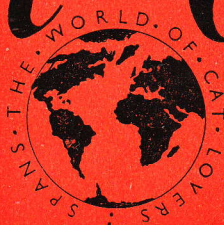


*Mrs. Vischer's department - P-27*

# Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE  
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING  
COMPREHENSIVE



## ALL EYES ON THE DICKY BIRD !

*This happy out-of-doors picture, so redolent of the longer and—we hope ! — summer days ahead, came to us from Mrs. Charles Vischer, of New York. It shows her maid with the two family favourites SAPPHIRE and MOONSTONE OF WU. And a well-behaved pair they appear to be !*

FEBRUARY 1955

1/6



Brush your whiskers,  
Wash your fur!  
Here's Kit-E-Kat  
To make you purr!



Yes . . . for really complete nourishment all cats and kittens need Kit-E-Kat—and how they love it! It's packed full of fish and meat, cooked and ready to serve, and there are several meals in every tin.

THE COMPLETE AND NOURISHING CAT FOOD

**KIT-E-KAT**

CHOCK-FULL OF  
FISH AND MEAT

**cooked and ready to serve**

# Our Cats

**AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING**

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

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

**VOL. 7 No. 2**

**FEBRUARY 1955**

**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**



**RESIDENTS AT "NOMOUSE INN"**

Presenting—on the right—Silver Persian Triple Champion **LADY LOU OF KATNIP KORNER**, who has appeared in a Hollywood movie, with her Tortie companion **DRIFTWOOD PIXIE OF LONGHILL**. All around are some of the trophies and ribbons they have won at shows in various states of the U.S.A. These two aristocratic queens are part of the household of "Nomouse Inn," the boarding establishment run exclusively for cats at Vista, California, by Mrs. Elissa Elder and Alberta Paris. The apartments at the "Inn" are painted different colours so that guests can say they are occupying the "Gold Room" or the "Blue Room," as the case may be!





This fine Silver Tabby is one of the best known Shorthairs on the Continent to-day. He is Int. Champion, AFRICAN THRUST belonging to Fru Omsguard, of Oslo. He was Best Shorthair at the recent Oslo Show and further successes went his way at the Stockholm Show.



**GENERAL INFORMATION :** The address for all communications relating to editorial and advertisements in OUR CATS is 4 CARLTON MANSIONS, CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9 (Macauley 1462).

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# ***Cats in Malaya***

By PAULA HARRIS

CATS seem to crop up in all sorts of odd places, but one would not normally expect to find them playing their part in fighting the Communist terrorists in the Malayan jungle. But a news item from Malaya some while back showed that one never knows where a cat will appear next.

The security forces who pursue the Communists, whose camps are deep in the jungle, have to struggle through marshes and dense undergrowth, and under these conditions, it is impossible for them to carry more than the bare minimum of supplies. So advance camps, or forts, were set up at various strategic points in the jungle, where the troops could rest between sorties. The chief problem encountered by the organizers was that of providing the men with sufficient food to keep them fit for their strenuous work. Arrangements were therefore made for the RAF to drop crates of food by parachute to units of security forces, who would "give their grocery order" to the RAF station at Kuala Lumpur by radio, saying where they would be waiting for the crates to be dropped.

At first everything went swimmingly. The security men in the jungle reported that the "air-drop" was working magnificently and the food was landing at the exact spot indicated in the radio messages. But shortly after operations began, reports reached Kuala Lumpur of trouble with the huge jungle rats, who were eating their way into the makeshift larders and gobbling up the carefully hoarded provisions. Then someone had a brainwave.

The next time an RAF Valetta set out with its crates of supplies for the jungle, it carried a new recruit for the fort—a cat, a champion rat-ter, tucked up in a

specially padded box. The cat made his jump with great success, and became a valued member of the community, and no further complaints about rats have been received from the heart of the Malayan jungle !

The cat has always played an important part in the life of the superstitious Malays, who believe that, when they die, they must pass through a blazing furnace inhabited by devils before they can reach the paradise that lies beyond. If they can, they take with them a cat and a dog. The dog walks behind as they pass through the furnace and fights the devils ; the cat walks in front and spits on the flames. In this way the heat is lessened and the journey to paradise is not quite so painful as it might otherwise have been !

## **An Evil Influence**

It is the thought of this journey that prevents Malays from killing a cat. If they should commit this crime, they believe they will be punished by having to carry and pile in the next life as many thick logs as there are hairs in the cat's body. So no-one ever kills a cat directly. But if any cat should do so much damage that it is essential for it to be removed, it is put on a raft and sent floating down stream, where it eventually dies of hunger or drowning. The people can then say that famine or the river has killed the cat, and no human will suffer.

There is another connection between cats and death. It is believed that there is an evil influence in all cats. If a cat should brush against a dead body, this evil influence is said to transfer to the corpse, which is endowed with unnatural



life and rises to its feet. For this reason a cat is never allowed in a house where a funeral is to take place.

Cats can affect the weather as well. If there has been a drought, a Malayan woman will put an earthenware pan on her head, put it back on the ground, fill it with water and wash a cat in it until the poor creature is half drowned. This, she believes, will bring heavy rains.

If you stroke a Malayan cat's tail, you will feel a curious kink halfway up. But the cats of Malaya didn't always have this kink. There is a legend of a beautiful princess who used to go swimming in the Perak river. She was always accompanied by her cat. Before swimming the princess would take off all her rings and slip them over the cat's tail. The cat

would then walk up and down the river bank, holding his tail erect to prevent the rings from falling off, while his mistress splashed in the river.

One day the cat was patrolling up and down when he saw an old grey fish jeering at him from the water. The cat was so angry that he leapt at the fish, intending to scratch him ; but alas, the fish disappeared, the cat slipped into the water and all the rings fell off his tail and sank to the bottom of the river.

When the princess discovered that her rings were lost, she punished her cat by tying a knot in his tail, so that he should never forget his carelessness. And to this day every Malayan cat bears the scar of that original knotting !

---

**BEAUMANOR  
TOOKI**

**Best Kitten at  
the 1954  
Championship  
Show of the  
Siamese Cat  
Club.**

**Bred by  
Miss M. E. Lant,  
of Lough-  
borough, Tooki  
was later  
purchased by  
Mr. Gordon  
Stewart, of  
Calgary, Alberta,  
Canada,**





# 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 top left-hand corner.

## How to Start

**I want to start breeding cats, but when I ask my friends whether I should buy a kitten or an adult the answers they give cancel each other out. Which is the wiser plan?**

The answers of your friends are so apparently contradictory because there can be no absolute answer. Which would you prefer to have, a kitten or a cat? Would you be prepared to pay a high price for a good breeding queen? If you buy a kitten will it become a breeder? You must make up your own mind and then hope for the best.

## A Hungry Male

**I have an adult male who always seems to be hungry. Can you tell me how much food I should give him each day?**

First of all you must remember that the quantity of food given is not the only important factor. Milk is food and horsemeat is also food, but the same quantity of each would have a different feeding value. Is your cat very active? Is he a stud? Both questions are important when deciding quantities of food. Satisfy him with as much as he wants, but do make sure that you are not feeding internal parasites as well as your cat.

## Burmese Origin

**Is the Burmese cat a true breed or is it just the result of a stray mating with a Siamese?**

Quite definitely there is no question of a "stray" mating. Burmese cats are now recognized in this country as a separate breed and breeders thus mate Burmese to Burmese. Right from the start there was a Burmese cat, but where it was first produced no one seems to know. A well-known strain in America was produced by crossing a Burmese with a Siamese because no pair of Burmese was available. Quite a number of other breeds have also been developed by an "outcross" of this type.

## Vivisection is Legal

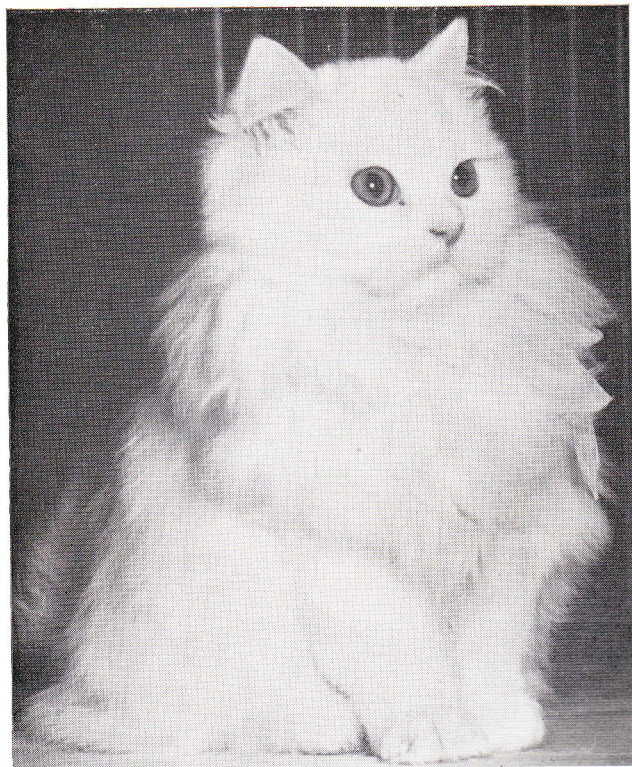
**I have heard of a large number of cats being used for vivisection. Is this true and can anything be done to stop it?**

Many cats are undoubtedly used for experimental purposes and it is perfectly legal for this to happen if reasonable safeguards are taken to see that the animal does not suffer unduly. The problem is a very difficult one, for in the first place one would have to obtain a general acceptance of a meaning for "reasonable." A Royal Commission has considered vivisection, but it did not condemn the practice. The whole problem is one of great interest to all animal lovers, but it is difficult to reach a satisfactory conclusion.

---

Oxford University is to spend £20,000 on building and equipping a new animal station at Northmoor, near Witney. It is to be used to house cats and dogs, but no experiments will be carried out in the new building.





(Left)

**DALMOND DIAMOND**, Mrs. M. E. Dallison's lovely young Orange-eyed White went Best Longhair Kitten at the recent National Show in the face of very strong opposition.

(Below)

**BAYHORNE ARIEL**, young Cream, son of Ch. Baralan Boy Blue and Bayhorne Sheena, bred by Mrs. Dulcie Benbow, of Little Hereford, Salop. After winning Best Kitten in Show award at the October fixture of the Midland Counties Cat Club Ariel was sold to a New Zealand admirer.



# ***Pity the Male***

By P. M. SODERBERG

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

FROM the remarks I often hear, I get the impression that the males of the cat world sometimes get less consideration than they deserve, but I am sure that when this happens it is the result of thoughtlessness and not cruelty on the part of those who own them.

Let us look at this question right from the beginning, on the very day when the cat is born. A really experienced breeder can look at the litter and pick out straight away those kittens that will certainly never be worth showing. Thus, the fate of part of most litters can be decided straight away, for, if a kitten does not look good enough ever to be shown, it is doubtful whether it ought to become a breeder. Particularly should this be the case with a male who will obviously be below standard.

On the other hand, the converse, that one can pick out certain prize winners from a litter, is not true. It is reasonable to suppose that one can pick out the kittens which will be of good type, but type is not everything. Colour also plays its part in every breed except one, and several months may elapse before one can be even reasonably certain about colour of coat and eyes. Even so, the potential stud is usually fairly obvious by the time he is three months old.

It is just at this stage that I should want to say "pity the male." If he is not to be used for stud purposes, now is the time to have him neutered and thus settle his fate at least in one respect. From then on he can go anywhere at any time and is very likely to become some-

one's constant companion. He has, in fact, ceased to be a male and will probably need no one's pity as he will almost certainly receive a lot of affectionate attention.

Of all the males that are bred, few will be left at this age who could reasonably be regarded as possible studs, but those few who will become breeders need training even at this early age for the life they will have to lead when they are adult.

However unnecessary it may at first appear, from four months onwards these potential studs should make a start at learning to live alone, for that is the sort of life that most stud cats have to lead. It may be possible to allow them to live with a queen who is perhaps a failure as a breeder; they may even get along happily with a neuter; but as far as humans are concerned the stud cat has to spend most of his life away from them.

## **Habit Dies Hard**

As soon as he is adult a stud starts to spray, and for most cat owners it is impossible to have him in the house. I know that there are entire males who are sometimes free from this unpleasant habit during the winter months, but they are the exception rather than the rule.

Thus, early training to live apart from humans is a kindness in the long run, for the habits a cat learns in its youth are not unduly irksome later on. It is really cruel to keep a young male in the house and to lavish on him an abundance of affection until he begins to become a nuisance and then suddenly banish him outside. No stud cat can understand



such treatment, and if he is attached to his owner he may well become really unhappy. Whenever he sees or hears those who have shown him great affection in the past, he will give vocal expression to his discontent.

To deny him affection and all companionship shows a complete lack of understanding of cat mentality, for most studs are affectionate creatures and frequently more demonstrative than females.

## **"Fashionable" Studs**

As often as possible the stud cat should be visited and made to feel that he is appreciated. If you only have time to push in his food or spend time with him when there is a visiting queen to be mated, my sympathies are definitely with the stud.

Some males are kept closely confined all the time, but this is not really necessary. Obviously it is rarely practicable to open the run and let him loose, but he can be taken for a walk and may not need to be put on a lead.

Personally I should be against bringing a stud into the house during the winter, for he would only feel the more unhappy when he again had to be banished. Half a loaf may be better than no bread, but I doubt if a stud can carry this reasoning into the sphere of companionship or loneliness.

Another point to remember is that some studs are more strongly sexed than others, and the owner must learn to know his stud. If this stud is disturbed by the sight of females, whether they are calling or not, he should be kept as isolated from them as possible. When other studs are also kept and the services of a highly sexed cat are not required, he should be protected from the excitement and frustration which may result from hearing what is happening near him.

There is another point which I have mentioned before with regard to stud cats, but which I do not hesitate to

mention again. Some studs become extremely popular just because they have been very successful at the shows. The owner is inundated with requests for this cat's services. It is a great temptation to accept all the queens that are offered, for stud work is the only side of cat breeding that shows a profit, but to do so is unfair to the stud.

To fix an arbitrary number of matings for studs in general would be foolish, but there is a reasonable limit which the owner should know. Having decided how many queens will be accepted in any one season, that number should be adhered to rigidly, for quite a number of the booked queens will have to come back for a second mating.

Popularity quickly wanes, and the cat which everyone wants one season may be replaced in popular favour by another stud even a year later. Then the stud which has had a host of queens becomes discontented and unhappy. He may even become a nuisance by calling for the queens that do not come. The fault will not be his, but it may hint at bad management on the part of his owner.

## **Feed Sensibly**

Just one more point and then I have finished with my plea for greater consideration for the entire male. It is the question of sensible feeding!

So many people seem to think that a stud cat must be fed on a concentrated diet in which meat is almost the sole ingredient. This is one of those half truths and a dangerous one at that.

Studs need excellent feeding with a plentiful supply of meat as a basis, but they do need variety and they must have bulk with all the essentials of good feeding included. If these facts are neglected, trouble will come sooner or later in the form of bladder troubles. Badly fed studs who take insufficient exercise will develop gravel, and the passing of water will be difficult if not impossible. To use a

*(continued at foot of next page)*



*Associated Newspapers*

**Actress Lilli Palmer with the Siamese Pyewacket and his understudy Phara who appear with her in the play "Bell, Book and Candle" now running at the Phœnix Theatre in London, after its enthusiastic reception in New York. Miss Palmer's playmates joined the cast from Mrs. K. R. Williams's Doneraile Cattery at Sutton, Surrey.**

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*PITY THE MALE (from previous page)*

catheter on a stud is difficult for the vet. and painful for the stud. It is even dangerous to life if the operation has to be performed several times.

In this respect common sense can do much to prevent trouble, so think for your stud right from the start and not when it is too late.



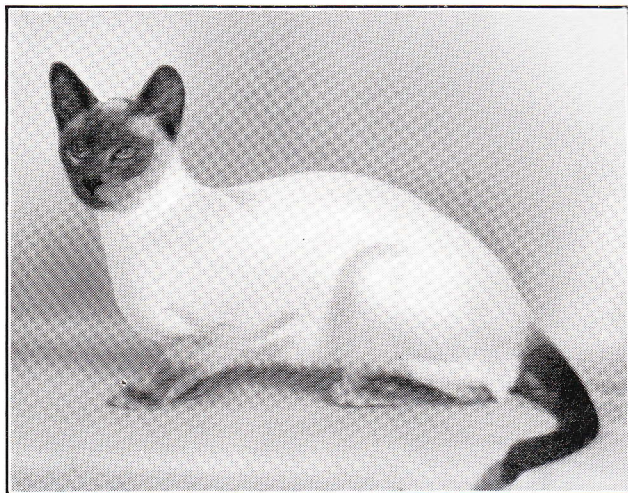


Photo : Styles and Marriott Ltd., Bovey Tracey.

### CHAMPION LAURENTIDE CORONA

**Mrs. A. HARGREAVES, F.Z.S. of Church Style, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot, Devon, owner-breeder of the Laurentide Siamese, writes :—**

*"I enclose a photograph of my Blue Pointed Siamese, Ch. Laurentide Corona. Among her wins she has received 5 Challenge Certificates in succession under 5 different judges ; and 20 First Prizes. She tied for Best in Show last year at the Herts and Middlesex and was Best female at the Siamese Show.*

*Corona, her mother and her grandmother were all brought up on Kit-zyme and are very healthy cats—always in excellent show condition.*

*These three Siamese are all First Prize Brood Queens and have together won over 100 awards. They also share a great fondness for Kit-zyme and seem to know it is good for them."*

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

**It is a natural Tonic and Conditioner—NOT a purgative**

# Kit-zyme

## VITAMIN - RICH YEAST

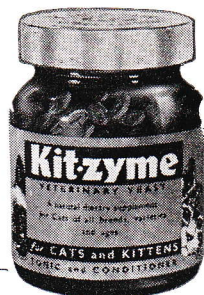
Promotes resistance to: **LISTLESSNESS, FALLING COAT, LOSS OF APPETITE, SKIN TROUBLES**  
50 (7½ gr.) Tablets 1/6, 250 for 4/-, 750 for 8/-

**From Chemists, Corn Chandlers and Pet Shops**

Literature Free on Request



If any difficulty in obtaining, write to:  
**PHILLIPS YEAST PRODUCTS LTD., Park Royal Road, London, N.W.10**



## A page for the proletarian puss No. 52



*M. Littledale*

### WHITSTABLE "NATIVES" by N. M. WOODALL

**W**HEN most people hear the name of Whitstable they think of oysters—but we think of cats.

Stroll through the narrow old streets along by the sea. Peep through picturesquely decrepit fences at the fascinating jumble of the shipyards. Suddenly, you'll stop and look closer. Look again and the baulks of wood, the old masts are alive. The longer you look the greater the aliveness. Cats, cats, and still more—cats. Go to the corner entrance and slowly they'll come towards you, awaiting the fishy offering that so many of their admirers bring.

It all started with one cat a few years back. I suppose he was called Ted—because they all are now. Ted was so busy keeping down the rats that he took a wife to help him. They had little Teds and more little Teds, homeless friends and unwanted kittens

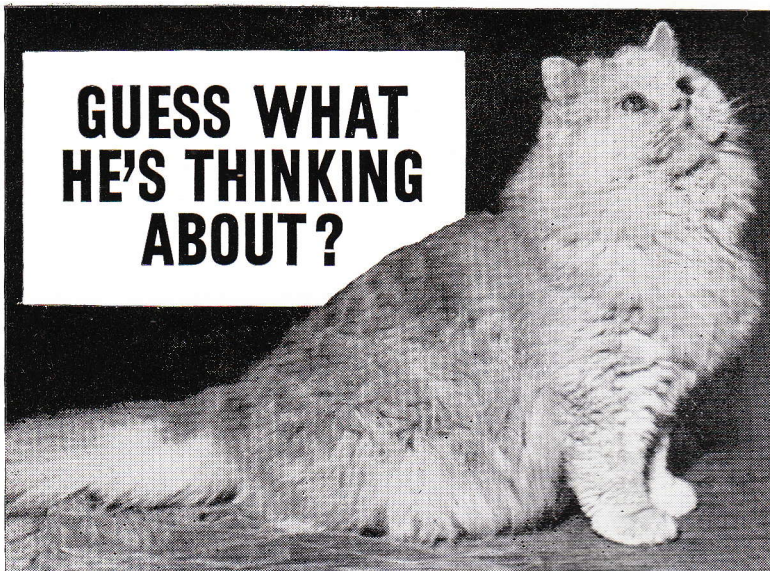
joined the happy throng, and it is a well-fed, happy and contented community.

Only once has their ordered existence been seriously disturbed. That was one stormy night in 1952 when, along with hundreds of other towns, Whitstable was invaded by the sea, and a great torrent of water swept over the sea wall, through the yards, through houses and shops. When dawn came the baulks of timber were no longer lying in the yard—they were floating down Whitstable High Street, efficiently manned by the shipyard cats—one plank boasted a "crew" of *fourteen*. But not one life was lost and soon all was peace again.

They like visitors, they have many faithful friends and a kind "boss"—but walk softly past that big black shed—the last time we called we were told of sixteen baby "Teds" carefully guarded by proud mammas.



# GUESS WHAT HE'S THINKING ABOUT?



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

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

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

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

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



*Famous  
breeders  
say:*

# TIBS

10d. and 2/-

# KEEP CATS KITTENISH

# ***More Alimentary Diseases***

By M.R.C.V.S.

## **Salivation**

The administration of ordinary medicines will not uncommonly excite profuse salivation in cats, the victim sitting morosely with its legs tucked under it and its head protruded forward, whilst ropy strings of saliva dribble from its mouth. Even the thought or sight of a medicine bottle and spoon will set many a cat salivating profusely. It is not a symptom accompanying general fevers, but readily occurs as a result of inflammation of the mouth or tongue, pyorrhoea, diphtheritic pharyngitis, nausea, indigestion, poisoning, foreign bodies, injuries, or abscesses located in the mouth or pharynx, and ranula.

The writer has also known numerous dogs to become affected in this way whilst carried in buses, cars or trains, the salivation then being apparently of purely nervous origin. Fear is a common cause of salivation in the cat. The drug—pilocarpine—will, of course, increase the salivary secretion, whilst atropine diminishes it.

## **Stomatitis**

(inflammation of the mouth)

This affection is in most cases of a mild character though in some it assumes great severity. It has various types, viz., ulcerative, vesicular, and catarrhal. The first-named is fairly common in aged cats, and when occurring is usually associated with pyorrhoea or tartar, an attack of influenza or mercurial poisoning.

The vesicular form is only occasionally observed in old cats, and is common in kittens, arising probably as a pure bacterial infection. In fact, it is a symptom of the sub-acute enteritis.

Catarrhal stomatitis is fairly common, arising usually from chemical irritants or thermal injuries. Occasionally, one meets with cases in which an examination of the back of the mouth reveals grey areas and croupous deposits simulating those observed in diphtheria; but the cat does not suffer from true diphtheria, and in spite of the scares occasionally raised in the lay and medical press, there is no evidence that ulcerative or croupous conditions of the cat's mouth can be conveyed to man.

In simple cases, little more will be discovered than an enhanced redness of the interior of the mouth, the discomfort of which may induce the animal to forego its food; or if it feeds, it does so slowly and carefully, avoiding all large or hard portions, and preferring to swallow without mastication.

Slight salivation may be present, and the cat will seem rather depressed. Where the condition is deeper seated or more acute, all these indications will be accentuated, the animal showing marked depression, refusing all food, dribbling freely at the mouth, and sticking its head stiffly forward, particularly when the pharynx is also implicated. General fever and constipation are constant accompaniments, and the cat strongly resents all attempts at examination of the interior of the mouth, or the forcible administration of food.

The exact appearance of the mouth will vary with the type of stomatitis present, and its cause. In the ulcerative type, there are discrete shallow ulcers which may or may not be coated with a dirty greyish necrotic material.

The gums, lips, cheeks and edges of the tongue may show a readiness to bleed on the slightest provocation. In other forms the whole buccal cavity may be diffusely inflamed and the tongue coated. This



is a very painful condition, and calls for skilled and urgent treatment.

## **Pyorrhœa** (Dental sepsis)

Probably this is a very much commoner condition in aged cats than is generally realized. Pyorrhœa may be general or local, and is frequently confined to one or more of the incisors or canines, which it generally evulses.

As the food of cats is mostly of a soft nature, there is no necessity to tear their food, and their teeth are not brought into contact with hard bones or biscuits (at least not to the same extent as are the teeth of dogs), the tendency to the deposition of tartar about their base is more pronounced.

The tooth becomes eventually loosened, the adjacent gum is injured and recedes,

with the result that the gum and the tooth socket (alveolus) are invaded by bacteria which are normally present in the mouth.

There are many cases of pyorrhœa, however, in which no tartar is observed. Gingivitis (inflamed gums) is followed later by alveolar periostitis and suppuration, which gradually extends down the tooth towards its roots until the tooth falls out, or receives veterinary attention. When the disease has advanced so far, removal of the tooth is the only course.

Symptoms occasioned are excessive rubbing of the face with the foreleg, more or less salivation, picking over its food and not eating with the usual avidity; general irritability, foul breath, loss of condition, and all signs of pain and discomfort.

The tooth or teeth chiefly affected can be detected by tapping lightly upon each one with the handle of a scalpel.



---

## **IRRITATION OF CATS' EARS**

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



### **OTODEX**

*which combines an anti-parasitic, antiseptic and local anæsthetic*

**SOOTHING, SAFE AND CERTAIN**

**Bottles 2/- and 7/6 (post 3d. and 6d.)**

## **SKIN DISEASE**

*of a non-parasitic nature, so rife and often seasonal in cats, can be rapidly cured by*



### **STRENOL ECZEMA CREAM**

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

**Pots 2/- (post 3d.)**

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

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# 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 in 1953. 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.

MR. CHURCHILL'S birthday celebrations inevitably produced stories of him as a cat lover. Lady Aberconway has told of his affection for Nelson and Tango, the splendid marmalade tom of whom Sir William Nicholson made drawings. When I borrowed this picture for an exhibition at the "Festival of Cats" some years ago his daughter, Mrs. Christopher Soames, told me that the cat was 17 years old when he died just at the time of the fall of Tobruk and that Mr. Churchill was very upset.

In the *Sunday Dispatch*, Nathaniel Gubbins reproduced a drawing by Sir Winston of his own famous or notorious cat Sally whose affairs with the Manhattan Mouser enlivened Mr. Gubbin's column during the war. Nat Gubbins recalled that when he lunched at Chartwell in 1949, Sir Winston talked about little else than cats. He also told how one night when there was a heavy raid the Premier who had many other things on his mind remembered just as he was getting into bed that it was the butler's night off and that the Downing Street cat might not have had his supper. Accordingly he went down in his dressing gown to the kitchen and "gave the Downing Street cat a generous helping from the larder."

"At that time," Gubbins commented, "it may be remembered, Hitler was hiding in a steel and concrete cellar at least 100 feet deep. And he was probably feeding Eva!"

Love of cats is probably not so much inherited as passed on in families through children growing up amongst cat lovers. I was interested to find that Sir Winston's father, Lord Randolph Churchill, was a cat lover. According to an article in OUR CATS (not *this* Magazine) 50 years ago Lord Randolph's "last days and failing powers were greatly cheered by the companionship of the beautiful grey cat imported from India for the purpose, the kitten of a trained Indian 'watch cat' and as intelligent as she was beautiful. She soon learned to pose for her picture, play the piano, and perform many other tricks at command, and was unfailingly affectionate, graceful and interesting in her natural behaviour."

\* \* \*

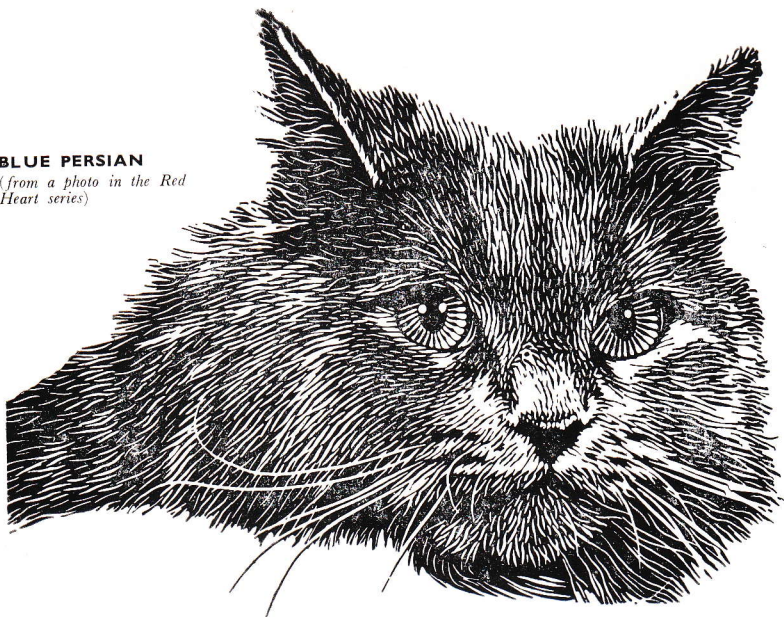
In his entertaining new biography of Sir Walter Scott, Hesketh Pearson tells how the famous author after long disliking or being indifferent to cats became extremely fond of a cat at Abbotsford which he christened Hinze from the German fairy stories he had read to his children. Mr. Pearson remarks that he learned to appreciate "the sterling independence and divine irresponsibility of the species."

His attachment was shown when he went on a sea voyage in 1814. Everyone, including Scott, was extremely sick and wet, but Scott in his letter home did not forget to inquire after his cat. Scott's home was always full of dogs, notably a great cross between a mastiff and a deerhound, but Hinze bossed them all. Scott



**BLUE PERSIAN**

(from a photo in the Red Heart series)

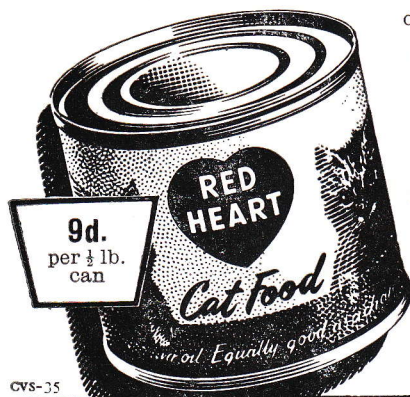


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wrote he had heard the dog set up the most piteous howls occasioned by his fear of having to pass the cat on the stairs.

Like many great cat lovers, Scott came late to appreciate them. "The greatest advance of age which I have yet found is liking a cat, an animal I detested," he wrote, "and becoming fond of a garden, an art which I despised."

Scott spoke of Hinze as "my acquaintance, and in some sort my friend of fifteen years."

Hinze's habit was to sit on a chair and as the dogs followed Scott out of the room to give each a sharp pat with a paw as they came within reach. Unfortunately when age came upon him, he was no longer so agile and was killed by Nimrod, a young dog loved by Scott no less than his cat. Scott said that he felt like saying to the hound what an eminent Frenchman said to another who had killed his friend in a duel—"Ah, my dear friend, you have killed my other great friend."

\* \* \*

It is fascinating to trace the origin of stories which crop up from time to time, usually told by someone who had it from a reliable source. One of these stories that I have seen in a number of books concerned an offer by a swindler—or sometimes it is a practical joker—to buy all the cats brought to him for export to some foreign country which is suffering from a plague of rats or mice. The story is given various endings. In one which is supposed to be the origin of the expression "grinning like a Cheshire cat," thousands of owners carrying cats in every sort of container are left looking foolishly at each other as the hours pass and the practical joker who made the offer to purchase does not turn up.

When the other day I came across a copy of the *Lady's Magazine* for 1811 with the story under the title "The Cat Merchant" I thought I must be getting near the original. In this version a Mr. Higgins in Dublin is told by a "Russian Merchant" that "the empire of Russia is being overrun with rats.

The said envoy was despatched to England in order to purchase ten thousand cats for the state; that the reason for resorting to England was that the famous cat of Whittington was brought from thence to Russia, where it was sold for an immense price; and where its image was still worshipped in remembrance of its eminent services; but that being unable to complete his order among the British merchants, he was advised to visit Ireland. . . ."

Higgins is so pleased with an order for 5,000 cats at a guinea each that he tips the "interpreter" 20 gns. He discovers that keeping and feeding hundreds of cats was more than he bargained for. Three hundred break out from the quarters he has hired and raid the neighbouring farms before being rounded up. When he has his first thousand Higgins goes to collect something on account from the Russian envoy—only to find that the address he gave was a low pub. Higgins returns to find all his friends in this "feline conspiracy" waiting to laugh at him and writs for damage done by his cats that cost £500 to settle.

That is the *Lady's Magazine* story—but by no means the origin of the often told anecdote. It is taken from a novel "*The Shipwreck, or Memoirs of an Irish Officer and His Family*" by T. Edgeworth and the editor comments that she would not have quoted from a novel unless she believed the story founded on fact. "At least we can safely assure our readers that we ourselves, about five and twenty years ago, heard it related as a real fact, only with some little difference in the circumstances. . . .!"

The story in fact may have originated in the Dick Whittington story or myth, adapted and embellished by confidence tricksters and practical jokers.

\* \* \*

[TAILPIECE]

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# ***"Do unto these little ones"***

By IVOR RALEIGH

THERE are still too many people who do serious harm to their pets by taking upon themselves an omnipotent cloak of wisdom which they do not, in truth, possess.

It is true that most pet owners offending in this manner genuinely and sincerely believe that they are behaving with the utmost compassion. Let them, however, recognize the fact that the right to determine the life of another creature is not an automatic right but must be earned through study and experience.

Mr. Soderberg's recent article "Right Thinking" put the case in a nutshell. My only criticism is that he was too kind to those who offend against the principles of humanity in their treatment of their pets. It is an unpardonable and blasphemous impertinence to deny a cat the life saving and pain removing benefits of science because of an ignorant belief in the lying principle that one should not tamper with nature.

Such a belief is based on the concept that the body and not the soul constitutes the prime creation of God ; a concept which is clearly false, for the part can never be greater than the whole. Our bodies are evolved as a means whereby by the experience of pleasure and pain, we may ultimately reach knowledge of truth and it is the clear duty of all men to preserve their bodies and the bodies of dependant creatures by every proper means known to science and philosophy.

From the earliest times, stupid and misguided people have opposed vaccination, inoculation and other benefits which the living labour of science placed at their disposal. It is the duty of all decent and responsible persons, should they ever meet such people to make it clear to them that they are not uniquely

courageous or advanced in thought but that they are unconscionable and hypocritical egoists who deserve only to be blamed and pitied for their ignorance.

Mr. Soderberg's other points equally deserve support. It was recently reported to me that a Siamese cat had taken refuge in a greengrocer's shop in Brixton Market and refused to come out ; attacking anyone who tried to dislodge him from his position under some vegetable crates. I brought the cat home and found him to be an entire male of about three years of age. He was dirty, verminous and starved and after I had cleaned him up and fed him, he became gentle and affectionate.

## **A Lucky Chance**

At first he ate ravenously but after a few days his appetite left him and it was soon evident that he had contracted gastro enteritis. I treated him with antibiotics and at the same time advertised for his owner. By a stroke of fortune my advertisement was seen by a man who came to see me. It appears that he had purchased a house some months earlier and found that the previous owners had left two Siamese behind ; a tom and a pregnant queen. Not knowing anything about cats the new owner had sold the two animals to a pet shop for a small sum. The owner of the pet shop had sold the male to a woman who apparently treated him kindly.

In due course the male cat, presumably in pursuit of a female, left his new owner and wandered off a long distance from his new home to which he was then no longer able to return, having apparently lost his way. My caller was stricken with pity when he saw his former cat and promised to take him home, complete



his treatment and then have him neutered. He also promised to buy back the female and to keep the two cats together. All these promises were kept and the two cats are now the beloved pets in their old home at which the original callous owner had left them to starve.

It is the clear duty of cat owners to neuter their pets unless they intend to breed with them. Neutered cats are no less happy than neutered people. In human beings, the removal of testes in the male and ovaries in the female appears to be quite free from any distressing symptoms. There is a change in the hormone pattern which in rare cases gives rise to physical symptoms. In cats, castration and spaying do not appear to produce any harmful effects at all. On the contrary, neutered cats exude wellbeing and contentment and certainly make wonderful pets.

### **A Meaningless Term**

In young cats, both male and female, neutering is a simple operation. In mature cats the operation is a little more complex. The risk of death is inversely proportional to the skill of the surgeon. Let us face facts ; most surgeons are competent but there are bad surgeons just as there are bad electricians, bad drivers and bad husbands and wives. If anyone wants to know the names of reliable veterinary surgeons they can write to their club secretaries, who will be glad to advise them.

Certain cat medicines are advertised as being effective against enteritis. Enteritis is a loose and meaningless term and owners of cats are warned that none of these preparations is of the slightest use against the virus or viruses of feline infectious enteritis. As a preventive of this dread feline scourge the only effective remedy made in England is the Wellcome Vaccine. Do not be fooled.

Furthermore, contrary to my original view, it now seems clear that the Vaccine

may be profitably used on kittens as young as six weeks. One half the normal dose should be injected and a second similar dose given ten days later.

### **Dehydration—the Killer**

I think most veterinary surgeons will confirm that apart from infectious enteritis, loss of water (dehydration) is probably among the greatest single causes of death among cats.

There are many feline ills such as distemper, gastric inflammation and even ordinary sore throat which will make a cat refuse food and drink. The food part is not unduly important as even a kitten of eight or nine weeks can go without food for as long as a fortnight. Water is a different thing. Most breeders know only too well how soon a cat or kitten can lose its water content.

I have known healthy cats become dangerously ill as a result of dehydration after a few days of non drinking. Kittens can die in a couple of days as a result of water loss. Sometimes water may be forced upon the patient but as often as not, and this is true even in infectious enteritis, the cat will vomit soon after a forced drink and consequently, be worse off for it. This vomiting may be the result of a gastric inflammation but is more generally due to functional disturbance.

In such cases, vomiting may be prevented by means of pethedine injection accompanied by hypodermic saline injections. Even kittens two months old can be given as much as 20 c.c. of normal saline by hypodermic injection every 24 hours. By this means the blood viscosity may be maintained at a normal level and the chances of recovery greatly increased. It may seem unnecessary to say that in most virus and microbic infections of the "distemper" type the cat will usually win through if it can be kept alive long enough and the prevention of dehydration is probably the most important single factor to aim at.

Chloromycetin palmitate every 4 hours is an additional "must."

There is a dangerous and growing tendency among lay cat owners to give injections to their cats rather than ask a veterinary surgeon to do it for them. On the face of it, it seems such a simple thing to do. Furthermore, one saves money and even gets a feeling of being a superior sort of person when one can perform this seemingly minor operation.

Let me say in the strongest possible terms that a layman giving injections is taking his cat's life in his inexperienced hands. First of all, it is very simple to inadvertently insert the needle into a vein. Should this happen, the normally correct subcutaneous dosage will be much too large. If a bubble of air gets in, the cat may die at once.

Furthermore, unless one knows his feline anatomy as well as the technique of injecting, it is possible to thrust the

needle in at a wrong angle and do great, perhaps fatal damage to an internal organ. This is particularly easy in the case of young kittens whose skin and even whose flesh may only be a small part of an inch thick.

I once heard of a post mortem which revealed that a supposedly hypodermic saline injection had in fact been made into a kidney and, with such haste that the kidney tissue had ruptured. Please, I beg of you, spend the few shillings a vet. will charge you and know that your pet is being healed, not possibly slaughtered.

If you live in a part of the country where vets are few and far between, at least ask your vet. to teach you the technique thoroughly and then only resort to it in an emergency. You would not ask your neighbour to pull a tooth for you if there was a dentist within a hundred miles, would you ?

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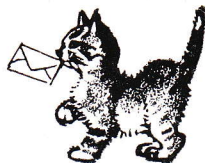
**(Crowborough 407)**





## 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.



### Inbreeding — reply to Mr. Smith

I HAVE deliberated whether to write a reply to Mr. Hugh Smith's interesting account of his venture with inbreeding (described in your December issue), but I think some further observations are called for.

Inbreeding is a very dangerous instrument unless handled with knowledge of the blood lines involved. Accepting the fact that almost the entire breed of our Siamese in this country stem back to a few cats, originally imported, every breeder is practising some form of inbreeding. Every thoughtful breeder owning a queen, should make it a primary duty before mating her, to make the fullest enquiries as to the virility as well as the show qualities of the stud it is proposed to use. How seldom this is done, and how doubly necessary it is when a deliberate mating with a close relation is planned.

The queen also must be above reproach, and she can be tested by being mated to two or three of her sons. Such a mating is a recognized test for virility. If she throws one dead kitten, or a kitten dies without known cause, she should be spayed. Admittedly this procedure takes time, but then breeding in the truest sense is an occupation which requires much time and patience, to gain real results.

If the queen comes through her tests with flying colours, the time has come to make extensive enquiries about the relation with whom she is to mate. What queens has he mated, their breeding, the number of kittens in the litters, and whether all were viable. If any kittens

died, why have they died and at what age? This is a necessary enquiry, because from experience I have found that some novices put their queen to kitten and rear the family in such confined quarters, that she cannot avoid trampling on her kittens.

Mr. Smith may not have given us all his data on his recent unhappy experience, but I do feel that he embarked on it in a somewhat light hearted manner. Did he make any enquiries about the stud on the lines I have suggested? He ignored the warning his queen had given him when mated with her brother. This was a most definite warning. It is quite possible to have a perfectly healthy litter from such a close mating, always provided that both parents are healthy. But it is apparent in this case that they were not, yet Mr. Smith persisted in more inbreeding experiments, with a queen of questionable virility.

Unfortunately, there are several males at public stud who carry a very dangerous blood line, which may be termed quite lethal when it is doubled. No thinking or knowledgeable breeder would use these cats for inbreeding, or even for an out-cross. Plenty of warnings have been given by difficult kittenings, and even loss of the dam, but no heed is taken as so often the surviving kittens are of high show quality. It is conveniently forgotten that these survivors may perpetuate this lethal gene, when they in their turn come to breed.

Mr. Smith states that he has learned his lesson. I wonder? He is still breeding from that queen. I wouldn't.

Mrs. Thetis Rendall,  
Burley, Ringwood, Hants.

# Winners at Stockholm Show

By KATHLEEN R. WILLIAMS

**I**N November I had the great pleasure of judging Siamese and Shorthairs at the Svenska Kattklubben's Eighth International 3-day Championship Show at Stockholm.

Leaving London by air for Stockholm, we changed planes at Copenhagen. The airport is very modernized since my last visit a few years ago and the half-hour's wait passed quickly. Madame Pia Sandoz, who was judging Longhairs, also changed planes at Copenhagen, having flown from Switzerland, so we arrived together at Stockholm. We were met and welcomed by members of the Svenska Kattklubben.

The show hall was in the main thoroughfare. At the entrance, facing either way so that passers-by in both directions could not fail to notice them, were two black cats about four feet high, with green eyes which flashed as dusk fell.

The arrangements were splendid, the public being controlled by roped-off gangways. The pens and tables are Club property, specially designed. The toilet trays fit into a slot on the underside of the table (on which the pen fits) thus the pan can be changed without opening the door of the pen and is below the level of the pen, hence the exhibit is less likely to scratch out the contents. Most trays I noticed held thick tissue paper.

Do I hear you ask when you are to hear of the exhibits? Bear with me, for I found everything so well organized that I wish to express my delight and appreciation. And now to the awards. Best in Show was judged by Fru Haldis Rohlf, Madame Pia Sandoz and myself.

Best Exhibit in Show went to the Longhair Cream Broughton Primrose, owned by Mrs. G. Sorvik-Janson of

Stockholm and bred by Mrs. P. Hughes. Since this win this nice cat has been judged Best Longhair at the Oslo Show and is now a Champion. Her picture is reproduced in this issue. Best Neuter was Foxburrow Firefly, owned by Fru. J. Saether, of Norway, and bred by Mr. P. M. Soderberg. Best Siamese Male was Exotic Gigolo (who became a full Champion), owned by Hr. K. Ohlson of Goteborg. Best Seal Pointed Female and Best Siamese in Show awards went to Exotic Fantasy, who gained her C.A.C., owned by Fru. M. Lans. Both cats were bred by Mrs. U. Magnusson from British expor s. Blue Point Male—Banchor Blue Thor. (I was sorry to



**Miss Larsdotter with her Int. Ch. RONADA ONAWAY, one of Sweden's best-known Blue Longhairs.**



withhold the C.A.C.). Blue Point Female—Banchor Blue Mai gained her C.A.C. An excellent female bred by Mrs. K. Macpherson and owned by Fru. S. Helger-Jensen.

In Abyssinians the Open Male winner was Heather Pine Pharoa and here again I was sorry to withhold the Certificate. In the Open Female, First and C.A.C. Nigella Fern was a worthy winner. Her kittens by Heather Pine Pharoa were delightful, well ticked and with little white. Pharoa and Fern were bred by Mrs. Earnshaw and Miss Bone respectively and were exhibited by their owner Fru. K. Schmidt, who is very enthusiastic.

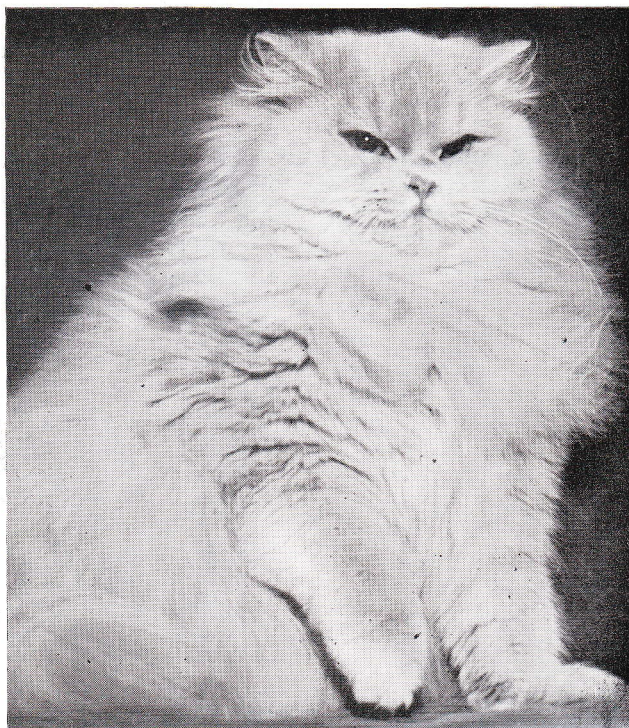
In Russian Blues the Open Male First was Ambjorn av Olsenburg and the winning Female Farida av Olsenburg. Both were bred by Fr. K. Olsson and owned by Fru. E. Thapper. Amongst the European Shorthairs were the Silver

Tabby International Champion African Thrust who gained C.A.C.I.B., owner Fru. Onsgaard of Norway, and a truly beautiful Black Champion Teddy av Leirtun, bred by Fru. Omsgaard, owned by Fru. Borresen, also of Norway.

In the Novice Class I was pleased to be able to award "Excellent" to Uffe a Brown Tabby male shown by Fru. A. Westerlund and Gullan Granja Meyer, a Red Tabby female shown by Fru. M. Meyer.

To my stewards, Fru. M. Svenningsen and Fru. Magnusson, who were so patient and untiring, my grateful thanks.

It is interesting to note the growth of this most enterprising Club which was founded in January, 1946, on the initiative of Fru. Iris Konigson and Fru. Irma Tingwall. The first show was held in May, 1946, when the judges were Fru. Lilly von Bach and Fru. A. Juul-



**Ch. BROUGHTON PRIMROSE, English-bred Cream,  
Best Exhibit at the Stockholm Show.**

Hansen, from Denmark. Since then the Club has sponsored seven more shows in Stockholm and one in Gothenburg.

The interest in cats has shown a steady increase and at three-day shows often long queues of people wait to get in. The average attendance is about 8,000.

A popular event is the public vote for "Miss Stockholm" which this year was won by the Silver Tabby, Roselie av Birka owned by Fru. M. Hjelde. Miss Larsdotter tells me the Club have had the pleasure to have as judges Fru. Inger Arne-Olsen and Fr. Knud Hansen (1947), Fru. Haldis Rohlf (1949), Miss K. Yorke (Gothenburg 1950), Mrs. Joan Thompson (1952), Mrs. Elsie Kent and Miss Ada von Bach (March, 1953) and Madame M. Ravel (November, 1953). In the future the Club plans to have at least one International Show every year. Swedish judges are Fru. M. Maina Hjelde-Andersen and Miss Ragnhilde Larsdotter.

## English Imports

The Club is in close contact with other clubs in Sweden and those of the neighbouring countries of Norway and Denmark, and is, of course, affiliated to our G.C.C.F. and the F.I.F.E. Paris. It is open to all cat lovers and caters for all breeds, providing registration for cats and pedigrees, working with a view to protect the welfare of the cats and the interests of the cat owners.

The Longhairs constitute the most popular breed in Sweden and a number of British cats have been imported to improve the stock. Amongst these are Ch. Baralan Challenger, bred by Mrs. Henn, owner Fru. I. Tingwall. His progeny have been even and good, several acquiring Challenge Certificates. Others are the International Ch. Gippeswyk Darby bred by Miss Alexander, owned by Fru. I. Konigson; International Ch. Ronada Onaway, bred by Mrs. Brice Webb, owner Miss Larsdotter. (Onaway was judged Best Persian at the Oslo Show, 1953, being an International

Champion at 16 months); Ch. Aviary Blossom, breeder Mrs. Todd, owner Mrs. Westerlund, Best in Show, Stockholm, February, 1953; Ch. Broughton Primrose, previously mentioned; Gleam of Pensford, bred by Mrs. J. Thompson, owner Fru. L. Westerlund; Ch. Sarisbury Miriam, bred by Mrs. Warren, owner Fru. Konigson, a beautiful Black Longhair who was Best in Show in November, 1953, in Stockholm; Bourne-side Black Bubble, bred by Mrs. Aitken, owner Fru. B. Axelsson. Of Siamese and Abyssinian imports I have already written.

Stockholm in summer must be beautiful, with the many islands and so much water surrounding it. Even at this time of the year it is a beautiful city. I came away with a sense of unity and friendliness to store in my memory the kindness shown me by the Club's Chairman, Captain Gerdt Friberg, Miss Larsdotter, Secretary and Show Manager, Fru. H. Andersen, Fru. K. Schmidt and Fru. J. Saether and other members.

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# Tailpieces

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



**A**BURMESE Cat Club was formed in London last month with the Dowager Lady Aberconway as its first President. Chairman is Mr. Billie Thatcher and the Hon. Secretary Mr. V. Watson, The Old Nursery House, Tansley, Matlock, Derbyshire.

Ron Barton, England's bright young star in the professional heavyweight boxing field, has a lucky black cat at his West Ham home. He is a nine-year-old named Nigger who can open a window with his head.

When Robert Gadd, a 30-year-old clerk living in South West London, achieved his ambition of winning £750 in a newspaper crossword competition he said the money would help him to purchase his "dream house." "Nothing grand," he explained. "Just a small neat house with a nice garden for our son Alan and Tinkie, the cat, to play in."

**The front cover of the July 1954 issue of OUR CATS carried a picture of Magyar Yanos, one of our new Blue Longhair Champions. The picture was seen and admired by Mrs. Nikki Horner, a well-known American fancier, who immediately contacted Mrs. M. E. Beedell, the owner and breeder of Yanos. Result—the young Champion changed hands for £100 and is now happily settled in his Kentucky home, which is a far cry from Brixton. Which starts me reflecting on the claim of OUR CATS to be the Magazine "that spans the world of cat lovers." One day I**

**must persuade the Editor to tell you just how strong and well justified this claim really is. It would make an interesting story.**

Peter Brook, the young producer, is back in London after spending six months in New York and he and his wife Natasha are installed in a quiet Kensington "backwater" with their two Siamese cats, Minouche and Miaulis (pronounced miaowless). Mr. Brook is to write a book about the production of his current New York musical, "House of Flowers," a story of the West Indies with a coloured cast.

An American woman is reported to have sued for £30,000 for libel of her cats. She indicated that her Siamese had been described as mongrels. The judge was unsympathetic and ruled that cats could not be libelled, whereupon the lady left the court and said she would be back with more evidence.

Quote from the *Peterborough Examiner* : In order to maintain a well-balanced personality, the person who has a dog to worship him should also have a cat to ignore him.

A Midland subscriber writes : "I was very interested in the picture of the skeleton cat which appeared in the January issue of OUR CATS. Can you tell me how many bones has a cat ?" The answer, supplied by our veterinary contributor, is 195 bones excluding the skull and the sesamoids.

MICKEY



Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

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

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### Australia's Gain

**W**HEN Mrs. Anne Vize leaves for Australia on February 18th on the "Esperance Bay" to live on the outskirts of Sydney, New South Wales, the British Cat Fancy will lose an experienced breeder and an excellent and unbiassed judge who is eligible to judge all varieties of Longhairs.

Her own particular loves are Blues, Creams and Blue-Creams, but she has also owned Blacks, Tortoiseshells and one or two other varieties of Longhairs and some Shorthairs, notably the Black Bourneside Inky Bit, who became a Champion in 1953. In 1930 she was awarded her first Challenge certificate with Symbol of Runnymede, a Blue-Cream purchased from Mrs. Reynolds Sams, but just before that Golden Fleece of Four Winds, a Cream bred by Mrs. Bazeley was the first to be registered with her newly acquired affix. She subsequently registered a prefix "Myowne" and it is this which is

familiar to present-day breeders. One of her pre-war Blue females Woodchurch Japonica, litter sister to Ch. Woodchurch April Blossom, was a consistent winner and would probably have been a Champion had she not been overshadowed by her exceptionally beautiful sister.

During and just after the war, Mrs. Vize had an interesting career in the W.A.A.F. and later the Y.W.C.A. and travelled extensively in France, Belgium and Germany. On her return from the latter country in 1946 she made a fresh start by purchasing from Mrs. Bazeley a Blue queen which she registered as Myowne Veronique, and from Mrs. Chappell a charming Blue-Cream Myowne Gaymay. In 1947 she purchased a Blue male kitten from me who was destined to become Ch. Astra of Pensford and to be one of the few Blue males in England to be awarded more than four Challenge certificates. Astra, and a Black female Myowne Noir Magic (by Ch. Bourneside Black Turvey and Ch. Sarisbury Miriam) are the only adults she will be taking with her.

In addition, she is taking three kittens — a Blue female Broughton Amanda (by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous and Ashdown Blossom) bred by Mrs. Hughes; a Cream male Myowne Cream Bunne (by Myowne Caesar and Hendras Babette), bred by Mrs. Nash, and a Siamese male kitten (by Ch. Prestwick Penglima Pertama and Ch. Hillcross Melody) bred by Mrs. Towe. This very well bred quintette should prove very valuable to Australian breeders so here's wishing them well and a safe 60 days' quarantine.





**Mrs. Vize's well-known Blue Longhair male Ch. ASTRA OF PENSFORD is one of the five cats she is taking with her to Australia—see report on the previous page.**

During the voyage Mrs. Vize will have the great advantage of supervising their feeding and comfort and that is why she was particularly anxious to travel by the Shaw Savill and Albion Line as it is one of the few shipping companies which allows passengers to take domestic animals to Australia. Whilst this little family is in quarantine she will be able to visit them and have time to arrange their future accommodation with herself.

In addition to cat breeding Mrs. Vize organized the successful show at Tunbridge Wells in 1952 on behalf of the Kentish Cat Society and the Coronation Year Show, 1953, of the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club at the R.H.S. Hall in London with 341 exhibits. I missed this last show owing to my being in Australia but it must have been an outstanding fixture judging by the verbal and written reports.

Mrs. Vize founded the Surrey and Sussex Cat Association and its first show at Redhill in 1951 was very enjoyable

and I believe made a profit. The idea probably emanated from her management of the cat section in 1948 of the first post-war show of the Banstead and Burgh Heath Agriculture Fur and Feather Association. One of the "discoveries" of this small show was Miss Tucker's beautifully marked Red Tabby Shorthair which was destined to give this variety a tremendous fillip with her descendants Ch. Vectensian Anaconda, Rivoli Robin, Rivoli Rogue and many others.

Quite apart from these activities she, or perhaps I should say "we," did quite a lot of the donkey work of the shows when we were young. And in the 1920's and 1930's that meant disinfecting pens and benching the day before the show, attending to cats which in those days were allowed to travel unaccompanied, and feeding all the exhibits. Mrs. Peggy Cattermole was usually major-domo of this assignment. She cooked masses of fish, had the beef minced, and turned up

smiling plus papier-mâché plates, bottles of milk and all the food in kitchen bowls.

Yes ! those were indeed the days and looking back probably we should agree some of our happiest in the Fancy. How contented we were to steward and to know (if we had any ambition to judge) that it would be years before we should be given the opportunity. Some breeders to-day breed for about three or four years, produce a few winners, do a negligible amount of stewarding and feel they are neglected if the powers that be do not recognize them as born judges.

Farewell Mr. and Mrs. Vize and may the future be a happy one for you both. Although it is a platitude, I say with all sincerity our loss is Australia's gain and having experienced the hospitality of Australia and New Zealand in 1953 I know you will receive a warm welcome and that your all round knowledge of our Fancy, which is held in such high esteem abroad, will be invaluable to them.

## **The Nottingham Show**

The 10th Championship Show of the Notts and Derby Cat Club on January 6th was very enjoyable. The Hon. Show Manager and Secretary of the Club Mrs. M. E. Bastow appeared to enjoy it also and everything went very well. All the Committee were working and everyone was pleased to see the crowded hall in the afternoon. The Victoria Baths Hall is within short walking distance from the centre of Nottingham and that makes such a difference to the "gate."

The exhibits numbered 230 with 905 entries. The Best Longhair Adult, Mrs. Herod's Orange-eyed White male Ch. Carreg Cracker was looking very handsome and carrying his five and a half years very lightly. I believe he was awarded his ninth Challenge Certificate. Best Longhair Kitten award went to his White son, Mrs. Herod's Carreg Cymro. Other winners were : Best Longhair

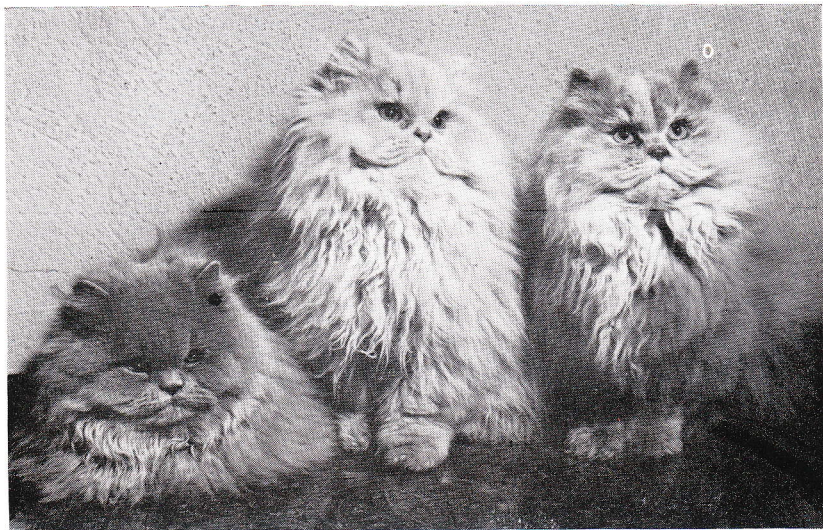
Neuter, Mrs. Marchant's Blue, Blannerle Blue Frill ; Best Shorthair Cat, Mr. G. Price's Seal Point Siamese, Pristine Pooh-Bah ; Best Shorthair Kitten, Mrs. Budd's Blue British Nidderdale Bumble ; Best Shorthair Neuter, Mrs. Portnoy's Silver Tabby, Moonstone Sherpa.

The Special for Best Siamese Female was awarded to Mrs. Wridgway's Salewheel Royal Rose. Mrs. Crickmore's Ch. Thiepval Precocious was Best Blue Adult and Miss Chapman's Ousedale Maximillian Best Cream Adult. Miss Langston won in Chinchilla Males with Ch. Mark of Allington ; and in Females Mrs. Crickmore's Ch. Thiepval Snowcloud, who in Vol. II of the Stud Book appears as the holder of 16 Challenge Certificates. Another record she must hold is the number of times she has been exhibited. What a pity she has been unable to pass on her lovely qualities to a family. As Snowcloud will be eight in June it is rather improbable now.

It was nice to see Mr. and Mrs. Barker exhibiting Chinchillas again and their lovely kitten Sylvandene Serena by Ch. Sylvandene Soloman was entered in five classes and awarded four first and one second in keen competition. Sympathy of all breeders was extended to them when they had the tragic misfortune to lose this lovely sire of their own breeding last year. Born in July 1950, I have never seen Soloman look lovelier than he did at Notts and Derby Ch. Show last January. In otherwise perfect health, he died from bladder trouble, the cause of so many deaths among male cats.

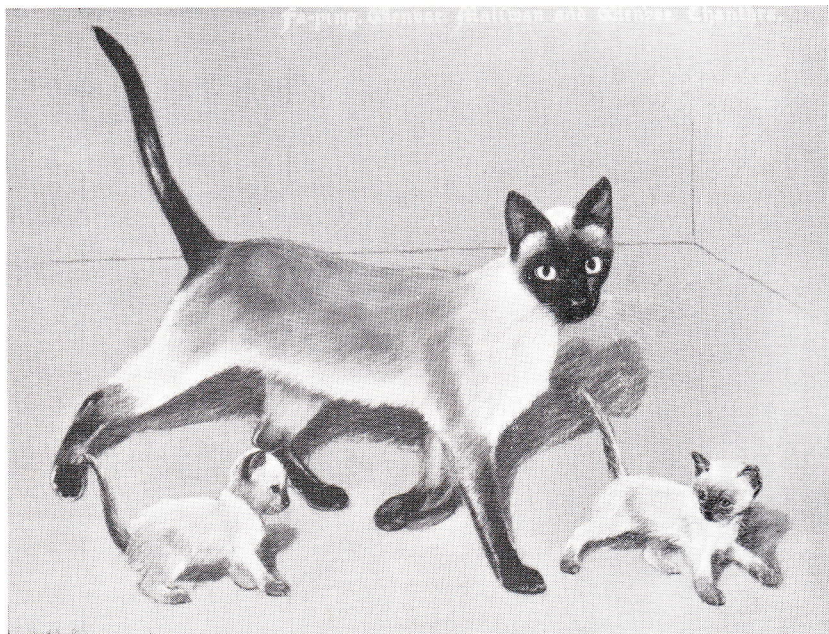
Congratulations to Mrs. Benbow on her Blue-Cream Bayhorne Heather becoming a Champion. She is by Ch. Baralan Boy Blue and Bayhorne Sheena, a daughter of Ch. Widdington Warden, and mother and daughter were both bred by Mrs. Benbow. Miss Jury's Silver Tabby Longhair Purring Gentle Faith competing for the first time as an adult was awarded a Challenge Certificate. Miss M. E. Grace won in Tortie and White Adults with Gracefield





*R. Ackrill, Ltd.*

Up in Yorkshire, stock with the Beamsley prefix has been earning distinction during the show season which has just ended. Mrs. M. Smith has been breeding for six years at Blubberhouses, near Otley. Here are three of her First Prize winners photographed at 5 months including Gaya Dollo and Daisy May, Blue and Blue Cream females who won at the National and Yorkshire Shows.



An English artist whose name we do not know painted this delightful picture of Fa-Ying and her two kittens Wenvoe Maliwan and Wenvoe Chanthra, who belong to Mrs. Davies, wife of the Dean of Wellington, New Zealand. Mention of this picture was made by Mrs. Joan Thompson in her "Just Fancy" in last month's issue.



Pollyanthus and Mrs. Rosell in Tortoiseshells with Penchar Hope. There were some absentees among the sixteen Blue kittens entered. The judge, Mrs. Brunton, awarded Best Blue Kitten to Mrs. E. Stephenson's Kirkgate Blue Angel, a daughter of Berrett Casanova.

A very nice show and here's to the next time.

## And Manchester Winners

The 3rd Championship Show of the Lancashire and North Western Counties Cat Club on January 22nd was held in the Territorial Association Drill Hall, Manchester, which was replete with guns. No casualties, however, to report among the judges!

The Committee and exhibitors all regret the Corn Exchange will not be available for future shows. Now the cotton market is "free" it will be used for its original trade purposes. It was an excellent venue with its spaciousness and vast expanse of glass roof. So far all efforts to obtain another suitable hall in Manchester have proved abortive and the Drill Hall was the only alternative this year, which being some distance from the City appeared to affect the "gate."

Mrs. Culley was her usual calm and efficient self and everything was well organized. At the beginning of the week we were anxious about the ice, snow and intense cold but by Friday the weather had improved and Show day was dull but chilly.

Over 200 exhibits were entered indicating wonderful progress since the 76 entered at one of this Club's first non-Championship shows in 1948 at which I was the only judge. At this show there were nine judges plus Miss Kit Wilson and Mr. Felix Tomlinson as Shorthair and Longhair referees respectively.

Prominent winners were: Best Longhair Cat in Show, Mrs. Crickmore's Ch. Thiepvall Precocious; Best Longhair Kitten, Mrs. Smith's Blue, Beamsley

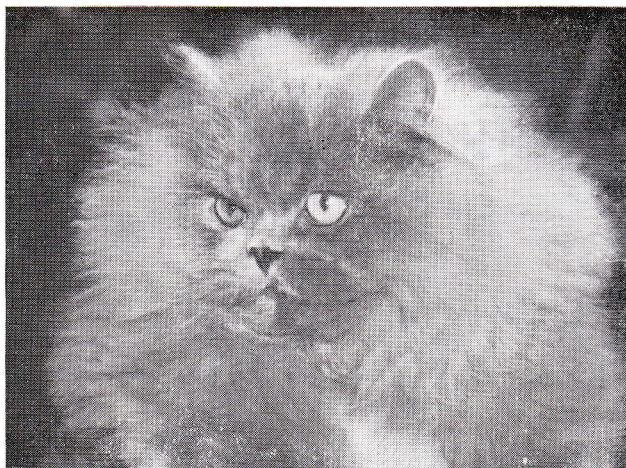
Gaye Dollo; Best Longhair Neuter, Mrs. Busbridge's Chinchilla, Sarisbury Leander—5½ years of age; Best Shorthair Cat, Mr. Winder's Black, Nidderdale Black Rod; Best Shorthair Kitten, Mrs. Robert's Abyssinian, Selborne Chi; Best Shorthair Neuter, Miss Haigh's Seal Point Siamese, Vielmist Evening Sunset.

The 13 Blue-Cream adults entered with ten present was the largest number I remember seeing of this variety at a post-war show. Miss Palframan's fine queen Beamsley Moon Mist by Mrs. Culley's Ch. Thiepvall Wanderer being 1st and Ch. I believe she won well as a kitten at Midland shows. Mrs. Smith who bred her exhibited a peke-faced Cream Beamsley Sunbeam by Berrett Casanova. He was a fascinating kitten and I shall look forward to seeing him as an adult. He was purchased by Miss Bull who was present at the show with Mary. All her exhibits were absent as her house was being painted from top to bottom during the cold weather and they had both contracted heavy colds, so felt unequal to the task of preparing them especially with six workmen still clamoring about the house. Vigilant Mark has settled down and weighed over ten pounds at nine months.

Congratulations to Miss Wells on her Seal Point Siamese Killdown Sultan by Lindale Simon Pie becoming a Champion, also to Mrs. Wridgway on Salewheel Royal Rose by Doneraile George attaining her full title. Mrs. Wridgway owns lovely Sapphire of Sabrina who was awarded two Challenge Certificates and her owner had the disappointment of seeing her awarded several seconds in her Open class, so Rose's quick attainment of Champion status at 16 months is some compensation. A dainty and charming Seal Point queen. Congratulations also to Mrs. Hooker; her Blue Point Siamese Doneraile Blue Dazz by Ch. Bluehayes Foxy also becoming a Champion.

Miss Langston's Ch. Mark of Allington was Best Chinchilla and Mrs. Lamb's





*R. Ackrill Ltd.*

Mention was made in our January issue that Miss Marjorie Bull was augmenting her well-known Deebank Cattery at Thornton Hough, Cheshire. Recent purchases for future stud purposes are shown here. (*Top*) VIGILANT MARK, Blue Longhair bred by Mrs. V. Pullen, Best Kitten at the Blue Persian Show and a First winner at the National Show. (*Bottom*) BEAMSLEY SUNBEAM, Cream bred by Mrs. M. A. Smith, a winner at the National Club Show and the recent Manchester Show of the L.N.W.C.C.

Finetta of Allington—both by Ch. Flambeau of Allington—was awarded her second Ch. Certificate. She was very pure and sparkling and her coat had the frosty look of newly fallen snow which we had seen so recently. Miss Jury won in Silver Tabbies with Purring Gentle Faith; Mrs. Crickmore in Blue Males with Thiepval Paragon, litter brother to Ch. T. Precocious; Mrs. Barron in Cream Males with Apollo of Pensford; Mrs. A. G. Williams in Females with Sheza Gem.

## Red Tabby Champion

I omitted to congratulate Mrs. Denys Fawell in a previous issue on her brilliant Red Tabby Barwell Pedro by Ch. Hendon Lysander becoming a Champion. It is always a pleasure to greet the new Champions and any omissions are because one hasn't time to follow the show career of every cat. I shall always be pleased to mention any I have omitted if readers will inform me.

Some of the Longhairs were beginning to lose their coats and in self colours (except Whites) there was the almost inevitable paling at the roots one sees at this time of year. But there were many lovely exhibits present and one looks forward to seeing their progeny next season.

## Trenton Cats in Kent

Mr. and Mrs. Harrington-Harvard have removed from Stafford to Ware Cottage, Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent. They sold all the kittens before they left and brought with them Ch. Oxleys Peter John, their two brood queens Stanforth Dauntless Lady Tessa and Trenton Virginia and Suzette. All three are house pets and live very happily. They are hoping Tessa will produce a good female this year as they wish to maintain this strain which excels in pale blue coat and type.

Ch. Oxleys Peter John is one of the few pale blue males we have in England now and allied to this is the fine texture coat one sees more frequently with pale than dark blues. At 11½ years he is in wonderful fettle, has never had a day's illness and is as keen as ever on queens. Mr. Harrington-Harvard considers his excellent health is due as much as anything to good food and plenty of exercise, an opinion I entirely agree with. If males are provided with a really large run they take plenty of exercise. Last summer I had one constructed for Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous, 37' by 14' and he chases up and down, shins up a tree and sits on a plank where he can gaze through an opening cut into the fence covered with wire netting or bask in the sunshine whilst he views our garden. At the other end of the run logs lead up to another shelf which is shady in summer. His *bête noire* is a very nice Black speyed female belonging to my neighbour so she provides him with a lot of exercise as he chases up and down between perches hoping to come to terms with her.

## Licking Causes Shading

I have never agreed that Blues or any cat should be deprived of sunshine. It is not sunshine such as we have in this country which makes Blue adults develop fawny tippings but *licking*—and this can arise from mild irritation caused by fleas, worms, improper feeding causing skin blemishes, or lack of exercise from which blood impurities can arise.

Sometimes devoted mothers lick their baby kittens and turn the tips of their coats fawn—due to the action of the saliva, but when they are weaned the shadings usually become diffused and gradually disperse. Cats prefer to perch on something so it is advisable to provide them with shelves or planks well above the ground, especially males who seem rather predisposed to bladder trouble, and damp could be a predisposing cause.



To get back to Peter John. He has sired some lovely stock, the latest I have seen being Mr. Wood's charming Blue-Cream kittens, Woodland Judy and Woodland Fifi who have won top honours at Ch. Shows this season. I judged them at Manchester and liked them very much. Their coats were very long and silky. Their sire should certainly be an asset to us now he is in the South.

## Not Resigning

A welcome letter comes from Miss Cathcart, Hon. Secretary of the South Western Counties Cat Club for eighteen years. She writes: "I would appreciate it if you could mention in your Diary that the rumours which are going around that I am resigning from the Secretaryship due to health are untrue. I have never even considered resigning. The Club will celebrate its Silver Jubilee next year and I was a founder member."

"I have a very picturesque kitten sired by Trelystan Jasper out of a Blue queen to try to improve heads and eye colour. She has a lovely head and big copper eyes at nine months of age. It will be interesting to see what her kittens will be like. Unfortunately, she is not properly marked nor has she the beautiful sable colour of my pure bred Brown Tabbies."

Miss Cathcart has organized the Ch. Shows and done much work on behalf of the Club. This autumn there will not be a show in Devon as the Committee are alternating with Southsea Cat Club. But next year we shall look forward to their Silver Jubilee Show.

## New Stud Book

The 11th Volume of the Stud Book issued by the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy is now obtainable at 5s. from the Secretary Mr. W. A. Hazeldine, 1 Roundwood Way, Banstead, Surrey.

The G.C. Chairman, Miss Kathleen Yorke, in a foreword wisely reminds us "It is impossible to improve stock if we do not have the soundest, purest breeding to carry us into the future."

The Stud Book consists of 198 pages full of interest to breeders in this country and to those who own our stock overseas or who are contemplating purchasing it. The name of every cat which has become a Champion between April 1st, 1948, and March 31st, 1954, is listed with its sire, dam, date of birth, breeder, owner and the year and Club show at which it was awarded its Championship. Breed numbers of sire and dam are also given. Other information includes the Constitution of the G.C.C.F., a list of registered prefixes and affixes, the names and addresses of the Secretaries of British Clubs affiliated to the Council.

The Stud Book is a necessity for all who are interested in pedigree cats and who pursue the ideal of endeavouring to improve them.

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Miss Shirley Price, a member of Sidmouth Musical Comedy Society who had been playing the part of a cat in an amateur pantomime, had an alarming experience when her own cat attacked her. Miss Price was wearing her cat costume to show to some friends when her pet flew at her and inflicted some deep bites on her hands and legs. She was given penicillin injections at the local hospital. Miss Price said that the cat, a 5-year-old male, had previously registered some dislike of the costume.

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## BAPTISTA

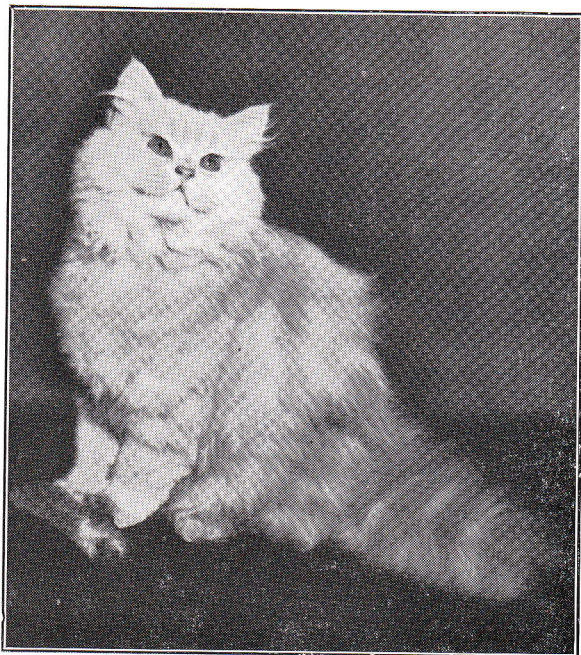
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Baptista, Mistress Quickly of Quanterness, who resides with Miss Beatrice Hill, at Quanterness, Portinscale, Keswick, Cumberland, and who firmly believes she is an extremely beautiful cat, writes:—

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We regret that due to illness, "In the Siamese World," by Kathleen R. Williams, will not appear until next month's issue, in which we also hope to resume with Mr. A. C. Jude's series on "Reproduction."



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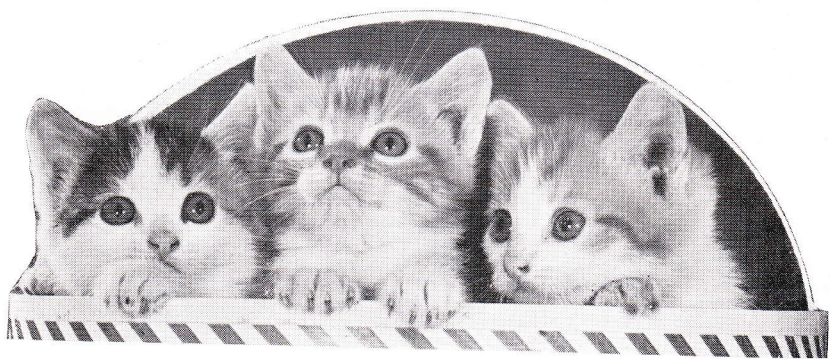
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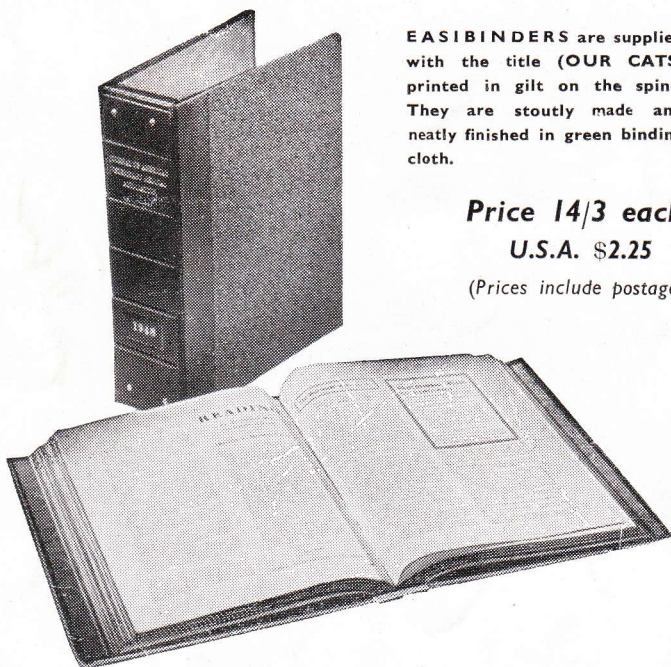


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