

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING
COMPREHENSIVE



FROM "DOWN UNDER"

Our front cover picture this month comes from the Miowera Cattery, North Turramurra, New South Wales, Australia. These bonny Chinchilla kittens were bred by Miss M. M. Haswell. The picture is reproduced by courtesy of Australian Consolidated Press Ltd.

AUGUST 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. 8

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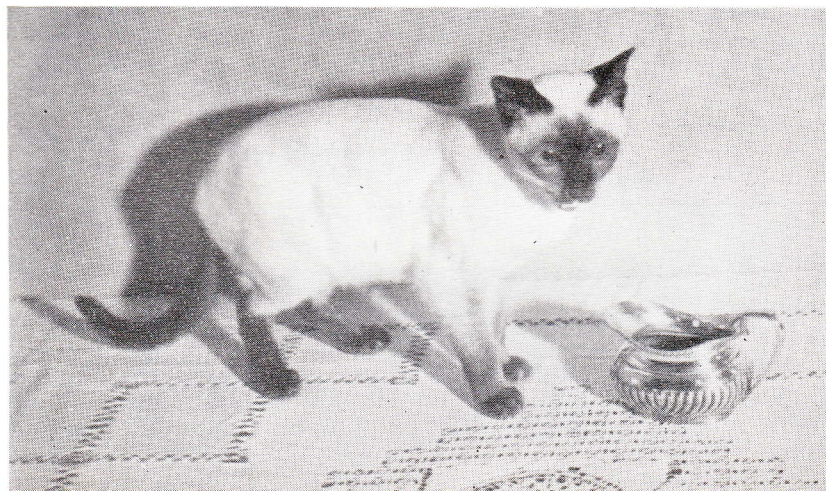
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MRS. BILLIE BANCROFT

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



CHAMPION CHOCOLATE DRAGEE is the only Chocolate Pointed Siamese to become a Champion last season. She was five times winner of the Open Chocolate Point Class and holds four C.C.s. Proud owner is Mrs. D. M. Clarke, of Reading, Berks, who explains that Dragee is very fond of sampling the contents of her favourite cream jug.



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Let's go to a Show

We urge our readers to attend as many Cat Shows as possible. There is no better place at which to meet old friends, to make new ones and to pick up useful points about cats, their breeding and general management, from experienced fanciers and exhibitors. Brief details of the show programme for the 1954-55 Season are provided below for the information and guidance of readers. The list may be revised from time to time as fresh information becomes available.

1954	Promoted by	Venue
7 September ...	*Hertfordshire and Middlesex Cat Club ...	London
11 September ...	Southport and Ormskirk Agricultural Society ...	Southport
22 September ...	*South Western Counties Cat Club ...	Taunton
6 October ...	*Blue Persian Cat Society ...	London
8 October ...	*Siamese Cat Club ...	London
16 October ...	Edinburgh and East of Scotland Cat Club (See displayed advertisement in this issue)	Edinburgh
26 October ...	*Midland Counties Cat Club ...	Wolverhampton
30 October ...	Scottish Cat Club ...	Glasgow
10 November ...	*Croydon Cat Club ...	London
27 November ...	Yorkshire County Cat Club ...	Leeds
8 December ...	*National Cat Club ...	London
1955		
8 January ...	*Notts. and Derbyshire Cat Club ...	Nottingham
22 January ...	*Lancs. and North Western Counties Cat Club ...	Manchester
3 February ...	*Southern Counties Cat Club ...	London
19 February ...	East Anglian Cat Club ...	Ipswich

* Denotes show with Championship status.



Bred by Mrs. P. Smith, of Cockington Village, Devonshire, from Prestwick strain, TINA'S PITTYSING, young Siamese neuter female, is the treasured pet of Mrs. D. Engley, of South Chingford. Pitty Sing is not only a great source of pleasure to her owner but she is also the constant friend and companion of a very beautiful marmalade neuter tom.

Advice on General Management

By M.R.C.V.S.

THE care of the cat in the home calls for no specialized knowledge, provided a few fundamental rules are observed and common sense exercised. Many people suppose that, because they reside in flats or apartments, they cannot keep a domestic cat owing to the absence of sanitary facilities, and the difficulty of affording it sufficient and suitable exercise.

While these desiderata are serious as concerns the dog in such circumstances, they do not pertain in the case of the cat, for this accommodating little animal will thrive quite well in comparative confinement, and needs no more exercise than is afforded by the confines of the owner's apartment.

It must not be inferred that a domestic cat can with impunity be shut up in a cage all its days, for that would be courting disaster. One might enquire as to the necessity for allowing a cat access to the garden or street for the performance of natural functions ; but this is not essential, and, indeed, is somewhat undesirable, for in either case a cat (especially an entire tom) is apt to wander away and remain absent for longer than is good for the animal or convenient for the owner. In addition, it will no doubt associate with stray cats, and become exposed to the infection of various diseases such as distemper, typhus and mange ; or contract lice, worms or fleas with which it returns home only to contaminate its own surroundings. Further, it runs the risk of picking up poisoned meats maliciously strewn about by cat-hating neighbours, or perhaps carelessly set as a bait for vermin.

A cat which is allowed too much freedom is apt to regain its wilder

instincts and relinquish its love and respect for hearth, home and mistress.

It is not sought to infer that a cat should never leave the house ; in fact it is desirable for castrated males or females, as these are far less likely to be embroiled in passionate love affairs and return home with bites and scratches which later form abscesses.

Cats which are deliberately let out should not be fed first, as when hunger at last assails them, they will return home for food. To discourage cats from staying out all night it is a good plan to habitually feed them at night time and get them into the habit of expecting their rations then.

Early Training

Cleanliness is an inherent quality in cats, and they are very readily taught how to behave in the house ; and once having learned this as kittens, they very seldom forget.

The method adopted is simple, consisting merely of the provision of some suitable utensil containing an absorbent material which the cat can scratch up, as is its natural wont. Such receptacle can be a low-sided zinc tray or flat enamelled pan about 12-15 inches square in which can be placed dry earth, fine peat or sawdust.

Whatever receptacle is employed it must be impervious and the sides sufficiently low to permit an easy entry and exit, though high enough to prevent the contained earth being scratched out and about the floor. Sawdust is by far the best absorbent and deodorant, and is usually easily procurable. It should be renewed without fail each day (sometimes more often) and the tray washed out.

Cats display a good deal of modesty in the performance of their sanitary functions, preferring always a corner or some shaded hidden spot. For this reason such a place may be selected by the owner in which permanently to lodge the cat's tray ; and once the cat knows of it, he will seldom fail to use it.

Much of the cat's future success depends upon the pains taken in its rearing. The importance of inducing cleanliness from early kittenhood, together with correct feeding, housing and general supervision, can hardly be overestimated. Many people commence teaching kittens the use of the pan even before they are weaned ; in fact, the lesson begins with the kitten's ability to walk.

Accommodation

In the matter of housing, those who keep a cat merely as a pet or for its utility as a destroyer of rodents will find it unnecessary to provide anything more pretentious as a sleeping utensil than a small box or basket containing wood-wool, an old garment, or even tissue paper.

As a litter for any of the small animals, fine wood shavings (not chips) is the ideal being cheap, clean and antiparasitic. In fact, the packing material used in crates of eggs may frequently be obtained gratis from provision shops, and on account of the resins or volatile oils contained in some woods, their shavings are not conducive to the harbouring of body parasites.

Those people, on the other hand, who intend breeding cats may find it more expedient to house them in an apartment of their own. A room may be allotted for this purpose, or some outbuilding such as a greenhouse may be converted into a cattery. Others, again, may consider it best to erect a wooden shed or buy one ready made.

Whichever plan is adopted, one must be particular in guarding against draughts, damp, insufficient ventilation,

overcrowding, and general unhygienic conditions. If a room is to be utilized as a cattery the windows should be fitted on the outside with a frame of wire netting to prevent escape ; suitable sanitary arrangements must be provided, or access may, if possible, be afforded to a wired-in run outside the house.

Although apparently a detail it would also be very advisable to firmly fix the trunk of a small tree, together with some of its branches, obliquely against one of the walls, in order to provide the cats with some opportunity for amusement and climbing exercise, as well as affording them the means of carrying out their natural habit of extending their claws.

Avoid Overcrowding

Sleeping quarters may be provided in the shape of shelves or cubicles a foot or two above the floor and away from possible draughts. The common orange-box of three compartments answers admirably. If outdoor sheds are to be utilized, the necessary precautions are : (1) that the floor shall be raised from 6 to 12 inches above the ground ; (2) adequate daylight and ventilation provided ; (3) absence of damp and draught ; and (4) a safe heating apparatus for the cold weather. The writer prefers for this a tubular electric heater, the element of which is contained inside the tube.

The possibility of access to the open air and sunlight is always highly desirable, and where the cubic space of the cattery is restricted, it becomes absolutely essential. Nevertheless, as previously stated, it is also desirable that the outdoor exercising ground should be wired in.

Overcrowding is, and always was, an insidious cause of non-success and loss, whether it pertain to humans, horses, dogs, cats, fowls, or any other animal. It paves the way for the onset of many diseases, and is largely responsible for many of the deaths and deformities which occur in such ill-managed kennels or catteries.



Walton Adams, Reading.

We are privileged to present the first picture of the new Havana breed of cat. It was taken when the kittens were $3\frac{1}{2}$ months old and it is unfortunate that we cannot reproduce them in colour to show off their lovely rich brown coats and green eyes. Half-tone reproduction in black and white tends to make them appear much darker than they really are. The kittens are Craigiehillock Bronze Wing and Craigiehillock Bronze Leaf bred by Mrs. R. Clarke, of Reading and owned by Mrs. I. Monro Smith, also of Reading. Now read the interesting story by the sponsor of the new variety which appears below.

And Now—the Havana!

By EDITH ULLMANN

ONE cold winter evening in 1950, sitting comfortably by a roaring fire, I idly played with the idea of breeding a new variety of cats.

For some years I had been studying the laws of inheritance and had read every book on genetics I could lay my hands on and, although very little research had been done on cats, I was certain that the basic principles would apply to them as well as to other animals and plants.

My vague wish to breed some-

thing new slowly matured into the ambition to breed a self-coloured brown cat with green eyes, shorthaired and of foreign type. Once I knew what I wanted, I worked out the method to get it and proceeded to breed.

If I was right in assuming that brown colour was due to a single pair of recessive genes (subsequent events have proved this to be correct), then I had a 3 : 16 chance of breeding an all brown kitten in the second generation.

Mrs. Hargreaves, with whom

I discussed my plans at great length, embarked a few months after me on a similar experiment and very kindly let me have one of her resulting female kittens as an outcross for my own pair. A litter sister of Mrs. Hargreaves' kitten went to Mrs. E. Fisher and the third female she retained herself.

In spring 1953 my first litter was born, unfortunately, owing to an accident to the queen, prematurely and dead. It consisted of two males, one black and one Siamese, and one self-brown female. Although this was very disappointing, it proved that we were working on the right lines. Mrs. Fisher's queen then produced a male brown kitten in a mixed litter and Mrs. Hargreaves' did the same. Both these have grown into fine specimens.

A Valuable Find

Some time during the summer I was given the address of Mrs. I. Monro Smith, who was reported to own a self-brown cat. I got in touch with her and it appeared that she had done some experimental breeding for a very different reason and had, as a by-product of her research, bred a self-brown male, Elmtower Bronze Idol.

The four of us met last autumn and decided to work together to establish self-brown cats as a breed and to take every possible care to breed healthy, intelligent cats of an amiable temperament. The name "Havana" was adopted later by mutual consent and is meant to describe the rich brown colour of these cats; it has nothing to do with the capital of Cuba and there are no Havana cats in any country except England, unless we export them.

Late in 1953 and early this year a few more people, who had seen Havanas, acquired kittens capable of producing them and started to breed. And if the interest roused in the public by the few Havanas which were entered in cat shows is an indication of things to come, I think that they may in time become one of the popular breeds of cats.

A number of kittens were born this year, all of them sired by Elmtower Bronze Idol and the illustration to this article shows a delightful pair of twin sisters by him. They were bred by Mrs. R. Clarke and are owned by Mrs. Monro Smith.

Unfortunately no photograph can do justice to their rich brown coats and green eyes but their excellent type and intelligent expression can be seen plainly.

These kittens, together with their half-brothers and half-sisters, give us the opportunity of breeding Havana to Havana in future and thus complete the story of how a new breed came into being.

And like all good stories this one shall end with the words: "And They Lived Happily Ever After."

[Copyright reserved.]



Torties & Red Tabbies

Questions expertly answered by MRS. J. M. NEWTON, Hon. Secretary of the Red, Cream, Tortoiseshell, Blue-Cream and Brown Tabby Society which functions to help, encourage and advise on these feline varieties.

MOST experienced breeders and judges receive enquiries from time to time about the breeds in which they are particularly interested. My own heavy postbag is no exception and I have noticed that three questions crop up again and again : (1) Is there ever a Tortoiseshell and White male ? (the questioner usually adds : " If there is I think I have one ") ; (2) Can a Tortoiseshell male be born ? (3) Why are there no Red Tabby females or only a few in comparison with the males ?

Now this season, all these questions have come along more often than usual. So it may be interesting to put down a few facts.

Tortoiseshell and White males do occasionally make an appearance. The births of both long and short haired have been notified this year and I cannot remember such " a vintage year " as this during the quarter of a century I have been interested in the Fancy. It may be, of course, that owners have not bothered to send their news to any breeder, scientist or club and that these cats are not really any more numerous this year than before.

Most novice breeders are under the impression that Tortie and White males are of great monetary value. Usually they are offered to me at a high price. Except as an interesting rarity or if well patched as a good show specimen these cats have no value to any breeder. The reason is simple : They are sterile and we are still waiting for an authentic case of a Tortie and White who can sire a litter.

From discussion and correspondence it would appear that if and when a Tortie and White sires, the most likely colour of the offspring will be red or black but this has yet to be proved. To obtain a Tortie and White female is not easy. They can never be guaranteed and the fascinating question " What will the litter contain ? " is always present in the mind of a breeder of Tortie and White and Tortie cats.

The above remarks apply equally to the male Tortoiseshell, which seems even more rare than the Tortie and White male. Often a mistake occurs and the male turns out to be a Tabby with some reddish markings and is not a true Tortie at all.

Not long ago one of my correspondents wrote to complain that " My boy Tortoiseshell, 8 months old, is now a girl. What do you advise ? He ought not to have done this because now he is not rare at all ! " All ended well, however, for later I was informed that " We have called Cecil Cecily. She is rather sweet and we shall keep her for our own pet."

Many More Males

With regard to Red Tabbies, the proportion of males to females seems to be about five to one. Here I am open to correction by people with more knowledge but this is my own experience over a good many years. Why males should predominate to this degree has never been explained to my satisfaction.

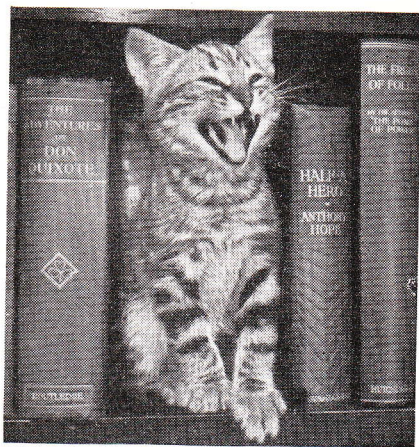
There have certainly seemed more Shorthair Red Tabby females than Longhairs during the last two years and

it is not easy to find really good Longhairs to purchase at the moment. The exceptions, both short and long hair, are naturally already treasured pets whose owners also value them from the breeding point of view.

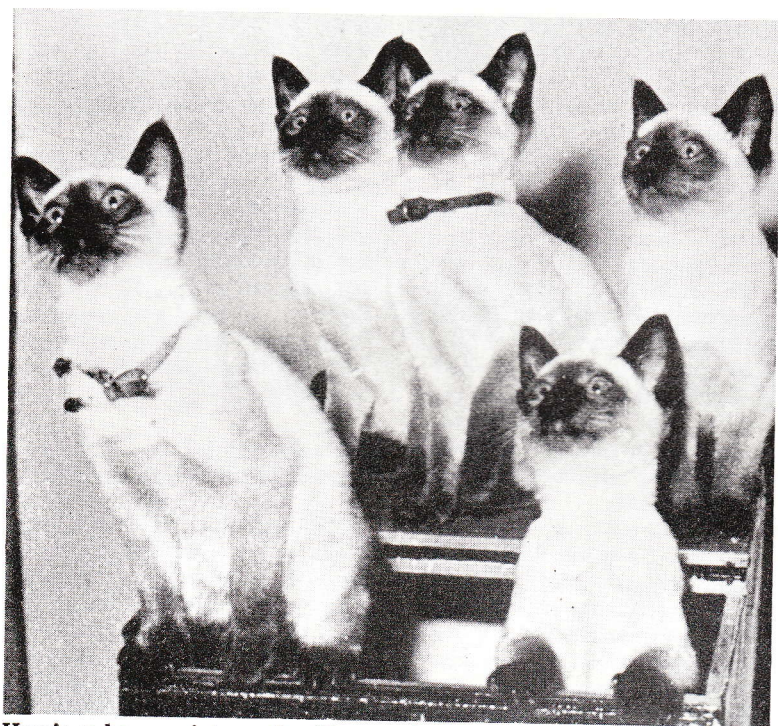
Persistent Rumour

Owners of non-pedigree cats so often write to say they have a Red female and they understand they are extremely rare. But in these cases nothing can be proved as to why the Red kitten should be a female as usually the ancestry of queen and sire is unknown.

The rumour having arisen that there are no Red Tabby females will doubtless persist for years to come.



This is another of the delightful pictures—and appropriately enough the cover picture—from the recently published book "The Laughing Kitten," by Enid Blyton and Paul Kaye. The book has been kindly loaned by the Editor of "The Animals' Magazine," the journal of the P.D.S.A. We regret that we incorrectly gave the title of this publication as "The Animals' Friend" in our last month's issue.



Here's a bonny picture of a Siamese litter by Sinbad, the stud of that enthusiastic breeder Mrs. P. Tutt, of Charing, Kent. Their owner Lt.Col. Grey, of the Military Hospital, York, admits to having spent four hours trying to get this photograph.

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.

Holiday Problems

When one goes on holiday is it kinder to take the family cat on holiday too or to leave it at home ?

Surely it depends to a certain extent on how the holiday is to be spent. If you are taking a furnished house somewhere, certainly take the cat with you, but see that you get it used to its temporary home before you let it loose. You see, cats are attached to people, but they quickly learn to know places. A cat will not be too unhappy if left in its own home provided that some kindly neighbour who knows it is prepared not only to feed it but also to give it a little personal attention as well. Of course, there are some good boarding establishments where cats may be safely sent and you will know that the cat will be carefully cared for until your return.

On Inbreeding

Some animals can be in-bred without any unfortunate consequences. Is this true of the cat ? What would be the advantage of adopting this method ?

Experience has shown that the inbreeding of cats is not a method which can be safely adopted without quick deterioration of the stock. There is also another point in this connection. Few people with a knowledge of cats would be prepared to buy stock that was closely in-bred. They know the risks. The value of in-breeding any animal is that the method stamps on stock more

indelibly the qualities which are displayed by the parents. The snag is that this plan not only helps to fix the good qualities but the bad ones as well.

Counting the Cost

I should like to take up cat breeding, but I hear such alarming stories about the cost of feeding that I wonder whether I could afford to take up this hobby. How much does it cost to feed a cat ?

The first point to make here is that if you take up cat breeding it is most unlikely that you will cover your costs by the sale of kittens. It is, however, quite impossible to give a definite figure for the feeding of a cat. The cost per head depends up to a point on how many you have. One cat can be fed comparatively cheaply, for there are always odds and ends of meat and fish in a household which can be used and which otherwise might be wasted. If you have to buy all the meat, fish, rabbit and tinned food, somewhere between eight to ten shillings should be reasonable. Cat keeping can be expensive.

Early Troubles

I have had trouble with the last three litters I have bred, for the kittens have developed diarrhoea shortly after leaving the mother. What is wrong, please ?

It is very difficult to say what is wrong, for there are several possibilities, but from the information it looks as though wrong feeding is at the bottom

Protect
against
**Feline
Infectious
Enteritis**



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.

To save your cat from this disease consult your veterinary surgeon. He will advise you regarding protection, now possible by the introduction of

'WELLCOME'

BRAND

**FELINE INFECTIOUS
ENTERITIS VACCINE**



PREPARED AT THE WELLCOME RESEARCH LABORATORIES
A BURROUGHS WELLCOME & CO. PRODUCT

of the trouble. Get a well-established breeder to look into your feeding methods for you. Newly weaned kittens are easily upset if they are not fed carefully. It is possible, of course, that the queen may have worms which she passes on to her kittens. That might produce a stomach upset in the kittens.

Hairless Variety

One sometimes reads about the Mexican hairless cat. Are there any of these cats about now or have they died out ?

Some fifty years ago there were just one or two cats in this country to which the name Mexican Hairless was given. It was supposed that they had come from Mexico, and it is almost certain that this hairless cat still exists in a natural state in that country. There are none in this country at the moment as far as one can find out. Who would want one anyway ?

Managing the Female

I am a complete novice and have only recently purchased my first pedigree cat. This cat is a female and I am most anxious that she should not mismate when she comes into season. Must I keep her shut up all the time ?

No cat should be shut up all the time, so you can allow your queen to have all the freedom your premises permit. Most cats can be given the freedom of a garden and this helps females to achieve sound condition before they are old enough for mating. If you have close daily contact with this female, you will have ample warning before she calls. At such times the female cat becomes much more affectionate and your suspicions will be aroused. That is the time to shut her up for a few days. If it is a false alarm, you can let her loose again after a day or two. If she really calls, the stamping of her back feet and her rolling on the ground will confirm your sus-

picious. Some cats run away and are mated by a stray tom without there being any preliminary warning, but if you are observant you will rarely be caught out in this way. Experience will help considerably and in a year or so you will feel quite confident that you can cope with the situation and still allow your queen plenty of liberty.

Watery Eyes

I have a Blue kitten who worries me because his eyes are frequently watering. Can you please advise me on treatment ?

If this trouble is persistent we advise you to consult your vet. Eye troubles are rare in cats and many of them can be cleared up in a few days by frequent bathing and application of an ophthalmic ointment. On rare occasions the ducts which lead from the eye to the nose become infected and plugged, causing tears to overflow the lids. Ointments applied frequently will help to unplug the ducts. There have been instances where inverted eyelids and ingrowing eyelashes have been at the root of the eye trouble. The vet. should attend to this happily rare condition. Lotions for bathing the eyes can be made from cold tea, boracic crystals or camomile blossoms. Use a piece of cottonwool (a clean piece for each bathing) for bathing the eyes which must be dried after treatment. A useful little book on "The Care of the Eyes of Your Pets" has been published by Optrex Ltd. and you can obtain a copy free by writing to their Veterinary Department D, 17 Wadsworth Road, Perivale, Middlesex. While the booklet deals mainly with eye troubles in dogs much of the contents will be found useful to cat lovers.

8th October !

OUR CATS will be on sale at the Siamese Cat Club's Championship Show at the Royal Horticultural Hall.

FREE — six picture cards of lovely 'Red Heart' cats in exchange for 6 Red Heart labels. Send labels with your name and address in **BLOCK** letters please.



BLUE PERSIAN

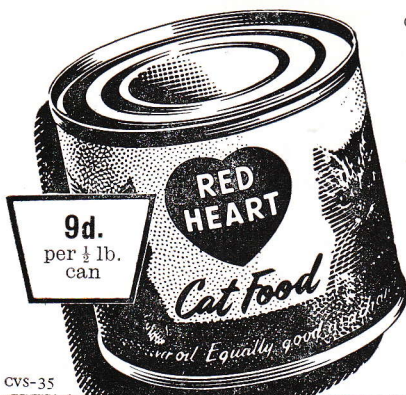
(from a photo in the Red Heart series)

the Coat tells the Tale

You can tell a properly fed cat by looking at it! Glossy coat, vigour and contentment, all tell the tale. Especially so when a cat is fed on

Red Heart. Made from good fresh fish with liver and cod liver oil, Red Heart is a balanced and favourite diet, fed straight from the tin,

or mixed with scraps to make its concentrated goodness go further still.



RED HEART Cat Food

If you are a Dog owner ask for
"Red Heart" Dog Food

CVS-35

JOHN MORRELL & CO. LTD., LIVERPOOL 4

Stock Breeders

By P. M. SODERBERG

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

ON a number of occasions during the past few years the statement has been made that cats which are not up to some specified standard relating either to their own physical characteristics or the type of progeny which they produce should be disposed of permanently.

Unfortunately there is so much superficial wisdom in these statements that they merit a closer investigation, for the people who have made them are keen cat breeders and at the same time persons of the highest integrity. Just to say "Rubbish!" as one is inclined to do, would not be a sign of intelligence.

First of all it must be recognized as a fact that by far the great majority of kittens which are reared fall well below show standard, and more often than not the owner soon learns this fact from practical experience on the show bench. He may recognize the faults of a particular cat and decide not to show it, or he does not appreciate the poor quality of the animal and shows it at times only to find that no judge will give it a card. Quite often the second experience is that of the novice and in terms of hard cash it may be expensive. There is no occasion to be unduly depressed by this, however, for no matter what livestock hobby one decides to take up, experience has to be gained the hard way.

The second aspect of the problem concerns breeding stock. The fallacy that a winning cat is bound to produce good progeny is one that only the best breeders

are prepared to recognize within a reasonable space of time. Those with less experience and perhaps less intelligence in cat matters refuse to recognize the facts so that with Micawber-like optimism they go on always convinced that success is just round the corner.

The real difficulty here is that the easily seen physical characteristics of any cat are not in themselves any true indication of the kittens which this particular animal will produce. Scientifically it is quite possible that this particular cat cannot pass on its good qualities. In fact, it may be impossible for it to do so. The "whys and wherefores" of this state of affairs are far too complicated and lengthy of explanation for an article of this sort, yet the fact is nevertheless demonstrably true.

You Can't Prophecy!

The second point to remember is that the kitten is the offspring of two individuals and never of one only. Thus the qualities of the two parents have to be considered together before one can have the slightest idea what the result of the mating is likely to be. Even here there is no certainty that can be looked for, as each individual is the result of a long line of ancestors, each of whom may play a part in the qualities to be seen in a kitten that is born.

Thus the breeding of kittens is always a chancey business, for there is no one living who could look at the parents, study their pedigrees and then say with any firm conviction what is likely to be found in any resulting litter.

Well, that is the statement of the case and perhaps it may be recognized that there must always be a great many adult cats which are themselves of poor quality and thus all the more likely to prove themselves to be unsuitable as breeding stock.

If all cat breeders were just stock breeders, the solution would be comparatively simple, for any animal which was considered unsatisfactory would be humanely destroyed and thus its effect on future generations of cats could no longer apply. But it is just here that we come up against the other side of the problem, for most cat breeders are cat lovers and it is this very fact that prevents all but a fraction of one per cent from being ruthless.

Sentimental Owners

Few breeders of chickens feel the same about the stock they produce for the simple reason that a cock or a hen rarely becomes the companion of man. Some of us are perhaps too sentimental, a fault which I am happy to possess myself, so that we are incapable of disposing of any living creature which we have bred unless we take the easy course and pass it on to someone else whose problem it then becomes. These remarks obviously do not apply to animals which are suffering from serious illness. The normal poultry or rabbit breeder thinks nothing of making a useful meal of his culls and no one thinks any the worse of him for doing so.

But when it comes to cats, the situation is quite different, for here we have a creature which possesses a real personality. No cat was ever quite like any other cat, and no matter how many cats you may possess, you will remember all of them as being distinct personalities. After all, you live with a cat and even its physical imperfection may add to its charm as a companion.

As we feel like that about our cats, it is inevitable that the vast majority of us

should find it impossible "to put a cat down" unless by doing so we felt that we were saving it from pain or had become convinced that for some reason or other this particular cat would be better dead than alive. Even then the decision is hard and is sometimes postponed beyond the limit of humanity.

Those who will put down cats because they are not useful for the improvement of a breed must have great courage, but, I am sure, not inhumanity. They will always remain in a very small minority, thank heaven, but the problem they have faced and for which they have found a solution still remains to be faced in other ways by other breeders.

Non-paying "Passengers"

Cats which are not helpful to their breed should not be used as breeding stock. Something should be done about them to see that they do not retard progress by producing poor quality progeny.

At the very least they should be neutered if males or allowed to roam and live normal lives with the ubiquitous stray tom if they are females one does not wish to spey. Economically they are a dead loss, but then we who keep cats for pleasure should expect to pay for the privilege.

I suppose in the last resort it comes to this. If you want to become a cat breeder you must carry your "passengers." If this is impossible, then keep just one cat as a pet.





Mrs. Vera Nelson, of Braintree, Massachusetts, is well-known throughout America as an authority and breeder of Siamese. Here she is at home with three of her English Doneraile imports Petita, Dimple and Drucilla.

MISS FITZ-GERALD of
18 Robert Adam Street,
Portman Square, London,
W.1., writes:—

"It happened quite by accident that one day a tin of Kit-zyme was left open on the floor. Mr. Smith came up to it, sniffed it and then quite naturally put his paw in. After a few boss shots he got a tablet out and now he ladles them out without dropping one and it is with great difficulty that we ration him to 10 tablets a day!"

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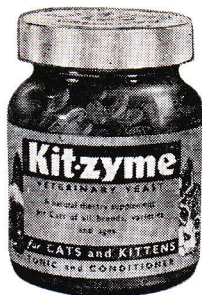
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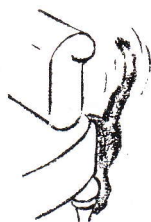


Ref. No. 98



Tailpieces

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



THE Calgary Cat Club has recently been formed in Alberta, Canada, an area where the Fancy is thinly and widely distributed. Cat people in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan are invited to contact the Secretary of the Club, Mrs. Corol MacMillan, 1112 Bellevue Avenue, Calgary, Alberta.

Police in Uxbridge, Middlesex, armed with sticks and garden forks, have searched for a 4ft.-long snake which is believed to have killed six cats in the district. Families in Harefield Road, where the snake was seen, were warned to keep children indoors as much as possible until it is caught.

Sir David Maxwell Fyfe was recently questioned in the House of Commons regarding the working of the Pet Animals Act 1951. When asked how many prosecutions have been instituted for any offences under the Act, Sir Maxwell revealed that there had been nine prosecutions in England and Wales in 1952 and 1953.

Quote from the official catalogue of the Fifth Annual Championship Show of the Siamese Cat Club of Australia held in Melbourne in May: "The Siamese Cat Club of Australia took its place among the Cat Clubs of the world when the story of the Club appeared, in company with similar histories of the clubs of America, England, France, Switzerland, Sweden, etc., in the International Number of the English Magazine, OUR CATS." Thanks for the compliment, Australia! And while on the subject of our Grand International Number which was published in October last, I know the Editor would like me

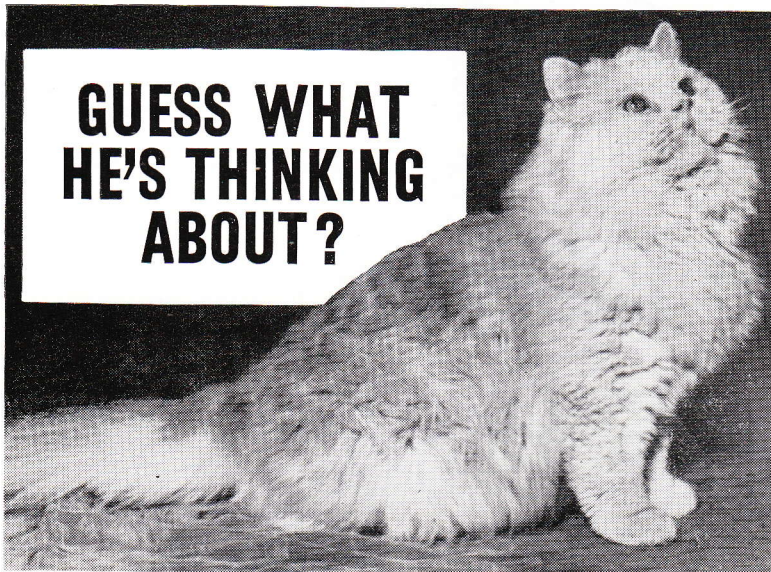
to say that copies of this unique 100-page issue are still available at 1s. 8d. per copy, post free.

Miss Kit Wilson was the English judge at an International Championship Show at Vichy, France, last month, organized by Mme Villchaise. Best in Show was an outstanding Chartreuse (British Blue) male exhibited by Mme Marolle, Int. Ch. Weekey de Trevis. English-bred cats who won well included Int. Ch. Chadhurst Suzette (shown by Mlle Moser, Italy), Pretty Polly of Dunesk (Mme Walther), Int. Ch. Wild Violet of Dunesk (Mme Letertre), Kim of Allington (Mme d'Aleizette), Gracefield Pantha (Mme Millet) and Gracefield Elf (Mme Destrem). The setting of the Show, the first to be held in Vichy, was the flower-decked Pavilion adjoining the Casino, a spot doubtless well-known to many of my readers.

Remember the story of the kitten who was found last year at the top of the Matterhorn? His rescuer, Major Henry Badoux, of the Montreux section of the Swiss Alpine Club, now reveals how it all happened. The kitten was just four months old when he was tucked into the rucksack of one of four mountaineers who set off to climb the mountain. But high on the Matterhorn the climbers fell over a steep precipice to their death. The rucksack was torn in the fall and from it emerged the unharmed kitten, who was found sixty hours later by Major Badoux. The kitten, now a fit and active cat, has been named Zmutti after the dangerous ridge 12,000ft. up where he was found.

MICKEY.

GUESS WHAT HE'S THINKING ABOUT?



I KNOW, because I asked him,' said Tibs Reporter Tibby. 'He said he was thinking of the lovely liver flavour of Tibs and wishing like anything that it was Tibs time.'

Tibby saw this beautiful Cream Persian when he went to Birmingham, to the cattery of Mrs. L. Dyer at 37, Oakfield Road, Selly Park.

Mrs. Dyer specialises in Persians, blues and creams. Her cats have taken champion honours at such meetings as the National Cat

Club, Midland Counties, and the Notts & Derby Cat Club.

Mrs. Dyer is quite definite that Tibs are an absolute necessity and have been a great help in maintaining the excellent condition of her Cream Persian stud cat, Ch. Tollerton Talisman.



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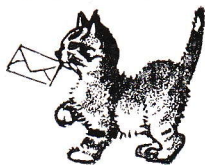
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KEEP CATS KITTENISH



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.



PICTURE FROM THE PAST

I am enclosing a photograph taken between 30-35 years ago in Kuala Lumpur of a Siamese queen and three kittens bred in Malaya. They belonged to a Mrs. Leringe.



Siamese of 30/35 years ago.

I thought perhaps it might be of interest to Siamese owners to see the type, etc., of the animals bred in the East years ago. To my mind, they are good.

Mr. Maurice MacMahon,
Weybridge, Surrey.

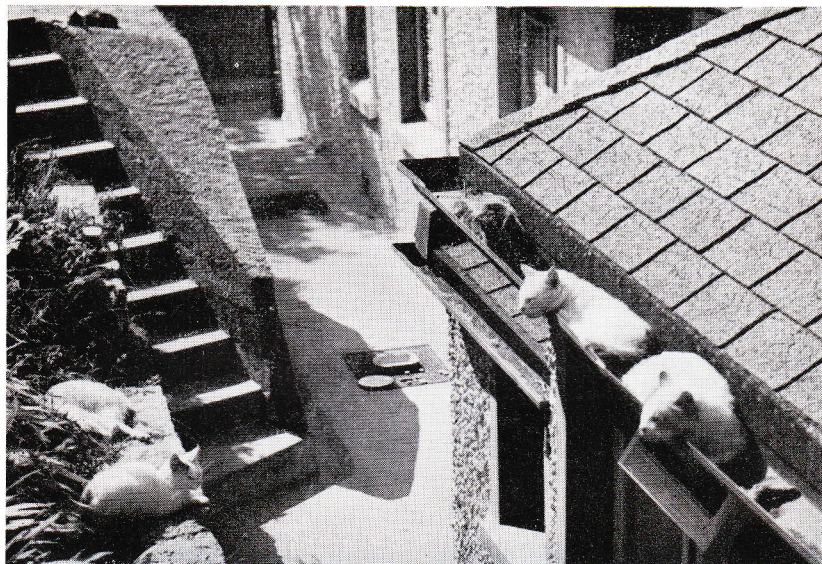
THOSE KINKS !

How ridiculous surely is the fuss and bother described recently in your col-

umns regarding the removal of kinks from the tails of Siamese kittens through the application of splints and passe partout. How very uncomfortable, undignified and altogether upsetting for the kitten thus forced to face the world and his relations with a tail encased in brightly coloured sticky paper ! And what a regrettable state of affairs is revealed when a breeder admits to seriously having considered destroying a perfectly healthy kitten merely because Mother Nature in her ignorance had the temerity to conceive a kitten whose points did not conform entirely with those currently in vogue with the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy.

It seems unfortunate to say the least that what was once considered a normal and desirable feature of the Siamese breed should now be sufficient reason for depriving the animal of its life and it is to be hoped that the opinion is not universally held among breeders. It should, I feel, be remembered that when the shouting about preserving the best features of the breed (though who are we to decide what is best ?), improving it by producing more variations on the genetic theme, etc., to die down, the average prospective owner of a Siamese cat is concerned more with temperament than with points and, from my own experience, a kinked tail and pronounced squint are still regarded by the unfashionable majority as being added attractions rather than fatal defects.

Mr. D. Raby,
Surbiton, Surrey.



Peter Heath.

CATS CONSOLIDATED

Peter Heath, our observant photographer, adds an interesting postscript to this unusual picture. "I took this at Bon Nuit Bay, Jersey," he explains, "and obviously the owner of the house is no ordinary cat lover as I counted at least 18 cats sprawled around the back roof, garden and windows, all making the most of the sun. I could not, however, achieve more than six in any one picture."

This is worth thinking about

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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.

Season's First Show

THE Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club Show on July 30th at the New Horticultural Hall, Westminster, attracted a wonderful entry of 382 exhibits. The Committee provided a generous classification and exhibitors responded by making 1,460 entries in 160 classes. The weather was just right for the exhibits, pleasantly cool and fine.

The neuters were a show in themselves and Arctic Show, a magnificent Chinchilla (sire and dam unknown) owned by Mrs. Trevor was Best Neuter in Show. Best Shorthair Neuter was Mrs. Ingram Clark and Mrs. Harrison's White Knight, a lovely Blue-eyed White by Black Boy and bred by Mrs. Harrison. Mrs. Clark was exhibiting for the first time but Mrs. Harrison was one of the first exhibitors I met in the cat world many years ago when as Miss Macintosh she was breeding lovely pale Blues, mostly from the late Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's pale males. Best Siamese Neuter was Mrs. Lapper's Seal Point Bradgate Batchelor, by Ch. Sabukia Sweet William.

Best Kitten in Show award went to Mrs. Brunton's Blue female April Violet of Dunesk by Ch. Baralan Boy Blue and Ch. Southway Josephine. The Best Chinchilla Kitten and Reserve Best Longhair Kitten was Mrs. Mollic Turney's male Bonavia Kute Kit Buttons, which it is interesting to note is the first kitten sired by the American import, the late Mrs. Earl Nack's Kutekit Silver Flyer. Miss Elliott's sweetly pretty Hathaway Rockabye by Makoia Tafete was voted the Best Blue-Cream kitten.

For the first time I remember at a London show Cream kittens with 26 exhibits exceeded the number of Blues with 21 exhibits and I was naturally delighted that the first kitten shown, Sunrise of Pensford, a Cream male by my Blue male Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous, was awarded seven firsts and the Tomlinson Cup for "the Best Longhair Cream kitten, copper eyes essential." There were over twenty Longhair kittens in some of his side classes and in Any Colour Longhair (except Blue) two to nine months male or female, 31 kittens (it was divided later into sexes), and the first prize winners were my Sunrise in males and Mrs. Mayne's Fanifold Zoe by Mr. Gordon Allt's Starkey Nugget in females.

Another lovely Cream female was Mrs. Nash's Hendras Candytuft by Ch. Twilight John; she excels in type and quality. Two Blues which caught my eye were Mrs. Denton's lovely pair of females Camber Blue Bell and Camber Betsy Bob by her own well-known stud

Anson Eros, himself a big winner as a kitten.

Congratulations to Mrs. Fletcher on her four Smoke exhibits, one male, three females. It was encouraging to see such a promising quartette in this rather rare variety in this country. In Tortoiseshell or Tortie-and-White in a class of ten Mrs. Moore was awarded first with Asplin Juliette by Lilac Lad of Dunesk.

The H. A. Burls Myositis Cup for Best Shorthair Kitten except Siamese was awarded to Mr. Butterfield's Manx Goldsbrough Marvel by Rheyneas Tiger.

I did not have time at the Show to ascertain some of the other major awards and as these notes are going to press immediately I am hoping for an opportunity to mention some of the other winners in the September issue.

The huge hall was well filled with the exhibits and it was good to have space to move about in the aisles. Words are inadequate to express our appreciation to Mrs. Chapman for all she did to make the fixture a success. She was making her début as a show manager. She had to cope with a wonderful entry of 382 exhibits and it was generally agreed that she rose to the occasion magnificently. Well done "Chappie" and "here's to the next time!"

American Imports

From Mrs. Mollie Turney of Holyport, Berks, comes news of her Chinchillas. She writes: "Kute Kit Silver Flyer, bred by the late Mrs. Nack in U.S.A., is now the proud sire of several kittens, Sarisbury Aphra has a male and female by him, the latter destined for Australia. Fifi, who will be flying to South Africa shortly, also has two lovely kittens by him, the male being exceptionally nice, very like his mother who, at nine months had already won 14 firsts and twice been Best Chinchilla Kitten in Show. Margot has five kittens by him, her first litter,

and Bonavia Flora (twice Best Kitten in Show last season), produced four little beauties. They are all fine strong kittens and making good progress. He was unfortunate with his first two litters as one queen lost her kittens because she had mastitis and Bonavia Feather lost hers prematurely at sea *en route* to Australia. She encountered very rough weather and was seasick."

"I expect you have heard I have another male now from U.S.A. Before Mrs. Nack died she often wrote saying she would like to send me another male and female, but I am afraid we both dreaded the quarantine period. However, after her death and all arrangements had been made for the male to be sent I applied for the usual licence and to my amazement this was refused as being a pedigree cat he could be used for commercial purposes. I re-applied stating this was a legacy and offering to guarantee no fees would be asked for his services or alternatively I would use him once on my own cat then neuter him but the Board of Trade were adamant."

"It so happened at this time our local M.P. was asking questions in Parliament regarding the official attitude towards the importation of animals sent from America as gifts. I at once put my case to him and he kindly took the matter up and eventually the necessary permit was granted. We then applied for a quarantine station at the premises of Mr. Bell, our veterinary surgeon in Maidenhead, who gave me every help and at last we got the official sanction for him to house the cat there. He has been there for over three months and I visit him as often as I like. He is fit and well under the careful attention of Mr. Riley, a noted cat lover. Even so, I am longing to bring the little fellow home. He is a complete outcross to Kute Kit Silver Flyer so I am fortunate."

I shall always be grateful to Mrs. Nack, and I am very sad when I think of her passing although we were only known to each other through correspondence. Her death must be a great

loss to the American Cat Fancy. Bonavia Flora's sister went to her and it was sad that her first appearance at an American Show should be marred by the sudden death of her owner. Bonavia Fiona now belongs to Miss Mervine, Mrs. Nack's lifelong friend, to whom I shall always be indebted for the endless care and trouble she took to make all the necessary arrangements for the newest importation Kute Kit Nick-Nack's safe arrival in this country. I have with her approval coupled Kutekit, Mrs. Nack's prefix to my own, so hoping to keep alive her memory in Chinchillas, a breed to which she was so devoted."

And More Chinchillas

Mrs. Polden, of Reigate, who has business responsibilities which have precluded her coming to many shows and attending meetings during the last two years writes a cheery letter. "The Poldenhills Chinchillas are still going strong," she says. "Last December Poldenhills Terrigal, 18 months old son of Champion Foxburrow Tilli Willi by my Poldenhills Mayflower, sailed to Sydney, Australia, to become the property of Miss Cawley, whom I believe you met when you were there last year. He was accompanied by his only child Poldenhills Rosa Regina. Father and daughter (pictured in OUR CATS, July issue) arrived to the flash of press photographers and interested representatives. Miss Cawley has written me most delightful letters and is very satisfied with them. Terrigal was too much out of coat to be shown at the Royal Easter Show, Sydney, but Poldenhills Rosy Regina was exhibited and under Mr. Pearce the eminent judge was awarded her first First at an Australian show."

"This spring Mikelmas Daisy was mated to Miss Langton's Ch. Laurel of Allington and is now the proud mamma of a family of three who are unfortunately too young to be shown at Kensington Kitten Show. Poldenhills Mayflower

was mated to Mr. Allt's Ch. Redwalls Jack Frost but sad to say the day before the kittens were due there was an alarming thunderstorm including one tremendous thunderclap. We believe the shock caused Mayflower to take three days delivering her three large and perfectly formed kittens, which were all dead. We were actually standing by for a Caesarian operation when the last one appeared. However, three months afterwards when she had quite recovered she was mated to Mrs. Turney's Kute Kit Silver Flyer and she is in kitten. If all goes well, the kittens should prove most valuable to breeders as an outcross for our own lovely Chinchillas because of the new strain from the American import pure Chinchilla bred for thirteen generations. Poldenhills Cameo Suzanne, now a sedate lady aged eight, lives quietly with Hyperion, the head man of the cattery. She usually has one or two kittens a year by him in the autumn; her kittens are always lovely and his most famous son was Poldenhills Pusso-lini, who at 4½ months was Best Exhibit Southern Counties Cat Club Ch. Show 1948. All being well I hope to do some showing this coming season and am still very keen although I have not attended many shows the last year or two."

I applaud Mrs. Polden's patience in giving her queen Mayflower every opportunity to have her kittens normally. How much more satisfactory it should be for her future as a breeder. I wonder if all the Caesarian operations one hears about nowadays are absolutely necessary?

Tortie Male Sires

Mr. A. C. Jude, whose articles on genetics in OUR CATS are so interesting and which have been so much missed in recent issues, tells me about a fertile Tortoiseshell-and-White male, mated to a Tortoiseshell female. He produced three kittens, one like mother, one similar only darker and one a black with a

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ginger tint. The owner (not Mr. Jude) describes the sire thus : "He has a large patch on the forehead and over one eye of ginger and white. He is white under his throat and tummy and has a necklace of gold and from then on to tail the coat is broken with gold on a base of black."

Mr. Jude hopes to obtain a photograph which will be duly published. He is busy writing a book on genetics and a paper with Dr. Searle for the *Journal of Genetics*, after which we may see his articles again in OUR CATS.

Big Blue Litters

There have been various ups and downs during the past breeding season but it is interesting to know how prolific some Blue queens can be. Miss Morris's Woburn Bluebell, mated to Mrs. Boulton's Denyston Denys has had three litters by him of 5, 6 and 8, the latter on July 22nd and six of them are very flourishing. This is an excellent number of survivors from such a big litter. During the many years I have been breeding I have only once seen a litter of eight Blues and they were by Mrs. King's prolific queen Candi Lady Jane. It was a wonderful sight to see four pairs of Blues feeding at four saucers. The next largest litter I have seen was Mrs. Brunton's seven by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous, all bonny and doing well. Chinchillas surely hold the record with Mrs. Turney's litter of nine (pictured in OUR CATS, December 1950), a remarkably lovely family for quality and quantity. Hand feeding had to be resorted to to rear this very big family.

Immunization

On the eve of the show season many breeders are considering having their kittens immunized so I wrote to Burroughs Wellcome seeking an answer

to two queries frequently put to me. Here are extracts from their reply. "With reference to your enquiries relating to Feline Infectious Enteritis Vaccine, the earliest age at which we recommend kittens to be immunized is six weeks. Generally they should not be injected younger than this as they are most likely to have some measure of protection from the mother during the first few weeks after birth. If some kittens are immunized it is quite impossible for them to infect other kittens which are not immunized and which live in the same house. . . . We do not issue a serum for the treatment of F.I.E. . . . The usual form of treatment employed by veterinary surgeons at the present time is with the antibiotic Chloramphenicol. Quite good results have been obtained, but the disease is so virulent that prevention by vaccination should always be the measure of choice. . . . The charge may vary slightly among veterinary surgeons and may depend also on whether one injection was given, or whether, and this is always preferable, the second injection was given in 10 to 14 days time."

Apologies are due to Miss Rodda. Her Chadhurst Sambo, son of Ch. Chadhurst Barry, was the sire of Champions Chadhurst Gwenda, Suzette and Samson, not Chadhurst Rhapsody as stated in my notes last month. The last-named was litter brother to Chadhurst Dusky, the dam of these three Champions.



An Account of My Stewardship

By IVOR RALEIGH

THE Kensington Kitten and Neuter Club's show held at the end of July heralded the start of yet another London show season. Great credit is due to the officers of the Club and above all to Mrs. Chapman, who not only established her reputation as an excellent Show Manager but did so with unharassed charm and efficiency. We are indeed fortunate to have people of her calibre to run our shows.

The end of July is a bad time for a cat show for so many would-be visitors leave London for the Bank Holiday and it is indeed a pity that suitable halls are so hard to come by that clubs have to accept gratefully whatever dates are offered to them.

For me the Show had a special significance for I was kindly invited to act as steward for Mr. Brian Stirling-Webb, a task which I greatly desired and yet viewed with increasing apprehension as the great day drew near. Many people think that a steward's job consists of portering the judge's table about and bringing out the exhibits for his inspection. Indeed, these tasks form part of a steward's job but by no means the most important part.

Sherlock Holmes (by courtesy of Conan Doyle) had in Dr. Watson a sort of steward whose function it was to be talked at. Holmes neither needed nor heard any of Watson's rejoinders and yet his presence created the sort of background against which the mind of the master shone with its greater brilliance. A steward, in short, must be unobtrusive but in a positive rather than a negative way. Above all, a steward must protect his judge from the heinous crime of cross-judging. If cat A is placed over cat B in one class the steward must see to it that the order is not reversed in another class in which both cats happen to compete again.

Show managers mark a judge's book in such a way that cats competing in more than one class are cross-referenced but not only is it possible for an over-worked show manager to make a mistake but in large classes it is also possible for a judge to overlook one or two bracketed numbers.

At this stage some readers may feel surprised that a competent judge is capable of reversing his placings. There is, I assure you, no need for surprise. Anyone with knowledge of a breed should be capable of picking out one or two outstanding cats, but what then? One is left with some twenty or more exhibits of which perhaps a half have glaring faults while the other half are more or less uniformly ordinary—neither particularly good nor yet particularly bad. It is in this latter category that there is a great danger of cross-judging.

How Wrong!

To anyone hoping to become a judge, stewarding is an absolutely essential preliminary. I have owned and bred Siamese for years and my secret opinion for some time has been that I could judge a class as well as anyone. Under Mr. Stirling-Webb's kind and patient guidance I soon discovered how wrong I had been in my high self esteem. The cats and kittens I liked had faults which were to me overshadowed by certain qualities which I particularly appreciated.

I now learnt for the first time to look at the whole of a cat instead of seeking some special characteristic of which I had formerly made a fetish. Furthermore, I was able to handle in one day a great number of different cats; far more probably, than the average breeder handles in the course of a year and I was

able to line up my own opinion of their quality against the standard set by an experienced judge—there and then.

There are of course judges who are strongly influenced by special qualities such as eye colour, colour of coat and so on. Most of the experienced exhibitors know the personal preferences of the judges and one often hears one breeder say to another: "This cat could win under Mrs. B. but would have no chance under Mrs. C.". At first, this may seem a very bad thing, but let us remember that no judge sticks absolutely to the scale of points. Judges are human and no human is capable of absolutely objective thought.

To my mind the really important thing to know is that a judge is consistent. A steward who has acted for several judges may be able to absorb their different points of preference, combine them, and perhaps ultimately become as good a judge as those who taught him—that is, if he has the other essential quality; the ability to "see" a cat. It is for this reason that the Siamese Cat Club acted so wisely in asking its judges to choose stewards from among Siamese breeders. Only thus can we be sure of maintaining the highest possible standard of judging.

My little Siamese queen Hymers Penelope, who is I regret to say a bit of a slut, has given birth to her second mongrel litter conceived under the very nose of my stud Pepe Lemoko who

watched her perfidious courtship from his run in impotent and frustrated rage. I mention this because of a circumstance which may be of interest to novice breeders. The first two kittens were born detached from the afterbirths which remained inside the mother. Three further kittens were subsequently born in the normal way.

There is as a rule no cause for alarm if the placenta fails to come out soon after the kitten. In nine cases out of ten the placenta will come forth in due course and will be eaten in the usual way. If the owner is uncertain, the queen should be carefully watched for a few days afterwards and if there is any loss of appetite, signs of pain or temperature a veterinary surgeon should be called in. A small dose of pituitrin will usually cause the expulsion of the reticent placenta.

Last week my wife and I spent a delightful couple of days with Major and Mrs. Benbow. From their Shropshire cattery have come many noteworthy Longhairs including the celebrated Bayhorne Decima. We brought back with us a beautiful male kitten sired by Baralan Boy Blue out of Bayhorne Sheena. He looks remarkably like Decima and we hope eventually that as a stud he will maintain the very high standard set by his late father whose tragic death was such a loss to the Fancy.

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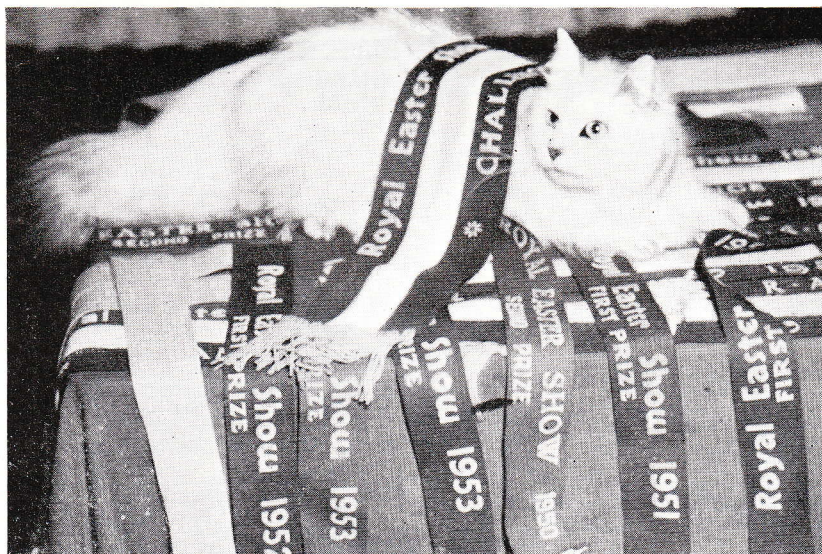
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By courtesy Australian Consolidated Press.

This is really a companion picture of our front cover this month. **CHAMPION MIOWERA TRINKET** is a bright Australian star who was made Best Persian Female at the Sydney Show in 1953 by visiting English judge Mrs. Joan Thompson. Bred by Miss M. Haswell, Trinket appears with some of the ribbons won by exhibits from her Miowera Cattery in New South Wales.

DIRECTORY OF SHORTHAIR BREEDERS

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Seal Point, Red Point and Tortie Point

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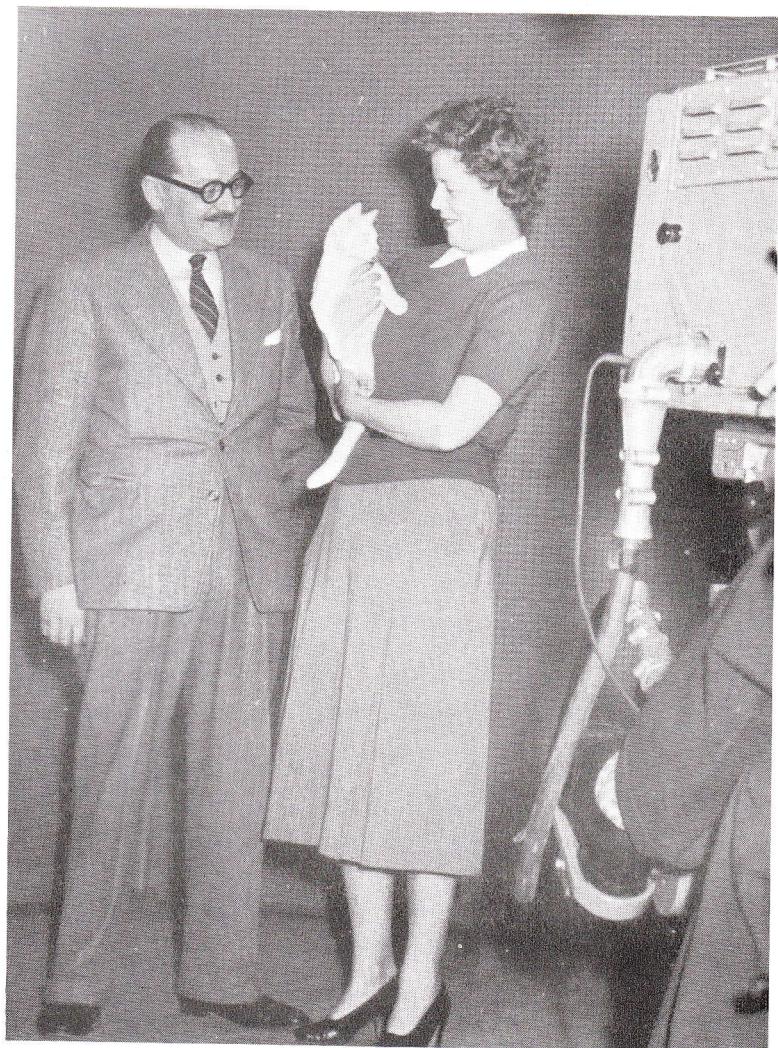
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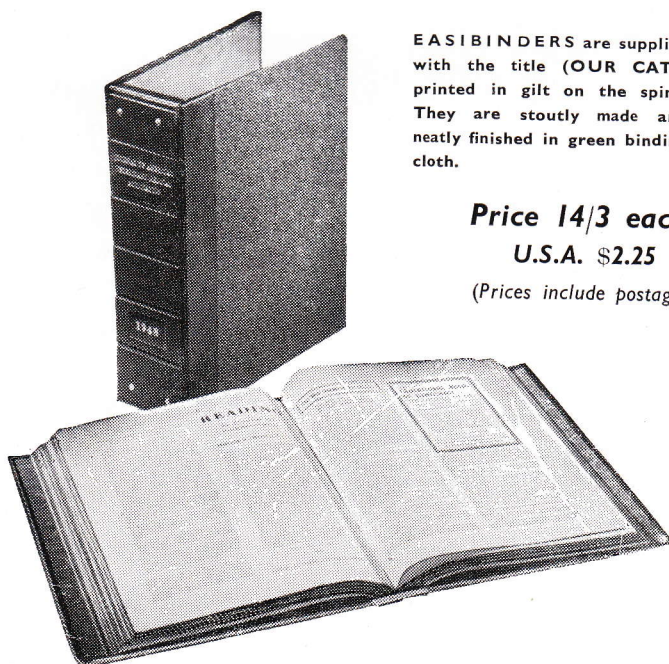
B.B.C. Photograph.

SNOWY, THE TV STAR

Snowy, the little white kitten who delights viewers in the television series "About the Home," is seen here with charming Joan Gilbert during rehearsal with Mr. (Kit-E-Kat) Martin. Snowy, who was selected from a litter during a television programme in December last, also appears as the star performer in a TV interlude film. He is fast becoming one of the best known kittens in the country.

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