

# Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE  
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING  
COMPREHENSIVE



"WHEN THE SNOW LAY ROUND ABOUT..."

*You will surely enjoy our Christmassy front cover which was specially designed and arranged by Mrs. F. Tschudi Broadwood, of Send, Surrey. The TV aerial on the chimney stack is just out of view!*

DECEMBER 1955

1/6

A Happy New Year To Readers Everywhere



**Christmas tree! Christmas Spree!**

Each present is a winner.

For Mummy-Cat and Kitten-Cats

There's Kit-E-Kat for dinner!

**KIT-E-KAT**

FRESH FISH AND MEAT—COOKED AND READY TO EAT

# Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

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

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

VOL. 7 No. 12

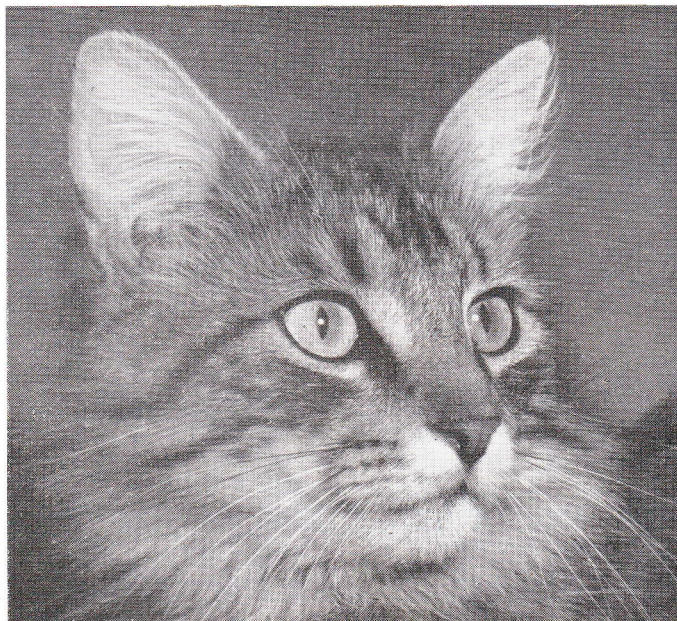
DECEMBER 1955

Managing Editor :

ARTHUR E. COWLISHAW  
4 CARLTON MANSIONS  
CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9

**THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS**

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An example of the distinctive photography to be found in Curtis Mayborn's "Gallery of Cats," one of the new books reviewed in last month's issue.

## WHAT IS A KITTEN ?

*A kitten is a sequence of nimble surprises. Offspring of a species of fish-lovers, he dotes on milk, hates wet feet and is a fastidious spit-washer.*

*A kitten is a quick-change artist ; alternately a lazy bones, madcap, or menace ; relaxed as plush, tense as starch ; soundless as air, rumbling as a miniature motor, rasping as a rusty hinge.*

*A kitten is a capricious creature who will pick a scrap with a piece of paper, tag or string or another kitten's tail.*

*He is a versatile athlete : wrestler, boxer, trapeze artist, broad jumper. He is a four-gaited feline ; he stalks, he trots, he cat walks, he gallops. He is master of the pounce, quick as a wink, light as a feather.*

*A kitten is fun's silent partner—noiseless in every arch, except the one in his Halloween back, which is usually accompanied by the sound of a deflating inner tube.*

*A kitten is a puff ball with stickers, fluff on springs. His paws feature satin pads, velvet gloves, and prick-ejector stealth. He is a nine-in-one model ; a safety-designed roly poly which can land on its feet after the most torso-twisting maneuver.*

*Kittens are potential mousers, possible curtain-stretchers, positive claw-sharpeners. But it is as kittens that they lay claim to indisputable appeal, combining the agility of an acrobat, the comedy of a clown, the essence of innocence, and the charm of felinity.*

MILDRED HOSKINSON

( from " Cat's Magazine," U.S.A.)



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# ***A Christmas Sketch***

By A. G. MACDONALD

**P**ENNY is the lovely Siamese cat which belongs to my elder son. A year ago she was a small kitten and her acquisition by David was somewhat in the nature of an "Operation Christmas," whereby one small boy gained his heart's desire when all the odds seemed against it.

One morning, early last December, David came into the kitchen and announced, "Mummy, I want a kitten for Christmas." Thinking rapidly I replied, "Oh, I don't think Santa has any kittens."

"Do you know he hasn't any?" asked David.

"Well, not exactly," I confessed, "but even if he had, it would be far too cold for a kitten to be brought in a sack at this time of year."

David looked at me thoughtfully and departed. Like his Daddy he can be a man of few words. Sandy, my younger son, and I are the talkative ones.

That afternoon the boys went out to tea with a small friend. When I went to fetch them home I was greeted by the news that Tommy's cat Sue had been a kitten last Christmas. "And Santa Claus brought her" said David triumphantly.

On the way home the boys were jubilant. Hope had revived! I made a last appeal to reason. "Now listen, both of you. Santa only fills stockings in our house and a kitten wouldn't go into a stocking."

The boys remained unconvinced. What Santa had done for Tommy he might do for them.

Later that evening I tried to get some support from my husband.

"David seems to have set his heart on having a kitten for Christmas," I said, "and it really is quite impossible."

"Is it?" came from behind Dick's paper.

Then I explained very carefully all my reasons against it. David was too young to look after a kitten; Sandy would tease it; I should be left to feed and train it and I didn't like cats.

"Don't you agree that it really would be quite impossible?" I ended hopefully.

"Of course, don't get David a kitten if you don't want one."

His voice sounded regretful. I should have remembered that, unlike myself, Dick had been brought up with animals.

So that was that, but each day the persistent David kept asking wistfully "Please, Mummy, don't you think Santa might bring me a kitten?" In the end I was reduced to saying feebly, "Well, there is no harm in asking," then adding rapidly, in case I had raised false hopes, "But I really don't think he will, this year anyway, darling."

## **Penny Arrives**

But in the end I was roped in on this "Operation Christmas" along with Dick. Just two days before Christmas, we won the spot prize at a charity ball. It was, of all things, a Siamese kitten.

I went over by myself the next morning to collect the kitten. There were three to choose from, and the donor enlarged upon their respective merits. I chose Penny because she looked the most intelligent and seemed to like me. I had to admit that all three looked rather adorable. They were equally valuable.

I smuggled her up to our bedroom and opened the basket. She looked so tiny and so forlorn that I had to nurse her for a bit. Then, remembering instructions, I went down and got her some

food. After all my protestations, I was evidently well on the way to becoming the slave of a small kitten !

On Christmas Day morning I ran down and placed the kitten in her basket before the fire. I don't think that I shall ever forget the look on David's face when he saw her. It was as if a miracle had happened. Sandy gave one shriek "It's a kitten" and very quickly they were both down on the floor beside her. Every movement the kitten made was a wonder, and when she lapped up some milk it was a second miracle.

"We shall have to give her a name," I said at last, "for she is one of the family now."

"Who brought her?" asked Sandy.

"Well, Daddy and Mummy got her,"

I replied, "but we'll tell you all about that later. Now, what shall we call her?"

All sorts of names were suggested by the boys and myself. Finally, David said "What do you think, Daddy?"

"Penny from Heaven," said Dick promptly.

The boys seized on his suggestion and so our Siamese kitten got her name.

Now it is nearly Christmas time again. As I sit writing by the fire, with Penny curled up purring on my lap, I can see two red money-boxes on the mantelpiece. From tea-time until bed-time the boys count and recount their money and plan their Christmas shopping. On the first occasion, Penny thought that it was a game devised for her benefit. Wiser now, she sits and watches as if each coin were a mouse and only puts out a dainty paw if one rolls her way.

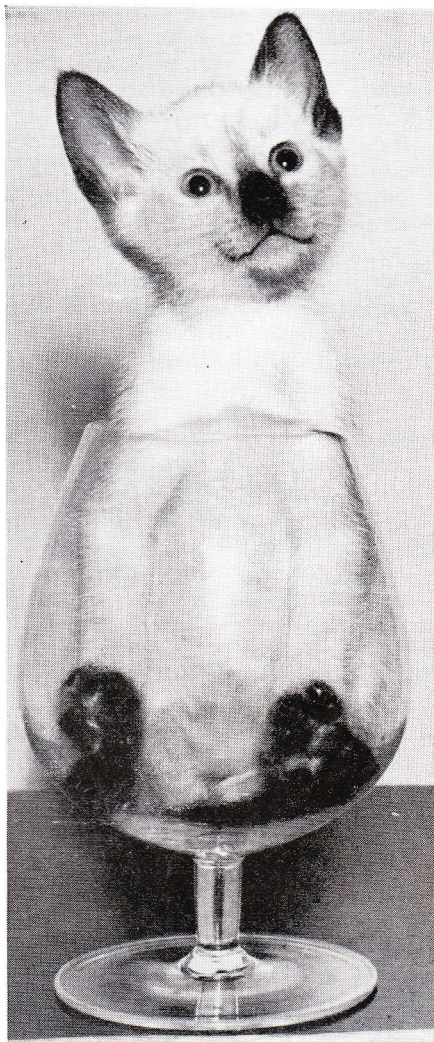
Coming in from the kitchen this evening, I overheard the boys' latest decisions.

Said Sandy: "Well, I'm getting a silk dress for Mummy and a pipe for Daddy. What are you getting David?"

"Fish for the cat," replied my elder son.

Penny is still David's Best Beloved, although he now calls her "the cat" when he wishes to be quite explicit.

This dates from the day when he was asked at school if the "Penny," whose exploits he was proudly recounting, was his baby sister. On most occasions she is still "dear wee Penny."



**Another "Penny from Heaven!"**

**Mrs. K. R. Williams submitted this delightful picture of a great grandson of her well known stud Doneraile**

**Dekho.**

# Cats in Paint & Print

By SIDNEY DENHAM

Sidney Denham is the author of "Cats Between Covers" and with Helen Denham collected the exhibits for the "Cats Through The Ages" Exhibition of pictures, ceramics, books, etc., in London in 1953. Under the title "Cats in Paint and Print" he will write regularly about cats in books and the arts and will welcome interesting items from readers or answer their questions.

DICK WHITTINGTON'S cat appeared this year in the Lord Mayor's Show and will probably appear in many pantomimes. It is now widely taken for granted that this most famous of cats is mythical. A London paper "shot down in flames" the idea of the cat having been real and offered the explanations that the "legend" originated in the confusion of the French words *chat* (cat) and *achat* (purchase) or that Whittington's cat

was really a kind of coaling vessel plying between London and Newcastle in the trade in which Whittington made his money.

One of the curious books in my library is one published by the Rev. Samuel Lysons, M.A., in 1860 called "*The Model Merchant of the Middle Ages, Exemplified in the story of Whittington and His Cat, Being an attempt to Rescue that interesting Story from the Reign of Fable, and to Place it in its Proper Position in the Legitimate History of this Country.*" Lysons who went into the history of Whittington in



Central Press Photo

Dick Whittington (Miss Ann Shipperside) and her cat (Mr. Barry Davis) in the Lord Mayor's Show last month. Alderman Cuthbert Ackroyd, the New Lord Mayor of London, had a special friend at his Budge Row office whom he was hoping to take with him in his grand coach. He was Peter, a battle scarred cat with a local reputation. But Peter disappeared just before the Show.

scholarly fashion summarized the evidence of the probability of the truth of the story of the cat as : " 1st from the ancient and generally received tradition. 2nd, from the scarcity and value of domestic cats at that period. 3rd, from its not being a solitary instance of a fortune made by such means. 4th, from the ancient portraits and statues of Whittington in connection with a cat, some of which may be reasonably traced up to the times and orders of his own executors."

Dick Whittington's cat, representing Liberty, lay in a niche in the old Gate of Newgate which was rebuilt by Whittington's executors until it was destroyed by the fire of 1666 and it is interesting that a beautiful clockwork coach given to the Mercers, Whittington's own company, as early as 1572, has two enamel medallions on each side, one showing the insignia of the Company, the other the arms of the City of London and the other two heraldic cats.

Lysons dismisses the theory that the cat was a coal ship saying that in Whittington's time these coal ships were called keels and hoys and not cats. As for the " *achats* " theory he says all merchants made their money by " *achats* " (purchases) so why should it be confused with " *chat* " only in the case of Whittington ?

Altogether, Lysons makes such a good case for Whittington's cat having been a real one that you need have no hesitation in answering " yes " to a child who asks if the pantomime story is founded on fact !

\* \* \*

Some of the first rhymes every child learns concern cats—" Pussy cat, Pussy cat, where have you been ? " " Ding-dong bell " and other nursery rhymes. Looking through the 800 nursery rhymes which Iona and Peter Opie have assembled in the recently published " *Oxford Nursery Rhyme Book* " I was struck by the frequency of the appearance of cats in the traditional poetry of the nursery.

Many of these rhymes go back to the 16th century and earlier when the

domestic status of the cat was by no means high in Britain, but a casual count shows cats figuring in more than 30 nursery rhymes. The inference is, of course, that the cat was an accepted member of the family in the nursery long before it was admitted to the drawing room and at a time when adult cat lovers like Dr. Samuel Johnson, were considered highly eccentric.

One point that struck me in some of the rhymes is that cats a few centuries ago had tastes in food which we do not find in modern cats. For instance :—

Pussycat ate the dumplings,  
Pussycat ate the dumplings,  
Mamma stood by,  
And cried, Oh, fie !

Why did you eat the dumplings ?

and the charming :—

Sing, sing,  
What shall I sing ?  
The cat's run away  
With the pudding string

Do, do,  
What shall I do ?  
The cat's run away  
With the pudding too !

The kittens that lost their mittens were, you remember, punished by being refused their pie. Dumplings, pudding and pie are not meals that would appeal to any cats I know to-day, altho' many would still run away with the pudding string !

Veterinary ideas have evidently changed as well. A charming rhyme suggests this remedy :—

Who's that ringing at my door bell ?  
A little pussy cat that isn't very well.

Rub its little nose with a little mutton fat,  
That's the best cure for a little pussy cat.

\* \* \*

Readers may remember my writing some time ago about novelist Kate O'Brien's remarkable cat Kelly, who was a discriminating B.B.C. Third Programme fan. Recently his owner wrote to *Time and Tide* recording a unique event. For the first time in his life Kelly

had broken his rule of listening only to the Third Programme and listened right through to Denis Johnston's "The Old Lady Says No" from Radio Eireann. "He did this in spite of contemptuous assaults on his attention from my two young tabbies," wrote Kate O'Brien, "who thought the play coarse and rowdy. But Kelly and I did not agree with them. He is waiting now beside the radio, in hope that he will hear a Haydn Quartette from the Third at 10.25 p.m. but reception is very bad from England to-night, so I fear he must be disappointed . . . perhaps his tastes will become more liberal, less donnish, as he enters his sixth year."

It would be interesting to hear of the taste in music—if any—of readers' cats.



## KAMPONG CUTIE

By IAN MEIKLEJOHN

WHEN we were in Singapore, we adopted a cat, or she adopted us, I am not sure which. She was a stray from a "kampong" or native village in which many Malaysians still exist under primitive and squalid conditions.

She never had a name. At first we called her Puss and subsequently Mrs. Puss.

We saw her first after dinner one evening when we were having coffee by the wide open French window which gave

on to the garden. She slunk past, pausing only momentarily to give us a glance. There are many stray cats in Singapore, all half wild and very nervous, eking out a precarious existence by scavenging. This cat, however, was better looking than most. She was black, a bit leggy and thin, less than a year old but the most noticeable feature was her long straight tail. Most local cats have short tails with the bone bent back at the end.

She passed by again, paused and mewled at us. She drank a small saucer of milk, which we put on the garden path. The next evening she drank her milk just inside the room. After a week of patient effort it was possible to touch her. After this she clearly enjoyed the affection which was conveyed by stroking.

## Wildness Gone

Within a month she was a house cat, seeking our company and following us around when we called. She was neither nervous nor shy of our friends and casual visitors. Being well fed, she had a nice shiny coat. Although she no longer had to forage for herself, she would hunt and eat grasshoppers, cockroaches and lizards.

Soon it was evident that she had mated. In due course we put a wooden box with a duster in a spare room upstairs. At that stage it did not interest her but she explored thoroughly the box room, linen cupboard and any wardrobes which she found open. The process of Nature continued until we thought that Mrs. Puss must surely burst.

Then, one evening she came slowly into the living room, sat down by my wife and began to cry plaintively and insistently. Clearly she was in trouble and expected help. My wife called her, led her upstairs to the spare room and showed her the box. She went in without question and lay down. As the spasms came my wife stroked her back and in between whiles gave her some

milk. Soon the first kitten was born. The second was born while Mrs. Puss was still busy with the first, in fact, the third was the next to receive attention. There were three black but the last was tabby, beautifully marked nevertheless. All save one had long tails.

The next morning my wife gave Mrs. Puss some milk while I quickly took away three kittens. The remaining

All this happened at the end of our time at Singapore. We soon found a home for Smokey Joe and the R.S.P.C.A. helped us to find a good one for Mrs. Puss. We were determined that they should not have to become strays.

There are some who would say that Mrs. Puss acted solely on instinct. They would argue that she came to live with us because we fed her. She knew that life



**Mrs. Puss and her little Smokey Joe**

kitten we called Smokey Joe. Perhaps it should have been Josephine.

Mrs. Puss was a good mother who ensured that her kitten had the best of everything. The wooden box was soon rejected in favour of a corner of our bedroom which was more companionable. When the kitten was too big to be carried up and down stairs and not yet able to negotiate them itself, Mrs. Puss would have one of us on call to carry.

would be very tough if she had her litter in the garden, in which stray dogs roamed and where she would have to forage for herself. Because dogs came occasionally into the living room, she had her litter upstairs. She trusted us to provide for her and so when she had bad pains, we were the people to help her.

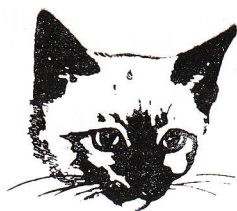
Be that as it may, if many human beings had such instinct they would be considered intelligent.

# Siamese Standards

By P. M. SODERBERG

Author of "Cat Breeding and General Management" and other widely-read books.

Chairman of the Siamese Cat Club.



**T**HOSE who are genuinely interested in the future of Siamese must feel some alarm at the criticisms which are now frequently made of some of the exhibits to be seen at almost any show up and down the country.

To the novice owner these criticisms may seem almost contradictory, but actually this is not the case, for the significance of the statements is all the more serious because they emphasize faults which are present but which relate to extremes so often seen.

Often judges have commented on the fact that Siamese are getting too coarse and heavy boned, but these remarks naturally apply only to particular cats which they have found in their classes. On the other hand, other judges have referred to the fact that cats they have handled have been undersized, and that some of the kittens have been so small for their age that they could only be considered as runts.

Speaking from personal experience I can say in all honesty that some of the Siamese I have seen at shows were thoroughly bad either because they were too big boned and sometimes actually too large or at the other extreme because they were stunted and often badly balanced as well. Between these two extremes there are many cats shown which cannot be faulted because of build, but may display other characteristics which are still undesirable.

As I see it, the basic fact at the root of these troubles and many others is that

there are far too many Siamese being bred and too many novices who think that any Siamese female is a suitable breeder just because she is naturally capable of producing kittens.

When there are so many Siamese kittens born each year it is inevitable that the majority will not be suitable for exhibition purposes, and almost as many ought never to be used as breeding stock.

It was quite a number of years ago that I wrote about "The Hordes of Siam," but certainly that article did nothing of value, for since then the situation has got much worse, and Siamese kittens have even fallen below the low market value I suggested would come in time. To-day there are many Siamese kittens for which homes have to be found because there is no market for them.

So far I have said nothing which is constructive, but I will try to do that now.

In the first place, however, I want to express my appreciation of the Siamese as a domestic pet. In my time I have kept a number of breeds and many cats which could not lay claim to a breed number, but none of them had more attraction as a household pet than a Siamese whose character and temperament are unique. Probably no cat, let it be added, is more destructive with its claws.

It seems to me that the Siamese must be regarded quite definitely as falling into two classes—the cats which approach reasonably near to the official standard and may be regarded as useful for exhibition and breeding, and then the vast majority which should be regarded as

household pets and whether male or female should be neutered as soon as they are old enough.

No rules or regulations could be drawn up to enforce such a policy, but surely it is not beyond possibility that cat owners can become intelligent about such matters, for it is only intelligence which will eventually ensure that hundreds, if not thousands, of Siamese kittens will have to be destroyed each year just because homes cannot be found for them.

Few people can ever hope to cover their costs by breeding Siamese kittens for sale, so why so many try to do so is beyond my comprehension.

To the novice the Siamese cat is just a coat pattern, and he probably knows nothing about the qualities which make it into a real show cat or even a useful breeder. This ignorance is not his fault, nor may it be that of the breeder, for there are now many of the latter to-day who do not know what an exhibition Siamese should look like. However, I feel that ignorance is no justification because information can be obtained if the trouble is taken to seek it from the many fanciers of Siamese who are breeders of experience. In every family, if it is a large one as is the case with Siamese breeders, there is usually one black sheep, but the majority will give an honest opinion and also expert advice.

## For Careful Study

To exhibitors I would suggest that they study carefully the standard for the breed because I know from what I have been told by them that some do not know the first thing about it. As soon as they compare their own cat with the winners, they can see the differences, but earlier knowledge might have saved them both expense and disappointment.

Here is the standard drawn up by the Siamese Cat Club and approved by the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy. I am quoting the standard for Seal Points only, for they are much more numerous than the other colours.

*Shape (Body and Tail).*—Medium in size, body long and svelte, legs proportionately slim, hind legs slightly higher than the front ones, feet small and oval, tail long and tapering (either straight or slightly kinked at the extremity).

*Head and Ears.*—Head long and well proportioned, with width between the eyes, narrowing in perfectly straight lines to a fine muzzle, giving the impression of a marten face. Ears rather large and pricked, wide at the base.

*Eyes (Colour and shape).*—Clear, bright and decidedly blue. Shape oriental and slanting towards the nose. No tendency to squint.

*Body Colour.*—Cream, shading gradually into pale warm fawn on the back. Kittens paler in colour.

*Points.*—Mask, ears, legs, feet and tail dense and clearly defined seal brown. Mask complete and (except in kittens) connected by tracing with the ears.

*Coat.*—Very short and fine in texture, glossy and close lying.

*Value of Points.*—

<i>Type and Shape:</i>	Head...	...	15	} 25
	Ears ...	...	5	
	Eyes ...	...	5	
	Body	...	15	} 25
	Legs and paws	...	5	
	Tail ...	...	5	
				—
Total			...	50

<i>Colour:</i>	Eyes ...	...	15	} 35
	Points	...	10	
	Body colour	...	10	
	Texture of coat	...	10	} 15
	Condition	...	5	
				—
Total			...	50

The Standard of Points for all breeds of pedigree cats can be obtained from W. A. Hazeldine, 1 Roundwood Way, Banstead, Surrey. The price is 2s. plus postage. If you want to be intelligent about any breed, this money will be well spent.

# Cats and Commonsense

By HUGH SMITH

IT is no reflection upon the veterinary profession to say that if I want advice about the care of my cats, I go first, not to a veterinary surgeon, but to an experienced breeder.

There is a very good reason for this. I believe that to understand any creature, whether in health or in disease, it is necessary to have a perceptive eye and a capacity for thoughtful reflection. The perceptive eye of the breeder can dwell upon the whole of the cat's life, from birth to death, and a good deal of pre-natal life is also under indirect observation. If therefore the breeder has a capacity for thoughtful reflection he or she is likely to develop sound judgment on a lot of things that affect the life and well-being of the cat.

Of course, if my cats or kittens are suffering from epidemic disease or have met with accident, I call in a vet. I should be a fool not to. But I once came away from the Siamese Cat Club Tea Party, at which we were fortunate to be addressed by a veterinary surgeon with a wide knowledge of small animals, feeling somewhat depressed.

Before listening to the questions and discussions at this gathering of Club members I had not realized the extent to which breeders seem to be playing somewhat indiscriminately with the new toys of medical science. Here I found the names of synthetic drugs and antibiotics were being flourished with a somewhat carefree abandon. I was not a little disturbed by the nonchalance with which even experiments are being carried out by breeders—sometimes, not without admittedly dangerous results to the cats.

I shall no doubt come under fire when I say that I believe there is almost as much danger of "quackery" in modern medical and veterinary science as there is among homoepaths and herbalists. And by "quackery" I mean the advocacy of treatment of patients with medicaments about which there is inadequate knowledge of the effects—and especially of the long term effects—upon the subject. No one who observes the changing fashions in medical treatment, the eulogizing of new discoveries and their discard after a few years as being worthless or indeed even harmful can doubt this.

In my opinion practical medical and veterinary science have become obsessed with *symptoms* and anything which can suppress a symptom of illness without any immediately demonstrable bad effect upon the patient is apt to be hailed as a cure. It almost seems as though living in a forest of symptoms, practitioners cannot see the wood for trees.

## Rhythm of Life

An example of this seemed to me to be given at the Tea Party by a member who asked the speaker if he could say anything about the observed fact that if stilboestrol is given to a queen in an attempt to rid the uterus of fertilized ova after mismating, the cat's sex life is often disturbed in such a way that it becomes difficult to mate for a very long time after. Of course, there is a perfectly rational explanation of the effect of stilboestrol in stimulating expulsion of the ova. There you have the "symptom" of pregnancy and its suppression by the administration of a hormone.

But look at the other side of the picture. All life is subject to rhythm. The rhythm of the sexual cycle is one example but



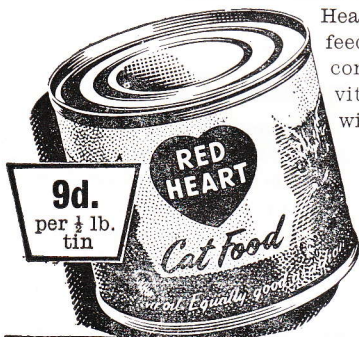
**Let's have  
a squint!**

**SIAMESE CATS—**

*from a photo by Ylla from the Red Heart-series.*

*Though experts say we shouldn't squint, many of us DO! But we can still recognise a good thing when we see it.*

*The very name Red Heart sets us purring. Feed Red Heart (no trouble, no preparation) and you feed your cat the finest food there is . . . containing all a cat needs for health, vitality and a glossy coat. Fresh fish with liver and cod liver oil.*



# **RED HEART**

## **Cat Food**

**JOHN MORRELL & CO., LTD., LIVERPOOL 1**

there are no doubt other and more subtle metabolic rhythms about which little is at present known. It is, therefore, perfectly comprehensible that if we concentrated a little less on "trees" and were more conscious of the "wood" as a whole, we should think twice about interfering with Nature in this particular way and should be content to let sleeping kittens lie.

I cannot help wondering whether there is not altogether too much dosing of cats and kittens with medicines. I personally have not given my cats any medicines except a dose of medicinal paraffin when it has been obviously needed and bismuth powder or milk of magnesia in rare cases of digestive upset. I never worm cats or kittens unless I am reasonably sure it is necessary and I never give any other than a well-known herbal vermifuge without veterinary advice. Antibiotics my vet administers when I am unfortunate enough to have infrequent infective illness in my cattery.

Given sound stock, the right diet, fresh air with freedom from damp and draught and the means for adequate exercise seem to me to be the main requirements for health. I would add complete cleanliness, which does *not* mean the liberal use of antiseptic and deodorants, but adequate amounts of peat moss in adequate sanitary pans, daily cleaning of the cat's living quarters and *never* leaving half-eaten meals or dirty dishes about.

Of course, I have the advantage of living in the country. But I am convinced that a lot more common sense based on careful observation and adequate reflection could replace much of this dosing based on pseudo-scientific guessing. If the intelligent novice will take the trouble to talk to experienced breeders he will soon discover who knows what. I ought, however, to add that I am a relatively inexperienced breeder, showing a high degree of temerity in venturing to voice my opinions at all.

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## ADVERTISING PAID !

**Letter to the London *Evening Standard* from Mrs. D. Lowe-Watson of Hampstead, N.W. London :**

My experience last week-end has given me very special reason to have faith in the "pulling" power of private advertisements in the *Evening Standard*.

Last Sunday week my Siamese cat disappeared. We live on Hampstead Heath where at the week-end visitors come in hundreds, and our immediate fear was that "Katie" had been seen and appreciated—and taken home.

The week passed while we searched the Heath fruitlessly. Realizing that visitors came from all over London, I decided that the *Evening Standard* would be the most effective place to advertise and placed a "small ad." for last Friday.

Within a few hours a man rang up to say that as he had been leaving the Heath the previous Sunday he had seen a Siamese cat streaking across the main

Hampstead-Golders Green road.

She had been narrowly missed by a bus and hit in the hindquarters by a car. He had seen her struggle off the road and had tried to follow and find her. But she was out of sight.

Within seconds of the 'phone call my husband was at the spot the man described. He searched some waste ground in the dark with a torch and heard the very faintest sound of a cat replying to his calls. He tore away a pile of rubble and planks—and found her lying there.

She had been lying in this place for five days without food or water and presumably in great pain, since her pelvis proved to be cracked from the accident. Had it not been for the 'phone call she would undoubtedly have died there.

Our informant did not leave his name and address, so that we cannot tell him how we found "Katie"—or of our great gratitude to him for his kindness. And that despite her experience she is pulling through and recovering happily.

Mrs. E. S. Johnson of  
45 Morningside, Crosby,  
Liverpool 23, writes :—

*"I thought you might be glad to hear of a successful experiment I have tried with Kit-zyme.*

*Last Spring my eight year old neuter cat, Amber, had eczema very badly. He was eventually cured with an injection and arsenic tablets but altogether I had him in a large cardboard collar for three months. The vet—and everyone who had experience with eczema—assured me the trouble would return each Spring, but Kit-zyme made such an improvement in the cat when he was run-down after the eczema that I decided to try prevention.*

*From February onwards I increased the dose to six tablets a day and was delighted to find no sign of the trouble returning this Spring. Although an old cat, Amber looks young and in perfect condition and several people have remarked that "The eczema must have done him good"—but it is, of course, the Kit-zyme that has improved him so much.*

*I have also a female cat and a three month old kitten. All three will come running at the rattle of the jar and do their best to steal each other's ration. I have recommended Kit-zyme to countless other cat owners."*



AMBER

## KIT-ZYME WILL BENEFIT YOUR CAT TOO . . .

It is a natural Tonic and Conditioner—NOT a purgative

# Kit-zyme

## VITAMIN-RICH YEAST

Promotes resistance to : **LISTLESSNESS, FALLING COAT, LOSS OF APPETITE, SKIN TROUBLES**

50 (7½ gr.) Tablets 1/6, 250 for 4/-, 750 for 8/-

From Chemists, Corn Chandlers and Pet Shops

Literature Free on Request



If any difficulty in obtaining write to :  
**PHILLIPS YEAST PRODUCTS LTD., Park Royal Road, London, N.W.10**



Ref. No. 119

All cat owners are advised to keep a jar of Zemol in the store cupboard. Zemol, an actively antiseptic veterinary ointment (by the makers of Kit-zyme) is a safe and very effective way of treating minor wounds, cuts, burns, etc. Literature FREE on request.



Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

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

---

### Croydon Winners

**C**ROYDON Cat Club Ch. Show on November 11th at the Royal Horticultural Hall was one of the best I have attended organized by this Club and that certainly speaks volumes as Mr. A. A. Towe has been Show Manager of all the post-war C.C.C. fixtures. I believe this was the ninth. We owe him and Mrs. Towe a big debt of gratitude for all they have done for the Club and for us its members.

One of the highlights of the day was the presence of Miss Yvonne Arnaud who so kindly gave up some of her valuable time to make a charming speech and to present the prizes to the Household pets which were judged by the President of the Club, the Dowager Lady Aberconway. We were delighted to have these distinguished cat lovers with us. A Blue-eyed White named Peter, owned by Mrs. Jones, was the winner.

November and December are the months when most cats are at their peak and some beautiful cats and kittens were among the winners, and also let it be

added, among the non-winners, as the quality and quantity was so high, over 350 exhibits. In some of the mixed Longhair Club classes there were six Champions and in South Western Counties Cat Club class eight as Thiepval Paragon and Gaydene Genevieve became Champions after the entries closed.

Best Longhair Adult was Miss Langston's superb Chinchilla male Ch. Fidelio of Allington (by Ch. Flambeau of Allington) a truly lovely cat. Best Longhair Kitten went to Mrs. Joan Thompson's Blue male Octavian of Pensford by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous. Best Shorthair Adult was Mrs. Lamb's elegant Seal Point Siamese male Causeway Pita. What a pleasure to see his pale short close-lying coat and all round excellence. He is sired by a male of her own breeding, Ch. Pincop Simon. Best Shorthair Kitten was Miss Well's Seal Point Siamese Daybreak by Ch. Killdown Sultan. It is significant that all these winners are by well known Champions.

Best Longhair Neuter, the Misses Marshall's Blue female Trenton Verity, the dam of Int. Ch. Myowne Gallant Homme. By the way, Verity is by Ch. Oxleys Peter John. Best Shorthair Neuter, Mrs. Halford's Briarry Clouded Yellow by Lamparas De Ong. Any Variety Foreign Shorthair Neuter (excluding Siamese), Mrs. Grove-White's Selborne Calla, an Abyssinian by Albyn Jason. Best Siamese Neuter Mrs. Hooper's Seal Point Siamese Premier Behenta Yu Phin by Salewheel Simkin.

The Challenge Certificate winner in Seal Point females was Mrs. Jay's Sawat Angelina. Best Blue Adult went to Ch.

Protect  
against  
**Feline  
Infectious  
Enteritis**



Feline Infectious Enteritis is a very infectious virus disease of cats, sudden in onset and usually fatal. It may be introduced into a cattery following exposure to infection at shows and spreads from cat to cat in a locality. All breeds are susceptible and in some, such as the Siamese, the mortality rate is very high.

To save your cat from this disease consult your veterinary surgeon. He will advise you regarding protection, now possible by the introduction of

**'WELLCOME'**

BRAND

**FELINE INFECTIOUS  
ENTERITIS VACCINE**



PREPARED AT THE WELLCOME RESEARCH LABORATORIES  
A BURROUGHS WELLCOME & CO. PRODUCT

Foxburrow Frivolous who was awarded his eighth Challenge Certificate and recorded his second win on the Gertrude Fraser Remembrance Bowl for Soundest Lavender Male or Female.

Space does not permit this month of more details of winners but I must congratulate Mrs. Fawell on winning the Red Tabby male also Red Tabby female Championship with her rich red pair Ch. Barwell Pedro and Ch. Barwell Pippa by Ch. Hendon Lysander, and Miss Lelgarde Fraser with her lovely tortoiseshell Longhair Variety of Sunfield by Ch. Bourneside Black Diamond.

The weather was good for November and the gate appeared to be excellent as the hall was thronged with spectators in the afternoon. There was an atmosphere of success about this show which Mr. Towe and his Committee richly deserved.

## British Exports in Denmark

Mrs. Ellen Lorentzen has kindly sent me the results of the International Ch. Show at Copenhagen on October 21st—23rd. She tells me it was very successful and enjoyable. British exported cats again had many honours. Best Longhair Exhibit was the Blue-Cream International Champion Twinkle of Pensford daughter of Ch. Astra of Pensford and litter sister to my Blue-Cream Ch. Dawn. It is the second time Twinkle has had this honour for in 1952 she was the nominee of Miss Kathleen Yorke and on the casting vote of the referee judge Mrs. Haldis Rohlff she was declared the winner.

The winning Cream female in the classes confined to Champions was Ch. Broughton Primrose bred by Mrs. Hughes. In Chinchillas Ch. Hazeldine Silver Rexi bred by Mrs. Brittlebank ; in Blacks Ch. Chadhurst Linda bred by Miss Rodda and the female Ch. Sarisbury Miriam bred by Mrs. Warren were winners.

In the Open Class the 1st and Challenge certificate winners bred in England

were the Blue male Vigilant Jonathan bred by Mrs. Pullen ; the Cream male Widdington Wintersohn bred by Miss Sheppard ; the Black male Bourneside Black Barnaby bred by Mrs. Aitken ; and the Blue-Cream Redwalls Taffeta bred by Mrs. Hacking. Best Shorthair exhibit was the Seal Point Siamese male Int. Ch. Morris Sable bred by Mrs. Richardson. He looked as lovely as ever, Mrs. Haldis Rohlff subsequently told me at Dortmund. He has retained his lovely pale coat at 5 years and 4 months. Sable is by Ch. Hillcross Song and Morris Una. In the Open Seal Point Siamese female class Pristine Petaling bred by Mrs. Priston was the winner.

In Blue Point Siamese Mrs. Skytte-Birkefeldt's female Spotlight Peutetre, bred by Mr. Richard Warner ; in Abyssinians Nigella Fern and Nigella Constantine bred by Miss Bone, were awarded Challenge Certificates and the progeny of some were among the other winners.

Mrs. Ulla Magnusson who has been so successful with the Siamese she has imported from England had the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Margit Lans winning C.A.C. IB with Ch. Exotic Fantasy and herself winning in the 3-6 months kitten class with a female Exotic Praline. In the 6-10 months female class Mr. Eklund and Mrs. Sundstrom were 1st and 2nd with Exotic Orchid and Exotic Opal, all descendants of her imports.

## Big German Show

The International Championship Cat Show organized by Mr. K. Hirschmann at Dortmund, Germany, on November 25th, 26th and 27th, attracted over 260 exhibits from Germany, France, Holland, Austria and Switzerland.

The venue Kleine Westfalenhalle was new and ultra modern with its lack of superfluous decorations and its perfect lighting for any purpose for which it might be used. The very lofty roof had huge glass squares down each side and

alternate squares were for daylight and artificial lighting, the latter filtering through opaque glass. The pens were in double rows and between each row was a space of about three feet down which only exhibitors and stewards were allowed to go. The pen doors were very convenient as they pushed up and could only be opened from the narrow gangway reserved for exhibitors. As the Hall was huge the space between the double rows for the public was very wide and as it usually is abroad, the temperature was ideal.

Mr. Hirschmann organized it extremely well and his thoughtfulness for the exhibits, exhibitors and judges met with general approval. No detail was too small for him to overlook.

### Attention to Detail

The officiating judges were Baroness Lilly von Bach from Copenhagen, Denmark, for Creams, Chinchillas, Smokes, Silver, Brown and Red Tabbies, and Tortoiseshells; Mrs. Haldis Rohlf from Oslo, Norway, for Siamese and European Shorthairs and myself for all Longhair International Champions and Blues, Blacks, Whites and Blue-Creams.

We decided to judge in a side room leading from the main hall which had windows from ceiling to floor its entire length, ideal for judging. So every blue which excelled in coat and eye colour had the credit for these qualities and it was an asset for every variety. We each had a judging table about six feet long and two feet wide so there was ample space for the exhibit, to write one's notes, and the bowl of disinfectant. The stewards were indefatigable and accepted cheerfully all the journeys they had to make.

Many lovely prizes were displayed on a long table on the platform and each winner of a Challenge Certificate had a gold medal in a leather case lined with satin and velvet. Every exhibit had a large printed beige coloured card tied on

to its pen after judging with its name beautifully printed by Mr. Hirschmann previous to the Show. It must have taken him several days to prepare them.

Many of the exhibits were lovely in quality and there were at least six Longhair adults which were worthy of Best in Show whatever the competition. Our choice after much consideration was Mme Walther's (Paris) exceptionally lovely Blue male International Ch. Cy Boh de Changrilla, by Int. Ch. Myowne Gallant Homme and Ch. Harpur Periwinkle. He excelled in all round quality and had a lovely light medium blue coat good in texture.

Other beautiful adults were Mme Sarazin's (Paris) White male Int. Ch. Cady de Padirac by Ch. Alek des Princes; Mrs. Kroon-Nédela's (Holland) Blue female Int. Ch. Laska van Frisia State by Int. Ch. Southway Wizard, who had all the bloom of a female about two years of age, more than ever a credit to her owner at 5½, a very lovely cat; Mme. Walther's Blue female Int. Ch. Pretty Polly of Dunesk by Ch. Baralan Boy Blue, another very good cat.

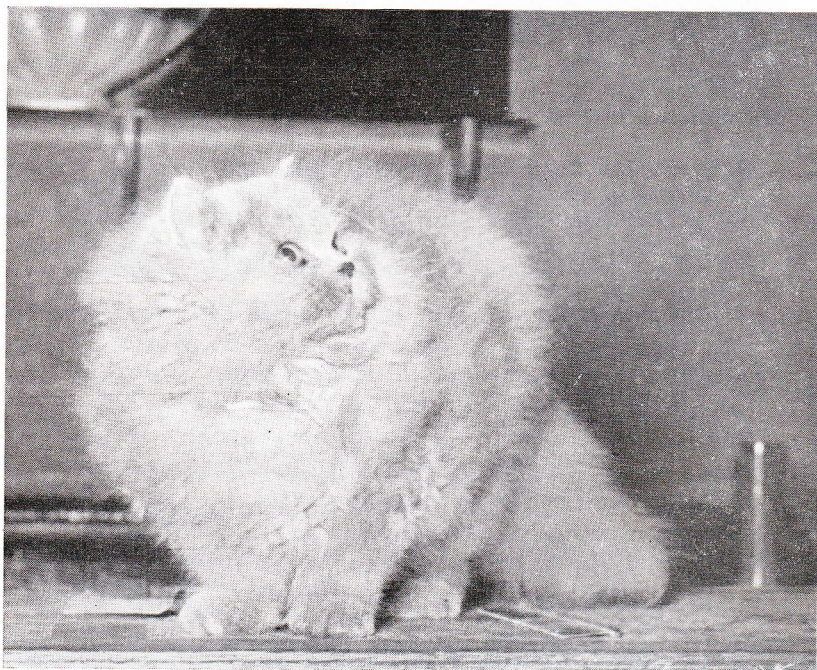
Entered in the Open Class was an exquisite Blue female, Mme d'Autremont's (Paris) Delphina de Changrilla. It was impossible to fault this wonderful cat, bred the same way as Int. Ch. Cy Boh de Changrilla. Her award in this class completed her Championship. The winner in the Blue Male Open Class, Mr. Werner Bierhoff's (Germany) Paragon of Pensford by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous also completed his Championship. A good cat with lovely wide awake copper eyes, he excelled in colour and soundness of coat.

All the first three females and first four males entered in the Blue Open Classes were fine specimens of their variety and I anticipate that some of them will become Champions, particularly Mme. Letertre's (Paris) lovely Autumn Flower of Dunesk by Ch. Astra of Pensford and Ch. Southway Josephine. The quality of the Blue adults was most impressive and made one realize what a loss Int. Ch.

Myowne Gallant Homme was to our country when he left for France. He was a cat who greatly appealed to our breeders and many were disappointed to be deprived of his services, as in addition to his lovely type he excelled in paleness and blueness of coat, qualities which we need so much to-day in our Blue studs.

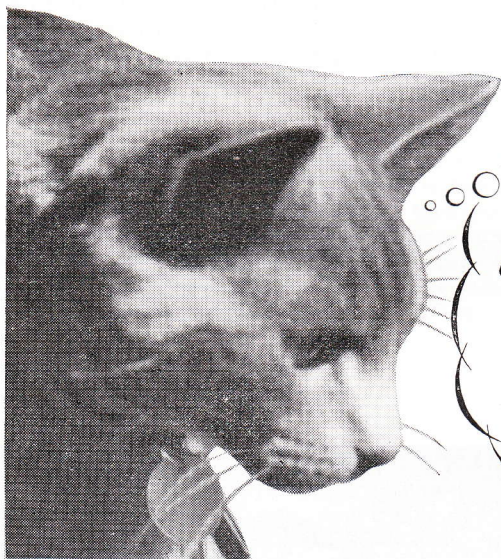
The winning White adults, Mme. Fiala-Pons' (Paris) male Cyrus de Foncmorond and Mrs. Hickisch's (Vienna) female Loni v Marienhof were two good exhibits. The Blue-Creams were a strong class and there was little to choose between the first three. Mrs. Nilsson's (Germany) Ronada Sunshine bred by Mrs. Bruce-Webb was the winner, closely followed by Mrs. Kroon-Nédéla's Mylotsjka van Frisia State.

The Blue kittens did not promise to emulate the quality of the adults in the future. Some of them would have been improved by more show preparation. Best Longhair Kitten was a charming well grown Tortoiseshell White Tip owned by Mrs. van Dongen de Vries (Holland). The three colours on her head, ears, legs and tail were rich and beautifully patched and at seven months her body colour showed promise of being very good when she finishes changing coat. Close up to her was Mrs. Veldhoen-Spaan's (Holland) very good Smoke Chitra van Vlaanderen and Mr. K. Hirschmann's beautiful White Erwi v Brosame. All these kittens were well grown and well presented.



*G. M. Mudle*

**ANCHUSA SILVER GIRL**, bred by Mrs. Constance Raleigh, of Mitcham, Surrey, from Bayhorne Adam ex Foxburrow Fleur, is looking her smartest in this photograph. A July, 1955, kitten, Silver Girl has won 7 firsts, including First in her Open Class at the Blue Persian Championship Show. She has been sold to America's prominent breeder and judge Miss Elsie Hydon, of Bogota, New Jersey.



**I WISH  
IT WERE  
TIBS  
TIME**

“**N**EVER saw a cat in better condition”,  
said Tibby, the Tibs reporter.



“Wonderful appetite, too. Should have  
seen her polish off her dinner with Tibs in it.”

Tibby was very impressed with Ch. Dunloe Kera when he visited the cattery of Miss M. Rochford. Ch. Dunloe Kera is a Russian Blue who has won numerous awards and whose kittens are all prize winners. Miss Rochford, with her reputation as an outstanding breeder of Russian Blues to maintain, gives all her cats Tibs regularly.

*Famous  
breeders  
say:*

**TIBS**

10d. and 2/-



**KEEP CATS KITTENISH**

Best Shorthair adult, Mme Villechaise's (Paris) Abyssinian male Int. Ch. Gracefield Pantha looked extremely well. Best Siamese Champion Doneraile Leo also looked well and was obviously devoted to his owner Frl. Elizabeth Eytzinger (Germany). Best Shorthair Kitten was a Siamese Seal Point, Loki vom Löwental owned by Herr Fritz Schwigat (Germany).

On Sunday evening the Show closed at six and to murmurs of Auf Wiedersehen and many appreciative thanks to Mr. Konrad Hirschmann who had been so solicitous for our welfare, Baroness von Bach, Mrs. Haldis Rohlf, Mrs. Maina Anderson and Mrs. Jules Hansen (these two ladies all the way from Sweden and Denmark just to see the Show) went to an ice show "Holiday on Ice" in the wonderful new glass stadium to which the Kleine Westfalenhalle was attached. After which a merry supper party and so to bed.

On Monday morning we each went our various ways. I flew home from Dusseldorf. It was cloudy and cold but the 'plane was soon in the lovely sunshine and unearthly atmosphere one gets above the snowy carpet of cloud on which one could follow its silhouette surrounded by a miniature rainbow.

Thinking of ? ? ?  
an Import

Specializing in making individual selections of English show winners for overseas breeders.

Poodle enquiries also invited.

**ELLA B. MARTIN**

Herons, Boreham, Nr. Chelmsford,  
Essex, England

Hubert, the famous cat of Caxton Hall, Westminster, has died at 12 years. He spent most of his time on the marble top of the radiator in the main foyer and, as befits one who moved in the best circles, he was fed extensively on chicken and liver. Hubert was among the distinguished guests at the wedding of Sir Anthony and Lady Eden. He attended functions with the Duke of Edinburgh, Sir Winston Churchill, the Duchess of Gloucester, Mary Pickford, Jeanette Macdonald and he was fussed on one occasion by Laurel and Hardy. Strangely enough, Hubert hated dogs—and brides, of whom he saw 2,000 each year.

## Here's what fanciers are saying about our DIRECTORY OF BREEDERS

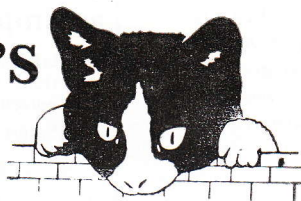
### Six unsolicited testimonials received within the past few months :

- No. 1 "I could hardly hesitate to renew my advertisement in the Directory as a few days ago I received an enquiry for kittens from Geneva."
- No. 2 "I would like to continue my advertisement in the Directory which from time to time 'brings forth results'."
- No. 3 "I certainly would like to continue with my advertisement in the Directory. It is a great help to my cat breeding."
- No. 4 "I will gladly renew my panel advertisement for another 12 months. You will be pleased to hear that it has been a great help, not only for stud work, but for kitten sales as well. I have even received letters from abroad through it."
- No. 5 "I am very pleased I took an advertisement in the Directory. Replies started to reach me with the very first insertion."
- No. 6 "For some time now I have been coming round to the idea that to be really 'in the Fancy' you must also be 'in' your Directory of Breeders. My series over the years has brought me some wonderful contacts."

**May we send YOU details of rates ? It's well worth a trial.**

INTRODUCING

“CHAD’S



CLUB”

FOR CAT LOVERS (*Founded July 1955*)

**OBJECT:** The object of the Club is to help provide the greatest possible aid for cats and kittens in distress.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Membership is open to all who will undertake never to refuse a genuine emergency appeal from a cat owner for assistance, when it is within their ability to help.

**SUBSCRIPTION:** The initial subscription covers membership and badge (*Seniors' badges are either stud or brooch type*).

Seniors 5/-      Juniors (*up to 16 years of age*) 2/-

Subscriptions and enquiries should be addressed to :

“CHAD’S CLUB” *c/o* The Cats’ Protection League, Prestbury Lodge,  
29 Church Street, Slough, Bucks.

CAN YOU IMAGINE a more acceptable and lasting gift for a cat lover than a year’s subscription to this Magazine ?

Each year more and more of our readers have realised that this is at least a happy solution to one of their seasonal “what to give?” problems.

The price is 17s. 6d. for 12 issues post free (U.S.A. Three Dollars) to any part of the world. And we shall be pleased to enclose your personal message or greetings card.



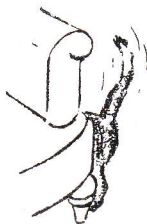
Orders and remittances to Subscriptions,  
**OUR CATS MAGAZINE**

4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9



# Tailpieces

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



ON three occasions socks and pants were reported missing from an Edinburgh hotel. Then the resident cat had kittens and the missing garments were found under them.

A 9 ft. 20 stone shark landed from a trawler at Hull was sold for £3 to be made into cat food.

World wide sympathy has been aroused by the sufferings of human beings in the unprecedented floods in India. The sufferings of the animals are being assuaged as far as possible by small but devoted groups of workers and of course financial help from this country would hearten them for the colossal task which they have undertaken. Contributions addressed to Mrs. Yvonne A. M. Stott, "Indian Animal Relief," c/o Westminster Bank, Ltd., 8 The Broadway, London, N.10, will be remitted to societies with the utmost speed.

We are very glad to welcome as a new reader of this Magazine a fine old lady of 80 who lives at Essendon, Melbourne, Australia. She is Mrs. J. Watt who with her late husband owned Timoshenko and bred many fine Siamese. One of her present cats is Bous, whose daughter Rehka Devi Rinda became the first Victorian-bred queen to become a Grand Champion. Rinda's sire is Chasseur De Lune, of Mystic Dreamer strain, who won four 1st prizes under Mrs. Joan Thompson at the Sydney Show in 1953. Rema, a daughter of Rima, has been Best in Show and Best Victorian-bred Cat.

Congratulations, Mrs. Watt, you can still show "the young 'uns" a thing or two !

I hear that attempts may shortly be made to have it declared a punishable offence for one's dog to be on the road without being under control. For many years now the National Canine Defence League has been trying through education to persuade dog owners to take their animals out—not merely to "let them out." Many already do so and maybe the reaction to any kind of compulsion would be to shut the dog up for good. The League takes the view that the owner is already liable for damages in a civil court if his dog causes loss and therefore there is no need to make him liable as a law-breaker, too.

David and Barbara, 15-months-old twins of an East London woman, ate a tin of cat food—and started something of a panic. Their mother left the food out for Snooty, the cat, and when she came in from the garden the twins were busily tucking into it. After some anxious hours a report from an alayst allayed all fears. "The food is completely pure," said the report. "There should be no ill-effects." The twins are doing fine !

## LAKE DISTRICT CANINE HOTEL

Est. 1948

Dogs and Cats boarded under ideal conditions, always open for inspection.

Home of the well-known Dojere Miniature and Standard Poodle.

At Stud: Dojere Johnny Frenchman

Puppies usually for sale

All enquiries, owner KATHLEEN DOHERTY  
MILLER FIELD, AMBLESIDE. Tel.: Amb 2268

Letter to a London newspaper :  
My cat, who is 12 years of age, eats  
a pound of fish every day. This means  
that, so far, he has consumed nearly  
two tons of it.

The première of the film "Touch and  
Go" in London was noteworthy for  
the appearance of a black cat called  
Heathcliff (otherwise Suttie) wearing a  
diamond studded collar. He had a  
part in the film along with star Jack  
Hawkins and actress June Thorburn.

A nation-wide petition against the  
"no-pets" rules of local councils has  
been launched in London by Miss  
Margaret Harnett, a lover of animals  
who lives in a Brixton flat. A magistrate  
recently declared that "one of the evils  
of barrack-like flats is the rule against  
keeping animals." Miss Harnett agrees  
and adds that in London alone hundreds  
of lovely pets are being destroyed.  
Old-age pensioners, childless couples,  
lonely persons and children are all  
suffering under this ruling, enforced  
by dictatorial councils and landlords.

The first-ever Animal Welfare Exhibi-  
tion will open in London next month  
at the Tea Centre in Regent Street.  
It will run from the 2nd to the 28th  
of the month and the organizers are  
the British Federation of Animal Welfare  
Societies, 33 Queen's Avenue, N.10.  
The work in this country and abroad  
for animals will be demonstrated and  
books, photographs, portraits and pottery  
having a bearing on the subject will  
be on view. Celebrities who are in  
sympathy with animal welfare work  
will visit the Exhibition and lectures  
and film shows have been arranged.  
Experts will also be in attendance to  
give advice to visitors. The Tea Centre  
is a delightful venue for an Exhibition  
of this kind and the entrance fee is only  
the nimble shilling ; 6d. for children.

The picture of the Siamese litter in our  
November issue came in for a lot of  
notice. We are sorry we omitted in  
this instance to give a well earned credit  
to the photographer, Mrs. M. G. Dobell,  
161 West Heath Road, London, N.W.3.

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## IRRITATION OF CATS' EARS

*caused by the ear-mange mite can be definitely cured by three or  
four applications of the wonder-drug*



### ÖTÖDEX

*which combines an anti-parasitic, antiseptic and local anæsthetic*

SOOTHING, SAFE AND CERTAIN

Bottles 2/- and 7/6 (post 3d. and 6d.)

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## SKIN DISEASE

*of a non-parasitic nature, so rife and often seasonal in cats, can  
be rapidly cured by*



### STRENOL ECZEMA CREAM

*an outstanding and well-tested remedy. Quite safe if licked.*

Pots 2/- (post 3d.)

Strenol Products Ltd. 461 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex.

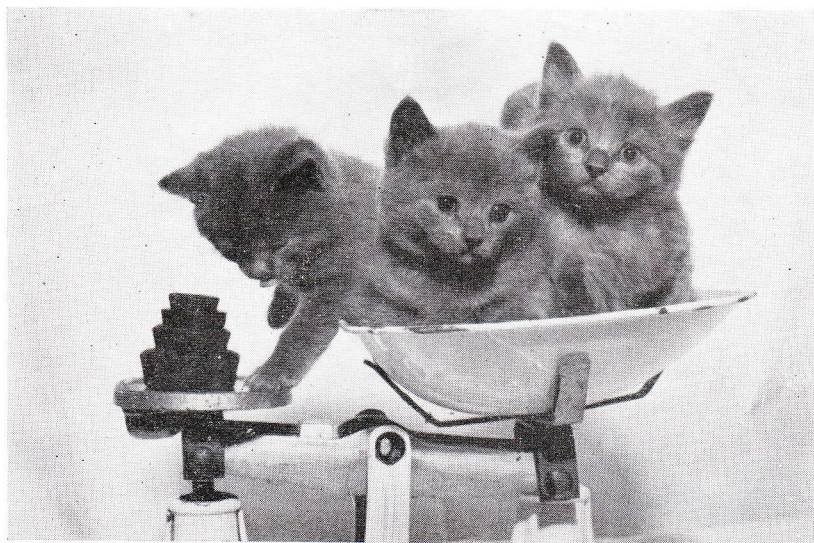
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Miss Olive Katherine Parr—Beatrice Chase, the novelist—of Widecombe-in-the-Moor, Devon, who died aged 80, stated in her will that she wished to be buried at the top of the field known as Hermitage Platt “and please leave the graves of the three little cats undisturbed under the big stones at my feet.”

A cat's stare is reported to have saved the life of an old woman at Saidpur, East Pakistan. The woman's son, hearing a hissing sound, looked across the room and saw a 4½-foot-long cobra about to strike at his sleeping mother. Then their cat miaowed plaintively and the cobra swung round. Cat and snake faced each other, and the cat fixed an unblinking stare upon the cobra. The woman awoke, spotted the snake and silently crept from the room. She raised the alarm and neighbours arrived, killed the cobra and showered food upon the cat, whose name means “Watchful One.”

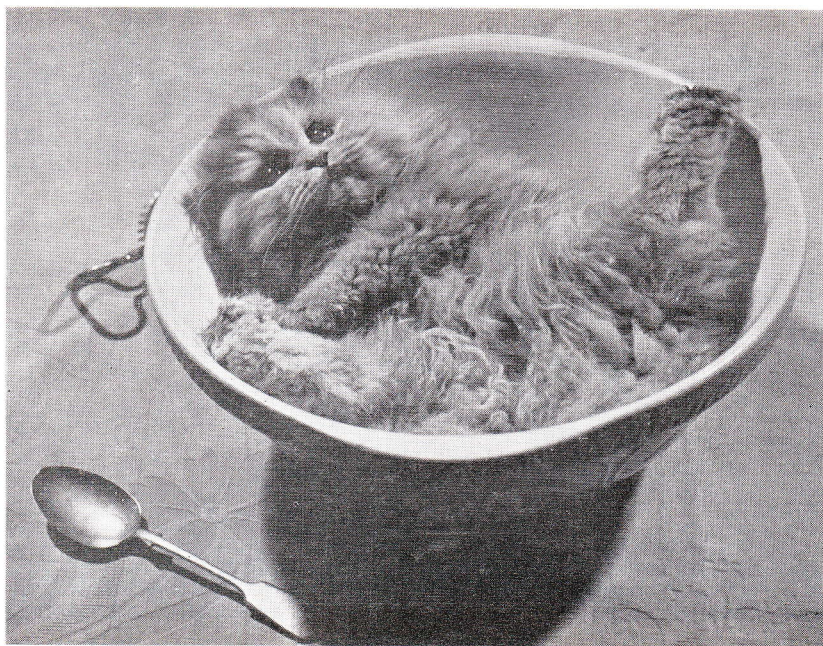
A black cat was found in a crate of car parts sent from England to South Africa. The journey took 90 days by land and sea and during the whole of that time the poor creature had no food or water. When it was discovered at Durban just barely alive a veterinary surgeon worked all night in a vain attempt to save its life.

A crowd of over 500 gathered in the Strand when a black cat was marooned on a swaying branch at the top of a 50 ft. tree beside the church of St. Clement Dane. A fireman climbed up and tried to entice the cat towards him. But it miaowed plaintively from the end of the slender branch and refused to budge. Eventually the cat lost its hold and fell 50 ft. to the ground. Four men with a blanket failed to catch it. But it landed safely and dashed across the road.



*Surrey and South London Picture Service*

**A charming study of British Blue kittens bred by Mrs. Phyllis Hughes, of Cheam, Surrey.**



**These photographic gems by John Drysdale of Keystone Press Agency were taken at the Bourneside Cattery of Mrs. E. G. Aitken, of Banstead.**

# **Reproduction**

By A. C. JUDE

**Our popular contributor on genetics responds here to the many requests he has received—mostly from novice breeders—for more information about the various aspects of reproduction. This is the fourteenth article in a fine new and exclusive series to help and encourage our readers all over the cat world.**

A STATE of absolute sterility is one of small practical importance since it is easily detected and the animal may therefore be quickly eliminated from the breeding pen. On the other hand, semi-sterility is a dangerous situation inasmuch as it is not always quickly established, and in the meantime, the like condition has probably been passed on.

In different kinds of animals, there is a difference that, in some, the size of litter depends less on the available number of ripe ova, and far more upon the number of foetuses that survive in the uterus and are eventually born. This has been established by comparisons in farm animals. That a considerable number of embryo pigs undergo atrophy in the uterus, and at all stages of development, is a fact of the commonest occurrence. Most sows shed at each heat period sufficient ova to provide litters of 20, and few less than 12, although only occasionally are litters of over 15 produced.

In the case of the cat there is a similar happening, but it is less marked because of a much lower number of ova normally shed. Young animals ripen a smaller number of ova at each heat period, and although the proportion of degenerate foetuses is usually not so high in them as in adults, a smaller litter is as a rule produced. The size of the litter tends to increase to the time of peak productivity and then falls away gradually to the point where fertility ends.

It is probable that, during the growth of the young animal, substances are used which would otherwise be available for ripening more ova, and consequently the later-maturing breeds will show the age effect more markedly if bred from early. The curve of fertility corresponds with the curve of vigour in the animal, and the falling off of fertility after say the fifth breeding year (or possibly rather later), corresponds to the approaching senility of a queen.

Foetal degeneration is not due to bacterial infection since it commonly occurs in animals in which the uterus is entirely aseptic. Neither is it the effect of overcrowding, since the uterus is an organ with great powers of distension, and the degeneration is observable in organs that contain relatively few foetuses. Moreover, the arrangement of the dead and the surviving foetuses is not such as to suggest overcrowding, since several dead foetuses may be situated together in one part of the uterus, while another part may be full of living young.

The proportion of atrophic foetuses, however, usually increases somewhat as the number of ova shed at each heat period increases. In rabbits, in which foetal atrophy is common, a higher proportion of atrophy at those times of the year when the number of ova shed is greatest, is noticed. Also, the proportion of atrophic foetuses is greater in domestic than in wild forms, the former also shedding a larger number of ova than the latter.

Foetal degeneration may be due to a genetic lethal factor ; that is to say, to a physiological condition or disharmony of organization that in some way or other prevents the foetus from undergoing normal development. The existence of such "lethal factors" has been demonstrated in animals other than the cat (in which Manx is an example), and particularly in one variety of mice, as well as plants, e.g. maize.

It has previously been stated that cats do not react well to inbreeding to any extent, their fertility becoming reduced. It is not improbable that this result is due to an accumulation of lethal or other detrimental genetic factors which are concentrated in an animal by the process of inbreeding (if these factors are already present), just as are the good qualities that it may also contain, and for which purpose inbreeding is chiefly practised. Not all strains, however, contain a detrimental factor and in these inbreeding can be practised with little ill effect. In fact, in many kinds of such animal, inbreeding can be practised with impunity.

## Results of Inbreeding

Foetal degeneration may be due to an inherited, latent (or recessive) character, i.e. one that is hidden and does not appear until two such animals containing this hidden defect are bred together, when it makes its appearance. For this reason, if it is in the strain, it is much more likely to appear when inbreeding is practised, than when an outcross is made. This is probably one of the reasons why inbreeding is often attended by reduced fertility. If the defect is not present in the strain however, *inbreeding will not cause it*, and may then be practised with good results. In some animals the character is a maternal one, that is, it depends on the inherited characters of the mother and not of the young ; females that have it will produce degenerate young no matter with what male they are mated.

It is because foetal degeneration is recessive that the females of the first cross between two pure breeds are often more fertile than those of pure breeds.

It is exceedingly probable that nutrition plays an important part in regulating the size of the embryos and the degree of development that they severally reach. Moreover, it is noteworthy that atrophy may set in at all stages of development, and that some baby animals, although they succeed in surviving to the end of pregnancy and are duly brought forth, yet are considerably below the average individual size and often die shortly after birth. Atrophy of the foetuses has been shown to begin in the blood vessels, which first become congested, and then break down. The foetal membranes may remain alive for some days after the embryos have perished.



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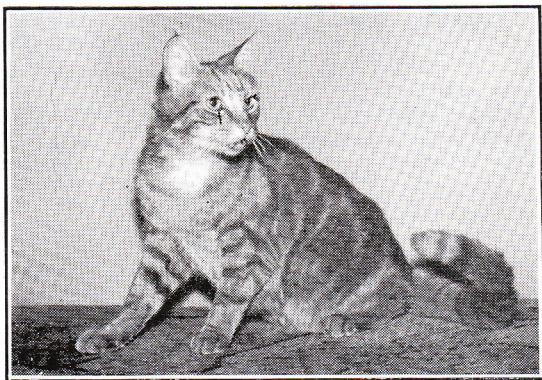
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1956	Promoted by	Venue
5 January ...	*Notts. and Derbys. Cat Club ...	Derby
31 January ...	*Southern Counties Cat Club ...	London
11 February ...	Surrey and Sussex Cat Association ...	Epsom
11 February ...	*Lancs. and North Western Counties Cat Club	Manchester
25 February ...	East Anglian Cat Club ...	Venue to be fixed

\* Denotes show with Championship status.

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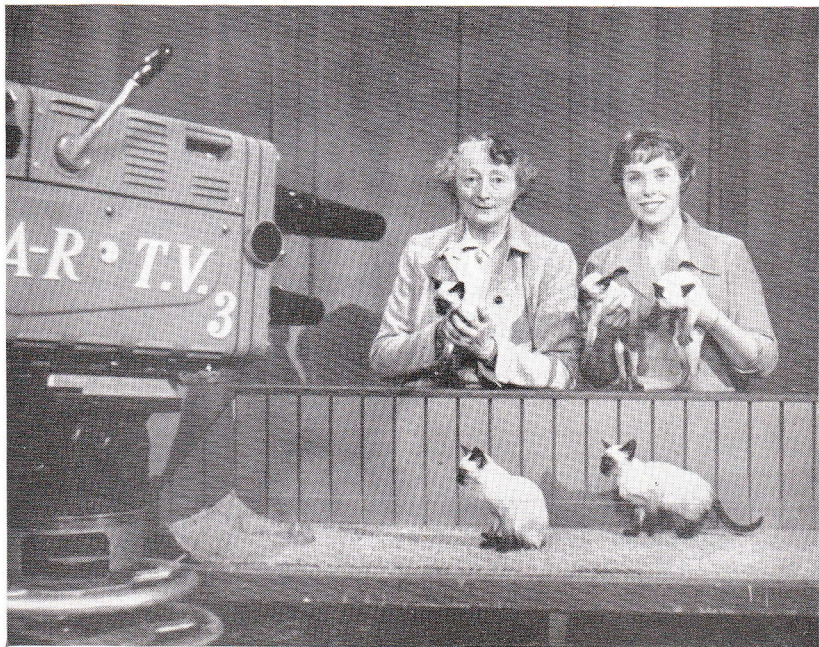
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**Cats on Commercial TV**—After attending the recent Croydon Cat Club Show, the President, the Dowager Lady Aberconway, made an all-too-brief appearance in "Pets Parade." She introduced a number of cats and impressed on viewers some of the important points on care and management.



**And in the same feature on the evening of the Siamese Cat Club Show,** the Hon. Secretary and Show Manager, Mrs. Kathleen R. Williams, presented a number of prize-winning cats and kittens. Here she is (with Sheila MacCormack on the right) with Mrs. M. Bartholomew's Seal Point litter who were placed 1st in an entry of 16 litters.

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