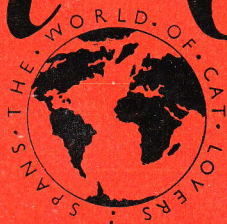
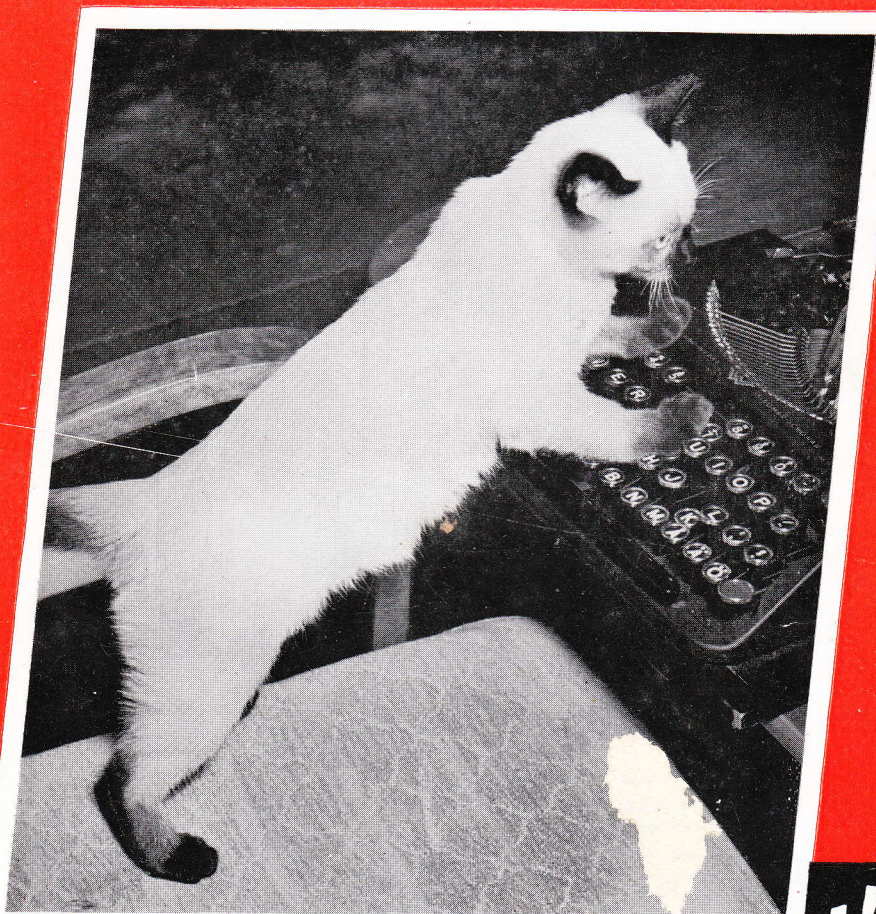


Our Cats

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QUITE THE BUSINESS MAN!

"I'm not to be disturbed, I must get this letter off to Santa Claus to thank him for all the good things I had at Christmas." Photograph from Mrs. Ulla Magnusson of Sweden.

DECEMBER 1954

1'6

We wish our readers everywhere A Happy New Year

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Our Cats

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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. 12

DECEMBER 1954

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4 CARLTON MANSIONS
CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9**

American Associate Editor :

MRS. BILLIE BANCROFT

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



We present the favourite for the title of "Siamese Cat of the 1954-55 Season." He is Mr. Richard Warner's lovely young male **SPOTLIGHT TROUBADOUR** (by Bynes Romeo) who was voted Best in Show at the October fixture of the Siamese Cat Club, which attracted a record entry of 260 exhibits.



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CAT v HOT WATER BOTTLE

By G. W. HARRIS

IN this pitiable mechanical age, in which the work of man's hands, so much admired by him, acquires greater and greater power of destruction, in which even the language of the biologist is perforce that of the mechanic, living things are ignored, not to say despised. Yet there are living things of far greater efficiency than all the little mechanical gadgets of the machine-worshippers.

Consider the hot water bottle. The faith in it is pathetic. Someone gets ill and particularly if it is a female friend, the first thing she says will be, "Of course, you have plenty of hot water bottles, my dear?" To which the reply is that the room is festooned with them.

Consider carefully the dangerous inadequacy of the much-lauded hot water bottle. The stopper may come out; it may leak; it may explode; it may be too hot and scald you; you may get your toe caught in the stopper and pull it out, at the same time pulling off an appreciable slab of skin.

But when you have won the condescending affection of a cat, a female one preferably, your position is superb.

True, you cannot go into a shop and ask for a quart of condescending cat-affection, as you can order over the counter a gross of hot water bottles. But once the cat realises your reverent attitude, an animal that invented the pedestal position as befits a higher being that was worshipped for over three thousand years, she will lie on the counterpane at your feet, providing that animal warmth that is held by some to have even curative properties.

She will also purr almost continuously, a natural sound which, with the distant cawing of rooks is a potent soporific. Thus she provides warmth and sleep, never deserts you until you are ready to get up and preserves you from cold feet, however severe the winter may be.

What of the hot water bottle? The only sound it provides is the possible gurgling of some abominable leak.

What of the cat in the morning? Warmth, reliability, stability and a soothing purr.

What now of the hot water bottle. It has grown colder and colder, and ends up by being in the poignant phrase of Mr. Mantalini, "a demned, damp, moist unpleasant body."

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.

1955	Promoted by	Venue
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.

A Lesson on Inbreeding

By HUGH SMITH

PLATITUDINOUS? Well, it may be. But there *are* lessons that can only be learnt by experience. I myself have just been taught a salutary lesson. And so that others besides myself may benefit by the experience, let me tell a sad story.

It begins with my young Siamese queen, daughter of a Champion of very considerable renown and a dam of no renown but with highly respectable lineage. At the age of six months this queen contracted a relationship with her litter brother and as a result two kittens were born.

One of these, a Seal Point male, grew strong and lusty and is to this day a healthy and much-loved pet. The other, a less robust Blue Point was quite normal until he reached the age of five weeks. Then suddenly his respiration and heart-beat quickened to an alarming degree and three days later, since he was in great distress, I had him put down. A post-mortem examination showed that he had a perforated interventricular septum in the heart—in other words, he was a “blue baby.”

In due course my queen was mated to a quite unrelated stud cat and bore a litter of Seal Point kittens all of which were reared without difficulty.

Now as this queen bears the Blue Point factor and her dam had produced good Blue Points in the past, I cast about for a Blue Point stud for her next mating. For various reasons I chose one whose family tree was rather intermingled with hers. In point of fact, one of the stud's grand dams and my queen's grand dam were one and the

same cat. Moreover, the queen's grand sire on the maternal side was a son of the stud's grand sire.

Well, it was a risk. But all went well and three male Seal Points and three female Blue Points were born and reared. And so, encouraged by the success, I mated the queen again to the same stud cat. And then my troubles began!

The litter arrived in order of one weak and spindly, one normal, another weakly, another normal, a partially developed embryo, a dead kitten with the umbilicular cord severed close to the body and lastly a normal kitten. The first-born was lain on next day by the queen. By the fifth day the other spindly kitten nearly starved, but recovered with a little assistance at feeding. At the age of three weeks I was debating whether he would be any good when one morning he was found dead, having been perfectly lively and feeding the night before. Post-mortem examination showed pneumonia and pleurisy!

Then There Was None!

The remaining three kittens looked good, especially a lovely little Blue Point female. But at five weeks she too developed rapid pulse and respiration and the vet found she had anaemia. He gave her an injection of liver extract and a shot of streptomycin. After three days I had her put down.

Post-mortem: another “blue baby.”

The remaining Seal Point male and female I viewed with apprehension. Would they, too, prove to be “blue babies”? They seemed to want little

but their mother's milk and even at five weeks showed little inclination to be weaned. Then in the sixth week the female started to breathe fast and heavily and when hope of saving her was gone she too had to be put down. Post mortem : acute pneumonia but no abnormal heart condition.

The male appeared to thrive, though his appetite was poor. My vet. gave him two shots of penicillin, just in case there was a low grade infection in the litter. All went well for another two weeks, when suddenly he went off his food, started to breathe heavily and then more rapidly and I had him put down. Post-mortem examination revealed acute pneumonia.

None of these kittens showed outward symptoms of infective disease. There were no coughs or colds. The dam was in first class condition and gave abundant milk. But the kittens were exceptionally difficult to wean and had very poor appetites.

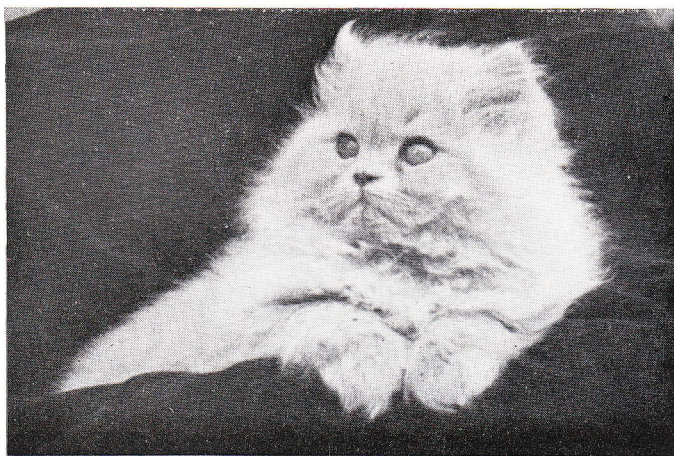
I have related this because I think it underlines the risk of inbreeding with Siamese. You may get away with it

the first time—as I myself did. But heredity will catch up with you !

I have always been impressed by the “hybrid vigour” of kittens resulting from mismating of a Siamese queen. The kittens leap about at a much earlier age and wean themselves without difficulty. It makes me wonder whether the need for outcrossing is not much more urgent than we are prone to think.

In this connection I was much impressed by the comments by Phyllis Lauder and A. C. Jude on this subject in “*Fur and Feather*.” Phyllis Lauder points out that the entire breed in this country stems from an original forty or so cats that were brought in before importation was restricted. The reasoning of these experts seems to me sound and I think their appeal to breeders to consider *intelligent* outcrossing as a means of invigorating the breed if attended to would be of immense benefit.

Of course, I may have learned my lesson wrong. I have already been told by some people that I have. But I *still* think my troubles were due to under-rating the risk of inbreeding.



BAYHORNE ADAM, bred by Mrs. Dulcie Benbow from Ch. Baralan Boy Blue ex Bayhorne Sheena, has been making a name for himself at the shows. At the Herts and Middlesex Show he won over 22 rivals in his kitten class for his owners Dr. and Mrs. Ivor Raleigh, of Mitcham, Surrey. And after doing well at the Blue Persian Show, he was voted Best Longhair Kitten at the Croydon Club fixture last month. Definitely, there is a future for this young Adam !

Cats in Paint & Print

By SIDNEY DENHAM

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

POOR Dusky, the grey Persian, did not live long to enjoy the annuity of £20 16s. od. left by his owner, Mrs. Lucy Carvalho so that he could enjoy his favourite meal of steak. Mrs. Carvalho, who left £76,000, died in August and Dusky was accidentally drowned by falling into a water butt in October.

The legacy reminded me of one of the earliest and most remarkable wills mentioning a cat recorded by Moncriff in his "*Lettres Philosophiques sur les Chats*." Madame Dupuis, an eccentric harpist, died in 1677 and her will, written in astonishing language, included the following :

"Item : I desire my sister, Marie Bluteau and my niece, Madame Calonge, to look to my cats. If both should survive me, thirty sous a week must be laid out upon them, in order that they may live well.

"They are to be served daily, in a clean and proper manner, with two meals of meat-soup, the same as we eat ourselves, but it is to be given them separately, in two soup-plates. The bread is not to be cut up into the soup, but must be broken into squares about the size of a nut, otherwise they will refuse to eat it. A ration of meat, finely minced, is to be added to it ; the whole is then to be mildly seasoned, put into a clean pan, covered close, and carefully simmered before it is dished up. If only one cat should survive, half the sum mentioned will suffice. Nicole-Pigeon is to take charge of my two cats, and to be very careful of them. Madame

Colonge is to visit them three times a week."

It sounds rather like the instructions we leave for looking after our cats when we go on holiday—but I wish their food could be covered by thirty sous a week !

* * *

New books on cats seem to have been published at the rate of one a month recently. Sandy Wilson's brilliant *Sylvia* was reviewed in October OUR CATS. The writing reminds one inevitably of Don Marquis's chronicles of Mehitabel and the drawings of Grandeville's illustrations in *La Vie Privée et Publique des Animaux* which Von Vechten rated the best of all cat drawings.

They Walked Beside Me by Katharine L. Simms (Hutchinson 15s.), covers the whole field from "The Origin of the Cat" to the cat in sickness and in health. Personal observations and anecdotes give distinction to the book. Mrs. Simms has had cats in India and in South Africa—but not in Malaya.

This qualification is necessary because some years ago an excellent book on cats in Malaya was published by Katharine Sim. The similarity in names is quite coincidental, but perhaps, naturally, readers have thought that *They Walked Beside Me* was by the same author as *These I Have Loved*. I understand as a result of the confusion Katharine L. Simms and Katherine Sim have met through correspondence and exchanged photographs of their cats.

I was particularly interested in Mrs. Simms's stories of cats as snake-killers in view of the statement by "M.R.C.V.S." in the September issue of *OUR CATS* that "cats are immune from snake poisoning." I have been unable to find confirmation of this statement in any of the many books I have consulted and I suspect that the supposed immunity of the cat to snake poison is like that of the mongoose, based on its agility and not on any special quality of its blood or nervous system. On the contrary, friends from tropical countries have told me of cats killed by snakes.

Sir Lionel Lindsay, writing to me from Australia about a favourite cat, of which he made an excellent woodcut in 1923, said it was a persistent snake hunter, but that after many victorious encounters with snakes it eventually one day failed to elude the strike and was fatally bitten. In view of the violent reaction sometimes of cats to bee venom, I should be most surprised if the venom of the cobra or mamba did not leave them literally cold.

Cats certainly recognise snakes as an enemy. One of our Siamese was a persistent hunter of grass snakes whose corpses were brought home. My present Siamese approaches anything looking like a snake—a tie on the ground, for instance—with exaggerated caution. It is circled and finally dealt a lightning blow with a jumping backwards at the same instant. Cats probably do not often die from snake bite because they instinctively know the danger and make sure that the quickness of the paw defeats the strike. But perhaps readers who live in snake-ridden countries can settle this point.

* * *

The re-issue of R. L. Stevenson's *Edinburgh-Picturesque Notes*, first published in 1879, recalled to me a passage in it about cats. "Greyfriars is continually overrun by cats," wrote R.L.S. "I have

seen one afternoon as many as thirteen of them seated on the grass beside Old Milne, the Master Builder, all sleek and fat, and complacently blinking, as if they had fed upon strange meats . . . I confess the spectacle had an ugly side for me."

The inference, I take it, is that Stevenson suspected the Edinburgh cats of the crime of Burke and Hare. If so it was a product of a morbid imagination completely ignorant of the ways of cats, the most averse of all animals to carrion. Cats in all countries seem to like graveyards and tombstones but that is probably because they provide peace and quiet and is without sinister significance. Stevenson, we may suspect, was no lover of cats and inclined to see a feline Mr. Hyde in an innocent Dr. Jekyll.

* * *

Readers who see the film "The Egyptian" may be interested to know something about the cat who appears with the temptress Nefer, played by Bella Darvi. Twentieth Century Fox tell me the cat is Tuffy, owned by Laura Rainey of Beverly Hills and won a £1,000 contract to appear in the film in competition with a score of Los Angeles' finest Angoras, Siamese and Burmese and Shorthair Tabbies. Michael Curtis, the director of the film, chose Tuffy because his green-amber eyes matched those of Bella Darvi and because he was snarling and handsome. Tuffy is said to be a mixture of Persian and Angora and weighs 17 lbs.

Hollywood usually goes to great trouble to get the details correct in its historical films and it is surprising to find, therefore, a long-haired cat in a film showing ancient Egypt. All the drawings, sculpture, mummies and other records suggest that whatever the Egyptian cats were like, they were short-haired and the long-haired seem to have spread from the Middle East

much later. The "authentic" cat for this film, complete with green-amber eyes, would have been an Abyssinian—but knowing the friendliness of even the full males of this breed it would probably have been impossible to get one to snarl and hiss as required by the scenario!

* * *

Bruce Marshall, the famous author of "George Brown's School Days" and other novels, like many other men came to cats comparatively late in life after having been a devoted dog lover. In *Thoughts Of My Cats* (Constable 8s. 6d.) he tells entertainingly of the almost

bewildering number of ingeniously named cats who have shared his home in the South of France in the last few years. Mr. Marshall feels strongly about the attitude of many Latin Catholics that "cats were just *bêtes* whose suffering didn't matter" and the cruelty that results. "In the thirty-six years I have been a Catholic," he writes, "I have never heard, either in England or in France, a single sentence from the pulpit against cruelty to animals."

If cats on the Cote D'Azur do not suffer less in future, it will not be for lack of example or blunt speaking from Mr. Bruce Marshall. His book is witty and full of interesting anecdotes.



Bella Darvi as the temptress Nefer in the film "The Egyptian." But is Tuffy, her Longhair cat, with matching green-amber eyes, so well cast for his part in this star-studded historical picture?

Like so many French artists, Henri Matisse, who has died at the age of 85, was a great cat lover. A "profile" in the *New Yorker* not long ago recorded that at his home in the Midi where for many years he lived largely in bed "there is a feline matriachy, ruled by the mother of three ordinary cats. The youngest, a tiger, by day sits in bed on the Master's knees."

In the summer when Matisse went to Paris, where he had a studio in Montparnasse, to escape the Midi heat, the cats went with him. Curiously, I do not recall a cat in any of Matisse's pictures. If he had painted one, it would certainly have been no ordinary cat.

* * *

Miss Ethel Mannin's "*So Tiberius...*" (Jarrolds, 8s. 6d.) takes its title from the well-known lines of Mathew Arnold, who was a great cat-lover :

Cruel, but composed and bland,
Dumb, inscrutable and grand,
So Tiberius would have sat
Had Tiberius been a cat.

Perhaps I should not have called Mathew Arnold a "cat-lover," for Miss Ethel Mannin is emphatic that this is not a story for "cat-lovers."

The author's note says : "This story was written as a result of close and continuous observation of the author's own cat, and is based on incidents in her life. No human thoughts or emotions are attributed to the cat ; it is not, therefore, a story for 'cat-lovers,' but only for those who admire and respect the essential animal characteristics of this most beautiful, interesting and fundamentally wild creature. The author is well aware that by denying the quality of affection to the cat she will arouse indignant protest in the ranks of the cat-lovers ; but the book is addressed not to those who sentimentalize the cat but those who have a feeling for the subtleties of its 'cattiness'."

This sounds all very formidable, but I think Miss Mannin makes a distinction where there is not necessarily a difference. I have a feeling for the subtleties of the cat's "cattiness," but it does not prevent

me being a cat-lover—indeed, it is the explanation of why I am a cat-lover.

The story concerns a man who has been jilted by his wife and acquires a female kitten not because he is attracted but because "it seemed a pity for the young and beautiful to die." The man prides himself on being singularly robust and objective which, perhaps, is why his wife left him, although Miss Mannin does not suggest it. He is determined not to sentimentalize over the cat, observes her with the detachment of a Pavlov studying conditioned reflexes.

Miss Mannin describes his observations with accuracy and understanding, and the arguments about cruelty and love and affection in Man and cat are fair and stimulating. The key to the story and Miss Mannin's attitude is given in a conversation between the man and his housekeeper, a "cat-lover" in Miss Mannin's meaning :

"She's a devil cat. . . . Like her owner she doesn't care for the human race. Why should cats feel affection for humans ?"

"We feed them, don't we ?"

"We have civilized them and made them decadent. Their natural food is birds and mice, not boiled fish and rabbit. The cat's place is in the jungle."

The point that might be made against Miss Mannin that by and large people have the cats they deserve. The man in this book appears to come and go as he wishes and if he is away for a week-end not to worry about the cat being alone or even without food. It is hardly surprising the cat shows no affection for him. He will not have her spayed—but her kittens are regularly "put down"—and this, I think, rather than her "wildness" explains why in the end she has her kitten in a remote part of the garden instead of the prepared place.

Miss Mannin has involved me in argument and that is a recommendation for the book. Whether or not you are a cat-lover you should read it because it will stimulate you to examine the nature of your relationship with this most fascinating of all animals.

About "Puss in Boots"

LONDON Children's Theatre was founded in 1951 by Nicholas Stuart Gray, actor-producer-playwright, and Joan Jefferson Farjeon, the scenic and costume designer. They felt strongly that the theatre should be doing something active about obtaining audiences for the future. So many children see nothing except films and pantomimes, the latter having changed their form of recent years until they scarcely form suitable entertainment for young people.

This year, L.C.T. has its biggest opportunity. They are putting on Mr. Gray's new (some think his best) play, "The Marvellous Story of Puss in Boots." This will run for five weeks, starting December 20th, at the Fortune Theatre. If this is a success, L.C.T. (which is a non-profit making concern) will be able to carry on with future plans, which include taking "Puss" out on tour at Easter, when there are no plays being performed specially for young people in the professional theatre.

The three directors of the company are all extremely vehement in their views that only the best is good enough for audiences of fresh-minded and critical children, and the plays are beautifully mounted, with strong casts.

All the plays that Mr. Gray has written are absolutely straight-forward and exciting versions of old tales, with no singing and dancing, or variety turns!

The cast for "Puss" is headed by Joy Parker, John Stone, Wilfred Babbage (known to the children on TV serials), John Stratton, Robert Sansom, and John Phillips. The costumes are designed by Miss Jefferson Farjeon, and the settings by Reggie Wooley (who designed "The Boy Friend").



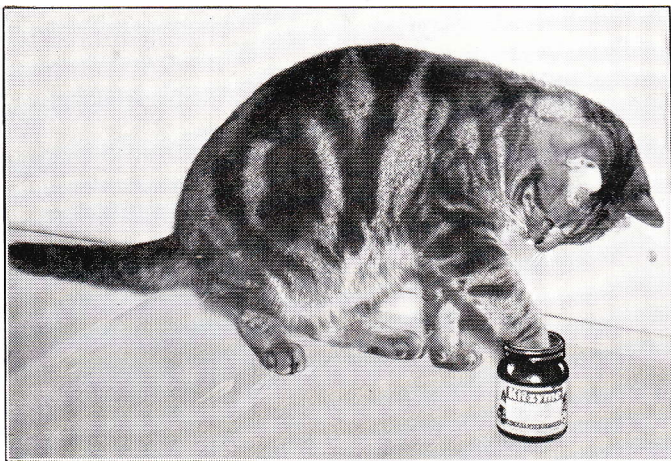
Miss Jefferson Farjeon's vigorous line drawing adorns the programme of "The Marvellous Story of Puss in Boots."

Mr. Gray is arranging that 10 per cent of his royalties on all productions of "Puss" will be given to the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals.

We invited Mr. Gray to tell us a little about Comus and Rufus, the two cats who provided the inspiration for his new play and whose fine portraits are reproduced on the next page. In reply, he very kindly sent us a short article which follows on under the heading of "If Cats Could Speak."

IF CATS COULD SPEAK

IT is just as well that they can't, really. One catches a look in their eyes occasionally that is quite sufficiently critical of humanity. Besides, they make their wishes and decisions perfectly clear



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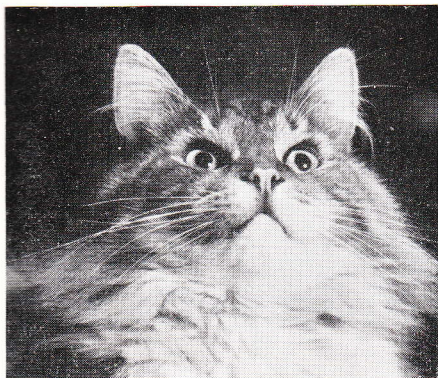


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without actual words, though their motives are often shrouded in mystery. But I have lately been facing the problems of deciding what they would say if they could.

For some time I have wanted to dramatize the story of Puss-in-Boots. I did not attempt to do so until I had solved, to my own satisfaction at least, the difficulty of dealing with a cat who becomes possessed of the doubtful gift of speech.



"Comus is a silky, adorable fiend, with a Napoleonic outlook."

Puss takes too great a part in the plot to make it possible to use a toy cat, and yet it would reduce the whole conception to pantomime to have a man dressed in a large furry skin. However, once I found a way round the difficulty, the rest came naturally. I will not give away the action of the play, in case you want to see it, by explaining my solution here and now.

Cats have always played a large part in my life. It is almost impossible to keep a dog when living alone, and working in the theatre. And I like cats just one degree more than dogs, anyway. So I have two—a beautiful tabby half-Persian named Comus, and a semi-Siamese ginger (pardon ! golden) called Rufus. These two have been my models for Puss.

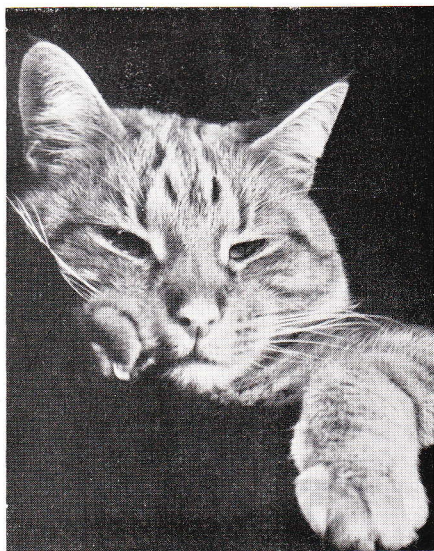
Rufus is an enormous, friendly, indolent creature, and I have given Puss his

appearance. Comus is a silky, adorable fiend, with a Napoleonic outlook, and his is the voice and philosophy of Puss in the play. I have tried, to the best of my ability, to show the cat in a variety of moods, and to let him do nothing that any loved and considered feline would not do under the conditions of the story.

I want it to be a true picture of a cat, from which people who may not have studied these strange creatures, can possibly learn something about them. I hope I have not set myself an impossible task. In his speech I have made Puss say the sort of thing that I have translated from my own cats' faces under varied circumstances. Some of these remarks are fairly derogatory to mankind, I'm afraid, but those of us who are owned by cats are made only too conscious of our short-comings from time to time.

My Rufus is inclined to look on these with a charitable eye (or else he is too lazy to comment), but Comus makes no bones about his dispassionate contempt when he thinks I have rendered less than perfect service. Left to himself, I don't believe Rufus would play other than the

(concluded on p. 12)



Rufus—"enormous, friendly and indolent." Both these delightful studies of Mr. Gray's pets are by photographer Robin Adler.

A page for the proletarian puss No. 51



IF CATS COULD SPEAK

(from previous page)

usual infuriating tricks of cats on me ; but, led by his strong-willed brother-by-adoption, he collaborates in the most alarming jests, such as dematerializing himself for three hours, as he did the other day. I cannot imagine where he was hiding ; the whole house was searched minutely. And by the calm attitude of Comus throughout the panic that followed, I can almost hear him saying : "No, don't come out, yet. You'll laugh, but they're all out in the street offering vast rewards for your safe return."

This is quoted from my stage direction on the entrance of Puss, in "The Marvellous Story of Puss in Boots" : "Puss, it may as well be stated here and now, is arrogant, ruthless, sly, cunning, fastidious, charming, vain, censorious, gentle, evasive, affectionate, recalcitrant, imperious, nervous and splendid."

I think that about covers cats.

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By M.R.C.V.S.

Obstipation

Obstruction to the passage of faeces occurs in various ways, but usually by the presence of some foreign body such as a hair ball, a calculus, tumour, or large masses of worms, etc. The opaque bodies, like calculi and bone, are demonstrable by X-rays ; but translucent ones such as some tumours, hair ball, gristle, etc., are not. When some abnormal substance can actually be felt through the abdominal wall, it might be wise to discover its nature by X-raying. If such a body cannot be felt but is suspected, then it is imperative to employ radiography. To know the nature of the foreign substance helps one to decide how it shall be evacuated.

Hair Ball

A hair ball would not be visible by X-rays unless a dose of barium emulsion were first given. To X-ray at once would show the whole of the radiopaque meal in the stomach ; but another radiograph taken 2 or 3 hours later would find much of the salt still enmeshed among the hairs instead of having passed along as would normally be the case. In consequence of the cat's instinctive and incessant desire to clean its coat by licking, and on account of the extreme roughness of the tongue, a fair quantity of hair is constantly being ingested, and yet one cannot say that "hair ball" is a common complaint.

The long-haired varieties, especially when moulting or when debilitated, are

liable to swallow considerable quantities, which may or may not be ejected by vomiting. When not returned or passed out, the hair gradually accumulates, becomes felted into a solid mass, distends the stomach, robs the animal of appetite and causes great dullness, emaciation, and perhaps eventual death from starvation and exhaustion.

Whether the condition is suspected or not, if one follows the usual routine of manipulating the abdominal viscera, no doubt the distended stomach, with its peculiar spongy contents will be at once discerned.

No time should then be lost in applying a remedy. If the amount of accumulated hair is small, then an emetic might meet the case ; but once the hair has become felted and in some quantity, an emetic would only cause further distress. Lubrication by means of liquid paraffin should then be tried, at the same time kneading the mass with one's fingers in an endeavour to help it pass along. Purgatives would not be of much value.

When such home remedies fail, qualified advice must be sought, and one must not be surprised if an operation were recommended. Some months ago the writer had to open a cat's stomach, and removed 1 lb. 5 ozs. of felted, slimy, stinking hair ball. The cat had been ailing over 2 months, and one could only wonder that it lived so long.

Dysphagia (Difficulty to swallow)

Certain diseases of, or injuries to, the alimentary canal will cause difficulty or inability to swallow solids. Among the most important of these are inflammation of the mouth, throat or larynx, tumours,

ingested foreign bodies such as bones, needles, nails, or bits of wood, gristle, etc. Loose or diseased teeth would not prevent a cat from swallowing, but might well deter it from attempting to feed at all.

It is no uncommon occurrence to find such foreign bodies as are mentioned above, and they very often become completely buried and hidden from view.

If not located and removed, they set up abscess formation and are later discovered making their way through the tissues of the neck or shoulder to the exterior surface. X-rays should be employed in diagnosis.

In all such cases where the animal is rendered unable to swallow, it at least makes attempts to feed by taking food into its mouth, and then dropping it again. Or it may evince great interest in its food dish by sitting near and watching it.

A cat's mouth is often very difficult to open, and especially to keep open sufficiently long to make an examination; but a good home method is to pass two lengths of tape between the teeth of both jaws. The ends of one piece are taken round the upper jaw and of the other round the lower jaw, each piece being then tied or twisted so as not to be easily removable from its respective jaw. By retaining a grasp of one with the left hand and of the other with the right hand, the jaws may be held open as long as is necessary. Having opened the mouth, a small cork can then be placed between the jaws. Whilst the cat cannot bite, one may pass one's little finger over the back of the tongue. In not a few cases this has led to the discovery of a needle or spicule of bone.

Of course, precautions will have been previously taken to hobble the legs together or cover them up in a blanket, to avoid injuries so quickly inflicted by a cat's talons.

Foetid Breath

This offensive condition is not so frequently encountered in cats as it is in dogs, but when present it nearly always indicates some alimentary derangement.

The commonest of the latter is disease of the teeth and gums, such as tartared or loosened teeth, pyorrhoea, etc., ulcerated mouth and throat, deficient secretion of gastric juices, constipation or malignant tumours. Offensive breath may, however, arise from respiratory disorders such as gangrenous pneumonia, some cases of bronchitis, or diphtheritic laryngitis.

To remedy bad breath, the cause must, obviously, be discovered and removed. Generally to clean up all the teeth is all that is needed; and this may be accompanied by the administration of a purgative.

Ulcers of the mouth and tongue are frequently seen in cats, and they are a ready source of odour. They may be suspected if the cat is continually slobbering, perhaps with its mouth partially open, and refusing to eat. Professional advice had better then be obtained as to the most appropriate local and general treatment to be adopted.

Colour of the Mucous Membranes

From the colour and condition of the mucous membranes of the mouth and tongue, much may be ascertained, as these frequently assume definite appearances when associated with certain diseases or abnormalities. For instance, a state of fever is more than likely to give a deep red hue to the gums, tongue and cheek lining, though the same may be observed in generalized inflammation of the mouth (i.e., stomatitis).

Cyanosis (blue discolouration) is occasionally noticed as a result of defective heart action, lung disease, or as a toxic sequel to the action of those drugs which kill by asphyxiation.

A thickly coated or furred tongue is the usual accompaniment of fever, gastritis, stomatitis, or liver derangements. A streaky reddish-blue tinge along the gums and free edges of the tongue is sometimes encountered in feline distemper, feline typhus, pyorrhoea and ulcerated stomatitis; whilst mercurial and some other poisons may set up an intense inflammation of these parts.

It's Controversial—about Judging!

By P. M. SODERBERG

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

DURING the last few months, in different periodicals dealing with cats, there have been several articles on the subject of judging. The general impression created by these articles was that judging was not all that it should be, and all the writers suggested that something should be done without delay to improve matters.

I have myself received correspondence on this subject, and there were suggestions that I should write an article myself to expose the evils, to suggest remedies or to say that all was well. I suppose I could sum up fairly by saying that most of the writers wished me to express their point of view. To do that would be impossible for the simple reason that I have a point of view of my own which does not quite fit identically with the views held by any other person who has expressed his own viewpoint to me.

Let me say first of all that I have no doubt in my own mind of the integrity of our English judges. Some people seem to think that there are judges who are deliberately unfair by picking out the cats of their friends or picking cats which they recognize as having been previously selected for premier awards. The first suggestion I could certainly not accept.

I also doubt very much whether the second is true, for there are few cats so outstanding that they can be generally recognized by judges. Speaking for myself alone I doubt if there are half a dozen cats which I should recognize either in or out of a show pen unless I actually saw them in their own homes.

Now if judges were unfair deliberately, a fact which I do not accept, then there would be something seriously wrong with the Fancy in this country and the central authority ought, and I am sure would, take drastic action to put the matter right.

The critics are on much firmer ground when they assert that some judges are good and some are bad, and I should like to put in also a class which to my mind is probably the largest—the indifferent—not indifferent in attitude but in capacity to judge.

Few "Born to Judge"

I think I could put no more than a round dozen judges in the class of the really outstanding judges, and then below this select body there would be many grades until the really bad were reached. There are indeed few of these.

There certainly are judges who are 'born judges, but the vast majority are those who have acquired skill in this art by years of experience as breeders and stewards. Being a breeder does help provided that one can also go to shows and compare one's stock with that which is in the cards. A breeder as such has acquired small qualification as a judge by merely looking at his own stock all the time however good it may be.

Stewarding could be helpful, but it often loses much of its value because the steward merely becomes a "fetcher and carrier" of cats. I honestly believe that a judge should talk to the steward, explaining what he is doing while he is



ME AND MY GHOST !

This amusing and striking example of double exposure photography comes from America. The neat little Siamese lady with the enquiring look is DALAI TAO MING, 4-years-old, bred by Mrs. Virginia Daly, at her Dalai Cattery, Berkeley, Michigan. Ming now belongs to Mrs. Carl Bigelow, of Detroit, who is also the photographer.

actually doing it. Discussion must be ruled out because the steward ought to have no say in the decisions, but if anything is to be learned from stewarding it must be because the judge recognizes stewarding as part of the training for future judges.

I know some really good judges who regard themselves as High Priests of the Cult of Cat Judging and want no conversation apart from trivialities. Apparently some exhibitors also do not like to see a judge talking to his steward. If this is really true, then I think this attitude is quite misguided because most stewards, unless they are judges already, hope for that honour at some time in the future.

Train the Novices

It is my firm conviction that breeding and stewarding are not enough in themselves to provide the necessary qualifications for judging cats. There should also be definite training before anyone is put on a judging list.

There are experts in every breed and it is their duty to help to train the novices who ought to have an opportunity to judge several times in private before they accept a public engagement. At the moment there is too much talk about bad judging and no one does very much to improve matters. Gossip rarely has any real value.

Breed clubs exist and it is they who should arrange this training. Of course, it would mean more work and it might be inconvenient both for the instructor as well as the learner, but it is certain that there is no other suitable method really to improve the existing situation. Some might wish to go further and add a written examination as they do abroad, but I am somewhat sceptical about this apart from the proof it would provide that the examinee knew the standards for the breeds.

One hears a lot about judging to these standards, but I wonder how many of those who talk in this way really know

what they are trying to say. If they mean judging to a standard of points, then there are difficulties unless that standard is broken down much more than at present. The official standard for Creams allots 50 points for coat. I should very much like to see one Cream cat put in front of twelve accredited judges of the breed and then to compare the variation in marks. Figures are awkward things to deal with, and for the present at least general impression is probably a fairer guide than points. That does not mean that a more workable figure basis for judging could not be contrived.

There are judges who are good in the morning and deteriorate as the day goes on. Concentration is essential to good judging, but concentration will not last hour after hour in the strained conditions of a show hall, particularly after the public have been admitted.

Weed out the Inept

Of course, there will always be grouches about show results because there will always be a few bad losers, but there can be no doubt about it that the exhibitor always pays and he does deserve a square deal. Ultimately shows fail unless those who exhibit their cats feel that it is worthwhile because the result is fair. Inefficiency can never be an excuse for bad judging although it may well be the reason for it.

The inept, the inefficient, ought to be weeded out before they are put on a judging list, but this can only be done after training and examinations of a practical kind held within the privacy of the club.

Many more judges are needed, but surely they must be taught their job by those who know it.



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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 third article in a fine new series prepared exclusively by Mr. Jude to help and encourage our readers all over the cat world.

THE two essentials—the egg and the sperm—which unite to form a new individual, are equal to each other except as regard the sex chromosome. It must not be thought, however, that the egg is merely a container of chromosomes. Its influence is not confined to chromosome content, for the cytoplasm of the egg is already organized at the time of fertilization. Its parts differ qualitatively so that, as cleavage progresses, blastomeres with different potentialities are produced, although the nuclei which they contain are all alike in chromosome content.

One cannot say that the primary organization of the egg is due to immediate chromosome influence, for it arises in the presence of precisely the same mixture of chromosomes as is found in every single cell of the body, cells which are highly differentiated parts of a complete organism. Potentially, the egg cell also is a complete organism, though it has the same chromosome content as the highly differentiated parts of the mother. The differentiation therefore is not a function of immediate chromosomal activity, but adheres in the unitary organization of the species.

It would be wrong to think that the egg has an organization as complete as that of the adult. For instance, amphibian eggs first develop what has been described as a "grey crescent" which acts as an "organizer" to determine the fate of adjacent parts, and eventually, of the entire egg.

The adjacent parts are still undetermined when the "grey crescent" appears, and can be made to produce

practically any part of the body by bringing them into proper relation with an "organizer," either the primary organizer of the egg, or another organizer transplanted from another egg or even from the egg of a different species. So the development of the egg is determined step by step, it only being necessary to assume that a few primary features in the organization of the egg are present in the first instance.

Similarly, the determination of the inherited general characters is probably relatively simple, inherent in the organization of the cytoplasmic portion of the egg and not of its chromosomes, except as they control cytoplasmic organization. A very good example concerns the body-weight of rabbits, when the different varieties produced vary considerably in body size—Flemish Giants attaining a weight of some five to six thousand grams; Polish rabbits only attaining a weight of some thirteen to sixteen hundred grams.

Size and Growth

Even in cases like this, where sizes have been increased or decreased to extremes from the normal, the offspring are intermediates. It has been found that in the large race, cleavage of the egg takes place at a more rapid rate than in the small race, while cleavage in the egg of the hybrid, proceeds at an intermediate rate. When born, the Giants are approximately twice as heavy as the Polish are, and they grow faster and for a longer period of time before they reach their maximum weight.

By the acceptance of "the theory of the gene," it was assumed that chromosomal genes determined the size of each part of the body, and this further required the assumption of it being necessary for there to be present quite a large number of genes which would influence the size of the parts. But given the more rapid development rate, as in the case of the egg of the large rabbit race, the differences in adult body-size would follow. In connection with increasing size, it seems that proportions alter so that in the more rapid growth, length increases more rapidly than width of elongated organs.

At present it is impossible to say why the egg of one species should exhibit something different from the egg of another species. Separately considered, neither the chromosomes or the cytoplasm constitute a living organism, but the two in conjunction do, and the egg of each species contain both in such a state that normally only the stimulus of fertilization is necessary in order that development will start, and eventually produce something typical of the species.

Determination of Sex

Only some of the more general features of organization can be found in the egg. That is to say, we must not suppose that all the steps of differentiation are predetermined in the egg and are represented by quite distinct genes. The completed organization is reached only as development progresses. The genes act as modifiers in the processes, and all the developmental processes are probably subject to modification by the chromosomal genes.

Perhaps we are prone, as fanciers, to think of genes as only something which are active up to the end of the pre-natal period, but that would be a wrong impression. Genes may modify any portion of a life cycle. But in all this we should be careful not to confuse modification of a process with its causation. And because the organization of the egg cytoplasm can be modified by the genes, it

does not mean that it is wholly produced by the genes. We have to look on the action of chromosomal genes as comparable in their way of working to the hormones of the body, just as hormones affect the physiological processes of the body, so do the chromosomal genes affect the chemical composition of the cell so as to modify certain of its processes, and both are highly selective in their action.

The determination of the sex of a developing individual is controlled by a sex chromosome, but a contrary sex hormone which has arisen from the sex glands of another individual of the species of the opposite sex, if introduced at the proper stage, may reverse the course of sex development, changing a genetically determined female into an imperfectly functioning male. This fact is used in order to explain the probability of the appearance at times of the Tortoiseshell male.

In summing up, we are able to say that reproduction through heredity includes all likenesses between parents and offspring which are not due to environmental effects; and that the likenesses are of two groups—one containing general feature, the other its details only. The detail group is made up of unit characters inherited according to Mendel's law, their determiners being genes located in the chromosomes.

(to be continued)

FREE!

To the first 250 NEW subscribers in 1955 we will present a free copy of the GRAND INTERNATIONAL NUMBER of OUR CATS. This unique 104-page issue was published about a year ago and was received with enthusiasm all over the cat world. Please tell your friends about this offer.

We head West

By CICELY C. MELLOR

AFTER living in Brooklyn, New York, for twenty years—in South Africa before that and in England prior to that—my daughter Jacqueline and I decided to “pull up stakes” and head West.

So in early August we left for Chicago for the week-end, and afterwards spent a few days in Denver, Colorado, and Salt Lake City, Utah. Although we had no time to contact cat breeders in these places, we did go on tours of the high spots. A look at the map of the U.S.A. will show that Denver is just east of the Rocky Mountains and has an altitude of several thousand feet. It is known as the “city where the West begins” and sure enough one can sense the presence of the rugged mountain chains and notice the difference in dress and attitude of the inhabitants. Do not however expect to see cowboys tearing through the streets, although heeled boots and ten-gallon hats are frequently seen.

In Salt Lake City, the Mormon Temple dominates the scene and is the mecca of Latter Day Saints from all over the world. The Temple itself is closed to non-Mormons; but the fine tabernacle is open to all, with organ and choir music given each day. Many tourists frequent the Temple Square area and most take a trip to the Great Salt Lake where the water is so briny and buoyant one can float with ease. Bingham Canyon copper mine also is an interesting sight in operation and the narrow mining town is well worth a visit.

We spent the longest part of our tour in and around San Francisco and the Bay Area, staying out of the city in Marin County, across the Golden Gate Bridge. Cool fogs blow in from the great Pacific Ocean in July and August, and since the climate across the bay is quite different from what one can expect to find in San Francisco proper, it is difficult to know just how to dress. San Francisco is unquestionably one of the most



Mrs. Mellor with her Russian Blue Mission City Terrilita, who was bred by Mrs. Blanche Warren at her Casa Gatos Cattery in California.



Jacqueline Mellor with a black hybrid Siamese male bred by the well-known Californian fancier, Mrs. Alice Clark, of San Francisco.

scenic and fascinating cities in the world, being built on seven hills and having long streets sloping up and down the gradients and always there is a view.

While there we called upon one of the best known cat breeders in the West, Mrs. Alice Clark, who showed us the many fine rosettes won by her Shorthaired cats in recent years. We particularly admired a female Frost Point Siamese and her newest litter ; her Manx queen and kit and also a striking young black Siamese male, with blue eyes, which Jacqueline is holding in the photo.

Another day we met Mrs. Charlotte Smiley, a most enterprising and successful fancier, in San Rafael. Her Siamese, Burmese and Russian Blue cats all gave evidence of much care and thoughtful breeding. Of course, my chief interest lay in her H.R.H. Marin's Prince Kama, the litter brother to my own Mission City Terrilita who I am hugging in the picture.

Home of "Katnip"

It was regrettable we had not the opportunity to visit Mrs. Blanche Warren, noted breeder of foreign Shorthairs, especially Russians, from whom I bought "Terry" as a nucleus for my little "Troika" cattery. Terry came to me, bred, from the Mrs. Warren's Casa Gatos Cattery in California and her two sons, Troika's Prince Cobalt and Troika's Indigo Czar have done very well in Eastern shows.

Leaving San Francisco, we travelled the scenic Shasta Route to Portland, Oregon, city of roses and lumber, and from there went on to Seattle, Washington, where we spent some time with the Yoders. Having been associated with Dan Yoder for several years, I had been looking forward eagerly to meeting him and Mrs. Yoder, who produce the attractive "Felix" cat accessories under the caption Katnip Tree Company. Not only did the Yoders show us around the city and environs, but we spent a couple

of delightful evenings at their home, which is run by their four Siamese who pay for their bountiful keep by deigning to pose for the illustrations in the "Felix" catalogue, which is something very special and attractive in its field.

An English couple, whom we met through the Yoders, very kindly drove us to Vancouver, British Columbia, where the Pacific National Exhibition was in progress. On August 30th and 31st there was a cat show there, under A.C.A. rules, and our foursome spent most of the second day meeting the exhibitors and talking to and about the many fine cats shown in the hall, which was well decorated with fern, pine branches and flags.

At this show I met two exhibitors from Idaho, the State in which, temporarily at least, my daughter and I are now living. Mrs. Irene Powell of the Chatami Cattery in Coeur D'Alene, showed us her fine Silvers and Smokes, and we also admired a very promising Smoke male kitten belonging to Miss Barbara Jo Fergus of the same town.

There were some lovely Blues, especially those shown by Miss Helen McManus, who had in their bloodlines the Dunesk and Glen Echo strains. Her winning female kitten, Royal's Blue Glory showed signs of living up to her name and is a very sweet baby. Another entry which was outstanding was a Shaded Silver female, a descendant of Rosemary of Keswick, owned by Mrs. Denend, of Seattle.

While in this vicinity, we drove around the city and environs, admiring the many fine public buildings, home and gardens ; stopping off at English Bay, a suburban resort, and taking snapshots of the gayly coloured totem poles on Marine Drive.

Our wanderings had to end sometime, and as Boise, Idaho, was our last call for some time, we flew there on September 1st and since then have been settling down, getting acquainted and enjoying the constant sunshine which is the attraction of the mountain states.



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.

Croydon Winners

CROYDON Cat Club Ch. Show at the Royal Horticultural Hall on November 10th attracted over 350 pedigree cats and kittens and as most of the adults were approaching full winter pomp they were a lovely representative collection. In addition, there were sixteen household pets (a class judged by the Dowager Lady Aberconway), two of whom sported the intriguing names of Baby Bumble Blue Tum and Matilde of the Nile.

Such an entry made a lot of work for Mr. Towe, Show Manager, and Mrs. Towe, Hon. Secretary of the Club, but of course a large entry is always welcomed by the managers of our shows. Unfortunately it rained nearly all day so the gate did not appear to be a record one for this Club, but I was pleased to hear that in spite of the weather it was better than last year. Two distinguished visitors were Mme. Ravel and Mme. Walter of Paris. They flew over during the morning and returned the same evening, taking

with them Miss Page's Blue male kitten, Woburn Chuckles, and Mrs. Warren's Black female, Sarisbury Salote and, I believe, an adult. But I am not sure which one.

The Best in Show award was decided by two panels of three judges and in the case of the Best Longhair cat, also the kitten, the voting was equal. So the final decision rested with the referee judge Mrs. Peggy Cattermole. The three Longhairs each receiving one vote were Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous (Blue male), Ch. Dalmond Damarette (White female) and Fidelio of Allington (Chinchilla male, who became a Champion on the day, his third consecutive Challenge certificate).

Mrs. Cattermole's casting vote was given to Fidelio, one of the loveliest Chinchilla post-war males we have seen. His picture appeared in the October issue of OUR CATS. I did not wait to see the rest of the Best in Show procedure but the major awards were : Best Longhair Kitten, Dr. and Mrs. Raleigh's Bayhorne Adam (again decided on the casting vote of the referee judge) ; Miss Langston's two outstanding Chinchillas, Philomel and Marissa of Allington each receiving one vote from the panel and Bayhorne Adam one ; Best Shorthair Cat Miss Bone's Abyssinian male, Contented Amigo ; Best Shorthair Kitten, Mrs. Earnshaw's Manx Ballaugh Empress ; Best Shorthair Neuter Mrs. Hooper's Seal Point Siamese Behenta Yu Phin in a lovely class of seventeen neuters judged by Mrs. Price, whom it

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was very nice to see making her début as a judge ; Best Longhair Neuter Mrs. Minter's Chinchilla Martigny of Brentside. 35 neuters competed in the four Premier classes. They were almost a show in themselves and a fine example of the inducement the award of Premier has offered to owners of neuters to exhibit them.

Best Longhair Champion was Mr. Dugdale's Ch. Harpur Blue Boy and Best Shorthair Champion Mr. Stirling-Webb's Ch. Hope of Rockvilla. Best Premier of Premiers went to the Misses Marshall's Pr. Ashdown Twinkletoes. Entry in these classes is not automatic, so all the Champions and Premiers present at the Show did not compete. The competition in the Open classes among kittens was very unequal and 10 Blue-Cream kittens with only one Open class had the most to contend with. The quality in this class was the best we have seen this season.

Ten Chinchilla kittens had four Open classes provided for them and the 3 to 5 months had to be cancelled as there were no entries. Nineteen Blue kittens also had four Open classes. Fifteen Cream kittens had two Open classes and three was the maximum number the other Longhair kittens had to contend with in their Open class with the exception of seven in the Tortie and Tortie and White kitten class.

Well Filled Club Classes

The Blue adults judged by Mrs. Chappell were lovely in quality. Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous was her nominee for Best Blue adult. Mrs. Crickmore's beautiful Thiepval Precocious completed her Championship at three consecutive shows, thus fulfilling her exceptional kitten promise. Two notable absentees in Blue adults were Mrs. McVady's Ch. Gaydene Candy Kisses, a cat I have always admired, and Mrs. Beedell's Ch. Magyar Yanos owing to the illness of her owner. Here's wishing her a good

recovery. Best Cream adult was Mrs. Sheppard's male Widdington Winterset, a lovely pale cat excelling in type. Mrs. Fawell was awarded Best Red Tabby adult with Barwell Pedro and Mr. Gordon Allt Best Black with his male Danhurst Black Prince.

There were many very well filled Club classes and it would have been nice to see some of them divided into sexes especially Class 101 A. C. Longhair Breeders male or female (except Blue) with 26 in it. Six prizes were given but obviously exhibitors would much prefer the sexes divided as was done in class 112 A. C. Novice Siamese kitten, male or female, with 25 exhibits. However, shows have to cover expenses otherwise they would cease and any profit is ploughed back into future shows. It was generous and I am sure much appreciated that Mr. Towe gave his services to organize this big Show. What a blessing for everyone concerned that Croydon Cat Club now has its show venue in central London. I wonder what present-day exhibitors from the provinces would say if they had to travel out to Croydon as we did in pre-war days. The Baths Hall, Croydon, would no longer be big enough to accommodate last month's entry.

It was nice to see Miss Collins judging Blue kittens, her first engagement, I believe, at a Ch. show in England. She has had many, many years experience of breeding Blues, Smokes, Blacks, Creams and other varieties and I hope this will be a prelude to her judging at other fixtures. Exhibitors like the changes to be rung on different judges especially for Club classes and personally I am all in favour of having as much variety as possible.

Manx in America

Miss Sladen, of the famous Stonor prefix, who has bred so many fine Manx has sent Stonor Jet to Mrs. Ralph Newton, of Miami, Florida, U.S.A. He flew to Nassau by B.O.A.C. plane and then by Pan American Airways to Miami.



DIMPLE OF THAME (by Jamie of Thame ex Dawn of Thame), one of Mrs. H. McLeod's well-known family of Chinchillas who are mentioned on the next page.

Miss Sladen sent me Mrs. Newton's letter and here are some interesting extracts from it : " The shipping crate is very nice and it will be used for his private conveyance. It is being enamelled in deep green with his name as well as " Miamanx " painted on it in white. Mr. Newton has the credit for naming our Cattery—" Miami " for Miami and " Manx " for Manx. As I raise Manx exclusively it is an excellent name. . . . "

" I have an outstanding white female and should like to have a white male. There must be absolutely no sign of a tail either by a tuft of hair or a sign of gristle, nor can there be what is termed here in America a " rise. " This is where there is no evidence of a tail other than the cat's ability to raise the end of his spine. In other words, a specimen like Stonor Jet is in my estimation as perfect as one could wish for although I realize they are few and far between. I have been four years finding Jet. "

A Rare Little Tabby

" On October 28th, " Mrs. Newton continues, " at New Orleans Cat Fanciers' Show, Louisiana, Jet took First and Winners and Best of Colour in both the All Breed and Shorthair Speciality Shows and made 8 points towards his A.C.A. Championship (10 points being the minimum for a full Champion). 19 Manx were exhibited. "

" At the North Shore Cat Fanciers' Show, in Chicago, Jet was Best Manx in the Shorthair Speciality and Best Opposite Sex Manx in the All-breed which gave him 8 points towards his C.F.A. Championship. "

" Jet is in excellent health and seems happy in his new home. He is always sweet and gentle and his appetite is grand. He enjoys our Florida sunshine and loves to roll on the walk while we tell him how handsome he is. We have not used him for breeding yet as I shall wait until the show season is over. I have

two Tortie Manx females, a Red Mackerel and a solid Black female that are sending out signs that it won't be long now. "

" We have of our own breeding a rare little Brown Mackerel Tabby female. She is lovely with a dear face and grand conformation. She is only five months but when she is old enough for competition I am sure she will catch the eye of many. As soon as I get some snapshots of Jet I will send them to you. "

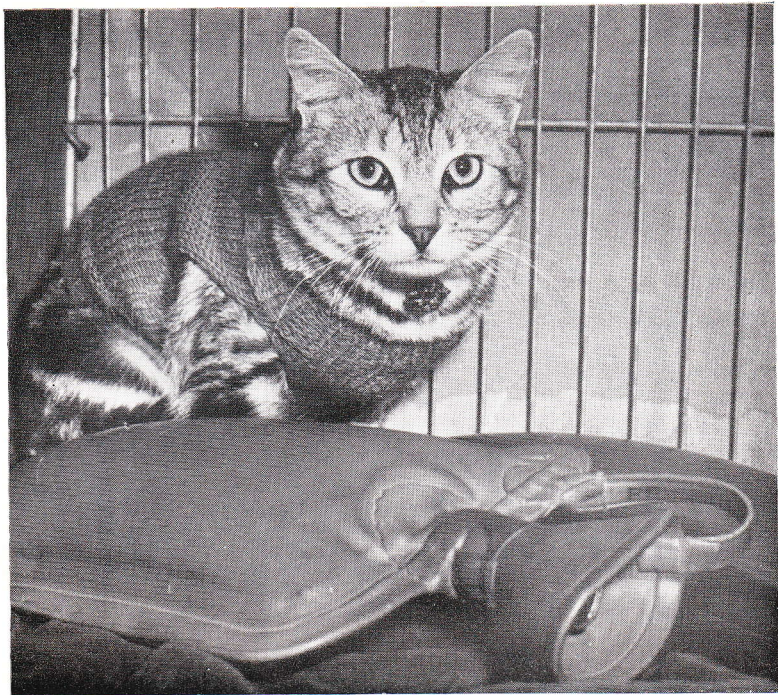
Chinchillas in Sussex

Mrs. H. McLeod and Miss S. Bridges have removed from Uckfield, Sussex, to Milestones, High Street, Steyning, Sussex. It has been a tremendous upheaval for them as with them went their lovely and valuable stock of Old English furniture and porcelain and last but not least their famous Chinchillas.

Mrs. McLeod writes : " This has been one of my unlucky years. I have only three kittens as nearly all my cats refused their maternal duties although they went to different males several times. Even my Mitsie of Thame failed three times with Jamie, a thing she has never done before. However, she eventually produced two kittens by him which unfortunately were too young to exhibit at Croydon by two days. At the National Show I shall be judging Chinchillas. "

" Peri of Thame has one lovely kitten by Ch. Mark of Allington which I hope to show at the S.C.C.C. Show in February. Dawn of Thame had three kittens by Jamie a week overdue so two were stillborn and the third only survived 24 hours. Dimple and Sally Bridges Spindrift Tip-Toes have refused family responsibilities altogether. Well, there it is and what a good thing we love them all as ' hope springs eternal ' and we wish for better luck next year. "

Mrs. Regan, of Kingston-on-Thames, tells me her Silver Tabby Shorthair



Keystone Press Agency

Having come safely through the hazards of quarantine, Mrs. K. L. Regan's Silver Tabby Shorthair import from France, BELLEVER CALCHAS DACHEUX, isn't taking any chances with the rigors of the English winter.

male, Bellever Calchas Dacheux bred in France by Monsieur Desbriere has come safely out of six months' quarantine. Mrs. Towe is kindly looking after him until his house is ready early in the New Year. His sire, Chichat D'Acheux, has won well in France. Miss Yorke judged him at a Cat Club de Paris Ch. Show and gave him a good report. Calchas Dacheux will be a great asset to Silver Tabbies in England as an outcross and already owners of queens are requesting his services in the Spring. He is not two years of age until March and has not been used for breeding yet but shows all the preliminary signs of a keen sire.

Mrs. Regan commenced breeding Silver Tabbies in 1949 with a queen named Silver Jacinth. She had several nice litters but some of them were the

result of love matches so these did not advance the breed. Bellever Silver Chalcedony, Best Kitten at Olympia in 1952, is one of the queens intended as a mate for Dacheux and it will be interesting to see the result of the litter. Mrs. Regan is of course the breeder of Brigadier and Mrs. Rossiter's famous Premier neuter Bellever Silver Carnelian. She is very keen on Silver Tabbies and is specializing in them. Here's wishing her every success.

Red Tabby Specialist

Mrs. Denys Fawell specializes in Red Tabby Longhairs and has already had much success with them. In addition to Barwell Pedro's 1st and Ch. at C.C.C. Ch. Show, she had the same honour with her female Barwell Pippa and in kittens

the male Barwell Quito was Best Red kitten. He has since gone to Wales to the Hon. Mrs. Wyllie and it is hoped will eventually be used for breeding. All the above winners are by Miss Lelgarde Fraser's famous Red Tabby Ch. Hendon Lysander.

Mrs. Fawell writes : " I am always trying to improve the type whilst striving to keep the deep copper red and the stripes. It is very difficult as there are so few Red Tabbies and I will not inbreed. I am line breeding mostly trying to keep the Hendon strain ; and breeding out to Blacks with good type. Miss Rodda's Black Ch. Chadhurst Sambo has been a great help and now I am sending to Mrs. Aitken's Ch. Bourneside Black Diamond."

" I have set my heart on breeding a Red which excels in type and—don't laugh—I want one like Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous. He is the ideal I am aiming at. He has lovely type but is not exaggerated and that is what I want."

Winners at Stockholm

Mrs. Judith Saether writes her usual lively account of a Scandinavian Show. She stewarded for Madame Pia Sandoz for Longhairs at the 3-day Swedish Cat Club Ch. Show at Stockholm last month.

" It was a very pleasant and well run show," she says, " and from all accounts a financial success. Prices of admission were put up to 2 kroner for adults (about 3s. 6d.) and 1.50 kroner (about 2s. 2d.) for children. Friday and Saturday were fairly quiet but on Sunday the public streamed in all day so with fewer people, as much or more money has been made than previous shows. I had a lovely time staying with Mrs. Ulla Magnusson and Mrs. K. Williams was with us on Sunday night so it was delightful."

" Waldo Precious, the Siamese, was nursing a very nice litter of six kittens and Mrs. Magnusson's house Siamese had seven kittens but three were put to sleep and she was given one of Waldo Precious's kittens as she had seven also.

But what did she do but take her own four plus the W.P. one and hide them between the floor of the children's room and the ceiling of the sitting room where nobody can get at them. So Mrs. Magnusson is waiting for them to grow so they can crawl out. The mother is very sweet and a great character and comes down from feeding her hidden family covered in wood shavings. The house is newly built and when the kittens emerge, the floor will be completed."

" The Best Longhair Cat in Show was Mrs. Sörvik-Jansson's pale Cream female, Broughton Primrose (by Aviary Michael and bred in England by Mrs. Hughes). Best Longhair Neuter in Show was my Foxburrow Firefly (by Ch. Dylan of Allington) who has not been beaten in a Longhair Neuter class."

" Awards in Longhairs of particular interest to breeders in England were : C.A.C. I.B. to Int. Ch. Gippeswyk Darby by Malmory Son o' Taff ; C.A.C. I.B. to Int. Ch. Ronada Onaway by Southway Echo ; 1st and Ch. to Bircotte Modest Maidie by Ch. Dylan of Allington (all these are Blue Longhairs). 1st and Ch. to Ch. Sarisbury Miriam by Ch. Harpur Blue Boy (Black female) ; 1st and Ch. to Hazeldane Silver Rexi by Ch. Flambeau of Allington (Chinchilla male) ; 1st and Ch. to Sophia of Allington by Ch. Scamp of Allington (Chinchilla)."

" Several of the winners in other classes were bred in Sweden and were by the English imported Blue Longhair Ch. Baralan Challenger, who has proved such a prepotent sire of winners in Sweden."

" A lovely show, which went all too quickly as shows always do, even when they last three days."

Mrs. Saether does not mention which was Best Longhair kitten so I hope to publish this later.

Here's wishing cat lovers everywhere a successful New Year and may all their dreams of breeding super kittens come true.

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What's in a Name?

TWO companies, both well-known for their production of animal foods, went to court last month.

For the question Mr. Justice Roxburgh, 65 year-old Chancery Court judge, was asked to decide was : Would people confuse "Kit - E - Kat" and "Sprattykat" ?

The owners of "Kit-E-Kat" (Chappie Ltd.) sued the owners of "Sprattykat" (Spratt's Patent Ltd.), alleging infringement of their trade mark.

Counsel for Chappie Ltd., Mr. P. Stuart Bevan, said : "In the atmosphere of a court, where people enunciate their words with considerable clarity, confusion is very unlikely. But in a shop with children ordering cat food, and orders coming over the telephone, the possibility of confusion exists."

Said the judge : "I have no doubt that 'Kit-E-Kat' is well known. I, myself, have heard of it, and I haven't got a cat. But almost ever since I was born I have heard of Spratt's."

Then he refused to grant an injunction restraining Spratt's Patent Ltd. from passing off their product in such a way as to confuse the public.

There was a real possibility, said the judge, of people confusing the two products because of imperfect recollection. He had in mind the woman who went into a shop knowing only that the cat food she wanted ended with "Kat." "The danger is in the jingle. But if one trader got a monopoly of the word 'Kat' I

don't know where it is going to stop. It would ban words like 'Flabbykat,' 'Bushykat,' and others."

"There certainly will be confusion," the judge concluded, "but I am not certain whether it will be of sufficient degree to make it actionable."

Another Name Refused

Singularly enough, another well-known firm marketing a proprietary brand of cat food were recently engaged in a legal action connected with the naming of their product.

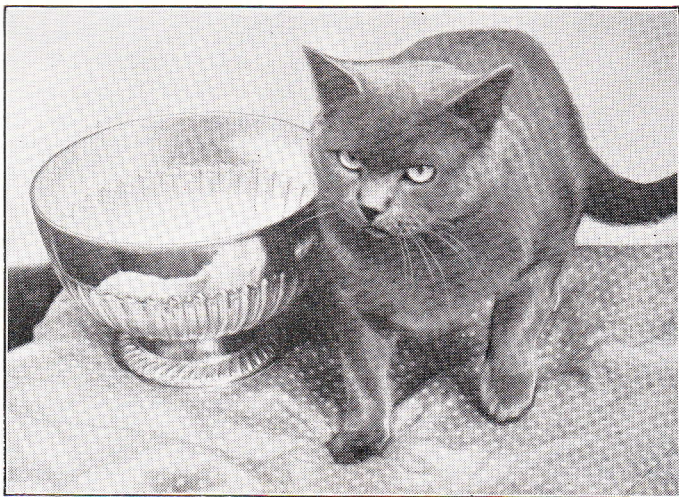
Mr. Justice Lloyd-Jacob heard Henry Quennell, Ltd., of Warrington, Lancs., appeal against a registrar's refusal to allow them to register "Pussikin" as a trade mark for their cat food.

Mr. John Whitford, for the manufacturers, said the registrar held that "kin" added to the words "puss" or "pussy" would be normal English—possibly a term of affection. He added, "It seems that when the word "pussikin," meaning a little cat, is conjoined with the name of the goods it clearly describes their purpose as a food for cats."

But Mr. Whitford submitted that "pussikin" was only a made-up word. "Pumpkin" might be said to be no more than a little pump, but it had a wholly different significance.

During further submissions on word meanings the judge commented : "Try that on the cat." Later Mr. Whitford said he had just thought of the nursery rhyme, "Pussycat, pussycat, where have you been . . ."

The appeal was dismissed with costs.



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Photo. B. Bines

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Sydney Morning Herald

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