

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING
COMPREHENSIVE



Keystone Press

WHEN DO WE GO HOME?

Here's a Siamese lady who just couldn't care less about the excitement of a show day with all its bustle and noise, the petting, the prize-giving and the photographers. She couldn't say more plainly: "Let's get it over and done with so that we can get back home." Her name is FREEFOLK PEPINA (by Sukianga Pepe Lemoko ex Pengwood Carolina), bred and exhibited at the last Siamese Cat Club Show by Mrs. J. M Boal, of Godstone, Surrey.

1/6

AUGUST 1957

KIT-E-KAT

For *every* meal of *every* day
Here's goodness in the quickest way!
It's full of fish, it's full of meat;
All cats love Kit-E-Kat 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. 9 No. 8

AUGUST 1957

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THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



"Northern Echo" Photograph

When in May last a Spring Fayre was held in Middlesbrough to raise funds for a mobile clinic, this stall of the North Eastern Cat Club helped substantially towards the £120 profit. The opening ceremony was performed by the Mayor and Mayoress of Middlesbrough and here the former is seen holding 16-year-old Snowflake, the pet of Mrs. J. M. Knapp, Chairman of the Club. The rather disdainful looking lady in the foreground is Mrs. Knapp's Persian Dream Girl. The kitten figures on the rug are worked in chenille in glowing colours. The rug was raffled and brought over £5 in sixpences. The Mobile Clinic is now working full time in this busy industrial area and doing splendid work for sick and neglected animals

You have asked for it!

We are pleased to announce that the forthcoming December, 1957, issue of **OUR CATS** will again be

A SPECIAL GREETINGS NUMBER

Further details will appear in subsequent issues and an explanatory leaflet will be available shortly. It will be our aim to make this special seasonal number "the best ever" of any cat journal, and we shall therefore look forward to the enthusiastic response and support of clubs and fanciers all over the world. Closing date for all material will be 1st November. Don't be late *this time*!



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).

OUR CATS is published monthly and closing date is the 25th day of the month preceding the month of publication. MSS. and photographs submitted will only be returned if accompanied by fully stamped and addressed envelopes. Photographs should preferably be of the glossy type with sharp details.

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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 1957-58 Season are provided below for the information and guidance of readers.

	1957	Promoted by	Venue
17	September...	*Herts and Middx. Cat Club	London
25	"	West of England and S. Wales Cat Society...	Bristol
8	October	*Siamese Cat Club	London
9	"	*The Blue Persian Cat Society	London
12	"	*Edinburgh and East of Scotland Cat Club	Edinburgh
(see displayed advertisement in this issue)			
16	"	*Southsea Cat Club	Southsea
26	"	*Midland Counties Cat Club	Birmingham
26	"	Scottish Cat Club	To be fixed
2	November	Preston and District Cat Club	Preston
13	"	*Croydon Cat Club	London
28	"	*National Cat Club	London
7	December	*Yorkshire County Cat Club	Leeds
17	"	*South Western Counties Cat Club	Bristol
1958			
11	January	*Notts and Derbyshire Cat Club	Nottingham
28	"	*Southern Counties Cat Club	London
1	February	*Scottish Cat Club	To be fixed
8	"	*Lancashire and N.W. Counties Cat Club	To be fixed

* Denotes show with Championship status. A detailed list of these shows may be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, Mr. W. A. Hazeldine, 1 Roundwood Way, Banstead, Surrey. We hope that many of the shows will be advertised in **OUR CATS** during the course of the 1957/8 Season.

Classes for judges

By KATHLEEN YORKE

(Chairman of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy)

THE second meeting I held at Dinely Studios last month to instruct judges was also a big success, 41 people being present, making a total attendance of 86 for the two meetings. This time we had the very kind help of Mr. and Mrs. Shrouder with their wonderful colour slides and the little spare space we had was needed for the screen and projector.

I started these meetings to help the new judges put on specialist breed lists, but now find that there are quite a lot on some lists of Longhairs who do not know the good and bad points to look for when they come to judge and are given A.O.V. and Shorthair classes. The same may be said of those on Shorthair lists who do not know what to look for in Longhair breeds.

It is gratifying to have so many letters of appreciation from those who attended the meetings. Several of the new judges wrote to say they would now have much more confidence when confronted with Shorthairs after the explicit way these have been shown and described to them in actual exhibits and after seeing the colour slides. The colours and various positions of the cats were certainly well portrayed by Mr. and Mrs. Shrouder and I am hoping very much to secure their co-operation at another meeting. Also, breeders are being invited to bring suitable exhibits to the Studios so that everyone can see "in real life" exactly what to judge for.

The next meeting is being planned for September when Miss Edith Sheppard will continue her very interesting talk on Creams and Blue Creams with the aid of one of her well-known cats. Miss Lelgarde Fraser has promised to speak on Reds, Torties, Tortie and Whites and Brown Tabbies—breeds that her late mother was so conversant with. Mr.

Brian Stirling-Webb will describe the newly-recognized Colourpoints, a breed he has worked so hard to establish. It must be remembered always that this cat is a Longhair and has nothing at all to do with Siamese. At the end of the G.C.C.F. Standard granted when a breed number was allocated to the Colourpoints appears: "N.B.—Any similarity in type to Siamese to be considered most undesirable and incorrect."

I owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Greta Hindley for coming to speak on her favourite Siamese, their breeding requirements and bad faults. She omitted to stress the need for slim legs and oval paws, so essential for the perfect balance of this beautiful cat, and I promised her that I would mention these points in my account of the meeting.

Points about Burmese

Miss Evelyn Langston spoke very carefully on the Chinchilla, Smoke and Silver Tabby and handed pictures round as there was not an effective colour slide available. Later on there will be.

We all owed a great deal to Mr. Watson as he brought along two nice exhibits and also we had colour slides of the Burmese accepted by the G.C.C.F. and of the Blue Burmese which many or at least some are hoping to fix as a variety of the Burmese. Mr. Watson gave some important information on this lovely breed and stressed points about eye colour and coat colour of adults and kittens. I allowed more time for Burmese as it is important, I think, that they should be recognized and properly assessed when met with in A.V. classes, which are given to most judges to follow on after their Open classes.

Abyssinians were well catered for at

the meeting as Mrs. Shrouder brought her Ch. Contented Kevin and Mrs. Earnshaw one of her queens. Mrs. Major also loaned some excellent photographs to support the colour slides. A Russian Blue was presented by Miss Rochford and Mrs. Johnson brought a British Blue to show the difference in coat, colour and type. Mrs. Towe spoke on these breeds.

One matter I would like to stress here is that all judges should read the G.C.C.F. Rule 11(b). New judges may not have read it and some of the older judges may have forgotten it. It reads:

"A cat which cannot be taken out of its pen must not be judged. An exhibitor is not allowed to take any of his exhibits out of the pen or to handle any of them during judging. Transgression of this rule shall result in disqualification of the exhibit."

At a recent show I was approached by the owner of one exhibit as neither my stewards nor myself could get him out of his pen. The owner offered to get the cat out for me, so I explained that it was against the rules. I was then told by the owner, before she walked away, that she had done this on a previous occasion.



"Globe & Mail," Toronto

Mrs. Marjorie Elliott, of Toronto, Canada, with her English import Sabukia Serilla of Shan Ling (bred by Mrs. Dadd and exported by Mrs. Ella Martin) and two of her fine kittens by Ch. Prestwick Blue Crackers, to whom Serilla was mated before she went overseas. The youngsters Shan Ling Seina and Samba have done well at shows.

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

EVOLUTION is the process by which new varieties of life arise from existing ones : man from ape-like ancestors, birds and mammals from reptiles, flowering plants from ferns and mosses. Although evolution still goes on, the evolutionary time scale is so great as compared with the human span of life, that only rarely can we watch evolution at work—when we see harmless bacteria give rise to virulent ones, or dark-coloured moths replace the lighter-coloured varieties in industrial areas. The way in which each kind of organism is adapted to its special environment and mode of life always arouses wonder and admiration.

To achieve such perfect adaptations, nature proceeds in much the same way as when man produces within a fancy or in his commercial farming, certain characteristics in the animals with which he may be working. The breeder selects individuals which are suitable for the conditions or purposes, and discards the less well adapted ones. Often, he produces new varieties by crossing and selecting from the progeny those individuals which combine useful characteristics from both—high fertility, good health, a special coat-colour, the soft short close texture or curliness of a Rex strain !

Evolution too proceeds by way of crossing and selection. Its material is the

mutated genes which are carried in all species. At every act of sexual reproduction new combinations are formed between mutated genes. Individuals carrying different gene combinations compete with each other in the struggle for existence. The successful ones leave more progeny than the others, so that in the end the superior gene combinations oust the inferior ones.

Even a moderate number of mutated genes represents an enormous store of potential genetical variability. If the human species carried only 1,000 mutated genes—and this is certainly an underestimate—the number of possible combinations between them would be far greater than the number of men on earth. No two human beings—with the exception of identical twins—are therefore alike in genetical constitution.

Mainspring of life

Although for its immediate purpose evolution makes use of already existing genes, its primary raw material is mutations through which new genes come into being. Mutation is thus one of the great driving forces of evolution, and as evolution still goes on, so also is mutation still indispensable for maintenance and progress of life on earth.

Nevertheless, the majority of new mutations are harmful or even lethal. The reason is that every existing organism

is the result of a long evolutionary history, during which it has become so finely adjusted to the requirements of its ways of life that any change in its organization is likely to be a change for the worse, for thousands of subtly interwoven physiological processes are required to make an organism develop and survive. Mutation, by exchanging one gene for another, alters one of these processes at random ; it is not surprising that most mutations result in a less harmoniously functioning organism, and that many mutations result in death.

As a rule, the fancier selects to produce fresh mutations from only a limited range of genes, mostly concerned with either colour or type of mind. As this is usually done in a knowledgeable way, the mutations secured are mostly unharmed and almost never lethal. To what extent a given type of mutation formed at random is harmful, depends on the mode of life and the environment of the organism.

Conditions for misfits

Animals in dark caves can dispense with pigment and a mutation to albinism may spread among them. In an Arctic environment, white mutants are favoured by selection. To a green plant which depends for its survival on the chemical activity of its chlorophyll, a mutation to albinism is lethal.

When environmental conditions change, mutants which under the old conditions were misfits come into their own and may even completely replace their non-mutated ancestor strain. Similarly, mutant individuals become valuable when a species invades new territory, or changes to a new type of life. When life colonizes new territory, it requires species which, through their store of mutated genes, are still sufficiently variable to provide suitable settlers for the new environment.

If a new Ice Age descended on our regions, white birds, which now crop up

now and again in our wild species, might be among the first successful settlers in snow-covered regions ! Thus, from the point of view of the species, mutations are harmful as well as necessary. Mutations are harmful as long as living conditions remain unchanged, for living organisms, as a result of their evolutionary history, are adapted to their environment and mode of life, and mutations are likely to weaken or destroy these age-old adaptations. Mutations are necessary because living conditions never remain the same for very long periods.

Change means survival

Gradually through the years and centuries the climate alters ; rivers change their courses ; mountains are levelled down ; sources of food supply become exhausted and others open up ; predatory animals move from one district to another ; and man, in the inhabited regions of the world, continually creates new living conditions for his animals and plants. In the long run, only those species survive which can meet every change in environment by new adaptations, and these are the species with a sufficient supply of mutant genes. Thus each species has to strike a balance between the short-term requirement for a low frequency of mutation and the long-term requirement for an ample store of mutant genes.

A species in which mutations are too frequent will die out because too many of its individuals are weak, short-lived, or sterile. A species in which mutations are too rare may do well for a time, but will not survive when altered conditions demand adaptations for which it does not possess the necessary genes.

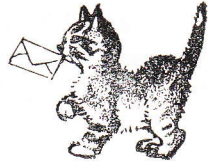
(to be continued)





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.



PET SHOPS

The contribution in last month's issue from the manager of a well-known London pet shop provoked more correspondence than we can possibly hope to reproduce; so here is a fairly representative sample.—Editor.

MAY I state the case of cat breeders who are reluctant to sell their kittens through the agency of a pet shop?

I, like most breeders of pedigree cats want to see the people who are buying my kittens. The fact that they are over 12 years of age and prepared to pay a certain sum of money for a kitten does not, in my opinion, make them qualified to keep a cat. The owner or manager of a pet shop is not in a position to make the necessary enquiries as to the accommodation, number of small children, absences from home, etc., which the breeder necessarily makes before selling a kitten.

Although many breeders, including myself, have their kittens immunized against F.I.E. long before they are ready for sale, this immunization does not safeguard them against every infection of a different type which may be brought into a pet shop by cats and kittens reared and kept under varying conditions and perhaps immune themselves to a particular germ of which they are the carriers. This point prompts many pet shops to avoid having kittens on display, even if the breeder would be willing to leave a whole litter of kittens in the shop for resale. The pet shop and the breeder—whose name and address is on the pedigree, registration certificate

and transfer—get blamed by a purchaser whose new kitten is in need of veterinary attention within a few days of purchase.

Last, not least, is the matter of price. Pet shops must make their profit out of the transaction and therefore try to buy as cheaply as possible. The price they offer for kittens is often so small that a breeder will not contemplate accepting it and calls the deal off with the words: "I'd rather give the kitten away to a good home!" This should be taken with a pinch of salt, as kittens are not as difficult to sell as is made out and the price obtained by a private sale from breeder to purchaser is necessarily much better than the one obtained through the agency of a pet shop.

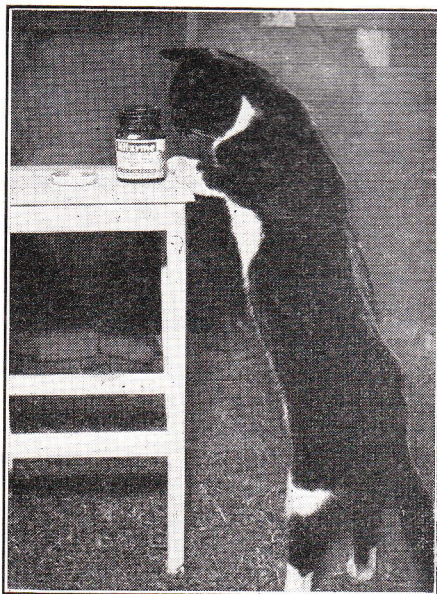
Apart from the seasonal slump during July, August and September, the demand for pedigree kittens as pets is satisfactory, particularly as far as the popular breeds are concerned. If breeders arranged their matings at a time which produces either very early or very late litters, they would seldom have kittens hanging fire.

I have in the past and probably will in future sell the odd kitten through a pet shop which has my name and address on its books. But the question of leaving a kitten, or a number of kittens, in the shop has never been raised. I interview the prospective purchaser and, if everything seems satisfactory, hand over the kitten, pedigree, registration certificate, signed transfer and diet sheet and a few days later collect my cheque from the pet shop which has dealt with the financial side of the transaction. I do not know

**MRS. B. GUNNING of 7
Heathcote Road, Downend,
Bristol, Gloucestershire,
writes :—**

*“My cat, Victoria, is now
three years old and has been
having your Kit-zyme Tablets
for more than two years. As
you can see, she is in wonder-
ful condition and everyone
exclaims at her beautiful coat.*

*On three Kit-zyme Tablets
every night she has kept as
fit as a fiddle and really loves
them, eating them from our
hands, just like sweets.
Whenever we want to call
her in we only have to rattle
the jar and she comes running.*



VICTORIA

In the picture, as you can see, she is endeavouring to help herself. Her latest move is to scoop the Tablets off the edge of the table direct into her mouth!”

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Ref. No. 154

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how much commission the pet shop charges and I do not want to know it, having received what I consider the right price for the kitten. Needless to say, my relationship with the owner and staff of the pet shop is cordial. I appreciate their endeavours to find occasional purchasers for my kittens and, I hope, that they find my way of dealing with them satisfactory.

I agree with the writer of the article in your July number, that there should be no "strings" attached to the sale of a pet and I have taken care (and always will) not to bother buyers of my kittens with enquiries after their pet. On the other hand I do want them to know who bred their kitten and where they can get in touch with me, should they want to do so. My yearly crop of Christmas cats contains many a photograph of handsome, well-loved cats which I sold as pets to people whom I have perhaps seen only once for a few minutes. The pleasure of receiving these tokens and of knowing that the offspring of my cats is appreciated is one of the treats I should hate to have to forego.

MISS E. VON ULLMANN.

London, W.2.

I read with interest "The Case for Pet Shops," in your July issue, and although I am a breeder of long standing I feel that there is much in favour of that article.

While healthy competition is always beneficial in every trade, there are to-day rather too many Siamese breeders for what is a limited market. They breed their litters, but seem quite incapable of disposing of the kittens in a proper manner. In desperation they then join a Club in the hope of help from other breeders, which in my long and varied experience is rarely, if ever, forthcoming. How then is the novice or unsuspecting enthusiast ever to make progress, or dispose of his stock?

While I have never been in the sad position of kittens hanging fire, or had

to seek the help of any other breeder or agency, I would, if I had to, prefer to place my kittens, rather than in most of the catteries I have seen, in any of the stores, where at least they are in clean comfortable surroundings, together with constant supervision for the very short time that they are usually there. It is indeed less barbarous with surplus kittens than the control of breeding which I was told was advocated by some cat organizations in earlier days, when destruction of all females at birth was suggested as a possible solution!

Furthermore, the customer who buys from a pet shop usually pays a price to remember, which is in itself a protection for any pet, and one can be also quite certain that no feline bought from a store will be purchased by a breeder, who prefers to buy from the trade. This should mean the additional satisfaction to any animal lover of knowing their kitten will enjoy the life of a pet, rather than becoming a potential breeding machine, and facing a life of confine-

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ment, which is an unnatural condition for any domestic animal.

I accordingly often advise those who seek my advice to patronize a leading store where I have admired the care and attention which the staff devote to their charges and from where they quite often also hear from the proud owners. The prices paid for such stock covers the cost of rearing the kittens and the breeder retains the joy and pleasure of such achievement.

If however one contemplates making real business out of cat farming which is devoid of sentiment, I suggest they cut their losses and seek some more worthy enterprise.

MRS. FELICITY TSCHUDI BROADWOOD.
Send, Surrey.

I have read the anonymous article "The Case for Pet Shops" in your July issue with much interest.

I have never seen a pet shop with any resemblance to the one described; what a pity that the writer's ideas are not more generally accepted!

But in any case surely it is wiser to go direct to the breeder and so eliminate the expense and trouble of a middleman.

MISS FRANCES L. PERRY.
Chelmsford, Essex.

ADVICE ON FEEDING

A well-fed cat is not a fat cat; a fat cat is a badly-fed cat. Nor is the cat that is properly fed thin; a thin cat may be ravenous. A well-fed cat will eat what is set before it; it is hungry enough

never to turn up its nose at wholesome food . . .

For some reason milk is the first food people think of giving to a cat. Some set a bowl of milk on the floor for the cat to drink instead of water—a great mistake. Milk is in many ways an unnatural food.

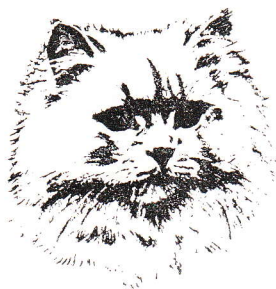
We must never forget: milk is not water, even though it is fluid. If a cat has milk always before it and drinks a great deal, it needs very little other food. The average cat needs about 350 calories a day, the amount contained in one pint of milk and no more . . .

There is certainly no cruelty in letting a cat fast long enough to accustom it to eating wholesome food that is good for it . . .

Warm all the food with which cats are fed. Cats dislike very cold food.

If a cat has a tendency to vomit but is otherwise well, feed small amounts often.

(Extracts from "The Complete Book of Home Pet Care" by Leon F. Whitney, D.V.M.)



A METHUSELAH AMONG CATS (concluded)

cats very rarely live beyond the age of 16 and even 21 is an age to strain credulity. But as Mrs. Werring insisted, Mrs. Moore wrote to a country magazine and her letter—according to Rowley—"sparked a correspondence that confirmed memory and made possibility certain."

Grandma's recipe for extreme old age is meat and sardines—and plenty of sleep. Especially sleep. "It's in sleep," concludes Rowley in his delightful prose, "that she drifts like a twig down the meadow-stream; lost in contemplation of the past until the present offers meat."

A page for the proletarian puss No. 75



A METHUSELAH AMONG CATS

An account of extraordinary longevity recorded by Rowley in "The South Devon Journal" for 20th March, 1957. The following extracts and illustration are reproduced by kind permission of this West Country newspaper.

Rowley refers to the fact that the "Guinness Book of Records" mentions a well authenticated case of a female tabby cat attaining 33 years in 1956, although 21 years is normally regarded as the limit for long-lived cats. So he set off to make an appointment with Grandma, the "well authenticated case" who lives at Newton Barton, "beyond the sunlight and thatch of Drewsteignton, where the water splash runs from the tree-light and daffodils stand in yellow conference, hob-nobbing with the wind." Newton Barton was once a farmhouse.

There in a straw-lined basket near a stove, he found Grandma getting ready for her 34th birthday in May. She is deaf and rather blind and her front paws have been disfigured by a rabbit trap.

Rowley goes on to record that Grandma is owned by Mrs. St. George Moore who came to Drewsteignton from Wales ten years ago; taking over Grandma from the previous owner. Mrs. Daisy Werring who has worked at Newton Barton for 32 years, testified that "the cat was here when I came, crippled just like she is now."

Mrs. Moore was inclined to doubt Grandma's record because she was aware that

(continued at foot of opposite page)



Presenting the officials of the Wessex Cat Club. Back row (left to right) : Capt. Pearce, Mr. C. F. Cade (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. D. Wilson, Mrs. D. Ensor, Mrs. M. Shrouder, Mr. A. Shrouder, Mr. H. S. Craven. Front row (left to right) : Mrs. M. A. Wilson (Hon. Secretary), Mrs. Constance Craven (Chairman), Mrs. C. F. Cade (Vice-Chairman) and Miss Heffer.

PROGRESS IN WESSEX

THE Wessex Cat Club held their second exemption show at Verwood, Dorsetshire, in late June. It was (reports Mrs. K. R. Williams, who was one of the guest judges) an

all-round success which reflected great credit on the organizers.

Best Siamese Kitten and Best Kitten was Long Beech Cinderella, bred by Miss J. Stubbs and owned and exhibited by Mrs. James. Best Siamese Adult was Miss R. Scheya's Tinkayan Holly. I

should like also to mention the two sisters Jennifer and Penelope Forward who exhibited Amberley Topaz and Sai Wong who were second and third to the Best Kitten in Show. Miss Woodfield's Cream female Thrales Honeysuckle

(continued on next page)

WESSEX CLUB *(concluded)*

was Best Longhair Cat and Mrs. Lane's Blue John the Best L.H. Kitten. Mrs. Parker's Opechee, a Burmese, headed the Neuters.

The Wessex C.C. has progressed steadily since Mr. and Mrs. D. Wilson began to develop the idea of catering for local interest. It was at a London Show several years ago that they discussed with me their plans for starting a club and I offered to help in any way I could. At that time they had not sufficient contacts to start but as their circle of friends and acquaintances widened their dream became nearer reality. The Verwood Prize Band helped to spur them on.

A meeting called in September, 1955, was attended by 14 people and many wrote to promise their support. At that meeting the Club was formed and officers were appointed. It was agreed that meetings should be held in various parts of Wessex and that one of the objects should be "to encourage the ordinary cat owners to take more interest in their cats and not regard them, as some do, merely as vermin catchers."

Children encouraged

This Club, fortunate in having such a lively Secretary as Mrs. M. Wilson, has great personality. Membership is near the 100 mark and I was particularly pleased with the number of children who have been encouraged to show their pets. Members are also encouraged to attend the bigger shows and this is I feel a really valuable contribution to our Fancy as a whole.

The Club's activities do not end with the Show. Friendly meetings are arranged from time to time at which talks have been given by veterinary surgeons and others. Miss Kit Wilson has spoken on the work of the C.P.L. for ordinary cats and last winter I spent a very pleasant evening speaking about Siamese.

WHEN A CAT REPRESENTS 12s. 6d. ON FOUR LEGS

Our readers all over the country were shocked last month to read the account of the court case held at Greenwich where a man and his wife and the man's brother were charged with stealing cats. The names of this cruel and thoughtless trio are Raymond and Diana Hardinges and Alfred Hardinges hailing from S.E. London. They were jailed for six months—a quite inadequate sentence.

The woman defendant admitted that nightly tours were made of the London streets by car and on average they took about six cats a night. Altogether they had stolen about 720 cats which were put straight in sacks and sold to a dealer. They started operations about a year previous, stealing about 24 a week for the first two months. Then they "laid off" for three summer months and started off again in the autumn. "None of the cats died on us," continued the woman, "and we were not cruel to them. We never took valuable cats like Siamese."

Alfred Hardinges told the police: "After a time I forgot they were cats and all I saw was 12s. 6d. on four legs."

Several cats in cages were brought into the court by the R.S.P.C.A. The police took possession of nine on the premises of the dealer named in the case. Three were subsequently identified by people who said they were the owners of the rescued cats.

Thinking of
an Import

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**You could have met this delightful pair at the Vichy
show of Union Nationale des Associations Felines
last month.**



Blue Longhair kittens—Splendeur Grey, Grimm, Gloria and Gina—bred by Mme. Guidon, of Paris, from her imported queen Winsome of Dunesk and Mme. Esteve's Int. Champion Caprice de Martainville. Both parents have been Best in Show in Paris.

The French Cat Club du Centre held a successful promotion at Vichy on July 6th and 7th. The weather was extremely hot and consequently the Longhairs were at a disadvantage. Organization was in the capable hands of Mme. d'Alleizette and Mme Villechaise (the Presidents) and Mr. Couanay (Vice-President). The judges were Mlle. Coste and Mme. Rocher.

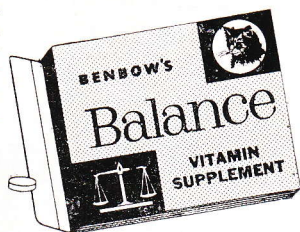
Major awards were : Best Longhair—Mr. Couanay's Blue Persian male Fetiche de Padirac ; Best Shorthair—Mme. d'Alleizette's Blue Pointed Siamese Pristine Pompey ; Best Kittens—Mme. Briault's Cream Longhair Gilles du Claire de Lune and Mlle. Boudon's Blue Pointed Siamese Falco des Monts Dores ; Best Litters—Mlle. Carday's Blue and Cream Persians and Mme. d'Alleizette's Blue Pointed Siamese. Blue Pompey won the award for the Best Sire and local Vichy prizewinners were Dr. Touchard (S.P. Siamese), Mme. Bourdeix (Shorthair Tabby) and Mme. Cazals (Black Shorthair).

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In the Siamese World



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

THIS year's Siamese Cat Club Tea Party was held towards the end of June, during the heat wave, at the St. Ermin's Hotel, London. As usual there was a large attendance and the "Any Questions?" feature produced some varied discussions ranging from the feeding of kittens to "Should tranquilizers be used for cats?" On the question of hormones the panel felt very firmly that not enough was known about their effect and therefore they should be used with extreme care.

* * *

The first London show of the new season—the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club Show—is now past. And a very successful show it was. Siamese predominated over other breeds and of the kittens I judged there were a number of promising youngsters. At 2-4 months it is difficult to predict their future and only on the rare occasion does a "flyer" appear. Of the older kittens, Mrs. I. Keene's Sabukia Shararjar and Mr. M. Macmichael's Gay Donald should do well. Mrs. Channing's Bradgate Punchinello won I believe his third Certificate, so he is now a full Premier. Miss Sladen's Manx Stonor Nicolcina was Best Short-

hair Kitten. This kitten was a picture and to watch her movement was a joy.

Some of the classes were of 30 kittens and it is impossible to do justice to such big classes. Mrs. Aitken, the Show Manager, agreed that all such classes should be split. We should endeavour to find some solution to show problems of this kind. One remedy, I feel sure, is the cutting out of A. V. Longhair and Shorthair classes and the reduction of side classes. Our Continental and overseas friends are wise in not having these classes and are amazed when they see our catalogues carrying over 100 classes.

* * *

A fellow passenger to New Zealand with Sir Anthony and Lady Eden was Seal Point kitten Sans Souci Felix, bred by Mr. and Mrs. Glover. Felix was on his way to Mr. Dryden Pardy and last week I had news of the kitten from Dr. King, a friend of Mr. Pardy, who visited us. He has settled down happily and is a great pet, replacing Doneraile Lightning who had been lost in tragic circumstances.

* * *

The Siamese Cat Club of South Africa held its eighth Championship Show

last month. Previous shows had been open to all breeds and this fixture for Siamese only was contemplated with some misgivings. But—to quote the Show Manager's report : " It proved an outstanding success. The public came in its hundreds." A special feature was a picture gallery of cat lovers arranged by Mrs. S. Pratt and Mrs. I. Gluckman. A photograph of Simon, the V.C. cat of H.M.S. *Amethyst* and a very touching one of two children reading the inscription on his grave drew much attention.

One gets the impression from reading the South African report that exhibitors are inclined to overfeed. I notice such remarks as "Too heavy." "He needs a little dieting," "Has apparently dined too well" and "Was much too fat round the middle." The standard is improving each year which is a great credit to the Club, its Committee and officers. Prize-winners were Mrs. Gluckman's Bintang Syah of Copelands, Mrs. E. Marais's import Kahiso Suline Skylark, Mrs. Versfeld's Wing-Hoi and Miss M. C. White's Delta Rose.

* * *

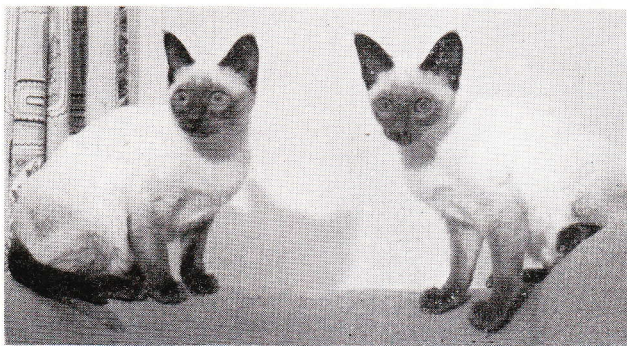
I received from Mrs. M. Young an interesting photograph of two kittens she has brought up by hand. The mother's milk did not come in and when it did, dried up almost immediately. They certainly are fine, sturdy kittens.

The one on the right is being kept for breeding. Here is an example that should help novices, for it can clearly be seen from the accompanying picture that the kitten on the right has the better head.

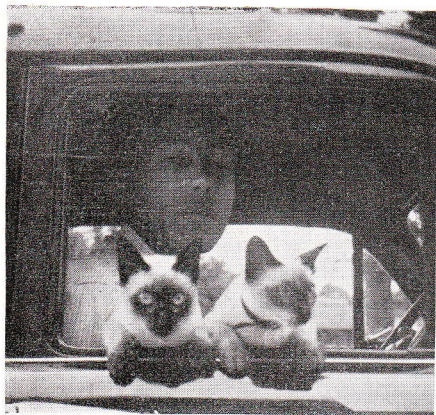
* * *

Last year Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Thomas were home on leave from Kuala Lumpur. I had corresponded with them for some time, and so was delighted to meet them. We spent a very pleasant afternoon discussing cats and countries ; they have two females and one male. One of the females is local bred and said to have ancestry from Siam, the other two were brother and sister, offspring of Slades Cross Chunki and Doneraile Charm, bred by Mrs. Boxall of Budleigh Salterton. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas were very pleased that two of the last litter went to H.H. Sir Abu Bakar, the Sultan of Panan, one of the Malay rulers who is very fond of cats.

It was very encouraging to hear from the Thomases that the European population of Malaya are very interested in cats, and that the Malays are extremely fond of cats, although not particularly in breeding them. The Indian and Chinese population are showing an increasing interest in pedigree cats. On the next page you will see the two kittens going for a run in the car with Mr. Thomas. Looking back, it was in 1949



Mrs. Young's hand-reared babies (see above).



Snapshot from Malaya. Mr. Thomas goes motoring with two of his Siamese friends.

that I sent three Siamese to Mr. Wyatt-Smith, whom I hope to meet when he visits England again. He also mentioned how well his Malays cared for the cats.

* * *

An interesting letter from Mrs. J. Engelsher, of Chicago, tells me of her Chocolate Point Male, Quad Ch. Green



QUESI SECCO, bred by Mrs. M. Briggs, is an exceptionally nice youngster who now lives with Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Butler at Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

Lane Van of Velvet Shadow. He has been four times Best Kitten, twice Best Foreign S.H. and S.H. Kitten, twice Best Siamese Kitten, eight times Best of Colour. As an adult he has never been defeated in six shows, always 1st and winner (first and Ch.), seven times Best of Colour, three times Best Opposite Colour. At Dayton he beat 50 novices of all colour and breed. Van is a grandson of Mrs. Statham's Chocolate Point Ch. Beauchat Brunnescens Lynn and my C.P. Ch. Doneraile Brun Malvana, who is also Van's dam.

* * *

Have any of you experienced inverted eyelid in a Siamese cat? If so, I should be pleased if you would let me know, particularly mentioning whether the cat was (a) born with the trouble, (b) developed it after an illness or (c) just developed it from no apparent cause.

* * *

With British Shorthairs progressing so well here in England, it is interesting to note that the A.C.A. (American Cat Association Inc.) at their A.G.M. decided—I quote—"The British Blue cat was accepted as a recognized breed for the coming show season—standard to be the same as that published in England."

* * *

Finally, an appeal to those who intend to exhibit at the Siamese Cat Club Championship Show on 8th October. When you have your schedule, please make your entries promptly as it is such a help.



Books recently received include P. M. Soderberg's *The Care of Your Cat*, published by Cassells at 30s., and Alan Simmon's *Famous Cats*, published by Elliot Right Way Books at 7s. 6d. These will be reviewed in next month's issue.

News from "Down Under"

ANOTHER month has sped by at breath-taking speed—and what a month ! Surely there has never been such hospitality. After that very important date in June with a lady and a padre, we flew to New Zealand and before I start to describe our travels in that lovely land, may I say a sincere "Thank you !" to all those kind friends in England and elsewhere who sent such lovely messages of goodwill to myself and my wife.

Invercargill (would that be Scotch ?) was the first of the two shows at which we were happy to judge. Club President Mrs. Low and Secretary Jim Buchanan greeted us at the airport and we were soon comfortably installed. Southland Cat Club's 9th Annual Championship Show was held in the beautiful Centennial Hall, built only last year. It had the best natural light we have ever judged in (glass roof) and could very easily stage a show of a thousand cats, so large is the hall. Altogether, a lovely and spacious setting for a cat show.

On Friday, the first day of the Show, we did 76 registered stock and how this section has increased since my last visit of 1954, when 27 answered the roll call ! After lunch we met visitors and many old friends, including Mr. and Mrs. C. Aberdeen, of Dunedin, and Mr. and Miss D. Hore, of Palmerston North, who brought along 14 cats by car. These exhibits were well shown and appeared to be seasoned travellers. Then we had a press conference (local publicity is quite well done) and at 5 p.m. we were "on the air" with Uncle Clarrie in Children's Hour. What a re-union !

Judging on the next day was confined to unregistered stock—children's pets, shop and store cats. They made a

splendid array and we were pleased to find all the Shorthair entries in such fine healthy show condition. Most of the exhibitors in these sections are boys and girls, enthusiastic and real proud of their pets. In the afternoon the Show was officially opened by Uncle Clarrie.

This was a very friendly and happy fixture which ran smoothly and reflected great credit on the executive. A great pity the weather wasn't kinder. I have never seen greater improvement in the quality of stock and the way they handled anywhere, and this gave us great pleasure. The major awards were : Best Longhair Male—Ch. Bayhorne Ariel (imp.) ; Best Longhair Female—Illawarra Rhonda Gay ; Best L.H. Male Kitten—Greenseal Chat Blanc ; Best L.H. Female Kitten—Giro Flee ; Best L.H. Neuters—Golden Prince and Azure Lady Dusky ; Best S.P. Siamese Male—Mylynn Pasha ; Best S.P. Siamese Female—Blue Diamond Mandy ; Best B.P. Siamese Female—Valbert Blue Nymph ; Best S.P. Siamese Neuters—Pitt-ma-cree-purr and Finisterre Garie ; Best S.P. Siamese Brood Queen—Greenseal Black Beauty.

Records at Auckland

After a call at Dunedin, where they have a show scheduled for later this month, we went on to Auckland, that lovely old city in the North Island, where we were met by Mr. Hayden Pollock, the keen young Secretary of the local Club. A telephone call from Mr. and Mrs. Downey (Club President and Show Manager), told us to be prepared for a bumper show. How right they were, as an all-time record was reached with both entries and gate, the last named being nearly twice as much as previously, which

must have "tickled" the Treasurer to pieces.

Early on Friday morning we were at the Town Hall to start judging the registered stock—Siamese, Burmese, Abyssinians—and then on to Longhair Black and self colours and finally the mixed colours in all their beauty. Some very fine stock of grand type were shown including many recently imported cats who are a great acquisition to the New Zealand Fancy. A very special mention must go to that grand old campaigner Ch. Slapton Black Magic, the Black Longhair who seems evergreen. A trio of Burmese came in for a lot of attention, as did the dainty Abyssinians.

As at Invercargill, the morning of Saturday was devoted to judging the children's pets, etc., and here we were again impressed with the high standard of the exhibits. If I may say so, many of these were an example to some of the Longhair exhibitors.

Then followed the presentation of the trophies and other awards and I was able to describe to a tightly packed hall the good points of some of the outstanding winners. The wee girlie who brought up the heaviest cat for his prize had a real haulage job on hand as her pet appeared to scale $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. I suggested to Secretary Pollock the provision of a wheelbarrow at future shows!

Real co-operation

Great strides have obviously been made at Auckland in the quality of the stock being produced and this is due in great measure to the lovely importations. A very happy atmosphere is evident everywhere and there is co-operation right from Auckland back down to Invercargill. Major awards were: Best Cat in Show—Ch. Slapton Black Magic; Runner-up—Woodland Mischief (imp.); Best Opposite Sex—Ashdown Forest Flower (imp.); Best Kitten—Fernglan Mischief's Pride; Best Brood Queen—Lindisfarne Little Flower; Best S.P.

Siamese Male—Hawkstone Auzure; Best S.P. Siamese Female—Scarsdale Minnehaha; Best Abyssinian Male—Ch. Selbourne Catalpha; Best Burmese Male—Merrick Apollo (imp.); Best Burmese Female—Paquita (imp.); Best Neuters—Lily Marlane and Langbank Jamie.

Back home

On the home front things have been very busy and Federal Cat Club held their 27th Annual Championship Show on 22nd June (the day we were judging at Invercargill) in Sydney. Proceeds were devoted to the Australian Red Cross Society. I am indebted to Miss Vale, Club Secretary, for particulars of happenings on the day, which unfortunately was very wet.

A large entry of 300 beautifully prepared cats were benched and there was an attractive display of cat ornaments including one of an odd-eyed white cat which, so the King of the Gremlins informs me, was the subject of much debate. Members were enthusiastic in their response to an invitation to partake in a cat photo section and I am told it was very well received by the visitors. These little attractions certainly help to keep the public interested. Sixteen entries in a section for "cat or kitten by a child under 15 years" is certainly encouraging here, as it helps to launch our exhibitors of to-morrow into the show business. Following are the major placings: Best Persian Male—Craigholme Prince Khan; Best Persian Female—Minaloo Loga; Best Persian Male Kitten—Spada Azure Rex; Best Persian Female Kitten—Lindisfarne Blue Rose; Best Persian Neuters—Delhi Arctic Prince and Kintyre Leilani; Best Siamese Male—Yedashi Mini; Best Siamese Female—Kaylea Rotchana; Best Siamese Junior Male—Mystic Ruang Sak; Best Siamese Junior Female—Purachatra Tarantella; Best Neuters—Mizpah Sabu and Purachatre Blue Idyll.

The second club show during my absence in N.Z. was held by the Southern Cross Siamese Club at Chatswood early in July. I understand the weather was kind and a large number of visitors enjoyed seeing a very good entry. I am indebted to President Mrs. Helsham and Secretary Mr. Holden for the following list of major awards: Best Persian Male—Craigholme Prince Khan; Best Persian Female—Elizabeth of Ellington; Best Persian Male Kitten—Craigholme China Sun; Best Persian Female Kitten—Miowera Royal Keepsake; Best Persian Neuters—Delhi Arctic Prince and Woodlin Pixie Royal; Best Persian Brood Queen—Elizabeth of Ellington; Best Siamese Female—Hookstone Amethyst; Best Siamese Male Kitten—Coochi Blue Caprice; Best Siamese Female Kitten—Westwood Blue Lady; Best Siamese Exhibit—Coochi Blue Caprice; Best Persian Exhibit—Carigholme Prince Khan.

TAILPIECES

MY copy of *Cats Digest* for the month of June refers in its editorial to the really serious drought conditions in Australia. The exceptional dry weather has brought in its wake severe outbreaks of feline infectious enteritis in some country districts. *Cats Digest*, edited by Mrs. I. Paris, is, of course, the official journal of the Federal Cat Club of Australasia.

"Is this a record?" asks a newspaper correspondent living in Surrey. "Our small cat—just over a year old—has had her first litter of kittens. There are six of them—all males."

From North London I have received the following note from Mrs. Joan Hough: "Last Wednesday I visited Woburn Abbey, the residence of the Duke and Duchess of Bedford. Whilst there I

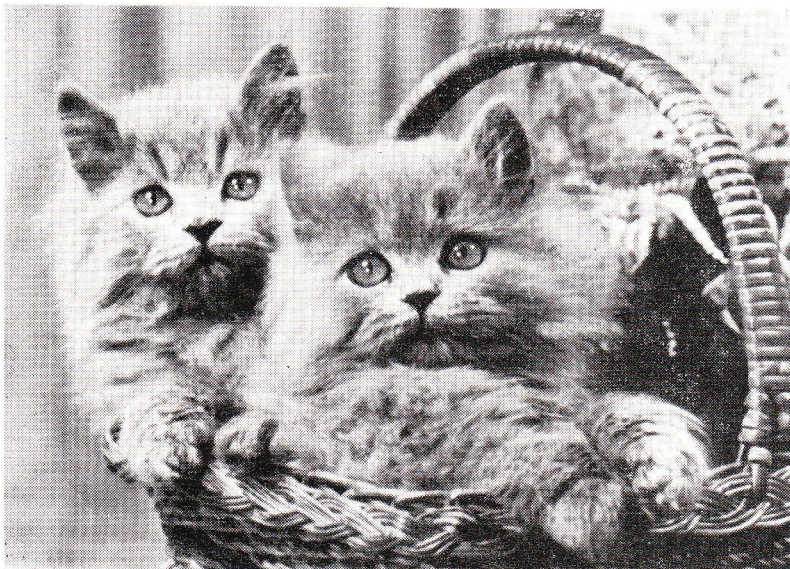
looked through the zoo, which includes monkeys, skunk, jungle cat, sheep, goats, etc.—and guess who else? In an enclosure to themselves complete with miniature raft surrounded by water, the cats Guiton and Puce (who crossed the Atlantic) were being fêted daily. Their testing period in quarantine has apparently been passed with flying colours."

A dog is reported to have dived three times into the River Ebro in Spain to save three kittens which had been thrown into the water. After rescuing them he placed them under a bridge, licked them clean and generally looked after them until some children arrived on the scene.

The use of tranquilizing drugs which has swept America and is now arousing widening interest in this country is expected to be extended to veterinary medicine. The special value of tranquilizers in this field is that they are safe and selective enough with proper choice and dosing, to allay fear and its various manifestations—nervousness, fretting and viciousness. They have little or no influence on consciousness, digestion, etc., while anaesthetics must alter these functions to be effective. It is to be hoped that the law will ensure that the dispensing of these new drugs will be limited to responsible veterinarians.

"The village of disappearing cats." That's what they are calling Bradworthy in North Devon. The matter has reached such serious proportions that an investigation has been launched by local police in co-operation with the Okehampton R.S.P.C.A. Inspector. Family pets are going out in the morning and not returning, neither can any trace be found of them. One family has lost six cats or kittens, another has lost two. The general feeling is that more cats are missing than can reasonably be accounted for in ordinary and natural ways.

MICKEY.



"A BASKETFUL OF BLUE BEAUTIES!"

"They'd got their eyes on the Tibs packet when I took this snap," says Tibby, the Tibs reporter. "They knew what was good for them already!"

At her Eireanne Catterie in Chalfont St. Peter, Mrs. Marlowe breeds beautiful Blue Persians, and her kittens have won many prizes all round the country. This photograph shows Eireanne Silver Bell and Eireanne Danny Boy when they were kittens . . . and very Tibsical kittens they were! Mrs. Marlowe has given all her cats Tibs . . . one a day . . . from weaning age onwards. She finds Tibs indispensable for encouraging good bones, good teeth, good condition and shining coats.



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International judge — turns
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reveal the most interesting
entries concerning personal-
ities, both human and feline.

Show season opens

THE Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club Show at the Royal Horticultural Hall, London, last month attracted over 450 pedigree neuters and kittens and 27 household pets. After a showery morning the weather was pleasantly fine and cool; much better for the exhibits than the heat and sunshine we had previously enjoyed for so many weeks.

The public evidently thought it was just the day for a cat show as they came in hundreds. The result was a gate of over £300 and catalogue sales of over £50. Each Club member who exhibited was given a complimentary ticket, a gesture which it would be agreeable to see other Clubs with a substantial bank balance follow.

With the exception of the 1951 K.K. and N.N.C. Show (which had Championship status and 512 exhibits)

the entry this year was a record one and the hall was filled to capacity. Mrs. E. Aitken, Hon. Secretary and Show Manager, tried to obtain the larger New R.H.S. Hall when the entries poured in on June 24th, but it was engaged. Every endeavour will be made to book it for 1959 as this show is growing in popularity by leaps and bounds and indicates the flourishing state of the Fancy nowadays. Several late entries had to be refused, there just was not space for them.

The Show was splendidly organized by Mrs. E. Aitken, and Mr. Aitken was a tower of strength and did much of the clerical and financial work. Congratulations to both of them and all who so happily gave their services. The judges (whom we take so much for granted) did a splendid job and had little time to talk to exhibitors after they had finished. The eighteen officiating were Miss Beckett, Mrs. Brice Webb, Mrs. Burgess, Mrs. Peggy Cattermole, Mrs. Varcoe, Miss Lelgarde Fraser, Mrs. Kent, Mrs. Lauder, Mrs. J. M. Newton, Miss Prentis, Mrs. Pond, Mrs. Price, Miss Rodda, Miss Sheppard, Mr. Tomlinson, Mrs. Towe, Mrs. K. R. Williams, and Miss Kathleen Yorke.

It was nice to see Mr. A. Towe, who has organized so many lovely shows for us, walking round taking a kindly interest in everything. He is just about to start on the preliminary work for his speciality, the Croydon Cat Club Ch. Show in November.

Needless to add, there were many lovely kittens among the exhibits and it must have been difficult for the Best in Show panel of five judges for Longhair and five for Shorthair to decide on the two winners. Their awards were :— Best L.H. Kitten—Mrs. Turney's Chinchilla male Bonavia Campanello (by Ch. Mark of Allington) ; Best L.H. Neuter—Mrs. Trevor's Chinchilla (sire and dam unknown) ; Best S.H. Kitten—Miss Sladen's Manx female Stonor Nicoltina (by Stonor Buster) ; Best S.H. Neuter—Mrs. Channing's S.P. Siamese Bradgate Funchinello (by Maiz Mor Marquis) ; Best Household Pet—Mr. Mursell's Kelly.

The entry of 43 Blue kittens was more than double the 1956 figure. The winners in the Open Classes were :—Mrs. Parker's male Prestwood Onyx and her female Prestwood Sapphire by Ch. Bayhorne Ajax ; Mrs. Brittlebank's Hazeldine Haladin by Ch. Thiepvall Paragon ; Mrs. Burnand's Punch Silver Fluff by Gwynn of Allington ; Miss Page's Woburn Chippy by Vigilant Taurus.

Miss Sherlock's trio of Blacks were headed by Bircotte Quanta by Bircotte Giftocrissa. Mrs. Dallison's trio of White males were absent owing to her own indisposition. Best Cream male kitten was Mrs. Joan Thompson's Orlando of Pensford by Ch. Octavian of Pensford ; Best Cream female kitten Mrs. Nash's Hendras Fleur by Oscar of Pensford. In the 2-3 months Open Class the winners were Mrs. Todd's male Aviary Sunray by Ch. Hendras Benedict and Mrs. Barron's female Dalan Serena by Paul of Pensford. Mrs. Nash's Hendras Fleur, brought out for Best in Show, has been purchased by Madame Ravel of Paris.

In Smokes Mrs. Fletcher was first with Treetops Tornado by Ch. Bircotte Nono, the latter being an exceptionally nice Smoke who won so well for his breeder-owner Miss Sherlock last season. In Silver Tabbies Miss Jury won with her Purring Tabitha by Ch. Purring

Tom Kitten. Mrs. Beedell's trio of Brown Tabbies (by Ch. Trelystan Jasper) were headed by Magyar Hyacinth, a lovely male who should be a great asset in future to this variety. Only two Red Tabbies but the winner Mrs. Moore's Asplin Sunset by Ch. Barwell Pedro was a good one.

Three out of the five Open Chinchilla classes were cancelled owing to "No entries," the winner in the 2-3 female class being Mrs. Turney's Bonavia Helen by Rab of Thame. In an amalgamated class of Blue-Creams Miss English won with Arcamor Fantasia by Valleyend Ecu. In Colourpoints, Mrs. Kirby-Smith's Chatelaine Al-Hakim by Briarry Alcazar won, a charming kitten.

The side classes were nearly all well filled but space does not permit names of the winners. Eight L.H. litters were headed by Mrs. Turney's litter of three by Rab of Thame.

Some fine Siamese

The Siamese were a show in themselves and 103 Seal Points, 23 Blue Points and 11 Chocolate Points graced the 12 Open Classes provided for them. The winners were in Seal Points Mrs. Lapper's Bradgate Y-not by Ch. Bluehayes Foxy ; Mrs. Griffith's Embergary Pluto by Morris Padishah ; Mrs. Macmichael's Gay Donald by Ch. Bluehayes Foxy ; Mrs. Alexander's Holway My Posy by Ch. Pincop Simon ; Mrs. Keene's Sabukia Shararyar by Ch. Sabukia Sir Galahad ; Mr. Warner's Spotlight Antoinette by Ch. Spotlight Troubadour, and Mrs. Dadd's Killdown Kerry by Ch. Killdown Sultan.

The rosettes offered by the Siamese Cat Club for Best S.P. kitten were awarded to Mrs. Dadd's Killdown Kerry, an honour in this company of quantity and quality) ; Best S.P. Siamese Mrs. Bailey's Nagar Araminta by Ch. Missellfore Ryken ; Best C.P. Mrs. Ferguson's Sayam Traviata by Ch. Briarry Macsuch. In four classes

confined to breeders of S.P.'s Mrs. Price had the task of sorting out the winners from 79 kittens.

The winning Abyssinian was Mrs. Stuart's Deckham Aphra by Nigella Rashid. Burmese were led by Mrs. Bastow's Omaheeni Ariel, Mrs. Crosthwaite's Omaheeni Belinda by Sablesilk Bimo and Miss Dunn's Ojibway by Ch. Casa Gatos Darkee. In British Shorthairs winners were :—(Blacks) Mrs. Winnett's Broughton Black Magic ; (Blues) Mrs. Johnson's Flixton Peter ; (Creams) Mrs. A. Attwood's Aldra's East Bunnice ; (Blue - Creams) Mrs. Winnett's Zezeel Gay Priscilla ; (Silver Tabbies) Miss Robson's Culverden Raymond by the Silver Tabby male imported from France, Bellever Calchas Dacheux ; (Red Tabbies) Miss Hardman's Killinghall Red Flame ; (Russian Blues) Mr. Monro Smith's Kerry Blue and Mrs. Pooley's Bellemonta Karel.

The neuters were very handsome and a joy to behold. In the Premier classes the winners were Misses Marshall's Blue Premier Ashdown Twinkletoes, Mrs. Spencer's Burmese Sealcoat Trinlan, Mrs. Budd's Blue Premier Ch. Nidderdale Bumble, and, of course, the Best in Show L.H. and S.H. neuters in their respective Premier classes.

Twenty-five exhibits in the Any Variety Neuter female class judged by Mrs. Newton was remarkable, indicating how popular it has become to keep females as pets now it is possible to spay them. What a pity Mrs. Strowbridge's lovely Blue-Cream Shapur Giselda (bred by Mrs. Rowena Ross) was not entered in her Open Premier class as although awarded six Firsts and several other prizes this precluded any judge from bringing her out for Best in Show.

The Committee's decision to divide several of the side classes into males and females and publish it in the schedules undoubtedly helped to attract the record entry. In my opinion, the majority of exhibitors infinitely prefer a generous classification to lower entry fees. They gave practical proof they do not object

to the present fees by giving the Club show the best entry it has ever had with the exception of 1951. Finances were so attenuated then that Capt. Williams guaranteed the fee for the New Horticultural Hall and other commitments and undertook the risk of organizing what was then one of the most expensive shows under Governing Council rules. The results were beyond all expectations and provided the Club with such a substantial bank balance that it has been able to hold its show at one of the Horticultural Halls ever since.

The attendance at most of them has been remarkable, especially the last two, and one wonders if the choice of Saturday, now so many are enjoying a five-day working week, has some influence on the revenue.

Down in Kent

The Kentish Cat Society Show at the Drill Hall, Tunbridge Wells, on July 6th, was a very pleasant affair. It was one of the hottest days I ever remember at a show and probably kept a number of the usual devotees from attending. Mrs. Joan Varcoe and Miss K. Stephenson made their successful bow as joint Show Managers and with Mrs. K. R. Williams (Chairman) to appeal to on any vexed questions everything went according to plan. The 114 exhibits, only five of whom were household pets, was not such a good entry as expected. Exhibitors probably preferred to wait until the Kensington Kitten Show and, of course, London is so much easier to get to for the majority, including several of us who live in Kent.

Siamese made the bravest show and the kitten entry was excellent. Longhairs numbered 25, including two nice litters exhibited by Mrs. Stephenson. A male in one of these litters of four Blues, Ashdown Robin by Ashdown Nuthatch, provided the Best L.H. Kitten—a very promising exhibit. Best L.H. Cat was Mrs. Calder's Slapton Salote by Miss Rodda's Ch. Chadhurst Sambo ; a very

nice Black female ; Best L.H. Neuter—Mrs. Pearman's Daybreak Tommy Tucker by Hathaway Antony Roly ; Best S.H. Cat—Mrs. Worsley's S.P. Siamese Jonny Puss by Ch. Spotlight Troubadour, a good male looking sleek and very well groomed ; Best S.H. Kitten—Mrs. Dadd's male Killdown Kerry by Ch. Killdown Sultan ; Best S.H. Neuter—Mrs. Montgomery's S.P. Siamese Pr. Purland Som Phong by Ch. Clonlost Yo Yo, who was looking well as usual and won first in side classes as well as in his Open Class containing nineteen Siamese Neuters.

The Drill Hall has exceptionally good light and it would be an ideal venue for a show if it was in the town. Captain Williams thoughtfully arranged for the bar in the sergeant's mess to be open and we were very thankful for the cool drinks on such a sweltering day. The tea bar was almost deserted !

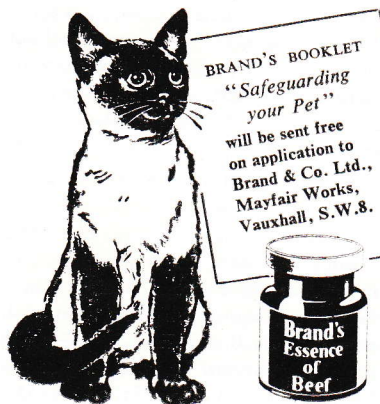
The youngest competitor was probably David Kirby-Smith, aged seven. He

was highly delighted when his S.P. Siamese Klamath Trojan was awarded two firsts.

Danish activity

Mrs. Rudy Eisenhuth, President of the Racekatten Club, Denmark, is already preparing for their Championship Show to take place on 8th, 9th and 10th of November. The venue will be the spacious Tivoli Music Hall of world renown. The judges will be Mrs. S. Cremer (Germany) for all Longhair adults, Miss K. Larsdotter (Sweden) L.H. kittens, Russian Blues, Abyssinians and European Shorthairs ; Mrs. M. Lorscheid (Germany) Siamese. Among the stewards will be Mrs. Volkerson from Hamburg, Germany, who is a descendant of the founder of Tivoli. I expect she will be interested in seeing his statue in the lovely gardens. Exhibitors are expected from other European countries and Mrs.

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Eisenhuth and her Committee will do everything to make their visit a happy one. The Ch. Shows at Copenhagen are lovely and the "gates" amazing, often 10,000 or more spectators during the three days. When Miss Kathleen Yorke and myself were judging there in November, 1952, the spectators numbered 12,623, which was a record for a show in Scandinavia at that time.

Going to Turkey

A welcome visitor from U.S.A., Mrs. Matters, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, visited me in early July. She arrived at London Airport on a Monday and flew to Istanbul, Turkey, four days later where she and her husband will make their home. Last year Mr. and Mrs. Matters visited Boston Ch. Show and were captivated by the Blues. They purchased a kitten which Mr. Matters will reluctantly leave in a good home as they do not consider it fair to subject him to the long journey by land and sea which he would have when Mr. Matters travels to Turkey in August. *En route* he visits here to see the kittens and take one of them with him.

When Mrs. Matters saw the Blues and the Creams at home she preferred the latter. As far as I know this will be the first pedigree Longhair to go to Turkey.

American hustle

Colonel and Mrs. Kingsland, from Chesterfield, Missouri, have also been in London for a few days *en route* for Italy, France, Germany and far away places. Their itinerary is breath-taking before they return to U.S.A. in September. They have purchased Mrs. Stephenson's lovely Blue male Ashdown Robin and an unrelated female from me by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous.

Mrs. Kingsland regretted she had so little time to see London and visit so few breeders. They had only four clear days, one afternoon of which they spent

at the Queen's garden party at Buckingham Palace for members of our own and the American legal profession.

Herts breeders

What a busy person Miss Sheppard of Widdington fame is! When Mr. and Mrs. Brind were taking Ch. Moonrise of Pensford to be mated to Ch. Widdington Winterset they invited me to go with them. It was very interesting to see these famous Creams at their Herts home.

Ch. Widdington Winterstar was looking lovely. His head is so well balanced and such an essential point—his eyes are so is such an essential point—his eyes are so good, very round, wide apart and a lovely colour. Her Cream queen Ch. Wonderland Honeybunch who distinguished herself by having four kittens when she was thirteen, one of which was Best L.H. kitten at Olympia, had one Cream female this Spring, a lively little sprite who was really "showing off." I often think single kittens are precocious especially when they have no other kittens of a similar age to play with.

The Blue Wanda of Pensford (daughter of my Blue-Cream Ch. Dawn of Pensford) is in kitten to Ch. Widdington Winterstar and it will be very interesting to see her kittens later. Wanda's Blue-Cream litter sister, Lady Bess of Pensford, owned by Colonel and Mrs. Williams of Kentucky, U.S.A., had seven kittens in her first litter in April. Miss Sheppard, like a number of breeders who have facilities for keeping goats, much prefers their milk to cow's milk as a first supplementary food for kittens.

In addition to the cats and the goats she has hundreds of baby chicks and laying hens so with her companion she never has an idle moment. Over a mile from a neighbour and amid open country, her home at Berden, near Bishop's Stortford, is an ideal place for breeding cats.

From Miss Sheppard's home we paid a flying visit to see Miss Rodda, also living near Bishops Stortford. She has

a bevy of lovely kittens. Her great speciality is Blacks and she has exported many which have become Champions in other countries. I was very captivated by a lovely black daughter of Ch. Chadhurst Sambo and her almost equally good black litter brother. The Blue male was also a fine kitten and he will probably be sold as a pet. Breeders usually prefer Blue males pure Blue bred when they buy Blues for future studs. There were some very nice Creams and Blue-Creams and it was delightful to see so many bonny kittens.

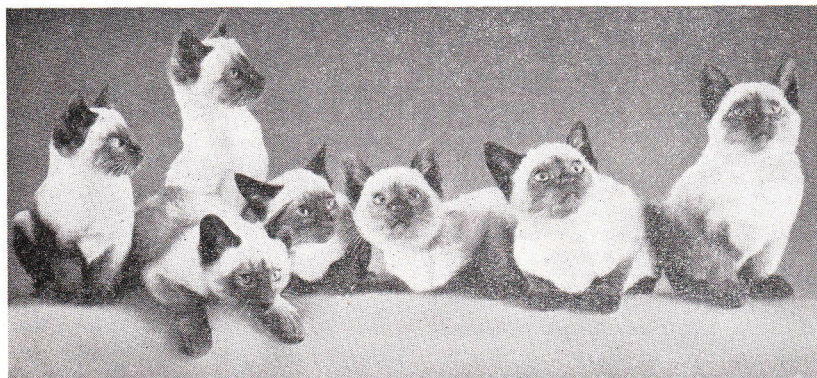
Miss Rodda is a very popular judge and much in demand. These duties do however entail a sacrifice as if a breeder judge has a particularly good season it means she may be unable to exhibit her own kittens when they are at their best. When judging invitations arrive they usually come very early in the year, some weeks before the first Longhair kittens are born. So it is almost impossible to

gauge if one will have kittens eligible for competition.

We only had time to see one adult, a Tortoiseshell, Ch. Chadhurst Juliet, who is a great favourite of mine. At eleven years of age her head and type are as exquisite as ever. She is by Ch. Widdington Warden out of an exceptionally good pre-war Black, Ch. Chadhurst June.

A most enjoyable afternoon among the Widdingtons and Chadhursts.

Mrs. Joan Thompson will welcome news items and photographs suitable for inclusion in "Just Fancy" during 1957, particularly from clubs and fanciers overseas. Contributions—as brief as possible, please—may be addressed to her at 130 Wickham Way, Beckenham, Kent.



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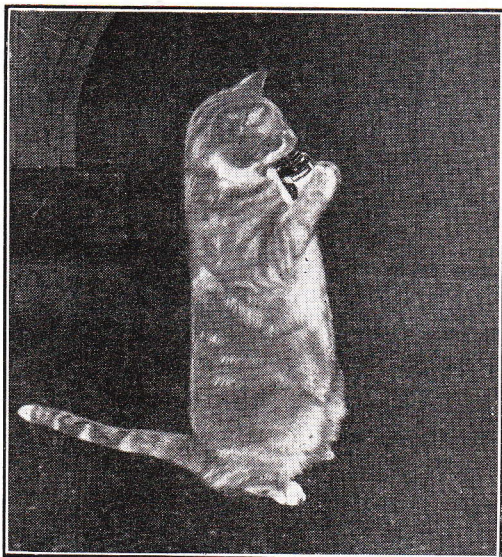
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Feline Fragments

By IVOR RALEIGH

MOST queen owners realize that a stud fee is payable for the act of mating and not for the resulting litter. A few breeders, however, still feel that the stud owner is under an obligation in a case where a mating has taken place but the kittens have either died or the queen has failed to conceive.

An experienced breeder recently telephoned me to say that his queen, which had been mated by my stud had had a miscarriage and had lost her kittens. We made an appointment and once again, his queen was mated. When he came to take her away I was not at home and my housekeeper asked him for the stud fee, which he indignantly refused to pay.

It so happens that I would have given a free mating. The decision to do so however rests with the stud owner. It is his to give and not the breeder's to take, and to do so is an impertinence and an imposition.

* * *

During the summer time, contagion spreads quickly. Remember to have your kittens inoculated with vaccine as soon as they are six weeks old. For those who have many kittens and cannot afford the price, ask your veterinary surgeon to give each kitten one half c.c. of the vaccine. This quantity should give a fairly high level of immunity when we remember that originally the one c.c. injection used to be given at twelve weeks, when the kitten's body weight was much greater than at six weeks. Two injections should be given, with an interval of 14 days be-

tween them. If you can afford the full dose, give it.

* * *

I was very pleased to see that the Blue Persian Cat Society has appointed a number of new judges. All those so appointed well deserve the honour. Mrs. Crickmore, one of the new judges, has won outstanding honours as a breeder and exhibitor. It has been my pleasure to meet her on many occasions in friendly competition and she has shown herself to be a chivalrous victor and a very sporting loser. I hope that she will still show occasionally.

* * *

A controversy is at present raging on the subject of the shape of Siamese heads. As usual, the subject is largely fatuous for it is not so much the shape of the head that matters as its relation to the rest of the cat. In all cases extremes are ugly. We do not want exaggeratedly undershot jaws any more than we want jaws which jut out, like those of a bulldog. Personally, I like a head which is inclined to length rather than roundness. To me, a weasel is rather sweet.

The main thing is proportion and symmetry. I do not think that adherents of either school of thought need worry unduly, for there will always be Siamese judges who like the longer head while others prefer the shorter. True beauty is never a function of any single characteristic but rather the product of harmonious combination. In such harmony individual qualities lose their unique values and become merged in the far greater whole.

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CHAMPION SPOTLIGHT TROUBADOUR. Sire Bynes Romeo, dam Patwyn Tricini. "Best Exhibit" at Siamese Cat Show, 1954. An ideal outcross for daughters and nearly related queens of Clonlost Yo-Yo. Fee £3 3s. and return carriage.—Richard Warner, Little Foxes, Bayleys Hill, Sevenoaks, Kent. Phone : Sevenoaks 4516.

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Books

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THE BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SIAMESE CAT, by Kathleen R. Williams, contains all you want to know about Seal, Blue and Chocolate Pointed Siamese. Based on the author's experience and knowledge acquired during 20 years of breeding, nursing, exhibiting and judging. 10s. 6d. post free from F. B. Williams, 53 Grange Road, Sutton, Surrey.

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Miscellaneous

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FELINE FRAGMENTS *(concluded from page 35)*

This principle holds true in all art forms. In painting, one does not admire individual patches or even individual brush-strokes but the overall result. In music, no pure tone has any special significance whereas a heaven-inspired combination of pure tones blended in harmony gives us a Wagner. Let us therefore forget all this nonsense about long heads and short chins before the lovely Siamese finishes up looking either like a crocodile or like a sunfish.

* * *

As long as there are cat shows, so long will the judging of cats remain a little unpredictable. This is not because some judges are better than others—true as this may be—but because no two people look for the same thing in any composite picture. *Reader's Digest* sums this up very neatly by saying that when a girl walks down the street a man looks at her figure, a woman at her hat, while the pick-pocket sees only a hand-bag. Careful schooling can and should enable a judge to look at a cat within the framework of a schedule of points but his vision is yet bound to be coloured by his personal preferences.

Many novice breeders will be showing cats and kittens for the first time this season. Some of them will pick out their best and confidently expect them to walk away with all the classes. Even experienced exhibitors often make the error of thinking that their best cat is THE best cat and become angry and disappointed when their exhibit is beaten. For all of us, there is no better precept than that given by Thomas à Kempis: "Do not trust in your own knowledge, nor in the cleverness of any man living, but rather in the grace of God, who aids the humble and humbles the proud."

* * *

My deepest sympathy to Major Dugdale and to Miss Webster at their loss of Ch. Harpur Blue Boy, who has died through bladder trouble. Harpur Blue Boy was known and loved not only in London but in every part of England as much for his sweet nature and fine show qualities as for his romantic history. Let them take some comfort from the knowledge that no love is ever wasted but ever returns to reward those who suffer for its sake.

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