

# Our Cats

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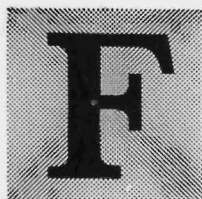
*Photo by Hugh Smith*

## **JEZREEL MAXWELL**

Miss D. Gosling's striking Black Shorthair was a winner of his Open Class at the Croydon C.C. Show last year.

**MARCH 1965**

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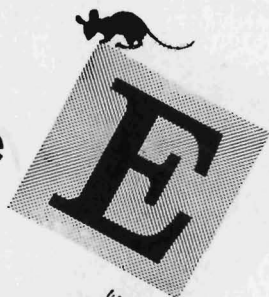


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# Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

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

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

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4 CARLTON MANSIONS  
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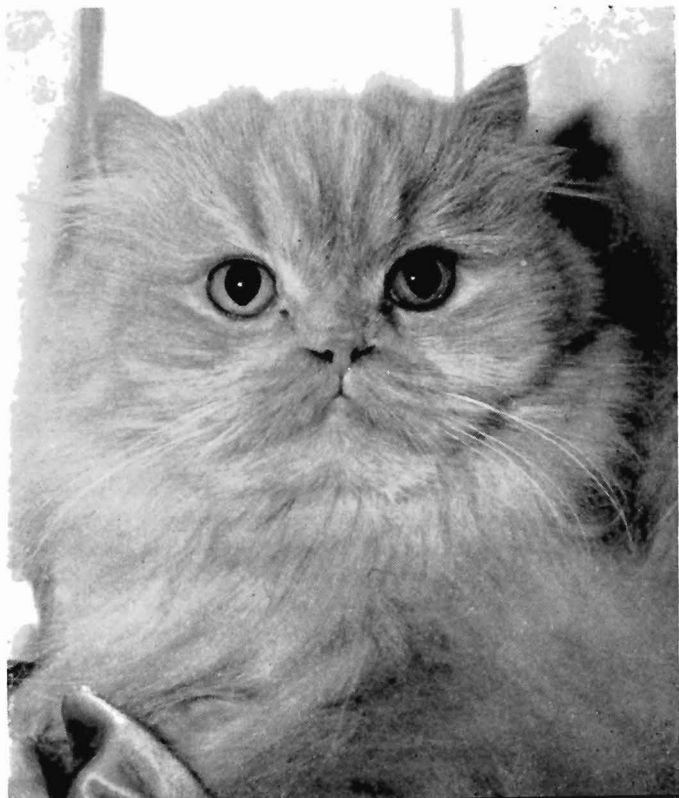
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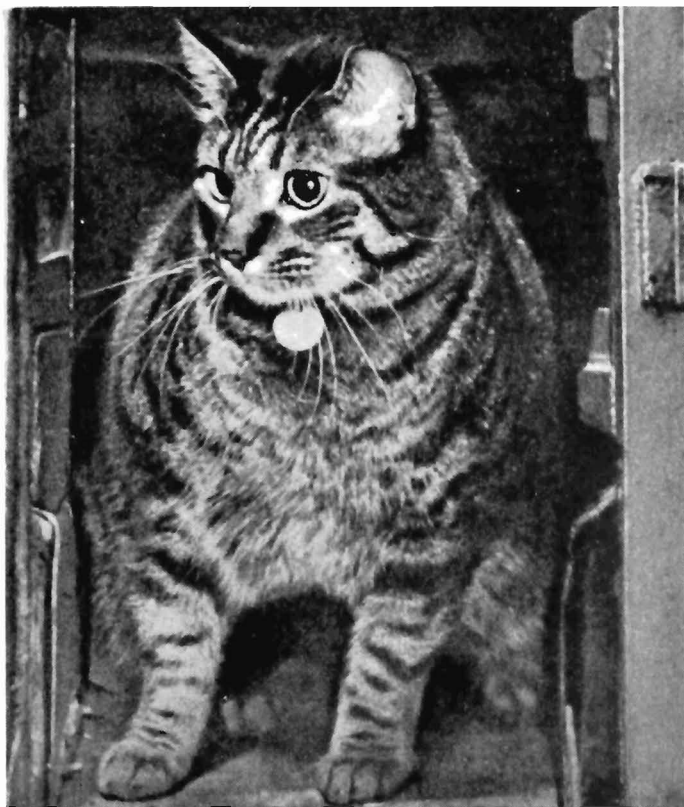
THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS

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INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION BENTVELD HONEYCOMB, lovely Cream female by Ch. Bentveld Bronx Cocktail and Bentveld Memory. Bred by the well known Dutch fancier Miss Posthuma, Honeycomb now belongs to Mrs. Gunster d. Laan.

## A page for the proletarian puss—No 111



### A COCKNEY CAT

One of London's best known cats passed away recently at the age of 14 years. He was TIBS, the imposing 23lb. tabby heavyweight who was an official member of the Post Office staff at St. Martin's-le-Grand. His salary was 2s. 6d. per week and most of his days and nights were spent in the basement where no rat has been seen since he started to "sort them out" in his young and energetic days. There was an occasion when Tibs was taken to the PDSA for treatment of an infected ear. This kept him off duty for six weeks and when he returned fit and well, a collecting box for the PDSA raised more than £50 from grateful members of the staff. Poor Tibs, for so many years a faithful and dependable servant of the public, died from cancer of the mouth. Mr. Alf Talbut, a P.O. worker, will miss him greatly he fed him every day, Bank Holidays included. Our picture of Tibs shows him as he was in 1954, when he appeared in the book "Cockney Cats".

# ***The reproductive system***

By MADELINE SHEPPARD, M.R.C.V.S.

**We present extracts from a paper read at the 1964 London Conference organized by the Feline Advisory Bureau.**

**W**HEN you prepare to bake a pie, you will provide yourself with an oven, fuel to heat it, ingredients for making a pastry framework and a suitable filling. The production of a litter of kittens is analogous with pie making. The male cat provides the activating power, the brood queen represents the oven, the ova and spermatozoa unite to produce the framework or body of the kittens, and the filling is represented by the genetic factors which you vary according to your fancy, to give you different types of bone structure, texture and colour of coat, eye colour, temperament and so on.

My cooking lesson today will be concerned with the first three considerations, but I would beg of you to select your genetic factors with such care that your efforts are not spoiled by the introduction of congenital deformities.

## **Anatomy and physiology**

To begin with, let us consider the male cat. His function is to produce and introduce into the queen the sperms or male cells that unite with the egg cells thus bringing about fertilization. The male reproductive organs called the testicles are situated externally, contained in a sac of skin called the scrotum.

Each testicle is an oval glandular body covered by a fibrous tunic. The gland is made up essentially of two kinds of tissue, one producing sperms, the other

hormones. The sperm-forming tissue is arranged in a great number of tubes which all open into a main channel or duct. This tube at first convoluted and still in close proximity to the gland itself then straightens and passes out of the scrotum, upwards and forwards into the penis at the neck or exit of the bladder. From here the sperms travel to the exterior through the urinary tube.

The testicle produces vast numbers of sperms, each consisting of a single cell which has a motile filament or tail which allows it to swim—rather like a tadpole—on its journey to meet the egg cell. The sperms emerging from the formative gland travel closely packed together along the first part of the canal but in order that they may swim freely on their long journey they must be suspended in fluid. This fluid is provided by the seminal vesicle, a gland that discharges its fluid into the spermatic canal just previous to its opening into the urethra. Further, another gland the prostate discharges fluid into the urethra at about this point. It is when the sperms are mixed with these glandular fluids that they become active and swim vigorously.

The tissue between the sperm tubes produces hormones. These are substances that are not discharged from a gland but are picked up by the blood stream and carried around the body to exert their influence elsewhere. The chief male hormone is testosterone, and this is the substance that gives the male cat his masculinity. The testicle also produces a small quantity of female hormones.

During embryonic life the testicles are developed within the abdominal cavity. They are attached to an area of skin that will later become the scrotum and as

development proceeds they are drawn out of the abdominal cavity, passing through an opening in the region of the groin called the inguinal ring and back into the scrotum. While descent occurs very early in life, and may be complete at birth, it may also be delayed or incomplete, one or both testes may fail to pass through the inguinal ring, being retained in the abdominal cavity, or their descent may be arrested anywhere between the ring and the scrotum.

A testicle retained in the abdomen cannot produce live sperms since the prevailing temperature is too high but it will produce hormones. So a monorchid retains his masculinity even after removal of the normal testicle although he will not be fertile.

## Fertilization

The female sexual organs are more complex both in structure and in hormone production. They consist of ovaries fallopian tubes, uterus, vagina and vulva.

The ovaries, two in number, are situated in the abdomen, one on each side close to the kidneys. The ovary is a small oval body consisting of a framework supporting numerous cavities or follicles in which the ovum develops. The follicles also produce hormones. The follicles are all present at birth and a limited number ripen at each calling period. The ripe follicles rupture and liberate the egg cells or ova only if the queen is mated. The cavity left by the rupture is filled first by blood and then by yellow cells forming the corpus luteum. This yellow body persists during pregnancy gradually diminishing in size until the termination of pregnancy—its function is hormone production.

The ovum thus liberated falls into a funnel surrounding the ovary—this is the end of the fallopian tube which leads to the uterus. It is in this tube that fertilization takes place. In the cat the uterus comprises two slender tubes extending from the ovarian area back to the pelvis where they join to form a short body, this

terminates in a strong muscular valve, the cervix—the passage continues as the vagina to terminate externally in the vulva.

The uterine horns contain and nourish the growing embryo and consist of three layers of tissue, the inmost is made up of specialized cells, the middle layer is muscular, the outer of strong supporting fibres. The whole is suspended in the abdomen and is capable of enlargement and mobility. The body of the uterus is not concerned with nourishing the foetus but forms part of the birth canal with which it merges when the cervix opens or dilates during kitting.

Before discussing the female hormone production, we must first consider the role of another endocrine gland, the pituitary gland, situated in the head, since it is as a result of secretion from this body that the sexual cycle is initiated. The pituitary gland produces "gonadotrophins" which act on both ovaries and testicles stimulating their growth and output of hormones. It is controlled by the nervous system and seems to be dependent on light and temperature—inactive during the winter months but increasing in activity with the approach of spring. The gonadotrophins are called follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) and lutenising hormone (LH).

## On hormones

The ovarian hormones are:—(1) Oestrogen which stimulates activity of the uterus and produces the phenomenon of calling. Under its influence the uterus enlarges becoming longer and thicker with an obvious lumen, and with an increased blood supply; (2) Progesterone which is produced by the corpus luteum. This acts on the uterus already activated by oestrogen. It results in a building up of the lining cells preparing them for the reception of the fertilized egg and maintains it in a condition for further growth of the embryo.

Failure to produce these hormones results in the death of the embryo or foetus

and termination of pregnancy by re-absorption or abortion. When the fertilized egg cell reaches the uterus prepared for its reception by hormone influence it embeds itself. Fingerlike projections develop from the dividing egg and these slip into the uterus so producing the placenta.

In the cat, the vascular part of the placenta is ring-like in form both that of the embryo and of the uterus. The function of the placenta is to transfer food and oxygen from the maternal blood to the foetus and to remove foetal waste products in the opposite direction. The placenta also produces progesterone and oestrogen essential to the maintenance of pregnancy.

Eggs are shed from both ovaries at each heat, but not necessarily in equal numbers. In order to even up the load in each horn, eggs migrate from one horn to the other before becoming implanted. Failure to do this successfully may result in the inability of foetuses to develop correctly in an overcrowded horn or even of a foetus pushing its way into the other horn in order to obtain room for growth. These distortions lead to complications at the time of delivery.

During pregnancy the uterus undergoes enormous changes, its blood vessels enlarge and multiply to bring nourishment to the growing young—as we have

seen—the inner lining develops areas of placenta. The muscular wall increases not only for support of its contents during pregnancy, but also to provide power to expel the foetuses at the end of pregnancy. Uterine development is slow in the early stages, but after the 5th week becomes rapid and the organ takes on a shape and size and position quite unrelated to its original state.

The mammary or milk glands usually eight in number, develop under the influence of oestrogen and progesterone but milk excretion is activated by the pituitary hormone prolactin. While the development of breast tissues and the stimulation to lactate is governed by hormones the continual flow of milk is dependent on the suckling of the kittens removing milk from the gland. During suckling contraction of the uterus is increased. The action is valuable in the “multiple” birth system and also speeds up the final contraction or involution of the uterus.

It is not fully understood what mechanism starts parturition or birth. While the luteal bodies have stopped functioning it must be remembered that progesterone is still being produced by the placenta. It is possible that uterine distention is a factor—but here again, distention varies widely according to the number of foetuses present.

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The onset of kitting is marked by contraction of the uterine body. This is followed by dilation and obliteration of the cervix followed by abdominal contractions or "labour pains". Thus the kitten is expelled by two muscular forces; the uterus contracting like an inflated balloon when the string is untied at its neck, forces the kitten downwards towards the pelvis, and the rhythmic contraction of the abdominal muscles forces it through the rigid pelvic girdle.

The foetal membrane is squeezed apart from the contracting uterus, and this cuts off its transference of oxygen and carbon dioxide to and from the emerging kitten which inflates its lungs for the first time. At this point the uterine work is done and the kitten proceeds to an independent existence.

By the end of parturition the uterus has contracted to a firm muscular tube and this rapidly diminishes in size until at the end of the four weeks it appears as a soft flattened tube with a minimum blood supply. At this point (if it does not happen to be winter) the whole process starts all over again.

## Questions answered

The following points were raised in the discussion which followed:—

*Question:* If a newly-born kitten helps the queen's uterus to contract, surely we shouldn't take them away at birth?

*Answer:* I quite agree. We should only take them away if absolutely necessary.

*Question:* There is quite a lot of discussion as to which parent decides litter size—is it stud or queen?

*Answer:* It depends on a number of points, particularly on number of ova available for fertilization and on the viability and fertility of the sperm. Basically, I would say that it is the queen who decides but it is a very complex situation.

*Question:* I would like to ask when does ovulation occur—immediately after mating or after several days?

*Answer:* It's very hard to say, certainly

within a couple of days.

*Question:* Those of us who breed Siamese—possibly not well-mannered Siamese—find that they call just as much in the winter as in the summer.

*Answer:* Most breeds do have a quiescent period during the winter but it often does not last very long, I grant you.

*Question:* Can you explain the cause of what resembled a "huge lump of dried up liver" among a litter of kittens?

*Answer:* That is due to the fact that at some stage in development that "dried up liver lump" was an embryo and for some reason its placentation failed, so therefore it had no nourishment and in its sterile environment, bacterial decomposition could not occur. I find this more in bitches than in cats.

## Fickle queens

*Question:* Why do some queens who come to stud conceive only if they are mated very early in their call and others if they are caught fairly late in their call?

*Answer:* It all depends on at what stage their follicles ripen. Onset of calling and rupturing of follicles are personal idiosyncrasies of the cat.

*Question:* But that does not seem to explain why some cats mated at the peak of their call do not conceive whereas mated earlier they do.

*Answer:* There again, they ovulate early but go on showing symptoms of heat for some time thereafter.

*Question:* To what extent are present-day small litters and other problems a result of the inbreeding due to limited number of studs in the immediate post-war period?

*Answer:* I think that you are absolutely right in attributing many of our present problems to the common ancestry of many of our breeding stock.

*Question:* Can queens have kittens from several studs? After a queen of ours had had a week "on the tiles" she had a litter of seven kittens, four of which showed striking resemblance to four local "boys".

(Concluded on page 17)

# Cats in Cyprus

By A. N. DRUCE (Nicosia)

**"Is it . . . can it be . . . is it really you ?"**

**"Adoré, I thought you had been eaten . . . or taken away in one of those flying machines . . ."**

THESE were clearly the thoughts of a devoted pair of Siamese who, involved in the upsets and departures of last February, as they were unexpectedly reunited in our house after two months or more of separation. And here they remain, most welcome and decorative friends. We do not even know their original names and they are accorded the style and title of Grand-Duke and Grand-Duchess from their evident patrician origin, their noblesse-oblige and, for the lady of the pair, for her sweet and gentle calm and unruffled nature.

The feline world has had its share of suffering and disturbance owing to the state of affairs here in this otherwise enchanting island. In the first six months of 1964 we ourselves sent to various destinations almost throughout the world, to temporary exile, new assignments or old homes, some fifty cats and dogs. Our boarders here have been few and far between since July, as may be imagined.

A handsome white and tabby gentleman came to us from Aden. He found our summer temperatures (in the nineties) most agreeable and though he expected to remain here and be joined by his owner, a sudden change of plan brought about his departure for Liberia in the autumn. His journey and its planning exemplifies the ridiculous nature of man-made restrictions.

He was booked to leave here for Beirut and then fly by the same airline direct to his destination with only a short stop in the Lebanon and a cool night-flight over the hottest part of Africa. However it was suddenly discovered that for freight

there were no traffic rights for that airline beyond Kano, some 800 miles from his destination, so he would have been off-loaded and sent on by another line next day, even though his aircraft went immediately and directly to his destination.

So, instead, he flew to Rome by our own airline and then was uplifted by Brazilian lines in the middle of the night and taken direct across the Sahara to Monrovia. We heard later he arrived a little late but in good order. A much travelled Arabian !

It is sometimes sad to see our refugees, who have been "the only one" in their original homes made to put up with daughters and strange cats in their new homes with us, where they cannot understand not being the centre of attraction. But we have seven Siamese of our own, another aged 15½ who arrived with his owner to live with us eighteen months ago, and three tabby cats belonging to the house also, and a fluctuating number of "dining members" who live around our cattery.

At feeding times there just are not enough rooms to contain all these and keep them from snatching each others provender. We often say we should have built another three or four rooms for the cats, and at such times adjure each other not to use this or that lavatory or bathroom until Mekong or Salween or the Princess or whoever have finished their dinner. But one enjoys such tyranny.

The cattery and adjacent kennels are strangely empty these days and their revenue shrunk to almost nothing,

which hitherto used to pay for their less fortunate cousins in the feline world. Now, when we no longer have a kennel-man who used to butcher aged donkeys and the like to whom we gave a merciful and speedy end, nor access to cold stores where their meat could be kept, our feline grocery bills with tins and boxes (not to mention beef and chicken for the aged, the infirm and the downright pick-some to be found among all Siamese) make one gasp and stretch the eyes—and the pocket !

The Grand Duke mentioned above is a welcome addition to the stud cats on the island (though he and our own stud Lockie—Biranbir Simsim—can never meet face to face). We look forward to new strains from him and also from the Grand Duchess his consort, since they are both obviously from very good strains in America, their place of origin—or so we think since their owners were American, though we have never been able to hear any of their history.

## A long sleep

Our own eldest cat who is now 13 produced last spring a pair of the most beautiful and lively kittens now growing to young man- and woman-hood, and keeping us all amused and amazed at their doings. Old Small their mother is a remarkable cat. Some two or three years ago we feared that she was becoming not quite right in the head. She forgot where she had put her kittens, or, when she had none sought imaginary ones with anguished cries and choice morsels of meat saved from her own meals or stolen from ours. One day she, with a daughter of hers (not a legitimate one, but beautiful and shiny black as a well brushed top hat) got hold of meat that was tainted with chloral and both fell into deep sleep.

To the younger we gave an emetic and took counter measures that quite soon roused her, but the old cat who, we felt,

was probably failing anyway, we allowed to sleep peacefully, thinking perhaps she (who always hated physic and being messed about) would dream peacefully away. For three days we watched her curled up, breathing shallowly, sunk deep in the waters of Lethe, calm and serene . . . then slowly she woke, sneezed, shook herself, indicated that she was hungry, and never looked back.

Of course, chloral was once widely used for inmates of asylums and such like unfortunates, and its effect upon the old cat whose wits seemed at times to be leaving her, was a complete cure.

Small became her old intelligent, independent self, and as mentioned above brought into the world these two very fine Siamese—our youngest members of the family now. She never forgot where she had put them, and “did them proud”, showing them off to Lockie their father with proper pride when the time came.

The largest of our cats, a long haired grey refugee from Barclays Bank and resident here for many years now, has a terrible habit of searching for sparrows and their nests on our roof of roman tiles. These he has the habit of pulling up and leaving on end ! Several times we have had to obtain the services of a tiler to undo his damage and all means of access to the roof are blocked off with wire netting and other fortifications as and when new ones are discovered. Fortunately it is only for about three months a year that rain falls here.

This same cat stood beside me on our front door step one evening back in May when the house and drive-way were sprayed by machine gun bullets—admittedly spent and fired in the dark from far away, and he looked up indignantly at me as much as to say “they have no business to do that”.

Unfortunately the nearest shows are held 1100 miles off in Rome or perhaps your readers might see some of them. Should any come to Cyprus they would be most welcome to visit The Animal Care Centre and meet them for themselves.

# ***NEW!***

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### **A safe and effective treatment for CANKER**

Now you don't have to stand helplessly by while your cat scratches at an ear infected and irritated by canker. You can give immediate relief with Zemol Ear Drops, a new and effective treatment formulated by the makers of Kit-zyme after extensive clinical trials... trials in which even stubborn, chronic cases of canker were successfully cured.

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The parasites that cause canker burrow and multiply deep in the ear causing the animal intense irritation. The special ingredients in Zemol Ear Drops gently penetrate the hardened deposits of ear wax, reach and destroy the parasites and soothe and heal the inflamed and damaged tissue. So don't let your cat suffer from canker—get Zemol Ear Drops today.

**Dropper Bottles 3s. 6d.**

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Zemol clears ECZEMA and similar skin infections and quickly heals CUTS, SCRATCHES and MINOR BURNS. Ointment 2s. 2d., 6s. 6d. Powder 2s. 11d.

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# Cats adorn Polish stamps

By MARJORIE BOULTON

THE Polish Government is more imaginative than many in giving the world beautiful postage stamps. There have been magnificent pictures of reptiles and dogs; and recently a series of ten cats has appeared. A special postmark representing a cat was used on the First Day of Issue envelope, which was further adorned

with stylized sketches of cats, in two different colours on each of four possible envelopes.

The stamps themselves are beautifully engraved with life-like cat portraits in natural colourings. They are very large: 52 mm. long by 40 mm. wide; and the cat portrait fills almost all the space.

The series is as follows: the least



We are indebted to The Cats' Protection League for permission to reproduce this interesting feature from their journal "The Cat" and also for the loan of the block.

valuable, 30 groschen, presents a black cat, head only, with golden eyes. The 40 groschen stamp carries a head of a comical grey kitten, with its eyes shut and its pink mouth open in a mew or cat-laugh. The head and shoulders of a superb Siamese are on the 50 groschen stamp, and a Tortoiseshell cat is seated on the 60 groschen one.

On the 90 groschen stamp we find the head only of a white Persian with amber eyes, the first *kot perski* in the series. All the other varieties except the *kot sjamski* are classified merely as *kot europejski*, European cat.

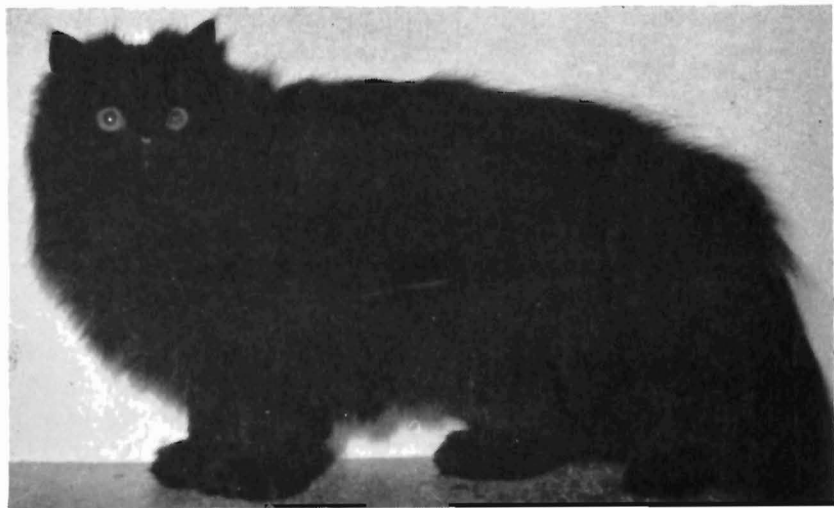
The 1 zloty 35 gr. stamp shows the head of an orange Persian with amber eyes, the 1zl. 55 gr., a fat, tabbyish grey cat, young-looking, with blue eyes. The 2zl. 50 gr. value carries a true tabby, which is turning its back on the observer and looking over its shoulder in a very catty attitude. The superb grey Persian with deep amber eyes that sits facing us on the 3zl. 10 gr. stamp is drawn with rather subtle shading that emphasizes the lovely face and gives a kind of soft-focus effect to the body.

The most valuable in the series, 6zl. 50 gr., completes the full circle with a plain black cat, but this is a full portrait, and the green-eyed, pink-tongued puss sits, paws braced in front, with an air of cheeky cheerfulness perhaps appropriate to someone who can buy more than six zlotys' worth of liver.

There can be little doubt that these stamps were engraved by a true cat-lover, presumably the J. Grabiński whose name is on the stamps.

I owe my knowledge of this series to a Polish Esperantist journalist, who kindly sent it, not to me, but to my Siamese cat, Montevideo, with a note telling him that he was so important the Polish Government had now commemorated him on a stamp.

I have seen two other cats on stamps in the last few years: a Japanese series on children's traditional toys included a picture of a very stylized cat, and a Dutch stamp this year, one of a series with animals, had a simple cat design, but I have never before seen a series so lifelike and beautiful as the Polish tribute.



**DEEBANK JULIET, Black Longhair bred by Miss Marjorie Bull, appeared in colour on the Christmas card of her Belgian owners Andrée and Rudy Wiedman of Antwerp.**



Nothing but

# TIBS for me!

No nonsense about this promising youngster—Beauvale Galahad. Owned by Mrs. Christine Coley of Halesowen, Worcestershire, Beauvale Galahad has already been Best Long Hair Kitten in Show—at three consecutive shows. Like all Mrs. Coley's stock, Beauvale Galahad is a Tibs cat. "...and all the cats and kittens are in fine condition, as our show success this season will show," comments Mrs. Coley. Tibs Condition Tablets contain vitamins and minerals essential to a cat's good health. They promote lithe limbs, strong bones and a beautifully glossy coat. All good reasons why every cat should have Tibs regularly. Is your cat a Tibs cat yet?

***Famous breeders say, OUR CATS ARE TIBS CATS***

TIBS CONDITION TABLETS FOR CATS ARE A BOB MARTIN PRODUCT



## Correspondence Corner

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



### Queer Customers

I have recently received a telephone call from a lady in Brackendale Avenue, Pitsea, Essex, which has disturbed me considerably.

Two men called at her home and asked if they could photograph her cat. They refused to say who they represented, why they required the photograph or to what use it would be put, and my caller refused to comply with their request. The would-be photographers stated that they were only calling on "recommended homes" but my informant told me they appeared to be visiting every house in the Avenue.

It is possible that these men were entirely innocent of any dubious intent, but in view of the traffic in stolen animals for vivisection and the possibility that these people were pinpointing the location of cats in the neighbourhood in order to steal them later, I should be interested to hear from any of your readers who have had a similar experience.

I would add that my caller informed the police, but not until after the men described as of medium build, middle-aged, one with longish hair had left and would suggest that anyone who is approached by men who wish to photograph their cats and refuse to produce any credentials should contact the police while the men are still in the house and could be questioned.

DIANA HAMPTON ANDREWS,  
National Organizer, The National  
Antivivisection Society Ltd

51 Harley Street,  
London, W.1.

[A later telephone call revealed that the  
Pitsea lady lost her cat. -Editor.]

### British Shorthairs in Australia

We look forward to receiving OUR CATS which we find very interesting. We breed Blue, Cream and Blue-Cream Persians 'all descended from stock imported from England and are also doing experimental breeding to evolve Blue, Cream and Blue-Cream British Shorthairs, of which there are none in Australia at present.

We're now on the second generation, having started by crossing Persians with domestic shorthairs, and are busy selecting for type, eye colour, and shortness of coat. A long and expensive business, but we feel it will be worthwhile in the end. The climate here is really more suitable for Shorthairs, although the Persians are popular.

P. A. GOTCH (Mrs.)

Seven Hills,  
N.S.W., Australia.

### Fat in the diet

Re Mrs. Joan Judd's letter "Fat in the diet", December OUR CATS.

We must remember that this journal is read by many novices and that they may be influenced to give an abnormal amount of fat when they read the statement "We have fed diets containing two-thirds fat without any abnormality whatever".

I would anticipate that such an abnormal amount of fat would give a feeling of nausea and make a cat, and especially a kitten, refuse subsequent meals until it had eliminated it. An examination of the faeces would also probably reveal they were pale and bilious looking.

The majority of cats acquired for laboratories are destined in many cases to

come to a premature end. A cat breeder, however, has to consider general health, fertility and longevity and if breeders are producing stock which measure up to these standards, many of which I know are fed on a diet similar to that of my own cats which I mentioned in October OUR CATS, they would be unwise to "carry out some tests". I certainly should not do so.

When cats are not enjoying perfect health I have found when my advice has been sought that it is the conditions under which they are kept much more often than faults in diet. Some of the most successful breeders in this country are those who keep a small number of queens which are wholly, or partly, house pets and have liberty in a garden, and who provide their male cats with very big runs, part of which should be crazy paved or cemented.

Nothing is worse for a male cat than sitting about on wet grass which is usual in England from October to at least March.

Environment is an immense influence in the successful breeding of cats. So too is nutritious food such as beef, rabbit and white fish which should be given in preference to a diet supplemented with a lot of cereals, which may be less expensive but is not conducive to tip-top condition.

JOAN THOMPSON (Mrs.).

Beckenham,  
Kent.

### On Burmese

I wish Mrs. Lentaigne had been a little more reluctant to "say a few words about Burmese" in your January issue.

The fact that the American Standard does not mention a slight intensification of colour of points whereas ours says "Ears, mask and points only slightly darker than back coat colour. Awards should be withheld from mature cats showing decided contrast between coat colour and points" is not necessarily of any significance.

What really matters is the extent to which cats measure up to the Standards

and, in this connection, Mrs. Lentaigne makes a most curious statement (the underlining is mine)—"The Burmese shown in America now *should* bear no resemblance to Siamese and our Burmese with their darker ears, mask and points *are not suitable* for export to America."

I can tell her that quite a few British-bred Burmese have gone to America with their American Service family owners and whenever they have been shown in America they have taken top honours. It would indeed be surprising if British-bred Burmese cats were inferior to their American brothers and sisters, since with very few exceptions, they are all derived solely from cats imported from America.

### Our Blues best

In Blue Burmese we are way ahead of the Americans who, until two years or so ago, resolutely refused even to admit their existence. I understand our Blue Burmese are now much in demand.

I replied to Mr. Raleigh's comments on eye colour in *Fur and Feather* and I hope in due course the reply will be published and that Mrs. Lentaigne will read it. Suffice it to say here that the word "yellow" is quite ambiguous, as different people will have greatly varying ideas about the point where yellow turns into green.

Our revised Standard of Points for Brown Burmese, at present submitted to G.C.C.F. for approval, reads: "The aim is for eyes of a clear, fairly intense, golden yellow but the majority of present-day Burmese will have eyes approximating in colour to the Chartreuse Yellow ribbon issued by the Club to judges."

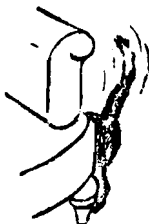
Mrs. Lentaigne does not mention the point on which the British and American Standards for Burmese diverges most, namely in body shape. The Americans have tended to favour a rather cobby cat whereas we have wished to retain the foreign type of our original imports.

Tansley, Matlock, V. WATSON (Mr.)  
Derbyshire.



# Tailpieces

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



IN answer to recent enquiries we have received regarding the export of cats to America and other countries, the address for information, names of Local Veterinary Inspectors, export certificates, etc., is The Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Animal Health Division, Hook Rise, Tolworth, Surrey (telephone Derwent 6611 and ask for the Export Section). In the case of America, cats who have been resident in Great Britain or Northern Ireland from birth or for more than six months require only a veterinary surgeon's certificate. There are no quarantine regulations in operation. A number of other countries require in addition to the Certificate of Health from a L.V.I., a Ministry export certificate certifying that no outbreak of rabies has occurred in the area of origin during the past six months.

Quote from the March issue of *The Animals' Magazine*, the journal of the P.D.S.A.: "... there is a lesson to be learned in connection with holiday seasons—and there is an example very fresh in our minds. It is a very poignant example. It happened in just one centre. It consisted of one hundred and ten small lives thrown on the rubbish heap as callously as the Christmas decorations. The centre was Nottingham. Here, within a week of last Christmas, there were no less than 110 abandoned and bewildered dogs and puppies in the P.D.S.A. home for strays. And it was a situation reflected in other centres."

At one P.D.S.A. dispensary recently, four children entered with two small kittens to be put to sleep. They tendered

one penny as a donation and asked for a halfpenny change !

A very important birthday was recently celebrated in London at Wheeler's celebrated fish restaurant. The lucky one was Susie, the cat who has had the good fortune to live on the premises all her nine years. Manager Peter Jones said he couldn't imagine the place without her "because she never goes out." The owner of the restaurant Mr. Bernard Walsh, away in Malta, ordered by wire that Susie should have a double helping of crab for her birthday lunch. Apparently she won't eat anything else and practically starves herself when the weather is bad and crabs are in short supply. Whenever she is unwell, Susie is attended by Dr. Gordon Knight, the Queen's veterinary surgeon.

An article in the *Financial Times* by Wilson Stephens, Editor of *The Field*, contains more than one glaring error. He says that "Cheshire, incredibly, has no cat club." The Cheshire Area Cat Club is of course one of the 37 clubs affiliated to our Governing Council of the Cat Fancy. Mr. Stephens makes the total 33. He also ends the article with the astonishing statement that "cats do not bite." He can't have been to a cat show to have a talk with the judges and stewards !

Charles Greville, *Daily Mail* diarist, draws attention to one of London's exclusive colonies. It is a community of about 50 barges moored on the Thames at Chelsea with he says "an average of three humans and three-quarters of a

cat aboard each. Home or no home, these are not ordinary house cats. They can all swim. They have to." A barge home can cost about £5,000.

Ballerina Nadia Nerina is living in the Dorchester with her two Siamese cats while her fire-damaged house is being repaired. Report has it that the hotel isn't charging her for the cats.

We regret that an error occurred in our report on the Cat Club de Paris Show (November 1964 issue). The C.A.C. in the Open Female Class went



**A pioneer !**

The first Rex kitten to be born in the North of England belongs to Mrs. Kathlyn Vickers, of Egerton, Bolton, Lancashire, well known as Show Manager of the Lancs. and North Western Counties Cat Club.

to Mme Moorman's (Holland) Blue Point Siamese Safari Lolita, by Macedon Marquis and Middlefield Shiva, and not to the entry by Mlle Valentin.

A clipping from the *Boston Herald, U.S.A.*, reveals an interesting court decision in a domestic wrangle involving a Mrs. Margaret Baram and her husband. Mrs. Baram obtained a divorce on cruelty charges and a court stipulation was filed giving her absolute possession of two Siamese cats called Bluenose and Brown-nose. It also provided that in the event of Mrs. Baram wishing to give up the cats, her husband should have the right to claim them.

Cats can now go camping in the state parks and forests of Massachusetts, U.S.A., a privilege previously restricted to dogs. But they will have to be kept on 10ft. leashes.

The Great Train Robbery continues to make news. I was reading the other day a potted description of those "in and out" of jail and one of the gang was described as follows: "Roy John James, age 28, of Chelsea, silversmith, unmarried and very attractive to women. Fingerprints found on saucer of milk put out for Leatherslade Farm cats. Caught after roof-top chase in St. John's Wood with identified £5 notes. Serving 30-year sentence."

The new Hon. Treasurer of the Southern Counties Cat Club is Mrs. F. Roden, Anchorage, Third Avenue, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex.

An amazing story comes from Canada. Forty cats, 12 dogs, a blind horse and a grey mare appeared before the supreme court of Ontario in Toronto. Arthur Hughes, their late owner, had left them his vast fortune of over £250,000. The judges were asked to decide if £2,000 a year would be sufficient to keep the animals for the remainder of their lives. Balance of the estate will go to the P.D.S.A. in England.

Mrs. Phyllis Helen Satterthwaite lived in Pimlico, S.W. London. She died in 1962 leaving nearly £130,000. After small bequests of money and jewellery she ordered in her will that the residuary estate should be divided between nine animal societies. The High Court had to decide which charities she had intended to benefit and there were six claimants to four separate bequests. Mr. Justice Plowden decided in favour of the R.S.P.C.A. and the Blue Cross and then adjourned the hearing. An executor said in written evidence that Mrs. Satterthwaite had told him "I hate all human beings. I will leave my money to animals."

"As a cat judge you are now a breed apart from human or animal, suspended between owners and their beloved cats. A judge is frowned upon; crucified; honoured, respected and trusted. Whatever is to be your station as a judge, please remember that it is your doing. You asked for it when you coveted the title 'Approved All Breed Judge', and started to earn it. Why did you do it? Why did you want it? Well, I too still wonder. But this I know . . . when a show is over and I have hung my last rosette and stated 'This is my Best Cat in Show', I count the days until I can again have the honour and privilege of judging another show, knowing that the exhibitors trust me to find the Best Cat to the best of my ability." *Harriet Wolfgang, well-known American judge.*

Do you ever wonder what the new peers are doing about their armourial bearings? A diarist in a London newspaper reminds us that the College of Arms charge about £200 for a coat-of-arms enough to deter some of them! Apparently there is a trend towards treating the whole thing as a joke. The late Sir Frederick Hooper, chief of Schweppes, for example, asked for a pair of whooper swans in his arms. Lord Hives, former head of Rolls Royce, insisted on three beehives supported by a pair of industrial figures, a mechanic and a draughtsman.



**Lord Snow's coat-of-arms**

Now Lord Snow has chosen an azure shield with snow crystals, two pens crossed with a telescope representing art and science, and a pair of Siamese cats because he happens to like them and has kept them. The cats also stand for the College of Advanced Technology C.A.T. and Lord Snow holds high office at the Ministry of Technology.

## REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

*(concluded from page 6)*

*Answer:* I am surprised you recognized only *four* local "boys". Each ova will be fertilized by one male cell and it doesn't matter where that cell comes from, it could come from any of the number which have served the queen.

*Question:* How soon after a queen has been delivered of a litter of kittens, can she conceive again?

*Answer:* On average if the cats are running free, you can be pretty sure the cat is pregnant about seven weeks after giving birth to a litter.

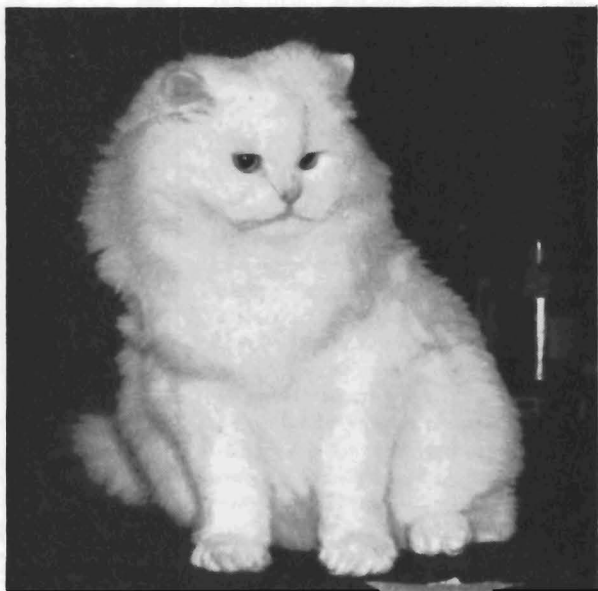
*Question:* Is it possible for her to conceive after only one week? A friend of mine has a queen which is calling and allowing herself to be mated only one week after.

*Answer:* Oh yes! nothing unusual.



**COTTERSTOCK CORDELIA**, owned and bred from Ch. Linton Ajax ex Cotterstock Minto by Mrs. Tatjana Folkes, of Gloucester, is a young Blue Point Siamese with a future. She won her Open Class at Olympia last December and "went up" for Best in Show.

(Below) **CH. HARPUR GOLDBLOCKS**, Cream Longhair female bred by Mrs. Christine Dugdale, of Guestling, Sussex. Owner is now Mr. Kirsten Holtermann, of Copenhagen, who is also the photographer.





Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

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

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### Notts and Derby Show

**M**RS. BEEVER successfully organized the 20th Ch. Show of the Notts and Derby Cat Club at Nottingham in January. Mr. Beever helped with the preliminary work and looked as though he was enjoying himself on the day.

This Club has always had excellent management, which has been conducive to a happy atmosphere at all its fixtures. It was pleasing to see Mrs. Hancox (Chairman) officiating again as a judge after an absence from shows due to illness.

Over 300 pedigree exhibits were presented. In addition to many celebrities from the South, several of the lovely cats and kittens bred and owned in the Midlands were exhibited.

Main awards went as follow: —Best Longhair Cat —Mrs. Burrow's Blue male Orion of Pensford by Ch. Halcyon

Boniface and June Rose of Pensford, who became a Champion; Best L.H. Kitten

Mrs. Harding's Seal Colourpoint female Mingshui Souk by Ch. Briarry Zorab and Ch. Briarry Candytuft; Best L.H. Neuter —Mrs. Dickinson's Cream Wiswell Rupert by Caesar Augustus and Witch over Pendle; Best Shorthair Cat —Mr. Beckitt's British Blue male Jezreel Jewel by Jezreel Jomo and Ch. Jezreel Jamina; Best S.H. Kitten —Miss Allaun's British female Cathiss Renee by Ch. Aldra's Dark Talisman and Ch. Cathiss Jessica; Best S.H. Neuter —Mrs. Nix's Silver Tabby Gables Silverbell by Silverseal Leander and Culverden Merle.

Other results were: —Best Siamese Adult —Mrs. Kropodra's Lilac Point female Kenbar Lystra by Doneraile Lilac Larry and Lauretude Adularia; Best Siamese kitten —Mrs. Ryder's Blue Point Rana Betsy by Pheanoi Nimrod and Pheanoi Rani; Best Siamese neuter —Mrs. Williams' Seal Point Haytor Hercules by Ch. Linton Ajax and Bitchet Katina.

Challenge Certificate winners in Longhair Adults were Mrs. Durbin's Ch. Snowcloud Dream Girl by Ch. Lisblanc Bambi; Mrs. Snowden's Black female Anlaby Salote by Ch. Allenvale Bosambo; Mrs. Hogan's Blue female Camber Suzanne by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous who became a Champion; Miss Sheppard's Cream male Widdington Sirius by the same sire; Mrs. Plew's Cream female Tewhit Goldilocks by Ch. Leemor Christopher and the same owner's Blue-Cream Harpur Cottonsocks by Ch. Briaric Beauty.

Miss M. Bull's winning Tortoiseshell Deebank Tabitha had interesting breeding, sired by Ch. Deebank Mascot (Black) and Ch. Deebank Orange Blossom (White).

Miss Woodfield, who has had such a successful season and done so much to promote the interests of Tortoiseshells and Tortie-and-Whites (the latter called Calico cats in U.S.A.) won in the latter variety with Pathfinders Maytime.

Mrs. Greenwood won in Silver Tabbies with Wilmar Wendy and Mrs. Spiers' Chinchilla female Morgiana of Allington (by Ch. Fidelio of Allington) became a Champion and won several first in side classes. Mrs. Roberts' Polar Piereno by Avon Grace Bardolph was the winning male. Mrs. Parker's Smoke female Sebring Purring Pennie (by Ch. Congo of Knott Hall) was a good winner and Mrs. Harding was awarded both Ch's with her Seal Colourpoint male Mingchin Mandarin (by Briarry Valparago) and her female Briarry Suzannah (by Ch. Briarry Euan).

## Successful Shorthairs

Sixteen Seal Point Siamese males were headed by Mrs. Peck's Ch. Tailong Kuli, who has had such a successful season, and fourteen females by Mrs. Powell's Middlefield Lolita by Ch. Milori Oberon. Nine Blue Point males were led by Mrs. Halliday's Pheeno Chatterbox (by Pheeno Diana) and eleven females by Mrs. Chappell's Hathor Merit (by Watermill Simple Simon). Mrs. Peck won again with her C.P. Siamese female Tailong Oriol by Ch. Tailong Luki-Looki.

Challenge Certificate winners in Brown Burmese were Mrs. King's male Kiang Kirakat (by Ch. Casa Gatos Darkee) and Mrs. Silkstone's female La-Sun Mimosa by Ch. Darshan Khudaram. In an amalgamated class of Blue Burmese, male and female, Mrs. Whittle's male Kanghe Blue Mystery (by Pya Beng Lam) was the winner. The winning Abyssinians were Mr. Upton's male

Bernina Draconis by Nigella Kym and Mrs. P. Thompson's female Lalibela Butterfly by Arwright Zim. The only Russian Blue, Mrs. Kirby's Crumber-Hill Oscarius by Ch. Harvees Antimony, won.

There was also little competition in British Shorthairs and no class exceeded three. The winning adults were Mrs. Waller's Black male Jezreel Muffin, Mr. Beckitt's Blue male Jezreel Jewel (both bred by Mrs. Johnson), Miss Hardman's Red Tabby male Killinghall Redburn, Miss Membrey's Cream male Dandelion and Miss Allam's Tortie-and-White, Darwinnie Gemma.

Competition in several of the side classes was severe and in some of them the exhibits had to be outstanding to be in the first three or four.

A very enjoyable Ch. Show and here's to the next one in January 1966.

## Southern Counties Show

The Committee of the Southern Counties Cat Club had a difficult decision to make when the date of the funeral of Sir Winston Churchill was announced. It coincided with the date fixed for their All Breed Ch. Show at the Royal Horticultural Hall, London on January 30th.

As the Club was committed for expenses already incurred such as £115 for the hall, plus printing bills for schedules, catalogues and postages, etc., to a sum of about £300, it was decided the "show must go on" otherwise it would have meant the loss of almost all the Club's capital. Postponement was impossible as all February had a full quota of Championship fixtures and even if the G.C.C.F. had granted a date in March, it would have meant practically a new show and exhibitors. On the whole exhibitors do not favour March shows when the breeding season is in full swing and many cats coats are past their best.

Mrs. Barron, Show Manager, deserves the highest praise for her handling of a

very difficult and worrying situation. She coped remarkably well in the unusual circumstances.

Miss Kathleen Yorke made a request at 11 o'clock for two minutes silence in homage to Sir Winston. All exhibits were put in their pens and such a quietude descended which we have never before experienced at a show.

The entry of over 500 exhibits was an all time record for the Club and many lovely cats and kittens were presented. Those selected by the various judges to be assessed by the three different panels of five judges for the major awards of Best in Show made an imposing array as they were presented by the stewards to the panels.

## Top awards

Readers overseas may be interested to know that it is customary now in this country to have a panel of three or five judges to decide the following Best Longhair Cat, Kitten and Neuter; Best Shorthair Cat, Kitten and Neuter (excluding Siamese); Best Siamese Cat, Kitten and Neuter.

The following cats were their choice: Best Longhair Cat and Best Longhair Exhibit Mrs. Burrows' Blue male Champion Orion of Pensford by Ch. Halcyon Boniface and June Rose of Pensford; Best L.H. Kitten Mrs. Brice-Webb's Blue female Borrowdale Play Girl by Ch. Orion of Pensford and Ch. Burrowdale Susette; Best L.H. Neuter Mr. Griffin's Black Kala Nikki by Kala Nepeta and Perivale Angela; Best Shorthair Cat Miss Robinson's British Blue female Jezreel Juna by Jezreel Jeremy and Jezreel Justina; Best S.H. Kitten and Best Shorthair Exhibit Mr. Wren's Manx Tiger Bay by unregistered parents; Best S.H. Neuter Mrs. Richard's Blue Premier Bambi's Mischief by Myowne Caesar and Ch. Broughton Jane; Best Siamese Cat Mr. Colin Campbell's Lilac Point male Champion Praha-Festoso by Annelida Lilac Hia-watha and Ch. Praha Poco Allergando;

Best Siamese Kitten and Best Siamese Exhibit-- Mr. Davies' Seal Point male Kintara Dalriada by Craigiehillock Boyndie and Ch. Sabukia Saina; Best Siamese Neuter - Mrs. Highton's S.P. Premier Silken Fleury by Ch. Kiltdown Sultan and Silken Roselle.

## C.C. winners

Challenge Certificate winners among a galaxy of lovelies were Mrs. Aitken's Black male Bournside Black Carissimo by Myowne Caesar; Miss Sherlock's Blue-eyed White male Bircotte Ursa by Dalmond Roamer; Miss Bryce's Orange-eyed White male Ch. Glenbury Sparkler by Ch. Lisblanc Bambi; Mrs. Durbin's White female Ch. Snowcloud Dream Girl by the same sire, Mrs. Smart's Blue female Georgian Jasmin by Camber Gavin; Mrs. Plew's Cream male Ch. Leemor Christopher by Ch. Beamsley Sunbeam; Mrs. Riches' Cream female Startops Shani by Ch. Widdington Orion; Miss Sherlock's Smoke male Ch. Bircotte Terry by Ch. Bircotte Nono; Miss Sheppard's Silver Tabby female Widdington Silver Belle by Widdington Smokey Joe; Mrs. Barker's Brown Tabby female Trelystan Jacinth by Ch. Arcamor Scamp; Mrs. Rosell's Red Tabby female Redmire Tango by Coppernob of Carne, who also sired the winning Tortoiseshell, Miss Bell's Asplin Fiona; Mrs. Houlden's Red Self female Meranti Topsy by Ch. Sherry of Carne; Mrs. Turney's Chinchilla female Bonavia Loretta by Bonavia Contenta; Miss Woodfield's Tortie and White Ch. Pathfinders Mayflower by Pyleigh Horatius; Mrs. Orpin's Blue-Cream Foljambe Fairy Moonshine by Ch. Deebank Victor; and Mrs. Nicholas' Colourpoint female Ch. Sea Sprite by Briary Jasper.

In Shorthair cats except Siamese Challenge Certificate winners were Mrs. Corbould's Black female Avril Kintar by Blue Briony; Lady Glubb's Blue-eyed White Heartsease Esperance and her Orange-eyed White Scarletuna Amber, both females by Watermill Lilywhite

Boy; Mrs. Richards' Cream male Ch. Pensylva Pinkerton by Jesreel Jeremy; Mrs. Johnson's British Blue male Jezreel Jomo by Ch. Aldra's Dark Talisman; Miss Robinson's British Blue female Jezreel Juna by Jezreel Jeremy; Mrs. H. Pond's Russian female Sylphides Tasha by Jennymay Einar; Miss Robson's Silver Tabby female Hillcross Silver Petal by the late Bellever Calchas D'Acheux; Miss Hardman's Red Tabby Ch. Killinghall Red Mariner by Ch. Killinghall Redcap; Mr. Milburn's Brown Tabby Periopal Squeak by Periopal Golden Goblet; Mrs. Johnson's Tortoiseshell Kita's Dandelion by unregistered parents; Miss Woodfield's Tortie and White Pathfinders Sarah by Littlewickers Linsey Woolsey; Mrs. Hunt's Abyssinian male Ch. Anharic Satin by Arkwright Zimri; Mrs. Clithrow's Red Abyssinian female Calcot Farida by Nigella Cupid.

### Strong Burmese entry

The entry in Burmese was excellent. Mrs. Silkstone's Brown male La-Sun Midas by Chindwin Chee-Kee won and became a Champion. Mrs. Martin's Pussinboots Pixie by Ch. Lamont Blue Burnaboy won and in Blue Burmese Mrs. Pocock's male Buskins Blue Sunya by Pussinboots Gazelle and in females Mrs. Naylor's Babayan Rhuan by Babayan Leet.

Mrs. Warren's Senlac Chatter-Box, a male by Ch. Bolney Kien won in Chestnut Brown Foreign S.K.

The Siamese entry was very good and Mrs. Rogers' S.P. male Ch. Delamere Bestang added another Challenge Certificate to his title and Mrs. Forrest's S.P. Dunchattan Kiki Kula by Ch. Tailong Kula won in a class of 24. Blue Point winners were Mrs. Bowles' male Highpeak Peveril by Pheanoi Nimrod and in a class of 18 females Mrs. Vanden Begin's Grangewood Altaica by Ch. Linton Ajax.

Both Challenge Certificates were withheld in C.P. Siamese but in Lilac Points

Mrs. E. Fisher bred the Best in Show Ch. Praha Festoso and owned the winning litter sister to Festoso, Praha Fermezza.

Except for the Best in Show kittens, space will not permit names of all the other winning kittens. Several of the cats are becoming Champions and an official list will be published in due course.

### American Siamese news

From Mr. Sam Scheer, so prominently associated with the Siamese Cat Society of America Inc., comes an appreciation of this magazine and the news provided in "Just Fancy". The main interest of American readers is in first prize winners in this country and the Best in Show exhibits in their various sections. In their own monthly journal *Cats* lesser wins of cats and kittens exhibited in U.S.A. are not recorded.

Excerpts from Mr. Scheer's letter read: "I would like you to know about our very loveable and very handsome Lilac Point Siamese male, Quadruple Champion Annelida Lilac Cosmonaut of Si-Cat bred in England by Mrs. Ashford. He completed his title at Clearwater Beach, Florida, on January 9th and 10th. He was awarded 1st and winner ribbons in four Ch. Shows. At Clearwater there were 54 adult Siamese. We are indeed proud of our lad who is already a proved sire. I am anxiously awaiting the January Greetings Number of OUR CATS. It is so pleasant to read greetings from cat lovers around our world-wide Fancy".

### A Christmas menu

From the Rhodesia Cat Club, South Africa, I have received their January *Newsletter*. The Editor Mrs. Joan Ewing writes of a holiday visit to Cape Town:

"At Rhodesia-by-the-Sea, where we stayed, we discovered that both the manager and his wife are cat lovers. There are six cats at the hotel, they have their own little house on the mountain-

side at the back of the hotel, and are all grey and white. On Christmas Day they had their own special menu. A large board with a painting of three cats on it was placed by their house with the following menu printed on it:—Cats Xmas Menu. Cream of Milk Soup. Fried Goldfish. Stuffed Canary. Mouse Fritters. . . . and I am quite sure a good time was had by all”.

## National Club plans

The Annual General Meeting of the National Cat Club on March 10th, at the Eccleston Hotel, London had an excellent attendance.

It was with much regret that the Chairman, the Reverend Basil Rees announced the resignation of the Honorary Secretary Mrs. Brunton after fifteen years during which she has devotedly served the interests of the Club. She has seen the membership grow to well over 200 and its annual Championship show in December attract record entries. Happily, her reasons for resignation are due to her wishing for more time for domestic affairs and she will be taking just as much interest in the welfare of the Club as a member of the Committee. Mrs. Brunton was presented with a travelling clock and a cheque as a token of our esteem and appreciation of her services.

The members unanimously agreed to the recommendation of the Committee that Mrs. Rowena Ross should be appointed Honorary Secretary and wished her success in this capacity. She has the goodwill of all the Committee and it is a cheerful and happy one.

There were no new nominations for Delegates to the G.C.C.F. by the closing date December 31st so they will be the former ones—the Chairman the Rev. B. Rees, Miss Kathleen Yorke, Mrs. Brunton, and Mrs Joan Thompson.

The decision of the Committee not to have a Best Exhibit in Show evidently pleased the members as there were murmurs of approval when the Chairman announced it.

The major awards will be Best Longhair Exhibit, Best Shorthair Exhibit and Best Siamese Exhibit, thus bringing it into line with modern trends.

At many of the first post-war shows one panel of experienced judges adjudicated for Best in Show. This led to some dissatisfaction as entries became larger. As there were only three judges on all the lists of the specialist clubs we had the anomaly of judges assessing the merits of varieties they had never bred or owned for these major awards. So gradually the three panels for Best in Show came into existence for nearly all Ch. Shows and few now have Best Exhibit.

Regarding naming any cat “The Cat of the Year” it is advisable to point out that no such title exists in England. In America the situation is quite different. Each year they have a “Cat of the Year” award which is based on mathematical calculations of the number of times the cat has been exhibited and the overall merit of its wins. These awards are assessed by independent officials of U.S.A. *Cats Magazine*.

When one reviews the awards of Longhair cats for the past season, Mrs. E. Burrows’ Champion Orion of Pensford has been awarded more firsts than any other Longhair cat. Exhibited five times he has been either Best Longhair Exhibit or Best Longhair Cat four times. He is not yet two years and altogether as a kitten last season and a cat this winter has been awarded 180 firsts.

Many lovely cats have been Best in Show this season in their various sections and of course there are the outstanding Shorthairs and Siamese and some superb neuters.

To return to the National Cat Club A.G.M., Mrs. Durbin, who is Hon. Secretary of the Household Pet and Junior Pet Section, was pleased at the decision of the Committee to hold a mid-summer meeting for these pet owners at a restaurant in London and for the Committee to attend and act as a panel for a quiz.

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& PERIVALE NICHOLAS.

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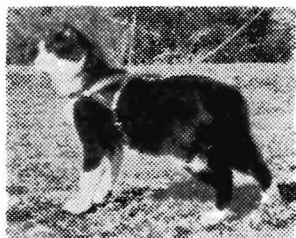
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