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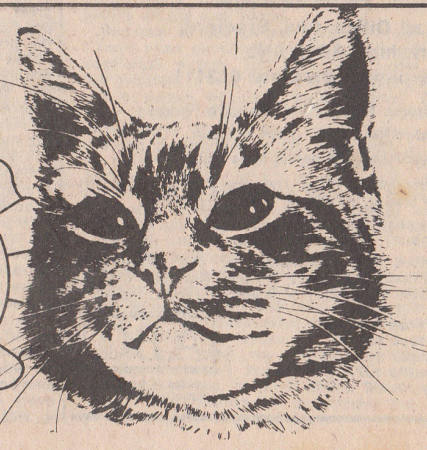
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Feline Figures

Mrs Rosemary Gowdy



MRS ROSEMARY GOWDY has specialised in the breeding of pure Chinchillas for many years, during which time she has bred international champions, champions, prizewinners in nine countries. Her prefix is Jemari.

The GCCF have honoured Mrs Gowdy by making her a judge of Chinchillas, Blacks, Whites and Smokes.

Hon secretary to the National Cat Club for ten years, she is also a committee member and delegate to the GCCF for the Southern Counties Cat Club, and joint founder/secretary for the Bucks, Oxon and Berks Cat Society.

The Kosset Carpet Cat now owned by Kossets was bred by Mrs Gowdy and appears on all their advertising on TV and in newspapers, etc. His name is Jemari Michaelsson and is the son of her famous import, Int Ch Leiveshofs Michael.

Feline Advisory Bureau's thirteenth annual conference

Reported by Alison Ashford

THE DAYS immediately preceding the Feline Advisory Bureau conference were hectic for me as I was involved in finding a new home for Rebel, a nine-week-old male lion cub. This poor little waif had been sold by a pet shop to an eighteen-year-old youth who lived in a council flat in Blackpool. Not surprisingly the local council ruled that the cub could not live on the estate and it was taken to Blackpool Zoo, whose management agreed to keep it for forty-eight hours. After this, because of shortage of space, the cub would be destroyed.

The situation was grim but since I had been 'approached' as a 'last resort' (the RSPCA secretary had read my article on John Aspinall's Zoo in 'Cats and Catdom') I was determined to save Rebel's life though I knew that it would have been impossible to have him at Annelida.

The next four hours were spent on the telephone exploring one possibility after another until I almost lost hope. The following day I had to be in London and, in desperation, I appealed to Michael Findlay, the well known veterinary surgeon who is secretary of the Feline Advisory Bureau. By then I had become so accustomed to regretful refusals that I had to ask Michael to repeat what he said. This was, 'Of course, there is no question about it. He MUST come to me until we can find him a permanent home!'

And so 'Operation Lion Cub' commenced. My telephone line must have been red-hot during the next two days but on the Friday little Rebel began his journey south in the company of Mr and Mrs Geoff Skerritt and their six-month-old human baby. Geoff is a lecturer at Liverpool University in the Department of Veterinary Anatomy, and a very busy veterinarian. Yet he never hesitated when I broached my plan of the way in which to get Rebel to Mr Findlay. I shall always be grateful to him and to Mrs Bysterbrook, secretary to the RSPCA at Blackpool, who was as determined as I was that Rebel should not die.

The story had its sequel during the tea-break at the FAB conference next day, when Michael Findlay carried Rebel into the Lecture Theatre, with a plea for quiet so that the cub should not be frightened. Not that he appeared nervous. In fact he kept a defiant stance and uttered a fierce growl deep in his throat!

Geoff Skerritt gave a brief explanation of Rebel's presence, with a plea that all delegates should do their utmost to detect and report any pet shops which also might be dealing in the sale of wild animals. Michael held Rebel in his arms telling the audience of the somewhat restless night he had spent with the cub! I was allowed to hold the fierce little one for a brief minute before he was whisked away to Michael Findlay's home.

I shall not easily forget the complete trust in the cub's eyes as he licked Michael's face. I hope, in time, to report a happy ending to this story.

International recognition

The conference was held in the Meeting Rooms in Regent's Park, London. After a warm and sunny October the park was looking very lovely, with the roses still in bloom and the leaves a rich gold. The plane 'nuts' were like ornaments hanging from the silvery branches.

As I looked around at the packed lecture theatre I remembered the Feline Advisory Bureau's first conference fourteen years ago, when a hotel room was sufficiently large for the small group of enthusiasts. As most readers will remember, the FAB was founded by Mrs Joan Judd, an ex-WRAF officer, a cat breeder and, above all, a cat lover. She is still as enthusiastic as ever and must feel very proud that the bureau has international acclaim from veterinary surgeons as well as cat breeders.

In opening the conference Professor C S G Grunsell CBE PhD FRCVS, Professor of Veterinary Medicine at Bristol University and chairman of the FAB, welcomed all the old faces as well as the new ones and said that he hoped everyone would have a happy day, adding that he liked to bask in the happiness of others! He explained that there would be only very short question times after each paper, as it had been necessary to arrange for the annual general meeting to take place during the break for lunch.

He then introduced the first speaker, Mr A D Self, BVSc MRCVS, who had qualified at the Royal Veterinary College and had been in general practice for twenty-three years. Mr Self said that he had followed with interest the work of the bureau which he considered to be outstanding. He said he was not a learned speaker but was aware that he was fortunate in being the opening

speaker when delegates would probably not be fully awake and would therefore be uncritical. And he hoped that his advice would filter through to the ordinary pet owners, as his subject was 'First Aid in Feline Emergencies'.

'Special' behaviour

Any emergencies with cats tended to have special features due to the 'special' behaviour found in cats which are not pack animals. Because the cat is a lonely animal it often has to cope alone and unhelped with its problems. Very often a sick cat is presented TOO LATE to the veterinary surgeon because when it feels ill or is in pain it hides itself away so that by the time it is seen by the veterinarian the illness has often become a major one.

On the problem of shock, Mr Self said that because a cat's threshold of pain is higher than in other animals, it often appears that a cat does not need treatment, whereas in fact it may be severely shocked and already suffering.

He said that he found it hard to define first aid for cats. The Royal Veterinary College has a very strict ethical code, especially when it decides what an unqualified member of a veterinary surgery may, or may not, do. His own feelings were that there are, in fact, very few things that can be done for first aid which are not contravening ethical laws. However, he would try to outline the most frequent mishaps likely to befall domestic cats.

1 Road accidents: Cats are very susceptible to this type of accident because usually they have no road sense. If a cat is hit it hides itself in the first hole it can find, and so may not be discovered for a long time. By the time it is discovered any treatment may be too late.

a Multiple fractures are a common result of road accidents. There may also be severe injuries to the soft tissue of the body.

b A cat quite often suffers from a ruptured diaphragm, when the abdominal organs may be pushed up, through the diaphragm, into the chest. The chief symptom of this condition is dyspnoea (difficulty in breathing). In fact, if a cat is dyspnoeic for longer than two hours a ruptured diaphragm should be suspected and the cat's chest X-rayed as soon as possible. Because a cat's body is soft and supple, it is possible for a car to pass right over its abdomen, pressing the abdominal organs into the chest without actually breaking the skin or bones. A rapid diagnosis, followed by surgery, can save the injured cat's life.

2 Falls: Very frequently a cat falls from a height, possibly from a high-rise flat. Mr Self said he had known cats to have survived falls from the ninth or tenth floor of a block of flats. Contrary to popular belief, however, the cat usually falls head first suffering fractures of the jaw, skull, radius and ulna. The repair of these fractures is most satisfactory when done internally, by the use of pins or plates. However, with careful watching a cat will accept external splints and plasters. To keep a cat completely immobile is difficult, if not impossible. Fractures of the jaw usually heal well.

After-care and nursing following any accident to a cat are of tremendous importance. A cat eats only what it can smell and any injury of the jaw affects the sense of smell. Thus it should be remembered that strong-smelling food is essential. A fracture of the palate will usually heal without surgery providing the cat is fed with fluids only.

Illnesses that become emergencies

The most frequent are:

1 Upper respiratory tract infections. These are usually caused by Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis or Calici Viruses. In fact, the primary viral disease has probably come and gone in a few hours. The secondary symptoms follow and rapidly produce a state of emergency therefore veterinary advice should be sought of the first sign of a sneeze or a watery eye. Otherwise, in less than a week, pneumonia may set in. Mr Self said that for cats subjected to such infections there is now hope in the new 'flu syndrome vaccines. Nursing is of vital importance in all respiratory diseases.

2 Non-Specific Enteritis. This is not to be confused with Feline Infections Enteritis (Panleucopenia). Non-specific enteritis occurs very frequently when a kitten goes to its new home and is usually due to ignorance on the part of the new owner. For this reason it is very important that when a kitten goes

to a new home it should have its own diet sheet.

If a young kitten is fed wrongly, in twenty-four hours severe diarrhoea may set in. This is quickly followed by dehydration and if this is not treated death can occur within forty-eight hours.

Mr Self said that he was prepared to state that this type of enteritis is the most common reason for new owners to seek emergency veterinary advice. Any kitten bought on a street market or in a badly-run pet shop is very likely already suffering from a non-specific enteritis which must not be confused with Panleucopenia.

As Mr Self concluded his paper Professor Grunsell thanked him, and said that Mrs P Jones RANA from Wirral, Cheshire, would give her paper, and that the two speakers could then jointly answer questions.

Nursing the sick cat

Mrs Jones said that she felt some trepidation in being the only woman speaker at the conference but hoped her paper would be helpful. Her subject was 'Nursing the Sick Cat'.

1 Conditions in which a sick cat should be nursed. The temperature should be maintained at a steady 70°F with no draughts. The room should be easy to clean and the daily routine should be strict, as in this way any change in the cat's condition would be more easily noticed. It is particularly important to note if the cat is able to drink and if it is able to pass urine normally.

Because of the necessity to keep a sick cat quiet it is often better to keep it in a cage. An ideal sick cage is made of fibre-glass but even a tea chest with wire over the front is quite useful. The sick cat should lie on newspapers which can be changed frequently and the new electrically heated beds are useful provided that they can be kept clean. Infra-red dull-emitter lamps are also useful as long as they are kept at a safe height above the patient.

Disinfectants must be chosen with great care and should NEVER contain Phenol, which is poisonous to cats. The two most effective disinfectants are Hypochloride and Formalin. To make these completely safe the surface can be rinsed over with clean water after the application of the disinfectants.

2 Administration of drugs. (a) Tablets can prove difficult, but the correct knack can be acquired. The cat's 'scruff' should be held in one hand and the cat lifted onto its hind legs. The mouth should then be opened with the other hand, the tablet pressed to the back of the tongue, the mouth closed and the throat gently stroked. It is sometimes necessary for a second person to hold the cat's feet.

(b) Liquid medicines are best given with a dropper or syringe.

(c) Powders should not be given directly but made into a solution. (I like to mix a powder with butter and put this soft ball on to the back of the tongue). Capsules can be opened and the powder inside given as described above.

Here Mrs Jones emphasised the importance of giving the complete course even if the symptoms disappear after the second day. If a drug is discontinued and then re-started when the symptoms return, it is quite possible that a resistance to the drug will have been built up and the drug will have become useless.

A sick cat's rectal temperature should be taken twice a day and the temperature recorded. Certain illnesses have a 'typical' temperature pattern. The normal rectal temperature is 101°F or 38.3°C. After use, the thermometer, which must be of the bulb-ended variety, should be cleaned and then kept in a separate container.

Because a sick cat is always depressed it fails to groom itself and the nurse should be responsible for this task. It is very important to clean the mouth and the anal region where it may be necessary to clip the fur especially if the cat is Longhaired. The coat should be checked for fleas and mites using a fine-toothed comb. Eyes should be carefully bathed using a fresh swab for each eye. Noses should also be swabbed.

All soiled materials should be burned, to prevent possible spread of infection.

Dehydration risk

Mrs Jones said it is essential to make frequent tests to ascertain if the cat is becoming dehydrated. To do this the skin on the nape of the neck should be lifted

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between the fingers. If it remains up in a peak, without a healthy spring back, there is some degree of dehydration, and if measures are not taken to combat this, death will ensue.

Force-feeding may be necessary. The ideal fluid for re-hydrating a sick cat is glucose-saline, using one teaspoon glucose and a small pinch of salt to one pint of boiled water. This can then be fed to the cat by a syringe or a dropper. There is also a pharyngostomy tube feeding method as described in Mr G Lane's paper from the BVA Congress (FUR & FEATHER, November 24, page 1129).

A cat weighing 10lbs needs a minimum intake of 70 ml fluid daily. Here Mrs Jones reminded delegates that it is essential to keep the cat's nose and mouth clear, and that in cases of respiratory disease, inhalation of Friar's Balsam in boiling water is of great value. It is most effective when given to the cat while seated on its owner's knee, with a large towel over both owner and patient.

Any cat suffering from enteric conditions must have only a fluid diet. Any solid food tends to increase internal inflammation. It is important to know if a cat is allergic to milk as some cats suffer from diarrhoea after drinking milk, especially cow's milk.

3 The sick room. A correct room is important as a sick cat should be nursed in isolation, and should be treated only AFTER all healthy cats have been attended. A special overall should be worn when caring for the sick cat and it is also a good idea to have fresh shoes for wearing in the sick room. In fact, all the general principles for 'barrier nursing' should be followed.

4 Observation of the sick cat is essential. The nurse should note if the cat is passing urine normally, if the urine is of normal colour, if the bowels act regularly, if there is any diarrhoea. The colour of the faeces, the feel of the bladder, the state of the coat, and the appearance of the eyes. A written case report is of immense help for both the sick cat and for the management of any future illness.

5 Post-operative care. Immediately following the cat's return from the operating table it should be placed on its side with the head extended to prevent any possible inhalation of vomit. It should be kept very warm and as quiet as possible.

Where bone surgery has taken place, the cat needs to be kept quiet for up to three weeks. In such cases a small pen is very useful. Again, layers of newspaper are ideal for bedding and a tray of litter should be close to the cat. Where a limb has been pinned, observation should be made to ensure that the pin does not alter its position. If external dressings have been applied care must be taken that the cat has not removed them.

Fractured jaws are common and are usually easily repaired, the most difficult part being the maintenance of sufficient fluid intakes. Many veterinary surgeons nowadays prefer to give a cat intravenous feeding after a severe operation.

6 Care of orphan kittens. This is always an exhausting task, as two-hourly feeds have to be maintained through day and night. The kittens must be kept very warm. A very young kitten is unable to empty its bladder and bowels of its own accord, and these processes must be stimulated by gentle rubbing with warm cotton wool, to simulate the lick from the mother's tongue.

7 Care of the geriatric cat. Once again warmth is of the utmost importance. The diet must be of easily digested foods. Care must be taken that the bowels act regularly. The condition of the teeth must be observed. Often an elderly cat needs a tooth extraction, or teeth to be scraped. An elderly cat needs additional vitamins and these can be given in the form of Abidec drops made by Parke Davis or by Canovel tablets.

8 Euthanasia. There comes a time when a decision to euthanise a cat has to be made. Mrs Jones emphasised that a veterinary surgeon can only put the situation before his client. In the final analysis it is a decision that has to be made through personal conviction. Both she and Mr Self agreed that it is kindest to put a cat to sleep when it reaches a state where it cannot lead an ordinarily happy life as it is morally cruel to keep an animal alive when its life has become a burden. But each year brings new advances in veterinary science, bringing new hope for many illnesses where once no cure was possible.

During the coffee break that followed, delegates had an opportunity to discuss the first two papers with the speakers. The terms FVR and Calicivirus are now in common use, yet I can remember very clearly just eleven years ago when the only recognised word for the respiratory diseases was 'cat flu'.

At that time Dr R Johnson was working on research of these diseases at Bristol University, aided by a few veterinary surgeons in general practice. Among these were Mr Michael Findlay and Mr Boyd Langman. It must be satisfying for them to know that their work, together with that of Dr Charles Povey (now lecturing at Guelph University,

Canada) has made the prevention of respiratory diseases possible. C-Vet Ltd have hit the headlines with their vaccines against FVR and Calicivirus but cat breeders should not forget the men who made them an effective reality.

Simple basic genetics

Back in the Lecture Theatre, Professor Grunsell informed delegates that Dr J Gill, who was to have read a paper on Feline Genetics was unable to be there, and that his place was being taken, very courageously at the last minute by Dr Peter Messent, Geneticist at the Pedigree Petfoods establishment. He said that the term 'genetics' was still bewildering to many cat breeders. He hoped to allay some of their fears by showing that basic genetics are really quite simple.

Most people know that the offspring resulting from feline cross-matings are often unexpected. Although it is alleged that white is a dominant colour, a blue cat mated with a white cat may produce not only whites and blues, but also tabbies and blacks. If a Siamese is mated with an 'ordinary' tabby, all the kittens will be ordinary tabbies, but the type will probably be 'foreign'.

Dr Messent said that genes are found in pairs at certain locations on the chromosomes. Some characteristics, such as colour, are controlled by a single pair of genes while others are controlled by several pairs. It is important to know which characteristics are dominant and which recessive, but this can be learned only by studying the subject, although practical experience is a great help. He then showed a series of slides, demonstrating the dominance and recessiveness of various colours. The following notes may be of some help to genetic students.

Black to black produce ALL black kittens—black is dominant.

Black to white produce blacks and whites, here both are dominant, though white actually masks another colour.

Black to Siamese produce all black kittens.

To complicate matters Dr Messent said that there are diluting factors on some genes which serve to dilute the colours. Thus the dilute of black is blue, and the dilute of chocolate is lilac.

Another very important factor is that of sex-linkage. A cat's sex is determined by a special pair of chromosomes known as X and Y.

The gene responsible for a ginger cat, (officially termed 'yellow') is produced by an alteration in the cat's colour make-up so that an all yellow colour is produced and not a mixture of yellow-tabby or yellow-black. The yellow gene is carried on the X chromosome, of which a male has one. However, the female has two X chromosomes which can be of three genotypes, yellow, tortie or black. Thus, if a yellow male is mated with a tortie female she may produce yellow males and females, tortie females and black males. However, if a black male is mated with a tortie female, she can have yellow and black males and tortie and black females. If a yellow male is mated with a yellow female all the resulting kittens will be yellow, though in varying shades. Finally, a yellow male mated with a black female will produce black males and tortie females.

Dr Messent said that there was not time to discuss any of the other fascinating genetic combinations, but he suggested that anybody who was really interested should study a specialist book.

It has recently been shown in a survey carried out in the USA, Australia and New Zealand, that where all cats were derived from English exports, in the 18th Century, the colour of cats found in these countries closely resembled the colours known to exist in England 300 years ago! This does not include the colours of pedigree cats.

Finally, Dr Messent gave a warning to over-enthusiastic breeders. He said that, when aiming for one particular characteristic in a cat, such as type or colour, the animals' fertility may drop, due to too close inbreeding. Breeders should never underestimate the importance of bringing in new and healthy bloodlines.

During the short question-time allowed by Professor Grunsell, it was obvious that there is tremendous interest in the subject of genetics, and delegates hope that the FAB will provide further papers on the subject at future conferences.

Hair problems

The last paper before lunch was Feline Skin Disorders by Mr G S Walton BVSc MRCVS. In his introduction Professor Grunsell said that Mr Walton had qualified at Bristol University. From Bristol he went as lecturer to Cambridge, and then on to Liverpool University, and he is now widely known as a leading dermatologist.

Mr Walton said that half-an-hour was far too short a time to cover his subject, which really needed at least eighteen sessions. He commenced his paper by showing slides depicting the structure of the skin. When a cat owner brings a cat to be treated for a skin condition the problem is usually associated with (a) the hair, or (b) the skin.

These are usually connected with the growth of the hair. Mr Walton stressed that any drugs administered orally will affect the lower shaft beneath the skin surface but not the hair itself. He showed a slide of a cat with a much-thinned coat and then illustrated the method by which a hair grows. If the root of the hair is inflamed or irritated, the cat will bite or scratch the area thus removing the affected hair as well as several surrounding hairs, and thus the thinning process commences.

Alopecia (hair-loss) can be divided into two groups:

- 1a) Debility: if a cat is suffering from anaemia or neoplasia, these conditions will affect the hair-growth. Usually such conditions are diagnosed before the hair begins to fall out. However, in cases of diabetes, hair-loss may be the first symptoms. 1b) Localised conditions such as wounds with subsequent scarring: in such cases, the hair follicles fail to function after the infliction of a wound. The scar shrinks affecting nearby blood-vessels or severe inflammation may be followed by hair-dropping.
- 2) Alopecia due to a fault in the endocrine system. The thyroid hormone in particular affects hair-growth. Any tumour in the pituitary gland (known as the 'leader of the orchestra') will adversely affect the thyroid gland.

If the hormone levels in the body change radically there may be a change in the actual hair follicles and areas of baldness in certain areas may remain for several years. The degree of baldness depends on the susceptibility of the hair follicles.

A type of Cushing's Syndrome may occur (this syndrome is due to over-secretion of the adreno-cortical hormones) and in this case the hair itself is affected. The life-cycle is shortened, and the new cycle is inhibited. However, other symptoms are usually apparent at the same time.

Actual skin diseases

These are due to:

1. Bacteria
2. Virus
3. Fungus
4. Parasites
5. Physical, chemical or allergic causes.

Inflammation: The cat's owner notices some inflammation or irritation. In this situation one thing leads to another: inflammation leads to self-inflammation of damage which leads to further inflammation. Here Mr Walton showed a clear slide of a cat with lesions on its neck. This was an inflammation which was scratched and then invaded by bacteria.

Sometimes a cat has a generalised irritation which causes it to bite its skin in many places. Such a situation occurs in Miliary Eczema.

Mr Walton then showed slides of cats with infected eyes and ears, and one cat with a bald head. Causes of these were: a) Mechanical damage; b) The secretion of irritant or cytotoxic substances; c) Secretions of allergies; d) The introduction of actual infections.

A parasite can cause an allergy which may be difficult to cure. Of these parasites the flea causes the most frequent skin problems. Fleas are difficult to eradicate because they live most of their life-cycle outside the cat's bodies. Some cats are sensitised to flea-saliva. The area of skin will then be continually licked and eventually alopecia will result. Mr Walton stressed that a flea can exist for as long as a year away from a host-body. Repeated treatments will be necessary before a cat is free of fleas.

Cheyletiella are mites which are often carried by cats but may not cause irritation in the actual cats, but may cause irritation in humans associating with these cats. I remembered that my veterinary surgeon told me that when he was puzzled by a persistent irritation in a cat he would suggest that its owner should strip!

Cheyletiella infestation has become increasingly common and is very often passed on at cat shows.

Other mites are Bird-Mites and Harvest-Mites but these have limited life-span.

Fungus Diseases: The most common of these is Ringworm, due to a) Microsporum and b) Trichophyton. Contrary to common belief a cat may have only one affected hair. But this can cast spores to infect many other cats—or humans. Some cats may show some scaliness of the skin, especially on the face. Round ring lesions are rare.

Mr Walton said that Microsporum was the more common fungus and a cat may be a carrier long before any lesion shows, thus many cats may be infected at cat shows. He stressed the need to have a Wood's Lamp available at all cat shows and at all veterinary surgeries.

At this stage Professor Grunsell intervened to say that lunch was waiting and that he regretfully had to ask Mr Walton to conclude his very important paper.

Annual general meeting

Unfortunately it had been necessary to hold the annual general meeting at the end of the lunch hour and few of us had time to visit the animals which were housed so close to the restaurant. Professor Grunsell opened the meeting extending a warm welcome to new members amongst whom was Mrs Richfield, a South African cat breeder on a visit to this country. I have been a friend of Mrs Richfield for some time.

Mr Whittard, FAB chairman, read a report of the past year during which the bureau had welcomed 133 new members. Sadly, though, a number of old members had failed to renew their subscriptions. Due to ill health Mr Willis had finally had to give up his position as chairman of the Central Fund For Feline Studies and the administration of the fund was now in the capable hands of Mr Tim Gruffyd-Jones MRCVS, well known to all the cat fancy for his enthusiasm and dedication to feline welfare.

Mr Whittard expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Mr Michael Findlay, the bureau's popular and hard working secretary, and to all those who have organised fund raising activities, especially Miss Julia May for arranging the charity classes at many shows; to Mrs Durbin, Mrs Gornell and others for holding social functions, and to the many people who have manned stalls at shows.

He stressed that it is increasingly difficult to maintain the FAB scholar at Bristol but he urged everyone to re-double their efforts to increase funds. Thanks chiefly to Mike Findlay he said that the FAB is now well and truly 'on the map' as it has received mention in the 'Sunday Times' and 'Blue Peter'!

Following the chairman's report the usual business of the meeting went ahead and the new committee was duly elected. Tim Gruffyd-Jones spoke briefly on his aims for fund raising. He said that in recent years there has been a lack of co-ordination and that is supremely important to have area representatives. Among these he hoped would be some veterinary surgeons as there has been an increase of interest from small animal veterinarians. He was planning a series of regional meetings and appealed for support for these and also for any ideas for fund raising.

At the end of the meeting Mrs Durbin presented to Professor Grunsell a cheque for just over £450 which was a really wonderful effort.

Controlling fertility

Back in the lecture theatre the delegates gathered to hear Mr Andrew Edney BA MRCVS give a paper on Vasectomy and the Behavioural Effect of Neutering. Professor Grunsell introduced Mr Edney as the Senior Veterinary Advisor to Pedigree Petfoods, secretary to the BSAVA and vice-president elect to the BSAVA. He added that the fact that Mr Edney had gained his BA in the Open University was a tribute to his brilliance.

I have known Mr Edney for a number of years and have been deeply impressed with his great love and respect of animals which is apparent to anybody who talks with him for any length of time.

He opened his paper by explaining that the operation of vasectomy is performed to control fertility, but that the male retains all his other sexual activities. He also keeps his slim, muscular shape. Vasectomy also satisfies those owners who consider that castration is cruel. Following the operation there is no degeneration of the testes.

Mr Edney then briefly outlined the surgical operation, using slides to clarify his points. The operation entails the removal of a small section of the Vas Deferens (the tube carrying the sperms to the penis). The testes generate the sperms which in entire animals are produced in vast numbers. The testes also produce some of the male hormones which are released into the circulation. He said that it should be remembered that a male remains fertile for up to three weeks following a vasectomy.

Surgical technique

A general anaesthetic is necessary. Saffan is ideal for this operation which should be performed with maximum sterility. Only a small incision need be made. The Vas Deferens which is ivory-coloured, lies close to the surface and must be carefully separated from nearby blood vessels. The Vas is then severed and ligated on both sides. Ligation is not essential but is an added safeguard. The surface skin is then neatly sutured. In fact, said Mr Edney, sutures are not even necessary but they please the cat's owner! Within a very short time the cat is up and about and is as perky as ever.

The conclusion of breeding studies is that the vasectomised male is visually undistinguishable from an entire male and does not put on the 'flab' as does a castrated male. Both entire and vasectomised males have extra muscle over their shoulders and neck.

Usually, by about the age of 18 months, cats begin to sort themselves out into their social order. The behaviour of entire males is then often aggressive—they often bite a rival under his tail when he is urinating. Castrates are much more peaceable, although males which are castrated after the age of eighteen months always retain some of their male appearance. Spraying, roaming and fighting is also affected by a cat's surroundings. Even females may spray if too many are kept in a restricted area, as Siamese owners have learned to their cost!

If a male is castrated very early he may spray when fully adult which causes problems in an ordinary household. All stimuli should be removed. Sometimes a mild 'aversion treatment' may be successful. Hart suggests that the culprit should be squirted at just at the crucial moment.

Another idea is to put a piece of aluminium over the place where the cat normally sprays as the noise thus made will deter him. Hormonal drugs such as progestogens can be administered intramuscularly and Ovarid can be given orally.

Mr Edney concluded his paper by saying that communication between cats and between cats and humans is close. At the Petfoods cattery there are mixed groups of males, females, castrates and vasectomised cats, and all know their own status. It is interesting to note that the top position is always occupied by a vasectomised male or a queen in oestrus. There is usually only one dominant cat at the top and one at the bottom of the social scale.

For owners who reject the idea of castration because it deprives a cat (and here possibly the human is imagining himself in a parallel position) the operation of vasectomy is an ideal choice. It is also useful because the presence of vasectomised males encourages queens to come into oestrus. This normally occurs in three-week cycles during breeding seasons.

Large cats

During the brief time allowed for questions Mr Jim Evans, senior veterinary adviser at Glaxos, commented that oral dosage of hormones is preferable to that by injection as the dose is easier to control. My own experiences with the use of progesterone injections and oral doses of Ovarid bears out this theory.

Professor Grunsell then introduced Mr D Jones, BSc MRCVS, Veterinary Director of the Regent's Park Zoo, by saying that he wished to thank Mr Jones for having the FAB members as his guests.

Mr Jones said that the large cats are com-

paratively easy to keep providing they have sufficient space, remembering always that the large cats, like the domestic variety, are not pack animals. The Cheetah is the only cat which strangely enough, does not belong to the family Felidae.

The anatomy of all the large cats is very similar to that of domestic cats. Most are nocturnal. World Wild Life study has shown that the tiger needs to roam wide areas of forestland. His only competition is man, who is so rapidly destroying the tiger's natural habitat.

Mr Jones then showed some wonderful colour slides of Northern Lynx, Servals, Leopards and Snow Leopards. The latter are rarely seen in zoos, but Mr John Aspinall has two at Howletts. I know also that these have recently bred a litter.

A Government licence is now needed to keep all wild animals. Anybody who considers keeping these should remember that a grown lion can easily leap thirty feet! Mr Jones said that all large cats need a good vitamin supplement to their diet. At Regents Park they are fed for six days and then starved for one day.

Simple process

Administering drugs such as antibiotics to large cats is now a fairly simple process. They are tempted into a very small cage in which they cannot turn round. It is then easy to administer the drug by means of an injection or by a loaded dart. Large cats can be tranquillised in this way. Suitable tranquillisers are Diazepam (Valium), Thiopertone and Ketamine. The anaesthetic, Saffan, is not widely used for large cats as a large volume is needed for the animal's body-weight. Ketamine is not safe for old cats as it can cause liver damage. Here Mr Jones said that there have been some tragic incidents at the zoo where visitors have thrown barbiturates into the lions' and tigers' enclosures.

Reproduction among the large cats is generally prolific. In fact there are now more tigers in captivity than in the wild. If a large cat has been reared in captivity it is extremely difficult to introduce it to a pride of wild cats, which distrusts the newcomer.

Gestation in the large cats varies between fifty and 100 days depending on the variety. A litter usually consists of two or three kittens. It appears probable that large cats, like their domestic counterparts, are 'induced ovulators'. Ovulation occurs only on vaginal stimulation. However, this has only been proved in Pumas and Cheetahs.

Preventive medicine

Large cats are subject to infestation by roundworms and hookworms and are treated for these. They are also very susceptible to Panleucopaemia (Feline Infectious Enteritis). Mr Jones said that he has been amazed at how few cat owners, even owners of circus cats, trouble to vaccinate their animals and that this results in many tragic deaths. Most cats, especially Cheetahs, are susceptible to Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, and animals at Regents Park are now being vaccinated with Felifu.

All zoo cats are visited daily by a veterinary surgeon. If any show signs of being lame they are observed for twenty-four hours. If, after this time, the lameness persists, they are examined and treated.

If the large cats persistently fail to conceive they are investigated surgically by the simple operation of laparoscopy, made through an exploratory incision into the abdomen.

Unfortunately salmonella poisoning in zoos is frequent, as meat used comes from abattoirs where conditions are in, some cases, still unhygienic. There are also occasionally cases of toxoplasmosis which, of course, also occurs in domestic cats. Other problems are caused by Renal Calculi (stones in the kidneys and ureter) hormone deficiencies and skin diseases. Sarcoptic mange is still found fairly frequently in wild cats.

Mr Jones showed more colour slides of affected cats including one of a tiger cub suffering from a spastic condition from cerebral hypoplasia. I have seen this condition very occasionally in domestic cats. It does seem to show very typical symptoms.

He concluded his fascinating paper by saying that wild cats are, in fact, prone to most diseases which can be found in domestic cats but by constant supervision there are few deaths from these.

During the question time that followed I asked Mr Jones about the incidence of leukaemia in large cats. He replied that, to date, no cases had been identified. This does seem to point to the fact that leukaemia is not a new disease, but that it has recently been recognised in domestic cats and thus owners have become more aware of the problem.

Lactation

There followed a short interval for tea which provided an opportunity for delegates to have personal talks with some of the veterinary surgeons or to walk round the trade stands. Then we gathered again to hear Dr Rivers BSc PhD talk on Lactation in the Cat. He said that lactation is a subject about which much appears to be known but that in fact most people know very little.

Milk is a fluid which is freely available for analysis but the actual control of milk production is very complex. It is known that this production is dependant on hormones, about which much study still needs to be done. There are usually eight mammary glands in the cat. In early pregnancy there is hyperplasia of this area, and by the twentieth day the mammary cells are proliferating.

During the last part of gestation there is a dramatic increase in the vascularity and the contents of the mammary glands is transformed into colostrum. This is the very important fluid which is the first available to new-born kittens and is high in antibodies.

Of all the hormones contributing to the development of the mammary glands the most crucial is prolactin. Its production depends on the hormones progesterone and oestrogen and the level of which must remain at a high level until parturition when the progesterone level falls naturally.

The remainder of Dr River's paper was highly technical and of interest only to those with knowledge of biochemistry, which I do not have! If any reader is interested Dr River's paper will be available from the secretary of the FAB. However, Dr Rivers described one experiment which must be of great significance to all cat breeders. If a female cat has a large litter she will have a correspondingly large milk supply. If her offspring is removed the level of milk supply begins to drop, but if soon afterwards she is given other young the high supply of milk will continue. Thus it is obvious that increased stimulation increases the supply of milk if a litter has been large.

However, a mother cat which gives birth to only two babies and is later given several more hungry young from another litter will not be able to produce an increased supply of milk. Thus the amount of milk is dependent on the number of young born. The same rule applies to cats and all mammals. It is important to remember this when considering introducing orphan kittens to a foster mother.

Tumours

The final paper of the day was The Radiological Investigation of Neoplasia in The Cat, by Dr R Lee PhD DVR MRCVS. It was accompanied by wonderfully clear X-rays of all forms of tumours in the cat.

Dr Lee said that he was sorry that his subject was a morbid one but because most cat breeders will encounter it at some time it was important that they should know something about it. Lymphosarcoma (cancer of the lymph glands) is comparatively common in cats and is very difficult to identify in X-rays. The prognosis of any form of tumour is poor.

Tumours of the skin and subcutaneous tissues is usually visible and can easily be palpated. A biopsy (removal of a small piece of the tissue) is necessary for a diagnosis. However, soft tissue masses within the body are very difficult to diagnose. If a mass is seen in an X-ray it is very frequently a neoplasm and the owner should be prepared for the worst. Occasionally a neoplasm is first suspected because another organ is displaced. Here Dr Lee showed an X-ray of a Barium Meal outlining the stomach in which a neoplastic mass could be seen.

Free fluid is often diagnosed as being present in a cat's chest where there is a cancerous mass in the lung. In fact the fluid could be a presenting sign and most veterinary surgeons have this in mind when a cat suffering from dyspnea (difficult breathing) is brought into the surgery.

If a cat has a neoplasm of a kidney the urinary output may be affected. An ordinary X-ray may show the enlargement of the kidney, or a special Intravenous Pyelogram where a dye is injected into the veins may be necessary.

Another fairly common tumour is found in the cat's nose and the only symptoms may be snoring or sneezing. However, an X-ray will show the presence of a tumour which can be removed by cryosurgery and the prognosis here is fair.

Dr Lee then showed X-rays clearly showing tumours in the oesophagus (outlined by Barium) and in the bowel-wall. Where there is a neoplasm in the bowels the cat will suffer from constipation and where there is actual obstruction, vomiting.

Neoplasia of the central nervous system are not uncommon. Here the cat shows symptoms of difficulty in keeping its balance and, sometimes, actual paralysis.

In the skeleton of the cat a neoplasm takes the form of cancerous bony growths and these are comparatively easily seen in X-rays. Occasionally a cancerous soft tissue may invade a bone causing a fracture, and these are known as pathological fractures. However, Dr Lee stressed here that a bone extension resembling a neoplasm can be caused by an excess of vitamin A in the diet!

Many primary cancers can be surgically removed but if a secondary tumour forms the prognosis is nil as the cancerous cells will be in the bloodstream invading many organs.

At the end of this important paper Professor Grunsell thanked Dr Lee and all the speakers and said he hoped to see all the delegates at the conference next year.

Puss in books

THE COMPLETE Book of Cat Health and Care, by J J McCoy. Published by Hodder and Stoughton (Teach Yourself Books), price £1.95.

This little book was originally written for cat-lovers in the USA but has been revised for English publication. It deals comprehensively with all aspects of cat-care, with up-to-date information on feline diseases and vaccinations.

I found the chapter on the origin and domestication of cats of particular interest, for it outlines some historical facts which are not found in the many cat-books recently published.

The care of elderly cats is a subject not fully understood by many people, and this book devotes a whole chapter to 'Old Age', even giving comforting advice to those who have to make the final decision on euthanasia.

The illustrations in black and white are a little disappointing, but at £1.95 it is of very good value, and a book which, I think, all novice breeders would be wise to buy.

ALISON ASHFORD

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A cat for the connoisseur— the Havana

—It looks at the world through slanting green eyes and to its many devotees represents the peak of feline perfection

Patricia Turner

THE HAVANA has the body type of the Siamese and its coat is a rich chocolate brown. It looks at the world through slanting green eyes and to its many devotees represents the peak of feline perfection. In fact it has been described as the cat for the connoisseur.

Havana is a colour variety of the breed group known by breeders as Oriental Short-hair and this breed group, together with the Abyssinians, Burmese, Russian Blues and Rex make up the Foreign Shorthair section of the Fancy.

Its origins are interesting for although brown cats have been recorded in cat Fancy literature as far back as the late 19th century there was little interest in Britain until Sister Stockey imported a cat, 'Adastra', now thought to be the forebear of many of today's Chocolate Point Siamese.

Writing of Siamese in 1939 Mrs Cox life stated, 'In the early days of the breed many chocolate coloured Siamese appeared on the show bench, that is chocolate coloured all over'.

With hindsight and a better knowledge of feline genetics it seems apparent that both self browns (Havanas-bbC-) and Siamese-Burmese hybrids (Tonkanese B-cbcs) were bred and that fanciers did not distinguish between them, showing all the cats in the same class and breeding them together in what is now understood to be a haphazard manner. Small wonder that litters included large numbers of blacks and only occasional browns and small wonder that breeders lost heart. It is possible that the frequent birth of blacks in such litters gave rise to the belief held by breeders for many years that crosses with Siamese and other breeds will always give blacks.

Devoted breeders

The Havana breed of today owes its life to the work undertaken by Mrs Monro-Smith, Mrs Dora Clarke, Miss Von Ullman, Mrs Armitage Hargeaves and Mrs Elsie Fisher. Miss Von Ullman drew up plans for a breeding programme in 1951 but did not actually breed an Havana until 1954. The first Havana was produced by Mrs Monro-Smith who had been working independently of the Von Ullman programme. She mated a Seal Point Siamese (Tsui Chow) to a fluffy black non-registered cat and bred a black shorthair female registered as Elmtower Susannah. This cat inherited the recessive chocolate brown gene from her dam and, when mated to a Seal Point Siamese who also carried chocolate brown, produced the famous Elmtower Bronze Idol on October 24, 1952.

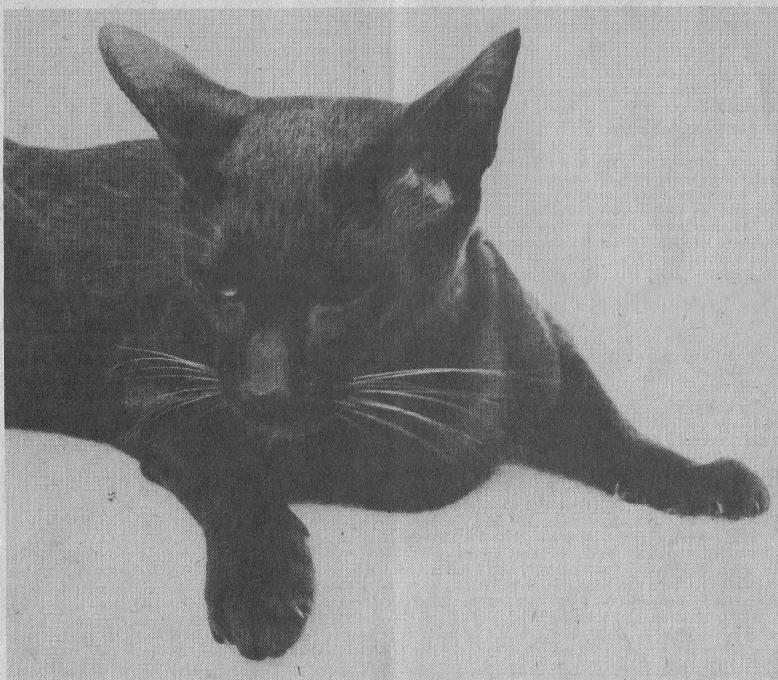
This date, and Mrs Monro-Smith's name thus went into the Havana history books. Elmtower Bronze Idol was the first Havana to go on the show bench and made his debut at the 1953 Herts and Middlesex show at Acton where his judge, Miss Beckett, described him as being of superlative type. Miss Beckett's steward was Mrs Dora Clarke, now one of the foremost judges of the breed.

Bronze Idol was kept at stud by his owner and sired a number of Havana kittens including Mrs Clarke's Craigiehillloch Bronze Wing and Craigiehillloch Bronze Leaf. Dam of these kittens was a Seal Point daughter of Tombee (also the sire of Bronze Idol).

Mrs Monro-Smith arranged for Craigiehillloch Bronze Wing to go to Miss Von Ullman as her first Havana since, although Miss Von Ullman had undertaken all the clerical work and the newsletter for the group her own breeding programme had not been successful in breeding a brown at that time. By June 1953 the breeding programme planned by Miss Von Ullman resulted in the birth of Mrs Elsie Fisher's Praha Gypka. Later the same year Mrs Hargeaves's Laurentide Brown Prior was born and in 1954 Miss Von Ullman bred Roofspringer Peridot.

Breeding true

Breeders considered it undesirable to in-breed more than was necessary and so Elmtower Bronze Idol was withdrawn from stud work after two years leaving the services



Mrs Wilson-Smith's Ch Silbrana Zorba, the Oriental Cat Association's top winning Havana of 1976-77. Sire is Muchloved Merry Boy and dam Dearing Symphony Sal.

of his son and two grandsons. In December 1956 Miss Von Ullman wrote in *FUR & FEATHER* 'Having now bred two generations of pure Havanas we should, during the coming year, be in a position to apply for official recognition by the GCCF'.

At that time Miss Von Ullman described the standard of points as following closely that of the Russian Blue except that the colour was described as 'rich brown, even and sound, without any stripes, bars, points, white hairs or other markings except in kittens'. Eyes were described as any shade of green and almond in shape. The standard stated that body type was that of all Foreign breeds! However particular mention was made of the fact that width between ears was considered desirable and that exaggerated length of head would be penalised.

As the number of kittens bred increased Mrs Hargeaves and Miss Von Ullman exported Laurentide Brown Pilgrim and Roofspringer Mahogany to the USA and Roofspringer Marguerite, litter sister to Mahogany, was bought by the wife of an American serviceman with a view to mating the cat in England before going back to the States. It was arranged that another, unrelated, female would be sent to USA by Mrs Monro-Smith. Roofspringer Mahogany in particular was successful as a show cat in the USA, winning a place in the All American Awards every year from 1960 to 1965 inclusive.

In Britain recognition was granted with championship status in 1958 but, after objections put forward by Miss Kit Wilson of the Short Hair Cat Society, the name 'Havana' was changed to 'Chestnut Brown Foreign'. Mrs Phyllis Hughes, a longstanding officer/committee member of the Short Hair Cat Society has since explained that Miss Wilson's fear was that if the name Havana be granted cats would be bred for their pelts as was the case with Havana rabbits.

Kit Wilson herself awarded the first CC for Havanas at Birmingham in 1958. The cat was Elmtower Honey Chile, bred by Mrs Monro-Smith. Elmtower Honey Chile was a female born on 19.11.57 from a mating between Praha Karla (Havana female) and Elmtower Guinea Gold (Havana male). Grandparents were Laurentide Brown Prior; Craigiehillloch

Bronze Leaf; Praha Gypka and Elmtower New Mint—all Havanas.

Another Elmtower cat took the second CC, at Croydon, by Mrs Newton. This was Elmtower Small Change. In 1959 Miss Davies's Crossways Honeysuckle Rose bred by Mrs Joan Judd took a CC at Birmingham under Miss Val Prentis. Honeysuckle Rose went on to win CCs at Croydon (Mrs Newton); Herts and Middlesex (Mrs Newton); and Notts and Derbyshire (Mr Stirling-Webb). Thus she became the first Havana champion. Other CC winners of 1960 were Roofspringer Piaster who took not only a CC but a best in show nomination from Mrs Towe at Glasgow and Hergas Baden Prestige who won a CC at the Southern under the Rev Rees.

Great controversy

On many occasions CCs were withheld and members of the Chestnut Brown Group were most unhappy over the situation complaining that judges were not interpreting the standard correctly (*FUR & FEATHER*, March 9, 1961). Breeders of varieties now considered 'new and upstart' will not be surprised to know that there was great controversy over the Havana at that time, plus a full scale argument in *FUR & FEATHER* over the breeding, registration and showing of hybrids. The GCCF supplementary register had been introduced recently and there were those who felt that cats on that register should not be eligible for open classes at shows. Had they been successful in their argument, the Havanas would have been disqualified from the show bench.

Havana breeders were criticised for using Siamese as mates and producing 'impure Siamese which could ruin the breed'; they were criticised for exporting to other countries; for breeding 'hybrids'; and so on. One breeder is alleged to have retired because she felt that she had become so unpopular that she was doing Havanas more harm than good. An appeal was printed in *FUR & FEATHER*, 'So disheartened have people become that many are thinking of discontinuing the breed. All breeds have to start somewhere. The Sealyham Terrier was first bred in this country by crossing a White Terrier with a Corgi.

In retrospect it seems likely that many of the judging problems were caused by differences in interpretation of the standard of points. On one hand there were writers likening the cats to Russian Blue (*FUR & FEATHER*, Von Ullman, 1956) and on the other hand there were articles emphasising the chestnut Brown Group's intention to work to Siamese type (*Our Cats*, J Judd, 1961). The standard itself was unhelpful, simply stating 'Foreign type'. None of the early Havana judges had any experience of the breed and very few had any experience of Siamese either. The insistence of GCCF (at that time) upon several generations of lie-to-lie breeding may have encouraged some breeders to mate lie to lie before the desired Siamese body type and green eye colour had been 'fixed'. Members of the Chestnut Brown Group discussed the problem and agreed that outcrosses to Siamese were necessary.

Breakthrough

It was at this very difficult time for the breed that Mrs Sybil Warren came on the scene. She mated a black shorthair (from a mating of a black non-pedigree cat to Gracedieu Lu-An) to Bolney Kega, a Chocolate Point son of Ch Craigiehillloch Chozaro. One of the litter was Senlac Bagheera, variously described in GCCF registration records as Black and Self Seal. He was a black cat of moderate type with a longish coat. Mrs Warren mated him with Hendrawn Heatherbelle. Heatherbelle was a Seal Point daughter of Ch Sayam Zar Prak and Killdown Mirabelle with Ch Prestwic Perglima Pertamina and Ch Killdown Sultan as grandsires.

The mating of the two cats produced a number of brown kittens one of whom became Ch Senlac Coffee Bean. Coffee Bean won eight CCs and a best in show award but unfortunately he got out and was killed by a car in July 1966. He had been mated with Crossways Hydena and produced Int Ch Senlac Hybeana of Holland; Int Ch Senlac Bronze Angel of Germany; Ch Senlac Heidi of Switzerland; and Ch Senlac Bronze Charmer. Before Heidi went to Switzerland she produced Ch Senlac Chatterbox who, in turn, sired Ch Senlac Candybox.

Mrs Warren also worked in another outcross pedigree related to her interest in Rex. She mated a Tortie and White Rex hybrid daughter of Pa Snip and Laurentide Brown Prestige to Chatterbox. Among the kittens bred was Ch Senlac Bronze Chimes. Other champion Havanas bred by Mrs Warren include Ch Senlac Bronze Belle, Ch Senlac Coffee Berry, Ch Senlac Rosemary and Canadian Ch Senlac Bronze Blessing.

Mrs Mary Dunnill was already well known for her Sumfun Siamese when in 1961 she had a black Shorthair registered as Kleopatras from Mrs Carlton-Belt. The sire was an unregistered black and the dam was a Blue Point Siamese (Khubsurat Chandi Moti). Moti had a pedigree going back to the famous Chocolates, Ch Craigiehillloch Chozaro and Sunland Sijui. When Kleopatras was adult Mrs Dunnill mated her to her Seal Point stud Beaumanoir Tammi and Sumfun Kuching Hitam was born in 1962. The next year Kuching Hitam was mated with chocolate pointed Trubun Pharaoh and the resultant litter of four kittens included three Havanas—Sumfun Sepia Sirdar, Sumfun Sepia Sudbahdar and Sumfun Sepia Sylph. Mrs Dunnill kept Sepia Sirdar at stud and a later litter from Kuching Hitam produced Sumfun Brown Beetle, a Havana found in the pedigrees of prize winners in Holland, Germany and Sweden.

Some other well known prefixes of those early years are Bluetower, Elyvne, Crumberhill, Patrev, Sweethope, Sterne and Kalewa.

Outcross stock

The early 1960's also saw the start of the Foreign White breeding programmes and although the Foreign Whites are a Siamese genotype breed now this was not always the case in the beginning. A number of self-coloured kittens were bred in the initial stages and one of these was Scintilla Copper Beech, bred by me. Copper's sire was Scintilla Croesus, a Lilac Point son of Ch Bradgate Yippee and Sippoo Lilac Lulu. Her dam was a Foreign White sired by Beaumanoir Binko.

At the request of the then Chestnut Brown Group the Foreign White breeders agreed that the rule of neutering all but white kittens could be ignored in the one instance and thus Copper provided outcross stock for the Havana breed. She had gone as a kitten to a couple new to pedigree cat breeding and her first litter was their first litter too. It was sired by Ch Tija Ares, a son of Scintilla Clytemnestra, so that the kittens were line-bred to Ch Bradgate Yippee. As could be expected the litter included champions Ch Dandycat Brown Bear and Ch Dandycat Hula Dancer. Brown Bear was at stud with Mrs Stewart and then with Mrs Shaw and Hula Dancer went to Mrs Sayer. Copper's second litter included another champion, Zulu Warrior. He went to Mrs Sayer too and she proceeded to build up and refine a strain of Havanas now known throughout the world.

Another breeder, very well known for her

Siamese, began to produce a few Havanas during investigative breeding in the field of coat colour genetics. This was Mrs Maureen Silson. Havanas with her Southview prefix began winning at shows and were noticed not only for their good type but for their warm, rich coat colour. Mr and Mrs Clayton were particularly successful with the Southview cats and Siavana Fetiche, bred by them from Southview stock, was not only top Havana but also top Foreign Shorthair of his year. Fetiche is owned by Mrs Joan Waite.

Title restored

The GCCF eventually relented and allowed the Havana to use its original name, and the much disliked title 'Chestnut Brown Foreign' was happily discarded. Certainly the name Havana is far more attractive and thanks are due to Mrs Phyllis Hughes who proposed the change.

There are now well filled Havana classes at shows, the standard of points clearly defines Siamese type and the general quality is high.

Without wishing to join the argument between adherents of old ideas on breeding and those who are better informed it is important to point out that the best safeguard for the future of the breeds from which the Havana was produced is that of care by their breeders just as the best safeguard for the future of the Havana itself is care by Havana breeders. The careful Havana breeder is the one who sells only her best quality kittens for breeding even when the potential buyers are novices. She sells all but the very best as neutered pets and offers full details on pedigrees accompanying her kittens.

The Oriental Cat Association recognises the fact that Siamese crosses are often still desirable and certainly it is likely to be the most dedicated Havana breeders who practice them for, by doing so, they cut down the number of Havana kittens bred and quite probably breed some pet Siamese. The OCA also recognises the fact that the Oriental Shorthair breed group includes a great many colour varieties and that matings between them are often desirable. But members are always advised that once they have settled upon their speciality it is best, if possible, to keep matings within that variety. Thus, advice to Havana breeders is to mate Havana to Havana IF body type, coat colour and eye colour are good enough in both prospective mates.

Havanas are used in the development of Oriental Smokes, Tortoiseshells and Egyptians and some Havana kittens born from these matings are very good indeed. But breeders practising matings between colour varieties are always advised to be extremely selective in the choice of breeding and show stock when considering the Havana kittens. Although the agouti gene which allows tabby to express itself is dominant the fact that breeders of Egyptians are selecting for polygenes FOR clarity of tabby pattern and breeders of Havanas are selecting for polygenes AGAINST clarity of pattern suggests that great care should be taken to avoid the introduction of ghost tabby pattern in the Sells. If a kitten is reasonably free from ghost tabby pattern while changing coat then it can safely be assumed that it will remain so as a cat. Providing always that the coat when rubbed the wrong way is found to be sound to the roots such a kitten will be as good as any other Havana. The suggestion, recently expressed in FUR & FEATHER, by Mrs Towe, namely that Havanas are, or were, used in the development of Foreign Whites, is incorrect.

Quality must be protected

After 26 years of work to produce Havanas of the quality we have today no thinking cat breeder can allow that work to go to waste. Overall quality in the Siamese has decreased as that breed has become popular. We must ensure that the same fate does not befall the Havana.

The Oriental Cat Association offers general advice on all aspects of keeping, showing and breeding Havanas and, in conjunction with the Havana Cat Club and the Short Hair Cat Society, it trains and selects judges for the breed. The club's breeding policy is towards a cat that is pure Havana, ie free from recessive genes for Siamese and colours. However owners of cats bred from pedigrees carrying such genes are not discriminated against and are welcome in OCA and OCA club classes. It is hoped that when club class entries increase OCA will be able to offer additional classes for Havanas bred from Havana only pedigree.

Secretary of the OCA is Mrs Pat Rigelsford of 170 Sevenoaks Road, Langney, Eastbourne, East Sussex. Telephone Eastbourne 762185. Havanas are also catered for by the Havana Cat Club, secretary Mrs B Harrison of Harislau Kennels, Cefniwrch, Llangefni, Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd, and the Short Hair Cat Society, secretary Mrs C Betts of Tree-tops, Dells Common, Stokenchurch, Bucks.

For information provided I am grateful to Mrs Sybil Warren, Mrs Dora Clarke, Mrs Mary Dunnill, Mrs Phyllis Hughes, FUR & FEATHER and GCCF Records.

Showing

by Mrs Grace Pond

MANY AN owner of a new kitten has thoughts of showing him but has no idea of how to go about it. Before being permitted to enter for a show, all pedigree cats and kittens must be registered. A kitten bought from a reputable breeder will probably be registered already but must be transferred to the new owner at least three weeks before the show date. If the kitten has not been registered, this may be done by applying to the appropriate registrar for the necessary form and returning it completed, with the correct fee. This may only be done if the breeder is not registering the kitten with her prefix.

Any kitten over the age of ten weeks should be inoculated against infectious feline enteritis. If not done before purchase it should be done once he has settled down, and at least three weeks before being shown.

It is not always easy to know when shows are taking place, but FUR & FEATHER, the official organ for the Governing Council, publishes a full list of the shows from time to time and also carries various advertisements advertising the shows by the clubs running them.

As a beginner it will be necessary to apply to the show manager of the club organising the show for a schedule. This should be done at least six weeks before the show date. It will be sent together with the entry form and the show rules, which should be studied closely. The form should be filled in with details exactly as set out on the kitten's registration or transfer form, as incorrect information may mean disqualification and loss of any prize money.

Bewildering

At first glance the choice of classes may seem bewildering as frequently there may be four hundred or more. Careful reading will show however that the classes suitable for a particular cat or kitten will depend on the variety, the age and the sex. There will also be a number of classes guaranteed by the various clubs throughout the country but one may only enter these if a fully paid-up member of the particular club.

The breed or open class is the most important one. This class is restricted to exhibits of the same variety but for kittens may be divided up according to age.

As well as the open, eleven other classes may be entered, if desired, but at a first show it is as well to choose only three or four and to see how the animal behaves when handled. If he proves to be very nervous, not showing himself well or is very difficult to hold, scratching and biting, it is as well not to show him again. The majority of the other classes will be mixed, with the kitten competing against many other varieties.

It is useless to enter an animal that is not in tip-top condition, groomed to perfection, with clean ears, and no signs of fleas in the coat. Before being admitted to the show hall he will be thoroughly examined by a veterinary surgeon and will not be permitted to enter

should it be considered he is not completely fit.

Approximately seven to ten days before the show day the show manager sends out to each exhibitor a vetting-in card and tally bearing the number of the pen the kitten will occupy in the hall. The vetting-in card has to be handed to the veterinary surgeon on arrival and the tally has to be hung around the kitten's neck on white tape once he is in the pen. Check carefully that the number is the same as that on the pen.

Cats and kittens are not permitted to be led or carried into the hall but must be taken there in a basket or suitable container. A clean warm white blanket, litter tray, hot water bottle (if very cold), food and dish, brush and comb and a little mild non-toxic disinfectant and cotton wool to wipe the bars of the pen are the essentials to take to a show.

Intensify the kitten's grooming the last week or two before the show, but if long-haired avoid over-grooming to the extent of pulling out the fur, especially around the neck.

Early start

Have everything ready the day before the show as an early start will be necessary, especially if the hall is some distance away. Vetting-in usually takes place between 8 and 9.30 am and queues quickly form. Once successfully past the veterinary surgeon, find the pen bearing the kitten's number and give the bars and sides a quick rub over with the disinfectant. place the white blanket in the bottom, fill the tray with litter and give the kitten a last quick grooming, but he should not be fed until lunch time.

Judging usually starts about 10 am and may go on all day. At most shows the hall is cleared, with the exhibitors only allowed to watch from the gallery or the sides of the hall, the general public being admitted about mid-day. It is then that the exhibits may be fed and the prize cards start to go on the pens. During the day results lists are put on the award board and it is possible to go and see how the kitten has gone on before the prize cards appear.

The judge, with his steward, goes to each exhibit in turn, taking them out and examining and judging them according to the required standard.

During the morning catalogues may be bought and the exhibitor should check to make sure that his kitten is entered in the correct classes. If there should be an error, this should be pointed out at the show manager's table.

Best in show

Although some shows now have best of breed, ie the best of each recognised variety, others still have best in show, with a panel of judges choosing the best Long-haired exhibit, the best Short-haired exhibit and the best Siamese exhibit in show from the nominations made by each judge. The adult is chosen first, then the kitten and they compete against each other for the title of best. Neuters are also judged in each section, competing for

the best premier in show title. They do not compete against full cats.

Most shows close about 6 pm. Exhibitors who live over one hundred miles from the show hall are allowed to leave a little earlier, provided application has been made beforehand.

Prize money is not given out on the day. It is sent out several weeks afterwards as every entry has to be checked by the Registrars to ensure that the particulars given in the catalogue are quite correct.

Arriving home

On arrival home, if there are other cats in the house, the kitten should be isolated for a few days in case he has picked up some infection which may be passed on. Some exhibitors like to give their exhibits a little milk with a few drops of brandy or whisky added, after wiping their coats all over with a little mild diluted non-toxic disinfectant. After a good feed and time for exercise after being shut up in a pen all day the kitten should be allowed to sleep in a warm room and given time to get over the excitement of his first show.

A JUNE ANNUAL

THE 1978 CATS & CATDOM ANNUAL will be published on June 29, 1978, instead of in April. This change of date has many advantages, the principal one of which is that it will enable fanciers to include in the reviews and advertisements wins gained at all the important shows up to the end of the 1977-78 show season.

This seventh edition of the ANNUAL will again be a glossy publication. It will contain informative articles, a register of cat clubs, a breeders' directory, a review of the cat Fancy in 1977-78, trade advertisements etc and, MOST IMPORTANT, reviews of catteries with pictures of notable cats.

The publicity value of the CATS & CATDOM ANNUAL is now well established and as it is an ever ready reference book of catteries in the different breeds it means that NO cat breeder can afford to be left out of its pages.

Full particulars, prices of reviews, breeders cards, etc will be given shortly.

MARJORIE RYDER
Features Editor

CROYDON CAT CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

to be held at
MAIDSTONE, KENT,
on
SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1978.

SAE for schedules to—
Mrs HIGGINS, 6 Roebuck Road,
Rochester, Kent ME1 1UD.
Telephone 0634 43091.
Entries close January 31.

CAT BOOKS FOR CAT LOVERS

Lists 10p.
LITTLE BOOKSHOP, FARNHAM COMMON,
BUCKS SL2 2QH.

National Cat Club continued

Mrs M Graham

ANOTHER MAMMOTH National show. Congratulations to Mrs Grace Pond and her section managers. Mr and Mrs Green had an enormous entry in the long-hair section and handled the occasion with expertise. Many thanks to Mr J Rozjin for stewarding for me at very short notice—he makes a first class steward, which is so essential at such a big show. Thank you once again Jan for your careful handling of the exhibits and for making my day so much easier.

BLUE Junior: 1 Newman's Zenith Zeberdee 2 Wicks's Corniche Leander 3 Hewitson's Phigarro Magnificat **AC Self breeders (ex Blue)** 3-5 mth female part 1: 1 Silverman's Helma Thena 2 Silverman's Helma Nella 3 Silverman's Helma Biba Part 2: 1 Spear's Ithilien Dream Girl 2 Royle's Maxline Dancing Flame 3 Warbrick's Pollybrick Half Penny.

MARJORIE GRAHAM

Miss V Hay

MRS GRACE Pond, Mrs Betty Walde and their section managers of the National are to be congratulated once again on a superbly run show in the Jubilee year. My sincerest thanks to them for inviting me to judge in the non-pedigree section for the second time and to Sonny Serr for all her cheerful help and companionship as my steward, despite having only recently recovered from a major operation on her hands. The standard of presentation in the pet section was better this year in one respect, namely grooming and temperament, but sadly the pen presentation in quite a few cases was disgraceful with an assortment of coloured blankets and feeding bowls and some of the wierdest litter trays I have ever seen. Two cats in my classes had cardboard box lids doing duty and one cat had what looked like a drawer from a chest of drawers! Come on you owners, with such gorgeous cats why let them down like that?

HOUSEHOLD PETS Blue Peter cat or kitten owned by a 10-year-old: 1 Collier's Toby, absolutely lovely LH red tabby and white in marvellous condition, excellently groomed and presented, yellow eyes, white snip across face and long full brush, temperament outstanding, very alert although composed and with great dignity 2 Reynold's Tiger, SH red tabby with colour and coat pattern that could easily have passed muster downstairs in the pedigree section, eyes a little greenish but nice round head and small ears, excellent necklaces 3 Hare's Mister Honey, delicious young SH red tabby, slightly paler in colour than second prize winner and with less distinct markings, but beautifully apricot in colour on belly.

MARISHA COLOURPOINTS

congratulate

MARISHA MUCHACHO

BOC Kitten National 1977.

Sire Frallon Saba-ku.

and

MARISHA RICARDO

Best 5-7 mth male kitten.

At stud

Frallon Saba-ku (3) Colourpoint carrier, Marisha Muchachacho 2 CCs SP, Praslin Chirico 1 CCs SP.

Stud and kitten inquiries:

MARGARET GOUDE

Telephone: Dorking 5799

CONGRATULATIONS

REDCLIFFE SNOWQUEEN

at Bristol Show.

REDCLIFFE SPARKLE

at Olympia Show.

Offspring of Ch and Pr Berillone Princess Pixie.

Thanks to the judges.

Mrs D BANFIELD, Ealing.

CATARENA PERSIANS

are very proud to congratulate our lovely kittens upon their success at the National CC show.

CATARENA LADY MABELINE (blue-cream) only 4 months old 1st Open Kitten Class, two 1sts, a 2nd and three 3rds in huge classes following her success at 3 months of BOB.

Also

CATARENA VIKING PRINCE (very pale cream male) 2nd Open Kitten Class, two 2nds, three 3rds, placed in all of his classes. Many thanks to judges Mrs Plews and Mdm Hollenstein.

Inquiries:

MARGARY SHARP

Rowleth End, Low Row, Richmond.

Telephone: Gunnerside 226.

white lips and chin, very easy to handle and sweetest little face and expression, somehow his face struck a bell and on checking my judging book from last year's National I found that as a kitten I had given him first prize in a 1976 class, he is still as fabulous 4 Zub's Ginger, yet another red but this time a SH spotted, magnificent width of head, solidarity with truly exceptional width of head, pale green eyes and pale coat, very friendly and easy to handle r Andrew's Bengie, massive LH tabby and white, very broad head, coat pattern a little uneven and dark along the spine and could possibly have been a little better groomed underneath but despite this a very attractive exhibit **Best cat or kitten under 2 yrs owned by boy under 16:** 1 Burgess's Ringo, lovely LH silver tabby and white, extremely large cat with lovely big round head and good coat pattern, pale green eyes of particular luminosity made this cat most attractive 2 Willitt's Sibilee, delightful blue-cream spottie and white, lovely open round face with enormous clear eyes, lovely coat condition, beautifully presented 3 Collier's Toby 4 Sandiford's Jaime of Walsingham, lovely little dark tortie with superb round head and large eyes, a real beauty but her owner was one of the cardboard-box-lid litter tray offenders, otherwise she might have been placed higher r Sanders's Maximilian, SH red tabby, absolutely classic markings, greenish eyes, very well groomed and presented.

VICTORIA HAY

Mrs I Keene

CONGRATULATIONS GO to Mrs Pond and the various organisers of each section on a well run show. A great improvement with more room in the gangways which made judging more easy and pleasant. To my steward Norma Farnsworth, go very many thanks for her help and company, she is a very efficient steward.

SIAMESE Seal Point male: 1 Ch withheld McGinty's Summerdale Jiminy, perfect masculine head, excellent eye shape and colour, straight profile, elegant long body and tail, easy to handle, went down today on slight brindling and points on front legs uneven in colour 2 Davis's Ch Seadog Pancho, unfortunate to meet winner, beautiful head, long body, good whip, brindled at base, nice coat texture 3 Hutton's Paroma Hero Luckylad, excellent head, Siamese expression, excellent type, good points, coat texture has improved r Beache's Seadog Rickadoo, nice profile, good eye colour, should like to see more length to head, good coat contrast **Breeders Seal Point or Blue Point male 3-6 mth:** 1 Plumb's Woodnymph Thruppence, good head and profile, dense points, excellent type, well balanced 2 Badcock's Beranduin Wayfarer, very showy kitten, excellent head, good width between ears, fine bone, pale coat 3 Murchison's Fistra Sea Kestrel, dainty kitten, huge well placed ears, good type, fine tail **Seal Point neuter:** 1 Guy's Bilboe Buggins, wonderful head spoilt by brindling today, excellent eye colour, warm body colour, good texture coat 2 Phillips's Ranmar Mariposa, long wedge,

good profile and eyes, dark coat, wonderful condition 3 Honour's Pr Beauwill Barnabas, beautiful pale coat, good type, long tail, nice even wedge.

I KEENE

Mrs G Denny

THIS WAS one of the best Nationals I have experienced and I congratulate those concerned in the administration and management. The section show managers all worked in harmony with efficiency, which was indeed a credit to them. Hospitality towards judges was excellent. Siamese exhibits, basically, were rather disappointing, especially in the kitten classes. The tendency to round eyes is becoming prevalent. To my stewards, Mrs Brenda Smith, goes a special 'thank you' for help, assistance and careful handling of the exhibits. It was my privilege also to have as second steward Mr Robin Henderson, secretary of the Felix National Cat Club of New Zealand, to whom I am sincerely grateful. His help in our battle with the mass of spectators which filled the gangways and made judging difficult was a boon. Coupled together it all proved a most interesting and enjoyable day and to them both I am indebted.

SIAMESE Tabby Point male ad: 1 ch Webb's Vaillencourt Solomon, ST, best of breed, overall good exhibit, well balanced head of even proportions, good ear flare, with thumb marks, eye shape and colour, straight profile, well defined stripes and markings and whisker spots, quite elegant legs and paws, if one has to fault it is on coat colour which is rather shaded but otherwise a worthy winner 2 Rollis's Tarlu Blue Benjamin, BT, in excellent condition today, length of profile and good ear flare, would prefer straight jawline and showing rather marked pinch, depth of eye colour, faulted on incomplete, defined markings and stripes 3 Dunston's Meiklerigg Lancer, lacking condition today, coat woolly and in need of grooming, narrow top of head which was not complementary to length, fair eye shape, strong chin, tail lacks rings r Wills's Ching Ling Cheng, poor type, width of head, insufficient length, good eyecolour and shape, cobby body, woolly coat, short tail **Female:** no ch awarded 1 Risk's Moondance Serenity, CTP, very immature and not ready for the ch honour, excellent profile, width of head and ear flare, good eye shape, trifle pale, beautiful pale unblemished coat, faulted on almost complete lack of stripes and markings on mask and legs, although tail fully ringed, will do well when more developed 2 Willott's Quarenden Agatha, width of head and large flared ears, elegant neckline, even wedge, well proportioned, fault on eye colour, pale and slight roundness, fine legs and oval paws, good coat, short tail 3 Spencer's Foxstwit La Chica, CTP, although good top of head, eye shape and colour I would prefer straight jawline, pronounced pinch, also slight red shading on mask and ears, out of keeping with a CP, coat pale and unshaded, well conditioned, whip tail fully ringed r McGinty's Hiltonian Caraway, STP, needs more length of head, straight profile, good ears, eyes trifle round, weakness of chin, coat shaded, tail well ringed **AC Junior male:** 1 Brain's Moondance Flambeau, excellent style, profile and wedge head, large

flared ears, long lithe body, good muscle tone, whip tail, trifle patchy on front legs on the day but most elegant 2 Hutton's Paroma Hero Lucky Lad, I felt this boy's coat had improved since I last judged him, even wedge head, ear flare, eye shape and colour, lacks length of body and tail 3 Mont Williams's Ch Chairoven Ariel, length of head and profile, lovely even textured coat in condition and of ivory colour, little square in muzzle, good tail r Hall's Springfields Bambuli, have seen this boy looking better, has thickened somewhat which deters his head length, good profile, eyes round, excellent coat and tail.

GRACE DENNY

Miss M E Kitson

MY THANKS go to Mrs Walde for inviting me to judge again, and for the gifts. My steward and I always enjoy our day among the cats and their proud owners. I was particularly impressed this year by the high standard of the entries and was pleased to handle so many cats who were obviously still in their prime although technically 'veterans'. They were fit (not overweight) and responsive. I hope many rescued cats will find such loving homes in 1978.

HOUSEHOLD PETS AC SH best Tabby over 5 yrs with or without white: 1 Baker's Nimrod, very strong with gleaming white bib and mittens, friendly and interested in all that happened, a great conversationalist 2 Taylor's Bilbo, big well marked with beautiful bracelets, full of character and anxious to come out of his pen and join in the fun 3 Davis's Tina, very well prepared with attractive white markings, shining coat, I saw afterwards in the catalogue that Tina is 10 years old, all credit to her owner r Bidmead's Horace, lovely cat, big but well proportioned, a little more attention to detail and he would have been placed higher **All cats over 5 yrs:** 1 Compton's Cornflake, superb ginger and white, attractively marked and amenable to everything, excellent preparation had obviously gone on for some time to produce that gleaming coat, I hope he will not put on any more weight though 2 Frary's Finsbury, very attractive and friendly Manx tortie and white, obvious prizewinner 3 Arthur's Blanche, friendly odd-eyed white, absolutely spotless and enjoyed a cuddle 4 Quinton's Mitzy, tabby tortie and white with beautiful face, very snug under her blanket tent but although a little nervous quite willing to be handled and make friends, well prepared and immaculately presented r Barker's Tigger, big strong and determined LH red and white, handsome animal which I remembered from last year **SH Cat with sleekest coat over 5 yrs:** 1 Compton's Cornflake 2 Davis's Tina 3 Quinton's Mitzy 4 Harris's Wiffie, nice large black cat with white locket, I liked him but he had strong competition r Chapman's Gigi, very shiny dark tabby which I failed to place in another class as she was a bit overweight **AC SH Cat over 2 yrs from north of the Thames:** 1 Clifton's Mitzvah, medium size black in good condition, very playful, I wanted to take him home with me 2 Pitel's Tiger, well prepared big tabby, very docile temperament 3 Zub's Squaky, solid immaculate black and white SH with marvellous eyes, very much in command of the situation 4 Hunkin's Tiggy, friendly tabby, rather tired towards the end of a long day but in good condition r Hartley's Copycat, large black SH with some oriental blood I should guess, well presented.

MARY E KITSON

Congratulations, yet again, to JOHPAS TISHKAH

(32B)

(Mylynn Lilac Siadi x Moonfleet Alfrida)

1st Open BOC GCCF Supreme, 1st Open BOC National.

We welcome and congratulate **ALDAINE CAESAR** (32A) on winning his Open at Supreme Show. He will be at stud later this year. Inquiries welcome to:

WENDY RUSSELL

Telephone: Rowhedge 675.

Also striking a 'blow for women's lib!'

JOHPAS MALVYNA

(24FN)

(Cymbeline Mill Reef x Johpas Kemah)

1st Open and Pr Cert at National. Owner: Sue Bagge.

Breeder: Jackie Reed, Johpas Siamese. Telephone: Colchester 68953.

Not forgetting, at his first show

FISTRA SIE KESTREL

(24)

(Cymbeline Mill Reef x Fistra Simone)

Owner/breeder: Jean Murchison, Fistra Siamese. Telephone Billericay 22734.

Miss D Puncher

I THANK Mrs Walde for again inviting me to judge some of the Household Pets. It was another most enjoyable day not only because there were so many lovely cats and kittens to handle but also because the show is so well organised and so friendly it is a joy to be there. My thanks also go to my able steward, Miss J Strachan, for her great assistance throughout the day.

HOUSEHOLD PETS AC SH best tabby kitten (ex red or ginger) with or without white up to 9 mth: 1 Grant's Moses, nicely marked with excellent tabby and white coat, very friendly and well presented, I learned later from the owner that she had hand-reared him from two days old, well done 2 Hollis's Kissy, nice tabby with butterfly markings on good coat, very friendly, ran winner close 3 Evans's Emma, nice with good mackerel markings, coat nicely groomed and well presented r Driver's Robert Driver, large with good silvery coat, well presented **Best cat 2-5 yrs owned by boy under 16:** 1 Gentry's Yogi, black SH with friendly disposition, well groomed coat and beautiful eyes, well deserved his first 2 Robbins's Mog, large black and white SH, very nicely marked with lovely green eyes, ran winner close 3 Krusel's Duke, very prettily marked white with ginger tail, friendly and well groomed 4 Tempest's Roo, SH black and white with good coat, nice friendly fellow 5 Wells's Tinky, SH tabby with white markings, very easy to handle with well groomed coat r Wright's Spitfire, friendly SH tabby which belied its name, well groomed and well presented **Cats over 5 yrs owned by a girl under 16 who has never before shown a cat:** Unfortunately it was very easy to see that this was an amateur class as with just a few exceptions the presentation left a lot to be desired. Tatty blankets and old, looking

litter trays caught the eye much too often. However, all the cats were obviously loved and well cared for and the winners certainly deserved their placings but please, future amateurs, do pay every attention to detail as this leads to successful showing. 1 Grinham's Pompey, large SH black cat, lovely well groomed coat, well presented, most friendly fellow whom I later saw on Blue Peter TV winners, well done 2 Baines's Lucy, LH tabby with very good coat which had obviously been well prepared and groomed, very friendly and well presented 3 Wren's Mitzie, LH tortie and white, very nice looking cat with its long coat well groomed, also well presented 4 Israeli's Kitty, SH tabby/white, nice looking friendly cat which was well groomed and well presented.

D C PUNCHER

Mrs E Richardson

CONGRATULATIONS GO to show organiser Mrs Grace Pond and to Shorthair section manager Mrs Joan Avery for making this mammoth show a very enjoyable one for me. I can honestly say that this year everything ran on oiled wheels from my point of view and the 'exhaustion' of the National was not there. I handled some very beautiful cats and kittens and thank most sincerely Mrs Margaret Griffin who travelled especially to steward. We had no fractious exhibits, just some very persistent exhibitors who contravene all the show rules by handling their exhibits publicly. Disqualification is only inches away if only they would realise this.

ASSESSMENT CLASSES Foreign type, ad kitten, neuter: Merit awarded Fraser's Verdil Midnight Velvet, female, good type, nice top of head, fair wedge, excellent profile, slight chin weakness, eye colour average, could be a little deeper for a black, held a little round, very good ears for size and set, excellent dense coat, very good whip tail, promising youngster conforming quite well to standard merit awarded Nicholson's Daibarra Nigra, female, black, excellent type, excellent head for balance and length, eyes very good for both shape colour could in fact have been a little deeper, very good ears for size and set, close lying dense black coat, excellent whip tail, excellent condition and presentation, a very beautiful and elegant exhibit merit awarded Dean's Pendlemist Maya Princess, female, excellent type, very good wedge, excellent balance from ears to muzzle, eyes true oriental shape, could have been a little deeper in colour, excellent ear size and set, coat superbly close-lying and dense to the roots, long whip tail, very well presented, a good exhibit, a kitten conforming well to the standard **AV Maiden kitten:** 1 Kent's Thistleway Thisbe, Foreign White female, very good type kitten, large well set ears, good shaped eyes but a trifle pale, excellent close glacial coat, muscular body, excellent whip tail, 2 Marshall's Wispurr Pussy Galore, Blue Tortie Burmese female, very nice type, good Burmese expression, nicely mingled coat of good texture, tail a little on the long side 3 Miller's Kandi Niob Acill, Lilac Burmese female, very nice type kitten, a little long in coat and texture a little harsh, nice eye shape and colour, tail a little too whip. ELAINE RICHARDSON

Yorkshire

EXCELLENT ORGANISATION led to a very happy show in a popular venue. Many thanks to Royston and the whole Yorkshire committee for providing excellent hospitality. I was very fortunate to have Miss Julie Dray as my steward and, as ever, she handled the cats with great expertise. I hope she enjoyed her day as much as I did.

RUSSIAN BLUE Kitten: 1 Parker's Ryeholme Zakouski, male, excellent head shape, strong whisker pads, good eyes, sound even texture coat but a little on the dark side, excellent body shape and legs, good tail 2 Gee's Ryeholme Ninowitch, male, good type kitten, coat even but rather long, ears could be set higher, eyes rather round, just a little heavy in bone 3 Coxon's Ryeholme Lady May, female, lovely coat for texture and colour but failed to males on type, ears too low and whisker pads could have been more prominent, excellent eye colour, dainty limbs, good tail. I thought that kitten 534 had the best plush coat in the class but sadly lacked type at this stage **SIAMESE Seal Point kitten female 4-5 mth:** No first prize awarded 2 Garnett's Meladream, very good type overall but could not award a first prize to a Seal Point with heavy brindling on all points, excellent head and ears, eyes rather pale, good body shape and coat, whip tail, would like to see her when she loses the brindling 3 Antley's Killdown Candice, very promising, good head and ears, lovely eye colour but very deeply set, good profile and strong chin, good close-lying coat, whip tail **6-7 mth:** 1 Beach's Frenchelle Sinead, awarded best of breed by agreement with Mrs Bullock, very showy, type kitten with very alert expression, excellent head and ears, only fault a slightly uneven profile. Length of neck and body, whip tail 2 Spencer's Shandean Angelique, long head but ears set close and muzzle pinched which gave overall snipey effect, good eye shape and colour, long muscular body, good tail 3 Warnock's Suara Charmed

Spirit, medium wedge showing a pinch, nice eye colour and set, coat rather long and open, whip tail **7-9 mth:** 1 Woolley's Arasian Zarya, lovely head shape, long nose, strong chin, good body shape, coat colour rather dark but warm in tone, excellent whip tail 2 Wick's Baranduin Inez, long head, narrow on top, good eye shape and colour, showing bad pinch today, good profile, dainty limbs, long body but dark in colour, good whip tail 3 Clayson's Willbarth Brown Beauty, shortish wedge, rather round eyes, good profile, slightly weak in chin, good coat texture, good tail **Chocolate Point kitten male:** 1 Innocent's Supastar Matar, excellent top and ear set, excellent profile, nice eye shape, slightest suggestion of a squint, excellent coat texture and colour and good even rich points colour, good whip tail, best of breed 2 Spoor's Pi-Den Sovereign, good medium wedge, nice ears for size and set, eyes a little round and slightly pale, showing a pinch today and rather weak in chin, excellent coat for texture and colour, whip tail showing some ringing 3 Prest's Songew Cumulus, medium wedge, nice ear set, very good eye shape and colour, muzzle a little pinched and mask showing some brindling, excellent coat texture but a little open, good tail **Female 3-6 mth:** 1 Bailey's Sukizan Eliza, nice ears, skull a little narrow, fair length head, pinch to muzzle, nice eye shape and colour, uneven profile, excellent coat texture and body shape, whip tail, points colour overall was even and of good colour 2 Hanby's Sleekine Chocolate Kisses, nice top of head and ears, medium wedge, excellent eye colour and shape, very good even points colour, coat rather woolly, good whip tail 3 Bray's Sontew Van Ella, rather dark in points, medium wedge, showing slight pinch, nice eye shape and colour, good coat texture, dainty limbs, tail a little thick **Female 6-9 mth:** 1 Long's Coffee Cascade, nice length head, eyes a little on the round side, points colour coming in nicely but showing a little brindling, dainty limbs, good coat colour and excellent whip, should mature nicely 2 Warnock's Foxwist Saffron, nice type but points rather dark, good ears, profile, eye shape and colour, coat a little open but of good colour, good limbs and tail 3 Bird's Merrycurry Cressandra, ears of good size but set close medium wedge, good eyes, points colour too dark, good coat for colour and texture, good tail. ELAINE RICHARDSON

[The above report was received by us on January 11—Ed]

Herts & Middlesex

SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS go to a very hard-working committee for a very enjoyable show. Mrs Ross Huggett looked after me and the cats and kittens with her usual kind efficiency. I hope we can share another day soon. I took over the Havana kitten classes at the eleventh hour and I hope exhibitors were not too disappointed.

HAVANA Kitten male: 1 Kirby's Lissanjul Fiery Copper, nice length of head, true Havana expression, good ear size and set, excellent eyes, good profile, excellent body shape and fine whip tail, coat colour a little dark for my liking but of good texture 2 Shaw's Jacanire Calypso, very nice kitten, good head, eyes a little pale and round, excellent profile, coat of good colour but held rather open, very dainty limbs and excellent tail, wonderful temperament, positions here could easily be reversed 3 Corbett's Saba Serene, nice top of head and ear set, eyes a little round and orangy, medium wedge showing slight pinch, fair profile and nice chin, coat colour good but a little on the long side, limbs a little heavy, excellent tail **Female:** 1 Boggis's Pi-Den Goldhoney good wedge head with good ear set, good green eye colour, good texture excellent and of very rich colouring, unfortunately showing a few white hairs under chin and tummy, excellent tail 2 Antley's Majik Amber Gambler, showy kitten, good head length, ears set a fraction close, excellent coat texture and good colouring, very dainty limbs, overall effect spoilt by orange eye colour, if this had been a shade greener she would have been the winner, delightful temperament 3 Stern and Conn's Majik Coppernob, very nice head and ears, eye colour coming nicely but rather on the round side, muzzle spoilt by a pinch, good coat texture, dainty limbs, nice tail but needed to be longer **SIAMESE Blue Point male kitten 3-6 mth:** 1 Murrell's Trastamara Blue Jet, good length of head, excellent top and ears, excellent eye shape and colour, good profile, slight pinch to muzzle, very good coat texture, held a little open, dainty limbs, colour good except for tail which was a little gingery 2 Mason's Eirrem Happy Day, medium wedge showing muzzle pinch, slight dip in profile, good matching points colour, coat of good colour and texture but rather on the long side, good tail 3 Mason's Eirrem Blue Skies, medium wedge, good ear set, nice eyes set a little deeply, fair profile, coat texture good but again rather on the long side and showing some shading, fairly good points colour, good tail **6-9 mth:** 1 Logan's Quintral Caesar, well grown, almost adult, nice top of head and ears, excellent profile, very lionlike with strong chin, excellent eye shape, good match-

ITEMS IN 'News from the Clubs' must NOT constitute advertisements. Announcements of events organised to promote clubs funds such as coffee mornings, tea parties, dances, dinners, requests for advertisements in schedules and catalogues giving prices of admission and charges for advertisements MUST be paid for.

Further to our announcement in our issue of December 8 we have decided to offer these items under the heading 'Club affairs' in the news section at a especially reduced rate of £1.50 (not as previously announced) for 30 words and 10p per word thereafter. Cash MUST accompany these advertisements which should be addressed to Pat Cole, Advertisement Manager, FUR & FEATHER, Idle, Bradford.

Acceptable items under 'News from the Clubs' are changes of dates, changes of judges, cancellations, corrections to schedules of shows, change of addresses, dates of club meetings, chatty items about club members such as marriages, births, illnesses etc.

Notices of deaths will appear under the heading 'Obituary' in the news section.

ABYSSINIAN CAT ASSOCIATION

THE ASSOCIATION'S third annual general meeting will be held on Saturday, April 15 at 1.30 pm in the YWCA, Great Russell Street, London. Special rosettes and club cups will be presented, and the results of the ballot for committee. Following tea, there will be a short talk given by a veterinary surgeon.

Full details of the Association's officers and committee have been posted to all members. Please note nominations and resolutions must reach the secretary by February 1.

Subscriptions for 1978 are now due, kindly forward to our treasurer, Mrs J. Simmons, Tresco, 21 Knoll Road, Bexley, Kent.

MARJORIE NELSON, secretary

SUFFOLK AND NORFOLK CAT CLUB

FIFTY-SEVEN members turned out on the freezing night of January 4 when Mr Dennis Roberts, BVSC, from New Zealand, was kind enough to come and talk to the club during his short stay in this country. Mr Roberts who runs a cat clinic in Wellington, breeds Long- and Short-haired cats and is an all-breeds judge, spoke most fully on all aspects of cat care and touched also on the New Zealand cat Fancy where it differs from ours.

He was joined by Mr Jim Woodger MRCVS and together they discussed questions from the floor in a most informative and entertaining way.

This was one of the club's most interesting meetings and we should like to thank both our speakers for making it so.

CLARE BARKER, Social secretary

RA CAT CLUB

THE COMMITTEE is planning a newsletter for RA Cat Club members, to be issued in the early part of this year. Articles, news, views and information from members and non-members alike will be most welcome, and

ing points colour and coat texture, just a little heavy in bone and tail a little thick 2 Deacon's Tiernan Tamburlane, fair head length, nice ear set, top a little domed, eyes rather too dark for a Blue Point, excellent profile and strong chin, good matching points colour, good coat texture, good length of tail 3 Benn's Bisca Mer, good head shape, nice ears for size and set, very pale muzzle and points colour in general a little uneven, excellent coat texture but very dark on the body, good tail. ELAINE RICHARDSON

[The above report was received by us on January 11—Ed]

Cheshire

THE NEW venue at the Northgate Arena proved to be very popular and this was a very enjoyable show. My sincere thanks go to show manager Mrs Gaynor Phillips and all her helpers for their hospitality and grateful thanks to Mrs Connie Ryder who agreed to steward at short notice. She carried out her duties with skill and interest and we finished in time to have a detailed look at some of the lovely cats and kittens we had not handled ourselves. Thank you Connie.

HAVANA Kitten: 1 Kirby's Lissanjul Fiery Copper, male, excellent top of head and ear set, excellent eye shape, slight pinch to muzzle, excellent coat texture but a shade too dark to be correct for a Havana, excellent tail, placed first on overall type 2 Jones's Jacanire Calypso, male, good length of head, rather round eyes and weak chin, bad pinch to muzzle today, long body and legs, good

should be sent to me at 30 Queens Avenue, Greenford, Middlesex. Advertisements for studs, queens and kittens will also be included. Copies (in block capitals or type-written please) to the above address.

JACQUI GASCOYNE (Mrs)

LINCOLNSHIRE CAT CLUB

MEMBERS PLEASE note that subscriptions for 1978 are now due, and that they are now £1.25 single and £1.50 double membership as per the amendment passed at the annual general meeting in March last year. Will members who have sent their subscriptions already please note, and if they would send the balances due it would be appreciated and would save the club the postage.

KEN BARNES, Hon secretary

YORKSHIRE COUNTY CAT CLUB

ITEMS FOR the agenda for the annual general meeting and nominations for officers and committee (which should be proposed and seconded in writing by fully paid up members and accompanied by the written acceptance of the nominee) should be sent to reach me at 93 Grafton Road, Keighley BD21 1LJ by the end of February 1978, please.

Members are reminded that their subscriptions for 1978 are now due.

Show managers and any members wishing to claim rosettes, please note that from January 31, 1978, the address of Mrs A Essex, the support/assistant secretary, will be Willowcroft, 1 Norfolk Gardens, Tockwith, near York. MARIE MIDGLEY, hon secretary

NORTH OF BRITAIN LONG HAIR CAT CLUB

THE OFFICERS and committee wish all their members and friends in the Fancy, a successful 1978. We are pleased to inform you our annual show 1978 will be held at Harrogate and will be of championship status. We look forward to this event and request your full support to make this a super show.

Annual subscriptions are now due and should be sent to the treasurer Mr R Worth, 221 Sherwood Street, Worsop, near Mansfield, Notts. If you require a receipt please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. R WORTH

CHESHIRE CAT CLUB

MY APOLOGIES for omitting two names in my report of the above show. Reserve winner in the Open SP males was Grabham's Grand Champion Amberseal Electro. The reserve winner in the Open SP neuter class was Wall's Shoser Leonardo. LUCY J A PRICE

MERSEYSIDE CAT CLUB

MEMBERS ARE reminded that subscriptions became due on January 1 and should be paid by April 30. They are £1 single, £1.50 double, 50p junior, £10 single life membership and £15 double life membership. Please remit to the hon treasurer Miss J Dray, 106 Moor Drive, Crosby L23 2US, Merseyside, as soon as possible.

The annual Christmas party took place on December 17 at the home of Mr and Mrs Fantin. As in previous years a very enjoyable evening was had by all. Many thanks to Doreen and Pepi for inviting us.

JEFF LENEHAN, hon secretary

CORRECT ADDRESS

THE CORRECT address of Mr and Mrs J A Shewbridge is Tamruat, 12 Park Lane, PUCKERIDGE, Ware, Hertfordshire SG11 1SQ. PLEASE do not omit 'Puckeridge' as there is a Park Lane in Ware itself.

coat colour, excellent whip tail 3 Storer's Sylba Fantasia, sweet female, rather short in head, good coat colour but showing heavy spotting, excellent texture, good limbs; nice tail **SIAMESE Seal Point kitten male:** 1 Darlow's Shandean Alexio, good length of head, good size ears, excellent set, slight dip in profile, good eye shape and colour, good long body, coat just a little long, very good whip tail 2 Cogley's Pendlemist Palomino, ran winner very closely. I spent a lot of time between these two kittens, good length of head and ear size, not quite as well set as winner, very good profile and good eyes, excellent coat texture with just a little shading, good length body and tail, slight brindling at base 3 Fulton's Happytees Chocolate Bandit, strange name for a Seal Point, smallish ears well set, excellent eye shape but rather pale, good profile, some chin weakness, a little heavy in body, shortish, rather thick tail **AC Novice kitten male:** 1 Moore's Cheona Amicus, Seal Tabby Point, a little gem, excellent head shape, good shaped eyes of excellent colour, fine yet muscular body, excellent coat texture but a little dark, tracings and bracelets coming in nicely, excellent whip tail 2 Thorn's Caranbar Cream Cardinal, Cream Point of very good type, excellent head length, good ears, excellent profile, eyes a little full, good points colour, excellent body length, superb tail 3 Walsh's Benorah Stout Cortes, Red Tabby Point, nice even medium wedge, excellent eye shape and colour, ear set good but a little small, nice coat texture, good tail length just a little thick. ELAINE RICHARDSON

[The above report was received by us on January 11—Ed]

classified advertisements

DISPLAYED ADVERTISEMENTS IN CLASSIFIED SECTION £3.50 per single column inch, larger spaces pro rata; quarter page (13 inches) £35; half page £55; full page £90.

CAT SHOWS DISPLAYED WITH FULL CLASSIFICATION £2.60 per single column inch; CAT SHOWS WITHOUT CLASSIFICATION £3.00 per single column inch.

Cash with order please.

Closing date for advertisements is SEVEN DAYS BEFORE PUBLICATION.

We regret that no classified advertisements can be accepted by telephone.

ADVERTISEMENT CLOSING DATES

All advertisements must be in our hands at least SEVEN DAYS BEFORE PUBLICATION.

Please stop early to avoid disappointment.

LYSANDA CHINCHILLAS

At Stud: SILCRESTA RUPERT (10) (Silvermist Spartacus x Ch Silvermist Gwendolen).

17 Champions in his pedigree. Stud Fee: £20.

For Sale: Chinchilla female kittens, top American pedigrees.

All inquiries stud and kittens: Mrs SHARP - 688-7093 (Croydon)

RUSSIAN BLUE MALE KITTEN

SIX MONTHS.

Champion sired, dam one CC. Litter sister two Firsts and BOB Notts and Derby.

To loving home only.

Mrs McNEILL, Telephone Leicester 864279.

DAWNSTAR PERSIANS

proudly congratulate

DAWNWAY STARDUST (13)

on her first CC and BOB, plus four other 1sts and special award Blovstroed Cat Club Rosette for Best L/Hair B/Cream.

HONEYMIST CREAM SHAZAM (5)

Two 1sts and others at Notts and Derby.

Most sincere and appreciated thanks to their judges: Mrs M Boulton, Mrs Roden, Mrs Halls, Mrs Plews, Mrs Crickmore, Mrs Gowdy, Mrs Burrows, Mrs Denton, Mr Russi, Mrs Light, Mr Barraclough.

Lastly my thanks to Miss Wendy Cartwright (Dawnway) and Mrs Marlene Howes (Honey Mist), for my lovely girl and boy.

JEAN WALKLEY,

187 Shorncliffe Rd, Folkestone, Kent. Phone 56575, evenings and weekends.

DAUNUS SIAMESE

For sale—

DELIGHTFUL LILAC POINT KITTENS. Super pedigree, suitable for showing or breeding.

Sired by

CH CHAO FA LEO (24C)

ALISON DOUGLAS, Phone 01-555 2394

CHAMPION BRACKENHILL PERRY

at stud.

We are so pleased to have darling PERRY in our family. ALL his friends are most welcome to visit him.

Telephone MARGARET ANDREWS, Oulton 210 (Suffolk).

STUD CAT FOR SALE SARASAMSON MR POGLE (3)

Sire: Honey Mist Cream Bronco (5). Dam Brackenhill Fairy (13).

One CC. Suitable show or stud. Winner in Open Class, promising young cat. Born April 14, 1976.

CREAM FEMALE, 2nd in Open Class, born September 12, 1976.

CREAM FEMALE, born June 29, 1977.

BLUE/CREAM, born August 5, 1977. suitable show or breeding.

Chalet stud house, with run, as new, what offers?

Telephone Camberley 28862 (Surrey).

FOR SALE—

LYNETTE HERMES

BLUE SMOKE PERSIAN

Eight months old, cryptorchid, super type and temperament, ideal as show neuter.

£75 ono.

Telephone 061-494 9906.

THE CAPITAL LONG HAIR CAT ASSOCIATION

will be holding their

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1978, at the YWCA, GT RUSSELL STREET, LONDON WC1.

Commencing at 10.30 am.

The programme includes the following speakers and topics—'The Brood Queen, Nutrition and Pregnancy', Professor Patricia Scott, BSc, FRMS.

'Notes on the FAB Conference', Mr Michael Findlay, BVMS, MRCVS. 'Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics!!', Dr Ivor Raleigh, PhD, who will also be chairman.

Etc., etc.

* Admission £2.25 Members, £2.75 Non-Members.

* Morning coffee, buffet lunch, tea, are included in admission.

Apply for tickets to hon treasurer, Mr R GOUDE, 'Firdene', Westcott Street, Westcott, near Dorking, Surrey.

NEW PREFIX

SHERODIN PERSIANS

All cats and kittens lovingly cared for. Very promising Persian Red Self male kitten for sale.

Sire: Cinnamon Red Tiger (2 CCs). Suitable for showing/stud. £45.

SHEILA YOUNG, 01-360 9556, N London.

PEDIGREE FORMS

4 generation 12 for 30p, plus 10p p and p.

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Large £2.50, plus 30p p and p. Small £1.30, plus 20p p and p.

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GLENAVALON CATS

At stud: GLENAVALON LOCHINVAR (29C), Foreign Lilac, proved sire, 14 months old, and GLENAVALON TAMINO (26), Lilac Spotted Foreign Tabby. Litter brothers. Sire, Ch Thairano Dandylion (24C). Reasonably stud fee to approved, inoculated queens.

For sale: GLENAVALON GRAMARYE MERLYN (24), born June 30, 1977, sire Ch Longacres Jeremy (24), dam Kaloke Camellia (24), five generation Seal Point pedigree, 17 champions, and GLENAVALON GRIEG KEPHRI (26), born June 21, 1977, Bronze/Choc Spotted Foreign Tabby, sire Gr Ch Darling Red Shadow (32A), 11 champions on pedigree. Both young boys are suitable stud. To best offers from sincere cat loving breeders and references are required.

All these four boys can be seen at the Southern on January 28.

At home: More Siamese and Foreign Shorthair kittens expected soon. Merlyn's brother, Gallifrey (24) and Kephri's two adorable Choc/Cream Tortie Tabby Point sisters, Taueret and Mayet, are for sale to suitable homes.

Inquiries—

Mrs ANNE MILLAR, Streatham, London SW16. Phone 01-677 1314.

COERULEA SIAMESE

At stud:

COERULEA CHENDANG (24) prize winning son of Ch Mayfield Hermes (24) x Tamut (24).

COERULEA CHOCONITO prize winning Chocolate Point. Kittens available at times from my four girls.

Inquiries anytime.

Mrs A WRIGHT, Green Ends, Gubbions Green, Great Leighs, Chelmsford, Essex. Telephone Great Leighs 252.

BOURNESIDE CATS

One exquisite White female kitten left. Adorable pet. Suitable for breeding.

Blue, Black, Cream, White kittens in the spring, we hope.

AITKEN, Bourneside, Kingswood Lane, Hindhead, Surrey. Telephone Hindhead 5833.

Healthy kittens are... Feliflu vaccinated

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Faringdon - Alton - Hampshire

Spacious airy catteries, heated sleeping quarters, tree-trunk sun porch, away from kennels area.

Balanced diet, loving personal care. Inspection welcomed.

Telephone: Tisted 232.

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BROWN TABBY LONG-HAIRED KITTEN

(under four months old)

to be a well loved pet. Excellent home and garden in Cheshire. Will collect from anywhere. (Own beloved cat recently deceased, aged ten years.)

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At stud: Ciarella Kojak (Ch Quintral Pirata x Ciarella Catinka), Lilac Point. Proved sire. Show winner. Lovely temperament.—Mrs N M Kitchen, Morndew Siamese, 6 Moorrend, Boston Spa. Phone 843360.

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Farmhouse cottage, North Wales. Panoramic coastal views. Sleeps six. Accommodation for cats and small animals.—1 Penllan Cottage, Axton Lane, Llanasa, Holywell, Clwyd.

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Sufficient to fill two cushions, 18in diameter, £2.50.

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All prices include packing & postage.

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OBITUARY

PREMIER BARTHOLOMEW OF PENSFORD (BARTY)

July 6, 1962—January 4, 1978.

A wonderful companion who had the sweetest disposition.

My grateful thanks to Mrs Thompson, who bred him.

ROBERT SHRIMPTON, 6 Oakleigh Ct, Church Lane, Oxted, Surrey.

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The Dutch Rabbit, revised edition, 80p.

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All prices include postage and packing.

I enclose remittance _____

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Pat and Clive Barham would like to thank Mrs Pam Searle, Miss B Oliver and all Octavian's judges that have made his brief and successful career possible.

Brown, Blue, Chocolate and Lilac kittens sired by Octavian ready soon under our new prefix

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