

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING
COMPREHENSIVE



GRACEFIELD WILD PEARL

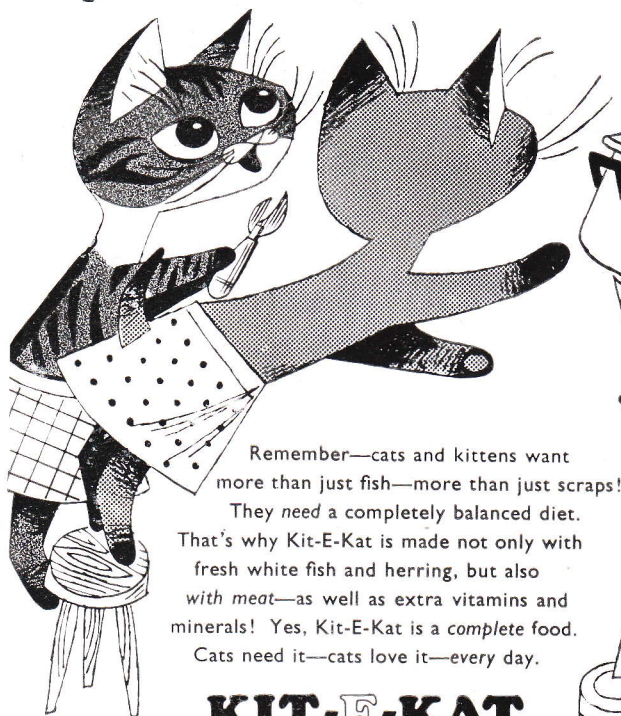
An appealing photograph by Kathleen B. Eachus of Mrs. A. R. Grace de Udy's British White Shorthair queen. Some interesting facts and fallacies concerning this lesser-known breed of cat appear in an article in this month's issue—see page 3.

APRIL 1956

1/6



**It's always
On a high shelf that
Wise Mummies
Keep the Kit-E-Kat**



Remember—cats and kittens want more than just fish—more than just scraps!

They need a completely balanced diet. That's why Kit-E-Kat is made not only with fresh white fish and herring, but also with meat—as well as extra vitamins and minerals! Yes, Kit-E-Kat is a complete food. Cats need it—cats love it—every day.

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.

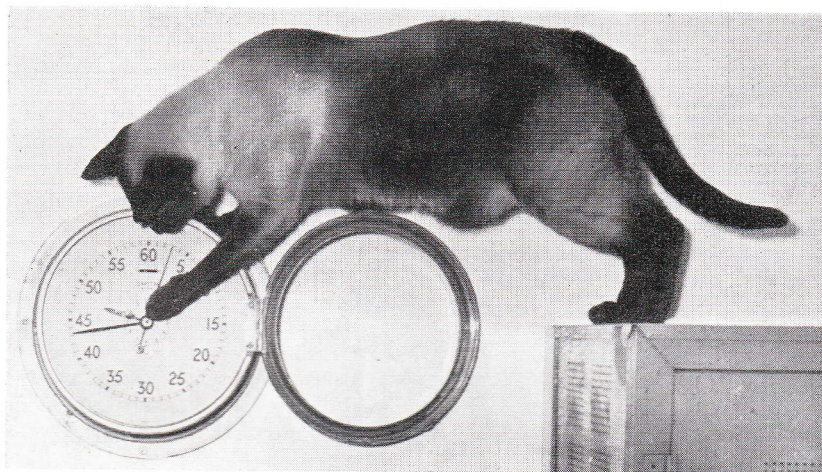
VOL. 8 No. 4

APRIL 1956

Managing Editor :

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

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



JENNY PUTS THE CLOCK ON

This neutered Siamese female belonging to Mr. Hugh Smith of Ightham, Kent (who is also the photographer) evidently intends to ensure that with the advent of Summer Time the appropriate adjustment is made to the household clock.

NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

CHAMPIONS OF 1955-56

Compiled from information supplied by the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy

<i>Name of Cat</i>	<i>Breed and Sex</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Breeder</i>
ALDRA'S BLUE BONNIE	British Blue (M)	Mrs. E. Atwood	Owner
BEAMSELEY BLUE MIST	Blue Cream (F)	Miss A. Palframan	Mrs. M. Smith
BLUECROFT CRINOLINE	Blue Cream (F)	Mr. H. F. Wood	Mrs. P. Udall
BAYHORNE AJAX	Blue L.H. (M)	Mrs. D. M. Benbow	Owner
BONAVIA FLORA	Chinchilla (F)	Mrs. M. Turney	Owner
BRUTON SNOWFLAKE	White L.H. (O.E.) (F)	Mrs. A. R. Grace de Udy	Mrs. N. Rosell
BIRCOTTE NONO	Smoke (M)	Miss I. Sherlock	Owner
BROUGHTON NIMROD	British Blue (M)	Mrs. Ward	Mrs. I. P. Hughes
CARREG CYMRO	White L.H. (O.E.) (M)	Mrs. D. Herod	Owner
CAUSEWAY PITTA	S.P. Siamese (M)	Mr. W. Lamb	Mrs. Ford
CHATWYN SILHOUETTE	S.P. Siamese (F)	Mrs. Tancock	Owner
DUNLOE BLUE CAP	Russian Blue (F)	Miss Lea-Meade	Miss M. Rochford
DONERAILE BLUE DAZZ	B.P. Siamese (F)	Mrs. Hookins	Mrs. K. R. Williams
DORSTAN DYMPHNA	Silver Tabby L.H. (F)	Mr. and Mrs. Gurney	Owners
FINETTA OF ALLINGTON	Chinchilla (F)	Mrs. O. M. Lamb	Miss E. Langston
GRACEFIELD MISTY MOON	Cream L.H. (F)	Mrs. A. R. Grace de Udy	Miss Whitfield
GOLDSBOURGH MARVEL	Manx (M)	Mr. Butterfield	Owner
GAYDENE GENEVIEVE	Blue L.H. (F)	Mrs. L. McVady	Owner
KANAWANA KYM	B.P. Siamese (M)	Mr. Neil B. Todd	Owner
MAGYAR PETYES	Brown Tabby L.H. (F)	Mrs. M. E. Beedell	Owner
MALICE AFORETHOUGHT	Brown Tabby S.H. (F)	Mrs. B. Farquhar	Unknown
NIDDERDALE BUMBLE	British Blue (M)	Mrs. G. M. Budd	Owner
NIDDERDALE BEANIE	Red Tabby S.H. (F)	Mrs. G. M. Budd	Owner
QUESI BLUE HARMONY	B.P. Siamese (M)	Mrs. M. Biggs	Owner
SPOTLIGHT TROUBADOUR	S.P. Siamese (M)	Mr. and Mrs. Warner	Owner
SYKE RUDDY GLOW	Red Self (M)	Mrs. Newbigging	Mrs. Gilbert
SELBORNE CHI	Abyssinian (F)	Mrs. Roberts	Mrs. M. Foxwell
SILVERSEAL DAZZLER	Silver Tabby S.H. (M)	Mrs. M. Thake	Owner
SAWAT ANGELINA	S.P. Siamese (F)	Mrs. A. G. Jay	Owner
SILKEN JACARANDA	S.P. Siamese (F)	Mrs. G. Hindley	Mrs. Highton
SAYAM ZAR PRAK	C.P. Siamese (M)	Miss Wells	Mrs. Ferguson
TRINITY TABITHA	Burmese (F)	Mrs. C. Dixon	Mrs. B. Attwell
THIEFVAL PARAGON	Blue L.H. (M)	Mrs. M. E. Crickmore	Owner
TICH OF ALLINGTON	Chinchilla (M)	Miss E. Langston	Owner
VARIETY OF SUNFIELD	Tortoiseshell L.H. (F)	Miss L. Fraser	Miss F. M. Gabb
WIDDINGTON WINTERSET	Cream (M)	Miss Sheppard	Mrs. M. L. Sheppard
WIDDINGTON SALOME	Blue Cream (F)	Miss Sheppard	Mrs. M. L. Sheppard

The grand total of 37 Champions compares with 31 in 1954-55, 35 in 1953-54 and 26 in 1952-53.



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

OUR CATS is published monthly and closing date is the 25th day of the month preceding the month of publication. MSS. and photographs submitted will only be returned if accompanied by fully stamped and addressed envelopes. Photographs should preferably be of the glossy type with sharp details.

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British Whites

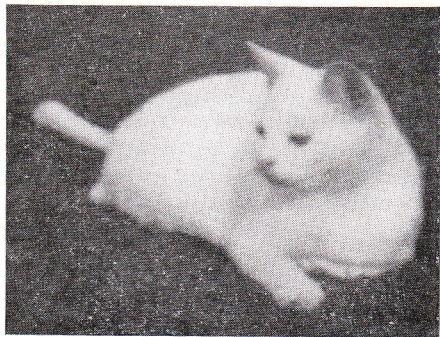
By ANN L. STUBBS

THERE is at the moment a revival of interest in White cats. The white Persian anyone knows, but mention that you keep British Whites and people ask whether they are turkeys or pigs! Most people seem to have heard of British Blues but on being told that British Whites are shorthaired whites, they remark: "Oh! I see, they're just ordinary white cats, not any particular breed really." As breeder, admirer and fanatical champion of these most delightful of cats such remarks are well calculated to spark me off!

British Whites are *not* just a certain colour of alley cat, though I will admit you may be lucky and find a good specimen who has not the slightest idea of his immediate ancestry, let alone a pedigree. They are a definite breed recognized as such by that hierarchy of the feline world The Governing Council of The Cat Fancy.

What then does a good British White look like? First and foremost, obviously, he is white, without a single dark hair or a trace of shading. His coat is short, really short and close though not sleek like a Siamese. His head is round with neat ears set wide apart. His nose is short, his eyes round and full, either brilliant orange or blue in colour. His body is strong and compact, medium in length with good depth. The legs are well-proportioned with good bone and neat round feet. The tail is short rather than long and wide at the base, tapering to a point. There must be no suggestion of the svelte snakiness of the Siamese. So much for appearance; now what about character?

I have found, and other people who have kept these cats either as pets or for breeding always agree with me, that they



WHISTON GORGEOUS GUSSIE, a British White Shorthair bred and owned by the author.

are very intelligent, but sometimes rather highly-strung and sensitive. They are wonderful hunters, which always surprises me as one would think their colour would handicap them. My old queen, "Gussie," has been known to catch three full grown rats in one evening, one so big she could scarcely lift it. Not a bad achievement for a cat weighing only eight pounds.

A daughter of hers who had the misfortune to lose one eye completely as a kitten, is, in spite of that, equally good. They are very affectionate and often rather talkative. I find that they keep themselves spotlessly clean and require no more attention than any other cat, except perhaps a bath prior to a show.

So much for facts about white cats. What about fallacies? Two things I think may be blamed for their loss of popularity. First, the absurd superstition that white cats are unlucky. If they are it is only to themselves owing to people believing such a ridiculous fallacy. Believe it or not but I have had it said to me by intelligent people, that they wouldn't have a white cat in the house because they always bring such bad luck!

The other reason for their decline is the belief that all white cats, particularly blue-eyed ones, are deaf. Some are, *but very few*, and it is not particularly blue-eyed ones; I know one

who is odd-eyed and stone deaf. The great majority of white cats are born with black smudges on their heads, sometimes one, sometimes as many as three, sometimes only one black hair, sometimes like thumb prints, but these marks, fantastic though it seems, appear to be the guarantee that that cat will not be deaf. To date I have never had a White kitten born without them. I have never had a deaf one.

I have been told by two other breeders that they have only had one kitten each born without these black hairs and they were both deaf. Though the deaf ones are not always blue-eyed it does seem to appear more frequently in cats who come from a long line of all blue-eyed cats. Because of this deafness element I do not think it is a good plan to inbreed too closely with these Whites.

I was told recently by a vet that the deafness is caused by a minute portion of the ear not being there at birth. It is, of course a handicap for a cat to be completely deaf but it is surprising

how they seem to get along by extra use of their senses of smell and sight. When purchasing a kitten it is quite simple to find out; a sudden noise, or merely calling "Puss, Puss" will get an immediate response if the kitten is able to hear. The black smudges by the way invariably fade within, at the very most, the first four months of life, leaving no trace whatsoever.

I have never known an adult British White left with any trace of black hairs. So you will see that the chances of deafness are pretty few and far between and certainly are not sufficient to warrant this delightful variety dying out completely, as indeed it was in some danger of doing a few years back. Now, I am glad to say, there are some six or seven breeders working hard to build the breed up and bring back the glorious eye colouring which is unhappily so seldom seen to-day.

As an intelligent, affectionate and decorative pet, the British White cat takes a lot of beating.



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amusing and
satisfying to all
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★

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BEXHILL CAT CLUB
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WHY NOT KEEP BOTH ?

Nice Cat and Nice Garden

By A. L. SHERWIN

"YOU could put that plant a few inches further back and make more room at the front," said my gardener as he watched my efforts with a disapproving eye. Then noticing a vivid splash of orange a few feet down the border, he added sarcastically : "I suppose that's done for Hector MacNab !"

Straightening up, I said, somewhat severely : "Cromwell *not* Hector MacNab. But see how by careful planning I have left him his own little pathway down the whole length of the border."

"Such cunning," he admitted grudgingly, "just for a cat."

"No—not just for the cat—for the garden, too."

So many people, ardent cat-lovers among them, believe it is impossible to have a nice garden if you have a cat. But I have proved that it is possible to have both.

Cats are not so boisterous as dogs and do not rush madly into clumps of gay flowers just from sheer high spirits, or to retrieve a ball. Pussies take their pleasures more sedately. They like a garden to provide them with a place in the sun, a hidey-hole in the shade, an opportunity to investigate mysterious scents in quiet, besides, of course, the place for the necessary "daily business."

So Cromwell, my big red tabby, has a planned path to follow round carefully planted clumps. And when he wants a warm but sheltered spot he finds there

is ample space to lie in between the delphiniums, or the daisies. If he fancies a real sun-bath then what better place to lie than on that big fat slab at the back of the rockery ? Of course, it was arranged specially for him. Because he knows it is there he climbs, with delicate tread, over the small rockery plants to get to it.

Should he desire a real sheltered spot in which to sprawl hidden from curious eyes he stretches out in comfort between the rows of raspberry canes ; or later, in between the runner beans. There is no temptation to roll on a patch of precious pinks if you have provided him with a corner of catmint on which he can roll in ecstasy.

Leave a Gap

It is also wisdom to contrive a small gap in the fence. It will soon become a matter of habit for the cat to use this when he wants to wander. The gap will lessen the risk of your pet jumping down from the top of the fence on to your plants—or on your neighbours' !

Then, if your cat is truly your fur friend, he enjoys your company in the garden (why he stays with you just like a dog, compliments a well-meaning friend). When I take a rest in a deck-chair I put out one for Cromwell ; or better still, a large, shallow cardboard box—my lord loves nothing better than to recline in one.

I know it is not possible in the average town garden to leave a small wilderness of grass to grow cat high for jungle



The author's CROMWELL, who makes his contribution towards the nice appearance of the garden.

adventures, but it is possible to plant one or two patches in some odd corner with coltsfoot grass—the kind cats in their wisdom eat for health's sake. A packet of this seed can always be obtained from The Cat's Protection League.

But when you sow flower or vegetable seeds you must, of course, take precautions. It is too much to expect a cat to realize that ground raked to a fine tilth and sown with seeds is not the place for "paying pennies." When I have seen a cat chased off such a piece of ground my sympathies were with the cat and not with the gardener. So make a concession and protect your seeds until they are well and truly up. Wire seed guards are not expensive, or guards are easy to make with sticks, or twigs, and cotton or string.

More Fruit !

The rabid gardener, however, has still another grumble—the tough old tom, who always leaves behind him a disagreeable trace. This bother does

occur occasionally, but cats have a strongly developed sense of property. After a few ear-splitting duets, and perhaps a scrap or two, the tom realizes there is nothing for him, and he wastes no more time in your garden.

Then a cat can actually save a gardener trouble. Although (and I am glad to say this) Cromwell catches very few birds he does scare them away from the soft fruit. My neighbours go to a lot of trouble each season covering fruit bushes with pieces of muslin and rigging up strings of milk bottle tops. They never fail to warn me to do the same. I ignore their advice—there is no need for me to follow it.

Only once did they have the laugh over me. I had arranged for a friend to pick some fruit for jam—to my horror there wasn't a berry left. The birds had gorged the whole crop in a few days. That was the one time when Cromwell was ill and at the vet's for a fortnight.

So each summer Cromwell and I are well content. We both have a nice garden—and I have a nice cat.

A page for the proletarian puss No. 63



A. H. Dodds

“THERE’S A VACANCY NEXT DOOR !”

Kittens sometimes choose the oddest places in which to settle and these Dutch babies are no exception. They were photographed on the island of Maarken on the Zuider Zee, and the clogs are a special pair made as an engagement present from a bridgroom to his bride. This is an old custom in Maarken. The shoes are hand-carved by the groom and whilst he is busy on this labour of love he has ample time in which to “think things over.” So has the bride. Result—no hasty or unhappy marriages in Maarken !

Mrs. I. A. Rippingale of Rainham Lodge Farm, Upminster, Essex, writes :—

"I thought perhaps this photo would interest you.

I have been using Kit-zyme for my Persians for a long time and I find the tablets very good for their general health and for perfect coats.

Hathaway Marigold likes to help herself to Kit-zyme as you can see by the photo. She was the winner of a First and Second at the Croydon Show, 1955."



HATHAWAY MARIGOLD HELPS HERSELF !

KIT-ZYME WILL BENEFIT YOUR CAT TOO . . .

It is a natural Tonic and Conditioner—NOT a purgative

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VITAMIN-RICH YEAST

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

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

From Chemists, Corn Chandlers and Pet Shops

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Ref. No. 128

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.

Tailpieces

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

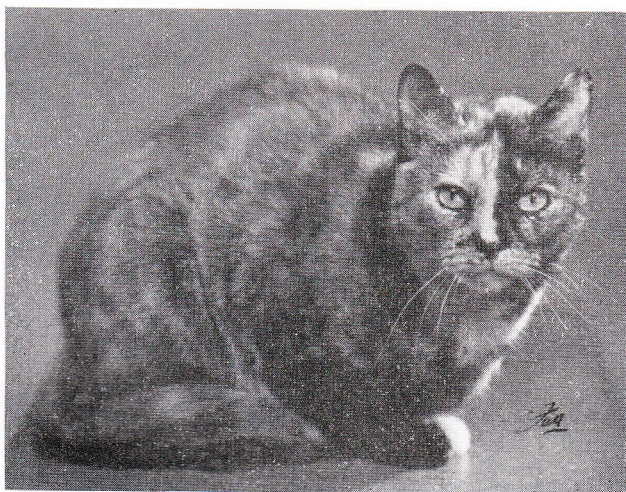


FOLLOWING the recent election of Mme M. Ravel to the Presidency of the Federation Internationale Feline D'Europe (F.I.F.E.), the post of Secretary General which she had held for a number of years will be filled by Mrs. Brita Axelsson, of Stockholm, with Mrs. Ulla Magnusson (Sweden) as assistant. Vice-President is Col. Dott. A. A. Pedrazzi (Italy) and Treasurer Mr. E. Braeckmann (Belgium). Counsellors are Miss Posthuma (Holland), Dr. Pia Sandoz (Switzerland) and Mr. K. Hirschmann (Germany) with Mrs. V. Svenningsen (Norway) and Mr. L. R. F. de M.v. Ginkel (Holland).

Brigadier Sir John Hunt, leader of the successful Everest Expedition, confesses

(March issue of *The Animals' Magazine*) to a preference for cats. He writes : " My own favourite domestic pets are cats—we keep a Siamese and a fine black one. I like them because they are beautiful in repose and action, because they are so independent and so little trouble ; because they are so clean ; because they are so undemonstratively affectionate ; and because they are such good climbers ! "

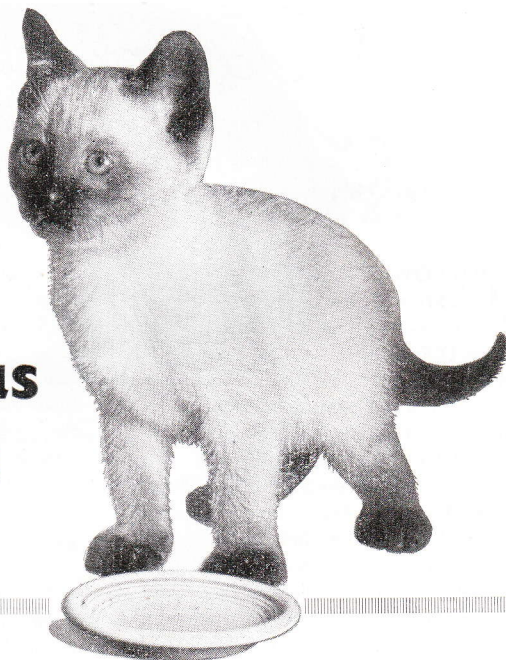
No prize is offered for spotting the error in the following extract from the *Lichfield Mercury* ! " Carreg Cymro is a cat to be proud of, Mrs. D. Herod, of Little Silver, Christchurch Lane, Lichfield, tells me. She recently entered this orange-hide white Persian cat in the



Thomas Fall

This nice Tortie MUM-SMUTS belongs to Miss L. E. Potter, of London, W.1. Mother of Premier Vickigawn, " Mum " is herself a winner of two firsts.

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'

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

Lancashire North-West Counties Championship cat show held at Stockport, where it was awarded its third challenge certificate, making it a full champion. In so doing it makes four generations of champions." Points for skin colour now ?

I am very sorry indeed to record the death of one of America's best known and best liked Longhair breeders Mr. Anthony De Santis, of New Jersey. His Longhill cats were to be found in every show from California to Maine and many of them attained Championship status. Reds and Creams were his favourites. Mr. De Santis, a prominent member of the Garden State Club, was also a popular judge and because of his all-round ability and great experience he is going to be greatly missed. He was an enthusiastic reader of OUR CATS.



Grand and Triple Champion KOSCAK'S SUKI, outstanding chocolate Point Siamese male bred by Mrs. Helen C. Koscak, National City, California, U.S.A. Suki's son is now on the way to fame with 23 firsts at 24 shows.

When fire broke out at her Los Angeles, U.S.A., home, Mrs. Mary Biescar, a 94-year-old recluse, had to be rescued four times. She kept returning to save her fifteen cats and two dogs and the firemen reported that the calendar in one of the rooms showed 1925.

A reader in Cheshire warns : A cat belonging to a friend of mine has died through chewing a nylon pan scrubber.

Another reader, this time from Surrey, advises : It is well known that cats often prefer goat's milk to cow's milk but do cat owners know that it is wonderful for exzema and skin diseases ? In London it can be obtained from the United Dairies.

After rendering the Abyssinian Cat Club many years of valuable service, Mr. H. W. Basnett has resigned and was recently the recipient of a parting gift from the members. His successor is Mrs. I. A. Earnshaw, Heatherpine, Curridge, Newbury, Berks, who is well known as the breeder of Heatherpine Abyssinians.

MICKEY



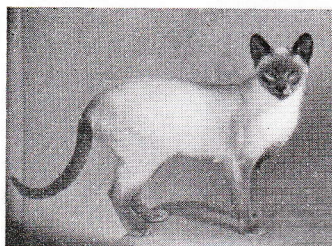
Young male Silver Tabby Longhair DORSTAN DARRALL, owned and bred by Mr. and Mrs. Gurney of Sutton Coldfield, a winner at the Derby and Stockport shows.

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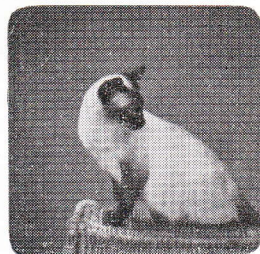
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Artist enamelled in natural S.P. colours on solid silver	31/- each (U.S.A. \$ 4.50)

These brooches—available in two designs only at present—are made by a world renowned firm of specialists in costume jewellery. They are of fine quality with plain back, fitted with joint pin and catch. Prices include purchase tax and postage. Remittances should be made payable to OUR CATS Magazine and sent with order to :

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4 CARLTON MANSIONS, CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9

We can despatch Brooches to any part of the world in an attractive gift box and enclose your personal message or greeting. So many cat lovers have been delighted with these Brooches that it is somewhat superfluous to add that they are supplied on a "money returned if not satisfied" basis.

On the Right Lines

By JOANNA MACKAY

"GO to Broad Street," said the Euston Press Office, "if you want to find out about railway cats. There are lots of them there and real characters."

There are fewer than there were—but the arrangements for railway cat care at Broad Street Goods Station, London, are fairly typical and may be said to be on the right lines. Mr. Sharpe, the Goods Agent, is an animal lover. When interviewed, he personally was "between cats," a dear old ginger friend, Sandy, having been put to sleep at the age of fourteen. However, he has plenty of four footed charges on his staff. Arrangements for recruiting and looking after them are informal. They seem, nevertheless, to be effective.

Cats are never purchased. They always walk in and settle down. No one is appointed to look after them, officially. Nor is there any public money allowed for maintenance. In spite of this, there is always someone who makes the cats his job. He, with the help of a few friends, in certain cases, buys milk and fish to supplement canteen scraps. This seems very creditable when you realize that railway pay is not high.

As well as food, cats need shelter. They find plenty in the various stores and warehouses or in the staff mess and locker rooms. Boxes are sometimes provided for the rearing of kittens.

Mr. Sharpe has never been troubled with a surplus of cats or kittens or known of any station so troubled. Nor has he ever had a cleanliness problem. Cats are not permitted in the offices and they enter mess or locker rooms by invitation. A firm, but unobtrusive discipline seems to be maintained without too much effort. It is Mr. Sharpe's

opinion that, if cats receive adequate simple care, they stay domesticated—clean and friendly. He worked in Dockland before coming to Broad Street and noticed that the cats there were left to fend for themselves, whereupon they became wild.

While he gives the cats full credit for mousing abilities, Mr. Sharpe considers that their presence, as much as their activity, keeps mice away. Some hunt rats as well as mice, but the rats are now tackled by special Pest Officers with ferrets, dogs and other weapons. Rats are one of the few animals Mr. Sharpe detests.

No Cruelty

There has never been a cruelty problem at Broad Street. The present Goods Agent has not been there long. However, he knew his predecessor, who never had trouble. Neither he nor Mr. Sharpe would tolerate it for a minute.

No casualties have been seen either. The cats know the wagons are about and develop a good traffic sense, provided they don't move too fast or in an awkward direction. All haulage at Broad Street is done by capstan, so one does not see that rather kittenish piece of machinery, the tank engine.

Mr. Sharpe himself does not feed the cats. Their interests are served by the store keeper, Mr. Syd Winter, and everybody said that Syd deserved recognition and a medal. He knows all the cats, has a name for each one and a special call. One cry and cats emerge from nowhere apparently. As a rule, when the humans are busiest the cats are out of sight, resting or going about their own affairs. The station has its quietest period between



"Daily Mail" Photograph

**The proudest railway cat of them all gets a pat from Sir Winston Churchill
at Liverpool Street Station.**

seven-thirty and about eleven at night. Then the cats come out to get to work.

A few were about one wet Saturday morning and I heard about some others. One store had an old tabby and a tortoiseshell lady, who lived to be about fifteen, went right through the London blitz and was regarded as the best mouser going. Another store, in which raw wool waits to go up to the Yorkshire mills, used to have fifteen cats, descended from two wild kittens, adopted and cared for. All of them were sent to Battersea when the war broke out, however.

It is often believed that women like cats more than men. Mr. Shepherd, Chief Foreman at Broad Street, gave it as his opinion, though, that the station cat lovers were equally divided between men and women. Fond and attentive as the girls were, just as many men were kind to the cats and interested in them. Even members of the staff who *said* they disliked the animals had been seen to throw them occasional scraps.

WOOL-EATING SIAMESE

(from page 18)

writes, "as he attacks and eats cushions, upholstery, tea cosies and woollen clothes. He is attracted by the smell of wool and although he seems ashamed when he is chided for eating it, he will do the same again. Can any reader suggest a cure?"

We invited our veterinary contributor to give his views about this aggravating Siamese habit. Here is his reply: I have no clear conception of the reason for this, yet I know it is done by a minority of individuals. It may be just a habit like crib-biting among horses, in which they bite at their mangers. Or it may be that there is some substance in the wool or in its preparation which has a flavour or odour attractive to cats. It could be a mineral deficiency, a condition which could be eliminated by giving Minsal. Remove all woollens from the cat's reach until the habit is

lost and do not leave the cat alone, with nothing to see or do, for many hours.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

I have noticed that when cats grow older the colour of their eyes always becomes paler. Why is this?

It is probably too sweeping a generalization to say that the eyes of all cats grow paler as they get older, although it must be admitted that this does happen in the normal course of events. It is never wise to argue from one animal to another, but something similar also happens with most humans. As they grow older they tend to become grey-haired. This is due to loss of the ability to produce pigment. The copper colour of a Blue Persian's eyes may turn to a pale yellow by the time it reaches the age of five or six. With age most of the functions of the body tend to slow up and the recuperative power of the various glands and organs gradually grows less. But remember that ageing is not only a matter of years. Overworked queens rapidly lose their eye colour.

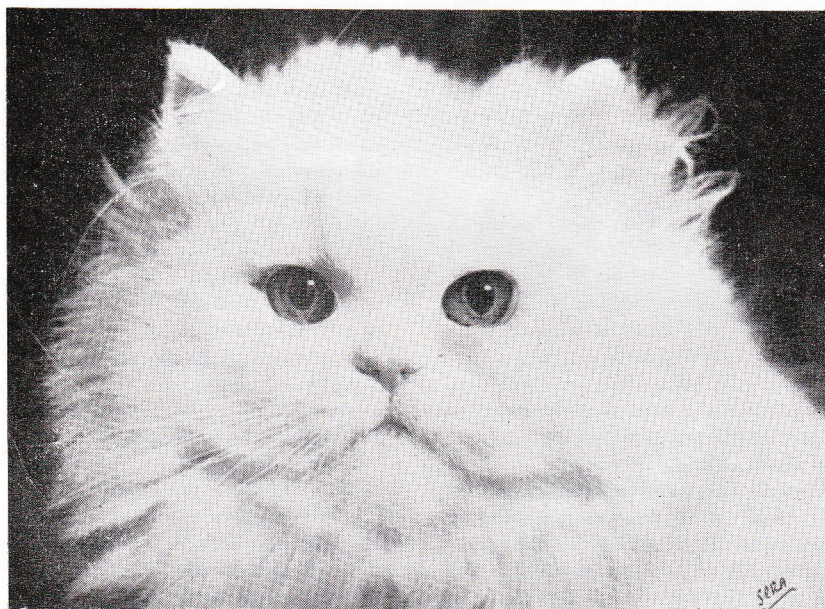
I have a cat now nearly ten years old, and although she is still healthy, I should like to have a kitten also so that when the break comes I shall not be too upset. How can I do this kindly so that the old cat does not feel that its place has been usurped?

So much depends upon the disposition of the old lady. Before buying a new kitten, try to borrow one for an hour. Many old queens take quite quickly to a kitten if it is not too boisterous. It is a good plan for the cat and kitten to get used to the sight of each other first without being in physical contact. You must make sure that the treatment of the old lady is not changed because a newcomer has arrived. With patience on your part friendly relations should soon be established. The future could then look after itself.



Henry Koro

Best Cat at the Montreal Cat Fanciers Association show (see also pictures on the next page) was BANCROFT'S BETSY, a Blue-Cream, shown here by American judge Mrs. Helen Hildebrand. Best Champion was the English-bred import Ch. Rosalie of Allington, a Blue Longhair bred by Miss E. Langston and owned by Mrs. Warwick, of Toronto.



Int. Champion JACKOTTE DE LA DAME BLANCHE, a lovely Longhair belonging to Madame M. Ravel, of Paris, who has recently been elected President of the Federation Internationale Feline d'Europe (F.I.F.E.).



Henry Koro

CANADIANS "ROLL UP" FOR THE CATS

In our February issue we ran the headlines—"Canadian City Goes Cat Crazy. 4,000 at Show. Montreal Just Wild Over Cats." It was the first cat show held in Montreal for 30 years and the promoters, Montreal Cat Fanciers' Association, expected that just a few hundred people would turn up. Instead, they appeared in a never-ending stream and the show, scheduled to end at 9 p.m., lasted until the early hours of the next morning. Top picture shows the visitors passing through the hotel lobby, which was packed solid for six hours. Below, a portion of the show room. The Association are planning to hold their next fixture in November—in a larger hall !

So-called "Snuffles"

By M.R.C.V.S.

WHAT we call snuffles in cats is manifested by a slight watery nasal discharge, some sneezing, and little else. It could be a mild nasal catarrh of non-infectious origin. But any discharge from the nostrils in excess of normal is an indication of some pathological process, which may be acute or chronic. The causes are several and there may be considerable difficulty in some instances in distinguishing one from the other. As treatment and prognosis depend upon a correct diagnosis, the question often warrants close investigation.

The nature of the discharge will often afford some clue as to its origin. For instance, the thick (and frequently putrid) purulent emanation associated with nasal gleet or ozoena could not by any chance be confounded with the clear watery, or even muco-purulent, discharge which is observed in ordinary acute nasal catarrh.

In catarrh of a chronic type the discharge takes on a firmer, stickier consistence and tends to cake about the nostrils, being well exemplified in cases of distemper, in which disease the discharge is often observed to assume a deep cream colour, or even to become a greenish yellow.

Much sneezing and shaking of the head indicates that the nasal passages are obstructed either by collections of mucus or by swelling of the nasal mucous membranes. The cat may be lively and feeding well yet it is always advisable to regard snuffles with suspicion, especially in a cattery, and to isolate it from other cats until the symptoms have disappeared.

When a discharge emanates from one nostril only, the cause is obviously not due to a general infection but is confined to that particular nasal passage. It may arise from ulceration of the nasal septum or of the turbinate bones of the nose; from polypi, growths, or pus in a sinus, etc.

Cat distemper generally manifests as a generalized catarrh of all mucous membranes but particularly of the respiratory tract. Thus we see discharge not only from the nose, but from the eyes too, generally complicated with bronchitis and diarrhoea. The temperature ranges between 102° F. and 104° F. and appetite is usually in abeyance. There is a good deal of sneezing, and often sore throat or tonsillitis, salivation from the mouth, and perhaps a soft, short cough. Thus there is no feature which distinguishes distemper from influenza, the author believing them to be one and the same.

But there is a huge distinction between the symptoms grouped above and those which are seen in specific feline enteritis, and in discussing the two diseases it is as well to be aware that they are completely separate entities.

WOOL-EATING SIAMESE

IN a letter to *The Observer* the Rev. Joseph Makepeace Forster refers to a problem which is by no means a new one among those who have kept Siamese. He has a young Seal Point, a most obedient and affectionate cat, who unfortunately eats pure wool.

"We dare not leave him alone in any room where there is wool about," he

(continued on page 15)

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

LAST month, we discussed certain aspects of variation and selection. These matters are of the greatest importance to the fancier. It is proposed therefore to pursue the subject a little further.

Until comparatively recently, it was generally supposed that genetic variability was always present in every species and under all circumstances, and therefore that selection, either artificial or natural, was always in a position to alter the race in desired or advantageous directions. But following this theory it then was shown that this was not so within a "pure" line, so long as it remained "pure." It might become impure in consequence of an outcross of different genetic constitution, or by a spontaneous mutation within the pure line although such occurrences might be, or become, rare.

In animals (or plants) which are not self-fertilizing, pure lines do not commonly exist, and selection is effective up to the limit of the existing variability. It is possible, nevertheless, to produce strains of animals which approximate pure lines in genetic constitution by long-continued inbreeding, for instance, brother and sister matings for a series of twenty-five or more successive generations. A series of this number of brother and sister matings should be as effective as about nine generations of self-fertilization in producing completely homozygous individuals. In the field

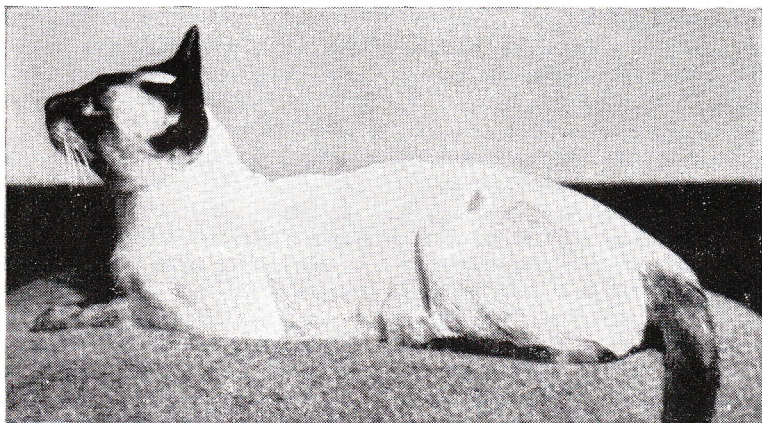
of research there are many records of the continued inbreeding of albino rats and mice to fifty and more generations, so that their homozygosity should be beyond question; the strains thus purified genetically have been of service in the interpretation of long-continued selection experiments.

Records have been made where colonies of animals whose coats carried pigmented areas were used for modification of the pattern in plus and minus directions, i.e. towards increased and decreased extent of the pigmented areas in the coat. The selection was effective throughout the experiment, which was continued for more than twenty generations, and involved the production of over 30,000 individuals, but the modification secured in each generation as a result of selecting the darkest individuals in the plus series, and the lightest individuals in the minus series, decreased in amount as the experiment progressed. This indicated that the maximum amount of genetic variability was present at the beginning of the experiment, and that it had been gradually diminished thereafter, though it was not completely exhausted even by twenty generations of intensive selection.

It should be pointed out that the pattern of the coat in the animals referred to above, is the result of mutation in a single gene. Crosses between this pattern and animals of a self strain gave no "patterned" individuals in F_1 and a ratio of three to one selfs to

TIBBY MEETS A PROUD ARISTOCAT

"Champion Sayam Zar Prak is the proudest aristocat I've met for a long time," says Tibby, the Tibs reporter. "And he has every reason to be proud, too - he's a picture of pedigree perfection from the tip of his nose to the end of his silky tail."



Ch. Sayam Zar Prak is a handsome chocolate pointed Siamese cat belonging to Miss D. J. Wells of Carson Siamese Cattery, Lane End House, Shinfield, Berkshire. He already has a long record of successes; he has been best stud cat six times, and was the winner of the 1953-54 Lloyd Lewis Memorial Cup; he has also won many other awards. His mistress, who is a successful breeder of Siamese cats, and has exported kittens abroad, attributes the shining coats and good appetites of all her cats and kittens to the regular use of Tibs.

11d and 2/3



*Famous
breeders
say—*

TIBS

KEEP CATS KITTENISH

"patterned" in F_2 . The purpose of the experiment when it was started, was to ascertain whether a gene changes under the influence of selection. It did in this case, apparently, for the plus selected line became so dark that only the ventral surface of the body was white, and the minus selected line became so light that only the head and tail were pigmented, and these only in part.

But a further experiment showed conclusively that the genetic modification which had been secured by selection did not involve the "pattern" gene itself, but only the residual heredity, consisting probably of an association of genes which modified the somatic effect of the "pattern" gene itself. Both the plus and the minus selected lines were crossed with the same wild animal, and from both crosses, "patterned" individuals were recovered as recessives in F_2 , but in both cases the extracted individuals were less extreme in character than their "patterned" grandparent.

Associated Genes

The extracted individuals were still unmistakably plus, and the extracted minus individuals unmistakably minus in character, but both had lost a part of the modification secured by long-continued selection. A second and third cross with the wild strain caused further loss of the modifications secured by selection and made it clear that those modifications resided not in the "pattern" gene itself, but in associated genes which altered its somatic effects.

It has been asserted by some critics that all genetic variability utilized in this experiment was present at the outset in the foundation stock, and this is undoubtedly true for the major part of it, but certainly not for all of it. For in the course of selection, a mutation occurred in the plus selected line, producing a group of individuals more

strongly plus than had previously been secured, and which thereafter bred true for this marked increase.

This change apparently took place in the "pattern" gene itself, not in its modifiers, resulting in an allele in which only the belly is white, the rest of the coat being coloured. It is, of course, quite possible that mutations in other genes also occurred which acted as modifiers of the "pattern" whatever other physiological function they may have had.

Selection

It must be recognized accordingly, that mass selection is able to modify a race not only within the limits of variability present in the material subjected to selection at the outset of the experiment, but also to the added extent that mutations in the direction of selection may occur during the progress of the selection experiment. That gene mutations of one sort and another are of frequent occurrence, and may even be artificially produced, has been repeatedly demonstrated.

This limits the sphere within which selection may be regarded as being without effect to self-fertilizing or closely inbred organisms in which no mutation or modifying genes is taking place. For if mutation is occurring in the direction of the selection, its products will be incorporated in the selected complex of genes, and the race will thus change progressively in the direction of selection.

All this applies equally as well to almost all the characters of make-up of an animal as seen by the fancier. Selection will give results within limited possibilities but tendencies will occur by the action of modifying genes. As the presence of these genes is difficult to detect, experience in assessing results of selected matings within a strain becomes a matter of importance.



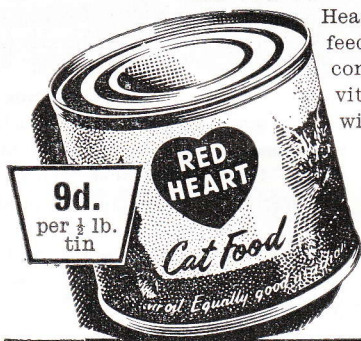
*Let's have
a squint!*

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

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Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

MRS. 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.

Show Finance

THE attendance at the Annual General Meeting of the Herts and Middlesex Cat Club was affected by the zero temperature but those who made the effort appeared to enjoy the meeting. The Ch. Show held last September showed a surplus of income over expenditure of £48, a satisfactory total when one peruses the balance sheet and realizes the vast expense of organizing a major fixture these days. Items of printing, postages, telephone and advertising costing nearly £190, hire of hall £60 and prize money nearly £260, give one food for thought. Entry fees of £397, however, provide substantial proof of how popular this show has become and how well members support it.

We owe much to the immense amount of work by Mr. Dunks, the Hon. Secretary, and to his wife who has helped so much with the show each year. When Mr. Dunks became Secretary the Club

was not solvent and now it has a nice "nest egg," much to the satisfaction of himself, the Committee and members. This year we heard with regret he is unable to run the show in August so Mrs. Towe has kindly undertaken to do so. August is early for a Ch. Show but this was the only date on which the Committee could secure the R.H.S. Hall, Westminster, and one imagines that no friends of the H. and M. Cat Club would wish to see it relegated to the suburbs.

We all know from experience what would probably happen then ; an entry and gate more or less halved and its prestige dimmed just when the Club Show was taking its place as one of the major events of the season.

The London shows owe their great popularity to the fact that they are getatable for exhibitors, judges, stewards, and the public alike. Many an exhibitor living within 50 or 60 miles or even further away from London can easily get to and from a central show in one day, but take it to the suburbs and it means arriving overnight which is much more inconvenient for one's exhibits and oneself, to say nothing of the expense involved.

The present delegates to the Governing Council, the Chairman, Mrs. Price, and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Dunks, were unanimously re-elected.

Winners in Holland

The International Ch. Show in Holland on February 26th attracted several cats and kittens very lovely

in quality, although numerically the entry was rather a small one, probably due to the fact that an Int. Ch. Show was being held at Lausanne the same weekend. It was a pleasure to have Miss Evelyn Langston as my fellow judge. Owing to the illness of Mrs. Brunton I was invited as her deputy. Happily Mrs. Brunton has made an excellent recovery and is now home again.

Holland was covered with deep snow as I landed at Schiphol Airport but the very cold weather we had endured for a month was soon forgotten in the comfort and warmth of the hotel at Scheveningen.

Mr. and Mrs. Busquet-van Leeuwen were awaiting my arrival and after dinner we sat up until midnight discussing shows, cats, etc., with myself lost in admiration of their excellent English. Mr. Busquet was Honorary Show Manager and he and his committee were very pleased at the excellent "gate" the Show attracted. It was a one-day affair closing at 6 p.m. Spectators were arriving when we commenced judging at 10 a.m. and they continued in a steady stream all day. Price of admission was 75 cents (about one and sixpence).

Chinchilla is "Best Cat"

Miss Langston and myself were on a raised platform and all the exhibits were brought to us. The stewards were indefatigable. They are accustomed to this method which is followed at almost every show abroad. Mrs. Busquet was very attentive as my secretary and Frau Thea Volkerson from Hamburg, Germany, all that one could wish for as a steward.

Well known personalities from other countries included Mr. Konrad Hirschmann from Nuremburg, Germany, Mrs. Jules Hansen, Mrs. Lis Langberg and Mrs. Elly Duch, Secretary of the Racekatten Club, Denmark, from Copenhagen.

The winning owners knew their awards within a few minutes after each class was judged as paper slips were handed to the judges to sign, each one having particulars of the exhibit with spaces left for the award and qualification. These were tied on to the pens. Several lovely prizes were donated, including silver spoons and badges by English cat clubs. The Cat Club de Paris gave three cockades, and prizes came from Germany, Belgium and Norway. The exhibitor who received the silver medal given by Prince Bernhard was very proud.

Miss Langston and myself were unanimous about the Best in Show awards which were as follow: Best Cat in Show—Mr. Hustinx's Chinchilla male Robespierre by Int. Ch. Jolyon of Allington. His Challenge Certificate in his open class completed his Championship. He is a male of superb quality with the lovely expression in which this variety excels. His head and eyes were beautiful and I particularly admired the setting of his neat ears. Best Kitten in Show—Miss Posthuma's Blue Male Beniveld Pagliaccio by Int. Ch. Southway Wizard, a well grown kitten who should make a lovely adult. Best Shorthair Cat—Mr. Durodies' charming Russian Blue Diablette, all the way from Paris. The owner was delighted with this award, so well deserved. Best Shorthair Kitten—Mr. Johannes Müller's S.P. Siamese Favorita von Lobelia by Int. Ch. Doneraile Leo, a lithe and dainty exhibit excellent in quality. Best L.H. Neuter—Mrs. Kroon-Nedjelja's magnificent Blue Inka van Frisia State by Int. Ch. Southway Wizard. Best S.H. Neuter—Doctor van der Velden's lovely S.P. Siamese Yul by Ch. Clonlost Yo Yo. He was a picture and his coat shone with condition.

Other outstanding exhibits were Mrs. Kroon-Nedjelja's exceptionally good Tortoiseshell White Tip, who was my nominee at Dortmund, Germany, for Best L.H. Kitten, which award she received. On this occasion she was

appearing for the first time as an adult and was awarded the Challenge Certificate. Her sire is a Blue, Ch. Simau van Frisia State, which helps to account for her lovely type and eye colour.

Miss Posthuma's Cream female Ch. Tallerton Rosebud at eight years of age was looking very youthful. She is a lovely cat by Walverdene Major ex Parkside Nerika. I believe this win completed her Int. Championship. The winning Blue male in the open class, Berrett Surprise by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous, was the Best Blue kitten at the Southern Counties Cat Club Ch. Show February, 1955, and was chosen at that show by his present owner. The winning Blue female was Miss Posthuma's Mericourt Colombine, a little beauty by Ch. Dylan of Allington.

The best S.P. Siamese male was Mr. Klein Sprockelhorst's Lancy King Khan (by Lindale Simon Pie) whose win completed his championship. The Challenge Certificate in S.P. Siamese females was withheld. Mrs. Schaur's Chinchilla kitten Chodadad van de Nychorst was a picture and I expect to hear more of him later. He was by the Best in Show Robespierre.

A delightful and enjoyable show which passed much too quickly.

On the Monday morning after, we visited Mrs. Posthuma and her daughter at Aerdenhorst, Haarlem. Unfortunately the former had broken a bone in her leg but what an example she was of cheerfulness and courage; remarkable in one over 80 years of age.

We went out in the snow to see Miss Posthuma's many cat celebrities. Some of them were also out in the snow but when they did go back to their houses they were heated by oil stoves, some of which were enclosed in an ingenious arrangement of wire netting. The Bentveld Cattery is the most famous in Holland and Doctor Doeksen paid a tribute to it and to Miss Langston (who has selected so many of its inmates) at the luncheon party on the day of the Show. Miss Posthuma breeds Blues,

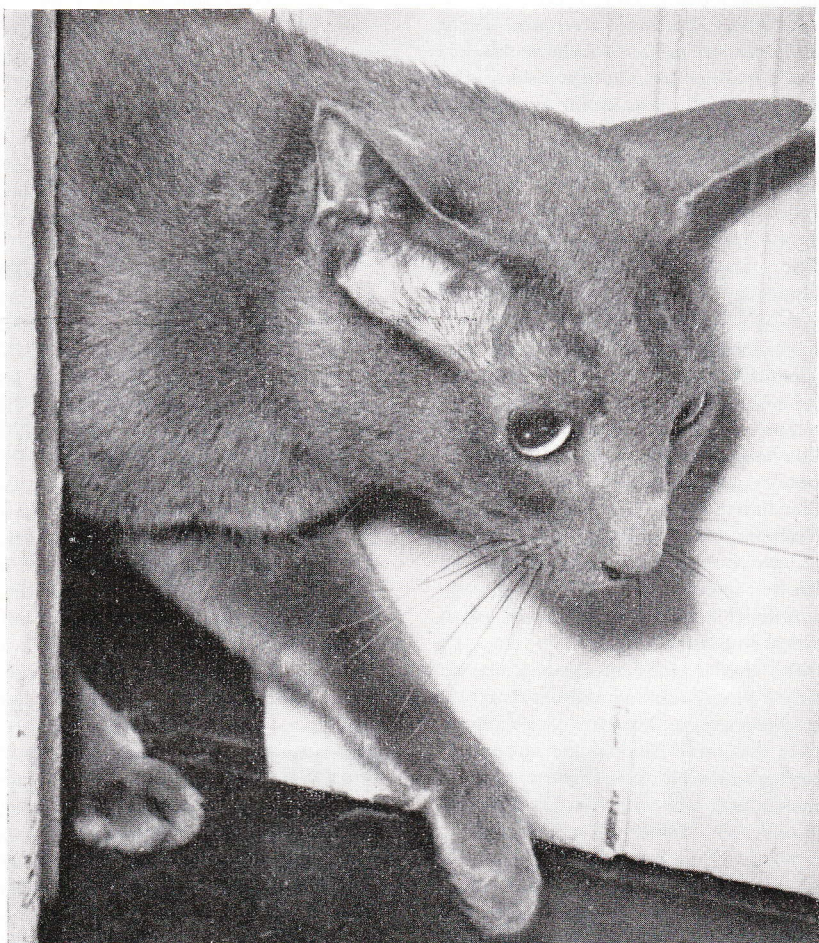
Creams, Blue-Creams, Chinchillas and Blacks. We returned in the early afternoon and it was a relief to see as we flew over England that "the deep freeze" was over.

Stockholm Show

From Mrs. Judith Saether comes news of the Swedish Cat Club Ch. Show. She writes: "First of all we are so pleased that Mrs. Ulla Magnusson has been elected President of the Stockholm Club. Everyone is sure she will prove an excellent choice. She is of course well known to many of you in England and has visited several of your shows.

"The Stockholm Show on March 2nd and 3rd was a great success and it was delightful meeting so many friends again from the various countries. The Longhair cats, on the whole, were not looking their best. It is too late in the year for most of them, but the Siamese were looking very lovely indeed.

"Best Cat in Show was Ch. Broughton Primrose bred by Mrs. Hughes. She is a lovely Cream and her owner Mrs. Sorvik-Jansson always presents her in lovely condition. It is the second time she has been Best in Show. My Chinchilla Ch. Laetitia of Allington was awarded C.A.C.I.B. and English bred cats awarded C.A.C. were Vigilant Jonathan, Blue male bred by Mrs. Pullen and owned by Miss Larsdotter, and Widdington Wintersohn, Cream male bred by Miss Sheppard and owned by Mrs. Tingwall (whose award completed his Championship). Best Shorthair was Mrs. Magnusson's S.P. Siamese female Exotic Melody and the Ch. winner in S.P. males was Milori bon Viveur bred by Mrs. Watson. The Abyssinian Nigella Constantine bred by Miss Bone was the Ch. winner in this variety. Best Longhair Kitten was a very lovely Brown Tabby (by Ch. Derry de Padirac) bred by Mrs. Axelsson. Best S.H. Kitten—Exotic Panya, S.P. Siamese bred by Mrs. Magnusson and owned by Mrs. Dahlqvist.



**TANJA AV OLSENBERG, Russian Blue owned by Mrs. Langberg, of
Copenhagen.**

"Some of us took our judging exams in Stockholm. These were supervised by Miss K. Yorke, Baroness von Bach, President of the Scandinavian Judges' Association; assisted by Mrs. Jules-Hansen, and the new President of F.I.F.E. Madame M. Ravel, whom we were very happy to have with us. Mrs. Magnusson, Mrs. Lorentzen and Miss Larsdotter took their Shorthair exams and Mrs. Svenningsen and myself Longhair exams.

"On Friday evening Stockholm Club invited us to a very enjoyable dinner in honour of their tenth anniversary. There were many speeches and we even had a member playing the guitar round the various tables. On Saturday some of us were invited with the judges to the very lovely home of Mrs. Schmidt, who owns the Abyssinians bred by Miss Bone. We had a most enjoyable lunch and respite from the Show. Mrs. Magnusson and her clever Committee can congratulate themselves on a very successful show and one which I understand has been profitable.

"I am sorry Mrs. Wittman was unable to attend the Show as it would have been so interesting to see which Blue male Madame Ravel preferred—her Vigilant Teddy Boy or Miss Larsdotter's Vigilant Jonathan. Mrs. Wittman's Chinchilla Robert of Thame was of course not there, which was a pity. My Premier Foxburrow Firefly was again Best Neuter."

Mrs. Maina Hjelde, of Stockholm, also sent a welcome letter. She is already looking forward to visiting one of our London shows and hopes to do so in the autumn.

Siamese Club News

The Annual General Meetings of our cat clubs in London do not appear to have been so well attended as usual with the exception perhaps of the Siamese Cat Club meeting on March 7th and Croydon Cat Club on March 19th.

I was unable to attend the former but can imagine it was lively as usual. Siamese breeders usually take an alert interest in everything which affects their breed. I recommend the S.C.C. journal *Siamese News* to cat lovers. It is a treat to see a club magazine printed on excellent paper and in a cream shade so appropriate to the variety. At 5s. per annum issued quarterly it is a "must" and can be obtained from the S.C.C. Hon. Secretary, Mrs. K. R. Williams, 53 Grange Road, Sutton, Surrey. It is available to non-members.

Here is an interesting item culled from the latest issue. Mrs. Sadler-Stockton writes of one of her first kittens, a male, given as a present to a friend. He passed away at the great age of 24 years. Ching, his mother, was a strong cat, who had her last kitten at 12½ years. An exceptional example of longevity and fertility.

Next Kitten Parade

Croydon Cat Club meeting was enjoyable and it was nice to see Mrs. McVady after her recent illness which occurred when she was visiting her daughter Maureen in Switzerland. The Club Show will be on November 7th at the R.H.S. Hall, Westminster, but more of that anon. Our first assignment if we have kittens worth showing will be Saturday, July 21st, at the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club Show, also at the R.H.S. Hall. This is one of the most charming shows of the year with the babies making their bow and we all agog to see what each other's queens have produced to say nothing of the progeny of our lovely males. When asked abroad why England so consistently produces so much first class stock, one of the obvious answers appears to be the wide choice of stud cats. There are over 200 on the G.C. List alone, in addition to some which are kept exclusively for use with owners' queens. Naturally they are not all

first class in appearance or pedigree but judiciously used they have great potentialities and the best of them must be some of the finest cats of their respective varieties in existence.

Many Tails Wagging

Judging from the photograph which appears in the March number of *Tail-Wagger Magazine*, Miss D. Evans, of Montgomeryshire, appears to own a very nice Blue Persian. He is Tail Wagger 946401. On page 82 under the caption "Why your cat should become a Tail Wagger" one reads that over 8,000 cats are already enrolled. The service offered provides miniature engraved medallions and elastic collars.

In Humanity's Name

A special meeting of the Cats' Protection League was held at Caxton Hall, Westminster on Saturday, March 24th. It was well attended by the public. Miss Kit Wilson was in the Chair and one felt she was advocating a cause very dear to her. She was sympathetic and practical. Mrs. de Clifford the Honorary Organizer who has done so much for the League and to find suitable homes for apparently unwanted cats also explained some of its activities. Miss Kathleen Yorke, Chairman of the Governing Council, kindly came all the way from St. Albans to attend.

Some aspects of the League's humane work were unknown to me, although I have known of its existence since its inception in 1927. I was sorry to see so few breeders of pedigree cats at the meeting because they have unique opportunities of publicizing its good work.

Miss Stainton, M.R.V.C.S., explained the veterinary side. A cat lover who is genuinely unable to afford professional treatment for his or her cat can obtain a voucher from the C.P.L. and the Hon. Treasurer will pay the bill. This also applies to the spaying of females

and the neutering of males and emergency treatment when accidents occur. In reply to a question Miss Stainton informed the audience that male cats can be neutered at any age but it may not altogether stop their wandering propensities if done after they are four or five years of age. After six months a general anaesthetic must be given. It was pleasing to hear that the free veterinary services are seldom abused, and that the applicants really cannot afford to pay but they often put a donation in the collecting box.

Mrs. de Clifford informed us about the basket lending service again for those who cannot afford to buy a cat basket, costly items nowadays. Baskets are lent to transport pets to new homes, for visits to vets, etc. It was found that when strong disinfectants were used they rapidly deteriorated, so it was decided to store them for three months to obviate any risk of infection. Many baskets are needed and if a reader wishes to donate one it will be much appreciated. What a splendid cause to donate one's baskets to when one gives up breeding cats, to say nothing of all the other impedimenta one collects such as cat houses and nursery boxes for brood queens.

The home finding service is very active and it was a joy to hear that 359 cats and kittens were placed in good homes in 1955. A leaflet was available with a photograph of three charming kittens and the caption "These little London cats need good homes. Can

Thinking of
an Import

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

Puppy enquiries also invited.

ELLA B. MARTIN

Heron, Boreham, Nr. Chelmsford,
Essex, England

you offer to take one of them?" Please write to: Mrs. de Clifford, 21 Holland Park, London, W.11.

It is an acknowledged fact that many farm cats are under-fed and in poor condition. The females are allowed to have kittens ad lib and a drink of milk is presumed to be all that is required plus mice and birds. The C.P.L. hope to persuade farmers that they need at least one good meal a day. It is quite a fallacy to suppose a hungry cat is a better hunter. A good sound sleep during the day with a full tummy is a much better prelude to a night of hunting than a day of restlessness seeking food.

My girl cats occasionally catch field mice and an unfortunate little bird but never eat them. If I hear a muffled cry at a door I know that something is being brought in for me to inspect, and they hold birds so gently that it is often possible to release them and they fly away unharmed.

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If this little résumé of the League's activities encourages cat lovers' practical sympathy, the officials of the League will be very appreciative. As far as is known, it is the only Society whose activities are devoted entirely to the welfare of cats and kittens. Life membership is £5, Full Membership £1 1s. annually, Associate membership 10s. 6d. annually and the League's delightful magazine *The Cat* 5s. per annum. One can also enrol one cat as a "Tailwaver" at a cost of 5s., the feline equivalent of the doggy "Tail Wagger."

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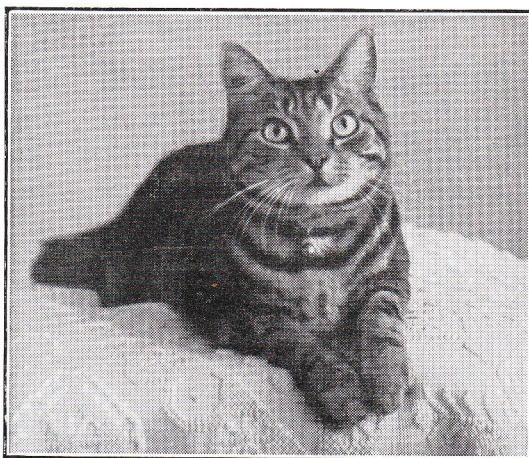
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Miscellaneous

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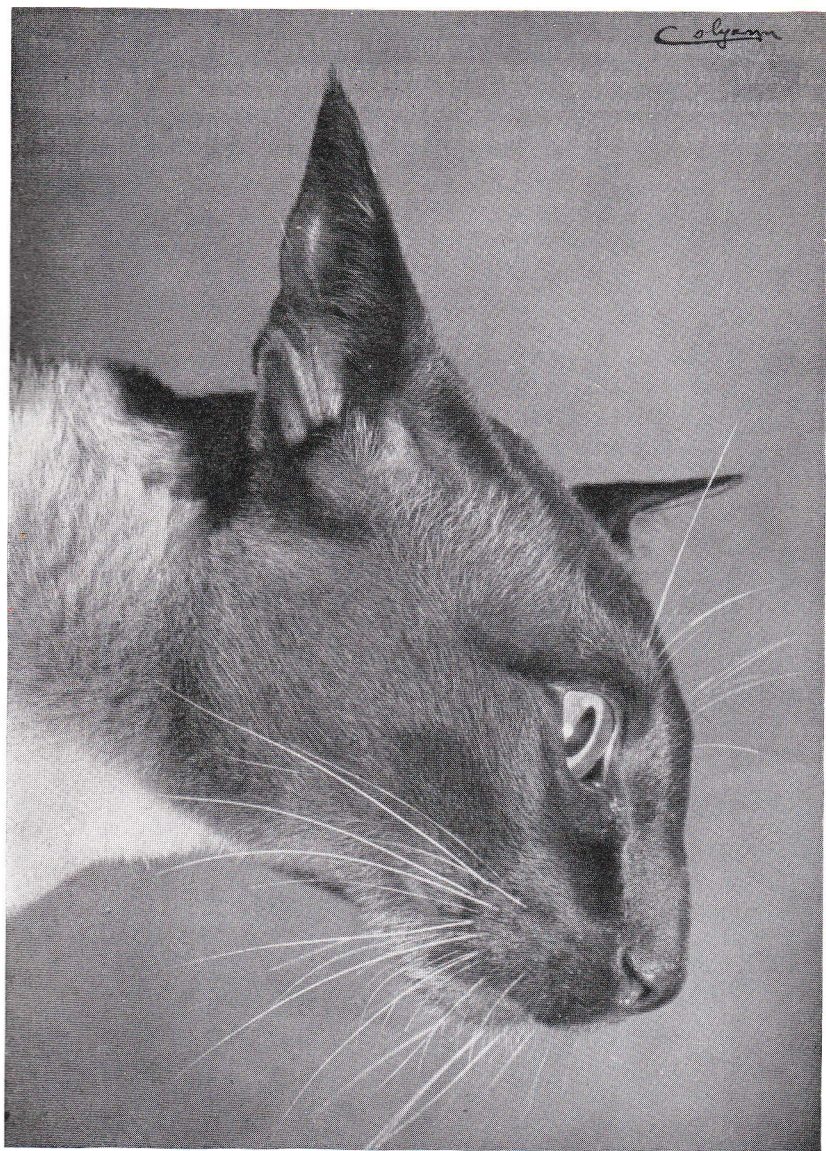
A SMALL NUMBER OF CATS BOARDED IN PLEASANT COUNTRY SURROUNDINGS

Kindness, comfort & good food

Inspection invited

MISS RUTH EVERY-CLAYTON

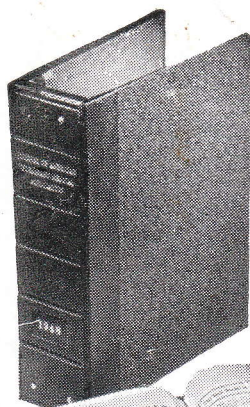
c/o Norton Court Farm, Kewstoke,
Weston-super-Mare, Somerset



Siamese are "thin over the ground" on the Continent. That's why it is a pleasure to be able to record that this fine young Seal Point male has found a good home with Miss Elizabeth Eytzinger, of Nurnberg, Germany. He is International Champion DONERAILE LEO, bred in England by Mrs. K. Williams. Leo's notable run of show successes last season culminated in a fine win in Paris which earned his championship. This striking head study is the work of "Colyann."

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