

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING
COMPREHENSIVE

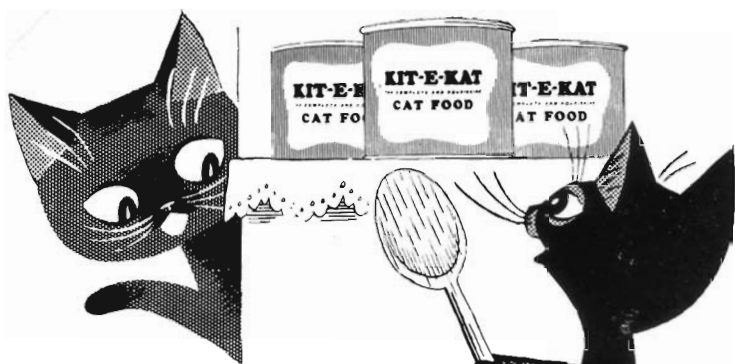


SIESTA

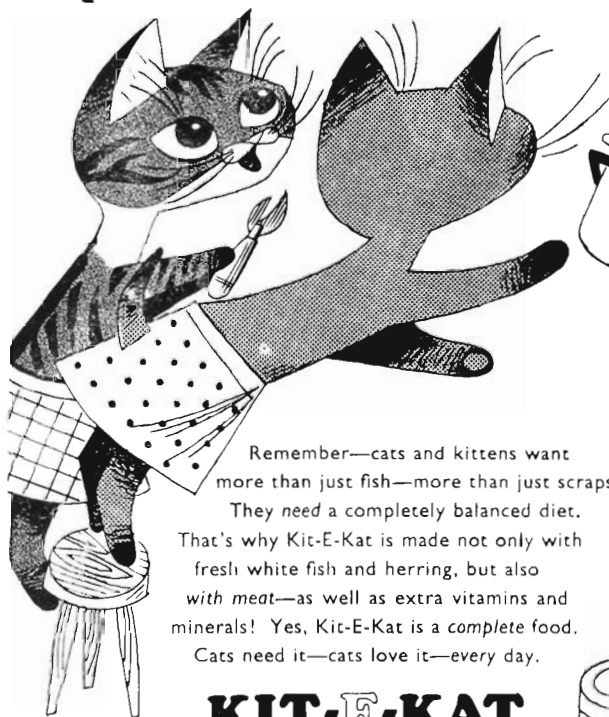
A prizewinning photograph taken on the Continent by Hugh Smith. Mr. Smith, who is well known in the Siamese world, has succeeded here in capturing a delightful subject for his camera and giving it the treatment which so deservedly earned the praise of professional judges.

FEBRUARY 1956

1/6



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On a high shelf that
Wise Mummies
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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.

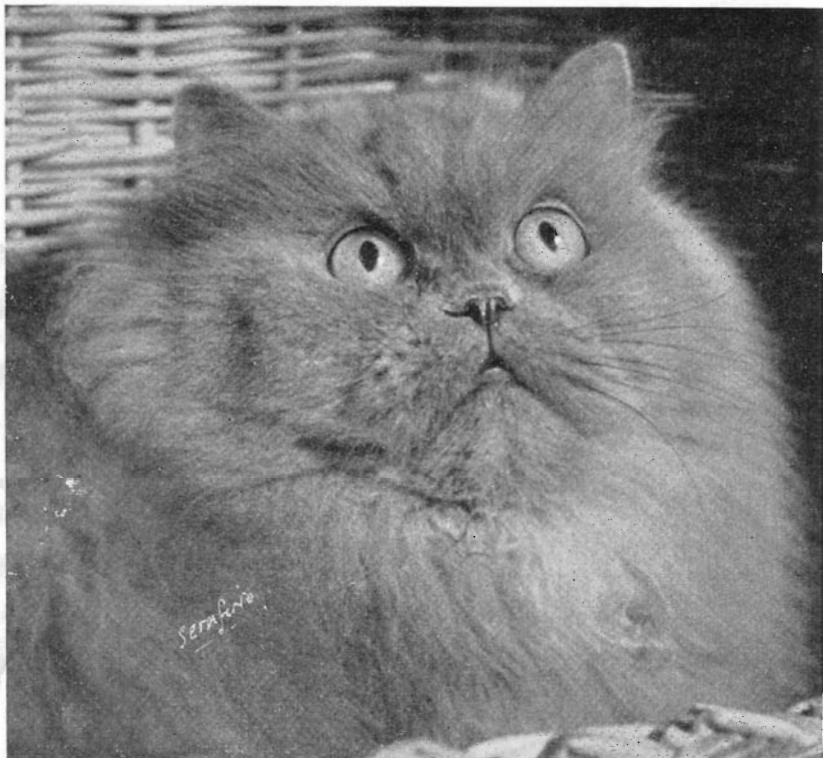
VOL. 8 No. 2

FEBRUARY 1956

Managing Editor :

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

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS




This is an exceptionally good photograph by Serafino of an exquisite Blue Longhair female belonging to Mme d'Autremont, of Paris, CHAMPION DELPHINA DE CHANGRILLA. A daughter of two English imports Int. Champion Myowne Gallant Homme and Ch. Harpur Periwinkle, this young cat completed her Championship at the recent show held at Dortmund, Germany.

ODE TO A SIAMESE KITTEN

*Whence this thing of charm and grace,
Cavorting, leaping from place to place,
Sweeping, swirling, madly gay,
Like my long-lost years of yesterday,
Joyful in the song it sings,
Wondrous in the love it brings,
Nuzzling soft with gentle face,
Snuggling close in my fond embrace,
Oh ! how much I dread the day,
On which I know you must go your way
Back across mysterious space
Back to that strange uncharted place,
Where all we deem as waste and loss,
Is cleansed and rid of all earthly dross,
And merges sweetly into Him,
Of whom the world is a transient whim.
And when my earthly sands are run,
We'll meet again 'neath the golden sun,
And I'll press you close to my joyful heart
And we'll be together — ne'er to part.*

IVOR RALEIGH.

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NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Our subscription rates will be raised with effect from 1st March next from 17s. 6d. to 20s. for 12 issues post free. The new rate for readers in the Americas will be \$3.25 instead of \$3 for 12 issues post free.

Breed No. 13a

By

BRIAN STIRLING - WEBB

This is a success story which takes the reader "behind the scenes" for a glimpse at the protracted process of producing a new variety of cat. After years of patient application, the author has won recognition from the Governing Council for his Colour-point Longhairs—the new breed with "a subtle difference." What now of their future?

WITH the granting of varietal status to Colour-point Longhairs by the Governing Council, the Fancy has gained a new and attractive variety, which promises to become popular if one may judge by the interest shown and enquiries made recently.

This is all to the good as serious breeders are wanted if the standard already arrived at is to be maintained and if improvement is to be made. Much has yet to be done before perfection is attained. Eye colour, to give one instance only, is not all that it should be and type, that very necessary feature of all breeds, needs to be carefully watched. This latter should be as for all Longhairs, from which it will be seen by the discerning that we are not dealing with what the uninitiated are pleased to call "Longhaired Siamese."



Before the war experiments were made in America, Germany and elsewhere (in this country attempts do not appear to have gone beyond the F_1 generation) to produce cats possessing long hair combined with the Siamese coat pattern, but these do not seem to have been persevered with long enough to obtain anything but longhaired Siamese, which, incidentally, are very easy of production and which, perhaps, is all the breeders were aiming at.

Such has never been my aim and before going any further it might be as well to make this point clear.

A subtle difference exists between a longhaired Siamese and a Colourpoint Longhair. The former is a cat structurally similar to a Siamese but possessed of long hair, whilst the latter is a Persian (or "Longhair" to give it's proper designation) possessed of the Siamese coat

pattern. The two types are diametrically opposed, one being an elongated animal with emphasis on length in every feature and the other being of cobby and massive build with short face and broad head.

Aesthetically long hair is not considered to combine with Siamese type and it is easy to see why if one gives it a moment's thought. One of the principal beauties of the Siamese cat is its graceful outline which would inevitably be obscured by a heavy coat.

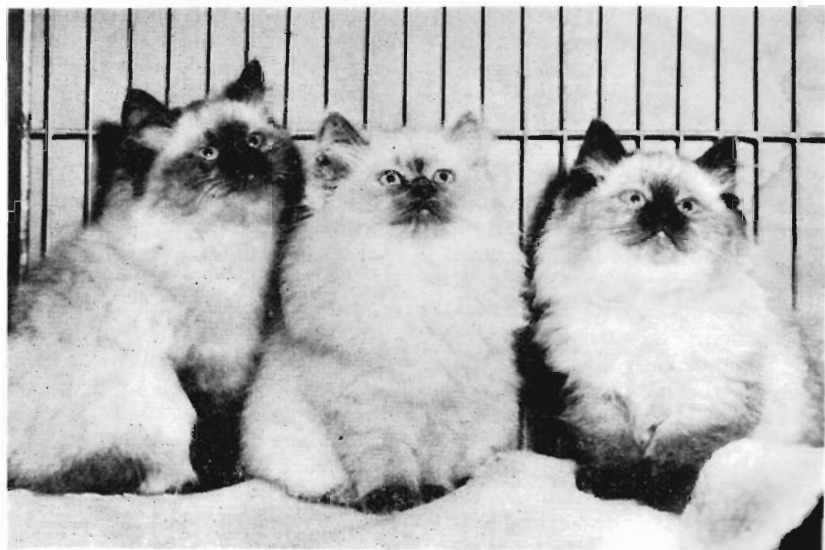
In this country the type requirements for all Longhairs are the same and it follows that any individual which does not comply with these requirements fails to fill the expert's eye. Hence a Longhaired Siamese is out of place and, in my opinion, can only harm the true breed of Siamese from which it derives.

My earlier experiments to produce Colourpoints necessarily followed the pre-war efforts of Mrs. Virginia Cobb in America. These were described at some length in the cat press of the day. I claim, however, that serious breeding only started with me at the point at which she had left off. Type being my

chief consideration it was necessary to sacrifice colour sometimes for two or more generations, but an elementary knowledge of genetics stood me in good stead and finally gave me what I was seeking.

And here I must say that the biggest handicap I had to contend with was having to comply with the Council's regulations for the recognition of a new variety. This proved a definite backward step as I was obliged to inbreed closely in order to obtain the three generations required. This problem would not arise where several people were working together to the same end, but it is certainly a drawback to the lone breeder. However, now that recognition has been granted I look forward to further breeding with eager anticipation and I would like to add here how grateful I am to the Council for the very kind consideration they showed me.

The making of a new breed of cat is a long business and inevitably one obtains a large number of unwanted specimens, unwanted in the sense that



Keystone Press Agency

The Colourpoint Longhair kittens make their show debut where they came in for a lot of attention from fanciers and visitors.



This drawing and that on page 3 present the new breed as seen through the eyes of the artist, M. Joyce Davies

they are useless for the furtherance of the variety. The only thing to do is to part with these individuals as *neutered pets* at as early an age as possible. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the breeder has a definite responsibility to these cats which, after all, have been brought into the world entirely to suit his own purposes and cannot be ruthlessly discarded when they become a liability.

The least that can be done is to find good homes where they can lead happy lives and this is not quite as difficult as it sounds because many of them are attractive animals on their own merits and make interesting and charming pets to cat lovers.

Colourpoints breed true owing to the fact that both longhair and the Siamese coat pattern are recessive, but the wise breeder will outcross from time to time.

Here is the Standard of Points as approved by the Governing Council. It is to be hoped that when readers have "digested" it they will feel inspired to

take up the serious breeding of our newest variety themselves.

Standard of Points

COAT. Fur long, thick and soft in texture, frill full, colour of points to be Seal, Blue or Chocolate with appropriate body-colour as for Siamese (i.e. Cream, glacial white or ivory respectively). Points to be dense and body shading, if any, to be the same colour as the points.

HEAD. Broad and round with width between the ears. Face and nose short. Ears small and tufted and cheeks well developed.

EYES. Shape, large round and full. Colour, clear, bright and decidedly blue, the deeper the better.

BODY. Cobby and low on leg.

TAIL. Short and full, not tapering. A kink shall be considered a defect.

N.B. Any similarity in type to Siamese to be considered undesirable and incorrect.

Allocation of marks. Coat 15, Points and Body-colour 10, Head 25, Shape of eye 10, Colour of eye 10, Body 10, Tail 10, Condition 10, Total 100.

A page for the proletarian puss No. 61



IT'S LEAP YEAR, YOU KNOW !

Another charming study by American ace cat photographer Walter Chandoha

Cats in Persia

By LANCE HAMBER

MANY people imagine cats in Persia must be Persian cats ! Well, what is the answer ? I think it is "Yes and no."

Having lived six years in that country I saw very few Persians of the accepted Longhaired show type; in fact, I don't remember ever seeing one of those magnificent Blue Persians at all. Probably I looked in the wrong places !

At one time, however, owing to family affairs (theirs not ours) we had fourteen miscellaneous pussies on the ration strength. We lived in Meshed, a pilgrim centre, some 750 miles from the railway in those days.

The cats did not all live in the house, that would have been too much ! In that mild climate they used to come and go, so the figure fourteen is at best only an estimate.

Attendance at mealtimes was pretty good. A Syrian woman servant was appointed cat keeper in chief. When she appeared with the bowls of food she almost disappeared under a feline flood, which dropped from the roof, climbed all over her, and ran between her legs. Our cats were of all types and colours.

The king was a magnificent ginger cat called Tiger, friendly, sublime and royal. He was spotted, a common characteristic of cats in India and the East, due I imagine to interbreeding with the spotted jungle cat of India.

Tiger was in character like a dog. He would usually come when called and go for long walks with us round the Consulate gardens where we lived. Friendly, intelligent and extremely handsome, he took no nonsense from any rivals. I think he must have weighed nearly fifteen pounds.

Feeding such a menagerie was not



A preliminary reconnaissance before tea ! Note the spotted cat begging in the foreground

difficult. Mutton was very cheap. A leg cost about sixpence. They lived well.

In Meshed we had a variety of pets, some rather unconventional. They comprised a pony, two mules, two Persian gazelle, five dogs including a Labrador, a setter, a piedog and another monster called "Loch Ness," two chickens and a tortoise and last but not least a battalion of cats !


The balance of power at mealtimes was very peculiar. Whenever food was brought, the first to have a sniff and a

There were, of course, several bowls so no one was crowded out. Tiger having had what he wanted from the dogs' bowl usually condescended to have a second course with his own kind. Mealtime was always a comedy, each community milling round waiting for their seniors to finish.

One had a good opportunity of studying cat mentality in these circumstances. One or two points, probably well known to cat lovers, may be of interest.

A cat's curiosity can be aroused



 **And more spotted cats assemble for mealtime in a Persian garden.**

nibble were the gazelle. The pony and mules and tortoise did not compete. Not that the gazelle eat meat, but they considered it a point of etiquette to see what had been laid on for dinner. They had horns and knew how to use them as the dogs and some small boys soon found out ! Next turn was the fowls. Being pets they were very aggressive and would peck the dogs noses and see them off until they had sampled the dish. The dogs then had their go, Tiger feeding with them in spite of their growls. Then the cats would clean up what was left.

almost unfailingly by hissing through the teeth, even quietly. This hiss seems to catch their ears even through a babel of much louder noises. As everyone knows they have extremely acute hearing.

No cat can resist the sound of scratching on wood or material, provided it cannot see the hand making the noise. A finger drawn along under a piece of cloth, say under an apron or in the pocket, and moved slowly about is almost always attacked. I think the concealed mouse idea must be behind this interest.

Cats have an extremely good bump of locality, and a great capacity of

recognizing familiar objects. I give an example of this which happened to me in World War I.

I was stationed in Asia Minor where I had acquired a really lovely Angora cat. Wuffles had a long white coat and one golden eye and the other sky blue. She was a beauty. Looking back I think I was wrong to have kept her in the circumstances. We were under canvas all the time and frequently changing camp. She hated this moving.

She had however the catty faculty of recognition and would stick to my valise through thick and thin. She would find it among the whole heap of battalion baggage and keep by it. My Gurkha orderly looked after her very well. The moment my bed was spread Wuffles would creep in and stay at the bottom of my valise until I took her out.

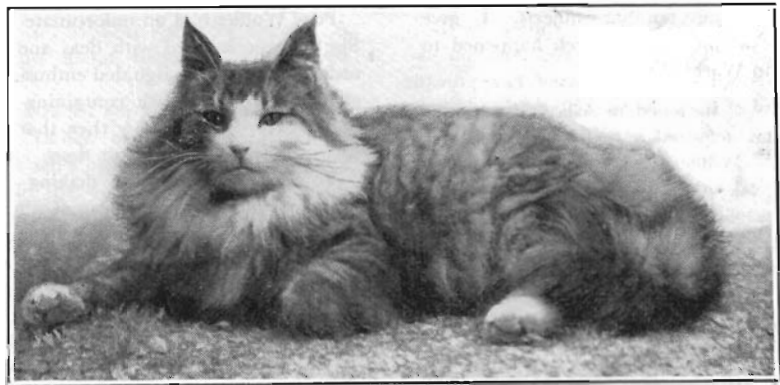
Poor Wuffles had an unfortunate end. She became infested with fleas and my orderly, in a fit of misguided enthusiasm, gave her a warm bath containing carbolic. We did not know then that this was usually fatal to cats or dogs.

To save anyone else making this mistake I mention a safe way of ridding cats of fleas, which can be a source of great discomfort both to the animal and its owner. The cat should be wrapped in a sheet of cotton wool, which has been sprinkled with oil of camphor. The wool should extend right up to its neck. The fleas leave the cat and become entangled in the cotton wool. Those which swarm up on to the head can be combed off into a basin of water.

The cat's coat looks a bit greasy for a day or two after this treatment, but soon recovers. Probably this remedy is known to most cat lovers, but I pass it on in memory of poor Wuffles.



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DUSKY

Miss F. Brookfield-Davis of 48 Rhosddu Road, Wrexham, Denbighshire, writes :—

"I have given Kit-zyne tablets to my cat, Dusky, for about five years now and I have found them very beneficial for keeping him in good health. He loves the tablets and each morning when I come downstairs, I find him waiting to lead me to the cupboard where his Kit-zyne 'sweets' are kept."

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Unnatural or Unfair

By P. M. SODERBERG

This feature has previously appeared in OUR CATS and we have decided to reprint it because of its general interest and value and the fact that our contributor's usual article is not available this month. It was with extreme regret we received the news that Mr. Soderberg has been ordered by his medical adviser to take a complete rest. We know we shall be voicing the wishes of our readers when we express the hope that he will soon be restored to good health. Mr. Soderberg has been a most valued contributor since our first issue in 1949.

I WANT to deal here with three points of cat management which have all been considered carefully by breeders from time to time. Two of them have now become to be considered as almost normal practice and consequently cause little argument.

The first is the neutering of males. From my earliest boyhood I can remember that male kittens which came into my home were neutered, and even in those far-off days few owners gave more than a passing thought to the matter because it was the normal thing. The methods used in those days, however, were much more crude and were often actually cruel, but I cannot recall any young male dying as a result of the operation.

Modern veterinary science is much more humane in its approach to the problem, and during the past twenty years I have had no male neutered which seemed any the worse for the experience. Once the effect of the general anaesthetic has worn off, the neutered male acts as though nothing unusual has happened; even his appetite is normal.

There are people, however, who feel that it is morally wrong to interfere with the cat's natural functions, and as a consequence refuse to have any male neutered. This is certainly a point of view, but how far its validity extends is entirely another matter.

A stray tom can be a nuisance to himself, his owner and also to all the

neighbours within earshot, and I'm pretty confident that the less natural life which is the lot of the male who is a household pet is one which most of them would choose for themselves had they power of reasoning.

With unaltered males fighting is inevitable, and torn ears and other wounds are to be expected. The most enthusiastic cat lover also learns quickly that an adult entire male can rarely be a household pet.

Taking all the facts into consideration, the only sane conclusion is that males should be neutered unless they are definitely needed for stud work. As an aside I might add that from the point of view of the improvement of the various breeds, it would be a sound idea if more males were neutered, for only really good males should be allowed to remain to carry on the breed.

The time when neutering should be carried out is a matter which must be arranged with the vet who has to do the operation. Some prefer one age and some another, but whatever the age do insist on a general anaesthetic.

On Speying

The speying of females is a practice of much later development than the neutering of males, but the arguments which can be brought for and against the practice are in many respects similar. There is no doubt about it that the speying of a female is a much more serious operation and is thus attended



Mother knows best

"Young Peta is always on the look-out for fun, but Jetta is a wise mother and never lets her lovely daughter miss her daily Tibs," says Tibby, the Tibs Reporter. "She won't be a kitten forever," Jetta told him, "and I know how to make sure that she'll be as great a champion as I am."

Ch. Chinki Yong Jetta and her daughter Fernreig Ohpras Peta are perfect examples of the Burmese breed, with their shining brown sable coats and alert, intelligent faces. They belong to Mrs. Edna Matthewson, of Lindridge House, 917 Hagley Road West, Quinton, Birmingham 32, one of the many Burmese owners who are success-

fully bringing this breed into prominence.

Mrs. Matthewson also breeds champion Siamese cats, and attributes a great share of her success to the fact that she has given her cats Tibs for many years — in fact, she would never be without them.

11d. and 2/3d.



Famous
breeders
say:

TIBS KEEP CATS KITTENISH

by greater risk to life. In fact, there was a time when the mortality rate was quite high, but with healthy young cats to-day the risk is very slight indeed.

The ownership of a female able to bear kittens may present problems from time to time, for queens will call and marauding males will answer. A female in season may wander off on her own, and in districts where there is considerable traffic this wandering has its dangers.

If a queen has kittens, there is always the problem of disposing of the family when it has been weaned. Even with pedigree cats selling is not always an easy job with the result that many kittens have to be sold at a price which is uneconomic from the breeder's point of view at least. Ordinary kittens of the household type are much more difficult to get rid of although there is always a reasonable prospect of finding a home for some of the males.

For kittens to be born and then to be destroyed at once is a policy which has nothing to recommend it. On the other hand, if a queen is allowed to produce kittens, she should be permitted to rear some of them as an act of humanity. Even so, this may mean that all the females will have to be destroyed and to most cat owners that is not a very pleasant prospect.

Slimming for Neuters

When this question of spaying is regarded from all angles, it seems that there is a very strong argument for the operation to be carried out, particularly in the case of household pets. Again it is for the vet to decide the correct age, but speaking entirely personally and probably sentimentally as well, I am in favour of allowing a female to have one litter before the possibilities of motherhood are taken away for ever.

The altering of males and females must have physiological consequences beyond the actual removal of certain organs from the body, and this fact has to be borne in mind by the owner al-

though it is rare indeed for these consequences to present serious problems.

The nature of the altered male is usually very different from that of the entire male. He may not be more affectionate, for, contrary to popular belief, studs are usually very affectionate creatures, but the neuter is on the whole inclined to be less active. Most of them do not wander far afield, but there are notable exceptions. Neuters sometimes become too fat, but as soon as this tendency is noticed a careful diet must be planned and obesity can thus be kept at bay.

Experiments with declawing

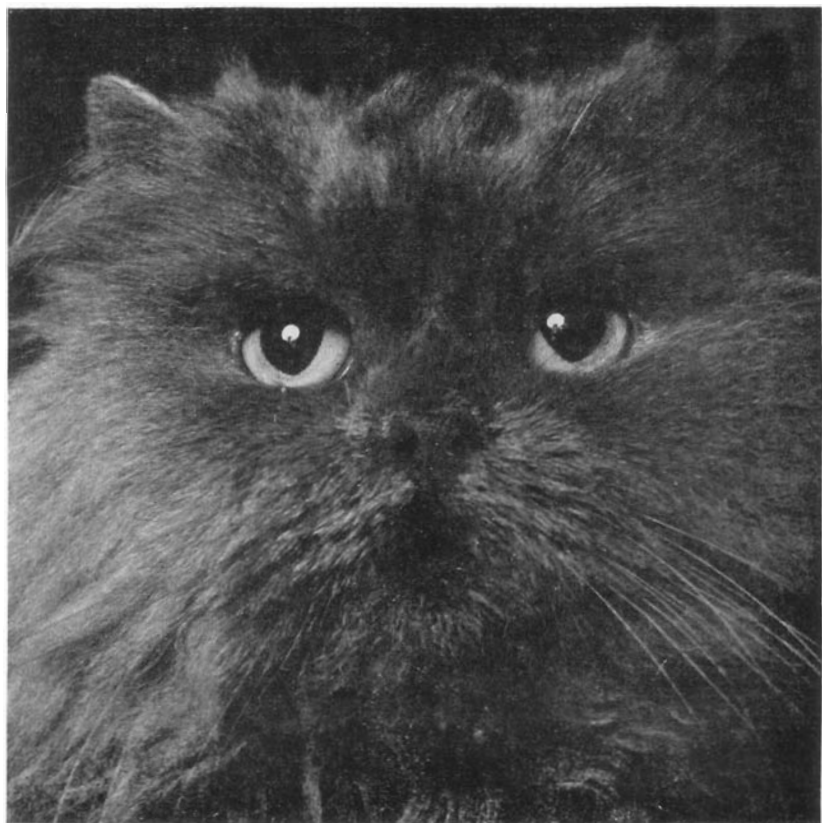
The third point I want to raise in this article is bound to produce much more discussion and perhaps more feeling because it is new.

The damage done by a cat's claws to the furniture is often very considerable, and, however hard one tries, it is sometimes impossible to train a cat to use a scratching log or to confine its attentions to the legs of the kitchen table. The result of this destruction has meant in a number of cases, of which I have heard, that the cat had to be disposed of either by sending it to a farm where it became an outside cat or by having it put down.

It must have been quite two years ago that I heard of a cat in the United States which had all its claws removed when it was a kitten. Recently in "All-Pets" Magazine there was an article on this subject of "declawing."

What function do the claws of the domestic cat perform under conditions of domestication? Are they in the case of household cats necessary as a means of defence against dogs and other cats? Would a cat be handicapped at all if its claws were removed at an early age?

To none of these questions have I a reasoned answer. The idea is new and therefore suspect, but will it become popular at some time in the future to have the claws removed? Frankly I don't know, but I should like to know what *you* think about it.



Walter Studer

The Black Longhairs at the Berne Show were headed by this fine fellow—**COLIBRI DU BOSQUET**—from the cattery of the well-known Swiss breeder Mme M. A. Gay.

Swiss Show Report

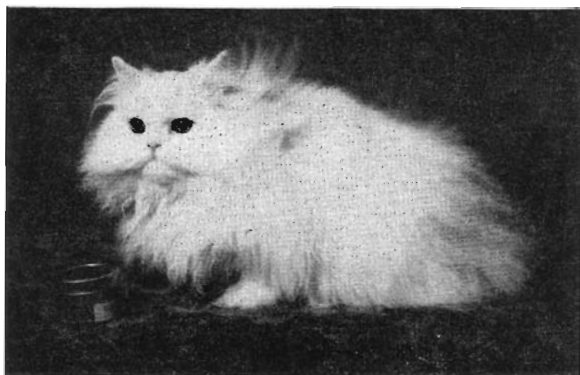
From MRS. M. MACKENZIE

I WAS delighted to be invited by Mme Gay and her Committee to judge at the International Show of the Club Des Amis Des Chats of Berne in December. It was a two-day fixture. The exhibits numbered 120 and the majority were of excellent quality.

I also had the pleasure of visiting Mme. Gay's Cattery at Liebefeld where I found all her cats in excellent condition and living in ideal surroundings.

The principal awards were as follows : Best Cat in Show—Mlle Curchod's Sunrise of Pensford, a massive Cream excelling in type, bred by Mrs. Joan Thompson ; Best Female—Mme Gay's Barbel von Donnaute, another Cream who also excelled in type ;

Best Male Kitten—Mme. Fuch's Emir de Bois Dore (by Harper Christopher ex Ch. Int. Astride), a superb golden-eyed White who has



EMIR DE BOIS DORE, a lovely golden-eyed White Longhair bred by Mme Fuch, was Best Male Kitten at Berne. He was acquired after his show success by Mme Gay

passed into the ownership of Mme. Gay.

Best Female Kitten—Mlle. Dolmann's Egis du Bosquet, Silver shaded, a lovely kitten with good eye colour and exquisite long coat; Best Neuter—Mme. Roulet's Bobosse de Bois Dore, a super Blue, beautifully shown; should never have been neutered.

Blacks were well represented and headed by Mme. Gay's Colibri du Bosquet, whose picture is reproduced in this issue. This male excelled in type. He won at Lausanne under Mrs. Vize last year. In Black females Mme. Huguenin's Diana de la Simaine acquired CAC. Black kittens were represented by Mme. Leibundgut's pair who were very promising.

Whites were represented by Mme. Bachmann's Blanchette de Jolymont, Mme. Aeschlimann's Dany du Castel and Mlle Curchod's Ch. Int. Astrid du Leman. All the above were of excellent type and beautifully shown. In Blue-Creams Ch. Int. Zamba de la Chesnaie was outstanding. Blue males were disappointing but the females made up for this. One Ex and CAC went to Mlle. Chamonin's Robhurst Belle, a British export.

Chinchillas were well represented and of good quality. First in females went to Mlle. Chamonin's Ch. Zarouf de la

Chesnaie and 1st in males to M. Durr's Boyal de Beauty whose grandfather was one of the Allington cats.

I must mention M. Siegrist's Birman Ch. Biliken—a very striking cat with the colouring of a Siamese but with all paws half white. He was so friendly too. The Siamese were of poor quality except for a lovely neuter Leila Lon, owned by Frau Cottesmann.

The class for European exhibits was well supported with British Blues, Blacks, Tortie and White and a very good Shorthair Cream. They were all in excellent condition.

Mme. Gay and Mlle. Curchod must have worked very hard to stage this most enjoyable show.

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

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ELLA B. MARTIN

Herons, Boreham, Nr. Chelmsford,
Essex, England

"Cat Genetics"

PHYLLIS LAUDER writes about A. C. Jude's new work

IT is of great importance to breeders to understand the problems of heredity, yet it is very difficult for the lay person to gain the knowledge necessary for such understanding. Years of learning could be spent on this one science ; but cat fanciers are not as a rule scientifically trained. It takes a long time to read the works of such writers as Huxley, Fisher or Mather, and to disentangle from them what is relevant to a particular Fancy.

Cat Genetics by A. C. Jude is a very valuable book, for it sets out with clarity and simplicity all that the fancier wants to know of the workings of heredity in respect of the cat. To read this most important book carefully is to understand precisely the hereditary possibilities inherent in cats. In its pages the comparatively new and fascinating science of genetics is explained in terms that can be understood by anyone ; the author has been at pains to translate for the uninitiated the jargon of genetics, and has not assumed in his readers knowledge not generally possessed.

At the same time, he imparts facts peculiar to heredity in the cat, which will be new and interesting to people who already have knowledge of this subject. Most cat breeders will have read and enjoyed Mr. Jude's articles on genetics which have appeared in periodicals devoted to various fancies ; readers of *OUR CATS* will certainly be familiar with his work, and will know that he has something to say, and knows how to say it.

Cat Genetics will not disappoint them. Most learned men write good prose,

and Mr. Jude is no exception ; he has, indeed, a very decided style of his own, and the whole of this book combines beautiful writing with an admirable simplicity.

All-Pets Inc., of the U.S.A., have brought out the book charmingly, with a delightful jacket and very clear print. It is full of excellent well-reproduced illustrations so that even those not interested in the science of heredity could spend a pleasant hour looking at the many pictures of feline beauty.

This book is much more than a compendium of facts about heredity ; it offers its readers most useful advice on health and breeding ; it recounts fascinating tales of cat families ; it gives reasons for peculiarities in breeding which will have been observed by many and understood by very few. It also contains the story—which I will not spoil by describing—of a quite new variety of cat.

Nothing Quite Like It

Some of the facts in *Cat Genetics* will be familiar to some readers ; but I venture to think there is in it something new for everyone—even the most knowledgable. This book is unique in the sense that nothing quite like it has yet been produced. It is the story of heredity as applying to the cat, and its importance to cat fanciers cannot be exaggerated.

But by far the most valuable point about the book is its quality of teaching even a novice the fascinating story of

(concluded on page 18)



Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

M**R****S.** **J****O****A****N** **T****H****O****M****P****S****O****N**
—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 personal-
ities, both human and feline.

Derby Show Winners

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Clair Prince on her successful début as Show Manager for the Notts and Derby Cat Club Ch. Show on January 5th. The venue in Derby was a new and very suitable one for the purpose, plenty of space and the tiers down each side for spectators to watch the judging and later for tired exhibitors were very useful.

On an average winter day I should imagine the light would be good but on this occasion one of the worst fogs for many years pervaded the Midlands so it was difficult to judge depth of eye colour in some varieties unless one took exhibits out of the hall into a side room. Coat colour in Blues was also elusive as the indifferent light accentuated every variation in shade and it is inevitable in January that some adults and the older kittens are either moulting or changing coat.

In spite of the fog the hall was crowded in the afternoon and it did not

prevent Viscountess Scarsdale attending, graciously to present the rosettes for Best in Show.

Best Longhair Cat was Miss Langston's Ch. Fidelio of Allington in full winter pomp. This was the unanimous decision of the panel. Best Longhair Kitten was also a Chinchilla—Miss Langston's Marella of Allington. She was unopposed as all the Longhair judges had nominated her. A lovely kitten with glorious eyes.

Best Longhair Neuter went to Mrs. Molloy's Blue Moonraker, a good cat with exceptionally lovely eyes for colour and size. Best Shorthair adult was Mr. Lamb's Seal Point Siamese male Causeway Pita who completed his Championship, another outstanding cat who has fulfilled his kitten promise. Best Shorthair kitten—Mrs. Watson's Burmese Sealcoat Gay Binti, a charming female just four months old.

Best Siamese Neuter—Mrs. Powell's Seal Point McKerrells Randi.

Congratulations to the owners of the cats who completed their Championships—Mr. Wood with his Blue-Cream Bluecroft Crinoline (by Ch. Bayhorne Minton) bred by Mrs. Udall ; Mrs. Turney with her home-bred Chinchilla Bonavia Flora (by Ch. Flambeau of Allington) ; Mrs. Jay with her Seal Point Siamese female Sawat Angelina (by Sabukia Scatterbrain).

Two lovely exhibits which I had in Club classes included Mrs. Herod's Orange-eyed White Longhair Carreg Cymro who was one of the adults brought

out for Best in Show. I wonder why the practise of selecting a cat or kitten for Reserve Best in Show has been discontinued ! It takes only a minute or two to record a second vote and when such lovely exhibits are nominated I consider there should be a reserve to differentiate the next best from the other nominees.

Miss Bull's Deebank Marguerite, another Orange-eyed White Longhair, was a little beauty with large expressive eyes brilliant in colour, sired by the owner's Blue male Vigilant Mark, the latter Best Kitten in Show at the B.P.C.S. Ch. Show 1954. Miss Bull has purchased as a mate for her Whites Diamond Trencherman by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous. She is very keen now on this variety which she has added to her Blues, Creams and Blue-Creams.

This is a quiet month as we prepare for the breeding season and the last of the shows. Now for a series of

annual general meetings where it is hoped members will make their wishes known to the various Club Committees.

" Cat Genetics " (from page 16)

genetics as applied to cats ; it covers the whole ground without being unduly long, and it makes crystal-clear matters which, in works purely for the scientist, cause nothing but confusion in the mind of the amateur.

The publishers state that " although Mr. Jude does not exhibit cats, his professed goal is ' to help those who do, if I can.' " Anyone who reads *Cat Genetics* will, I feel, agree that in making available his technical knowledge to the minds of those not scientifically trained, and in providing a really delightful volume, A. C. Jude has reached his goal.

Sole agents for the book in this country are Bailey Bros. & Swinfen Ltd. and the price is 36s.



SHEEPFOLD JUPITER, Blue Longhair Kitten at 3 months bred by Mr. Leslie Owen Jones from Mericourt Clipper ex Avernoll Willow Star and now owned by Mrs. E. Brine.



Tailpieces

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



NOTICE has been given that as from and including March 1956 issue, the subscription rate for the popular *Tail-Wagger Magazine* will be increased from 10s. to 14s. for twelve post free issues.

Two research doctors belonging to the laboratories of Physiological Psychology and Otolaryngology of the University of Chicago have recorded some facts about the hearing capacity of cats who they say have "real high-fidelity ears." The doctors tested cats on both low and high notes. Below 500 cycles per second, the cats did not do very well. Between 625 and 2,000 cycles cats and humans hear equally well. But at frequencies above 2,000 the cats really shone and it was found that they can hear notes at 60,000 cycles a second. The highest note a man can hear is about 20,000 cycles.

Mr. Al Stevens is probably the only cat in the world with a TV contract. For nine years he has been climbing in and out of an artificial cat skin to entertain in pantomime, children's shows and parties. The thick wool costume with a heavy mask, the front paws like weighted boxing gloves, make it very hot work for Mr. Stevens. But he seems to have found the answer to this discomfort; he drinks—appropriately—four pints of milk during an evening's performance.

The American Cat Fanciers' Association Inc. has 650 charter members and 36 affiliated chartered clubs. This newly formed organization is developing the idea of having judging schools in

different parts of the country, open to all who wish to attend. It's a good idea, too!

Two boys, aged 12 and 9, poured hot water and oil over a kitten and burnt it with a candle. The Chairman of the Barnsley Juvenile Court declared that all the magistrates were shocked to find there are boys who would do such things. When the boys were conditionally discharged a number of letters appeared in the newspapers from readers who wished to protest against the inadequacy of the punishment meted out to the young torturers. We agree with the writer who asked: Have these magistrates not the power to administer the shock in the right places—on the persons of these boys and others like them?

When Mrs. Sheila Davis was awakened early by her Siamese cats scampering on the stairs of her St. John's Wood (N.W. London) home, she and her husband went downstairs to find that the house had been burgled for the fourth time in seven years. An amount of jewellery was missing this time.

I hear that a Cat Club catering for all breeds is in process of formation in the West Country. It will give special consideration to the needs of its members in South Wales and when operative it is intended to hold shows in Bath, Cardiff, Bristol and Cheltenham. Young fanciers under 18 and owners of non-pedigree cats may be offered membership at a reduced fee. A feature of the Club will be a welfare and advice service to deal with problems connected with

breeding, showing, boarding, etc., and it is hoped to run various social events in the different areas. Anyone interested in this project should contact Mrs. Joan Judd, Orchard Lodge, Crossways, Thornbury, Nr. Bristol.

A cat who wears glasses and smokes cigarettes has become a star performer on Italian television. This success in no way influences my opinion of the cat's owner and the people who exploit the unfortunate animal.

Mr. William Fluther, of London, E.C.4, is an angry letter writer to the press: "I read that a firm manufacturing drugs cannot get offal (from which they prepare extracts) because silly women want it for their cats. Do we really think more of animals than our fellow human beings? This sentimentality makes us the laughing stock of Europe."

I prefer the man (nameless because he won't give his name) who spends three hours every night, as well as his own money, in giving suppers to the cats on London's bombsites. He says the cold weather doesn't worry them because they are hardy and used to living out. He also says that he likes cats better than most of the human race. A visitor to cat shows, he wonders whether breeders are really fond of cats who don't win prizes!

That newsy little item about cats you have seen in your local newspaper or in the magazine you have just put down. Will you be kind enough to clip it out and mail it to me in an unsealed envelope to save postal charges! Cuttings from overseas publications will be specially welcome.

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CANADIAN CITY GOES CAT CRAZY

"4,000 AT SHOW. MONTREAL JUST WILD OVER CATS." So run the headlines in a copy of *The Montreal Star* for 7th November last which has just reached us. The report continues: "Montreal is cat crazy. That's the verdict of the Montreal Cat Fanciers' Association, the staff of the Queen's Hotel, and the 4,000 Montrealers who waited patiently in line for hours to see the first cat show held in the city in 30 years."

Said Mrs. J. H. Laurie, President of the Association: "We certainly weren't prepared for anything like this. The most we hoped for was that a few hundred people would turn up. Instead, we got half the population. We should have hired the Forum instead of a hotel room." Judging was hampered by the milling

crowd. Scheduled to end by 9 p.m., the show lasted until 1 a.m.

Just how quickly this feline fever has swept Montreal is evidenced by the rapid growth of the Cat Fanciers' Association itself. Starting last year with 12 members, it now has 130 with associate members throughout the country.

Judge Helen Hildebrand, of New Jersey, U.S.A., gave the Best Cat award to Bancroft's Betsy and another prominent winner was Rosalie of Allington, Blue Longhair import from England. Champion Su Ryan's Dina Hasson of Rosa-Noma and Su Ryan's Dina were Abyssinian winners.



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KEATS WINS OPERA ROLE

A recent issue of *The Stage* advertised for a cat for opera performance. It was required to sit on the top of a wall in the production of "School for Fathers" at Sadler's Wells Theatre. A date was given for auditions and the advertisement concluded: "Applicants must be fully grown and capable of maintaining dignity and poise despite distractions of a full-scale operatic orchestra and audience laughter and applause. The artist chosen will receive for his/her services one sardine and two complimentary tickets per performance."

There were 21 prospective actors at the auditions and the occasion was given headlines in the newspapers. The winner was Keats, a four-year-old black and white Persian who gave a superb performance in the final test. Another black-and-white male, Chirgwan, was appointed understudy.

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Abdominal Enlargement

By M.R.C.V.S.

CASES of abdominal enlargement are not infrequent and generally present a problem to the owner of the cat as to what the cause could be. Even a veterinary surgeon may at times find the matter puzzling.

He would need to review the many known causes and eliminate them one by one, in the light of a good detailed medical history, the symptoms observed, and the results of his careful examination.

Abdominal enlargement caused by masses of fat inside the abdominal cavity would generally set up no observable symptoms. Appetite would be good, though the cat may seem lazy, and of course would reveal deposits of fat over other parts of the body generally. This would be in contradistinction to the case of ascites (or abdominal dropsy) in which the belly is enlarged and pendulous while the neck, ribs and other parts of the body would probably appear abnormally lean.

In ascites, if one places a hand on one side of the abdomen, and taps the other side with one's other hand, a thrill or vibration usually runs across from one side to the other. Also, to raise the hind quarters high in the air, would cause the fluid to gravitate towards the chest, would exert pressure upon the heart and set up an increased rapidity of respiration. This would not occur in the case of the obese animal.

The enlargement may be due to unsuspected pregnancy in the case of a female, and one would then have to recall the approximate date when she was last in season; whether she had escaped from custody, or could possibly have had any association with other cats.

Palpation of the abdomen would have to be carried out in an endeavour to detect the globular bodies or foetuses. Radiography would reveal them in many cases, and especially if the foetal skeleton had taken shape.

Of course, there are instances of false pregnancy in which the abdomen will enlarge, milk form in the mammaræ, and the queen makes her nest just as though about to deliver a litter of kittens. But the appointed day comes, and goes, and all the symptoms gradually fade away, and there never was a pregnant state.

Metritis and Hernia

Cases of pyometra (pus in the uterus), or septic metritis, are not uncommon; but attention is soon drawn to them in consequence of the sporadic vomiting which occurs, accompanied by lethargy, loss of appetite, and (as will soon be discovered) a rise of temperature.

Examination of the vagina may reveal an oozing of pus which the cat may continuously be licking away, or if she feels too ill to bother, it will dry in crusts around the vagina, sticking the hairs together in clumps. Such a case is known as "open" metritis, meaning that the pus is able to escape; and it is much more amenable to treatment than the so-called "closed" case, in which it cannot. The latter type often ends in a surgical operation for the entire removal of the womb, a procedure not devoid of danger owing to the prevailing sepsis.

In rare instances an apparent abdominal enlargement may be due to a ventral hernia, in which condition the abdominal muscles have given way and allowed the abdominal contents to go through



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and come in close contact with the skin. By feeling carefully, one can usually discover the edges of the rent ; but in all suspected cases, the diagnosis should rest with the veterinary surgeon.

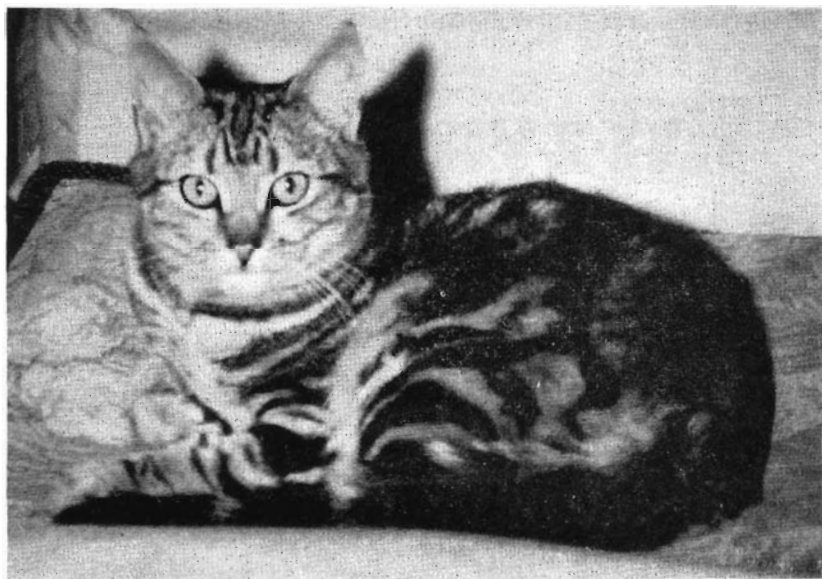
Tumours in the abdominal cavity can generally be easily detected, though one should be warned not to confuse a full bladder with a growth. Normally the bladder occupies the pelvic cavity, but when it becomes distended it extends forwards into the abdominal cavity where, to one's examining fingers, it gives the impression of being a small orange.

In such a case, pressure exerted upon this globular body would cause pain to the cat, and there would be a history of the cat having passed no urine, or having made many straining attempts to do so. Males are usually affected this way, and not a minute should be lost in summoning help in an established case. Non-relief may prove fatal.

Hair ball is a possibility to be considered (especially in longhaired cats) when the abdomen is *gradually* enlarged. Appetite is usually in abeyance ; there is some vomiting, and hair may be seen in the vomit ; little or no faecal matter will have been passed. An X-ray taken some hours after administering some opaque fluid would reveal hair-ball.

Large accumulations of worms may produce a pot-belly especially in young cats, but a voracious appetite, together with shrivelled worm segments adhering about the anus, the possible passage of one or more worms, and the microscopical examination of the motions for worm eggs, would give the diagnosis.

M.R.C.V.S. will be pleased to answer readers' problems on veterinary subjects. Correspondence should be addressed to him c/o OUR CATS, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9.



"I am enclosing a photograph of my cat, which may be of interest to you," writes Alan Jacob, of Prestatyn, Flintshire.

Mrs. E. W. Wridgway of Paddock Hill, Mobberley, Cheshire, owner-breeder of the Salewheel Siamese, writes:

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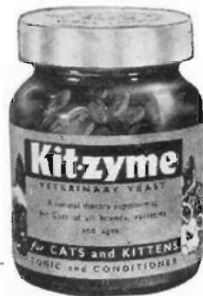
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Reproduction

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 sixteenth article in a fine new and exclusive series to help and encourage our readers all over the cat world.

QUITE properly, chromosomes are regarded as the chief agency for the transmission of characters from one generation to another. A qualification is necessary, namely, that it is not certain that heredity is exclusively a function of the chromosomes.

We have seen that a new individual arises from the union of two gametes, ordinarily distinguishable as egg and sperm respectively. Each of these is haploid as regards its chromosome equipment, and is composed of equivalent chromosomes except in the case of the sex chromosomes. But as regards cytoplasmic equipment, egg and sperm are very different. The egg has a very large amount of cytoplasm, relatively larger than the cytoplasmic equipment of any other cell of the body. The sperm, on the other hand, has so little cytoplasm that it is usually not even mentioned in genetic literature as a component of the male gamete.

It is assumed that if the cytoplasm were concerned in heredity, the egg must be enormously more influential than the sperm, but this assumption ignores the consideration that qualitative resemblances and differences may be quite as important as quantitative ones. The sperm nucleus (as well as the sperm plasma) is relatively small in relation to the huge egg nucleus (and egg cytoplasm), but after the minute sperm nucleus has entered the egg, it enlarges

to become equal to the egg pronucleus in bulk as well as in genetic influence.

For all that is known to the contrary, the sperm cytoplasm may also be eventually influential, though its original mass was inconsequential.

The subject of maternal inheritance has been studied a good deal, but there are still many problems which arise. Plant life has provided the basis for much useful research, but much is still obscure. In a certain class of variegated plants, a chromosomal gene *conditions* the partial or full development of the chloroplasts. In such cases the inheritance of variegation is typically Mendelian, and well illustrates the nature and function of the genes. The gene is not the character, but it modifies the character, or may be indispensable to the production or possession of the character by the organism.

In 1918 it was shown that in reciprocal crosses between species or varieties of tomatoes having fruits of unlike size there was a difference in the size of fruits borne by the reciprocal F_1 plants, fruit size always being closer to that of the maternal parent—a result which must be ascribed to plasmatic influence.

In mammals it has been found that reciprocal crosses (male x female or female x male) frequently give unlike results. Yet the genome (gene content) in such cases is of identical constitution in female offspring, and different in males only as regards sex-linked genes (those borne in an "X" or a "Y")

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chromosome). Accordingly, the differences observed in reciprocal crosses must be assigned primarily to a difference in maternal influence. A difference in body size between the parent races regularly results in offspring resembling the mother more closely than the father. Thus in crosses between horse and ass, the mule (produced by a mare impregnated by a jackass) is a larger animal than the hinny (produced by a female ass mated with a stallion).

This is the general opinion among breeders with opportunities for comparing the two hybrids, but has not been made a subject of critical study. In the case of rabbits and mice, however, several critical experimental studies have been made of reciprocal crosses between races of unlike body size, all with the same result; that the average body size of the offspring is nearer to that of the mother's race than to that of the father's race. That this is due to constitution of the egg and not to a gestational influence, is indicated by the observation of like result recorded in the case of salamanders, in which development of the egg occurs wholly outside the maternal body.

Mother Influence

In the use of mice for cancer research it has been recorded that there is a superior influence of the mother in the transmission of the susceptibility. This has been ascribed to non-chromosomal inheritance.

It has been said by some that the cytoplasm forms merely a suitable medium in which the chromosomal genes may act, that the cytoplasm of different species being chemically different are not equally suitable media for action of the genes, hence the different behaviour when the same genome is brought into different plasmas. But because life is a product not of nuclear activity alone, nor of plasmatic activity alone, but of both acting together, it is illogical to ascribe the action exclusively to either.

In studying the differences between reciprocal crosses in mice where a certain tail deformity occurs, two possible explanations have been put forward. As a point of interest, the abnormality referred to is rather like the "kinky" condition known in cats.

For ease in description we will use the symbol T^f to denote the deformity. The first hypothesis is that genetic modifiers of the mother might inhibit the manifestation of T^f in the embryos. The second hypothesis is more complex. It assumes that there may exist modifiers which are widely spread amongst different stocks; these modifiers are supposed to interact with the T^f gene in the egg *before fertilization*. If the unfertilized egg contains T^f , this interaction would largely suppress the future manifestation of that gene; if the egg does not contain T^f , and that gene is later introduced by the spermatozoa, the critical time for the "conditioning" of the egg has passed, and the paternal T^f gene will manifest itself in the majority of cases.

If an egg containing T^f (and thus "conditioned" by earlier interaction) is later fertilized by a T^f sperm, some of the original inhibition would be undone, as there is less overlapping in matings of two homozygotes than in an outcross. There may be a third hypothesis in that the T^f gene itself may cause a physiological condition in the mother, which, presumably by way of the blood stream, tends to inhibit the manifestation of T^f in the developing embryos, and that this inhibition affects heterozygotes more strongly than homozygotes.

In cats, the most obvious difference in result from the use of reciprocal crosses is where black and sex-linked yellow are brought together. Where black is the male, and yellow the female, the F_1 litter will consist of yellow males and tortie females; where yellow is the male and black the female, the F_1 litter will consist of black males and tortie females.

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CATS NOT GREGARIOUS

Writing in the January issue of
The Animal's Magazine—the monthly
journal of the People's Dispensary for
Sick Animals—Miss Bullock, of Winder-
mere, makes some interesting comments
apropos a statement that cats are not
gregarious. She writes:

"I have always maintained that this
accounts for the fact that most men
prefer dogs to cats. The dog is a herd
animal and submits his will to that of
the tribe. Consequently, he is easily
trained to obedience and does what his
master tells him. The cat is not a herd
animal and his instinct is for indepen-
dence though his love for those who

live with him is as great as a dog's.

"Man, being Lord of Creation, natu-
rally prefers a pet who will do what he
wants and believes that his obedient
servant is more noble and intelligent
than one that rarely does what he is
told and makes his own occupations.
But this, if natural, is mistaken. A
docile child is not necessarily more
intelligent nor a finer character than
one who is more independent.

It is largely a matter of psychology,
both animal and human, and if this
were recognized there would be less
controversy between dog lovers and
cat lovers."

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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.

Do you know a cat lover who would like a specimen copy of this Magazine ? If you will kindly send us the name and address (in confidence) we will then be pleased to do the rest. What, for example, about those people who have just bought your last litter of pedigree kittens ?

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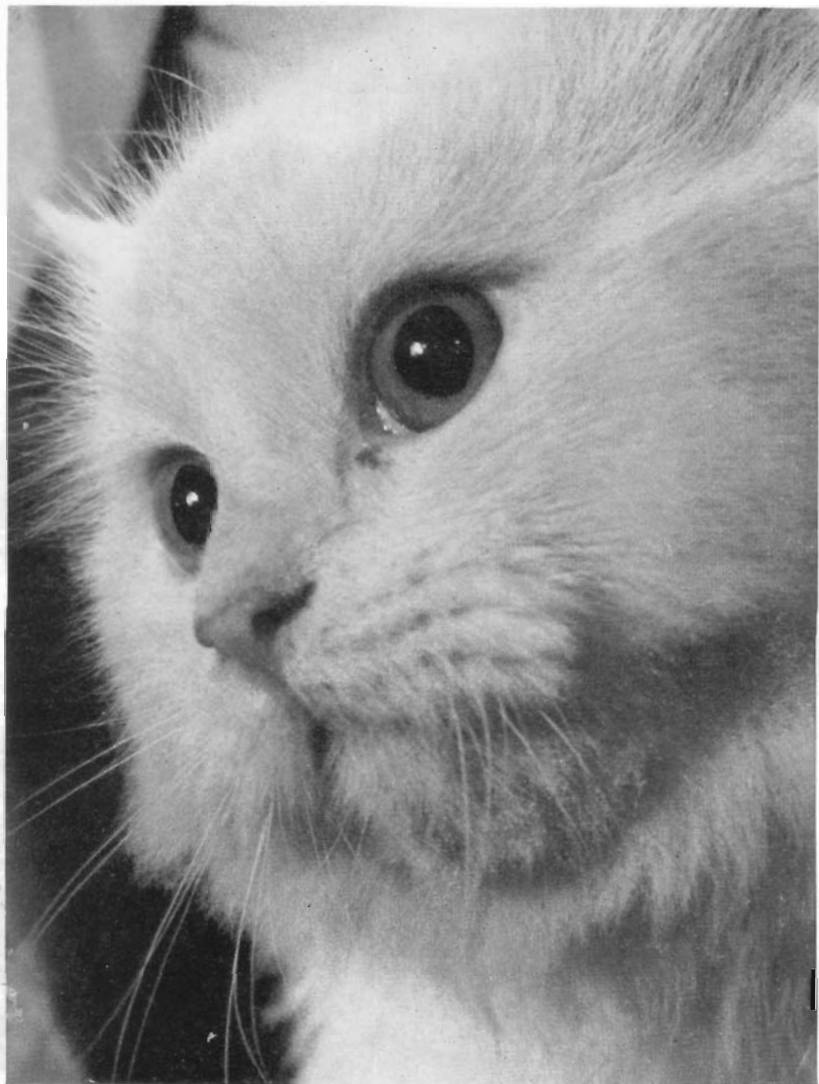
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