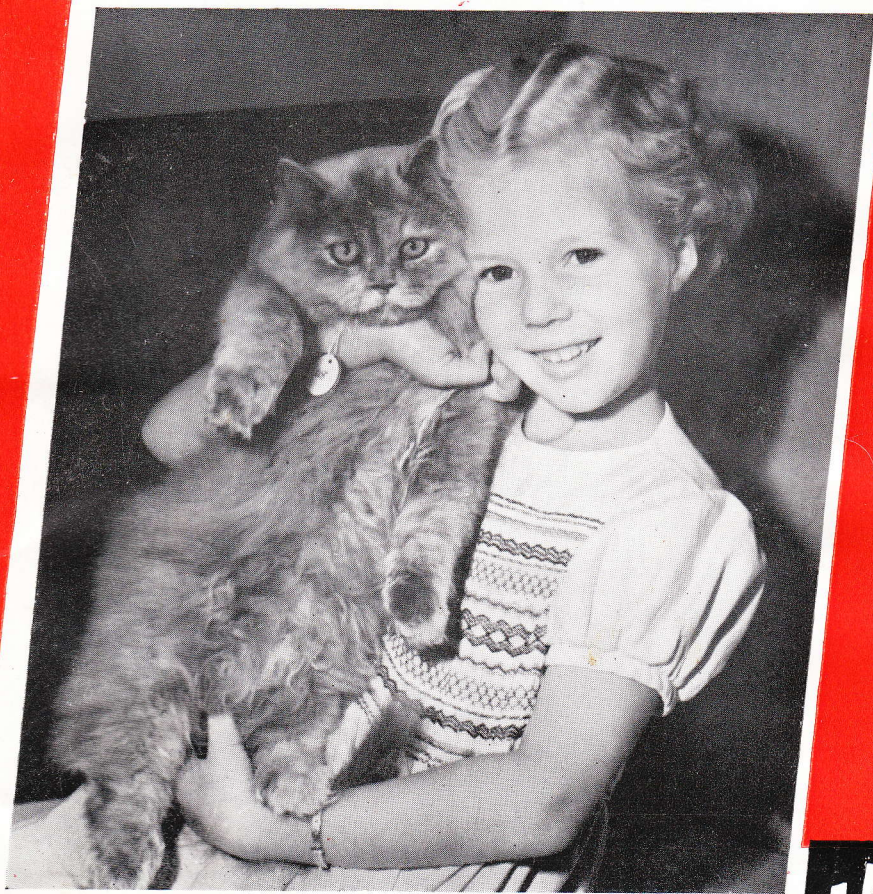


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Little Dierdre Brind with her treasured playmate—her mother's Blue-Cream kitten Moonrise of Pensford. Our picture (which was widely used by the national press) was taken by Keystone at the Herts and Middlesex Show, where Moonrise was voted Best Kitten of his variety. The Show is reported on page 19.

OCTOBER 1954

1/6

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- (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. 10

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Managing Editor :

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

American Associate Editor :

MRS. BILLIE BANCROFT

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



A GIFT FOR THE FIRST LADY OF FRANCE

Madame Coty, wife of the President of the French Republic, is seen here (left) after she had graciously received the gift of a Blue Longhair from the Cat Club de France. The presentation was made by Madame Ravel (right), Secretary of the Club, who is well known to English fanciers. The name of the lucky cat is Darling et Desmon de Martainville. The 3-day International Show of the Club has taken place this month in Paris under the patronage of President and Madame René Coty. Our photograph is reproduced by courtesy of the French journal "l'Aurore."

OLD PUSS DREAMS

Contributed by M. G. SCOTT

*I'M OLD, and so I sleep away my days
Dreaming of youth. So stiff and slow I am
I cannot leap and climb as once I used.
But, I have heard there is a far-off land,
Beyond the misty shining of the stars,
Reserved for souls of animals like me,
Where I can find my treasur'd youth again ;
Where I can be my independent self ;
And go my own sweet, independent way ;
Hunting all night in moonlight and in shade ;
Sleeping all day upon the sun-warmed stones,
Stretching and yawning as I twist and turn.
There is no winter in that far-off land ;
No gin-trap to ensnare the hunting cat ;
No dogs to chase, to worry and to yap ;
The rabbits there are tender to the tooth ;
The cows are milked especially for me.
There I can sing my heart out to the moon,
No boots or water will be thrown at me,
And, best of all, I can be wild and free.*



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Reproduction

Our popular contributor on genetics responds here to the many requests he has received—mostly from novice breeders—for more information about the various aspects of reproduction. This is the first article in a splendid new series prepared exclusively by Mr. Jude to help and encourage our readers all over the cat world.

AS a result of my article in the September issue of OUR CATS under the title of "The Fancy and the Fancier," there have been requests that I should write about some of the aspects of reproduction which concern all breeders of cats, especially those who are in the novitiate stage. The requests have mostly referred to only colour or form, but it is proposed to cover the matter as a whole. To make all the points to be dealt with clear, it will be necessary to go back right to the beginnings of the subject.

Between individuals of any one variety of a species, there are two kinds of differences. In the one case they are due to the germ plasm from which the individual arises. In the other case, the differences are due to the various conditions which surround the individual during its post-natal development. The former is known as an hereditary process, the latter as an environmental one. Both are operative in the wild, and in the sheltered conditions of the Fancy, but with some difference in the two sets of circumstances.

When the fancier selects partners for some particular mating he produces in the offspring some small variations. He continues to select from these variations, generation to generation, until he eventually produces an individual which is comparable with an imaginary picture described by the wording of some particular show standard. This objective is reached step by step, the result in each

generation having been acquired from the two parents. This is controlled heredity—a process by which, because of the known factors contained by the parents, one is able to anticipate the variations which will be exhibited or carried by the oncoming progeny. The fancier takes full advantage of the hereditary system to gain his particular end—a winning show specimen.

In the wild, animals which are genetically capable of reproducing, do so in the same way as those who are under the spell of controlled heredity. That is to say, the new generation resembles its parents, still with the small variations. But here the variations are selected for in a different way, a more positive way, and for a different purpose, for Nature's object is not to produce show specimens, but simply to see to it that the breed is preserved and kept capable of reproducing in a satisfactory way.

Survival of the Fittest

The animals whose variations are not up to high standard, go by the board as they are incapable through some defective part of their make-up to combat the adverse forces of their environment. As we all know, and *without being told*, Nature's ruthless selection is through the system of the survival of the fittest, which leaves only those individuals who are thoroughly vigorous, and thus reasonably capable of performing their reproductive activities in a most efficient and satisfactory manner.

We now begin to see the differences between the two sets of circumstances.

As the process of heredity is the same in the wild as under control, we are left only with differences of environment. On the one side, only vigorous reproductive individuals remain, thus building up through the system of heredity reliable breeds, whereas under control we witness numbers of individuals who are unreliable in their health qualities and reproductive capabilities.

In the shelter of the Fancy, one would expect some advantage for animal reproduction, and in fact, that is as it should be. But it does not seem to work out that way, judging by the reports of poor reproduction which come along from so many quarters, and with such remarkable regularity.

As it is the fancier himself who is responsible for most of the environmental conditions which surround his stock, we are right in asking where does he go wrong? The answer, without any question at all, is in the method of selection. Whereas in the wild, the less vigorous and less suitable members are eliminated, under control they are all too frequently retained, and quite often receive very special attention indeed in order to make them survive.

An Orderly Arrangement

So far, what has been written in this first article contains very little new, but I have purposely led up to the foregoing aspect quickly, because I feel so strongly that it is a matter of very real importance to the Fancy. Furthermore, I feel in fairness, that every fancier should be quite sure that the majority of the breeding troubles experienced are entirely due to the fanciers who select the material to be used in the process of heredity and not to the science itself as they sometimes suggest.

The science is an orderly arrangement. It reproduces what is put in, and what is put in which is unsuitable for reproduction is uneconomic in all its aspects. And what is more, it has been proved over and over again that wrong selection

can lead to pain and discomfort to the animals and to those which they may (?) produce.

We know that the two processes—heredity and environment—are operative in producing the variations in individuals. It is sometimes difficult for the fancier to decide about the separation of the effects of the two processes. Is some particular result produced entirely through heredity, is it merely as a result of environment, or is the effect from a combination of the two?

Just the Difference

Consider the case of two queens of like breeding mated to the same stud. On reproducing, one has a litter of good sized and vigorous kittens; the other a litter of individuals who are undersized and weakly. Why the difference? Is it a matter of heredity or is it a matter of environment? Because of the like breeding we can conclude that heredity was not the cause, for both litters had received the same potentialities. It was the environment which affected the expression. The mothers were the hosts and in that capacity one had failed to adequately nourish the new lives in their pre-natal growth.

A controversial question has been whether or not any peculiarities acquired by an individual during its life-time, due to environment, can be passed on to future generations by the process of heredity. By the theory propounded by Mendel, this is not possible, as the sex cells are held to be direct descendants of the sex cells of previous generations, and to be insulated from any adaptive changes which may take place in the rest of the body. The argument against this, put forward by the Russian scientist Lysenko, and the Russian horticulturist Michurin is that since the germ cells take part in the processes of chemical exchange which are characteristic of all living things, it cannot be true that they are never affected by changes in the rest of the body and in the environment;

that the germ cells are part of the body and not merely mechanically enclosed and protected by the "soma"; and that heredity is not a special function carried out by special organs, but is the property of an organism to require certain conditions for its development which is determined for it by its parentage, but may be modified by unusual conditions of development. In this case it may give to its offspring qualities not derived from its own ancestors.

As these articles are more particularly for beginners in the fancy breeding of cats, it is not proposed here to deal with these arguments. But in the next of the series we shall continue to discuss reproduction along the generally accepted lines.



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A page for the proletarian puss No. 19



L. W. Sanders

"I'm not stopping here to cry!"

Looking at Cat Clubs

By P. M. SODERBERG

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

ALTHOUGH it would be an exaggeration to say that "their name is legion," it is a fact that the number of cat clubs is considerable and that this number is still on the increase. Thus, it may be a profitable exercise to look at this subject objectively to see something of the attitude of club members and also that of the club committees.

As an animal lover for nearer fifty years than forty, I am at least capable of regarding clubs from a fairly wide angle, for over that period of time my animal interests have always been wide even if my attitude to clubs has been more negative than positive. However, I have joined clubs over the years and have held executive positions in them, but it is my intention here to confine my remarks solely to cat clubs, for it is only such clubs that fall within the scope of this magazine.

With regard to the formation of new clubs, opinion seems sharply divided between those who think that there are enough, if not actually too many, clubs at present, while the other side are equally certain that the more the clubs the greater the strength of the Fancy. When views are so different it is impossible for both sides to be right, and it is indeed difficult to find an attitude of mind which is capable of presenting an acceptable compromise.

My own view, for what it is worth, comes down heavily on the side of those who would like to see an extension of clubs so that they will become in the end almost local affairs. Of course, that would produce administrative compli-

cations for the central authority—the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy—but I should not feel any sympathy for them solely on that account. Should it be the desire of cat owners to form themselves into clubs, even if they were local clubs, it would be the responsibility of the central authority to see that they were drawn together into one national framework.

What part men would be likely to play in such a scheme I would not know, nor should I care very much, for if local clubs concerned with cat welfare were run entirely by women, the cat population of the country would have a better time than it has at present.

More Clubs the Better

As I see it at the moment, the clubs are almost solely concerned with pedigree cats. It is this fact alone that provides any real justification for those who think that there should be no more clubs. The only useful gesture to the real cat population of the country are a few classes for household pets which are run by all considerate show managers, and the majority certainly deserve the epithet.

Speaking quite personally, as I have done before on this subject, I feel that the cat as an animal is treated with much less consideration than it deserves. The millions of people who own a cat do the best they can, but many of them are woefully ignorant while the people who run the clubs are very largely pedigree cat owners who do know a lot about cats and yet do little to pass on their knowledge. Oh, yes, the cap fits all right and I will wear it.

Feeling as I do, it must be my considered opinion that the more numerous the cat clubs up and down the country the better it will be for cats in general. The turned up nose of the aristocratic Blue Longhair is a physical characteristic only, and is no indication of his attitude towards others of his own race but of lower degree.

Even those clubs which have been in existence for the best part of half a century, or even more, might well do something to gain the interest of the owners of ordinary cats. There are ways and means and those who run these clubs have just as much imagination as I have.

When Interest Flags

Although it is nearly thirty years since I owned my first pedigree cat, it is only ten years since I joined my first club. That was a mistake on my part and one into which I fell largely through ignorance. I thought that the only real reason for joining a club was that the new member should want to show cats and that the joining of a club was the highroad to success.

Now there is something in that, for there are many who join clubs just before the annual show comes round because by being a member there are lower entrance fees and also opportunities for winning more prizes in the form of club specials. In fact, it is easily possible to save the club entrance fee and the year's subscription if one intends to show cats in a number of classes.

It would be interesting to know what is the annual wastage of club members—those who join before the show and are never heard of again because the gamble did not come off. When members are lost in this way, I always consider it a pity, for I feel that it is most important that a club should have more to offer than the single attraction of an annual show.

I have never shown a cat at any time nor is it my intention to do so, yet the clubs with which I am or have been closely connected have given me an opportunity of service and congenial companionship which has made my membership worthwhile. Perhaps it is the meeting together of people with like interests with the opportunities for an exchange of ideas which is and should be the greatest pull of any club. The greater the opportunities for getting together and working for a common cause, which is the better understanding of all cats, the better the club is doing its work.

Different Outlooks

One should not form the impression that club meetings are always easy for those who organize them or those who try to run them when they are organized, for club members are in outlook as different as the cats they own. There are those who want to be in the limelight, those who have a chip on their shoulder and want to reorganize the club and the cat world generally in the space of an hour. Such may be trying, but they do add life to the proceedings. There are others who just come and sit and are too diffident to take any part in the proceedings. They are equally trying although in a different way.

Yet when all is over and the members have got back to their homes, the majority feel that the effort to attend the meeting was worthwhile.

So may there be more clubs, more active participation in club affairs by members, and above all may every attempt be made to see that the up and coming fanciers get a "look in" while they have the adventurous spirit of youth still within them.

I dare say that, for had I a beard it would be decidedly grey, I'm certain.

Alimentary Derangements

By M.R.C.V.S.

A VERY little deviation from normal health is sufficient to throw a cat off its food ; and in this respect, anyone who is treating or keeping a cat under observation (for diagnostic purposes) in a strange place should not permit himself to be misled by a cat which persistently refuses to eat—even for 2 or 3 days.

Cats in perfectly normal health will frequently sulk and refuse food for as long a period as this when confined in strange surroundings. This has been proved on many occasions, and immediately upon restoration to their own homes, they become ravenously hungry.

Loss of Appetite

Loss of appetite, as a symptom of disease, has very many sources of origin, the first and foremost, perhaps, being a state of fever, not necessarily connected with the alimentary tract. The temporary toxæmia following constipation is a fruitful cause as also are indigestion, chills, painful injuries and abscesses, and the several specific diseases.

Inappetance is not characteristic of any particular malady, though one should be sure that what is an apparent revulsion for food is not, in fact, an inability to eat on account of some mechanical obstruction such as tartared or loose teeth ; or some painful condition of the pharynx, oesophagus, tongue, gums, or mouth, generally. Thus a careful examination of the teeth and mouth is essential in ascertaining the

cause of loss of appetite, and it is astonishing how many people fail to carry this out.

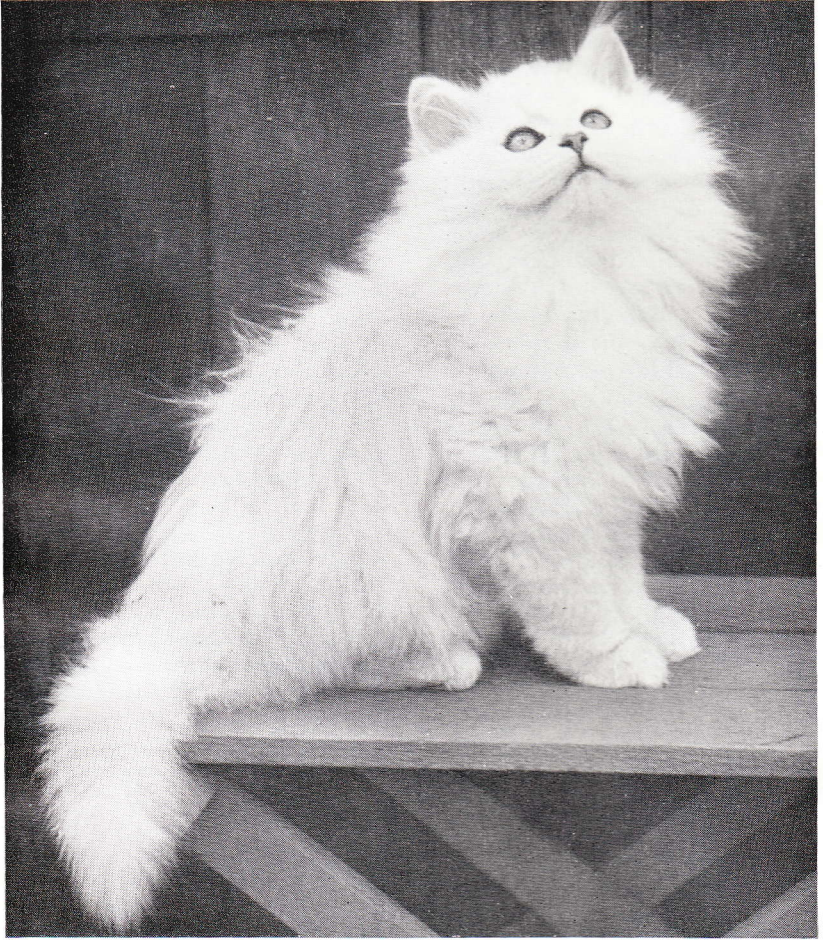
Cats with obstructed urethra and a very distended bladder, usually fail to feed, and it is a condition which most laymen fail to diagnose. If the temperature (as taken at the rectum) has exceeded 102° F. and the cat is not feeding, no time should be lost in ascertaining the cause which of course may be serious ; nor should several days be lost in the belief that "condition powders" or the like, are likely to rectify matters.

Depraved Appetite

Cats are not nearly so prone to eat filth or foreign bodies as are dogs, but exercise a meticulous care in the selection of their food as a rule. They are, however, like the dog, subject to a depraved appetite when affected with rabies or even (sometimes) with indigestion. But it arises mostly in consequence of some mineral deficiency, which will be overcome by adding to the food a powder containing trace elements such as iodine, copper, iron, magnesium, calcium, and many others.

That cats will voluntarily eat grass, cucumber peel, carrot, potato, lettuce and other green stuff, should not necessarily be regarded as depraved appetite. Such material is certainly abnormal as foodstuff, and the cat takes grass apparently for the same reason as does the dog—namely, to act as an aperient, emetic, or mechanical evacuant of worms.

Increased thirst, whilst almost invariably associated with gastritis (acute or



F. W. Simms

The Chinchilla breed continues to grow in popularity and here is a youthful representative destined to take an active part in improving the standard of future generations. He is **BONAVIA KUTEKIT BUTTONS** bred by Mrs. Mollie Turney, of Holyport, Berks, from the American import Kutekit Silver Flyer and Bonavia Fifi. Buttons began his career in great style by taking the award for Best Chinchilla Kitten and Reserve Best Longhair Kitten at this year's Kensington Show.

sub-acute) or chronic intestinal catarrh, may nevertheless depend for its origin upon more or less fever arising from some abnormality of quite a different group of organs than those associated with digestion. It may be produced by diabetes, diarrhoea, dropsy, chronic kidney disease, and some other conditions and is therefore not definitely diagnostic of alimentary derangement. Morbid thirst would be rendered more diagnostic of gastritis or enteritis if immediately after the water was swallowed, it was ejected.

Diarrhoea

The phenomena associated with defaecation are more certain indications of alimentary derangement than any of the foregoing, and to arrive at a correct conclusion as to the nature of the ailment information concerning the action of the bowels is most important.

Diarrhoea generally indicates an irritability of the enteric mucous membrane, set up either by chills, parasitic infestation, the presence of irritant poison or undigested food, or specific bacteria, particularly those which are secondary to the putrid type of feline distemper or to infectious enteritis; and the tubercle bacillus. It can arise from kidney disease; and in senile cats with incipient heart disease.

In cases of localized inflammation or involution of the bowel, stone or other foreign body in the bowel, and some other conditions, there may be haemorrhages into the lumen of the intestine which would be manifested by the black (or even red) colour of the faeces. Such black colour, however, is again not wholly diagnostic of the presence of blood since some chemical substances, such as iron salts, calomel or bismuth, will produce a similar change. Speaking of colour, we are further aided in diagnosis where the stools are white, denoting a diminution of bile pigment; or where they are yellow, indicating an excess of it.

When the diarrhoea has existed some time and is more or less continuous, the evacuations are reduced to a frothy mass of thin mucus. The cat will be debilitated, miserable, and lose weight, and the owner will generally find it extremely difficult to cure an obstinate case. It is nearly always a job for the veterinary surgeon.

Something may be learned from a minute (or even microscopic) examination of the composition of the faeces, as to the cause of the disease. Blood, bone splinters, parasites or their eggs, undigested fragments of food, etc., when detected, will help considerably to elucidate the origin of the malady.

The stools are frequently most offensive, and for a variety of reasons, such as the presence of free bile or of undigested fat, or blood, in the intestines; and various micro-organisms which are secondary to the putrid type of feline distemper, etc., are gas-producing and cause foul odours.

Constipation

Cats naturally evacuate twice or perhaps thrice daily, though, being very shy in this respect, they carefully conceal all traces when possible. Constipation is not uncommon, particularly in those which are very aged or which are deprived of a requisite amount of exercise or fed on unsuitable starchy foods. It often accompanies fever, and is sometimes an early symptom of a more serious condition to follow. It also may arise from weakened nervous impulses to the muscles of the colon and rectum, causing cessation of peristalsis (i.e. the intestinal contractions which drive the ingesta outwards). Other causes are deficiency of drinking water, or the loss of body fluids through other channels—such as in dropsy or pleurisy, etc.

Animals are sometimes dosed for constipation because nothing has been

passed for several days, when in fact the animal may have partaken of no food for a like or longer period, and has, in reality, nothing to pass. The state of emptiness or otherwise of the cat's intestines can be quite easily ascertained by manipulation, and such a mistake should not occur.

Constipation is usually easily overcome by giving a grain of "grey powder," followed for 2 or 3 days by a daily teaspoonful of liquid paraffin. The latter

is easily administered by adding it to a broken-up sardine in a saucer.

Many people think that olive oil is as good as paraffin for combating constipation; but actually the former is a food and is digested, whilst the latter lubricates the bowel lining and passes out as it went in. Large doses of paraffin, or even small ones continued for a long period are deleterious to health for a number of reasons, and should be avoided.

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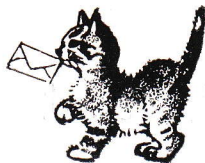
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Correspondence Corner

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.



ABOUT THE NEW HAVANA

With reference to Edith Ullmann's article in the August issue of OUR CATS, I was rather surprised to find that she and three other ladies had gone to so much trouble to introduce a new breed of cat, the Havana, when, to me, and, I am sure, a great number of other readers, the result appears to resemble a poor type Burmese.

I have not seen the Havana cat in the flesh, so may be doing it an injustice, but from the photograph, they seem to have the colouring of the Burmese cats without the fine bones and oriental eyes, which make the Eastern types of cat so attractive and so different from the European breeds.

Mrs. Alma C. Murray,
Cramlington, Northumberland.

Will someone please produce a photograph and detailed description of a Burmese cat? The few photographs, etc., that I have seen have led me to believe that a Burmese was more or less identical with the new breed—the Havana. Am I wrong in my supposition?

Miss J. M. Emens,
Bath, Somerset.

Editor's Note : In view of the foregoing we thought it best and fairest to invite Miss Ullmann, who has been most active in sponsoring the new Havana breed, to answer our correspondents. Her reply is given below. With regard to Miss Emens's appeal, we reproduced an excellent photo-

graph of two Burmese in our May, 1953, issue and in the following issue we published a short article on the breed by Mrs. Blanche Warren, the well-known American fancier.

Miss Ullmann replies : "The only similarity between Havanas and Burmese is type. Both breeds are "foreign" type, i.e., their bone formation resembles that of the Siamese, Abyssinians and Russian Blues.

"The colouring of the two breeds is, however, entirely different. Burmese are, according to their standard of points, 'a dark sable brown.' Kittens are born pale *café au lait* and their coats darken with maturity. Havanas are a rich chestnut brown and kittens are born only slightly lighter than their adult coat will be, frequently with tabby ghost markings which disappear when the kitten coat is moulted out. Burmese should have topaz (yellow) eyes; Havana breeders are striving to establish a grass green eye colour.

"The best description of a Havana which comes to my mind is 'a chestnut brown Russian Blue,' which sounds crazy but seems to hit the nail on the head."

A CORRECTION

In your issue of July last, a statement appears on page 5 to the effect that "Dr. and Mrs. Stewart with their friends who founded this Club are to be congratulated on its growth and achievement in so short a time." This was brought to the notice of a General Committee meeting of the Society on the 30th August.

We have been requested by our Committee to advise you that this statement

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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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is not strictly accurate as our Society had been founded and established before Dr. and Mrs. Stewart joined as members. In fairness to the original founders who are still active and prominent members of the Society, we would be glad if you would be so good as to correct the statement in your next issue.

Hilda A. Johnston

(for Hon. Joint Secretaries),

Siamese Cat Society of South Africa,

Bryanston, Johannesburg.

BACK TO KINKS AND SQUINTS

Mr. D. Raby (your August issue) disapproves of our trying to straighten kinks by artificial means, or to endeavour to breed them out, and considers me a very heartless breeder. So in case other breeders feel likewise, may I say that I love all Siamese, round-headed, cobby-bodied, kinks, squints, and had I the space, the time and the money, I would keep all unfortunate ones who found themselves unloved and unwanted because they were not so beautiful, for usually they are given some perfection of character as if nature were trying to compensate for giving them a physical defect.

I cannot agree that the "unfashionable majority" share this view. The majority of prospective buyers do not want kinks and *definitely* not squints. So knowing this trend, is it surprising one should contemplate "putting down" a kitten with a double kink rather than submit it to the fate of being unwanted? I do not like the thought of "putting down" a kitten but feel it is not cruel if done within a few hours of birth. And as my queens are also pets, I can only keep the number of cats to whom I can give daily and individual attention.

Kinks and squints, according to Dr. Sheppard, are congenital deformities that are being scientifically investigated more extensively at this moment, so we shall be getting some interesting reading on this subject later.

I wonder if Mr. Raby has ever stopped to consider the results if two Siamese

were mated, each with kinks and squints? Would he really care to see the progeny on the show bench? A breeder must have a set standard of points to follow and endeavour to breed the best he possibly can and I am sure it is with great thought and consideration that the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy finally choose and approve the standard of points. We are, however, all free to admire any variation of this standard and most breeders and judges vary slightly in their opinion of the perfect specimen. There will always be many types of Siamese from which to choose a pet and I am very pleased to know that opinions differ as it would be a sad state of affairs for the poor little kittens if everyone's opinion was the same.

Mrs. Joan Rudd,

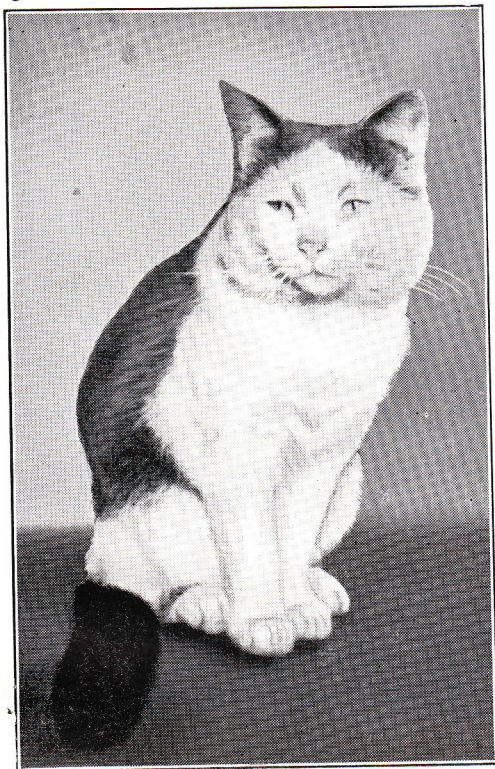
Thornbury, Nr. Bristol.

CATS OF ITALY

I have just returned from Italy where I spent about six weeks in Rome and in Florence. I had intended to write one or two articles on cats in Italy when I saw in your July issue Mrs. Fisher's short remarks on the condition of the cats in Rome. While what she says in substance is perfectly true I think it a great pity that she kept her observations at a superficial level since there is much more to the subject than that.

1.—There are a great many philofelines in Rome at any rate and while they may not measure up to our standards it is only because knowledge of how to care for cats is not sufficiently disseminated, and that because books and pamphlets are exorbitant in price—newspapers on the contrary are abundant and cheap.

It is a common sight to see decently dressed men and women buying fresh meat at the butchers—in a land where meat is extremely expensive—and taking it in the paper to lay before one or more cats. The cats in the older part of Rome



MICKIE

MRS. B. CORFIELD
of 9a St. Chads Terrace,
Red Street, Newcastle,
Staffs, writes :—

“ Shortly before this photograph was taken, Mickey, my 6 year old cat, had been very ill with distemper, diphtheric throat and ulceration of both eyes. He was unable to go out of doors for two months; for several days he did not eat at all, then for a week or two he had only bits of butter. Thanks to a slow burning day-and-night fire we managed to keep him warm. All this time I was acting under the advice of a local animal clinic.

While Mickie was recovering, I was advised that Kit-zyme would help to build him up and overcome the listlessness which followed the illness. The result is seen in the photograph and now Kit-zyme forms a part of his regular diet.”

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where I was staying—the Pantheon quarter—each have their own territory or beat and for many it is the steps of a church. These cats are thin, many have mange or ringworm and nearly all have lice and fleas, but they are by no means unhappy or completely neglected.

I have never seen any deliberate cruelty of any sort towards a cat—and I was on the lookout for this—but the contrary. Always the odd pat or stroke for the odd cat (something I never did myself because of their condition) very often the restaurant and shopkeepers producing a scrap of something and in some cases one or two cats coming regularly to private people outside their flats on the stone staircases and being fed twice a day.

2.—There is a very efficient organization in Rome roughly the equivalent of our R.S.P.C.A. to whom frequent appeals are made for the rescue of cats—whether they are trapped, maimed or sick. For the moment this society can do little more than destroy the poor unwanted beasts, but at least this is a step in the right direction. If any genuine philofeline from abroad wanted to do something of value for Italian cats a subscription or donation to this society would do far more good than anything else.

The same society—but probably under purely local direction—exists in Florence where stray cats are fewer, handsome pet cats with collars round their necks more frequent, and where I saw a veterinary surgery much like our own. Florence is both a smaller and richer town than Rome which might account for better animal amenities.

3.—It is a useful thing for English visitors to remember that abroad the status of domestic animals is a pretty fair indication of the economic conditions of the country. The worse they are, the less to spare for the cats. Considering the very great poverty in the large Italian cities which goes hand in hand with unemployment, the Italians are making a valiant effort to care in some measure for their domestic animals. Children take

priority because until recently infant and child mortality has been so high and families are so large ; nevertheless as I said before, those who can, do spare time, thought and money for the cats.

I met several Italians who were devoted to cats and at a drop of the hat would recount their pets' virtues, cleverness, etc. Most of them asked me how to treat this or that ailment, all were prepared to spend relatively large sums of money for medicaments, etc. The great problem in summer is fleas and lice and I am now writing to the big English chemists in Rome and Florence to ask them not to stock any more D.D.T. for this purpose in their animal medicine section but to substitute Gammaxene or derivatives.

Finally I saw in Rome several large posters (which are not cheap to print or stick up) advertising the loss of a black cat with the pathetic postscript : "The owner is seriously ill as a result of the loss."

Mrs. Cecil C. Baines,
Elham, Nr. Canterbury.

Referring to the July issue of *OUR CATS* and Mrs. Fisher's comments on the cats in Rome, I wonder if she has read "Rome and a Villa" by Eleanor Clark, published by Michael Joseph ? In the chapter "Roman Journal 1" the stray cats are dealt with at some length. (For your perusal I attach a copy of some extracts I have made from that chapter.)

When my husband and I were in Rome last year, armed with this book, we sought out the various colonies of cats, and found them just as reported.

The authoress says that perhaps the largest colony of strays in Western civilization is to be found in the Piazza Vittorio Emanuele, and we made two visits there. On one occasion, we were in time to see the official Government feeders—two women.

We noticed that although parents seem to have brought their small children

to see them, they made no attempt to stroke them, and seemed amazed that we should try to make the cats acquaintance. I do not think that the cats in and around Rome, were in any worse condition than others we saw elsewhere on the Continent. Sometimes when we were talking to a cat, we would find ourselves observed from an upper window by its owner, who was obviously pleased we had stopped to admire. But perhaps we found the exceptions ?

Mrs. E. A. Glenny,
Hanworth, Middlesex.

TRIBUTE TO A SIAMESE CAT

Having recently lost our beloved Siamese cat after many years of happy friendship, the following poem will surely strike a chord in the hearts of all your readers who also have lost a devoted companion. The words (doubtless known already to many of your readers) are

Michael Joseph's tribute to Charles, one of his Siamese cats :

" I shall walk in the sun alone
Whose golden light you loved ;
I shall sleep alone
And, stirring, touch an empty place;
I shall write uninterrupted
(Would that your gentle paw
Could stay my moving pen just once
again !)
I shall see beauty
But none to match your living grace;
I shall hear music
But not so sweet as the droning song
With which you loved me.
I shall fill my days
But I shall not, cannot forget ;
Sleep soft, dear friend,
For while I live, you shall not die."

Helen Jones,
Acocks Green, Birmingham.

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

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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.

Herts & Middlesex

BRILLIANT weather greeted the Herts and Middlesex Championship Show on September 7th at the Royal Horticultural Hall, London. The Show Manager, Mr. Dunks, organizing his third show on behalf of the Club and his first in London, must have been well pleased with the result of his efforts, especially when he saw the hall thronged with spectators. It was a record attendance for an H. and M. Ch. Show.

Mrs. Dunks, officiating as Assistant Show Manager, gave invaluable help and was as keen as her husband on making it a success. Congratulations to the Committee on their decision to bring the show to London. It served to prove what observers already knew; that shows held out in the suburbs, even as near as Shepherds Bush, have nothing like the pulling power of those held in central London.

Over 350 exhibits made their bow and many lovely adults which were so successful as kittens last season were awarded their first Challenge certificates, notably Miss Langston's Chinchilla male Fidelio

of Allington, Mrs. Udall's Blue female Bayhorne Decima, Mrs. Jopson's Blue male Thiepvall Pedro, Mrs. Barron's Cream male, Apollo, Mrs. Fawell's Red Tabby Barwell Pedro.

Prominent winners were: Best Longhair Cat Fidelio of Allington; Best Longhair Kitten Mrs. Dyer's Smoke Slapton Mischief; Best Shorthair Cat other than Siamese Miss Lee-Meade's Russian Blue Dunloe Blue Cap; Best Shorthair Kitten Mrs. Tancock's Abyssinian male Heatherpine Nimrod; Best Siamese Cat Mrs. Hargreave's Blue Point female Laurentide Corona; Best Siamese Kitten Miss Ann Codrington's Seal Point male Watermill Yoreador. There was a tie between Fidelio of Allington and Laurentide Corona for Best Exhibit in Show. The referee judge, Mr. J. Martin, was called in and he decided they were equal in quality so Fidelio was Best Longhair Exhibit and Corona Best Shorthair Exhibit.

Dr. Ivor Raleigh's Blue male kitten Bayhorne Adam was an exceptionally good kitten and Miss Yorke's nomination for Best Longhair Kitten. My Cream male kitten Sunrise of Pensford (nominated by Mrs. Spiers and Miss Sheppard) repeated his Kensington Kitten Show success and was Best Cream Kitten. His Blue-Cream litter sister Moonrise of Pensford owned by Mrs. Brind (who was exhibiting for the first time) was Best Blue Cream. This novice exhibitor had a thrilling day as she had the pleasure of seeing the photograph of her pretty little daughter with Moonrise in three London evening papers. A great thrill for a young mother. [This photograph is on our front cover this month.—EDITOR].

Congratulations to Miss Jury on attaining a full Championship with her Brown Tabby female Purring Hazel ; also to Mrs. Keene of the Killdown prefix who bred the 1st and Champion Seal Point female Killdown Joy in a class of 14 females and Mrs. Dawes' Killdown Timothy, the winner of the Premier Certificate in a class of thirteen neuters. The 1st prize winner in Seal Point males, Miss Wells's Killdown Sultan bears her prefix but was bred by Mrs. Hewitt.

Mrs. Trevor's Chinchilla Arctic Snow was Best Longhair Neuter and Mrs. Harrison's and Miss Ingham Clark's White Knight, a White Shorthair, was voted Best Neuter in Show.

An unusual feature of this show was that all Novice, Special Limit and Maiden classes were for all varieties of Longhairs. Consequently they were almost monopolized by Blues, who were awarded a very high percentage of the first three places. It is the first London Ch. Show I remember without at least a Blue Novice Kitten class and twenty-three Longhair kittens of all varieties and both sexes competed in "Any colour novice male or female."

In my opinion, entries are lost if the classification is too cautious. Exhibitors are sometimes diffident about entering cats and kittens of the less popular and less perfect varieties when they have to compete against Blues. In adults, a Blue novice class was provided which attracted nine entries and the Any Colour Novice (except Blue) ten entries. However, deficiencies in the classification were minor points in comparison to the overall success of the Show and let us hope that now Herts and Middlesex has "gone to Town" its financial success will enable it to stage its shows there in future.

Winners at Taunton

News of the South Western Counties Cat Club Ch. Show arrived as my diary goes to press. As I did not attend it my

notes are brief. I tripped up to Paddington to meet the returning exhibitors who had been travelling the previous night. They looked remarkably cheery and fresh and very appreciative of the kindly efficiency of Miss Cathcart, the Show Manager.

I must mention a delightfully thoughtful gesture inspired by her or Captain Lowe. When they realized the Londoners would arrive at 4 a.m. they approached the station master at Taunton, who kindly arranged for the waiting room to be opened and a fire lit. The travellers arrived to find light and warmth awaiting them and it was a great comfort as they ate refreshments and had hot drinks while they waited for the hall to open.

Exhibits numbered 192. Best Exhibit was the Misses Maclaren and Stennard's Silver Tabby Shorthair Sadie of Silverleigh. Other awards were : Best Longhair exhibit, Miss Langston's Fidelio of Allington ; Best Kitten, Mrs. Dyer's Smoke Slapton Mischief ; Best Shorthair Kitten, Miss Wiseman's Contented Tina, an Abyssinian ; Best Neuter, Miss Milburn's Brown Tabby Trelystan Peridot ; Best Shorthair Neuter, Brigadier Rossiter's Silver Tabby, Silver Carnelian.

Exports to South Africa

Two welcome visitors from overseas were Major and Mrs. Maunsell of the Natal Cat Club. They were returning to South Africa on September 30th and I hope they take back with them happy memories of our cats and the two shows they were able to attend.

On August 31st Mrs. Nash's Cream female kitten, Hendras Candytuft (by Ch. Twilight John), best Cream female kitten at the Kensington Kitten Show, flew to Durban with Patricia of Pensford, a Blue female by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous. They are now owned by Mrs. Hanlon, of Pinetown, Natal, and have had the prefix Deo Gratias added to their names. Mrs. Hanlon writes : "The B.O.A.C. plane was very late at

Johannesburg. Instead of arriving at 7.30 p.m. on September 1st, it came in at 1.30 p.m. on the 2nd, so the kittens missed the South African Airways plane to Durban and we were very worried as we did not know cause of delay. Mr. Speight, my husband and self, were all at the airport to meet the early plane. As the officials could not enlighten us we 'phoned Johannesburg and were told the B.O.A.C. plane was on the way and when we 'phoned again later we were very relieved to find the kittens were safe and would be put on the 5.30 plane to Durban. So we again motored 25 miles to the airport and were delighted to receive them at 8 o'clock."

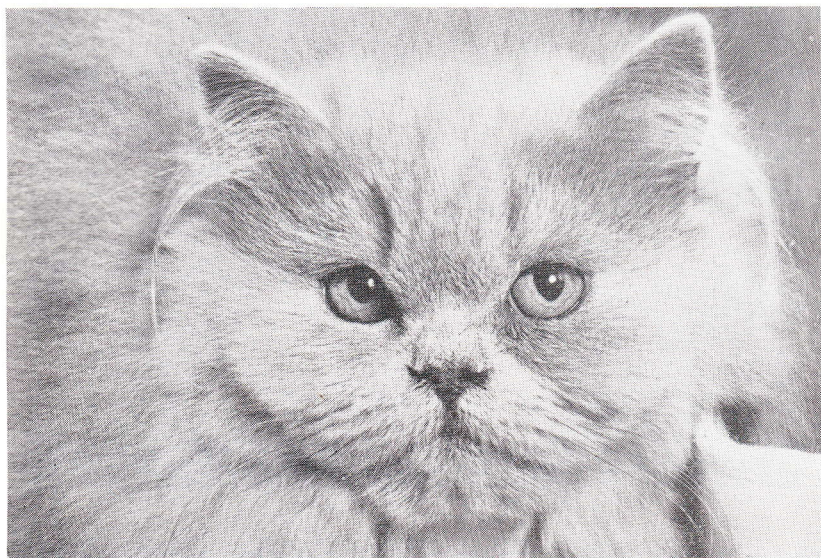
"They were tired but none the worse for their three long days in their crates and soon settled down nicely. They are the loveliest kittens I have ever seen and you can imagine my delight when Patty (Patricia) won two firsts, one second and a cup for best Longhaired kitten in show. Dear little Candy won three seconds, two of these awards to each kitten were in

classes with adult cats, one of them a Cream from England."

"I am enclosing a press photograph of them and also one of my Blue male, a son of the English import Westbridge Blue Star Twinkle. He was awarded three firsts, his first Challenge certificate and cup for best South African bred Longhair Blue at Pietermaritzburg in June. He was also awarded first and cup for best Longhair male at the Pinetown Show in July in a class which included one Chinchilla, two Creams and one Blue, all imported from England. So all being well, I am hoping to breed really beautiful kittens next year. We both love the cats, have six altogether, and always find time to pet them although we have 21 head of cattle and 600 head of poultry to take care of."

Blue for America

Another kitten which has gone abroad is Mrs. Denton's Blue female Camber



Sport & General

CAMBER BETSY BOB, the Blue female kitten mentioned above who was flown out to America after winning at the Kensington Show to her new owner Mrs. Hersig, of Colorado. Betsy Bob was bred by Mrs. E. M. Denton, the South East London fancier.



J-Photo, Oslo

“MISS BERGEN,” A CUTE NORWEGIAN MISS

SIDLAH AV TEHERAN is a Chinchilla bred by Mrs. Rohff, of Oslo, and owned by Baroness von Bach, of Copenhagen. See reference on the opposite page.

Betsy Bob, daughter of Anson Eros. She was much admired at the Kensington Kitten Show by judges and exhibitors. Shortly after this show she was flown to Mrs. Hersig, of Colorado, U.S.A.

"Where is Monty?"

The President of the Norsk Rasekatt Klubb, Norway, Mrs. Svenningsen, writes : " I send you a picture of the Chinchilla Sidlah of Teheran bred by Mrs. Rohlf of Oslo from Redwalls Celeste, her English import. She breeds kittens with very pale fine coats. Sidlah has gone to Baronesse Lilly von Bach of Copenhagen and her brother Isbjorn of Teheran to a breeder in Stuttgart. He has very good type and bright "green eyes."

" On 5th to 7th of September we had a propaganda exhibition in Bergen, the town at the feet of seven mountains on the west coast of Norway where it is reputed to be always raining. It was doing so on this occasion and we could not even open the windows. The show had a big counter attraction in the person of Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery who was visiting Bergen. We put up a big poster whereon was written : ' Monty ' can be seen at the Cat Exhibition ! When people came and asked : ' Where is Monty ? ' we answered : ' He is in pen number 44 ' which housed a huge Longhair Blue named Monty. Everyone was quite agreeable about it. On Saturday evening we had a ten minute broadcast and on Sunday a very good gate. The cat selected by the visitors was Sidlah who looked lovely. I should love to visit London to see another show and hope soon to be able to make the trip."

" Moonstone Regina, the sweet little Silver Tabby daughter of Ch. Hillcross Silver Flute died recently after her second birthday from pneumonia. We think she had her second litter too quickly and they died also. Her first litter was awarded a gold medal in Gotenburg and she was awarded her first C.A.C. Three of the kittens are

lovely, two of them like mother and the third like father but with darker markings. The sire is Int. Ch. Africa Thust, a really glorious male. I will send the Editor some photographs of the family later."

The Norwegian journal "Vare Katter" bears a lovely head study of a Chinchilla in meditative mood on its cover and some charming photos within. Congratulations to Mrs. Svenningsen on the quality of this periodical which undoubtedly helps to spread the cult of the cat. Many British breeders may not realize it, but Scandinavian Cat Club Presidents and their Committees are *au fait* with the "doings" of the British Fancy and familiar with the awards of our winners in which they take very great interest.

"Blue-Creams are Exciting"

Mrs. Smith, of Blubberhouses, Yorkshire, tells me that her Blue-Cream queen Valleyend Shot Silk mated to Kirkgate Miracle, a pure bred Blue, had five Cream males and one Blue-Cream female. She asks if such a high percentage of Creams from such a mating is unusual. It is, but not unknown, Miracle was bred by Mrs. Haggerty of Shipley and not Mrs. Smith as stated in the caption of the photograph which appeared in last month's issue. He has gone back to his breeder as he was beginning to wander away looking for queens and Mrs. Smith was afraid he would be shot by gamekeepers or get caught in a trap. She did not like the idea of shutting him up and as she lives ten miles from the railway station visiting queens would have been a problem. She concludes "Blue-Creams certainly are exciting to breed from. One never knows what is going to arrive in the Blue, Cream, and Blue-Cream cattery."

One of the most experienced breeders of Longhairs in Yorkshire is Mrs. Taylor, of Scarcroft, near Leeds, who started breeding Blues over twenty-five years ago. She writes to me as follows:

"The first studs I used for my original queens were Lady Eardley Wilmot's Ch. Gentleman and Dazzler of Henley, and from Gentleman I bred Blue Boy of Kenton who was awarded a Ch. certificate at Reading in 1928. Unfortunately, through inexperience, I lost him but he left me his son, Extravagance, a very pale Blue who won each time he was shown. After that I had a run of very bad luck and lost all my cats and kittens, among them a litter by Ch. Mischief of Bredon and one by Ch. Dion of Allington. There had been infection (unknown to me at the time) among farm cats before I came here and my lovely cats and kittens contracted it."

"I started again after the War and bought some queens but not really what I was looking for until I bought Wisp by Sentinel of Allington. She was the mother of My Love of Kenton who has won so well, and her litter sister Pom Pom of Kenton became the dam of Mrs. Haggerty's Kirkgate Miracle. My Love has the pale blue coat I much prefer. She is by Oxleys Smasher and I am hoping when she comes to Ch. F.F. she will have some outstanding kittens and a lovely daughter for myself."

Reared by Foster Mother

Miss Evelyn Langston has some bonny families. The star turn is undoubtedly Ch. Felicity of Allington, who at the age of ten is nursing five lovely babies by Ch. Mark of Allington. Miss Langston writes: "Felicity is so proud of her babies who are making excellent progress. This is her second litter this year, the previous time she had four, suddenly when three days old I found one dead and a few hours later another. Then I found Felicity had a very painful and swollen breast. It turned out to be mastitis and it had to be fomented frequently and she had to have doses of penicillin. She gradually recovered; the two surviving kittens were reared by Bess, a daughter of my black foster Bebe who was nursing two Blue-Chinchillas by Seth sired just

before he left for New Zealand. Her kittens were three weeks old but she reared the tiny ones well and they are fine."

"Freya, full sister to Fidelio, has two very typey pale kittens by Mark. Ch. Musidora of Allington is nursing two males by Ch. Laurel. She always buries herself under her blanket at shows. Another litter of three by him is Keziah's, one of the last daughters by the late Ch. Foxburrow Tilli Willi. She is Kim of Allington's mother. Kim was Best Chinchilla Kitten at the Coronation Show. He has since gone to France and has already won two Challenge Certificates for his new owner."

"Another queen Ternina, the cleverest of all our cats, has two by Ch. Scamp. Lydia, the mother of Mrs. Speirs's Loreley of Allington, has a picture kitten by Ch. Scamp so we have some lovely Chinchilla kittens.

"Now for news of the Blues. A daughter of Dikon of Allington and Susan is nursing two bonny boys by Ch. Dylan of Allington. Both have taken after their grandparents, one being a typical Ch. Southway Crusader kitten and the other the image of Ch. Mair. Her daughter Rosign has four lovely pale boys by Gwynn. Ch. Mair unfortunately has had no kittens this year. Naturally I was delighted at Fidelio winning his second Challenge Certificate at Taunton. I think he knows as he has been very pleased with himself."

Ch. Mark of Allington's lovely photograph appeared on the inside cover of February 1954 OUR CATS.

Best in Show Judging

A subject which has caused dissatisfaction among many exhibitors the last year or two is the present method for judging Best in Show. Before the war when exhibits and entries were fewer, the system usually employed was that all judges officiated and with such a consensus of opinion results were accepted as generally satisfactory. After the war when entries increased by leaps and

bounds and approximately from eight to fourteen judges were employed it was decided to have a panel of three or five as there was too much talking and confusion when all judges plus stewards were on the platform together. But, and this is an important point, the idea was to have different judges at every show but when it came to selecting them it was found that there were too few with sufficient experience of either stewarding or breeding. So a panel of one or two Longhair and one or two Shorthair judges with one all round judge is now the usual method.

It is from this situation that the anomalies arise as we have Longhair judges officiating who admit they know little about Siamese and Shorthairs, and Shorthair judges who admit they know little about Longhairs, voting for an award of major importance to breeders and exhibitors. An analysis of some of the awards provides proof that the present method does not always reflect the opinion of the majority of judges on the day as exhibits which have been almost unbeaten in their side classes are brought out and beaten for Best in Show by exhibits over which they have been

awarded firsts under several judges on the day but none of whom (or only one or two) happen to be on the panel.

The Fairest Method

One suggestion was to create more all-round judges but, of course, this would not solve the problem as they would still lack the experience necessary to make such an important award. The fairest method so far devised has been by Croydon Cat Club for their show where a panel of three Longhair judges officiate for Longhairs and three Shorthair judges for Shorthairs. One snag was that some of the Clubs have trophies for Best Exhibit but it is possible to overcome this by requesting donors to donate their trophies to Longhairs or Shorthairs, and in cases where donors are deceased to allocate them to varieties in which they were interested. This method also solves another problem as whereas now the difficulty is to find Longhair judges with some knowledge of Shorthairs and vice versa, if judges could be selected for their knowledge of Longhairs only a host of them would immediately be eligible to officiate and it would be



A parade of top winners at the Auckland, New Zealand, Championship Show in June last. Mr. Fred Pearce, the well known Australian judge, is holding Mrs. Downey's Ch. Slapton Black Magic, once again Best Cat in Show. On his right Mrs Mayhill is showing a Chinchilla winner and on the extreme right Mr. Dick Downey is showing his winning Siamese Ch. Spotlight Pride. The remaining cats and personalities have not been identified for us. Mrs. B. Downey, President of the New Zealand Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, has imported several English bred cats.

possible to select a panel of three different judges for almost every Show.

No one, in my opinion, should act in this capacity more than two or three times in any one season as if a judge has a predilection for a breed it is tempting to select a variety when the choice lies between good cats or kittens. Exhibitors' chief objection to the present method is a feasible one and that is of course that votes are being cast by some judges who know little of some of the varieties on which they are adjudicating.

In Longhairs alone there are more than eighteen judges who judge mixed Longhair Club classes so presumably all would be eligible for a panel. I have not counted the Shorthair judges but there are several eligible for this section, the majority of whom are more conversant with the qualities of Siamese than Longhair breeders. I mention Siamese particularly as at every Championship Show there are some of these to adjudicate on for Best in Show.

When 38-year-old Miss Edna May Mills, owner of a Mayfair club, was found dead in a well known block of flats in South West London, a purring black cat was in the bedroom. Miss Mills was very fond of her cats Blackie and Speckles and when her will was published she left them to a close friend "with the full knowledge that she will take care of them so long as they live." An ex-Wren petty-officer, Miss Mills left £5,658 and at the inquest a verdict was returned of "suicide while the balance of her mind was disturbed."

The Siamese Cat Club of Australia has lost the official services of its Foundation President, Lieut.-Col. Cole, who has resigned. An honorary life membership has been conferred on Col. and Mrs. Cole in recognition and appreciation of all the valuable services they have given to the Club, together with a commemorative jewel which can be worn as a badge. The Club's new President is Mr. E. G. Potter, of Frankston. Mr. Potter and his wife Dr. Sheena Potter were owners of Siamese cats when they lived in England.

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
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.		

DID YOU SAY TIBS?



"THERE isn't a cat in the kingdom who doesn't prick up her ears at the mention of Tibs," says Tibby, the Tibs reporter. "And when the cat in question is a proud mother, with kittens to care for, the thought of Tibs sets her purr-motor working overtime".

Mill Feather is just such a mother, with three winning "Watermill"

litters in 1953 to her credit. Mill Feather's owner, Miss Ann Codrington, of Vine Cottage, Gilridge, Nr. Edenbridge, Kent, tells us that though Mill Feather has had numerous offspring, she is still very much interested in roof top life. Miss Codrington adds that it's certainly Mill Feather's daily Tibs that keep her in such fine condition.

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Sire: Mystic Dreamer

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Prize-winning whenever shown. Awards
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(MISS DAPHNE J. WELLS)

At Stud : **KILLDOWN SULTAN (S.P.)**
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Two Challenge Certificates. Best Stud,
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PIKHA SHAH JEHAN

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Sire : Mystic Dreamer
Dam : Crawstone Belinda

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superb eye colour and temperament.

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all SHORTHAIR BREEDERS!

Why not resolve this season to
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this popular and efficient feature, which
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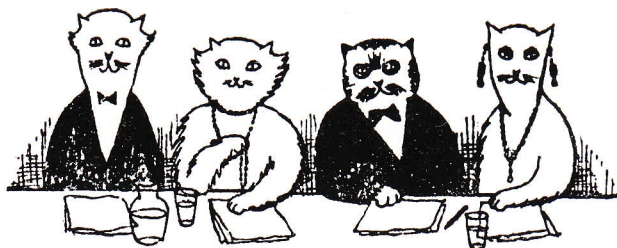
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Here is a picture of special interest to breeders of Chocolate
Pointed Siamese. **KOSCAK'S SUKI** is the only Double Cham-
pion of his variety in America to take all his wins under Eng-
lish rules. Owned by novice breeder Mrs. Helen C. Koscak, of
National City, California, Suki was placed 1st with additional
awards in six shows out of eight. Our picture shows him at
14 months.



"What's Your Tail?"

"THIS IS SYLVIA"

SANDY WILSON, the brilliant young man who wrote the book, lyrics and music of "The Boy Friend," London's big musical success which has also made a hit in New York, looks like having another winner to his credit. And at 30, this really isn't bad going!

Mr. Wilson has contrived to find the time to write a book about his cat Sylvia and not merely to write the story but also to illustrate it with 54 of his own sketches. I must confess that it was these line drawings which interested and amused me most for they are truly delightful. Some are gently malicious, others are satirical and all present to perfection the eccentricities in dress and costume of the worlds of Society and entertainment of yesterday and to-day. Two samples of Mr. Wilson's art are reproduced on this page.

Sylvia's memoirs are a satire on this year's crop of memoirs from stars of the theatrical world. They flow easily through the life of fashionable London, of Hollywood and Monte Carlo, of the

Book Review

theatre, television, the gossip columns and marriage into the aristocracy. It is in Hollywood that she meets old Sam Goldfish in person who gives her a contract to appear in "The Cat's Pyjamas," "Kiss Me, Cat" and "The Cat's Cradle." It was on her return to London and her re-appearance on the stage that the BBC asked her to appear in the television panel game of "What's Your Tail?" This she found simple, almost childish, and it wasn't very long before she was contributing a weekly feature in the *Daily Miaoow*.

Sylvia has nine lives and a family of three kittens. Her mother was the most beautiful cat of her day, of a pure Persian strain, who became involved with a set known as "The Bright Young Cats." It was intended that Sylvia should go to Rodine College but somehow funds were never sufficient. Mother left eventually for America with a gentleman friend Cyrus T. Rocksalmonfeller and her daughter joined Madame Alicia Whiskeronova's Academy of Drama and Dance. There follows the intimate story of Sylvia's rise to stardom and her entry into the aristocracy after a love affair with Blackie. Her marriage to Sir Algernon Gutts-Whytyng broke up when she had a family consisting of a grey girl like herself (nothing wrong there), a tabby and a ginger tom. Not a full Persian among them!

Nonsense? If you like, but it's *clever* nonsense.

"This is Sylvia" is published at 8s. 6d. net by Messrs. Max Parrish & Co. Ltd.

C.



An amusing fragment of my past

Cats in Paint & Print

By SIDNEY DENHAM

I was interested recently to find two newspapers which might be described as poles apart dealing at the same time with the question whether animals, and cats in particular, go to heaven. A "live letter" asked the *Daily Mirror*, which stated there is no mention of an after life for animals in the Christian religion, but cited ten examples from the Moslem sacred writings of animals admitted to Paradise.

In the *Manchester Guardian* the well-known religious essayist Artifex said he had had a letter from a friend in Illinois asking what he believed about animals going to heaven. He answered in a brilliant half-column, concluding :

"I have not much knowledge of dogs, but in cat friendships I have noted one curious thing. The initiative is often with the cat. Some time ago I reviewed a book called *Charles* which described a fifteen years' friendship of a man and a cat. The author wanted a Siamese cat and went to buy one. Of five in the basket four ignored him ; one jumped out and ran to him. A splendid tom, a tabby with white shirt-front and paws, coming into a room in South Africa, ran and jumped on my knee with demonstrations of love. His owner said : 'That is queer. Alexander never makes a fuss of strangers.' So I hope Charles and Alexander, in some sunny corner of Paradise, may have told one another how they loved and were loved by their masters and how love won each a soul."

"All this is not dogma, but what theologians call a pious opinion. So take it or leave it."

I remember my father being asked this question by a dear friend heart-broken at the loss of a cat. My father was an agnostic, but he was also a kind man and replied : "Jesus said that in his Father's house were many mansions.

As they must be perfect mansions they must have many cats in them and I see no reason why yours should not be amongst them."

It is a subject readers of OUR CATS may like to give their views on.

Pure Superstition

A writer in the *Spectator* dealing with newts remarked he was intrigued by the saying "Never rear a kitten after the effets (Old English for newts) have begun to travel" which a correspondent told him was repeated by an old farmer in her locality. Newts travel at the breeding season and again in autumn to hibernate. But, he asked, is there a bad time to rear a kitten ?

Readers made some interesting suggestions. One is that kittens can be more easily house-trained in the spring when the soil in the garden is dug. Another recalled a Somerset saying : "Tis May kittens bean't no good." This saying in Wales becomes : "Cats born in May bring snakes into the house."

Old sayings are often based on experience influenced by superstition, i.e., give the wrong reasons for doing the right thing. In the days when all cats were "outdoor cats" and probably left largely to fend for themselves, autumn kittens probably suffered dietary troubles because of the scarcity of young and easily caught rabbits and birds. There are still thousands who believe a "spring kitten" is likely to be healthier than a winter kitten, but with cod-liver oil and other aids, there should be no more reason for October kittens to fare worse than October children. The connection with newts was probably pure superstition, or rather the connection of two phenomena which were not related except in time.

American Personality Series

Presented by BILLIE BANCROFT

MRS. RICHARD (BETH) O'DONOVAN

TRULY one of the four outstanding Shorthair breeders in America to-day is Beth O'Donovan. Her Chirn Sa-hai Cattery is registered in every important Association and her Double Grand Champion Nee-Ang is really something to look at. I have seen most of the top-ranking cats but never yet have I met his equal—he has everything! Small wonder he is a Grand Champion.

But Mrs. O'Donovan's boy who has everybody talking—including the judges whom he casually wraps around his tail—is none other than Double Champion Ricki, an Abyssinian who has become a conversation piece wherever Shorthair breeders congregate. He is out of half imported and half pre-war imports. Grandsire was Ch. Raby Ramphis and his dam Merkland Sheba, an Abby queen Mrs. T. A. Kloos imported several years ago. He is All Southern again this year and Beth is hoping one of these times that he will be All American. I must have heard half a dozen judges give their opinion on this boy—and it was all favorable.

Beth O'Donovan is an individualist in the truest meaning of the word, outspoken, candid to the point of sometimes offending her friends. No one in the Fancy can ever accuse her of beclouding an issue and there are times when her suggestions are a tart dose of medicine for the breeders to take.

She is fanatically devoted to her cat children. Finding homes for them is never a question of money—it is what kind of a home will they have and how will they be protected and cared for.

Talking with her a few weeks ago she told me she had over 100 feline citizens at Chirn Sa-hai. Over a dozen are collecting points toward their Grand Championships—which in any man's language is something to marvel at. Don't misunderstand this little



**Abyssinian Double Champion
CHIRN SA-HAI RICKI—“a conversation piece wherever Shorthair breeders congregate.”**



American fancier Mrs. Richard O'Donovan with three of her many Siamese friends.

breeder from Miami, Florida. She is a deft mistress of pace when she wants to be. Her appearance of easy-going serenity is deceptive. Question her on the authority of her cat children's place in the sun and you will find yourself walking on wafer-thin ice for she has the stock and bloodlines to back anything she claims.

Kindness to Others

I have seen Beth O'Donovan when she was the epitome of demureness and ladylike propriety. She is an organizer of no mean ability and has gone out of her way to advise and help the novice. I found it quite difficult to get her to talk about herself. I have learned of her kindness through others. I believe her most casual friend would call her a dedicated breeder, weeding out and continually improving her stock. I find her a very clear, concise

personality with a decided opinion on everything that comes up.

She has been a breeder for something like twelve years. She considers Ricki to be the best cat she has ever owned. She loves the shows but thinks they should be overhauled and that trained stewards should be used and not some good-hearted cat lover hauling the cat to the judges' cages. She feels that novices should be given special attention and instructions regarding their entries to help them to become valuable and worthwhile members of the Fancy.

Mrs. O'Donovan will go up in the Cat Fanciers' Association as a novice judge this season. There is one fact clear in my mind, she will not play politics nor will she butter up the breeders. The cats will be judged to the best of her ability, there will be no syrupy exaggerations as to the merits of any especial cat. Her decisions will be honest and merited.

(Concluded on Page 36)



One of America's top ranking Seal Pointed Siamese, Mrs. O'Donovan's Double Grand Champion CHIRN SAI-HAI NEE-ANG.

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.

Retiring Age ?

For how many years can a brood queen be expected to produce kittens, and is there a time when a cat should be retired from breeding ?

Cats are individuals and there can be no fixed term to their life as breeders. Some queens are past their best when they are over five, while others carry on for several years longer. There are two points to consider here. Does a queen have her family and rear her kittens without undue strain ? Are the kittens she produces strong and easy to rear ? When the answer to either of these questions is "No," the queen should cease to be a breeder.

Cheap Champions !

I heard recently that it had been suggested that a show should be held in this country at which it would be possible for one cat to win two Championship Certificates in one day. Would this not be making champions too cheap ?

Such a suggestion certainly was made, but it found little support among the best known breeders and judges who had the feeling that champions should earn their laurels. With the present system by which champions are made it would certainly seem a mistake to award two certificates in one day. There is no certainty, however, that the system of making champions will be maintained as it is for ever. There can be no system

to cover all breeds with equal impartiality, for it is obvious that competition in some breeds must always be keener than in others. Blues provide large classes and the premier awards are hardly come by, but less popular breeds do at the present time offer easier championship status. That seems to be an argument for working up some of the less popular breeds which, despite their lack of support, are still most attractive cats to own.

Use of Prefix

I have a prefix which is registered in my name, but my husband also wishes to breed cats. May he use the same prefix ?

If the prefix is registered with the Governing Council in your name, you are the only person who is allowed to use this prefix. On the other hand, if application is made to the G.C., permission may be granted for the registration to be in both names. If your husband wants a prefix of his own he can obtain this right by payment of a guinea. In this case the prefix is his to use as long as he wishes.

Loss of Teeth

My cat, which has lost nearly half its teeth, is less than three years old. Why should so many teeth have fallen out or had to be removed by the veterinarian ?

Decay and loss of teeth in cats is usually

the result of wrong feeding methods. So often what is provided as a diet is fed in the form of a mash and is easily swallowed. This clogs the teeth which are not used in the process of eating this type of food. The cat just swallows, but does not masticate. Give large pieces of meat which have to be torn by the teeth, also inspect the teeth frequently for tartar for in the early stages this can easily be removed.

I have recently sold a cat to South Africa, but do not know how to set about the business of export. Can you help me ?

The business of exporting livestock is quite complicated and entails a good deal of form filling. For the person who rarely exports a cat it is far better to pay a fee to someone who does this kind of work and who knows the ropes. Advertisements by these most useful persons prepared to undertake the work for a fee may be found in the journals of the Fancy. The paying of a fee is well worth while.

American Personality *(from page 34)*

She is not an easy person to fathom and the heterogenous assortment of breeders will be more than a little anxious for the nerve strain and the uncertainty of shows to a breeder of fine stock. Shows are irresistible and every new judge must be tried. I'm thinking that Beth will cut the cloth of her wit to suit any occasion. I predict she will handle the cats very well and give quite a few of us electric shocks with her decisions.

I found this little novice judge pleasant, polite, highly intelligent with a tendency to underplay her advantages. There is much sparkle and vitality about her which gives an impression of leashed drive and energy. I honestly feel that Beth O'Donovan will hold the respect and admiration of her audience whatever split-hair decisions she may have to make in the future.

BACK NUMBERS

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

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

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



Tailpieces

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



THE Ministry of Agriculture has set up a "mouse watching station" on a former R.A.F. airfield at Rougham, Suffolk. The object is to study their habits and to find means of limiting their numbers. Experts are watching the mice without disturbing them and finding out all about them when they are in a state of comparative freedom.

During an all-night fishing contest at Folkestone, the youngest of 51 anglers, 13-year-old Terence Dammary, caught seven fish and dropped them into a bag at his side. He stood a fair chance of winning the contest until in the cold light of dawn he discovered that all seven fish had gone. Then he spotted some cats dragging away his bag. Only four fish were recovered—the rest went as the cats' breakfast.

Tibby, a handsome tabby cat, has seen every film in a Kingsbury (Middlesex) cinema over the past year. She takes her place on the edge of a tip-up seat before the last performance each night. Waiting for Mickey Mouse?

A poultry keeper set a gin trap in his back garden to catch a rat but instead he caught his neighbour's cat. At the Dartford (Kent) Police Court he was fined £2 with three guineas costs for causing unnecessary suffering to the cat.

I hear that the R.S.P.C.A. has started work on a black list of people who are known to be cruel to animals. Those named on the list will run the risk of being banned from keeping animals or pets. A Society official has explained

that such a list is now possible under two new Acts—the Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act and the Protection of Birds (Amendment) Act. In the past courts have been powerless to stop people keeping some animals after conviction. In one case a person was convicted 17 times but still kept animals.

A tabby mother, Bessie, has given birth to two kittens in the choir vestry at St. Paul's Church, Lozells. The little family is being cared for by the Vicar, the Rev. Arthur Jones.

Mr. J. A. Slim is the secretary of a Birmingham camping association and the owner of a striking black and white cat. At a recent campers' meet, Mr. Slim provided his pet with its own small tent, which had a small flag proudly flying from the top.

I commend to your notice the excellent voucher scheme which the Cats' Protection League (London Area) has organized for the veterinary care of cats in London, particularly those belonging to people with slender means. The scheme has been made possible through the co-operation of a number of veterinary surgeons in the area who, on receipt of a voucher, will immediately treat, neuter or do anything necessary for the cat for whom the voucher has been issued by the League.

Sunday, October 3rd, was celebrated in some churches throughout the country as Animal Sunday. The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi fell on the previous day.

MICKEY.

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Runfold 248

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Excelling in type and wonder-
ful pale colour. Sire of many winning kittens in-
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(Four Champion and Challenge Certs.)
Pure pale Cream, excellent type, deep copper
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B.P.C.S. 1954). Yvette of Dunesk (by Ch. Baralan
BoyBlue). Danehurst Gilda (by Sco Ruston Ravisant)
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Beckenham 6904

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May we send you details of rates?



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CLORIS**, an appealing
Black Longhair
kitten bred by Mrs.
E. G. Aitken, of Ban-
stead, Surrey, was
born in July this year.
After winning at the
Herts and Middlesex
Show he was booked
to live with a new
owner in New Zea-
land.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

The rate for prepaid advertisements under this heading is 3d. per word per insertion (minimum 12 words) and instructions must be received by *not later than the 1st day* of the month of issue. Please write "copy" clearly and post with appropriate remittance to OUR CATS MAGAZINE, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W. 9. Use of Box No. costs 1/- extra.

At Stud

SCO-RUSTON RAVISANT (Blue Persian) sire Int. Ch. Southway Nicholas, dam Sco-Kalisa. Fee £2 2s. and carriage.

DANEHURST GORDIE (Blue Persian), sire Sco-Ruston Ravisant, dam Hendon Lady Griselda. Fee £2 2s. and carriage.

CH. REDWALLS JACK FROST (Chinchilla) sire Ch. Foxburrow, Tilli-Willi, dam Redwalls Snowstorm, prizewinner every time shown 1948/52. Fee £2 2s. and carriage.

MOLESEY ALI BABA (Cream Persian), sire Tweedledum of Dunesk, dam Molesey Mischief. Fee £2 2s. and carriage.

STARKEY NUGGET (Cream), sire Malmory Tafetease, dam Fairham Gillian, prizewinner every time shown. Fee £2 2s. and return carriage. Only registered queens accepted to any of the above Studs.—Gordon B. Allt, F.Z.S., Waverley Abbey, Farnham, Surrey. Runfold 248.

BOURNESIDE CATTERY, Aitken, 2 Commonfield Road, Barnstead, Surrey. Tel.: Burgh Heath 2754. **CH. BOURNESIDE BLACK DIAMOND** (Black Longhair). Fee 2½ gns.

For Sale

WOBURN CHUCKLES, male, born 6.6.54 (Ch. Baralan Boy Blue—Woburn Sweet Lavender), lovely pale coat, prizewinner every time shown. Other kittens for pets or show, also prizewinning young queen for sale.—Page, 92a Gammons Lane, Watford.

PYLEIGH BLUE PERSIAN Kittens, dam Bayhorne Pandora, sire Ch. Dusty of Dunesk.—Thomson, Warleigh, Downton, Cornwall

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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LADY with car, experienced animal breeding, capable, adaptable, no ties, offered share interesting creative project, country.—Box No. 47, OUR CATS MAGAZINE, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9.

CAT HARNESS, Clawboards, Baskets, Washable Cushions, Shower-coats, Pretty Rugs, Identity Collars.—Collier, Manor House, Lytchett-Matravets, Dorset.

THE TAIL-WAGGER MAGAZINE, the monthly British Dog Magazine for dog owners and dog lovers everywhere. Fully illustrated and complete with informative features and instructive articles. Annual subscription 10s. (inc. postage) for twelve issues.—The Tail-Wagger Magazine, 356-360 Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1.

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.

PEDIGREE FORMS

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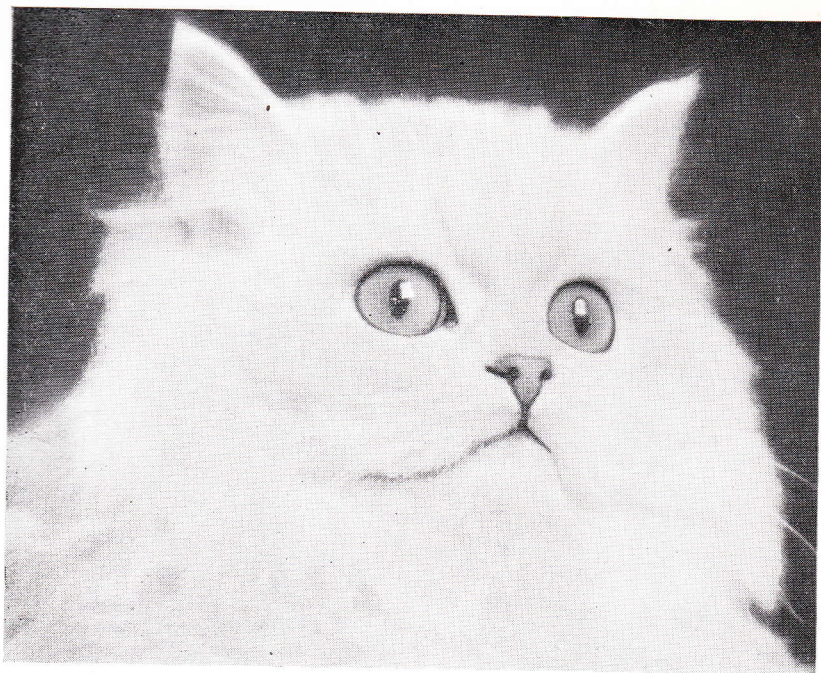
OUR CATS MAGAZINE
4 CARLTON MANSIONS
CLAPHAM ROAD
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Here is a young Chinchilla who is taking long strides along the Championship road. Bred by Miss Evelyn Langston, of Maidenhead, and photographed at 5½ months, FIDELIO OF ALLINGTON (by Ch. Flambeau of Allington ex Ch. Fifinella of Allington) followed up a Best Kitten win at the National Show last year with a similar win at the Southern Counties Show this year. He was Best Longhair at the recent Herts and Middlesex Show and has since notched a major award at Taunton.

Stop Press !

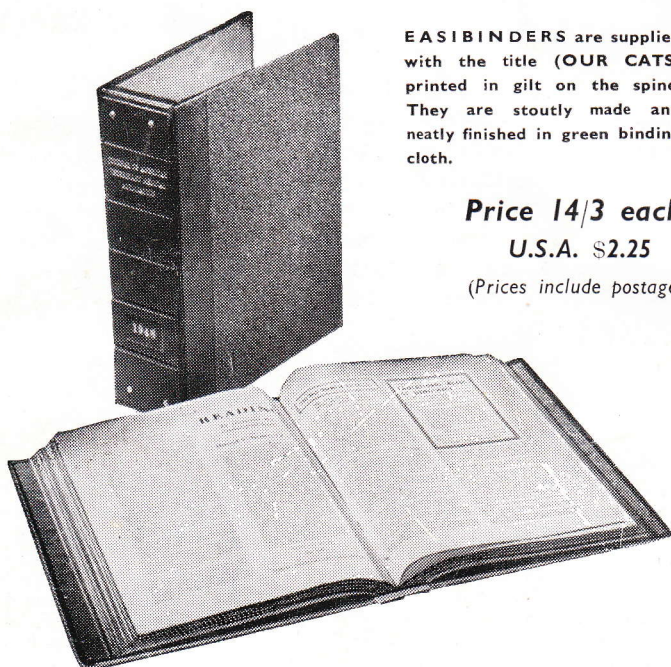
SHOW WINNERS

At the BLUE PERSIAN CAT SOCIETY'S CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW in London on 6th October the winning male, Mrs. Beedell's Magyar Yanos (by Ch. Astra of Pensford) tied with the winning female, Mrs. Crickmore's Thiepval Precocious (by Ch. Baralan Boy Blue) for the award of Best Adult. On the casting vote of the referee judge, Precocious was declared Best Adult and later Best Exhibit in Show. The Best Kitten was Mrs. Pullen's male, Vigilant Mark, and the Best Female Kitten Mrs. Brunton's April Violet of Dunesk. Best Neuter was Miss Marshall's Preier Ashdown Twinkletoes. Magyar Yanos, whose picture appeared on the front cover of our July issue, completed his Championship at this show.

At the SIAMESE CAT CLUB'S CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW in London on 8th October, Best in Show award went to Mr. R. O. Warner's Seal Point Spotlight Troubadour (by Bynes Romeo). Best Female was Mrs. G. A. C. Nicholl's Kenspeckle Balkis (by Proud Major). The winning Blue Point was Mrs. Hargreave's Laurentide Corona and kittens were led by Miss Lant's male Beaumanor Tooki, by Tiane Taianfu. Best Neuter was Mrs. K. P. Hooper's Behenta Yu Phin, whose picture appeared in our previous issue.

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