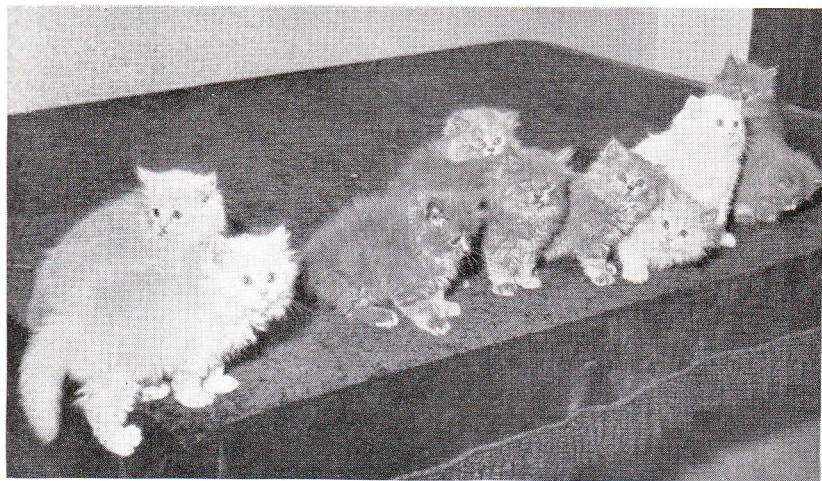
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**ARTHUR E. COWLISHAW**  
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**CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9**

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**Unlike the ten little nigger boys these Longhair babies are assorted colours—four Blues, three Creams, two Blue Creams and one White. The breeder is Mrs L. Dyer, of Selly Park, Birmingham.**



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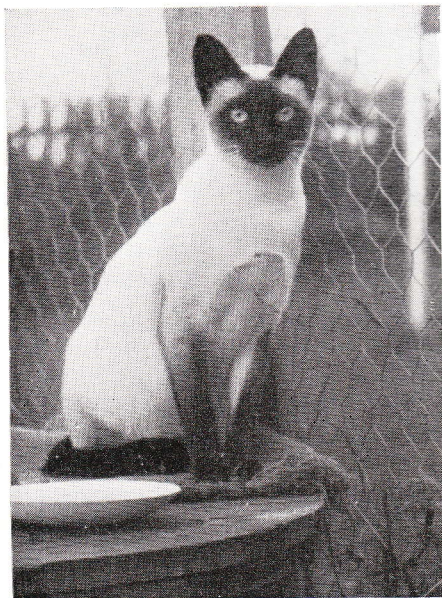
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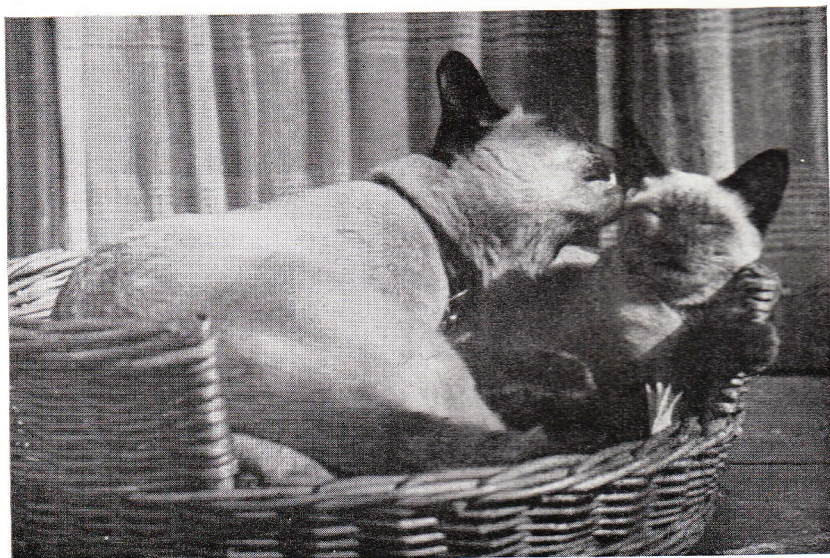
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LINDISFARNE MOCCASIN, a nice Seal Pointed Siamese queen bred from imported parents (Ch. Spotlight Pride and Sealsleeve C'est Bon) by Mrs B. Downey, the prominent Auckland, New Zealand, fancier.



Young DUSKY CHARMER has a loving and attentive companion in RAJAH, the neuter. Charmer, by Lindale Simon Pie ex Mellor Princess, was bred by Mrs H. Lowe and is now owned by Mrs D. Monks, of Openshaw, Manchester.



# ***Siamese Points***

By MRS. DUNCAN HINDLEY

SOMETIME before the last war it was suddenly realized that the Siamese Standard gave more marks for colour than for type, and as it was felt that it was much more important to breed virile, typey cats rather than badly shaped cats of good colour, I was asked by the then Chairman, Phyl Wade, to work out a new Standard and then bring it before the committee.

Being of a very unmathematical turn of mind, hours were spent with squared paper, moving a few marks here and putting them on there, until the result seemed well balanced. The result was then brought before the committee, and with a few alterations, it was passed by the members and then by the General Meeting. The only controversy seemed to be about the marks for condition. My contention was that no marks were needed for this, as the cat was penalized if out of condition by loss of marks on quality and colour of coat, points, and even eye colour very often. However, it was thought better to allot five marks as well so that no one thought we had forgotten about it, though this seemed to me to be a poor compromise.

So many years have passed since then, that it is now felt that the Standard may need revising, and for this reason a judges' meeting was held in London and the suggestions will come before the committee in due course. It was thought that more should be

given for eye-setting, and one of the chief matters discussed was whether a cat should be put down or a championship withheld, if a very good cat had one bad fault. The general opinion was that it depended on how bad the fault was, and the Chairman summed up the matter by saying that the best cat should win. Certainly it seems a pity to turn down a really good cat for one bad fault, unless this fault is going to affect the progeny.

In judging adults, it seems to me that the potentiality for breeding or siring good healthy typical stock is often not taken enough into account. This is not to say that colour is not important, but this is partly seasonal and it is, therefore, better to make sure of type first.

## **Difficult to Judge**

When judging in the past, I always tried to visualize the exhibits without their colouring first, as I never felt that a cat outstanding in type should be put below a better coloured cat lacking type. It has been said that judges of Longhair cats are more consistent in their judging than Shorthair judges. This may be so, but surely they have a much easier task? To begin with Siamese have so many more things to go wrong with all their points as well as coat colour. Then, Siamese are notably tem-



peramental and therefore nervous at shows. This particularly applies to stud cats who get upset by the smell of the other studs. But this is not the whole of the story. Some Longhaired cats may be temperamental too, but it does not take from their appearance as it does with Siamese, in fact, surely it rather accentuates their good points? But a bristling Siamese with startled eyes, hardly looks like a Siamese at all. Also the pupils of the eyes dilate so much when a cat is nervous, that sometimes it is almost impossible for the judge to see the eye colour at all. It has been suggested that it might be advisable to judge male cats after the females, to give them a better chance to settle down.

### Judges are Born

An experienced judge will always give a nervous cat a chance to recover, by leaving him and returning when he may be more serene. Most good judges are born and not made, which means that they have not only a good eye but a sensibility and feeling for the animals they are judging. This

does not mean, however, that they have not to work for their position. Endless handling, observing and comparing one cat with another is an absolute necessity. Of course, stewarding is the ideal training, but breeding and stud work are also a great help. None of these things is infallible, and unless one has a feeling for cats and a good eye both for shape and colour, it is much better not to attempt to become a judge at all.

Of course, any cat may (and does!) alter considerably from one show to another, and therefore awards must differ, but it has been felt that there should be more consistency on the day. Every sensible and knowledgeable breeder expects her cat to be put down for its faults, but she does not like it being put down for faults it has not got; this seems to be the chief worry at the moment.

We are all trying to breed the perfect Siamese, but I for one cannot say that I have done it, nor can I think of anyone else who has, though some have been very near to it. What about Longhair breeders? They have, I believe, bred several cats that are absolutely up to Standard.





# Malayan Adventures

By MARGARET D. HOOD

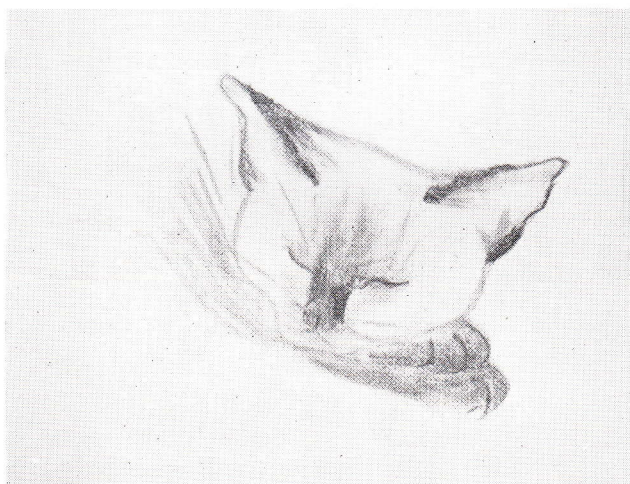
**I**F Susan were to assume human shape, I know just what she would be like. She would be a plump little woman with no good features, but with a very pretty face, large melting eyes and alluring curves—the sort of girl that every man wants to cuddle and protect. As things are, she is a very pretty little cat with Siamese markings and endearing ways.

At a Scottish Cat Club Show she only achieved the Reserve prize in the Novice Class, but the crowd who came to admire the Champions and prize-winners stopped in front of her cage and warmed my heart by exclaiming “What a little darling—that’s the one I would like to have.”

I bought her when we were living in Java. We named her Susan, and the

servants called her Susu, which is Malay for milk. Both her parents had been brought out from Holland. Her mother, Gamine, died of hookworm, and is buried on the slopes of a beautiful volcano. Her father, King Charles, has since returned to Holland. Susan was one of a litter of five, and all seemed destined to travel. One sister has gone to Japan. The other is still living in Djakarta, but as she belongs to an Englishman she may one day come to this country. One brother went to New York and is now a neuter, living a sophisticated life in a Manhattan apartment. The other brother was to have gone to Australia but unhappily was killed by a car.

We lived in an old Dutch colonial house. It was built on piles, with marble and tiled floors and the walls and ceilings were covered with rattan painted cream. Our windows had no glass, and wooden



**A clever pencil sketch impression by the author's daughter of Susan when she was a kitten.**



lattice shutters protected us from the downpours of tropical rain and the "rampokers" (the Indonesian equivalent to the bandits of Malaya).

What they did *not* keep out were the bats, moths, flying ants, lizards, rats and cockroaches who wandered in and out at will, and Susan was in the seventh heaven chasing them. I could never make up my mind whether it was better to be in, and try to avoid upset electric lamps and broken vases by joining in the hunt and endeavouring to steer the game into a comparatively safe area, or to go out and forget about it and then come home and sigh over the wreckage! Cockroaches, which ate huge holes in our carpets and clothes overnight, she was not interested in. I believe they were poisonous.

### **And Then to Bed !**

Our so-called "bathroom" was primitive in the extreme—just a room with a butt of cold water in it and a dipper with which you sloshed water over yourself and any clothes you might have taken in with you. The water ran out through a hole in the floor into an open drain, where it proceeded to form a breeding ground for mosquitos. One night we were awakened by a splash and a miserable wail. Susan had fallen into the "mandi." My husband rescued her and dumped her into my bed with a grumpy "There's your — cat." (It's remarkable how children and animals always become "yours" when they misbehave!) Even with the temperature at 95° and high humidity, there is not much joy in sharing one's bed with a wet kitten.

Normally, nothing would induce her to sleep under my mosquito net. Instead, she would clamber up to the top, leaving a trail of mosquito entrances in her wake. This activity coincided with a naval revolution in Siam and my family, contemplating the bulge at the top of my net remarked, "Obviously comes from a naval family—used to hammocks!"

By day, she had a predilection for sleeping under our office cars parked at the back of the house, and I was forever nagging our drivers to be sure to look underneath before taking off.

When we were having the house painted, Susan proceeded to dive into a pot of paint. The outward effect was not too bad as it was cream paint, but the internal result was much worse and necessitated a week at the vet's and careful nursing.

### **Kidnapped !**

When we took a house in the hills for a fortnight, Susan had to come with us, for I knew that she would just get into some horrid scrape during my absence, from which there might not be anybody competent to retrieve her. The first thing I did on arrival was to ascertain that there was a boy in the kampong who could, should the need arise, climb the tall coconut palms in the garden and bring her down. The need arose.

Quite her worst escapade though, was to get herself kidnapped. The front rooms of our house in Djakarta were used for offices, which meant that anybody who had business to transact had access to our establishment. The servants and "djagas" (watchmen) were all told that Susan was not allowed in the front premises during office hours. But she disappeared one morning, and I was heartbroken.

We put a notice in Malay, Dutch and Chinese newspapers offering a reward for her return, but I was not at all hopeful, as I feared that she had been stolen and sold for a vast sum to some wealthy Chinese. Nevertheless the morning our ads. appeared, a small boy came round with Susan and said that he had found her wandering near the local cinema. Just after he had received the reward and departed, a Dutchman rang up and announced, "I feel I must tell you zat the day your cat disappeared I vas at your office, and ven we left my driver had a Siamese cat in ze car. I asked

him vere he got it and he said ze babu (maid) gave it to him." The driver had spent the rest of the day trying to sell her, but nobody would buy her as she was a female. I eventually reached the stage of wondering whether Susan's proverbial "nine lives" would hold out until I left Java and could bring her to Scotland.

To people who complain that it is difficult to export a cat from this country, I would recommend that they try to export a cat from Indonesia and bring it into the United Kingdom. First I had to procure an import licence (in triplicate) from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and make arrangements with the quarantine kennels. Then I had to get an export licence (also in triplicate) from the Indonesian authorities, which meant going from one Ministry to another and explaining what I wanted to numerous bureaucrats in my inadequate Malay.

Susan had to be re-injected against rabies, and I had to produce a certificate of health dated within a week of departure. Travelling cat-containers cannot be purchased in Djakarta, so I had to have one made, and the carpenter mean-

ing to do a good job, made it of heavy teak! The day we were leaving, I was rung up by our air line and told that they had just heard Susan could not travel on a passenger plane, so she had to go back to my friend who sold her to me, and await a freight plane. Then—six month's quarantine!

The freight plane took longer to make the journey than the regular passenger one and was delayed two days *en route* by bad weather. The poor little cat, who had hitherto lived in a temperature which only varied between 90° and 95°, landed in England in a snowstorm, and at once contracted a bad chill. However, she recovered and adapted herself very well to quarantine life. If frantic purrings and rubbings and refusing to let me out of her sight, meant anything, she undoubtedly recognized me, when at last I was able to claim her.

When I look at her now, I feel that the trouble was well worth while. It is wonderful to watch her roaming freely in the garden and fields, and not to dread the tropical diseases any more—rabies, dysentery, malaria, hookworm, etc.



This striking study in maternal bliss comes from Billie Bancroft, our American Associate Editor, who writes: While taking a stroll (her own cat babies asleep), this Red Persian came across the bunny babies all alone in a busy street. She picked one up by the nape of its neck and carried it quite a way to her home. Then she returned to collect the other. Now she feeds them with the rest of her family and all are growing up fat and handsome. Tisch is the mother and she belongs to Marclay Cattery, owned by Mrs Clayton Rowe.



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Feline Infectious Enteritis is a very infectious virus disease of cats, sudden in onset and usually fatal. It may be introduced into a cattery following exposure to infection at shows and spreads from cat to cat in a locality. All breeds are susceptible and in some, such as the Siamese, the mortality rate is very high.

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# ***Dosing Do's & Don'ts***

By M.R.C.V.S.

UNLIKE most breeds of dogs in which the buccal cavities are sufficiently large to facilitate the oral administration of liquids, cats often present the utmost difficulty to those who would attempt to give them either medicine or food in the fluid state. Their muzzles are so diminutive and their buccal pouches so devoid of elasticity, that very little space can be found in which to lodge the smallest quantity of liquid, and the possibility of success in dosing a cat depends in large measure upon the skill and experience of the operator and to some lesser extent upon the patience or docility of the animal.

## *Liquids.*

With a quiet cat one may endeavour to administer liquids by taking the head lightly in the left hand, tilting it a little backwards, then with the first finger and thumb of the right hand, endeavouring to obtain a hold of the fleshy angle of the mouth in such a way that an assistant can then pour in small quantities of the potion from an eggspoon or measure glass. This, however, is frequently easier described than carried out, and one is eventually forced to recognize the fact that other tactics altogether must be resorted to.

For instance, many cats which would object to having their mouths touched, would quietly submit to being dosed with a fountain-pen filler. The latter is merely inserted inside the lips and its contents propelled through the teeth. By this method the cat never gets sufficient of the liquid in the mouth at one time to be able to spill any, blow or froth it out, or choke; and in many instances no assistant is required.

It is quite certain that if the medication is very nauseating, even the most

docile cat will resent its application, and one has to resort to subcutaneous or intra-rectal injection, or to medication by pill.

The common practice of cats which refuse to take medicine is to salivate profusely and froth at the mouth, so that everything is rejected from the start. The less disagreeable our prescriptions can be made, the less will the animal hate and fight us. When an appropriate drug can be found which is also tasteless and in tablet or powder form, it is an excellent plan to make a paste of the powder (or crushed tablet) with a small knob of margarine, and smear this around the lips and paws of the cat.

## **Sugaring the Pill**

The patient will then immediately proceed to lick it all off, and so unwittingly dose itself. It will do this even if the medicant has a disagreeable flavour, as a cat will never permit its coat to remain defiled, if it is well enough to obviate it. The really sick cat ceases to clean itself, and if, in addition, appetite is lost, then it is time to consult a veterinary surgeon.

Another useful method is to incorporate the dose of medicine in a mashed sardine. Cod liver oil is very easily given in this way, as it is merely added to the existing sardine oil.

## *Pills, Powders, etc.*

In the writer's judgment, pills, capsules or powders are very much more easily administered to cats than are liquids. The average cat will take a pill very easily, and the method is to place the left hand over the top of the head, allowing the index finger to reach the corner of the cheek on the left side, and the thumb to do likewise on the right side.



The cheeks are then gently pressed inwards between the teeth, whilst the nail of one's right hand little finger is rested on the lower incisors and the lower jaw depressed. With the mouth thus wide open, the pill (between finger and thumb) is dropped squarely at the back of the tongue, the mouth at once closed, and the glottis (or Adam's apple) pressed to induce swallowing.

Some cats will intentionally bite the operator if given the least chance, and in such cases of difficulty, the plan then is to employ a specially designed pair of pill forceps by means of which the pill can be definitely placed well at the back of the tongue without one's fingers getting too near the mouth.

If capsules are employed, they must be of fairly small size, say not greater than  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch long by  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch wide. Powders (in small bulk) may be tipped just inside the cheek, without opening the mouth ; and should never be tipped on to the back of the tongue. If that were done, a slight inspiration on the part of the cat would draw the powder down into the trachea (or windpipe) and may cause not only coughing or choking, but possibly pneumonia. Following the powder, and to help wash it down, a small quantity of water should be introduced by means of a fountain-pen filler.

#### *Other Routes of Administration*

Cases occasionally arise in which it is considered inexpedient or perhaps impossible to administer anything by the mouth ; or in which an immediate result must be produced in order to combat some sudden and serious emergency, or to produce a rapid local or general anaesthesia.

In such a contingency the active principle of drugs may be injected parenterally, the selection of the drug naturally depending upon the effect desired and the idiosyncrasy of the cat. The use of a hypodermic syringe is nearly always left to the veterinary

surgeon, though occasions do arise (as when injections must be repeated, and the practitioner lives far away) in which it is expedient to instruct the owner in the use of a syringe, the best sites for injection, and the measuring of the dose.

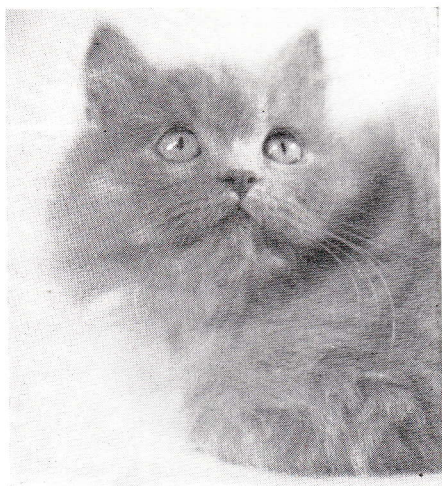
Parenteral routes include the subcutaneous (under the skin), the intraperitoneal (into the abdominal cavity) the intravenous (into a vein), and the intramuscular (into a muscle).

The layman is hardly likely to attempt any but the first and last of these methods. Penicillin and some other antibiotics are generally given intramuscularly.

#### *Rectal Medication*

Finally, there is the rectal route for conveying medicinal substances. Cases of dehydration, diarrhoea, colitis, rectal parasites, constipation, fits, frenzy, and others, may be treated by this route, using, of course, appropriate drugs in a satisfactory vehicle for the purpose.

Nutrient liquid foods can also be so introduced for the sustenance of patients which either will not take or cannot retain food given by the mouth.



**PYMBLES BLUE JULIAN at 4 months, owned and bred by Mrs. A. Price Hawkins, S.W. London fancier.**



**BARLEY**

*Photo: Ellis Sykes*

**MISS ROSALIND HILL, Westfield College, London, N.W.3, writes:—**

*“May I have a copy of the booklet ‘Prevention is Better Than Cure’?”*

*I am much interested in your preparation Kit-zyme; a course of tablets given over three months has completely cured my Persian cat, Barley, of a bad attack of eczema and brought him into a magnificent condition of liveliness and furriness.*

*Incidentally, Barley’s registered name is Sedan Marzipan—but you will doubtless agree that no one could address a cat by a name like that!”*

**KIT-ZYME WILL BENEFIT YOUR CAT TOO . . .**

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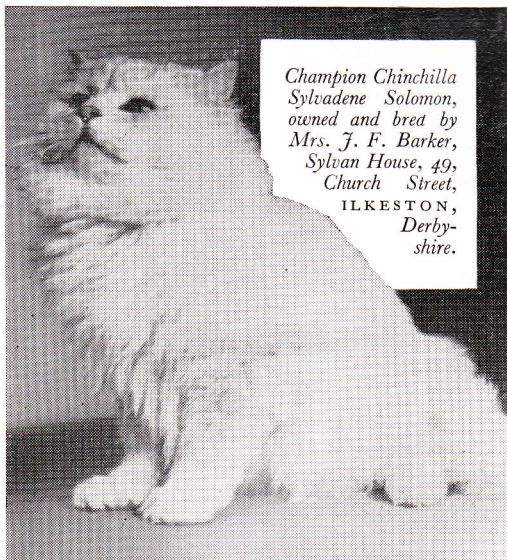


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# WHO SAID TIBS?



*Champion Chinchilla  
Sylvadene Solomon,  
owned and bred by  
Mrs. J. F. Barker,  
Sylvan House, 49,  
Church Street,  
ILKESTON,  
Derby-  
shire.*



‘**Y**ou should have heard the purrs of welcome when I was introduced!’ said Tibby, the Tibs Reporter. ‘The mere mention of the name Tibs made every puss in Mrs. Barker’s cattery, sit up and take notice. No need to ask her if they were all brought up on Tibs!’

WELL-KNOWN stud champion Sylvadene Solomon, shown above, gained his previous award at the Midland Counties Cat Club Show — October, 1952. Mrs. Barker’s Chinchillas have won numerous prizes on a Tibs upbringing. She herself says — ‘I make it a rule

never to be without Tibs, and now they are in tablet form I like them better than ever. They do help to keep that healthy bloom and clear eye on my cats that tell me they are in tip-top condition.’

10d. and 2/-



*Famous  
breeders  
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**KEEP CATS KITTENISH**



Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

**M**RS. 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.

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### Blue Enthusiasts Meet

**T**HE A.G.M. of the Blue Persian Cat Society on May 18th at Standford, Bordon, Hants, the home of the Hon. Secretary, Miss J. M. Fisher, was very enjoyable.

Mrs. L. Speirs, Hon. Treasurer, organized a party to travel by coach from Victoria with a stop *en route* for coffee. The countryside was looking lovely with its leafy pale greens, masses of lilac, and rhododendrons just coming out. It was a wee bit chilly and dull but rain kept off and there was an occasional burst of sunshine to enliven everything. When we arrived we greeted other members who had come by road—Capt. St. Barbe and Miss Yorke, all the way from St. Albans, Mr. and Mrs. Brice-Webb from Nottingham, Mrs. Cook-Radmore with two members of the Southsea Cat Club who helped so ably at their Championship Show last October came from Southsea, and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Allt from Farnham, Surrey.

Miss Fisher's garden was looking lovely with its velvety lawns, and birds skimming over the large lake and in this

setting her picturesque timbered cottage and her warm welcome made a happy prelude to an harmonious meeting.

The Society is in a sound position and I think all members were pleased to hear our own Championship Show is to be resumed this year confined only to Blue Persians. It will be organized by Mrs. Cook Radmore at Queen Mary's Hall, Y.W.C.A., Great Russell St., London, on October 6th. It behoves all Blue Persian enthusiasts to support it in every way with entries, advertisements, donations, special prizes, etc.

The judges who will officiate are : Male Adults, Miss K. Yorke ; Female Adults, Mr. F. Tomlinson ; Male Kittens, Miss E. Langston ; Female Kittens, Miss Lelgarde Fraser. The two retiring members, Mrs. Brice-Webb and Miss L. Fraser, were re-elected ; no other nominations were proposed.

The meeting terminated with a delicious tea kindly provided by Miss Yorke and Mrs. Speirs. Miss Fisher is unable to attend meetings in London now owing to her health but although she does not travel I was pleased to see her looking so well.

### Death of Boy Blue

The sympathy of all cat lovers, especially Blue breeders, will be extended to Mrs. Henn of Bridgnorth, Salop, in the loss of Ch. Baralan Boy Blue, famous son of Ch. Deebank Michael. The latter, bred by Miss Marjorie Bull, was one of the loveliest post-war Blue males in my opinion. He was a shy breeder and it was a blessing



## A page for the proletarian puss No. 45



*"Evening News" Photograph.*

### **I Meet Toby** *By the Editor*

I wish you could have shared my evening out.

It all started with a paragraph in a London newspaper and a surprise invitation from Mr. H. C. G. Stevens, who is well known in theatrical publicity circles, to go along to the St. James's Theatre to meet a character named Toby.

On arrival at the theatre I was met and graciously entertained by the Manager, Mr. Laurence Atteridge, who informed me that Toby would be ready to receive me in his office when the show

was over. As my favourites John McCallum and Googie Withers were appearing with Frank Lawton in the new play "Waiting for Gillian," my own wait for Toby was a pleasant interlude. When the final curtain had fallen and the theatre had emptied Mr. Atteridge conducted me to his sanctum at the top of the building. There I was introduced to Toby.

Toby had been described by Mr. Stevens as "the arch aristocrat of feline

*(Continued on page 25)*

he left a beautiful son but alas ! both males were destined to leave us at a comparatively early age.

Ch. Baralan Boy Blue was born July, 1947, and bred by Mrs. Henn from her queen Darella. He was awarded four Championship certificates. He excelled in type and eye colour and was a delightful shade of Blue. Boy Blue sired many winners including Double Ch. Baralan Mistress Midnight (Black, U.S.A.), Ch. Baralan Celeste (Black, U.S.A.), and the following Blue Champions, Int. Ch. Wildviolet of Dunesk, Int. Ch. Wee Willie Winkie of Dunesk, Ch. Jewel of Dunesk, and Ch. Renown of Dunesk (U.S.A.). All these four were by Mrs. Brunton's lovely queen Ch. Southway Josephine (the latter bred by Mr. Martin). Another very lovely daughter of his is Mrs. McVady's Ch. Gaydene Candy Kisses, and his son Ch. Dusty of Dunesk became a Champion in 1953. There may be other Champions by him but these are the ones I recall. Last show season he again distinguished himself by siring three kittens which between them were awarded scores of first prizes, namely Mrs. Udall's Bayhorne Decima and Mrs. Crickmore's Thiepval Paragon and Thiepval Precocious, the two latter the progeny of her beautiful queen, Ch. Thiepval Enchantress. It is significant that nearly all these Champions and outstanding kittens were the progeny of Champion dams and how well it confirms the advice so often given by experienced breeders to those about to start breeding, i.e., to commence with a good very well-bred queen.

The death of Ch. Baralan Boy Blue is a great personal loss to Mrs. Henn and to those breeders who had such success when they used him with their queens. Ch. Southway Josephine's union with him was a repetition in success similar to her famous mother, Southway Delphinium, when mated to Dickon of Allington, or Southway Whiz when mated to the same sire.

Mrs. Benbow is very appreciative that

her Blue - Cream Bayhorne Sheena, daughter of Ch. Widdington Warden (Cream) and Ch. Pelham Silver Girl (Blue-Cream) has a litter of six by him born on May 9th, all males and fine sturdy kittens. Five are Blues and one is a Cream who should be especially valuable as a Cream so beautifully bred should excel in type. Last year Sheena had Blues and a Blue-Cream which is usually the case when we mate Blue-Creams to Blues but if a Cream male does turn up what potentialities there are when the parents are outstanding !

Uplands Blue Freda, the mother of Bayhorne Decima and Miss Walker's Bayhorne Karen, unfortunately failed to mate with Ch. Baralan Boy Blue this year so Mrs. Benbow is mating her to his son Ch. Dusty of Dunesk. Her Blue queen Bayhorne Diana is already in kitten to him. Ch. Dusty is now owned by Mrs. Rees of Tavistock, Devon. Her Blue-Cream Bayhorne Heather is in kitten to Mrs. Mayne's Redwalls Bath Oliver and as both these young cats have two Challenge certificates each and are potential Champions these kittens should be good.

## **An Idle Life**

Mrs. Benbow appears to have a busy time ahead and it will be interesting to see the progeny of these matings at the shows. Ch. Pelham Silver Girl, the ancestor of her queens and who is such a lovely Blue-Cream, has been a very successful brood queen. She is eleven years of age and is resting on her laurels now. She only calls half-heartedly and sleeping, eating, and dreaming in the sunshine is her chief interest in life.

Mrs. Benbow considers her Creams and Blue-Creams owe their lovely pale coats to this descendent of Ch. Oxleys Peter John. She had been breeding them for many years before I commenced myself in 1950 by purchasing Anchor Felicity from Miss Hildyard. I always admired Creams but never





This 5 weeks' old Cream kitten shows more than usual promise. He is HATHAWAY ANTHONY ROLY (by the late Mokoia Tafete ex Anchor Dewmist), bred by the Cheltenham fancier Miss L. L. Elliot. See reference in notes on opposite page.

imagined I should be so captivated with Blue-Creams. When breeders told me they were exceptionally intelligent I thought it was "fond mother talking" but now I endorse every word. In a litter they are usually the first to lap, to eat solid food, to tumble out of their nursery bed and are positive imps of mischief and adorable as they grow up.

## Artificial Feeding

More news of Creams comes from Miss Elliott of Cheltenham who bred Mrs. Udall's lovely Blue-Cream Ch. Hathaway Heyday. She writes: "Like yourself I have one of Miss Hildyard's Creams Anchor Dewmist and am delighted with the litter she has given me. I mated her to Mokoia Tafete and they are his last offspring as he passed away recently aged nearly fifteen years, and these kittens must be the youngest grandchildren of the famous Ch. Mischief of Bredon. She had three Cream males and two Blue-Cream females. In the photo are Hathaway Anthony Roly, Hathaway Rockabye and H. Jan Perri at five weeks."

"When the family was 3½ weeks, Dewmist lost most of her milk due to a digestive upset and I had to feed the kittens artificially from then on. It was rather a tricky business as I was so afraid of giving too much and upsetting them but apart from one small spot of trouble our methods were most successful."

"It might be of interest to other breeders in a similar predicament to know how they were fed. Breakfast and tea, Ostermilk with one drop of halibut liver oil; lunch and supper, chicken broth (with the fat strained off) and thickened with Farex. After about a week or ten days I changed to Ostermilk No. 2 and it may have been this that caused diarrhoea in two of the kittens. I hastily changed back to No. 1 and gave a tiny pinch of bismuth in each feed. By the third day they were alright and there has been no more bother."

"As your Anchor Felicity bred a Cream male Champion and three Blue-Cream Champions (including your lovely Ch. Dawn of Pensford) when mated to Ch. Astra of Pensford, this is a mating I intend to try with Anchor Dewmist. I should also like to try Mrs. Davies's Gem because of his pale coat. Mrs. Nash, owner of the Cream, Champion Bluecroft Butterscotch, has been staying with me and she particularly admired the baby Blue-Cream Hathaway Rockabye. She has promising type and is an enchanting little person. After Mrs. Nash returned Butterscotch had a litter of six Creams by Ch. Twilight John and she is delighted that five lived and are doing well."

## N.Z. "Chin" Import

Seth of Allington, the Chinchilla male, landed fit and well at Wellington, New Zealand, and was sent on by the express to Auckland. Mrs. Mayhill is delighted with him. She wrote to Miss Langston "He is a real pet and even if he were not for a famous breeding sire we would all love him. He must have been much petted on board as he was so well and happy. . . . Seth is going to be very happy here and he is all that you said of him. I am proud to be the owner of the first Chinchilla male to be imported into New Zealand. I have had a special new house built for him, lined and cosy which has a verandah facing the sun and a nice run 10 feet by 6 overlooking the lawn. What a lovely head he has and that little bushy tail!"

"I go to a fisherman in one of the near bays and for ten shillings get about ten big fish, some of my cats have meat twice a day and they also have a bread and milk meal with cod liver oil. The press will probably send a representative to see Seth and if there is anything in the paper or a photo I will send it to you."

Welcome news of Blues comes from Mrs. Brunton, who has sold her delightful Marpost Farm at Southwater, Sussex, and is now living in a temporary home



# **DANEHURST CATTERY**

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until she moves into a permanent one in Sussex. She writes : "Although we are on the move and in new surroundings the cats are all perfectly happy and did not "turn a hair" when they arrived and their houses were placed in a lovely paddock with spreading oak trees and some fine Guernsey cows which I must say very much surprised and intrigued them. To start with, Ch. Southway Josephine has two lovely children, a boy and a girl by Ch. Baralan Boy Blue, two of the last of his progeny, sad to say. The girl appears at present to be a second Int. Ch. Wildviolet of Dunesk and is now a month old. Cherryblossom of Dunesk who until recent years has been abstemious with her numbers had five kittens (four boys and one girl) by Derry of Dunesk (who won twelve firsts as a kitten). Four are fat and bonny, one tiny boy only lived a day."

## Blue Litter of Seven

"The highlight, of course, is Gaydene Wildrose's family of seven by your Champion Foxburrow Frivolous, five girls and two boys all flourishing, strong and very promising at four weeks. Wildrose is a daughter of Ch. Southway Crusader and Mary Rose of Dunesk and was bred by Mrs. McVady. She is a wonderful mother and manages her large family perfectly."

"International Ch. Wildviolet of Dunesk was Best Female in Show both in Holland and Belgium last season and her son, Madame Sarrazin's Cady de Padirac (pictured in *OUR CATS*, February, 1954) Best Cat in Show in Belgium and also in Paris recently. A Blue male by Ch. Dusty of Dunesk and Ch. Southway Josephine called Blue Moon of Dunesk, which I sent to Belgium, won the President of the Republic's prize for the most beautiful cat at the Cercle Féline Show in Paris last month."

"I was delighted that Pretty Polly of Dunesk by Ch. Baralan Boy Blue and Gaydene Wildrose had won her first Championship in Florence recently.

She was awarded four firsts as a kitten at the Coronation Ch. Show here last October."

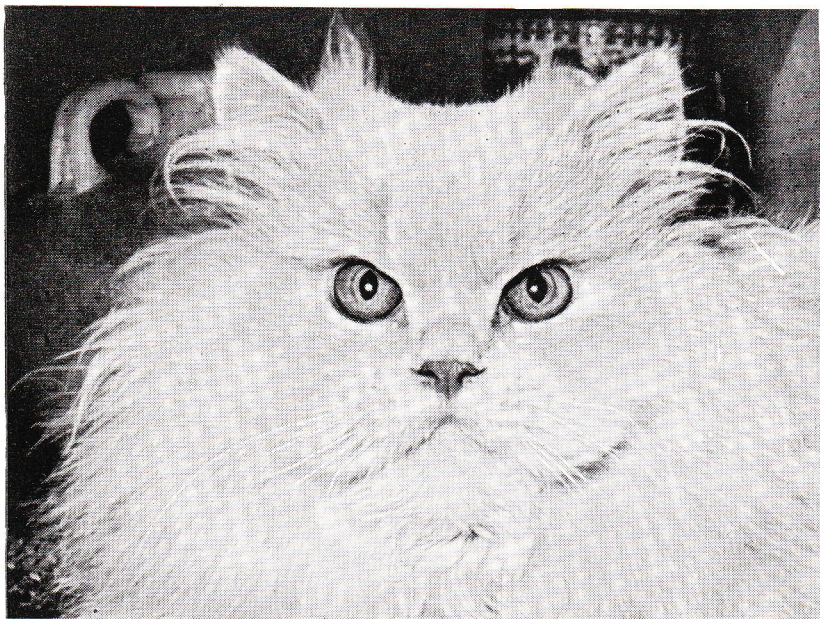
Mrs. Brunton is one of our most successful Blue breeders and the list of Champions which she has bred is impressive ; post-war ones which I recall are Ch. Dream of Dunesk, Ch. Campanula of Dunesk, Int. Ch. Miss Muffet of Dunesk, Int. Ch. Blue Moon of Dunesk, Mrs. Downey's (New Zealand) Ch. Merryman of Dunesk and Ch. Meddlesome Matty of Dunesk and, of course, those I have mentioned in Ch. Baralan Blue Boy's obituary. Their Championship status has been achieved in England, America, France, Belgium, Italy and New Zealand.

Needless to say this is not only a tribute to their quality but indicates robust good health which I have always admired in her stock and which has contributed to her success. We expect and are never disappointed that her Blues will be well presented. Mrs. Brunton has mastered the art of rearing kittens and this gives them the bloom without which the best of cats and kittens may suffer reverses, especially Blues which have to face much greater competition in quality and quantity than any other Longhair variety.

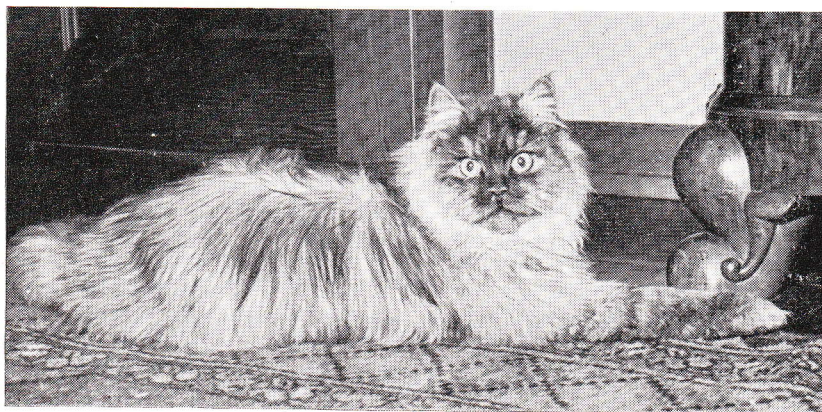
## Show at Turin

Madame Sandoz kindly sends news of the Societa Felina Italiana Ch. Show at Turin, Italy, on April 3rd and 4th, at which she judged. Signora Paganini won many honours with her imported cats. Int. Ch. Wee Willie Winkie of Dunesk was Best in Show. He was also first in the Champion of Champions class. Second was the Chinchilla Ch. Florestan of Allington and third Ch. Kiva Chaco, a Smoke from U.S.A. Best Opposite Sex in Show and first in Champion of Champions female class was a Blue-Cream Signora Paganini's Int. Ch. Twilight of Pensford (litter sister to my Ch. Dawn), second was Mille Perrin's lovely White Int. Ch.





One of the outstanding Cream males on the Continent today is **BOUMABAMBA DE LA VIAMALA**, bred from English parents by Madame Pia Sandoz, the well-known Swiss exhibitor. His fine type and pale even colouring have won for him a remarkable sequence of show successes which are referred to in the notes on the opposite page.



**CENTAURE DE LA VIAMALA** is a young Smoke male bred by Madame Sandoz from Ch. Glenfield Pius Peterkin ex Lady of Sonderhoo, a Danish queen. He was awarded his first C.C. at Ghent, Belgium, in January this year when he was 10 months.

White Flower du Léman, third was Int. Ch. Milout di Santaflora, a Black of lovely type and jet black long full coat. She was also first in the litter class with two good Black kittens and a Blue male. She is owned and bred by Miss Cacciavillani. There were eight females in the Champion of Champions and four in the male Ch. of Chs. class, which indicates excellent interest in cat breeding in Italy.

Miss Cacciavillani's pale Blue female kitten, Pritty di Santaflora, was Best Kitten. Madame Sandoz considered the Show was very well organized by the President of the Society, Comm. Datt. Ermando Bruno. The very large hall was decorated with flags and there were many lovely special prizes. The Show was very much admired by the Conte di Pistoia and the Conte di Bergamo who came especially to see the exhibits. Their patronage added greatly to its success.

The three English imports Int. Ch. Wee Willie Winkie of Dunesk, Int. Ch. Twilight of Pensford and Ch. Florestan of Allington were first in a group of three cats. I see in the catalogue Ch. Florestan was C.A.C.I.B. so I believe that may be his final for his International Championship.

Mlle Perrin from Switzerland was awarded many first and special prizes.

## Continental Cream

Madame Sandoz also sends news of her beautiful pale Cream male which Mrs. J. M. Newton, Mr. Braechman, and Mr. Konrad Hirschman, selected as their Best Exhibit at Copenhagen. He was also awarded this honour at Hamburg and Zurich and won his Ch. at three successive shows. He now needs one more C.A.C.I.B. to become an International Champion as these three honours must be awarded in three different countries; the two he already has were awarded at Copenhagen and Ghent, Belgium. It is interesting to recall that his dam, Anchor Ulan, was

bred by Miss Hildyard, and is the same breeding as my Anchor Felicity and Miss Elliott's Anchor Dewmist. Ch. Boumabamba's photograph appeared in OUR CATS, January, 1953, when he was a kitten. He now appears as an adult on the opposite page.

## An Uxbridge Family

On a lovely day in May I visited Mr. and Mrs. Barron at Uxbridge. Their five cats are all housepets. Apollo, their Cream male (pictured in March OUR CATS) has developed so well that one wonders if his matrimonial intentions will enable him to keep house manners much longer. As a precaution Mr. Barron is having a house built for him with a big run and in addition he will have access to a greenhouse where he can see what's going on in the lounge and part of the kitchen. Whilst he retains his sweet friendliness and is agreeable to hob-nob with strange cats (which they rarely see in their garden), he will have complete liberty.

Mrs. Barron's Cream female, Dalan Nicola, a daughter of Elmwood Cavalier, was mated once to Elmwood Robbie Rascal and produced eight Cream kittens. Unfortunately, she suffered from uterine inertia due, said the veterinarian, to impaction by the large family. It was only after she had been given injections and a prolonged labour that she produced the kittens. All were dead or died soon after birth. The queen was soon herself again and they were delighted to save her but very disappointed at such a loss. Their Chinchilla female Bonavia Fantasy, has been mated to Ch. Stourbank Silver King and their family, if all goes well, should be lovely. Fantasy is a sweetly pretty pale daughter of the late Ch. Flambeau of Allington and Silver King is very well bred. Redwalls Merly is a parti-coloured Shorthair, the result of one of the well-known Anchor Cream females mismating with a cat of unknown pedigree. She has a very nice head and produces what is



expected of her, pretty kittens for pets.

What a blessing spaying is to breeders nowadays ! It saves them the painful ordeal of putting females to sleep from such unions. Merley produced an excellent Blue-Cream from her last mating, which was spayed and is now an idolized pet. Last but not least their Red Tabby Shorthair with white trimmings was elegantly disposed on their bed, a picture of contentment.

## In Leafy Bucks

From this cat loving household we motored to Mr. and Mrs. Lucille Davies and their delightful country inn at Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks. This is quite a rendezvous for cat breeders who are motoring in that direction. Premier Priory Adonis was looking a picture. His coat is truly magnificent for colour, shade, length and texture. Neuters usually carry longer coats and retain it through the year much better than entire males but the remarkable part about his coat is that there is no suggestion of paling at the roots in summer and that it is such a lovely shade, really blue although pale.

The two Cream males Elmwood Cavalier and his half brother Elmwood Robbie Rascal were both looking well and Mrs. Davies hopes to show the latter this winter. Gem, their sire was dreaming in the sunshine. How I wish all studs were housed as these three, well-built houses lined with plywood, electric tubular heating thermostatically controlled, big runs where they can really have a gallop and spotless white blankets to lie on. Last, but not least important, shelves and ample windows are provided for them to watch the world go by.

Mrs. Davies has added to her females. I did not take details of all of them but they are an attractive family. I liked Anson Bouquet (bred by Miss Statman) very much and she was nursing some delightful kittens by Gem. I met Mrs. Davies many years ago when her husband

was an officer in the R.A.F. and she was living alone during the war. Her devotion to her cats was something to be remembered, especially when she travelled through flying bombs and rockets towards the end, to obtain their meat in the East End of London.

## A Lively Club

Mr. Richard Gebhardt, President of the Garden State Cat Club, sends me a copy of the first edition of their "Garden State News" in which he writes in his introductory article that : "Its purpose is to inform our members who have taken such sincere interest in this 'live wire' club, but who cannot attend meetings because of the distance involved or because their work schedule does not permit" and then follows a resumé of meetings, social activities, and activities of members. One gathers the Committee encourages social meetings as a "shindig" at Verona, New Jersey, at which square dancing, ballroom dancing, card games or to "just sit and chat" is announced. Coffee and cake will be served. Any further refreshments members can bring along and they are strongly advised, if dancing, to bring additional liquid refreshments, "hard or soft." Sounds fun, doesn't it ?

## Judge for America

A few weeks ago an invitation came to me from Miss Elsie Hydon for Miss Lelgarde Fraser or myself to judge in December at the Garden State Ch. Show, New York.

Unfortunately, much to our regret, neither of us were able to accept such a wonderful opportunity this year as it would necessitate rather a long absence from home and we found it would be difficult to arrange suitable provision for our cats this winter. At the moment of writing I understand that Miss Kathleen Yorke has promised to make another trip. She will undoubtedly have a grand time,

as she did when she was last over there in December 1952. Here's wishing her a lovely trip.

The May number of Cats Magazine (U.S.A.) lists the 1953-1954 cats in each variety which have the best show record in the Eastern part of the United States and Canada. The Blue male and female listed are Ch. Renown of Dunesk and Ch. Rosalie of Allington. A Chocolate Point Siamese female Ch. Doneraile Brun Malvana is the best in her section, and in kittens Seal Point Siamese Morris Anabel of Millbrook. These are the English imports. The Manx listed appear to be Isle of Man exports but I cannot identify their names.

I see a nursing bottle for puppies or kittens is advertised with two sizes of teat, price 1 dollar 50 cents each.

### Siamese Judges Meet

On May 26th a meeting of Siamese judges was convened by the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. K. R. Williams, in the Royal Horticultural Hall. Mr. Soderberg was in the chair. It was well attended and there were very few absentees. It was an informal discussion and exchange of views, one of the objects being to try to get more uniformity of opinion among Siamese judges. The meeting was agreeable and interesting and eloquent of the intense interest Siamese breeders take in anything which affects their variety. Several water colours of orchids graced the walls and in the rare moments my attention wandered I wondered how one judged them. Mr. and Mrs. Lamb came all the way from Birmingham and Miss Wentworth-Fitzwilliam from Yorkshire.

### Here's an Idea!

Such a meeting has endless possibilities and I imagine dozens of breeders and exhibitors would like to attend a similar meeting and express their views on what they would like to see perfected in Siamese.

Here's an idea for Specialist Clubs which cater for other varieties! How interesting to have one for Blue Persians, particularly to discuss the deterioration in "blueness of colour." It was proposed at the Blue Persian Cat Society A.G.M. that the Committee discuss colour but actually this is a question of such major importance to all Blue Persian breeders that it would be interesting to invite breeders to express their views in writing so that the Committee could consider their members' opinions.

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# American Profile

Continuing the series of interviews

by BILLIE BANCROET, our American Associate Editor

## MRS. C. C. STRANGE

JUDGE STRANGE belongs to CFA and pays faithful allegiance thereto. She has been a breeder since 1926 and my impression is that she has enjoyed every minute she has devoted to the Fancy. She has improved, experimented and developed an outstanding strain of Manx and Siamese at the Valhalla Cattery, El Paso, Texas. This interesting and attractive breeder has organized clubs, managed shows and assisted the novice in every way possible. Truly, she is a valuable asset to the Fancy.

Judge Strange tells me her greatest thrill is hard to define but thinks probably it is in having the Best Cat in a Show. She has won under so many different judges that it would take a lot of space to list them all. So we are going to touch lightly on the highlights of her career. Mrs. Strange is probably better known in the South and South-west than any other section of America. Having sold many of her cat children to Cuba, South America, Mexico, Canada and almost every state in the United States, her reputation is wide and most favourably known. She is listed on the Crusader's records as a breeder of high integrity, which means that novices the world over can buy, sight unseen, with confidence.

However, when I state she is better known in the South and South-west, I am speaking personally. Her reputation as a breeder is wide and extends all over America. It was at the insistence of her friends that she became a judge in the

Cat Fanciers' Association and no other person in her section of the country has done more for the Fancy in building up and promoting understanding of feline problems.

Probably one of her best Siamese was Mahatma Gandhi, who was a winner at just about all the shows we have over here. He was the first Siamese to win Best Cat in an All-Breed Show (El Paso, 1935, and again in 1939). The sire and dam of this outstanding boy were imports. Gandhi died at the age of nineteen years and was laid to rest under a flowering bush in the yard of Judge Strange's home.

### "Folksy Friendliness"

Nothing gives Judge Strange a greater thrill, however, than to have her bloodlines win for someone else. She listens to the breeders' opinions and assists them in solving their problems whenever possible. This fact alone is of no small significance. She seems to be able to pinpoint their trouble immediately.

Her friends consider her the epitome of folksy friendliness. As one man expressed it—"She is one judge on dead center." I find her cool, calm, gracious and frankly direct in all she says. She seems when judging, to be blessed with the power of concentration, no matter what is going on around her, yet for all her relaxed courtesy and manner you know there is no foolishness about her and when it comes to the cats she is judging—take my word for it—she never misses a trick.

One breeder from Texas told me she "would rather lose under Strange than win under quite a few other judges." She loves her cat children and considers loving them a very humbling thing. It is not given to all of us to have this understanding, this strength of character.

She seems to have a feeling for the ecstasy of the winner and the anguish of the loser at all the shows.

Many decades will turn into yesterdays before our Fancy will have again as charming a lady as the Mistress of Valhalla Cattery.



**Mrs. C. C. Strange, Texas, U.S.A.**

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**TOBY**—(continued from page 14)

London." It is a label which fits to a T. He is the most benign Tabby I have met and a most worthy representative of his breed. I am sure that Toby doesn't care a fig about his mongrel ancestry. He lived at the Marlborough-Windham Club until it was closed and with St. James's quite handy finding a new home presented no great difficulty. He just moved in !

I would say that Toby is now comfortably installed. He has Mr. Atteridge and the housekeeper running around in circles. The latter knows just what he likes and how he likes it.

When I left to brave the cold night air, Toby was settling down in a comfortable basket by the gasfire. I'd swear he winked.

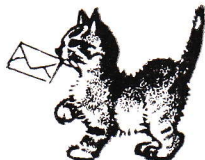
(Our picture shows Toby with Miss Martin, the theatre's call boy—another devoted slave !)





## 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.



### SPLINTS FOR SIAMESE KINKS

I was most interested in Mrs. Tschudi Broadwood's letter in your April issue regarding the use of splints on kinks in the tails of Siamese kittens, as I too have used them.

In my first litter of Siamese there was one very bad kink—a double one. I contemplated putting the kitten to sleep, but it was a boy and my vet. said it would probably make a delightful pet for someone later on. I wondered what I could do to straighten it. My vet. said splints were out of the question as I wouldn't be able to do it without stopping the circulation. However, I was determined to try and *passe-partout* was the material I decided to use.

First, I massaged the vertebrae into position, then slightly damped a piece of the paper and wound it round the two vertebrae to form a fairly tight band (but it must on no account be too tight, neither must it be too loose). I then took about 3 inches of *passe-partout*, damped it well and wound it round on top. After a few minutes it had set as hard as plaster of paris, was light and apparently comfortable as it did not perturb either baby or mother.

I took it off—by just tearing—every few days for massage and then renewed it. I did this for the best part of five weeks.

The kinks scarcely notice now the kitten is a fully grown cat. I paid it a visit a few weeks ago to check and see the final result. An attending vet. said to the owners "But surely he hasn't a kink, has he?" He is a beautiful cat now and an idolized pet. So I am glad I didn't obey my first impulse.

Mrs. Joan Judd,  
Thornbury, Nr. Bristol,

### WEAVING CATS' HAIR

Your correspondent "P.R." who wishes to have combings from a Persian cat's coat spun and woven may like to write to the Quarterly Journal of the Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers (Hon. Editorial Secretary, Miss M. Barker, 22 Hampstead Lane, London, N.6).

I have often thought of weaving combings from my own Shorthair cats, so I was very interested. I hope your correspondent will give us a description through your Magazine of the yarn and of the finished piece of weaving when it is made up. It would make an interesting exhibit at a cat show.

Miss J. C. Little,  
Ashley Heath, Ringwood, Hants.

### SANDY SHOW

I am sure many of your readers will be extremely sorry to learn it has been reluctantly decided not to hold Sandy Show for 1954 mainly to the non-availability of the Parke of Sandye Place due to building and developments taking place and, secondly, for financial reasons. Another site has been found and the Committee has decided that the next show shall be held in the grounds of Hasells Hall, Sandy, but in view of the lack of time needed for the preparations which are absolutely necessary and our financial resources it has been decided that a show for 1954 is impracticable.

Whilst we all regret this decision, steps are being taken immediately to raise funds by various methods in order to ensure that the show will be resumed as soon as possible, which it is hoped will be in 1955. Many local societies and

friends have promised financial assistance by way of donations, guarantees, etc., and my Committee would be very grateful if you would allow space in your columns for an appeal to readers to support this well-known Society to enable it to take on a new lease of life.

My Society has been in existence for 86 years and it would be a tragedy if Sandy Show ceased to function, not only to the local neighbourhood but indeed to the whole of the exhibition loving public.

Brian Porter (Secretary),  
Market Square, Biggleswade, Beds.

### CORRESPONDENTS WELCOMED

I would very much like to hear from some top breeders of Smokes and Chinchillas in England.

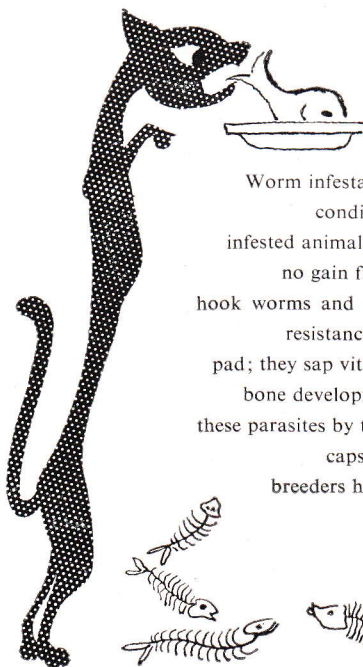
Mrs. Mildred A. Joseph,  
Nani Lei Kattery,  
5998 Strobbridge Avenue,  
Castro Valley, California, U.S.A.

### AMERICAN APPRECIATION

Very recently I have become acquainted with your Magazine. It is truly delightfully interesting, especially articles like "My Travels with Six Siamese," "We Enjoy Cat Sitting," reports on shows, the travels of cat judges, etc. I have special interest in the March issue: "My Exports for 1953." This is all so new to me and it is good to know of the care taken for the comfort of cat travellers.

Mentioned in the article is Michael O'Man, who travelled from the Isle of Man to England, then to Mr. Price Cross in Dallas, Texas, our most southern state, from there to Maine, our most northern, making his home with Mrs. Wallace R. Ham, in Woolwich. When his daughter Cynthia is old enough and has finished her inoculation shots, she is to come to me here in New York City via air express.

Miss Ethel B. Messenger,  
Staten Island, New York, U.S.A.



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!



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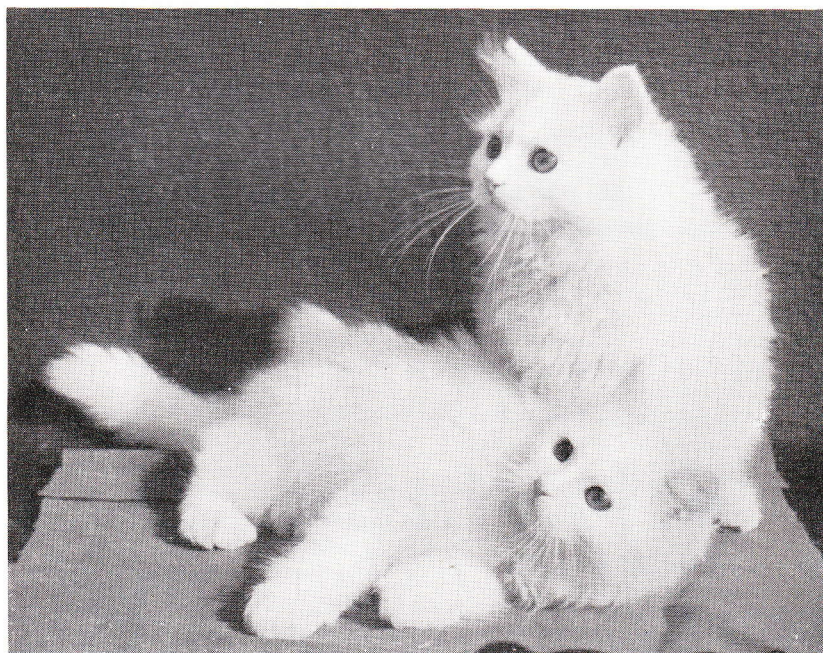
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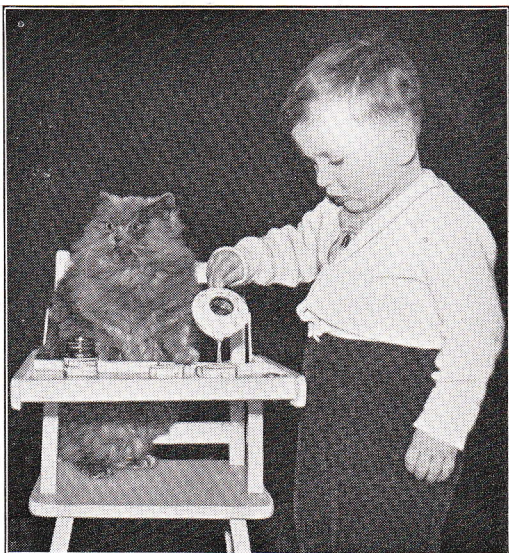


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# ***Let's Look at Grooming***

By P. M. SODERBERG

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

**D**URING the past few weeks I have received several requests from here and the U.S.A. for an article on grooming, a subject on which I wrote in *OUR CATS* some time ago.

The importance of grooming to the cats themselves is perhaps not as clearly recognized by owners as it should be, for it has to be remembered that it means much more than merely improving the cat's appearance to the eye of the beholder, the beholder in this case being either the owner himself, a prospective purchaser or a judge doing his best to sort out a large class at some show.

I realize, of course, that from the point of view of all three the results of grooming are obviously important. The owner derives a well deserved satisfaction from seeing his cats neatly groomed; the prospective purchaser may well have his mind made up for him just because the little extra that grooming provides is visible in a kitten which has attracted him; a judge may have to decide his first and second in a class merely on the fact that one cat has been better groomed than another. So close is competition at times that the presentation of the cat is all that is left to decide the issue between two outstanding specimens.

Quite a number of exhibitors must have been shocked during the past year or two to read that a cat of theirs had not done himself justice just because his grooming for the show had been inadequate.

Now here is the first point that must not be forgotten. It is that neglect in

this matter of grooming is something which cannot safely be permitted at any time. It is quite possible to get away with it with a Shorthair, but neglect the coat of a Longhair for three weeks and it will take you three months to get things right again. A case where "the punishment fits the crime."

But first of all let us look at grooming from the point of view of the cat. Whether we like it or not, most of us are compelled to live in an environment in which dust and dirt abound. We may get rid of it to a large extent by the use of mechanical devices plus a fair amount of elbow grease, but this sort of cleaning is not so easy for a cat.

## **Longhairs Cannot Cope**

In the first place no cat should have long hair and it is most remarkable that this hair should be several inches long. Generally speaking in a state of nature practically all animals have short, thick coats, and it is largely the result of man's selection that the long-coated cats have developed.

Now a Shorthair can make a pretty fair attempt at keeping its coat in condition, but that must not be taken to mean that the animal should be left to groom itself entirely without help. Modern conditions, as has already been stated, make the task just a little too difficult. There is also some suspicion that our cats, now so long domesticated, do not feel the same urge to clean themselves as much as when they were still wild. A Longhair is really quite incapable of dealing adequately with her own coat



and her rough tongue, her only tool, may make matters worse rather than better.

Thus grooming must be regarded as a daily duty for all cat owners whether the cats are pedigree or merely just cats. It is perfectly true that the household pet of no known ancestry may come to no apparent harm if his coat is not looked at from one year's end to the other. No cat has yet confided in me, but I strongly suspect that even this plebeian feline would feel all the better if a brush and comb were used on him.

I should add here that to me grooming implies more than just attention to the coat, for ears and eyes, not to mention more remote parts of the feline anatomy, should come within the grooming routine.

### **Tools for the Job**

The tools required for the job are simple enough and of these the most important are brush and comb, cotton wool and orange sticks. The only materials required are powder (light carbonate of magnesia) and some safe insecticide with a small quantity of warm water.

The most dangerous tool is the comb, for it can easily do far more harm than good.

For this reason, if for no other, it should be used very sparingly, and during the greater part of the year a careful combing once a week will be sufficient. During the moult more frequent combings will be very helpful in removing

dead hair, which has to be done if the new coat is to be satisfactory.

It is most important that combs should be of the right type, for one with sharp-pointed teeth not only removes dead hair while performing the normal function of a comb but also tears out much of the undercoat with disastrous results to the coat that is growing. It is kinder to the cat if you try any comb really vigorously on your own head first. You may well decide that the points of the teeth need rounding off before you set to work on your cat.

### **Choice of Brushes**

The brush used on Longhairs should not be stiff, for a soft-bristled brush is much more likely to be effective. The coat must be brushed in the opposite direction to that in which it normally lies. If you look at the coat carefully you will soon see that there are a number of directions in which brushing will have to be done.

By careful brushing the coat can be opened out right down to the skin, and it is when the coat is exposed in this way that the toilet powder may be introduced. This may be done several times a week, for a coat that is well powdered is much less likely to become greasy and consequently, at some later stage, matted. Insect powder need only be used on rare occasions except during very hot summer weather when fleas are occasionally too numerous to be pleasant.

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The routine daily brushing need only take a few minutes with a really good "do" about once a week.

Many Shorthairs like the friction of a harsh brush, while some seem to regard the modern nylon brush as their own particular idea of bliss. The massaging of the skin in grooming increases the circulation of the blood and helps to promote the growth of an even better coat than would otherwise be the case.

A powdered coat should be brushed again to remove most of the powder, but, before showing a cat, all powder must be removed or disqualification may be the owner's unhappy lot.

Once or twice a week the inner corners of the eyes should be carefully washed with cotton wool dipped in warm water. It is as well to dry carefully after the washing has been completed.

Grooming should never be regarded as satisfactory unless the ears are also carefully inspected and cleaned. This need not be done more than once a week, but neglected ears usually mean trouble sooner or later.

Obviously there is much more that could be written on this subject, but if

what has been suggested is carried out conscientiously your cat may be considered as well groomed except for special social functions.

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- 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.

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### Books

CATS BETWEEN COVERS, by Sidney Denham, the only complete guide to books about cats, with an introduction by Sir Compton Mackenzie, 7s. (U.S.A. \$1) post free from H. Denham, 110 Maida Vale, London, W.9.

THE BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SIAMESE CAT, by Kathleen R. Williams, contains all you want to know about Seal, Blue and Chocolate Pointed Siamese. Based on the author's experience and knowledge acquired during 20 years of breeding, nursing, exhibiting and judging. 10s. 6d. post free from F. B. Williams, 53 Grange Road, Sutton, Surrey.

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### Boarding

AT LOW KNAP Siamese cats are boarded in ideal conditions and cared for by Dr. and Mrs. Francis who love and understand them. Prospectus and photographs on application. Halstock, nr. Yeovil.



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bumps for puppies to bite. Moquettes and mongrels rarely mix. Moquettes wear long and well in ordinary circumstances, but no mongrel is an ordinary circumstance and cats, too, love the loops in moquette for a manicure. Heavy print cloth—used for loose covers—is another material which defies cat and dog hairs and resists other damage because it has no raised patterns for paws to pick at. Pet-owners should watch for smooth cloths which can't be unravelled. And it's not a bad idea to match your upholstery to your pet if he moults a lot !”



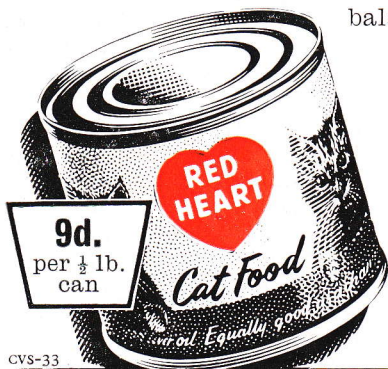
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