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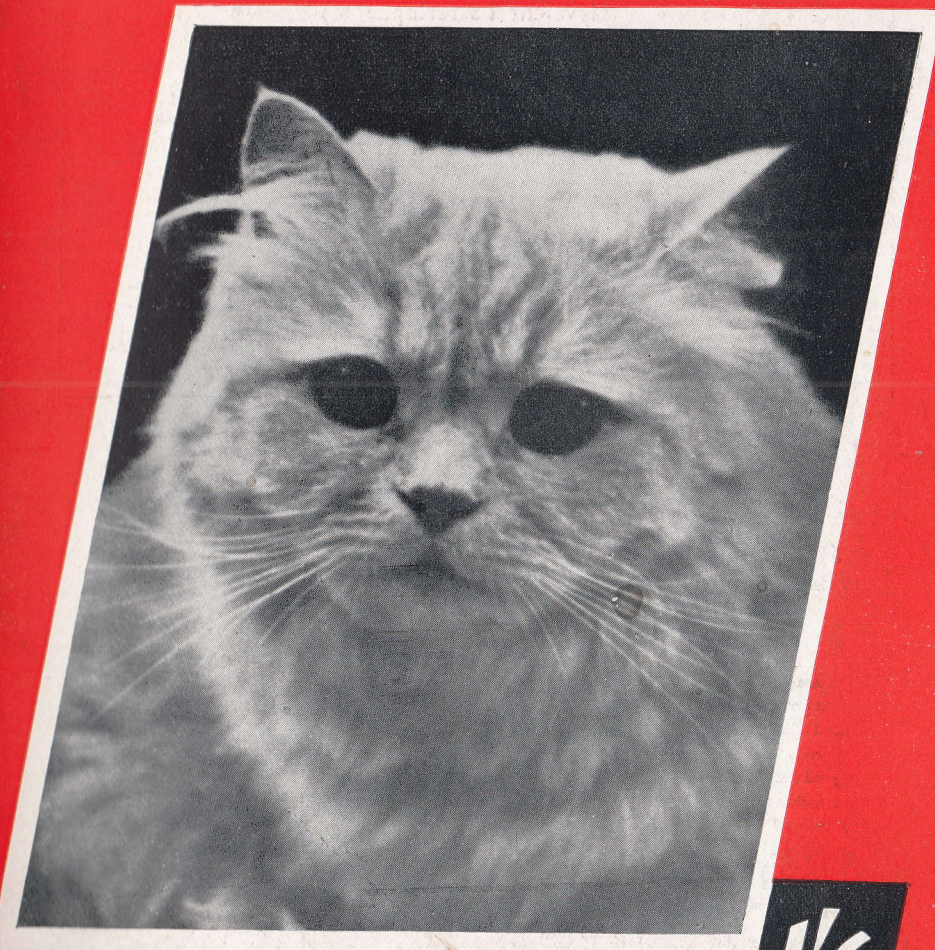
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Printed in Great Britain by F. J. Milner & Sons, Ltd., 4 Leysfield Road, London, W. 12
for the Publishers and Proprietors, A. E. & I. B. D. Cowlishaw, 4 Carlton Mansions,
Clapham Road, London, S.W. 9

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



1/6

NOVEMBER 1949

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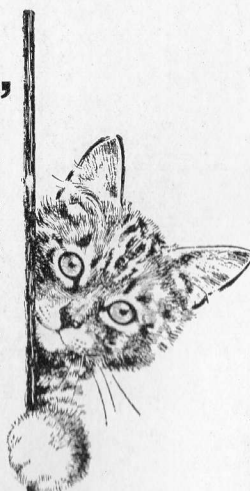
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Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

VOL. I No. 11

NOVEMBER 1949

MISCELLANY

REMINDEES concerning subscription renewals are going out with this issue to those of our friends who have been taking the Magazine since Issue No. 1. With these reminders I am attaching a request for criticisms and suggestions likely to help with the shaping of future editorial policy. So will you all please respond with your bouquets and brickbats as these reminders reach you?


Some of you have been asking about cases for binding copies of the Magazine now that the first year's run is nearing completion. I am negotiating with a firm at the moment and hope to be able to make an announcement in next month's issue.

His many friends in the Fancy (particularly those in the Siamese world) will wish to join with me in wishing *bon voyage* to Mr. B. A. Stirling-Webb, who sails for America at the end of the month. He will judge at the big Empire Cat Club Show in New York on 8th and 9th December and so will be the third representative of the English Fancy to act in this capacity.

Congratulations are due also to all those who had a hand in the promotion of the Croydon Cat Club Championship Show on the 10th of this month. We forecast a bumper show and this actually occurred. The gate money added up to a comfortable three-figure total, a record for the Club. I, for one, would like to see this go-ahead organisation have a crack at something a little more ambitious in the way of show promotion next season.

Front cover photograph this month shows one of the best Cream females in this country at the present time. She is Champion Widdington Wincette, owned and bred by Mrs. M. L. Sheppard, of Gt. Canfield, Dunmow, Essex.

EDITOR

 GENERAL INFORMATION : The address for all communications relating to editorial and advertisements in OUR CATS is 4 CARLTON MANSIONS, CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9 (Macauley 1462).

Publication date is the 20th of the month and closing date is the last day of the month preceding the month of publication. MSS. and photographs submitted will only be returned if accompanied by fully stamped and addressed envelopes. Photographs should preferably be of the glossy type with sharp details.

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Care & Management by P. M. SODERBERG

Vice-Chairman of the Governing
Council of the Cat Fancy and
Chairman of the Siamese Cat Club

Those Neglected Breeds

THIS is not the first time that I have had something to say about the neglected breeds, and the very fact that I am returning to the subject now is proof that my former writings have had little effect.

Naturally, with all species of livestock, there will be fads and fancies. There will also be particular breeds which by reason of their own excellence are popular. In the last resort this means with all animals that one or two breeds are far more popular than any of the others, while right at the bottom of the scale are some which always seem on the verge of extinction.

Certainly that is the position in the Fancy to-day. One Longhair breed stands far ahead of all others—the Blue—and one Shorthair variety has become so popular that it is almost a danger to itself—the Siamese. Among the Longhairs, several varieties have almost disappeared and when the shows come along there is little or no competition. At some shows a breed is entirely unrepresented.

The Silver Tabby, for instance, has been neglected and rarely does one see a specimen which

even reasonably approaches the specified standard. I am sure that there must be a few pure-breeding Silver Tabbies in the country, but most of the specimens I have seen have been the result of cross-mating. It is possible to produce an outstanding Silver Tabby as the result of cross-breeding, but I have no hesitation in saying that this breed will not return to popularity unless pure-breeding specimens of good quality are obtained by skilful breeding.

Apparently, at the close of the last century there were some really first-class specimens of the breed, but that was before my time, so I can express no opinion.

Is it worth while making the effort to bring back this breed from the verge of extinction and, if so, how can it be done?

The Silver Tabby is a breed which I find attractive, but it is not one which I should want to breed. Perhaps that it a combination of laziness and a desire for quick results which are characteristics of mine as a cat breeder. Such a breeder is of no use to the Silver Tabby. The patient, observant breeder with endless perseverance is needed.

There must be some breeders who are prepared to make this effort, and to them I think that I can give some theoretical advice.

Obtain the best possible Silver Tabby from, say, a Brown Tabby male with a Silver Tabby female. If another breeder will do the same with the opposite cross, the offspring can be mated together. By working in this way one might reasonably expect to obtain a true-breeding race of Silver Tabbies in the fourth generation. It would be difficult to consider type as well as markings, but go for the markings first.

America Would Help

There is a danger here that by the fourth generation the pedigrees would show very close inbreeding. To overcome this it would be advisable to import a really first-class specimen from abroad. If one can judge from photographs, there are some very useful specimens in the United States.

To-day, with dollar shortages and the devaluation of the pound, a good animal would be difficult to obtain, but the generosity of American fanciers is well known and I am certain that any English breeder who was really keen and prepared to make an effort for the sake of the breed could obtain a suitable animal as a present.

The six months in quarantine and carriage across the Atlantic could not be avoided, and by the

time the animal was available for breeding the cost would be somewhere in the neighbourhood of £40. To some of the best and most conscientious breeders that figure would be prohibitive.

No, there is no money in it even if success is the result of the effort. In fact, cat breeding is one of those hobbies in which one must expect to pay for the pleasures of breeding. The financial return on the sale of stock will certainly not cover the outgoings.

I should not like to say how much it would cost to bring back the Silver Tabby to a position of popularity and erstwhile perfection, but four breeders who were prepared to spend about £100 each over a period of six or seven years could work wonders. Who will make the attempt?

Scarce Shorthairs

The Brown Tabby is also in need of similar help though this variety seems always to have had a few devoted breeders. To-day their number is very few and more lovers of this cat are necessary to keep the breed alive. The same can also be said of the Smoke.

When we come to the Shorthairs, the situation is even more disastrous, for there is only one Shorthair breed to-day which seems to have any real following.

An attempt is being made to restore the fallen fortunes of the Abyssinian and considerable pro-

gress has been made since the end of the war. This is not a breed which I have ever kept, but those who should know tell me that the quality of present-day exhibits is far below the standard of pre-war days. Then the ticking which is so characteristic of this variety was most marked. To-day it leaves much to be desired.

As far as I can ascertain the Abyssinian has never been a popular breed in the sense that it had a host of followers as is now the case with Siamese, but it has qualities of character which make it a variety worthy of preservation and improvement.

Where, too, are the Russian Blues? One might almost say, "Are there any Russian Blues?" I believe there are, but their numbers are few and there is a distinct danger that English Blue Shorthairs will be used as a cross. If this happens there will be a loss of the essential qualities of both breeds. The Russian is a cat of long body and fine bone, whose ears must be large and pointed. This cat stands higher on the leg than the English variety.

When feeding is somewhat easier than at present, this is a

variety which I should like to try myself. During the past year I have seen one cat which was an unmistakable Russian Blue with its coat of sealskin-like texture, a quality which is most attractive. Definitely this is a breed which is really worth bringing back in numbers sufficient to prevent extinction. How many breeders are there who are concentrating on this variety to-day? I should very much like to hear from any such who happen to read this article.

And finally, who is breeding British Shorthairs of any variety? I know well, of course, that even in pre-war days many of the winners at shows were just specimens which had been spotted by keen-eyed Fanciers among ordinary and accidentally bred domestic cats.

What a pity it is that so few Fanciers feel inclined to specialise on one of these most attractive Shorthaired varieties which are so essentially British.

Is there any hope for some of these neglected breeds? I don't know. The answer can only come from those of you who read this Magazine.

An action over pets was fought out at Kingston County Court by two elderly women who lived in adjacent flats. One woman sued the other for "enticing and attracting" her semi-Persian cat named Nigger and two Airedale dogs. It was stated by prosecuting counsel that the pets were wrongly, maliciously and deliberately enticed and improperly fed.

Passengers who cross the River Dart from Kingswear, Devon, to Dartmouth, are greeted on board the steamship "Mew" by the ship's cat, Tibby. He was missing the other day and the crew spent two hours searching for him. Tibby was eventually discovered jammed between two pontoons. He was hauled safely aboard in a seaman's cap.

Theories of Heredity

Being the second instalment in the fascinating series on animal genetics by ALBERT C. JUDE. The series commenced in our October issue.

WE all know, as did those in Mendel's day and before, that likeness of father and mother is found in the sons and daughters, and that in the extension of the family circle the likeness is perpetuated in a definite degree. But it was not until the Austro-Silesian Gregor Mendel had experimented for eight years that the modern science of heredity was founded. Through him was brought an entirely new idea, a fresh conception of the nature of living things. But although he wrote up the results of his work in the year 1865, it was not until 35 years later that it was discovered by some leading botanists.

At about the time that Mendel started his experiments, Darwin published his "Origin of Species," which gave a theory accounting for the way in which one species might arise from another through gradual evolution. In brief, the theory was based on the idea that reproduction capacity tends to outrun available food supply, thus setting up a competitive struggle for existence.

The theory was completed with the idea of a principle of heredity, whereby offspring tends to resemble the parents more than other members of the species. Where parents have a favourable

variation they transmit it in greater or lesser degree. The offspring inheriting the factor in the greater degree have the better chance for survival and will transmit the favourable variation in even greater degree to their progeny.

Darwin's theory of variation and heredity was accepted by many biologists, and the further



The Author

work of the hybridisers was somewhat ignored. But shortly afterwards came a further attempt to give more definite meaning to the term heredity, and as an outcome, Francis Galton found he could express in a definite statistical scheme the proportion in which the different colours appeared in successive generations.

The theory was that, on the average, half of the factor was derived from the two parents (i.e. quarter from each parent), quarter from the four grandparents, one eighth from the great grandparents, and so on.

This "Law of Ancestral Heredity" states fairly correctly some of the statistical phenomena in connection with the transmission of factors in the ancestry, but it did not solve the way in which the factors are distributed from gametes (marrying cells) to zygote (the individual formed by the fusion of the gametes), and vice versa.

Another effort to solve the problem came from the German zoologist August Weismann. Prior to the publication of his work, it had been accepted that the modifications which came about in the individual through varying conditions of nutrition and environment might be passed to the progeny. Weismann's idea was that the individual was merely a carrier for the reproductive glands, whose "make-up" had been determined long before separate existence, and his theory was opposed to the possibility of the inheritance of acquired factors. He challenged the evidence, showing that it broke down when carefully examined.

Great Step Forward

Yet another step forward was taken a few years later by Bateson. He did not agree that the theory about variation and heredity fitted in with the facts. He drew attention that there must be more definite knowledge of the nature of variation and of the nature of the hereditary process by which the variations are transmitted. And he decided that the best way to gain the knowledge was to make a study of the living individuals. He felt that experiments so far had not made real

progress possible, but even so, there seemed no real clue as to the most profitable line for fresh experiments.

Then came de Vrie's conclusions. He made a study of the evening primrose, and established that new varieties came suddenly from older ones by mutations, and not by the slow process of step by step small differences. This was the greatest step forward and linked up with the re-discovery of Mendel's work.

Pea as "Guinea Pig"

Mendel had set himself the task of finding a principle of heredity, and for his experiments he selected a plant for his medium—the common garden pea. This was chosen because it was an annual and had quite a number of well marked and fixed differences, such as colours of the flowers, height variation, and different colours and other outward appearances of the seed, which could be round or wrinkled. He had realised that the failure of other hybridisers had come about through lack of concentration on separate factors through sufficient generations.

Next month some of Mendel's experiments will be described, and the important findings will be noted.

Peter, a black cat owned by a Seven Kings resident, has just died in his 26th year. Is this a record for a London cat? asks a newspaper. Another record claimant is Ginger, a 13½ years old cat living at Hornchurch, Essex. Ginger is 36 ins. from nose to tail, weighs 18½ lbs. and he eats 2 lbs. of whiting every day. There must be "something in the air" for felines down Essex way!



Tailpieces

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



WHEN H.M. the Queen was visiting the wives and families of airmen at Biggin Hill, Kent, she heard the lusty calls of little 3-year-old Jean Knight. "Where's the Queen?" he shouted. "I want to see the Queen." Next moment the Queen stood before him and smilingly said, "Well, here I am." The little chap looked critically at her for a moment, then asked, "But where's the pussy cat?" Her Majesty was puzzled until the child's father explained that all day his offspring had been repeating the nursery rhyme, "Pussy cat, pussy cat, where have you been? I've been to London to see the Queen."

On another Royal tour recently, Princess Elizabeth was visiting some newly built houses on a council estate at Ilford, Essex. As she entered the home of Mrs. Henry, Felix, the household pet, ran away in a fright. "That's the first cat to be frightened of me," said the Princess. Later, Felix was persuaded to come out from under the table to be stroked. He was on purring terms with the Royal visitor before she left.

Many readers have expressed their interest in the photographs we pub-

lished last month of an operation on a Siamese. Some further explanation is desirable in connection with these pictures as the two smaller illustrations showing the fractured bone and its pinning had no relation to the operation being performed by Dr. Moltzen Nielsen. They were, in fact, X-ray photos of another operation performed by Mr. Gordon Knight, of Beaumont Hospital, Royal Veterinary College. A considerable amount of bone-pinning has been done on injured cats by Mr. Knight and I am glad to have this opportunity to correct any wrong impression that may have been formed by the arrangement of our trio of illustrations last month.

Renate and Isabelle Czernigiewicz, two refugees from Poland who are twin sisters, think the world of their pet cat Doodley. Rather than get rid of him when an anti-cat landlady insisted that the girls must leave if they kept their pet, the trio moved into a hostel. Then one day he crawled back home, bespattered with blood, his jaw badly smashed by a car. The sisters refused to listen to those who advised that the kindest thing to do would be to put Doodley to sleep. They persisted in their

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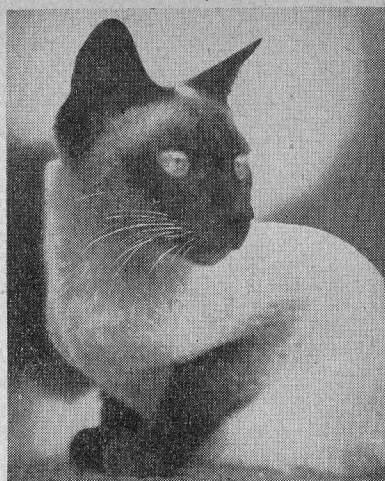
search for help and finally found John Waller, a veterinary surgeon associated with the South London Animal Clinic at Stockwell, S.W. London. He extracted the splintered bones from the jaw, which was wired back in place. A damaged eye was stitched back into its socket and for weeks Doodley was kept alive by feeding with a pipette. Eventually he began to feed himself and the two sisters became overjoyed at his complete recovery. They were even more delighted when the well-known Brixton Fancier, Mrs. M. E. Beedell, offered all three accommodation. Congratulations are due to Mr. Waller for his zeal and ability. I hear he has a great reputation locally for his humane work.

MICKEY.

THAT SIAMESE LONGHAIR

The photograph of Prince Riquet, the Siamese Longhair, which appeared in our October issue, aroused considerable interest and elicited enquiries as to his breeding. His owner, Mme. Alice Viotta, a Dutch lady living in Montreux, Switzerland, has very kindly given us the following information:

I cannot tell your readers much about the origin of Prince Riquet as he was given me as a present. I only know that his mother was a Siamese and that his father looked exactly like Riquet himself. Father and son look just like the sacred cats of Birman (Burmah), but they have no white spots on their feet. However, it is my belief they are descendants of the two cats stolen from the temple of Loo-Tsun about the year 1932 (?). Riquet has all the characteristics described in the book by Marcel Reney about the sacred cats of Birman. I have had many cats but can assure you that Riquet is an extraordinary animal—a fairy tale cat! His eyes are deep and clear like mountain lakes; he loves music and especially the music of Chopin. As I am a pianist he hears plenty of music and I am sure he can distinguish good music from bad. For a drink he prefers water served in a jade jug with a fresh flower in it. In the garden he follows me always like a dog. He still misses his little dog friend who died last year.



MRS. K. R. WILLIAMS'
DONERAILE DEBUTANTE

Winner of 1st and Championship National Show, January 1948, and best Siamese in Show. Dam of Ch. Doneraile Drusilla, best Siamese at many shows in America.

"I am, indeed, pleased that cats are now 'upsides' with humans and dogs, in having a special yeast tablet of their own.

The firm of Phillips, well known for its 'human' form of Tonic yeast and latterly for its Vetzyme for Dogs, have introduced it to the Cat Fancy.

During the experimental stage, I co-operated with the manufacturers and can confirm, from my own experience, that KIT-ZYME is of great value, not only as a 'natural' conditioner, but also in whelping, rearing and indeed in many and varied cat ailments.

I previously used the B vitamins separately in tablet form, but I did not obtain the same results as from KIT-ZYME. I am sure KIT-ZYME will soon be regarded as an essential supplement in the diets of cats."

KATHLEEN R. WILLIAMS.

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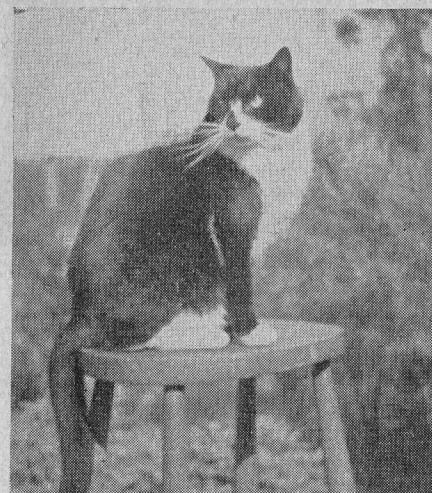
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KIT-ZYME is sold by Boots, and most Pet Stores at 50 (7½ gr) Tablets 1/6, 250 for 4/-, 750 for 8/-. If in any difficulty in obtaining, write: PHILLIPS YEAST PRODUCTS LTD., PARK ROYAL ROAD, LONDON, N.W.10.

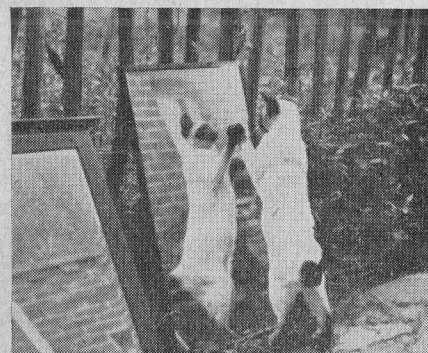
*.. well-fed, well-petted
and
properly
revered .*



Mark Twain



PETER loves to be "beside the sea-side." He lives at Broadstairs, Kent, with Mr. and Mrs. Watts.



MORRIS RAJAH is entitled to say "Look what a fine fellow am I"! He is one of the many fine Siamese bred by those popular and successful Fanciers, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Richardson, of Ashted, Surrey.

Readers who are interested to submit photographs for inclusion in this feature are reminded that the prints should have sharp contrasts and need not be mounted. Selection by the Editor is final and snaps cannot be returned unless a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed for this purpose.

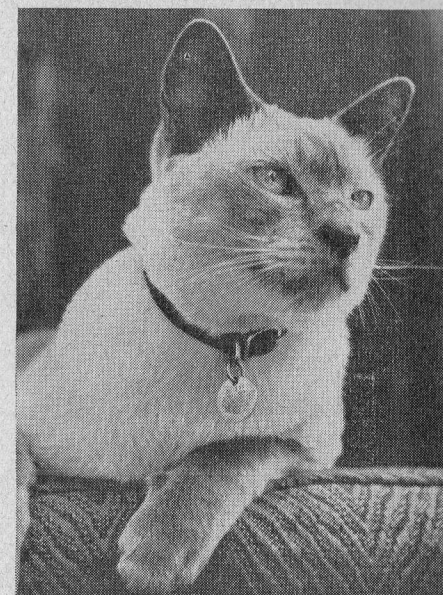


Photo by A. R. J. Frost

GAYWICK BLUE BOY, Blue Pointed Siamese at 2 years, belongs to Mrs. C. Coldham, of Tattingstone, near Ipswich.



PANDA, the privileged pet of Clapham Hospital, Beds, is a great sweet lover. Photo submitted by Miss Ruth Gammon.

THE NATIONAL CAT CLUB SHOW

will be held on

Tuesday, December 6th, 1949

at

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Obtainable only from . . THE EDITOR (KIT WILSON)
"THE LOFT" 18 SOUTH END KENSINGTON W.8

Let's go to a Show

Brief details of the various Cat Shows which are fixed to take place during the 1949/50 Season are given below for the information and guidance of our readers. We shall present more detailed information from time to time as it becomes available. Make a point this time of attending as many Shows as you can. There is no better place at which to make friends and to pick up useful points about cats, their breeding and management.

1949									
1 December	...	...	Folkestone Show	...	...	...	...	...	Folkestone
6 December	...	...	*National Cat Club	...	...	...	...	...	London

(See Advertisement on this page)

1950								
9 January	...	...	*Notts and Derby Cat Club	...	...	...	...	Nottingham
21 January	...	...	The Lancs and North Western Counties Cat Club	...	...	...	...	Manchester
23 January	...	...	*Southern Counties Cat Club	...	...	...	...	London
			* Denotes Shows with Championship status.					

Veterinary Note

By FORCEPS

SOMETIMES a cat will be observed to scrape frantically at its mouth and cheeks. This, together with its set, anxious expression, indicates that there is some injury or inflammation in the mouth, perhaps due to what the veterinary surgeon includes under the heading of "foreign bodies."

Acute inflammation of the gums will give rise to these symptoms; also the presence of a loose tooth or of a fish-bone wedged between the teeth. Occasionally the cat is itself able to dislodge a fish-bone by this scraping action of its paws, but more often its efforts prove ineffectual, and the claws may draw blood, adding to the extent of the damage.

Prompt relief is necessary or the unfortunate animal may do itself much injury and become frantic in the process. The owner who is used to handling sick animals, and opening their mouths, may quickly spot a wedged fish-bone and be able to remove it without getting badly scratched; but unless immediate relief can be given it is always better to obtain professional help.

Tartar Formation

Old cats frequently have an accumulation of yellowish tartar, sometimes two or three times as thick as the tooth itself, on one of the molar teeth. Where gum and tartar meet a sore red line forms, usually followed—unless the tartar is removed—by an ulcer on the inside of the cheek. Occasionally the tooth itself becomes decayed, loose and wobbly, and is the cause of much pain to the cat when eating; usually, however, all that is needed is removal of the tartar by a veterinary surgeon.

When a cat laps with difficulty and either eats gingerly or refuses food, and salivates, the tongue may be inflamed or injured. Needles and fish-hooks (and fish-bones too) frequently become lodged in the cat's throat. This causes the animal to refuse food, but after a day or two hunger drives it to crouch over a saucerful. Some food may be gently licked and taken into the mouth, but it is quickly rejected again in disgust.

Beware of Needles

Here again this is a matter for the veterinarian. Delay in treatment means continued irritation, discomfort and hunger. A fish-hook—which often has to be cut in two in order to facilitate its extraction—can be quickly removed under an anaesthetic. So, as a rule, can a needle, which is easier to deal with when it is threaded, as usually seems to be the case. A tip of black cotton or a small puncture mark may be the surgeon's first clues.

One can well understand cats being attracted by baited fish-hooks, or even by ones merely smelling of fish, but it is hard to imagine why they so often fall victim to a needle and thread. Ladies, please note: don't leave your sewing about or encourage your cat to explore your work-basket!

IMPERIAL SEAL-POINTED SIAMESE

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**Svelte Type; Sweet Temperament;
Close, Short Coat; Enchanting
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Siamese - Then & Now

MRS. DUNCAN HINDLEY, our foremost authority on the breed (see photograph on page 17) has many interesting things to say about the Siamese of yesterday. She also deplores the modern trends in certain quarters and offers some kindly advice to American Fanciers concerning their Standard of Points.

WRITING as one who has owned, bred, exhibited and judged the variety for longer than I care to remember—for well over 25 years, to be more exact—I can still say with emphasis and sincerity: Give me a Siamese cat as a pet every time, even in preference to a dog. Though they may lack show points, they are always attractive in character, and perhaps in these days, when the spirit of loyalty is declining, we love and admire them all the more for this attribute.

Certainly they are greedy and mischievous, but however ravenous they may be for food they always put human companionship first. Many cats I know will not eat their meal before they have had their customary petting. And as for naughtiness, well, we always love the naughty child most, as long as it is the right kind of naughtiness. So we feel towards the wayward, temperamental Siamese who respond to human affection to such an extent that it encourages me to think sometimes that if any animal possesses a soul, that animal is the Siamese cat.

Because character is so predominant, it stands to reason that there must be something different and even exotic about the appearance of a Siamese, and probably this accounts for what we—for want of a better word—call “type.” Even people who do not admire these animals and prefer a Longhair or the more docile, stolid English cat, are attracted by the unusual appearance of the Siamese, their strange, loping walk and their weird conversational voices.

Twelve years ago, in an article I prepared for a now defunct periodical, I commented that breeders of that time were giving top priority to “type,” and although this was commendable, there was a danger that it would be carried to extremes and render ugly a very beautiful and pleasing animal.

Heads were getting too narrow at the top and the eyes too close together, and, of course, I regretted the passing of the kink in the tail. I felt then, and still feel to-day, that although the tail is more elegant as it is, we have lost in character what we have gained in style. Our President of the Siamese Cat Club, Mr. Compton Mackenzie, is also a champion of the kinked tail and he never

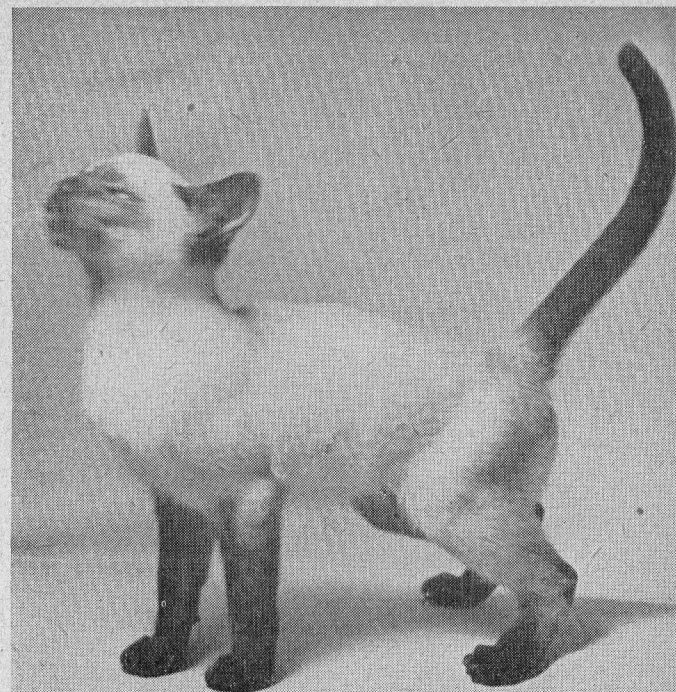


Photo by E. C. Bayliss

Four months old Seal Point Siamese Kitten ex Champion Chirmon Lon, showing early formation of points. Breeder is Mr. B. A. Stirling-Webb.

misses an opportunity to make his views known at our annual Championship show.

Despite the cautions and regrets in that article of mine twelve years ago, I was happy to record that the general standard was improving. This is what I wrote: “We have only to look at photos of some of our champions of, say, ten years ago, or even those in our first Registration Book, to see that there were many more heavy, round-headed cats in those days than there are to-day. Pessimists point to cats with pale points. Yes, we still have them with us, but not to the same extent.”

“One practically never sees a cat with all pale points now (except after illness); it is only the

front paws that are troublesome and even these are often only subject to seasonal changes. It is always the front paws that are last to darken in kittens and they are the first to become affected. Is it something to do with the bloodstream or lack of vitamins? If so, it should be easy to correct if only we could find the cause.”

“The eyes—colour, shape and expression—are second to none in importance and they are the most difficult points to judge at a show. When the cat is nervous the dark pupils dilate and so hide the true colour, or for the same reason a cat may open its eyes very wide and so give the impression of roundness. This is where so many of us go wrong—by looking at the eye itself instead

of at the setting of the eye. The eyeball itself can never be anything else but round, but under normal conditions the eye-lid partly conceals the top of the eyeball and it is this that accentuates the oriental expression."

"Observe the setting, how the actual corners of the lids are set, and you will realise that your round-eyed kitten has probably the true oriental eye. It is also sad, but true, that the eyes of a weedy kitten in ill-health will often look more oriental because the eyelid droops over the eyeball."

Undesirable Breeders

Since I offered these comments in 1937, the war and its after-effects have entirely altered the outlook and the breeding of Siamese. High prices have attracted many undesirable breeders and this has resulted in a flooding of the market with many poor specimens of the breed. Not only do we deplore this from a breeding point of view, but also from a humanitarian aspect. It has led to neglect and overcrowding and even cruelty in some quarters.

We hear of kittens being sent out to their new homes with canker in their ears, and visiting queens are sometimes in the same neglected condition. At one time, stud owners made a stand and would not accept these queens, and I hope they will have the strength of mind to do so again. Often it is only ignorance, but the sooner these people are put wise, the better.

With regard to show specimens, it is the exception rather than the rule to see more than one or two outstanding cats with that svelte appearance, and now that there

are such large classes this makes the average very low. I was very pleased, however, to discern a higher standard at our last Championship show, where competition was very fierce. May this be a happy augury.

We still have too many heavy, big cats with thick legs and round "British" paws. The slim legs and oval paws are one of the most fascinating things about the Siamese cat, and males should have them as well as females. It is time Siamese breeders got together and decided to breed only from the best.

A short time ago, the Editor of this Magazine sent me a very interesting little book from America—the Official Standard for Siamese Cats, illustrated with photographs of their home-bred cats. The book carries a dedication to breeders in every part of the United States who are endeavouring to produce the perfect specimen. This idea might well be copied by our own Siamese Cat Club.

American Points

Judging is evidently done differently in the States and against each cat it is stated "this cat has four (or five) championship points."

Some photographs are delightful and very instructive, but may I be allowed to criticise two points: (1) Plate Six is a side view of a Blue Pointed female, showing length of tail and body. Against this is written: "The correct length of the tail is governed by the length of the cat's body. Measure the length of your cat's tail with a piece of string, then stretch the string from where the tail joins the body

along the cat's spine. The tip of the tail measurement should reach to between the cat's shoulders."

Now this may be all right as a rough guide, but two wrongs do not make a right. The photograph opposite is of a small cobby cat with short body and short tail, thick at the base. As most people know, I am not an advocate of the overlong tail, but to my way of thinking this photo should have been of a cat with the correct length of body with the tail in corresponding proportion. Also, the S.C.C. of England



Photo by E. C. Bayliss

Champion Chirmon Lon, Mr. Stirling-Webb's well-known Siamese queen. "The colouring of this cat," says Mrs. Hindley, "is superb."

does not approve of tails that are very thick at the base. (2) The second point is that the book contains no photos demonstrating the slim legs and oval feet, and in several of the pictures legs are decidedly thick and clumsy.

I know that American breeders will take these criticisms in the spirit in which they are intended. We also have these faults and, in common with our friends in the States, we are out to improve the breed. To my mind, photographs in a work of this kind should show correct points.

The head of a Siamese comes

first in our Standard of Points and as with any other animal is the first to be judged. I have purposely left it to the last here to emphasise its importance. There is always a difference of opinion as to what is the correct shape of head. The description in the Standard of Points is a good one, but it does seem to convey a different meaning to different people.

If breeders will draw a triangle horizontal at the top and into this fit the whole of the cat's head, the tips of the ears touching each corner, they will get a

fair idea of the shape of head and angle of the ears. See sketch accompanying this article.

This, of course, has to be modified slightly, for although the Standard of Points states "narrowing in perfectly straight lines to a fine muzzle," there is always a slight shaping inwards under the cheekbones, where the teeth start. This description is purposely over-emphasised to prevent breeders thinking that it is correct for their cats to have that "pinched in" appearance. "Ears rather large and pricked" means that alert look, but not

ears pricked straight up like a horse nor drooping like a donkey! These should be at an angle as shown in the diagram.

Now as to the quality and colour of coat. These, I think, have deteriorated lately. There are one or two notable exceptions, such as Mr. Stirling-Webb's Champion Chirmon Lon and her daughter Briarry Sampan. The colouring of these two cats is superb, and I cannot help mentioning them as novices cannot do better than to take them as examples worthy of emulation.



"... into this triangle should fit the whole of the cat's head, the tips of the ears touching each corner."

THE BAY OF CATS

By REV. F. A. O'FLYNN, B.A.

FRANCESCO SURIANO, a Venetian who visited Cyprus in 1484, wrote this account about the cats of Akrotin, a promontory terminating in Cape Gata: "There are so many poisonous snakes here that men can scarcely till the ground, or even walk without hurt thereon. Were it not for the Monastery of St. Nicholas wherein a vast number of cats may be reared, this part of the island would soon be desolate and no abode for the people. These cats sally forth continuously and wage unceasing war with the snakes. Marvellous indeed it is to see these benefactors; nearly all of them are maimed by the snakes; one cat I saw without an eye, another quite lame, and yet another without a nose.

"Forsooth, it is strange to see the cats, being scattered in the fields, return to the Monastery for their food, on the hour when the bell recalls them. Then after they have eaten enough, when the bell sounds

again, they all speed out together, for the fight against the snakes. . . ."

A most interesting book has been written about Cyprus by O. M. Chapman (1945) and published by The Bodley Head, John Lane, Ltd., London, in which the tradition is given about the cats on the island. Following the discovery of the Holy Cross, St. Helena came to Cyprus but could not stay there owing to the large number of poisonous snakes. Later on, making a return visit, St. Helena collected a large crowd of courageous cats and put them ashore at a place known to this day as Cavo Gata, the Bay of Cats.

In old times dense forests in that part of Cyprus afforded a good retreat for the snakes. So St. Helena had a large area completely burnt out and nowadays the oldest forest (called Akamas, i.e. unburnt) still harbours big and poisonous snakes, their ancestors having escaped from the attentions of the cats.

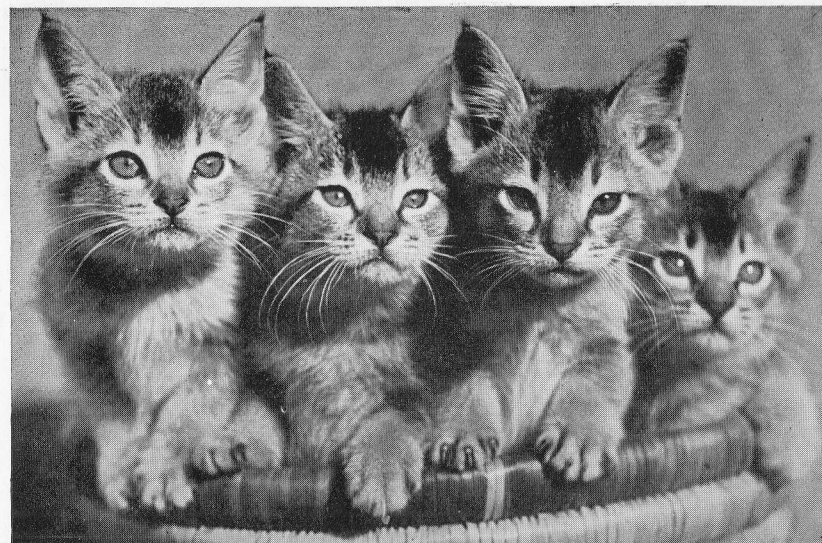


Picture Post photograph by John Chillingworth

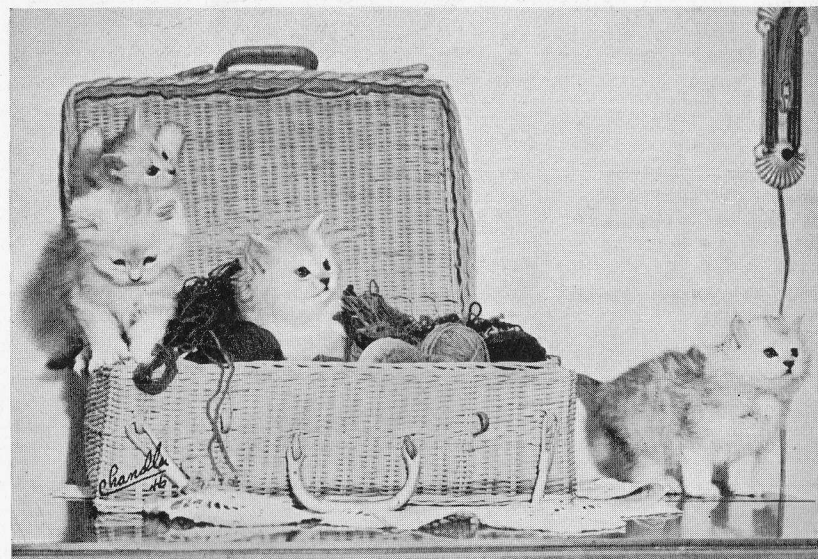
What's going on here—a Mutual Admiration Society meeting? Well, it is at least an important occasion in Siamese affairs. Mrs. Duncan Hindley, contributor to this issue, is holding up for inspection the much-photographed female kitten, Lemling English Rose, bred by Mrs. Ella B. Martin, of Chelmsford, and subsequently flown out to America to join the famous Siamese cattery of Mr. Price Cross, of Dallas, Texas. Rose, the only female in a litter of eight, has for a father Mrs. Hindley's well-known stud Prestwick Penglina Pertama, who has made winning appearances at championship shows this season.



UBALDO du BOSQUET, lovely Black Longhair belonging to Mme. Margrit Fuchs, President of the Cat Club of Bienne, Switzerland.



A lively litter of Abyssinian Kittens photographed by their breeder and owner, Mrs. V. E. Major, of Great Bookham, Surrey.



And more trouble here for somebody ! This quartette of playful six weeks old Silvers was bred by the well-known American Fancier, Mrs. O. V. Pectol, of St. Louis.



Photograph by Andrey Andersson

A Technical Officer at a P.D.S.A. dispensary explains to a worried owner by means of a skeleton exactly where the bone is broken in his pet's leg. This excellent method of combined teaching and treatment is a feature of P.D.S.A. work for animals throughout the world. Now read about "The Unending Procession" on the following pages.

The Unending Procession

The splendid work of the P.D.S.A. is known and admired by animal lovers all over the world. For the information contained in this up-to-the-minute account of P.D.S.A. activity in the feline world, OUR CATS is grateful to the Press Secretary, Miss D. St. Hill Bourne.

EVERY year literally thousands of cats are brought to the various branches of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals for treatment or painless destruction. They come in baskets, in bags, in prams, in old suitcases with air holes punched in the sides, wrapped in blankets or rolled in aprons, or just carried in their owner's arms.

Many are routine cases, canker in the ears, skin trouble, a needle or bone in the throat (why, oh why, will people not realise the danger of giving small bones to animals?), and some have more serious complaints, possibly needing a sojourn in hospital for special treatment or an operation. Then there are the sad cases for which a painless end is the only humane solution—the unwanted stray, the aged cat for whom life is a weariness, or the pathetic mother cat and kittens, often brought by a small child with a note from mother to the effect, "We can't be bothered with these—will you do them in?" Often there are tears and the busy Technical Officer finds time for a few words of comfort.

Day by day, reports our Special Commissioner, the unending procession passes into the dispensaries, but over and above there are the accident and emergency cases to be dealt with.

Day and night, all round the clock, a Technical Officer is on

duty at the P.D.S.A. Head Office in the West End of London and an ambulance stands ready outside. Another Technical Officer and ambulance wait at the P.D.S.A. Sanatorium on the outskirts of East London. There can be few busier telephone lines than these two! Many of the calls concern cats, for, in spite of their reputation for spare lives, cats have a knack of getting themselves in tight corners. For all their independence there are times when human aid is acceptable, not to say necessary.

A number of cat casualties seem to be caused by lifts and there are times when the Technical Officer answering a call finds a poor mangled little body at the bottom of a lift shaft or caught in the mechanism and there is nothing for it but to put the cat out of its pain.

It was a stray cat which recently caused a hold-up at the busy home-going rush hour at London Bridge Station. A black cat was seen clinging to a girder half-way down a lift shaft and the lift was instantly stopped. Railway officials tried to capture the cat, but it fell, disappearing into a dark oil pit at the foot of the shaft. The ambulance was soon on the scene and the Technical Officer was taken down to regions under the shaft. Peering into the oily blackness of the pit he saw the terrified cat clinging to a bit of board.

Sacrificing a perfectly good pair of trousers, he climbed into the pit to emerge eventually covered in oil and scratches with the cat, which was almost mad with pain and terror. One leg was broken, and as it was unclaimed it was immediately put to sleep. The lift started to work once more and the crowds of Londoners who had watched the episode went on their homeward way.

A happier ending was that of a kitten who, squeezing through a ventilation hole, crawled under the floorboards of a house. The occupants of a ground floor bedroom were kept awake by ghostly sounds under their feet. Early in the morning they asked the P.D.S.A. for help. On arrival the Technical Officer tore up the floorboards and, armed with a torch, crawled into the cobwebby darkness. The kitten took fright and retreated into a narrow opening too small for the man to follow. The help of a small boy was enlisted, who, creeping into the narrow aperture, secured the kitten. It was afterwards adopted by the very couple whose rest it had disturbed.

Tree Top Rescues

A call from a human hospital told of a cat which had rushed into the building with a tin can firmly jammed on its head. The P.D.S.A. Officer who answered the call found himself faced with a problem. The jagged edge of the tin had closed round the cat's head and it was in danger of suffocation. Borrowing a wheel tin opener, he succeeded in cutting out the bottom of the tin to enable the cat to breathe, and then bit by bit removed the unwanted and painful tin collar which still encircled the neck.

Cats marooned up trees are a frequent source of anxiety, and

such a case was the first to be tackled on New Year's Day this year. A North London cat had celebrated New Year's Eve at the top of a tall tree. It had managed to cling on all night in spite of a very strong wind which must have made its position far from comfortable. At first light the ambulance was off to the rescue with two Officers on board (for often the man going off duty stays on voluntarily to help out his relieving colleague in a tricky job). They managed to balance a ladder on the roof of the ambulance after backing it against the tree, and while one man climbed up the other steadied it. However, the frightened cat proved difficult and eventually both officers were up the ladder, which by some miracle remained in place until men and cat were safely down.

Mauled by a Bird!

An unusual call was received this summer from East Sheen, where a cat had been severely mauled by a blackbird! The cat's owner had actually witnessed the attack. The bird, apparently suspecting that its enemy had designs on the nest, suddenly "dive-bombed" the cat, attacking with beak and claws. The cat's shoulder and two of its legs were severely lacerated, exposing the bone and muscle in places. Fifteen stitches had to be put in. The cat, not surprisingly, had to be treated for shock!

As the clearing up of London progresses and condemned buildings are pulled down, discovery is being made of colonies of cats which have found shelter in cellars and basements or among the "jungles" which have grown up. Many of the cats are probably descendants of those who were blitzed from their

homes. Others are strays or female cats cruelly driven out when their sex became apparent and a family was on the way. These cats have grown more and more wild, living on their wits and mistrustful of human beings. They catch mice, rats and pigeons and many have been fed regularly by animal lovers who realised their plight.

Apart from their wildness, many of these cats are diseased

appeared but the kittens had thriven on food regularly supplied by workers in the district. Entering the building "at their own risk," P.D.S.A. Officers braved rickety stairs, sagging ceilings, rotten boards and an inferno of dust, dirt and debris and succeeded in catching five kittens. Although quite young, these proved too wild to tame, becoming fighting, spitting, biting bundles of fury if handled and



London Evening News Photograph

Dwellers in the bomb-site "jungles" of London City.

or have long-standing injuries. For their own sakes as well as for that of domestic cats whom they may attack or infect, and in the interest of public health, it is best that they should be collected and put to sleep before the winter sets in.

P.D.S.A. ambulance staff are busily engaged at the present time on this work of mercy, which is fraught with difficulty and often with actual danger. A family of kittens was located in a condemned building off Oxford Street. The mother had dis-

too terrified to eat or sleep in strange surroundings.

Following the publicity given to this incident, news came of a colony of some 20 cats on a bombed site off Ludgate Hill. Meanwhile, the Governor of the Tower of London had asked for help in exterminating another colony which had bred in blitzed buildings within the Tower precincts.

P.D.S.A. ambulance men took on both these jobs, fitting them in between their never-ceasing calls to accidents and emergen-

cies in all parts of London. Cage traps, baited with tit-bits, were set and constantly visited at all hours of the day and night—P.D.S.A. Officers think nothing of entering a blitzed building at 1 or 2 a.m. by the light of a torch in the hope they may surprise one of the cats on a midnight prow. Often they receive assistance from the police, and at the Tower the yeoman-warders assisted in clearing the ancient stronghold of its invading force.

Fourteen large cats have already been captured and chloroformed at the Tower, but a number still remain. These cats raid the quartermaster's stores, fight and serenade at night, and even approach the awe-inspiring ravens, who retaliate by tweaking the cats' tails!

Hopeless to Tame

The Ludgate Hill colony is also being thinned out by slow degrees. These cats are also very fierce, clawing and biting at the cages and at the P.D.S.A. officers who come within reach, until a whiff of chloroform puts them out of their misery.

A policeman told how he had found a kitten from one of these colonies before it was weaned. He took it home and fed it with a bottle, but even at that age it was like a wild thing and took weeks to tame. It is therefore apparent that it is hopeless to attempt to tame the older cats, who appear to have gone completely native in their bomb-site jungles.

P.D.S.A. men often risk their lives for animals, considering it "all in the day's work," and they are not alone in this, for members of the Police Force and Fire Brigade, not to mention

members of the public, do likewise. Mrs. Dickin, the founder of the P.D.S.A., inaugurated a medal known as the White Cross of St. Giles, which is awarded for such actions.

More Cat-Minded

One of these was given recently to a London policeman who nearly lost his life in rescuing a cat from a tree. The branch to which he was clinging broke and the constable fell on the pavement, sustaining severe head injuries. When he was eventually released from hospital there was a ceremony at Chelsea Police Station.

The award was made by the District Commissioner, who said the attempted rescue of the cat was in the best traditions of the Force.

How one hopes the day will soon come when more people realise that cats are specially sensitive creatures, both physically and mentally and capable of intense suffering! "It's only a cat" is a phrase which is still too often used and is a relic of a more brutal and less civilised age when cats were "vermin" and the sport of men and dogs. In spite of our much-vaunted civilisation many cats are still victims of neglect and cruelty, though public opinion is definitely becoming more "cat-minded."

Cats who served with H.M. Forces in ships, barracks, gun stations, etc., are immortalised in the records of the P.D.S.A. Allied Forces Mascot Club, which will have a permanent home in the Imperial War Museum, London.

Long may their names be remembered, if only as a proof that cats do not *always* walk by themselves.



Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

REGULARLY every month, Mrs. Joan Thompson—popular and active figure in the Cat Fancy for many years, breeder and International judge—will turn the pages of her diary to reveal the most interesting entries concerning personalities, both human and feline.

1st October. Mr. Charles A. Kenny, editor of the American "Cats Magazine," mentions the sensation caused by Mr. Louis Wain in 1908 when he elected a Siamese as the Best Cat in Show at Chicago. He was the first English judge to officiate in U.S.A.

Mr. Kenny says that since then in more than 1,000 shows only 15 Siamese have been selected for this honour. It will be very interesting comparing American cats with ours when I judge there in January.

As regards Longhairs, the photographs of their big winners look very similar to ours, and as cats exported from this country win so well, there does not appear to be much difference in our ideals. Mr. Charles Victor's Blue male Ch. Wimauma Masterpiece of Chalsu, bred by Mrs. Arvid Ohlin and elected All-American Cat of the Year 1947, looked a magnificent Blue and just the type which would win here.

In 1948, another Blue Longhair, Mrs. John Revington's male, Grand Champion Pearl Harbour Yank, won the All-American Cat of the Year title and one reads the "greatest avalanche of publicity ever afforded a show cat is believed to have been

received by him." Last month, yet another Blue won the coveted award and is the first female to do so. Grand Champion Dixi-Lands Felice of Nor-Mont (the 1949 All-American Champion) is owned by Mrs. Merald Hoag, of Arlington, Virginia. She looks very lovely and has the large, wideawake eyes so desirable in Longhair or Shorthair cats, except Siamese. The Best Opposite Sex was Mrs. John Revington's orange-eyed White Longhair Champion Dixi-Lands White Historian II.

Mrs. Arvid G. Ohlin very kindly sent me a catalogue of the First Ch. Show of the Rhode Island State Fair Association, which was organised by her on the same day and at the same venue as the Solid Color Club of the East Specialty Show and the National Siamese Cat Club Specialty Show.

At the two former, the Best Cat was a Cream male, Mr. Anthony De Santis's Longhills Lightning of Rose-gate. At the Siamese Show, the winner was Mrs. MacEwen's male Amdos Polkason, by Prestwick Polka (the latter bred by our Mrs. Duncan Hindley). At the end of the catalogue all principal awards were printed, such as Best Cat, Best Champion, etc., and spaces were left for filling in the numbers. As Mrs. Ohlin had fully marked it, it was most interesting and informative.

2nd October. Mr. George Dyke, writing from Victoria, Australia: "Keep on with your good work in

the Diary. We thoroughly enjoy OUR CATS and marvel at the spirit of co-operation which appears to exist in England. Saw Mrs. Price at our Royal Show—one in about 40,000 visitors to run into! For the last ten years cat classes have been cut out; it's held at an awkward time as kittens are steadily arriving. Our next kitten show is in November. I presume you have read an account of our June Show. By the way, Mrs. Price and I spent about five hours ticket writing at that show and were we tired!"

3rd October. The South African Cat Union of Cape Town have issued the first two numbers of their Bulletin dated March and July. Affiliated to the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy in England, they are taking steps to establish a body for the registration of cats and the governing of shows. Quoting the Bulletin:—

"A study of these regulations (G.C. rules) indicates that on the whole they will suit our conditions admirably." In the July number one reads of the formation of cat clubs in other provinces and that Siamese are first favourites, with Blue Longhairs next on the list.

Any club with 25 members is eligible for representation on the Council of the S.A. Union if affiliated.

5th October. Attended a Governing Council meeting and was interested to hear that Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's Red Tabby Ch. Eastmoor Doll Dance (imported from the U.S.A.) comes out of quarantine at the end of this month. Her kittens, born since her arrival, have been allowed to go to their home at Godalming. I expect many of you saw the very attractive photo in "The Daily Mirror" with the caption "Kit Inspection," the kitten being in a basket with her mother's winning ribbons displayed outside. Mother and kit-

tens will provide a grand outcross for British Red Tabbies. Hendon Lysander, bred by Mrs. Campbell-Fraser, will be competing for his third and final Challenge certificate at one of the later shows. He was a fine upstanding youngster when he last appeared in January.

13th October. Blue Longhair enthusiasts assembled on a drizzling day for the Blue Persian Cat Society's 12th Annual Championship Show in London. Despite the weather, all was cheery within, including the Show Manager, Mrs. Newton, who found time to look after everyone's comfort, even including those who had ordered lunches in advance.

Best Exhibit in Show was Mrs. Vize's fine male Astra of Pensford, who thus completed his Championship at three consecutive shows. He and Ch. Mair of Allington are the only post-war Blues to achieve this honour. The winning female, Mrs. Henn's Romany Roma, was a very nice queen in excellent condition and well presented. Mr. Fred Carman, her breeder, was present to rejoice in her victory, also Mrs. Carman, marvellously well after her recent illness.

Unfortunately for the owner, a lovely exhibit for this class was disqualified for powder. This cat was powdered before leaving home and clearly the intention was to brush it out before judging. But by the time the vet. was passed it was too late. A most disappointing day for the exhibitor and we all (including the judge) were sympathetic. I am sure it goes against the grain for any judge to disqualify for powder. Rule 23 of the Governing Council reads: "A cat shall be disqualified for competition (Section A) improperly prepared for exhibition, that is, if any dye, colouring, whitening, or darkening substance, any oils or greasy preparation, and cleaning preparations, or any foreign matter of any description

has been used and remains in the cats during exhibition."

When I first went to Cruft's Dog Show many years ago and saw exhibitors titivating dogs (including one chalking the paws of a wire-haired terrier) in the show ring almost under the noses of judges, I wondered why G.C. rules dealing with show preparation for cats were so exacting. A limit had to be imposed on powdering cats because at some pre-war shows powder rose in a fine cloud when some of the exhibits were touched.

Best Kitten in Show, Mr. Jackson's very pretty kitten Idmiston Afterglow, excelled in coat and type. Her dam, Priory Playmate, was bred by Mrs. Davies from a daughter of Ch. Fifinella of the Court, and again one saw the lovely coat quality associated with Mrs. Oglethorpe's "of the Court" Blues. It was also evident in the winning Neuter, Priory Adonis, bred and exhibited by Mrs. Davies.

The Stud class was won by Mr. Allt's Timothy of Knott Hall with some very nice progeny to represent him, including Idmiston Afterglow. Mrs. Beedell's Blossom of Odersfelt was best Brood Queen. The weather affected the gate but many well-known Fanciers were present at this venue of so many of their former triumphs—Lady Eardley Wilmot, Mrs. Askew, Mrs. Cyril Tomlinson, from Eastbourne, and Mrs. Bailey, all the way from Derby.

14th October. May I suggest to all owners whose cats are sleeping in outside houses to bring all blankets and bedding in to thoroughly air by a kitchen fire during the winter? Blankets left in houses for only an hour or two after the inmates are let out in the morning will frequently "steam" if held by a fire. Cats can endure any amount of dry cold when fit and well fed, but select nice cosy places to sleep in if they have their choice in the matter.

I have some white-painted boxes with a hole cut in, and in winter I turn them upside down on to about four thicknesses of blankets and then put a blanket over the top on very cold nights. My cats also have the alternative of sleeping in an open basket. They are quite the best judges of the amount of warmth they require. I peep in before going to bed and find they adjust themselves to weather conditions.

15th October. Another enjoyable specialist show, this time the Siamese Cat Club Ch. Show at Shepherds Bush. Mrs. Elsie Hart capably managing it and outwardly calm and agreeable after a hectic preliminary canter. Best Adult in Show was Mrs. Nicholas's Southwood Sunya, by Oriental Silky Boy. Congratulations to her owner and to her breeder, Mrs. Sayers. As this was Sunya's third certificate she is now a full Champion.

HOW TO LIVE WITH A CAT

by

Margaret Cooper Gay

Illustrated by

ROBERTA MACDONALD

"Forthright, amusing, provocative and informative book."—

Moore Raymond, *Daily Graphic*

"This is a delightful Book . . . the Chief Veterinary Officer of the R.S.P.C.A. bears glowing tribute to the sound advice it contains."—

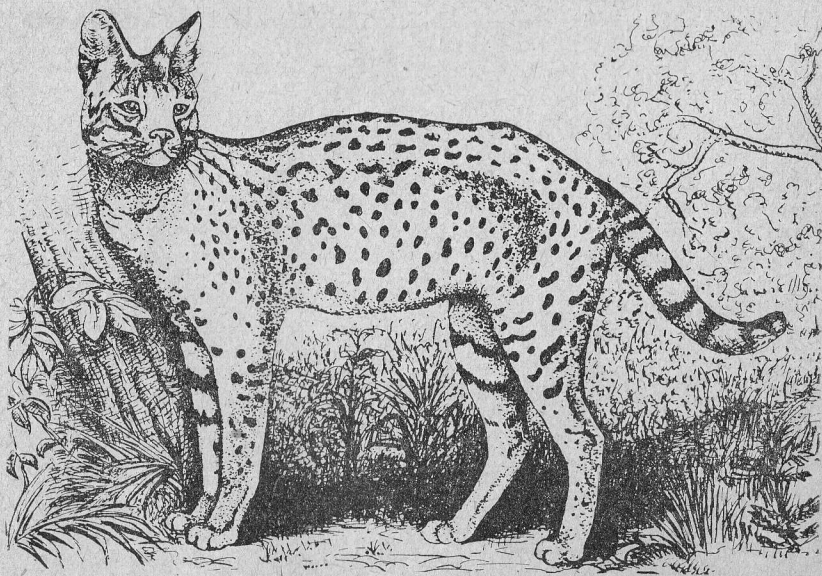
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BLACK LEOPARD



SERVAL

The winning male (15 in class), Mrs. Druce's Hillcross Song, is a lovely cat and he was awarded several special prizes for qualities so desirable in a Siamese such as "the most typical headed Siamese adult," "the best and deepest blue eyes in adults," "the finest and closest texture coat in adult males."

Best Exhibit in Show was Mr. Warner's male kitten Clonlost Yo-Yo, by Doneraile Dekko. It speaks volumes for his quality that he secured this award over the winning adults.

For the first time, the Blue Pointed exhibits were judged on the points system. I did not have the opportunity of asking the judge, Mrs. Lauder, how it worked out in practice. The resulting adult winners were Mrs. Duncan Hindley's male Blue Seagull and Mrs. Wedgwood's female Alfredice Blue Bette. The litters were a lovely sight, the winners being Mrs. Dunk's quintette by Inwood Ching in the S.P. class, and Mrs. Brummitt's sextette by Zy Azure Zin in Blue Points.

The following figures may interest overseas readers: Exhibits, 172; entries, 621; litters, 15; exhibitors, 96.

Another disappointment awaited an exhibitor. Tallies were reversed so two kittens were penned with the opposite sex. Both were awarded prizes and subsequently disqualified when the sex was noticed. This has happened at other shows, but I guess no exhibitor makes this mistake twice! The hall was thronged during the afternoon and spectators certainly had some lovely exhibits to see. The quality, in my opinion, was the best at any post-war Siamese Show.

A popular award was Miss Gold's win with her male kitten Bynes Romeo, by Oriental Silky John. This prefix has always been associated with Siamese of quality and many breeders will be sorry to hear that for health reasons Miss Gold will not

be keeping the variety in quantity in future.

Apropos judging on points, few experienced judges appear to be in favour of it here, but the following item culled from the American "Cats Magazine" will probably amuse both the pros and cons. Alice Graydon Phillips, in "News from the West," writes: "And then came the judging and scoring contest for which three cats had been patiently waiting in their carriers. . . . The judges were Miss Hydon and myself and the subjects were Mrs. Pinney's Blue Point male kitten Huros and Miss Hydon's Blue Longhair Minnie Metouchka. After the standards had been explained everyone wrote out a score in accordance with C.F.A. Scale of Points. Prizes were awarded to those whose scores were closest to those of the judges. This proved quite amusing as top score on the Blue Point was won by a young lady who frankly stated that *she knew nothing about Siamese!* Yet her score matched the excellent rating given him by the two judges, and the little Blue Point thus started on his way is now Ch. Huros of Thorne-wood."

27th October. The first post-war Ch. Show of the Midland Counties Cat Club at Birmingham very well organised by Mr. and Mrs. Lamb. As usual when Championship Shows are held in the provinces, it attracted about half the number of exhibits one is accustomed to see at London functions.

The hall was excellent, with very good lighting from windows at the top and sides. There was ample room around the pens and nice big alcoves at the sides where I saw friends having quiet little chats. There are numerous breeders of Siamese in the Midlands, so it was to be expected they would be the largest entry. Fifteen Seal Pointed adults,

four Blue Pointed and one Chocolate awaited Miss Wilson. Best Seal and Best Shorthair Adult in Show was Mrs. Wridgway's well-known winner Sapphire of Sabrina. Her coat had improved very much since Sandy Show, and she won firsts under all three judges who handled her.

Mrs. Lamb won first in males with Ch. Morris Tudor; 24 S.P. kittens appeared, the first prize winners being Mrs. France's Chinki Gaylord, Mrs. Farr's female Pansias and Mrs. Nicholas's Rycroft Punch. Mrs. Lamb's Pincop Azure Pika and Mrs. Cousin's Easter Joy were the winners among the Blue Points.

Best Longhair Cat in Show was Mrs. Harrington-Harvard's Ch. Oxleys Peter John. This was a good achievement as he has been much in request as a stud this year and is just over six years of age. Mrs. Brine won in

females with Campanula of Dunesk. Best Blue Kitten was Miss Bull's pale blue kitten Deebank Penny, which excelled in type. Best Longhair Kitten was Miss Schofield's Cream male Shaun Mi-Owne, an exceptionally pale and well-grown kitten.

Only five Chinchilla females, two kittens, two Black adults and one kitten, and two Whites were on view and the following varieties had no representatives: Smoke; Silver, Brown, Red Tabbies; Tortie and White, and no British Shorthairs.

Miss Rodda made a sporting gesture. Her Black male Chadhurst Sambo needs only one more Challenge certificate to become a Champion, yet she took up Mrs. Aitken's Bournside Black Diamond and was second to him. However, she was very cheery and smiling, so here's hoping Sambo gets his third at the

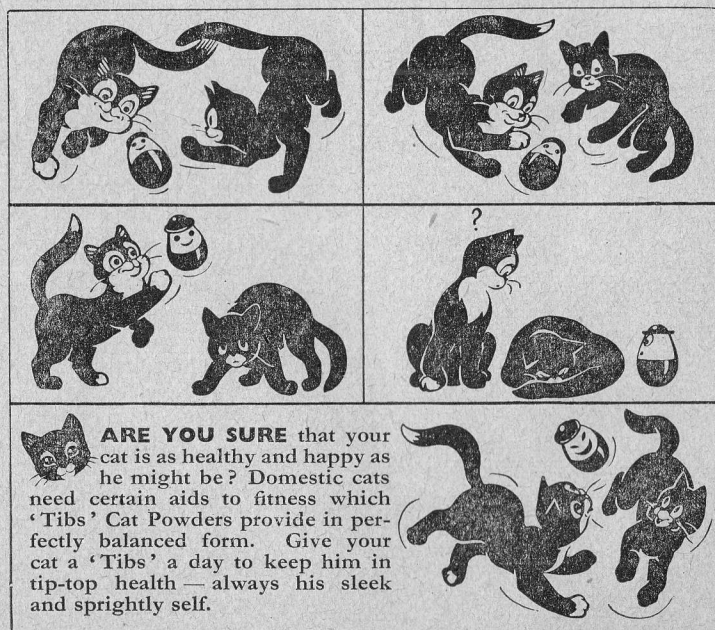
next show. There were good entries in the side classes and spectators were numerous, so these may help to make the Show a financial success. Pre-war Fanciers were delighted to meet Miss Joyce Fair, formerly such a capable M.C.C.C. Secretary and breeder of so many good cats. She had the unique experience of breeding a Blue female Champion in her queen's first litter, the lovely Ch. Northway Shelmerdine, born 1926. Miss Fair's present difficulty is uncertain housing accommodation, but when she is settled she hopes to resume cat breeding. Mrs. Culley, Secretary of the Lancashire and North-Western Counties Cat Club, attended with Mrs. Brittlebank, the latter winning first and Ch. with her Tortoiseshell Hazeldene Amber, and Mrs. Culley second Blue female adult with Herries Chloe. Both are full of enthusiasm for the forthcoming show at Manchester in January in the Corn Exchange. Two very popular judges are officiating, Miss Campbell-Fraser and Miss Yorke. Senior Fanciers will be sorry to hear that Mrs. Goddard, a staunch supporter of the Club, passed away the previous week. She bred many fine cats in pre-war days, probably the most famous being the Blue male Ch. Ashton Pride. Her cats were always presented in lovely condition.

30th October. Mrs. Sheppard has sold Ch. Widdington Wintersweet, who was awarded his final certificate on 27th October, to a breeder in U.S.A. He is only 15 months, and a lovely representative of the Creams in this country. Writing about his sister, Ch. Wincette, Miss Sheppard says: "She is quite my favourite among our cats but I must admit that where other cats are concerned she is selfish and jealous. She takes all the most comfortable boxes and blankets, and boxes the other cats to keep them in their place. Not one

of them ever thinks of retaliating. They just walk round her in a wide circle if she is in one of her moods." I was pleased to hear that Ch. Widdington Warden is looking as lovely as ever and may appear at one of the later shows.

31st October. Miss Kit Wilson will be flying to Ghent, Belgium, to judge at the Show organised by Mme. Coget on 20th November on behalf of the Société Féline des Flandres.

Major and Mrs. Rendall fly to Jamaica on 6th November and their address will be Ocho Rios P.O., Jamaica, B.W.I. They intend to join some Siamese specialist clubs in U.S.A. and if practicable exhibit there. I much regret their leaving this country as they have so capably espoused the cause of the Blue Pointed Siamese and Mrs. Rendall has been such an enthusiastic Secretary of the B.P. Club.



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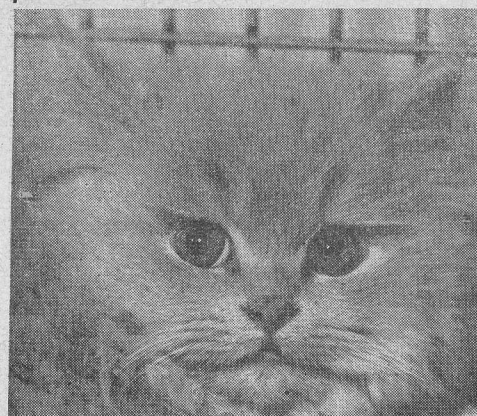
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From Uncle Peter

Boys and Girls

Cat Noises

I wonder if any of you went to the special show for Siamese cats in London last month. As soon as I walked in at the door I could have told you, even if I had not known beforehand, that Siamese cats were there. They certainly are the noisiest of attractive creatures.

I have two Siamese, and one of them used to be so noisy that she often kept me awake at night although her bed was at least a hundred yards away from mine. Ti-ti is the lady's name, and she used to make so much noise for a few days that she eventually lost her voice. Was I glad? It did not take her long to recover, however.

Fine Fish But Not Too Many

How many of you have an aquarium at home? A well-planted tank with a few brightly-coloured fish is most attractive and there is always something to watch with interest. Did you notice that I wrote "well-planted" and "few fish?" Both those points are really very important. When the tank has sturdy plants there is usually plenty of oxygen in the water for the fish to absorb, but if you put too many fish in then you will find them gasping at the surface of the water. In a few days some of your fish will be dead. It is a very good rule which says "one inch of fish for every gallon of water."

Beautiful tropical fish are now becoming so cheap that this little warning is necessary if you do not wish to be disappointed. I have written this because I have seen several tanks lately which were badly overcrowded.

News of the Family

I have had several letters lately asking me about Sheena and her family. She has always been my favourite and when once I wrote a book she used to spend part of the time sitting on my shoulder and then she would climb down and sit firmly on the paper on which I was trying to write. It made things a little difficult, but I did not mind seriously as when that happened it was an excuse for me to have a rest.

Her family are growing very fast and the two cream males have already been out of the box in search of adventure. Unfortunately, they can only fall out but cannot fall back again.

Postponed

I am sorry to have to tell you that the wireless talk I mentioned last month has had to be put off until 29th January. More about this later.

Uncle Peter

Your replies to Uncle Peter should be addressed to OUR CATS Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9. Please remember to write "Uncle Peter" at the top left-hand corner of your envelope.

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