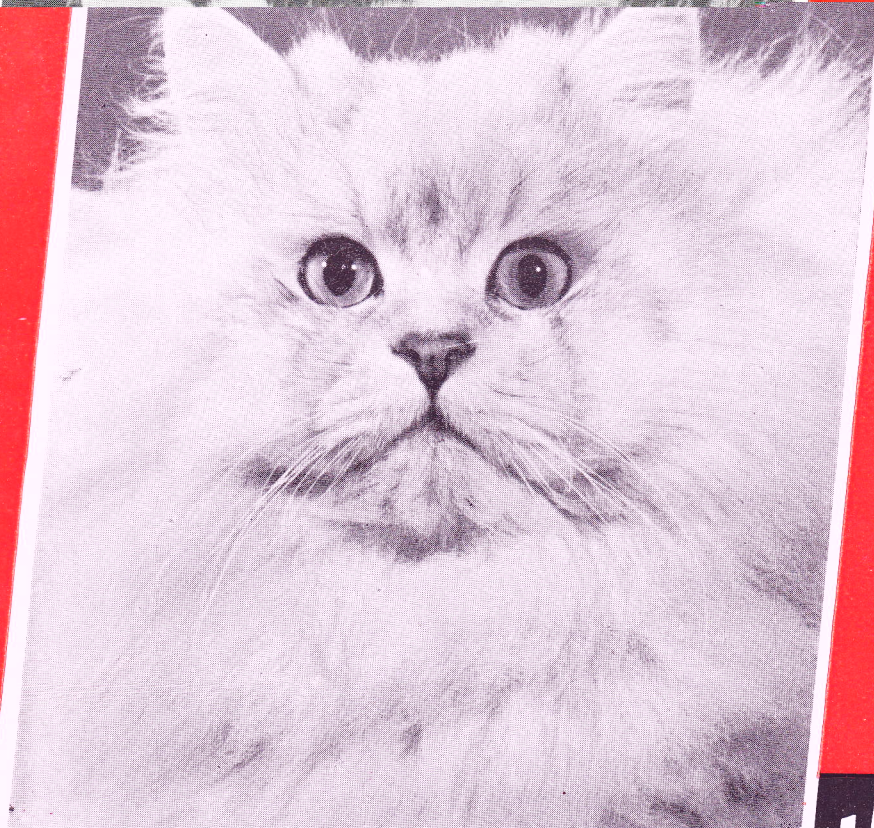


Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING
COMPREHENSIVE



GRAND CHAMPION SKYLAND ARCTURUS

For details of this fine Chinchilla male, one of America's outstanding Silver Persians, see the foot of page 1 of this issue.

MAY 1955

"Hands up kittens!
Who wants more?
Kit-E-Kat's what
we adore!"



Yes! Cats and kittens really *need* the complete nourishment that Kit-E-Kat provides. There are several meals of this ready-to-serve food in every tin—packed full of the fish and meat that all cats love.

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KIT-E-KAT

cooked and ready to serve

CHOCK-FULL OF
FISH AND MEAT

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. 5

MAY 1955

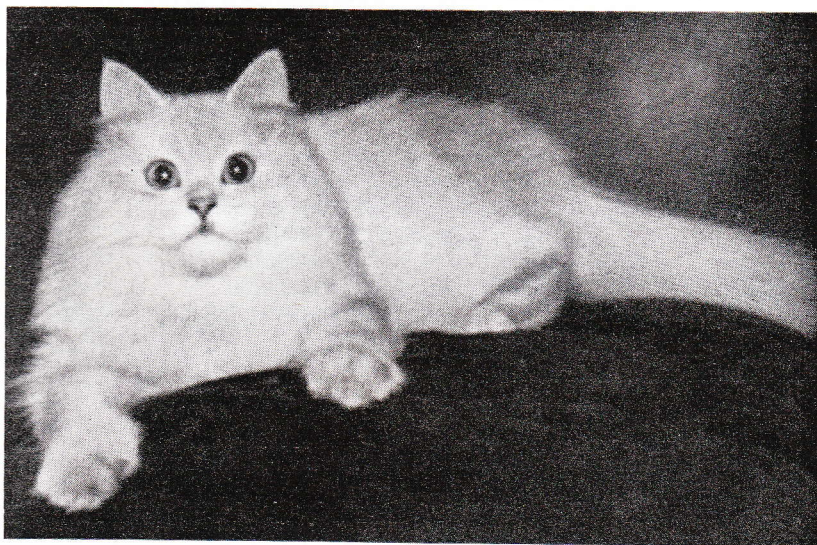
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CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9

American Associate Editor :

MRS. BILLIE BANCROFT

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



MARTIGNY OF BRENTSIDE, Chinchilla neuter bred by Mrs. Speirs, was **Best Longhair Neuter in Show** at the last Croydon C.C. fixture. He belongs to Mrs. E. Minter, of Bushey, Herts, who has done so well with her neuter exhibits over the past three seasons.

FRONT COVER PICTURE : The fine fellow on our front cover panel this month is Grand Champion SKYLAND ARCTURUS, a Chinchilla male who meets the show standard almost perfectly. Bred by his owners Mr. and Mrs. Leonard H. Weirich, of South Pasadena, California, U.S.A., he was a Grand Champion at four years. Now, at six years, he has progeny who have won Best Kitten, Best Novice, Best Cat and several Championships. At his one and only show appearance this year he was voted Best Chinchilla, Best Champion and Best Cat bred by an exhibitor at the California Cat Club Show. At the same time he was made Best Chinchilla, Best Champion and Best Cat at the California Silver Fanciers' Speciality Show which attracted about 70 entries. This last honour of Best Cat at the Specialty Show has been won by Arcturus for the past three years under three different judges. Mrs. Weirich is one of the new C.F.A. judges and also Secretary of the California Silver Fanciers.

THE OWL AND THE PUSSY CAT

The Owl and the Pussy Cat went to sea
In a beautiful pea-green boat ;
They took some honey and plenty of money
Wrapped up in a five-pound note.
The Owl looked up at the stars above
And sang to a small guitar :
" O lovely Pussy, O Pussy my love,
What a beautiful Pussy you are ! "
Pussy said to the Owl : " You elegant fowl,
How charmingly sweet you sing !
O let us be married, too long we have tarried,
But what shall we do for a ring ? "
They sailed away for a year and a day
To the land where the bong-tree grows,
And there in a wood a piggy-wig stood
With a ring at the end of his nose.
" Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling
Your ring ? " Said the piggy : " I will."
So they took it away and were married next day
By the turkey that lives on the hill.
They dined on mince and slices of quince,
Which they ate with a runcible spoon,
And hand in hand on the edge of the strand
They danced by the light of the moon.

Edward Lear's Book of Nonsense.



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Drama—in Three Acts

By P. M. SODERBERG

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

THE title to this article might well have been "Tragedy In One Act," and then the story would not have been worth writing merely because it would have told of a misfortune which is a comparatively frequent experience of cat breeders.

This, however, is a story with a difference and may be helpful to those breeders who from time to time find themselves faced with a difficult breeding problem which may cause them to act somewhat too precipitately.

It is the story of three uncomfortable days for one of my queens and also for myself, but there was an essential difference, for in her case the distress was physical whereas for me it was the unpleasantness of having to make up my mind. Who fared the worse in this adventure I would not presume to judge.

Misty, one of my Siamese, was the principal actor, for she was well and truly in kitten, and I had prophesied that when her time came there would be six kittens.

On the night of Friday, March 25th, it was clear that the family was about to be born, and sure enough round about one o'clock in the morning she started. Cats seem to have this unfortunate knack of producing their families at the most inconvenient times.

By four o'clock in the morning three kittens had been produced, had been washed and had settled down to feed with a mother who was obviously satisfied with the effort and happy to be contentedly with her family.

I was not so contented myself because I was quite certain that she still had other kittens, but I was not anxious to interfere with her and decided to leave well alone. The unfortunate fact was that I was not convinced that this decision was wise, but it did seem that for the time being at any rate there was nothing to be done. A seemingly perfect explanation existed to account for what had actually happened.

Misty had been mated more than once and a reasonable explanation seemed to be that this was a case of dual mating with a second family to be produced about twenty-four hours later. It appeared likely at the time that the three kittens already born had come from one horn attached to the uterus and that any other kittens were in the horn on the other side.

A First Examination

So much for theories! At nine o'clock on Saturday morning, the 26th, she started in labour again, but after four hours no kitten had been produced and she abandoned her efforts. A careful examination showed that there was a kitten high up on the left side.

To me this meant expert help and the vet. was brought along to carry out an examination. This he did and came to the conclusion that there was, in fact, a dead kitten which must be removed somehow or other.

An injection of pituitrin was the temporary expedient, and if that failed then a Caesarian section would be necessary because the kitten could not be removed by the aid of forceps.

Labour started again after the injection and continued for three hours, but no kitten was born. The important thing was that Misty herself was not distressed and continued to feed her kittens quite happily.

A call from the vet by 'phone asked for a progress report, and when he heard what had happened he rather wondered whether he ought not to come along immediately and finish the job, particularly as the next day was a Sunday when vets have no assistants to help with operations.

However, the queen seemed fit and ate a meal which encouraged me to take a calculated risk. Nothing was to be done for the present, but if the existing kittens were pushed on one side and were not allowed to feed, then I would send for help and that would be that.

A Peaceful Sunday

I just did not want a Caesarian section to be performed unless it was absolutely necessary, for I know from experience that many queens are poor breeders after this operation.

Late on Saturday evening Misty started up again for a few minutes, but no kitten was forthcoming, and for the remainder of the night she was peaceful.

On Sunday morning the vet. called in and examined the lady with great care to find that there was at least one kitten on each side, both of which he thought were probably dead. I was not so sure that they were dead, and as there was still no sign of physical distress we decided to let nature take its course and to hope for the best.

Sunday was a calm day and nothing untoward happened, although I was growing much more agitated than the cat, who by now seemed rather tired of the business of trying to produce kittens that did not want to be born.

Exactly forty-eight hours after the first start of labour, Misty started up once again and produced in three hours two

perfectly normal kittens who settled down to feed immediately.

Even at this stage I was not sure that this was the end, and to prove me correct shortly afterwards an attempt was made to bring forth a sixth kitten. But by this time the lady was no longer in the mood for prolonged effort and settled down to sleep which she did for the rest of the night.

On Monday, the 28th, she came out of her box and stretched herself and allowed herself to be felt. The worst suspicions were justified, for there was another kitten.

Labour started at mid-day on the 28th, but nothing resulted from the effort. By four o'clock in the afternoon an exploring finger found a foot but no tail.

This was a most unwelcome discovery, for it was not a breech birth, but looked rather like a "butt-end" kitten when the head gets turned over at the cervix and no effort on the part of the queen can possibly expel the kitten.

Still unperturbed but definitely bored with the whole business, Misty received another shot of pituitrin and was then left for two hours.

All's Well—

It was hopeless, for this was indeed a butt-end kitten, and at eight o'clock on the 28th the vet. came along and at the third attempt grasped and removed with forceps the largest kitten of the lot with its head well and truly tucked under. The whole business was over in ten minutes and Misty was back feeding her family of five.

For good measure she had half a million units of penicillin as a guard against metritis.

Now, twenty-four hours later, I have a Siamese queen who is apparently fit and very pleased with her family. I also have five lusty kittens, but just for full measure I have quite a few extra grey hairs of my own.

A Hunting We Will Go!

By J. MARY COLLIER

EVERY summer cat owners ask me the same question : "Do you know any way to prevent bird-catching?"

Let me say at once that although I am fond of birds as well as cats I know of no solution, and that, at best, one can only hope to mitigate the problem.

One has to remember, always, that the gentlest, fluffiest and friendliest puss was once a predator. His original and only food was flesh, bird and mammal, hot from the kill, complete with its tasty organs. His life consisted of hunting and sleeping off the gory gorge all ready for the next hunt.

Out of this arises a question : Is puss getting enough flesh in his diet ? A diet consisting mainly of fish and a few pieces of meat we don't want may "fill him up" but leave him flesh-hungry, because he wants some lean, strong-flavoured meat to get his flesh-tearing teeth into. Personally, I believe in recognizing his predatory past by giving him an occasional snack, or even a complete meal, of raw meat.

Many people disagree with me over this, saying that the revived taste for raw flesh encourages hunting. Cats differ ; what may satisfy one may merely excite another ; but my own experience has been that it helps. Queens present the worst problem, especially after littering when their instinct is to catch for their young. (Whether or not the family is retained is beside the point, the instinct has been aroused.)

There is little one can do beyond letting nature take its course, after making sure that the queen (with or without family) receives that extra food she

needs to replenish her own system, so that she is not hunting, also, to satisfy her own hunger of which we are unaware.

An entirely different view of the matter is that it is good for a cat to catch and eat birds, because of the natural nutrients of the birds' organs. This is probably correct, but one can help, here, by buying puss the livers, hearts, gizzards, etc., which often go begging on the "oddment tray" at the poulterer's.

The scolding of any hunter, queen or other, has no lasting effect, and is not reasonable. Puss is conscious of unpopularity, but does not necessarily understand why this should be for doing something which is merely part of his make-up. A bunch of feathers, or some streamers, or some toy or other, hung conspicuously in the garden, and low enough for "catching" may provide distraction from birds, although this, again, admits of the argument that such devices have the opposite effect because they are merely dummy birds. The elastic collar and bell, on a cat who doesn't mind neckwear, may give a timely warning.

Birds' Precarious Lives

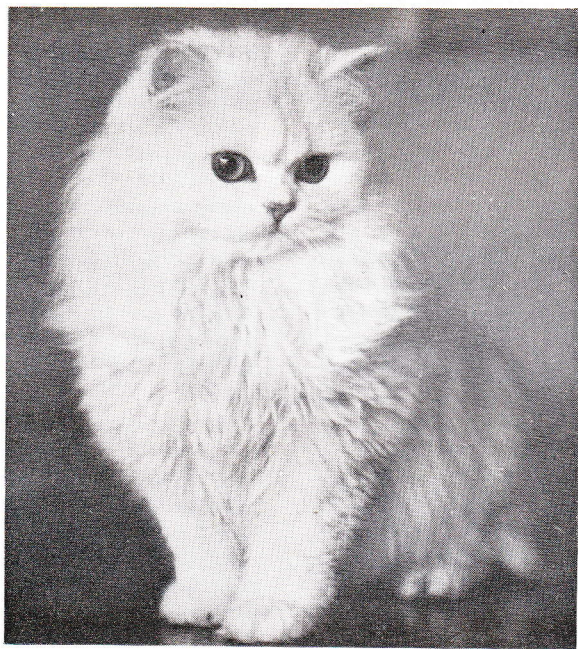
My best advice, if all these efforts fail, is to keep a sense of proportion. However distressing it is to witness a "kill" remember that cats are but one of the many hazards in the precarious lives of fledglings, who meet their end in many other ways that don't grieve us, simply because we don't see them. We may, with great effort, save one from a cat only to provide an owl with supper ten minutes later.

Never attempt to "rescue" a bird from a cat. If one gets away by its own

efforts, all well and good. A grown bird will sometimes escape, little the worse apart from the loss of a few tail feathers. But, usually, once a bird is caught, it is mortally injured, and the best course is not to interfere. Further, by interference, one may hurt the cat's mouth.

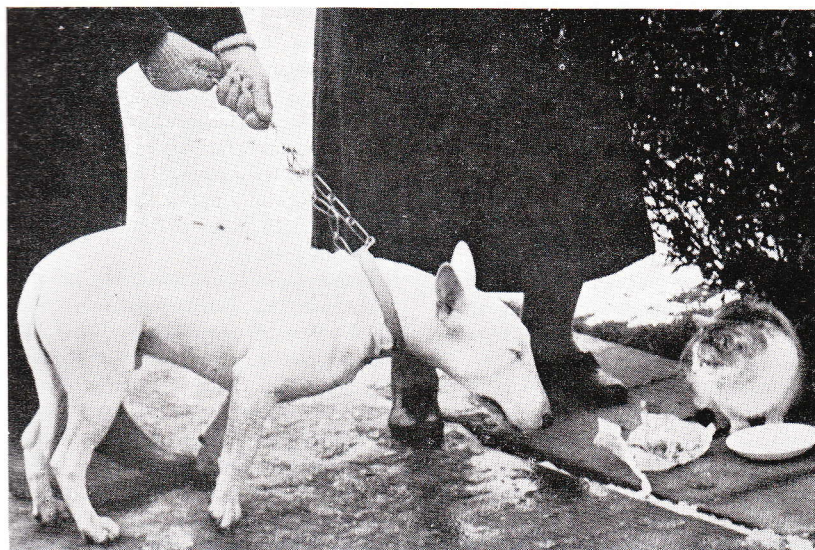
In being kind to the birds we do not want, inadvertently, to be cruel to the cat, who, as a non-gregarious animal, has no inborn sense of right or wrong. However earnest we may be with our theosophy or our vegetarianism, we have to accept the fact that his biology is stronger than our psychology.

During 1954 R.S.P.C.A. inspectors investigated 27,790 complaints of cruelty to animals. Their investigations led to 872 prosecutions, 17 persons sent to prison. Juveniles under the age of 18 convicted of cruelty to animals totalled 80. Cats were the victims of cruelty in 94 prosecutions. The number of animals handled at R.S.P.C.A. clinics and under free veterinary voucher schemes numbered about 400,000. The air hostel at London Airport handled a total of 342,646 animals and birds.



TICH OF ALLINGTON, young Chinchilla of quality bred by Miss E. Langston, of Maidenhead, Berks. He is by **Champion Flambeau of Allington** ex **Champion Fifinella of Allington**.

A page for the proletarian puss No. 54



J. Duckworth Wood.

Girlie's meal is interrupted by a passing friendly bull terrier.

The Stray's Samaritan

By PAULA KELLY

MANY of you will have read, or heard about, Paul Gallico's book "Jenny," a charming story about a stray cat who loved a little, and suffered a lot.

There must be thousands of "Jennies" about, living a sort of "paw to mouth" existence, and wondering where the next meal is coming from. Sometimes a good Samaritan comes along and the meal in question becomes a certainty.

This is very true of the strays who happen to wander in the direction of Priory Street, Dudley. They can always get supper there, and if they are injured or sick, bed and breakfast too. Permanent residence is a little more difficult, because accommodation is limited. The strays understand this, and never outstay their welcome.

They also adhere to the "booking in" rule. Not to come before ten o'clock at night and never to bring more than one fellow "sufferer" along. Strict cleanliness also has to be observed, and all the cats have a good "wash and brush up," after a fish supper, and then go on their way.

Mrs. Hartland, the Samaritan of this "Strays' Hotel" has been taking in guests for years. Her name is a byword in the strays fraternity, and somehow or other, they all find their way to her.

Perhaps something of the ancient Egyptian's reverence for cats lurks in the soul of this lady, who devotes so much of her time and earnings to her large family of strays. Besides having two cats of her own to look after—Blackie and Beauty (both previous strays), she

has adopted another one, and walks some considerable distance every day to look after it.

Mrs. Hartland "discovered" this cat in the Park, eating the bits of bread she had put down for the birds, and trying to drink the dirty fountain water. It was very obviously lost and unwanted and much too frightened to come to her when she called it. She made enquiries about ownership, but no one claimed the unhappy little Tortoiseshell stray. The next day Mrs. Hartland visited the park again. This time she carried some mysterious looking parcels—containing two little bottles of heated milk, and some very tasty bits of fish.

The cat was nowhere to be seen, but the "cats" were left behind the bushes, and the milk put out on a saucer brought along for the purpose. The following day, and every day since the end of summer, 1954, the same amount of food and milk has been taken, and left for Girlie (the

name given to the stray by Mrs. Hartland).

She always visits her orphan at the same time—eleven o'clock each morning, and now, the cat actually knows her footsteps, and comes out from behind the bushes, to accept the food, and say thank you to her. This is a great victory for Mrs. Hartland, because at first Girlie was absolutely terrified of all human contact, and very wild if approached. Whatever the weather, this routine is followed scrupulously.

Six months of this daily care has made a tremendous difference to Girlie. She is still very wild, and would probably never settle down if anyone offered her a home. Nevertheless, thanks to the kindness of the Strays' Samaritan, she eats regularly and looks quite sleek and well. What is just as important, she gets her share of what all the "Jennies" long for everywhere—not only food, but a little love and care.

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As a nourishing stimulant at show-time or whenever the cat is subjected to strain; to build up the mother-cat; and as additional feeding for the kittens themselves from the age of three weeks, there's nothing better—or more acceptable—than Brand's Essence. And it's a rapid general conditioner.

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BEEF • CHICKEN

Reproduction

By A. C. JUDE

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 seventh article in a fine new and exclusive series to help and encourage our readers all over the cat world.

THE main requirements of the average cat breeder are to know how breeds and strains within breeds change, or can be changed, and how in face of the fact that no two individuals are alike, we can nevertheless obtain a large proportion of animals which resemble each other in having the good qualities which we desire. Such knowledge may be acquired through the study of general breeding methods such as the effects of inbreeding and outcrossing, the influence of pedigree and general environment. Or it may be gained by observations of inheritance of clearly-defined characteristics such as coat-colour and general form in the descendants of animals which differed sharply from each other in the character under consideration.

The cat breeder has been able to gather knowledge of both the above kinds through contributions made by various scientists, but mostly by contributions of the second kind, and it is in this type of work that the Mendelian laws are most useful. It is found that these laws only work out in practice where a few clearly-defined differences are receiving attention, and that when an animal's inheritance is being considered as a whole, simple Mendelism cannot provide adequate guidance for breeding operations. Furthermore, the chromosome or gene theory in terms of

which Mendel's results can be explained, is not the only possible interpretation of the known facts of inheritance.

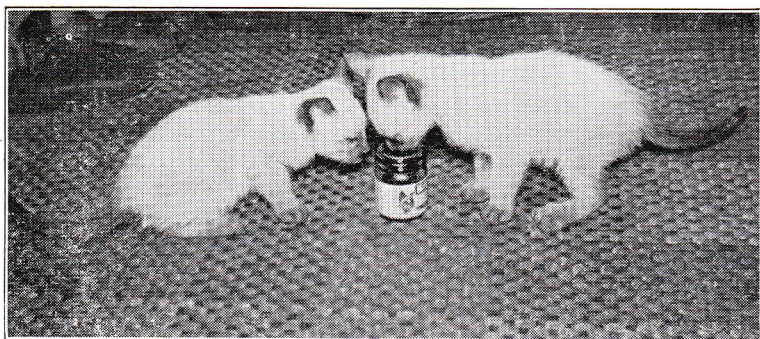
The essence of the modern form of the Mendelian theory is that an animal gets from each parent a certain collection of genes which are arranged in groups often described as like strings of beads, each string being called a chromosome. The number of chromosomes present in the nucleus varies with the species. When the chromosomes of some particular species are being referred to, it is usual to speak of the number, not as a whole, but in pairs, for in the ordinary cells the chromosomes are paired, two of each kind.

When the reproductive cells are formed the pairs separate, so that each sperm or ovum contains only one of each pair of chromosomes; when a sperm fertilizes an ovum by uniting with it, the number of chromosomes is restored, the offspring receiving one chromosome of each pair from each parent.

Alternative Gene Forms

It is believed that genes are arranged in definite order along the chromosomes, and those situated in the same place on corresponding chromosomes all affect the same characteristic, but they may affect it in different ways, in which case they are said to be "allelic" to each other. In other words, alternative forms of the same gene influencing the same developmental process or processes, but in different ways, are known as "allelomorphs."

"LEAVE SOME FOR ME"



Mrs. Margaret E. Smith of 19 Wimborne Road, Stoneygate, Leicester, writes :—

"Sablesilk Bimbo, my Burmese male, has kept in wonderful condition this winter which I think is due to his daily dose of Kit-zyme. Everyone who saw him at the shows remarked on his beautiful silky coat."

My Siamese also keep in good condition and free of illness. Chinki Sapphire, one of my Siamese Queens, is particularly fond of Kit-zyme and would eat the jar-full if she got the chance.

When I think it is time for the cats to come in out of the garden, I only have to rattle the Kit-zyme tin and they come flying in. As you can see from the photograph, I introduce Kit-zyme to kittens at a very early age."

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As an example, it is usual to describe the gene which tends to make a cat produce chocolate-brown pigment instead of black pigment, by the symbol "b". If its allele "B" is present, however, black pigment can be formed. There may, of course, be more than two alleles of the same gene, but only two of an allelic series can be present in any particular cat. The genes situated at different places on the same chromosome are said to be "linked" and do not of necessity all affect the same part or feature of the cat.

In the cases where an animal has two different alleles at a certain place on corresponding chromosomes, it is said to be heterozygous for those genes. On the other hand, if the two genes of a pair are of the same kind, it is said to be homozygous for them. This brings to mind two other technical words which the reader will sometimes come across in the technical or semi-technical writings—the words "genotype" and "phenotype." The "genotype" of a cat means its total collection of genes, whilst the "phenotype" is the cat itself—the outcome of its whole development, including the effects of the environment. Where only one or a few characters are being discussed, these terms are often applied in a restricted sense, meaning the genotype or phenotype in respect to those particular characters only.

Chemical Changes

The simple idea that each gene has one effect—for instance, producing a black coat-colour, is erroneous, for the effectiveness of any one gene depends on the whole inherited make-up of the animal including what is inherited in the rest of the sex cell besides the chromosomes, and on the opportunities for development provided by the animal's environment. We should look upon the gene as a chemical substance which when given suitable chemical background on which to work, will tend to give rise to a

series of complicated chemical changes leading to a certain result—for instance, the production of black pigment. But the certain result will be achieved only if the right chemical substances are present at every stage, and if the general development of the animal proceeds normally.

The Dominant Gene

If another gene is present which prevents the development of hair, or if one is present which causes black pigment to be changed by oxidation to yellow pigment, then the gene "B" cannot in fact produce black hair colour. However, the gene is still present in the animal, and if when reproduction takes place the gene "B" escapes company of the other two, then an offspring with black coat-colour may result. Therefore, the final appearance of the animal is the outcome of actions between its various genes, but in a given environment the outcome is fairly constant for any particular collection of genes.

There may be a blend of the characteristics of the parents, but when a certain gene is known to be able to produce its full effect even in the presence of rival genes, it is said to be "dominant" if the rival is its "allele," "epistatic" if the rival is not its "allele."



There was confusion when Tiddles, the cat at a Manchester goods station, loaded herself accidentally on a freight train for Swansea. The staff were left with four kittens on their hands. Emergency feeding operations were put in hand and the wires were buzzing to ensure Tiddles' quick return home when she arrived at Swansea. All ended well but only after some anxious moments preparing the drip-feed meals for the kittens.

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against
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Infectious
Enteritis**



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

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

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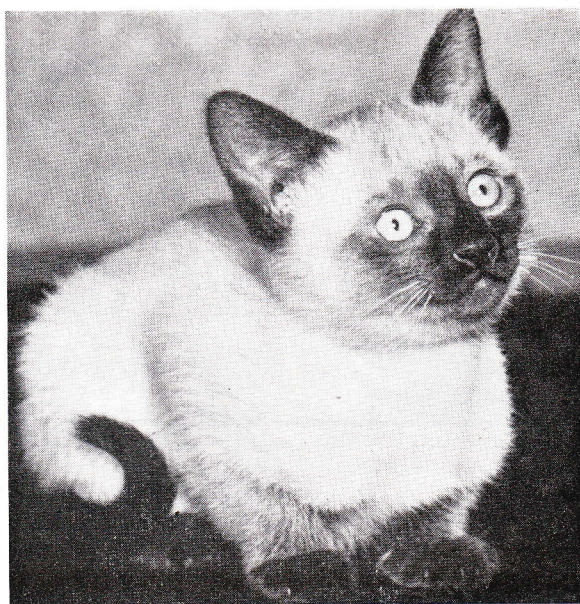
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ENTERITIS VACCINE**



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Mrs. J. McLarty, of Hawthornbank, Selkirk, Scotland, with her four-year-old Siamese PADDY.

Photo by W. J. Dickson.



Siamese kitten PUSKA is another house pet. Breeder-owner is Mrs. Brookfield, of Blackburn, Lancs.

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



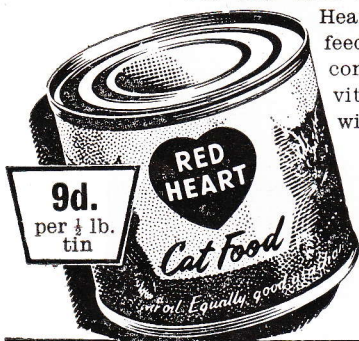
*Let's have
a squint!*

SIAMESE CATS—

from a photo by Ylla from the Red Heart series.

Though experts say we shouldn't squint, many of us DO! But we can still recognise a good thing when we see it.

The very name Red Heart sets us purring. Feed Red Heart (no trouble, no preparation) and you feed your cat the finest food there is . . . containing all a cat needs for health, vitality and a glossy coat. Fresh fish with liver and cod liver oil.



RED HEART

Cat Food

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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.

KEEPING a day-to-day diary of a litter of kittens is a fascinating business. Every owner of a queen should try it, not necessarily for publication, but simply for their own interest. A kitten grows so quickly from birth to adolescence that no day passes without some observable advance towards that perfectly organized animal, the adult cat.

A diary of the development of four kittens forms the largest and most interesting part of Paul Eipper's *My Cats and I*, just published by Hutchinson and admirably translated from the German by Anna Bostock. The diary has special interest, perhaps, because Lulu, the mother of the kittens, was no ordinary cat but "A Tibetan temple cat," given to the author by Lorenz Hagenbeck.

Lulu had travelled from the Orient with short stays in Paris and Stellingen and when her kittens were born, it was clear Hagenbeck's black and white tom had made the most of his opportunities and was the father.

The Tibetan temple cat will be new to most breeders. Paul Eipper describes it as "a dark mutation of the *café-au-lait* Siamese. A Tibetan cat's pelt is short, thick and glossy, the colour a full range of browns. It is difficult, if not impossible, to describe the charm of this consonance of colours; delicately cream-tinted on the belly, sand coloured on the flanks, the back like the cover-leaf of a good cigar, deepening to the dark mellow-ness of roasted chestnuts towards the legs

and tail. Still deeper, in some lights almost black, is the colour of the head, the mask-like face with the mysterious signs over the forehead."

The cat was evidently "foreign type" for Paul Eipper speaks of her resembling a lynx and having "overlong hind legs." She had a very short stumpy tail, kinked at the tip.

Fanciers would, I think, be interested to know more of this breed. The kittens whose daily growth is described in interesting detail were one black, three black and white.

Lulu was later mated to "a dark Siamese tom" and the result is five kittens, "all pure Siamese." One of these Siamese is mated to the black female and produces a litter of two, one white and one black. The author does not, unfortunately, give the year when he had the Tibetan cat or her eventual fate, but it does not seem that she had any "Tibetan" kittens.

My Cats and I is excellently illustrated with 33 photographs by German photographers, but the cats portrayed are not those so well described in the text.

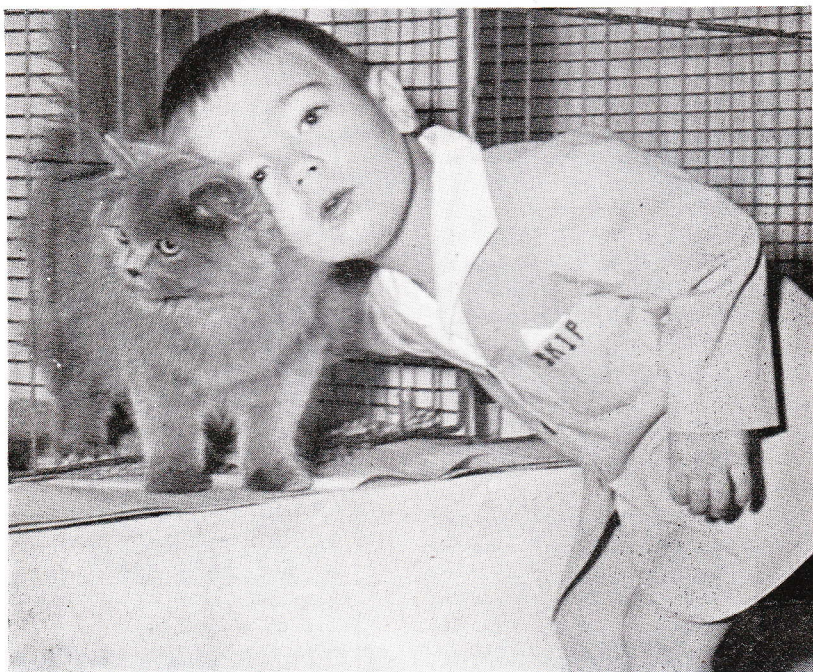
* * *

Mr. Norman Comben, a veterinary surgeon who qualified in 1945, has written an entertaining book giving a "vet's-eye view" of dogs, cats and people. *Dogs, Cats and People* is, in fact, instructive as well as entertaining, not merely because it contains some excellent technical advice, but because it enables dog and cat lovers to look at things from the vet's point of view.



Thomas Fall

KENWOOD WINSTON is a nice pale Blue Longhair shown here at the age of 5 months. Owned by Miss K. Montague, of Finchley, N.W. London, Winston was sired by Robin of Pensford ex Kenwood Lindy Lue.



Dayton Daily News

"Skip" Peterson, 2½ years-old [son] of Mr. & Mrs. O. R. Peterson, of Saruk Cattery, Dayton, Ohio, is probably the youngest registered owner in America's Cat Fanciers' Association. Here he is "making much" of his own Blue Longhair female Saruk's Lady Trimpess—he couldn't pronounce "Princess!"

When you have read this book you will appreciate why vets. generally try to avoid having cats as "in-patients"; why they are sometimes reluctant to handle a difficult animal and want to give a general anaesthetic for what in other animals would be a relatively minor treatment; why an owner faced with the necessity of having a pet put to sleep should not attempt to dictate to the vet. the method of euthanasia.

Mr. Comben has had experience varying from the largest quarantine station to private practice in South Kensington and he describes his experiences with a wealth of illustrative and entertaining anecdotes. The book is full of unusual information.

For instance, we learn that cats rarely kill themselves by falls from great heights because they land on their feet, but that they forget to keep their heads up and therefore bang their noses on the ground. The result is "snuffles", a long time afterwards, or a split of the roof of the mouth which fortunately usually heals in ten days or a fortnight. This is why, if you take your cat to the vet. with a leg broken in a fall, he may look in its mouth!

In the quarantine station the author was apparently concerned more with dogs than cats, but his account of rabies is calculated to answer those who ask if this "six months inside" is really necessary. The devotion of animal lovers knows no bounds, but the routine of the owner of a 13-year-old mongrel back from India would be hard to beat. For the whole six months of the quarantine she called every day, was locked in the kennel with her dog and sat on a camp stool, talking to him and knitting him "woollies" until the kennels closed at 6 p.m.!

* * *

Theophile Gautier was probably the greatest cat worshipper of the nineteenth century. He was prominent in the

artistic revolt, led by Victor Hugo and Delacroix and his adoration of cats was considered fantastic by his contemporaries, although it would hardly excite comment to-day when so many famous artists of all kinds are cat worshippers.

He wrote with great understanding about his many cats which caricaturists used to portray sitting on his shoulders and head while he sat in Turkish dress surrounded by cushions. Gautier said these caricatures were only an exaggeration of the truth (which is what caricatures should be) and confessed that from his earliest days he had an almost Brahminical—or perhaps old-maidish—love of animals in general and cats in particular. Perhaps "confessed" is not quite the word. In an age when the cat's place was still more often the kitchen than the drawing room, he was not in the least ashamed of the pleasure he found in their company.

Typical of his attitude was naming three black cats (born of two pure white parents!) after the chief characters in Hugo's *Les Misérables* and writing that when he re-read the novel, the principal roles in it seemed to be filled with black cats, "which for me does not seem in the least to diminish the interest of the book."

* * *

I was reminded of this by coming across a book published in 1899 of whose existence I had not been aware—*A Domestic Menagerie*, translated from the French of Gautier and illustrated by Mrs. William Chance, whose *A Book of Cats* is known to most cat lovers. In this book Gautier describes with charm his happy years with his pets, not only cats but dogs, magpies, rats, chameleons and lizards. The rats and the cats, incidentally, got on well together, until a catastrophe overwhelmed them. The thirty-two white rats were struck dead in their large cage by a stroke of lightning—"an enviable death, such as fate but rarely grants" says Gautier.

I have mentioned the ceramic studies of cats by Lucette de la Fougere before. Her latest exhibition at the Institut Francais, South Kensington, opened by the French Ambassador, included in addition to ceramics, twenty-three paint-

ings of cats in many moods, all of which show her remarkable talent of catching and making permanent the elusive and ever-changing moods and movements of cats which have defeated so many artists in the past.



News Chronicle Photo

Talented young artist Lucette de la Fougere with her own live Tabby Minou-Chat and some of the examples of her ceramic art which were on view at the exhibition mentioned above. Cats are her speciality and she has spent ten years on the work of capturing feline moods and movement in paint and clay.

BOOK REVIEW

A New Work on Feline Genetics

CONSIDERING the large and always increasing number of people interested in breeding and showing cats, the paucity of easy-to-read books on cat genetics has always struck me as strange.

You do not have to be a geneticist to be a successful breeder of show cats. But undoubtedly a knowledge of feline genetics adds very greatly to the chances of success with the experienced

breeder and will save the novice from many costly disappointments based on reading into the pedigree of a champion something that is not there. Even the cat-lover who does not breed can find genetics fascinating in its explanation of how cats come in so many different shapes and colours.

Experimental Breeding—The Genetics of the Feline, by James D. McCrae, helps to fill this gap in cat literature and can be recommended alike to the novice who

does not know the number of chromosomes in each cell of a cat and the expert who has some knowledge of genetics but needs more facts about the science as specially concerned with cat breeding.

Mr. McCrae works briskly through feline genetics from the elementary facts of inheritance to the complicated problems of producing a "perfect" Abyssinian or Silver Tabby, illustrating his points with examples of the experimental matings carried out by Mrs. McCrae and himself and many excellent photographs, diagrams and tables. The tables and equations at the end may appear a little alarming to the beginner but in fact should be quite intelligible when the admirably lucid chapter on the mathematics of heredity has been mastered.

A Little Like Alice

Each chapter opens and closes with a quotation from Lewis Carroll and this rightly indicates that the author, while he takes his subject seriously, sees no reason why its exposition should be dull. The novice making a first excursion in the wonderland of feline genetics may feel a little like Alice in her Wonderland, but, as Lewis Carroll showed, it all turns out to be perfectly logical in the end.

Not all the book is concerned with feline genetics. There are entertaining and refreshingly original chapters on the care of the cat and similar subjects.

Mr. McCrae makes the suggestion, based on genetics and breeding experience, that there should be a single

Foreign Shorthair (excluding Siamese) class at shows and that the "patrons of the F.S.H. which are not too well-known" (Russian Blue, Abyssinian and Burmese) should form an organization devoted to these breeds. He points out that they are the same type and suggests each would gain by having a common standard for the F.S.H. classes.

Strengthening the Lines

"The Russian Blue would have a wider field in which to improve its type; the Abyssinian would gain by the admission of new blood and possibly rid itself of bars and excessive white which haunts the breed; the combination of blue and seal would result in a new class of Blacks from which better Blues and Seals could be drawn in the next generation; a new class of Reds could be developed from the Abyssinian which could be used to reinforce the parent stock; the combination of these Reds and the Russian Blue would form a Blue-Cream which could be employed to strengthen both lines—these and many other considerations are possible if the individual breeders would work together to advance the F.S.H. as a class instead of favouring one possibility over all the others."

Experimental Breeding is an original and important contribution to cat literature. It is published by James McCrae at 3817 S.W. Military Drive, San Antonio, Texas, U.S.A., and is priced \$5.

T.S.D.

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KEEP CATS KITTENISH



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.

all the way from Edinburgh, Mrs. Robertson from Glasgow, and Mrs. Lamb from Minhead. Miss Cathcart travelled all night from Devon, Mr. F. Tomlinson and Mr. Martin from Lincoln, Mrs. Hancox from Nottingham, Mrs. Culley from Manchester and Mrs. Taylor from Yorkshire. So the Council was indeed well served with this widespread representation, to say nothing of the well-known personalities who live nearer London.

G.C. Affairs

MISS KATHLEEN YORKE was unanimously re-elected Chairman at the meeting of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy which was held on April 29th at the Grosvenor Hotel, Victoria. The Rev. Basil Rees was re-elected as Vice-Chairman and Mrs. L. Speirs as Hon. Treasurer. A hearty vote of thanks was passed for their services to the Council during the past year.

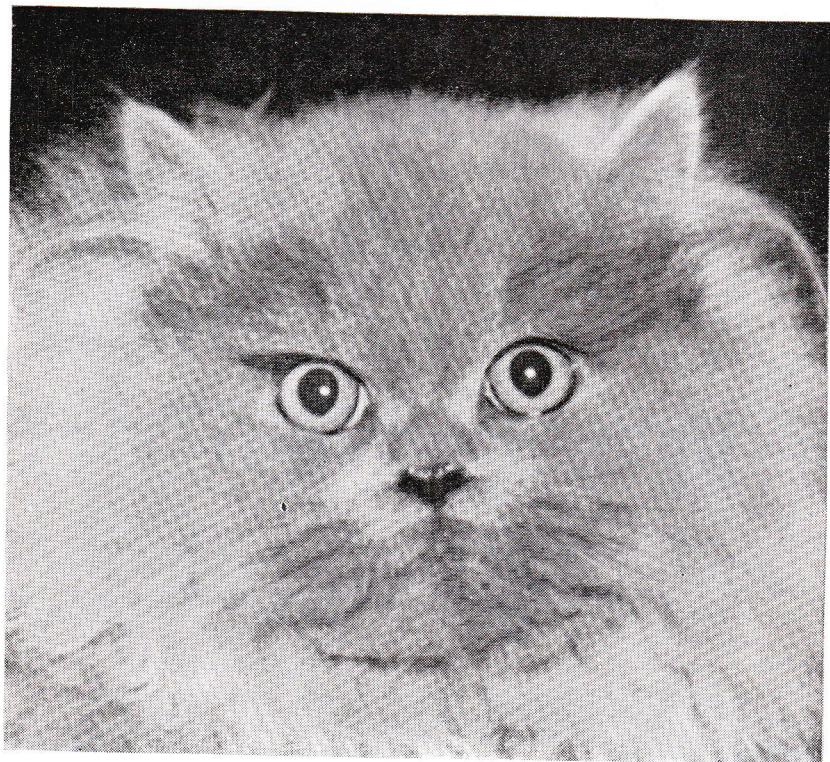
Thirteen nominations were made for the Executive Committee and on a paper ballot the former eight members were all re-elected. The Executive for the forthcoming year will be Miss E. Langston, Mrs. Aitken, Mrs. Brunton, Mrs. Lamb, Mrs. Newton, Miss Kit Wilson, Mr. Dunks and Mrs. Joan Thompson. The Council then proceeded with a lengthy agenda and the meeting closed in the late afternoon.

It was nice to see Dr. Sheina Watters,

Season's First Show

The first show of the season to be held under G.C. rules will be the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club at the Royal Horticultural Hall, London, on July 28th. This is a charming show where breeders present their young kittens to the judges and public for the first time. The neuters, usually in better coat than our breeding stock in July, are a show in themselves and a generous classification is provided for them. An innovation this year will be special classes for male exhibitors. The ladies will be on the alert to approve their efforts and probably they will find something to smile at when they see the menfolk hobnobbing and comparing their exhibits.

Another new feature will be the junior section for exhibitors under 18 years of age. In addition there will be classes for household pets for exhibitors under 16 years of age in which we should see some beautiful pets. Everyone who



Mrs. Stephenson's lovely Blue Longhair male WOBURN SUNSHINE—see notes on next page. He was bred by Miss C. Page, of Watford.

attended the show at Olympia in 1952 will remember the remarkable section devoted to the pet cats of the Odeon and Gaumont Children's Cinema Clubs when over 200 arrived in perfect condition (after hundreds had been screened) and were so docile and sweet-tempered. Naturally, this Kensington show will not cater, or the hall be large enough, for pets in quantity but we hope to encourage interest and kindness to felines when these youngsters see the elite of the cat world and themselves win prizes.

Home of Good Creams

Miss Sheppard, who removed from Dunmow, Essex, some months ago to Bishop's Stortford has of course bred many lovely Creams, one of the loveliest being the late Ch. Widdington Warden, so universally admired by judges and breeders. Most of the winning Creams we have owe something to him as he figures in so many of their pedigrees. Miss Sheppard's present Cream male Widdington Winterset is a grandson of Warden. He has already been awarded two Challenge Certificates in his first season as an adult and we anticipate he will quickly complete his Championship when the Championship shows commence again on September 23rd. Mrs. Benbow's Blue-Cream Ch. Bay-horne Heather has a Cream and two Blue-Creams by him.

Among other news items Miss Sheppard writes: "I am reducing the number of my cats and goats and have been fortunate to find a loving home for the winning Blue-son of Ch. W. Warden, namely W. Wrensun. He has gone to Mrs. Budd of Keighley, Yorkshire. She is delighted with him and his sweet disposition. He has already mated one of her Tortoiseshells and before he left he mated Mrs. Barron's Cream queen. My own queens are not mated yet. They have called when Winterset has been occupied with other queens. My kittens are usually born late summer or autumn.

Winterset is going to Miss Gabb at Godalming and Wintersohn may be going abroad but it is not settled yet."

"Last November I sold a goat called Widdington Salome, named after our Blue-Cream queen, to Canada. The quarantine restrictions are very strict and she had to spend six weeks in Scotland, then two weeks in quarantine here and two more over there. The firm handling the export arrangements muddled things up to such an extent that she only entered the Glasgow quarantine this week!"

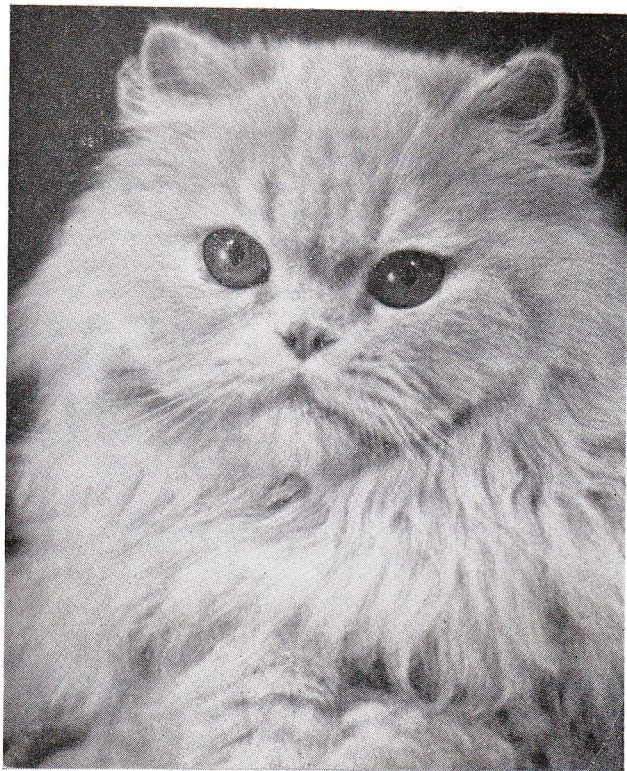
"While on the subject of names there is another Wintersohn, my male goat. He has been shown three times and has been Best in Show twice."

Miss Sheppard is as well known for the quality of her goats as her Creams and Blue-Creams and it is a great asset to have their milk for her cats and to wean the kittens. Nearly all breeders agree it is better than cow's milk or the dried baby foods.

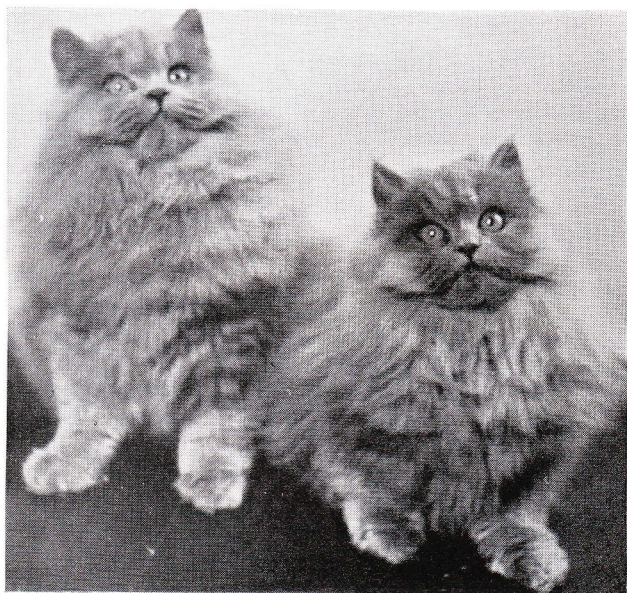
Blues in Kent

Mrs. Stephenson, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, owns a very attractive Blue male, Woburn Sunshine. He is a delightful shade of pale blue and has the fine texture coat which more often goes with the paler shades. In 1952 he was Best Exhibit at the successful show at the Pump Room, Tunbridge Wells. This was certainly an honour as many lovely exhibits were present. In 1951 he was Best Longhair Male Kitten at Olympia; at the Croydon and National shows Best Blue Male Kitten. At each show he was awarded six firsts and at the S.C.C.C. early the following year Best Blue Kitten.

The rest of the family are Annabella of Dunesk (by Ch. Baralan Boy Blue), Gentian of Dunesk (by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous) and Anchor Questy, litter sister to my Anchor Felicity, who has so consistently produced winners. Questy is the dam of the Blue-Cream Ashdown



WIDDINGTON WINTER-SOHN, promising young Cream by Widdington Winterset ex Ch. Wonderland Honeybunch. Best Cream Kitten at the 1954 Croydon Show and the 1955 Southern Counties Show. Wintersohn was bred by Miss Sheppard, of Dunmow, Essex.



BLUE PEARL and FLEUR-ETTE OF DUNESK, Blue Longhair kittens at five months by Ch. Astra of Pensford. Blue Pearl belongs to Mrs. M. Flury, of Finchley, N.W. London.

Shadows, Best Kitten in Show at the K.K. Show, 1951, and Best Longhair Kitten at the Herts and Middlesex Ch. Show the same year. In 1952 she mated to Woburn Sunshine and her Cream son Ashdown Cowslip was best Longhair Kitten at K.K. Show. He is now in Africa and proving a success at stud. Two neuters complete the cat family, a Cream, Ashdown Silver Sprite and Inky, a Black.

Mrs. Stephenson has gone to a lot of expense to wire in a really large part of her garden so that Sunshine can enjoy an active life. He often pops in the kitchen window and they have to be on the alert for "accidents" but on the whole he behaves well for a stud.

Busy Red Tabbies

Miss Lelgarde Fraser's famous Red Tabbies have had a busy season at stud. She herself is devoting almost all her time to her cats. She is a real cat lover. It is revealing no secret to say that she considers there is a tendency to have too many shows. But she is an example to all of us in graciously accepting the verdict of the majority on the Governing Council and realizing that shows have never been so well supported or so successful as they have been over the last few years.

Many readers will remember Mrs. Loughborough and her daughter. For a time she exhibited and then decided to keep only neuters. Miss Fraser tells me she visited them at Holmbury St. Mary, Surrey, and that they have four beautiful cats who are much loved. Two are Blue Chinchillas sired by the late Hendon Blue Robin. After lunch Miss Loughborough drove her to see Mr. Guy Withers, who is so well known for his photography and lovely cat pictures, many of which have appeared in this magazine. Miss Fraser was enchanted with his wonderful photos in colour. Last year Mr. and Mrs. Tasker's lovely Cream neuter Damer of Pensford was photographed in colour with a

child model by the famous Mr. Hess who travels widely for this purpose. But whilst reproduction and everything to do with colour photography remains so expensive it precludes quantities being taken.

A Tea Party

Mrs. Regan gave a very pleasant tea party at her house at Kingston-on-Thames. It was a sunny April day and the garden and river looked inviting. Miss Kit Wilson, the Chairman, and the Hon. Secretary of the Shorthair Cat Society, were unfortunately unable to be present. Among the guests were Mrs. Newton, Mrs. Earnshaw, Mrs. Aitken and her two daughters, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. and Miss Robson, Mrs. Wright and Miss Jury. Mrs. Regan tells me all her cats are well and the Silver Tabby Silver Jacinth has now been spayed.

U.S. Cat Chatter

The *Garden State News* from U.S.A., edited by Mrs. Robert Bird, presents its news well and breezily. I was amused at the wording of the first item. "Twenty-eight chilled members were blown into the Hotel Essex House for the annual meeting." The President, Mr. Richard Gebhardt is foreign news reporter and his section contains news from England, France, Italy and Sweden. Under the heading "Cat Chatter" this interesting item appears: "Mr. and Mrs. Battis's Cream female, a daughter of Ch. Widdington Wonder Girl, gave birth to five Cream kittens. One died, but the remaining four males are sound and healthy." It is always good to hear news of the descendants of British bred cats. Mr. and Mrs. Carl Kathe, whom I met whilst in New York in 1950, have a Blue-Cream Ch. Kathe's Chickadee which has made more T.V. and newspaper appearances than any cat in

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Eastern America. It is not often that this lovely variety is chosen for publicity purposes in England. Any tendency to Cream patches on the face is so accentuated in photographs, but in U.S.A. the standard is different and these patches are permissible. Chickadee is a daughter of Grand Ch. Lavender Liberty Beau, the Best Cat in Show at several Ch. Shows in 1949 and 1950 and my choice for that honour when I judged in New York in 1950. Owned by Mr. Anthony De Santis, he was a superb cat.

Garden State is presenting its second All-Breed Kitten Show in August in the grounds of Mrs. R. Bullock's home at Fanwood, New Jersey. Miss Elsie Hydon, so renowned as a C.F.A. judge and owner of the famous Lavender Blues, Creams and Blue-Creams, will judge the All-Breed show; Mrs. Lillian King will make her debut as a judge of the Siamese Speciality. Kittens from three to eight months will compete. At eight months a kitten officially becomes a cat in U.S.A.

Gaiety should prevail on May 28th when Garden State holds a "shindig." One reads: "There'll be dancing. We'll be glad to navigate you through the square dances or you may prefer the less athletic ballroom type . . . also card games for the sensible souls who prefer to conserve their strength."

Mrs. Learn, of Virginia, first heard of *Garden State News* from my reference to it in OUR CATS. She thought it strange to hear of it from across the sea. So here is the name and address of the Editor: Mrs. Robert Bird, 208 Claremont Avenue, Verona, New Jersey, U.S.A., in case others in America may be interested. It is published quarterly and the subscription is one dollar per annum. In the meantime I shall be pleased to hear news of Mrs. Learn's cats if this comes to her notice.

Smart French Journal

A cat periodical which always has style and appeal is that of the Cat Club

de Paris. Edited by Madame Ravel, *La Vie Feline* is issued quarterly and the pictures are delightful. There is a superb one of Mme E. Sarrazin's Orange-eyed White Cady de Padirac, bred by Mme Letertre, who was Best Longhair in Show at Ghent, Milan and Paris. There is also an intriguing picture of what appears to be a Longhair White swimming in the Seine with its owner. The cat really appears to be enjoying itself.

Each year every cat registered and eligible for exhibition at the Cat Club de Paris and its associated shows has to have a name beginning with the same initial. This year it is E and hundreds of examples are given from which to choose. I was captivated by Exotique, Exquis, Elegant and Escapade. An article on Burmese appears by Mr. Sydney France, who is so knowledgeable on this breed and to whom we owe its importation into this country from U.S.A. Never have cats been so well catered for in print, and opportunities afforded for their exhibition. The amount of work which is put into the promotion of their welfare is incalculable but next month I am endeavouring to present the more serious side of the picture and to show how much there is to do to alleviate the lot of the unloved and unwanted cats which inhabit the poorer quarters of London.

Olympia Show Off

Owing to previous commitments regarding the venue, the National Cat Club is unable after all to hold its Championship Show at Olympia this year. It hopes to do so next year. In the meantime it will take place this year on December 7th at the New Horticultural Hall, Westminster. It will be the first time this spacious hall with its excellent daylight has been used for a mid-winter show. Here's wishing them every success.





Tailpieces

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



THE Rutgers University Bureau of Biological Research (America) started a study a year ago of the basic nutritional requirements of cats. Now it has received a grant of 5,000 dollars from the Mark L. Morris Animal Memorial Foundation of Topeka, Kansas, to enable it to continue its research. The Foundation was started several years ago to promote studies on the relationships of nutrition to the control of animal diseases and to promote graduate study in veterinary colleges.

When the Hartfield (Sussex) Players staged their production of "To Kill a Cat," a leading role was given to a White Longhair cat. At the end of the performance members of the cast received their bouquets—but puss was handed a pair of kippers and a small box of herrings.

Orlando, the well-known marmalade cat whose picture book adventures have delighted so many children and grown-ups, will be the subject of the Sunday afternoon talk in the B.B.C. Home Service on 1st May, when his creator Kathleen Hale will tell how he came into her life and dominated it as only a cat can. She calls the talk "A Cat's Life."

Is anyone interested in the formation of a cat club in South Wales? If so, they should get in touch with Mr. Brian Richards, 70 Cottrell Road, Roath Park, Cardiff.

According to newspaper reports students of Aberdeen University are said to indulge in "black magic orgies."

Some of the men, it is reported, take part in ceremonial drinking rites which end up in wild scenes in which the blood of chickens, cats and other animals is drunk.

Here's something to ponder over. The Cat's Protection League have an excellent service for the placing of unwanted cats and kittens in good homes. They recently had a Siamese on the list and there were 147 offers for him. But offers were scarce for the many fine ordinary cats. Those listed include "A loud purr box, found wandering by a policeman," "The 'Bin Boys," nice little cats who are described as "the dustmen's protégées," and some "Cockney cats, real toughs, not handsome, but good, solid, plain cats."

Writing of homeless cats reminds me that colonies still exist on many of London's bombed sites. The other day I was walking near Ludgate Hill—in the shadow of St. Paul's Cathedral—and there a small crowd was watching a feline domestic scene. Sprawled up in a bush and obviously enjoying the Spring sunshine was a fine tabby. Below, on some old sacks, were three more adults, one black and two nicely marked tabbies, one of whom was feeding a litter of three very tiny kittens. I noticed that the cats were well provided—almost over-provided!—with food and drink.

The notorious woman spy of the last war, Micheline (Mathilde) Carr, has been released after 13 years in prison. Known as La Chatte—"The Cat"—she was trapped and arrested in London.

MICKEY.



MISS KITTY PAWS

Miss Kitty Paws is a tabby grey,
 She's prettily marked, the people say,
 She sleeps in her basket most of the day,
 Miss Kitty Paws.

There's a little white spot on her tiny nose,
 She gets very tired, I suppose,
 For she loves the doll's cot in which to doze,
 Miss Kitty Paws.

Mrs. Rosemary Young of 32 Princess Avenue, Windsor, Berks, writes :—

"I would like to say how much I appreciate your Kit-zyme tablets which are keeping my cat in good condition. She is a lovely tabby and my daughters Pauline, aged 10, and Linda, aged 8, adore her. Her name is plain "Kitty" but the girls call her Miss Kitty Paws. They often play marbles with her and if she loses one behind the piano or behind other furniture she seeks one of the children and leads her to the place!"

Kitty is the most intelligent cat I have ever possessed, and so gentle and so very clean.

My daughters wanted me to send you her photograph and I enclose a little verse written by Linda."

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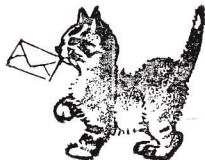
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Correspondence Corner

Readers are invited to send contributions to this feature and so to join in the useful exchange of ideas, experiences and knowledge. Letters should be concise and deal preferably with items of general interest.



ELECTRICIAN'S MATE

When our kitten was six months old he did a very useful job for us.

At the time we were doing some electrical installations and wanted to find a quick method of laying some wire underneath the floor-boards.

My husband (who wouldn't harm a hair of a cat's head) tied one end of a reel of cotton on to the kitten's collar, popped him down an open floor-board, paid out the reel of cotton while the kitten ran along underneath and came out the other side of the room where day-light drew him to the corresponding open board.

My husband was then able to detach the cotton, tie on the electric lead, and draw that back through the same route.

Mrs. D. M. Eccleshall,
Gosport, Hants.

DISNEY CATS

Breeders and lovers of Siamese cats may be interested to see Walt Disney's film "Siam," which is at the moment being shown at Studio One in Oxford Street, London.

A large portion of the film deals with the everyday life of a Siamese family, living on a sampan, trading up and down the rivers and canals. The family consists of husband, wife, a small boy and a Siamese cat. The cat, which would hardly qualify for a prize in our shows, was, of course, of the greatest interest to me. He was rather round-headed, fairly large and his points were decidedly pale and brindled; his lips were almost white. The body colour was, however, the true biscuit colour, which we find so difficult to achieve in Seal Points, once they have matured.

Of special interest to me was that this cat lives happily in a boat, like my own. It was a very familiar incident when the cat left his boat to fight another cat ashore, fell into the mud during the fight and was washed by dipping him into clean water by his mistress, then rubbed down with a towel and put to bed. His language was exactly the same as my cats use in the same predicament!

If any of the readers of OUR CATS who have seen this film would let me know what they think of the other cat, who has the fight with the Siamese, I would be grateful. He looked to me like a show specimen of a Russian Blue.

Should the self coloured blue cat of foreign type be one of the varieties which occur in Siam, the origin of the Blue Points holds no secrets for the student of genetics. But the question arises whether our show type of Russian Blue conforms to any breed of cat which could possibly hail from Russia. It is idle for me to speculate how the original Russian Blue imports would have been placed in a show to-day, but everybody can see from the prizes awarded to Russian Blues during the last few years, that a great number of Challenge Certificates have been won by cats with Siamese ancestry. Fanciers' standards and nature's variations are certainly two different things.

Miss E. von Ullmann, F.Z.S.,
London, W.2.

THE ODD MAN OUT

I would like to tell you a little true story about our cats and "the odd man out."

We are the proud owners of a mother cat, three kittens, and a mongoose.

Perhaps you will not know much about the mongoose, so before I can go on with the story I must tell you. It is a small, furry animal rather like a rat but very much nicer because it has not got "sticky-out" teeth or a hairless tail. In fact, it's just like the Ricky-ticky-tavey in Rudyard Kipling's story.

Well, as you can imagine, I was rather worried what mother cat might do to the mongoose while her kittens were small, or, on the other hand, what the mongoose might do to the helpless kittens.

As soon as Winkie, Binkie and Nod got their eyes opened I took the mongoose in to see them while mother cat was there. He made strange noises to them and they stared at him with unblinking blue eyes. Mrs. Cat didn't seem to mind him too much, and each day they all became a little more friendly.

Then arrived the great day when I actually placed Ricky in the basket with the family, keeping my fingers crossed, just in case! However, to my amazement, Ricky snuggled down, burrowing into their fur, purring, and closing his sharp little eyes in bliss. I forgot to tell you that mongoose purr too. The kittens put out their small paws and tapped him, and Ricky put out his long clawed ones and tapped back.

After a few days of this, they were all running around and playing together with bits of string and balls of paper. I came in one day to find mother cat feeding Ricky along with her own three. She seems to have really adopted him now, for she washes the kittens and then licks Ricky into shape too.

So, although at first we called him "the odd man out," I'm sure mother cat doesn't feel it a bit strange to have taken, what I would have thought to be, an enemy into her family.

Mrs. Molly Lironious,
Nairobi, Kenya.

ADOPTED !

A friend of mine had a Corgi bitch. One day a stray Persian kitten was

found on the doorstep. The Corgi, after sniffing the kitten, proceeded to lick it all over. They became great friends. So great was the dog's love for the kitten that she fed it for two weeks. The vet. said that the milk came because of its great affection for the kitten.

One day Tinker, the kitten, disappeared. The dog moaned as if in pain ; it actually cried ! It went round all the places where they had been together, looking for it. Suddenly the dog gave a sharp cry and began barking furiously. A little paw appeared under the door at the back of the next door chemists' shop.

When at last the kitten was released the dog licked it all over, growling quietly to itself all the time. Worn out, the Corgi fell asleep, its paw covering the kitten nestling beside it.

Miss Norah E. Hersee,
East Worthing, Sussex.

CATS

Cats seem to be aware
Of what we say,
But when we notice it
They turn away :
Marking their unconcern
With our affairs
By washing the conversation
Out of their ears.

WILLIAM CLARKE

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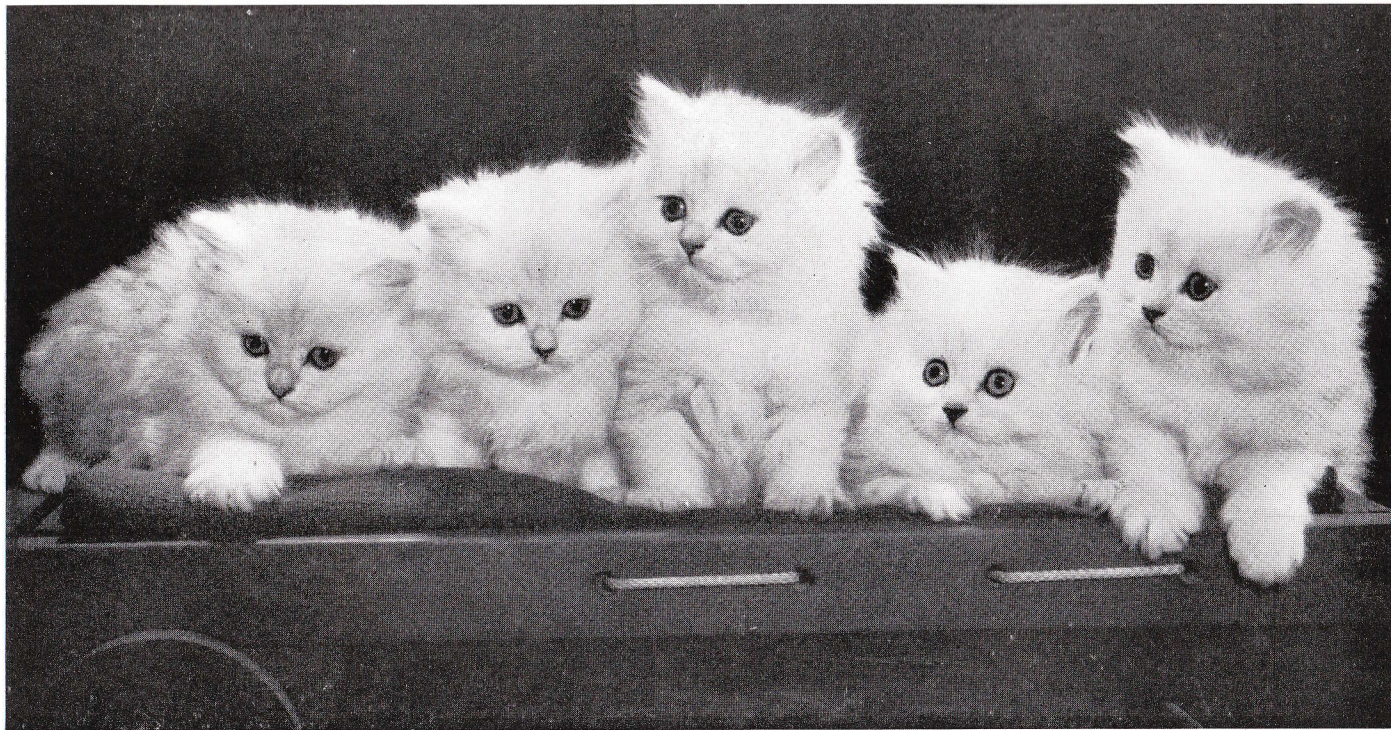
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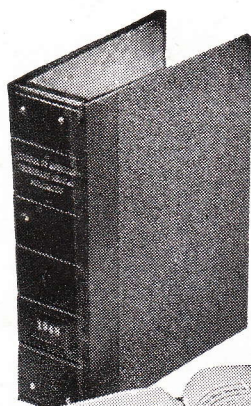


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