

# Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



WONDERMENT!

JULY 1957

1/6

*SILVERSEAL ISIS, a young Shorthair Silver Tabby bred by Miss Monica Thake and owner by Miss Jennifer Watson, of Tansley, Derbyshire, and winner of the award for the Best British Shorthair of the Leeds & N.W. Counties C.C. Show this year.*

All cats love

**KIT-E-KAT**

AND ALL YOU DO IS OPEN IT!



For *every* meal of *every* day  
Here's goodness in the quickest way!  
It's full of fish, it's full of meat;  
*All* cats love Kit-E-Kat 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. 9 No. 7

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

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*D. E. Tyler*

**What weather for a fur coat ! It's enough to make a fellow wish he could get it stored away in the "fridge."**



ROLLYWOOD RONDOLAY, a young male Chinchilla bred and owned by Mrs. Helen Amos, of California, U.S.A., has been Best Kitten every time he has been shown. Parents are Double Grand Champion Michael of Beverly-Serrano and English-bred Marissa of Allington.

## 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 1957-58 Season are provided below for the information and guidance of readers.

1957	Promoted by	Venue
3 August	Chislehurst and Sidcup U.D.C.	Sidcup, Kent
5 "	The Far Forest Agricultural Society	Far Forest, Kidderminster
5 "	Urmston Council Show	Flixton
10 "	Siamese Cat Society of the British Empire	London
17 September	Herts and Middx. Cat Club	London
25 "	West of England and S. Wales Cat Society	Bristol
<i>(see display for arrangement of these)</i>		
8 October	*Siamese Cat Club	London
9 "	*The Blue Persian Cat Society	London
12 "	*Edinburgh and East of Scotland Cat Club	Edinburgh
16 "	*Southsea Cat Club	Southsea
26 "	*Midland Counties Cat Club	Birmingham
26 "	*Scottish Cat Club	To be fixed
2 November	*Preston and District Cat Club	Preston
13 "	*Croydon Cat Club	London
28 "	*National Cat Club	London
7 December	*Yorkshire County Cat Club	Leeds
17 "	*South Western Counties Cat Club	Bristol
<b>1958</b>		
11 January	*Notts and Derbyshire Cat Club	Nottingham
28 "	*Southern Counties Cat Club	London
1 February	*Scottish Cat Club	To be fixed
8 "	*Lancashire and N.W. Counties Cat Club	To be fixed

\* Denotes show with Championship status. A detailed list of these shows may be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, Mr. W. A. Hazeldine, 1 Roundwood Way, Banstead, Surrey. We hope that many of the shows will be advertised in OUR CATS during the course of the 1957/8 Season.



## ***The case for pet shops***

Do you have any dealings with pet shops or do you feel they are places to be avoided? Although strong views sometimes revolve round this question, we feel sure this contribution by one who has had many years' experience in the purchase and re-sale of all kinds of pets to all sorts of people "over the counter" will be read with unusual interest.

A SHORT while ago, I was required to find for an overseas customer, a kitten of one of our less popular varieties. Having no breeders of this variety on my books, I made it my business to trace the secretary of this particular specialist club. Over the telephone I asked her help in getting in touch with breeders who might at that time have kittens for sale.

On hearing who I was and from where I was calling, this lady declined quite firmly to give the assistance I sought, with the qualifying "I am sure that none of our members would wish to sell to you. We all like to know where our kittens are going!" This may be an admirable sentiment, but my view is that this lady did her club a disservice.

Again, it is not three weeks since I was called to the phone to speak to another lady who asked if I would be interested in a litter of Siamese she had for sale. I made my usual enquiries as to the size, age, type and numbers of sexes in the litter. These were just about right for my market.

I then asked the price she had in mind for them and was prepared to pay the figure she mentioned without quibbling. But, on suggesting that she bring them to my shop whenever convenient to herself, I released the fury of an outraged mother. "I would not *dream* of bringing them to a *shop*!" she cried, "I mean that you can sell them and I'll give you a commission." I began to explain that

we never sold other people's stock under our guarantee, but didn't get very far before the phone was banged down on me.

The sequels to these two stories are perhaps worth recording.

In the first case I was able to find the kitten I wanted through another agency, and my customer duly received the pet she wanted. The breeder knew who was buying her kitten and was very pleased when, a week or two later, I was able to report that the baby had arrived and settled down happily.

In the second case, I labelled my caller "Unbusinesslike — Unrealistic" and forgot about her, with only the passing reflection that she was quite prepared to use all the hard-earned resources of my business, and offer in return a commission that would not have paid for the time I'd have to spend on her transaction alone. In short, she would have cost me money.

My purpose in quoting these two stories is to illustrate how long prejudice is a-dying in the minds of cat breeders and cat fanciers. For believe me, they are a race apart. No other group of animal lovers has this bitter antagonism towards pet shops. And yet, what justification is there for this attitude to-day?

Every pet shop must be annually licensed by the local council. The regulations governing the holding of a licence state very clearly that each animal or bird must be housed, cleaned, fed and attended to regularly in accordance with its needs. None must be placed where it can suffer annoyance from any person or other animal. All must be despatched

in suitable containers. The law does not permit the sale of animals or birds to children under the age of twelve years, without the permission of a parent or guardian. That's the legal side summarized.

Should any pet trader or dealer, through callousness or lack of understanding, allow his creatures to suffer in any way, he loses his stock or its partial value, his goodwill and, eventually, his business. Moreover, he becomes the target of the police, the various animal welfare and protection societies, the press and inevitably the most fearsome foe of all—the British public!

### Soon "settled in"

Pet dealers generally deal in livestock not just because they *like* animals but also because they are *interested* in them. It is rare to find a pet shop proprietor or assistant who does not keep at least one personal pet himself. Most have several. And, while they may not personally be enamoured of *your* particular choice of creature as a pet, they do know its particular needs and idiosyncrasies.

My diehard reader will no doubt be saying at this stage: "Right, admitting all your arguments, I still say that pet shops are not the places for kittens. The atmosphere and noise sends them frantic. All my kittens are reared quietly at home and are loved and cherished." Well, so they may be. But that does not alter the fact that they are animals and have purely animal natures, instincts and reactions.

I would say that 98% of young kittens coming into the sometimes deafening din of a pet shop settle down *completely* in less than twenty-four hours. In fact, as soon as they realize that their new surroundings and strange noises do not hurt them, they utterly ignore them and get down to the serious business of eating, sleeping, washing and playing—all the things that make up a good kitten's life. Those over the age of four months generally take a little longer, sometimes as much as four days.

I myself have never had one remain aloof or frightened longer than that, and kittens of this age group are seldom bought for resale. Not all traders are as fortunately placed as I am, and caging conditions are not always as new as mine. But let me dispel the idea that kittens hate cages. They don't. They become as used to them as any other form of livestock. That does not mean to say that they don't enjoy half-an-hour's scamper about on the floor after shop hours!

My kittens are fed almost exclusively on raw beef, although fish may be given once if an appetite is jaded or if a particular kitten or litter has "hung fire" and been in the shop for ten days or so. Water is given and usually preferred to milk, although, realizing that most of the babies have been reared on milk, it is always offered. All kittens are inoculated with F.E.V. within 24 hours of arrival. The toilet trays are sometimes misunderstood and it is not uncommon to find a whole family in one, packed like sardines, fast asleep with their heads over the side.

### An outlet for kittens

These are my reasons for breeders not fearing to sell to a shop. What of the other side? What does a shop offer the breeder?

Not a profitable price to compensate for his or her time, trouble and expense, it is true. But then, how many breeders can truthfully say that their cats pay under any circumstances? No, a shop is a useful outlet for kittens under show standard; for "once-only" litters bred for the queen's sake and not wanted for commercial exploitation; for "left-over" members of litters; and, I will finally claim, a fine means of advertising some particular breed to the general public who, in the main, do not go to cat shows.

Perhaps my unconverted opponent will say "I would still rather give my kittens away to good homes than sell them cheap." Well, were I a breeder, still my answer would be "Who can guaran-

tee a permanently good home for an animal?" I prefer to think that the person who takes a kitten into his or her home and who may subsequently lose interest in it will, if they have paid so much hard cash for it, pay more attention to an unloved but valuable animal, than they will to an equally unloved and, to them, valueless kitten.

## Be prepared

Finally, a few "do's and don't's."

If you are contemplating selling to a shop, don't bring Longhaired varieties. There just isn't time in these days of staff shortage to see that they are thoroughly groomed, and ungroomed long-coated kittens are not only a painful sight but a bad advertisement for themselves and the vendor. They are in demand, but it is better for all concerned if you keep them at home and only bring them to your selected trader when he can effect an immediate sale.

Do please have a proper and complete pedigree made out for each kitten.

Don't bring the parents' pedigrees to

the shopkeeper to copy. This ensures that mistakes through bad writing are not made, and also that your own parent cats' pedigrees do not go astray.


If you want to keep track of your kittens, particularly if the variety is limited in number, register them individually or as a litter before you take them to a shop.

No sensible shopkeeper will put you in touch with his customer after a sale has been made—that would be bad business, not from the point of view of the inevitable disclosure of the final selling price, but because he has a duty to his customer to see that he is not troubled by a complete stranger through his agency. Should the customer ask for the breeder's name and address, that is another matter.

And, please do not sell runts that should not have been reared, or kittens under nine weeks old. That may sound unnecessary advice in these enlightened days, yet twice in this last month I have had to return tiny kittens that I'll swear were no more than four to five weeks old—and they had come from breeders of pedigree stock.



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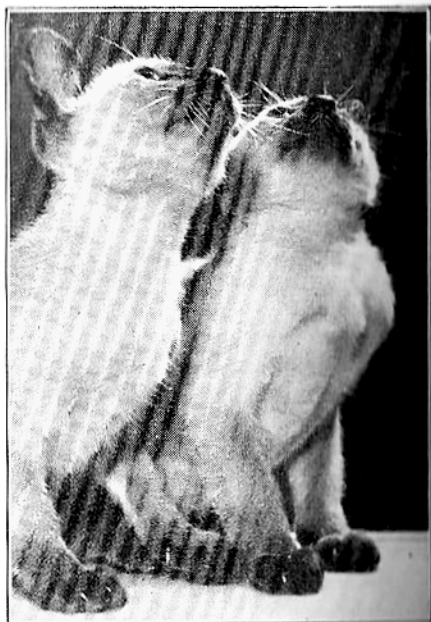
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**KLAMATH TRIGGER (S.P.) and  
KLAMATH TRUDY (C.P.)**

Two of Watermill Surah's Kittens by Tristram.  
They and their brothers and sisters won 46  
awards in the 1956-7 Show season.

**MR. G. H. KIRBY - SMITH**  
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*"My wife and I thought you  
might be interested to see the  
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them!"*

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a colour-point stud, a Siamese, a  
Burmese, a Blue-cream Long-  
Haired and a colour-point queen  
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and the kittens very soon learn to  
copy their mother's excellent  
example. They must know what's  
good for them!"*

*We would not dream of being  
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wonderful tonic."*

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

SOME examples of mutation have been discussed recently in these notes, and readers have asked for more about the subject as a whole.

Primarily, life has three attributes which have made evolution possible. The first is the very essence of life—its capacity to reproduce itself. The second is a progressive force which creates new variations in the pattern of living; it is called "mutation," which means "change." The third is a conservative tendency which preserves the variations produced by mutation; it is called heredity.

Without reproduction, life would cease altogether. Without heredity, there would be no continuity between generations. Without mutation, there would be no variety, and life would never have evolved beyond its first forms.

All the organs of a body consist of tissues such as bone, muscle, and nerves. The tissues consist of cells; the cell contains a nucleus; the nucleus contains chromosomes; chromosomes carry the genes. Mutations are changes in chromosomes and genes.

The body develops from a single cell—the fertilized egg which contains a particular number of chromosomes according to the animal kind. The egg divides to form two cells; these divide again to form four cells, and so it goes on until the whole body with its perhaps billions of cells has been formed.

Before every cell division, chromosomes and genes are duplicated. Every cell therefore contains the same number of chromosomes carrying the same genes.

The process by which chromosomes and genes are duplicated is remarkably accurate. It results in millions and billions of cells with exactly the same genes. But sometimes, perhaps once in a million times, something goes wrong. A gene undergoes a chemical change, or the new gene is not exactly like the old one, or the order of the genes on the chromosome has been changed.

## When cells split

It is the *process* of change in a gene or chromosome which we name "mutation." Its result, the altered gene or chromosome, is also often called mutation, but to avoid confusion it is better to speak of a mutated-gene and a re-arranged chromosome, and reserve the term mutation for the *process* which produced them. The individual which shows the effect of a mutated gene or re-arranged chromosome is called a mutant.

When a chromosome on which a mutation has occurred makes a duplicate of itself in preparation for the next cell division, it copies the mutated gene or the new gene arrangement as faithfully as it copies the unaltered portions. In this manner a mutation is inherited and becomes perpetuated exactly like the original gene from which it arose. The

enormous variety of genes which are formed in every living species results from mutation, many of which may have occurred millions of years ago.

A study of identical twins offers a means of studying the interaction between genes and environment. Identical twins are formed when a fertilized egg splits into two and each half develops into a whole embryo. They are, so to speak, the two halves of what nature originally meant to be one individual, and as all the cells of one individual carry the same genes, identical twins carry the same genes. Whatever differences from each other they show must be caused by the different environmental conditions to which they have been exposed.

Even in this splitting of the cell something sometimes can go wrong—the kitten only four months old who had to have a kitten removed; the little girl aged 7 who similarly had to have a partly-formed baby removed; the lady who after the birth of her baby, also had to have a partly-formed growing baby

removed some weeks later. All these would be cases where normally, there would have been twins, the carrier one twin, the one removed being the other.

Now-a-days, the matter of mutation has become quite topical. For many years now, mutations have been induced in the laboratories by the use of ionizing radiation. The best known and most thoroughly studied type so far has been X-radiation, and most of our knowledge of the biological effects of ionizing radiations has been derived from experiments with X-rays.

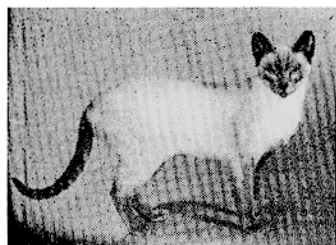
Ionizing radiations occur naturally in the atmosphere as cosmic rays, and they are given off by naturally radioactive substances in the soil. Nuclear fission produces ionizing radiations both directly and indirectly, the latter through the radioactive material which forms the "fall-out" of atomic bombs or H-bombs.

If an animal is put under an X-ray machine, various things may happen, and if the dose is high enough, the animal may die. It is interesting to note that a

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fly requires a very much higher dose than does say a mouse, to kill it, in spite of the greater size of the latter. One of the reasons is that a fly passes all its growth and development in the maggot stage, so that its body contains hardly any dividing cells. The mouse however, has many dividing cells in its skin, in the lining of its gut, and above all in its blood-forming organs. It is the dividing cells which are most easily damaged by radiation, and their absence makes the fly highly resistant to the killing action of the rays.

Killing by rays is, however, not the end of the story of the effects from radiation. If, say the mouse, receives a lower dose, it may survive, but it may suffer various kinds of damage. With a still lower dose, the mouse (or other animal including man) may not suffer any visible damage, but it may become sterile because the reproductive cells or germ cells are among the most sensitive in the body, and are easily destroyed by radiation. When radiation damage to the germ cells has not been too extensive, the sex-organs may recover after a time, and fertility could be restored.

## Exposure to radiation

Certain physicists who were exposed to radiation during an atom bomb explosion were, in fact, sterile for a period of years. When the damage (or change) is not visible, health may be *apparently* unimpaired, there may be a normal span of life, and normal number of offspring could result—radiation seems to have been completely without effect. Yet it is just these seemingly ineffective exposures to ionizing radiation which cause the geneticist to worry about the future in the atomic age—the person who has been exposed to a high radiation dose dies or becomes sterile and leaves no progeny, but a person who has been irradiated without losing fertility, or who regains fertility after a period of sterility, produces offspring from reproduction cells which have been exposed to irradiation, and

in such cells, mutation is likely to have occurred !

In addition to gene mutations radiation may produce breaks in the chromosomes, and one of three things may finally happen. The break may heal, i.e. the broken ends come together as in original arrangement. If the break fails to heal, the nucleus now contains chromosome fragments. If several breaks have occurred in the same cell, the broken ends may stick together in a new way, so that new types of chromosome are formed. There may be an exchange of pieces between two broken chromosomes. This is known as a "translocation." A translocation may involve any two chromosomes whether they are partners or not, and the exchanged pieces may be of very different lengths.

The actual process "mutation" is of little practical use to the fancier, but the subject is interesting, and can, under present circumstances, give rise to much food for thought !

*(to be continued)*

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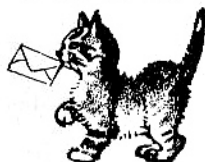


**SEALCOAT SINOKE, a baby Burmese bred by Mrs. C. F. Watson and owned by Mrs. Downton, of Kidderminster.**



## 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.



### The Young Idea

I received the following letter about a week ago and thought it very charming. It came with a covering letter from Elizabeth's mother, plus the pedigree. Tiné is a Siamese queen and I was able to find "a suitable husband!" Elizabeth has now become our youngest breeder member. Her letter ran: "Dear Mrs Judd, I am five and I want my Tiné to have some babies. Will you find her a nice husband? Love, Elizabeth."

MRS. JOAN JUDD  
(The West of England and South Wales  
Cat Society),  
Tockington, nr. Bristol.

### The Australian "Set Up"

May I be permitted to amplify a little Mr. Fred Pearce's interesting notes (April issue *OUR CATS*) on the "set up" of cat clubs in the Australian Commonwealth?

The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy of Australia, whose headquarters are situated in Melbourne, Victoria, controls all the cat clubs in the Commonwealth, excepting only those in New South Wales which, as Mr. Pearce rightly states, are governed by the Royal Agricultural Society Cat Club. Affiliated with the Governing Council are four Victorian Cat Clubs, two South Australian Cat Clubs and one Queensland Cat Club. In the not-too-distant future, we confidently hope a Tasmanian Club will be formed and affiliated with the Governing Council.

The Council is a democratic body and consists of: (a) an independent Chairman who is elected annually. Since the

position of independent Chairman was created, it has been held by Mr. A. Urban, able, good humoured and wise, the owner of Russian Blue cats which are a rarity in this country; (b) the Secretary and Registrar for Longhairs, Mrs. W. R. Matheson. Mrs. Matheson has long been one of our ablest all-breed judges and a well-known breeder of Longhairs; (c) the Registrar for Siamese, Mrs. R. W. Patterson. Mrs. Patterson is one of our very newest Siamese judges and breeder of the "Rewa" strain of Siamese; (d) two delegates or proxy delegates appointed annually from each club.

MRS. ISABEL M. H. PATTERSON  
(Registrar for Siamese)  
Hawthorn, Victoria, Australia

### When to Mate

I am frequently asked by owners of young queens: "Is she too young to be mated, she is only eight months?"

I have always found it rather difficult to make a decision on this as, of course, the number of previous "calls" and the general health of the queen have to be taken into consideration. However, whilst reading some back numbers of *OUR CATS* recently I found an article by Mr. Soderberg in the June, 1949, edition, entitled "Difficult Queens," in which he says that he has found that holding a queen back too long makes it difficult to get her in kitten. Towards the end of his article he mentions Helga who called for the third time when she was seven-and-a-half months' old.

This is what he writes:—"Yes, she is in kitten and she is only eight months old! Whether I have acted wisely I shall know later."

Well, we all know that this mating turned out extremely satisfactorily as Helga is the mother of that wonderful cat Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous, born in 1952!

MRS. PHYLLIS HUGHES  
Cheim, Surrey.

## BOOK REVIEW

**B**RIAN VESEY-FITZGERALD'S "*Cats*" is the best book of its kind that I have read. It is a fully illustrated and comprehensive guide to domestic cats (both pedigree and non-pedigree), their history, breeding, training and general welfare. I was delighted to receive my copy from the author and feel sure it will soon be in great demand. It is published by Penguin Books Ltd., Harmondsworth, Middlesex, and as it costs only 5s. I can imagine how welcome and useful it could be as a special prize at our shows.

The chapter on the Natural History of the Cat is of the utmost interest. The Origin and History of the Domestic Cat, much of which I did not know, and Chapter 3 which deals with the Quiddity of the Cat (the essence, the

essential quality of the cat) are other sections which are excellently presented and calculated to add considerably to one's store of knowledge. The chapter on Quiddity takes the whole cat body from commencement and its progress to completion and explains it so efficiently. The various sounds used by the cat are aptly described—the warning cry or growl to her babies when danger threatens, the cry of gratitude for actions in help, bumbles or miaows when greeting a dog friend or meeting a stranger dog. There are so many sounds that your pet uses to tell you what he wants or wishes to do.

The Longhair breeds are well described and the standard for each is given with the various points for coat, colour, etc. The same appears for the Shorthairs, including Siamese, Russian Blues, Burmese and Abyssinians. A chapter covers Genetics and there is in fact in "*Cats*" practically everything that breeders and pet owners should know, presented clearly and concisely. There are also many good pictures of most breeds and some grand ones of ordinary cats, really delightful to see.

KATHLEEN YORKE.



**CH. RANIA'S SU-WANNIA OF PRIETA, lovely 8-months' old Orange-eyed White Longhair owned by Mrs. Marion Bellen, of the Prieta Cattery, Oakland, California, U.S.A.**

# ***Let's look at grooming***

By P. M. SODERBERG

*(Reprinted from an earlier issue of OUR CATS)*

**T**HE importance of grooming to the cats themselves is perhaps not as clearly recognized by owners as it should be, for it has to be remembered that it means much more than merely improving the cat's appearance to the eye of the beholder, the beholder in this case being either the owner himself, a prospective purchaser or a judge doing his best to sort out a large class at some show.

I realize, of course, that from the point of view of all three the results of grooming are obviously important. The owner derives a well deserved satisfaction from seeing his cats neatly groomed; the prospective purchaser may well have his mind made up for him just because the little extra that grooming provides is visible in a kitten which has attracted him; a judge may have to decide his first and second in a class merely on the fact that one cat has been better groomed than another. So close is competition at times that the presentation of the cat is all that is left to decide the issue between two outstanding specimens.

Quite a number of exhibitors must have been shocked during the past year or two to read that a cat of theirs had not done himself justice just because his grooming for the show had been inadequate.

Now here is the first point that must not be forgotten. It is that neglect in this matter of grooming is something which cannot safely be permitted at any time. It is quite possible to get away with it with a Shorthair, but neglect the coat of a Longhair for three weeks and it will

take you three months to get things right again. A case where "the punishment fits the crime."

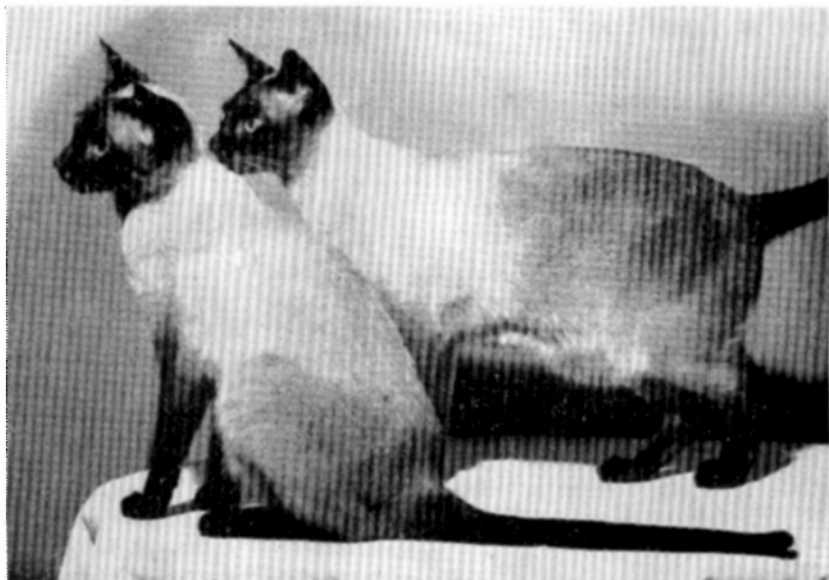
But first of all let us look at grooming from the point of view of the cat. Whether we like it or not, most of us are compelled to live in an environment in which dust and dirt abound. We may get rid of it to a large extent by the use of mechanical devices plus a fair amount of elbow grease, but this sort of cleaning is not so easy for a cat.

## **Longhairs cannot cope**

In the first place no cat should have long hair and it is most remarkable that this hair should be several inches long. Generally speaking in a state of nature practically all animals have short, thick coats, and it is largely the result of man's selection that the long-coated cats have developed.

Now a Shorthair can make a pretty fair attempt at keeping its coat in condition, but that must not be taken to mean that the animal should be left to groom itself entirely without help. Modern conditions, as has already been stated, make the task just a little too difficult. There is also some suspicion that our cats, now so long domesticated, do not feel the same urge to clean themselves as much as when they were still wild. A Longhair is really quite incapable of dealing adequately with her own coat and her rough tongue, her only tool, may make matters worse rather than better.

Thus grooming must be regarded as a daily duty for all cat owners whether the cats are pedigree or merely just cats. It is perfectly true that the household pet



A handsome pair of English exports—TSCHUDI SHEBA and TSCHUDI TAMA (a neuter)—bred by Mrs. F. Tschudi Broadwood, of Send, Surrey, and now owned by Mrs. Dorris Bartow, of Plainview, New York, U.S.A. Both have done well in competition and now Sheba's first litter is anxiously awaited.

## Brand's Essence is palatable nourishment that even the sick cat can rapidly digest



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"Safeguarding  
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Mayfair Works,  
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WHETHER in real illness, or when a cat is just "off colour," Brand's Essence is the ideal strengthener. Cats will often take a teaspoonful when they refuse everything else. It provides the cat with the valuable meat protein it needs. And being partially predigested, Brand's Essence is rapidly absorbed with almost no strain on the system. It contains no added salt or preservative—cannot possibly irritate.

Whenever extra nourishment is indicated there's nothing better than Brand's Essence

As a nourishing stimulant at show-time or whenever the cat is subjected to strain; to build up the mother-cat; and as additional feeding for the kittens themselves from the age of three weeks, there's nothing better—or more acceptable—than Brand's Essence. And it's a rapid general conditioner.

**Brand's Essence**  
BEEF • CHICKEN

of no known ancestry may come to no apparent harm if his coat is not looked at from one year's end to the other. No cat has yet confided in me, but I strongly suspect that even this plebeian feline would feel all the better if a brush and comb were used on him.

I should add here that to me grooming implies more than just attention to the coat, for ears and eyes, not to mention more remote parts of the feline anatomy, should come within the grooming routine.

### **Tools for the job**

The tools required for the job are simple enough and of these the most important are brush and comb, cotton wool and orange sticks. The only materials required are powder (light carbonate of magnesia) and some safe insecticide with a small quantity of warm water.

The most dangerous tool is the comb, for it can easily do far more harm than good.

For this reason, if for no other, it should be used very sparingly, and during the greater part of the year a careful combing once a week will be sufficient. During the moult more frequent combings will be very helpful in removing dead hair, which has to be done if the new coat is to be satisfactory.

It is most important that combs should be of the right type, for one with sharp-pointed teeth not only removes dead hair while performing the normal function of a comb but also tears out much of the undercoat with disastrous results to the coat that is growing. It is kinder to the cat if you try any comb really vigorously on your own head first. You may well decide that the points of the teeth need rounding off before you set to work on your cat.

### **Choice of brushes**

The brush used on Longhairs should not be stiff, for a soft-bristled brush is much more likely to be effective. The coat must be brushed in the opposite direction to that in which it normally

lies. If you look at the coat carefully you will soon see that there are a number of directions in which brushing will have to be done.

By careful brushing the coat can be opened out right down to the skin, and it is when the coat is exposed in this way that the toilet powder may be introduced. This may be done several times a week, for a coat that is well powdered is much less likely to become greasy and consequently, at some later stage, matted. Insect powder need only be used on rare occasions except during very hot summer weather when fleas are occasionally too numerous to be pleasant.

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### **THE BEXHILL CAT CLUB**

Wednesday the 5th June saw the 8th annual show of the Bexhill Cat Club. It was opened by the well-known author, Beverley Nichols, who is President of the Club. Miss Terrot, the Founder/Chairman, in a short opening address, said how much Mr. Nichols' interest in the Club was appreciated by members.

In his speech, Mr. Nichols referred to the widespread cruelty to animals and said that it was due to such Clubs as this, and other charitable organizations, that much of it was relieved. He himself is well-known as a cat-lover, and he told members that he would like to have a hundred cats in his lifetime. In order to keep a count of his progress in this direction, he names every cat he has by a number.

The main attraction of the show was a competitive exhibition of cat tableaux and photographs of cats. These were judged by Miss Dunmow and Mrs. Pike, who experienced great difficulty in choosing the best from the many original and clever ones on display. In addition, Beverley Nichols presented an autographed copy of one of his books for the tableau of his choice.

As well as the tableaux and pictures, there were several well-run stalls, exhibitions, raffles and competitions which all made their contributions to the success of the day.

# Notes for Novices

By "ENTHUSIAST"

HERE, to conclude, is a résumé of some of the most important points brought out in the three previous articles.

DO get your cat used to daily grooming.

DO try to get him used to travelling in a travelling basket and accustomed to meeting strangers and being handled.

DO make your entry for a show as early as possible.

DO be meticulously accurate when filling in your entry form.

DO make a list of all you will want at a show and make sure that you take every item.

DO arrive at the show hall as early as you can after the time advertised in the schedule for the commencement of "vetting-in."

DO thoroughly disinfect your pen.

DO let your cat have a chance to use his sanitary tray before you place his blanket in his pen.

DO have a really nice warm white blanket for your cat to lie on.

DO make sure that your pen is securely fastened.

DO leave the show floor at once when requested by the show manager.

DO go to your pen and see to the comfort and wants of your cat as soon as you can after the public are admitted.

DO offer your cat as early as possible food and drink after the show has been opened to the public.

DO put up the cellophane on the front of your pen as soon as possible after the public have been admitted.

DO give your cat a final polish up if he is to be brought out for "Best in Show." Find out if he is to be brought out by enquiring of the show manager, but not before 3 p.m.

DO see the show manager at once if the entries you have made do not conform to those shown in the catalogue.

DO realize that the comfort of your cat always comes first.

DON'T approach judges while they are at work. They are doing a most difficult job which requires intense concentration.

**This is the fourth and last instalment of an A to Z guide presented in simple terms by one who is well qualified and experienced to give advice and encouragement to novices and beginners.**

DON'T get worried if your cat, though "Best in Show" at his last show is not even placed at the next. An exhibit is judged on his showing on the day, and not on what he looked like a month or even a week previously.

DON'T if you are lucky enough to win any prizes, expect to receive them on show day. You probably won't get them for at least another three weeks.

DON'T bother the show manager unnecessarily. You will generally find other exhibitors most kind and ready to help and advise you.





# Veterinary Questions Answered

By M.R.C.V.S.

## About eyes

**A Scottish reader asks :** *I would be grateful if you would help me with the problem of my kittens' eyes. I have a healthy Siamese queen who gave birth 12 days ago to four very lively and strong kittens. All four had their eyes open by the fourth day, the first kitten opened his two hours after he was born and each day after another opened its eyes. As far as I can tell, all eyes seem perfect. I have read that it is a bad thing for kittens to open their eyes too soon, but the books never give a reason for this condition or explain what trouble it can cause. I should perhaps add that my kittens were four days overdue.*

**M.R.C.V.S. replies :** I do not think you need have any fear for the kittens' eyes. It is usual for them to open about the ninth day but as you say they were born four days overdue, that probably accounts for the earlier separation of the lids. All I would advise you to do is to keep the kittens away from strong sunlight for a day or two.

## No milk sop

**A Gloucestershire reader asks :** *I have acquired a three months-old Siamese kitten. To my surprise it bluntly refuses to take milk and bread. Otherwise it feeds quite well on cooked meat, cooked liver, pilchards mixed with potatoes or vegetables, and sometimes on raw meat in very small quantities. What would you advise me to do to get this stubborn but otherwise very nice little thing accustomed to milk and bread as part of its daily meals?*

**M.R.C.V.S. replies :** I see no reason why you should be worried because your kitten does not like milk ; and bread, of course, is not a staple diet for adult cats. She does like what is necessary for her diet, namely, meat and fish, and that is all you need provide.

## Bladder trouble

**A Lincolnshire reader asks :** *My four years old female cat (spayed) has developed bladder stones. My local veterinarian gave me*

*some tablets which he said would dissolve the stones but he also said he could not cure the cat of her trouble. She is all right for a while after having the tablets, then the attacks start again. Is there something I can give her whilst she is well to stop the stones forming again? Do you agree with my vet that there is no cure?*

**M.R.C.V.S. replies :** If there are actually formed stones in the bladder they can be removed. But if the obstruction is caused only by minute particles of grit (probably in the urethra) it is not so easy. Often, however, they can be dislodged by passing a cat catheter. X-raying would greatly help the diagnosis. The drug usually used to acidify the urine and so prevent the formation of gravel is acid-sodium-phosphate, 5 grains daily if possible in small pills ; or the same dose of amphotropine (Bayer) for an indefinite time. The bladder must not be allowed

## The West of England and South Wales Cat Society.

### ALL BREED CAT SHOW (EXEMPTION)

### AT THE CORN EXCHANGE, BRISTOL

on

Wednesday, Sept. 25th, 1957

Classes for all Registered Breeds, Junior Exhibitors, "Experimental" Breeders and Domestic Pets.

The Society offers many beautiful cups & prizes.

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### THE LADY MAYORESS

Judges will be: MRS. L. FRANCE, MRS. E. KENT, MRS. K. R. WILLIAMS, MRS. A. COOK-RADMORE and MISS KIT WILSON.

Open to the public from 12 noon to 6.30 p.m.

Entries close August 15th. Schedules from : MRS. D. CLAVIER and MRS. JOAN JUDD, MILLIN MANSE, THE RHOS, NR. HAVERFORD-WEST, PEMB.

This is the first cat show to be held in Bristol since the 20's. Please help to make it an outstanding success!

to fill up or distend, otherwise there will be a cystitis and possibly death.

## Breeding problems

**A Berkshire reader writes :** *I would be grateful for your advice on these two problems : (1) A young male cat, well grown and nearly 2½ years old, healthy, bright and energetic, both testicles down, madly keen to copulate, but has not been able to mate any of my queens. His urine has not the usual unpleasant smell ; (2) A 5-year-old queen purchased from a friend who had bred from her without trouble. Sent away for mating twice last year and although she appeared to be pregnant, had no kittens. This year she was mated in February and March, each time having an abortion at about the third week. (Other details of matings follow—Editor.)*

**M.R.C.V.S. replies :** As regards your first problem you do not make it clear as to whether the tom is unable to penetrate the vagina, or whether there is no progeny as a result of mating. I think you should allow your local veterinary

surgeon to examine the cat for physical disability. The veterinary surgeon should also examine the queen of your second problem as in view of vaginal discharge she may have a pyometra. Or the abortion may be due to a B/H Streptococcal infection, which could be combated by inoculations of a vaccine. Alternatively, abortion may be prevented by the injection of a luteinizing hormone, all of which items should be entrusted to a veterinary adviser on the spot.

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**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.**

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FRED W. PEARCE—Australia's leading judge—sends

## ***News from "Down Under"***

**S**INCE writing my last notes, things have been active in our cat world and three shows are now history.

St. George District Cat Club was first on the list. Their show was held at Arncliffe (approximately six miles from Sydney) on 18th May. Mrs. C. Mason is President and Mr. Phil Brown Secretary. Three judges were on duty and although a little late in starting they completed their work in good time. The benching and exhibits fairly bulged out at every door and window and obviously this Club must try for a larger hall, where the light is also good. Jubilee medallions were given the members and they were most attractive.

Major awards were : Best Cat in Show—Mrs. Cain's Blue male Myowne Biggasboy ; Best Opposite Sex—Mrs. Freeman's Shaded Silver Marlee of St. Elmo ; Best Kittens—Mrs. Wood's Blue-Eyed White Delhi Arctic Echo and Mrs. Cooper's Blue Male Mycrest Mylord ; Best Neuters—Mrs. Cook's Delhi Arctic Prince and Miss Smith's Kintyre Leilani ; Best Siamese in Show—Miss G. Williams' S.P. male Bluemead Touche ; Best Opposite Sex—Mrs. Martin's S.P. Bluemead Rapunzel ; Best Siamese Kittens—Mr. Whatley's Hookstone Blue Haze and the same breeder's Hookstone Heaven.

The next show on the list necessitated an air trip of 600 miles to Melbourne on 1st June, when Melbourne Cat Club of Victoria held their Jubilee Championship Show and Kitten Parade in the lovely Lower Town Hall, where five judges operated. Mrs. Williams, the Secretary, had the fixture well organized and the opening ceremony was performed by Miss Mary Parker, of H.S.V.7. The Melbourne shows are always a happy

reunion for me and this time I received cheery greetings from everyone.

Major awards were : Best Persian in Show—Mr. G. Dyke's Blue Regent Iris ; Best Opposite Sex—Mrs. Wheeler's White Delhi Arctic Viceroy ; Best Champion Male—Mrs. Bicknell's Ch. Kalmia Tom Puss ; Best Champion Female—Mrs. Murch's Ch. Lorne Brae Louella ; Best Siamese Cat—Mrs. Scott's Welcot Jasma (imp.) ; Best Opposite Sex—Col. Cole's Pluto of Arden ; Best Siamese Kittens—Miss Saker's Talbingo Tuena and the same breeder's Yonalin Patapon. I am sorry that I have not received a complete list of awards at the time of writing these notes.

The next airing for our feline friends occurred on 8th June, by the old Cat Fanciers' Association, held in conjunction with the Royal Agricultural Society's annual sheep show at their beautiful grounds. Five judges had been appointed but owing to the large entry a sixth judge was added at a special meeting.

This news item will bring back memories for Miss Kathleen Yorke and Mrs. Joan Thompson, both of whom have travelled from England to judge at this fixture. I feel sure they enjoyed it as many attractions are staged at this venue. We had many visitors including a Vice-Regal party and over 800 catalogues for the cat section were sold. The number of cats was 286, with an entry of 400 odd, which I understand is a post-war record here. The Siamese entry of 132 eclipsed all previous figures. We were given the use of the lovely French pavilion erected by the French Government last year for the trade fair and it was greatly appreciated by exhibitors and public.

Major awards were : Best Cat and Best Persian Male—Mrs. Cain's Blue

Myowne Biggasboy; Best Persian Female—Mrs. Herbert's Blue Myowne Sweet Lavender; Best Kittens—Mrs. Baxter's Jai-son of Honky and Mrs. Wood's Delhi Arctic Echo; Best Neuters—Mrs. Cook's Delhi Arctic Prince and Mrs. Cottell's Woodlin Liza; Best Siamese—Miss Williams's S.P. Bluemead Touche and Bluemead Anna; Best Siamese Kittens—Mrs. Higgin's Jairmino Timur and Mrs. Tchan's Tahanton Jai Joi; Best Brood Queen—Bluemead Anna; Best Neuters—Mrs. Quinn's Eastern Wane and Mrs. Williams's B.P. Purachatyr Blue Idyll.

I have a very important date with a lady and a clergyman on the 15th June and am off to New Zealand four days later. So my next notes will be from there. A big "Cheerio!" to all.

F. W. PEARCE.

## GREETINGS!

The cryptic reference in the last paragraph of Mr. Pearce's monthly newsletter relates to his pending marriage with Miss Thelma Young, one of the best-known breeders of Longhairs in New South Wales. Apropos this interesting occasion in Australian feline circles we have received the following comments from Miss Kathleen Yorke, Chairman of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, who visited Australia and New Zealand last year to meet many leading personalities in the Fancy and to judge at a number of shows. Miss Yorke writes:

All readers of OUR CATS who knew him and read his notes on Australian and New Zealand cat clubs and shows, will congratulate Mr. Fred Pearce on his wedding to Miss Thelma Young, of Sydney, N.S.W., a very well-known breeder of Longhairs, Chinchillas, Blues and Silvers. Miss Young has bred some lovely cats and is also known as a judge in Australia. After her marriage she will give up breeding cats and concentrate on judging, which Mr. Pearce thinks she

should do, as she is very good and came out first in the examinations for judges.

Both are delightful people and should have such a happy life, as they are so interested in the same hobby. Their honeymoon will start in New Zealand where Mr. Pearce will judge at the Southlands Show at Invercargill; then off to Auckland to judge again on the 27th and 28th June.

I hear that the Auckland promoters have a great entry this year of 170, 90 of which are Longhairs. Mr. Pearce will certainly be fully occupied in separating the very lovely cats there and with the youngsters now old enough to come into the open adult classes he will have his work cut out.

It was a headache last year to separate for my Best Longhair Exhibit in Show Ch. Merryman of Dunesk and Ch. Slapton Black Magic. The Shorthair Ch. Spotlight Pride stood out and there was never any hesitation in placing this very beautiful Siamese S.P. First and Ch. and Best Shorthair in Show. He excels in all round quality, type, colour and shape. Mrs. Joan Thompson when there in 1953 made him her best Shorthair, and Black Magic was her best Longhair. Mr. Fred Pearce the following year made the same placings, proof to all of the outstanding quality of this pair.

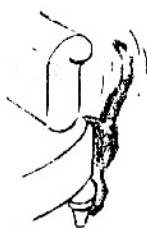
From Auckland the bridal couple fly back to the South Island and visit and judge at Dunedin. Later they go to Rotorua for a rest and this is something they will both enjoy. It is an amazing place to visit. I was lucky to be taken there by Mrs. Downey and Mr. and Mrs. Marshall before I went on to Wellington where I received another wonderful welcome from Mrs. Davies, President of the Wellington Club.

Mr. Lonsdale and his daughter Mrs. Whyte gave a reception to Miss Young and Mr. Pearce and several other celebrations were held for them; both are most popular members of the C.F.A., Sydney. Mr. Pearce is the premier judge of Australia and his services have always been much appreciated in New Zealand.



# Tailpieces

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



A CAT who made a 200-mile journey across England, went without food and water for five days, and had three kittens on the way, has been returned by train from Hoo, Kent, to her home at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire. The cat and her family were discovered when a locked railway truck was opened and subsequent enquiries revealed that she was the pet of the workers at the Cheshire factory.

"Free ! Persian style home accessories in black fur or smart gray stripes. Perfect hearth decorations ! Male and female models come equipped with automatic purr and built-in washing attachment." From the Californian *Suburban News Shopper*, Sacramento.

Miss Edith M. Small, one of our readers who experienced the recent earthquake in San Francisco, writes to say that she and Mr. Boo, her pet cat, came through with only minor damage, such as a few broken dishes—and rather frayed nerves ! She was away at business for part of the time and suspects that Mr. Boo slept through most of the excitement ! Following the quakes, the city switchboard was flooded with calls and just when the operators were at their busiest there came this message from a worried woman : "I've been downtown shopping and can't get out right away because of the earthquake. There's no one at home except my pet cat. Could you have a policeman go there and make sure he hasn't been injured."

Editorial regrets and apologies are extended for some errors which slipped into last month's issue. In Joan Thomp-

son's "Just Fancy" (page 25) read "Mr. *Felix* Tomlinson" for "Mr. Cyril Tomlinson" and on page 31 it should of course read "*Mr.* Ivor Raleigh" and not "Mrs. Ivor Raleigh." It must have been the heat wave !

Snowball, a massive black neuter Shorthair, resident in Sidcup, Kent, possesses the unusual equipment of 25 toes—seven on each front foot, six on one hind foot and five on the other !

An advertisement in a provincial newspaper runs : "Homes wanted for hardy kittens, used to men."

During the hot weather, don't forget to provide your cats with a supply of clean cold water and facilities for shade from the sun.

In a letter to a London newspaper, a S.W. London reader describes the visits paid to her kitchen by a blackbird. Hearing a tapping noise inside the room she discovered the bird thoroughly enjoying a meal of tinned cat food from off the cat's plate. It returned later with a young one, but the youngster would not enter the kitchen for its meal. Later, there were more visits by the parent bird which "unmistakably demanded more cat food."

The Wessex Cat Club held their second Exemption Show at Verwood, Dorset, last month. We have received a report from Mrs. K. R. Williams, who judged, together with an account of the Club's formation and plans for the future. This will appear next month with a picture of the officials of this active and progressive Club.



**"Muzzie" Nelson** appears here with the attractive photographic display he arranged for a cat show at a Detroit, U.S.A., departmental store, which was visited by over 16,000 people in two days.



**A Blue Longhair male at 10 months who is being reserved for stud work is GIPPEWYK SUFFOLK PUNCH, bred from Prestwood Robin ex Betsy of Dunesk by Mrs. Clover. Winner of the Blue Persian Male Kitten trophy, he is now owned by Miss Alexander, of Ipswich.**



Many people throughout the world were aware of the late Aga Khan's love of animals. His Villa Yakimour was always the home of a wide variety of pets, among the favourites being Blue Longhairs. The little kitten which H.H. Begum Aga Khan purchased at a London Show a few years back grew up to become a particularly favoured member of the household and was often to be found asleep on the Aga's bed.

*That newsy little item about cats you have read in your local newspaper or in the magazine you have just put down . . . will you be kind enough to clip it out and post it to me in an unsealed envelope? Cuttings from overseas publications are particularly welcome. I send best thanks to all who have helped in this connection.*

MICKEY

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## A REMINDER !

**This Magazine is now available in the United Kingdom on a subscription basis only. Rates are 20s. for 12 issues or 10s. for 6 issues, post free. Orders and remittances should be sent to OUR CATS (Subscription Dept.), 14-16 Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.4.**

**Subscription orders may, if preferred, be placed with your local newsagent or bookseller.**

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## IRRITATION OF CATS' EARS

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



### **OTODEX**

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

**SOOTHING, SAFE AND CERTAIN**

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## SKIN DISEASE

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



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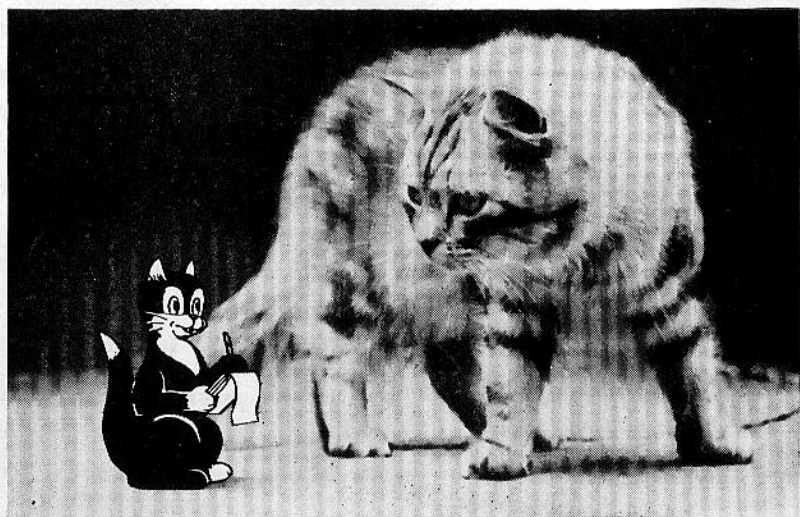
*an outstanding and well-tested remedy. Quite safe if licked.*

**Pots 2/- (post 5d.)**

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## **"DON'T YOU TAKE MY TIBS!"**

*"For a moment he looked suspicious" says Tibby, the Tibs reporter, after a visit to Champion PURRING TOM KITTEN, "then he saw I had my own supply and he became Tibsical and friendly again."*

You should just hear Miss Jury, owner and breeder of PURRING TOM KITTEN, talk about Tibs! At Purring Cattery, Bellingham Road, Catford, S.E.6, she breeds and shows most long hair varieties specialising in Silver Tabbies, and has won cupboards-full of first prizes. "Tibs?" says Miss Jury, "My cats would eat six a day each if I let them! But one's enough. I have proved that for a cat off colour, or a weakly kitten, a Tibs a day is the best possible way of recovering the Tibsical condition. Strong bones, good teeth, good condition and shining coats . . . Thanks to Tibs!"



*Famous  
breeders  
say:*

# **TIBS**

11d. and 2/3

## **KEEP CATS TIBSICAL**



Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

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

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### Australian wedding

**C**ONGRATULATIONS to Mr. Fred Pearce of Sydney, Australia, on his marriage to Miss Thelma Young. I had the pleasure of meeting them both several times when I judged at Sydney in 1953.

Mr. Pearce was kindness itself and arranged a most enjoyable outing the day after I arrived, a picnic in the bush near Sublime Point with tea brewed in the traditional pioneer fashion in a billy-can over a wood fire with a sprig of gum leaves to take away the smoky taste (if any). Mr. Lonsdale and his daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Whyte, and Mr. Pearce's friends Mr. and Mrs. Wood accompanied us on this trip.

Miss Young I first met at the C.F.A. Ch. Show where I awarded her Blue male Milord of Windsor first and Ch., and a Blue Kitten bred by her Playmate of

Windsor, Best Blue Kitten ; two charming exhibits.

Miss Young has spent some time in England and she was speaking of a visit here so let us hope this materializes and that we have the pleasure of welcoming Mr. and Mrs. Pearce in the near future. Here's wishing them every happiness.

### Safe arrival

The four young feline travellers plus Musetta's little daughter all arrived safely at Sydney, Australia, on June 10th.

In an interesting letter which commences on June 5th, Mrs. Rae Herbert writes : " Here we are at Melbourne after being diverted to Seelong. I had three wonderful days at Adelaide where the Adelaide Cat Fanciers gave myself and the cats a delightful and enthusiastic welcome. They are energetic and keen with an emphasis on youth and this newest of clubs will surely go ahead.

" The quartette have come through the voyage very well, they are all in splendid health. The only bad period was going through the doldrums when they suffered from the heat and tummy upsets, which incidentally affected us all as it was due to the water we took on board at Teneriffe. When I suspected the water and boiled it, the family promptly recovered.

" Anchusa Pierre was nominated ship's cat and it became a familiar sight to see him taking constitutionals with we humans. Musetta's kitting was an

anxiety as I feared it might be in the circumstances and it was tragic that only one kitten out of three survived. Her kitting has no parallel in my experience. She had her first kitten on Wednesday and the next two, five days later, a dual conception from two widely separated matings, I suppose, as each kitten when born was alive and fully developed. As the gestation cycle was not complete Musetta had no milk to feed the first kitten and the only milk on the ship was tinned milk which even Musetta would not drink and which was quite unsuitable to hand-feed a newly-born kitten which is so rarely successful even when one has a choice of several baby foods. This little fellow expired before the other two arrived, a male and a female. The female was the strongest and must have taken all Musetta's meagre supply of milk as the male only lived three days.

"After that it was a battle until we arrived at Adelaide to keep Musetta's milk stimulated so that she could feed her one surviving kitten. At Adelaide I was able to buy fresh cow and well-known brands of powdered milk and after that all was well. I have christened her Fidelia after her lovely sire Ch. Fidelio of Allington. She is a little gem, very lovely type with Fidelio's breadth of skull and very lovely large eyes. You can imagine how she will be treasured."

Mrs. Herbert concludes her letter on June 18th: "The cats and the precious baby went into quarantine the day after we arrived and yesterday I was allowed to visit them for the first time. They are all well and as settled as can be expected. The kitten is four weeks old and thriving well now. Australia is enjoying an Indian summer in winter with temperatures in the mid-70's.

"Mrs. Vize has kindly taken care of my cats whilst I have been in England and I found them all well and thriving. I was greeted by the news that my Blue queen bred by her, Myowne Sweet Lavender, had received her first Challenge Certificate and was Best Female

Exhibit the previous Saturday at the C.F.A. Ch. Show at a venue well known to Miss Yorke and yourself."

The arrival of all this family in excellent condition owes much (in my opinion) to them being young adults and to Mrs. Herbert's unremitting attention. Reading the even more detailed account in her letter confirms my belief that kittens should be at least 4½ months old before they are sent on the long sea voyage to Australia or New Zealand. The intense and humid heat of the tropics has to be endured before its effects can be realized and whichever time of the year kittens are sent it is almost inevitable that part of their journey will be hot. Then there is the problem of food which will probably be mostly tinned food if they travel unaccompanied and I have yet to find a tinned food which is not slightly laxative especially to young kittens.

## **Precious fresh water**

Water also can cause digestive upsets especially when it is taken on board at such places as Aden. I well remember the malaise among some of the passengers after we left Aden and the peculiar taste of tea owing to the chemical treatment of the water. We humans drank mostly minerals but what can one offer a thirsty cat or kitten so acceptable as fresh water and to their sensitive palates any chemicals must be nauseating. Brynwood Aphrodite and Musetta both suffered from sea sickness the early part of the voyage but it is probable that their age helped them to recover quickly.

## **"Mayflower's" kitten**

From Detroit, Michigan, I received a delightful photograph from "Muzzie" Nelson, a well-known American photographer, who specializes in animals. It depicts Robert Dunn of London, one of the Mayflower's two cabin boys, holding

Felix the kitten on his arrival at Plymouth, U.S.A. So fortunately the kitten arrived safely in spite of rumours to the contrary and it was his thoughtful solicitude for our peace of mind which prompted "Muzzie" to write. On June 18th two delightful photos of Felix appeared in our *Daily Mail*. He is a black shorthair with white "trimmings" and smart white toes. He looked very alert and the caption read: "Imagine me on the dog watch . . . when there's a bit of lunch around."

Incidentally, Robert Dunn is being married on the deck of the Mayflower when his fiancee arrives by aeroplane from England.

Some of "Muzzie's" photographs will appear in Mr. Soderberg's forthcoming book "The Care of Your Cat." An excerpt from his letter reads: "I liked your item on Mr. Soderberg in April number of OUR CATS. We have had correspondence about the photographs and it has been a wonderful cementing of friendship between cat lovers."

### Long service appreciated

Mrs. Mitchell, Hon. Secretary of the South Western Counties Cat Club, kindly sends news of the Club's Social and Tea Party held at the residence of

Canon and Mrs. Hargreaves, Church Style, Bovey Tracey, last month.

A cheque subscribed by members was presented to the former Hon. Secretary, Miss Cathcart, in recognition of her twenty six years in this office, and appreciation was expressed of her loyal service.

The party was well attended and an interesting talk was given by Mr. Kenneth Smith, Superintendent of Paignton Zoo on "Wild Cats in Relation to Domestic Cats." The date of the Ch. Show has been altered to December 17th and the Show Manager will be the Chairman Mrs. O. M. Lamb.

Miss Cathcart is now Hon. Treasurer and Delegate to the G.C.C.F. for the Club.

### Cheshire Show

From Mrs. Brice-Webb comes news of the record entry which the Cheshire County Cat Show attracted on June 6th, 97 exhibits was excellent at a time of year when Longhairs are usually at their worst, and many Shorthairs without the "bloom" we expect to see in autumn and winter.

The Best Exhibit was Mrs. B. Thompson's Blue Pointed Siamese Laurentide Moonbeam bred I presume



**This interesting exhibit showing the evolution of a Red Point Siamese was the highlight of a cat show staged by a Detroit (Michigan, U.S.A.) departmental store. The ladies are Mrs. Virginia Daly and Mrs. Edith McPhee, prominent American fanciers who loaned exhibits and dealt with the many questions asked by visitors. "Muzzie" Nelson took the picture.**

by Mrs. Hargreaves as this is her prefix. Neuters were eligible to compete for Best in Show, which is very unusual and never permitted at our Championship shows owing to the fact that their coat and condition are never impaired by breeding and that at summer and autumn shows particularly they are invariably in much better coat than our studs cats and brood queens.

Best Longhair Exhibit was Mrs. Johnson's neuter Deebank Noel, bred by Miss Marjorie Bull; Best L.H. male Miss Bull's Cream Sherry of Pensford; Best S.H. neuter Mrs. Budd's Blue British Champion Premier Nidderdale Bumble. The Grand Challenge Class attracted 38 entries and was judged by all three judges, Mrs. Brice-Webb, Mrs. France and Mrs. Hancox, the winner being Lauretide Moonbeam.

In conclusion, Mrs. Brice-Webb writes: "A wonderful show very well organized by Mr. and Mrs. Grunnill. It rained all afternoon but there were plenty of spectators. I was up at 4 a.m. as we motored there, and did not reach home until past 9 p.m. But it was well worth the fatigue, and Miss Bull was cheerful and pleasant as usual."

## Training for judges

The meeting at Dineley Studios, Devonshire Terrace, London, on June 24th, sponsored by Miss Kathleen Yorke was very well attended and many well-known personalities from near and far afield were present. Among others were Mrs. Taylor, all the way from Leeds, Doctor and Mrs. Groom from Kidderminster, Mrs. Watson from Matlock, Derbyshire, Mrs. Wridgway from Cheshire, Mrs. Dunks from Reading, Miss Sheppard and Miss Rodda from near Bishop's Stortford; altogether well over 30 persons.

The meeting was convened "for those people who are anxious to learn the methods of judging and stewarding." It was also an invitation for advice from experienced breeders and judges and

many well known in both spheres were present.

Our method of electing judges in England is by the committees of the specialist clubs which we have organized to cater for the interests of each breed and I gather that the purpose of this meeting was to train potential judges who have few opportunities of stewarding so that they can be recommended to the specialist clubs.

Miss E. Langston gave an excellent address on her method of selecting winners but alas! no judge can impart her greatest asset which is her extensive knowledge founded on years of breeding, exhibiting and in most cases stewarding.

Miss Yorke was very encouraging and has a warm corner in her heart for the ambitious and comparative newcomer. Mrs. Brunton supplemented their remarks and Mrs. Watson spoke on Burmese, Mrs. de Clifford on Russian Blues and Miss von Ullman on Havanas. Mrs. Chapman gave a little talk on stewarding but it did not leave a real impression of her exceptional ability in this capacity, in which she is second to none.

I am often asked "How does one become a steward?" It is not an easy question to answer, as the supply is greater than the demand and when some judges become used to a steward they prefer her services whenever they are available. In addition, personality counts and when this is pleasing, stewarding engagements naturally become more frequent. I always remember the steward who came to me with an exhibit and brightly remarked "Well! I have brought you your winner!"

## Chatty stewards

Some present-day stewards appear to consider a judge's duty is to teach them how to judge, which of course is of minor importance in comparison to their primary duty of concentrating on the exhibits whose owners have paid the appropriate fees to ascertain their opinions. Many judges prefer not to have

a second steward, for one thing they are inclined to chat to each other and incidentally all clubs cannot afford a plethora of stewards. Each steward is probably a person who would otherwise pay for admission and buy a catalogue, items which are given to stewards, plus lunch, quite an expense when one considers we would need any number from twenty to about forty stewards if each judge had two at our Championship shows.

In this country we have unique opportunities for learning the respective merits of pedigree cats. We have such a concentration of shows in a comparatively small area and for quantity, quality and variety it would be difficult to surpass the standard at our present-day London Championship shows.

In some European countries the number of breeders is so small that specialist societies are almost unknown and incidentally this may be the reason why their judges are elected by examination. Mixed club classes which are so popular here and so often the supreme test of an exhibit's merit are only possible here because of the large number of breeders who support the clubs. Such classes are hardly practicable abroad at present.

To return to the meeting. A second meeting will take place this month at the same venue when some cats will be judged and a running commentary made on them. Captain Williams proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Yorke for her organization and the proceedings closed with tea and the usual pleasant cat chats.

## Booklet on Blues

The Blue Persian Cat Society has the delightful custom of issuing each year a booklet in which is published the names of the owners and the exhibits who have registered wins on the Society's cups and trophies.

The Frances Simpson Memorial Challenge Cup for Best Blue Adult goes back as far as 1926. And what an old stager it made me feel to remember each one of

the 34 winning Blues registered on it, all of whom with the exception of six became Champions, or were Champions at the time of their award. Altogether each award on thirty trophies is recorded.

On the last pages are the names of members. The preface is devoted to a report of the Annual General Meeting, the last Championship Show, and the forthcoming one in October. The next Show will be organized by Mr. Felix Tomlinson and Mrs. Hancox (not Mrs. Brunton and Miss K. Yorke as was announced at the A.G.M.) and as Mr. Tomlinson is organizing the Show he will not be judging Blue male kittens so Mrs. Brunton has kindly consented to judge them.

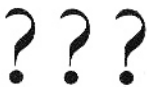
Congratulations are due to the Hon. Secretary Miss J. M. Fisher for this informative and interesting booklet.

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*Mrs. Joan Thompson will welcome news items and photographs suitable for inclusion in "Just Fancy" during 1957, particularly from clubs and fanciers overseas. Contributions—as brief as possible, please—may be addressed to her at 130 Wickham Way, Beckenham, Kent.*



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## **To fanciers overseas . . .**

Panel advertisements in our **DIRECTORY OF BREEDERS** (Longhair and Shorthair sections) are not confined to members of the English Fancy. Indeed, we shall be only too pleased to see the Directory develop along truly international lines. The largest bookable space is a double panel (either down or across the page) and all announcements must conform to our usual typeset style. Full details of rates, etc., will gladly be supplied on request to any of our friends overseas.

From Mill Hill, California, U.S.A., comes the story of a grey cat named Bos'n, who acts as "a seeing eye" to a blind cocker spaniel. The dog developed cataract and starting bumping into things. Bos'n's owners Mr. and Mrs. Rowntree then noticed their cat helping and guiding the dog in a variety of ways—leading him back to the house when he appeared lost and confused and preventing him from falling down the porch steps.

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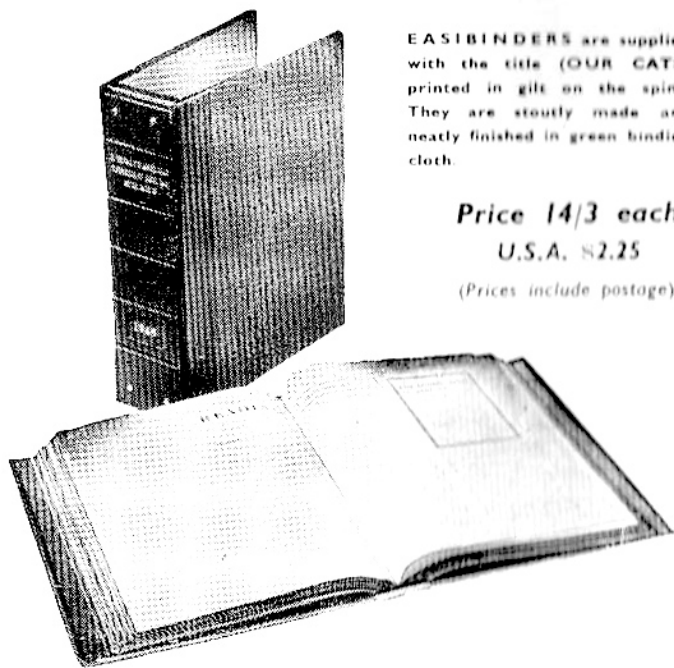
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