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Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



1/6

MAY 1949

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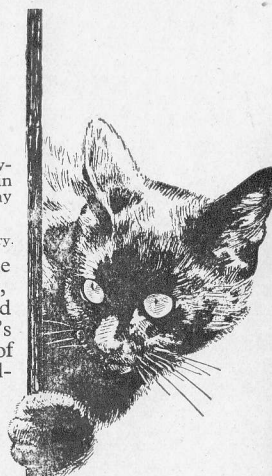
(signed) Mrs. E. M. Hughes, Highbury,
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Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

VOL. I No. 5

MAY 1949

MISCELLANY

SINCE we last met on this page there has been a great amount of behind-the-scenes activity in the Fancy. Various club meetings have been held, the all-over picture has been discussed, officials have rendered an account of their stewardship and eyes are now turned towards the heavy show programme that lies ahead. Details of this programme will be outlined in our next issue for the convenience of readers.

The important April meeting of the Governing Council has come and gone. Delegates must have attended with very mixed feelings as for the first time in 26 years they were faced with the responsibility of electing a new chairman to succeed Mr. Cyril Yeates, who has finally retired to enjoy a well-earned rest. The G.O.M. of the Fancy will, I am pleased to be able to report, remain permanently on the Executive Committee so that the benefit of his vast knowledge and experience will not be lost completely.

This is an appropriate occasion on which to send grateful thanks to Mr. Yeates for his wonderful record of service on behalf of cat lovers everywhere and a sincere expression of hope that he will be spared to enjoy many years of health and happiness among his friends.

Miss Kit Wilson, who was elected to the chair, will work hard and earnestly to fill the gap left by the departure of Mr. Yeates. She entered the Fancy via a poultry show in 1926 and has since contributed in large measure to its progress and well-being. Always untiring and grandly enthusiastic, Miss Kit—call me Alley-Cat—Wilson believes in making a target and then hitting it. She has set the pace in show organisation, she runs her own monthly publication, she has been an ever-present at the various meetings and social affairs and in between all these activities she has contrived to sandwich in some first-class work as a publicist for the Fancy.

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).

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

Reverting for a moment to the 1949 show season, I do feel very strongly that our clubs are much too reticent and modest about their achievements. The amount of publicity laid on for the various shows is negligible. I have on occasion even found blank notice boards outside the halls where the events were actually taking place. Present-day hall accommodation is, of course, limited, but even so it has usually been sufficient to absorb larger crowds of visitors which would, I feel sure, be attracted by a little judicious trumpet blowing.

A cat book from the James Masons is indeed something to anticipate. The American edition is out but we shall have to wait until September or thereabouts before Michael Joseph has the English edition available. Title of the book is "The Cats in Our Lives" and we can expect a beguiling story generously illustrated by James Mason, who is a remarkably fine artist in line. It was a Siamese kitten given to his talented wife Pamela Kellino, who contributes to the book, that brought about Mason's introduction to cats and to his future wife.

EDITOR



Photograph direct from the television screen by John Cura

Our picture of Miss Kit Wilson, newly elected Chairman of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, was taken during a television programme in January last when she introduced a number of feline aristocrats. Leslie Mitchell is on her left and Miss Joan Gilbert, the announcer, is holding Smithy, the B.B.C. canteen cat who somehow managed to gatecrash the select party!

Our front cover photograph was submitted by Mrs. Elsie Hart, hon. Secretary of the Siamese Cat Club, who bred the lively Sealsleeve Siamese Kitten portrayed.

Extra-ordinary Seaman!

BEATRICE BLACKMAN relates for the first time the full story (and its sequel) of the adventures of Ko Ko, her Siamese pet who went a-sailing.

KO KO (registered Siamese Mystic Ong Noi) was presented to the Royal Navy as a token of esteem for our "Silent Service." So in January, 1948, he joined H.M.S. Battleaxe as ship's mascot.

The presentation was made a naval occasion. With Ko Ko went his "papers"—pedigree, registration form, transfer form, his winning show cards, a copy of Mrs. Elsie Hart's book "Shah Pashah," membership of the Siamese Cat Club, etc. Captain Sir Charles Madden, Bt., R.N., said the cat had more papers than any other member of his ship's company.

Ko Ko formally signed on by making his paw mark in the visitors' book.

He settled down at once and proved friendly and a worthy member of the crew. He was a good sailor and, later, did not turn a hair when the ship's guns were fired over his head.

Every possible attention was given him on board. He had his sleeping quarters (which he deserted in favour of C.P.O. Stubb's chest when that worthy retired), his scratching board, and the crew even grew boxes of special cat's grass for him.

True to his breed, Ko Ko adopted one person as his special friend—Lt.-Cmdr. Lord. Whenever the Lt.-Cmdr. left the ship, Ko Ko also went to find him.

The members of the welfare committee were concerned when Ko Ko was absent without leave at a foreign port of call. They took the veterinary surgeon's advice and promptly had the cat neutered.

The ship returned in due course to Portsmouth to prepare for a voyage to America. Lt.-Cmdr. Lord went on leave and Ko Ko promptly deserted again. The ship was moved to another berth and Ko Ko would not have been able to locate her. The crew, realising this, organised search parties in their free time. But the absentee was not found and so Battleaxe sailed without her mascot.

Naval and civil police were informed. Then a Press appeal brought prompt results. A telephone call from Lt. Manasseh, of H.M.S. Indomitable, contained the glad news that he had seen Ko Ko feeding at a pig bin in the dockyard.

Lt. Manasseh had a Siamese cat of his own on board which

he took for walks on a lead near the bins. Ko Ko responded to the decoy but was shy of passing people. The focus of human attention reminded the cat of his happier days on board ship and he boarded an Admiralty tug about to sail. Here he was quickly caught. The only thing handy to hold him was a sack, and in it he went to be handed over to the Naval police.

Home on Leave

These well-meaning officials were not well versed in coping with a half-wild and indignant Siamese cat in a sack, and eight of their number had to receive hospital treatment as a result.

The captain of H.M.S. Finnestere took Ko Ko on board his ship and gave him sympathetic care. Lt. Manasseh attended and gave him a thorough clean up as he was very dirty. Ko Ko proved docile.

Finnestere was sailing so Ko Ko changed hands again into the care of Captain Rae, of H.M.S. Cadiz, who understands animals. He installed the cat in his own quarters. Ko Ko responded by becoming very affectionate and talkative.

But the Royal Navy had work to do and Cadiz was to sail before Battleaxe was due to return. It was decided that Ko Ko should come home until direct contact could be made with his owners. An officer from the Cadiz coming on leave brought him home to Birmingham.

The arrangements were noted officially in the following signal from H.M.S. Cadiz to the Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet:

"CAT KO KO, OFFICIAL NUMBER NOT KNOWN, DISCHARGED ON LEAVE IN BIRMINGHAM ON DONOR'S REQUEST. TRAVELLING BY HAND OF OFFICER."

With his return came some facts of Ko Ko's experiences in the dockyard. To a cat it is a veritable jungle, red in tooth and claw. Observers in dockland state there appear to be four adult males only at a time who lord it over a considerable feline population. These monarchs drive out all other males from their territory. Young males are driven to the edge of a dock, a sudden feint charge is made, and the unfortunate youngster leaps backwards into the dock. If they survive this they either leave dockland or seek protection on board a ship.

Fought to Survive

Ko Ko was not spared. Dockyard workers saw the fight and Ko Ko falling into a dock. Happily the dock was almost dry. Ko Ko struck the terraces as he fell and the little water at the bottom saved him. So Ko Ko climbed out to fight again.

It is a credit to his stamina and fighting qualities that he survived six weeks of constant war of this nature. He carried



Hampshire Telegraph
Scene on board H.M.S. Battleaxe when Ko Ko was "signed on." Captain Sir Charles Madden, Bt., R.N., is on Mrs. Blackman's right and some members of the ship's company are obviously delighted to make the acquaintance of their mascot.

numerous wounds as evidence of the ferocity of the battles.

On the return of H.M.S. Battleaxe the welfare committee, who had held special meetings on the matter while crossing the Atlantic, decided they could find no sure means of restraining their mascot from leaving ship when in dock. They were determined he should not be exposed to any more dangerous adventures and therefore, with much reluctance, they waived their claim to him.

Ko Ko's mission in life is now to keep his companion the Lady Sealsleeve Shah Tiane spotlessly clean. My Lady thoroughly ap-

proves of his efficient Navy training in dhobyng.

One other Navy habit he retains. When excited he leaps about 18 inches into the air when entering a room—over a non-existent "sill." He has been discouraged from expecting early morning tea with lots of cream and sugar, and from his strident "wakey wakey!" at 6.30 a.m.!

Be assured the end of the story of Mystic Ong Noi, ex-Seaman Extraordinary, is a happy one. He has now only one desire, and that is to teach that black cat next door a few things in navy style.



Loughborough Monitor

Mother and family doing well! A delightful domestic scene submitted by Siamese breeder Miss M. Lant, Loughborough, Leicestershire.

Rearing a Siamese Litter

By MRS. ELSIE HART, Hon. Secretary of the Siamese Cat Club

LET us assume that the kittens have arrived safely without complications and that the little mother is now installed with her family in a comfortable box away from the light. She did make an attempt to have the accouchement in the boot cupboard, the wardrobe, and the bed, but persuasion finally prevailed!

For the first three weeks the kittens will need little attention apart from keeping the bedding clean, the queen well fed and, if the weather be cold, a hot water bottle for the first few days.

Eyes will usually commence to

open within four to seven days and, providing your stock is strong and healthy, should cause no trouble. From three weeks to a month the little creatures will begin to feel their feet and start crawling around their home, wrestling together and trying to get out. At this early age they are most attractive and real "time-wasters," for one cannot help watching their antics.

Providing the mother has plenty of milk there is no need to start to wean them until they are from four to five weeks of age, unless, of course, the litter is exceptionally large. Most

Siamese ladies can bring up five or six kittens quite successfully, but if there are more a foster mother should be obtained.

The first small meal should be of some kind of milk. Any of the proprietary baby foods are quite suitable or, if unobtainable, cow's milk may be used, although goat's milk is the best of all. It should be warmed slightly and put into a flat saucer or plate. Dip a finger into the milk and rub a little on to the kitten's mouth. It will be licked off. Then offer a little in a spoon, gradually lowering this to the saucer and so eventually the kitten will lap from it.

On to Raw Meat

You can dip their noses gently into the plate, but be very careful in doing this in case any of the milk gets up the nose. They won't like that and may refuse to lap at all. At first, give only one meal of the milk each day, then increase to two after a day or so and gradually get the kitten on to four small meals.

After the first meal or so, Farex may be added to the milk, making it to the consistency of gruel. This preparation needs no cooking and so is very easy to use. At five to six weeks, finely mashed fish or chopped rabbit (if you can get it) may be given for two of the meals with the milky meals for breakfast and supper. The next step is raw meat, which should be finely scraped to commence with, about a teaspoonful for each kitten.

Opinions differ as to the advisability of feeding meat at an early age, but my own experience has been that the little ones thrive and do much better when given raw meat as soon as possible. Watch them eat it, growling and cursing at their brothers

and sisters with paws outstretched.

As the Strachey ration will not go very far for a litter of hearty Siamese, horsemeat must be substituted, but for using it raw buy only that sold for human consumption. Any pet shop meat should be well cooked before using.

Water should be provided to drink and do not give milk and meat meals at the same time or you will get tummy troubles. I never give vegetables or bread myself. Barley flakes boiled with the rabbit are good and help the kidneys, and sometimes wheat flakes are mixed with gravy or fish. Quite simple, isn't it? Milk—fish—meat. What more could a kitten desire in its feeding bowl?

Good Habits

As soon as the kittens begin to run about a sanitary tray should be provided for their toilet. It should be filled with either peat moss litter (best of all for the tray), dry earth or ashes. Most kittens will automatically use the sanitary pan, but if one is caught misbehaving it should immediately be deposited on the tray. They learn good habits very quickly and it is proverbial that Siamese are the cleanest among cats.

Siamese kittens should be kept comfortably warm and free from draughts. Plenty of sunshine being essential, don't try breeding them in basements or sunless rooms. At eight weeks they are ready to go to their new homes.

There is no great art in successfully rearing Siamese. Given reasonable warmth, fresh air, light, good food and the average amount of common sense, all should be well. And what a lot of pleasure they can bring!



SPIV ON A GOVERNMENT JOB —

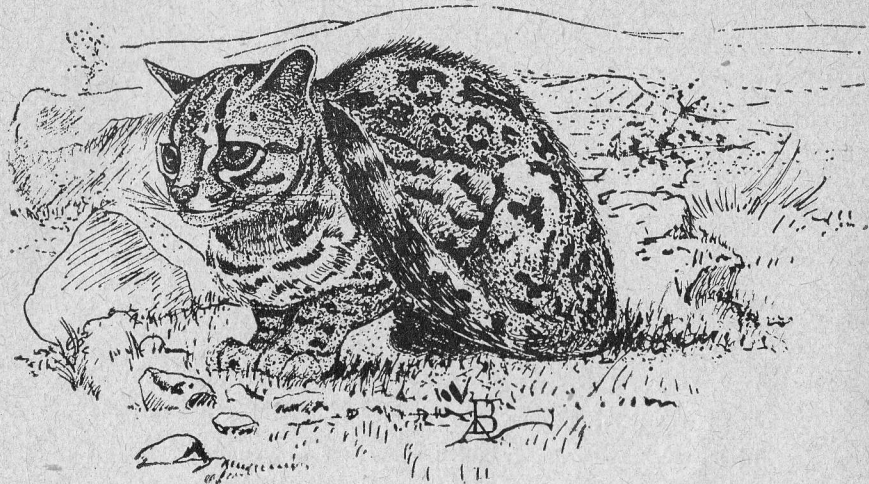
But there is no need for alarm nor will it be necessary for you to write a letter of protest to your local M.P. ! We have a much more pleasant subject to write about than the padded-shouldered, work-shy drone on two legs. OUR spiv belongs to the four-footed fraternity and we are proud to present him on the page opposite in the act of doing an important job of work for the Government.

SPIV, son of Sausage, is probably the most publicised cat in the country. He has been featured many times in the daily press and in 1947 he delighted thousands of youngsters by his performance as the kitten in "Alice Through the Looking-Glass" at the "Q" Theatre, where on one occasion he was presented to Prime Minister Mr. Atlee and his daughter.

SPIV became known as "the pin-up" cat, his pictures were in great demand especially among children and hospital patients and quite a fan mail had to be handled by his owner, Miss Gwendoline Sladen, the Oxfordshire Fancier who has won so many show successes with her Manx entries bearing the "Stonor" prefix.

And now SPIV is back in the public eye on the poster of the Post Office Savings Bank. We are informed that he is doing splendid work and that the poster is proving most popular and productive. Who, indeed, could resist his appeal to "put a little by for a rainy day" ?

The poster (roughly 3 ft. x 2 ft. in four colours) is the work of the designer, Manfred Reiss, M.S.I.A., and SPIV'S photo was taken by the Fox Photos Ltd. All concerned are to be congratulated on a first-class piece of promotion material, and OUR CATS is grateful to the Publicity Department of the Post Office Savings Bank for permission to reproduce the poster.



ZAMBESI WILD CAT



CURACAL

Neutering Explained

By FORCEPS

Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

IS it advisable to have my cat neutered? At what age should it be done? Can female cats be neutered? Will it alter their disposition?

These are some of the questions which a veterinary surgeon is frequently asked, and the purpose of this article is to provide the cat owner with the necessary information. It is not proposed to discuss the ethical aspect—whether human beings are justified in taking this action; individual owners must decide that point for themselves, bearing in mind the facts given below.

The owner of a female domestic cat has three alternatives: Firstly, to allow the animal full liberty and be presented with successive litters of unwanted kittens; secondly, to confine the animal indoors when on heat; or thirdly, to have the cat “spayed,” as the neutering of a female is commonly called.

The first time a cat has a litter it may be comparatively easy to find homes for at any rate some of the kittens, but with the second and third litters this becomes progressively more difficult, and there usually arises the distasteful business of having to have them destroyed. Moreover, the cat herself may become worn out with continual pregnancies, and the owner irritated by them.

With regard to the second alternative, it is not always easy to keep a cat under control. Besides, to do so distresses the

animal, which may become noisy in consequence, as anyone who has experience of a Siamese will know. In animals which have passed two or three years of age this distress may be very marked, and may affect the bodily condition so that the cat becomes thin.

In later life a cat which has never had kittens is liable to suffer from pyometra—a septic condition of the womb—which is never seen in spayed cats.

Spaying does away with the need for keeping a cat in while on heat, for she neither comes on heat nor can she have kittens. And—contrary to what might be expected—apart from removing the sexual urge, the operation does not appear to affect the cat mentally or alter its disposition. For example, a cat which spends much time in hunting will continue to do so after the operation, and there is no tendency to become fat, lazy or stupid. Many people, including myself, prefer a spayed female, as a pet, to a “doctored tom.”

The operation is a delicate abdominal one, though in these days of modern veterinary surgery it is regarded as quite a minor affair when carried out on a kitten four to six months old. This is the most suitable age, but in cases where the sex of a kitten is not discovered until it is eight months old or so, spaying can still be done successfully; or even after the first litter, if necessary. Quite obviously,

however, it is better for the kitten if done at the early age.

A general anaesthetic is, of course, essential. Some veterinary surgeons use ether, some prefer nembital. In either case, it is advisable to withhold all solid food a few hours beforehand, but give a little milk or water containing glucose or ordinary sugar. Most veterinary surgeons prefer to let the animal return home the same day, as they find cats do better in familiar surroundings. No special after-care, beyond warmth is necessary, and the removal of the stitches is a small matter. The fee is a very moderate one for the surgical skill involved, and averages three times that charged for castration.

Castration obviates a great deal of fighting, which involves the average male in numerous bites and tears from claws, many of these wounds turning septic. It also removes the unpleasant odour associated with the male cat. Some cats not merely lose some of their "wildness" afterwards, but tend to become too stolid and lazy. These are in the minority, however, and the average cat after castration is alert, mouse-conscious, and full of character.

Three-and-a-half to four months is the best age for the operation, which should *not* be postponed until the cat is six months old or more, by which time the operation ceases to be a minor one. So many cat owners seem to overlook this point and, unwittingly, cause unnecessary discomfort through their delay. In the case of a cat which has reached the age of six months, the use of a general anaesthetic is compulsory by law.

PUSS ON THE PROWL

It is strange to think that our charming lady of the fireside (writes Miss Frances Pitt in the London "Evening News"), who is so fastidious and dainty, who picks her way so delicately up the garden path, should forget her horror of damp and wander abroad on a winter night. But every true cat knows the call of the wild, that tug at her inmost feelings which lures her from the armchair and the warmth and sends her prowling abroad.

Puss on the prowl still minds where she steps and does her best to avoid the worst of the mud. Far from home she is, for the night, no longer a domesticated animal but a wild creature out for adventure, out for the joy and the thrill of hunting. Yet morning will find Madam back at her home, looking even more mild and innocent than usual, and were it not for a bit of rabbit fur on her whiskers we would never guess what she has been up to in the past night.

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Spotlight on a Lovely Breed by P. M. SODERBERG

Chinchillas

"This is a breed which is so beautiful and still so capable of improvement that it would amply repay the efforts of anyone who wanted to take up breeding as a hobby and was prepared to work along common sense lines—" The author is Vice-Chairman of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy and Chairman of the Siamese Cat Club.

IF the word "chinchilla" conveys to your mind the picture of that small but beautiful American animal whose fur is much sought after, or if it conjures up the colour of the popular chinchilla rabbit, then the title, when applied to the cat, is quite misleading. Apart from name alone there is no comparison between the accepted colour of chinchilla fur and the appearance of the Chinchilla Longhair.

Looked at from a distance, the modern Chinchilla Longhair appears to be a white cat, but closer inspection shows that although there is much white fur there are distinct differences between Chinchillas and Whites.

The fur on the chest, legs and stomach is certainly white, but the shoulders, back and flanks are not pure white. When one looks carefully one sees that the white hairs are tipped with black and it is this difference which

produces the ticking essential for the perfect Chinchilla.

An evenly ticked coat produces a silvery sheen which makes this cat so attractive and causes it to be regarded by many cat lovers as the most beautiful of all the longhaired varieties. Certainly there is an ethereal grace and charm about the variety which is appreciated whenever one sees a first-class specimen.

The Chinchilla is now nearly fifty years old, although cats which bore the same name were shown some time before the turn of the century. It was only in 1902, however, that the first unmarked Chinchilla was exhibited.

As with most animals, new varieties are often produced by accident. It is more than likely that the Chinchilla was first produced by some accidental mating. Even more than fifty years ago the Silver Tabby was quite popular and there were also Whites which were very fashionable. It

is probable that the first cat which showed the possibilities of a new variety was produced in this fashion. Much experimental breeding in an attempt to produce the same result must have taken place, but even then the Chinchillas of those early days were very different from those which are seen to-day.

Silver Tabbies have bars and stripes both on head and back and also on the legs, and thus naturally the early Chinchillas had similar markings. For many years breeders had to concentrate on the elimination of these markings by selective breeding, as it was early decided that bars and stripes would be regarded as serious faults. Silver Tabbies, Whites and pale Blues all played an important part in creating this new variety.

Markings Change

Even to-day the novice breeder must be amazed at the sight of a newly born Chinchilla litter, for the kittens look quite unlike what one expects them to be. Coats are usually dark and quite often striped; it is quite common to find tails with rings of colour which one expects to find only in the tabby varieties. These markings usually disappear as soon as the baby coat is moulted out. If bars appear on the legs at birth, often that is a fault which stays and perhaps permanently prevents the animal from doing well at the shows.

At the beginning of the century the Silver Tabby had a golden-brown or hazel eye and this was the recognised standard for the breed. It naturally followed that the early Chinchillas had an eye of similar colour. From time to time cats appeared with eyes which were of greenish tinge, and it was decided by Fanciers of the day to endeavour to produce a green eye for this variety. Within a few years success was achieved and to-day an emerald eye, or blue-green, is what is expected. In the ten years before the outbreak of war in 1939 there were many Chinchillas which possessed eyes of brilliant green, but after the war it was noticeable that many specimens had eyes which were considerably paler than the correct shade and some of them even showed a yellowish tinge.

Breeding Faults

Pale eyes are definitely a fault due, perhaps, to the fact that there has been a tendency in recent times for the coat colour to be too pale through loss of ticking. It is only reasonable to suppose that lack of ticking, which implies loss of pigment, will show itself also in less depth of colour of the eyes.

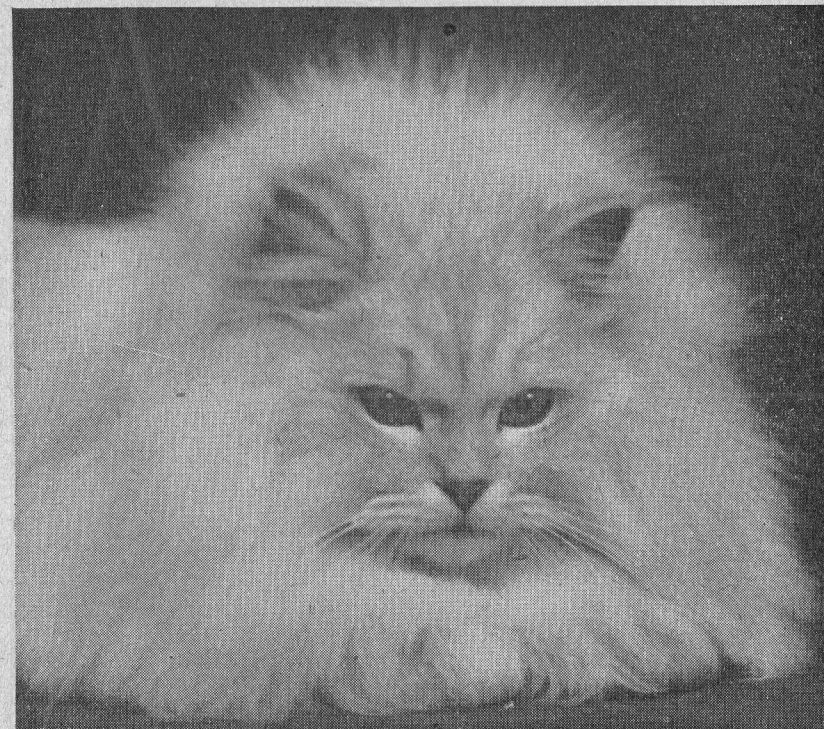
The emerald eye is so beautiful that it must be retained.

Many people who have seen the Chinchilla, and quite a number who have kept it, have come to the conclusion that this variety

is lacking in stamina, a belief which may be very largely discounted. There was a time when a mania for colour and freedom from markings, and at the same time the desire to produce the emerald eye, caused the unwise to

ness were bred for and achieved. To-day as a variety the Chinchilla cannot be said to be weakly.

What could be more attractive than a brick-red nose in a cat? Yet this is what is expected in the



Thomas Fall

A Chinchilla study which captures that "ethereal grace and charm."

sacrifice everything for these qualities. They quite forgot that excellence of appearance, when not backed by stamina and a sturdy frame, would only lead to disaster. Fortunately, before the rot had gone too far, counsels prevailed and stamina and sturdi-

Chinchilla. Noses to-day are inclined to be on the pale side and probably for the same reason that eyes also have lost some of their colour. No doubt even now breeders are working along lines which will restore the balance. Extremes always lead to disap-

pointment, but sooner or later the pendulum swings back and the balance is restored.

By taking extracts from the standard approved by the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy perhaps one can convey a brief word picture of this delightful variety.

"The undercoat should be pure white, the coat on the back, flanks, head, ears and tail being tipped with black. . . . The tip of the nose should be brick-red and the visible skin on the eyelids and pads should be black or dark brown. The eyes large, round and most expressive, emerald or blue-green in colour."

An Invitation

Here you have the Chinchilla Longhair and if you have never seen one you should make it your business to do so.

Unfortunately, there are but few breeders of Chinchillas today and recruits are very necessary. This is a breed which is so beautiful and still so capable of improvement that it would amply repay the efforts of anyone who wanted to take up breeding as a hobby and was prepared to work along commonsense lines to make the Chinchilla Longhair even more beautiful, and at the same time characterised by stamina second to none.

Are you sufficiently interested to try?

Let's indulge in a flight of fancy for a moment. Imagine you are at a cat show and that you are faced with the responsibility of judging the Chinchilla Longhair classes. There before you are 20 of the breed looking very much alike to your novice eye.

How would you set about your task? Of course, only experience can give you the necessary eye and touch for such a task. But you might be able to make a good showing as an "amateur" if you knew by heart the Standard of Points issued by the Chinchilla, Silver and Smoke Cat Society. Here are the details for your next show:

Colour (25 points).—The undercoat should be pure white, the coat on back, flanks, head, ears and tail being tipped with black, this tipping to be evenly distributed thus giving the characteristic sparkling silver appearance. The legs may be very slightly shaded with the tipping, but the chin, ear tufts, stomach and chest must be pure white; any tabby markings or brown or cream tinge is a drawback. The tip of the nose should be brick-red and the visible skin on eyelids and the pads should be black or dark brown.

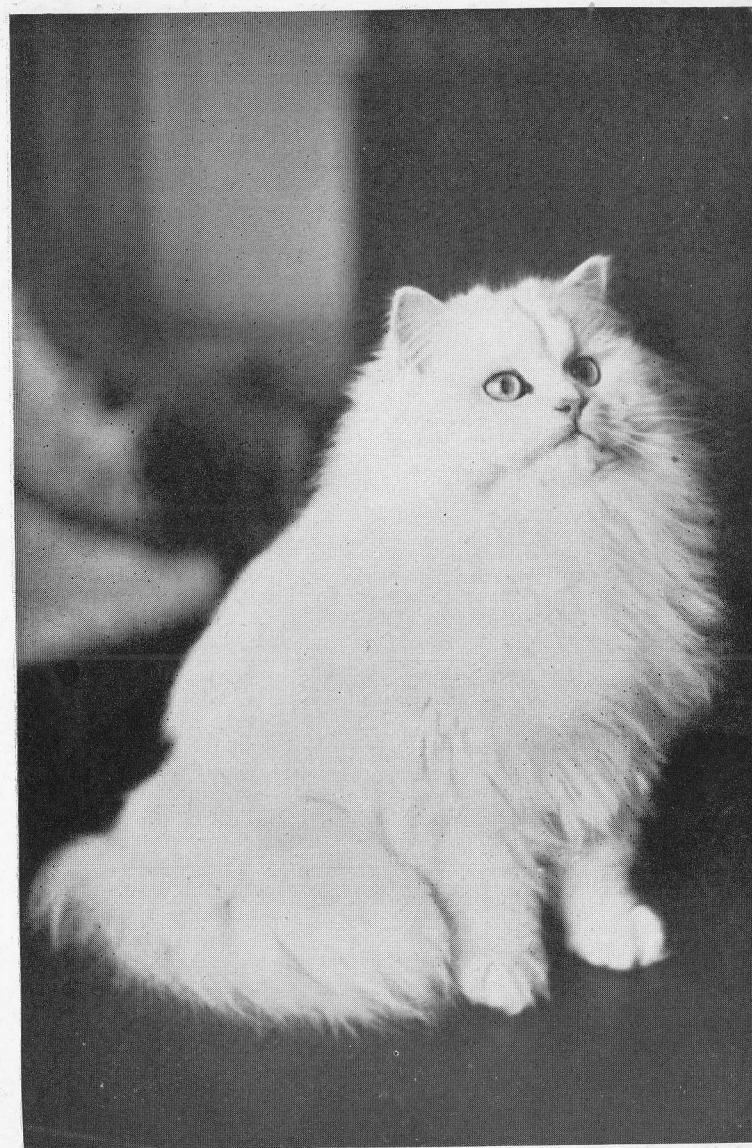
Head (20 points).—Broad and round with breadth between ears and wide at the muzzle; snub nose; small, well-tufted ears.

Shape (15 points).—Cobby body, short, thick legs.

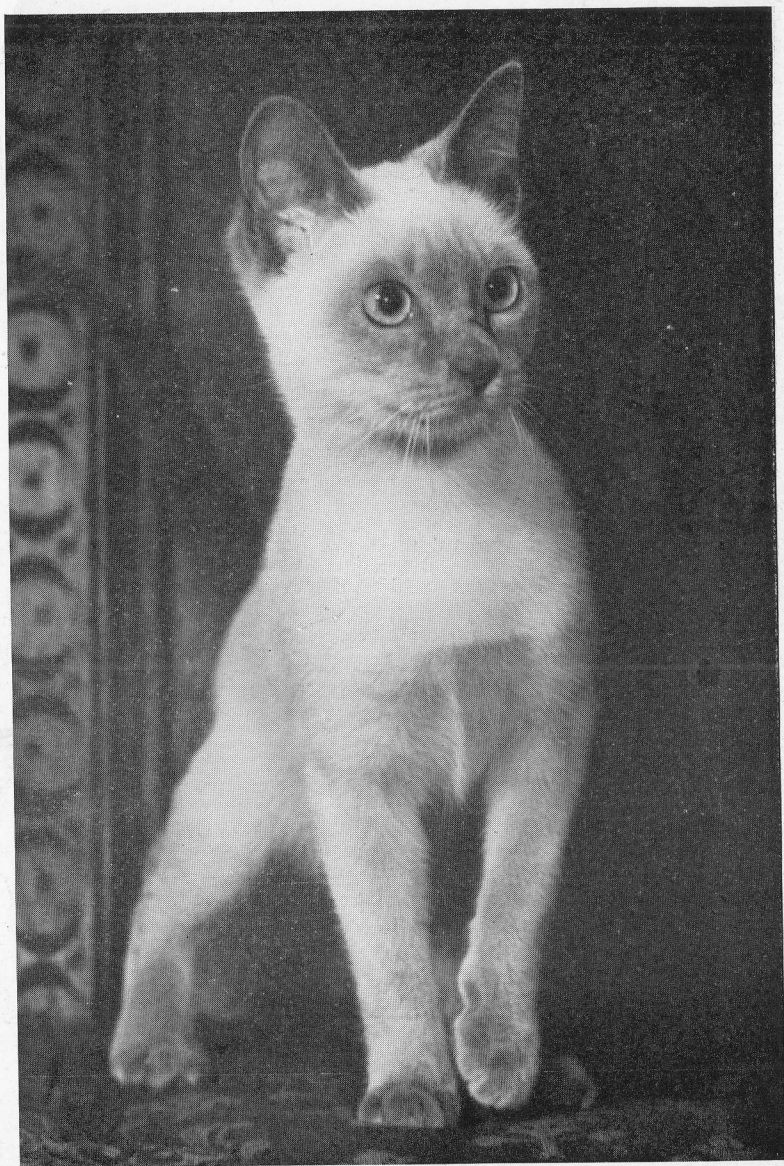
Eyes (15 points).—Large, round and most expressive, emerald or blue-green in colour.

Coat and Condition (15 points).—Silky and fine in texture, long and dense, extra long on frill.

Tail (10 points).—Short, bushy.



FLAMBEAU OF ALLINGTON, a Chinchilla kitten of rare quality. Not yet a year old, Flambeau was shown in the 3-9 months class at the January Championship Show of the Southern Counties Cat Club, where he was Best Kitten and Best Exhibit and so literally "swept the board." By Sarisbury Simba ex Foxburrow Flame, this outstanding youngster is a credit to his owner-breeder, Miss Evelyn Langston, of Maidenhead.



I HEAR YOU CALLING ME !

With eyes and ears at the alert, one paw poised and tail erect, this little Blue Pointed Siamese female kitten presents a perfect picture of intelligent and eager anticipation. She is MISSEFORE YA-RAIN, born November, 1948, bred and owned by Major and Mrs. J. C. S. Rendall, Bolderchalke, Salisbury, well-known Blue Point enthusiasts.

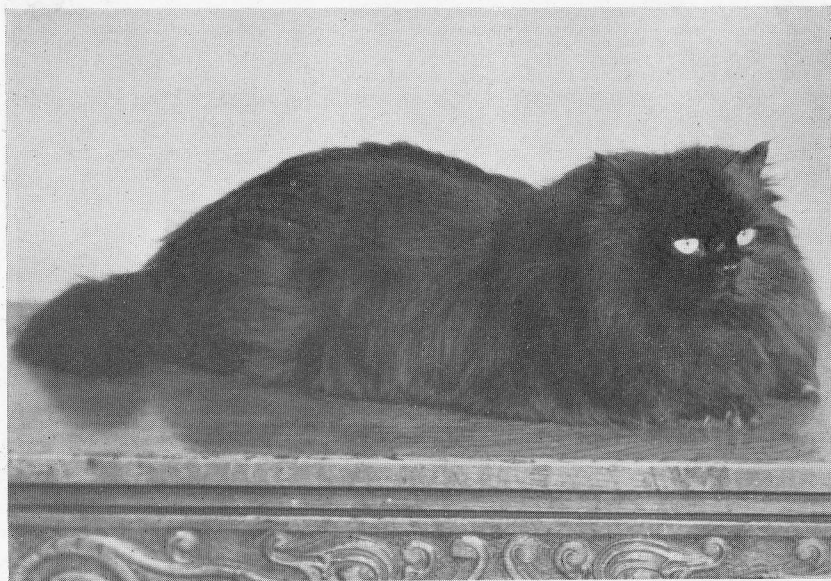


B.B.C. Photograph

Mrs. Florence Macdonald, popular Ewell (Surrey) Fancier, persuades two of her Blue Pointed Siamese kittens to make their debut "on the air." With her is Audrey Russell, the well-known B.B.C. observer, who prepared a recording for broadcasting in "Woman's Hour."



CHAMPION DANDY OF HADLEY, Miss J. M. Fisher's famous Brown Tabby whose prize-winning record is referred to on page 24 of this issue.



CHAMPION BLACK BERET, lovely Longhair stud owned by Mrs. Cyril Tomlinson and bred by Mr. Cyril Yeates. He was Best Exhibit at the 1947 National Cat Club Ch. Show.

"Nine Lives"

Being an account (reproduced by kind permission of the American "Cats Magazine.") of an interesting and unusual exhibition held recently in New York.

THE story of the cat—venerated in Ancient Egypt, respected in the Orient, feared in the age of witchcraft and sentimentalised in the Victorian era—was told in the art of many countries in many ages, collected by The Cooper Union Museum for its recent exhibition "Nine Lives: The Tale of the Cat in Art and History."

The exhibition's nearly 300 cat studies in every medium—stone, ceramics, metals, paintings, prints, textiles and jewellery—were arranged by historical chronology. The cases of Egyptian material contained a number of representations of the cat as the Goddess Bast, goddess of love, pictured sometimes with a cat's head and sometimes fully in cat form. Ancient Egyptians also considered cats to be sacred animals or at least as highly respected pets. Customarily they were decorated with gold earrings and often were mummified.

Ivory and Jade

The Oriental materials in the exhibition included a 12th century Japanese painting on silk which is the first cat pictured in the Zen Buddhist religion, Chinese porcelains, and Japanese colour prints by Kiosai, Utamare and Hiroshige. Oriental use of the cat in ornaments of ivory, jade, bronze, and in the fashioning of girle ornaments, incense burners and other household articles was illustrated in this section of the exhi-

bition. Bestiaries, ancient textbooks of natural history, included the Persian bestiary called Manaff al-Hagawan and the Lincoln 12th century English bestiary, both valued at many thousands of dollars.

Another section of the exhibition was devoted to cat superstitions, which had their beginning in medieval Germany and the worship of Freya, whose chariot supposedly was drawn by cats. With the spread of Christianity, Freya and her cats fell into disrepute as pagans and finally became associated with witchcraft. The concept of the cat as the witch's companion spread throughout Europe and survives to our own day in Halloween associations.

Cat in Eden

The cat did not completely recover her reputation until the Victorian era, when coy and fluffy kittens were often pictured on sentimental Christmas cards, in Currier & Ives prints, in wallpapers, women's wearing apparel, and in such illustrated stories as "The Three Little Kittens."

Many famous artists have painted or drawn the cat, and included in the show were Durer's woodcut of Adam and Eve with a cat at their feet, satirical prints by Hogarth, Rowlandson and Daumier, Goya, Manet and Degas. Winslow Homer's only known sketch of a cat, and an original drawing by Beatrix Potter for the children's book, "The Tailor of Gloucester," borrowed from the

Tate Gallery in London, was shown for the first time in America.

A section of the exhibition was devoted to the cat in folk art, and contained American primitive paintings, Pennsylvania Dutch wood carvings, embroidery, etc. Other collections were made of ceramics (Bow, Chelsea, Staffordshire and Delft) and of jewellery ranging from a Georgian piece with rose diamonds, rubies and Oriental pearls to modern jewellery from Fifth Avenue jewellers.

Among modern artists with work included were Zorach, John Flanagan, Agnes Tait, Wanda Gag,

Carl Walter, Peggy Bacon, and Christina Malman.

Contemporary paintings included a canvas by Godfried Mind of Switzerland, called the "Raphael of Cats," and a semi-abstract by Peter Busa symbolising the cat in ancient Indian civilisation. Other notable modern pieces included a Steuben plate by Noguchi, a bronze by Jane Pouplet, and a textile design by James Mason, the English actor.

The exhibition was prepared and displayed by Miss Alleine Dodge and James Rambo, of the Cooper Union Museum staff, under the direction of Calvin S. Hathaway, Curator of the Museum.



WHO'S WHO among the Breeders

MRS. G. CAMPBELL-FRASER

Continued from April Issue

In 1928, Mrs. Campbell-Fraser commenced showing and winning with Longhair Tortoiseshells. Her Hendon Pitti Sing was a lovely cat who scored in her Championship classes before going out to U.S.A., where she at once attained Championship status, only to die from the effects of a fight with another female. But before she died she left her mark on a long list of winning stock. Mrs. Campbell-Fraser has worthy successors among the Torties in Ch. Sweet Memory and her daughter Ch. Hendon Salata

(sired by Hendon Defendant), who have completed their full titles at post-war shows.

She has also registered notable show successes with her Manx, Hendon Cushay, her Cream, Mavis of Pineland, Tortoiseshell and White female, Dinkie Dell, and the Blue Foreign Hendon Nekaya.

To Mrs. Campbell-Fraser, as well as to her daughter, Miss Lelgarde Fraser, cats are not merely pets. They are their study, their interest and most certainly their pleasure. Hendon cats have for long been noted for

their sturdiness and sweet dispositions. That this is so is due largely to the fact that each cat at Little Primrose is treated as an individual. Cosy quarters and regular diets are provided, and although freedom for plenty of exercise is encouraged none of the cats is allowed to get wet.

Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's record of service to the Fancy is no less distinguished than the record of her successes on the show bench. She has served on the Executive Committee of the Governing Council, worked for the Southern Counties Cat Club as hon. Secretary, assisted the Blue Persian Cat Society as hon. Treasurer and contributed much of interest and value to various publications, including the cat journals of the late H. C. Brook. She has also officiated as Chairman of the National Cat Club, of which she remains a Vice-President.

Mrs. Campbell-Fraser is universally esteemed as an authority and judge of Longhair Reds, Blues and Blacks, and it is worthy of men-

tion that she and Miss Fraser have made history in catdom by being the only mother and daughter to judge at the same fixture. Mrs. Campbell-Fraser is justly proud of another distinction. In 1931 she accepted an invitation to judge in America at a two-day show held in Connecticut. This was a great honour and one richly deserved—no finer ambassador could have gone out from the British Cat Fancy.

By way of postscript to this all-too-brief record of a great Fancier, Mr. Cyril Yeates, who was for so many years Chairman of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, writes: "The Fancy must always be in debt to Mrs. Campbell-Fraser, whom I have known and with whom I have served on the Council and on Committees for many years. An enthusiastic breeder, she has always worked unobtrusively for the improvement of the breeds she specialised in and for the good of the Fancy. She has many friends and, I am sure, no enemies."

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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.

6th April. The hon. Secretary (Mr. Cyril Yeates) presented a satisfactory report to members at to-day's Annual General Meeting of the National Cat Club. A loss of £12 on the Ch. Show in November was very small considering it had to contend with a real "pea-souper" of a fog. The hon. Treasurer (Mrs. Cyril Tomlinson) reported that the general account was £40 higher than last year's. All the officers were re-elected with the exception of one committee member. Mrs. K. R. Williams was elected to take her place.

The N.C.C. awarded 52 spoons and many cash specials to members during the past show season. Four trophies were generously presented to the Club—Mrs. Campbell-Fraser gave the Ch. Hendon Salata Cup for best L.H. Tortoiseshell adult; Miss Yorke the Fortune Cup for the L.H. White with the best blue eyes; Miss Dixon the Hoveton Emperor Bowl for the palest, finest and closest texture coat in Seal Pointed Siamese males; and Miss Wrightson the Stuart of Inverglory Bon Bon Dish for the most typical L.H. Silver Tabby.

The Ch. Show will be organised by

Miss Kit Wilson on 6th December at the Paddington Baths Hall, Queensway, London, W.2. The following Judges will officiate: Blacks and Whites—Mrs. Bazeley; Blue Adults—Miss Rodda; Blue Kittens—Mrs. Brice-Webb; Siamese Adults—Mrs. Hart; Siamese Kittens—Mrs. Holroyd; Creams and Blue Creams—Mr. Tomlinson; Reds, Torties and Tortie and Whites—Mr. Norris; Chinchillas, Smokes and Abyssinians—Miss Yorke; Blue Pointed and Chocolate Siamese—Miss Val Prentis; Shorthairs—Mrs. Newton; Neuters—Mr. Yeates.

Miss J. M. Fisher won the N.C.C. L.H. Brown Tabby Cup outright and it was a well-deserved award. Her famous Ch. Dandy of Hadley, born in 1944, was exhibited 9 times and on each occasion won the Challenge certificate in addition to 13 first prizes and 16 second prizes competing with all breeds. On one occasion Ch. Dandy was awarded Best Cat in Show bred by exhibitor.

8th April. A delightful day with Mrs. Cyril Tomlinson. We met at Eastbourne, lunched at the Grand Hotel with her son, and motored afterwards to her home at Willingdon. The conditions there are ideal for her small family of cats. One very large room is furnished simply for them, and a comfortable ingle nook is reserved for humans, but needless to say it is often monopolised by the cats. A door leads out to a wired-in garden with trees and a pond. A serpentine "waterway" has been drained as the cats found the

straight sides too difficult to negotiate when they fell in. Ch. Black Beret was in fine form. He has had an outstanding show career, winning nine Challenge certificates and the honour of being Best Exhibit in Show at the 50th National Cat Club Show in 1947.

It is always interesting breeding from Reds. Ch. Pekeholm Paprika mated to Ch. Black Beret produced the Tortoiseshell Pekeholm Patches and the Blue-Cream Pekeholm Poss. The latter is expecting kittens by Mrs. Chappell's Gathorne Gremlin. Another lovely queen was Dragonfly of Takeley, bred by Mrs. Askew. The remainder of Mrs. Tomlinson's family were disporting themselves in a sunny room upstairs and all were in lovely condition. Mrs. Tomlinson has always been a great animal lover, and although exhibiting is a secondary consideration she has been very successful at the shows.

9th April. An interesting letter from Mrs. Phyllis Lauder with details of the Blue Pointed Siamese Cat Club meeting of judges. "The object of our scheme," she writes, "is to attain a uniform standard of judging for the breed, in accordance with the Standard of Points. Those wishing to qualify as judges will be required to pass a test which will consist of repeating by heart the Standard in detail, with the total number of marks available for each detail. They will also be required to judge a specimen on two occasions without deviating by more than 5 marks; the time allowed for judging to be not more than five minutes. It is hoped that those taking part in this scheme will attain a uniformity of judgment whereby they will judge cats within 5 marks (5 more or 5 less) of each other.

"At the preliminary meeting, Major Rendall, Chairman B.P.S.C.C., took the chair, and besides the Secretary (Mrs. Thetis Rendall) there were present Mrs. Hindley, Mrs.

Sayers, Mrs. Archer-Thomson, Miss Mitchell, Mrs. Macdonald, Mr. Stirling-Webb, and Mrs. Lauder. Major and Mrs. Rendall went to a great deal of trouble to inaugurate this scheme, which will, I hope and believe, set a very high standard of judging. Three of those present are, as you know, already well-known judges, and two charming specimens were present to be judged. It seems to me that, considering this was the first of these meetings, the standard of marking attained was promising. What a lot of trouble we go to for our autocratic little friends!"

12th April. A very pleasant lunch to-day with Mrs. Price, Chairman of the Herts and Middlesex Cat Club. She was delighted when I met her at the Governing Council meeting a fortnight later that the Club show date was fixed for September and that Championship show status had been granted. The Club has merited recognition, as with slender funds they held a Show last September to make them eligible for a Championship event this year. With goodwill shown on all sides they were able to fit in their date with the newly-organised Midland Counties Cat Club, which also hoped for an autumn date for a show in Birmingham. Mrs. Lamb (hon. Secretary) was well satisfied with an October date although it involves her in another search for a suitable hall.

After lunch with Mrs. Price, on to the A.G.M. of the Southern Counties Cat Club. Mrs. K. R. Williams (hon. Secretary) presented an excellent report. An exceptional profit of over £100 was made on the 1948 Ch. Show, and although the 1949 figure was not so large it was well on the right side and the Club finds itself in a sound financial position. Three members of the Committee retired but were eligible for re-election, and with four nominees for the three vacancies a ballot was held. The result was that the Rev. Rees, Mr.

Stirling-Webb and myself were re-elected. Mrs. K. R. Williams is organising the 1950 Ch. Show, which will be held on 20th January at Lime Grove Baths, Shepherds Bush.

The following judges were announced to officiate: Blacks and Whites—Mr. F. Tomlinson; Blue L.H. Adults—Mrs. Thompson; Blue Kittens—Mrs. Brunton; Chinchillas, Smokes, Silver Tabbies—Mrs. Yeend; Siamese Adults—Miss K. Yorke; Siamese Kittens—Mrs. Blofeld; Creams and Blue Creams—Mr. Martin; Reds, Brown Tabbies and Torties—Mr. Yeates; Shorthairs—Rev. Rees; Abyssinian and Miscellaneous Classes—Miss Kit Wilson.

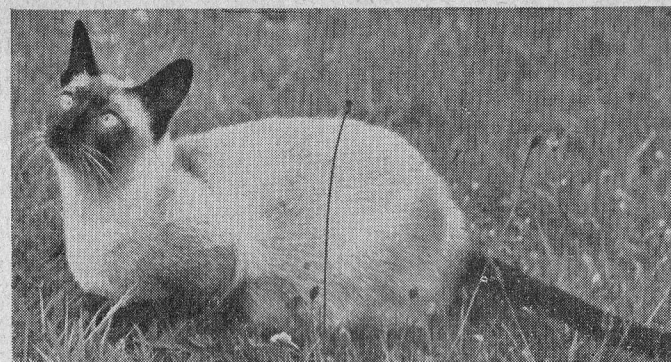
15th April. A letter from Mme. Bridgett (President of the Cat Club de Paris) announces the retirement of Mme. Ravel, Secretary-General, who intends residing at Cannes. Mme. Ravel is well known to many English Fanciers. Before the war we frequently had the pleasure of seeing her at our championship shows and she attended the National Show last November, where she was warmly welcomed by her many friends. Mme. Destrem has been elected to take her place. All kind wishes for her happiness and success in this capacity.

A Championship show will take place on Saturday and Sunday, 14th and 15th May, at the Salles des Centraux, 8 Rue Jean-Goujon, Paris, just off the Champs Elysee. The judges officiating will be Mme. Bridgett and myself (Longhairs), Doctor Maddalena, President of the Italian Feline Society (Shorthairs). More news about this event next month.

A very attractive photograph appears in the Club journal "Quatre Pattes" ("Four Paws") of Talisman of Knott Hall, by Champion Southway Crusader. He was bred by Mr. F. Tomlinson, of Sleaford, Lincs, who has bred so many lovely Blues, and exported to France last winter. There is an interesting article in this same issue on show preparation by Miss Kathleen Yorke and suggestions for safeguarding the health of exhibits at shows by Miss C. Manley. English Fanciers wishing to subscribe to "Quatre Pattes" should get into touch with the Secretary-General, Mme. Destrem, 22 Rue Ernest Renan, Paris, 15e.

17th April. A visit in midsummer weather to Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald at Ewell, Surrey. Their lovely garden was a mass of pear and cherry blossom and their Seal and Blue Pointed Siamese were skipping about, all in fine fettle. Mrs. Elsie Hart was also a visitor and we talked cats to our heart's content. Raard Blue Sacchi, the Blue Pointed male, was very pleased to see visitors, but probably thought us uninteresting when he found we had not brought him a queen.

Sacchi has fine accommodation and I was not surprised to find Mrs. Macdonald in complete agreement with the oft-expressed view that cat breeding is a delightful hobby but not a profitable one for the majority of breeders if cats are properly housed and fed. Sacchi's house and run has some improvement each time I see him and the latest is a very large addition to his wired-in run. He has been awarded several



Mrs. Macdonald's lovely RAARD LONE-LEE by Prestwick Patric.

first prizes and his progeny have been very successful, notably Dr. MacLaren's Blue Pointed kittens by her lovely queen Ch. Velvet Mask Dinah. The sire of the latter is Missfore Blue Mataya.

Raard Rhea was nursing three obstreperous and robust kittens and Raard Lone-Lee had four very young ones which I did not disturb, although the mother was very friendly. A huge Shorthair Brown Tabby neuter was living with all the queens, and was tolerated in the kitchen, but when we were chatting in the lounge he was unceremoniously driven out with great bravado by Raard Rhea. Dinner in the evening at Pinoli's ended a memorable day in the best of good company.

18th April. Received the interesting monthly journal of the Cats' Protection League from the Secretary, Mr. Steward. This booklet alone is well worth the 5s. annual subscription, even if one did not have the pleasure of supporting the work of this admirable society. I marvel how they can afford to issue it so freely. I see the list of Tailwaver donations is headed by film star James Mason and his wife. The C.P.L. is worthy of all the support cat lovers can give it.

19th April. Received a welcome letter from Mrs. Bridgford, of

Macclesfield, owner of the outstandingly good Red Tabby Shorthairs, Rivoli Robin and Rivoli Rogue. Miss Tucker's Vectensian Copper Eyes has four Red Tabbies by Rogue. These should be very good as the dam is a queen of lovely type and lives up to her name as regards eye colour. Miss Sherlock's Tortie and White Bircotte Fancy, Miss Paton's Red Tabby Amber of Rockville, and Miss Wrightson's Rivoli Will-o-Wisp have all visited Rogue, who was exhibited at the N.C.C., 1948, and awarded the special prize for Best Red Tabby Shorthair. Mr. and Mrs. Bridgford have purchased a small farm near Macclesfield, and as their children are growing up they hope to have more time to exhibit and to add a Longhair to their cat family.

Rogue's son, Rivoli Robin, was Best Cat in Show at the Notts and Derby C.C. Ch. Show, and Best British Shorthair in Show under me at Manchester in January. His breeding is very interesting. His dam is by a Black and White Manx who has four generations of Red Tabbies and Tortoiseshells behind her. A Longhair cross was used twice to improve type and eye colour. Mrs. Bridgford certainly achieved success, as all who saw Robin's lovely round head and copper eyes will agree.

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for Press illustrations, etc., go to**

FALL, Photographer

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20th April. Mrs. Towe's Silver Tabby Ch. Hillcross Silver Lady has three Brown Tabby and one Silver Tabby by her Silver Tabby lover of unknown pedigree. The sympathy of all cat lovers will be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Towe in the loss of their well-known Siamese male Hillcross Sheng from an illness contracted from a visiting queen. Fortunately, he was the only one affected and all their other cats are fit and well.

23rd April. Met by Mrs. Elsie Hart, hon. Secretary of the Siamese Cat Club, at Guildford. Very jolly day together reminiscent of pre-war days when we used to meet in London and lunch with the late Miss Adams. Mrs. Hart's daughter, Joanna, growing apace and as pretty and intelligent as ever.

Sealsleeve Shah-Pashah, now seven years of age and the foundation of the winners bred by Mrs. Hart, is a lovely pale queen and her seal points well defined. I much admired her mask, which conformed to the standard which states: "mask complete and (except in kittens) connected by tracings with the ears." An entire

seal coloured head as seen in some post-war Siamese is a decided fault. Shah's eyes are still a lovely deep blue, and when one considers her age and the families she has reared she is a wonderful queen. Her daughter, Sealsleeve Shah Petite, was the dam of the first post-war Champion Siamese, male, Mrs. Hetherington's Ch. Sealsleeve Petite Laid and his lovely litter sister Mrs. Douglas's Sealsleeve Petit Fey.

Every breeder who knows the habits of males in the breeding season will be surprised to hear that Sealsleeve Petit-Gitto reclined on an armchair in the lounge with his wife and their litter of three gracefully draped round them. I thought my young Blue male behaved well because we can allow him in the tiled kitchen if we loop up curtains, remove towels hanging from the door, and baskets where queens have reclined, but this is positively "clearing the deck for action" in comparison!

Sealsleeve Qui Sanfon's habits are not so reliable, so we visited him to keep him company for a while. The garden, lounge and sun parlour are

wired in, so the cats and kittens can have high jinks and plenty of human companionship.

26th April. The Governing Council meeting was an historic and, for me, a sad occasion, as Mr. Cyril Yeates, Chairman for 26 years, resigned. For ten years my late husband worked in perfect harmony with him and we grew to esteem his vast knowledge, his tact, and, above all, his ability to eliminate his personal likes and dislikes when he had Governing Council matters to decide.

I first remember him about 1924, when he was with Mrs. Yeates, Mary, and his daughter Marjorie at Croydon Cat Club Ch. Show. Marjorie had lovely hair worn in ringlets and was what we should call to-day a photogenic child. In those days I was rather awe-stricken by persons I considered important-looking in white kennel coats at shows, although Mr. and Mrs. Yeates always had the endearing qualities of friendliness and patience towards novices like myself in those far-off days.

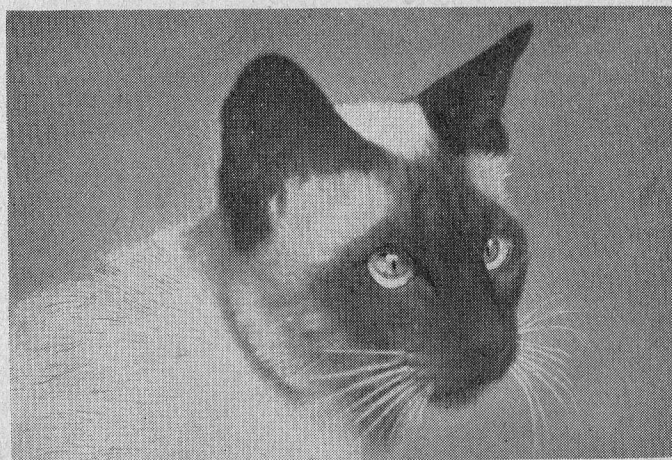
The Chairman is elected annually and I imagine his service is easily a record. Miss Kit Wilson was elected to succeed Mr. Yeates and Mr. Soderberg vice-Chairman. The only change on the Executive Committee is that Mr. Yeates has been permanently elected to serve and Mrs. K. R. Williams is the new member. So in addition to those mentioned the following will officiate for the coming year: Mrs. E. Hart, Mrs. Newton, Mrs. Sharman, Mrs. Thompson, Miss Langston, Miss Yorke and Rev. B. Rees.

27th April. Mrs. Brice-Webb, who organised the delightful shows at Beeston during the war, has been asked to arrange a cat show as one of the main attractions at Beeston (Nottingham) Carnival during the week 30th July to 6th August at Notts Rugby Football Ground. Cats will be on exhibition one day only

(30th July), and Mr. Yeates has been invited to judge all Shorthairs and myself Longhairs. Any support will be welcomed and all inquiries by the popular hon. Secretary, Mrs. Brice-Webb, 249 Chilwell Lane, Bramcote, Notts.

29th April. A delightful book containing 36 pages of information about cats and entitled "Spratt's Book on Cats" came to me from this well-known firm. For anyone keeping a pet, or a few cats which they intend to breed from, there is much helpful and commonsense information about breeding, feeding, grooming, etc., and the treatment of common ailments. It can be obtained from Spratt's Patent, *Ltd., 41-47 Bow Road, London, E.3 (price 1s.), and eventually will be on sale at the usual stockists such as corn merchants, etc. Another item which I have had innumerable inquiries about is steel combs. I was very glad to procure one of Messrs. Spratt's finest steel combs, which are ideal for training baby kittens to become accustomed to grooming. The teeth are so fine and set so close together that there is no risk of injuring the delicate skin. I also use this type for final grooming of Longhairs before exhibition, the only exception being that if an adult cat has a particularly dense coat the next sizes in these combs must be used.

ERRATA.—In last month's issue—page 29—the ownership of Ch. Deebank Michael was wrongly attributed to Miss Bull. This fine cat is, of course, owned by Mrs. Cheyney, of Bridgnorth.



Stephanie, Guildford

SEALSLEEVE SHAH-PASHAH, Mrs. Elsie Hart's famous Siamese S.P. queen by Oriental Silky Boy ex Dromore Bira. Breeder was Mrs. Williamson.

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To the Children

From Uncle Peter

Boys and Girls

This month we will start off with Mickey. He is just an ordinary black cat who lived in stables until his owner went away and left him. Then he adopted us. He is rather a remarkable old gentleman as I know that he is fourteen years old at least, as it was at the end of 1934 when he decided to come to us. Even now he catches mice and rats with much patience and considerable skill. When sometimes we take him mouse hunting he enjoys himself immensely. A few years ago he won our admiration by having a mouse in his mouth and one under each of his front paws. Oh yes, he ate all three!

Pooh has really been in trouble with his damaged leg and in the end we had to take him to the vet. I hope that when your cats are ill or injured you take them to the vet. if the trouble does not clear up in a few days. In practically every town now there is an animal clinic where you can obtain expert advice very cheaply. In some towns, if you pay half a crown a year for each cat, you can get all necessary treatment free.

Pooh was not very helpful when he needed treatment because, however carefully one handled his leg it caused him pain. He objected violently, although when we wanted to bathe the leg he was quite prepared to hold it in warm water without any assistance. Have you noticed that cats like warm water? However, Pooh is now cured and only last night when I took one of the dogs for a walk he went about half a mile with us and then waited until we returned to accompany us home.

In a month or two I hope to have some interesting news for you as two of my Persian cats look as though they will have kittens about the beginning of June. Nearer the time I shall have to tell you how we prepare for this great event. I like cats very much, but I like kittens even better. I expect that is how you feel too. When you have a kitten I hope that you treat it very gently. I have seen some children who liked their kitten so much that when they cuddled it they almost squeezed the life out of the poor creature. Underneath the fur of a kitten there is only a small body with fragile bones which cannot stand bear hugs.

Does your cat know the days of the week? I have often wondered whether my cats could tell the difference between Sundays and weekdays, but I have never been able to find out. There was a cat named Guadalquivir who always knew when it was Sunday. He belonged to a great cat lover, Harrison Weir, who ordered the cat's meat man to call every day. Every morning about ten o'clock Guadalquivir would be waiting in the hall for the arrival of his dinner. He never waited on Sundays because he knew that cat's meat men do not work on Sundays.

My cats are much more successful at telling the time of day. They may disappear for hours in the grounds, but as soon as dinner time approaches they are all to be found near the kitchen table. I suspect they keep their watches in their tummies.

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.

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.

In answer to Miss J. M. E., of Bath, I have actually known a Siamese female, spayed at six months, make such a nuisance of herself that she had eventually to be put to sleep. The reason for false calling is that some of the ovarian tissue has not been completely removed. This could happen at any age. If the queen goes six months after spaying, I think you could regard the operation as successful.

Mrs. R. G. Taylor,
Carbis Bay, Cornwall.

Which goes to emphasise the point which we have previously made in these columns—that neutering should be entrusted only to experienced and qualified veterinarians. An interesting article on the subject by a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons will be found elsewhere in this issue.

I should be delighted to correspond with one or more of your readers. I have just acquired a pet and although I have had him a year I feel that there are so many interesting problems one could write about and ideas one could exchange.

Mrs. R. Winkelried,
21 Winans Avenue, Newark 3,
N.J., U.S.A.

In answer to the question of Miss J. M. E., of Bath, re the possibility of a female calling after spaying, my experience may help. My Siamese

had a family and was about five weeks on the way towards producing her second litter when she slipped on wet glass on a broken conservatory roof and fell to the floor. She lost her kittens, her womb became septic and she had to be operated on at once. This was in May, 1947. She is now in perfect health and spirits and I have since never heard anything like the "call" cry. She is now 3½ years old. I enclose a photograph taken three weeks after the operation which you might care to publish.

Mrs. G. M. Anderson,
Abingdon, Berkshire.

We hope to reproduce the photograph to which Mrs. Anderson refers in next month's issue. It was unfortunately received a little too late for our May issue.

Mrs. K. M., of Feltham, Middlesex, who enquired in your last issue about a glossary of Siamese words suitable for the naming of cats, might like to try out the suggestion of a friend of mine who went to the Siamese Embassy, 23 Ashburn Place, S.W.7, and got information of a like nature. I believe some sort of fee was involved. What about a school of languages?

F. T. R., Ipswich.

A long and interesting letter received from Miss C. Manley on the subject of feline infectious enteritis will appear in next month's issue.—Editor.

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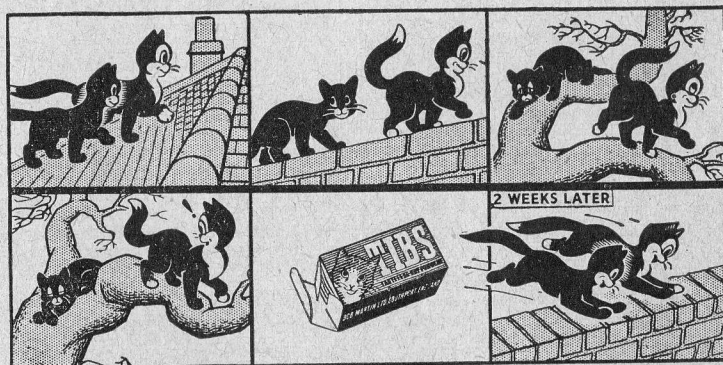
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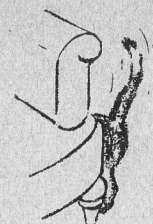
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Tailpieces

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

A CAT'S zeal and enthusiasm on a rat chase brought out the local fire brigade and ended fatally in a Woolwich electricity station. During the hunt the cat came into contact with a 33,000-volt transformer. A short circuit was caused which resulted in an explosion and the burning of the oil in the housing of the transformer. All nine lives were lost in a flash!

When they "start something" in America they certainly do not believe in half-measures. According to a New York report, a Miss Gertrude Charny, president of the Chicago branch of the Friends of Birds Society, has been campaigning for the control of cats. Why stray cats, she says, when stray dogs are not allowed by law? So Illinois has passed the Marauding Cats Bill, which declares strays a public nuisance and renders owners of cats that prowl at night liable to fines. But, concludes the report, this is by no means the end of the story as local cat lovers are organising to have the Act repealed.

Visitors to Exeter Cathedral may already know the interesting little story attaching to the small door under the famous clock in the North Transept. The door is believed to date from the 15th century and it has a hole at the bottom about 7 inches in diameter. In 1610 this hole was made to the order of the Bishop to enable the Cathedral cat, whose job it was to prevent damage by mice to the leather bellows of the organ, to have means of entrance and exit. There has been no official mouse-catcher to the Cathedral for the last 300 years.

Members of the various cat clubs in Switzerland have been active for some time in an endeavour to secure organisation along national lines. Their efforts were crowned with suc-

cess at a meeting of delegates held last month in Berne, when the Swiss Feline Federation was formed. The movement towards national unity was started several years ago by the French-speaking clubs of Geneva and Lausanne. It has now received the support of the German-Swiss clubs, and I am happy to report that complete agreement has been reached on all points of the national scheme, which will work for the well-being of the Swiss Fancy and also for the improvement of breeding in other countries. A programme of International exhibitions is under planning and the first show under the ægis of the newly formed Federation took place at Bienne on 7th and 8th of this month. The officers of the Federation, to whom OUR CATS sends good wishes and greetings, are Mr. Gruber, President; Mr. Buser, Vice-President, both of the Bernese Club; Mr. Marcel Chamonin, the well-known founder and President of the Geneva Cat Club, will act as corresponding Secretary and international Delegate, and the post of Treasurer has been filled by Miss G. Curchod, of the Cat Club Vaudois (Lausanne).

Cats have been the central figures in a number of unusual incidents during the past few weeks. It must be the Spring atmosphere! Three of them were discovered marooned on the ledge of a cliff at Ramsgate. An officer of the fire brigade was lowered by lifeline to rescue one. The other two were driven along the face of the cliff to a point where they could regain safety.

Appropriately named Smoker, an Ipswich cat, found himself in a desperate situation up a chimney during a vain attempt to catch a mouse. The mouse ran up the chimney hotly pursued by Smoker, who got jammed in a position where he could make neither progress or

retreat. There he remained for two days until workmen removed bricks so that he could be released, sooty but quite well.

Another incident in London recently did not have such a happy ending. City workers hurrying home-wards heard the cry of a cat coming from the lift shaft at London Bridge Station. A terrified and oil-covered black and white cat was found clinging to a girder half-way down the shaft. The lift was stopped and a rescuer was lowered down, only to find that the unfortunate animal had broken a leg in its fall.

A South Croydon family were given timely warning by their kitten when a fire started in the floorboards near the fireplace in their lounge. The sleeping household upstairs was awakened by the noise made by the kitten when it jumped on the window ledge and knocked over a flower vase. Another story of a kitten's timely warning comes from a suburb of Pittsburgh, U.S.A., where a ten weeks old pedigree Black Persian prevented what might have been a serious fire in an apartment house. Its persistent cries and scratching attracted the attention of neighbours, who burst open the door to find the room and its contents well ablaze.

Welcome news of activity comes from over the Border. Mrs. F. Morfydd Richardson, hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the newly formed Scottish Cat Club, writes to inform me that the Autumn Show will take place on Saturday, 5th November, at the Christian Institute, Bothwell Street, Glasgow, when Miss Kathleen Yorke will be the judge. The S.C.C. is anxious to double its membership in the shortest possible time, and it is hoped to have at least 40 entries for the Show, each in a number of classes. Donations will be gratefully received by Mrs. Richardson (21 Herriet Street, Glasgow, S.1), who will also be pleased to hear from members and those interested in cats who have items of news suitable for inclusion in the Club's Newsletter. Some good stock is being imported into Scotland and recent purchases include Proud Gnome (Siamese stud) from Major Murrell to Mrs. Lacey,

of Aberfeldy; Willowgrange Boomerang (Siamese stud) from Mrs. Robinson, Yorkshire, to Miss J. Tomblin, of Glasgow; Water Gypsy (Cream queen) from Mr. Gordon B. Allt to Mrs. D. Robertson, of Skelmorlie. These importations should help to improve the breeding and add lustre to the Fancy in Scotland.

Two potted stories of fur and feather. (1) Whisky, a black and white cat of East Sheen, Surrey, had the worst of an argument with an angry blackbird. He had fifteen stitches inserted at an animal hospital and his leg had to be bandaged after an attack by the bird. Birds can, of course, be great fighters at nesting time, and blackbirds especially have a reputation for aggressiveness and pluck. (2) A cat in Massachusetts made a home for herself and her two kittens in a bird's nest 20 ft. up in an apple tree. She shared the nest with a couple of eggs.

Donald Peers, the B.B.C. singing star, who is being hailed as the English Sinatra, promised to include a special song in his programme to celebrate the birthday of a cat. Peers is getting a fan mail of 3,000 letters every week and one of them contained the request: "My cat is 21 by human age standards on 23rd April. Please sing 'The Moment I Saw You' for him." Imagine the excitement of this cat-loving fan when she was handed a telegram from Donald which ran: "Please convey my congratulations to Tiger Lord Wilding of the Forest and inform him that the Peers will sing to his Lordship!"

Dandy, Siamese pet of the Duchess of Leeds, has been headlines in the newspapers. A present from the Duke to the Duchess, Dandy went a-wandering in London and was lost. His owners spent a week-end searching for him, visiting friends and neighbours and even calling on cat and dog homes in the district. Some anxious days passed before he was found wandering and duly restored to the Duchess, who promptly bought a collar for Dandy with his name and address on.

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