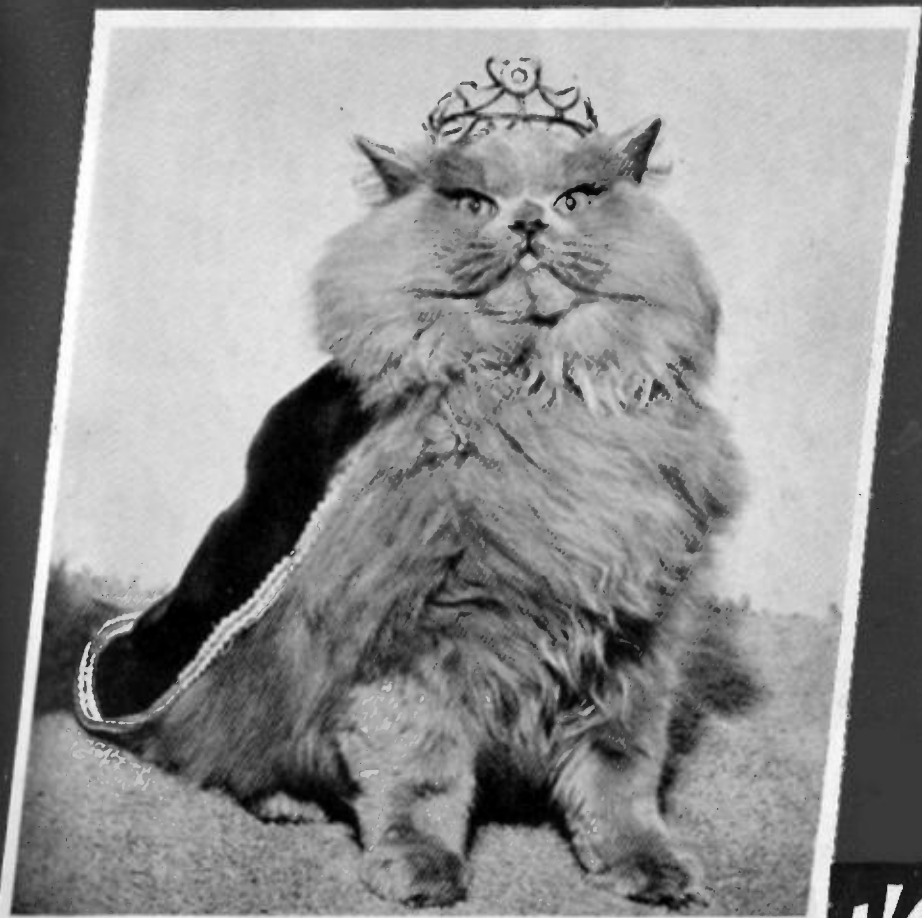


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JUNE 1960

1/6

Are we protected against Infectious Enteritis?



In the close conditions of the Show every cat is exposed to infections. One of the most dangerous is Feline Enteritis—a particularly infectious virus disease which can spread quickly through a cattery or from cat to cat in a locality. Its onset is sudden and usually fatal. The mortality rate is highest among Siamese, although all breeds are susceptible. It may be too late after the Show . . . consult your veterinary surgeon now about 'Fiovax', and have your kittens vaccinated without delay.

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Our Cats

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

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

VOL. 12 No. 6

JUNE 1960

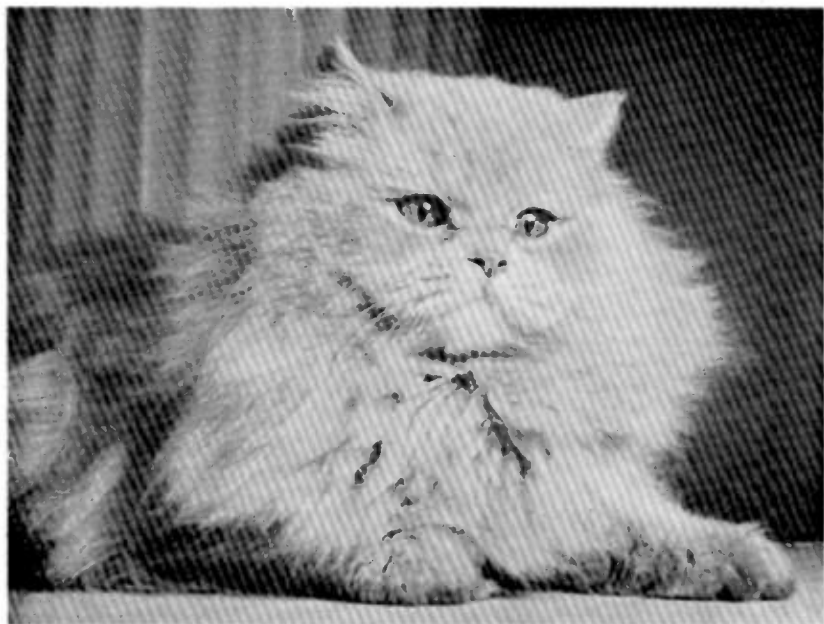
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THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



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1st and Ch. BEST MALE Scottish Cat Club Ch. Show 1960

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The queen is the family provider and she will know what is best for the youngsters.

Cat breeding from scratch—No. 3

By HUGH SMITH, who also supplied the illustrations

IN my last two articles I considered how I would set about breeding, if I had the chance to start all over again. I placed good housing for my cats as the first necessity and then considered how to go about buying a queen.

Having brought my queen home, I should study her development with a view to choosing her mate. The breeder needs to foster a keen power of observation and an ability for reflective judgment.

I should be guided in my choice of stud cat by a number of considerations. I should look for a sire in an unrelated strain. Then, I should try and see the stud either by visiting a show at which he is being exhibited, or by going to the cattery in which he is kept. If this were not possible, I should seek to find out by enquiry something about the "points" of the cat. If I were looking for a

Siamese stud, I should assure myself that eye-colour was first-rate, that the cat was finely built and not heavy-boned. I should want, if possible, a stud with a light coloured coat—a rarity nowadays!

If my queen had weaknesses—if, for instance, she was a trifle short in the head—I should be anxious to assure myself that the stud did not have the same defect.

Another determining factor would be the accessibility of the stud. I should be concerned about the sort of journey my queen would have to make in order to be mated. I would not send a young queen a long journey by rail to a strange stud. In fact, for her first mating I would try and find one within easy reach, so that I could take her there myself.

I think one should be very careful about sending queens by rail. I would hesitate to send a queen a journey that required transit across London from

terminus to terminus in the hands of the railway. I have no reason to believe that the greatest consideration is not given to livestock on rail ; but whereas a piece of luggage going astray causes distress only to the owner, when a cat is mislaid in transit it is the cat that suffers.

Once my queen had been mated I should try and see that she led a normal healthy life. Fresh air, exercise, a plentiful, good and balanced diet and a dry warm bed are the prime requisites for the pregnant queen. I should satisfy myself that a vet. was available in time of need. There are good vets. and "not-so-good-with-cats" vets. The latter are often excellent "horse-doctors."

A good "cat-doctor," once discovered, should be cherished. His or her value is beyond measure in a time of crisis. I think it is wrong always to be expecting trouble, but when trouble of a serious kind *does* come it should be recognized promptly. If it cannot be diagnosed as simple indisposition of a transitory nature the vet. should be called *at once*. Cats are often lost simply through delay in seeking veterinary treatment.

If a cat refuses a meal, it has either eaten recently or it is sick. If it then

refuses a second meal, a very careful scrutiny is needed. It may only be indigestion ; on the other hand it may be something much more serious. A rapid rate of respiration is a danger signal that a vet. is urgently required.

Once shown by a vet. how to take rectal temperature, any breeder can use a thermometer with advantage. The cat's temperature is normally 101.5° Fahrenheit. I would always call in a vet. if I found it more than a degree higher than this, coupled with other symptoms of disorder.

During the last fortnight of her pregnancy, I should be careful to see that my queen did not sustain injury to the foetal kittens and it might therefore be advisable to segregate her from other cats. A fight or a fall can be disastrous. Often queens in the later stages of pregnancy do not take kindly to enquiries after their health even from earlier sons and daughters.

The diet of the pregnant queen requires special attention. Supplementary foods providing vitamins A & D (halibut oil) and yeast tablets or wheat germ providing vitamin B should be considered. Addition of bonemeal may



"Often queens in the later stages of pregnancy do not take kindly to enquiries after their health, even from earlier sons and daughters."

be desirable and I personally would add seaweed powder during the later days of pregnancy.

Many first class breeders attach importance to "Lactagol" as a stimulant to milk-production. I should start this a couple of weeks before the predicted date of birth and keep it up during the whole period of lactation. I should also be careful to see that the queen had regular movements. Constipation would be countered with a teaspoonful of medicinal paraffin (*never* castor oil) given last thing at night.

Ordinary domestic cats require no special facilities for kittening. They select their own appropriate and convenient spot and kittens are produced without more ado. Whether pedigree cats really do require more cossetting than ordinary cats I am not quite sure. Perhaps we are more careful with pedigree cats because each kitten, instead of being a liability, has a potential value measurable in guineas.

Personally, I would always stand by when kittening is in progress, if only to prevent the new born getting lain upon; although it is noticeable that really

vigorous youngsters are very adept at avoiding getting flattened. There is too, always the chance that something may go wrong; and so a watchful eye is really necessary.

Whatever bedding is used at kittening—and very simple facilities are best—a box of sufficient dimensions and newspaper is my choice. This bedding will be soiled and is better destroyed. It should be replaced when the queen has cleaned herself up, with a single layer of soft blanket. There is a danger of kittens getting smothered if too much bedding is provided.

When the kittens have arrived, the queen, who should be given only milk to drink—no meat—for the next twelve to twenty-four hours, should be left in peace. She will know how to provide for the youngsters and they will know how to seek what she has for them. An occasional "peek" at her will be necessary to see that all is going well. I do not believe in handling newborn kittens. They should, of course, be screened from strong light.

(to be continued)



Award time at an American show. In our picture are Mrs. Helen Mueller, new President of A.C.F.A., Mr. Carl Darnell and (on the left) the late Price Cross, whose tragic death was reported in our November issue of last year. Mrs. A. Hoyt, of Grapevine, Texas, is receiving the prize won by her Manx entry.

Important news from the makers of

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Breeders who use Kit-zyne know that it is the supreme tonic and conditioner for all cats. But in addition to the B Vitamins richly provided by Kit-zyne, pregnant queens and growing kittens require Vitamins A and D and a plentiful supply of essential mineral salts.

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A Breeder writes: "... I have found an added improvement since Kenadex was included in the diet ... even sturdier kits, healthier queens and stud, and a marvellous new-found resistance to cold ... "

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Genetics for the novice breeder

By A. C. JUDE

THE most controversial question in all the history of the science of genetics has been whether or not peculiarities acquired by an individual during its lifetime can be passed on to its descendants. According to the Mendelian theory of genetics, this is impossible because the sex cells are held to be direct descendants of the sex cells of previous generations, and to be insulated from any adaptive changes which may take place in the rest of the body—the “soma.”

This view, based on the results of experimental crossbreeding and observation of the behaviour of chromosomes during cell division received support from many experiments in which controlled attempts to achieve the inheritance of acquired characters failed.

However, practical livestock breeders were never entirely convinced that acquired characters could not be inherited, and the belief that they can be, is particularly widespread amongst those interested where training of certain classes of animals is concerned. It is, therefore, of special interest to cat breeders that the whole question has been reopened in scientific circles in recent years by what has become known as the “Lysenko controversy.”

Lysenko, a Russian scientist, basing his work on that of a famous horticulturist, Michurin, has formulated a new genetical theory opposed to Mendelism. He maintains that since the germ cells take part in the processes of chemical exchange (metabolism) which are characteristics of all living things, it cannot be

true that they are never affected by changes in the rest of the body and in the environment; that the germ cells are part of the body and not merely mechanically enclosed and protected by the “soma”; and that heredity is not a special function carried out by special organs (the chromosomes) but is “the property of an organism to acquire certain conditions for its development” which is determined for it by its parentage, but may be modified by unusual conditions of development, in which case it may give to its offspring qualities not derived from its own ancestors.

Critical phases

Although Lysenko's ideas have been condemned on the evidence of their experiments by the great majority of geneticists outside the Soviet Union and the “New Democracies,” they have not been without support from a few geneticists and other biologists in the West, and have aroused much interest among farmers. It is claimed that Lysenko's breeding methods have greatly assisted farming in those countries in which they have been applied.

Lysenko particularly emphasizes that there is no question of any and every acquired modification being inherited, but believes that certain physiological adaptations can sometimes be passed on, if the causal influences affected the animal during a critical phase of its development. He considers that scientists should endeavour to discover these critical “plastic phases” in order to influence them, and that the result of such influence is not likely to develop

gradually, but to take the form of a sudden conspicuous change after several generations have been treated with apparent effect.

It is to be expected, however, that heredity will tend to be strongly conservative and not respond easily to improved conditions, especially in old established breeds or strains, or those in which heredity has been stabilized by inbreeding. This is especially true of mammals, in which the foetus is so well protected from the outside environment during the early and probably crucial stages of development.

The orthodox theory that inheritance is entirely determined at the time of fertilization by genes which the fertilized egg happens to contain, is, in some respects illogical. The genes are believed to act somewhat like chemical catalysts, or enzymes, or to produce enzymes, substances which assist chemical changes to take place without being used up themselves. Thus, a substance A may combine with another substance B only at very high temperatures or very slowly; but if a catalyst or enzyme C is added, it makes the reaction possible at low temperatures, or speeds it up, by combining temporarily with A in a manner which enables B then to attach itself to A whereupon C is released and can assist the process again.

"True heredity"

If genes do act in this kind of way, then obviously the rest of the living substance, or its food, must play the part of A and B in the above example (technically, the substances with which the enzyme reacts are called the "substrate").

The enzyme may be said to control the reaction in the sense that it would not take place under those circumstances without the enzyme: but it would not take place under any circumstances without the substrate. Therefore, even if there are genes which produce enzymes to guide the course of embryonic development, the rest of the fertilized egg and its

ability to make use of the available nutrients must also be regarded as a part of heredity, and perhaps provide the means by which physiological changes could become fixed in a strain.

Mendelians regard only those inherited features which are already determined in the newly fertilized egg as being "true heredity," any characteristics due, for example, to the effects of the mother during pregnancy and lactation being regarded as "inborn" but not inherited.

The methods of practical livestock breeders never give a really decisive answer to the question of whether or not acquired characters are inherited, because the practical method is always to select for further breeding those animals which respond best to the conditions under which they are required to live (or work), and progress so made can be explained on either theory.

Inherited instincts

Perhaps the wisest conclusion is for breeders to develop a strain to the highest degree of perfection, for if this development is cumulative from generation to generation, then the profit certainly will be great. But even if the development is not cumulative, the breeder can determine which animals are inherently capable of responding to favourable environmental conditions. Thus, breeders may bear in mind that there is a possibility that environmental influences, especially those affecting the young kitten, may become heritable if repeated for many generations. I would feel, however, that this long-term process should be separately classed against the immediate effects of normal Mendelian inheritance. Rather, it should be classed as what we so far have termed generally as evolution. Thus, too, inherited instincts are often the result of acquired actions "bred-in" by something of necessity, often due to the early environment under which animals individually

used to live, and now persist, usually in very marked manner — obviously inherited.

There is also the possibility that conditions at first only tolerated, may eventually become a necessity. For instance, there is some evidence that breeds subjected for generations to high feeding and generous vitamin supplements may be more subject to deficiency diseases than are less cared-for breeds.

(to be continued)

OUR READERS WRITE

A Contact Lost

COULD you possibly insert an S.O.S. for me? I am very anxious to contact an American lady from Hawaii (a judge of Siamese) whom I met at the Olympia Show in December, 1958. She was exceeding kind and very interested in a kitten I was showing.

I gave her my card but think she might have lost it. Anyway, I have changed my address since then.

NURSE M. REDFERN.

c/o Woodcock Farm,
Nutley, Sussex.

About Prefixes

It was stated in your May issue ("Tailpieces") that the fee of 3ls. 6d. entitles the holder to the *exclusive* use of a cattery prefix. This is not so. My own prefix (Perivale) registered in 1934 was recently used by a comparatively new breeder. I reported this to the G.C.C.F. but was informed that nothing could be done about it. Later, the Council brought out a new rule allowing anyone to use any affix or prefix.

I contend that to those who registered affixes and prefixes before the rule was altered, the Council are breaking their contract. The fee was paid and accepted on the understanding that the prefix registered was to be for the exclusive use of the person making the application. Have the G.C.C.F. the right to retain the fee and alter the rule? Actually, there

is no point now in registering a prefix.

MISS D. M. COLLINS.

West Moors, Dorset.

The information we published was extracted from the most recent edition of the Stud Book.—
EDITOR.

Have the Lot!

Two of my queens have had their kittens in the same room. One was in a wardrobe and the other in a secluded corner. The queen in the wardrobe lost her kittens, so as the other had five, all doing well, I cautiously took one and gave it to the bereaved mother. A little later on, I found that she had "acquired" another three kittens.

Turning to the other queen to find out how she was reacting, I found her carrying her fifth kitten across the room. She jumped into the wardrobe and literally dumped it in with the other four with a look which might have said: "You started with one. Now you can have the lot." I later gave her all her kittens back and all was well.

York.

MISS ROSE CHAPMAN.

"Exhibitors must stay near their cages and must not make impolite remarks about cats not belonging to them." You are at liberty to make what you will of this! Our information is that it was extracted from the regulations provided for exhibitors at a Rome cat show.

A cat colony estimated to be over 50 strong is now one of the sights for visitors to Falmouth. They live in the undergrowth in a wooded part of the grounds of Pendennis Castle Point and every day may be seen near the main road and in the car park where the more friendly of them are fed from the cars with tit-bits. They are mostly black, black and white and grey. Sixteen of them were seen one morning licking ice cream from the cornets held at arms length by visitors. One report mentions that the sound of a motor horn will bring a crowd of them rushing out to the car park.

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Ph.39

News about exports

By ELLA B. MARTIN

THE first kitten I ever exported was the result of an order received many years ago from the late Mr. Price Cross, of Dallas, Texas, U.S.A. It was followed by many others which Mr. Cross asked me to locate and send out to him. I feel, therefore, that he was the foundation stone of all the selecting and exporting I have done and the news of his untimely death came as a great shock to me. I would like to tender my deep and sincere sympathy to ACFA members and officials on their loss of a very fine friend and a most worthy President.

The following news concerns exports which I have personally handled since March of last year and does not of course cover *all* kittens sent overseas—only those I myself have shipped.

Australia. Mrs. Anne Vize, well known to so many British breeders, had the great misfortune to lose her Blue Longhair Ashdown Shamrock, the beautiful kitten I sent to her the previous year. Shamrock was as fit as a fiddle and had made an excellent voyage. After his 60 days of quarantine, he was still in perfect condition and it seemed he was all set for the perfect life. He had a beautiful house of his own and a large wired-in run.

He suddenly became ill and died and the vet. diagnosed that he had been bitten by a poisonous spider. I was indeed distressed that she had lost Shamrock in this unbelievable fashion. However, she decided to replace Shamrock and also to have a female. So Ashdown Larkspur (breeder, Mrs.

Stephenson) travelled along with Bayhorne Athena, leaving England on 27th August. Athena was bred by Mrs. D. Benbow, whose stud Ch. Bayhorne Ajax has made a great name for himself as a sire of winning kittens. The two travellers were not in good condition on arrival. They went into quarantine at Sydney and Mrs. Vize managed to get special permission to attend to them. I am glad to say they came out after the sixty days in much better condition than when they went in.

After this experience, I felt most reluctant to send any more kittens to either New Zealand or Australia unless the purchaser is able to arrange for some passenger to look after them during the long sea voyage. But I was shortly to undertake the shipping of another kitten to Sydney. Mrs. M. Helsham, who spent some months in England, purchased a lovely little Seal Point Siamese male Hillcross Tympani, breeder Mrs. E. Tower. Before she left for home, Mrs. Helsham asked me to do the shipping as soon as Tympani was old enough to take the journey. He left in February and arrived in "show condition," very happy and in perfect health. A letter from Mrs. Helsham has just reached me to say she has just visited Tympani in quarantine and adds that she is longing to get him home.

Canada. Mrs. E. L. R. Williamson, of Ottawa, has been a busy importer of Abyssinians. In March she received Katty-Puss Joyance (breeder, Mrs. Green) and then in July I sent out Blackthorn Moselle, formerly owned by Miss Wiseman, the "Contented" breeder. In November Mrs. Williamson bought yet another Aby—a little female kitten Kattypus Jem. The Williamsons arranged

to meet all these kittens on arrival at Montreal and they were in very good condition.

Any overseas breeders interested in Abyssinians will be heartily welcomed as members of the newly-formed Abyssinian Cat Fanciers of Canada, no matter where they reside. The Club is eager for support

and anxious to do all it can to help the breed. Details may be had from Mrs. Williamson, P.O. Box 1282, Ottawa 4, Canada.

Mrs. Ivor Thomas, of Nanimo, B.C., purchased Misselmore Flax from Mrs. Rendall, his breeder, and although he arrived as expected at his new home he



It's a long time since we had a picture from our old friend "Muzzie" Nelson, of Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. Here he is back again with this nice study of DU-BU POLKA OF QUEEN'S. This promising young Seal Point Siamese was bred in England by Mrs. A. H. Watts and later crossed the Atlantic to live in Toronto, Canada, with Mrs. Marjorie Buckner.

was soon causing trouble when he decided to have a look round. For five days he was at large in a huge forest area. During this time he was twice seen by neighbours and eventually he came back to the starting point. But what an experience for Flax—and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas! He had explored miles of forest territory but seemed none the worse for his adventures.

Mrs. C. B. Borrett, of Calgary, Alberta, who had earlier imported several Colour-points bred by Mr. Brian Stirling-Webb, decided to have a Smoke for a change. This was ordered by her from Miss Collins, well known as breeder of the Kala kittens. Kala Kotapa left England in late February—the first Smoke I have exported.

South Africa. It was a great pleasure to have Mr. and Mrs. Anderson with us for so many months this past year. They had a very busy time selecting kittens for various friends in the Union and asked me to attend to the shipping of the first two that left here—two Abyssinian kits for Mrs. Ivy Lombard, of Durban. This

shipment was of rather special interest to me as I had Courtmore Fanfair (breeder, Mr. A. Paddon) and Pilgrim Crispin (breeder, Mr. Pearson) with me at Herons for a month before they left. What a charming couple they were! The weather was lovely. They climbed trees, took lakeside walks and were never far away from each other. It was such a pleasure to watch them at play and I missed them greatly after they had gone. They had become part of the family and were good friends with my own two cats.

America. Mrs. C. R. Warfel, of South Pasadena, California, ordered from Mr. Stirling-Webb a Seal Point female kitten and he selected Du-Bu Faith, bred by Mrs. A. H. Watts. After arrival and competing in only five shows (age 13 months) as an adult, she became a Double Champion. Other honours followed—Quad. Champion and selection as "All Western Seal Point." After shipping Faith, my next export to the States was an Afghan bitch for some Texan purchasers.



Another Blue Longhair with a crown! CAMBER BETSYBOB OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN was bred in England by Mrs. Peggy Denton. Now she is the pride and joy of her new owner, Mrs. Samy Hirsig, of Aspen, Colorado, U.S.A.

Miss Ashworth, of Omaha, asked me to select a Blue Longhair female and in October she received Camber Louisc, a beautiful kit bred by Mrs. Denton. Mrs. B. Biederman, of Des Moines, Iowa, to whom I had previously sent two kittens, ordered another Blue Longhair, and so Prestwood Anchusa joined her cattery. Mrs. Sugden, of Arizona, ordered a Colourpoint and I sent Briarry Skindles to her in February. This little boy settled down right away and Mrs. Sugden is delighted with him. She particularly likes his type and sweet disposition.

Mrs. D. Anderson, of Cincinnati, Ohio, purchased yet another Blue Longhair and it has always been a pleasure to act on her behalf for she has been so appreciative and happy with

each kitten she has received. This time I sent Prestwood Scrabble, a male bred by Mrs. Parker. Both owner and breeder will be thrilled when they see that Scrabble has "made" the front cover of this issue of OUR CATS.

I received other orders for stock towards the end of our show season, but these had to wait for it was not then possible to find just the right kitten for the various clients. But the breeding season here is now in full swing again and soon there will be lots of top quality kittens making their show debut.

I would like to send good wishes to all my friends and the kits I have exported. I hope they prove to be a credit to their owners, their breeders and, to a lesser degree, myself.

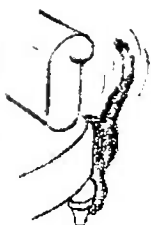


DU-BU FAITH OF DOMINEAU steps out, completely ignoring her kittenhood picture on the outside of her show pen. Details of the remarkable show career of this smart young lady are given on the previous page under "America."



Tailpieces

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



THERE have been some unusual pictures in the daily press of the cat and her kittens "up a tree" in Knibworth Beauchamp, Leicestershire. The cat took a lease on a magpie's nest, first removing the cover of sticks which is a feature of these birds' nests. Having made it comfortable she reared her small family of three successfully and doubtless the job of bringing the kittens "down to earth" will be her least worry!

Ginger was an unlucky cat whose amorous adventures ended in disaster and the loss of his nine lives in a flash. He spied his love on a works roof and gave chase. When he lost her he ventured into a dark recess and touched an 11,000-volt conduit. An explosion followed, all the work's lights went out, machines halted, and 500 men were out of work for the day. It happened at Neath, Glamorgan.

A chapel decorated by the French artist and poet, Jean Cocteau, was recently opened at Milly, near Paris. It is a relic of a Middle Ages leper colony and has frescoes of medicinal plants found in the neighbourhood. At the foot of the font is a cat watching an angel.

The Portuguese Government, following a joint appeal from animal protection societies, is to set up a commission of inquiry into existing laws concerning cruelty to animals and to introduce new ones where such a course is deemed necessary.

The National Anti-Vivisection Society

will be holding its annual meeting this month and when the report on activities during 1959 is presented, Mr. Wilfred Risdon, Secretary, will reveal that legislation is to be sought by animal welfare societies to check the huge increases in experiments on living animals for research purposes. A certain amount of lobbying has already been undertaken in the Houses of Parliament and about 100 M.P.'s from all parties have shown interest in the subject. The latest Home Office figures show that 3,245,990 experiments were performed on living animals in 1958. This compares with 958,761 experiments in 1938 and 77,610 in 1918. This is a state of affairs which surely will arouse everyone who believes that we have a moral responsibility for the welfare of helpless animals whose lives we control. Animal experimentation in this country first became licensed under the appropriately named Cruelty to Animals Act of 1876!

Mrs. Thelma Higgins, who runs a ladies' hairdressing saloon in Banbury, Oxfordshire, is also the owner of Fred, a year-old black and grey longhair cat. Thelma had the not-so-bright idea of changing Fred's colour to pink, blue and green, with a peroxide blond tail. When someone very rightly complained to Mr. Jack Turnell, the local senior R.S.P.C.A. inspector, he didn't get a very good reception when he called at the shop. Mrs. Higgins insisted that the dyes used were quite harmless and she would continue to dye Fred if she felt like it. He was well fed and cared for and was a great favourite with the customers.

Personally, I feel that she would be well advised not to monkey about with nature and to reserve the processes of glamour for the humans who feel in need of them. Fred unfortunately is unable to say exactly what *he* feels about this treatment. What do *you* think?

Railway officials and R.S.P.C.A. men had quite a problem on their hands when plaintive miaowing was heard somewhere beneath the track switchgear at the White City Underground depot. In a culvert overhead sounds from a second frightened kitten were heard. After a four-hour struggle with a bamboo rod and a noose on the end the kitten in the culvert was hauled out, only to die a few minutes later. The other kitten was also rescued with the aid of steel rods. After being given a drink of warm milk in the staff canteen, she was christened Sparks and taken to the R.S.P.C.A. headquarters.

The following appeal for help from a dog owner appeared in a leading Sunday newspaper: "Please, please does any reader know how to train a cat *not* to chase dogs? My neighbour complains that her boxer's value as a guard dog has been greatly reduced because he refuses to go outside when our cat is also free."

I have received exclusive news regarding what is thought to be the first exchange of cats between America and Russia. The interesting arrivals in New York are Serge and Natasha, a pair of pure-bred Archangel cats born in Zagorsk, U.S.S.R. They were contracted for on behalf of Milan J. Greer, of Fabulous Felines, New York City, by Bobbie Thompson when she was modelling high fashion for the 1959 American Exhibition. The first American shipment to Russia will include an Abyssinian, a Chinchilla male and an ocelot.

The nourishment your sick cat will take — happily

If your sick cat refuses nourishment, or when *extra* nourishment is advised, give it the food Veterinary Surgeons have for years so strongly recommended — Brand's Essence.

Brand's Essence is the ideal strengthener. It will build up the mother-cat and provides additional feeding for kittens from the age of three weeks.

Being pre-digested, its valuable meat protein is quickly absorbed without any strain on the digestive system, and your cat will readily accept a teaspoonful when refusing anything else. It contains no added salt or preservatives, and so cannot possibly irritate the most delicate system.

WHEN SHOWING YOUR CAT

If it gets highly strung before a show, or suffers car sickness when travelling there, Brand's Essence is highly beneficial. It is so easily digested, whereas solid food may cause vomiting.

To keep healthy cats healthy — to help make sick cats well again — give them Brand's Essence.

BRAND'S BOOKLET

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will be sent free
on application to
Brand & Co. Ltd.,
Mayfair Works,
Vauxhall,
London, S.W.8



Brand's ESSENCE

BEEF 3/3 CHICKEN 4/6 AT ALL CHEMISTS

The 20th Exhibition of the Cercle Felin de Paris was staged at the Salle Wagram from April 29th to May 1st under the auspices of the Baronne de Saint-Palais and her Committee. Visiting English judge Mrs. M. Mackenzie reports that it was a great success with British bred cats figuring among the very fine exhibits. Best in Show was Mme Esteve's Harmony of Pensford, whose illustrious sire also produced the Best Kitten Mme Hayer's Iule de Bois-Clary. In White females Mme Esteve's Helena acquired a C.A.C. and was an outstanding golden-eyed entry. Blue kittens were disappointing. Blacks were represented by Mme Hautiere's Gitan des Iris Bleus and Mme Bouchard's Helvetia Du Bosquet, who both gained C.A.C. Mme

Guillemain and M. Fournier exhibited young Blacks of considerable promise. A very good Tortoiseshell winner was Mme Mercy's Goldine de Gardanne, also Dr. Stassive's Tortoiseshell and White. Mme Moro acquired another CAC for her Blue Cream Hermaine, who excels in type and colours well intermingled.

That newsy little item about cats you have read in your local newspaper or in the magazine you have just put down ... will you be kind enough to clip it out and post it to me in an unsealed envelope? Cuttings from overseas publications are particularly welcome. I send best thanks to all who have helped in this connection.

MICKEY

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 1960-61 Season are provided below for the information and guidance of readers.

		Promoted by	Venue
1960			
2 July ...	...	Kentish Cat Society ...	Maidstone
7 " ...	...	West of England and South Wales C.S. ...	Bath
28 " ...	...	Kensington Kitten and Neuter C.C. ...	London
30 " ...	...	Kingsway Hospital Flower Show ...	Kingsway, Derby
1 August ...	...	Urmston Show (Cat Section) ...	Flixton
10 " ...	...	Airedale Agricultural Society ...	Bingley, Yorks.
13 " ...	...	Siamese Cat. Soc. of the British Empire ...	Reading
13 " ...	...	Kempston Show Society ...	Sandy, Beds.
17 " ...	...	Wessex Cat Club ...	Bournemouth
27 " ...	...	Suffolk and Norfolk Cat Club ...	Ipswich
6 September ...	...	*South Western Counties C.C. ...	Exeter
7 " ...	...	Macclesfield and District Agricultural Soc. ...	Macclesfield
24 " ...	...	*G.C.C.F. (Golden Jubilee Show) ...	Olympia, London
1 October ...	...	Yorkshire County Cat Club ...	Harrogate
4 " ...	...	*Siamese Cat Club ...	London
15 " ...	...	*Edinburgh and East of Scotland C.C. ...	Edinburgh
29 " ...	...	*Midland Counties Cat Club ...	Birmingham
5 November ...	...	*Blue Persian Cat Society ...	London
5 " ...	...	Isle of Wight Cat Club ...	Ventnor, I.O.W.
12 " ...	...	*Croydon Cat Club ...	London
26 " ...	...	*Northern Counties Cat Club ...	Sunderland
3 December ...	...	*National Cat Club ...	Olympia, London
17 " ...	...	*Herts. and Middlesex Cat Club ...	London
1961			
7 January ...	...	*Notts. and Derbys. Cat Club ...	Nottingham
21 " ...	...	*Scottish Cat Club ...	Glasgow
4 February ...	...	*Lancashire and N. Western Counties C.C. ...	Venue to be fixed
9 " ...	...	*Southern Counties C.C. ...	London
11 " ...	...	Surrey and Sussex Cat Association ...	Epsom, Surrey
25 " ...	...	*Coventry and Leicester C.C. ...	Coventry

* Denotes shows with Championship status. A detailed list of these fixtures may be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, Mr. S. E. Barnes, O.B.E., "Mogiel," 4 Elm Court Gardens, Crowborough, Sussex.

News from "Down Under"

HELLO, folks! The best time of the year is here now; having some lovely sunny days but unfortunately floods are predicted for this month.

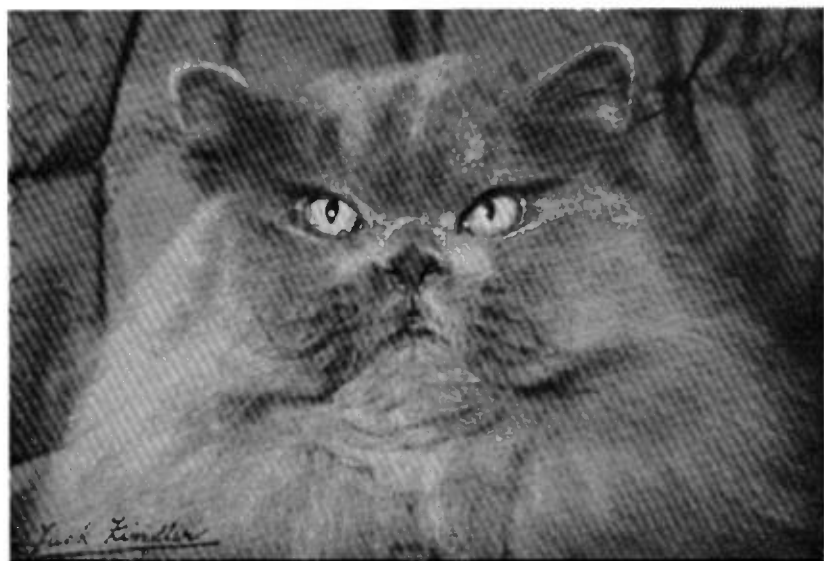
New South Wales. Well, the blue ribbon event, the Royal Show, is over once again and many new faces and winners have been found. Asked by the press for my impression of the Show, after judging, my answer found its way into the weekly column of the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 23rd April. It reported me as saying that "I was very pleased with the overall behaviour of the cats." The ten days and seven nights fixture was blessed with splendid weather (a record) and all past attendance figures were shattered. The gardens and grounds were beautiful and on both days for cat judging visitors dropped in from every state and from New Zealand. We had Mrs. Tait, from Bay of Islands Hospital, Kawakawa, and Mr. D. T. Nicholson, of Ngongothi. Both are having a holiday over here and it was nice to see them. Mrs. Whyte again assisted with judging and did Longhairs. Each year the groups rotate. Messrs. Lonsdale, Wynne, Miles and Taylor did the stewarding, as usual.

A very good entry of 349, with 22 in the Open Female S.P. Siamese Class and 18 in the Junior ditto faced the judges. The Challenge and Reserve ribbons at this fixture are the best anywhere and much prized. VHC, HC and C were awarded in the big classes and met with general approval. Sister Goulden motored up from Melbourne and was very happy to receive the award of Best Female for the day with a very lovely S.P. Siamese. The winners of the first day come in nine days later and are pitted against the second day winners. Sister Goulden

could not stay over and left her entry in local care to be benched on the Easter Monday, when it was narrowly beaten by a Chinchilla female shown by an exhibitor making her debut.

Some of the chief awards were as follow: Special Prize, Card and Championship Ribbon, also the F. W. Pearce Gold Trophy for Best Male in Show—Miss T. Grant's Burmese Ronsein Chindit; Best Female—Mrs. Riggall's Chinchilla Helenic Caprice Belle; Best Marked Persian Kitten—Mrs. M. Freeman's Tehran Salome; Chinchilla Male (Open)—Mrs. Rowntree's Champ of Ellington; Best Self Colour Persian Kitten—Mrs. Vize's Myowne Petitastra; Best Self Colour Persian—Mrs. Vize and Mrs. Cains' Blue male Ashdown Larkspur. *Siamese*: S.P. Male and Mystic Flower Trophy—Mrs. Kaufman's Bluemead Pas de Chat (also Best Junior); Best Female and Reserve Ch. Female of Show, Sister Goulden's Yonalin Kimlarn (also Best Siamese of Show and Best Junior); Best Kitten—Miss Howard-Smith's Chomolungma Sinying; Best Abyssinian—Mrs. Tchan's Chatwyn Nimrod.

On the last Saturday in April Cumberland Cat Club staged their third Ch. Show in the lovely Parade Hall at Lidcombe. There was a splendid entry of 208 and this hardworking body headed by President Mrs. Donmall and Secretary Mrs. Paris, left little to be desired by exhibitors, visitors or judges. Mrs. Armit was the capable Show Manager. Before trophy giving, a happy little ceremony by the President was the presentation of souvenirs to the seven judges and the mere male judge was invited to respond on behalf of Mesdames Whyte, Murfin, Pearce, Burnage, Vize and Finch.



Cine Foto Zindler.

GR. CH. SPADA AMBASSADOR DUKE, bred by Mrs. Anne Vize from Ch. Astra of Pensford ex Ch. Myowne Sweet Lavender, is one of Australia's best known cats. Born in 1956, he was purchased as a kitten by Mr. Colin Woodrow, of Windsor, Brisbane. So he became widely known as "Billy Woodrow." His new owner is Mr. Archie Gled and some details about this fine cat's show record are given on the next page.

Awards were: *Longhairs*: Mrs. Freeman's Shaded Silver Mayfield Aristocrat; Female—Mrs. Lewis' White Helenic Snowdrop; Male Kit—Mrs. Wood's White Delhi Arctic Zircon; Female Kit—Mrs. Freeman's Chinchilla Tehran Salome; Litter—Mrs. Joy's Chinchillas. *Shorthairs*: Best Cat—Mrs. Donmall's Finisterre Thalia (imp. Abyssinian); Best Siamese—Mrs. Lowery's S.P. female Hookstone Heaven; Best Kit—Mrs. Greenfield's Linneon Wip Willow; Best Novice—Mrs. Paris' Pagoda Golden Glow; S.P. Male—Mrs. Kaufman's Pas de Chat; B.P. Male—Mrs. Abbott's Eastern Hazie Boy; Burmese Male—Miss Grant's Ransin Chindit (imp.); C.P. Male—Mrs. A. Thom's Gaye Dandy Brown; Brood Queen—Mrs. O'Donoghue's Kayia Pandora.

South Australia. Tom and Jerry are right on hand with the *Newsletter* again and I note that after a lot of deliberation at the A.G.M. it was decided to increase membership to 12s. 6d. and to continue with the monthly publication

of the *Newsletter*. I also note that Mrs. Davies, of Wellington, New Zealand, will judge at the June Show in Adelaide. A hearty vote of thanks went to Mrs. Myers, ex-President, who is to become Vice-President and take a well-earned rest, and also to Mrs. Crowe and Miss Farrow, who have decided to do likewise. The dinner to celebrate the third birthday of the Adelaide Club was enjoyed by all who went along, including Mr. and Mrs. Chandler of Melbourne. Wretched luck for Don and Kath Gebhardt to have lost Carolina Avanti—another victim of the roads.

A very interesting item concerns the opening of a cat boarding house. The owner will pick up exhibits at the terminal, board, bench and return them to the terminal for home. A splendid idea and any further information may be had from Sec. D. Gebhardt, 4 Ways Road, Manningham, Adelaide. One of our Sydney ladies, Mrs. Favelle, does likewise and it is a popular service. The writer did it, in 1924-60. The very

healthy balance sheet is an eye-opener (£115 on the right side) considering that the Club gives so much to the needy children of the state and have earned themselves a lot of friends and goodwill. I am sure they are all very happy at the year's achievements. They can certainly grow almonds over there—and celery. The celery is so big I wonder they don't sell it for timber!

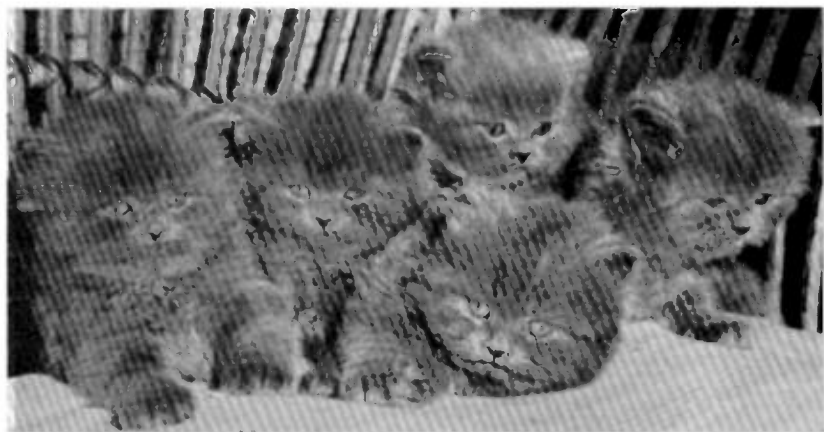
Victoria. No mail this month from Melbourne. They have been having lots of rough weather and snow, according to the wireless. So I'm hoping for better days and more news later.

Queensland. At long last my Brisbane scribe Col. Woodrow has sent me some news, but I think he has been guilty of not tearing the last page from the calendar. The report on the two shows he sent me went forward in the April notes sent by the judge Mrs. Anne Vize. Col. did mention that the lovely Blue Persian male Spada Ambassador Duke, once owned by him, has qualified for his Gr. Ch. Certificate after being Best in Show in Brisbane 8 times in 9 benchings. I would say he is perhaps the first G.C. up there. Anyway, his present owner Archie Gleed (of the lovely Black Longhairs) threw a party to celebrate the event. I sincerely trust the persistent Queensland rumour that

Mrs. Henry is to retire from cat activities is only a rumour. I will await news from Mrs. Henry herself, who is now taking part in the current judges' training class as an instructress.

New Zealand. The latest *Newsletter* to hand contains a short report of the Shorthair section of the Auckland Siamese Ch. and All Breed Kitten Show. The judge Miss Pat Powell reports "This was a very big show, cats in wonderful condition and well presented. The Abys. as a group, were even and really good. Their lovely nature made them a joy to handle. Ch. Taishun was the best, a strong male of very good type and colour. S.P. Open Male and Ch. Viscount Azure; Open Female, Lindisfarne Petite Azure; Best B.P., Chatwyn Fleurette; Best Burmese, Ch. Merrick Apollo. I am sorry I cannot include breeders' names or give more results.

To hand from Miss Tasker and beautifully presented is the President's report on the formation of the Pedigree Persian Cat Fanciers N.Z. (Inc.) and also covering the complete activities for the first year. The advance made and prestige won in such a short time reflects great credit on those responsible. It is one thing to belong to an organization, but quite another to be a cheerful worker



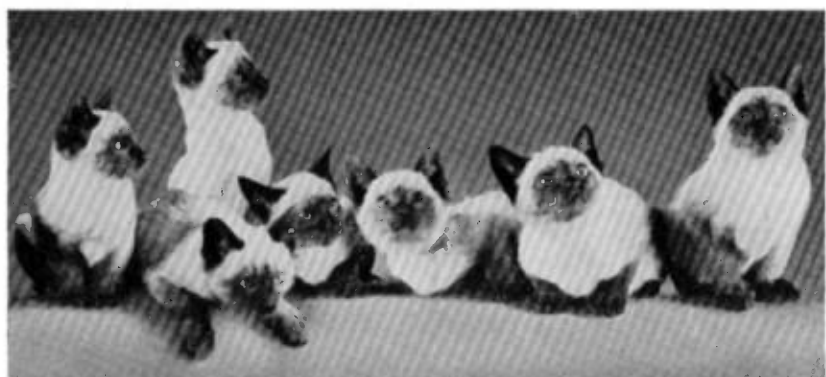
A Blue Longhair litter of great promise by Gr. Ch. Spada Ambassador Duke ex Regent Cordon Bleu bred by Mr. A. Gleed, of Brisbane, Australia.

who only offers constructive criticism and is always there when needed. Treasures, I call them, and may they all sick. The first 40 years are the most trying!

I have learned with regret of the pending retirement of Mr. and Mrs. Downey, of Auckland, from business. They are taking a nice farm some thirty miles out. What a soul satisfying idea! But I'm wondering (as Mrs. D. has retired as President) will they also retire

from the cat world? I sincerely trust not. Like here, the ranks of the old-timers who did the heavy work of pioneering are thinning rapidly. It seems a long time since any word arrived from pals at Invercargill or Dunedin, so I conclude all must be well. Maybe, Col. Aberdeen has ended up in Parliament and Mrs. Broad is busy digging potatoes on that lovely little farm!

A big "Cheerio!" to felines everywhere.



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.

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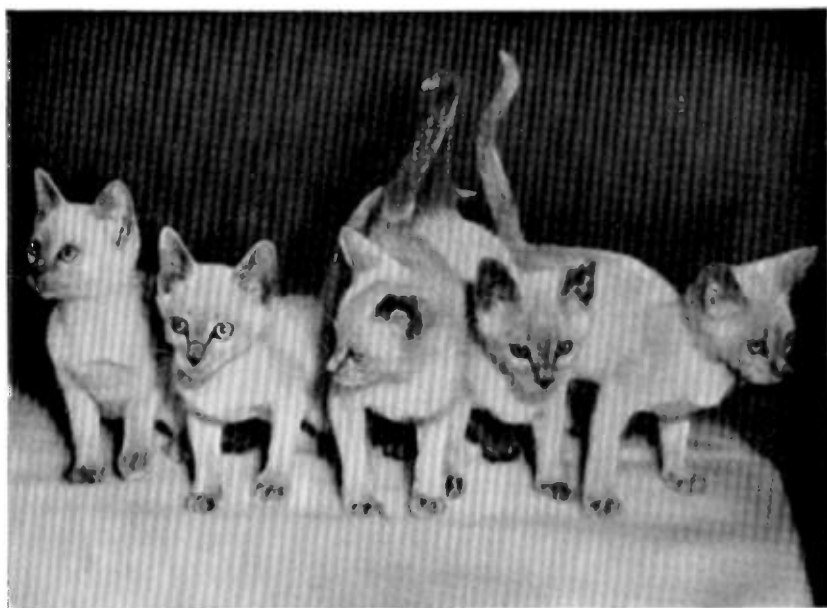
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TIBS

FOR FIVE

PLEASE!



Tibby, the Tibs reporter, visits Trubun Siamese

These quick-eyed quintuplets were best blue-point litter at the 1959 Kensington Kitten Show. Their breeder, Mrs. Margaret Worsley, of Brookhouse Farm, Kingsfold, Warnham, Sussex, has this to say about rearing kittens:

"What you do in the first few weeks makes or mars a kitten's future. Tibs tablets are excellent for all cats—but they're quite essential for kittens. By giving them the vitamins

and minerals they need, daily Tibs makes for good bone formation and first-class coat condition."

Mrs. Worsley should know. In spite of the difficulty of leaving her farm for shows, Trubun cats took five c.cs in 1959—including best blue-point exhibit at the National Cat Club Show, Olympia. As she told us, "Giving Tibs consistently over a period of time *proves* it's the right thing to do!"

TIBS

Famous breeders say, daily TIBS
for the cat that's cared for



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.

Blue Persian meeting

THE Annual General Meeting of the Blue Persian Cat Society in London had a good attendance considering the wet day on May 19th.

The resignation of the Hon. Secretary, Miss J. M. Fisher was tinged with sadness for many of us who had associated her with that position for so many years. Her unbroken record of service from 1916 to 1960 must be unique and her many kindnesses to members and generosity to the Society have been proverbial. We can only thank her with all sincerity and hope she will be with us for many years to take an interest in our "doings."

The Committee thought of a delightful gift to commemorate her service to all Blue Persian enthusiasts—a really lovely illuminated address framed in gold. Knowing Miss Fisher, I cannot imagine anything more acceptable to her.

Major Dugdale elected by the Committee as the new Hon. Secretary is a happy choice. Here's wishing him a serene term of office. The Ch. Show will be later this year (November 5th) which is a much more suitable date to exhibit Blue Persian adults. They are usually at their best from late October to the end of December with the lovely bloom on their coats which sometimes lasts a comparatively short time. Very early in the New Year many of them commence to shed their coats and one usually has to be vigilant to keep their coats in order if one wishes to exhibit in late January. Show Manager will be Mrs. Crickmore and the judges: Adult males—Miss E. Langston; Adult females—Mrs. Cooke-Radmore; Male Kittens—Major Dugdale; Female Kittens—Mrs. McVady; Neuters—Miss Rodda and referee judge Miss Lelgarde Fraser.

Two names were added to the probationer judges, Miss Constance Page and Mrs. Barron. Miss Page has bred and owned some lovely Blues and her prefix Woburn appears in Volume xi of the G.C. Stud Book 1948 to 1954. Her Woburn Wink born in 1947 was an Open Class winner at the 1948 National Show and more recently, her lovely kitten of last season Woburn Bonamy recorded outstanding wins and achieved one of the most difficult feats for a Blue kitten by winning consistently over a period of several months. In addition she has bred the Champion Cream male Ch. Woburn Monsieur and winning Blue-Creams. Her experi-

ence in breeding these varieties will be invaluable when she judges miscellaneous classes in future.

Mrs. Barron has also bred these three varieties and attended all the London shows and many in the provinces for the last ten years. She owns the Cream male Ch. Paul of Pensford, the Blue-Cream female Ch. Hendras Pepita and a Cream female bred by herself from these two, Ch. Dalan Susan. Her interest in Blues will be accentuated now she has purchased the very lovely Blue male kitten bred by Mrs. Denton, Camber Mario. He and his litter brother Camber Dino were first and second in a very "hot class" of Blue male kittens at Olympia last December. Both were outstanding and indeed they had to be to win so well under several judges in their club classes, and to be first in a class of Any Colour Pairs (3 to 9 months). I saw Mario a few days ago when Mrs. Denton brought him here and he has fulfilled his kitten promise, lovely type, sweet expression and glorious large copper eyes plus a coat which promises to remain a pale to medium blue. Best wishes to Mrs. Barron on this lovely addition to her small cat family.

Valuable voluntary help

Mrs. Brunton and Mrs. Brice-Webb, eligible for re-election to the Committee, were returned and although Mrs. Speirs had expressed the wish to resign as Hon. Treasurer it is hoped that she can be persuaded to retain this position which she has held since 1926. Another fine record of service.

Mr. Speirs, F.S.A.A., has also acted as Honorary Auditor for many years.

There is no doubt that the flourishing state of our Fancy owes a tremendous debt to so many competent persons giving their services and we must not forget all we owe to the voluntary work of our judges and stewards and to so many who help at shows. Five of the B.P.C.S. cups were won outright and

names of the trophy winners will be in next month's issue. Fortunately three of them were re-donated.

Plans go awry

Mrs. Eustace, Hon. Secretary of the Northern Counties Cat Club, tells me that the venue of their second Championship Show on November 26th will be the Palatine Hotel, Sunderland. Her letter continues: "Exhibitors to this Show will find themselves at a command performance. The manager of the Hotel is welcoming the cats and their owners by spreading out the red carpet, and for Scottish visitors, a special interest, everything is decorated with tartan. Exhibitors, I am sure, will appreciate the amenities of a first class hotel and we hope it will be a red-letter day in the life of the exhibits which come to us. Welcome North to all cat lovers."

Mrs. Eustace has taken her holiday in the month of May after careful planning to fit in with queens' confinements and baby kittens and this was the sequel:

"Litters were due late April and early May and knowing my exceptional queens I decided for the first three weeks of a kitten's life cattery management can be boiled down to a few simple musts for mother . . . good food, fresh water, heat and cleanliness. How simple it sounds! Contentedly, I gave my instructions and went on my way.

"In a matter of hours S.O.S.'s began to arrive. First, Mimosa had suddenly become kittenish and had put her nine kittens in with Pandy who already had eight of her own. Imagine poor Pandy's consternation at finding seventeen kittens in her bed! Then Posy went on hunger strike and grandmother Ming, who lactates to order, had to relieve her of her responsibilities. Another kitten got his head stuck in the netting and nearly became a casualty.

"The cats won and I left Alnmouth on the morrow but I did have time to see

a Blue Point Siamese gem exercising in the sunshine on a quiet moorland farm. Its pedigree revealed that it was bred by Mr. Watson from Champion Milori Oberon and a Burmese mother. This was the happiest day of my holiday and I was delighted when this vision of beauty came my way.

"For cat breeders who are specially dedicated, holidays so often present a problem and I thought I had solved mine by planning, and going in May. But the cats decided otherwise!"

Hotel life

It is a rare treat for exhibitors in this country to stay in an hotel where the manager is agreeable not only to allocate suitable space for the show but also to welcome exhibits. It is a privilege often accorded to shows in U.S.A. and Europe. Let us hope that there will be no repetition of the "incidents" which marred some of the first post-war shows here and made the managers decide "No more cats and kittens!"

Several of us remember the occasion in Nottingham when an exhibitor stuffed a rose pink silk cushion up the chimney to prevent her cat escaping and forgot to rescue it when she left for the show. I remember going into one exhibitor's bedroom to see peat moss scattered over the bed, the carpet and dressing table and helping her to "sweep up" with our hairbrushes and folded newspapers. Paper in sanitary pans is a "must" in hotels.

Work of the C.P.L.

The Annual General Meeting of the Cats' Protection League in London on May 28th was very well attended. The literature given to members concerning its activities was admirable and its accounts were beyond reproach.

The newly elected Chairman Mr. John Harman and the Secretary, Mr.

Steward were fully prepared to give satisfactory explanations when questions were invited from the audience. The plight of cats on bomb sites, particularly in London, was one which caused much concern and Mr. Steward explained the special problems concerning their rescue. Many of them are semi-wild and can only be caught by being lured into a specially designed wire cage which can cost anything from £5 to £10. These cages obviously have to be in the care of a responsible person who is prepared to frequently inspect them and because the cats are semi-wild they are seldom suitable for domestic pets, even if one could find persons prepared to take them.

The C.P.L., like all animal welfare societies, have already the impossible task of finding homes for hundreds of eligible young cats and kittens many of which have to be put to sleep. In addition to finding the person and the cage there is the equipment needed to put the cats to sleep and this has to be accommodated in a van which the C.P.L. would not allow to remain parked in a street. And to find free parking in a safe yard in central London is by no means easy. The problem is always accentuated when a bombed site is being cleared for re-building as then it becomes immediate. Mr. Steward assured us that it is a matter to which the Committee give much attention and that they hope that a plan they have in mind will materialize.

Readers of OUR CATS will remember that a picture of four kittens with what one presumes were their tabby parents appeared in the May, 1958, issue and the article "Plans for the Strays" told us about a conference in London to which the R.S.P.C.A. invited members of the Press and broadcasting authorities to hear a statement by Mr. J. S. Hobhouse, Chairman of the Homeless Animals Sub-Committee. So we do know that other animal welfare societies are dealing with these homeless cats and kittens on bomb sites. Although the four kittens

depicted in the photo looked contented one can see that they were on the open ground and presumably exposed to all weathers, a distressing situation for such devoted and protective mothers we know cats to be.

Many branch secretaries and delegates had travelled long distances to attend the C.P.L. meeting. Mrs. Connolly journeyed from Dublin, Eire; and others from Walsall, Liverpool, Dover, Canterbury, Southampton and Sussex. Two well known personalities from Nottingham—Mrs. Brice-Webb, international judge, breeder and exhibitor was accompanied by Mrs. Bradley, who has retired from breeding Blues but still retains her interest in cat affairs.

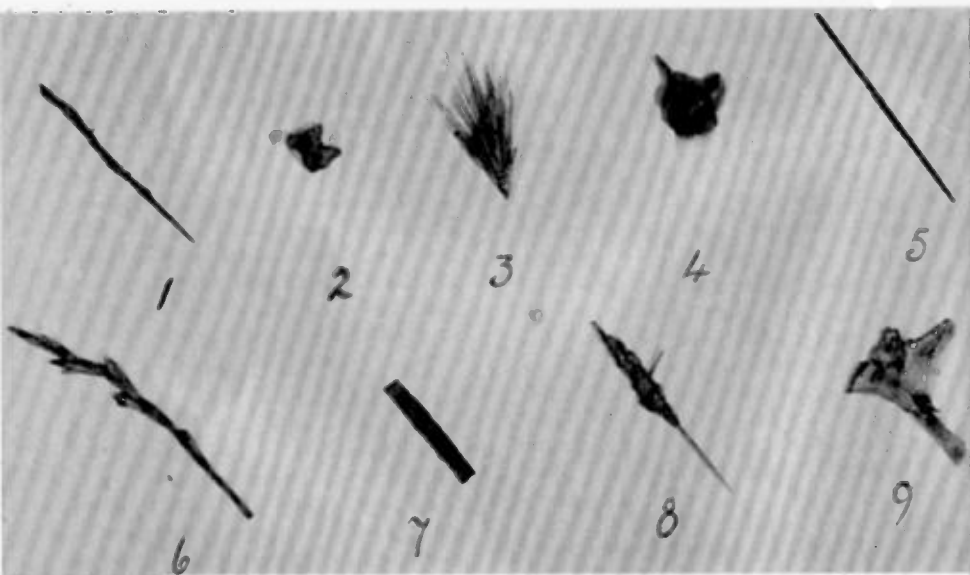
Other well known breeders present were Mrs. Thake of Coventry and Mrs. Allen-Smith.

The President of the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club, Miss Roma. Ferguson, who is so generous

to the Club and devoted to cats, was another who found time to take an interest in less fortunate felines.

Another person to whom Mr. Steward paid loyal and such well deserved tribute was Miss Hallum who for 28 years has given her services at Headquarters, Slough. In reply to a question he stated that about 3,000 copies of the official journal of the C.P.L. named *The Cat* are sent out to members and associate members each month and that there are about 200 life members.

Last year was a red letter year for the League as two handsome donations were given by a person who wishes to remain anonymous. As Mr. Steward quite rightly pointed out such splendid windfalls cannot be expected every year and a few items taken at random reveal the immense expenses incurred by this organization which manages its affairs so economically and which owes so much also to voluntary help: Head-



All in the day's work at the C.P.L. Headquarters !

1 Needle and cotton removed from roof of cat's mouth ; 2 Rabbit bone wedged between back teeth ; 3 Grass removed from cat's nostril ; 4 Rabbit bone removed from cat's throat ; 5 Needle removed from cat's tongue ; 6 Grass removed from between cat's eye and eyelid ; 7 Piece of bamboo removed from between cat's eye and eyelid ; 8 Needle and cotton removed from cat's throat ; 9 Fish bone removed from cat's throat.

quarters food £313, medical supplies £276, cattery extension and equipment £291, grants to branches £288, postages £222, magazine and postages £782 and last but not least. Tailwaver services (veterinary surgeons fees, boarding etc.) £1,169. There are several other items exceeding three figures such as £177 for the ambulance.

In its record of practical work during 1959 these are some of the cases dealt with at Headquarters, Slough. Cats and kittens (males) neutered 750; females spayed 480; cats and kittens given treatment on premises or on voucher scheme or by arrangement with local veterinary surgeons 5,700; cats and kittens (stray or unwanted) collected 831; cats and kittens humanely put to sleep 3,400. Those for whom good homes were found numbered 384, and in addition to the latter over 1,000 were placed in suitable homes by the London Committee and branches elsewhere.

At Haslemere in Surrey the average number of inmates in residence weekly is 45.

Since visiting Slough with Miss Kit

Wilson last July I have realized vividly how necessary it is for all cat lovers to do everything they can to promote the interests of the League. If any of my readers wish to do so, will they please get into touch with the Secretary (Mr. A. Steward), 29 Church Street, Slough, Bucks.

Eleven times Chairman

To Miss Kathleen Yorke, elected for the eleventh time as Chairman of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, we wish a happy year. It is an arduous appointment to which she has given an incalculable amount of time and service.

Correction

To Miss Rodda I offer an apology for omitting her name from those well known judges present at Miss Yorke's special meeting for Cream and Blue-Cream breeders in February. Miss Rodda is one of our most popular Long-hair judges and one of the comparatively few eligible to judge all varieties.

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Panel advertisements in our DIRECTORY OF BREEDERS (Longhair and Shorthair sections) are not confined to members of the English Fancy. Indeed, we shall be only too pleased to see the Directory develop along truly international lines. The largest bookable space is a double panel (either down or across the page) and all announcements must conform to our usual typeset style. Full details of rates, etc., will be gladly supplied on request to any of our friends overseas. For over ten years our DIRECTORY OF BREEDERS has been an economical and efficient medium for fanciers of international repute who have stock to sell and services to offer.

Catomania

By ELIZABETH VERNON

THE housewives who live in my road are most friendly people. They are nearly all members of a mutual benefit society. It is unregistered and unorganized but very flourishing. Any day one can see a group of members by the pillar box, discussing their common interest—their ailments. Many happy half hours flash away in the swapping of symptoms and sympathy and their faces show clearly the great relief they gain.

How I wish I could attain membership! I have my troubles too, but somehow I don't seem to raise any really comforting interest. For I have one complaint that overshadows any of my minor sufferings and I can't give my mind to anything else. I am subject to cats. It is a painful and apparently incurable disease.

The thing first attacked me in childhood. Whenever I stroked a cat it followed me and was disowned by every household in sight. When brought home it proved to be host to every possible type of internal and external parasite. My tiny gum-boots wore a track to the local R.S.P.C.A.

I have reason to believe that there is a world organization (run by sinister do-gooding cats) which exists for the disposing of innocent refugee cats in the homes of those humans who have been unknowingly placed on its secret list. As soon as I have a vacancy the O.K. is flashed and another flotsam feline is sent to haunt my garden until I realize it's no good

pretending. I am due for another attack and I might as well stop fighting it.

Nowadays, They know I have a house of my own and live a long way from a R.S.P.C.A. They send the sort of cat that fools me into thinking "Here, at last, is an acceptable, companionable, household sort of cat; it would be well worth while to de-worm, de-flea, de-canker, de-sex and houstrain this one; it would suit the hearthrug. All right, here you are—minced beef and a saucer of milk—let's see if you're a boy or a girl." (This is pure ritual, this last bit—they are always female.)

Then begins the dreary round: Worm tablets (to be repeated after 6 days); flea powder (as required); ear lotion (3 times daily); speying (at 6 months); tonic tablet (3 daily). I do hope I have it right, I might so easily get muddled. After a long time Cat and I feel better. We begin to take a pride in each other. I think: "Cat is now healthy and ornamental—coming along nicely." Cat thinks: "She's learned to open doors on the word of command—coming along nicely."

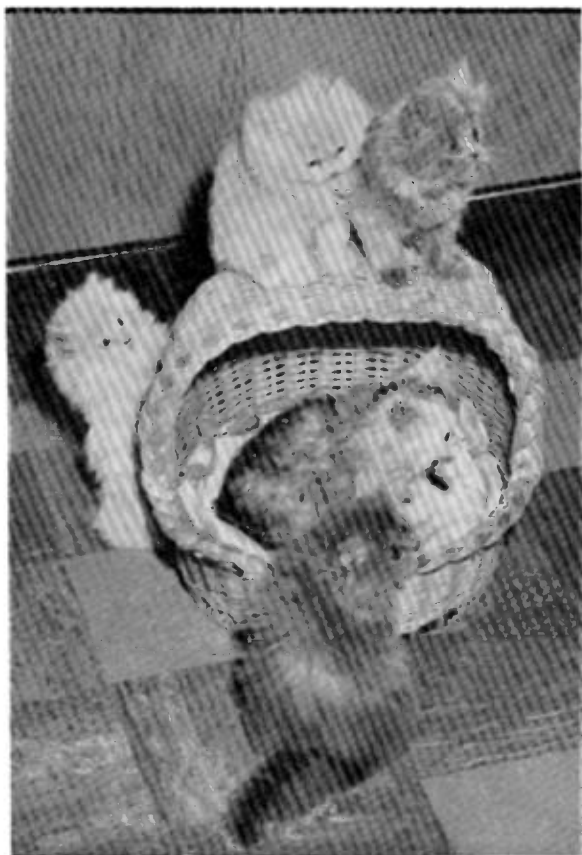
They don't understand

This should be the end of the story. I know a few people who have had an isolated attack. They have sometimes offered a sort of sympathy but they take it for granted that the worst is now over. They think I can settle down with my trophy (like an operation scar)

to a life of happy servitude. They just do not understand that my complaint is chronic.

My cats commit suicide under lorries or maroon themselves up trees. If thwarted by rescue they sit under damp bushes contemplating eternity and catch pneumonia. One who was snatched back from all these self-appointed dooms in the space of six months walked out one cold dark night and never returned.

What am I to do ? Is there no cure ? Perhaps I could get in touch with Them : induce them by bribery, libations or black magic, to take me off that list but I doubt it. I want to share my hay-fever with Mrs. Sciatica or Mrs. Indigestion by the pillar box. How can I when I know that, at home, the current cat is demanding letting-in, letting-out, feeding, clean ashbox, fire-in-grate or clean ironing to sleep on.



Here's a bonny mixed litter of Creams and Blue-Creams with a Shaded Silver kitten from another litter. All were bred by an enthusiastic Canadian cat lover—Mrs. S. T. Preston, Secretary of the Montréal Cat Fanciers' Association. M.C.F.A. are looking forward to a record show towards the end of the year.



Bill Godwin

DID SOMEBODY SAY "BREAKFAST?"

This pair of young hopefuls are putting on a Micawber act at Mrs. Mollie Turney's well-known boarding establishment at Holyport, Berks.

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