

Our Cats

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*The sad story behind this attractive
picture will be found on page 1.*

MARCH 1962

2/-



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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.

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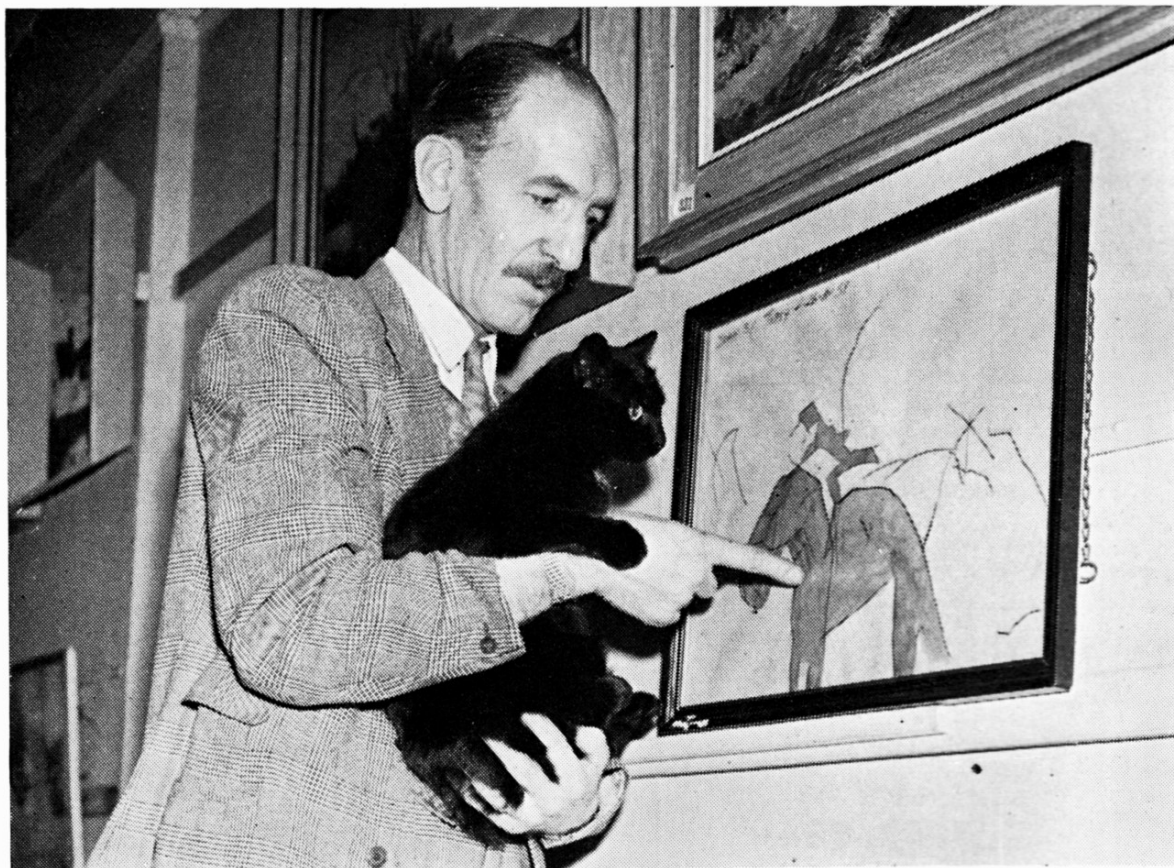
THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



THE MOODS OF LEICHEE

One of the interesting water-colours on display at the exhibition of paintings by Richard Lonsdale-Hands, the world-famous industrial designer at the Galerie Ror Volmar in Paris, is this composite picture showing the various moods of Leichee, his Siamese pet. In all, 80 pictures are being shown, ranging from powerful works in oils to scenes from everyday life in pastels and water-colours. At least two other paintings include Leichee.

Front Cover Story: It was in our March 1961 issue that Fred W. Pearce, contributor of news from "Down Under" reported the tragic sequel to the happy picture of Jillian Calvert which adorns our front cover. Jillian was the 13-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Calvert, of Taranaki, New Zealand, and for seven years of her short life she was confined to her bedroom. Jillian died after an illness bravely borne. Her devoted and treasured companion during the dark days was the Siamese Scarsdale My Pet, a gift from New Zealand fancier Mrs. I. M. Smedley. Christopher Bede is the photographer.



NO MORE PICTURES

In our February 1961 issue we told the story about TOPSY, the black shorthair cat with artistic inclinations. Alas, her brief reign is over and her total output will stay at about 25 pictures. The other day she was chasing another cat across the road when she was hit and killed by a passing car. Topsy was a stray taken in by Dr. George Cooper, of Hertford, an industrial consultant and artist of some ability. She produced her sketches when she was encouraged to play with a heavy black crayon suspended by string over a drawing board. Perhaps her best effort was "Horse and Rider", shown in the picture above, for which 1,000 dollars was bid by a Canadian art expert. The lines produced by Topsy were filled in by Dr. Cooper with a colour wash.

CONTINENTAL SHOWS FOR 1962

The list of International shows to be held this year under the aegis of F.I.F.E. (Federation Internationale Feline D'Europe) runs as follows: 31 March-2 April—Linköping, Sweden; 6-8 April—Stavanger, Norway; 7-8 April—Vienna, Austria; 21-23 April—Helsinki, Finland; 10-11 June—Nancy, France; 7-9 July—Naples, Italy; 14-15 July—Vichy, France; 5-7 October—Copenhagen, Denmark; 7-8 October—Lucerne, Switzerland; 19-21 October—Paris, France; 2-4 November—Gothenburg, Sweden; 23-25 November—Stockholm, Sweden; 24-25 November—Bordeaux, France.



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Report on Rex

By PHYLLIS LAUDER

IT was in 1953 that Rex coat in the cat was first described by the late A. C. Jude. In 1956 there appeared in the *Journal of Genetics* a paper by A. G. Searle and A. C. Jude, and by this time there had been discovered a Rex cat in Germany. The paper describes the English Rex cat as having a wavy coat throughout life, and the German Rex as having a wavy juvenile coat and a straight plushy adult coat.

The first English Rex-coated cat to be recognized was Kalli who belonged to Mrs. Ennismore of Cornwall, and from whose progeny it was ascertained by Mr. Jude that the relevant gene is a recessive. Sixteen kittens were born as the result of Rex \times Rex controlled matings, and all were Rex-coated. The factor concerned is therefore plainly recessive, and Rex-coated cats will breed true; Rex mated to Rex will produce only Rex.

However, as has been pointed out by Mr. Stirling-Webb, there are more genes than one which will produce Rex coats. The German Rex is not the same as the English, and there may even be other Rex-producing genes. It is important to realize the significance of polygenes—of the many factors which may give rise to or influence a single character. Sir Julian Huxley tells us that every character is produced by the joint action of many genes.

Readers of OUR CATS will have seen pictures of Kalli, and perhaps of other Rex cats, and will not be surprised that before his death Mr. Jude represented to me the importance of this unusual newly-

discovered variety, and the desirability of its being preserved by the Fancy. The matter was, in fact, taken up by our foremost experimental breeder, Mr. Stirling-Webb, and under his guidance, several Rex-coated kittens have been born.

The word "experimental" has been objected to; but it is hard to think of a better. Experiments can only be made with what is already there. In producing, for instance, the Colourpoints, Mr. Stirling-Webb only made use of factors already present. These lovely cats are the result of carefully thought-out and controlled matings—of selection, not of alteration, for Nature will not be altered.

Much to be done

In the matter of Rex in the cat, there is still much to be done, but some points are already clear. Kittens will be born with excessively wavy coats, and with crinkly whiskers. Some adults retain very little wave, but the coat remains peculiarly plush-like. A feature of the coats is that there are no guard-hairs. In respect of this last, Mr. Stirling-Webb said that these are not good all-weather cats, since, without the guard-hairs, a shower of rain will soak them to the skin!

I have just received from America a paper whose writer has two Rex cats, and who mentions Kalli as the first Rex to be discovered, and Mr. Stirling-Webb as having advised on Rex matings. This writer describes the coats as "fur that is soft beyond belief, usually curly . . ."

The cats concerned may be of any colour or type; once the Rex coat has been thoroughly understood and established, it may be introduced into any breed.

Several well-known fanciers have joined in the work of fostering this delightful newly-found variety, and Rex-coated kittens have been bred. I have myself a little Tortoiseshell, bred by Mrs. Hughes of Ashted, and given to me by Mr. Stirling-Webb, who carries

the factor for Rex. Both she and her sister, owned by Mrs. O. M. Lamb, have most attractive dispositions, and show all evidence of excellent health.

It surely will not be long before we see at shows examples of Rex-coated cats and kittens—albeit “for exhibition only”. It is to be hoped that they may in due course become established as a separate breed for they seem to be fine, intelligent, healthy creatures, and their coats have great beauty and are unique.



A lovely study of BRANDYSNAP OF DUNESK, born September 1961, Best Cream Longhair Kitten at the National Show at Olympia in December. Bred by Mrs. M. Brunton from Ch. Paul of Pensford ex Damask of Dunesk, Brandysnap was purchased by Miss Muriel Bryce, of Hurst, Reading, as a future stud cat for her Glenbury cattery.

The new Abyssinians

By DOROTHY WINSOR

THE red Abyssinian is the rarest cat in the whole world; only very occasionally does a red appear in a normal litter, when both parents carry the red gene. Many years ago, I bought a red queen; enchanted by her golden beauty. I hoped for at least one red kitten. But Prim died and left only normal litters, since my stud does not carry red—and it must be on both sides.

I knew that if both parents were red, the whole litter would be the same, but I never dared hope to get queen and stud the same colour. However, two and a half years ago, I was lucky enough to get two more red

queens—Raby Honey and her daughter, Merkland Yilma (Sheba); and the following year, the almost incredible—a red male kitten, Taishun Khephra. He was so late in developing that I almost gave up hope; but now, at last, I have three litters of pure red Abyssinian babies.

Honey had two males on December 14th; Sheba four boys and a girl on the 31st; the third litter was rather unexpected. Tufty of the deep-tufted ears—Tranby Tephni—is a young queen of normal colouring, daughter of Loti (anyone who reads the *Abyssinian News Letter* will know Loti, of the green eyes and eccentric personality). Loti is descended from the same family as red Coleswood Christopher in Edinburgh,



TAISHUN KHEPHRA (Keff), a red Abyssinian male owned and photographed by Mrs. Dorothy Winsor

and I have always thought that she might carry red, though I've never had a chance to prove it, since neither of the two normal studs carries the red gene. Keff, for some odd reason, will take no notice of Loti when she is calling. Tufty he approves of, and she was duly mated to produce (on 20th December) two red girls. Tufty must of course carry the gene for normal colour as well as red, and no doubt in a larger litter the kittens will be of both colours.

These red babies are the most enchanting little creatures. Orange velvet all over, with a peach-like bloom, and deep blue eyes in vivid contrast; these will of course change to gold later. Tufty has eyes like her mother—brilliant jade with almost a hint of turquoise, but Keff's are golden-bronze, and this colour appears to be dominant over green.

Like golden fawns

The kittens vary a little in colour, some being deep apricot, others medium to dark red; at six to eight weeks, little ticking as yet. This will work through later, when they will have the sleek, smooth red-ticked coats of their parents. Somehow they have a strangely ethereal look, due I think to the pure gold without a trace of the black with which normal Abyssinian kittens are usually born. Light, slender and graceful as they emerge from the baby stage, they are like little golden fawns, with their long legs and big ears; the most beautiful and the most unusual kittens we've ever had.

After so many years of hope and despair, they seem rather like a miracle. I knew that red mated to red could only result in red kittens, but it was difficult to believe until they were actually born—and even then, for a few dreadful moments, I thought the kittens were of normal colour, because when soaking wet they appeared nearly black. But when I looked at the pads and found them pink, I knew they would dry out, as they did, to amber.

It is unfortunate that Abyssinians tend to produce more males than females. With these new reds, it's a tragedy; I have only three girls, and I have more than twice that number in request from abroad. My previous articles in *OUR CATS* on red Abyssinians brought me letter after letter from all over the world—and still they come. Only recently did I have an enquiry from an enthusiast in this country. In other countries, and especially in the States, they are beginning to be appreciated. One correspondent had combed America for two red female kittens. There, as here they are very, very rare; and as here, this is partly because breeders don't seem to realize either their unusual beauty, or their value in breeding, and so the few that do appear are sold as pets.

I had a 'phone call one night last November from someone in London, who had got my 'phone number from the Abyssinian Cat Club. She had actually found, a few weeks previously, a beautiful red Abyssinian kitten of eight or nine months, lost and wandering in the streets. The cat appeared to be in season, and was followed by two or three tabby toms.

Left to roam

My caller took her home, and during the three days that she kept her, fell in love with her unique colouring and charming temperament. She found the owner, who was looking after the cat for someone else and had apparently just let her go out as she pleased; and offered to buy her. But the temporary owner said there was no question of the cat being sold, and was unwilling to give any details of name or pedigree, or where she had been bought—except that it was somewhere in Battersea.

My caller, Mrs. Rodda, was kind enough to follow up the call with a letter, giving fuller details. "It is rather difficult to describe her colour, but I would say burnt orange, with brownish overtone;

brown tail tip; most wonderful apricot-orange tummy; no white; and she had dark brown up her heels, rather far up. I took her out on a lead and she caused a mild sensation. She was the most beautiful little creature—her paws so slender, her head so finely cut—the line was incredibly lovely.”

Lost in London

She was, in fact, a red Abyssinian of really deep colouring; and I feel particularly envious of those dark brown heels. Prim, my first red, had very long narrow heels of dark chocolate, which were in striking contrast to her orange coat. But few Abyssinians nowadays have the long black stockings of other years, and my three reds have heels of a medium brown which is a mere edging to the pink pads.

The little lost one, whose name was Sam—Samantha ?—was missing again three weeks later, this time for good. Mrs. Rodda had called again on the people who were looking after her, but could get no more information; the cat was lost. The vivid glowing beauty that might have been passed on to future generations was lost forever, as so many have been lost, in the streets of London.

I am now trying to get red Abyssinians recognized by the Governing Council, which should not be difficult, as contrary to most new breeds, no other breed has been used to help to produce them. They are pure Abyssinian, and any two red Abyssinians—provided you can get them—mated together will result in a red litter. It's as simple as that—the breeding is absolutely pure and absolutely certain.



Another delightful study by Serafino from the November International Show of the Cercle Felin de Paris Mlle. Elisabeth Noel's pair of Int. Champion Cream Persians CANDY and CAELIA DE FONTMOROND are posed with a background picture of the Shah of Persia and his young Queen.

WHY NOT TAX CATS ?

THE cat is one of the noblest of animals and very closely associated with *homo sapiens*. The dog, one of the earliest of man's associates, has achieved the importance of being taxed, just like his master.

Why should the bulldog or the greyhound carry this unwarranted superiority? Could it be that this discrimination is one of the reasons why the dog refuses to tolerate the cat?

If this is true, then all cat lovers will rally to the cry that cats have every right to be taxed like dogs and humans. There can be no dispute whatever that the cat is every bit as intelligent as the dog. And considering the various peculiar kinds of dogs, the cat is certainly as beautiful a creature. And on the score of dignity the cat has nothing to fear. It is true that some types of dog specialize in a very impressive kind of dignity, but if we take dogs by and large and not just on special occasions, we must realize that a dog can be very undignified when he is not being watched. Why then is the cat not taxed? There are a number of reasons. In the first place it would be impossible. It is true that the cat is an associate of man, but he is not his *slave*.

The dog, in spite of some unfortunate

lapses which could be called to mind, is *ready to be taxed*. He is in fact ready to do anything that man may think of. This, alas, is not true of the cat.

It is quite true that we do occasionally see a cat wearing a collar—even a jersey, for that matter, at times, but by and large the cat is a naturist and will not tolerate any encumbrance about his person.

This points the difficulty of establishing ownership of a cat. But the difficulty is really much greater. The truth is, that humans do not own cats. Cats own humans.

It must be confessed that we could never successfully tax the cat. . . . Very well-bred cats might be a fairly reasonable proposition, but the cat in general could take to the attic, the barn, or the tool shed, regarding the defeated Tax Man from his secret point of vantage with enigmatic gaze.

Let us not therefore contemplate the folly of attempting to tax the cat. We have had many tax follies in the past. It behoves us to avoid any more in the future.

(Extract from "The Tax Man Cometh," obtainable at 15/- post free from One World Books, 127 Staplers Road, Newport, Isle of Wight.)

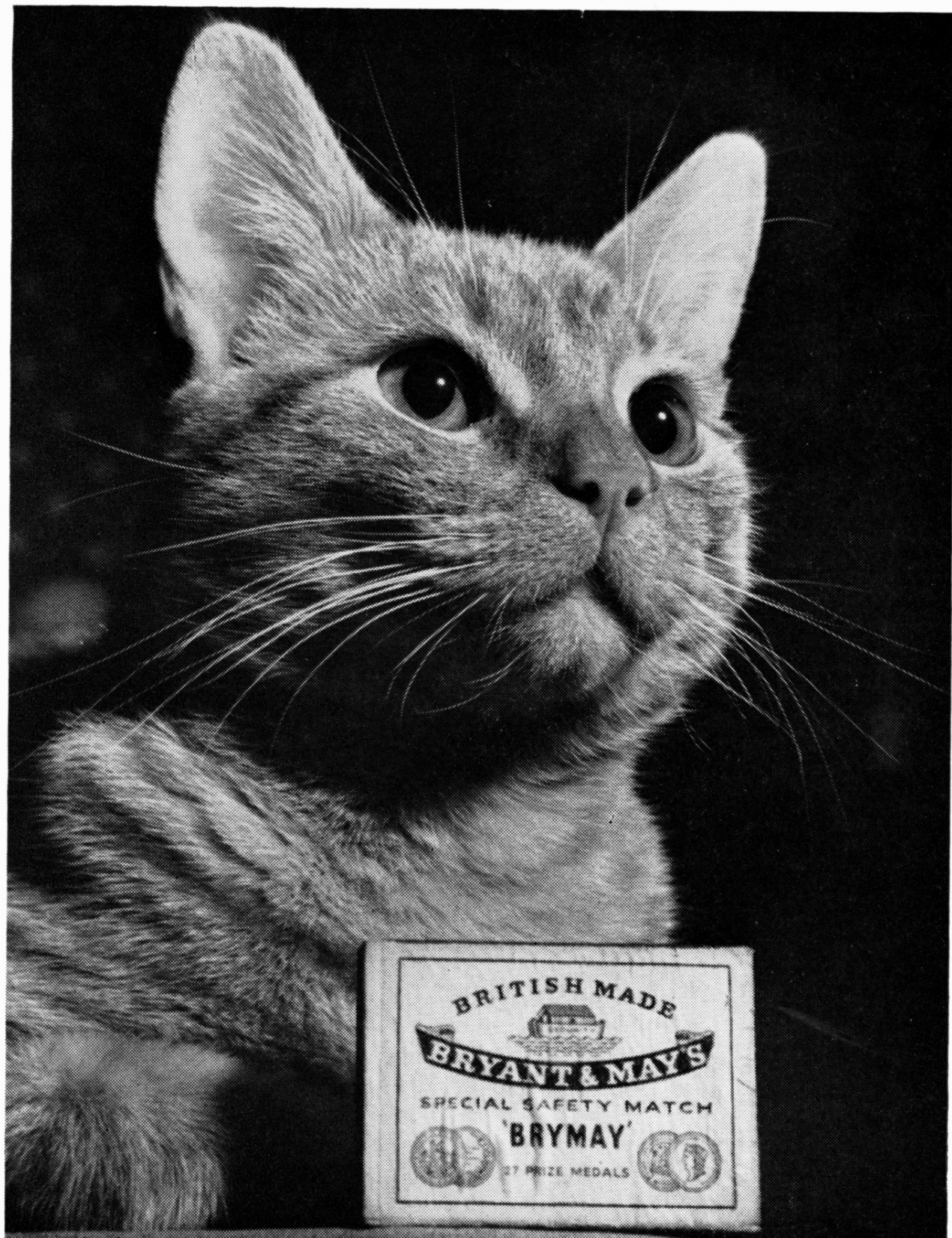
Strike a Light !

(See picture on next page)

More than a match is Tibby for any of the cats in Stepney—to be absolutely precise, seventeen matches more. And that in fact is what the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals recovered from his digestive system—seventeen live matches !

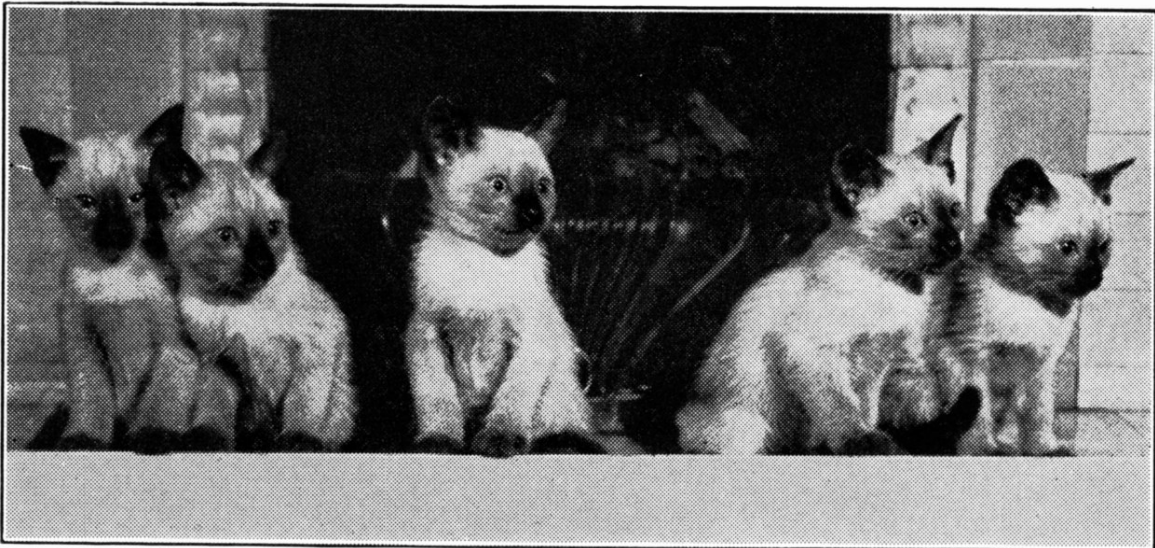
When Tibby (not surprisingly) seemed off-colour, his owner, Mrs. Hounsell of Stepney Green Dwellings took him to the local P.D.S.A. dispensary. In the course of examining the cat, the P.D.S.A. officer opened the patient's mouth—and was startled to see a live match at the back of his throat. This was carefully removed but, finding an odd lump in Tibby's stomach, the officer realized that he had by no means got to the bottom of this striking case ! Tibby was finally relieved (by vomiting) of all seventeen matches and has made a complete recovery. No surgical operation was necessary.

A page for the proletarian puss—No. 98



Stratford Express

Please see opposite page for story.



Ty-Lu's lovely kittens

MR^S. E. MEDCALF of 9 The Croft's, Shore Edge, Shaw, Oldham, Lancashire, writes:—

"I very much wish to express my appreciation of Kit-zyme Tablets.

"At the present time I have two Siamese Seal Points, a male and a queen. Their names are Tunku-Goldie and Ty-Lu and they are the parents of the five beautiful 7 week old kittens in the photograph.

"I have found Kit-zyme Tablets to be extremely good for them. Both the adults will sit and beg immediately they hear the rattle of the tin and now the kittens, too, have started to look forward to 'sweetie' time!"

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Ref. No. 255

Siamese news

from **MARY DUNNILL** (*Hon. Secretary of the Siamese Cat Club*)

I have been hearing a great deal lately about the "typey" Siamese cats in a certain country, and wondering if this breeding for the show bench is not slowly but surely producing a caricature of our lovely Siamese cats. I have seen heads of champion cats that look more like the heads of ant-eaters; and bodies so emaciated, that they look all skin and bone. I understand

that, to achieve this light-weighted cat for show purposes, there is a special reducing diet consisting of a cellulose fibre which has no food value, but satisfies the cat's desire to eat. A good, healthy specimen weighing *over* five pounds just gets nowhere at all !

On our own show bench in the season now finishing, we have seen some beautiful cats, good masculine males,



" but there are still too many ' Chinless Wonders ' "

and elegant, dainty females, but there are still too many "Chinless Wonders".

Surely the time has come to ask what we are breeding for? Rabbits are bred for their meat, chinchillas and mink for their pelts; cats, surely are for pets and when one chooses a pet, health and temperament are foremost.

Overshadowing can ruin a cat, and it is certainly no pleasure for the animal to be awarded half-a-dozen silver cards, if, to gain them, it must spend hours and hours in a travelling basket, and then further hours cramped in a show pen. One show catalogue gives a cat as entered in eighteen classes. I know this pleases the show manager, but does it please the cat? Too little thought is given to the comfort of the cat, and even though some of the classes will be "repeats", so much handling by strangers is an ordeal.

The show season is over for this year, and we turn our thoughts and energies

to breeding next year's Champions. Many of our queens have already called and are well on the way with a family. Spring-born kittens have the best chance of benefiting from sunshine and open-air rearing. It is the natural time for all new life, after the winter's rest. Many queens, however, will have litters all the year round, and come to no harm, but reports have reached me of queens that are "mated up" again all too frequently, so that they are always feeding kittens and gestating another litter at one and the same time. Don't, please, let us have "broiler" kittens.

Study your queen well, evaluate her good points and her bad ones very carefully and try to find the stud that will help to establish the good ones and eradicate the bad ones in the kittens she is to produce to win those prizes for you. And out of my bonnet comes the usual bee: *study your pedigrees well*, do not just nip off to the latest Champion. He may be far too nearly related.

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ABOUT US . . .

From a well-known fancier in the West of England: "You would be rather surprised I think if you knew the vast amount of correspondence I receive from abroad as well as here whenever I or my cats are mentioned in the Magazine. Mention of a win of mine has brought a deluge".

From a Hertfordshire subscriber: "Although I am a busy person with many interests, I really look forward each month to the arrival of OUR CATS".

A subscriber in Devonshire writes: "Having had OUR CATS now for twelve months, we find all the articles, etc., more than interesting and very instructive. We wonder how we managed without it!"

An American subscriber writes: "I am very sorry I cannot renew my subscription for I have enjoyed the magazine during the past several years that I have been a subscriber. My reason for not continuing to take the

Magazine is that having retired from active work I find my finances do not permit me to indulge in some of the pleasures I have enjoyed in the past. I shall miss receiving the little Magazine but you have my earnest best wishes for continued success in your work".

A Californian, U.S.A. subscriber says: "... I neglected to renew my subscription when it expired and I have missed the magazine greatly. I feel that it is a must for any cat fancier. Am now looking forward to my first issue—shall not let it lapse again".

Another subscriber in Hertfordshire writes: "I must take the opportunity of saying how much I like the Magazine. I enjoy the news from all over the world and the articles are always helpful and stimulating. The photographs are excellent and the advertisements of breeders most helpful. In fact, it is a mine of information produced in a very attractive way."

SHOW RESULTS IN GLASGOW

The Scottish Cat Club held its 5th Championship Show in the MacLellan Galleries, Glasgow, during January.

The 1962 Show had a greater number of entries than ever before—some 125 pedigree cats and 80 in the household pet section. It was divided into two sections—pedigree and household pets and each section had its own stage with prizes displayed and its own prizegiving ceremony.

The venue and the lighting have always been good, but this year, due to the redecoration of the halls, a really excellent standard was attained, and judges and exhibitors alike were kind enough to compliment the Club on the accommodation.

Although the fixture was well supported by other clubs and commercial enterprises, public support fell short of the hoped-for figure. Possibly the fact that the day was so warm for January attracted people out of, rather than into, the city.

As usual there were a good number of cats from South of the Border, and these

splendid animals took most of the Best in Show Awards. Main awards were as follow:

Best L.H. Cat—Miss M. F. Bull's Deebank Mascot; Best L.H. Kitten—Mrs. R. Richardson's Lomond Morning Mist; Best S.H. Cat—Mrs. E. G. Anderson's Ch. Polkinghorn Puffaleen; Best S.H. Kitten—Mrs. E. Fisher's Praha-Poco Allergando.

Scotland, however, managed to keep the Best in Show Neuter Awards with L.H. Blue—Sapphire of Dunesk owned by Dr. Wm. Blyth and S.H. Manx—Manxie owned by Miss Moira Cowan.

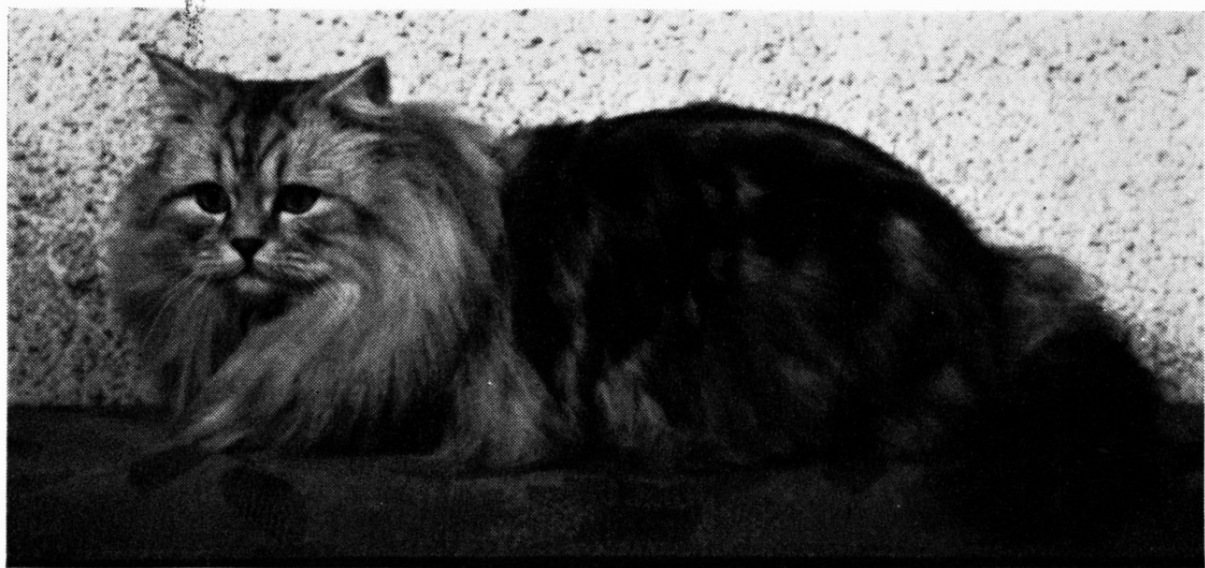
The Club looks forward to the next show—hoping for an even bigger entry.

G.C.C.F.

The Annual List of Cats at Stud No. 19 (1962) is now available and may be obtained from the Secretary

**MR. S. E. BARNES
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CROWBOROUGH, SUSSEX**

Price 2s. 6d. post free



CH. SWEET SULTAN, 16-month old Silver Tabby Longhair bred and owned by Miss M. G. Duff, M.R.C.V.S., a former show manager of the Scottish Cat Club. Sweet Sultan completed his Championship at the January show.



Tailpieces

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



CERTAIN plants reputed to benefit the health of cats can be grown indoors up to the planting-out stage by a new system invented in France.

The following officers were elected at the recent A.G.M. of the Notts and Derby Cat Club : President — Mr. F. C. Tomlinson; Vice-President—Mr. G. Bastow; Chairman—Mrs. I. Hancox ; Hon. Treasurer—Mrs. E. Brice-Webb ; Hon. Secretary—Mrs. M. Bastow. Mrs. Prince, Miss J. Spencer and Mr. V. Watson were elected to the Committee and Mrs. Hancox and Mrs. Bastow will serve as delegates to the Governing Council. A small Sub-Committee was formed to develop the social side of the Club.

An oxygen tent for pets is now being marketed in America. It permits oxygen to be administered at home in cases of respiratory distress, heat prostration, shock, and in caring for newly born litters. The portable unit consists of a rigid plastic pan for the patient to sit in and a plastic canopy with a zip fastening.

A British Road Services lorry recently arrived back at its depot at Strood after a 200-mile round trip to Oxfordshire. When the driver lifted the bonnet there was a black and white cat, dishevelled and covered with dust and oil. As the lorry made several stops in Kent on the homeward journey, the R.S.P.C.A. officials who took charge of the cat are puzzled to know at what point it climbed aboard.



Meet OLEANDER, the roughest, toughest, angriest, hungriest, meanest cat ever ! He is the delightful creation of Walt Scott and he made his public bow in a Christmas story for children in the American World-Telegram. Oleander actually met Father Christmas !

Eric Simms, the B.B.C. ornithologist, has published the results of a 10-year wild bird census based on his observations in the London area. He refers of course to the flocks of starlings which sleep in the city at night and fly out to the suburbs and the country each morning to find food. Their song, he adds, can be varied to give an imitation of cats.

I have had news from America of a remarkable dollar (7s.) book entitled *Persian Cats*, by Mrs. Jeanne Ramsdale, of Bellflower, California, a successful breeder of Silver Persians from her "Dearheart Cattery". Not having seen it yet, I can only pass on the details. It makes 64 pages in a paper jacket, has ninety illustrations, of which 20 are in colour. Sounds to me like wonderful value.

During the hearing of a recent case in the London Divorce Court it was stated that the wife had an unusually high standard of cleanliness and when the cat came indoors she insisted that its paws were wiped clean. The cat got to like the treatment but the husband took a dim view of it. He also objected to the general behaviour of his wife who corrected his manners and grammar in a jeering and hurtful way. The husband's petition was dismissed.

Mr. H. H. Lee is a quiet, modest man who has a genuine love for animals and is primarily concerned about their welfare. He runs the mobile unit of the R.S.P.C.A. which covers Devon, Cornwall and West Somerset and his schedule is a tight one involving 600 miles a week with as many as twenty calls a day at small towns and villages. He is on call for twenty-four hours a day. Last year the unit rendered first aid to 397 cats and over 1,000 cats were painlessly destroyed. Mr. Lee's main complaint is that too many people leave things too late before they seek advice. One of his regular calls is to Dartmoor Prison where the prisoners make friends with the cats and jackdaws.

The total membership of the Western Province Cat Club of South Africa is now almost on the 150 mark. At the 1961 show 88 exhibitors entered 162 cats and Championship medals were awarded for the first time. The gate was a record 1,200. This year the Club reverts to its former policy by staging two shows—one on 28 April in Cape Town and the other on 27 October in Claremont. Sir Compton Mackenzie is a new patron of the Club.

There has been a change in the Secretaryship of the Herts and Middlesex Cat Club. Mrs. Barron has resigned and her successor is Miss I. Statman, 11 West Avenue, Hendon, London, N.W.4. Mrs. L. Price (Chairman) and Mrs. Barron will be the Club's delegates to the governing body of the Fancy. Miss Kit Wilson (President) presided over the A.G.M. of the Black and White Cat Club held at the S.W. London home of the Hon. Secretary Mrs. Peggy Cattermole.

A "cat call" brought all the cars running in practice on the \$3,000,000 Daytona (U.S.A.) Speedway to a standstill. The track has a safety rule that a fire truck must be on duty at all times whenever the cars are running. The lone fireman manning the truck had been summoned to an emergency call. He had taken his kitten to a veterinary hospital. The vet, trying to contact the fireman, placed a call to the Speedway. The telephone operator at the track thought it was the hospital calling for the fireman and she put through an emergency call for him. The fireman rushed to a phone. The cars all halted. The track was closed. "I've got your cat", said the veterinarian. "Yes, I know", said the exasperated fireman. "But what do you want?" "You told us you wanted your 'male cat' altered, didn't you?" asked the vet. "Yes, yes, I did". "Well, it's a female cat. What do you want us to do now?" Racing was resumed on the Speedway when the cat owner ran back to man his fire truck.

“ Help ! Unfortunate young man desperately seeks good homes for 30 inherited cats: will deliver anywhere ”. So ran the agony column advertisement inserted in a London daily newspaper by John Drummond, who lives with his wife in a large Victorian house in Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex. Mrs. Drummond stated in an interview that they really needed to find homes for 28 of the cats as she had no intention of parting with her pair of pedigree British Blues. She had been left with the cats by her first husband. Husband John had agreed to her keeping two or three and the real problem was that they both expected later on to go to Spain, where Mr. Drummond is opening a pottery business.

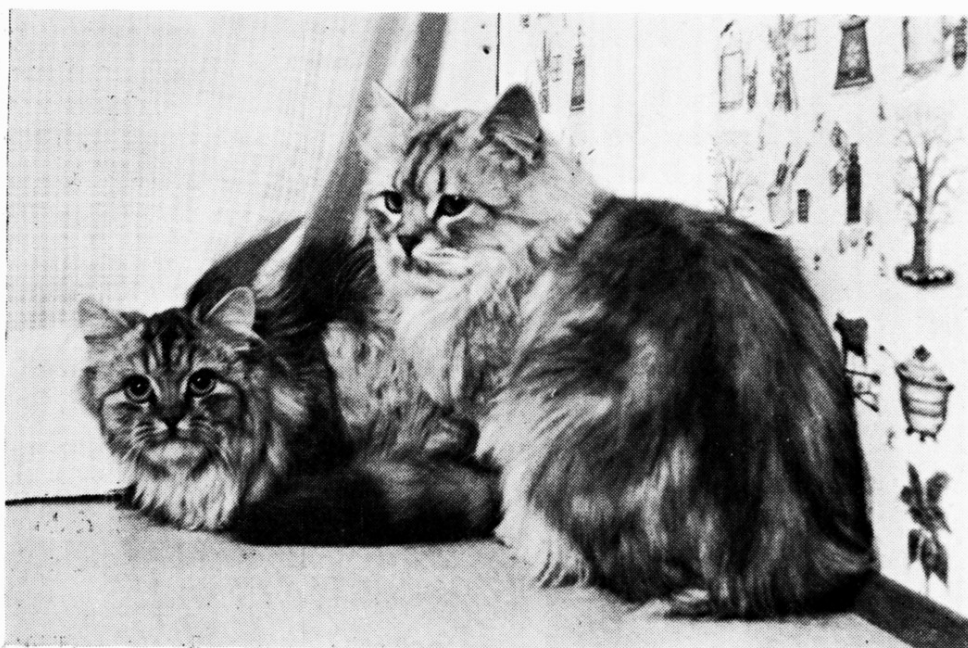
Walter Burton, a scientist attached to the Goddard Space Flight Centre in Maryland, U.S.A., found that he was a lot more skilled in tracking satellites in the sky than in tracing the movements of his pet cat Thorny. When he was under orders to move to his present job from another part of the country, Thorny disappeared into the snow as the family was packing to leave. A frantic search was launched and meanwhile the furniture left, leaving the Burtons with just a cot and some boxes. The children were farmed out to neighbours, handbills were

printed and circulated and Walter swore that he wouldn't leave for his new job without Thorny. It was only after an anxious week that the cat was spotted by a neighbour, captured and restored to the Burton home. “ He was my wife's pet at first ”, said a relieved Walter, “ but he's grown on me. We just couldn't give up on him and leave ”.

Good advice for beginners by Estelle Shaw in *Fur and Feather*: “ Do not be tempted to keep a stud cat of your own, however convenient such a course may seem. Stud work requires years of experience, a great deal of time and patience, and a great sense of responsibility toward your own cat, other people's cat, and the Fancy itself. One day perhaps, but never at the beginning.”

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 but it should be remembered that we cannot reproduce direct from newspaper illustrations. I send best thanks to all who have helped in this connection.

MICKY



KALA RAMONA and KALA FIREFLY, a promising pair of Silver Tabby Longhairs bred by Miss Collins, of West Moors, Dorset, and recently exported to Mrs. A. Stenborg, of Stockholm, Sweden.



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 personal-
ities, both human and feline.

Notts and Derby Show

MR. AND MRS. GARFITT made their debut as show managers on January 6th for the 17th Championship fixture of the Notts and Derby Cat Club. The generous classification attracted nearly 250 exhibits. The special prizes offered by clubs and individuals amounted to 220.

Many of the exhibits had registered outstanding wins at previous Ch. shows so quality in many cases was excellent. Best Longhair Cat was Mr. Felix Tomlinson's Ch. Congo of Knott Hall who has had the unique honour of being awarded four Challenge Certificates and four "Best in Shows" on the only occasions on which he has appeared this season. Best L.H. Kitten was Mrs. Daphne Fisher's Blue female Halcyon Devina by Woburn Chippy and Best L.H. Neuter Mrs. Wilson's Cream,

Premier Priory Golden Glory by Ch. Oscar of Pensford. This was his thirteenth Premier Certificate and his ninth "Best Longhair Neuter in Show".

Best Shorthair Cat was Mrs. Angela Sayers' S.P. Siamese female Katrine Jap Rose by Katrine Sun Hunter. Best S.H. Kitten award went to Mrs. Beever's White Omoretta who appeared in an "Any Other Variety Kitten" class, sire unknown, dam Snow Queen. Best S.H. Neuter was Mrs. MacMichael's S.P. Siamese Sanguine Johnny by Ch. Killdown Kerry.

Readers who are not members of the Hull and Lincolnshire Cat Club may be interested in an abbreviated account of Omoretta's origin which appeared in their *Newsletter*. A white female who had suffered extreme privation was rescued by Mr. and Mrs. Champion from a hedge with her white female and tabby and white kitten. They kept them until another kindly home was found for them with Mrs. Beever who owns some very well-known Shorthairs, among them Ch. Broughton Arabella (British Blue); Ch. Aldra's Twinkletoes (Blue-Cream); and Ch. White Hawthorn (White).

The new addition was registered Snow Queen and her female kitten Omoretta. The latter responded quickly to her new environment and although the mother took a few weeks longer to recover all is well now. Congratulations to Mrs. Beever on the reward for her kindness.

Mr. and Mrs. Holdaway bred the winning Blue-eyed White kitten Miss

Lench's Charmina Zindy Loo and the winning Orange-eyed Mrs. Morris's Charmina Zalida. This owner was also awarded first and Ch. with her White male Lisblanc Eros. The same honour went to the only Black L.H. adult present—Mrs. Worrall's Deebank Mandy, litter sister to Miss Bull's Champion Deebank Mascot (pictured in January OUR CATS). Congratulations to Mr. Steele on the final Certificate awarded to his Red Tabby Edward of Rockvilla by Chadhurst Black Monack. Miss Woodfield won in Tortoiseshell and White adults with Champion Gillyflower; in kittens with Pathfinders Rosebud and in Red Tabby kittens with Pathfinders Sunbeam. Mrs. Burrows won the Blue Longhair female class and several firsts with Borrowdale Susette at the youthful age of just under ten months.

L.H. and S.H. winners

The winning Cream adults were Mrs. Richardson's Ch. Lomond Moonraker by Ch. Boy Blue of Kenton and Mrs. Nelson-Green's Bamboo Madeline by Ch. Twilight John. Mrs. Aitken won in kittens with Bourneside Cream Jolyon by Myowne Caesar.

Mrs. Lodge won in Chinchilla adults with Ch. Fishermore Helios and Fishermore Calypso (both bred by herself) and this pair were the parents of the winning kitten Fishermore Dionysus. Mrs. Brough bred the winning Blue-Cream adult Dominic Benedikte and her sire Dominic Benedict and her dam.

First, second, third and reserve in Blue-Cream kittens were litter sisters bred by Mrs. Clark and sired by Ch. Deebank Victor. Spiredom Maisie was the winner. Only one Colourpoint adult represented this variety, Mrs. Speak's Malverna Shara by Briarry Valparago.

Ten S.P. Siamese males were headed by Mrs. Macalister's Kuala Exochorda by Milori Banzi. Four Open Classes were provided for S.P. Siamese kittens

and the first prize winners from the total of twenty-eight were Mrs. Harrison's Wairanei Kamalkeiri by Ch. Samaikand Gallant Lad; Mrs. Greathead's Silverseal Star Sapphire by Avonside Dayspring; Miss Lant's Beaumanor Joe by Beaumanor Bonni and Mrs. Lumb's Purrdale Lotus Blossom by Topaz Lucky Strike.

In B.P. Siamese adults Mrs. Fenton's male Daltrees Blue Adito by Misselfore Tempest and Mrs. Upton's Bitchet Wedgewood by Ch. Misselfore Ryken were the winners.

No males were entered in C.P. Siamese and no Ch. was awarded in this colour. The first adult was Mrs. Webber's Gillibrand Winsom and the same owner won in kittens with Gillibrand Whin Bo, both by Mavlyn Dorian. Lilac Points had an entry of four adults headed by Mrs. Ramsbottom's Doneraile Lilac Marmoset and in kittens Mrs. Denny's Khubsurat Rushanara was the winner. Burmese had the best entry in Shorthairs (excluding Siamese). Challenge Certificates were awarded to Mr. Fletcher's Ch. Chindwin Chee-Ke by Ch. Casa Gatos Darkee and Mrs. Hill's female Seta Sheen Kinki by Ch. Darshan Khudiram. Both sires are owned by Mrs. C. F. Watson. Mrs. Nicholls won in Blue Burmese adults with Plainsong Amaziah by Lamont Blue Burmaboy. Mrs. Merry's Ch. Kingsplay Fei-Fo sired the winning Brown Burmese kitten Miss Lench's Ballard Chamai and the winning Blue Mrs. Logan's Kingsplay Blue Willow.

British Shorthairs

Some Challenge Certificates were withheld in British Shorthairs but the judge, Mrs. Towe, awarded them to Mrs. Anderson's Blue-eyed White male Whitehaugh Morning Dew; Mrs. Weller's Orange-eyed White Ch. Mavlyn Cokey Boy; Mrs. Anderson's Black Ch. Andersley Allaereiche; Mrs. Beever's Blue Jezreel Janty; Mrs. Woollen's Red Tabby Tip Top; Mr.

Beckett's Silver Tabby Culverden Silver Moonstone (who also won in kittens with Gables Silverbell); Mrs. Anderson's Tortoiseshell Pathfinders Sauce and the same owner's Tortoiseshell and White Ch. Polkinghorne Puffaleen.

Mrs. Warren's Chestnut Brown Foreign Crossways Hydena (bred by Mrs. Joan Judd) was the Ch. winner in this variety.

Southern Counties Show

Mrs. Lamb, so well known as judge, breeder and show manager of the Midland Counties Cat Club Ch. Show made her bow in this capacity for the Southern Counties Cat Club Championship fixture at the Seymour Hall, London on January 25th. What a pity that this venue which has such excellent lighting seldom attracts a good gate!

Breeders supported the Show well and the entry of over 370 exhibits for the last London Ch. fixture of the season was representative and there were many lovely exhibits, some of whom were competing for their final Challenge Certificate. An official list of all the cats which have become Champions this season will be published later in this journal.

Best Longhair Adult and Best L.H. Exhibit was Mrs. M. Turney's Chinchilla male Ch. Bonavia Contenta by Ch. Mark of Allington and Ch. Sarisbury Aphra, a lovely cat in full pomp and so well presented. Best L.H. Kitten was Mrs. Fawell's Blue-Cream Barwell Athene by Ch. Brynwood Casanova and Priscilla of Pensford a beautiful kitten excelling in type who won well under several judges. Best L.H. Neuter, Mrs. Taylor's Blue Brightstar Aldebaran is by Woburn Chippy and Briaric Petra.

Best Shorthair Adult, Mr. Brown's Blue British Broughton Felicity, is a charming cat by the well-known Blue Persian Mrs. Aitken's Myowne Caesar and the British S.H. Broughton Sue. Best S.H. Kitten was another British Mr. Strotton's Black, Teign Tempest

by Arcamor Scamp and this male kitten also took the honour of Best S.H. exhibit. Best S.H. Neuter Mrs. Lief's S.P. Siamese Thaipuss Krung Thep was by Selborne Prairie Wolf. Entered in three classes under three judges, it was awarded all firsts.

Miss Sherlock was 1st and Ch. with her Black female Bircotte Tessa by Bircotte Giftocrissa and her Blue-eyed White female Lotus Lolette by Lotus Atlas and in the latter variety Miss Lench followed up her Nottingham success by winning again with Charmina Zindy Loo by Lotus Rollo. Mrs. Daphne Fisher had a successful day by winning the Blue male Open Class with Ch. Halcyon Boniface and firsts in the Blue Persian Cat Society adult class and other classes, and also breeding the winning Blue female Halycon Candida by



Hugh Smith

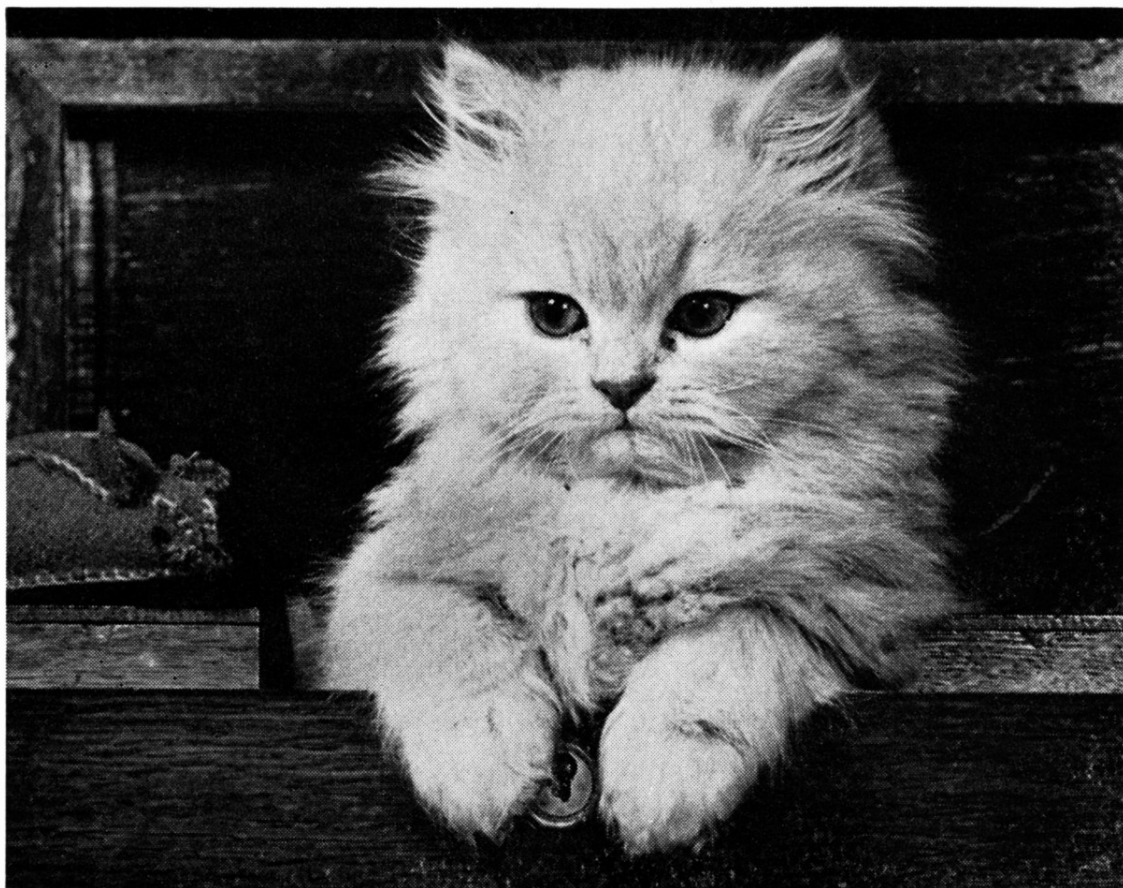
Mr. D. Stroffen's Black Shorthair Kitten TEIGN TEMPEST (held by Show Manager Mrs. Lamb) was Best Shorthair Kitten at the Southern Counties Show.

Coming
up for
Tibs
time

The kitten in the casket knows a thing or two. He's one of the Bournside Longhairs bred by Mrs. E. G. Aitken of Banstead, Surrey. As the up-and-coming kitten in a famous cattery, he inherits a great tradition—a tradition that includes daily Tibs.

Bournside cats are noted for their intelligence and sweet dispositions. They are healthy and happy and full of life. And they all love their Tibs. Which is just as well, because Mrs. Aitken knows they need those vitamins and minerals that a Tibs tablet every day adds to their diet.

Mrs. Aitken has used Tibs regularly ever since they were first introduced. They're as important for developing the full potential of a winning strain from generation to generation as for keeping a single kitten fit. Take a tip from Mrs. Aitken—give your cats Tibs daily.



TIBS

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are a Bob Martin product.

Woburn Chippy who completed her Championship.

The winning Blue kittens in two classes which were amalgamated from four were Mrs. Brunton's Rosie of Dunesk by Ch. Thiepval, Paragon and Mrs. Stephenson's Ashdown Azalea by Woburn Sunshine.

Miss Sheppard won in Cream adults with Ch. Widdington Orion and Ch. Widdington Stardust, both by the late Ch. Widdington Winterstar. It was a great loss to the Creams when Winterstar passed on last November in his eighth year. Orion was also first in Ch. of Champions class.

Mrs. Barron won again with her very promising Cream male kitten Dalan Sabin by Ch. Camber Mario and Ch. Hendras Pepita, the latter being a winner of six Challenge Certificates. Mrs. King's winning female kitten Startops Cherub by Startops Mischief Maker was also a very pleasing kitten.

Mrs. Beedell whose enthusiasm for Brown Tabbies has been so helpful to the breed was rewarded by winning 1st and Ch. with Ch. Magyar Chandra, 2nd with his son Magyar Cheetah and 3rd with Ch. Magyar Mira Bai. The two Champions are litter brother and sister by Jungle Dragonfly. Mrs. Rosell added another Ch. to her Red Tabby male Ch. Bruton Peregrine by Ch. Barwell Pedro and Mrs. Moore to her female Asplin Psyche by Ch. Hendon Puck. Miss Woodfield won with her Red Self male Ch. Pathfinders Golden Dawn and her kitten Pathfinders Cherry-blossom and in Tortie-and-White with Ch. Pathfinders Mayflower and her kitten Pathfinders Rosebud.

The Best L.H. Exhibit Ch. Bonavia Contenta sired the winning Chinchilla female adult Mrs. Thornhill's Sunhaven Paula. Ch. Fidelio of Allington sired the Best Chinchilla kitten Mrs. Bacon's male Ivelholme Deodar. Mrs. Gibbs' Blue-Cream Bourneside Stardust by Myowne Caesar was awarded Ch. and the same honour went to the Colour-

point Mrs. Holland's Malverna Shula by Briarry Valparago and in kittens Mrs. Harding's Briarry Jehane by Ch. Briarry Euan won.

Two Open Classes of nine Seal Point Siamese males and seventeen females produced some good Siamese. The winners were Miss Tilby's Katrine Sun Hunter by Ch. Killdown Kerry and Mrs. Lowcock's Nefretiti by Whiteoaks Malahide. Four well filled kitten classes in the same variety were headed by Mrs. Buttery's male Samsara Sinhue by Samsara Saracen. Mr. Richard Warner's female Annelida Zambra by Whiteoaks Malahide and in the older kitten classes 6 to 9 months Miss Euston's Bradbourne Orion by Ch. Kanburi Mayo and Mrs. Shaw's Luxor Dresden by Ch. Bluehayes Foxy were other winning kittens.

Siamese varieties

The winning B.P. Siamese adults were Mrs. Goodwin's Shikaree Mahcoboy by Ch. Misselfore Ryken and Mrs. Warren's Nu Parc Vivace by Jonny Puss and in kittens Mrs. North's Whitehaugh Blue Nylon, Mrs. Boal's Freefolk Blue Delia and Mrs. Moss's Fantan Fairie. In Chocolate Point Siamese two Challenge Certificates were also awarded to Mrs. Lapper's male Bradgate Yippie by Ch. Camley Fudge, Mrs. Marshall's female Seax Sheba by Ch. Killdown Kerry. The winning kitten was Mrs. Hudson's Tanchai. One Ch. in Lilac Points was awarded to Miss Bygraves' Misselfore Lilac Cloud by Ch. Camley Fudge. Mrs. E. Fisher's Praha Poco Allergando won in kittens.

Shorthair neuters had some fine exhibits but none handsomer than Mrs. Grant-Allen's lovely Silver Tabby Premier Elvaston Silver Mist who has had a distinguished career this season. He is by Believer Calchas Dacheux. Mrs. Attwood won the Any Variety Shorthair Championship Class with Ch. Aldra's Cream Bunne.

Brown Burmese had a pleasing entry of six adult males with Mrs. Pocock's Ch. Soondar Mooni by Ch. Darshan Khudirain as the winner and seven females were headed by Mrs. Cole's Sablesilk Ninette by Ch. Casa Gatos Darkee. The winning kitten was Miss Lench's female Ballard Chamai and her litter sister Ballard Clara was first in Blue Burmese kittens, owned by Mrs. Knowles and sired by Ch. Kingsplay Fei-Fo. One Challenge Certificate was awarded in Blue Adults to Miss Leaver's Ballard Patani by Lamont Blue Burmaboy.

An amalgamated class of British Blues produced the Best S.H. adult Mr. Brown's Broughton Felicity and she was dam of the winning kitten Gosfield Marina. Mrs. Anderson won in British Shorthairs with her Black male Ch. Andersley Allacreiche, her Red Tabby female Charity of Rockvilla; her Tortie and White Ch. Polkinghorne Puffaleen and her Orange-eyed White, Whitehaugh Morning Dew. Mrs. Attwood

won in Creams with Ch. Aldra's Cream Bunne; Mrs. Thake with Silverseal Di-Anna in Silver Tabbies; Mrs. Colville with Schneewittchen and a male kitten Brumasino, in Manx.

Winning adults in Russian Blues were Mrs. Kirby's Harvees Antimony by Meadliam Cheiron and Mrs. Alexander's Holway Mystic Maid. The judge, Mrs. Towe, awarded two Challenge Certificates in Abyssinian adults to Mr. and Mrs. Appleton's Courtmoor Swinging Kilt and to Miss Bones' Nygella Caprice. Mrs. Menezes won in kittens with Taishun Tonga. Altogether a very enjoyable finale to the London Show season of 1961-1962 and well organized by Mrs. Lamb, ably assisted by Mr. Lamb, Show Managers to whom we owe so much.

Croydon Show winners

Although it is now a trifle late to give all the main awards for the November



Ronald E. Haddock

BARWELL ATHENE, a Blue Cream owned and bred by Mrs. D. P. Fawell, was Best Longhair Kitten at the Southern Counties Show first time shown. She also won six first prizes.

show of the Croydon Cat Club Ch. Show in London, the exhibits which were awarded Best in Show must be recorded. They were Best Longhair adult—Mr. Felix Tomlinson's Blue male Congo of Knott Hall by Ch. Thiepval Paragon; Best L.H. Kitten—Mrs. Hogan's White female Snowwhite Giselle by Ch. Snowcloud Crispin; Best L.H. Neuter—Misses Marshall's Yewhatch Jessie by Gwynn of Allington. Best Shorthair Cat—Mrs. Attwood's Black Aldra's Dark Talisman by Ch. Nidderdale Robin; Best S.H. Neuter—Mrs. Grant-Allen's Silver Tabby Elvaston Silvermist by Believer Calchas Dacheux; Best S.H. Kitten—Mrs. Read's Russian Blue Sylphides Mavilova by Yaroslavl; Best Siamese Cat—Mrs. Lowcock's S.P. female Nefretiti by Whiteoaks Malahide. Best Siamese Kitten—Mrs. Hewlett's S.P. female Gaywood Zelia by Dunchattan Sabu Hassan.

Mr. Towe's record

Mr. Arthur Towe was sadly missed at this Show many of which he had organized so well in the past. I asked Mrs. Towe how many he had presided over and the total was twenty-six including the Championship Show at the R.H.S. New Hall in October, 1953, organized by the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy to celebrate the Coronation of the Queen. Another outstanding achievement was the Golden Jubilee Ch. Show of the G.C.C.F. at the National Hall Olympia, September, 1960, which attracted an entry of over 500 pedigree exhibits.

Probably when the post-war history of the British Cat Fancy is written the Crystal Cat Show and Exhibition at Olympia in 1950 promoted by Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald with Mr. Arthur Towe as Show Manager will be considered the most epoch making event. Until then no one had aspired to any venue except baths halls and similar accommodation,

nor was there any evidence that the public were sufficiently interested in cat shows to justify such costly promotions. Certainly no club had the reserve funds at that time to take such a risk.

I returned from New York at the end of March 1950 to find it a subject of controversy because it was not under G.C.C.F. rules. However, many well known personalities, happily still with us, supported it enthusiastically and Mr. Towe was justified in his determination to proceed with it. For the first time in this country we saw queues waiting for admission to a cat show and as it was not under G.C. rules decorated pens were allowed and very lovely some of them were.

In parenthesis, this was a two-day show which made such a concession practicable. The patrons were: Nina Duchess of Hamilton and Brandon, Lady Aberconway, Lady Arkell, Mr. Kirkland Bridge, Sir Compton Mackenzie and Mr. Beverley Nicols.

It is interesting to recall some of the main awards: Mr. Dugdale's Blue L.H. male Champion Harpur Blue Boy; Mrs. Henn's Blue female Romany Roma; Mrs. Lamb's Champion S.P. Siamese male Morris Tudor; Miss Calvert Jones' S.P. Siamese female Tai-Land Ranat, who was also the Best Opposite type to the Best Exhibit in Show, which was Miss A. Steer's Chinchilla female Ch. Langherne Winsome.

Led the way

Mr. Towe organized one more Crystal Cat Show and soon after that "the rebels" (one of whom was myself) returned to the fold, their mission accomplished. These shows led the way to the fine Ch. shows under G.C.C.F. rules at the Royal Horticultural Halls because they were convincing proof that the public will pay to see cat shows provided they are well advertised and at a very well-known venue.

Mr. Towe has passed on but he is not forgotten and many cat lovers will long bless his name and feel gratitude for all he did to popularize pedigree cats.

I have received news of some excellent wins by British bred cats and kittens and these will be in my next notes. Such wins are usually of general interest so I am pleased to receive them.

Two errors occurred in my notes on the National Cat Club Ch. Show in

December. Mrs. Boal's B.P. Siamese Ch. Freefolk Blue Lady was awarded first in the Siamese Champion of Champion class; *not* Ch. Samaikand Gallant Lad. The second error was obvious immediately I read my notes in print. Best Shorthair Cat (except Siamese) was Miss Bone's Ch. Godfrey Anemone an Abyssinian female and not British as stated.



Hugh Smith

The "young idea" at the Herts. & Middlesex Show

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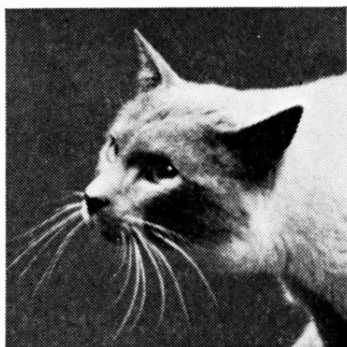
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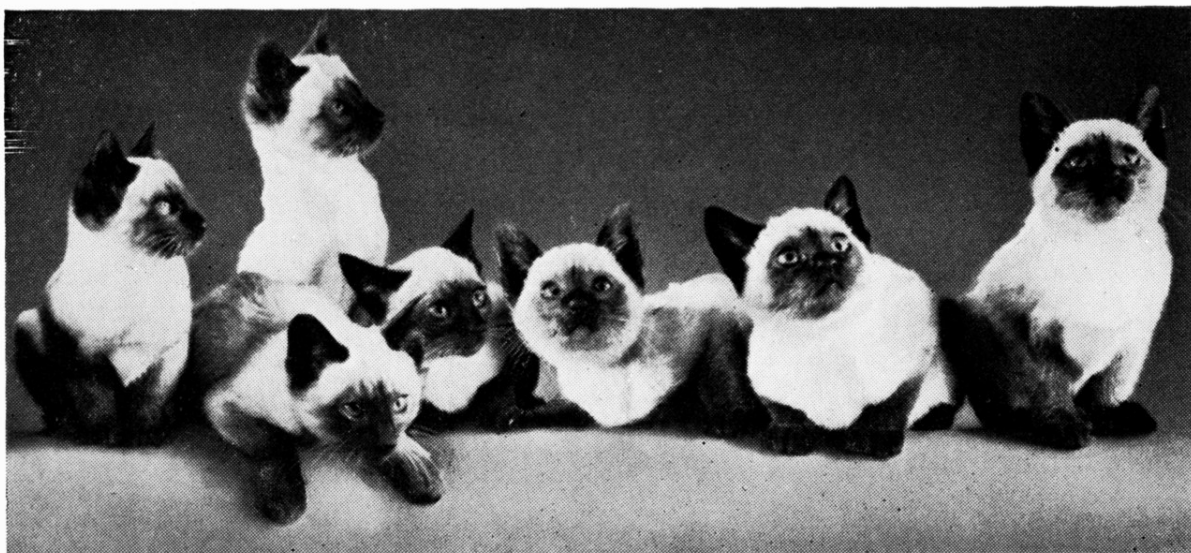
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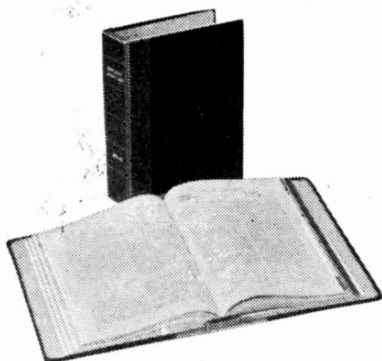
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