

# Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE  
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING  
COMPREHENSIVE

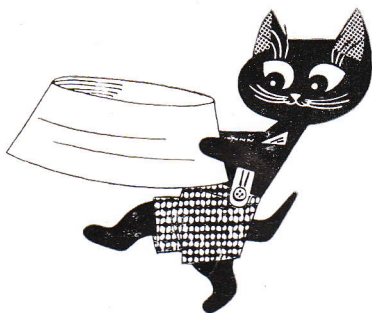


## MUM AND THE TWO KIDS

*This happy Abyssinian family group, photographed by owner-breeder Mrs. V. E. Major, of Great Bookham, Surrey, shows Ch. Kreeora Sheba and her kittens by Miss Wiseman's Bruerne Achilles. The kitten on the right, Adrah Saarba, was purchased by Mrs. D. Winsor.*

JUNE 1956

1/6



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**All cats love  
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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.

VOL. 8 No. 6

JUNE 1956

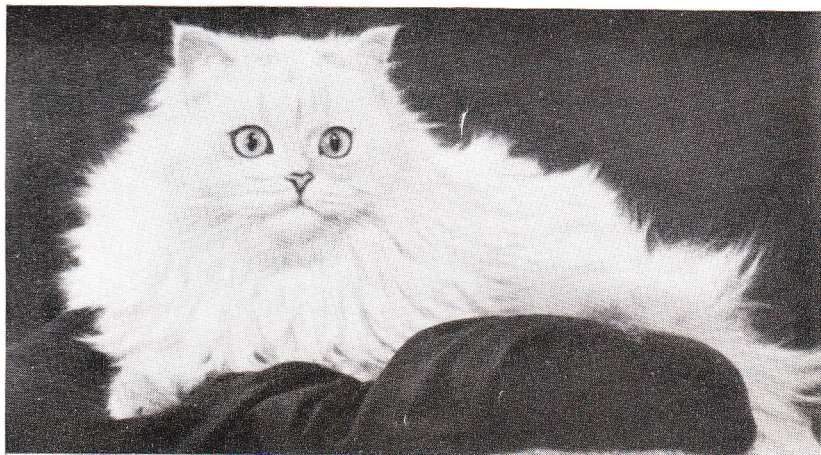
Managing Editor :

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

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**THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS**

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THRAGNAR MOONLIGHT ("Pompey" at home to his many friends) is the name of this nice neutered male Chinchilla, nearly 2 years old, by Ch. Laurel of Allington ex Bonavia Sarah. Bred by Mrs. P. Hill and now owned by Miss P. Steane, of West Norwood, S.E. London, "Pompey" was one of a 1st prize-winning litter at the 1954 Croydon Show.

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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.

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**CAMBER BLUEBELL**, handsome Blue Longhair by Anson Eros bred by Mrs. Denton, of S.E. London, and owned by Mrs. Koning van Oosten, of Holland.



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# **Blue Points — Breeding Problems**

By THETIS RENDALL

**D**URING the past show season, breeders have been discussing not only the difficulties of obtaining that much desired pale coat with real Blue Pointed Siamese but also of the disappointments in watching what was thought to be a pale body colour darken and discolour at twelve months or so. It is comparatively easy to produce a pale coated young kitten up to approximately eight months of age or older. But at a year most cats begin to darken quickly, and either they become very fawn, or the blue of the points extends over the body. Fawn, the geneticists think, will never be entirely eradicated, but it can be controlled to a great extent by careful and selective breeding.

The correct shade of blue for the points and mask was another focus of discussion, because of its variation in

shade. Both points and body colour of an individual cat may vary from week to week, or at a show, from hour to hour, according to the light. In one light a cat may apparently have quite a clear body colour, with good blue points, in another, possibly later in the day, he or she may look muddy. This is particularly noticeable in winter if there is snow about.

I think the fundamental difficulties of breeding Blue Points are not yet fully understood. The variety is still in its infancy, and one has only to examine the current issue of the official Stud List. In all there are thirteen males listed, including the proven and the non-proven, and only three of these have four Blue Pointed grandparents. One male has three, though the list incorrectly gives him four.

The three solidly BP bred males carry the same blood lines, so their general usefulness is limited. Of the remaining cats, four only have Blue Pointed



**MISSELFORE KRYKI, a Blue Pointed Siamese male, bred by the author. Here you see the desirable pale body colour which is all-too-rare a quality to-day in adults of the breed.**

parents, the rest are the result of cross breeding or of mating Seal Points carrying the Blue Point factor. I am convinced, both by experience and observation, that we must get away from the Seal Points, and until we do, no real progress in improving Blue Points can be made. Not until we have a choice of several studs, carrying different blood lines and with a minimum three generations of BP x BP breeding behind them, can we begin to make any appreciable step forward in colouring.

Blue in itself is a difficult colour. Reading any show report on Blue Longhairs, it is obvious that the depth of colour and its variation according to the light and season of the year, present similar difficulties to breeders. But this variety is more favourably placed for improvement as it is more firmly established and has a much greater choice of studs.

### Seal Point Influence

It is imperative that we get away from the Seal Points if we want to improve both body colour and points. The influence of the Seal is bound to cause detrimental colour variation. Coats will be muddy and patchy and points too grey or slate coloured. I much prefer to breed from a second class cat of, say, two or three BP generations, than to use a champion who is the product of a cross. I know that BPs will turn up in Seal Point litters, in spite of the best intentions, due to a hidden factor in the ancestry.

I have had the pedigree to check of a "willow" coloured queen, as her owner described her. Her Seal Point sire had not thrown, to my knowledge, a Blue Point kitten before, but four generations back on her dam's side, I found a cat who carried the Blue Point factor.

It is not generally appreciated that some colours in certain animals are associated with type, and geneticists

believe that blue in cats has an effect on their conformation. Certainly, as experience is gained in breeding Blue Points, it is apparent that type as a rule is heavier than that of Seal Points.

I have already written on many occasions that attempts should not be made to force the variety to conform to the Seal Point standard. This only encourages cross breeding. A professional breeder recently told me that she intended always to cross breed, so as to keep the type of the Seal. This is a short sighted attitude, not worthy of a serious breeder, as it shows a total disregard for the future of the breed and also for the detrimental effects on Seal Points.

The true Blue Point should be allowed to express its own peculiarities as a variety. Of course, we must try to direct and control by selection, as few of us want to see really gross cats developing. But a true Blue Point will usually be slightly heavier boned than his Seal counterpart, and also he will tend to have a shorter and possibly broader head.

At last season's shows there was a cat exhibited who apparently was a contradiction of this statement, though he had the typical short, broad head of a Blue Point. But he had only two out of eight great grandparents and three out of sixteen great great grandparents who were Seal Pointed. He was line bred deliberately with the definite aim of producing as nearly as possible the type similar to that of the best Seal Point. In my view that aim was achieved. As foreseen by the breeders, body colour was temporarily sacrificed. In concentrating on one quality, there are occasions when another desirable quality may have to be kept in abeyance.

### Meaning of "Type"

Type is a word beloved of all breeders and exhibitors, but no word carries such a variety of interpretations. It should be used to describe the conformation and balance of a cat. In practice

it is often confused with size, particularly in the show pen. Size should have little or nothing to influence the conception of type. But how often we hear of wizened, rat-like and emaciated specimens extolled as "excelling in type." Beautiful conformation allied with a balanced body and head perhaps should be one interpretation. A cat may be very large, but if its limbs are all proportionately fine boned, giving a lithe conformation, it can be said to have type.

I think more attention might be given to the quality of eye colour in relation to body colour. The official ruling is a "clear, china blue" and I have noticed that when this is present, there is more likelihood of a cat having a pale body colour, and retaining it over a longer period in maturity. If the eye colour is deeper, I expect the general coloration to be deepened. But conversely, a cat with pale washed out blue eyes does not necessarily have a pale coat. To my mind the correct vivid china blue eye allied to a pale coat is a most attractive combination, and in every way comparable to the sharper contrast of a good Seal Point.

## Elusive Paleness

The pale body colour which we all desire so much is very elusive, not only being difficult to breed, but it is affected by environment and climatic conditions. Often a cat who is not in full physical condition will have a muddy coat, which will clear as his health improves. Summer heat and sun will turn the coat fawn, or even give it a reddish tinge. When we do manage to produce a specimen with a really pale coat, another fault often makes its appearance.

In some show reports a judge describes an exhibit as "too pale all over." This is a definite fault, but I feel that it is a fault in the right direction. In most cases it is the description of a young adult who has not bred. Often

such a cat will have deepened points after breeding, without the body colour darkening excessively, particularly if it is of solid Blue Point breeding. If we can establish the pale coat, I am sure we can improve the points later.

When selecting a kitten which I hope may continue pale as it grows older, I never choose one with a dead white body colour and sharply contrasting points. From experience I have found that such a kitten becomes very dark after it is a year old. If it is the progeny of one parent being a first generation Blue Point and the other perhaps a second or third blue generation, the kitten will probably become a dark sand colour, particularly during the summer months. The kitten most likely to retain a pale coat is seldom dead white, or what may be termed, in the words of a popular advertisement, "whiter than white." Such kittens I always avoid.

Anyone who has sufficient experience of BP x BP breeding for at least two or three generations, will recognize the odd kittens which do turn up, and whose coats do show a bluish white tone, difficult to describe in words. These kittens will become more numerous as we progress in building up the Blue Point generations, and we must not be deterred if the kittens have rather washed out points.

I doubt whether there is a short cut in breeding a good quality cat of

*(continued on page 11)*

Thinking of  
an Import

???

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

Puppy enquiries also invited.

**ELLA B. MARTIN**

Hérons, Boreham, Nr. Chelmsford,  
Essex, England

## A page for the proletarian puss No. 65



*London "Evening News"*

The pony was ill-treated by a driver who had hired him from another man. A prosecution by the R.S.P.C.A. resulted in the man being sent to prison for a month. He elected to go to gaol rather than pay a fine of £10. A local branch of the Society collected sufficient funds to buy the pony and eventually a good home was found for him. Apparently he also found a new young friend at the stables !

# ***Antiseptics and Their Uses***

By M.R.C.V.S.

**M**ANY advances have been made in recent years in our knowledge of antiseptics, not only concerning the efficacy of the various agents for curtailing bacterial growth, but also regarding their deleterious actions upon the subject.

Few indeed of the vast number of antiseptics in every day use can be found to conform to the strict standard laid down for an ideal antiseptic. This standard exacts that the agent should either kill or inhibit pathological germs without damaging tissue or destroying the white blood cells; that it should not be poisonous to the subject; its germicidal power should be unimpaired in the presence of body fluids; and that it should be water-soluble and chemically stable.

It is accepted that many antiseptics are as injurious to the tissue cells as to the germs they are employed to destroy, such destruction of tissue actually favouring the entrance of organisms by weakening tissue vitality.

It is essential that the selected antiseptic should be neither caustic nor irritant. The penetrative power of an antiseptic is also important since it is obviously an advantage if the germicidal agent can attack bacteria that have invaded the deeper tissues.

If the antiseptic coagulates albumen and proteins the osmotic circulation between the surface and the tissues is affected. Coagulation of the blood prevents free access of white blood cells (leucocytes) to the site of infection.

The curative value of many otherwise potent germicides is lessened when they are slow in acting. For instance, perchloride of mercury, though a powerful germicide, is slow in action, and whilst it would be of great value in the disinfection of instruments where time is of no importance, it would not be the best

agent for wound treatment. Besides it is very poisonous, especially if licked.

An antiseptic that is freely soluble in water is more readily adaptable to the requirements of general use than is one of low solubility. Pure carbolic acid (phenol) for example, when added to water, does not completely integrate, but floats about in minute globules. This too is very poisonous, especially to cats.

The Rideal-Walker test offers comparative evidence as to the relative values of antiseptics and in advertisements one often sees a reference to this test apparently to impress the public that the agent advertised is of high value. But the R.-W. test does not take into consideration the fact that many antiseptics are inactivated by admixture with body fluids such as blood, urine, etc., usually as a result of immediate chemical combination with the body proteins. To overcome this disability the Chick-Martin test was devised, and this is the test that really matters.

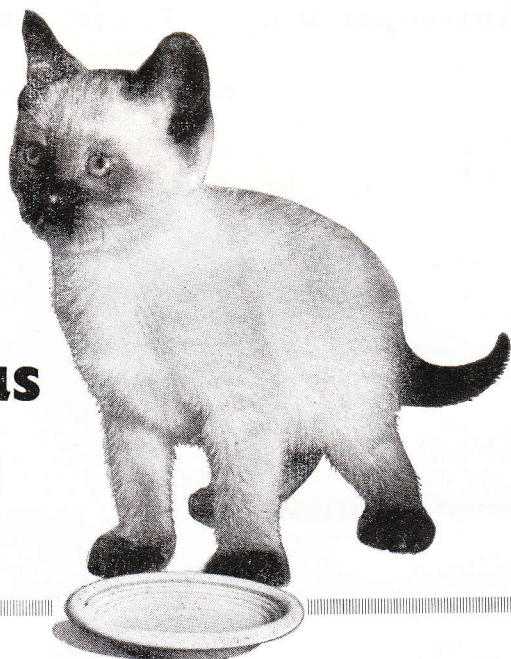
Stability is a highly important factor. Hydrogen peroxide and the various hypochlorite solutions (Eusol, Dakin's solution, etc.) are examples of unstable antiseptics. But these are not poisonous to cats, and can be recommended.

Of all the antiseptics which can be used on cats, probably the best are the acridine derivatives, represented by acriflavine, proflavine and others. They have the unique property of being *more* bactericidal in the presence of serum and pus, etc., and they may be used effectively in as high a dilution as one in a thousand. They are non toxic to cats.

Acriflavine incorporated in liquid paraffin forming the well known acriflavine emulsion, is largely employed as a wound dressing.

*(concluded on page 12)*

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'**

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ENTERITIS VACCINE**



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A BURROUGHS WELLCOME & CO. PRODUCT

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

**I** NTEREST in the occurrence of the rex gene in cats has grown steadily since its appearance as a mutation some three and a half years ago. Now that initial breeding tests have been completed, and the scientific data has been compiled by Dr. Searle and myself, interest has quickened. Our paper on the subject is soon to be published in the "*Journal of Genetics*" and it is hoped that fanciers will have the opportunity to see some of these cats at the Kensington Kitten Show next month. Photographs have appeared in the daily press and rex-coated cats were shown on television in the "Westward Ho" programme on May 26th.

Naturally, the correspondence I have received on the subject of the rex gene in cats has been extensive. It has shown desire by fanciers that the Cat Fancy may take advantage of the new coat-type now available. There are, of course, some breeders who are not as yet conversant with the significance of the situation or the value of this mutation. Unfortunately, as usual, there are just a few who decry the new coat-type because it is new. They profess to have the Fancy at heart in everything they do, yet in circumstances such as these their words can only tend to retard progress.

This new type of coat is the forerunner of a much improved type of

Shorthair coat just as Castorex in rabbits produced the present-day Rex now so popular in the rabbit fancy—that ultra-short, dense, plush-like coat, which is so much more attractive than the normal coat could ever be.

We know that original cat coats were short-haired, and that the long-haired coat was a mutation. Just as the long-haired breeds became established, so—without any doubt at all—will the rex type of coat be established in the Fancy. When that time comes, the Fancy will have three sections of coat-type—Longhair, Shorthair (normal) and Shorthair (Rex).

## Not a Freak

The object at the moment is merely to clear up one or two points about the inheritance of the rex gene in cats—to show that this new coat-type is a breeding fact and not the freak the few would have others believe.

The mode of inheritance of the rex gene in cats is a recessive one. This means that when rex is mated with normal shorthair, the second generation will be of the ratio of 3 : 1 shorthair (normal) and shorthair (rex) respectively. And, of course, if two rex are mated together, all the offspring will be rex, for when this mating takes place each of the youngsters will receive two genes of rex, one from the father and the other from the mother, and will, therefore be a rex.

In the first generation of normal

shorthair to rex it is possible that some of the kittens produced may be rather more dense and short in coat than others, but to all intents and purposes each individual in the litter will be normal and not rex. Thus, through the result of the second generation it is said that rex coat and normal shorthair form an alternative pair of characters and that the latter is dominant to rex, which is recessive to the normal.

Although all the youngsters from a normal shorthair  $\times$  rex-shorthair mating look much alike they will have one dose of rex from the rex parent as well as one dose of normal from the normal parent, the former being hidden by the dominant normal coat. When these youngsters are bred together they will produce youngsters of three types.

On an average, three-quarters of the  $F_2$  (or second filial generation) will be normal-coated, and the remaining quarter will be rex like the rex parent. These last, if mated to a rex, will breed true for the rex character in all cases.

The normal-coated kittens, however, will be of two types which would be indistinguishable by examination from one another, but would be found to be different in their behaviour as breeders. Two out of every three of these would be like their normal-coated parent and would produce both normal and rex young in the ratio of 3 : 1 when mated amongst themselves. The remaining third would be found to breed true for normal and would resemble in its genetical constitution its normal grand-parent.

If a kitten is bred by the union of two cells each containing the gene for normal coat, all the germ or reproductive cells produced by such a cat will contain that factor, and the cat is said to be pure (or homozygous) for normal coat. In other words, such a cat, mated to its like, will always breed true to normal-coat, or when crossed with rex will give only normal-coated young in the first generation. Thus, all animals showing a recessive character

## 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**

must be homozygous for that factor. In simpler language, a cat requires a "double dose" of a factor to breed true, whilst a "double dose" is necessary before a recessive character can become visible.

When a rex is crossed with a pure normal, there is then a union of two unlike germ cells, and the kitten is said to be heterozygous or impure for normal.

It must be remembered that as the original cells divide to produce reproductive cells, the different types of these will be produced in equal numbers. Diagrammatically, the result of this cross is shown in Fig. 2, which appears later. It is the custom of geneticists to use letters to denote inherited characters, a capital letter being used for the dominant character, and a small letter for its alternative recessive.

Thus, in the present example, we are using the letter R to represent "normal," and small r to represent "rex"—the normal parents' ordinary cells would contain the factors R.R. and the reproductive cells produced by it would all have a single R. Similarly, the ordinary cells of the rex parent would be rr, and its reproductive cells a single r. These on combining at a fertilization would produce only one type of cell Rr.

On division to form the reproductive cells this generation, however, would give two types of cells, some containing R and others r. As these would be produced in equal numbers, and as recombinations would be purely by chance, the four possible combinations in the F<sub>2</sub> would appear in approximately equal numbers as follows :—

	F <sub>1</sub> SPERM R	F <sub>1</sub> SPERM r	
F <sub>1</sub> OVUM R	RR PURE NORMAL	Rr IMPURE NORMAL	} F <sub>2</sub>
F <sub>1</sub> OVUM r	rR IMPURE NORMAL	rr PURE REX	

FIG 1.

(continued on page 12)

## BLUE POINTS

(concluded from page 5)

any variety. It has been suggested that Blue Points should be crossed with Chocolate, to help the body colour. In my view it is a short term policy. The coat colour might benefit temporarily, but I doubt whether it would hold over successive generations. Points undoubtedly would suffer. Anyway, why put back the Seal Point factor? Incidentally I understand that Chocolate Point breeders are having trouble with

the points. I venture to think that CP x CP breeding over successive generations is the answer here as well as with the Blues.

Successful breeding is a question of patience and the ability to appraise dispassionately the results of one's own particular method. I do not offer the suggestion that BP x BP breeding is the complete answer to our problems, but I do believe strongly that until it has been tried out fully, we shall go on experimenting in a fog of misunderstanding.

It must be remembered that the cell contains many more factors than the single one controlling hair character, but for the sake of simplicity only one character and its alternative is shown, and the cats are supposed to be identical in all other respects.

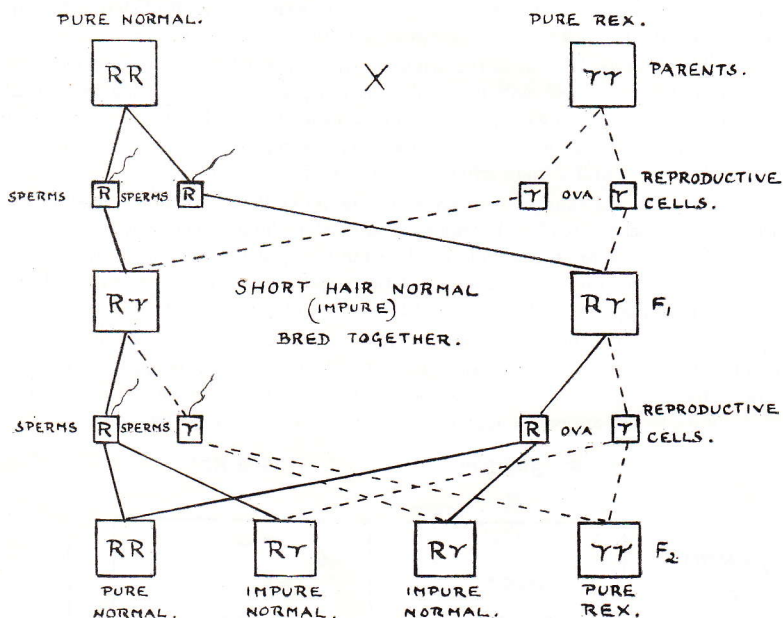


FIG 2.

It is hoped that this article following on the exhaustive breeding tests made under supervision during a period of three and a half years will help fanciers to realize that this new coat character is truebreeding in every sense of the word. It is not in any way "freakish" as the uninformed would suggest, but rather is it a major step in cat history, and if properly used will help to add a new interest to the cat fancy in general.

(to be continued)

## ANTISEPTICS

(concluded from page 7)

The oxidizing agents, such as peroxide of hydrogen and potassium permanganate, rely for their effect upon the mechanical effect of the liberated oxygen in cleansing suppurating wounds, by disturbing the deposits of pus. They are readily inactivated by organic matter.

Iodine and chlorine are very efficient germicides. Both will destroy almost any kind of micro-organism if unprotected by other material, and they are safe. Concentrated solutions of these agents are irritant to the tissues.

The well-known T.C.P. has been

found very valuable in feline practice because it is definitely non-toxic, non-irritant, non-caustic, and does not affect leucocytes in any way. It has penetrative power, with rapidity of action.

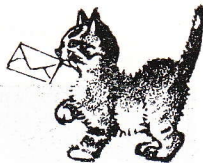
Phenol, cresol, and all coal-tar derivatives should never be used on cats.

The antibiotics, as represented by penicillin, streptomycin, chloromycetin, aureomycin, and many others, are probably the best antiseptics of all, both internally and externally. In fact, the third named has become one of the sheet anchors against infectious specific enteritis of cats.



## Correspondence Corner

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



### An Explanation Sought

I wonder if any of your readers can throw light on the unusual behaviour of my neutered male Siamese cat, the Marquess of Havoc ?

He was a year old on May 18th and seems a perfectly normal, healthy and energetic specimen, although he has lived nearly all his life in a top floor studio-flat—with occasional outings in the car with me. This rather stultifying life has done nothing to quell his antagonism to the birds which settle on the balconies, or the mouse he encountered on a week-end visit in the country.

For his exercise and amusement at home I bought him two cloth mice and a small velvet rat ; these he will retrieve with great ferocity and persistence. Nevertheless, he has formed the habit at feeding times of taking his cloth rodents into the kitchen where he places them beside his plate as if he wished them to share his food. He will go to great trouble to find them and carry them there. If I remove them Lord Havoc will presently wander off to retrieve them, when he will again place them beside his plate, even though it is empty.

Can any of your readers explain this strange habit ?

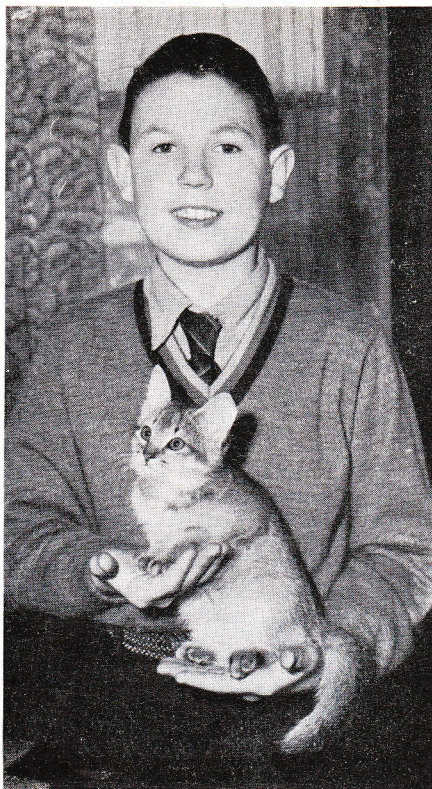
LUCIENNE GOW

London, S.W.3

### Reward for Pluck

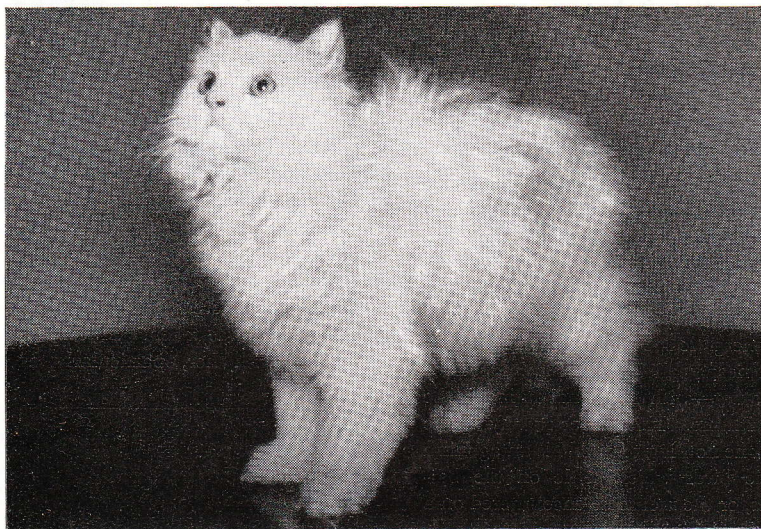
I am enclosing a photo of my 12-year-old son Graeme and his new Abyssinian kitten Finisterre Naria, who was just under three months when this was taken. Graeme was a polio victim and the kitten was his reward in a wonderful recovery.

Naria is one of two kittens born in Auckland from imported stock which arrived in New Zealand last November—Selbourne Catalpha and Petrozanne Jezebel, owner Mrs. N. M. Curran, of Takapuna, Auckland—and she was flown down here just two days before this picture was taken. Graeme is very thrilled with her, particularly as we



Otago Daily Times

**Graeme Munro with his "reward for pluck."**—See letter on this page.



## “I MISTOOK HER FOR A POWDER PUFF”

says Tibby, the Tibs reporter

*“I couldn’t help thinking how pretty Dalmond Diamond would look on a lady’s dressing-table! She’s so white and fluffy — and she’s not only decorative — she has a Challenge Certificate to her credit.”*

Dalmond Diamond is a beautiful Orange-Eyed White Persian, bred by Mrs. M. E. Dallison, of 5, The Sycamores, Hersden, near Canterbury. She has a very good record — best kitten in the National Cat Club Show in 1954, and best long-haired cat in the Kentish Show of 1955.

Mrs. Dallison, who breeds only Orange-Eyed White Persians, gives all her cats Tibs Tablets regularly. She says that Tibs are an *absolute essential* for keeping cats in her lovely cattery in perfect condition.

11d. and 2/3d.



Famous  
breeders  
say—

# TIBS

## KEEP CATS KITTENISH

believe she is the first Abyssinian kitten to be born in New Zealand. My white pom dog Willie Winkie and Naria are wonderful friends.

I have two Seal Point Siamese of my own, brother and sister, neuter and spey. Soo-San has won many prizes in Dunedin and Invercargill, including two Challenge Certificates. Sing-Song unfortunately had gastro enteritis at four months and after many weeks of constant nursing and injections of saline and glucose to keep him alive, he finally recovered. Dr. Roland Fulton, who is a Siamese lover and owner, took part of the infected bowel away, so we call Sing-Song "the miracle cat." He is slightly affected in the spine but enjoys good general health. The sire of this Siamese pair is Champion Spotlight Pride, imported from England.

I am not a breeder. We just love our animals as pets and derive a great deal of pleasure from them. I am also Vice President of the Otago Cat Fanciers' Club and am interested greatly in the welfare of strays.

Wishing you good luck with OUR

CATS and may it long continue with its wonderful information.

MRS. THELMA MUNRO  
Dunedin N.E.I., New Zealand.

### Extra-Toed Manx

On looking through one of your back numbers (November, 1955) I was very interested to see the picture of Lady Doris Vernon's cats with seven toes as I have a perfect miniature Manx Tabby with six toes. She has only had one family although she is 2½ years and her only surviving kitten, also a Manx, has seven toes; in fact, the biggest paws I've ever seen on a cat his size.

I would very much like to know if the extra toes are a peculiarity of Manx cats and also if there is any demand for this breed, which seems to have all the advantages of Siamese inasmuch as they are very intelligent and like to follow you about. They don't cry, unless actually going for a walk with you in the fields.

MRS. F. M. WILLIAMS  
Rusper, Nr. Horsham, Sussex.

## Let's go to a Show

We urge our readers to attend as many cat shows as possible. There is no better place at which to meet old friends, to make new ones and to pick up useful points about cats, their breeding and general management, from experienced fanciers and exhibitors. Brief details of the show fixtures for the 1956-57 Season are provided below for the information and guidance of readers.

1956	Promoted by	Venue
12 July ...	Castle Douglas Show ...	Castle Douglas, Scotland
21 July ...	Wessex Cat Club ...	Verwood, Dorset
28 July ...	Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club ...	London
<i>(see displayed advertisement in this issue)</i>		
6 August ...	Urmston Show ...	Flixton, Lancs
22 August ...	*Herts. and Middlesex Cat Club ...	London
1 September	Preston and District Cat Club ...	Preston, Lancs.
8 September	Kentish Cat Society ...	Tunbridge Wells, Kent
26 September	*South Western Counties Cat Club ...	Paignton, Devon
6 October ...	Edinburgh and East of Scotland Cat Club ...	Edinburgh
9 October ...	*Siamese Cat Club ...	London
20 October ...	*Midland Counties Cat Club ...	Birmingham
7 November ...	*Croydon Cat Club ...	London
24 November ...	Scottish Cat Club ...	Glasgow
24 November ...	*Surrey and Sussex Cat Association ...	Epsom
24 November ...	*Yorkshire County Cat Club ...	Leeds
4 December ...	*Blue Persian Cat Society ...	London
15 December ...	*National Cat Club ...	London
1957		
5 January ...	*Notts. and Derbys. Cat Club ...	Nottingham
22 January ...	*Southern Counties Cat Club ...	London
9 February ...	*Lancashire and N.W.C. Cat Club ...	Manchester

\*Denotes show with Championship status

# THE KENSINGTON KITTEN AND NEUTER CAT CLUB

will hold their

## ANNUAL SHOW

at

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S (OLD) HALL,  
VINCENT SQUARE, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.1

on

**SATURDAY, 28th JULY, 1956**

for

**Kittens and Neuters of all Breeds**

Special Classes for Exhibitors under 18 years.

Male Exhibitors' Classes and Household Pet Classes.

Decorated Pens again a feature of this Show.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 1—6.30 P.M.

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Telephone : Burghheath 2756*

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Solid silver, rhodium finish (untarnishable) ... .. **20/6 each**  
(U.S.A. \$ 3.25)

Artist enamelled in natural S.P. colours on solid silver ... .. **31/- each**  
(U.S.A. \$ 4.50)

These brooches—available in two designs only at present—are made by a world renowned firm of specialists in costume jewellery. They are of fine quality with plain back, fitted with joint pin and catch. Prices include purchase tax and postage. Remittances should be made payable to OUR CATS Magazine and sent with order to :

BOX No. 16, OUR CATS MAGAZINE

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We can despatch Brooches to any part of the world in an attractive gift box and enclose your personal message or greeting. So many cat lovers have been delighted with these Brooches that it is somewhat superfluous to add that they are supplied on a "money returned if not satisfied" basis.

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# Cats in Paint & Print

By SIDNEY DENHAM

Sidney Denham is the author of "Cats Between Covers" and with Helen Denham collected the exhibits for the "Cats Through The Ages" Exhibition of pictures, ceramics, books, etc., in London in 1953. Under the title "Cats in Paint and Print" he will write regularly about cats in books and the arts and will welcome interesting items from readers or answer their questions.

MANY readers of OUR CATS must know a little book written and illustrated by Oliver Herford called "*The Kitten's Garden of Verses*." It was published before World War I and had a considerable success on both sides of the Atlantic. Even those who have not seen a copy of this delightful parody of R. L. Stevenson's famous book probably know this couplet from it :—

"The world is so full of a number of  
Mice

I am sure we should all be happy and  
nice."

Oliver Herford in his day rivalled Louis Wain as a portrayer of cats and was a clever writer of parodies. Even to-day, when styles in humour have greatly changed, we can get a smile from his limerick "The Filincanthropic Cow" in the "*Jingle-Jungle Book*" :—

Said a cow : It has long been my  
dream,

A sort of utopian scheme

To leave when I die

Enough milk to supply

A home for poor kittens—with cream.

I found the "*Rubaiyat of a Persian Kitten*" by Oliver Herford, "King of Kittendom," in a bookshop many years ago and have long wanted to know more about its author. Now in "*Adventures in Biography*" just published by Werner Laurie, Mr. Willard Connely, the distinguished biographer of Beau Brummell, Sir Richard Steele and other famous men, tells of meeting Oliver Herford and his Persian Kitten in New York many years ago. Mr. Connely

was then assistant editor of *Harper's Weekly*, and Oliver Herford was engaged as the staff humorist. Herford was born in Sheffield in the eighteen-sixties, the son of a Unitarian Minister. He went to the United States at the age of six, returned to study at the Slade School, but eventually settled in New York where he acquired a great reputation as a wit.

"From the time of my boyhood," says Mr. Connely, "his wit, both written and unwritten, had been familiar as well in England as in America. To particularize, one might say that he was a household word with our cat, since Oliver Herford had in great part gained his repute as an authority, indeed, the all-interpreting authority, on kittens."

Mr. Connely was in due course asked to dine at Herford's flat in East Eighteenth-street and there met Hafiz, a large Persian kitten and certainly no ordinary cat. When they sat down to dinner, Hafiz was waiting hopefully, but he was not allowed in the dining room and his master told him to run away and play his piano. His piano was a half-upright of unpainted wood in a small room down the corridor.

Hafiz vanished, says Mr. Connely, and a moment later they heard him playing a scale first up and then down, over and over again !

All the successive cats which Herford owned were christened Hafiz, but whether they all acquired this remarkable musical ability is not related !

Of Herford's unwritten wit, I like best the story of his encounter with the club bore, an unpopular and unsuccessful landscape painter. "I say, Oliver,

why don't you ever paint anything but kittens?" he asked Herford one day.

Herford looked at him and then drawled: "Well, at least I don't call them landscapes."

\* \* \*

The banning of Hafiz from the dining room reminded me of the Persian cats of the Archbishop of Taranto visited by Sir Walter Scott. Far from being forbidden the dining room, they each had their own chair near the table where they sat quiet and perfectly mannered until they were served. Lady Morgan told how when she visited the Archbishop at Naples the cats were let into the dining room between the first and second courses and took their places in silence. The Bishop asked one of his chaplains to help Signora Desdemona, but the butler stepped forward and said: "My lord, the Signora Desdemona will prefer to wait for the roasts."

\* \* \*

Sooner or later every writer who is a cat lover feels the urge to write about his own cats. As a great many writers from Dr. Samuel Johnson on have been cat-lovers, the number of reminiscences about cats is considerable and is swollen every year. Many of the books are inevitably quickly forgotten, but now and then one appears which is likely to remain a classic. Michael Joseph's "*Charles*" is as popular to-day as when it was first published. Carl Van Vechten's "*Feathers*" would, no doubt, be on many more bookshelves if it were more readily available in Britain.

"*Little White King*," by Marguerite Steen, may well find a place in this select list of cat classics. Miss Steen has long been known as a gifted novelist and biographer. "*Little White King*" is the brief biography of her most-loved and, she asserts, her last cat, a white kitten with blue eyes who was born deaf.

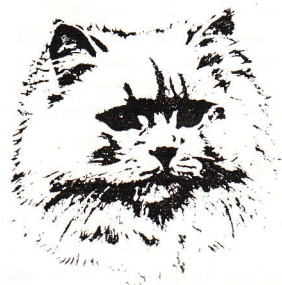
Miss Steen writes with affection and without the sentimentality which mars so many books about cats. It is not a book of instruction, but because the writer is gifted with understanding, it

contains not a little which will instruct those who live with cats on such subjects as hygiene and "claw sharpening."

Miss Steen says, incidentally, "While on the subject of hygiene, I cannot resist referring to my cat Castlerose, who, brought back to town for a few hours between two visits to the country, and finding himself in a fifth-floor apartment with no access to the open spaces to which he was accustomed, made straight for the toilet, of which he availed himself with the aplomb of a human being." One of the curiosities in my cat library is a little booklet published in America which gives instructions on how to train a kitten to recognize and use the powder room.

Miss Steen's white cat fell a victim to a motor car one night, perhaps a victim to its own deafness, for I have noticed that, unlike a dog, a cat uses its ears rather than its eyes to know whether the road is clear. Most cats have very acute hearing and do not have to look to know whether a car is approaching. It is when, intent on its hunt, a cat crosses a road with its ears tuned to sounds other than those of traffic that it is run over, a tragedy all too common on country roads in these days. Miss Steen's Epilogue is a sensible and moving appeal to motorists to observe an unwritten rule of the road where cats at night are concerned.

"*Little White King*" is published by Michael Joseph at 7s. 6d.



## ***Among the Legion of the Lost***

By KIT WILSON

Here we turn for a while from the "featherbedded" pedigreed cat to contemplate the lot of some of his less fortunate brothers and sisters. The author, besides being a judge, show organizer and legislator of vast experience, is also widely known for her splendid work for cat welfare. She has recently been appointed to the headquarters staff of the Cats' Protection League as Public Relations Officer. Miss Wilson, in this first instalment, writes vividly about some of the "legion of the lost" who had lucky breaks.



**Miss Kit Wilson with a winning neuter exhibit  
at one of the London shows**

OUTSIDE it is snowing hard; inside, I have a little party to whom I should very much like to introduce you as we all sit in front of the fire. First, in order of precedence, is Old Bill, a real "London tough." Though he is presumed to be about 17 years old he still enjoys a game of "tag" with the kittens, but only when he thinks no one is taking any notice, which is difficult owing to the clumping of his feet as he runs, which has given him the nickname of "Fairy-feet" or "Footballboots!"

By now Old Bill's story is very well known—he is just another bombed-out cat who took refuge with the A.R.P. Heavy Rescue Squad at their depot, was left behind when they were dis-

banded, and became just an elongated piece of fur with a knob on one end and a piece of string on the other. How for some time he lived on our roof thriving on the food put down for him, and enjoying the comfort of a tea chest house. Then when it was decided that he would be better put to sleep, how he was neutered by mistake, brought back to his old haunts, disappeared for about four days, then returned, became a lap cat, a sleeper-on-the-bedder, and a most respectable (except in looks) member of the cat community.

Next to him comes Joshua, a large black and white about six years old. When he was about a month old he was found by some workmen in a house in one of the most exclusive residential neighbourhoods in London after it had been vacated by the last tenants who

fled as soon as possible to South America to escape the rigours of post-war rationing here. In the mad rush to get going Joshua must have been overlooked otherwise he too would have suffered the fate of his mother and family found later locked in a cupboard and past all help.

Curled in a basket is Bunnybear, a lovely Manx, who, unlike the other two of the "Three Bears," was not a cruelty or neglect case, but just a victim of circumstance. She had a happy home in an area scheduled for demolition; then with the rehousing came parting. Her owner was placed in a flat with the usual no-pets restrictions, so Bunny found herself damp from the tears shed over her in the North London Shelter for unwanted cats (C.P.L.) where, unlike so many shelters where every cat or kitten received is immediately put down, cats are kept if they have a reasonable chance of finding a home and happiness. So in the course of time Bunny found her way here.

### **Rerieved by Charley**

Curled up with her is Mirabelle, now about five months old. She was found by a passing motorist when he stopped to eat his lunch, tied up with her three little brothers in a boot box and dumped in the ditch in a Hertfordshire lane. In course of time the three boys were all adopted, but Mirabelle, the smallest, and in the worst shape, was scheduled for destruction when Charley, whose story comes later on, arrived on the scene, and as Charley had to have a companion, Mirabelle came home!

Seated on the table, and seriously hindering the smooth running of my aged typewriter, which is temperamental anyway, sits Bubble. Rescued from a public lavatory when they were about a fortnight old, Bubble and his two little sisters had had the plug pulled on them by someone who wished to dispose of them with as little trouble as possible. The next time the plug was pulled they came up!

Brought to the shelter by a small boy

they were thought to be dead. However a faint movement proved this supposition to be wrong, so after having been washed in warm water, rubbed dry and then gently cooked in the oven life came back to their frozen little bodies. A motherly tabby willingly adopted the two little girls, but turned away from poor Bubble with disgust.

From then on, while the others presented no problem, Bubble just managed to keep life in his tiny body by sucking milk from anything he could get hold of, and was of course greatly assisted by the dachshund, who spent all her waking hours washing him, and this, added to his determination to live, proved very beneficial. But he was indeed a sorry sight; he had the most enormous ears, a chicken's neck, a tail which had it belonged to a Siamese would have been described as a "perfect whip" and the body of a rat! To add to his troubles he was practically blind,

However, live he did, and is now not only a very presentable specimen of red-and-white with most lovely amber eyes, but his winning ways and attractive habits at shows has enabled him to collect quite a healthy sum to help those cats less fortunate than himself.

### **Rescued from Dustbin**

Facing me as I write is an enchanting photo of Shelter Flotsam and Jetsam. Now owned by Miss Dukes of Watford, who adopted them, these two kittens were disposed of by being thrown into a dustbin, and just discovered in time before the bin was on its way to the incinerator. Since their rescue both have won many prizes in the Brown Tabby classes at the leading London shows.

The three Manx, all from different sources, christened the "Three Bears," Bunny already mentioned, Mummy Bear, bought by someone who thought to make a lot of money by breeding Manx. Mummy was in kitten when she was brought from the Isle of Man. Unfortunately the journey brought on the kittens prematurely and some had tails,

So angry was the purchaser that he flung Mummy and her progeny on to a piece of waste ground. The kittens were past all help when found, but Mummy recovered and was adopted. Honeybear, black and white and very like her namesake, turned adrift for no apparent reason, is now in a very happy home, fancies herself in a red bow when in the house, and enjoys the pleasures of a garden !

### His Home Sank !

I have already mentioned Charley. His mother, a homeless waif, crawled into a derelict barge to have her family. She did not realize that her floating maternity home was gradually sinking and would soon be at the bottom of a disused canal dock. Its final farewell did not take place until the kittens were well able to run about, and with Mum were discovered sitting on the only part not completely submerged yelling for help.

This adventure had a happy ending, Mum and three of the kittens were adopted, but poor little Charley held fire ; nobody seemed to want him. Puny and undersized, he was admittedly the runt of the litter with most appealing eyes and very winning ways, but in spite of these attributes everybody who came to the shelter to adopt a waif passed him by with the remark " What a funny little kitten." So finally he came home with Mirabelle and, even though he knew he was no longer unwanted, was still somewhat apologetic about living.

Then one happy day someone heard his story and Charley was adopted. The latest news bulletin says—" Charley rules the house, and much prefers chicken and best steak to rabbit ! " I have no doubt he likes fresh salmon better than rock of that ilk !

Joe and Whitewash were tied up in an old piece of sacking and thrown into the canal. Whoever did this deed was determined to do it properly, and duly weighted the struggling bundle with what he thought to be a brick. How

wrong he was ! The brick was a piece of wood, which floated, thus enabling Joe to free his head from out of the rotten sack, when his wails attracted some children playing on the tow path. Joe and Whitewash are now both in good homes.

Silver Moonbeam, found wandering, rescued by an old age pensioner who was not allowed to keep the kitten in her one room, is now in a wonderful home and winning prizes in the Silver Tabby classes. Goodness, a lovely Tortie thrown out presumably because of her sex, is another winner. She has been joined by a Longhaired Tortie and they are now enjoying the seaside air of Lancing.

So one could go on. These are only a fraction of the cats and kittens rescued from shocking surroundings and given a chance. Considering their stories one's mind boggles at the predicament of the thousands who are not found.

*(to be continued)*



**UPLANDS STARDUST, Blue Long-hair youngster by Ch. Dusty of Dunesk, bred by Mrs. Rees, of Tavistock, Devon.**



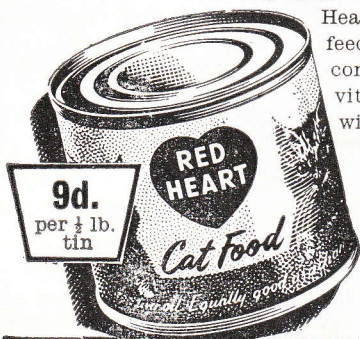
*Let's have  
a squint!*

**SIAMESE CATS—**

*from a photo by Ylla from the Red Heart series.*

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

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



# RED HEART Cat Food

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Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

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

### Discussions on Blues

**T**HE Annual General Meeting of the Blue Persian Cat Society was held in London last month. Mrs. L. Speirs (on behalf of the Hon. Secretary, Miss J. M. Fisher, who was unable to be with us) had an excellent report to present to members. The last Show on October 4th was the most profitable one to date and this satisfactory result was due partly to the Derby Sweepstake organized by Mrs. Speirs. This entailed an immense amount of work for her and was followed by organizing the Show, into which she put much enthusiasm and hard work.

Some interesting items appear in the show account. £45 is excellent for advertisements for a small specialist fixture and £31 in donations. The B.P.C.S. has now a balance in hand of £170, which is a nice nest egg for future activities.

Miss E. Langston was re-elected to the Committee and out of four other

nominees for whom there was a ballot, Miss Rodda was elected—a happy choice in my opinion. Miss Rodda has been breeding Blues for many years and she has owned many lovely cats. Blacks have been her speciality and there are few of this variety without the famous Chadhurst prefix in their pedigree. One lovely Blue male owned by her was Nogo, a son of David of Westfield. He excelled in type and eye colour and sired many winners.

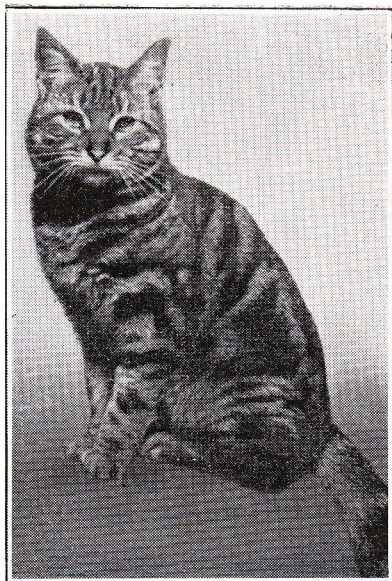
It is hoped to hold a ch. show this year but the difficulty has been finding a suitable hall. Some which are a convenient size have no proper daylight and above everything else Blues need a really good light. Major Dugdale has kindly consented to organize it and with the help of Miss Christine Webster, we can imagine they will achieve success.

Two items on the agenda caused animated discussion: (1) "No Blue Persian cat or kitten with a defect in its tail should be eligible for competition." This was my proposal and I should like to have seen it passed in its entirety as there is evidence among breeders and persons who are quite impartial, viz. some veterinary surgeons, that it is a congenital fault which can be passed on, not always to the sons and daughters of the males and females which have this fault but to their grandchildren and more remote descendants. Judges not having a direct ruling waver between exhibits which are better in all round quality and have a slight kink in the tail and

**MASTER DAVID COPSEY** of the  
Vicarage, East Grinstead, Sussex,  
writes :—

*" I am writing to congratulate you  
on your wonderful Kit-zyme tablets.*

*My cat, Timmy, was in a very  
bad condition. His fur was falling  
out and he would not move or eat.  
I got him some Kit-zyme and he had  
four tablets a day for a week. He is  
now the healthiest cat we have ever  
known and he still has his daily  
Kit-zyme."*



**TIMMY**

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

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

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COAT, LOSS OF APPETITE, SKIN TROUBLES**

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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.

those which are inferior to them but are physically perfect. At present it depends on how seriously a particular judge regards this defect.

The Standard for Blue Longhairs states : "Tail—short and full, not tapering (a kink shall be considered a defect)" but whilst this wording remains, a kink only has the same significance as faults which may be only temporary such as a shady coat or, in kittens, pale eyes. However, it was agreed that in future Blue Persian judges will be instructed to be more severe when they find this defect. This is a step in the right direction as if exhibitors know they will be penalized they will be disinclined to show. One must not infer from this discussion that the kink is often found. This is not so ; it has been spotlighted this last show season by the fluctuating wins of one very good kitten which had this fault.

### **Nearest to Perfection**

Item 2 on the agenda stated : "Only cats that are pure-bred Blue Persians for at least three generations should be eligible to compete for Challenge Certificates." Personally, as a breeder of three varieties, Blues, Creams and Blue-Creams, I can see both sides of this question.

There is little risk of Blue Persian breeders succumbing wholesale to the temptation of using Blue males bred from Blue-Creams. The nearest to perfection of any Longhair variety are the best of the Blues and if we want to express the ultimate in other varieties we say "as good as a Blue," meaning, of course, type and general conformation. Cream breeders use the Blue cross to improve type, eye colour and obtain soundness. When Creams are bred to Creams there is usually a deterioration in all these qualities after the first generation ; for the simple reason that the average quality of their ancestors is not so good as the Blues.

When exceptional Cream males have been exhibited (such as the late Mrs. Sheppard's Ch. Widdington Warden) one finds that his pedigree was three quarters Blue. This male was literally "as good as a Blue." Blue breeders avoid the Cream and Blue-Cream cross not because they are prejudiced but because they know by observation and experience that their expectation of producing winners and potential Champions is by mating Blues to Blues. This is the way that all the Champions, with one exception, have been bred for over thirty years. Several Blues bred from Blue-Creams, particularly in kittens, have been exhibited for many, many years but one presumes that the owners felt they had little chance of winning as adults as they have usually faded out. It is a fallacy to suppose that Blues bred from this cross will be paler than the pure bred. There is no dilution of colour from the Cream cross and the shade of Blues so bred will entirely depend on whether the Blue ancestors of the parents were on the average pale, medium or dark.

One has only to look at the Blue-Cream adults exhibited nowadays, to realize that they in common with Blues have become darker in shade. This is regrettable as the pale lavender sheen was so attractive.

### **Motion was Lost**

When Item 2 was put to the vote it was lost by a large majority. The consequences of passing it would have been very far reaching and one can imagine the consternation of discovering a Challenge Certificate winner in Blues with a Cream or Blue-Cream grand or great grandparent. Who would sort out the ancestors of exhibits—the Governing Council Secretary, the Show Manager or the owner ? No ! without being too complacent, our breeders produce some very fine Longhair cats, some of the best in the world, and they

can safely be trusted to use their knowledge and experience to go on doing so. Judges have to adjudicate on the cats presented to them and it quite outside their province to speculate how they are bred.

It was an animated and interesting Blue Persian A.G.M. and it is all to the good when items appear on the agenda which spotlight the problems of breeders.

## A Fine New Cream

Mrs. Phyllis Hughes, well known for her Broughton Blue, Cream and Blue-Cream Longhair and Shorthair cats, has bred an interesting pair of Creams. The S.H. male Broughton Champagne should be an asset to this variety and as a future mate for S.H. Blue-Creams. She writes: "Champagne is really excellent and one of my neighbours is having him so that I shall be able to watch his development into an adult and to show him. We shall try not to neuter him but this will depend on his behaviour. I think I am lucky that a neighbour is so co-operative.

"Penny has five Blue males by Mrs. Aitken's Cream stud Broughton Marvo. I mated her to him because I wanted another Blue-Cream S.H. but they are all magnificent Blue S.H.s, so alike that I am quite unable to say at present that this one is Tim, Tom, Tony, Tiddles or Tuppence!

"The minister at St. Andrews Church is having one for his family of four children. They are all sweet with the kittens. I have just finished painting my cat houses and laying new linoleum so that when the kittens are a little older I can move them out. I find it rather hazardous having nine kittens charging around in the kitchen."

Mrs. Hughes is the breeder of the L.H. Cream female which has won so well abroad International Ch. Broughton Primrose now owned by Mrs. Sörvik-Jansson of Stockholm.

Mrs. D. M. Rees, of Tavistock,

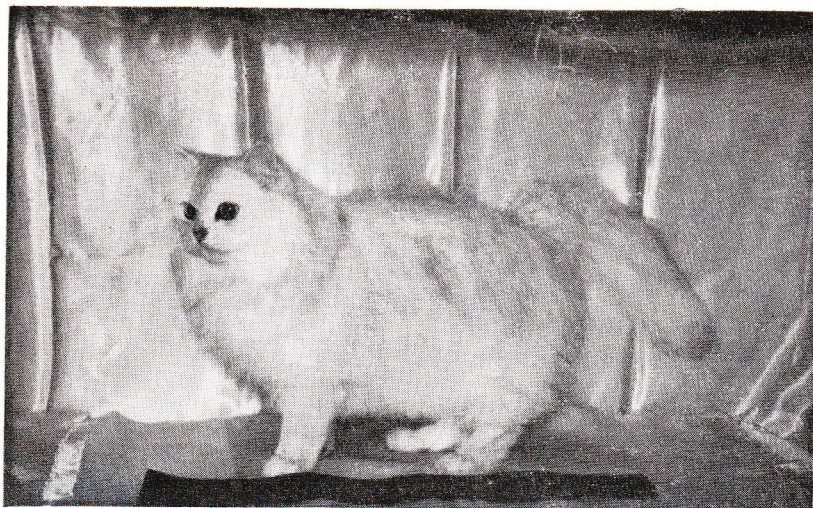
Devon, owner of Ch. Dusty of Dunesk, a fine Blue male with glorious eyes for shape and colour, has a lovely litter of six by him and the queen she purchased from Mrs. V. Pullen, Vigilant Bo-Peep, a daughter of Ch. Astra of Pensford and Ch. Jewel of Dunesk. It is the second litter of six this queen has had. This sounds quite pre-war, for it is not often nowadays one hears of Blue litters of six kittens all of which survive the hazards of birth.

Mrs. Rees is keeping Uplands Stardust, the good male kitten which she bred last season and is expecting great things from him when he is shown as a young adult this winter. He is a son of Ch. Dusty of Dunesk and Bayhorne Venus. This queen is the mother of Uplands Blue Freda who produced lovely Bayhorne Decima in 1953. She recorded many wins as a kitten and with her rival Thiepvall Precocious had a ding-dong battle for Best Blue Female Kitten at several Ch. Shows during the winter 1953-1954. Precocious, shown consistently the next season as an adult, quickly completed her Championship but Decima's mistress, Mrs. Udall, was too busy with her own maternal cares to exhibit. Decima managed to attain two Challenge Certificates after which she was seldom shown.

## Emergency Operation

Let us hope some of Mrs. Rees's Blue kittens will help to make up for her unfortunate experience with Uplands Blue Orchid. She was some days overdue with her kittens by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous and when the time came and it was obvious she was unable to give birth to them, she was rushed to Plymouth, fifteen miles away, at 3.30 a.m. for a Caesarian. The operation was successful but as usual in such cases, the kittens suffered and only one out of four survived.

Miss Mary Haswell of North Turramurra, New South Wales, Australia,



**Australia's Champion Chinchilla female—Miss Haswell's BONAVIA FEATHER—see below.**

writes :—"As you will remember I purchased the Chinchilla female Bonavia Feather from Mrs. M. Turney and through this we have made a great pen friendship which has been such a wonderful interest. We write frequently sending photos and all cat news. Whenever we have any excitement in the cattery or show wins, my first thought is 'Oh ! I must write and tell Mollie.'

"Feather very quickly became one of the family. It was not until her second winter that she became acclimatized and grew a good coat ; I expect she thought our winters are a joke and not worthy of growing a coat.

### **Kittens Doing Fine**

"I exhibited her the second winter and she quickly became a Champion and won several major prizes and recorded final wins on cups that I already had two wins on. Feather has had three litters of three kittens each and they have travelled as far afield as Queensland, Victoria and New Zealand. I have kept a male and female by Mrs.

D. Burnage's great Chinchilla sire Ch. Royal of St. George. These two have won 48 firsts and special prizes as kittens, the male being Best Male Kitten at four winter Ch. Shows, and now has been Best Male Cat at four out of the six shows he has attended as an adult. So if he never wins another card he has done very well.

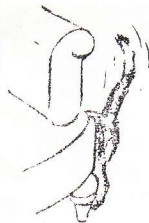
"His sister has done even better as she has been Best Cat in Show, three times beating her brother. At the moment she has more important matters to attend to as she has three male kittens by Kutekit Silver Flyer, his first litter since Mrs. Turney sent him to Australia. He came out of quarantine in January and I wanted to mate Feather to him but she has not quite settled into our seasons as regards 'calling' so may have to wait some weeks. I have one of my Australian-bred females having an 'out of season' litter by him so that should be interesting.

"I find breeding from these different strains very interesting and am delighted that I have made such an agreeable pen friend as Mrs. Mollie Turney. I do hope we meet some day."



## Tailpieces

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



MISS KATHLEEN YORKE, Chairman of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, is now on a visit to Australia and New Zealand where she will judge at shows and meet prominent members of the Fancy "Down Under." She flew out from London on May 24th and arrived safely in Sydney four days later where she was met by my old friend Mr. E. J. Lonsdale and other stalwarts of the Fancy in New South Wales. Miss Yorke has kindly promised to send news of her experiences for publication in *OUR CATS* when opportunity permits during her strenuous tour, which will involve many public and private engagements, a shower of hospitality and thousand of miles of travel. I am hoping also to have some news of the visit from Mr. F. W. Pearce, senior Australian judge, who will doubtless have some interesting things to say about this important occasion from the "local" angle.

Members and friends of the Russian Blue Cat Club are having a party on July 7th at which debutante kittens will be presented. It will be held in the grounds of the Old Manse, Totteridge, N.20, and fuller details are to be found among the classified advertisements which appear in this issue. An attractive programme of events is being arranged, so here's hoping that the organizers will get the sunshine they deserve.

According to an illustrated news item in the *Scotsman*, the Edinburgh Home for

Lost and Starving Dogs and Cats is hoping that work will be started this year on its new home at Seafeld. When the project was first planned 18 years ago, the estimated cost was £10,000; to-day it has risen to £40,000. Over half the money required is stated to be in hand from bequests but a considerable amount of public support will be necessary to defray the rest of the cost and to meet running expenses. Plans provide for buildings covering three acres, including manager's house, administrative offices, kitchen, first-aid apartments, staff accommodation, garage and workshop. A row of catteries will provide room for 80 cats with separate sick and isolation quarters.

Cats are a mysterious kind of folk. There is more passing in their minds than we are aware of.—*Walter Scott*.

Anne Crawford, the well-known film and stage star, has a pet marmalade cat named Willy. "He is the gentlest cat we have ever known," she says. "The warmth of his greeting when he first enters with the breakfast is a ritual we look forward to every day."

Mr. Charles Howell, 85 years of age, has travelled 200,000 miles on steamer trips from Tower Pier to Clacton and Margate. He says that the secret of his good health and energy can be attributed to the fact that in his youth he played the part of a cat in pantomime. Having to leap about kept him very

fit ! His last appearance was at the Old Vic in 1894.

"In a nearby field, in the last week of March, I saw what appeared to be a couple of hares running about. When I approached I saw that one 'hare' was a sandy-coloured cat. It was obviously trying to catch the hare which kept moving away from the cat and then sitting still to let the cat catch up with it. The hare eventually hurried away altogether.—J. B., Yarm, Yorkshire, in a letter to the *Field*.

"Peterborough" of the *Daily Telegraph* recently gave an interesting account of the rats and cats of the famous Simplon Tunnel, now just 50 years old. Railway passengers had a habit of throwing out rubbish as they passed through the tunnel and the problem arose—how to keep it clean. A Swiss railway official suggested using rats and three pairs were released in the middle of the tunnel. This worked well for a time but eventually the rats multiplied to such an extent that the rubbish was insufficient to feed them. They started to escape from the ends of the tunnel and there were complaints. Swiss Railways solved this new problem by the purchase of a dozen cats, six at each end. Since then there has been no trouble. The rats keep the tunnel clean and the cats prevent them emerging successfully. The cats are on the railway's pay-roll and regularly receive a ration of milk.

A welcome letter has reached me from Mr. F. W. Pearce, Australia's leading cat judge, which tells of the successful fixture in Sydney on Easter Monday in connection with the famous Royal Agricultural Society's Show. Principal awards went as follows : F. W. Pearce Gold Trophy for Best Male in Show—Mrs. Wood's Delhi Arctic King ; Best Female—Miss Young's Ch. Craig-holme Lady Lynn ; Best Persian Male Kitten—A. E. Smith's Janlyn Little Caesar ; Best Persian Junior—Miss

Haswell's Miowera Felicity ; Cup for Best Persian Kitten (marked)—Mrs. J. Freeman's Rona of St. Elmo. Best Siamese Cat—Mrs. Thom's Temple Song ; Best Siamese Junior Male—Miss William's Bluemead Magic Flute ; Best Siamese Kitten—Mrs. Paris's Pura-chair Kimberley ; Best Siamese Neuter Junior—Miss Vale's Bluemead Valier.

MICKEY

## LAW SUIT OVER SIAMESE

Ming, a pedigree Siamese, is reported to have cost his owner £300 in legal costs. Fortunately, Mr. Norman Barlow Graham of Co. Wicklow, Ireland, can look at the account without shuddering because he won a £75,000 football pool prize four years ago.

The trouble really started last year when the cat escaped into the garden of a neighbour and was caught in a trap. A fractured leg resulted. Mr. Barlow-Graham sued neighbour Mrs. Margaret Caddell for damages and loss and was awarded £3 17s. 6d. at a district court.

Mrs. Caddell subsequently appealed against this fine and the other day the judge at the local circuit court asked the Irish Supreme Court in Dublin to determine as a point of law whether or not she was liable to pay compensation. The judges were told that Mrs. Caddell had been annoyed by rabbits attacking her flowers and she had warned the Siamese owner about the traps.

It was argued on behalf of Mr. Barlow-Graham that an owner of property might create a source of danger to prevent trespassing—provided his intention was protection of his property and not infliction of injury on trespassers.

The three judges of the Supreme Court found that Mrs. Caddell was not liable to pay compensation for Ming's broken leg as she was entitled to protect her property from invasion.

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Fishmongers have been trying to find a more attractive name for catfish which they say has to be filleted before they can sell it. At present it is sold under the name of rockfish, Scotch halibut, Scotch fillet and even halibut fillet, which is apparently quite right and proper. The National Federation of Fishmongers and the White Fish Authority have been trying for some years to agree on a common name. They are still pondering and meanwhile fishmongers are left to choose their own name for the fish.

The annual report of the P.D.S.A. reveals that last year over a million cases were handled in Greater London alone and their emergency ambulances were called to deal with over 5,000 animals. It also refers to the fact that there is an increasing number of unwanted animals because of the growing tendency for both husbands and wives to go out to work. Another modern trend arising from the restrictions on occupiers of flats is that they are turning to other varieties of pets to take the place of their old favourites, cats and dogs.

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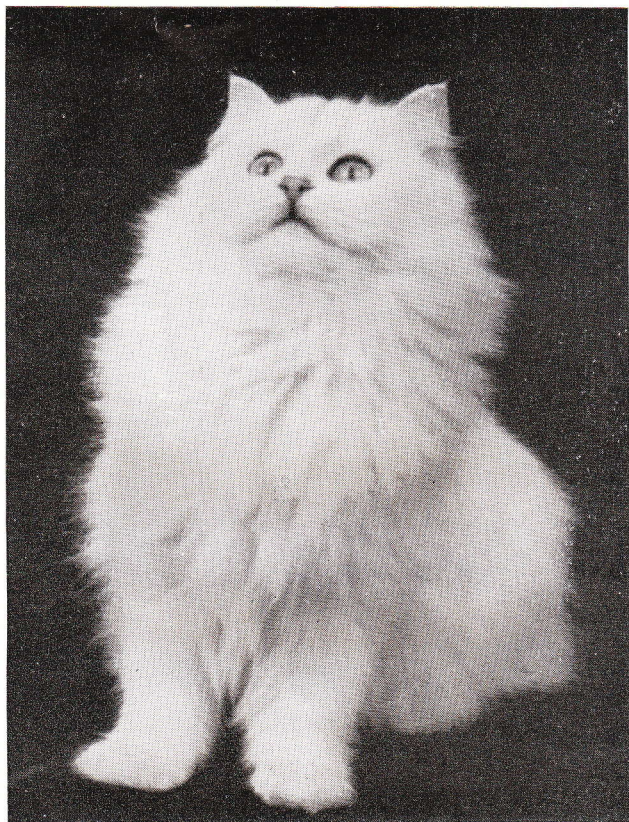
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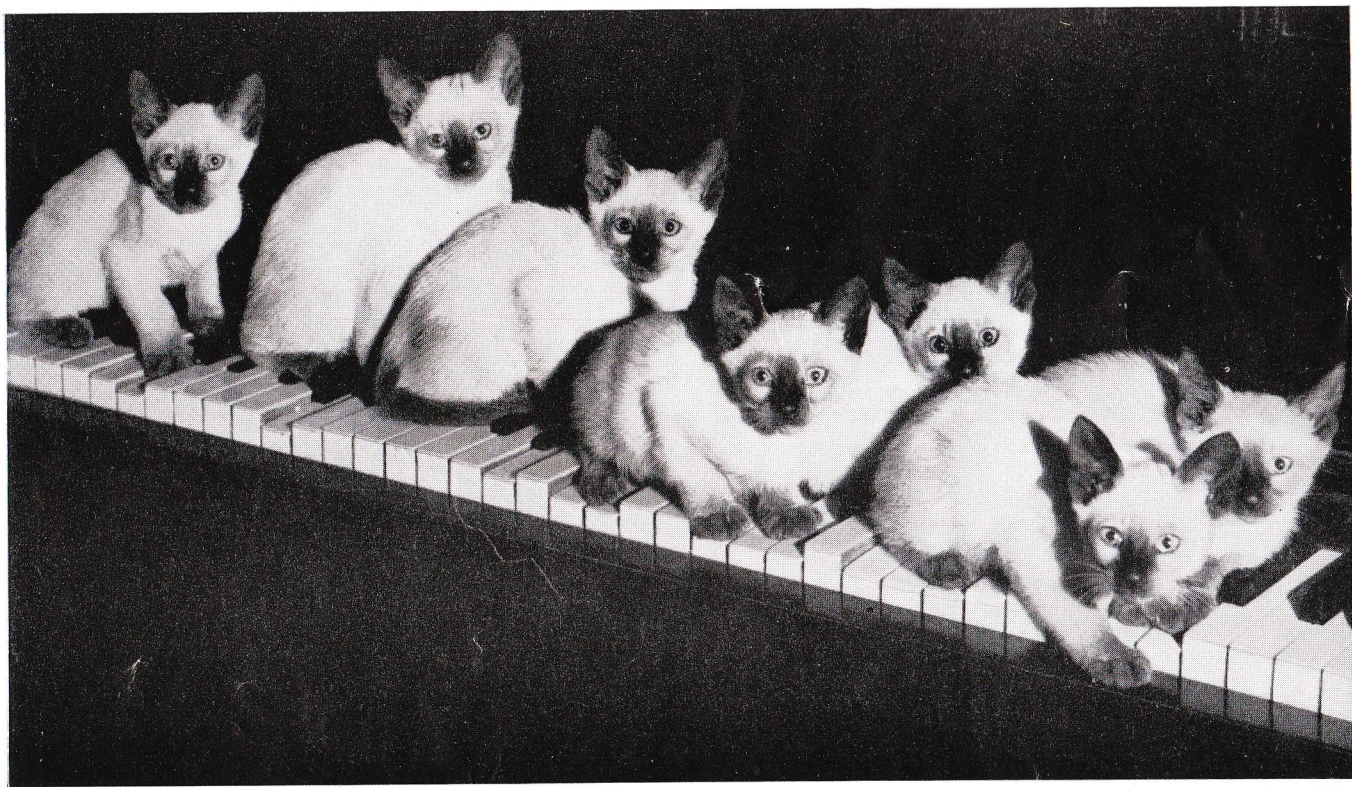
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