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1/6

SEPTEMBER 1949

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'...and of course intend continuing with Karswood for my Siamese cats, which, by the by, took prizes at the November Siamese Cat Show and were admired by our president Compton McKenzie. I am a breeder of Siamese Cats of long standing, my first aim in breeding is stamina, and I feel that I owe a lot to Karswood Powders, as my cats are hardy and run about the grounds in all weathers.'

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Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

VOL. I No. 9

SEPTEMBER 1949

LET THE PUNISHMENT . . .

SPACE is precious this month and the theme to be covered is a weighty one. So I must try to make every word do its job.

We have all been appalled at the succession of reports in the newspapers in which so-called human beings have been found guilty of cruelty to cats. A boy takes a cat from a tree and throws it down to be mauled and killed by a waiting dog. A Stafford woman buries three kittens alive on a piece of waste ground. A policeman chanced to hear their whimpering and dug them up. Two were alive.

Then came news of an even more fiendish act which shocked and disgusted animal lovers throughout the country. The military authorities at Caterham Barracks had apparently ordered a round-up of stray cats for their ultimate destruction. Two "brave" Guardsmen seized an unfortunate cat and threw it into a hot oven. When it was released after its terrible ordeal it was so badly burned on the front paws that it could only sit up like a kangaroo.

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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Views and opinions expressed in the editorial pages are not necessarily those held by the Editor.

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And the punishment? The boy was fined £10 and kept in custody for a week. The woman got off lightly with a 20s. fine and the Guardsmen were given the maximum sentence of three months' imprisonment.

What can you and me do about it? Well, we can add our voices to the volume of protest which has been made at the inadequacy of the punishment. We can, by means of written protest to those in authority, demand longer terms of imprisonment and heavier sentences for all torturers of animals. Physical punishment is the right deterrent to people of sadistic instincts.

The London "Evening News" revealed the comforting fact that the Caterham case brought more correspondence than any other subject for weeks.

EDITOR

The lovely Tortoiseshell and White cat on our Front Cover this month was well-known to pre-war Fanciers. She is Mrs. Axon's late Champion Noxina—photographer is Thomas Fall.

Siamese Cat Club

ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

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Veterinary Science

Our Special Contributor FORCEPS (Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) highlights a few of the interesting pronouncements at the International Veterinary Congress held recently in London. It is comforting to note the onward march of veterinary science and how it is working for the ultimate betterment of the cat population of the world.

WELL over 1,000 people were present at the 14th International Veterinary Congress recently held in London, and delegates came from 53 countries. The last two days of the Congress were shared by the National Veterinary Medical Association, and afforded an opportunity for international discussions of problems affecting cats and dogs, as opposed to the food production and farm live-stock matters which occupied the time of the Congress during the first part of the week.

Dr. J. Winnser, who is both a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and a Doctor of Medicine in Holland, submitted a most interesting paper on "Diseases of Household Animals Communicable to Man." The discussions were listened to with much interest by veterinary surgeons and medical men. The paper brought out the importance of the few diseases contracted from animals, but the title should not be regarded as cause for alarm. Very few of these diseases are important in this country.

With regard to the diagnosis of such as do occur here, the veterinary profession renders a not inconsiderable service to public health. It is always wise—especially where there are young children to be considered—to obtain the advice of a (qualified) veterinary surgeon when a pet animal becomes ill or is suffering from skin disease. This

applies particularly in the case of a cat having a *persistent* catarrhal discharge from the nostrils, even if it seems merely "off-colour," and perhaps a little thin, rather than ill. Tuberculosis in the cat sometimes takes this form.

Dr. Agnate Krabbe (Denmark) presented a paper on the formation of stones or "gravel" in the urinary system of cats and dogs—a subject recently discussed in OUR CATS Magazine.

Miss Joan Joshua, M.R.C.V.S., and Dr. J. C. Broom gave a joint paper on leptospirosis—infection with a minute organism which can best be described as a "microscopic corkscrew." There are two forms of the latter, one of which may be associated with the highly fatal Stuttgart disease of dogs. Both may cause illness in man—Weil's Disease, a kind of jaundice sometimes contracted by sewermen, and the mild influenza-like canicola fever. So far there is little evidence that these "microscopic corkscrews" are important in the cat.

Of the papers on feline medicine, probably the most interesting one from the cat owner's point of view was that given by Mr. W. L. Weipers, who has recently retired from veterinary practice to take up the post of Director of Veterinary Studies at the University of Glasgow.

Mr. Weipers dealt with some of the diseases of the cat's digestive tract, ranging from the incorrectly named "rodent ulcer"

of the lip to the most serious killing disease in cats—infectious enteritis. Although much of the paper was of a highly technical nature the conditions described included several which the average breeder or owner is liable to encounter from time to time. It is hoped, therefore, to give an account, in non-technical terms, of some of these at a later date.

Bone Pinning

Dr. C. Zepp (United States) gave a paper at the Royal Veterinary College entitled "Surgical Correction of Diseases of the Ear in the Dog and Cat," and this was followed by a most excellent film in colour. This showed, among other things, Dr. Zepp's technique for treating a haematoma of the ear-flap in such a way as to avoid post-operative cockling or crinkling of the ear.

The haematoma is simply a swelling containing blood, usually caused by the cat's claws puncturing a small blood-vessel as a result of scratching. Surgical treatment, under an anaesthetic, is necessary in order to evacuate the blood and so reduce the swelling, and steps must be taken to prevent the swelling re-forming. When healing takes place, contraction is apt to occur so that the ear becomes "buckled." Zepp's technique overcomes this.

Another excellent paper, on "Fracture Repair by Bone Pinning," was submitted by Dr. J. O. Knowles, of Miami, Florida. He described his results with both the Kirschner-Ehmer splint and the intra-medullary pin. The former is an adjustable metal splint, near each end of which are a pair of "pins" or pointed rods. These are driven,

at a suitable angle to each other, transversely through the complete thickness of the bone, and in this way the parts of a fractured bone may be held securely in position. The medullary pin is a pointed stainless steel rod which is driven down the marrow cavity of the bone, and achieves the same result by a different means.

Both of these techniques have been borrowed from human surgery, and the fact that they have been successfully applied in veterinary practice is a measure of the latter's progress.

Will Save Lives

It is only of use in certain cases, but in these it enables seriously injured animals to be restored to health and activity in a way undreamed of a few years ago. Lameness and deformity are minimised or entirely avoided, and the technique can be used in limbs so badly damaged that any ordinary form of splinting would be quite impossible.

Dr. Moltzen Nielsen, of Copenhagen, gave a demonstration of medullary pinning in a Siamese cat which had been brought to the College (one of three with bad fractures) after being missing from home for ten days. In the old days that cat would have been destroyed, but now a complete recovery is anticipated—thanks partly to penicillin which will ward off infection and prevent the once inevitable gangrene.

Bone-pinning is already in use, also, by British veterinary surgeons. It has been carried out quite extensively at the Beaumont Hospital, Royal Veterinary College, and by a veterinary surgeon in private practice in the south of England—to quote but two examples.

A "Mere Man's" Views

Presented by P. G. HURST

I AM a masculine cat lover and getting to be rather an elderly one at that. Most cat lovers seem to be women, and although the very opposite of a feminist, I give women their due when it comes to cats—they seem to be more practical than men in this (solitary ?) respect, and to approach the business of cat loving with greater confidence and address.

But I am not in any way belittling myself. I have possessed cats for well over twenty years, though purely as pets, and, like my cats, I have walked by myself. It never occurred to me—and nobody ever told me—that keeping cats and their kittens was in any way a hazardous or tricky occupation and I never doubted that a cat was an animal born to live in good health, and not to sicken and die.

After a succession of undistinguished though lovable cats, I decided that it cost no more to keep a good one, and, that instead of either drowning or precariously giving away unwanted kittens, there was everything to be said for producing kittens that other people would like to buy.

So I became a breeder, you say? Nothing of the kind. I was still merely a cat lover with a turn for economics.

My cats have always had free range and food when they seemed to want it, and if they didn't like what was offered I tried something else. I found that by ringing the changes and avoiding

fancy and ridiculous foods, I was never afflicted with a dainty or difficult feeder. My first "good" cat was a Chinchilla. I had her for eight years and dearly we loved each other. It was with her that I made the ghastly mistake of accusing her of producing bastard kittens because they were dark. But over that we will draw a veil! Her end was sad, and I have never replaced her.

I have since concentrated on Siamese, which I have treated with the same carefree methods which experience seemed to endorse. "But are not Siamese delicate?" I am always being asked, and I reply, "Not at all." Never have I had reason to say otherwise.

I make a point of keeping them warm at nights, as I would any cat. "Putting the cat out" before turning in is a practice which fills me with rage, and makes me feel I would like to turn the owner out instead and let the cat occupy his (yes, generally "his," I fear) bed. Otherwise they roam the countryside without restriction, secure from theft because no stranger could approach them out of doors, although they invariably press attention on visitors to the house, and especially, most especially, on cat haters.

My Siamese had kittens regularly, despite the frantic search for a stud which was always put off till the last minute, generally owing to the fact that the previous one had died, or its owner had died, or gone out of business. When a new stud was discovered,

ANOTHER CAT GOES TO WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT



We presented in our May issue the story and picture of Spiv, son of Sausage, the pin-up cat with a fan mail, who was selected by the Post Office authorities to appear on their Savings Bank poster. Spiv made a first-rate poster subject and his picture aroused wide-spread interest.

The National Savings Committee poster reproduced above also employs the feline appeal to good effect. Several thousand copies of this striking black cat poster have been used in connection with the Churches' Anti-Gambling Campaign.

there was no trouble or palaver about its points or pedigree—it was a stud, and that was that. (I think I have disclaimed being a breeder?)

All kittens, now running into considerable numbers, duly arrived, and the arrangements were as casual as were the rest of the cats' schedules for the day's work. All were given names and lived happily until the sad time of parting arrived.

My only text-book all these years was a dog-eared and tattered cat book on ailments which prescribed castor oil for everything except constipation. So in cases of illness, the cats shared the same risks as the family and relied on aspirin and medical paraffin—without regrets.

Have I said enough of the bright side of cat-keeping? Because apparently there is another side. Recently a well-meaning relative has been lending me books and magazines about cats, and what a change have they wrought in me!

No longer can I look with pride on my apparently healthy cats, for now I am morally certain that they are concealing all kinds of unnameable diseases, parasites

and strepto something or other. I find myself unconsciously searching for non-existent fleas, and anxiously scanning the catalogues of cat medicines. Have I really reared all those dozens and dozens of healthy kittens?

I am reduced to a dithering nervous wreck, fearing an outbreak at any moment. I find that my cats cannot see in the dark, despite that my male Siamese continues after lights out to retrieve balls of paper thrown from the bed, and carefully drops them, knowing that *I* cannot see, on my face. And talking of males, I learn that I cannot possibly keep my beautiful Simba as a pet, because male cats go wild and must be kept in cages (I suspect some reversal of cause and effect here), and that he makes my house unbearable with his smell, although neither Simba nor any other of my Siamese pet studs has been so crude or so rude. And let me add that Simba is a very effective breeder and will brook no insinuations about his prowess.

I suppose that with the passage of time I shall recover that careless rapture which is now lying in ruins!



This delightful photograph submitted by Miss Kathleen Yorke provides ample proof that Blue Longhair kittens can be trained to enjoy a car ride.

Correspondence Corner

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

COMMUNAL BOARDING

Whilst all will agree that cats are happiest in their own homes, there are occasions when the owners have to leave them and the question arises of what best to do. If anyone remains in the house to attend to the cat then, of course, leave it to this person's care and do not close the house and leave it to a neighbour. I know of two tragic incidents which have occurred this summer.

Being a great lover of cats, I have boarded them this year and in my own way. I converted two large sunny attic rooms into "cat rooms." There are no fireplaces for chimney adventures and the wide ledged windows are wired over. Many beds were provided such as boxes, blankets and comfortable old chairs—just the things cats love. And now do not picture a scene of Kilkenny cats!

During the whole summer there hasn't been a single "incident." Two cats only refused to mix, a very timid one and a fiery female.

Having read Mr. Soderberg's item in his valuable book on introducing cats, I followed the advice given and it has worked wonderfully well. All sorts and conditions have lived together in perfect harmony and there has been no fretting. Plates and saucers are cleared and all have gone home looking as cats should. All owners take their pets up themselves and see them settled. In this way they see how happy their pets can be although not in their own homes.

At the time of writing the occupants of one of the rooms include five neutered cats, two females, a female and her kittens and a kitten—all a picture of feline happiness. Surely this is better than penning a cat whilst its owner is away? Each cat is examined on entering and dusted with insecticide. The rooms are thoroughly cleaned with Dettol.

Mrs. C. Coldham,
Tattingstone, near Ipswich.

19 IN TWO LITTERS

During the August Bank Holiday week-end our two young Siamese queens (mother and daughter) presented us with *nineteen* kittens between them. All save one were alive at birth.

Somewhat to our relief, several of the weaker ones succumbed during the first few days of their existence, either through accident or their inability to hold their own with their stronger brothers and sisters at "the milk bars." The queens are now rearing thirteen between them—eight males and five females—and all appear strong and healthy kits with quite exceptional lung power. Both litters were sired by our own young stud—in the case of one queen without our knowledge or sanction!

We do not claim that any records have been broken. But we do feel that the combined performance of these queens ranks as a noteworthy achievement.

Mrs. Cousins,
Old Milverton, Warwick.

TIPS ON BREEDING

There are some points in Mr. Soderberg's "Back to Nature" article in your July issue with which I cannot agree.

For nearly 25 years I have been breeding kittens and it is not my experience that "pedigree queens which breed well and rear kittens without difficulty" are the exception rather than the rule. Provided a healthy young female is chosen of sound stock and not too inbred, and then mated to a young and fertile stud, strong kittens are usually the result. The most fashionable stud is not necessarily the best choice for a female. If your queen does not care for the mate you have selected, you should choose another.

I do agree with Mr. Soderberg that cats should lead as natural a life as

possible and in my humble opinion injections and constant dosing should be avoided whenever possible. My cats also have some extra food when carrying kittens. I have always found a cat too sensible to over-eat at these times, but I am sure the extra food is welcome and I never refuse it. But no food or milk is ever left between meals for the cats to sample at odd times.

There is just one other point I would like to stress. Sometimes a queen takes a long time to give birth to her kittens, especially the first litter. If this occurs, do give her a little warm milk and water to drink and when you are sure all the kittens have arrived give the mother a very light meal. Then leave her alone for some hours.

Many a female cat who is labelled "a bad mother—she won't stop with her kittens when they are born"—is merely a thirsty and hungry animal.

Mrs. J. M. Newton,
Hamm Court, Weybridge, Surrey.

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Championship Show in Birmingham
October 27th, 1949

VETERINARY SURGEONS

Must Now be Registered

It is now illegal for any person in Great Britain or Northern Ireland to practise veterinary surgery and medicine unless holding a veterinary qualification entitling him to be registered on the Register of Veterinary Surgeons. This is the result of the Veterinary Surgeons Act, 1948.

Those who have been carrying on unqualified practice for seven out of the ten years prior to July 30th as their principal means of livelihood may be, in certain circumstances, admitted to a special register called the Supplementary Veterinary Register on which their names will remain for their lifetime unless removed for any conviction or any professional offence.

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons is, at the present time, setting up the Supplementary Veterinary Register and anyone who has applied for admission to that register is protected under the Act from prosecution for carrying on unqualified practice until his case has been determined by the Royal College. There is another temporary exemption from the provisions of the Act forbidding unqualified veterinary practice.

Certain animal welfare societies have given treatment to animals of the poor by persons who are not qualified veterinary surgeons, and whilst it is the intention that these persons shall be replaced by veterinary surgeons as soon as possible, the Act makes provision for the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to grant a licence for certain limited kinds of treatment by employees of such societies. This provision of the Act, however, is purely transitional and is in operation until such time as there is a sufficient supply of veterinary surgeons to man the clinics of these societies.

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MORE ABOUT SIMON

THE award of the Dickin Medal to Simon, of H.M.S. Amethyst, has aroused exceptional public interest. Not only is Simon the first cat to win the animal V.C., but it is the first time the award has gone to the Navy.

From information specially given to the P.D.S.A. Allied Forces Mascot Club by Lt. Geoffrey Weston, D.S.C., almost immediately on his return to this country, we learn that Simon held the much-envied post of Captain's Personal Cat. He lived in luxury in the Captain's cabin and maintained his sole right to his exclusive position in the face of all rival claimants, with whom he dealt summarily.

Lt. Weston first met Simon when he joined the Amethyst in 1948. Simon had joined some months previously. He was owned originally by Commander Griffiths, who died so tragically. Simon then shared his cabin with Lt.-Com. Skinner, the new Captain, who was killed in the Yangtse incident.

When the cabin was shattered by a Communist shell, Simon was furious. He was removed from the blazing cabin with a badly singed coat. However, true to naval tradition, he made the best of a bad job. One of the last things Lt. Weston saw when he was taken off the ship, badly wounded, was Simon, singed coat and all, calmly strolling about the deck apparently in very good heart.

Of Simon's subsequent adventures Lt. Weston only knew at second-hand as he himself was lying dangerously ill in a Chinese hospital, but from all accounts, he says, Simon must have played a very considerable part in helping to keep up morale, as well as his more practical job of protecting the precious food supplies from marauding rats. After the ship was damaged these increased rapidly and were a very real menace.

It is an interesting point that a cat who had been accustomed to a life of comparative luxury should prove his worth under real tough conditions when the need arose, especially as he was suffering from shrapnel wounds.

A presentation ceremony is being planned for Simon on Amethyst's arrival in England, with the consent of Admiral Sir Robert Burnett, C.-in-C. Plymouth, who has promised to take part.

Simon is now about two years old and is described as a very lively and intelligent cat and very popular with all the ship's company. He is a neutered male, black with white paws.

We shall be pleased to arrange your subscription to the monthly CATS MAGAZINE published in America

CATS MAGAZINE, the popular American monthly publication, is now available to cat lovers in the United Kingdom. By a special reciprocal arrangement with the Publishers, subscriptions may be sent care of OUR CATS. Subscription rate (by the full year only) is 13s. post free for 12 issues. Specimen copies or individual single issues are not for sale.

Send your remittance, made payable to OUR CATS MAGAZINE, 4 CARLTON MANSIONS, CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9.



Photo by Ylla

Mrs. Cicely Mellor begins the day's work at her "Cat Calls" agency with three lovely registered models. "Another telephone call!" says the Siamese. "Why can't they let a fellow sleep?"

MODEL CATS EARN 25s. AN HOUR

ENGLISH-BORN Mrs. Cicely Mellor, now living in New York, has put feline aristocrats on the commercial map in America. She holds strong views that Americans in particular and the world in general should know much more about cats and her own contribution towards this wider understanding is one that merits special recognition.

Mrs. Mellor is not a Fancier nor is she concerned with the buying and selling of stock. She likes best to be known as a cat lover and she is very interested in humane work. She belongs to our own Cats' Protection League and is Eastern States Chairman of National Cat Week in U.S.A. To help relieve the austerity diet of cats in England, she started "Cat Cartons, Unlimited," for which she handles the purchasing, packing and despatch of parcels of food to cat owners in this country.

For some years Mrs. Mellor's main activities have been concerned with a mail-order business supplying cat accessories to customers in the

(Continued on p. 30)

Protect your cat from parasites by dusting with this modern insecticide

Fleas, lice, ticks and other parasitic insects are quickly killed by 'Lorexane' Dusting Powder. A small sprinkling, worked well into your cat's coat, will keep him free from live pests for 2-3 weeks. Regular use of the powder will prevent reinfestation. 'Lorexane' is safe for use on all domestic animals and poultry. Obtainable in sprinkler containers at 2/- from all chemists.



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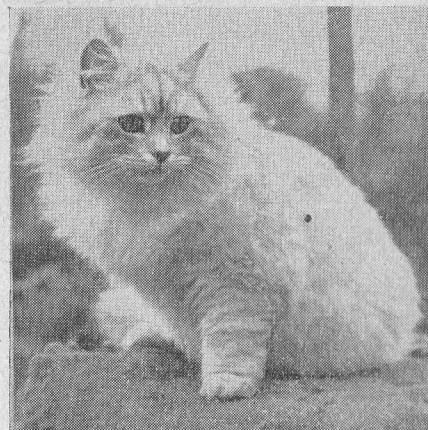
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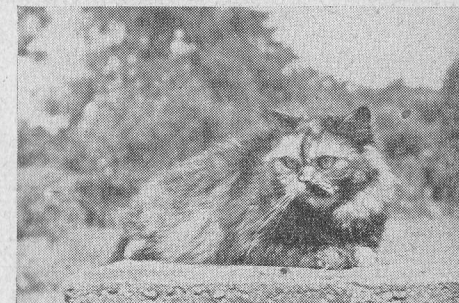
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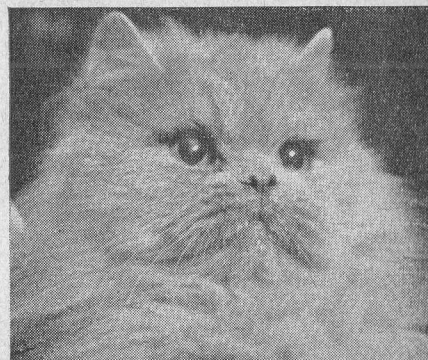
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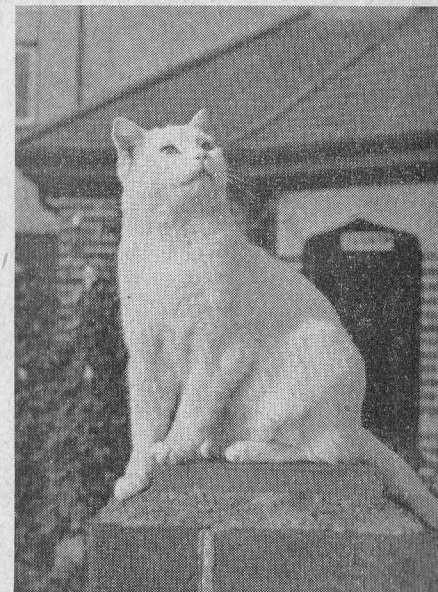
GENTLEMAN JIM, lovely Chinchilla neuter belonging to Mr. and Mrs. J. Glann, Hucknall, Notts, was a winner at the recent Beeston Show.



Ch. CHADHURST JULIET, well-known Tortie bred by that popular Fancier, Miss M. L. Rodda, of Takeley, near Bishops Stortford. Juliet's parents were both Champions—Widdington Warden and Chadhurst Jane.



VICTORIA DE MADONNA, Blue Longhair female bred by Mme. Ravel, of the Cat Club de Paris, now in the ownership of Mlle. Urruty.



SNOWEY, aptly named, is the treasured pet of Royston Wells, of Ashstead, 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.

Meet the Mason Cats

WELL, my cat-loving friends, your book of the year has arrived at last. You may have heard whispers of its coming from various sources and you may remember that the Editor of OUR CATS forecast in his May issue editorial that September was the likeliest month for its appearance. My own appetite was whetted several weeks back when I had the opportunity to glance through a copy of the American edition and to read a review or two culled from the New York press. During the intervening period—during which I have become increasingly conscious of my impeccable taste in cat literature!—I have also grown unusually impatient for the opportunity to get this review into print. The day has arrived at last.

You will doubtless have gathered by now that the book in question is "The Cats in Our Lives,"* by Pamela and James Mason. Mr. Michael Joseph (who better as publisher!) now has the English edition ready and the product of this famous triumvirate of cat lovers is a fascinating and well-produced book that should and surely will be read all over the world by Fanciers and pet owners alike. It is packed with all the fun and all the tribulations of living with cats, and in addition there are chapters wherein Pamela Mason "digs



One of the delightful sketches by James Mason which appear as chapter headings in the book.

into her own experience and is often able to come up with some helpful advice."

The book is dedicated to Violet Taylor, the Masons' English housekeeper, on whom fell much of the burden and heat of the day when the whole family moved from England to New York and then to Hollywood, where the Masons now reside.

I just can't make up my mind which personality I like best—James Mason the writer or James Mason the artist. His line sketches illustrating the book—and there are dozens of them—are really delightful and full of character and expression. James explains that their multiple biography aims to be little more than the personal cat history of its authors, a summary of their own experiences in the world of cats, spiced with a few titbits of information that they have come by on the way. He confesses that it was a Siamese cat who "introduced me to my wife." This was Gamma, Pamela's first Siamese, who fell a victim to 'flu at an early age and "shot the

earth from under her" when he died. A successor, Dasco by name, was secured from Miss Dixon's cattery at Thames Ditton. James comments that the three Siamese they bought in England (including Gamma and Dasco) all behaved appallingly when they first arrived. The three they acquired in America took the change of home adventure quite calmly.

Queenly Qualities

One of the best loved characters in the Mason ménage was Lady Leeds, so named because she was found in the railway station at Leeds. She was a stray who later acquired the name Gussie. James describes her as being "all female. She represented all the most splendid female qualities—wantonness, gentleness, bitchiness, devotion, determination, courage. To us she was an equal and an inseparable companion." The Masons, by the way, have never taken to the idea of spaying females although they have allowed their male cats to be operated on.

Lady Leeds had numerous litters and Tree, one of her kittens, was the chief actor in an amusing incident which occurred whilst the Masons were living in Buckinghamshire. "Though a shy cat," records James, "he (Tree) was successfully wooed by a middle-aged lady who lived next door, and spent quite a lot of time in her house and garden. One day he appeared at our kitchen window holding in his teeth an entire roast chicken. Except for the imprint of his teeth where he had gripped it the booty was in perfect condition. Although it was a muddy winter's day, there was not a speck of dirt on it. Tree must have carried it over

the entire distance without so much as pausing for breath and resting his load on the ground. And it was quite a weight."

"We congratulated Tree on his enterprise. But we could not immediately decide what was the right thing to do with what was, in criminal jargon, a hot chicken. If we returned it to our neighbour she would be displeased with Tree and might even punish him. And if she was at all squeamish



Lady Leeds's husband.

she might think twice about serving it at her table, and then so much good food would be wasted. We toyed with the idea of restoring it to her larder by stealth. But it occurred to us that we should look awfully silly if we were caught red-handed. Our story might seem unconvincing.

"Then Tree's feelings had to be considered. . . . So we carved it up and served it to the cats for their next meal. And, to prove that there were no ill-feelings,

* Published by Michael Joseph, Ltd., at 8/6 net.

Pam and I gnawed the drumsticks."

Finally, the Masons reveal that there is no lack of cat lovers among the members of the Hollywood movie colony. All the types are represented there. Mary Astor, for instance, was so impressed by the Siamese cats in her life that she wrote a book about them called "My Friends Have Blue Eyes." The local strays' best friends are Elsa Lanchester and husband Charles Laughton. Katherine Hepburn, Lucille Ball, Janet Blair and Ida Lupino and many other famous names have cats and Mason joyfully observes that the steady in-

filtration of cats and the increasing respect accorded to them in Californian society redounds vastly to its credit. Patios, like hearths, he adds, can be pretty dull structures without the essential feline arabesques.

It would be unfair to the writers and publishers to reveal more of the Masons' beguiling story. Get the book and enjoy it for yourself—there are so many delightful gaps to be bridged.

Several names well known to English Fanciers are mentioned—Mr. James Stewart, the popular Croydon veterinary surgeon, for instance, and Miss Gold, our Siamese breeder and judge.



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

21 September ...	*Herts and Middlesex Cat Club ...	Watford
28 September ...	South Western Counties Cat Club ...	Torquay
11 October ...	*Blue Persian Cat Society ... (See Advertisement)	London
13 October ...	*Siamese Cat Club ... (See Advertisement)	London
27 October ...	*The Midland Counties Cat Club ...	Birmingham
10 November ...	*Croydon Cat Club ...	London
19 November ...	Scottish Cat Club ...	Glasgow
1 December ...	Folkestone Show ...	Folkestone
6 December ...	*National Cat Club ...	London

1950

9 January ...	*Notts and Derby Cat Club ...	Venue to be fixed
21 January ...	The Lancs and North Western Counties Cat Club ...	Manchester
23 January ...	*Southern Counties Cat Club ...	London

* Denotes Shows with Championship status.



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Pamela and James Mason are shown here with two of their feline friends. Of Pamela, James says: "It was she who encouraged me to adopt my first two cats. Not that I needed much encouragement." Pam says: "All animals are nice. You never get an unlikeable one. But some are tremendously more likeable than others."



Lovely Chinchilla Kitten, ALBANY MADAME PORCELAIN (by Albany Jonaber ex Albany Aurore), was bred by the well-known Southern Fancier, Mrs. Cook-Radmore, of Seven Oaks, Cowplain, Hants.

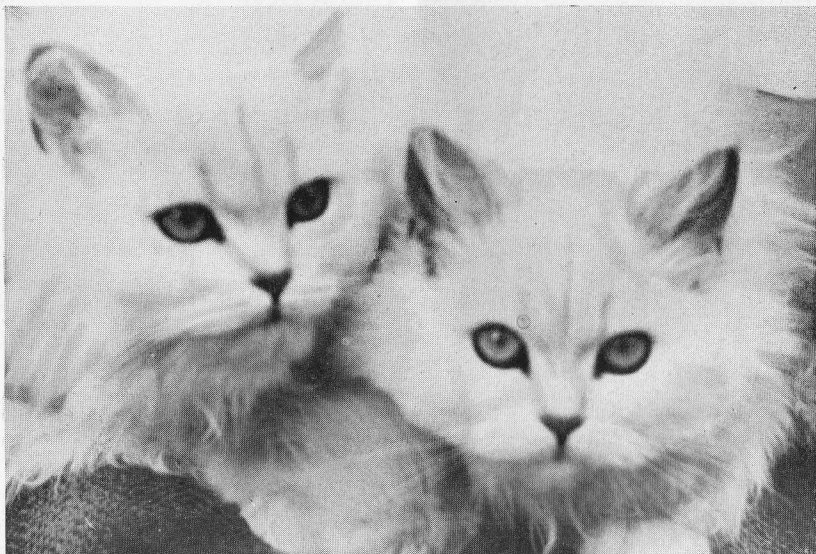


Photo by Hampshire Telegraph
SARISBURY BEAU and SARISBURY BELLE, Chinchilla Kittens at six months old. Bred by Mrs. Warren, of Maidstone, this fine pair was purchased by an American Fancier—see page 24 of this issue for more details.

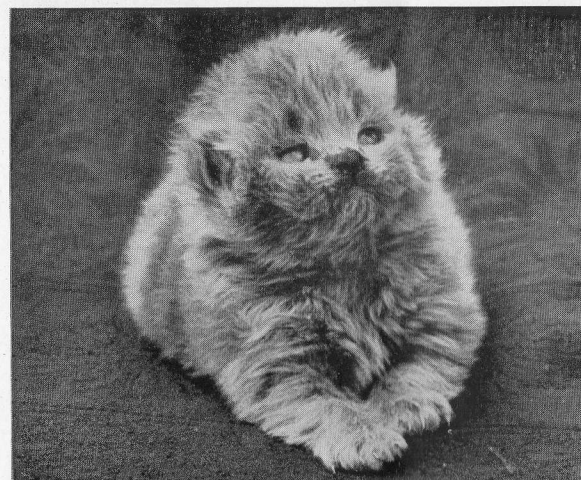
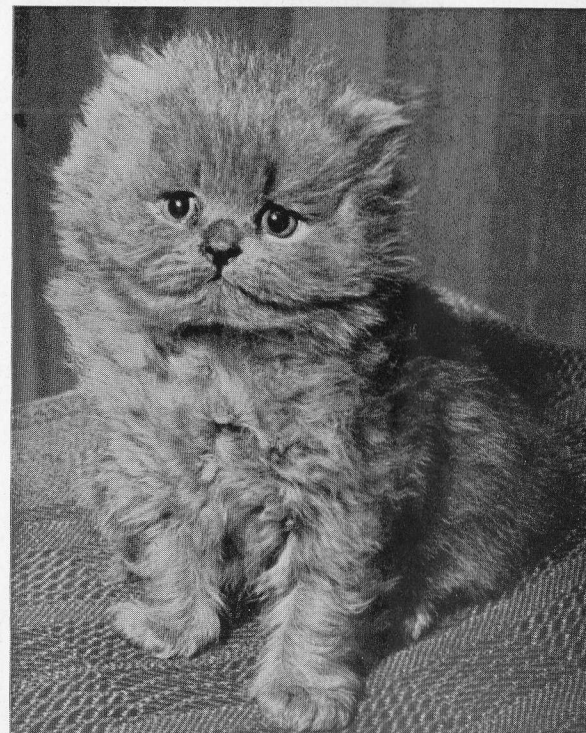


Photo by George Dexter

ROMANY RANGER, Blue Longhair kitten bred by Mr. Fred Carman, of Purley, Surrey, taken at the youthful age of 14 days.



BARALAN CHALLENGER, another lovely Blue kitten, is a mere two weeks older than Ranger. Challenger was bred by Mrs. E. L. Henn, of Eardington, Salop.

BABY BLUES



MINETTE AS STAGE STAR

REXINA MINETTE is an attractive young lady with stage aspirations. Indeed, it might almost be written that within the short space of two years she has rocketed to stardom. As she nestles here in the arms of Cardinal Richelieu she appears to have a black coat but this is due to a trick of the camera. Actually, Minette is a pale Blue Longhair who includes Best in Show at Banstead last year among her show successes. Earlier this year she made several appearances at the Scala Theatre in a production of "The Three Musketeers," in which her role was to sit on the lap of the scarlet-robed Cardinal. So well did she perform that her services have been booked for more stage appearances in the approaching operatic season. Minette's owner and manager is Mrs. M. E. Beedell, who has for many years bred and shown successfully from the well-known Magyar Cattery in south-west London.

Care & Management by P. M. SODERBERG

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

The Proof of the Pie

IT is almost with shame that I have to confess that during recent years I have "had kittens" much more frequently than my cats. To tell other people what to do is one thing, but to be the "good divine who carries out his own instruction" is something entirely different.

For years now I have been preaching a doctrine which said that the more natural the life the cat is allowed to lead the greater the chances of successful breeding. I certainly should not have written in that way unless I believed what I said to be true, but I often found that I was not prepared to follow my own teaching.

Queens just had to be shut up when they were likely to "call" because some cats are so sly in their amorous intentions that the worst can happen before you have the least suspicion. I did not think for one moment that this shutting up was the right policy, but I did not want mongrel litters. The result was, of course, that the shut-up lady usually did not call when I expected and her period in captivity was at times quite extended. I should not be at all surprised if she did not call

merely because she was deprived of her liberty.

When eventually the queen was in kitten, and heavily in kitten, she had to be shut up for at least ten days before the kittens were due to be born because she might climb on something and fall and that might well be an end to a successful litter.

Of course, I knew this was all wrong and that I was having the kittens instead of leaving the matter entirely in the far more capable paws of the queen herself. The result was that something usually went wrong and the kittens which I had wanted were born dead or were only born with the help of a vet.

The odd litter was a success and provided much pleasure, but no profit, because its small financial success by no means made up for the more numerous failures.

Never once did I seriously consider abandoning the hobby of cat breeding, but I admired the fortitude of other breeders whose successes sometimes seemed even less frequent than my own.

As I have already told you in a previous article on "Difficult Queens," I started off this year with methods which for me were revolutionary, and I can now say with some satisfaction that, acting up to my own teaching, I have had a far more satisfactory year than I have known for some time.

That statement does not mean that everything has gone according to one's highest hopes because rarely can any animal be bred with a hundred per cent. success.

Breeding Condition

The inimitable Sheena, who refused to breed for two years, has had a litter of six, but all of them were born dead. You could not call that a very profitable venture, but it did prove one thing, and that was that this cat was capable of having kittens.

"Breeding condition" is not a mere phrase without meaning, and I think the fact that this queen had not reached that condition when she was mated, and while she was carrying her kittens, was the cause of her failure to produce a living family. Uterine inertia, which is a characteristic of some queens, means that the first kitten is so long in being born that it dies from asphyxiation before it can breathe naturally. Sometimes, too, if the cervix is kept open with a lodged kitten, as was the case here, the rest of the litter also die.

The vet. tells me that this is not unusual although it is difficult to account for the deaths.

In such cases I think it is a good rule not to call in the vet. until the queen herself is distressed. This queen was never unhappy at any time during the forty-eight hours over which period the six huge, lifeless kittens were produced. Sheena certainly lives to try again and I am quite hopeful.

Helga, who hung from a tree and then dropped feet first to the ground not very long before her kittens were due, suffered no ill effects, nor did the family. On the sixty-fifth day she presented me with six kittens. The first one, as is usual with maiden queens, seemed to take an unconscionable time in being born, but after that they were almost produced in pairs, and before you could say "Jack Robinson" or anything else the next one was born and was receiving a most invigorating massage from a maternal tongue.

Rough on Nylons!

Six weeks after this family is flourishing and has started to make itself heard and felt. I don't wear silk stockings, but other people about the place do, and these kittens certainly aspire to the heights, and a leg is as good a means of approach as any other.

As Helga was less than ten months when her family was

born, I must award her full marks for her achievement. The needs of a family of six are a heavy drain on any queen, but apart from a slight drop in weight in the first three weeks, she has kept fit and is not unduly run down. If she will allow it there will be no further family until early next year. I hope that she will be sensible, but I think that I shall leave the last word to her.

A Changed Character

Annette was the third. In fact, I only possess three breeding queens. She produced her family just over ten days ago. She disgraced herself somewhat in the eyes of the other two because she only produced five kittens, and one of these was not as sturdy as the others. Annette did not approve of it from the beginning, and on the second night decided to overlay it. She probably knew best, but I was not very pleased with her clumsiness. The remainder of the family are growing apace and a bad-tempered queen—and Annette was certainly that—has changed her character. It is true that she protects her domain with a fierceness which keeps all feline intruders at a safe distance, but she has changed her attitude towards the human kind.

Well, there it is! The notoriously difficult breeder, the Blue Persian, with just one dash of cream in one of the three, has produced seventeen kittens in three litters. For this I feel that

I can claim little credit apart from the fact that I have at last decided not to fuss. What a pity I did not act similarly in earlier years.

One must never generalise from isolated cases, but on this occasion at least I can say that in my opinion complete freedom seems to have suited my stock.

In future I will risk the stray matings and close both eyes firmly if accidents seem likely. When cats have been brought up as mine have between the three hundred odd feet of small boys without serious mishap, they must have some guardian angel and I need not worry.

Young Feeders

Before I finish I ought to shock you all by confessing that Helga's family were lapping from a spoon when they were a little over three weeks old. They seemed to want some of mother's food so they had it. The spoon was necessary because a saucer becomes a bath to a baby kitten. At a month they were eating minced fish and only last week one of them got hold of a sizeable piece of horsemeat. It had gone too far to be pulled back, so next week they might try some scraped very finely, with my support.

Certainly they have been an adventurous family with their meals up to the present.

I may have taken some risks this year, but after all "the proof of the pie is in the eating."



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 August. Tea with Mr. and Mrs. France and Mr. and Mrs. Brice-Webb at the former's delightful bungalow at Nottingham Road, Derby. The Abyssinians are a lovely pair. Merklund Sheba is a beautiful queen exceptionally free from markings and any suggestion of a dark spine line. Her very attractive kitten was playing in her pen, but watching "mum" playing on the drive and so obviously anxious to get out to her. I noticed in this kitten the orange-brown colouring so very rarely seen on post-war Abyssinians. True, it did not cover a large area and was mostly on her forehead, but what tremendous possibilities to revive this lovely rich colouring if she is judiciously mated?

The male, Raby Ramphis, was pacing restlessly in his pen, which Mrs. France said is a habit of his, although he has far more liberty than the majority of stud cats. When he was let out it was a joy to see him leaping over flowers and plants playing with Sheba. What graceful, lithe cats Abyssinians are!

10th August. At Mixenden Show on 6th August Miss Fitzwilliam had

two goats, one dog and cats to judge in one class of household pets. Her awards were 1st White Goat, 2nd Black and White Goat, 3rd Brindled Cairn Terrier, reserve Black Longhair Cat. The Yorkshire Cat Club raised an objection to their special being awarded to a goat and it was decided to give it to the Black cat.

Mrs. Carbert's Skeete Teddie was first Any Colour Longhair Male and Mr. Proud's Cream male Molesey Mischief Best Any Colour except Blue. Mrs. Carbert was also first with her Siamese Sealsleeve Shah Verlage. Mr. Whiteley and Mr. Summerscales organised the cat section for this event.

17th August. To Maidstone to visit Admiral and Mrs. Warren and their Chinchillas. They have only two queens, Sarisbury Seraph and Foxburrow Felicity, and both are house pets. Felicity's three lovely robust kittens were romping in the garden and having high jinks chasing leaves. What a lovely summer this has been for the rearing of kittens!

Out all day in the continuous sunshine, they should have marvellous reserves for the winter, although extra precautions will have to be taken to prevent chills when the weather turns cold. Sarisbury Sola, the female kitten second to Mrs. Hacking's Redwalls Fleurette at Kensington Kitten Show, has been sold to Miss du Port, of Liss, Hants.

Sarisbury Beau has gone to Miss K. M. Thoma, of Ohio, U.S.A. Mrs. Warren, who receives news of

him occasionally, showed me a lovely photograph of him gracefully disposing himself on a settee in his new American home. Although he is a stud cat, he evidently has good house manners. He has a lovely coat and perfect brush.

Staying with Admiral and Mrs. Warren was an old friend of mine, Miss Audrey Steer, herself the breeder of some glorious pre-war Chinchillas, probably the most famous being the male Ch. Thistledown Carus. She now owns the wonderful veteran Ch. Langherne Winsome, who made such a belated appearance in the show pen owing to the war, and did so well. A most enjoyable afternoon passed in discussing cats, past and present, gardening, and all the other subjects one so often finds are common interests when cat lovers meet.

18th August. Mrs. Brittlebank's Tortoiseshell queen Hazeldene Amber, mated to Mrs. Culley's Blue male Bennaven Chieftain, produced a Cream male, Red male, Blue female, and a Blue-Cream female. This was her first litter and after having two kittens in the evening she settled down. Mrs. Brittlebank sat up with her intending to stay awake all night, but about 4 a.m. she dropped off to sleep, and when she awakened suddenly at 6 a.m. Amber was missing. She was discovered on the landing cleaning the newly born Blue Cream, which was dead, and the Cream male was in the dining room still enveloped in his sac and evidently had suffocated.

Only one Blue female survives, much to Mrs. Brittlebank's sorrow, as she feels two more could have been saved if she had been awake. Young queens who have never reared a litter very often do have their kittens in this spasmodic fashion, and that is why it is advisable to have them shut in the room with one at night. Unless one is a heavy sleeper they

usually make enough noise and movement to awaken one.

Even experienced mothers will occasionally have the first kitten outside the nursery box, and unless there is someone to attend to it they may become distracted between the instinct to have their kittens where they have nursed them before and the kitten they have had left outside. It is strange they do not appear to realise they should pick up the "marooned" kitten and put it into the nursery box.

20th August. Banstead and Burgh Heath Fur and Feather Association staged an enjoyable show with the cat section accommodated in a spacious marquee in the lovely grounds of Greenacre, kindly loaned for the occasion by Miss D. M. Sadine Pasley, M.A. Mrs. Bazeley judged the Longhair cats and Miss Catherine Manley the Shorthairs.

Mrs. Vize's Blue male Astra of Pensford was Best Exhibit in Show (41 exhibits), and some well-known cats and kittens were exhibited, notably Mrs. K. R. Williams's Siamese male Afka Khan, who was first in his class. Miss Tucker's Vectensian Rio Tinto was first in Any Variety Shorthairs (except Siamese). Mrs. Richardson's Siamese kitten Morris Rajah also secured a first and Mrs. Aitken won with her Bourneside Black Diamond. Mrs. Knight notched a success with Anita, a very nice Blue kitten—with lovely wideawake copper eyes. Mrs. Vize's Cream male Danehurst Sultan was first in Any Variety Longhair Cat except Blue.

Mrs. Towe's Brown Tabby Short-hair Hillcross Brown Owl jumped off the table when he was being judged and streaked off into the undergrowth, and although a search was made and everyone was on the alert he was seen no more that day. But the next day, when everything was quiet, he was found in a neighbouring garden

and Miss Tucker restored him to Mrs. Towe. Since then he has gone to a very good home as a pet.

Speaking to Mrs. Towe on the habits of Siamese, I was amused to hear one of her females "collects" things she fancies on her walks abroad. She has returned with a white tennis sock in her mouth. On another occasion a child's small spade, and one morning Mrs. Towe came down to find a live baby rabbit in the kitchen. Another queen acquires things in the house for her kittens when they have been weaned and shut up for the night. Cat collars, sealing wax, pencils, and any other small object she takes a fancy to are laid lovingly outside the kittens' pen.

22nd August. On the whole this appears to have been a much better breeding season for Blues, and several queens three or four years of age which the owners were begin-

ning to think were non-breeders have had litters. Ch. Mair of Allington presented her delighted owner, Miss Langston, with six kittens (her first litter) in July, when she was three years one month of age. She is proving a devoted mother, although only two kittens survived as they were two days premature—a great loss for Miss Langston.

My Ch. Gloria of Pensford has her first litter. She is four months over three years, and I must confess I had given up hope. Alas! they are by a White Shorthair male. This is a pity as I have so many breeders wanting her kittens, but, true to my conviction that mates naturally selected are in some cases necessary to start females breeding, Gloria was allowed to mis-mate.

Another queen making a belated start is Mrs. Bastow's Westbridge Angela, who after four years (during which she was mated several times) decided to have kittens when mated

to her owner's young Blue male Southway Echo. By him she had one little cherub which grew into Westbridge Eve, Best Exhibit in Show at Beeston in July. Since then Angela has had three in August by Echo. Congratulations to her devoted owner, Mrs. Bastow. Probably these queens will continue to breed longer than the average female as so far they have taken life so easily.

Another Blue queen allowed to mis-mate was Miss Alexander's Gipseswyk June, a kitten who won many prizes last season. She mated with a Shorthair Brown Tabby and pro-

duced three Blacks and three Tabbies. She is rearing two Blacks and the others have been put to sleep. How dominant the non-pedigree cat appears to be! When Blues mis-mate they rarely have any kittens which look like Blues. This is a blessing, in my opinion, otherwise someone might be tempted to buy the females, mate them to pedigree males, and so introduce mongrel ancestry to our lovely Blues.

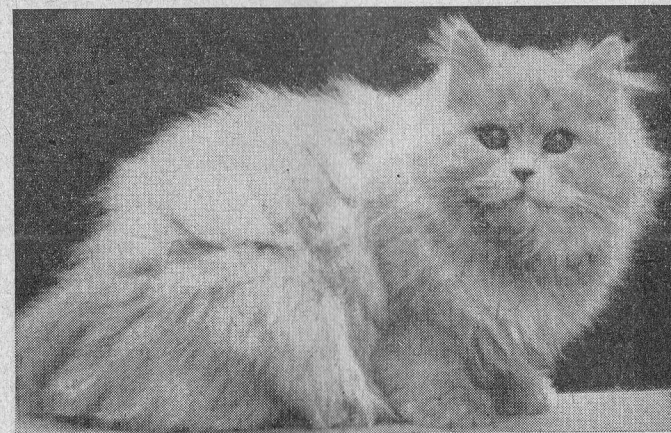


Photo by A. W. Shelton

CROWDECOTE MISTY MOONBEAM (by Walverdene Major ex Crowdecote Buttercup), one of Mrs. Clare Prince's well-known Blues.

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24th August. I have met Mrs. Clare Prince, of Littleover, Derby, at

Roger of Dunesk. Crowdecote Buttercup has four males by Walverdene Major. We have moved from a large house and garden into a small one, so I had the garage converted into a cattery. The floor is covered with thick cork lino and there are four good-sized pens which house my queens with their families. There is a corridor into which all four pens have a door and this leads into a large wired-in yard. All the morning the cats play in the garden and again in the evening, and there is also a wired-in run in the orchard, so



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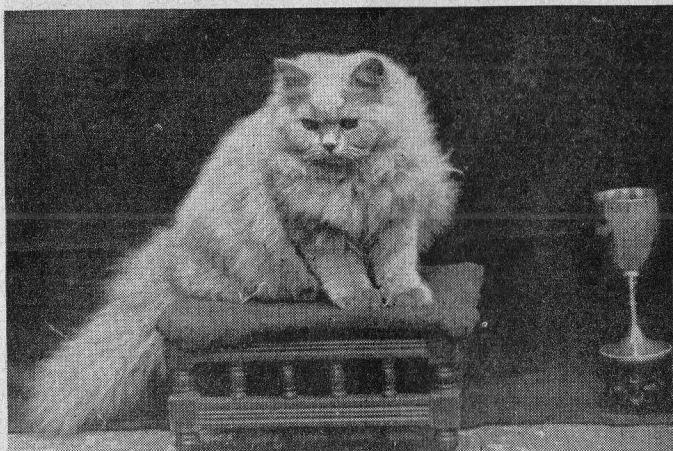
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they all spend the day in the open air and the kittens also as soon as they are old enough."

25th August. Up before the lark this morn, at 4.30 a.m., and walking over Langley Park Golf Course by 6.30 en route to King's Cross and Sandy Ch. Show. Good weather, fortunately a little cooler than usual. The platform at King's Cross was lively with exhibitors and their dogs, rabbits, etc. Not many cat breeders there, so presumed they were mainly going by road. Met Mrs. Macdonald, who stewarded for me so efficiently later.

The marquee was large with ample



Mrs. Bastow's WESTBRIDGE EVE—see Diary entry for 22nd August on p. 26.

room for the exhibits, and everything very well arranged by the Show Manager, Mr. Brian Porter. He informed me that no classes had been cancelled or amalgamated, however small the entry. Entries in the cat section numbered 377 (101 more than 1948) and the best at any post-war Sandy Show. The Best Exhibit in Show was Mrs. Brunton's Blue Longhair Dusty of Dunesk, by Baralan Boy Blue and Mary Rose of Dunesk. Dusty was a good all-round kitten, shown to the minute and to perfec-

tion. What a pity more Longhair exhibitors cannot emulate Mrs. Brunton and give their kittens the advantage of perfect physical condition and grooming, which is the prelude to lovely, sound, stand-off coats!

Best Cat in Show was Mrs. Vize's Blue male Astra of Pensford, by Valleyend Blue Prince and Bebe of Pensford. He also was in perfect condition, although not yet sound in colour owing to old coat not moulted out. He has a massive, well-balanced head and glorious copper eyes. Best Shorthair Cat in Show, Mrs. France's Abyssinian Merkland Sheba. **Best**

Shorthair kitten, the Rev. K. A. Jenner's Siamese female Silken Philomela, by Afka Khan and Proud Philomela, yet another very good exhibit.

Mrs. K. R. Williams's Afka Khan won the Challenge certificate in Siamese males and Mrs. D. Nicholas's Southwood Sunya in females.

Other first prize winners in their Open adult classes were Mrs. Aitken's Bourneside Black Diamond, Mrs. Chapman's Tortie and White Bridgway Harlequinette, and Mrs.

Sheppard's very lovely Creams Widdington Wintersweet and Widdington Wincette, litter brother and sister. Whites were conspicuous by their absence.

Mrs. Henn showed a lovely pair of Black Longhair female kittens and it was delightful to see two such good kittens of this variety. Several very nice kittens were present which showed promise of making good adults. About three-quarters of the total entry consisted of Blues and Siamese, and the last named was the strongest entry I remember seeing at Sandy. The winning Siamese male kitten (19 in class) was Mrs. Nicholas's Ryecroft Magician.

Miss Kathleen Yorke had an unusual day for a referee judge, as in addition to acting in that capacity there was no one to organise Best in Show awards so she gallantly rose to the occasion and did it very efficiently. This is typical of the *esprit de corps* which exists among officials at cat shows.

By the time I had finished my classes it was too late to visit other sections of the Show, but I heard these were much enjoyed by cat breeders visiting Sandy for the first time. Fanciers from Derby, Nottingham and districts round about had chartered a motor coach and I noticed Mr. and Mrs. Herod, Mr. and Mrs. Barker, Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Clare Prince. From Purley, Surrey, Mr. and Mrs. Carman, and from London Mr. and Mrs. Cowlishaw. Mr. Porter hopes the cat section will have an even larger entry next year. He is always ready to listen to ideas for its improvement. The total number of entries in all sections was 6,462.

28th August. Tea with Mr. and Mrs. Carman. Their Blue queen Haynford Misty was nursing promising twins by Baralan Boy Blue. The female was especially attractive. Oxleys Fey-Fay (litter sister to the

late Oxleys David) is a pretty queen with lovely eyes and a winner at last season's shows. Her lively, sweet-tempered daughter excels in eye colour and is an attractive kitten. Fey-Fay did her party piece and went into the garden and whimpered until Mr. Carman appeared, when she scampered after and retrieved little apples until he grew tired. Cat Fanciers are teeming with ideas but Mr. Carman has one new to me—a small electric light fitted up in the box in which queens have and nurse their kittens. These two cats have a happy home life with real cat lovers.

29th August. A cheery letter from Miss Cathcart enclosing the schedule for the S.W.C.C. Club Show on 28th September. It has been well supported by the Clubs and 59 special prizes are offered. The classes now number 43, and I was interested to see the last two classes were for Household, Shop and Office Pets

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(one for cats, one for kittens). These are to be judged on condition and temperament only. Pedigree stock is not eligible for these novel classes. This is very fair, as when pedigree Longhair or Siamese are allowed in such classes they usually take precedence over parti-coloured cats which as a rule are not so attractive to judges, who are nearly always present, or past breeders of pedigree cats. Miss Cathcart writes: "Captain Lowe is quite indefatigable in his efforts for the Cat Fancy (and the S.W.C.C. in particular). He organised something to interest cat lovers at an agricultural show near his home. At his stand not only did he have cat literature and remedies, but he had a double pen on the table with two Siamese kittens on show to give the public an idea of how cats were shown. The heat tired the inmates and apparently a few sight-

seers thought they were stuffed! Captain Lowe secured two new members and a number of promises to visit the Torquay Show."

Miss Cathcart concludes: "I am now sitting back waiting for entries to pour in."

31st August. Mr. Soderberg, just returned from his holiday in Italy and France, has had a wonderful time. When he was in Rome he was walking down the steps of St. Peter's and saw in the distance what he thought was a Siamese kitten playing by one of the fountains. He went to make inquiries and found it belonged to an old lady who had brought it in a shopping bag to have an airing. She informed him she had had it since it was six weeks of age. Rome, by the way, is to have a cat show in November.

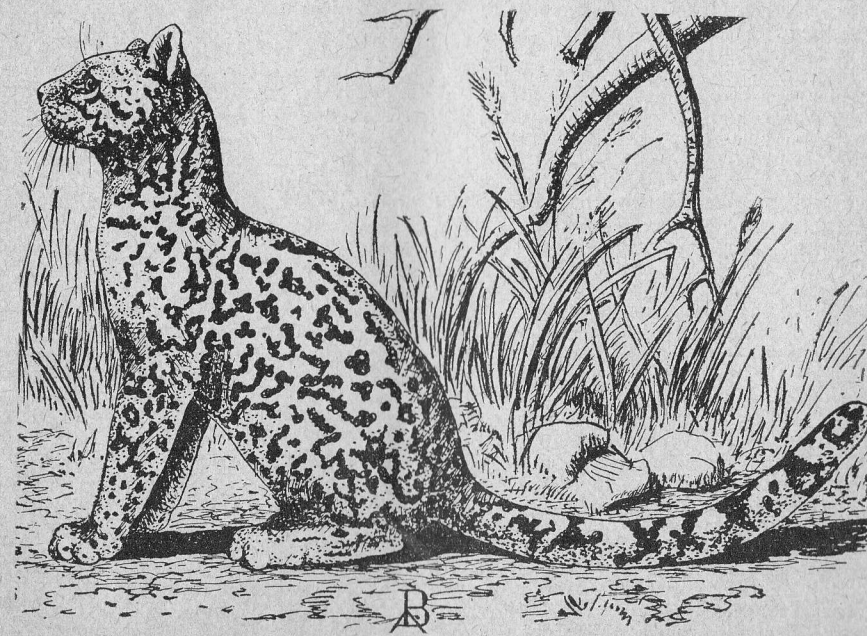
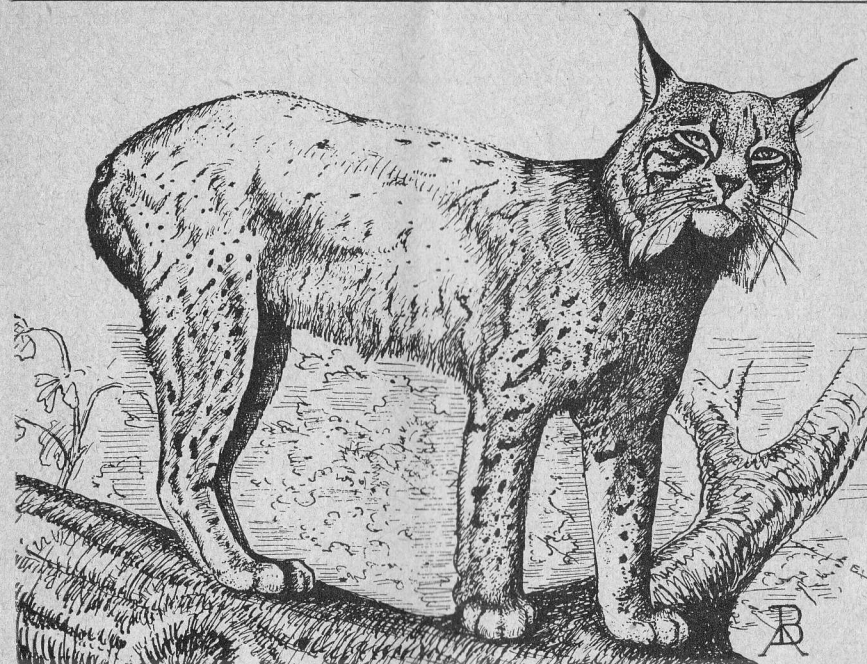


CAT MODELS (continued from page 11)

States, Canada and South Africa. Now she has hit upon a new idea that promises—shall we say?—to "catch on." She has started an agency to provide artists and photographers with cat models and she appears in our photograph in the company of three glamour pussies whose names are on the agency books.

Mrs. Mellor runs her agency exactly like one for girl models. Owners register their cats with her and particulars are filed. Several varieties are on the books and the minimum time for which a cat model can be hired is three hours with a fee of £3 15s.—25s. an hour.

This surely must be the first agency of its kind to be established anywhere in the world. Mrs. Mellor, who is to be congratulated on her enterprise, has recently returned to the States after a visit to her relatives in Gloucestershire. During her stay in this country she was able to visit a number of her friends in the English Fancy. For three years she lived in South Africa, where she was able to study the "big cats" in their native surroundings.



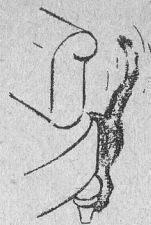
(Top) EUROPEAN LYNX

(Lower) MARGAY



Tailpieces

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



I WAS interested the other day to read the account by a contributor to "The Field" of his experiences with some of the fishermen in the West Country who specialise in catching crabs. Apparently it is no rare occurrence for land animals to be caught in the crab pots and on one occasion a large otter was found trapped. Entering the pot by way of the funnel the animals are unable to find the exit. Yet the local cats think nothing of curling up inside for an afternoon's nap and they experience no difficulty in finding the way out when they want to go home!

An appalling instance of cruelty to a cat recently came before the Chertsey magistrates when Davis Lewis Simpkins, a 17-year-old boy living in Brooklands Road, Weybridge, was taught a lesson he should never forget. The charge was one of causing unnecessary suffering to a cat and the boy admitted to having climbed two trees to catch the animal which was trying to escape the attentions of a dog. When he caught the cat Simpkins threw it to the waiting dog, which promptly worried and killed it. After being remanded in custody for a week the boy apologised to the Bench and asked for leniency. He was fined £15 on the cruelty charge and a further £10 for a breach of recognisances, plus 30s. costs. The Chairman said he was pleased to hear that the week in prison had done Simpkins good; he hoped the experience would be a lesson and a warning.

A remarkably fine two-page spread of pictures depicting some strange cases of adoption by mother cats appeared in an August issue of the American magazine "Life." "The champion mother in the world of mammals," says the introduction, "and certainly the most indiscriminating, is the house cat." Picture No. 1 shows Midnight, a Chicago black queen, nursing two

rabbits with her sole surviving kitten. Then there is Lucy, a white cat, who adopted a week-old ground hog which was found by a Cherokee Indian on a hunting trip. A Californian tabby is shown nursing three baby skunks, "which make good pets if deodorized," and finally, Gypsie, a Black Longhair mother, appears with her mixed family of four kittens and two squirrels.

Mrs. E. Isitt, of Newport, Mon. (writing in the "Sunday Express"), claims that her 10-year-old black Persian cat, which had lost nearly all its teeth, is growing a new set. I should be very pleased to hear from readers on this subject if they have any interesting experiences to relate.

The same newspaper carried a letter from a lady of Old Coulsdon (Surrey) which must have raised many a smile. "While holidaying," she writes, "I went into a village store, where I saw a large brown dog put his paws on the counter, lick a side of bacon, paw a loaf, and lift his leg on a box of plums."

Heavyweights have been very much in the news of late. So to be in the fashion, here is an item about a big fellow which has just reached me from Sydney, Australia. They have out there in the Bellevue Hill district a cat which tips the scales at 31½ lbs. It measures 38 inches from nose to tail, is 32 round the waist and its whiskers stretch for 8½ inches. Any challengers? In the old days of the Crystal Palace cat shows they used to have a competition for the heaviest cat. I have no records available of this event, but an informant tells me that the heaviest winner scaled 25 lbs.

Famous ballerina Margot Fonteyn is a cat lover and during a recent performance at Covent Garden she was presented with a toy cat mascot by ballerina Alicia Markova. I am

delighted to have the opportunity to deny a report in a London evening newspaper which credited Miss Fonteyn with having recently got rid of the 24 cats which she kept at her parents' South Kensington home. Writing to OUR CATS, Miss Fonteyn says: "It is true that I am a cat lover and I shouldn't like you to think that I got rid of 24 cats."

There is joy again in the London home of Sir Henry and Lady Buckland. Ming, their 4-year-old Siamese pet, is home again after a successful and unusual operation. Ming was missing for a few days and when he returned home he was trailing a broken hind leg. An operation was carried out by Mr. Gordon Knight at the Royal Veterinary College. It consisted of a stainless steel pin being driven down the centre of the broken bone. When the parts are knit together the pin will be removed. Ming was welcomed home by two doggie friends, a Dalmatian and a Corgi. The three have been great friends since Sir Henry and Lady Buckland adopted them at a very early age.

Kenneth Ochltree, writing about his Siamese pet Tico in "The Field," describes him as having "a natty red collar and piercing green eyes." Tico accompanies his owner on hunting expeditions and is himself a great hunter in his own right, accounting for four rabbits a day.

The Cat Club of Paris are staging their 21st Exhibition in the Hotel Continental, Paris, on the 4th, 5th and 6th of November next, when the proceeds are to be devoted to the National Committee concerned with the fighting of tuberculosis. Miss Kit Wilson and Miss Kathleen Yorke have

been invited to attend as representatives of the English Cat Fancy.

Peter, 11-year-old Hartland, Devon, cat was missing for over two weeks. He was eventually discovered on a ledge 20 feet down a well. A plucky farm lad effected a rescue and an hour later the rain came down to fill up the well and put the ledge under water. Peter therefore had a lucky escape from a watery grave.

A report has come in from Birmingham that a number of cats in that area have fallen victims to a 'flu outbreak. There is no confirmation at the moment of going to press that this outbreak has reached epidemic proportions.

A remarkable story of a homing cat comes from Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shepherd, of Woodford, Cheshire, who took their pet cat Marmalade with them when they went on a holiday to North Wales. When the time came for the return journey Marmalade was missing and the Shepherds were forced to travel back without him. Five days later he turned up at Woodford, which is a distance of 140 miles from the spot in Wales where the holiday was spent. Mr. Shepherd calculates that Marmalade just kept on walking home at the steady rate of 28 miles a day. The journey would entail crossing four counties and the hazards of the Snowdon range, the Denbigh moors and the River Dee. When he finally arrived back home Marmalade looked sleek and fit although his claws were worn and his pads sore. Mr. Shepherd would like to hear from anyone who happened to catch sight of Marmalade during his long trek home.

MICKEY.

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To the Children

From Uncle Peter

Boys and Girls

Do you like your page better now that we are going to talk about all sorts of pets? I read the page last month to some children I know quite well and they thought it was better but that there was still room for improvement. That is what I like about you children—you don't feel that you have to be polite. If you don't like something you say so.

The New Dog

Recently one of my dogs died. Jet was a Labrador and she had been one of my pets for nearly eleven years. What a pity it is that dogs which are such good companions have only a short life. Jet was such a good friend that when I come back from my holiday I am going to fill the gap she has left by buying a puppy.

This time I am having a Red Irish Setter. They are beautiful dogs but they are rather big to feed and are somewhat out of place in a small house and in places where they cannot have plenty of exercise.

This one I am going to christen Laddie. Have you read that wonderful dog book called "Lassie"?

Kittens' Eyes.

A little girl who came to see my kittens a week or two ago was very surprised that their eyes were not the same colour as their mother's. As I expect most of you know, Blue Persians have orange eyes, Chinchillas have green eyes, some White Persians have blue eyes and a good Seal Point Siamese has eyes of amethyst blue. All kittens' eyes, however, when they first open, are a milky blue and it is only weeks later that the colour changes to what we expect for any particular breed.

Siamese Fighters

Do you know what these are? They have nothing to do with warriors, aeroplanes or cats. In fact, they are tropical fish which you can breed in your own aquarium if you have some means of heating the water up to about 80 degrees F. and keeping it at that temperature by means of a thermostat.

The adult males of this breed are extremely beautiful, but, as their name implies, most quarrelsome. In their own country, Siam, the males used to be used for fighting as gamecocks were used in this country. I don't expect that it happens there now because people all over the world are becoming more thoughtful for animals. There is, however, still much more to be done before we can be satisfied about the general treatment of animals.

This summer I have bred about a hundred young fighters and they can be kept together until they are about three months old. The beautiful reds and blues which you find in these fish make them most attractive.

They are bubble nest breeders, and if you have a pair just watch the way they set about having a family.

If you want me to write about any particular pets, just let me know.

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.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

The rate for prepaid advertisements under this heading is 3d. per word per insertion (minimum 12 words) and instructions must be received by *not later than the last day of the month* preceding the month of issue. Please write "copy" clearly and post with appropriate remittance to OUR CATS MAGAZINE, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9.

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Miscellaneous

WARNING TO OWNERS. Never dispose of cats unless you are certain they are going to a good home. There is a big demand for cats by the vivisectionists, who may subject them to agonising experiments. For further information apply to: National Anti-Vivisection Society, 92 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

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