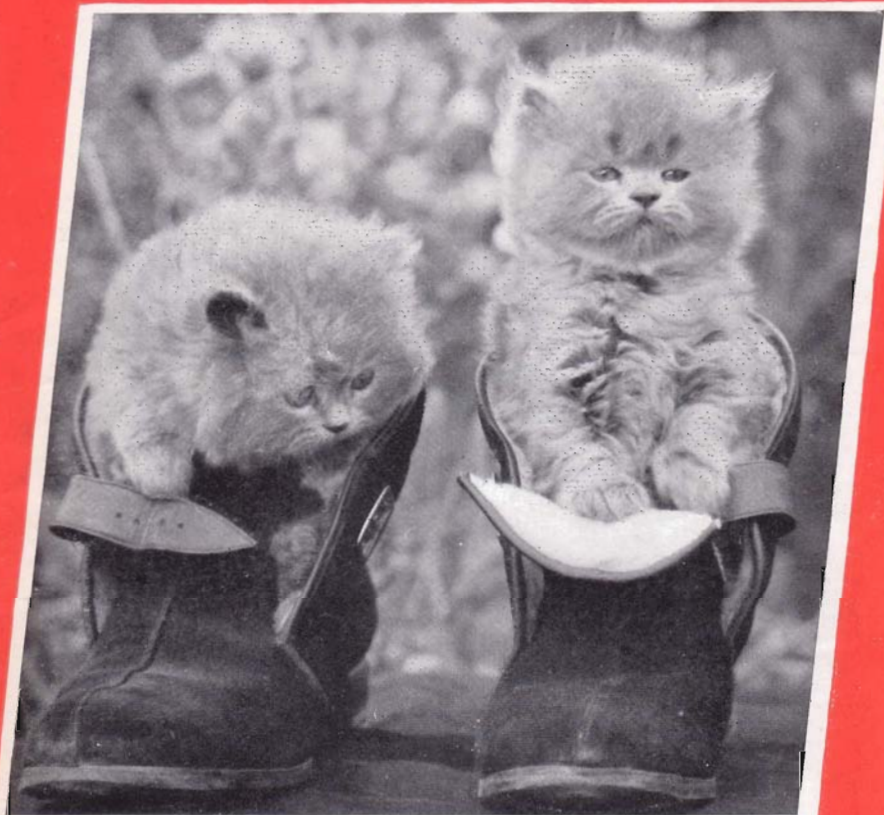


Our Cats

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CURIOSITY AND COMPOSURE!

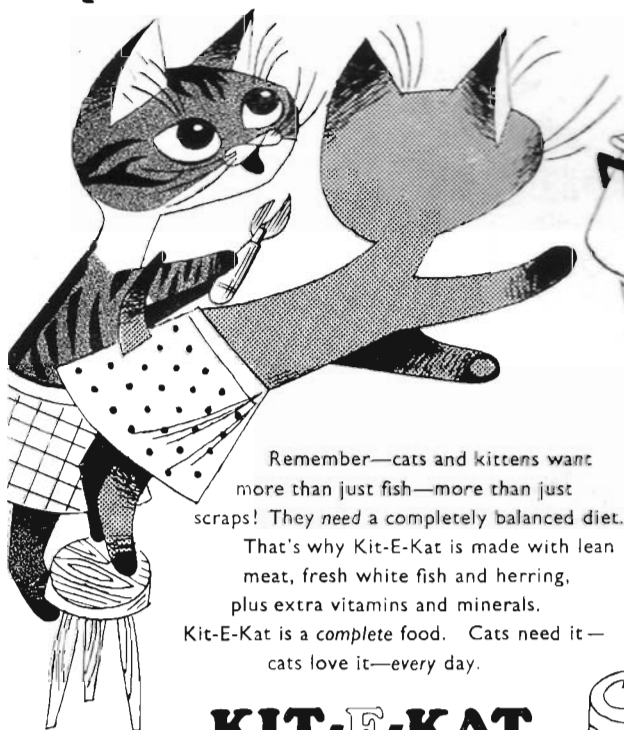
Photographed at six weeks old, this pair of Blue Longhair kittens is finding that the footwear "fits them nicely." Their names are CORONET ELEGANCE and CORONET PETITE and they were bred by Mrs. D. E. Gibbons, of Great Baddow, Essex, from Champion Harpur Blue Boy ex her own queen Foxburrow Fanciful.

SEPTEMBER 1955

1/6



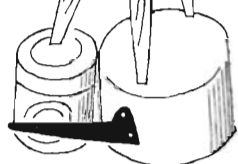
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Our Cats

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

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

VOL. 7 No. 9

SEPTEMBER 1955

Managing Editor :

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

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS




We are indebted for this nice picture of a Chocolate Point Siamese litter to Mrs. Marianne Talasnik, of San Diego, California, U.S.A. They are all males bred at her Talasmar Cattery. The photographer is Helen Ellsberg.

A PUSSY'S VIEW OF HEAVEN

*(After the manner of Rupert Brooke who said
a similar thing about fishes.)*

By JOHN BAGULEY

Cats, when stretched upon the grass—
Regardless of their social class—
Must sometime mew upon their state,
For mewsing is a feline trait.
Cats say they have their birds and mice ;
But is there a pussy after-life ?
Nine lives, 'tis ODD ; but surely then
'Twould EVEN be so were there ten.
No, the tenth is different so they say,
Else there's no point in such as they.
The future's not devoid of milk.
They know there's One, with coat like silk,
Who prowled and hunted day and night,
Before this Earth had seen the light.
Immense of feline form and eye,
Sphinx-like, graceful, exceeding sly,
Under whose almighty paw
The meanest cat need seek no more.
Oh ! Never is pussy plagued by dog,
In the Heaven of the feline God.
There streams of milk drift idly by
And wings are fitted that cats might fly.

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Editor.

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Respiration, Pulse & Temperature

By P. M. SODERBERG

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

THE breathing, pulse and body heat of a cat are so fundamental that the ordinary cat owner never gives them a thought until they start to function abnormally when the cat is unwell. To know something about them, however, should be of some interest, for it is surprising how few cat owners have any idea of the figures involved except with regard to a cat's temperature.

The rate of breathing varies considerably according to a variety of circumstances, but even so there is a normal range within narrow limits for an adult cat. Kittens breathe slightly faster than adults which throughout a period of years under normal circumstances display an individual tempo which is fairly constant, and then, when the cat grows old, the breathing becomes deeper and also slightly slower.

The best time to observe a cat's respiration is when it has been at rest for some time but is not actually asleep. A kitten of three months will probably breathe at a regular rate of roughly twenty-eight times a minute. As it grows older the rate drops, and most adult cats in their prime have an individual rate between the limits of twenty-two to twenty-six respirations. Old cats usually slow down to twenty, but rarely go below this.

Exercise has a very marked effect on the rate of breathing, but this is such a normal change paralleled in human beings that it need only be mentioned in passing. It is also common knowledge that the rate of respiration drops when the cat is asleep, for the breathing

becomes much deeper, and it is remarkable also to notice how in so many cats the seventh breath is deeper than the others, and then the normal pattern of respiration is restored for the next six breaths. Some cats have been noticed in which it is the fifth breath that is the deepest.

Disease of the respiratory organs often has a marked effect on respiration, both in rate and type, and the expert, which means in this case the veterinary surgeon, can usually use this symptom in his diagnosis.

There is the shallow breathing of pleurisy with a marked increase in rate occasioned very largely from the fact that moving the chest wall is painful, and thus as far as possible the cat uses only the diaphragm.

In bronchitis the breathing is laboured and usually noisy because the air passages are partly blocked. A cat can breathe noisily when it is asleep, but the laboured breathing of pneumonia and bronchitis are entirely different.

Taking the Pulse

Few cat owners will know how to take the pulse of a cat, but it is something which is easily learned with a little practice. The rate of the heart beat can best be felt in the femoral artery. This artery runs diagonally across the inside of the upper thigh which only exists in the rear legs. It may not at first be easy to put one's fingers on the exact spot, but the knack is easily acquired.

For a human being the pulse rate is usually given as being 72, but it is

probable that only few individuals have this figure as their normal rate. The range is much more likely to be between 70 and 80. In the same way the pulse rate will vary with individual cats, but a normal range will be between 90 and 100. Here again the rate is higher for young kittens than for old cats, but in a state of rest a young kitten's heart is not likely to beat faster than 110 times a minute, and even in extreme old age the pulse rate rarely drops below 80.

This pulse rate can be altered very considerably by a variety of diseases which put an extra strain upon the heart even if that organ is not diseased itself either functionally or organically. Anaemia, for instance, will slow down the pulse, and also make it very soft to the feeling fingers.

Ordinarily there is a connection between pulse rate and respiration which applies both in health and also illness. Many a cat owner must have noticed the difficulty of breathing which is experienced by the cat which is known to have heart disease.

There is no reason constantly to feel a cat's pulse, but it is often useful to know the normal rate for the individual, and to be able to feel when there is some abnormality. When a cat is ill the pulse rate will often rise considerably, and even a comparatively high figure need not cause alarm, but when the rate approaches 140 expert help is essential, for a very high pulse rate is often followed by a rapid fall and there may be collapse. Even old cats rarely reach the collapse level which is round about the 70 mark.

When the Body Fights

Most cat owners will know that a cat's temperature is 101.5° F., but if they take the temperature for themselves they may be more than a little surprised if it is actually halfway between the 101 and 102 mark. Anywhere between these two figures can be considered as normal.

There is **only one** satisfactory way of taking the **temperature** and that is by inserting a **half-minute clinical thermometer** in the **rectum**. The cat will not object if the end of the **thermometer** is well smeared with **vaseline** before it is inserted. It is always **better to allow** for the grease and to leave the **thermometer** in position for a full minute.

When there is illness, the **body fights** against the infection, and the **body temperature** is raised as a consequence of this struggle. Thus, when the thermometer reads 103°, the owner should look carefully for symptoms of trouble, and the chances are that he will find them, but the possibilities are far too numerous to enumerate here. If the temperature is 104°, it is far safer to send for the vet. straight away.

Kittens Up and Down

Usually a cat shows that it **has a temperature** by trying to find a **cool spot** on which to lie, and a **draught** is often welcome, so the owner **has to remove** either the cat or the draught.

With kittens a **sudden rise in temperature** may mean **nothing of any significance**, and unless the **kitten shows** other signs of illness there is **no need** for immediate anxiety. They are **just like** children, with a **temperature up to-night** and down to-morrow morning. A rapid drop in temperature, if it falls well below normal, is a serious sign and the cat owner must seek advice. Certainly a temperature of 99° is more significant than one of 103°.

Well, there it is. You may know something more about some of the natural functions of a cat's organs than you did before ; at least you will know enough to realize that you yourself cannot deal with real abnormalities, and that your veterinary surgeon alone can **assess** them scientifically when they **do occur from** time to time.

A Couple of Big Fellows

This is a brief account of two famous heavyweights of the feline world, one of whom, alas, is no longer with us.

Billy, who belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Healey, of Leeds, was no ordinary cat. Shortly before he died in the early days of this year he was put on the scales and the pointer shot up to 34lb., nearly two-and-a-half stone. Surely the heaviest cat in Yorkshire if not the heavyweight champion of the British Isles?

Billy's favourite hobby was basking in the sun. Passers-by would stand and stare at his luxurious tabby coat and the size of it and try to coax him from his slumbers to come to the railings for a pat. But big Billy preferred to rest blissfully content.

Where food was concerned Billy was something of an epicure. He knew what he liked and where to get it—and it was always fish, preferably steamed fish. If you wanted to offend him deeply the best way to do it was to offer him a dish of cooked meat.

The odd thing about him was that he was considered a weakling at birth. His mother was a lady of perfectly normal proportions. The nice thing about him was that right up to his death he helped the less fortunate animals in our midst. On the rails, where he basked in the sun, hung a collecting box for humane societies.

Expensive Upkeep

A worthy challenger for the title vacated by Billy is another handsome tabby. His name is Otto and he lives at the Morfa Bank offices at the steel centre of Margam, South Wales. From nose to tail he measures 34 inches and with a 25-inch girth to go with it Otto is certainly a lad of considerable promise.

Mr. G. A. Holden, a checker at the offices who looks after Otto's interests,

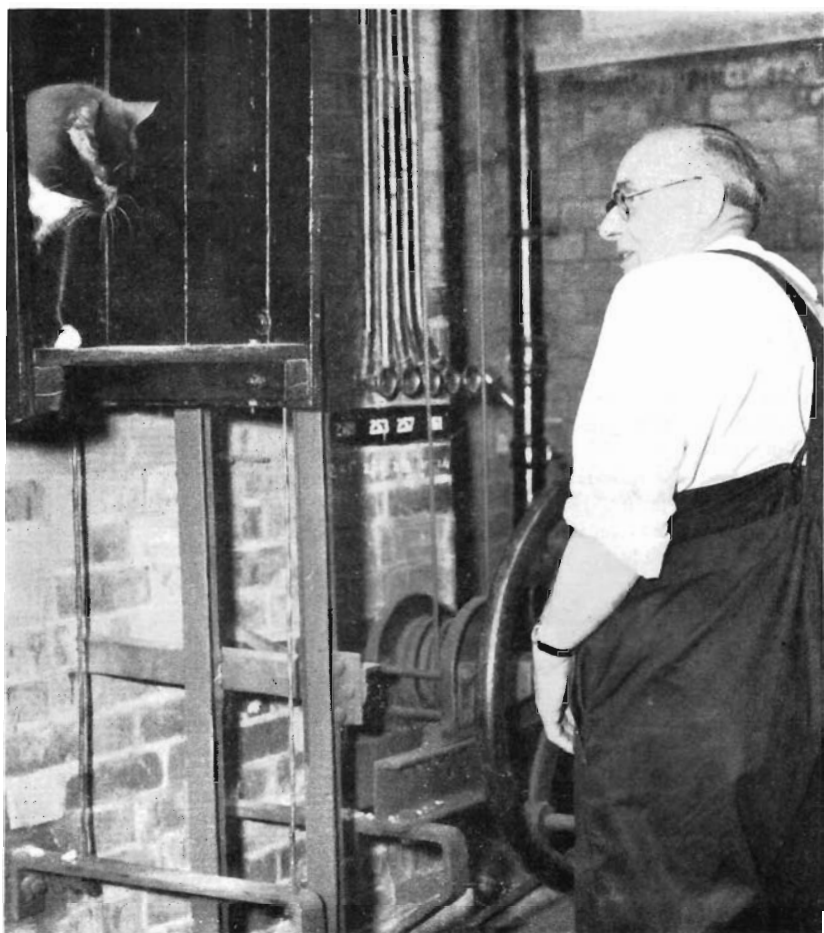
says that his charge has an appetite in proportion to his size. His upkeep is an expensive business as each week the shopping bill is : Fresh meat 5s. 3d., cat food 3s., milk 2s. Good fellow that he is, Mr. Holden pays the bill himself and even returns to the office on Saturdays and during his holidays to see that Otto eats hearty and well.



Introducing OTTO, challenger for the British heavyweight title. His story and photograph appear by kind permission of the Editor of "Ingot News," journal of the RTSC Group. The heaviest cat ever to be recorded in our pages was Klaus, who lived in California, U.S.A. We published his picture and profile in our July, 1950, issue. Klaus weighed 40lbs. and had a girth measurement of 36 ins. Clearly, Otto is some way off yet from the world title!

Two cats gave the alarm when thieves tried to steal the stock from a tobacconist shop in the Vauxhall, S.E. London, district. As they opened the living room door the cats rushed up to the bedroom where the proprietor and his wife were sleeping and woke them up.

A page for the proletarian puss No. 57



Phil Drackett

Joey, a black male belonging to Mrs. Barnett, of Lauderdale Mansions, Maida Vale, is eleven years old and believes in taking his pleasures in comfort. When he wants to return home after his mistress has let him out for a stroll, he always waits until the porter comes along and then begs a lift literally. Joey hops into the service lift and the obliging porter winds it up to the third floor. Then Mrs. Barnett opens the window and Joey springs in. Much better than climbing three flights of stairs thinks Joey.

The Big Three

By M. E. GRACE

THIS is the true, sad tale of "Britain," "Abyssinia" and "Russia," as it came to pass in our home some time ago.

Britain is deaf, as most Short-haired White cats are. He is the sweetest fellow, and never dreams of fighting. It never occurs to him that anyone could stage a row. Why should they? But don't rouse him too far, for after all he is a British cat. Attack him and you may rue the day. Abyssinia is also a pleasant, young, friendly boy with easy manners; but he is an Eastern gentleman, and the blood of god worshippers runs in his veins. Russia is courageous and bold as a lion; and, like the lion, he is also timid and inclined to be nervous, and alack—it was this that was our undoing.

One morning Britain was standing quietly washing his face by the kitchen table. He did not hear Russia as he came round the edge of the door, walking as ever, stealthily, warily. He paused. What was that—white cat? True there were one or two white ladies of different coats of hair rolling about. But what or which was this? It smelt different. A faint aromatic scent somewhat challenging made his fur prick slightly.

Britain happened to turn his head idly and perceived the grey shadow by the dark door, which plainly gave him a faint shock. His eyes raked this intruder of late arrival from head to foot; his paw paused in mid air. Britain didn't altogether care for strangers who "looked" in that uneasy manner. However, he returned to his washing.

Russia advanced stealthily—less disconcerted, crawling and—sniffed. Britain

felt the sniff and his bottom hair raised slightly while he considered the tiresome position. Russia advanced. He was a young cat, and was curious. He would like to meet him. He smelt very intriguing somehow. Another shadow crossed the old stone porch and hesitated, sniffing. This was another youth just grown to elegant, virile, panther-like glory.

Britain turned suddenly, moving his haunches aside, looking all the distaste he felt. A rude remark he never would have uttered; but Russia was uncertain and easily put out of countenance. He fell back and spat lustily, turned, and in one swift lithe motion swept to the door, and fell headlong into our young Eastern god, who—utterly disgusted, and suddenly put out of his usual bland countenance, glared and spat furiously.

"Everlastingly set on"

Russia was now genuinely frightened. He crouched, leapt and fled, a snarl from Abyssinia followed his flying form down the garden path.

Abyssinia shook himself and came on round the corner into the kitchen, licking his young lips at the memory of his first snub. Damn!—the white Britisher! Britain was already put about. He was facing the door. He detested bad form, and after all, whose home was this? Really there was no need to bring foreigners into it. There was enough to do to look after all the girls and be everlastingly set on by Mau Mau raiders at night from local farms. One couldn't even wash oneself in peace it appeared—who the devil was this now?

Abyssinia encountered an unpleasant, icy look and stopped; his hair rose. He

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felt he must throw his weight about a little ; even the girls were beginning to notice him.

Really, thought Britain, things were getting beyond endurance. He rose angrily to his feet, and gave one sharp angry retort and departed. Abyssinia followed teasingly on his tail ; but here authority thought it time to interfere. We didn't want trouble to start between these three males that would spell tragedy.

And so, that was how the whole sorry business began. It started with natural eager curiosity—misunderstanding—and fear. From then on, we all strove whenever any of the two or three males were seen about to meet, to jolly them along, and edge them carefully round doorways, so that neither should ever meet any one of the other by surprise and cause what we dreaded—a head on war. We strove for months—but alas, one day it happened.

Russia thought Abyssinia was going to attack him and so he attacked first—so as to make sure *he* was not caught napping. It had *never* occurred to Abyssinia to fight anyone ; but he defended himself against this violent, courageous, grey shadow, and he was a very strong cat.

Had they not been separated, one would have killed the other. Alas, poor Britain also became involved, as always has happened all through our history books.

Abyssinia developed a taste for throwing his weight about. Russia had to be removed to another house, for he was neutered now, and his life was no longer safe, nor was it fair. He spent the summer killing every bird he could hear and stalk, and fighting every female cat who wouldn't stand up to him ; all, that is, but his first little pal of the streaming white fur and flashing "you dare" eyes.

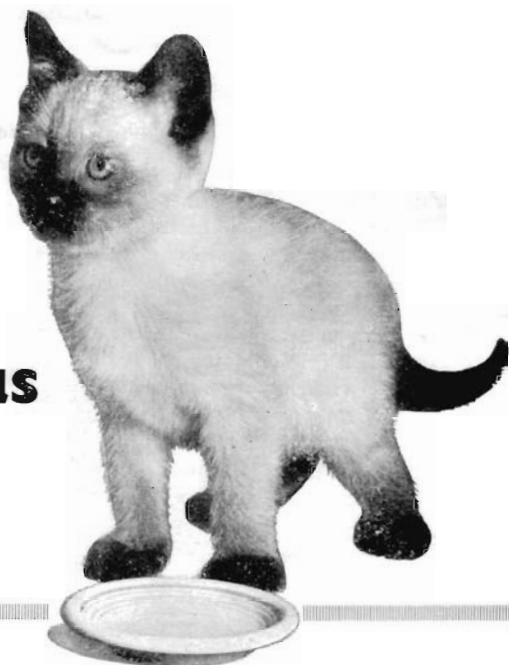
But Abyssinia ? Well—that, too, became a war. He was insulting once too often to Mr. Britain, and it became fun to sneak up behind him and give the old man a fright. But Britain had been for five years the cattery guardian and protector, and was much valued. There was one swift and violent fight ; fur flew all over the garden, and people rushed. Both cats were torn and Britain had his face streaming as usual, and was unfit to show. After that, further separation became imperative.

As with cats—so with people. All so unnecessary—and *no one* began it !



PURRING VINCENT, bred by Miss Jury, is caught in contemplative mood in his garden retreat. He belongs to Miss G. M. Camfield, of Worthing, Sussex, by whom he is named "Nijinsky" on account of his graceful leaps.

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

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

WE ended our last instalment by pointing out that a condition of adiposity is a very common cause of infertility ; that very fat animals do not come into season in a very marked way, and when they do so the periods are apt to be irregular and likely to be missed.

It is true that if the process has not proceeded too far, the condition can be corrected by muscular exercise and reduction in the quantity of food, but always it takes some time before new follicles can mature to take the place of those which have undergone atrophy through the effect of fat formation in the ovaries, and this may involve a delay in breeding for as much as a whole season.

The relation between fatness and fertility is not always a simple one of cause and effect. Underdevelopment of the reproductive organs, or a mere postponement of breeding may of themselves lead to a high or over-fat condition, and females, if fed too well before their first service, may prove sterile for a long period. On the other hand, good feeding favours an early puberty, but if the animals are not bred from early, the chances of subsequent sterility at a time when it is desired that they should have progeny, are increased.

In order to favour continuous fertility, female animals should be encouraged to breed regularly. If this is not done, the normal functional activity of the ovaries

is liable to be deranged owing to the tissues becoming overloaded with an excessive number of luteal scars arising from the follicles that have discharged their ova without these being fertilized. Thus the chances of sterility are always increased in an animal that has not been bred from over a prolonged period, since the ovarian rhythm is thereby interfered with, and the cyclical ripening and rupture of the follicles do not necessarily occur.

Moreover, when due regularity is attempted, it is undesirable that the animals should lay on too much fat in the intervening periods. We have ample evidence from cases where animals of different sorts are fattened for food purposes, that a condition of adiposity may favour the retention of corpora lutea in the ovaries, and yellow or orange-coloured patches of pigmented fat or lipochrome are common in the ovaries of such animals.

Effect of Good Food

The supply of good food raises the nutrition and increases bodily vigour and fertility, while overfeeding and lack of sufficient exercise lead to excessive storage of fat, and reduction of vigour and fertility. Similarly, other factors that affect body nutrition and vigour, generally affect fertility in the same way. For example, heavy milk-secretion, moulting or shedding of the coat, uncomfortable surroundings (as when wet or too hot), or a generalized disease (such as F.I.E.) that

lowers the body nutrition and reduces vigour, will also lessen fertility.

In such circumstances, the feeding of extra or suitable food, or the postponement of mating for a short period, will often lead to increased fertility.

One feels sure that the reason why some queens prove to be indifferent breeders is that the matter of environment is not sufficiently well studied, more especially where feeding at special times is concerned. Perhaps the tendency is at times to be over-generous in affection, which does not really always mean a proper interpretation of kindness.

That the number of eggs which ripen at each heat-period may depend on the presence of some substance or substances in the blood stream rather than on any factor situated in the ovary itself, is shown by the fact that if one ovary is removed, a double number of eggs is produced by the remaining ovary. These substances consist of, or at any rate include the secretions of the anterior pituitary. It is probable that by good feeding, the amounts of these substances in the blood are increased, and that they are reduced by the coincident demands of other body tissues during the growth of the young animal. For example, by administration of anterior pituitary substance young animals may be induced to breed earlier than they normally would.

Recognizing Maleness

Although the character of maleness in any animal is denoted by the appearance of certain parts of the body, in particular those of the head and the neck, and while most breeders require these characters to be well marked, they are of themselves no criterion of the breeding-efficiency of the animal; for although they are dependent upon an internal secretion of the testes, the latter may be formed quite independently of the production of spermatozoa.

In some breeds, these secondary sexual characters are much more marked than in others; nevertheless, the breeds in

which the secondary characters are only slightly developed are quite as fertile as those in which the sex differences are well marked. It is a common mistake among fanciers to suppose that because a male animal is potent, therefore it is fertile. It not infrequently happens that a male animal may be able to perform the sexual act and eject fluid from the generative glands and yet be incapable of impregnating owing to absence of spermatozoa from the ejaculate.

It will be appreciated from what has already been written, and especially from what has just been set down, that appearance alone is quite useless when selecting a stud. Although form counts for so much for the fancier, capability to reproduce is the matter of first importance. Often the fancier will select a winning male for stud purposes. This animal may be of outstanding form, yet it would be better to choose his sire for the stud work if still available, for he has proved through his son, his breeding capabilities.

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In the Siamese World

An exclusive bi-monthly contribution by KATHLEEN R. WILLIAMS, breeder, judge and show organizer of many years' experience and now Hon. Secretary of the Siamese Cat Club, which is probably the largest specialist cat club in the world.

AS I write it is 83 in the shade. We certainly are in high summer and have already enjoyed weeks and weeks of blazing sunshine which will be stored up by cats and their owners alike to guard against the winter cold and damp. However, the continual sun has tended to pale the points of Siamese, but this is to be preferred to the lack of sunshine.

* * *

During the past months several visitors from overseas have called unexpectedly. Mr. Lawrence Davies, visiting this country from Canada, brought from Mrs. E. M. Harvill of Seattle, the sad news of Southwood Yutang's passing. Bred by Mrs. Sayers, he made a name for himself at shows, being only 2 points off his Championship. Mrs. Harvill kindly sent me a whole bundle of marked catalogues which were very interesting.

* * *

My husband and I spent a very enjoyable afternoon discussing cats with Mr. and Mrs. Peck, who are on holiday from Malaya. They have a number of cats and find no difficulty in disposing of the kittens. They told us a number of interesting stories. One concerned a queen whom they looked after while her owners were on holiday. Some time after her return home, when calling, she escaped from her owners who lived some considerable distance away. Mr. and Mrs. Peck were amazed when she arrived at their home, unaccompanied, to visit their stud!

* * *

There is no doubt that there is an increasing interest in Siamese in Malaya. We have some friends going out in June next year and are already encouraging

them to collect and send us news of the Siamese that have been exported and their progeny.

* * *

Mast/Sgt. Miller, of the U.S. Air Force, who has just completed a "tour" of duty in England, took his two Siamese back with him to Mississippi. Ere this is in print they will have arrived at their destination and I hope to hear they have settled down well. This pair were, I believe, bred by Mrs. Forbes.

* * *

Which brings to my mind Mrs. Leyerle's Laurentide Buddlia, bred by Mrs. A. Hargreaves. Buddlia visited one of my studs about 20 months ago just before leaving with her owners for U.S.A. When the family returned to England they felt they could not leave Buddlia behind and decided to face the quarantine period. So Buddlia is back in England again. A much-travelled cat—twice across the Atlantic!

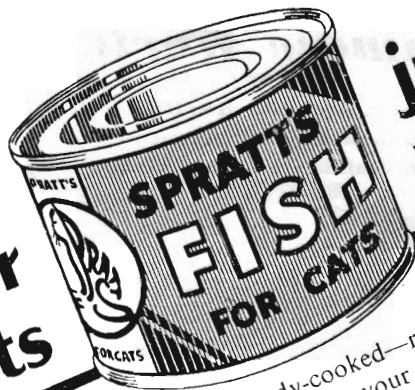
* * *

Those of you who know Mr. and Mrs. Fox will be glad to know they are now settled in U.S.A. Mrs. S. Nelson, of Braintree, writes to tell me she was very happy to welcome them, and hear news of England. Mr. and Mrs. Fox took their Abyssinian and Siamese with them.

* * *

Mrs. Frances Donmall, breeder of Mystic Dreamer, left for Australia seven years ago. I have from her a most interesting account of the Australian Cat and Pet Exhibition Society. She tells me the Society was formed two years ago at a time when it was strongly felt that the Sydney public wanted something quite different in the way of cat shows, something that would bring the people

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flocking to see cats. So the Society was born. The success of the venture can be measured by the following report :—

“Under the leadership of Mr. L. Gallagher, a man of boundless energy and optimism, we held our first Exhibition right in the heart of Sydney, and gave the exhibitors and the public a day to remember. Both pedigree and non-pedigree cats were on show (non-competitive, of course). Cages were beautifully decorated, individual cat signs were prominently displayed, masses of flowers arranged everywhere, soft music in the background, subdued lighting, and to crown it all Fox Movietone winding in and out of the crowds filming anything of special appeal. (We have since learnt that this film has been shown all over the world.) The response from the public was terrific and well worth the six months' hard work that we, the committee, put into this the first exhibition ever held in the cat world here.

“It was agreed that each year some charity should benefit from our functions but as our expenses to date have been extremely heavy, we have not yet been able to donate any appreciable amount. We hope to be able to do so in the near future.

“At this year's Exhibition, there were two added attractions. One was the presence of the celebrated stage star Miss Anna Russell, who was playing in Sydney and who graciously consented to open the show. The other was no less than three lion cubs which caused great excitement. They were penned just the same as the cats, and really behaved extremely well, even to being filmed with the cats.

“It seems certain that the Australian Cat Exhibition Society is here to stay, for the enjoyment of both cats and people, and I sincerely hope that I shall be able to give you another report next year.”

* * *

Mrs. Donmall still has the original pair of Siamese she took with her to

Australia—Southwood Sympathy and Gracedieu - Da - Yook — bred by Mrs. Sayers and Mrs. Mathes respectively. Mystic Lady Chula, who had attained Grand Champion status, died last year from some mysterious poisoning. Luckily Mrs. Donmall has one of her sons who inherits his famous mother's good points. I well remember trying to fix up pens for Mrs. Donmall just before she set sail on her new venture. We all wish her further success with her cats.

* * *

The first show of the 1955/56 season was held at Tunbridge Wells by the Kentish Cat Society. Although a small show, it was generally agreed that it was one of the most colourful and well presented. Siamese were the predominant exhibits. Exhibitors appreciated the new venue—The Assembly Hall—a perfect setting, with stage lighting for “Best in Show” judging.

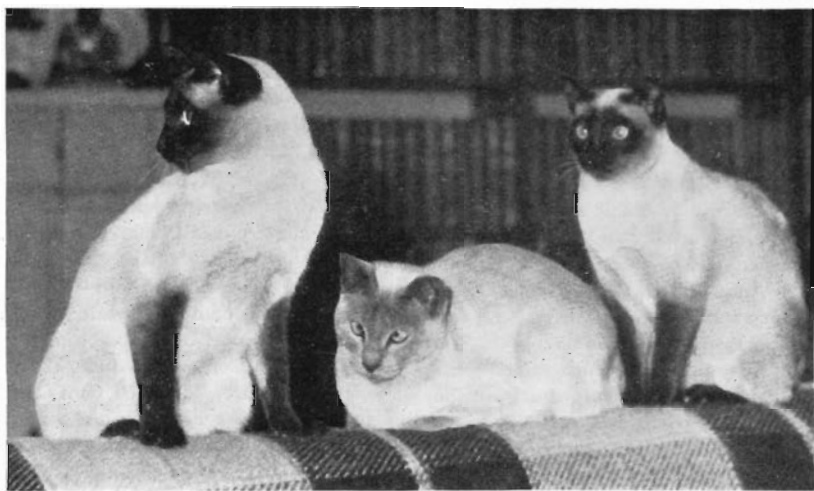
* * *

The first London show, that of the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club, drew a big entry of Siamese—139 exhibits, 16 litters. There were some very promising kittens. Mrs. Keene's C.P. Killdown Rajah (sire Ch. Briarry MacSuch, dam Carson Bon Bon) was Best Kitten. He is a kitten of beautiful type, but very pale in mask, a fault that age should remedy. Miss Codrington's Watermill Trinkabella (sire Spotlight Troubadour, dam Watermill Yoopsidaisi) was runner-up, a lovely kit.

Ft.-Lt. Wilson's C.P. Mick's the Boy (sire Ch. Briarry MacSuch, dam Chocolate Candy), a very fine-boned beautiful kitten, did very well and has been exported to America to Mrs. Wendell-Thomson in New Hampshire. Mrs. Tancock's Chatwin Silhouette, 1st in B.P. class, shows great promise. Another kitten that has been exported is Mrs. V. Watson's Milori Bano (sire Ch. Bluehayes Foxy, dam Milori Lili) who has gone to Mrs. U. Magnusson in Sweden. Mrs. Magnusson is well known to a number of us and hopes to be over for the Siamese Show.



**"I am sure you will like the picture of Mrs. Vera Williamson's Kittens,"—
see "In the Siamese World" next page.**



Paul Shillaber

A reference is also made on the next page to the pets of Sir Compton Mackenzie, President of the Siamese Cat Club. Bluebell is in the centre with her offspring Pippo on the left and Pinkie Buff on the right.

I am sure you will like the picture of Mrs. Vera Williamson's kittens. Mrs. Williamson is a breeder of long-standing and was for many years a member of the Siamese Committee.

* * *

The Siamese Cat Club this year hold their Silver Jubilee Show. Here you will see Siamese from the North, South, East and West of the British Isles competing at their own specialist show. Mrs. G. Hindley, Vice-President of the Club, has promised to take a class of "not-so-good" Siamese and to explain to visitors why they are so rated without, of course, overlooking any of their good points. Mrs. Hindley has long experience in breeding Siamese cats and this class should be invaluable to novice breeders.

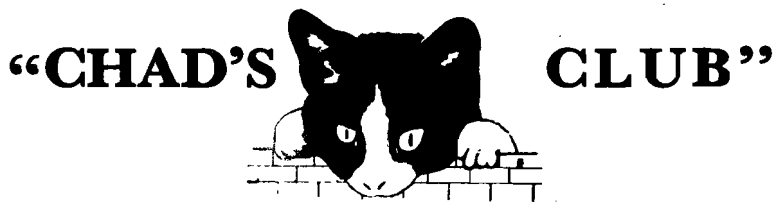
Lilac Pointed Siamese will be shown for the first time in this country. After the Show I will write more about this delicately coloured variety. You should see them for yourselves.

We are sorry that this year our Presi-

dent, Sir Compton Mackenzie, cannot be with us. I was delighted to receive from him a photograph of his cats. He writes: "The centre cat is Bluebell, with her son Pippo on the left and her daughter Pinkie Buff on the right. When Pinkie Buff was six weeks old I gave her to a little girl next door. She cried for forty-eight hours without stopping and refused to eat. So she had to be brought back and even now, a year later, the sight of any little girl in the street sends her rushing to me for protection. Bluebell is the most conceited cat I've ever known, and will not show any affection except for one or two people."



INTRODUCING



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MEMBERSHIP: Membership is open to all who will undertake never to refuse a genuine emergency appeal from a cat owner for assistance, when it is within their ability to help.

SUBSCRIPTION: The initial subscription covers membership and badge (*Seniors' badges are either stud or brooch type*).

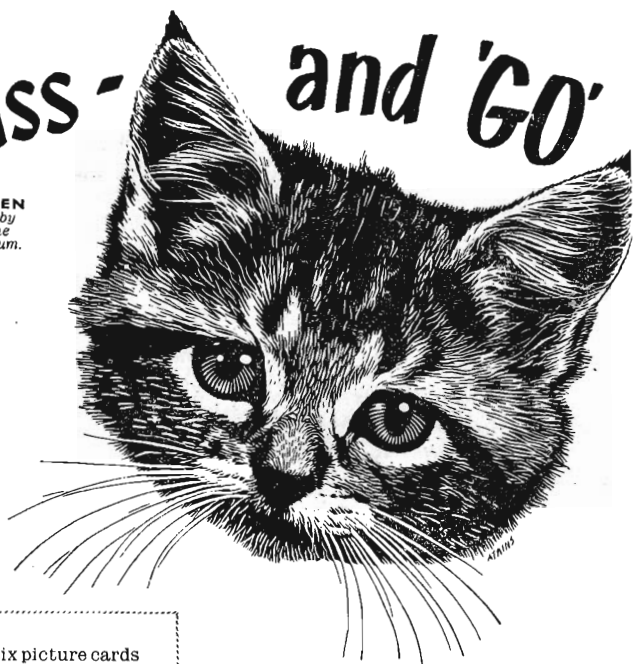
Seniors 5/- Juniors (*up to 16 years of age*) 2/-

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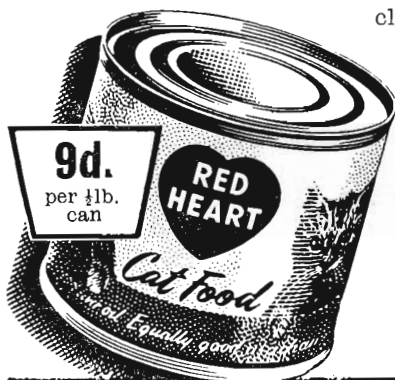
Puss - and 'Go'

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—from photo by
Ylla, from the
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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.

Progress in Burmese

MANY readers will be interested in the following response which Mr. V. Watson, Old Nursery House, Tansley, Matlock, Derbyshire, made to my request for information about the activities of the Burmese Cat Club and how Mrs. Watson and himself first became interested in breeding pedigree cats. His letter speaks for itself and the photographs accompanying it were all truly lovely and are calculated to turn many cat lovers into Burmese devotees on the spot.

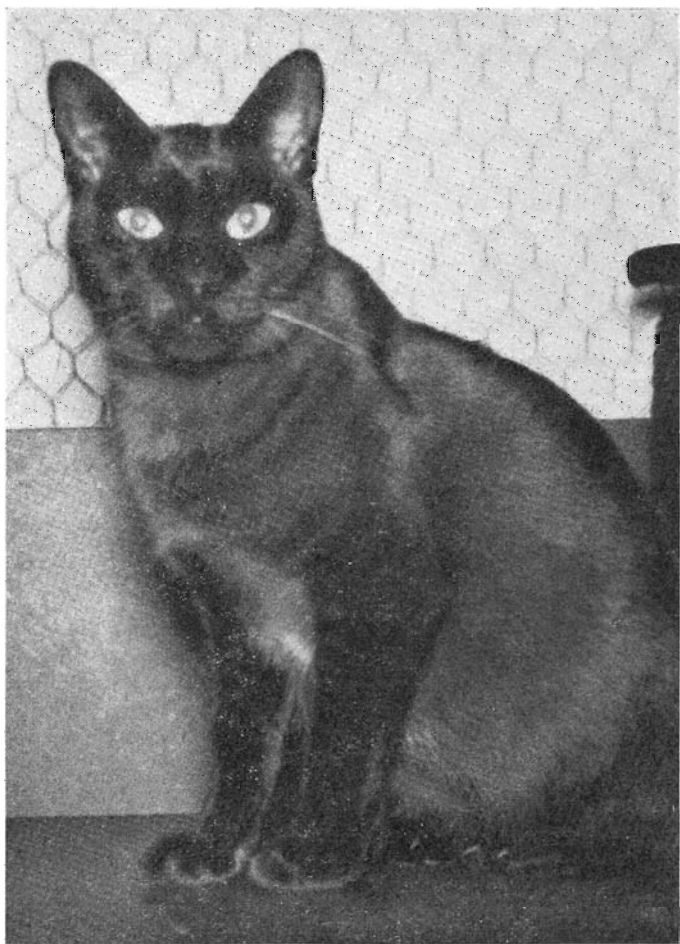
"Our introduction to cats," writes Mr. Watson, "took place something like 25 years ago when a black cat appeared on the balcony of our flat at Kew Gardens, took up residence with us and simply refused to be put out. Later we brought him with us to Matlock and shortly afterwards we gave a home to a little female from a Cats' Protection League home. It was quite a long time later when we took up pedigree cats. Now we find ourselves with ten pedigree (six Burmese and four Siamese) and six

ordinary cats ranging from black to something approximating to a Russian Blue.

"As you say, the Burmese breed owes a very great deal to Mr. and Mrs. France who had the courage to import the first Burmese and to hang on to them in the face of very great difficulties. The first of these must have been the six months' quarantine which one imagines could be a rather dreadful experience for a cat which has been used to a Californian climate, quite apart from the psychological effect. Until the cats became acclimatized there was quite a lot of difficulty with colds and every kind of bad luck seemed to dog the breed.

"However, in the end everything seems to be coming out well and we were very happy to take over Mrs. France's Burmese in February, 1954. They now live in open country, 700 ft. up in Derbyshire and believe me, things that can survive the cold Derbyshire winter are quite reasonably hard. It is really astonishing that in such a short space of time such a degree of acclimatization can take place.

"Burmese are very active, lithe animals, extremely affectionate and very equable in disposition and one of their attractions is that they are immediately friendly with strangers, which is of course a very telling point when selling kittens. It is quite common to be told when ringing up to check on the safe arrival of a kitten that it has never stopped purring since it was taken out of the basket on arrival. The kittens travel well, settle quickly and are generally quickly friendly with any other cats there may



American-bred Burmese Champion LAOS CHELI WAT, 9½ years old, belonging to Mrs. C. F. Watson. Next month's issue will include a nice picture of some Burmese youngsters.

be in the household although adult full males are terrific fighters, completely fearless.

"All Burmese are fastidiously clean and their coats which are incredibly soft and silky require virtually no human attention. They carry their age better than any other cat we know and never seem to get coarse and heavy. Cheli, one of the original American cats, was born in California more than nine years ago and we showed her this year at Notts and Derby when she was awarded first in the Any Variety Shorthair Cat or Kitten, including Siamese, Class. The judge said 'this is the most beautiful Burmese I have ever handled, of splendid type and lovely in every way, not one white hair anywhere, elegant, slim legs, good head and eyes, a gem'.

"Burmese kittens photograph marvelously as I think you will agree when you see some of the pictures I am enclosing, all taken by Mrs. Smith of Leicester who is treasurer of the Burmese Cat Club, an old hand at Burmese and very keen on the breed. It always astonishes me that press photographers who visit shows have not realized this. If they look at Burmese at all they generally pass on quickly, probably having decided that there is not enough colour contrast for a good photograph and yet Burmese kittens have a real genius for posing in attitudes which make good pictures.

Not Prone to Sickness

"The Burmese Cat Club was formed last February and its membership is now around 70. Lady Aberconway, our president, who has been an admirer of Burmese quite a long time, takes a very keen interest in the club. One of our aims is obviously to popularize the breed and I think quite a lot has been achieved since the club started judging by the number of kittens which have been sold this summer and also the number of people who come to look at Burmese at shows. I think, up to the present, they rather tended to fall between two stools.

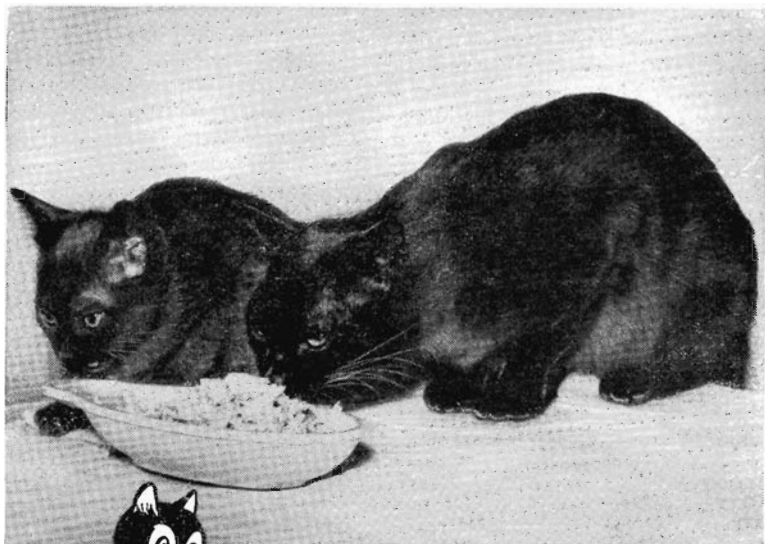
"As there were so few of them they rather appealed to those people who liked novelty or wanted to be different but did not appeal to the more cautious folk who thought, being a new breed and an exotic one at that, they probably would be prone to all sorts of illnesses unless kept in almost tropical conditions. Nothing could really be further from the truth because the breed over here is extremely well acclimatized now and adult Burmese thrive under very cold conditions. Our studs for example are free to go out and do so from early morning until sunset all the year round.

"The Burmese cat population is probably now a little over the hundred mark so they are still rare enough to be attractive to those who value novelty for its own sake. There are Burmese all over the country from Scotland to the South and West of England. The first Burmese in Ireland was sent out during the summer and yesterday a kitten of ours set out on a journey which will eventually end up in Ceylon.

Blue Burmese

"The very latest and most interesting development in the breed is the appearance of a blue Burmese. Apparently blue Burmese have been known in America for some time although they are very rare and highly prized. They have all the characteristics of the Burmese except the colour which can most nearly be described as blue cream. One kitten appeared in one of our litters of six and at birth was indistinguishable from a normal Burmese kitten. We limit our litters to four and it happened Mrs. Smith's Kassa had produced one kitten only so two of ours went to Leicester and Mrs. Smith brought them up. One of them turned out to be this very beautiful blue Burmese. We think we have got the lines of breeding sorted out and shall naturally be trying to produce more blue Burmese.

"I hope you will forgive me ending up with a minor grouse against those



Mother knows best

"Young Peta is always on the look-out for fun, but Jetta is a wise mother and never lets her lovely daughter miss her daily Tibs," says Tibby, the Tibs Reporter. "She won't be a kitten forever," Jetta told him, "and I know how to make sure that she'll be as great a champion as I am."

Ch. Chinki Yong Jetta and her daughter Fernreig Ohpras Peta are perfect examples of the Burmese breed, with their shining brown sable coats and alert, intelligent faces. They belong to Mrs. Edna Matthewson, of Lindridge House, 917 Hagley Road West, Quinton, Birmingham 32, one of the many Burmese owners who are success-

fully bringing this breed into prominence.

Mrs. Matthewson also breeds champion Siamese cats, and attributes a great share of her success to the fact that she has given her cats Tibs for many years — in fact, she would never be without them.

10d. and 2/-.



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KEEP CATS KITTENISH

people who apparently expect the eye colour of Burmese to be considerably different from what it really is. The majority of these folk seem to think it ought to be topaz yellow, whatever that may be. There actually is no British Colour Council standard for topaz yellow so what one person considers to represent the shade is likely to be very much different from someone else's idea. They all seem to agree however that it is a different yellow than that of the actual eyes of the cats and I gather it is some sort of golden yellow and although a great many Burmese pass through our hands, we have never seen a cat with such eyes in this country nor I am told has anyone who has visited America seen one.

"In an effort to try to get some straight thinking on this point, the Burmese Cat Club has issued through the Shorthaired Cat Society patterns of British Colour Council Standard Colour No. 75, chartreuse yellow, which is considered to be a fair representation of average Burmese eye colour at present although naturally breeders are trying to intensify the yellow colour of the eyes. Whilst agreeing that the standard should always be higher than the average it seems to me unreasonable and unfair to expect individual cats at shows to have an eye colour which no one has ever seen in the breed."

Guide for Eye Colour

Congratulations on number one issue of the Burmese Cat Club News; it is wholly delightful. A charming photograph of Sealcoat Konyak photographed by Margaret Smith appears with the caption: "Good morning! I've called with your Burmese Cat Club News."

A charge of 5s. or 6s. per annum is proposed for four issues, a modest charge for such a mine of information about the breed and much of general information to cat lovers. In June the membership of

this Club, only founded in February, stood at 61.

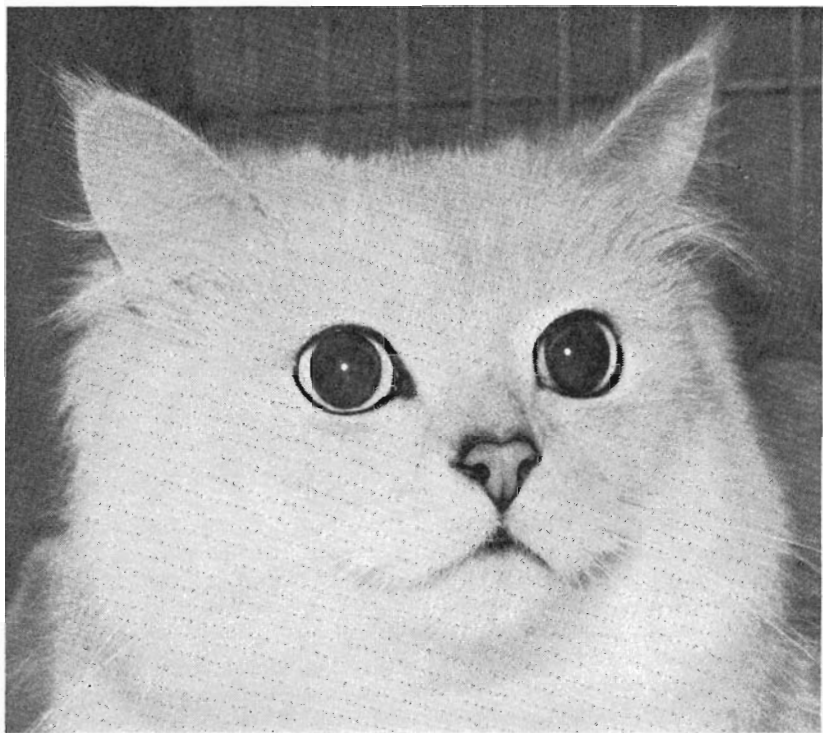
The Committee decided at its first meeting to invite Mrs. Blanche Warren of California to become an honorary life member of the Club. All the original Burmese, Cheli, Da Foong, Minou Twill and Darkee were sent over by Mrs. Warren who has always been willing to help with information and advice. Acknowledgments are made to Mrs. Towe, Hon. Secretary of the Short Haired Cat Society, for her kindly interest in the variety. She was requested to send to all judges of Burmese a specimen of the British Colour Council standard colour No. 75, chartreuse yellow, to be regarded as a guide to Burmese eye colour and "a reasonable average representation of Burmese eye colour at present when both the eyes and the colour pattern are viewed together in daylight."

Please contact Mr. V. Watson direct for information about the breed, the Club, and its extremely interesting News Letter.

Copenhagen Show

Mrs. Rudy Eisenhuth, President of Racekatten Club, Denmark, is very busy preparing for the Championship Show on October 21st-23rd. It is to be held in the beautiful Royal Danish Horticultural Hall, Copenhagen, which is situated in the middle of a large and beautiful garden, not far from the centre of the City. Exhibitors are expected from all Scandinavia, Switzerland, Austria and possibly Germany. The British Industries Fair in Copenhagen closes eight days before the Show opens so it is hoped some of the English visitors will stay on to see the cats and kittens.

The judges will be Mrs. A. Guggenbühl from Zürich for Siamese and Mr. I. Mannes from Berne, Switzerland, for Longhairs. Mr. Mannes is President of the Cat Club de Berne and he was



Topical Press

ARCTIC SNOW, a lovely neuter of unknown parentage, has been a consistent winner at the shows, his latest success being registered at the July fixture of the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club. Lucky owner is Mrs. V. M. Newton, of North London.

BLUE PERSIAN CAT SOCIETY **Championship Show**

4th OCTOBER, 1955

at

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(3 minutes walk from Tottenham Court Road Tube Station)

Admission 12 to 5.30 p.m. — 2/9

Children 1/6

awarded his judging certificates under Madame Ravel, Madame Bridgett, Miss Langston and one under myself at the lovely Ch. Show at Montreux, Switzerland, in September, 1949, organized by the late Mlle Perrin, President of the Cat Club Vaudois.

The Ch. shows organized by Mrs. Rudy Eisenhuth are a delight and every cat lover visiting them has a treat in store and in addition the pleasure of seeing wonderful, wonderful Copenhagen.

In Search of a Kitten

Mrs. Myers, of Shreveport, Louisiana, U.S.A., and Mrs. McFayden imported two Blue females by Gwynn of Allington and Annabella of Dunesk in 1953, bred by the late Mrs. Burns. They were very pleased with them but Mrs. McFayden had to leave her feline friends when her husband was posted to Germany. She bred Blues and Whites.

Mrs. Myers sends excerpts from one of her letters: "I missed the cats very much so took a train to Copenhagen to look for a pedigree kitten. I arrived early in the morning armed with my two-year-old copy of OUR CATS (the Grand International Number of 1953). I proceeded to the Tourist Information Service which guarantees to please everyone.

"I asked the receptionist if she would telephone Mrs. Eisenhuth, President of Racekatten. Unfortunately she was out so she telephoned Mrs. Karen Smith who invited me to come over that day. She had no kittens, but her Blue male Caesar of Pensford had sired two Blues and one Cream, all boys, by Mrs. Fagerlund's queen which we went to see. I bought one of the Blue males whose mother is a larger sized Yewhatch Lesley.

"That evening I had the best cat and kitten talk since I left Shreveport. Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith are so very interested in cats. He speaks excellent

English so we all had a fine time. I admired her cats very much and the quantity of silver in various forms she has won. When the evening was over I had learned lots and lots and with many promises to visit the Copenhagen Show in October I departed for the hotel. Next day we went to Sweden just for the day . . . back that evening to pick up the kitten which we named Tivoli after a visit to the lovely pleasure gardens in Copenhagen. I had to purchase a basket and all papers, pedigree and veterinary exam., were completed in record time. At 9 p.m. Tivoli and I were on our way back to Weisbaden.

"He was the dearest kitten, such an independent little fellow. Now, five days later, he is as much at home here as if he had been born here. I think him the best ever but of course a year without cats may have blinded me to his faults, if he has any !!!

"Talk about devotion to cats !!! Those people know every cat in Europe and England, I am sure. They speak of them as familiarly as I do my relatives. I just can't tell you all the nice things the 'cat people' in Copenhagen did for me."

Mrs. Myers adds: "My Rising Star of Dunesk is big and beautiful with fur as thick as carpet. It is not long yet but our hottest days are still with us. However, the highest temperatures have been an average of ten degrees lower than those of last summer, about 93 to 95 degrees. I am hoping to show Rising Star and my Blue-Cream Aurora of Pensford. Both have lovely heads and glorious eye colour. I have purchased a Cream female, Rosemont's Golden Doll of Shy Pines from Mrs. Koscirowski with the idea of breeding a Cream husband for Aurora. She owns the fine Black male Ch. Chadhurst Samson, also a Great Lakes Champion Black and some lovely Silvers."

In the August issue of the American "Cats Magazine" a sweetly pretty photo appears of Mrs. Howell J. Mueller's Chinchilla Melanie of Allington, who

is now a Double Champion. Exhibited only once in 1955, she was Best Opposite Colour at Dallas. In the same advertisement a photo appears of the All-Southern Cream female Grand and Double Champion Longhills Tres Chic of Flagstone. She looks outstanding and her lovely large round eyes give such intelligence to her expression.

Fishy Food

In the same issue I found the article "From A to K — Vitamins for Your Cat," by Mrs. Blanche Wolfram, most informative. Under the heading "Vitamin D" I agree with this excerpt: "This substance is well known as the 'sunshine vitamin' and if not present in sufficient amounts rickets will develop. A pregnant female must be fortified with Vitamin D, for it will prevent rickets in the kittens and as they begin to eat for themselves, its addition to their diet will strengthen their developing bones as it has a way of working together with calcium as a booster."

Now for the item that raises a query: "Fish that have a great amount of oil such as sardines, salmon or halibut are good sources of 'D' and can readily be mixed with any meat to provide an appetizing dish." Well! with the exception of sardines, most cats have an antipathy to oily fish. How often breeders in this country must have wished their cats liked mackerel, herrings and sprats; fish which we can get in abundance, fine in quality and very cheap! Yet on the rare occasions I tentatively try a little, they "turn up their noses" and walk away, probably knowing that within minutes, meat, rabbit or the varieties of fish they prefer will be forthcoming. Hake, haddock, cod, whiting are favourite fish, and coley; they like the latter, which is a comparative newcomer to my cats' menus.

Some cats, of course, will get accustomed to an occasional meal of oily fish,

and like ourselves are not so "choosy" if they are hungry, but generally one finds that fatty and oily foods have a tendency to put them off their normal diet and if persisted in their faeces will become light and more fluid instead of dark and firm which is normal for cats and an indication that they are assimilating their food properly.

The cereal food which helps to produce bonny robust kittens and keep the mothers in lovely condition is Farex. It is a pre-cooked blend of wheat, oat and maize flours, separated milk powder, bone meal, yeast and salt, iron and ammonium citrate and Vitamins B2, B1, and D. Mixed to a creamy consistency with top quality milk it is an excellent breakfast for felines of all ages although one which I do not give to kittens under six weeks. Throughout the winter and during pregnancy and nursing I give to adults one halibut oil capsule a day (3 minims) after the midday meal, and from 3 to 6 Kit-Zyme tablets after breakfast, all the year round according to age. The tablets are a concentrate of dried brewers' yeast with added mineral salts and are rich in all the B vitamins and a high content of body building protein. But whatever tablets or vitamins we give remember one of the late Lord Horder's maxims: "There is no substitute for good food" and in the case of cats there is no substitute for an abundance of exercise which creates appetite and that lovely look of well-being which puts such a bloom on their coats when autumn and winter comes. Whenever we see the words "beautifully shown" in a judge's report one can be almost sure that the exhibit enjoys good health; last minute powdering and show preparation are only the final links in a long sequence of care and attention.

Adam Proved Sire

Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh's Blue male, Bayhorne Adam, who won so well as a kitten last season, is a proved sire. Their

young queen Foxburrow Fialda has five bonny kittens by him and Miss Walker's Bayhorne Karen (litter sister to Mrs. Udall's Bayhorne Decima), has a trio, all very flourishing. Decima had a very distinguished career as a kitten and last season was awarded two Challenge Certificates. Karen has not been shown many times but she has given a good account of herself and is a very nice queen.

Bayhorne Adam is not quite ready for the early Ch. shows but will probably be exhibited at the mid-winter shows. This hot summer has not been conducive to growth of early coats and we anticipate seeing a number of Longhair adults in summer vests on September 23rd.

The next All Breed London Ch. show will be Croydon Cat Club on Friday, November 11th, at the Royal Horticultural Hall.

Thinking of
an Import

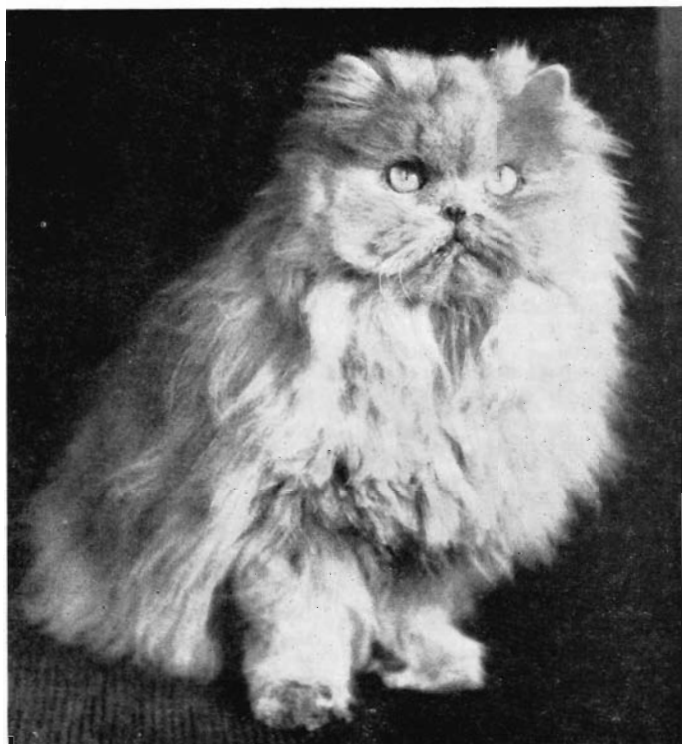
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PERIVALE GLORIANA, unshown daughter of Uffdown Septimus and Perivale Berina, is a nice type of young Blue Longhair queen. She was bred by Miss D. M. Collins, of Harwell, Berks.

Cats in Shakespeare

By BRIAN R. INGRAM

THE scholar poring over his books seldom makes a very lively addition to a party, due, perhaps, to his dealings with the past and failure to appreciate to the full the trivial, but often interesting byways of his subject. So it is safe to assume that the expert in Shakespeareana would find little of interest in the stray references to cats which are scattered throughout the thirty-seven plays; and yet what a great deal there is to learn about "the harmless, necessary cat" if we but take the trouble to read the footnotes.

The fact that many of the references to cats are of a proverbial nature has already been noted, although the examples are by no means exhausted. The only instance of an admission of the proverbial origin of the remark is when Lady Macbeth chides her lord for

*Letting I dare not wait upon I would,
Like the poor cat i' the adage.*

"The cat would eat fish, but dare not get his feet wet" appears to have been quite a well-known proverb, for there is a French version, and Doctor Johnson gives a ponderous Latin rendering, though he probably took great care not to mention it in Hodge's hearing. Sir John Falstaff, full of "an intolerable deal of sack" complains that he is

... as melancholy as a gib cat ...

which is a reminder that not only was the cat a synonym for melancholy, but also that gib was the equivalent of our tom. Gib is an abbreviation of Gilbert—originally from the French Thibert, from which comes the familiar tipples. Thibert was the name of a cat in the mediaeval allegory "*Reynard the Fox*," and on one of the misericordes in Bristol cathedral

there is carved Sir Thibert's adventure in the priest's barn.

Robert Henryson refers to Gib Hunter our jolly cat in his version of Aesop's fables, written about the year 1500. The melancholy of the cat is mentioned in Sir Philip Sidney's *Arcadia*, and by John Lyly in his *Midas*. With this in mind it is inevitable that Lady Capulet's nephew Tybalt should be a butt for puns upon his name, and Mercutio makes much of it: "What is Tybalt?" asks Benvolio, to which his friend replies

More than prince of cats, I can tell you.

This is another reference to "*Reynard the Fox*," incidents from which were often referred to in contemporary plays, and Dekker mentions Tybert, the long-tail'd prince of cats in *Satiromastix*. The association was evidently not uncommon for Ben Jonson speaks of cats as tyberts.

There are still those who believe that a cat can see in the dark, though apart from a clearer vision in half-light they are no more able to see in pitch darkness than are we humans. Grumio says that if Petruchio has his way with the Shrew he will

*so disfigure her . . . that she shall have no
more eyes to see withal than a cat.*

In Shakespeare's day it was held that not only was a cat better able to see by night, but that she was partly blind or blear-eyed during the daytime. This peculiar belief may have been fostered because of the gleam of a cat's eyes at night when reflecting a chance ray of light.

There is a perfect description of such a common sight in *Pericles*, when Gower mentions that

*The cat, with eyne of burning coal,
Now crouches fore the mouse's hole.*

Sir Richard Whittington was not the only man to recognize the cat's useful

ness as a destroyer of vermin, and Marcus Coriolanus rates at his men for their cowardice with

*The mouse ne'er shunn'd the cat as they
did budge*

From rascals worse than they.

Cats command the love and respect of many people, though to command implies an effort, and our cats receive adoration without any apparent exertion on their part. Be that as it may, we defend them against all "heretics," and praise them at every opportunity, often, it is to be feared, with little regard for truth. Let us be realists for once and admit that, if not actual thieves, cats let no trifling scruples hinder the satisfaction of their desires. With this in mind there can be no doubt of Falstaff's valour when he says that he is as anxious to fight

as a cat to steal cream.

TAILPIECES

THE Surrey and Sussex Cat Association has fixed its next show for February 11th next when the venue will be the Municipal Baths Hall, Epsom, Surrey.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Mead, his two young children and a friend, plan to sail in a 33-foot cutter to seek wild animals in the Amazon jungle in South America. The "crew" also includes Rocky, a monkey, Tommy, a parrot, and Bimba, a cat, who are inseparable companions. Mr. Mead starts off with the advantage of knowing quite a bit about animals as he has sold pets in Chatham.

In answer to an enquirer: The law covering injury to animals specifies horse, cattle, ass, mule, sheep, pig, goat, dog, but excludes the domestic cat. If you run over or injure a dog with your car you must on request give your name and address and identification marks of the vehicle. If you are not called upon to

do this you must report the accident to a police station within 24 hours. But if you run over a cat no action is required by law.

British-born Mrs. Violet Wioch tried for six years to get a visa to leave Poland and visit England. At last she sailed on a ship for Hull along with her two young daughters and their Siamese cat Honey. On arrival there were complications regarding Honey's quarantine arrangements. Said Mrs. Wioch—a museum curator: "I cannot leave Honey aboard and just go home. The children wouldn't let me. We shall stay aboard until Honey's future is decided." All ended well when the Ministry's authorization papers arrived enabling Mrs. Wioch to take her pet ashore, to quarantine of course.

Extract from "Doctor's Diary" in the *Daily Mirror*: Mrs. T. is an elderly patient who suffers from asthma. She lives in an old dusty cottage and her one delight is her cat. "Mrs. T.," I said, "I'm going to do my best to get you into a nice council flat. I'm afraid Tibby will have to be put to sleep. Then you'll have no more asthma." She gave me the most hurt look you can imagine. "If that's what I've got to do, doctor, then I'll stay just as I am, and so will Tibby—and I'll keep the dratted asthma, so there!"

Those who have tried to capture feline and canine grace and beauty on the photographic film or plate should go along to the Ilford Gallery, 106-7 High Holborn, London, W.C.2. If they have been unsuccessful as so many are with their efforts they may gain heart and perhaps pick up a few useful pointers from the splendid examples on view by Mr. Guy Withers. My only complaint about the exhibition is that Mr. Withers's prints are rather "thin over the ground" and I would have liked to have seen many more of them.

MICKEY.

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We urge our readers to attend as many cat shows as possible. There is no better place at which to meet old friends, to make new ones and to pick up useful points about cats, their breeding and general management, from experienced fanciers and exhibitors. Brief details of the show programme for the 1955-56 Season are provided below for the information and guidance of readers. The list may be revised from time to time as fresh information becomes available.

1955	Promoted by	Venue
4 October ...	*Blue Persian Cat Society ... (See displayed advertisement in this issue)	London
7 October ...	*Siamese Cat Club ... (See displayed advertisement in this issue)	London
13 October ...	Edinburgh and East of Scotland Cat Club ... (See displayed advertisement in this issue)	Edinburgh
19 October ...	*Southsea Cat Club ...	Southsea
22 October ...	*Midland Counties Cat Club ...	Birmingham
5 November ...	*Scottish Cat Club ...	Glasgow
11 November ...	*Croydon Cat Club ...	London
26 November ...	*Yorkshire County Cat Club ...	Leeds
7 December ...	*National Cat Club ...	London
1956		
5 January ...	*Notts. and Derbys. Cat Club ...	Derby
31 January ...	*Southern Counties Cat Club ...	London
11 February ...	Surrey and Sussex Cat Association ...	Epsom
11 February ...	*Lancs. and North Western Counties Cat Club	Manchester
25 February ...	East Anglian Cat Club ...	Venue to be fixed

* Denotes show with Championship status.

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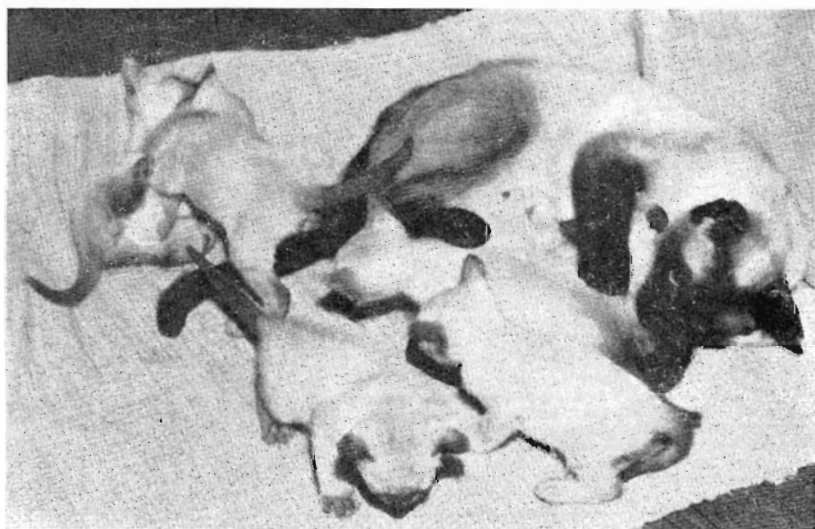
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Use of Box No. costs 1/- extra.

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Firth Photos, Greenock

We are sure readers will be charmed as we were by this delightful study of a grand old lady of the Fancy who, in her 94th year, continues to enjoy life at home with her beloved cats. She is Mrs. Paton, of Greenock, Scotland, mother of Miss May S. Paton, President of the Scottish Cat Club and breeder of the well-known "Rockvillia" Longhairs. Mrs. Paton was breeding and showing in the 1890s and one of her female Silver kittens was exchanged for a Blue male kitten bred by H.H. Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, of Windsor Great Park. She (Mrs. Paton) had an outside cattery modelled on the lines of that belonging to Mrs. Mackenzie Stuart which was illustrated in Miss Frances Simpson's "Book of the Cat." Her many friends of those early days included the late Will Halley, of Auchterarder, who was associated with the journal "Our Cats," which sold at 1d. weekly. She gave up breeding cats before the first world war.