

Our Cats

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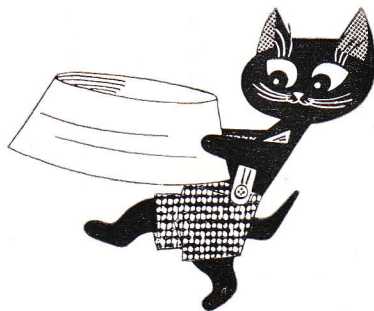
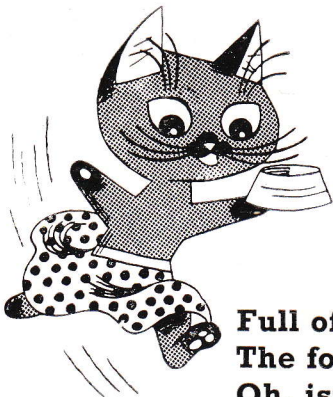


SIAMESE APPEAL

Photographed by W. H. D. Rundle

AUGUST 1956

1/6



**Full of fish — full of meat
The food that all cats love to eat.
Oh, isn't it a pity that
All kittens don't get Kit-E-Kat!**

Every cat needs Kit-E-Kat every day, because it's a complete food . . . fresh white fish *and* herring plus meat, as well as extra vitamins and minerals!

Kit-E-Kat is so easy and clean to serve, and there are several meals in every 9d tin.



All cats love
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.

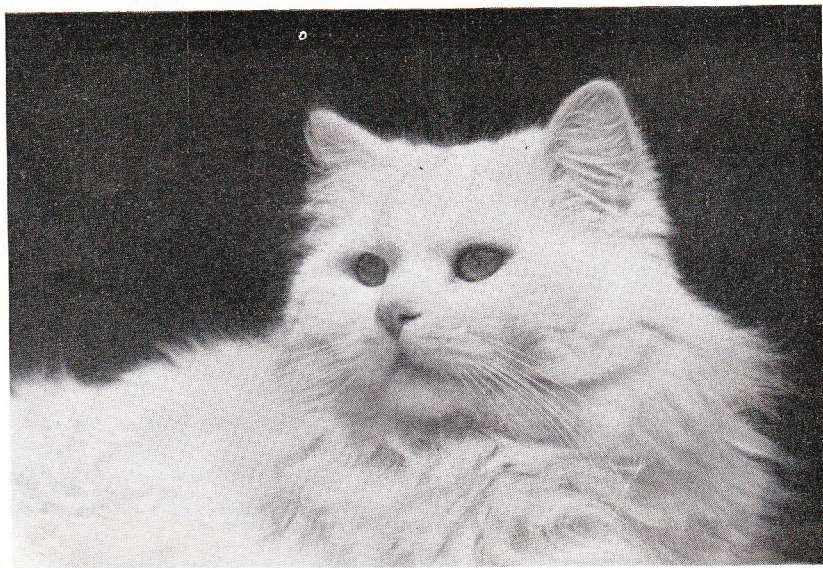
VOL. 8 No. 8

AUGUST 1956

Managing Editor :

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

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



Vicki

Introducing one of the many lovely American Champions at Shanna Groith Cattery, Bodega Bay, California, which is conducted by judge and breeder Mrs. Colleen Aslyn, whose Creams were imported from England

Let's go to a Show

We urge our readers to attend as many cat shows as possible. There is no better place at which to meet old friends, to make new ones and to pick up useful points about cats, their breeding and general management, from experienced fanciers and exhibitors. Brief details of the show fixtures for the 1956-57 Season are provided below for the information and guidance of readers.

1956	Promoted by	Venue
1 September	Preston and District Cat Club	Preston, Lancs.
8 September	Kentish Cat Society	Tunbridge Wells, Kent
26 September	*South Western Counties Cat Club	Paignton, Devon
6 October ...	*Edinburgh and East of Scotland Cat Club	Edinburgh
<i>(See displayed advertisement in this issue)</i>		
9 October ...	*Siamese Cat Club	London
20 October ...	*Midland Counties Cat Club	Birmingham
7 November ...	*Croydon Cat Club	London
24 November ...	Scottish Cat Club	Glasgow
24 November ...	Surrey and Sussex Cat Association	Epsom
24 November ...	*Yorkshire County Cat Club	Leeds
4 December ...	*Blue Persian Cat Society	London
15 December ...	*National Cat Club	London
1957		
5 January ...	*Notts. and Derbys. Cat Club	Nottingham
22 January ...	*Southern Counties Cat Club	London
9 February ...	*Lancashire and N.W.C. Cat Club	Manchester

*Denotes show with Championship status

A detailed list of shows can be obtained from the Secretary of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, Mr. W. A. Hazeldine, 1 Roundwood Way, Banstead, Surrey. Don't forget to enclose a stamped addressed envelope.



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 (Macaulay 1462).

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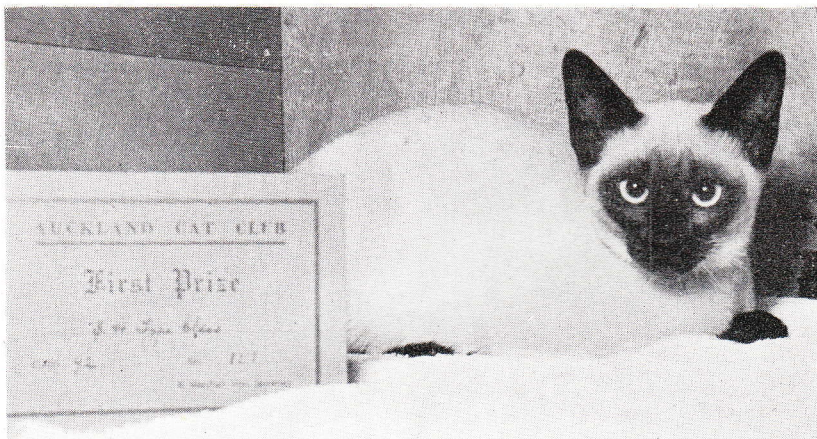
Christmas and the New Year are coming!

An announcement will be made in our next issue which, we feel, will be of unusual interest to cat organizations and officials, fanciers and cat lovers throughout the world. It concerns a special seasonal feature in our December issue. Look out for details.

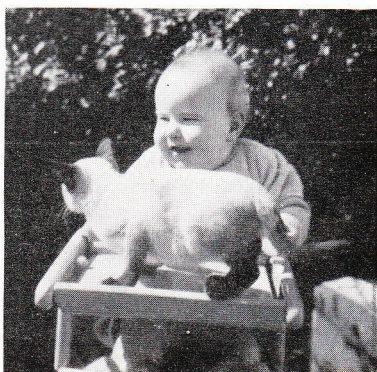
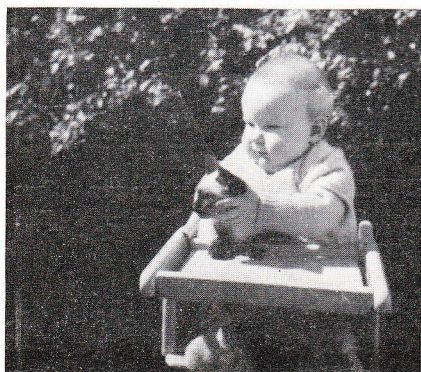
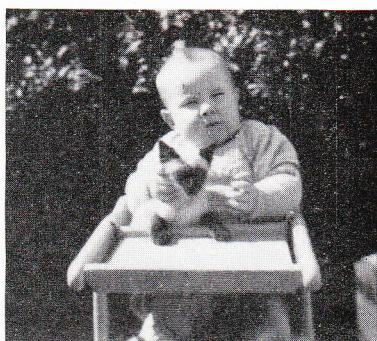
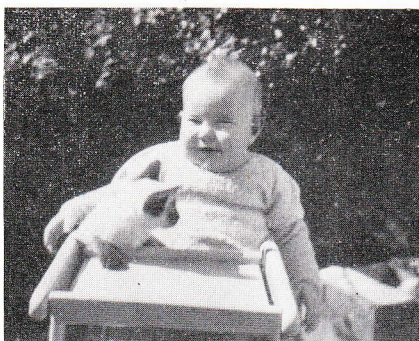
A page for the proletarian puss No. 66



In this delightful picture **BOOTS** and **DUSKY** are relaxing in the sun before work on the farm at "Vilendy" Marandellas, Southern Rhodesia. The sender is Mrs. K. Campbell-Wilson.



SCARSDALE MINNEHAHA, an exceptionally nice young Siamese bred by Mrs. I. M. Smedley, New Zealand fancier, from Ch. Killdown Jupiter (imported from England) and Scarsdale Sweetheart. Minnehaha gained seven firsts at the recent Auckland Show, plus a special prize given by Miss Kathleen Yorke for the Best Female Siamese Kitten.



Also from New Zealand come these delightful snapshots of Robert Norman, fancier of the future. He is the bonny babe of Mr. and Mrs. C. Aberdeen, of Dunedin, active supporters of the Fancy in South Island.

Miss Kathleen Yorke

OUR readers everywhere will be distressed to learn that the visit of Miss Kathleen Yorke, Chairman of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, to Australia and New Zealand was marred by an illness which overtook her whilst she was undertaking the final engagements of her strenuous tour. A few days before she was due to leave New Zealand for home, phlebitis started up in her left leg. She bravely carried through her last show judging engagement and the painful condition grew worse with each succeeding day. By the time her plane touched down in England she was in urgent need of medical attention. Very quickly plans were made for her reception at Mid-Herts Hospital, St. Albans, where, we are pleased to say, she slowly responded to rest and treatment.

At this writing Miss Yorke is recuperating with friends and we shall be voicing the wishes of everyone in the cat world when we express the hope that she will be quickly restored to normal health and vigour. The heavy itinerary she undertook in the best interests of the Fancy was completed and we think it should be known that it was undertaken against medical advice. Such is Miss Yorke's devotion to her duties.

"Old Country" Winners

Having read the above, readers will understand the absence of the promised notes on Miss Yorke's activities in New Zealand. We hope it will be possible to publish something about them in a later issue—certainly we shall be printing some of the photographs she has brought back with her.

A brief letter we have received from Miss Yorke refers to the "wonderful adventure" she has had, meeting so

many interesting cat folk, judging beautiful cats and seeing wonderful places. At the Auckland Show the Best Shorthair was Ch. Spotlight Pride, bred by Mr. Richard Warner and owned by Mrs. Downey. A son of this fine S.P. Siamese was Best Shorthair Kitten. Miss Yorke comments that she made the acquaintance of Ch. Killdown Jupiter, looking anything but a veteran, in the Veteran and Stud Class. Jupiter was bred in England by Mrs. Keene and now belongs to Mr. Moran, prominent New Zealand fancier.

Best Longhair Cat was Ch. Slapton Black Magic, bred by Mrs. Dyer and exhibited by Mrs. Downey; it was the eleventh time he had won this main award. A fine Blue male, Ch. Merryman of Dunesk, was runner-up to Magic. Best Longhair Kitten was a really perfect Tortie and White, details of which we hope to give later.

Most Travelled Judge

By way of postscript we quote from a *Sydney Morning Herald* feature for June 2nd last. The headline runs: "She Wants to Find Cats Behind the Iron Curtain" and there follows (quote)—"Miss Kathleen Yorke, who has travelled 150,000 miles to judge cat shows, wants to judge one behind the Iron Curtain. Miss Yorke, who comes from London, was at the Showground yesterday for the annual championship show of the Cat Fanciers' Association of New South Wales. She has judged cats in America, South Africa and most of Europe. 'Irrespective of politics, cats made the loveliest companions,' she said. 'But as far as I know, cats seem to be a purely capitalistic hobby. It would be interesting to see what breeders are doing in Eastern Europe.'"

Legion of the Lost

By KIT WILSON (*Third and final instalment*)

IN the two preceding instalments I have endeavoured to present a word picture of my many years of work in the dark and miserable world frequented by the great army of unwanted and uncared-for cats and kittens. I have been able to introduce you to a few of the lucky ones who "got a break" in their lives. And last month I drew attention to the fact that the big problem of what to do about the less fortunate ones, who can be numbered in their tens of thousands, has still to be tackled in a national way. I asked: What is the answer to this problem?

First, there must be shelters for the reception of unwanted cats and kittens in every densely populated district and from these centres there must be fleets of vans visiting every village and hamlet at given times for collection of any unwanted. Humane education in the schools, notices on all police stations, and in the porch of every church, should teach the people the value of these centres and visits. Facilities must be made available for everyone to have their cats and kittens of either sex neutered.

A good friend to cats who has some pet shops in Cheshire has a wonderful scheme. Whenever a kitten is sold it can be registered in a form of club, into which the owner pays a small sum each week so that the cost of the operation is in most cases paid for when the kitten is old enough for it to be neutered. If only all pet shops would adopt this method how many unwanted kittens would remain unborn!

The Cats' Protection League have a voucher scheme whereby cats and kittens can be taken to a vet by anyone having one of these vouchers. The cat is

treated for an amount its owner can afford, the C.P.L. meeting the balance out of funds raised for the purpose. This scheme is worked through the various branches, and in London alone over 50 vets are closely associated with it.

Even so, the old old argument that neutering is cruel, especially in the case of the female, and that the neutered cat becomes fat and lethargic and utterly useless for mousing is always cropping up. This again is utter nonsense; neuters, especially females, are usually the best mousers, and, not wanting to stray far from home, are always there when the larder is being invaded. If neuter cats are kept, friendly relations with the neighbours can be enjoyed, as there are no complaints of the marauding toms with their love songs and unpleasant habit of spraying.

Educate the Child

Every child should be brought up with a knowledge of the rights of animals and their education should include the knowledge and care of all fauna with which they come in contact. Cruelty is after all the oppression of the weaker by the stronger and if this is allowed to go unchecked violence is always the outcome.

To end on the happier side of this rather grim picture, tucked away in the Surrey hills (near East Grinstead) are two rehabilitation centres where cats from the C.P.L. await the happiness so long denied them. Of all ages, sizes, colours and shapes, they are taught to forget the terrors and privations of the past in the peaceful surroundings of the countryside. Even after a few days the difference can often be seen. Cats shy, scared and suspicious, terrified by the

sound of the human voice, or by a movement of a hand or foot, gradually become friendly and trusting. Coats which were matted and dull, eyes which were sore and lacklustre become bright and shining. No cat leaves one of these centres un-neutered or unclean to house, and it almost seems that they know that they are safe for the rest of their lives.

Every month in *The Cat*, the journal of the C.P.L., in the "Homes Wanted" column, appear such notices as these : "Willing to do light mousework and very good at it. Non-Union." "Ladies' Companion Cat ideal for a refined situation, willing to lick dishes." "A good little cat who really wants to do what is right." Then one appeal runs like this : "This cat must have a very special home. Rescued from horrible conditions." And so it goes on ; as one goes away to happiness from the hundreds of unwanted there are always more to take its place, in a never-ending stream.

Cat clubs, too, like the Oxford and District Cat Club and the Surrey and Sussex Cat Society, formed to help the ordinary cat, are doing a wonderful job of work. They carry on with little or no fanfare of trumpets, only getting a little publicity when they hold a show, when

most of the cats proudly presented to the judges are stated in the catalogue to have been "Found as a stray." Such clubs do a great deal to alleviate suffering among cats and to present them in a favourable aspect to the unconverted.

At the Lancashire and North Western Championship show held in Stockport classes were offered for household pets and over 40 cats and half as many kittens appeared. They had to be seen to be believed. Every one was smug and self satisfied, with a shining groomed coat, seated on a warm and in most cases new blanket, many enjoying the comfort of a hot water bottle. It was indeed *their* day and they knew it ! On the same day the household pets stole the show at the Surrey and Sussex Show at Epsom.

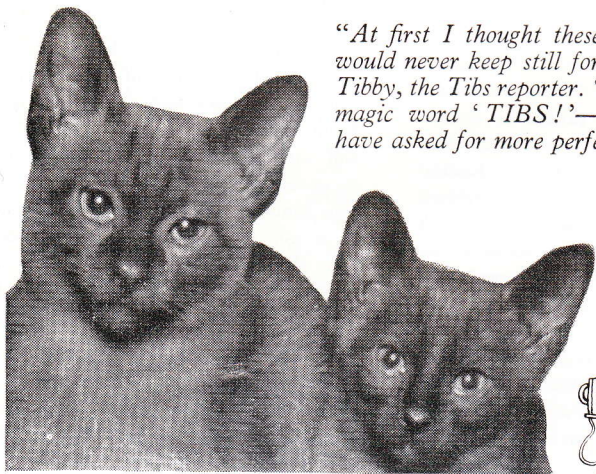
But there is so much to be done, so little money to do it with and so few people to do the job that the cry of so many strays must of necessity become a hollow echo. Of course, if any reader would like to get in touch with me through our kind Editor, I shall be very pleased to tell them of ways in which they can help. And this appeal goes, of course, for readers abroad as well as those at home.

THE BEGGAR CAT

Poor little beggar cat, hollow-eyed and gaunt,
Creeping down the alley-way like a ghost of want,
Kicked and beat by thoughtless boys, bent on cruel play,
What a sorry life you lead, whether night or day !
Hunting after crusts and crumbs, gnawing meatless bones,
Trembling at a human step, fearing bricks and stones,
Shrinking at an outstretched hand, knowing only blows,
Wretched little beggar cat, born to suffer woes.
Stealing to an open door, craving food and meat,
Frightened off with angry cries and broomed into the street,
Tortured, teased, and chased by dog through the lonely night,
Homeless little beggar cat, sorry is your plight.
Sleeping anywhere you can, in the rain or snow,
Waking in the cold, gray dawn, wondering where to go,
Dying in the street at last, starved to death at that,
Picked up by the scavenger—poor tramp cat !

ELLA WHEELER WILCOX

MODELS OF GOOD BEHAVIOUR



"At first I thought these playful kittens would never keep still for a photo", says Tibby, the Tibs reporter. "Then I said the magic word 'TIBS!'—and I couldn't have asked for more perfect models!"



The owner of these beautiful pedigree kittens, Mrs. C. F. Watson, is an experienced breeder of Burmese and Siamese cats. Her cats and kittens are consistent prize-winners at Championship Shows, and this season they have been awarded 86 First Prizes. Sealcoat Thomerat (left), a handsome Burmese, was second to his sister Gay Binti as the best short hair kitten at the 1955 Notts. and Derby Show.

Mrs. Watson, of the Old Nursery House, Tansley, Matlock, Derby-

shire, used to give her cats separate concentrates of vitamins and liver extract. Since she began to give them Tibs as a more convenient method of achieving the same purpose, she has found a very marked improvement in the vitality of all her cats. There has also been a great improvement in the quality and softness of their coats. One Tibs a day keeps them all in championship form!

Famous breeders say—

TIBS

11d and 2/3d



KEEP CATS KITTENISH

Veterinary Problems Answered

By M.R.C.V.S.

Bladder Trouble

Mrs. J. S. (Essex) writes : We are all very sad, having lost a lovely Blue Persian aged 4 years. A month before we lost him he seemed off colour and the vet told me he had gravel in the bladder. He prescribed some pills and told me to boil the drinking water. The cat seemed to recover but one night he was growling with pain and the next day was taken away for an operation from which he did not recover. The vet informed me that Persians seemed liable to this trouble. Now we miss him and are thinking of having another cat but my husband wants another Blue Persian. I am afraid of the risk and the trouble of hairballs, to which longhaired cats seem prone. Would you try again or advise a non-pedigree cat—or another breed ?

M.R.C.V.S. replies : It is true that Persians seem a little more prone to sabulous urinary deposits than are others, but all breeds are liable. These deposits consist of phosphates and the preventive measure therefore is to induce an acid urinary reaction. This may be done by giving the cat 5 to 15 grains daily (according to size and age) of sodium acid phosphate. It can be given in pill, capsule or watery solution. Or one could give 5 to 10 grs. of ammonium chloride in a teaspoonful of water daily. About every fortnight give a week's interval ; then start again. An acid urine is also induced by a diet rich in proteins and fats, and poor in sugar. Frequently, the gravel in the urethra can be worked out either by manipulation or by catheter. But it is always tedious and difficult and the operation of urethrotomy very tricky indeed. Hairball is commoner in long-haired cats but can be mitigated to some extent by thorough brushing every day to eliminate loose hair and prevent tangling, which the cat tries to rectify

with its tongue. I contributed an article on "Bladder Troubles" in the November 1955 issue of this Magazine.

Swallowed Hair

Miss P. S. (S.E. London) writes : I understand sodium citrate taken daily (one 2-gr. capsule) is helpful in warding off possible bladder trouble in cats. Is this correct? I give my cat a half tablet once weekly, also a worm preventive. Could you advise me if this is effective? And is olive oil preferable to mineral oil as a weekly dose in passing hair taken into the stomach whilst washing ?

M.R.C.V.S. replies : I have no knowledge that sodium citrate would be useful for this purpose. In any case I have not used it. See reply to the previous questioner. To help the passage of swallowed hair, mineral oil is the remedy as olive oil being a food is digested whilst liquid paraffin passes out without change.

How Spaying is Done

Mrs. M. G. A. (Milan, Italy) writes : Which is the quickest and less painful way to sterilize a queen ? I receive a lot of letters regarding animals, so many of whom are unwanted and neglected. It is really a terrible problem in this country and if I could afford it I would like to pay for the sterilization of a few queens. I know veterinary medicine is much more advanced in England and I wouldn't call in a vet without knowing more on the subject.

M.R.C.V.S. replies : It would be quite unethical and probably futile to attempt to explain in detail the technique of the spaying operation. It is a major operation and not to be lightly

regarded or undertaken except by the skilled and qualified surgeon. The Editor, however, has agreed to reproduce a page from a book published by Messrs. Bailliere, Tindall & Cox of 8 Henrietta Street, London, W.C.2, which will afford you some idea of the procedure. I think that rather than sterilize the females, why not concentrate upon the males? If more males were neutered then your cat population would decrease; and there is no doubt that a neutered male is far a more desirable pet than an entire one.

Here is the promised quotation from the book: "The cat is anaesthetized by nembutal and is laid upon its right side. An area in the centre of a triangle formed by the spinal column above, the last rib anteriorly, and the thigh posteriorly, is clipped, shaved, and swabbed with iodine. A boiled cloth with a hole in it is laid over the animal so that the site of incision is observed through the hole, and the cloth fixed with towel clips. A one-inch incision is made through the skin, parallel with the spine, thus exposing subcutaneous fat—a portion of which is excised by scissors. The external and internal oblique muscles are incised in turn, making sure that the peritoneum has also been severed. When the abdomen has been entered, one should be immediately able to pick up the left ovary, unless, of course, the incision has been wrongly placed.

"A sterile catgut ligature is tied low down on the uterine cornu, as it is intended that most of the horn will be removed. An assistant holds the free

uncut ends of this ligature, whilst the operator applies another one above the ovary. The ends of this ligature are now cut, and the ovary, together with the discarded portion of cornu, are excised, but a grasp of the original ligature is still retained until the surgeon has found the bifurcation and traced the other uterine horn. This is brought to the surface and the same procedure is repeated; finally the ends of both ligatures are cut and the stumps are allowed to resume their normal positions in the abdomen. Using sterilized catgut, the inner abdominal muscular layer, together with its peritoneal lining, is now sutured, followed by the suturing of the external oblique. The subcutaneous fat is drawn over the incision and loosely sutured. The skin is stitched with boiled silk, the external wound dried and dusted. . . .

"It is preferable to operate on animals under three months of age, and, if this technique has been expertly performed, nearly everyone will be feeding normally next day, and fit to be discharged on the second day. Sutures are removed in five days' time."

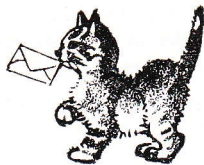
Readers who would like "M.R.C.V.S." to deal with their veterinary problems should write to him c/o OUR CATS Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope when a direct reply is preferred.





Correspondence Corner

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



Bringing Home "the Kill"

I am pleased to know from Miss Lucienne Gow's letter in the June issue of OUR CATS that the Marquess of Havoc, otherwise Sumfun Oberon, inherits the tidy habits of his ancestors. His mother, Sumfun Shikar, otherwise Titti-tuppence, and his grandmother Sumfun Moth, otherwise Muffin, both bring their "kills" into the house and triumphantly put them down in the usual feeding place.

Greatgrandmother Becky, when we lived in Hathaway Hamlet, Stratford-upon-Avon, carefully negotiated a neighbour's thatched roof with half an ox heart in her mouth. She had made a forcible entry through a bedroom window but the stolen prize was brought home and put down in the accustomed place, before being tasted!

I think the Marquess of Havoc is dropping a polite hint to his mistress that he would very much appreciate a mundane mouse to eat as a change from the excellent food that Miss Gow gives him.

MRS. MARY DUNNILL

Haslemere, Surrey. (Sumfun Siamese)

Where are the "Calicos" ?

What has happened to the lovely Longhair Tortie and White cats of England? They are never mentioned in the Magazine or show reports and yet in many of the books I have from England, like the one by Frances Simpson, there is mention of Peggy Primrose, owned by Miss Terrill, and Mary II, owned by Miss Yeomans, and Mr. Furze's Beauty

of Birmingham, Mrs. Davies's Chumly, all fine Tortie and White Longhairs. In a book by Evelyn Buckwork, I read of such fine cats of the breed as Herone, Soame Dazzle, Tess, Mr. Blandford's Gay Sally, Mr. J. S. Budd's Gillyflower, Mrs. Yates's Champion Mock Turtle and the author's Soame Kladeiscope.

Although we raise some very fine Persians, Red Tabbies, Brown Tabbies, Blues, Blacks, Creams, Torties—and love them all—first place in my affections is firmly held by my Persian "Calicos," or Tortie and Whites as you call them. In the pedigrees of my queens are some of the finest blood lines in U.S. and England, such as Great Lakes, Hercrest, Spero, Spoon River, Beechwalds, Wilshire, Easahusy and many others, and there are eight generations of pedigreed stud book registration behind them. We have had three lovely "Calico" kittens so far this year.

I would so much like to know if there are any being bred in England to-day and if so how they compare with what we have over here.

MRS. DOROTHY B. ANDERSON

(Jay-Kay Cattery)

Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A.

Editor's Note.—Mrs. Anderson kindly enclosed with her letter some lovely photographs in natural colour of three of her "Calico" queens. One of them, Champion Jay-Kay Lou Ann, is All-American Calico Persian for 1956. I only wish it were possible to reproduce these in full 4-colour letterpress but alas! the cost is prohibitive.

Boarding in Southern Rhodesia

I was very interested to read the articles in your February and March 1956 issues.

Although I breed Manx and Siamese S.P. cats, I also board cats and I run my boarding kennels on almost identical lines as Dr. and Mrs. Francis. There are just two points of difference, namely, all cats are injected against f.i.e. at least ten days prior to acceptance, accompanied with the veterinary surgeon's certificate. Each cat is housed separately in houses ranging from 6' x 6' to 6' x 3½' each with 12' length runs, in which are planted grass and trees. In each house is a

I am waiting on my two Manx kittens to be flown out at the end of August. My own Manx have caused rather a stir here in Rhodesia.

I really enjoy this work of providing a home from home for our four-footed pals. I do everything myself and employ no native labour.

MRS. EILEEN VISSER

(Ambleside Cattery)

Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.

Siamese Colour Breeding

Whilst writing you on other matters, I am taking the opportunity to enclose some snapshots of *fifth* generation of Red Point Siamese kittens. I have found



Chinga, the unusual boarder, meets a little visitor to Mrs. Visser's kennels in Southern Rhodesia (*see letter on this page*)

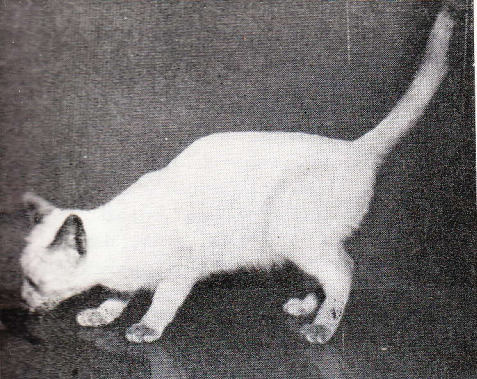
box for sleeping and a cushioned stool for relaxation and in the runs are boxes covered with malthoid for sunbathing. Each house has its own brush and carpet to fit half the size of the house. Otherwise I run the kennels on exactly the same lines as Dr. and Mrs. Francis.

In the February issue there was that interesting description of Breed No. 13a—the Colourpoint Longhairs. I had one of these cats for boarding—see photograph enclosed. His name is Chinga and his owner Mrs. Brown was most interested in this article. Chinga had long silky fur, cream in colour and with the seal points, small ears, round face and beautiful blue eyes. Mrs. Brown would like to contact breeders.

in my experiments that it takes at least four or five generations of pure Siamese breeding behind Red Points to produce them comparable in type to the best in Seal Points and Blue Points.

The head type and fine bones are in many cases superior to Chocolate and Frost Points, which often have white (albino blue-eyed) domestic cat in their backbreeding. Blue-eyed white domestics were often used to "whiten" the coats in Siamese and in the process diluted the points also. A small percentage of the grandchildren of these Seal Points became Chocolates and those of the Blue Points became Frost Points.

If any fancier doubts my statements in regard to the ability to breed beautiful



Here—and below—are snapshots of Mrs. De Filippo's fifth generation Red Point Siamese Kittens. This experienced American fancier explains that bars in the tail are slight faults which can be bred out—as in Blue Points.

coloured Chocolate or Frost Points by this method, let them first remember back some ten or fifteen years when we saw the dark coat colour in the Siamese of those times. Then let the sceptical breeder experiment for proof of my statements. Have him breed a white (albino type—blue-eyed), shorthaired cat *once* into their Siamese bloodlines. Then breed together the resulting palest coated progeny.

In the F_2 generation one may expect a small percentage of dilutes—Chocolates and Frost Points. Beautiful coat colours and points have resulted though bone formation and type are coarsened by the hybrid cross. This may be completely

eliminated in later breedings by breeding to fine type Siamese stock. Red Points also are dilutes.

Siamese breeding diluted the original red of the cross to gold or orange points. They obtained their start by the one outcross to Red Self domestic to introduce the colour "red" into the Siamese Himalayan coat pattern.

The difference between producing a Red Pointed Siamese or a dilute Seal (Chocolate Point) or dilute Blue (Frost) is this: The former breeding problem necessitated introducing a new colour (red) into the coat pattern whereas in producing dilute Frosts or Chocolate Points the job was to remove the intensity from the coat and points colour from Seal Points and Blue Points by adding white—very much as an artist would dilute his opaque paints with white.

Red Points breed true just as Frost bred to Frost and Chocolate bred to Chocolate produce only their own colour and pattern. The pictures I enclose of Sundust Red Point kittens represent eleven years of careful breeding.

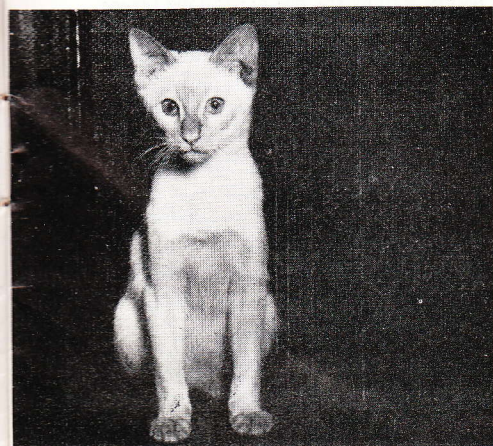
MRS. ALYCE DE FILIPPO
Brookfield, Illinois, U.S.A.

New South African Club

Your readers will be interested to have some news anent our new cat club which was formed in Durban in May, 1955. It is called the South African Cat Club. We hope in time it will become a universal club.

We have a membership of over 80 and during our first year we organized an Exhibition of Cats, the first function of its kind to be held in South Africa. The Exhibition was filmed for African Mirror News Reel and we had a wonderful public response to see 25 different varieties of beautiful cats. We have also had two very successful Championship Shows.

The first of these shows was held in the Durban City Hall and over 1,500 people



attended. There were 110 entries, a record number for this country where cat shows are in their infancy. The second was held in Pietermaritzburg in conjunction with our large agricultural show which is held in June. Thousands of visitors passed through and we had another record entry of 88 cats for this inland city. It is only five years since the first show was held in Durban and the foundation members of the first Natal Club and the founders of the Club are all members of this new Club.

One of our members is Mr. W. J. Chapman, a judge with English training and experience. Two top ranking lady judges flew down from Johannesburg to help us—Mrs. E. J. Gluckman at the Durban fixture and Mrs. M. Val Davies at Pietermaritzburg.

During the year we hold various Crazy Pet Shows which give a lot of pleasure to children who are able to bring along their pets—from dogs to white mice. Our main aim is to stimulate public interest in animals and to show them what a delightful pet the ordinary domestic household cat can be. We have just acquired 100 show cages of special design.

MRS. N. THOMSON

(Hon. Secretary, South African Cat Club)

Durban, North Natal,
South Africa.

Cat Picture Show

The Seventh Cat Picture Show organized by the Bexhill Cat Club has come and gone. There were over 300 lovely pictures and some beautiful cats. The opening ceremony was performed by Miss Peggy Paige, leading lady of the local Repertory Company. Mrs. Burrell, the proud owner of an eighteen-year-old neutered queen, was in the chair. The four judges—Mrs. K. R. Williams, (Hon. Secretary of the Siamese Cat Club), Mrs. Scott ("Pamela Wynne"), Mrs. M. E. A. Pike (daughter of the late Mrs. Soames) and Miss M. Lewis—worked untiringly in the performance of their duties.

Miss K. M. Stephenson won "Best Pedigree Cat in Show" with her lovely Ashdown Sylvan Sprite and Mrs. V. E. Major won "Best Non-Pedigree Cat in Show" with Lupin. Mrs. Attwell's Aldra's Cream Bunne was voted the most popular cat by the general public.

The various side stalls, well stocked by working parties held through the previous autumn and winter, did good business and there was also an interesting exhibition of handicrafts, arranged by Mrs. Ockenden. The Doll Club of Great Britain, represented by Mrs. de Clifford, staged a delightful show of dolls, dolls' houses, etc.

The Club enjoyed a financial success with this promotion which will help them to carry on with their welfare work in the district.

KATHERINE E. M. TERROT

(Founder-Chairman)

Another Stage Star

I see in your July issue that Mrs. Cattermole lent her Siamese cat to star in "Bell, Book and Candle." I did the same.

My neuter (Rummy) appeared at the Croydon Grand Theatre for a week and she behaved beautifully. She enjoyed the extra petting so much that after her week of excitement was over she went in search of more and stayed out for two nights, a thing she has never done before and luckily has not done since. She has now settled down to the humdrum of home life.

Who says Siamese are not versatile and amenable?

MRS. O. E. APPLEYARD

Thornton Heath, Surrey.

About that letter you were going to send us. Why not sit down and write it NOW? Correspondence Corner is YOUR feature. Please help to keep it interesting and of value to other cat lovers.



Tailpieces

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



ELEANOR LAURITSEN, central figure in a Chicago divorce suit, got £13 a week alimony, plus £4 a week for her five cats.

A court in Milan, Italy, assessed the value of an "average cat" at 1,000 lire, roughly 11s. 6d., when they inflicted a fine of this amount on the local University. The owner had handed over his pet for treatment by the veterinary department of the University. The cat was lost. The owner sued for 100,000 lire, which amount included the cost of erecting a marble monument to puss.

Three neuter cats became winners of the coveted Premier award during the 1955-6 Show Season. They were Pr. Arctic Snow, owned by Mrs. M. Trevor, Pr. Quantocks Peter, owned by Mrs. Digney, and Ch. & Pr. Thiepval Snowcloud, owned by Mrs. M. E. Crickmore.

In our January issue, under the title of "My Wife's Cat" we printed an intimate little story about Jacko, the pet Siamese of Mr. & Mrs. O. Eigeldinger, of Twickenham, Middlesex. Now Mr. Eigeldinger has an unusual hobby—he grows orchids extensively and very efficiently and his interest is shared by Jacko, whose demands include a comfortable cushion and, during the cold days, a position in the warm cattleya house. Cattleyas, in case you don't know, are a variety of orchid—no bovine association at all! Really this paragraph should be headed "A Cat Among the Cattleyas." Since we told the cat world about Jacko I am very interested to discover that he was written up on two occasions in that popular journal for horticulturists

Amateur Gardening. Apparently Jacko has become so absorbed in orchid growing that he now seeks out, sniffs out and approves any new addition to Mr. Eigeldinger's collection.

I wish to pass on editorial regrets for an error which crept into the article by Mrs. A. Hargreaves, F.Z.S., under the title "Breeding for a Champion." It occurred in the paragraph which quoted a well-known Siamese judge as having referred to some of the present day show exhibits as resembling "undersized ferrets" and opined that "sickness was no substitute for type." The word should have been "sickliness" and not "sickness"—which makes all the difference.

We may still have a few thunderstorms that will terrify your pets. A cat should not be left alone during one of these storms and should it become over-excited and need a sedative, 2-3 grains of bromide of potassium is the correct dosage.

When Soho held its Fair Week recently the P.D.S.A. Theatreland Dispensary was gaily decorated with flags and ribbons. Several illuminated X-ray plates were displayed to show the public some of the extraordinary things found inside cats and dogs.

Did you read the newspaper story of "the cat that never was?" It all started when Mrs. Agnes Hallett, of Oldham, Lancs, heard strange noises coming up from the plughole of her sink. She and her neighbours listened intently and decided that they came from a cat trapped behind the wall. Two R.S.P.C.A. Inspectors confirmed these

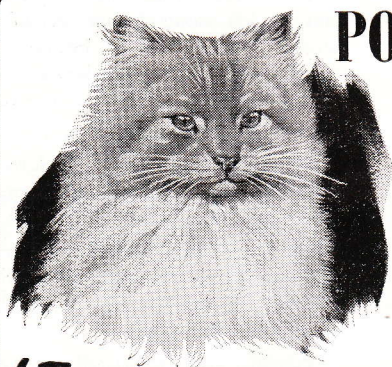
fears and rescue operations were started. As the bricks were being taken down Mrs. Jackson, next door, heard a long pathetic howl as she was working at the sink. The howling appeared to come from her tap and so her suspicions were aroused. A builder was called in and he decided that the noise which had fooled everyone for a week was really due to a faulty washer on Mrs. Jackson's tap. So the work of demolition was stopped, but not before £10 worth of damage had been done, and everyone retired happy in the knowledge that the mystery had been solved.

John Stoddart (44) and his brother-in-law Ralph Sims (41) were gaoled for two months by Wallsend magistrates for causing unnecessary suffering to a cat by killing it in an improper manner. Stoddart said the animal scratched him as he bent to stroke it. He picked it up in his temper by its tail and crashed it down several times on the concrete path. A neighbour saw this terrible deed and rang for the police. Sims, the other bright beauty, got an extra month for being drunk and disorderly at the time.

You all know about the friendly atmosphere which existed at sea between the owl and the pussy-cat. On land—at Winchmore Hill—there is a different tale to unfold. Blackie, 11-year-old pet of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Sanford, has been arriving home bearing marks of battle and it is believed that his assailant has been a brown owl. Twice his head has been deeply scratched. Another cat in the vicinity arrived home with a hole in his skull and subsequently died. A vet agreed that an owl may well have caused the wound. The Sanfords believe that Blackie, who has a white ring around his neck, is attacked when after the same prey as the owl.

When the aircraft carrier Theseus sailed for Mediterranean waters in connection with the Egyptian crisis, there were three "stowaways" aboard—a male and two female kittens. The tom has been christened and named after a certain Egyptian colonel!

MICKEY



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

LAST month we said that lethal genes could be divided into three groups, and we discussed those which could be classed as ordinary lethals, and those termed balanced lethals. Lastly, we will consider sub-lethal genes.

Besides genes which are lethal, there are others which have effects harmful to the organism, but not necessarily fatal. These effects frequently take the form of what are generally known as hereditary diseases, and so, may be termed pathological effects.

Perhaps here we ought to point out that although we speak of a disease as being hereditary, it would be nearer correct to say that it is, in many cases, only the suitable conditions which are hereditary, and that the actual disease itself follows. Such effects with which we are now dealing may, in mammals, be manifested in a variety of organs and ways, affecting either the nervous system and the sense organs, the muscular system, the blood system including the heart, the excretory system (kidneys) or the reproduction system.

Genetically determined disorders of the nervous system have been studied in some of the smaller animals, but little detailed work of this nature has been done in the case of cats. In rabbits, four different nervous disorders have been specially studied—shaking palsy, which is inherited as a simple recessive; spastic paralysis in which both hind

legs are affected, and which is also a simple recessive; springomyelia, an asymmetrical spastic paralysis usually affecting merely a hind leg, occasionally a front leg also; and epilepsy, usually attendant to one breed only. In dogs it has been found that epileptic tendencies are widespread in certain breeds, and appear to “run in families.” Fortunately, these conditions are only very rare in the cat.

Several hereditary abnormalities of the eye, leading to partial or total blindness have been reported. Buphthalmus is a condition in which the eye becomes distended with fluid and its contents opaque, and loss of vision follows. It is inherited as a simple recessive but with normal overlaps, indicating that the gene attains full expression only on a particular genetic background.

Eye Defects

In cases of cataract, opacity of the lens is observed. The onset occurs chiefly in animals nearly or quite full grown. The condition has been studied particularly in rabbits. Inheritance is found to be recessive, F_1 animals being normal. In a backcross population of nineteen, it was observed that three affected individuals appeared, the expectation being nine or ten. This indicates the probable occurrence of normal overlaps as in other eye and nerve defects. Other hereditary defects of the eye are glaucoma, coloboma, micro-ophthalmia

and anophthalmia (fissure in the wall of the eye, small eyes, and eyelessness).

Abnormal growth of eyelashes (trichiasis and distichiasis) in some animals can cause trouble by touching the eyeball. Prominence of the eyeball, often combined with low corneal sensitivity renders the eyes very susceptible to damage. An article in the *Veterinary Record* (1930) deals with this subject. The condition is apparently inherited, but no exact data is available in the literature.

The most topical of hereditary eye afflictions at the present time is the condition popularly known as night-blindness, more correctly named progressive retinal atrophy. The condition has been found to be fairly wide-spread in the Irish Setter. Breeding tests yielded strong evidence that this condition was inherited as a simple Mendelian recessive, and at the request of breeders, the British Kennel Club took steps to prevent afflicted Setters and those known to be carriers from being registered or bred from, except for the purposes of test matings.

Genetical Elimination

Despite certain difficulties which could lead to errors in test-mating, the method adopted has in fact led to a great reduction in the occurrence of retinal atrophy in the breed, and the intelligence and stamina of the breed appear to be improving incidentally, probably as a result of the outcrosses to less popular strains which breeders were forced to use. Thus, progressive retinal atrophy in the Irish Setter constitutes one of the rather rare instances in which the use of genetical means of elimination was clearly indicated, and fully justified in practice!

If both hereditary and non-hereditary forms of retinal atrophy exist, as it is fair to suppose they do, the identification and therefore the elimination of the hereditary form will obviously be most difficult, and this raises the whole complicated question of the value of genetical methods of eliminating defects and diseases.

As with other inherited characteristics, what is inherited is not a defect or a disease, but a developmental tendency or susceptibility. If methods of environmental control can, with reasonable ease, prevent the tendency reaching fulfilment, then the inherited condition becomes unimportant from the breeder's point of view. Genetical methods of elimination are always costly and difficult, even where a genetical factor behaving in a simple Mendelian manner is involved.

Planning with the Vet

Where less clear-cut inheritance is manifest, genetical methods are even more difficult and uncertain. In withholding an animal from breeding because it can pass on a known defective tendency, all the desirable qualities of the animal are also sacrificed. Therefore, *it may at times* be desirable to breed from an *outstanding* animal, especially if its good qualities are not as yet widespread in the breed, even though it is known to be a carrier of hereditary disease.

Once a general decision to apply genetical methods of disease prevention has been adopted, there is inevitably some discouragement of effort to discover veterinary methods of prevention of that disease. If, however, a satisfactory method of prevention or cure is discovered, then all the efforts of the breeders to secure genetical elimination are rendered at least partially superfluous. The decision to apply genetical

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methods of disease elimination is therefore one which should only be taken in cases where the mode of inheritance is very clear, where the disease or defect is itself of a serious nature, and where there seems to be no likelihood of finding a simple and inexpensive method of veterinary prevention or cure.

Serious abnormalities should not be tolerated in breeding stock, but where these exist, genetical elimination should be planned in collaboration with the veterinary profession, as proper diagnosis and a knowledge of scientific methods are essential.

Selection against trivial conditions or those whose inheritance is uncertain (e.g. cryptorchidism), especially when conducted by breeders not really capable of correct veterinary diagnosis, is merely a waste of effort and liable to harm the breed by the elimination of good animals which need not have been sacrificed.

(To be continued)

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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.

A Fine Kitten Show

A COOL summer day greeted the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club Show on July 28 at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster. It was ideal weather for the exhibits and to attract spectators, which it certainly did, as the "gate" was the second best this Club has had and one of the most profitable post-war ones, even when compared with London Championship Shows. Festival Year (1951) still holds the gate record.

I wonder what some of the old-time fanciers would have said to a kitten show of these dimensions—388 exhibits consisting only of kittens and neuters and a gate "approaching" £300. In pre-war days we were pleased if it exceeded £20. A convincing tribute to the fast-growing popularity of cats!

Mrs. E. Aitken, Hon. Secretary of the K.K. & N.C.C. and Show Manager, had worked for many weeks to achieve this result and she has been splendidly

assisted by her husband, Mr. K. Aitken. His help is especially valuable because of his good practical knowledge of cat affairs. The Committee were beaming with satisfaction at the result.

The publicity before the Show in the national newspapers was excellent and Mrs. Ennismore's and Miss McAllister's curly coated Rex cats all the way from Cornwall captured the imagination of several writers for the press, including Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald in the *News of the World*, with its vast circulation. Miss Alison Aitken's photo appeared in the *Star* and *Evening News* with them. They are the cats which Mr. Jude has described in previous numbers of OUR CATS.

Mr. Macdonald Daly mentioned the day and the venue whilst I was handling Alison Aitken's Noend Snowman on ITV six days before the Show; this also was valuable publicity.

An innovation was that the Show was held on a Saturday, and one wonders if it is a more attractive and convenient day for the public. It was most noticeable that there were many more men spectators and family parties than usual. Among many others I noticed Mr. and Mrs. Kirby-Smith with their four young sons and Mrs. Kirby-Smith senior, Mr. and Mrs. Jewell with their son and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Aitken's two daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Hughes with David, Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh with Virginia, Mrs. Newbigging with her son "Wee Mac," from Linlithgow, Scotland. The last named pair were working all

day and Mrs. Newbigging presented a fine cake for the raffle and many special prizes.

Visitors from abroad whom we were very pleased to see were Madame Ravel and Madame Sarrazin from Paris, and from nearer home Mr. James Norbury of television fame and his Secretary, Mr. Brian Clayden. I was delighted to hear later that all enjoyed the Show; it was the first time Mr. Norbury and Mr. Clayden had attended a cat show.

Many of her friends made inquiries for Miss Kathleen Yorke whose illness prevented her from being present. Miss Lelgarde Fraser was another absent friend. Happily both hope to attend the first Ch. Show of the season at the same venue on August 22nd.

Some of the Best

The principal awards were :

Best Longhair Kitten in Show—Mrs. Brunton's Gay Crusader of Dunesk, a Blue male by Champion Foxburrow Frivolous ;

Best Shorthair Kitten—Miss Bone's Nigella Sabre, an Abyssinian male by Champion Contented Amigo ;

Best Longhair Neuter—Mrs. Trevor's Chinchilla Arctic Snow ;

Best Shorthair Neuter—Mrs. Tilley and Miss Clark's White Knight ;

Best Household Pet—Master Martin's Shorthair Brown Tabby, Timothy.

Twenty-three Siamese neuters competed for the Premiership, the winner being Mrs. Channing's Seal Point Bradgate Punchinello by Maiz Mor Marquis. In a class of Any Variety Shorthair Cat or Kitten Neuter (24 competing) Mrs. Stockbridge's Seal Point Siamese Rama M.N., by Ch. Bluehayes Foxy, was the winner. Premiers were not eligible for this class. In Black Longhair kittens Mrs. Dyer won with Slapton Salome (by Ch. Chadhurst Sambo) and in Whites Mrs. Dallison with Dalmond Impudence by

Ch. Carreg Cracker. Best Blue Female Kitten was Mrs. Parker's Prestwood Mignonette by Ch. Bayhorne Ajax.

The Chinchillas were lovely. Mrs. Turney was first in the younger kitten classes with a litter brother and sister Bonavia Contenta and Bonavia Marietta by Ch. Mark of Allington, and in the older Chinchilla classes Mrs. Hacking won with a pair by the same sire. It was nice to see her exhibiting again—she has been on a long visit to Ceylon which she told me was very enjoyable.

Mrs. Stephenson had Best Cream Kitten with Ashdown Puffball and Mrs. Nash Best Blue-Cream with Hendras Delphine. The other varieties I did not have time to mark in my catalogue as the judging of Household Pets took some time but the Longhair litters were lovely, the winners being Mrs. McLeod's Chinchillas by Bluecroft Day. Miss Page's five Blues by Mrs. Culley's Bennaven Laddie were charming and one of these was purchased by a newcomer, Mrs. Jewell of Carshalton, who was awarded first in the Novice Exhibitors' class with her Blue-Cream Jewel of Pensford.

Miss Jury's litter of five by her Silver Tabby female Bunt of Rockvillia and the Blue male Gwynn of Allington were very cute and there were some delightful Brown Tabbies among them.

These notes have to be sent to the Editor immediately after the Show so there has not been time to ascertain the winning Siamese kittens. But perhaps Mrs. K. R. Williams will deal with these in our next issue.

Altogether it was the lovely Show we anticipated and one with the atmosphere of success which a crowded hall always gives.

Television News

It was an interesting experience for me to be on Mr. Macdonald Daly's ITV programme "Animal Crackers" on July 16th and 23rd which is so called



Associated-Rediffusion

Mr. Macdonald Daly, well known T.V. personality, is seen here with an English rabbit and VICTOR OF PENSFORD, Cream male kitten now owned by Madame d'Haeselaer of Brussels, Belgium.

because so many of us are "crackers" on animals. He, of course, is the famous judge and writer about everything appertaining to dogs and has travelled in many countries fulfilling engagements. On the last programme he had a beautiful little Pinscher bitch named Sugar which he was captivated by when judging in Mexico. She had just come out of quarantine; fully grown she weighed just seven pounds. She was very alert and inquisitive when put into the glass sided play pen with a Flemish giant doe just twice her weight. Mr. Ralph Blake, a well known judge of rabbits, was present on both occasions and his comments both on and off television were very interesting.

The cats on view (July 23rd) were Alison Aitken's White Manx Noend Snowman, who behaved as though he was accustomed to being "on the air" every day, as did Mrs. Lucille Davies's Cream male Oscar of Pensford. Before the transmission, many things were happening which could have alarmed them but they took everything in their stride.

Whilst Oscar was waiting his turn another camera was focused on a Black Chow doing an obedience test with a dumb-bell about three feet away. His place was taken by a famous Red Chow owned by the Comtesse de Changy who had flown over from Brussels especially to see the programme. I heard later that she was also enthusiastic about the cat transmission. On the first programme Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous appeared and was his usual placid self, also his small Cream son Victor of Pensford who flew to Brussels three days later and is now owned by Madame d'Haeselaer.

In my opinion the pale-coated cats, such as Whites and Creams, look the most attractive on television. Some years ago I saw Miss Steer's beautiful Chinchilla Ch. Langherne Winsome and she looked superb. Their sweet expression, lovely eyes accentuated with black eyelids, lend themselves to striking photographs. So I hope we shall see this variety soon on TV.

Miss Castleman Brown's Peruvian cavy was remarkable. Its fur was

about sixteen inches long, and was folded in strips of paper carefully rolled up until just before transmission. She was speaking to me "off the air" about cream cavies and it was interesting that breeders of these have a problem similar to breeders of Cream cats, striving to get pale coats. There is a tendency to get lightness near the roots but as she quite rightly pointed out one sees this in nearly all fur-bearing animals. One difficulty, however, which we have with Cream cats which is unknown in cavies is to completely eliminate a tendency to tabby markings, especially on the forepaws.

My theory is that as nearly all Longhair cats must have descended from Tabbies and as such a variation would be protective colouring in the wild they are more difficult completely to eliminate than any other markings.

Mr. Ralph Blake and Mr. Tom Latham, the latter a veteran breeder of rabbits, expressed interesting views about the effect of showing on breeding and I gathered that some of the famous exhibition does are not used for breeding, as they cannot keep in tip top condition and have young. What a pity! Surely it is the best that should perpetuate themselves! As an example of the enthusiasm of some rabbit breeders Mr. Blake said: "One breeder keeps diagrams of the spots and markings of every English rabbit he breeds and now possesses hundreds. As he also records the parents which have produced each rabbit he has valuable material to help to produce the ideal."

Mr. Macdonald Daly is a delightful and experienced commentator and I am looking forward to viewing the animals on his next programme. Naturally cat lovers would like to see more time devoted to their pet subject.

Danish Show Preparations

Mrs. Rudy Eisenhuth of Racekatten Club, Denmark, informs me that their

Championship Show will take place on October 19th-21st. The venue will be the Music Hall which is the newest and most modern hall in the heart of Copenhagen at the world famous Tivoli pleasure gardens which were founded in 1843 by Georg Carstensen. Here there is every facility for the comfort of exhibits, judges and spectators. Mrs. Eisenhuth hopes that their veterinary authorities will permit cats from other European countries to enter Denmark to compete.

English judges have been invited to officiate—Mrs. E. Aitken for Longhairs and Miss Val Prentis for Siamese and Shorthairs. They have a treat in store for apart from the Show, which is always so lavishly staged, Copenhagen is a lovely city and my three judging engagements there are among my happiest recollections. The number of spectators is amazing considering the population, sometimes nearly 12,000 in three days.

Busy Also in Norway

Mrs. Judith Saether sends news of the Norwegian Ch. Show to take place on December 15th. She regrets it coincides with the National Cat Club Ch. Show at Olympia as several of our well-known judges will be judging or competing here. It will be the first Ch. Show under Governing Council rules at Olympia so it is an event few of us feel inclined to miss.

I was sorry to hear that Vigilant Teddy Boy, the lovely Blue male which has already been awarded two Championships and been "Best in Show," and the very well bred young Chinchilla male Robert of Thame have both been neutered. Their owner found there were not enough females of their variety in Norway to keep them as entire males so now they will both be pets and add lustre to the neuter classes.

Mrs. Saether has become very interested in gardening. She writes:

"I find cat shows in the winter and gardening in the summer is a very nice combination. Growing flowers is such a rewarding hobby. If things go badly one year, like last summer when we had a long drought, there is always the next one to look forward to. This summer every one of my 250 rose bushes is profusely in flower, so the garden looks beautiful. I have a lot of catmint at the back of the rockery and Premier Fox-burrow Firefly adores it. He rolls in it and goes into ecstasies. I cannot think why he always grows such a wealth of coat in summer. It doesn't appear to distress him but unfortunately the sun takes some of the bloom off the colour for the winter shows."

I imagine the type of catmint she refers to is a tall-growing variety with an insignificant white flower. It looks something like nettles. This variety really does excite cats. I had to uproot it from my own garden a year or two ago as they rolled in it and often came in covered in earth after rain. The low-growing variety of catmint with a mauve flower appears to create little interest.

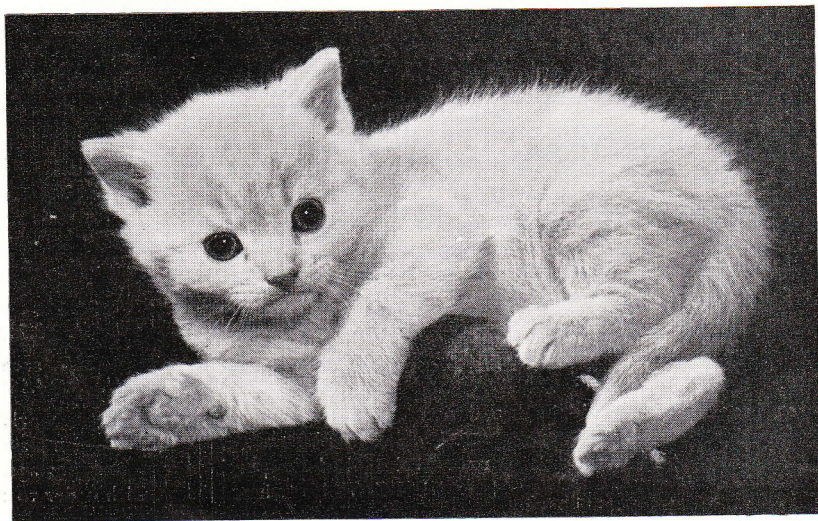
Public Taste—Cream Bunne !

Mrs. Attwood, of Cheam, Surrey, is another breeder who has a Cream Shorthair male—Aldra's Cream Bunne. He was only 4½ weeks at the time the photo which appears below was taken. This picture, by the way, was awarded a challenge cup for the most popular photograph judged by public vote at Bexhill photographic competition ; which attracted over 300 entries.

Cream Bunne is the fourth-generation all of which are Shorthairs, possibly the fifth, but among his great-great-grandparents there is one cat which may be a Longhair. I saw this kitten later at the Kensington Kitten Show where he was first in his open class. He has a lovely head and large round eyes, excellent in colour.

Picture Appeal

I should like to endorse the remarks made by Mrs. K. R. Williams in the July issue apropos a Cat Photographic



Surrey and South London Picture Service

**This cute little fellow is Mrs. E. F. A. Attwood's ALDRA'S CREAM BUNNE
—see reference above.**

Section or some other attraction at our shows. Everyone who saw the lovely cat and kitten photos from all over the world at Olympia, and at the Festival Show organised by Captain Williams the next year, must have been impressed. Since then there must be hundreds more in existence which would create interest. This idea was followed up at the Blue Persian Cat Society Show last year but was confined to one breed. Such a section would add considerably to the work of organizing a show but it could reasonably be delegated to someone appointed by the Committee.

Burmese in Bucks

On a visit to Mrs. Waldo Lamb at Gerrards Cross, Bucks. I much admired her Blue Burmese kitten by her own male Lamont Patrick and Ch. Chinki Golden Goddess. It is not blue like a Russian or Blue British but a lovely shade of dove grey accentuated by the sheen on its silky coat.

Lamont Patrick is that rarity, a well behaved male, and sleeps on Mrs. Lamb's bed. Golden Goddess was in a room with her daughter but only because she wished me to see them, otherwise they

would have been playing hide and seek in her lovely garden, as were the Siamese neuters, which did not put in an appearance during my visit. A small cat family living under very happy conditions.

Passing of a Magazine

I must express my regret and sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. Sydney France that their monthly magazine *Cats and Kittens* ceased publication with the July issue. The illness of Mr. France two years ago probably first made him contemplate this step and the ever rising costs of production and distribution made it "a labour of love," so regretfully he came to his decision. One senses a note of sadness in his final editorial "Candid Comments" and in his wife's notes "Your Cats and Mine." They are both genuine cat lovers and to quote Mr. France apropos the magazine, "Its object is dear to my heart, the creatures of its title have been the cause of much pleasure mixed, sometimes, with not a little sadness."

Any Fancy is the poorer when it loses one of its ambassadors.

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Showing and Show Manners

By IVOR RALEIGH

THE most common mistake made by novices in showing their cats is that many of them enter several kittens in a class and thus load the dice against their own chances as far as the financial side of showing is concerned. A novice with a litter of kittens ought first to obtain the advice of an experienced breeder and, having sorted out the best of the litter, show it in as many classes as he can afford. The remaining kittens should be put into a selling class or, if young enough, into a litter class.

One frequently sees four or five kittens entered in one class by an inexperienced exhibitor, presumably under the impression that he is thereby improving his chances of winning. A little consideration will show the falseness of this presumption, for only the best kitten of the lot will be in the race for a first prize. In any case, only three money prizes are offered, the third of which is less than the entry charge.

Consider a case where the exhibitor has five kittens in a litter and feels that he can afford 40s. or thereabouts to spend on entry fees. If he enters all the kittens in the open class and wins the first three prizes, a rare event, he will receive 35s. His entry as a club member will cost him 37s. 6d. including benching and he will therefore be 2s. 6d. out of pocket.

If, on the other hand, his best kitten is entered in the open class and four side classes, and the others are entered in the selling class, his entries will cost him 53s. 6d. and he can win well over £5. Better still, if he leaves his four worse kittens at home, his entry will cost him 27s. 6d. and he can win £4. Thus by showing only the pick of one's stock one

can more than cover expenses and, at the same time, increase the chances of winning firsts.

There are times when a litter consists of almost identically good kittens and it is hard to decide which of them is the best one. In such cases it is good practice to discard all but the two best kittens, enter them both in the open, and then enter each of them in as many *different* side classes as one can afford.

Another mistake to be avoided is the entering of kittens, unless they are "fliers," in mixed cat and kitten classes for a good cat will nearly always beat a good kitten. Breeders of Longhairs other than Blues should hesitate before entering mixed Longhair classes open to Blues. The superior "type" of our best Blues is such as to make it almost impossible for another Longhair to beat them unless it be quite an exceptional specimen of its breed.

Acquire an Understanding

What does the novice exhibitor do once the cards are up? Does he rush to the bar to drown his sorrows or does he complain to all and sundry at the "incompetence" of the judge who placed that ugly cat over his pretty one? What he should do is to go to the awards board, copy down the numbers of the winning cats of his particular breed and then go over and look at them carefully. By this means he will slowly acquire an understanding of the kind of quality which is sought by the judge in a winner, and, after a season or two of this discipline, our novice will be well on the way to becoming a knowledgeable member of the Cat Fancy.

When we come to the question of show manners, the first thing to get straight is that no one, unless he is a bit peculiar, likes being beaten. Having accepted his basic premise, we see that having good show manners simply means being able to lose sportingly. Your cat may be beaten for one of two reasons, namely, that he is not good enough to win or else, that the judge who puts his down does so because his own idea of a perfect cat differs from that of most other judges of the breed.

Some ninety per cent of failures to win are due to the first cause and the answer is to breed or buy a better cat. If the second contingency should arise, do not rush up to the judge and tell him what you think of him. Instead, have a look at the cats to which he has awarded firsts, notice their special features and when you next have a cat with these characteristics pop him into all the classes in which that particular judge is officiating. This technique is known as "sailing with the wind" and it pays dividends, makes friends and influences people.

Be a Good Loser

Should you come to a show with what you know to be a good cat and find that he is beaten by a better cat, do not poison either the other cat or its owner, however much you may want to do so. Instead, go over and congratulate your opponent. This practice not only makes you feel all warm inside but gives you the reputation of being a good sport and makes people buy you drinks.

If your cat is beaten and you feel that he should have won, do not tear the slip off the awards board. You can be chucked out of the Fancy for this kind of behaviour.

If you feel that your cat has not been placed as high as he should have been, wait until judging is over and the exhausted judge, who works harder than

anyone in the show, has had a quick drink and then ask him why he thinks your cat should not have won. The judge will mumble something under his breath, tell you his reasons and, as I have said before, his reasons will be good ones.

A final word of advice. If you are fortunate enough to breed or otherwise acquire a cat who becomes a Champion, resist the temptation of trying for a world record. Give some other bloke a chance to feel the rare joy of achieving the same end. In short, try to put as much happiness into the Fancy as you get out of it.

CATS AT VICHY

THE Cat Club du Centre of France held their first International Show at Vichy last month under the auspices of the President Mme Villechaise and M. and Mme Guidon. The show—a two-day fixture—was a great success (reports Mrs. M. Mackenzie, who was the English guest-judge) and visitors came from Belgium, Switzerland and Paris. Some heard for the first time of the great loss which the French Fancy has sustained through the death by accident of Int. Ch. Alex des Princes and all who knew this fine cat in England will sympathize with Mme Letertre in her sad misfortune.

The Longhairs were well represented and of superb quality. Best in Show—Mme Villechaise's Dragon Bleu de Bois Clary. Best Female—Mme Letertre Int. Ch. Wild Violet of Dunesk. Best Kitten—M. Guidon's Flagship de Padirace. In Males (Champion of Champions), 1st went to Mlle Curchod's Sunrise of Pensford, 2nd to Mme Chaussebourg's Int. Ch. Banco de Martainville, an excellent Black. In Females (Champion of Champions), 1st went to Mme Letertre's Wild Violet of Dunesk, 2nd to Mme Fuchs' Int. Ch. Astrid (White), 3rd to Mlle Pelherin's

Int. Ch. Yecla (Birman). Also present (the concert pas) were Mme Esteve's Int. Ch. Yewhatch Anson and Caprice de Martainville. What wonderful specimens !

Blacks were represented by Mme Gay's Effendi du Bosquet and Dagny du Bosquet and Whites by Mme Aeschli-mann's Ewir. Blue Females were headed by Mlle Courtillier's Dona Calina de Bois Clary and Mlle Coste's Dolly and Loveliness of Dunesk. Mme d'Alleizette

won with her Chinchilla Ch. Charlotte of Brentside.

In Creams Mme Briault acquired CAC with Emir du Claire de Lune. This variety was excellent for type but rather hot in colour. Blue-Creams, with the exception of Mlle Curchod's Kirkgate Dolly Varden, were either too blue or too cream but all were of excellent type with good eye colour. Mlle Delacour exhibited a fine litter of Blues.



S. K. Skerman

A last minute brush-up before judging at the Verwood, Ringwood, Hants, Cat Show. Four-year-old Belinda Miller's AMBERLEY BONNY was declared the Best Pedigree Cat in Show by judge Mrs. K. R. Williams.

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In Memoriam

PEACEFULLY on July 27th, "KIM," aged 6 years 4 months, the very much beloved Siamese friend of Mr. and Mrs. McCausland Yate, of Coffinswell.

Miss R. L. Bedford, of
7 Hollingsworth Road,
Lowestoft, Suffolk, writes:

"I think it was my brother who first called our little cat 'Roger the Lodger' because, in the first place he was not mine but belonged to some people a few doors away. However, he made friends with our two cats and before long was spending most of his time here—he would always be around at meal times! Then his owners left the district without including him in their plans and so Roger moved in here for good and was no longer 'the lodger.'"

Roger has been on Kit-zyme Tablets all the time and is now so fond of them that he helps himself as soon as the lid is taken off the jar. I enclose a genuine photograph of him actually holding a tablet in his paw.

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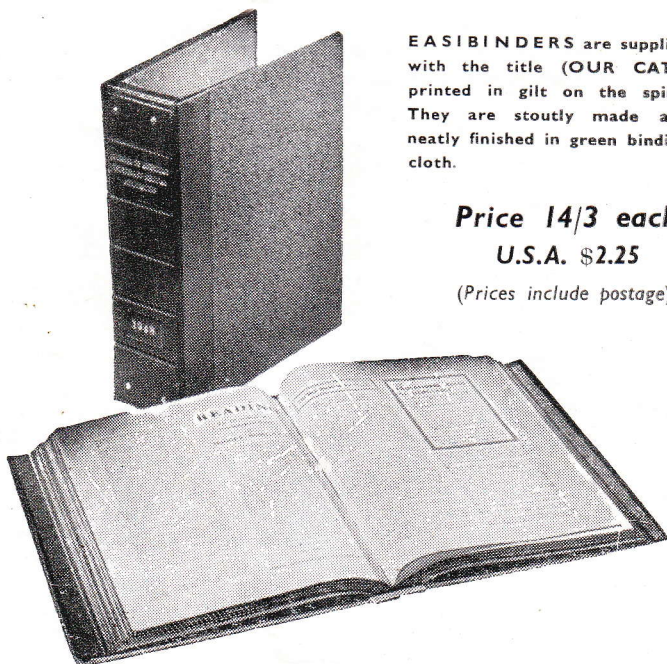


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