

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING
COMPREHENSIVE



SUMMER JOYS

Photograph by Mrs. V. E. Major of JINGLES OF THAME
in the Surrey garden of owner Mrs. Loughborough. Breeder
is Mrs. M. McLeod, of Steyning, Sussex.

MAY 1956

1/6

**Come on! Hurry! Can't you see—
We've got Kit-E-Kat for tea!**



Remember—cats and kittens want more than just fish—more than just scraps! They need a completely balanced diet. That's why Kit-E-Kat is made with lean meat, fresh white fish and herring, plus extra vitamins and minerals. Kit-E-Kat is a complete food. Cats need it—cats love it—every day.

KIT-E-KAT

FRESH FISH AND MEAT—COOKED AND READY TO EAT

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.

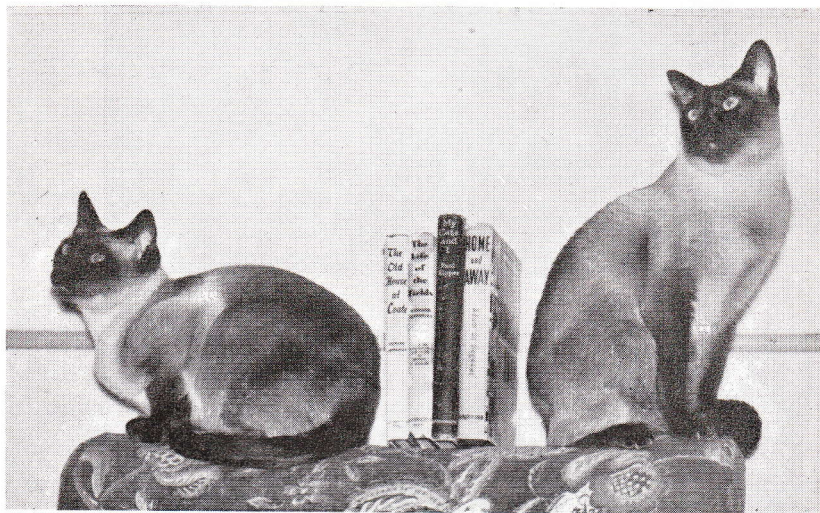
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Managing Editor :

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

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



THE BOOKENDS

DIO and RAKI at the Batheaston, Bath, home of Miss M. Baster, a Siamese enthusiast.

NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Our subscription rates have been raised with effect from 1st March from 17s. 6d. to 20s. for 12 issues post free. The new rate for readers in the Americas is \$3.25 instead of \$3 for 12 issues post free.



Derbyshire Advertiser

Something very confidential appears to be passing between CROWDECOTE TITCHEMO (sire Pennhome Pierre) and a favourite doll. This nice Blue Longhair youngster belongs to Mrs. Clare Prince, of Littleover, Derby.



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Looking at Shorthairs—No. II

By ELSIE TOWE

(Hon. Secretary of the Shorthaired Cat Society of Great Britain and Manx Club Inc.)

WHEN thinking of a British cat perhaps the Tabby comes first to mind. A Standard of Points for Brown, Red and Silver Tabbies including Mackerel-marked Tabbies is laid down by the S.H.C.S.

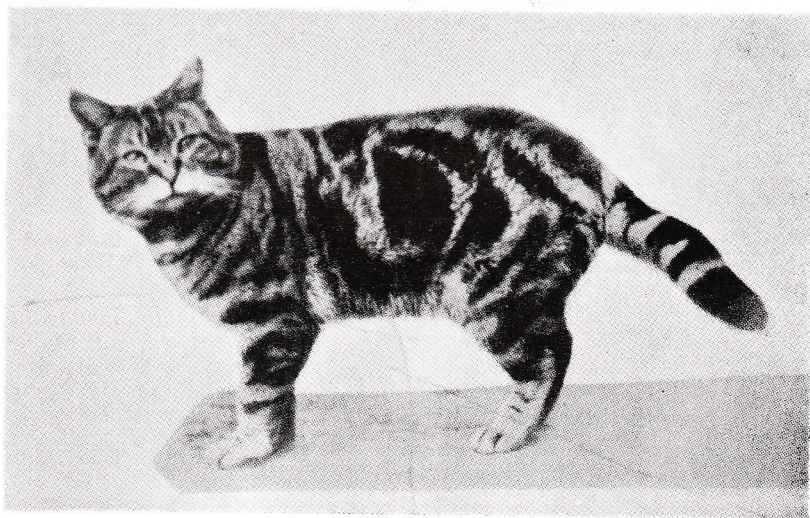
In the twenties and early thirties, British Shorthairs were numerous and popular. Brown Tabbies are now at a premium, very few have been shown since the war, but Miss Dukes of Watford now owns two females and an unrelated male. Mrs. Farquhar of Coventry also has a male and they hope soon to re-establish the Browns.

Red Tabbies are more numerous. In 1948 a beautiful Shorthair Red was shown as a household pet in a small show held at Banstead. Judges were enthusiastic about her. She was registered

as Vectensian Copper Eyes and shown in Open Classes soon became a Champion. Mated to a pedigree male she produced some good kittens including Ch. Vectensian Anaconda, sire of Ch. Barwell Cherry and others. Mrs. Budd of Keighley has also bred some good Red Tabbies and her Ch. Nidderdale Everest is especially well known.

The Silver Tabbies are perhaps the most showy. They are very gentle and affectionate and have very pretty "smiling" faces; they seem to get on well with all other breeds, especially Siamese. The Silvers also seem the only variety of the Tabbies still linked to some of the famous cats of the past.

In 1947 I was able to obtain a pedigree Silver from a pre-war breeder. Born about 1938, she was a daughter of



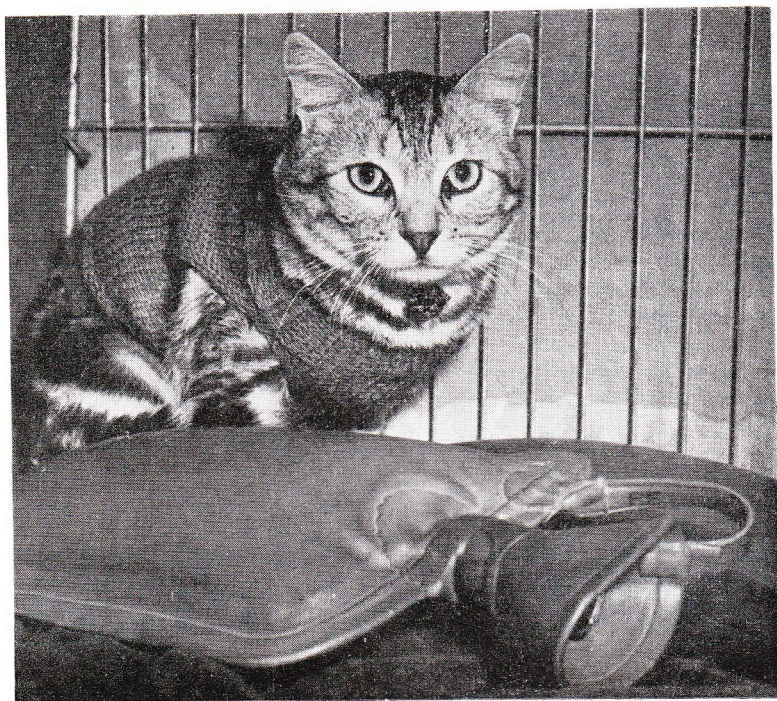
A fine Brown Tabby Shorthair of yesteryear — Miss S. C. Battley's ROMPING JACK

Silver Patrol and granddaughter of Silver Jim and Silver Laurel. She became known as Ch. Hillcross Silver Lady, dam of Ch. Hillcross Silver Flute, Miss Robson's well known male.

Miss Bracey, of Bristol, a breeder of Longhair Silvers for many years, produced a good Shorthair in 1950, later Ch Stardrift of Silverleigh. This cat had a really sparkling coat of jet black

Silver Tabbies were highly thought of and were priced as high as £50. Famous Silver Tabbies of years ago were the Silver King, Sure Again, James II, Ch. Shelly, Sweet Phyllis among others, and the famous neuter owned by Mrs. Burls, Silver Penny, who won numerous firsts in the days before Premier Certificates were awarded to neuters.

Some famous Brown Tabbies were Romping Jack, Ch. Xenophon, who is



BELLEVER CALCHAS D'ACHEUX, Silver Tabby Shorthair imported from France with a view to improving the standard of the breed in this country.

on pure silver ; she has produced many good kittens and with both these strains the Silvers are well established. The latest addition is Bellever Calchas D'Acheux, imported from France. He should prove a valuable outcross as the Silver Tabbies were becoming rather too inbred.

According to information given in old books on cats and show catalogues,

said to have won more money and specials than any Shorthaired cat ever exhibited, Heather Belle, Flying Fox and Champion Jimmy.

Famous names of Red Tabbies include Ch. Ballochmyle Perfection, winner of 100 firsts, etc., Red Prince, Dr. Jim, Belle of Bradford and Coronation King.

Standard of Points for Brown Tabby Cats

Markings—Very dense and black, not mixed with or broader than the ground colour. 30.

Colour—Rich sable, uniform throughout, no white anywhere. 25.

Body and tail—Body large and powerful in build, chest full and broad tail neatly ringed, thick at base, long and tapering to a point and carried almost level with back, slightly curving upwards, 10.

Legs and Feet—Legs strong and with plenty of bone, feet not large, neat and well rounded, 5.

Head and neck—Head broad between the ears, cheeks well developed, face and nose short, neck inclined to be long, 5.

Eyes—Round and well opened, orange or deep yellow, 5.

Ears—Small and round at the top, carried somewhat forward, not large at the base, clean cut and carried erect, 5.

Coat—Short and glossy, 10.
Condition, 5.

Red Tabby Cats

Markings—Deep rich dark red, 30.

Colour—Rich red or orange (not lemon coloured), 25.

N.B. Brown Tabbies are also brown not sable, spotted and mackerel-marked. The points given for Sable Tabbies (the ideal Brown Tabby) apply equally to all varieties of markings and shades of colour of this variety.

Structural points of all Tabby Cats to follow those given for Sable Browns.

Silver Tabby Cats

Markings—Dense black, not mixed with or broader than the ground colour, 30.

Colour—Pure, clear silver, uniform throughout, no white anywhere, 25.

Eyes—Round and well opened, colour deep sea green preferable, 5.

The ideal features are the black saddle on the shoulders separated by a silver line from the three distinct parallel lines on the back, the large lateral black ring with black centre on sides and completely joined neck rings.

Brand's Essence is palatable nourishment that even the sick cat can rapidly digest



WHETHER in real illness, or when a cat is just "off colour," Brand's Essence is the ideal strengthener. Cats will often take a teaspoonful when they refuse everything else. It provides the cat with the valuable meat protein it needs. And being partially predigested, Brand's Essence is rapidly absorbed with almost no strain on the system. It contains no added salt or preservative—cannot possibly irritate.

Whenever extra nourishment is indicated there's nothing better than Brand's Essence

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.

Brand's Essence

BEEF • CHICKEN

Protect
against
**Feline
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

'WELLCOME'

BRAND

**FELINE INFECTIOUS
ENTERITIS VACCINE**



PREPARED AT THE WELLCOME RESEARCH LABORATORIES
A BURROUGHS WELLCOME & CO. PRODUCT

Ear Irritation

By M.R.C.V.S.

ONE of the commonest ailments of domestic cats is irritation of the ear. This may be caused by several factors, such as by the entrance of foreign bodies or insects; bacterial infection setting up inflammation of the middle or external ear (otitis); ill-chosen chemicals employed by owners to clean out the ears—such as the frequent application of hydrogen peroxide; eczema, catarrh and small growths or ulcers; but in the huge majority of cases by a microscopic mite known as the *Otodectes Cynotis*.

The presence of this mite sets up a condition known as otacariasis, and results in continuous irritation, formation of excessive wax, and scratching of the ear and shaking of the head, followed by other complications which will be referred to later.

Foreign bodies and insects in the canal (or meatus) of the ear may be removed by means of forceps, but are sometimes best removed by syringing with warm water.

Instruments should only be used under good illumination, but so far as the cat is concerned, are generally better not employed. In the case of insects it is often best to instil a small quantity of warm oil the presence of which will usually cause the cat to shake its head violently and fling out the offender.

Dogs not infrequently pick up barley awns in the ear, which are often very difficult to extract. Cats which live in barns or farms and come into close contact with hay or straw, etc., may get hay seeds in the ear and in either case this cause may be suspected if the irritation arises very suddenly and is persistent.

An excessive secretion of wax in the ear may occur in consequence of catarrh

or other irritation. When formed in quantity it becomes inspissated (or dried) and by plugging up the meatus, acts as a foreign body. By impinging upon the ear drum it also causes noises in the head which worry and frighten a cat. Syringing with a warm solution of bicarbonate or soda is useful in softening up and removing cerumen; or this may be accomplished by warm oil, acriflavine emulsion, or glycerine.

Don't Use Peroxide

Some people try to mop it out with wool pledgets attached to a fine stick and soaked in methylated spirit. The author deprecates this method as it entails probing in the ear (which always is resented) and because spirit not infrequently smarts an inflamed or irritated ear. Other people are fond of injecting peroxide of hydrogen. This is objectionable because, on account of the frothing which accompanies the liberation of oxygen—the sound of which is greatly magnified in the ear canal—the patient is terrified and is liable to resent any kind of ear treatment thereafter.

It has been the author's experience, too, that peroxide applied frequently is highly likely to set up granulations in the ear. These, as they enlarge, gradually approximate and their opposing surfaces ulcerate, with the production of pain, discharge and some bleeding.

The preparation known as Otodex* will effectually soften and remove all wax and other debris without the necessity for probing or the use of irritating chemicals.

Mange mites (*Otodectes*) will affect probably 80 per cent of cats at one time or another and they are the cause of

* *Strenol Products Ltd., 54 St. Gabriel's Road, Willesden, London, N.W.2.*

nearly all the ear scratching one observes in this species. Usually they set up little more than irritation and an increased amount of cerumen.

Examination of the ear shows an abundance of dark brown powdery or waxy material which, if viewed under low-power magnification, will prove to be composed of wax, debris and mange mites. Not infrequently the irritation becomes so intense that by the time the surgeon sees it, the cat has scratched most of the hair away from the cheek and outer surface of the auricle and has inflicted several bleeding wounds, and probably set up an otitis. Every particle of this secretion which happens to become detached or removed should be at once burnt, because it is infective to others.

A Complete Cure

In all cases of otacariasis, the finest remedy known to the writer is Otodex. It not only kills the parasites, but softens and removes the cerumen and debris, soothes and aseptifies the ear canal, and renders poking or probing inside the ear quite unnecessary.

Furthermore, it is clean, pleasant and perfectly safe. After applying 3 or 4 drops of the dressing, one should manipulate the ear in such a way as to drive out air bubbles and allow the fluid to penetrate deeply. Also, measures should be taken to prevent the cat from shaking its head immediately after application, otherwise the Otodex would be flung out before it had time to do its work. One application a day for three days almost invariably effects a complete cure. An application once weekly will prevent any further recurrence.

Nobody owning a cat so affected need feel guilty of negligence, nor does it indicate an unhygienic cattery or home, as otacariasis will occur in the best run establishments in the most

inexplicable way, and arise as frequently as cold-in-the-head in humans.

The very serious aspect of otacariasis is the complication known as haematoma in which the concha of the ear becomes, literally, a huge blood blister. This will not subside spontaneously but needs surgical intervention and, sad to relate, results only too frequently in a permanently deformed ear, and the ruin of a cat's appearance.

VETERINARY PROBLEM ANSWERED

Cream Persian, 18 months old. First litter of seven kittens last December. They were a weak lot and some born dead. She had very little milk indeed. She is due to kitten again.

In the entire absence of any detailed medical history, it is difficult to pin down the cause of the stillborn and weak kittens. It may be that the queen is a carrier (though not a sufferer) of the beta haemolytic streptococcus, against which she can be vaccinated. More likely it is that she has a deficiency of oestrogenic hormone, resulting in imperfect genital development and a deficient milk secretion. It seems highly likely that from the moment the kittens were born, they found no food supply and rapidly faded away in consequence. This could be overcome by having an oestrogenic hormone intramuscularly injected just before birth and again 24 hours afterwards.

Anterior pituitary is a good medium and it could be administered by a veterinary surgeon or at the Glasgow Veterinary College, which is handy to the address of the reader who has made the request for advice.

Readers who would like "M.R.C.V.S." to deal with their veterinary problems should write to him c/o OUR CATS Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9. enclosing a stamped addressed envelope when a direct reply is preferred.



Our picture was taken last year at a gathering of members of the Siamese Cat Society of South Africa in Pretoria, when a talk on the breed was given by the late Mrs. Eleanor Hastings (on the left). Her tragic death has left a big gap in the Fancy in that part of the world. Also in the picture is Mrs. E. J. Gluckman, Mrs. Hastings' close friend and another prominent member of the Society, who is parading her Bintang Syah ("My Star"), an English import bred by Mrs. Davison from Ch. Bintang Suka Hati ex Mrs. Duncan Hindley's Ch. Blue Seagull. The kitten is Avalon Somfong ("Perseverance"), a son of two South African Champions both bred in England.

IN MEMORIAM

ELEANOR MATTHEW HASTINGS died early this year after a long and painful illness in which she showed extraordinary fortitude.

She was born in Pennsylvania, U.S.A. but several years ago made South Africa her home. She was a Foundation Member of the Siamese Cat Society of S.A. and one of our foremost breeders of Seal Points. She owned Champion Avalon Entrechat, one of the female kittens of specially selected breeding chosen for this country soon after the war by Mrs. Kathleen Williams.

For the South African Siamese Cat Society, she had served at various times on the Committee and had been editor of the Newsletter. Recently she had played a very important part in the publicity drive of the Society, to stimulate interest in the Cat Fancy generally.

She had lectured and given demonstrations, lent her car for transport, and the hospitality of her home whenever it was needed. She helped unobtrusively with finance, and last year gave the Society a wonderful owner-breeder's trophy, called the "Avalon" Cup. Avalon was not only her cattery name, but that of her home town as well.

There must be few breeders of Siamese cats in the world to-day who have actually visited or lived in Siam. Eleanor Hastings had done both and was probably unique in having been feted and thanked officially by that Government for her work during the war and afterwards. Her wartime job was connected with intelligence for the American Army in the Far East.

(continued on page 12)

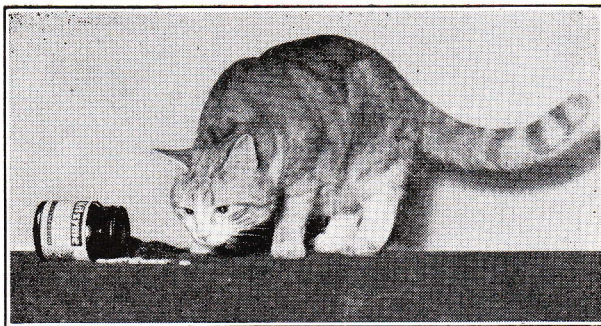
Mrs. L. F. Clayton of "Kirkdale," 3 Highfields Road, Marlpit Hill, Edenbridge, Kent writes :—

" Thank you for sending me the booklets on Kit-zyme tablets, etc.

My cat, Pretty, had been very difficult about taking vitamin tablets of other makes but she simply loves Kit-zyme and I find she eats her food better . . . in fact, she now seems to eat too well ! But there is definitely a great improvement in her appearance and activity and it's a real treat to see her so lively.

I wholeheartedly feel that the name " Kit-zyme " is worthy of spreading round the country and, when I visit friends with cats, I usually take a few tablets with me as a little gift.

Incidentally, I hadn't realized that Kit-zyme tablets are made by the Phillips Yeast firm . . . no wonder they are good ! "



PRETTY WITH HER SWEETS

KIT-ZYME WILL BENEFIT YOUR CAT TOO . . .

It is a natural Tonic and Conditioner—NOT a purgative

Kit-zyme

VITAMIN - RICH YEAST

Promotes resistance to : LISTLESSNESS, FALLING COAT, LOSS OF APPETITE, SKIN TROUBLES

50 (7½ gr.) Tablets 1/6, 250 for 4/6, 750 for 8/6

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Ref. No. 129

All cat owners are advised to keep a jar of Zemol in the store cupboard. Zemol, an actively antiseptic veterinary ointment (by the makers of Kit-zyme) is a safe and very effective way of treating minor wounds, cuts, burns, etc. Literature FREE on request.



Tailpieces

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



IT was stated recently at Harrogate by Lord Merthyr, Chairman of the National Council of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, that the accounts of the Society would show a loss of over £200,000 in 1955. The deficit was covered by legacies but, he added, this dependence on bequests was "really frightening."

Oscar, a pet cat belonging to Grace Brown, of Winnipeg, Canada, is a lucky cat who can regard the most wintry weather with equanimity. His mistress has knitted him a pair of ear muffs !

Leonard Wolf is telling the story of his Siamese queen who recently had three kittens by Miss Ann Codrington's Watermill Trojan. He went to visit them one morning and in the box was Trojan, his wife, the kittens and a little mouse—all playing happily. The mouse ran away when he touched it.

Better bid his memory fade
Better blot each mark he made
By contrived forgetfulness
Selfishly escape distress
Than preserve his prints to make
Every morn and eve an ache.

Thomas Hardy "To a Loved Cat."

When Chief Inspector White of the Gloucester branch of the R.S.P.C.A. was called to a local bakery he found himself faced with a really tricky job. A tabby cat had become trapped in a three inch aperture between the side of the oven and a wall. It had apparently

slipped off the top of the oven. After several ineffectual efforts to tempt puss out of her cramped position, the brickwork had to be broken away with hammer and chisel. All the time baking was in progress. The prisoner was eventually released and the first thing demanded was a large-sized drink.

A cat in a Newcastle-on-Tyne sub-post office sits on the counter and permits customers to dampen stamps on his tongue !

Fluffy, a four-year-old Persian belonging to Miss Dickenson, St. Mary's, Scilly Isles, has broken his fishing record with the catch of a 1½ lb. plaice. He walks into the water at night and hooks the fish out with his claws.

I have an antipathy towards cats which I know is entirely my own fault ; in fact it probably comes from a deep-rooted inferiority complex, because whenever one looks at a cat, it seems to be summing one up with its ageless eyes and makes one feel of little consequence. Whereas, I admit at once, that the dog bolsters up one's ego.—Godfrey Winn, author and broadcaster.

Bubble, a kitten discovered in a drain, earned himself a B.B.C. contract fee for a brief T.V. appearance as a stray cat in the play "The Infinite Shoe Black."

Many people in South East London awakened recently to find their electric clocks telling the time backwards.

The trouble was traced to a transformer at Lewisham where a cat had caused a fault by rubbing against the wiring.

Have you heard this one? First Londoner: "I could hardly sleep a wink last night for the noise some cats were making." Second Londoner: "That's rather to be expected if you insist on living over a mews."

Missy, a brown and white cat missing for 14 months, is reported to have joined her family in Chattanooga, Tennessee, U.S.A., after a 200-mile trek that left her dirty and bedraggled and her paws in a bad condition. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bass moved after their home had been destroyed by fire. On the day of removal, however, they could not find Missy anywhere and left without her, much to the regret of their 6-year-old daughter. Said Mr. Bass: "I don't know how she got here or how she knew where we were. But I'm certain she's our Missy."

Despite an almost complete absence of rabbits, foxes are multiplying on the downs around Eastbourne. Smallholders are demanding that something should be done to get rid of them and house-holders are complaining that they dare not let their cats out at night. A local Inspector of the R.S.P.C.A. has given a warning that foxes are attacking cats.

Letter from Miss Ivy M. Clark, an Australian reader: "Rabbits are also very scarce here and a shocking price—4s. 6d. for one no bigger than a kitten, 5s. frozen. The floods are the cause of the shortage, but not the price. Horse-meat is very cheap, best fillet steak 1s. 6d."

I have received a copy of the March Bulletin of the American Cat Fanciers' Association, which has just enrolled its 700th member. A new Club has been formed to serve the greater Detroit area which houses a number of

prominent fanciers. I was interested to read the account of the first "Working Class Contest" ever staged at a cat show. It was promoted by the Memphis and Mid-South Cat Fanciers' Club and six working cats were entered to show their skill as mousers. The winner was Georgette, an expectant mother who tends to her various duties in the pressroom of a local publishing company. To test the cats' working ability a maze was constructed of wood and chicken wire. Each cat was permitted to sniff at four mice at one end of the maze and then was taken to the other end and induced to enter it. The cat who got through the maze in the quickest time was the winner, though a disappointed one. There was no mouse to be caught at the other end! The success of Georgette was given headlines by her friends among the editorial staff of the newspaper.

MICKY.

Thinking of ???
an Import

Specializing in making individual
selections of English show winners
for overseas breeders.

Puppy enquiries also invited.

ELLA B. MARTIN

Heron, Boreham, Nr. Chelmsford,
Essex, England

IN MEMORIAM *(from page 9)*

Those of us who were privileged to know her intimately and work with her, valued her friendship for the special qualities which made her a truly mature person. There was no pettiness, there was a great deal of common sense, and a highly sophisticated humour. She gave one a feeling of security and tranquility, because every movement of hers was so full of grace, so sure and withal she was always so wise and kind.

E.J.G.



In the Siamese World



An exclusive 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.

HERE in Surrey it is mid-April. The first cuckoo has arrived to herald the summer, the daffodils are gay to look upon from the window, but when one steps into the garden the bleak East wind reminds one that it is still but a stone's throw from winter. We are having what the Sussex folk call "a blackthorn winter."

Many of you have written enquiring if I have given up writing for *OUR CATS*. It is difficult to convey to you in words my appreciation of your thoughtfulness and friendliness; I do deeply appreciate your interest. The omission of my notes over the past few issues has been caused by pressure of other affairs which has left me so little time. At one time or another I am sure you have all been at the point where events pile on top of one another until working right round the clock would not suffice to complete all one wishes to do. So, to catch up on arrears, I hardly know where to start!

* * *

Since my last contribution I have had the pleasure of meeting several members of the Siamese Cat Society of South Africa. Mrs. S. Oliver and Miss R. C.

Harte, the Society's Chairman, both visited me and how enjoyable it was to discuss cats, cat shows, judging, etc., from different angles. I was interested to learn that they have none of the side classes which are a feature of our shows.

Mrs. E. Hastings, who was an enthusiastic supporter of the Society, came to England in order to undergo an operation. It was distressing to hear that shortly after returning to South Africa she had a relapse from which she did not recover. I visited her in hospital while she was in London and retain happy recollections of a delightful personality. An appreciation of Mrs. Hastings by her friend Mrs. Gluckman, also a photograph, appears elsewhere in this issue.

At the Annual General Meeting of the S.C.C. of South Africa, the Rev. J. Oliver, in his Presidential address said: "If this year turns out to be as happy, as harmonious and as successful as 1955 in the affairs of the Society, it will be a source of great satisfaction to us all." Mrs. Gluckman, who undertook the publicity work for the Society last year, finds herself unable to continue for 1956 and Mrs. Cullingworth has kindly taken over these important duties.

Other visitors, this time from Rhodesia, were Mrs. Pearson and Miss Farrant and



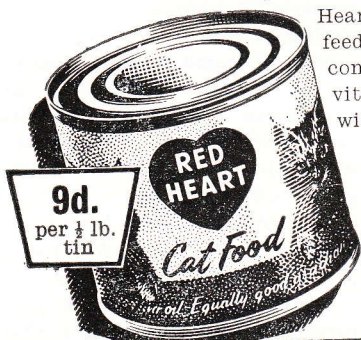
*Let's have
a squint!*

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

JOHN MORRELL & CO., LTD., LIVERPOOL 1

later Mrs. P. Robinson. It is remarkable how these visits come about. Mrs. Pearson was visiting England, purchased a kitten from Mrs. Robinson who suggested that she should visit me when she was in London. Last year I sent a pair of S.P. Siamese to Mrs. Robinson, bred by Mrs. O. Appleyard and Mrs. E. Humphreys. I have often spoken of the friendships made through cats and I like to think of them as a link between peoples of all countries. This common interest is remarkable in that people completely unknown to one another are as one within a few minutes of meeting when the conversation centres around cats.

Mrs. Robinson, having to pay a flying visit to this country, took the opportunity of visiting several catteries. She particularly wanted to take back one of Ch. Bluehayes Foxy's kittens and I was able to arrange for her to purchase Bankok Baru, bred by Mr. G. Calvert. Mrs. Robinson writes: "The kitten travelled very well indeed and is a real character—he must be in everything."

* * *

Mrs. E. Mercier, of Northern Rhodesia, writes of her neutered female Mimi, eight years of age: "She travels all over with us in the car, lives at hotels and just loves it." Mr. Mercier is supervising the erection of four power stations. "We arrive in the different towns," continues Mrs. Mercier, "to find no water or electricity and as soon as both water and electricity have been established, we move on to the next town. Mimi is about the only one who just loves the wide open spaces as compared with city life."

While still, mentally, in Rhodesia, I should like to send greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Collingwood. Those of you who had the pleasure of meeting them when they were in England over a year ago will, I am sure, join with me in wishing Mr. Collingwood, who is now in hospital, a quick and permanent return to good health.

From U.S.A. comes news of Mr. and Mrs. Fox, late of Edinburgh. They visited Mr. and Mrs. Sven Nelson, who wrote to say how much they enjoyed meeting the newcomers. Having experienced American hospitality I have no doubt that Mr. and Mrs. Fox will settle down happily in their new surroundings. Miss Golliday, of California, who is to visit relatives in England, wrote to ask if she would bring her stud cat and exhibit at our shows. This, of course, is not possible unless the six months' quarantine is observed. Some people do not agree with quarantine for cats. I do not propose to go into the question deeply, but it is worth bearing in mind that whatever the disadvantages are the advantage is that being a rabies-free country we can export as such and this fact does help our exports of all livestock. I hope to meet Miss Golliday while she is in this country and introduce her to one of our All-Breed shows. This reminds me that Mrs. C. Hoag and Mrs. M. E. Pinney, both well known in American feline circles, are visiting Britain this year. Mrs. Hoag will be able to attend our Siamese Show on 9th October but Mrs. Pinney's visit is planned for earlier in the year.

* * *

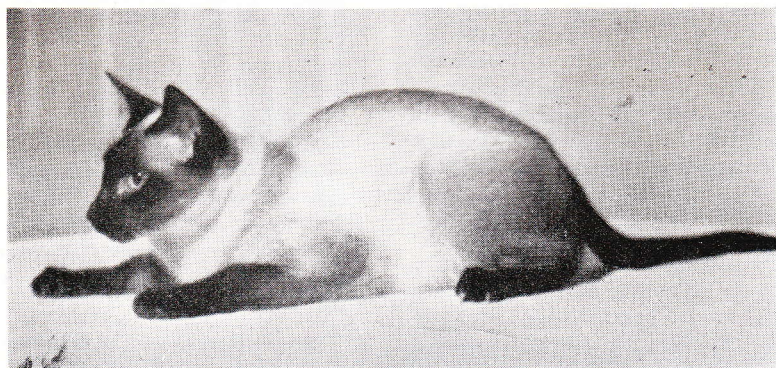
Sgt. Richard S. Miller writes me that his cats stood the journey back to America better than he and his family. They are in excellent health and—to quote him—are "settled down and have taken over." Bimbo and Monymusk Nai Noi, the imported pair, have now produced their first litter, four males. "We were so carried away with the kittens that we found it terribly hard to give them up—it is almost like selling a baby. Although it is wonderful to be back in the States, we have really missed England."

Mrs. E. Harvill had the misfortune to lose her imported stud Southwood Yutang when he needed only one point to make him a full Champion. Fortun-



Evening Standard

Mrs. A. Hargreave's Lilac Pointed Siamese Kittens, Quicksilver and Mercury, paraded by judge Miss V. Prentis at the 1955 Siamese Show — see reference on opposite page.



CH. PRISTINE PETALING, bred in England by Mrs. Priston and owned by Mrs. Ulla Magnusson, of Sweden.

ately she has a daughter of his to carry on the strain. Mrs. Harvill is sparing no effort to maintain the standard of her cattery and I am sending her another male in the near future.

* * *

Now to some exports who have represented the Fancy well in the countries of their adoption. Mme Alleizette's Revel Blue Babbee, bred by Mrs. D. Clavier (sired by Lela Do ex Broundrey's Bluebell) was a winner at Bordeaux and was brought out as Best S.H. to compete for Best in Show. Mrs. U. Magnusson's Milori Bon Vivian, bred by Mrs. C. F. Watson (sire Ch. Bluehayes Foxy ex Milori Lilli) gained C.A.C. Ex 1 (equal to our 1st and Champion) at Stockholm. Pristine Petaling, also Mrs. Magnusson's (bred by Mrs. Priston from Ch. Pristine Bandola ex Pristine Petula) is now a full Champion, having won C.A.C. Ex. 1 at Aarhus, Stockholm and Copenhagen. A picture of Petaling appears in this issue. Herr H. Muller's kitten Favorita von Lobelia and Isabella con Lobelia, now owned by Mevr. Rinsye Arendt de Vries, have started their show careers well. I hope to give details next time.

* * *

A number of enquiries have reached me about the standard of Lilac Points and I have been asked if they are a recognized breed in Britain. The answer, of course, is "No." To be recognized they must be given a breed number by the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy. The two kittens exhibited at the Siamese Show last year are pictured opposite. Mrs. Hargreaves now has a litter of Lilac Points which I am to see in the near future. They are undoubtedly attractive but improvement is needed both in type and bone structure, which is inclined to be heavy.

During the past two years the number of breeders whose queens have lost their kittens at birth or had miscarriages has

been more than during the many years I have been interested in cats. In three cases queens in the same household have miscarried and it does make one wonder if there is some possibility of contagion. In view of the growing losses it would seem that the time has come when we should perhaps pay more attention to the problem.

* * *

The Siamese Cat Club's Annual General Meeting was as usual well attended although there were absentees owing to the crowding of Club A.G.M.'s. The Chairman, Mr. P. M. Soderberg, spoke of the Club's loss by the death of Miss E. Wentworth-Fitzwilliam.

The general and show accounts showed progress over 1954, profit on the show being £123, which for a fixture for one breed only was very gratifying. Capt. F. B. Williams was elected Hon. Treasurer, Mr. B. A. Stirling-Webb having retired. Mrs. J. Thompson and Brig. N. F. C. Rossiter resigned from the Committee. Mrs. Thompson felt that with the great increase in the number of Siamese breeders, they should be elected to the Committee, and Brig. Rossiter found it difficult to fit meetings in with other commitments.

Result of ballot for Committee : Miss V. Prentis, Mr. W. Lamb, Mr. Stirling-Webb, Mrs. A. Hargreaves and Mr. Richard Warner. Delegates to the G.C.C.F. : Mrs. G. Hindley, Mrs. K. R. Williams, Mrs. J. Varcoe and Capt. F. B. Williams. The next Show is to be held at the Seymour Hall on 9th October. Please enter the date in your diaries at once.

* * *

Lastly, a hint. Having always thrown away my enamel bowls when chipped, I was pleased to learn that their lives can be prolonged by using a good enamel to cover the chipped parts. I followed this advice and found it to work perfectly.

IRRITATION OF CATS' EARS

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

IN domestic mammals the most important genes are not those which are simple in their inheritance, such as colour genes, but those which are complex in inheritance. They belong to the category of quantitative characters, the inheritance of which is apparently blending only because several of many genes are concerned which are largely independent of each other in their inheritance. We are in a position accordingly to compare with the wild ancestors "improved" breeds developed by man in the course of domestication, and to evaluate the improvements in terms of gene mutation.

At one time, it was thought that further improvement of domestic animals might be attained by fresh crosses with a wild ancestor, for by this means a maximum of hybrid vigour and hardihood would be obtained, and it was hoped that these qualities might prove to be independently inherited and so capable of combination with the valuable qualities of the best domestic breeds. These hopes were doomed to disappointment when it was found by experiment that the more valuable qualities of the domestic breeds were multifactorial (blending) in inheritance, and thus recoverable from an F_1 stock only by a long series of back crosses to the domestic breed, in the course of which the hybrid vigour of F_1 would

have been lost, while traces of the undesirable characters of the wild race might remain.

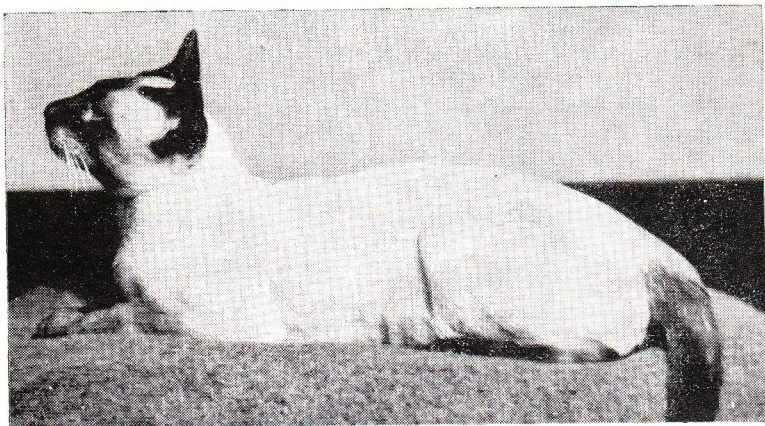
The greater number of traits in domestic animals are "blending" in inheritance — conformation, docility, fecundity, early maturity, and so on. The desirable traits of domestic breeds occur in only an intermediate degree in F_1 hybrids, and are not recoverable in backcrosses to the domestic breed either as a combination or by other than a prolonged and gradual process. This indicates that the original acquisition of the desirable characters of domestic breeds was also by a gradual process in which one minor mutation after another occurred in the direction of improvement, these being incorporated in the domestic breed by a more or less conscious process of selection until the present degree of excellence had been obtained.

The degree of excellence would never have been attainable in the wild state under natural selection because the very qualities which make the domesticated animal more valuable to say the fancier, would have rendered it more vulnerable to attacks by its enemies.

Some of these points may be the better understood if for a moment we go outside our particular fancy. For instance, the more valuable traits of domestic cattle, as compared with wild cattle, are docility, early maturity, increased milk production, and better conformation for meat production. Of these characters, all

TIBBY MEETS A PROUD ARISTOCAT

"Champion Sayam Zar Prak is the proudest aristocat I've met for a long time," says Tibby, the Tibs reporter. "And he has every reason to be proud, too - he's a picture of pedigree perfection from the tip of his nose to the end of his silky tail."



Ch. Sayam Zar Prak is a handsome chocolate pointed Siamese cat belonging to Miss D. J. Wells of Carson Siamese Cattery, Lane End House, Shinfield, Berkshire. He already has a long record of successes; he has been best stud cat six times, and was the winner of the 1953-54 Lloyd Lewis Memorial Cup; he has also won many other awards. His mistress, who is a successful breeder of Siamese cats, and has exported kittens abroad, attributes the shining coats and good appetites of all her cats and kittens to the regular use of Tibs.

11d and 2/3



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breeders
say—*

TIBS

KEEP CATS KITTENISH

"blending" in inheritance as far as known, the most important is increased milk production, to the inheritance of which much attention has been devoted. The best dairy breeds frequently produce twice as much milk and butter fat per cow as common unselected cows. When crosses are made between the two, an immediate degree of productiveness is obtained in the crossbreds, which may as a result of heterosis be somewhat nearer in productiveness to the more productive parent race. A backcross of F_1 animals to the more productive race results again in animals intermediate between the parents in productiveness.

It is thus possible by the use of purebred sires of the more productive race in successive backcrosses, gradually to grade up common stock to an approximation to the purebred race in productiveness, and this is a common practice in dairy husbandry. The obviously blending inheritance of high milk production indicates that it has been built up gradually by cumulation through selection of many independent mutations tending to increase production.

Colour Variation

This given practical example may be taken as an indication of what can be obtained by similar process in the handling of the various characters of the cat which are known to be of "blending" inheritance. And facts such as these limit the usefulness of wide outcrosses in the improvement of breeds when multiple gene differences are involved.

In domestic mammals, the simpler gene associations, especially those which relate to colour characters, are similar to those of rodents, some of which are so suitable for quick-result study. When only one or two or even three gene differences are involved, the respective gene combinations of two breeds are readily interchangeable, *but such exchanges are rarely made, and in general are not advisable, since the distinctive coloration of a*

breed constitutes a kind of trademark guaranteeing the integrity of the assemblage of less obvious genes which has been built up in the breed by long-continued close breeding.

When a colour mutation is dominant in character, it may have a great trademark value, since it gives grades the same general appearance as purebreds, and when the gene combination of the purebreds is an excellent one, grades share in their assumed desirability. Colour variation in the domestic animals is very similar to that of the laboratory rodents, indicating that similar processes occur in both for the production of the wild pigmented type of coat. Richness of colouring is in all probability controlled by multiple factors.

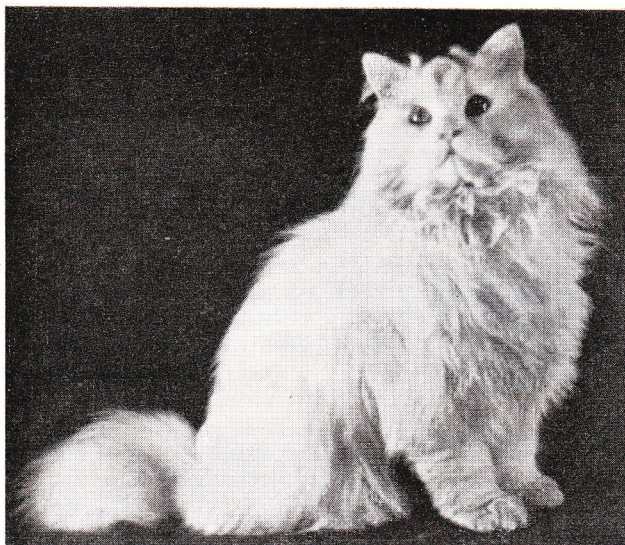
Modifying Factors

This explains why a Blue cross (which may have one or two of these "richness" factors) is so often used by breeders to improve, say, Blacks. Silvering—as found in Silver Tabby of cats and some other cat breeds—are other examples where in addition to the chief character there are modifying factors increasing or diminishing the effect of the major one and inherited quite independently.

As a good example we may quote the case of a black and tan rabbit (tan-coloured belly). If a pure bred black and tan of exhibition quality is mated to a self, the F_1 will be all tan pattern, but the rich tan colour will be greatly decreased in intensity, and they may only show traces of yellow at the edge of an almost white belly. This is due to the fact that whilst the tan pattern itself is dominant to self, the richness of colouring is due to one or more recessive factors, which will not reappear to the full extent until the F_2 generation.

(to be continued)





This nice Orange-eyed White Longhair, a son of Mrs. Herod's well-known Champion Carreg Cracker, is the special pet of Mrs. W. H. Dobbs, of Wolverhampton.



Stockport Advertiser

Taken at the Show of the Lancashire and North Western Counties Cat Club. Miss Elspeth Brittlebank, assisted by two young visitors, parades a pair of winning exhibits for the photographer — Chinchilla Mandy of Allington and Blue Longhair female Bluemine Sapphire. The last-named cat belongs to her mother, Mrs. Irene Brittlebank, Hon. Secretary of the Club.



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.

The First Show

AN alteration has been made in the date of the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club Show. It will now be on Saturday, July 28th, and particulars and schedules may be had from the Hon. Secretary and Show Manager, Mrs. E. Aitken, 2 Commonfield Road, Banstead, Surrey. A generous classification has been arranged and one which should please intending exhibitors. Popular judges have accepted and the club classes will be so arranged that members can obtain several opinions on their neuters and kittens.

It has been a late season for Longhair kittens judging by opinions expressed at A.G.M.s and committee meetings. Longhair females are not easy to get into kitten in January even after a mild winter. February is a better month but not when we experience arctic weather as we did this year. Several queens have been on second visits and if all goes well their kittens will be ready to make their bow on July 28th.

Double pens will be available at 6s. each for those who wish to show exhibits not for competition. These can be decorated by the exhibitor and prizes will be offered for the best decorated pen. We hope they will be judged by the President of the K.K. and N.C. Club, Miss Rachel Ferguson.

Our Chairman, Miss Kit Wilson, will be in her element encouraging everyone she knows to exhibit their household pets, which can be any known or unknown varieties. Mr. Steward, Secretary of the Cats' Protection League, has been invited to judge—a happy choice. Condition and amiability will be considerations in the judging of this section. A number of prizes will be offered for exhibits belong to children and some for "men owners only" so the Show will be quite a family affair.

Two very important classes will be the Premier of Premier Longhair Neuters judged by Mrs. Brice-Webb and the Premier of Premier Shorthair Neuters judged by Mrs. K. R. Williams. So please come and bring your friends to this first London show of the season which has gained in status and been so much more attractive since Captain F. Williams organized the first K.K. and N.C. Club Show ever held at the New Horticultural Hall, Westminster, in Festival Year 1951. Formerly they had been held on the outskirts of London and it is remarkable the difference the change of venue has made in the entry and attendance.

The Annual General Meeting of the National Cat Club was held in London last month. It was very nice to see the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. M. Brunton, well

enough to attend. She had an excellent report to present. The Club Ch. Show in December was a success financially and socially. The membership of 143 is not so big as some Clubs but the subscription is more than double so actual revenue is better than any except the Siamese Cat Club, and it is in a sound position.

A Big Undertaking

Item 7 on the agenda : " Olympia Show 1956 " was the one which created a buzz of interest. As this will be the first to be held at this great national venue under Governing Council rules it is a great event in the cat calendar. It will take place on December 15th in the National Hall and be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. which means that they will be present whilst judging is taking place, very unusual for a British Ch. Show. However, this was the procedure at the three previous Olympia Shows in 1950, 51 and 52, and judges coped with it admirably.

A larger number of judges than usual have been chosen and more will be engaged if necessary. One senior member of Committee told me they intend to finish judging early and get the prize cards up. This arrangement will meet with general approval from exhibitors as naturally they like to know their awards and to see their prize cards on their pens. A slight demur was made at 8 p.m. closing but this is necessary as Olympia is by far the most expensive hall for a cat show and the only possible source of profit is the " gate." The incidental expenses of a show at such a venue are legion so revenue must come from the public.

We already know the enormous interest created by a cat show at Olympia and the beneficial effects which the three previous shows had on cat breeding generally. Hundreds of the public saw for the first time breeds which they did not know existed. Under the aegis of the Governing Council this show should be the best-ever presented as regards exhibits. At the

other Olympia shows some would-be competitors were diffident about showing, as not being under G.C. rules they became the subject of controversy.

A booklet which has a circulation of over 6,000 copies entitled " Olympia Fixtures 1956 " carries a feature devoted to the " National Cat Club Diamond Jubilee Ch. Show." A proud moment in its history. A mid-winter Ch. Show in London on a Saturday is an innovation and my surmise is that this day will be a popular choice. Mrs. Grace Pond, who has been such a successful manager of the 1953-54-55 National Shows has been entrusted with its organization. Here's wishing her every success. She will be assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Dunks and, of course, Mr. Pond. All members of a household inevitably get drawn into assisting and to him one imagines it is agreeable as he took the liveliest interest in the other three N.C.C. Ch. Shows.

Up in Yorkshire

Miss G. L. Hardman, breeder and owner of some lovely Red Tabby and Tortoiseshell Shorthairs, has been elected Hon. Secretary of the Yorkshire County Cat Club in place of Mrs. E. W. Taylor, who decided not to stand for re-election. Mrs. F. E. Taylor, Senior, remains as Hon. Treasurer and was re-elected G.C.C.F. delegate. She is well known to many of us and has been breeding and exhibiting for over 20 years. Her affix " of Kenton " indicates prior to 1932 as it was during that year that affixes were disallowed by the G.C. and prefixes only were permissible. Mrs. G. M. Budd, one of the founder members with her husband the late Mr. Budd, was elected President, a well deserved honour after all her services to the Club.

A great loss has been sustained through the death of Miss Wentworth Fitzwilliam, another devoted official. It was decided to offer a trophy in her memory to be subscribed for by members' voluntary donations. It will be awarded annually for Best Exhibit at the Yorkshire C.C.

Ch. Show. If any readers who knew her would like to subscribe to it the Hon. Treasurer will be pleased to receive donations at Rowley Grange, Scarcroft, near Leeds.

Miss Hardman mentions in a letter : " I don't suppose you know me and you may be surprised to hear it was because of something you told me in 1951 that I started. In 1950 I bought from Mrs. Budd as a pet an S.H. Red Tabby kitten. At that time I only knew pedigree cats existed but nothing about them and had never heard of a show. Charles has a very good pedigree (by Nidderdale Cloud out of Ch. Nidderdale Dazzle). Mrs. Budd told me he was pale but at York Show he was awarded a first and at the Crystal Show, Olympia, two Firsts.

" At the M.C.C.C. Ch. Show he was exhibited and you gave him first but withheld the Championship. I plucked up courage to ask you why and you kindly explained ' that although of good type Charles was much too pale, that the deep red colour in Shorthairs appeared to have been lost during the War and as it was desirable to endeavour to get back the correct colour Charles should not be bred from but an effort made to locate some of the pre-War S.H. Reds.' I entered Charles for Croydon C.C. Ch. Show and he was second to Mrs. K. R. Williams's Ch. Vectensian Anaconda.

Thankful for Inspiration

" Well, of course, I saw then what a Red Tabby should look like. I was so impressed that I made enquiries for a kitten by him and the following Spring purchased Barwell Cherry from Mrs. Fawell of Norwich. She was later Best S.H. kitten at the N.C.C. Ch. Show and subsequently won five Challenge Certificates. Charles was neutered and is a dear pet of mine. As I am a civil servant I cannot keep many cats so only allow Ch. Barwell Cherry one litter a year. I have two of her Tortoiseshell daughters

by Mr. Winder's Ch. Nidderdale Black Rod. She has had some lovely progeny and I am looking forward to my retirement so I can pursue this fascinating hobby on a bigger scale.

" Last week Cherry presented me with nine S.H. Red Tabbies by Mrs. Budd's Ch. Nidderdale Robin. One died at birth but eight are beautiful and thriving, three with a foster mother temporarily. So you see if you had not aroused my interest in 1951 and inspired me to acquire a real Red Tabby I should probably not have become involved and had such an interesting time at shows and with all the adorable kittens Cherry has had."

Miss Hardman modestly refrains from mentioning them but two of the loveliest Red Tabby S.H. kittens we have seen at post-war shows are Killinghall Red Sunrise and her litter brother Killinghall Red Sunset, both big winners at the 1954-55 shows.

Good Red Longhairs

In parenthesis it is interesting to quote the Standard for Colour and Markings for which 50 points out of a possible 100 are allowed :—

" Very dense and dark red, not mixed with the ground colour and quite distinct from it. Ground colour and markings to be as rich red as possible." In Red Tabby Longhairs the hiatus between pre-war and post-war quality did not occur as Miss Lelgarde Fraser and her mother, the late Mrs. Campbell Fraser, bred them throughout and the first male to complete his Championship was brilliant Ch. Hendon Sir Roderic, sire of many Champions.

Mrs. J. M. Newton, Hon. Secretary of the Red, Cream, Tortoiseshell, Tortoiseshell and White, Blue-Cream and Brown Tabby Society, tells me that Carlon of Carne, one of the Black male kittens in the photograph which appeared in the January number of *OUR CATS*, has been purchased by Mrs. Donna Wendel of U.S.A. He arrived safely at Idlewild

Airport, New York, on February 14th. His new owner is delighted with him and comments on his sweet disposition and how big he is for his age. He was bred by Mrs. Newton from Crazipatch of Carne, a Tortoiseshell who has produced so many winners, and a Black sire Baralan Babu.

A Nice Thought

Meeting Miss Ann Codrington at the National Cat Club A.G.M. I inquired for news of Watermill Trinkabella, the lovely S.P. Siamese kitten which had such a distinguished show career last season. A few days later came this letter:—"First and most important she is ideally happy and is much loved by Mr. Stewart of Calgary, Alberta, also by Mary Gunn who looks after her and is kind enough to send news and snapshots. Wouldn't it be nice if other buyers of our beloved kittens kept in touch like this? I do appreciate the kind thought so much. Trinkie still sleeps in the lovely travelling box she arrived in and her award cards are neatly arranged around her rosettes above it. She is very well and at Easter had her first litter of three kittens. Like her mother Watermill Yoopsidaisi she is not an over-enthusiastic mother but she does her duty adequately and then goes off to play with friends. She will no doubt become more sedate later on. Another inherited trait is her liking for savoury food—cheese, fruit and green peas. She is still very light coated I was pleased to hear.

"Watermill Yoopsidaisi has five kittens a month old by the same sire, Mr. Richard Warner's new Champion Spotlight Troubadour, and her mother, Mill Feather, has six by Ch. Clonlost Yo-Yo, all born in the caravan in which I am now living. They are together in a box labelled "Champagne"—very smart! There are actually two boxes but they all cram into one. We long for warmer weather when they can go to their own little house.

"Mrs. Warner has skilfully made a wire netting fence round the caravan

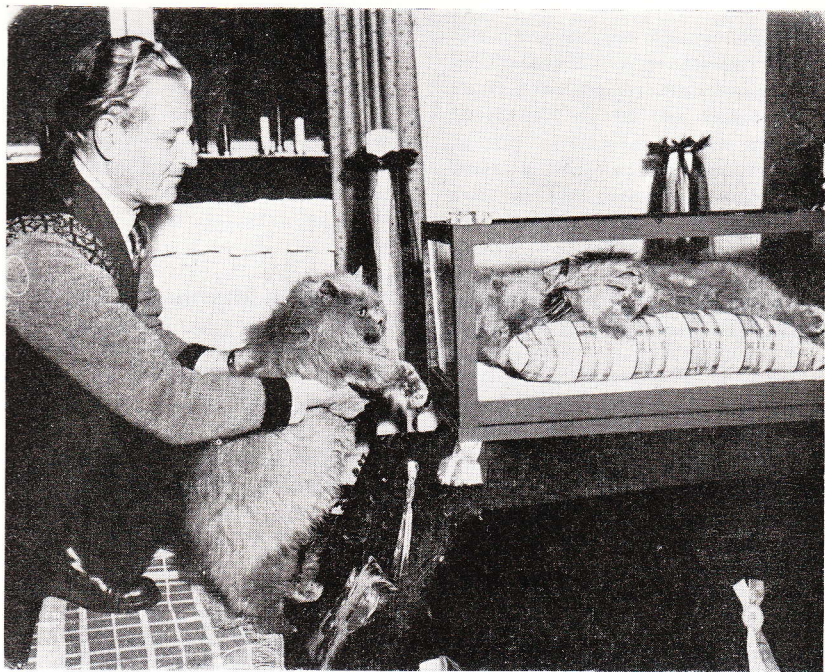
and cathouse. It doesn't look very strong but foils the cats by being wobbly at the top. The two families flourish and there are some promising kittens among them. Mrs. Elliott's Siamese Sabukia Serilla has four fine kittens, all Seal Points by Mrs. Duncan Hindley's B.P. Ch. Prestwick Blue Crackers. This is good news as Serilla was a month in kitten when she was flown to Toronto."

Breeding Experiment

From Mrs. Denys Fawell of Norwich, admirer and successful breeder of some lovely Red Tabbies and Tortoiseshells, comes interesting news of an experiment she has made. "As you know," she writes, "I bought a Blue-Cream from you, Priscilla of Pensford, daughter of Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous because I had a theory that type could be improved in Red Tabbies if one could obtain them from mating a well bred Blue-Cream to a Red Tabby. Well, Priscilla is a wonderful mother to her litter from this cross—1 Red Tabby male, 1 Red Tabby female, 1 Blue male, 1 pale Cream male. The two latter are going to a very good home together as pets as, of course, they will not be suitable for breeding.

"I am very pleased with the Reds and they are a clear bright colour without any trace of Blue. The tramline markings down their backs are very distinct. They are not yet as deep in colour as their handsome father Ch. Barwell Pedro but they are only a few weeks old. All being well I hope to show them in July. All the four kittens have very nice type. No kittens have had more attention. My children Anne and Roger have been home for Easter and when they returned to boarding school Priscilla missed them. She is very pleased to have us admiring her family.

"The Tortoiseshell Barwell Rio left this morning by air for California. She has been purchased by Mrs. Fox. She is in kitten to Ch. Barwell Pedro. I kept her until she was old enough to be mated to him. My queens are expecting three



Danish cat lover Mr. Paul Gribner with one of his live pets and the glass case containing the embalmed remains of Champion Topothelot — see story on next page.



Painting in oils by Myriam Miko, of Milan, Italy, who executes commissions of this kind either from life or photographs.

more families in the next few weeks and already I have another Tortoiseshell and Red Tabby female ordered from U.S.A."

Best wishes that Rio will have her family as successfully as Mrs. Elliott's much-travelled Sabukia Scrilla. Rio had a very successful career at last season's shows and some excellent reports from her judges.

Chinchillas in New Zealand

Lavinia of Allington, one of Miss Langston's many lovely Chinchillas, has arrived safely at Auckland, New Zealand. Mrs. Mayhill of Takapuna writes: "When my husband and I went on the ship and enquired for her the purser sent for the chief butcher to bring her to us and she arrived in his arms seemingly quite at home with him. She was in good condition although her fur was getting a little knotted but she looked very nice. I think she is very typey. She is a house kitten and sleeps on my bed . . . sometimes waking me at 5 a.m. to play, not so good at that hour but she generally gets it . . .

"I put her out in the cattery for an hour every morning to get used to the other cats and playful kittens . . . otherwise she has the run of the house and does not mind my old spaniel dog at all so I think you must have one. Seth of Allington is very well. First thing in the morning my husband lets him out in the garden for about an hour which he loves. Then I appear and he has to go in and the girls and kittens all come out. It is a lovely sight to see them climbing trees and chasing each other; they have a wonderful time. Several members of the Auckland Cat Club are coming to see my new pet Lavinia and I shall be proud to show her to them."

Baroness Lilly von Bach of Copenhagen writes: "At the recent Stockholm Jubilee Ch. Show to celebrate its tenth year I was handed the emblem of the Club in gold on being made an honorary member. I sat by Miss Kathleen Yorke at the dinner and we had a cosy talk

together which was very enjoyable. My eleven months Cream male Krokholms Jupiter by Gleam of Pensford and Aviary Blossom (daughter of Ch. Bayhorne Minton), is getting very beautiful. He has an exceptional head and lovely eyes and is very affectionate. I hope to show him next winter."

"Alive in Eternity"

The photograph which appears in this issue of Mr. Paul Gribner's embalmed Blue Persian male Champion Topothelot must be unique. I judged him in Copenhagen in 1949 when he was entered in the class confined to Blue male Champions. He was a pale Blue with brilliant copper eyes and this contrast made him very attractive. He was well groomed and presented and had a good head and type. Topothelot was bred in England in 1945 by Miss Chafer and sired by Idmiston Blue Treasure. He won well as a kitten before being exported to the late Mr. Knud Hansen, who was a very well known member of the Danish Cat Fancy for many years. After his death Topothelot became the property of Mr. and Mrs. Gribner and whilst with them attained his Championship.

Mrs. Maina Hjelde tells me: "Topothelot will never be forgotten in the family Gribner. He has been embalmed and reposes in a glass case on black velvet with gold fringes. The wall behind is covered with the flag of Denmark on which a picture of the cat hangs. Mr. Gribner is conservator of the Royal Library and says: 'People think I'm mad but Topothelot shall be alive in eternity'." A picture of Topothelot as a young cat appeared in the December, 1949, issue of OUR CATS.

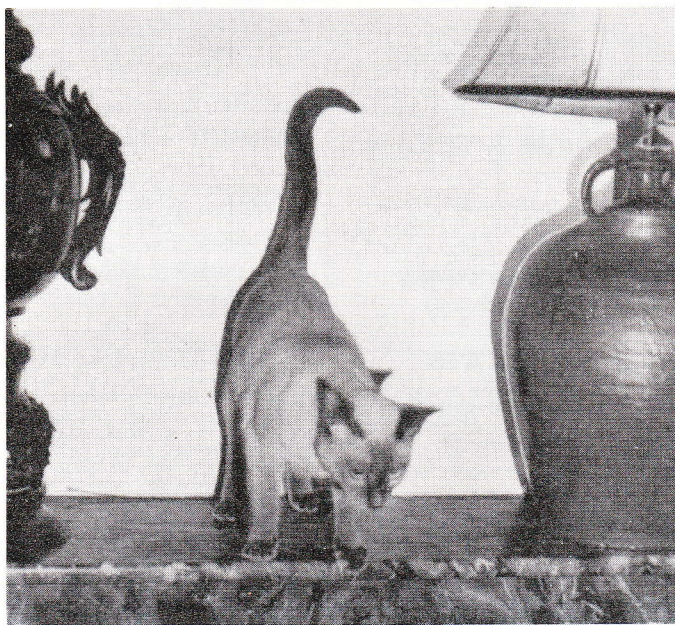
Miss Adele Rudd, of 30A Sinclair Road, Kensington, W.14, who has become so well known among cat lovers with "Mortimer's Fund for Cat Welfare" and the cat himself who was such a personality whilst he was alive, sends me details of the wonderful work accomplished.

In 1955 the sum of £1,000 was given to cat welfare; all the work was voluntary and undertaken by Miss Rudd and her helpers. The only expenses charged were postal and the rest were paid by Miss Rudd and generous friends. Seven parties were given in 1955 on behalf of Mortimer's Fund. Slides in natural colour photography were shown and stalls were laden with gifts sent from the British Isles and as far away as Hong Kong and Australia and many other countries. At the Animals Fair which was held in London last November Mortimer's stall made over £100 with donations. Small and dainty gifts for the Fund are now requested as there are no facilities for storing or displaying big and bulky ones.

The Fund functions by supporting the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (London cat work),

The Dumb Friends' League (Hammer-smith clinic for cat work) and the Cat Ward at the Algiers Hospital being built by the Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa for sick and injured cats in that country.

So that the good work on behalf of cats may continue in perpetuity Miss Rudd at her decease has arranged with the R.S.P.C.A. to take over Mortimer's Fund for Cat Welfare to run under its same name as a separate unit for cat work in London and North Africa. Thus it will continue as his permanent memorial. Details of competitions and fixtures for 1956 can be obtained from Miss Rudd. Over £4,000 has been given to help cats and she concludes by appealing for help to attain the fifth thousand. Audited accounts are published in a contemporary magazine.



Champion REVEL BLUE BABBEE, bred by Mrs. Dorothy Clavier of West London and selected and exported by Mrs. K. Dunks, belongs to Mme d'Alleizette of Clermont-Ferrand, France. She was brought out for Best in Show at Bordeaux and the interesting point about this young queen to students of genetics is that she has five generations of pure Blue Point on one side and four on the other side of her pedigree.

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and addresses (in confidence) we will
then be pleased to do the rest. What,
for example, about those people who
have just bought your last litter of
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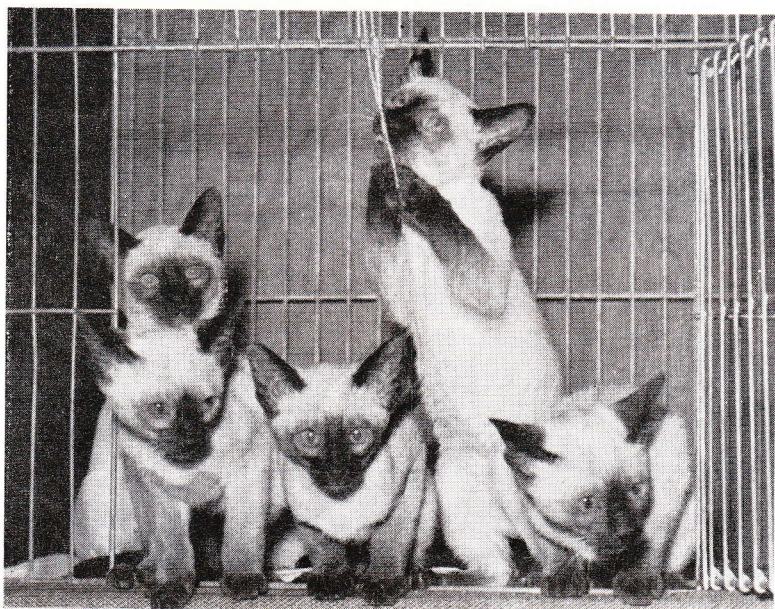
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Evening News

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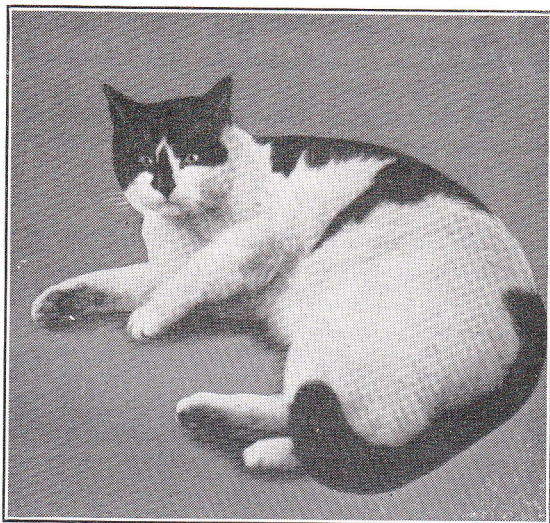
**Mrs. W. Austin of
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You may use this letter, also photograph, if you wish, as I would like other cat lovers to know about your wonderful tablets."



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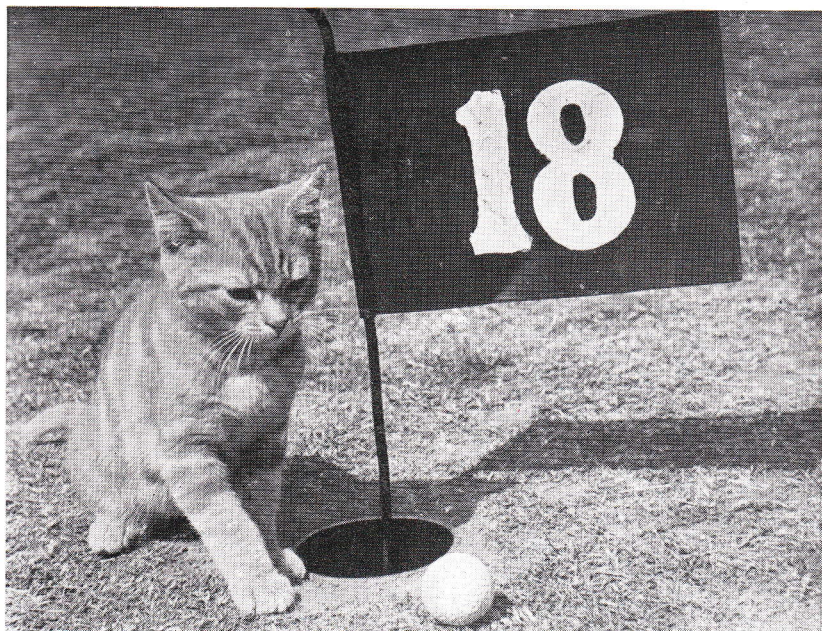
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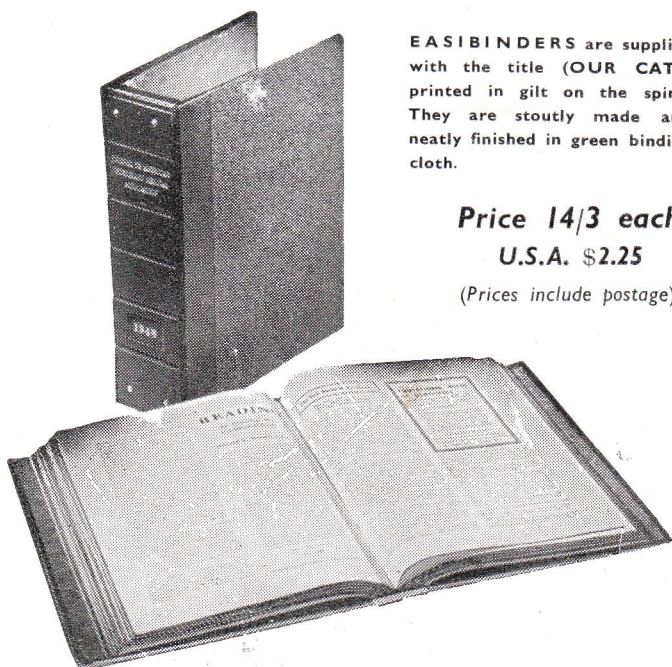


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