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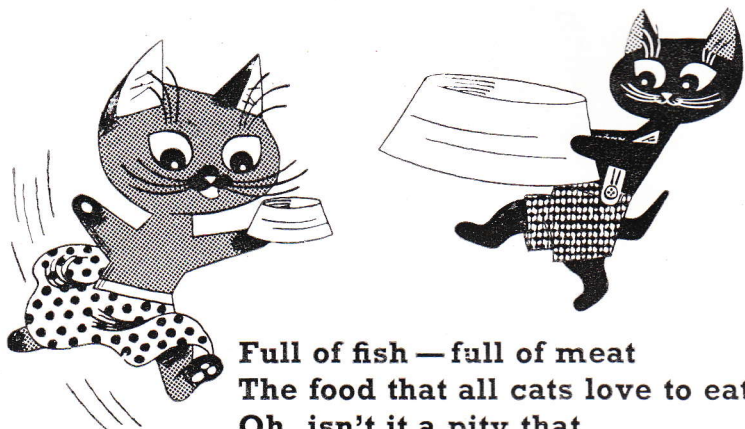


HISTORY IS MADE!

"Mere Man" invades our front cover—for the very first time. So there's a special welcome for Mr. John Machoka and his Triple Champion Blue Longhair. Now turn to page 11 of this issue for more details.

JANUARY 1957

1/6



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Our Cats

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

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

Correspondent for Australia and New Zealand: Mr. F. W. PEARCE, 3/189 TRAFALGAR STREET, PETERSHAM, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS

VOL. 9 No. 1

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Managing Editor :

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



Barratts Photo Press

Followers of the fortunes of the Dale family over the B.B.C. air were told recently that a pair of Siamese kittens had been given to Jenny, the wife of Bob Dale. Here, at the recent Siamese Cat Club Show, Leslie Heritage, the radio "Bob Dale," parades Lotus and Sapphire, the two babies who will surely provide inspiration for some interesting entries in "Mrs. Dale's Diary."



Photo by Walter Chandoha

Look ! Here's an Important Announcement !

Commencing with this January issue, OUR CATS is obtainable in the United Kingdom by subscription only. Prevailing conditions compel us to discontinue bulk supplies to the distributing houses and consequently it will no longer be possible to obtain copies through newsagents or at bookstalls.

We would therefore appeal to all readers who have been in the habit of getting OUR CATS locally to place an order with our new Subscription Department at 14-16 Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.4. The rates are 20s. for 12 issues post free or 10s. for 6 issues post free. An Order Form is provided below and we shall be most grateful if those of our readers who are already direct subscribers will help to spread the news of this new arrangement among their friends and contacts in the Fancy.

A direct subscription will ensure prompt despatch on publication to any address in the U.K. And please don't forget that a subscription to this Magazine is just about the most acceptable gift that any cat lover could have. Orders for single copies (price 1s. 8d. post free) should also be sent to the address given above.

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Our Love Story

By JESSIE DICKINSON

IT was quite obvious from the beginning that he would be handsome when he grew older. It was less apparent why anyone so dignified, even in his youthful clumsiness, should fall head-over-ears in love with a spinster on the wrong side of forty. But the most astonishing fact of all—the eyebrow-raising, head-wagging fact was—he *did* love her most passionately.

When she finished work at the office he met her and escorted her home. After tea, he caressed her, as only he knew how, and told her by many unmistakable signs how deep was his love. Always, in her presence, he was content. Sometimes, when she was obliged to go away for a short time without him, he was utterly miserable. He would wander through the house seeking her—into her bedroom where he would sit looking through the window; out into garden, where he had helped her in the summer to cut the lawn—but she was not there.

Finally, he would ask the others in the house where she had gone and when she would be coming home again. They were kind to him and murmured, in their own language, vague, comforting sounds, but they hadn't learned to interpret—as *she* had—*his* language.

Then when, after a few days, she returned—oh! what rejoicings! What soft sighs of perfect bliss and nonsense-talk, with the two of them on one chair before the fire.

And if he was so much in love with his middle-aged mistress, what of her? Did she love him too, or was it just a pose? Yes, she loved him with an amazing singleness of purpose and a wonderful tenderness of heart. Nothing was too much trouble for her to do for him.

Oblivious to others

For his sake she read books on the kinds of food he liked. When he was ill she worried over him and called in medical aid. Never before had she loved anyone like him, and she wooed him with little tremulous words, and caressed him in the way he loved, with strong and gentle fingers.

They were devoted to each other, and, moreover, they didn't mind showing their love, to the amusement of the others in the house. They were oblivious to laughter as long as they had each other's caresses. His proper name was Benjamin, but she called him Ben, and he—though he knew her name well enough—never uttered it—sufficient for him to give a deep-throated sigh of pure pleasure whenever she appeared.

.

She had never had a cat before — only a series of dogs. He had never known a more loving and understanding mistress.



Rand Sport & Press

Mrs. Irene Pratt, of Johannesburg, South Africa, with her Ch. LOTUS COTTON CANDY, a blue-eyed White Longhair bred in England by Mrs. P. Cattermole. Candy, who has developed a strange taste for biltong (salted and dried buck meat, also known as pemmican), was voted most popular cat at two shows—Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Are Scientists Intelligent?

By A CAT

(as told to Sidney Denham)

IN the September issue of OUR CATS, Ivor Raleigh tells how he has been testing cats by putting them in cages, with passages, gates and what not, and measuring the time they take to reach some food. This, he thinks, measures their intelligence, but oddly enough he gives the highest marks to the cat which reaches the food first. I should have thought that this might be a measure of a cat's hunger or even curiosity, but certainly not its intelligence.

An intelligent cat like myself, supposing I submitted to being forced into a gadget at all, would sit still, confident that in due course my intelligent human slave would, as always, put the food conveniently where I could eat it in comfort. I suppose in the end desperate hunger might make me squeeze through a passage, unlock doors and perform the other monkey tricks, but not in 87 minutes. I can keep my dignity for much longer than that!

The scientific fallacy about these tests is that they suppose the cat *wants* to reach the food as quickly as possible. My slave will tell you that sometimes I don't want food at all—I just don't fancy what is offered at the moment. And anyway I think greater intelligence is shown by just being confident that in due course my slave will show *his* intelligence by putting the food in its proper place.

Of course, not many human beings are as intelligent as G. K. Chesterton. He was walking with a friend down Fleet Street one day when his friend's hat blew off and he started to chase it. G. K. stopped him. "Never trouble to chase your hat," he said, "someone will always chase it for you and return it."

You see what I mean? G. K. was nearly as intelligent as a cat!

At the moment the cats of Canonbury Square are carrying out a series of experiments on the intelligence of human beings. The experiment is as follows. At bed time a cat sits somewhere near the door in the garden. The human being comes out to call him in. The cat does not answer or move and the time taken for the human being to find the cat is measured. It varies from ten minutes to more than an hour—in fact in many cases the human being fails to see what is right in front of him or look in the most obvious places and the test has to be concluded by the cat coming out and saying: "I don't know what you have been shouting about for the last hour when I've been under your feet all the time."

Humans come last

I am sorry to say this intelligence test results in human beings coming pretty low in the scale, which approximately is as follows:—

Cats—1,000 (average time for finding 10 secs.)

Dogs—500 (average time 5 minutes)

Human beings—150 (average time 15 minutes).

I'm sorry figures for crocodiles and penguins are not yet available but we have had difficulty in getting material.

The point I want to emphasize, showing how much more scientific our intelligence tests are, is that the human beings undoubtedly *want* to find the cats in the gardens, presumably in the least possible time, but there is no evidence at all that the cats in cages *want* to find the food,

and surely intelligence is being able to do what you want to do ?

Human beings put in a cage might want to go down a passage, undo a gate and eat food—they are greedy creatures who never miss a meal if they can help it, even when they don't feel like it. But a cat might or might not want to do this. It just depends. The cat itself doesn't know whether it wants to until the time comes.

As far as I know only one scientist has ever shown any intelligence in talking about the intelligence of cats. He was St. George Mivart, Ph.D., F.R.S. He spent his life examining living creatures and especially cats. He was a dog lover, but when he found how much more

intelligent cats were, he became a cat lover. If he could he would perhaps have become a cat, because he found they were more intelligent than human beings.

This is what he said at the end of 530 pages examining our lives in great scientific detail. "No more complete example of a perfectly organized living being can well be found than that supplied by a member of what has no inconsiderable claims to be regarded as the highest mammalian family—the family *Felidae*."

The R.S.P.C.A. has offered to pay for the quarantine of animals belonging to needy refugees arriving in England from Hungary.

PARIS SHOW WINNERS

The Cercle Félin de Paris held a most successful three-day show at the Salle Wagram in November.

The best Longhair exhibit (reports Miss J. V. Alexander, the guest judge from England) was Dodo of Dunesk, a beautiful Blue male owned by Madame Bogard and the best Longhair kitten was a Golden-eyed White Fille du Soleil de la Parisienne, owned and bred by Madame Cocca. In the Shorthairs, the best exhibit was a Seal Point Siamese Orpheus von Lobelia belonging to Countess Trayer de Dhuigy.

The winner in the Champion of Champions class was a really fine Black Ch. Colebret du Bosquet owned by Madame Fretay. There were also some very beautiful Champions shown not for competition, including Int. Ch. China Boy of Dunesk and Ch. Aladdin of Dunesk. A Shorthair Red Tabby kitten exhibited by the President of the Republic M. Ramadier attracted a good deal of attention.

The Shorthairs were judged by Madame Linning (Belgium) and Professor Ladrat (France) and the Longhairs by Madame Sémont (France) and Miss Alexander, who much enjoyed her first visit to this well-supported event.

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

RECENT letters have included a more than usual number of questions about eye abnormalities and defects. The matter of eye-shape in Siamese has also been raised; this being distinctively different in these cats.

Heredity plays an important role in the development of the eyes, and Siamese eye-shape is a good example. But because some particular feature in a species appears differently in some particular breed, this does not necessarily mean that in a fancy the difference is to be regarded as a fault. Often, because a difference is characteristic in a breed, the fancier eagerly accepts it, and strives to perpetuate it. Nevertheless, there is always a reason why the difference occurred in the first instance.

Defects, such as near-sightedness and far-sightedness are passed from one generation to another. In near-sightedness, the eyeball appears longer, or more oval-looking than usual, so that the light rays focus in front of the retina. The hereditary nature of this condition is obvious to those who visit Japan, where hundreds of thousands of the population wear glasses with thick lenses, and in nearly every case the eyes have a slit appearance. These individuals are short-sighted, and so were their parents and grandparents.

The condition does not occur through doing close eyework such as reading or drawing, but many affected persons are bookworms, simply because they are unable to see at distance, and therefore find their pleasure in books or some other close-distance occupation.

The eyeballs of the far-sighted are so short that the rays focus behind the retina. Astigmatism may also be inherited. Because of unevenness of the cornea or lens, objects are distorted—light focuses on the retina as a line instead of a point. The back part of the eye is lined by the retina, which is made up of nerve endings that are highly sensitive to light.

Colour Blindness

No work on the particular eye-shape of Siamese cats has been done, and in its absence one cannot be sure of any suggested reason for the special general shape which prevails. The eye-colour—and the cat's nearness to albino—may well offer a clue. This, together with the conditions of the original natural environment could supply the answer, and it is significant that our fanciers are confronted with the problem of selective breeding to retain the eye-shape, the tendency being for this to revert to a normal round eye.

The development of night-blindness is affected by heredity. Colour blindness in humans is transmitted to half the sons through the mother, even although she

is not affected in a similar way. If the condition develops in a female, she is likely to be the daughter of two parents who carry the trait. To be affected, she must receive one gene with this defect from each parent.

Because cats do not see in colour, the question of colour blindness does not arise, but night-blindness does, and this also runs in families. In many of these cases a deficiency of vitamin A may be responsible. Certain eye tumours are transmitted from one generation to another. And inheritance plays a major role in determining the colour of the iris.

Hereditary abnormalities also include drooping of the lids and difficulty in opening and closing them. Several defects of the lachrymal apparatus (tear ducts and glands) are included in this category. Lack of secretion, which leads to dryness of the eyes, may be a dominant or a recessive affliction. Hereditary disturbances of the drainage system may produce the opposite condition. In such instances, tears accumulate and flow down the cheeks and the individual looks as though crying.

Open-eyed Kittens

Animals which have or who are bred to have very short noses often suffer this way. There will be continual discomfort for such animals, besides its being pitiful to behold. This then, in contrast with eye-shape, should be looked upon as a fault or defect, for it is definitely adverse in its health effects.

One other inherited eye-trouble—the one about which I am most frequently written—is eyes open at birth. This is recessive, but manifests itself irregularly, in many instances only on one side of the body. It is believed that more females than males are affected. When the percentage of manifestation of the gene is high, the majority of animals are affected bilaterally; when there are many normals, most of the affected animals

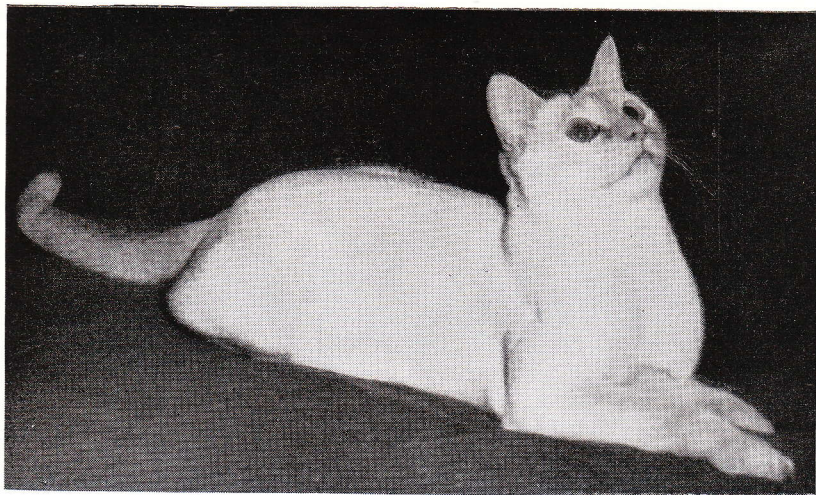
show only hemilateral eye defects. Normally, the eyelids get joined up before birth by a bridge of epithelium. At birth the lids remain closed and continue that way for about 10 days or sometimes less.

In animals homozygous for the gene the eyelids fail to join completely before birth, and are therefore born with eyes fully or maybe partly open. Very soon after birth a slight haemorrhage takes place, and simultaneously, a slight haemorrhagic exudate is formed between the lids which soon dries up and fills the interval between the lids. This adheres to the cornea but may disappear after a few days. Where it has been attached to the cornea, a bulging like a staphyloma often persists, and in most affected animals some opacities are found throughout life. Only rarely do the eyes of kittens affected by this gene become completely normal. Stock affected or known to carry the gene should on no account be bred from.

Latest Rex news is that a mutant was born in America in 1953, and that subsequently, other Rex were produced by the same dam. I have been sent coloured photographs of these. Unfortunately, the whole stock was put to sleep only recently. Another item of news is that Mrs. Ennismore has sold a pair of her Rex in America.

Also from America I have several reports about the progress of Red Point Siamese. These have been recognized by the new American Cat Fanciers' Association, which, I am told, is "a democratic organization, each member having a vote on all matters pertaining to the Association." It was in this way that the Red Points were accepted. A beautiful photograph of the first Red Point Female Champion has just been sent to me—Mr. H. R. Setzer's Golden Shadows Golden Lady. I am very pleased that the Editor has been able to arrange for this photograph to be reproduced—see top of the next page.

(To be continued)



Introducing America's first Red Point Siamese female Champion—GOLDEN SHADOWS GOLDEN LADY, who is referred to at the end of Mr. Jude's article on the previous page. She was the distaff representative of a pair of Red Points from Mr. Harold R. Setzer's Golden Shadows Cattery at Tacoma, Washington, who were given the premier award at a Royal Triple Merit Championship Show and Judging School held by the Cascade Cat Fanciers' Club at Kirkland last August under the direction of the newly formed American Cat Fanciers' Association.



Gordon Laughner, Los Angeles

Following the appearance of the little Havana kitten on our November issue front cover, we have received this fine picture from America which provides proof that the English exports ROOFSPRINGER MAHOGANY (female bred by Miss E. von Ullmann) and BROWN PILGRIM (male bred by Mrs. Hargreaves) are fit and happy in their new homes. Mahogany (in the bowl) was imported and is owned by Mrs. Elsie L. Quinn, of El Monte, California. Brown Pilgrim belongs to Mrs. J. L. Peters, also of El Monte. The kittens were shown at the California Cat Show in Hollywood last month where they created a lot of interest among fanciers and the public as the first representatives of a new variety in the United States.



Miss D. E. Tyler

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American Profile

Mr. JOHN MACHOKA

(of Staten Island, New Jersey, member of Garden State Cat Club)

JOHN MACHOKA'S interest in cats probably originated back in Roumania, where, as a child of five, his loudly voiced concern for a cat asleep in an already fired backoven, brought the townspeople running.

Born in Colp, Illinois, U.S.A., he accompanied his parents to their native Roumania when he was 4½, and remained there until he was 20. After distinguished service in the U.S. Army, which earned for him the Purple Heart and three battle stars during World War II, John studied physical therapy. He now does important work for the U.S. Government along these lines, and has received a special award.

On and off between wars and patients, John Machoka has owned and raised many different varieties of pets, including French poodles, whose intelligence and charm of character reflect his own qualities. But cats, it seems, are his first love, harking back to the Blue-eyed White Persian he "inherited" when just out of the Army from a friend who was moving away.

Quality—not quantity

Machoka has natural qualities when it comes to handling felines. All his animals seem to respond to his affectionate understanding, and his justifiable pride in them is rewarded at judging time, when often they "steal the show."

As a protégé of the late Billie Bancroft (see OUR CATS, August, 1955), Mr. Machoka heeded her wise counsel and held back his entry into the competitive field until he and his cats were ready—something other novice breeders and exhibitors would do well to emulate. Avoiding the pitfalls encountered by many other breeders, John persisted

with his hobby until he got into "the tall grass." Not the largest number of cats, but the best that can be offered could well be the motto of the Morning Star Cattery, a name in the ascendant in the American cat world to-day.

Visitors to the Machoka Cattery are amazed to find waxed wood floors, with carpets, curtains at windows, and outside are runs to which the cats have access at all times. The residents of this de luxe establishment receive two meals and warm milk daily, as well as regular baths and of course constant grooming.

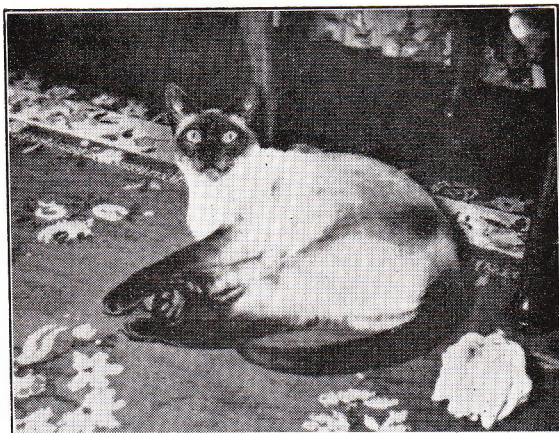
Persians predominate, and their wins have been spectacular, with Triple Champion Ru Ling Rollo II having been Best Cat in Show three times. He also carried off the CATS (U.S.A.) Magazine All-Eastern States Best Cat award for 1955 and 1956. Incidentally, this prize male is the descendant of English cats, his great grandsires being Gr. Ch. Lavender Liberty and Lavender Chu Chu.

On the distaff side, Bancroft's Betsy, a fine Blue-Cream, walked off with Best in Show in Montreal, Canada, in November 1955, and went on to more triumphs in St. Petersburg, Florida, U.S.A., in February of last year.

Whites there are too, with Bancroft's Allegro being judged Best White at New York's big Empire Cat Club Show a year ago. With such a record, Mr. Machoka's pride and delight in his cat family and his hopes for the future are surely justified.



SASCHA
as she appears
in
IRENE
HOLDSWORTH'S
latest book
"Little Masks"
which has
just been
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That Siamese Wedge

MRS. DUNCAN HINDLEY, doyen of the English Siamese world and owner of the prefix "Prestwick" which is internationally famous, makes a useful contribution to a discussion which has been revolving around judging results for quite a while.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. Ivor Raleigh on his article in the October issue of OUR CATS.

To my mind the wedge is the unconscious cause of most of the inconsistency in judging Siamese and frankly I am sick to death of reading in show reports about heads that are "pinched," "slightly pinched," "rather pinched" and "very pinched." Many good things have come out of America but with all due respect to their splendid breeding record and all their kindness, they do have "fashions" and this is not one of their best. Their Standard of Points is very similar to ours, which is as it should be, but do let us both keep our own individualities and not just follow in each other's footsteps, without any thought and planning for the future.

So many people do not know what they mean when they say "pinched." It is quite true that there are some pinched muzzles in Siamese that are very ugly. But do not let us do away with that beautiful shape of the cheekbone, which from an anatomical point of view as well as an artistic one, gives the attractive "drawing" (for want of a better word) of the face. Animals as well as humans have cheekbones and we cannot get away from the fact, even if we wish to.

Personally, I feel that the ugly "pinch" is that which is near the end of the muzzle, but even then this is often a movable fault

and depends on the position of the whiskers which in themselves are movable. At one moment they are slanting back on the side of the face, which gives a straight line, and then the next moment the cat may be startled or have its attention attracted. The whiskers then become on the alert and the muzzle becomes puffed out at the sides. Again, when a cat gets sleepy or perhaps bored at a



Seal Point Siamese Kittens at 7 weeks bred at her Yealand Cattery by Mrs. D. E. Barnes, Yealand Redmayne, Carnforth, Lancs.

show, the whiskers droop and this often gives the same effect.

A changing point such as this should not be penalized to the same extent as a structural point and it is this structure that a judge should look for. A judge should remember, too, that *a cat has got cheekbones*.

Actually there are two distinct interpretations of the description of the head in the Siamese Standard. "A straight line to a fine muzzle" may be taken as meaning to the beginning of a fine muzzle and if we mean to the end of the muzzle we must say so and the wording should be altered accordingly.

No two people think alike or for

that matter see alike and it would be a dull world if they did, but there does seem to be too much latitude in our thoughts about Siamese.

May I also endorse Mrs. Joan Thompson's views on "chatty stewards," though I do think they have almost disappeared in the Siamese world. A judge, if she has time, will generally tell her steward the good and bad points of the cat she is handling. This is how a steward learns, but a judge certainly does not wish to be told her job and it must be most disconcerting when trying to concentrate, especially with the very large classes we have to-day, if a steward makes any remarks at all unless it is in answer to the judge.

THE CATS OF BRIGHTON

Brighton, famed for its crowds and conferences, its Crescents and curios, has never to my knowledge been duly honoured for its cats. Yet few English seaside towns can boast of a larger or more contented cat population.

During a quick visit last week I counted almost as many sunbasking cats as sunbathing trippers. The warm sun of this Indian summer has brought them out in purring multitudes. They drowse, replete with milk and fish, outside hotels and lodging houses. They curl complacently on the bonnets of parked cars. They wash their faces in the middle of the street. They stare

unblinking from the clutter of antique shops in the Lanes.

An early morning walk, before the town is stirring, discloses cats on hot tin roofs, cats on doorsteps, cats on windowsills; and always one cat, an old ginger, crouched against the railing of the sea-front, feigning to ignore the sparrows who twitter in affected terror on the bar above him. It is my fancy that the same cat has played the same game with the same birds since time immemorial. Forever will he lurk and they beware.

Four Winds Diary in "Time & Tide"

SUMFUN SIAMESE seal-pointed PRIZE WINNING KITTENS FOR SALE				Mrs Mary Dunnill The Garth High Lane HASLEMERE Surrey
from Queens	SUMFUN SHIKARI	SUMFUN TITANIA		
Sire	CH. PRESTWICK PENGLIMA-PERTAMA	CH. PRESTWICK BLUE CRACKERS		
Dam	SUMFUN MOTH	SUMFUN SHIKARI		
<p style="text-align: right;">Cat</p>				

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Veterinary Questions Answered

By M.R.C.V.S.

Virus Infection

A Middlesex reader writes : *Just over three months ago I took my ginger cat of 18 months to be doctored and although he was all right just afterwards, after seven days he was not well. So I took him back to the vet who gave him an injection and capsules for 3-4 days. He appeared to recover but eventually there was a relapse which affected his breathing very badly. He got gradually worse and worse and finally he died, 14 days after the operation. The vet said the operation was successful but the cat had caught a virus infection.*

A week following Sandy's death I had the chance of owning a Siamese kitten aged 9 weeks. So Smokey joined us and was very strong and active up to the age of 5 months, when I had him doctored. After 8 days of apparent recovery, he suddenly refused all food and began vomiting every 2-3 hours. I called in the vet who told me that there was very little hope as Smokey had the same virus infection that Sandy contracted. I fed him on beef extract every 2-3 hours but he died early on the Thursday morning—it was on the previous Sunday he had been taken sick. When I informed the vet he was surprised Smokey died so quickly and advised me to wait some months before having another Siamese kitten.

We have also a black and white ordinary cat who has been with us for five years. He was unaffected by the illnesses and the vet suggested he might be a carrier (this cat was a stray). I should therefore welcome your advice on the following points : (a) Did the operation indirectly cause the deaths of my two cats ? (b) Is my black and white cat a carrier and if so should he be put to sleep ? (No other cats have been ill locally.) (c) How long should I wait before getting another Siamese cat ? (d) Are Siamese cats difficult to rear ? (e) Should they be immunized against feline infectious enteritis after being doctored ? (f) At what age should they be immunized and doc-

tored ? (g) What precautions can I take to prevent another tragedy ?

M.R.C.V.S. replies : (a) Any operation certainly can lower an animal's resistance to germs and therefore can open the animal to infection if such exists. (b) Your black and white cat could possibly be a carrier but there is no evidence to prove that he is and therefore I should not contemplate his destruction. Infection can come in other ways. (c) I think a couple of months should be sufficient, and even this would be unnecessary if the newcomer was immunized at once. (d) Possibly slightly more so than others. (e) Should be immunized at the very earliest opportunity irrespective of operations or anything else. Protection should always be completed before sending a cat to other homes or to other cats. (f) Two months of age is a good time and again in a further six months. Castration at four months of age. (g) The preceding answers deal with this question.

Lost Appetite

A Lancashire reader gives a detailed description of the illness and treatment of her neuter cat James, aged six. It was an attack of cat flu and several weeks after the infection cleared up, her pet was left without an appetite and sense of smell. She continues : "Could this be a complication of the antibiotic treatments ? The only other thing I can think of to give you a complete picture of his condition is that we have removed all over a hundred fleas from his coat. Do tape worms cause any toxic condition which might be giving him a neuritis of some of his cranial nerves ? I comb him daily and now find very few fleas. He is a fine cat and has the rather unusual deformity of having six toes on each paw."

M.R.C.V.S. replies : Your problem seems to be summed up as follows :—Cat had flu seven weeks ago, was left

with a heavy catarrh, was dehydrated, and lost his sense of smell and appetite and was thin. Now, he is not dehydrated, and is full of energy and playfulness. His ulcers have cleared up and his respiratory tract is normal. Bowels and urination normal. I do not understand your reference to neuritis and nerve block. Do these in fact exist? It does not sound like it. I feel that your cat is convalescing from a serious illness and a little more time will dispel any remaining symptoms. When cats cannot smell their food they are often dainty feeders, and should the loss of smell sense be due to nasal catarrh, this can be cleared by injecting a few drops of Fenox (Boots) into the nose. Appetite would be improved by giving Vitamin B. Fleas can be eradicated by dusting the cat with Lorexane powder—which should also be applied to carpets, chairs, cupboards and other places where the cat sleeps.

Tape worms can, but rarely do, cause a toxic condition. They can be removed

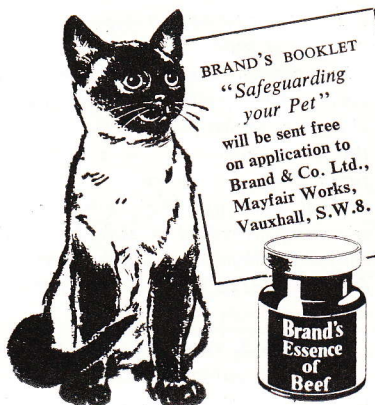
by appropriate remedies. Give him a teaspoonful of cod liver oil daily on a sardine.

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.

Shugborough Hall, the seat near Stafford of the Earl of Lichfield, will be on view to the public for the first time when the 70-acre gardens and grounds are thrown open in May. One of the several historic 18th century monuments to be seen in the grounds includes a memorial to Lord Anson's cat, which sailed round the world with him. Lord Anson was a predecessor of the present Earl.

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



Tailpieces

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



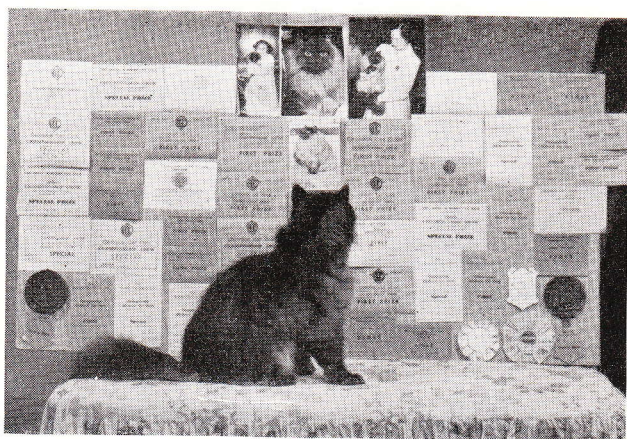
THE existence of a clawless cat has been reported to one of the London newspapers. It is a Tortie named Nell and she lives at "The Goat" public-house, Forty Hill, Enfield, Middlesex. I am trying to get some additional details concerning this freak.

In the page advertisement of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy on page 6 of last month's issue, the Burmese Cat Club was unfortunately omitted from the list of affiliated clubs. On this occasion anyway, the omission was not ours!

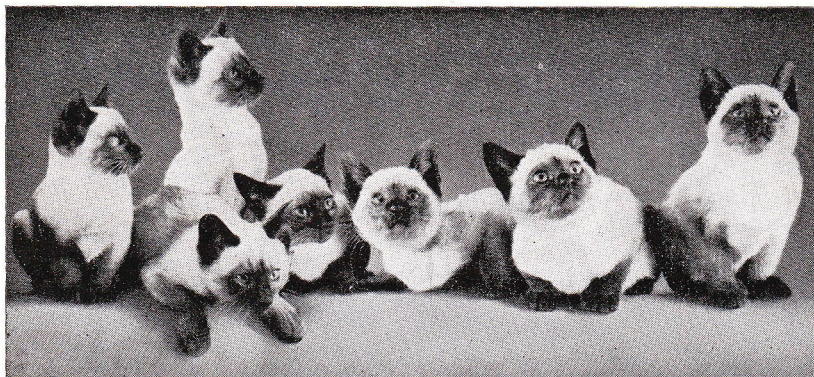
Tibby, the Deputy Governor's kitten at Walton Jail, Liverpool, has had to be released from a cavity wall. First time I have ever heard of a hole being knocked in a prison wall to *permit the escape* of a prisoner!

Here is yet another example of the cruelty of which young boys are capable in this age of civilization. At Middlesbro' recently, two of them, one aged ten and the other nine, used a black cat as a football. Then, not satisfied with this treatment, they tried to drown it in a trough of water and finally threw bricks at it. A girl rescued the poor animal but "it didn't live very long." The boys, who admitted their guilt, were sent to a remand home for 28 days. The weeping mother of the younger boy said in court that she could not understand her son's action as he had "wanted a cat a fortnight ago."

Mr. Arthur Moss has retired after many years of devoted service as Chief Secretary of the R.S.P.C.A. He intends to devote some of his well-earned leisure to the cause of animal welfare.



SQUIRE surveys his past. He was the Smoke Longhair neuter pet of the late Mrs. C. Burns, founder member of the Kentish Cat Society and for some years its treasurer.



How many of them will you rear?

Normally — all of them. But suppose just *one* of your cats contracted Feline Infectious Enteritis? You might lose the lot in a few days.

Be safe — have your kittens injected *before they are three months old* with Vaccine manufactured by Dr. Graeub of Berne. Consult your veterinary adviser who will be able to give you full advice.

GRAEUB FELINE INFECTIOUS ENTERITIS VACCINE

Sole distributors in Great Britain and Ireland:

INTERNATIONAL SERUM CO. LTD., MILL HILL, LONDON, N.W.7

IRRITATION OF CATS' EARS

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



OTODEX

which combines an anti-parasitic, antiseptic and local anæsthetic
SOOTHING, SAFE AND CERTAIN

Bottles 2/- and 7/6 (post 4d. and 8d.)

SKIN DISEASE

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



STRENOL ECZEMA CREAM

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

Pots 2/- (post 5d.)

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

Do animals possess a time sense ? One letter writer to the current issue of the journal of the P.D.S.A. evidently thinks so. "My own cat," he says, "comes punctually to call me at seven o'clock in the mornings. He is nearly seven years old. In winter when it is all dark downstairs, it seems rather wonderful that he knows just when to come up to my bedroom."

The Animal Boarding Establishment Bill (introduced in Parliament by Mr. Julian Ridsdale, M.P., and sponsored by the R.S.P.C.A.) is due to come up for the important Second Reading stage next month. It aims at ensuring that all animal boarding establishments for dogs and cats should be licensed and inspected.

Journals recently received include the Christmas Bulletin of the Bulawayo Cat Club, produced by Mrs. E. T. Mehliiss, the President. It gives a quote from the address of the President of the South African Siamese Cat Society which I feel is well worth reproducing in view of the approaching season of A.G.M.s among our own clubs and societies. The President has this to say : "Another matter I must mention concerns something which seems to afflict all established organizations, from Churches to political parties, and all associations of human beings, namely the tendency of the great majority of the members to leave the running of the organization to a small group of keen people, and take little or no active interest in its affairs. There is no reason to suppose that we are immune from this tendency, but if not corrected it leads to that undesirable state of affairs in which a Society is run by a small clique instead of considering the interests of all . . . so your Society invites criticism as every democratic institution must. But it also invites from its members offers of help, suggestions for publicity, new ideas for fund raising, *prompt payment of subscriptions*, and interest generally."

Mr. Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald, writing about last month's National Show at

Olympia in his weekly notes in the *News of the World*, refers to the event as "a most memorable occasion for two reasons ; for the friendliness and understanding of all those whose cats did not get prizes and who must have been very disappointed ; and because my feet still ache." He was assured by a number of enthusiasts who had come over from the United States for the occasion that they had never seen anything on a comparable scale in America. The condition of the exhibits amazed him. Jenny, a 3-year-old Tortoiseshell belonging to Miss V. Webb, of Morden, Surrey, won the *News of the World* trophy in the household pets classes.

CHORUS FOR CATS

I will never subject be ;
 I am free.
 Try to curb me and no doubt
 You'll find out
 Just exactly what a claw
 Is for !
 Or I'll dematerialize
 Before your eyes ;
 Ere you lay a finger on
 Me, I'm gone !
 You may think I'm in the lane ;
 Think again.
 You may guess I'm on the roof :
 Any proof ?
 I am not to hold or bind,
 Or find.
 I will hunt and sing and fight
 In the night ;
 All day long I lie and doze,
 Comatose :
 Never answer when you call
 And bawl.
 If to order me you choose,
 You will lose.
 Try to understand my mind,
 Then you'll find
 Truest friendship I will give
 While I live ;
 Kingly amiability,
 And sympathy.
 If subservience you prefer,
 Buy a cur !

NICHOLAS STUART GRAY.



“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

Olympia—and After

By IVOR RALEIGH

AMONG the time-honoured practices in the Cat Fancy is the one by whose precedent judges preface their show reports with a few words in praise of the Show Manager. In the great majority of cases this praise is well deserved.

The function of a judge is to judge cats, that of a reporter to report facts; and while the judge's pleasant comments may be taken to be merely a courtesy, the unfortunate reporter must either adhere to the truth—or not write at all.

My reason for not taking the easy way out is that in subjecting friends to criticism I earnestly hope to underline a set of principles which may prevent some of the difficulties which were encountered from occurring in the future. Besides, someone must occasionally tell the unvarnished truth if the good of our Fancy is to be considered above personal feelings. Surely this is a sound principle?

The National Cat Club's Diamond Jubilee Championship Show held in the National Hall on the 15th of December was certainly not the best of the three shows staged at Olympia during the last few years.

Early upon that chilly, grey morning I had left my home, complete with family and cats, filled with a tremendous sense of anticipation. This Show was something we had all been anxiously waiting for. This was **THE Show**.

The sight which met my eyes on entering the hall acted like a cold shower on a chilly day. Before me stretched a badly-swept floor, littered with paper. Unadorned walls, with no trace of bunting or other decoration, intruded meanly

upon my consciousness while the expected high stage, gay with flags and splendid with brass and crimson cording, had, as if by the hand of some unkind fairy, become transformed into a sorry little platform, tucked away to one side.

The temperature was uncomfortably low and there—right in the draught from the main doorway—stood a row of pens without rear protection, containing very young kittens, whose justly angry owners were attempting to erect some sort of wind breaker.

Later, I heard a rumpus proceeding from the direction of the main entrance where I found Capt. Terry attempting to pacify a crowd of reporters, who were righteously angry because too few catalogues had been allocated to them. Some of these reporters either had to buy a catalogue or do without one. The result of this niggardly policy was that few of the afternoon or early evening papers gave more than brief mention to the Show—to the obvious detriment of gate receipts.

Judges' Fine Work

The bar, that haven of jubilation to the winner and consolation to the loser, was relegated to an uncomfortable corner of the crowded tea counter; a peculiar economy of space in that vast and half empty hall.

A large number of classes handled by too few judges kept the latter occupied until nearly 6 p.m. although most of them were exhausted long before that time owing to the great distances which they had to cover. All the judges were splendid and it is to them that we owe our thanks for saving the day.

A number of stallholders wandered about looking for their stalls and some of them had to do their own erecting. These stalls and the other "sideshows" which can add so much to the festive spirit of an occasion such as this, seemed to have been placed without regard to symmetry, as if they had been scattered at random. Neither the stall holders nor the exhibitors had enough chairs to sit on.

It is common and natural that under circumstances such as these the Show Manager should be the one to bear the brunt of the criticism. A little thought would show that this approach to the problem is not quite fair. Although both the Show Manager and her assistant had previously put on successful shows, neither of them had been faced with the countless new problems associated with a show as big as this one.

In spite of the far greater complexity of such a venture they might well have made a good job of it had it not been for the fact that an Olympia Show costs a great deal of money. Constantly over them hung the threat that a major financial failure may well have flung the Club into insolvency.

Had to Count Cost

At our regular shows much of the work is done by voluntary workers. At Olympia, nothing may be done other than by the union-controlled internal staff with the result that even sweeping the floor costs a small fortune.

Olympia is Big Business and to put such a responsibility upon the shoulders of organizers lacking large scale professional experience and hindered by the ever-present threat of financial catastrophe is not only unfair to them, but is almost certain to result in partial, if not utter failure. It was certainly the consideration of cost which was responsible for the sordid little economies which were so ubiquitously apparent.

What of Olympia's future as a setting for cat shows? In the opinion of many people these shows could and should be the highlight of our season. To achieve this end they should be organized more ambitiously, more courageously and, above all, expertly. Far from condemning the present organizers, the fact that they were able to make even a partial success of the venture stands as a very great tribute to them.

In order to overcome financial limitations, the show should be backed with the combined resources of the Fancy as a whole, both as regards monies and available talent. Tackled in this manner, without fear, favour or personal element, this Olympia fixture can raise the British Cat Fancy to a new high level of popularity and esteem.

Experimental Breeds

In contrast with the staging of the Show, the exhibits were splendid. The household pets were fat, sleek and well-cared for and what with having bags of cat-food thrown at him, Mr. Towe had quite a time looking after them.

A number of pens were reserved for the exhibition of experimental breeds. This small department of the Fancy's activity is a most important and useful one and I should like to see its scope extended to cover work on resistance to disease.

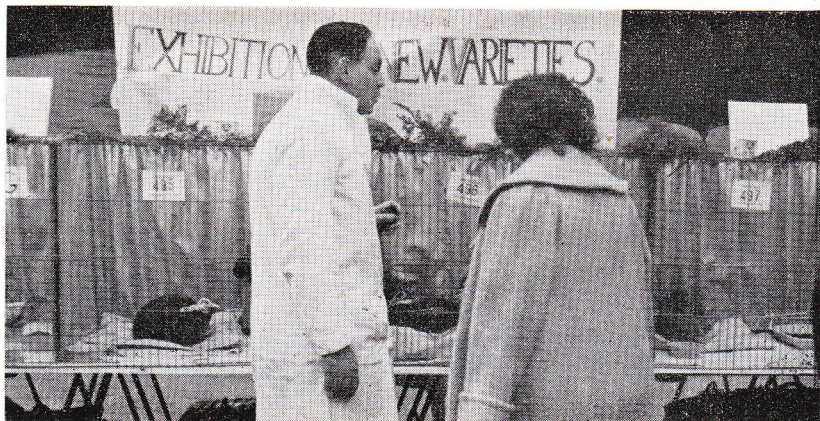
It is known, for instance, that susceptibility to infectious feline enteritis differs from breed to breed and in particular, varies with the presence or absence of certain colour genes. Already, results have shown that cats possessing the red factor show a marked resistance to the virus and I would very much like to hear from those who breed Red Pointed Siamese, as well as other varieties, as to whether they have any comments to make on this point.

Mr. Stirling Webb's work on Colour-points has yielded interesting and useful results. The Siamese cat has certain

unique qualities of intelligence and affection and to my surprise and pleasure I found that the Colourpoints retain these qualities. To me, these cats appear wholly delightful and while formally adhering to their official title, I shall always think of them as being my favourite "Siameses."


The important thing to remember about them is that they are not a result of trying to breed a long-haired Siamese

having Siamese colouring and long-haired type, but rather that they are a distinct and lovely product having many of the less noisy Siamese characteristics combined with what is best and noblest in the Longhair. To attempt to give these cats pug-dog type would ruin them completely. Eye colour is about the only quality which might be improved a little. In this direction much has already been done.



Hugh Smith

Mr. Brian Stirling-Webb explains a few points to an interested visitor to the Exhibition of New Varieties which was an attraction at the National Show at Olympia last month. The varieties included Colourpoint Longhairs and Rex-coated cats, also Chocolate Pointed and Lilac Pointed Siamese, Red Pointed and Tortoiseshell Pointed Siamese, Havana, Burmese and Blue Burmese, Lavender Self Shorthairs and Red Abyssinians. This "sideshow" was most popular amongst fanciers and members of the general public alike.

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

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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.

NEW Year Greetings to Cat Lovers everywhere! May their activities on behalf of the Cat be crowned with success, whether they are breeding and exhibiting them or engaged on humanitarian work.

Yorkshire Show

A fine winter day greeted the Yorkshire County Cat Club Ch. Show on November 24th at Leeds. The Corn Exchange has excellent lighting from a vast expanse of glass roof and it was a treat to see the exhibits in a really good light at a mid-winter show.

The classification was generous and attracted over 200 exhibits. Mrs. F. E. Taylor had much to do as Show Manager and she was well supported by Miss G. Hardman, Hon. Secretary, and her Committee with Mr. Taylor very busy all day. There were crowds of spectators in the afternoon and I surmise the show was a financial success.

Best Longhair Cat in Show was

Mrs. Joan Thompson's Blue male Octavian of Pensford who became a Champion and was unbeaten in all the twelve classes in which he was entered. Best Longhair Kitten—Miss Chapman's Cream male Ousedale Prince Charming by Ch. Ousedale Maximillian; Best Shorthair Cat—Mrs. K. R. Williams's Seal Point Siamese female Tia Mia Trinket by Ch. Bluehayes Foxy; Best S.H. Kitten—Mrs. Budd's Red Tabby Killinghall Red Fairy by Ch. Nidderdale Robin; Best L.H. Neuter—Mrs. Burrows' Blue Borrowdale Pasha Boy; Best S.H. Neuter—Mrs. Budd's British Blue Nidderdale Bumble.

Congratulations to Mrs. King on Starmist of Pensford by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous becoming a Champion and winning her final in a very good class of ten Blue-Creams—always a popular variety in the Midlands. The winning Blue female was Mrs. Crickmore's Ch. Thiepval Precocious.

Miss Marjorie Bull's two Orange-eyed White females looked lovely. Deebank Marguerite was placed 1st and her litter sister Deebank Wild Rose 2nd. They are by her very well bred Blue male Vigilant Mark. Her Cream male Beamsley Sunbeam was awarded his second Challenge Certificate.

The winning adult Chinchillas were Mrs. Lodge's Terry of Allington (by Ch. Scamp of Allington) and Mrs. Burbridge's Seaproud Jill (by Ch. Mark of Allington). Mrs. Budd's Barwell Lissa was the winning Tortoiseshell. Several British Shorthair classes were cancelled owing to there being no

entries but Miss Hardman's Red Tabby Ch. Barwell Cherry was awarded yet another Ch. and in Silver Tabbies Mrs. Thale's Silverseal Sekhmet, in Tortoiseshells Mrs. Taylor's Cocktail, in Tortie and Whites Mrs. Budd's Nidderdale Susan were the winning adults. Mr. Butterfield's Manx male Ch. Goldsborough Marvel won again.

As usual there was an excellent entry in Siamese cats and kittens. The winning adults were Mr. Price's S.P. male Huthwaite Tim by Pristine Poo Bah, Mrs. Murray's B.P. male Laurentide Cometes by Ch. Pristine Bandoola ; Mrs. Hodkin's B.P. Laurentide Arrus by the same sire and dam bred by Mrs. Hargreaves. All these were awarded Challenge Certificates as was of course the Best Shorthair in Show Mrs. Williams's Tia Mia Trinket.

Blue Persians Parade

The eighteenth Ch. Show of the Blue Persian Cat Society at Fulham Town Hall, London, on December 4th was splendidly organized down to the last detail by Major Dugdale and Miss Christine Webster and was most enjoyable. The only regret was that there were too few visitors. It is remarkable that unless a show is within a few minutes of central London many well known Longhair breeders will not make an effort to attend it and the public is apathetic.

The Hall was excellent with good lighting and comfortably warm. The pale blue draperies of the Society fixed on to the staging with dark blue plastic tape was very neat and all the baskets and other impedimenta were hidden. The personnel at the table on the stage worked well and prize cards were on the pens by early afternoon. Mrs. Aitken, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. Hancox, Mrs. Turney, Mrs. Pond, Miss Rodda and Miss Statman were busy all day. Mrs. Dunks organized an excellent snack bar and she was selling tea, cakes

and savouries with businesslike efficiency, and later on I noticed Miss Kathleen Yorke helping. It was nice to see Captain St. Barbe, Captain and Mrs. K. R. Williams, Mrs. Towe and Mr. Stirling-Webb as visitors and also Mr. and Mrs. Harrington-Harvard and their daughter all the way from Bearsted in Kent.

The Blue Male Adult class of 21 exhibits, judged by Miss Evelyn Langston was remarkable, being the largest since the war with nearly all the stars competing.

Champion Thiepval Paragon was one notable absentee and of course the judge's famous Ch. Dylan of Allington and Gwynn of Allington were not eligible to compete and Mrs. Rees's Ch. Dusty of Dunesk was in Devonshire. Madame Ravel flew over from Paris the day before to judge the adult females. The other judges were Mrs. Cattermole and Mr. Felix Tomlinson with Mrs. Brice-Webb as referee judge.

Best Exhibit in Show, Mrs. Joan Thompson's Champion Octavian of Pensford by Champion Foxburrow Frivolous. He was also awarded a win on the Avernoll Challenge Trophy for Best Eyes Blue Male Cat with a badge to commemorate. This was one of the many special prizes he has been awarded for his eyes. Octavian was followed by his famous sire bred by Mr. Soderberg and sired by Ch. Dylan of Allington, and it was the first time any Blue male had been placed over Frivolous at the last seven shows in which he has been entered in the Open class. Frivolous still remains the only post-war Blue male to be awarded eight Challenge Certificates. Third to him was another son Lavengro of Dunesk already with two Best in Shows to his credit last season. He was beautifully presented by Mrs. Alexander. Extra third came Dr. and Mrs. Raleigh's Bayhorne Adam also looking well.

The Open Female class of eighteen exhibits contained many lovely queens the winner being Mrs. Crickmore's Ch. Thiepval Precocious followed by Mrs. Brunton's Ch. April Violet of

Dunesk. Both these cats are by Ch Baralan Boy Blue. Third came Mrs. Rippingale's Gaydene Tina by Ch. Gaydene Rudolph. It is a feather in the cap of the Champion Blue males that they sired all the adult winners.

Best Kitten in Show was Mrs. Brunton's Passion Flower of Dunesk by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous, who was also awarded firsts in nearly all her fourteen classes. The winning female in the 6 to 9 months class was Mrs. Jewell's Woburn Ailsa, one of the most consistent Blue kittens this season against female kittens which on the whole have been much better than the males. Ailsa was bred by Miss Page of Watford. Best male kitten was Mrs. Orpin's Robhurst Rudolph, who was Best Kitten in Show at the Kentish Cat Society Show in September. His owner is not a novice by any means, as before the War she helped to look after the late Mrs. Forrest's cats and she bred some Blues of exceptional quality, notably Ch. Woodchurch April Blossom. The winner in the older male kitten class, Mr. Raleigh's Anchusa Piere, has been another consistent winner this season. Best Neuter in Show was the Misses Marshall's Premier Trenton Verity.

A Handsome Veteran

Notable absentees were Mrs. Denton's five kittens, owing to two of them being sold after entries closed. As they were being flown to U.S.A. the Monday after the show it was considered unwise to bring them into contact with other exhibits. They have gone to Mrs. Hirsig, of Colorado, who has purchased the female for herself, and the male is going to a friend.

In Novice Exhibitors, Mrs. Locke was awarded first with Milcot Joseph, second with his dam Gippeswyk Jessamy and last but not least Major Dugdale won the Veteran Class with his handsome Ch. Harpur Blue Boy. Born March, 1947, he looked lovely and a credit to his owner.

In banner headlines "Aspen Cats Capture Denver Awards," a cutting from a Colorado, U.S.A., newspaper states: "A Blue Persian, Camber Betsy Bob of Rocky Mountain! racked up a phenomenal number of Bests. She won Best Cat in Show, Best Champion, Best of Colour and one first award in the All-Breed Division."

It is interesting to recall that Camber Betsy Bob was exhibited with her sister, Camber Blue Bell, at Kensington Kitten Show in July, 1954. Mrs. Ella Martin was captivated by her and exported her to Mrs. Hirsig. She has had a brilliant show career in the States and quickly became a Champion. Betsy Bob is by Anson Eros and Trenton Sugar Plum, a union which has produced many winners.

Report on Olympia

The eagerly-awaited Diamond Jubilee Championship Show of the National Cat Club at the National Hall, Olympia, on December 15th, attracted an enormous entry of nearly 500 pedigree cats and about 200 household pets. One has only to peruse the catalogue to realize the immense amount of work involved and it is a wonder that the Show Manager Mrs. Grace Pond and Assistant Show Manager Mr. P. Dunks assisted by their respective husband and wife were able to cope with the work and be ready on the day. They certainly deserve our gratitude and appreciation.

The competition was very keen and many lovely exhibits in all varieties were present. Best Longhair Cat in Show was Miss Evelyn Langston's Chinchilla male Champion Fidelio of Allington (by Ch. Flambeau of Allington), a superb cat on top of his form who completely filled the bill for this high honour. I believe he was unbeaten in all the thirteen classes in which he was entered, including the L.H. Champion of Champions class. Best Longhair Kitten was Miss Sheppard's Cream female Widdington Honeystar (by Widdington Winterstar) a little

gem excelling in type and colour ; Best Shorthair Adult and Best Exhibit Mr. Lamb's Seal Point male Ch. Causeway Pita (by Ch. Pincop Simon), another cat with a splendid record in club classes including first in Shorthair Champion of Champions class. Best S.H. Kitten was Mrs. K. R. Williams's S.P. Siamese Bluebridge Hilary by Southwood Marcus. Winners among the neuters were Mrs. Crickmore's Chinchilla female Premier Champion Thiepval Snowcloud and Miss Clark's and Mrs. Tilley's British S.H. Premier White Knight.

Space does not permit mentioning all the Open Class winners but in the more competitive Longhair breeds Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh were awarded 1st and Challenge Certificate with their Blue male Bayhorne Adam and Mrs. Brunton achieved the same honour with Ch. April Violet of Dunesk. Congratulations to Mrs. King on her Cream male Hendra's Benedict becoming a Champion. Mrs. Keir was awarded Ch. with her Cream female Hendra's Cassandra, both sired by Ch. Twilight John and bred by Mrs. Nash. Miss Grace won in Smokes with Slapton Mischief. Mrs. I. J. Cattermole's Mingswk Apollo was the first Shorthair Cream to be awarded a C.C.

Some Class Winners

The winning Chinchilla female was Mrs. Turney's Sarisbury Aphra. It was her fourth Ch. Certificate but as three have been under one judge Aphra is not yet a Champion. Miss Sheppard won in Blue - Creams with Ch. Widdington Salome ; Mrs. Beedell in Blacks with Ch. Sarisbury Sacharissa, and the same owner in Brown Tabbies with Magyar Kedves ; Mrs. Ball in Orange-eyed Whites with Lisblanc Adonis ; Mrs. Gaskin in Blue-eyed Whites with Ch. Lotus Atlas ; Miss Woodfield in Tortoiseshells with Pathfinders Miss Muffet, and Mrs. Moore in Tortie and Whites with Asplin Lucetta and in Red Tabbies with Hendon Puck.

The Abyssinian Cat Club class for

Best Abyssinian Adult was headed by Mrs. Byrne's Gracefield Quicksilver (by Albyn Jason), 1st in her Open Class. The Burmese Cat Club Rosette for Best Burmese adult went to Mrs. Walker's female Kachin Sunda, and for Best Burmese Kitten to Mrs. Bastow's Sablesilk Jemima, both by Mr. Watson's Ch. Casa Gatos Darkee.

One of the National Cat Club silver spoons was awarded to Mrs. Biggs's B.P. Siamese male Ch. Quesi Blue Harmony, Best B.P. Exhibit. The winner in Any Colour Siamese Neuter Premier class was Mr. Stockbridge's Avatarama Felidae by Ch. Bluehayes Foxy. The miniature silver cup presented by Madame Ravel of the Cat Club de Paris for Best Longhair or Shorthair Stud judged by progeny was awarded to Mrs. Joan Thompson's Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous. Mrs. Turney won the L.H. Brood Queen class with her Chinchilla Sarisbury Aphra.

The Pet Show

The *News of the World* pet cat classes were a show in themselves. Although the majority came from the suburbs of London, there were a few from far afield — Yeovil, Bath, Peterborough, Monmouth, Bristol, Hereford, Birmingham, Gloucester and Northants. Many were very handsome and they attracted much attention. The classes were divided into twenty four and were judged by Mr. Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald the well-known author and broadcaster, five International judges and Miss Lelgarde Fraser. They naturally in such classes could not put too much emphasis on standards. For example, cats with shirt fronts and smart little splashes of white were not penalized, general condition and amiable disposition were great assets. Class II, "The Cat or Kitten with the most appealing expression," with 36 entries must have been a teaser, also Class 12 with 23 entries for "The Cat or Kitten with the biggest eyes !"

Although the idea of a show for household pets is a delightful one, it is

debatable whether it should be run in conjunction with a Championship Show. It diverts too much time from the National Cat Club Ch. Show itself which is of such paramount importance to breeders and exhibitors as it comes at a time of year when our cats and kittens should be on top of their form. It has attracted the largest entry of any Ch. Show over the last few years and must be more than enough for any show manager to cope with.

Many of us were of the opinion that we preferred Ch. shows on the usual orthodox lines with all the restrictions imposed by Governing Council rules which have been so wisely devised for the welfare of our pedigree cats and their owners. Judging with the public and the owners milling round is not conducive to some cats looking their best and I know from my judging experience at the first Olympia Show in 1950 how disturbing it can be to hear commentaries from bystanders, sometimes within arm's length. At shows abroad the public are admitted about 10 a.m. but the judges are always on a rostrum or roped off and the cats are brought to them by the stewards. This method is quite practicable and workable when the number of entrants is so much smaller than at London Ch. Shows. Continental fixtures last two or three days so one has ample time, unlike our own one-day fixtures where all classes have to be finished fairly early in the afternoon in time for the Best in Show awards.

Colourful Attractions

Although many of us were delighted with the idea of a Ch. Show at Olympia—and all praise to the National Cat Club for their enterprise and gallant effort—one realized on the day that Olympia is a vast and chilly place and needs the decorative motif of the first Olympia Show to make it look inviting. The Crystal Show was virtually an exhibition of cats not under G.C. rules, so all exhibitors were encouraged to

decorate their pens. I remember spending hours sewing hundreds of gold sequins on to the gold satin draperies for the pen of Ch. Gloria of Pensford, who was exhibited not for competition. All the pens were new and glistened with silver paint. The Parade of 30 Champions for exhibition only (all in decorated pens and with their prize cards from former shows displayed if their owners wished) was a joy to see.

Another colourful display was thirty cat celebrities in large double pens, some of whom had acquired notoriety, notably Miss Sladen's Stonor Spiv, who had been pictured on posters all over Britain for the National Savings campaign. As it was held in September there were still many young kittens and 13 Longhair litters and 15 Shorthair litters added to the gaiety and sold like the proverbial "hot cakes." On the perimeter were many stallholders and *Everybody's Weekly* magazine had pride of place in the centre of the hall with a colourful display. The issue with Mrs. Vize's Ch. Astra of Pensford on the cover in colour was given prominence and this periodical had given much publicity to the Show.

Is Olympia Necessary ?

This first epoch-making Olympia Show was the brain-child of Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald of Ewell, Surrey, who certainly had courage and enterprise. In my opinion, it had the effect of the proverbial stone thrown into a pond. Its ripples rapidly enlarged the Cat Fancy into ever-growing popularity as we know it to-day. For the first time we had practical proof that there was an immense public far beyond actual breeders who were interested in attending shows for pedigree cats, and "gates" have now soared above anything we ever experienced before the war. This first Show was organized by Mr. Arthur Towe, and several well-known personalities, happily still with us, had "a finger in the pie."

But for an All-Breed Championship Show one of the Royal Horticultural Society's halls appears to be preferable.

Being so much less expensive, an enormous "gate" is not so essential to success and exhibitors and judges can have quietude whilst the Open and most important classes are being judged with the public admitted about the usual time, 1 p.m. The R.H.S. halls are easy of access, very well known and the larger one has all the amenities for a major cat show.

The gate appeared excellent on December 15th, thanks to the publicity on T.V. and in the press. On November 29th nearly half an hour was devoted to cats and kittens on Mr. Macdonald Daly's programme "Animal Crackers." From many sources I have had letters from animal lovers expressing pleasure at this programme. The cats behaved so well and the Longhairs being in full winter pomp looked lovely.

Mrs. Macdonald Daly has purchased Mrs. King's Cream female kitten Startops Baby Bunting by Ch. Hendra's Benedict and Ch. Starmist of Pensford. It is her first pedigree kitten so it will be very interesting to hear her views at some future date but I am sure she will find Baby Bunting will agree admirably with their dogs, who will probably become devoted to her.

Several kittens were sold at Olympia and Mrs. Denton's first prize litter of Blues by Anson Eros was surrounded by admirers and I believe were all sold. It was nice to see the G.C. Secretary Mr. Hazeldine happily restored to health and enjoying the Show and also Miss Kathleen Yorke very busy judging.

The late Jack Martin

My notes conclude with the sad announcement of the death of Mr. Jack Martin of Sleaford, Lincolnshire, after an illness very bravely borne. He was one of the founder members of the Notts and Derby Cat Club of which he was Chairman and in which he took a great interest. He was also Chairman of the Blue Persian Cat Society, a variety which

was his great speciality. Mr. Martin never wavered in his admiration for them and a desire to breed better and better cats. The lovely Blues he exhibited were too numerous to name individually but the late International Ch. Southway Nicholas by Dickon of Allington (owned by Madame Gibbon of Lausanne, Switzerland) was perhaps one of the loveliest Blue males we have seen. He was Best in Show on several occasions and before leaving England attained his Championship in 1947. Brother to him from a later litter Ch. Southway Crusader Mr. Martin retained for himself and this cat had an excellent influence on this and other breeds and we see some of his characteristics to-day, notably his lovely broad skull, charming little rounded ears and all round quality and type.

A Lovely Strain

Miss Posthuma of Holland purchased yet another lovely Blue male kitten, destined to become Int. Ch. Southway Wizard, a cat who sired many of her famous winners. Ch. Southway Crusader among several other winners sired Mrs. Crickmore's glorious female Ch. Thiepvall Enchantress, winner of many Challenge Certificates, and in 1948 he bred himself Ch. Southway Josephine. Both queens carried on this lovely strain and became the mothers of Champions. His stock combined well with Miss Langston's Blues and he used her males more than any other owner's.

Mr. Martin was a fearless judge and an outspoken critic but generous when exhibits conformed to his high ideals. He was eligible to judge every variety of Longhair cat and had officiated abroad and regularly in England. He will be sadly missed by us all but especially by his wife Mrs. Martin and his great friend Mr. Felix Tomlinson. I know many of their friends will wish to join me in extending to them our deepest sympathy in their and our great loss.

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1957	Promoted by	Venue
22 January ...	*Southern Counties Cat Club ...	London
9 February ...	*Lancashire and N.W.C. Cat Club ...	Stockport, near Manchester

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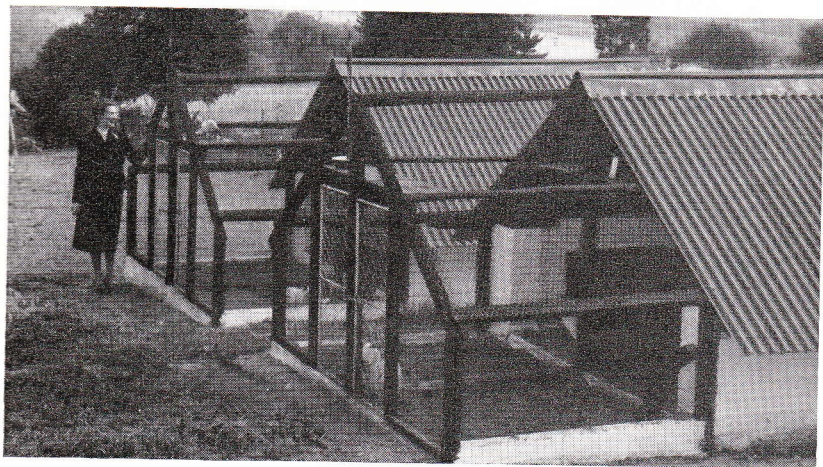
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In Sunny South Africa . . .



These interesting pictures come to us from South Africa, where Siamese continue to grow in popularity and numbers. The top photograph was taken at the Kahiso Cattery, Johannesburg, with the owner Mrs. Elizabeth Marais standing by one of the kitten houses. Below are three of her special Blue Point friends, Kahiso Dianthus, Ch. Misty Orchid of Copelands and Frialawn's Chuan Chom with Clarissa, a veteran Seal Point. Mrs. Marais was responsible for the first comprehensive article on Siamese cats ever to be written in Afrikaans and published for the wider reading Afrikaans public.

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The rate for prepaid advertisements under this heading is 3d. per word per insertion (minimum 12 words) and instructions must be received by *not later than the 1st day* of the month of issue. Please write "copy" clearly and post with appropriate remittance to OUR CATS MAGAZINE, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9. Use of Box No. costs 1s. extra.

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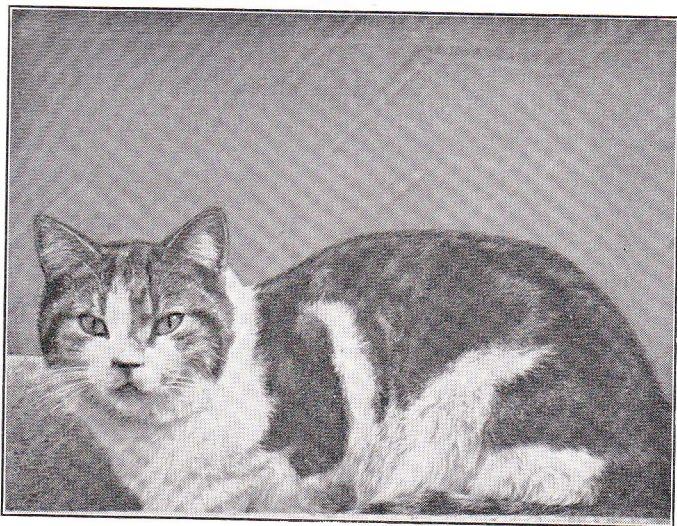
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Ref. No. 139

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