

Our Cats

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TO THE LAST DROP!

Photograph by Mrs. D. J. T.

JULY 1959

1/6

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 1959-60 Season are provided below for the information and guidance of readers.

	Promoted by	Venue
1959		
29 July ...	Kensington Kitten and Neuter C.C. ...	London
3 August ...	Far Forest Agricultural Society ...	Bewdley, Worcs.
3 " ...	Urmston Show ...	Flixton
8 " ...	Siamese Cat Soc. of the British Empire ...	Reading
22 " ...	Cheshire Area C.C. ...	Chester
26 " ...	*Herts and Middlesex C.C. ...	London
2 September	*Macclesfield and Dist. Agricultural Soc. ...	Macclesfield
19 " ...	*Northern Counties C.C. ...	Seaburn, Sunderland
1 October ...	*Blue Persian Cat Society ...	London
6 " ...	*Siamese Cat Club ...	London
14 " ...	*Southsea C.C. ...	Southsea
17 " ...	*Edinburgh and East of Scotland C.C. ...	Edinburgh
24 " ...	*Midland Counties C.C. ...	Birmingham
7 November ...	Preston and District Cat Society ...	Preston
17 " ...	*Croydon C.C. ...	London
28 " ...	Yorkshire County C.C. ...	Harrogate
15 December ...	*National C.C. ...	London (Olympia)
1960		
9 January ...	*Notts and Derbyshire C.C. ...	Nottingham
23 " ...	*Scottish C.C. ...	Glasgow
26 " ...	*Southern Counties C.C. ...	London
6 February ...	*Lancs and N.W. Counties C.C. ...	Preston
13 " ...	Surrey and Sussex Cat Association ...	Epsom, Surrey

* 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 Season.

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A paradise for puss

By GERRY KREIBICH

IF you want to do your cat a good turn, sell your house and buy a caravan. It may sound drastic, but your pet would probably be delighted.

Take the case of Sambo, the easy-going, coal black little fellow who lived happily in a normal household until his master and mistress uprooted themselves and went to live in a well-appointed caravan on a country site in Cheshire. A three-months-old kitten, he didn't take kindly to the change on the first day—who wants to be uprooted from a familiar fireside?—but he soon began to discover the advantages.

To begin with, the roof was flat, comfortable—and quite private. In lonely state, Sambo, having climbed a nearby tree and sprung across the intervening gap, could bask undisturbed. And, as he discovered on the first chilly day, things were almost too good to be true. His sanctuary was actually equipped with a heating system, the chimney which popped up at one side and gently warmed the aluminium roof in its immediate area.

Then there were the peep-holes. A cat, insatiable though its curiosity may be, cannot be in two places at once. To go outside for a breath of fresh air it must forfeit its close-up view of goings-on indoors—unless it lives in a caravan. Sambo learned, to his immense delight, that, stretched out on the warm roof with no need for self-protective vigilance, he could at the same time gaze down through the plastic windows in the air vents and watch every move down below. What bliss!

Spring brought with it warmer weather, and a further facility. The air vents were raised to the full, and Sambo

could, if aided from below by someone holding a stool, climb down through the gap and be at the fireside in an instant as by express lift. On one occasion, over-confident and eager to try a new trick, he did, it is true, drop lightly through a vent in the kitchen without aid. But he landed on the uncomfortably warm cooking plate of an electric stove and, in his eagerness to get clear, sprang without delay through an open window, dragging an empty saucepan and a milk jug with him.

Snug and warm

Despite this unhappy incident, Sambo blessed the day he became a caravan dweller. The place was always uniformly warm, without draughts blowing up from unsuspected cracks between floor and skirting board; the coal stove was permanently lit during cold weather and invariably afforded a semi-circular area of real cosiness on the thick carpet; and there were wide windows on all sides, from which the surrounding territory could be constantly surveyed.

This last was an important consideration. Few cats there are who do not find rapture in gazing out of windows. Sambo, an inveterate window-gazer, went from one to another as by rota, peering intently at the unchanging scene as if drawing up a mental inventory of the trees and flowers.

If the flat, open roof was one amenity, the dry and reasonably private area underneath the caravan was another. Sambo's howling friends had a perfect rendezvous for their nocturnal meetings. Whose hospitality they accepted before Sambo moved to the district, no one

can say, but it is certain they met by common consent at his home—or rather beneath it—thereafter.

The story has a happier ending than it might have had. For the time came when Sambo's master and mistress had to leave their caravan and move to a bricks-and-mortar home many miles away. Much as they loved him, they could not bear to take him away from his familiar surroundings to a busy town where house windows would present him with a view only of more houses.

But Sambo's luck was in. For the lady in the caravan across the way loved cats,

too. Her own was perhaps of rather more aristocratic breeding than Sambo, but the two seemed to get on well with each other, and that was that. Sambo and Jemima—odd name for a tom cat—became step-brothers, as it were.

It was about three months later that Sambo's original owners revisited the site. At first their old pet was not to be seen. And then they spotted him—sprawled lazily on the roof of his new home, ecstatically unaware of anything but the warmth of the summer sun upon his smooth fur.



Writing about her very special pet TUBBY, Miss Mary Kuiper, of Johannesburg, South Africa, says : " She is three years old and has unfortunately been spayed. She was a gift from friends who had never regarded her as ' a special cat.' Her brothers and sisters were all black and consequently her kitten life was not a happy one. Her mother was half-Siamese and no-one knows who the father was. Her eyes are a bit pale but she has only one small flaw in an otherwise perfect Siamese coat. Maybe her nose is a little too sharp for a longhaired cat, but she is very beautiful and has a wonderful disposition." Miss Kuiper is a member of the Siamese Cat Society of South Africa and she is entering Tubby whenever opportunities occur at local shows.

Combing & clippings make yarn

By MARY DE ROYLE

MOST pet lovers are anxious to keep a treasured souvenir of their beloved animals. This may take the form of a well-chewed rubber bone, a drinking bowl, a sleeping basket or a series of photographs in an album. But a yarn made from the combings or clippings of the pet in question is a much more happy choice—it will provide a souvenir which will serve a useful purpose for many years to come.

Yarn obtained in this way may be put to very practical uses. Many kinds of garments and household articles can be knitted or woven, including gloves, scarves, cushion covers and blankets.

During the World War II, I spun a large amount of sheep-dog combings. These produced a beautiful grey yarn which was afterwards knitted into pullovers for the Merchant Navy.

I was once acquainted with a lady who was the proud owner of a charming dog and a beautiful cat. The animals were particularly friendly towards each other and even slept in the same basket. One day their owner had the bright idea of spinning a yarn from the combings of both of them, cat and dog together. The result was a soft and speckled grey and very pleasant to handle. She knitted it into a scarf which was apparently most successful—until she wore it.

"There's something frightening about that scarf," she told me. "It seems to tighten with the warmth of my neck. Rover and

Kim get on so well together, too, and yet it seems as if they fight when round my neck!"

I assume that the heat of her body generated some sort of electricity in the animal hairs. When worn loosely round the neck, the scarf was perfectly successful, warm and cosy. After all, the owner had no need to *knot* the scarf round her neck—she could have worn it loosely, but she just happened to be the country-tweed type who never felt dressed unless her scarf was tied under her chin.

All combings and clippings should be stored in an airtight tin until required. It is advisable to put a good moth deterrent in with them.

Some wool needed

The method of spinning will vary a little with the type of hair or wool. It will be found impossible to spin some smooth short hairs alone; they will need a suitable sheep's wool with them. When spinning long hairs, you must start off with wool, afterwards twisting the hair on to the wool with a wet finger and thumb. Hair is usually too sleek to get a grip on it for the beginning of the yarn.

Perhaps the most obvious hair to spin is that of the Angora rabbit. This may be used with or without wool and the combings or clippings should be taken from a "middle-aged" rabbit. A very young rabbit yields a beautifully

soft hair, but a very short unmanageable one (approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ "), while a fully grown rabbit gives a 7" or 8" hair which is very much coarser. So the ideal length of hair is about midway between the two, and the texture will also be a good medium one.

Certain parts of any animal yield softer hair than others do, and this is a point which must be watched. Most animals have considerably softer fur underneath than they have on their backs.

Poodle clippings give a lovely woolly yarn, cats' hairs need wool with them, shaggy sheep-dog, shiny spaniel, all make good yarns.

Most hairs are more easily spun if they are oiled, as they hold very little natural oil. Olive oil makes

a good lubricant if a little is poured into the palms of the hands and the hair is lightly tossed between them.

Apart from domestic pets, yarn can be spun from many animals whose homes are in other countries. For instance, the angora goat which gives us mohair, the camel which yields a mixture of hair and wool, the llama, vicuna, and many others which all give a useful yarn.

In this country, of course, the only means of obtaining wool shed by these animals is by getting in contact with someone at the nearest zoological gardens, who would no doubt be willing to sell small quantities at a suitable time of the year, when the animals are shedding large clumps of old wool in readiness for their new crop.



Introducing a pair of American Longhairs from "the top drawer." On the left, MILFORD LORD WINSTON, described by his breeder Mrs. Alberta M. Paris, of Hawthorne, California, as "one of the most beautiful of my Lady Gay of Pensford's many children." Sire is another English import Widdington Wonderbar. Lord Winston is owned by Mrs. Faythe Irwin. On the right, CH. GALLAHAD'S DIAMOND LIL OF C-J, an outstanding representative of the rarer White Persians. "Lil" is a true show girl for just recently she was declared Highest Scoring All-Western Odd-Eyed White Longhair Female. Her proud owners are Lt. and Mrs. John L. Elliott, of San Diego, California. There must be something in that wonderful Californian climate we all dream about!

Genetics for the novice breeder

By A. C. JUDE

ALTHOUGH much scientific investigation into the various aspects of inheritance in small livestock has been done, the findings or results are often not easily accessible to non-scientists. The reason is that usually the work is only published in specialized journals. Furthermore, the information, being of international interest, is written in technical language and fashion understood chiefly only by those already versed in the item under discussion.

This is unfortunate for those fanciers who, realizing the value of a knowledge of simple genetics, are anxious to become informed. The aim of these articles is to relate as much useful fact as possible in readable language. Some terms and words used in scientific literature will be used here and explained. This will help readers should they later refer to or read more advanced publications.

As some of the special terms are likely to be repeated, it is suggested a list with explanations should be compiled for reference. Where any fresh unfamiliar terms are used, these will be noted at the end of each instalment.

Genetics is a science which deals with the beginnings of individual life and all that makes the life possible throughout its existence. It deals with the functioning of every part of the mechanism, much of which is similar throughout animal species, but some of which may differ in varying degree between species. It deals with all matters of reproduction. There is a considerable proportion of the subject which need not of necessity be pursued by the fancier, but which

could, if he is so minded, add greatly to his interest as a breeder. Cat breeders require to know how breeds, varieties, and strains within breeds and their varieties change, or can be changed, and how, despite the fact that no two individuals are ever exactly alike, a large proportion of animals of a kind can be produced which will closely resemble each other in having the desired good qualities.

The attempt to attain such knowledge may take the form of studies on general breeding methods, such as the effects of inbreeding and outcrossing, the influence of pedigree feeding or training, on general type or behaviour; or it may take the form of observing the inheritance of particular clearly-defined attributes, such as coat-colour, in the descendants of animals which differ sharply from each other in the attribute under consideration.

Essence of Mendelism

Scientists have contributed knowledge of both these kinds, but it is in the latter that the Laws of Mendel are most useful. It should be known that the Laws of Mendel only work out in practice when a few clearly-defined differences are receiving attention, and that when an animal's inheritance is being considered as a whole, simple Mendelism cannot provide adequate guidance for breeding operations. Also, the chromosome¹ or gene² theory in terms of which Mendel's results can be explained is not the only possible interpretation of the known facts of inheritance.

The essence of the Mendelian theory is that a young animal gets from each

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parent a certain collection of genes. These genes are arranged in groups usually likened to strings of beads, each string being called a chromosome. The chromosomes are present in the central part, or nucleus, of the cells of the body, and the number of chromosomes present in each nucleus is characteristic of the species. In the ordinary cells, the chromosomes are paired, two of each kind. When the reproductive cells are formed, the pairs separate so that each ovum³ or sperm⁴ contains only one of each pair of chromosomes; when a sperm fertilizes an ovum by uniting with it, the number of chromosomes is restored to the full count, the offspring receiving one chromosome of each pair from each parent.

The genes are believed to be arranged in a definite order on the chromosomes, and genes situated in the same place on corresponding chromosomes all affect the same characteristic, but they may affect it in different ways, in which case they are said to be allelic⁵ to each other. There may be more than two alleles in the same gene but only two of an allelic series can be present in any particular animal. The genes situated at different places in the same chromosome are said to be linked and do not necessarily all affect the same part or features of the animal.

Terms defined

When an animal has two different alleles at a certain place on corresponding chromosomes, it is said to be heterozygous⁶ for those genes; if the two genes of a pair are of the same kind, it is said to be homozygous⁷ for them. Two other technical words must be defined: the genotype⁸ of an animal means its gene-complex or total collection of genes, while the phenotype⁹ is the animal itself, i.e. the outcome of its whole development, including the effects of the environment; where only one or few characters are being discussed, these terms are

often applied in a restricted sense, meaning the genotype or phenotype in respect to those particular characters only.

It is now recognized that the simple idea of each gene having one effect, e.g. "producing" say a black coat-colour is erroneous. The effectiveness of any one gene depends on the whole inherited make-up of the animal (including what is inherited in the rest of the sex cells besides the chromosomes) and on the opportunities for development provided by the animal's environment. The gene is regarded as a chemical substance which, given a suitable biochemical background on which to work, will tend to give rise to a series of complicated chemical changes leading to a certain result, e.g. the production of black pigment. This result can, however, only be achieved if the right chemical substances are present at every stage, and if the general development of the animal proceeds normally.

Battle between genes

If another gene is present which prevents the development of hair, or if one is present which causes black pigment to be changed by oxidation to yellow pigment, then the gene for black hair (B) cannot in fact produce black hair colour. The gene however, is still present in the animal, including its sex cells, and if, when reproduction takes place, the gene B escapes the company of the other two, then a youngster with black coat-colour may result.

The final appearance of the animal is therefore the outcome of a kind of running battle between its various genes, but in a given environment the outcome of this battle is fairly constant for any particular collection of genes. The result is often a blend of the characteristics of the parents, but when a certain gene is known to be able to produce its full effect, even in the presence of rival genes, it is said to be "dominant"¹⁰ if the

rival is its allele; "epistatic"¹¹ if the rival is not its allele.

It must be clearly understood that an animal can only carry two of each allele (one on each of the paired chromosomes), but where epistasis is involved there may be many such gene pairs interacting together, and the dominance relation of a particular gene pair may itself be upset. Also, it is by no means necessary for one or other pair of alleles to be dominant: they may produce an intermediate effect (semi-dominance) or supplement each other, or produce together an effect quite different from that produced by either of them separately.

This may be looked upon as an introductory article containing much of importance in the subject, and therefore should be thoroughly mastered in order to get clear understanding of matters to follow. A fair number of "terms" have been used in this first article purposely, and are as follow :—

1. **Chromosomes** — Dark-staining bodies visible at cell division, which carry the factors for heritable characters, the genes. They occur in pairs, one derived from the male parent, the other from the female. Members of a pair carry the same or allelomorphous genes in identical arrangement.
2. **Genes**—The unit of heredity, believed to be the physical basis of inherited characteristics. A gene occupies a definite position on a definite chromosome.
3. **Ovum**—The female germ in animals, produced within the ovary and capable, after fertilization by the male, of developing into a new individual.
4. **Spermatozoon**—The male germ cell. Fertilization is a very simple matter—the piercing of the ovum by the head of the spermatozoon. Yet by this simple operation, the complete and complex personality

of two separate animals is handed on, and blended in a new life.

5. **Alleles**—Alternative forms of the same gene influencing the same developmental process, but in different ways.
6. **Heterozygous**—Not "pure" or "true-breeding" for a given factor. Containing two different alleles of the same gene.
7. **Homozygous**—"Pure" or "true-breeding" for a given character. Having the gene for the character in duplicate.
8. **Genotype**—The hereditary make-up of an individual.
9. **Phenotype**—The appearance and/or performance of an individual, i.e. the outcome of the interaction between its genotype and its environment.
10. **Dominant**—Said of one of a pair of alleles whose effects are expressed to the exclusion of the effects of the other allele.
11. **Epistatic**—Said of a gene or character which is expressed despite the presence of other, non-allelic, genes which tend to produce a different or contrary effect. Epistasis is similar to dominance except that the relationship is between non-allelic genes.

(to be continued)

A REMINDER !

We are still anxious to obtain the names and addresses of cat lovers—particularly those overseas—who are likely to welcome a specimen copy of this Magazine. Do you know of anyone ?

All information is treated in strict confidence. Please send details to the Editor, OUR CATS, 4 Carlton Mansions, 378 Clapham Road, London, S.W.9. He will do the necessary.

Paralysis—as it affects cats

THE extracts which appear below were taken from a talk given by Mr. J. G. Grant, M.R.C.V.S., at a recent meeting of members of the Rhodesia Cat Club.

The subject of paralysis, said Mr. Grant, has been a headache for several years, both in Rhodesia and the United Kingdom. Locally, the disease—also known as “Siamese disease” or “cat myelitis”—had become very prevalent and there was a considerable risk of Siamese becoming an extinct species. For about a year up to January 1958, there were cases coming into the surgeries to such an extent that the vets got together and a paper was presented at the last Veterinary Congress to discuss the position. For a time the position seemed to improve but unfortunately there had been a steady stream of new cases, not so many Siamese but the ordinary tabby cats, probably with a strain of Siamese in them.

Definitely congenital

Mr. Grant went on to say that they still did not know the whole story. They knew the signs, the symptoms, the outcome and could detect the disease fairly early on. But they had no cure. The mild cases could be alleviated, but that was about as far as they could go. The more they saw of the disease the more they were convinced that it was a congenital fault and in view of this they advised that all cats showing this condition in their offspring should either be neutered or eliminated from stud work.

After showing some X-ray plates which depicted the distortion of the spine, Mr. Grant went on to describe the symptoms. In a kitten 3-4 weeks' old, the disease can be detected by running your fingers with fair pressure down the

spine. There is a point, generally between the withers or the lumbar region in the small of the back where there is a depression and distinct pain. X-rays show nothing more than a slight distortion of the spine, usually a depression. There is no lesion of the bone, no signs of displacement or a nervous tumour.

Easy to detect

If the depression is in the fore-end, in the withers region, there is temporary paralysis of both forelegs and to a certain extent of the lungs. Lower down, there is stasis of the bowel, partial paralysis of the hind-quarters and mal-development of the pelvic girdle. With the lower form in the lumbar region, there appears to be more marked pain and as the animal develops and grows, the distortion becomes more marked until eventually there is little or no development from half-way down the back. There is little spine growth and you are left with a large head and very little behind it. The stomach is inflated and the content of the bowel becomes a solid mass. The hind legs generally become more or less useless.

Mr. Grant concluded by stressing the need for a little more ruthlessness among the breeders. It would be false sentiment anyway to keep an infected animal alive to endure needless suffering. Paralysis is one of the most insidious diseases but one of the easiest to detect in the early stages.

Breeding out

Whenever they had an inkling that a cat had got the disease, the animal should be destroyed or neutered and the parents traced back. The parents might appear healthy and show no characteristic of the condition, the only factor

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of the disease being a disease gene borne by that particular animal, male or female.

It is possible therefore, to breed the disease out in the same way that one can breed in or out points of conformation or colour—it is a genetic factor. The difficulty they were up against is that there is no visual evidence to show

whether one has been successful or not. With colour or conformation there is visual control. One would have to go through several generations before there could be any feeling of certainty that breeding out had been successful. Even then, there remains the risk of a throw-back.



Waffles, a wise old dog at 14 years, is probably thinking that kittens are all right when they are just about this age . . . and in a box!



It's when they get to this size that his patience may be sorely tried! The kittens are Pussinboots Fantasia, Stargazer and Blue Wizard, and the photographs were kindly submitted by their breeder Mrs. R. M. Pocock, of Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent.

'WHO SAID
TIBS?'



THIS basketful of bright-eyed Siamese/Burmese hybrid kittens was bred by Mrs. A. M. Charles at her Cattery at Beech Bank, Bratton, Wiltshire.

Tibby, the TIBS reporter, interviewed Mrs. Charles who said "They're a healthy, lively lot, up to all kinds of fun from morning till night. That's because they're Tibsical!"

"I give all my cats Tibs — one a day — from weaning age onwards. I know that Tibs supplies all the essential vitamins and minerals my cats need. Tibs is wonderful for encouraging good growth, sound bones and teeth, and beautiful healthy coats."

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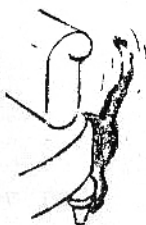
DAILY **TIBS** TABLETS KEEP CATS KITTENISH





Tailpieces

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



THE Minister of Supply (Mr. Aubrey Jones), questioned in the House of Commons, said there were now under experiment at the micro-biological research establishment one cat and two pigs. Cats and dogs used there hitherto had been purchased, but it was his intention, so far as possible, to breed all the animals needed. In most of the experiments no anaesthetic was needed. The Minister said he would consider allowing M.P.'s to visit the chemical establishment.

Some more about the chemicals of this modern age! Official investigations have been made into crop spraying activities near Bridgwater, Somerset, following complaints by villagers suffering from sore throats and spells of dizziness. They say pets have refused to eat for weeks at a time and birds prefer to wait to be fed rather than search for food in the fields. The wife of a local dental surgeon described a walk through the fields after spraying operations as like "going through a gas chamber without a mask."

Mrs. Susan Thompson, of Southbourne, Bournemouth, left £500 on trust for the upkeep and maintenance of her cat Micky for 15 years from the date of her death. Mrs. Thompson left £5,730 when she died in March last. An executor informed the press that the R.S.P.C.A. would be caring for Micky until a good home could be found for him.

When Mrs. Muriel Turner of Ham, Surrey, switched on her radiogram she

was surprised to find no reception. When she took off the back of the set the cause of the breakdown was revealed for there was Lucky an eight-week-old tabby kitten who had been missing for four days. Lucky was booked to go to a new home. "He must have known we were going to give him away," said Mrs. Turner. "He just looked and blinked when I found him—then calmly walked into the kitchen for a drink and some food."

Doubtless you followed the Liberace libel case with close interest—or did you? If you did, you would have read about the cat belonging to leading witness Mr. Connor, "Cassandra" of the *Daily Mirror*. Mr. Connor revealed that he had been visited by Miss Ambler, a witness for Liberace, who had been asked by *Picture Post* for photographs of him and his cat. Said Mr. Connor: "The cat didn't like strangers and took a most alarming view of Miss Ambler, which I subsequently confirmed was right. He must have been a most perceptive cat."

During these summer days, please don't forget that your cat needs fresh, cool water at least twice a day. Remember too that the dish or bowl should be thoroughly washed before refilling. A dirty water receptacle encourages disease and it is most unhygienic to pour in fresh water on top of the stale.

Another cat lover who made provision for the care of his pets after his death was Dr. Herschel Margoliouth, of Oxford, a Fellow of Oriel College, editor of the *Oxford Magazine* and former

Secretary of Faculties at Oxford University. He died last March at the age of 72, leaving £11,930. In his will, he asked a friend, Mrs. Olga Hargreaves-Maudsley, to take his two cats—a grey Persian named Greytim and another named Sandiboy—and give them a home. If she did this she would receive £275 “for her trouble and their maintenance.” The pair are now happily installed in their new home.

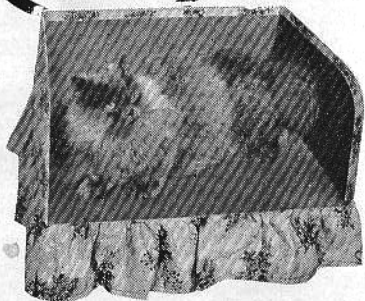
Last month the Three Counties Cat Society held their fourth show in conjunction with the local Prize Band Fête at Verwood, Dorset. Once again members and local residents supported the fixture wholeheartedly and the arrangements made by the Committee and Show Manager Mrs. M. A. Wilson were excellent. One hundred cats and kittens (making 190 entries) were benched for competition or exhibition. Judges were Miss Kit Wilson and Mr. W. Lamb. Main awards were: Best S.H. Adult—Major and Mrs. Rendall’s Missfore Serena; Best L.H. Adult—Miss D. M. Collins’s Kala Minka; Best S.H. Kitten—Major and Mrs. Rendall’s Missfore Cora; Best L.H. Kitten—Miss D. M. Collins’s Perivale Timothy; Best Pedigree Neuter—Miss P. Hickson’s Azalce Noel; Best Household Pet Adult—Mrs. Hall’s Silver Mist; Best Household Pet Kitten—Mrs. G. M. Loader’s Lavinia.

When Mrs. Olive Masters of Rochester Kent, went along to the summer sales at a big London West End store she took Sapphire, a six-week-old kitten, with her. The reason, she explained, was that her whippet Jane had become exceedingly jealous of the kitten and therefore she felt it was not safe to leave them together in the house. During the wait for the store to open its doors, a member of the staff provided a dish of milk for the kitten. Press photographers were on the spot and the picture of the kitten enjoying its refreshment duly appeared in the press of that day.

According to a report in the local press, Boots, a black and white cat belonging to a family living in the Staten Island, New York, area, is “living a dog’s life” trying to escape being dive bombed by blackbirds. It all started when Boots caught a blackbird in the backyard. Each day afterwards his appearance outdoors was the signal for a concerted attack by the dead bird’s companions. Things got so bad that he could only escape their attention by going out after dark. Boot’s owners were convinced that the blackbirds were out for revenge. But a director of the local zoo wouldn’t accept this theory. Birds do not have the intelligence or the psychological make-up, he explained, to take revenge on anything or anybody.

A new landmark has appeared in the heart of the Leicestershire hunting

Safari CAT BED



Comfortable - hygienic - portable

This beautifully designed bed is produced by the makers of the famous Safari Camp Bed.

Keeps cat free from dirt, damp and ground draughts. Strong canvas on sprung steel frame for comfort and lightness. Folds flat for travelling. “Calpreta” cretonne blends with room decor. Cretonne covered (de luxe) or plain canvas (standard). Size 19" x 16".

Also suitable for small dogs; larger sizes for dogs available.

From Stores, Pet, Furnishing, Sports and Hardware shops.

Sole Manufacturers:

SAFARI LTD., 77 Morland Road, Croydon, Surrey.

THE IDEAL GIFT TO CAT OWNERS

country at Melton Mowbray—the massive cold stores and quick-freezing plant installed by Petfoods Ltd. to ensure that the meat and fish used in their products retain their full nutritional value and freshness while awaiting processing. The plant is capable of storing huge quantities at a temperature equal to 42 degrees of frost. It has a floor area greater than a full size football pitch and under it all is an “electric blanket” (2,000 times larger than the domestic type) designed to prevent possible freezing of moisture in the soil below. The men permanently employed in these Arctic conditions wear electrically heated suits and all manner of devices are incorporated to prevent the possibility of accidents. For instance, there is a constant patrol and all doors open from the inside as well as the outside. This vast new building certainly symbolizes the progress made by the makers of Kit-E-Kat and other pet foods towards ensuring that the standard of the product inside the tin is as high as modern methods can make it. Transporting frozen material to arrive at the factory in top condition had been a major problem. By building their own giant fridge, the company is now able to buy massive quantities of meat and fish when it is at peak quality and keep it that way until it is required for processing.

Ginger, the quay store cat at St. Mary's, Isle of Scilly, is frequently in the news. Not so long ago she made one of her periodical trips to the mainland and there was a commotion aboard the ship on the return journey from Penzance. Ginger chose that time to produce three kittens—almost in the lap of one of the passengers. Members of the crew coped with the situation and it was subsequently reported that mother and triplets were “doing well.”

A query for cat owners was posed by a letter writer to the London *Star*. He (or she) asked: “Are the Japanese correct in saying that, though the noses of

cats are cold normally, they are warm on the day corresponding to our Midsummer Day?” Any replies received will be published in my feature—if they are brief and to the point!

When the atom bomb spy Dr. Klaus Fuchs was released recently from Wakefield Prison, waiting newspapermen were presented with a story which they didn't expect. At midnight they had the distraction of a decoy operation by a number of police cars. Two hours or so later, the prison cat Sheila gave birth to three kittens in a lane quite near to the main gates of the gaol. The family, comfortably bedded down on a newspaper featuring a story about Fuchs, was eventually taken “inside.”

The members of a family in California are wondering if their cat can really read. She found a box in the garage with “Stork Special” printed on it, installed herself inside and had her kittens there. Perhaps I ought to explain that the box had once contained a pail for babies' napkins.

The disused tin mines of Cornwall are frequently traps for unsuspecting cats. Local firemen are splendid fellows when it comes to rescue work. Quite recently Leading Fireman Retchford, of the Camborne Unit, made two descents of a 50 ft. shaft within a few hours. Each time he found and brought up a cat in his bag.

The 20-year-old Viscount Carlow who becomes the 7th Earl of Portarlington with the death of his grandfather inherits a family crest which includes a tabby cat holding a black rat in its mouth. The new young Earl was one of the Queen's Coronation pages. His father was killed while serving with the R.A.F. during the war seven years after receiving a legacy from his grandfather of nearly two million pounds.

The Plymouth Watch Committee had recently to make a decision as to

which should receive a £100 grant—two church homes for unmarried mothers and girls or the Plymouth Dogs' and Cats' Home. Their vote went in favour of the Home as it was of the greatest use to the police in taking care of animals found straying. Its service to the City was worth £1,000 a year and now it is faced with a heavy rebuilding programme.

The re-development plan of the Nottingham Corporation includes a new P.D.S.A. hospital, built and equipped on modern lines, to replace the existing one. A site has been cleared and soon there will rise on it hospital wards, out-patients' waiting room and dispensary, garages for the mobile dispensary and ambulances, operating theatre, administrative offices, X-ray room, stores and laboratory. It will represent an important milestone in the progress of this admirable Society's work.

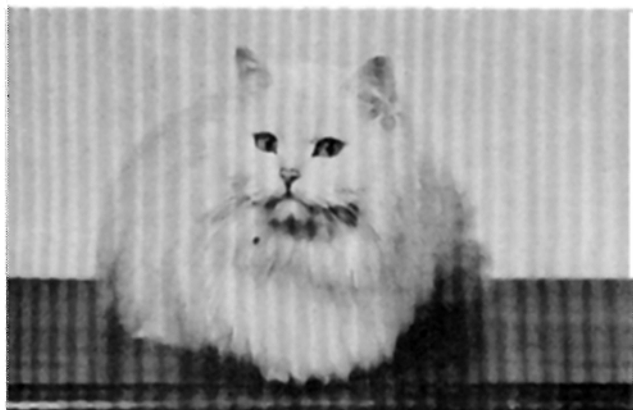
It is deserving of mention that Mrs. John W. Hoag's Dble. Ch. Burmese female Sherwood Tria of Bridle Trail, whose picture appeared in last month's issue, has now won the title All American

Burmese and was the highest scoring Burmese.

Cats are not the easiest of animals to cater for at holiday time. If you are unable to leave them at home under reliable supervision when you go away, please make sure that the boarding establishment you have selected is properly conducted. There are quite a few people about eager to make a bit of quick money out of the situation. The safest plan is to inspect the place before you decide to leave your pets in the hands of strangers and it is always wise to complete all the arrangements well in advance of the holiday. Some of the best establishments are fully booked up at the peak season.

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



This Chinchilla lady, FISHERMORE HELEN, has been much in the public eye. She has been appearing in a weekly television serial "The Wright People." Helen, bred by Mrs. D. A. Lodge, was sired by Ch. Terry of Allington and she has won two Challenge Certificates for her owner Mrs. D. E. Gurney of Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.

A page for the proletarian puss No. 85

PERHAPS the most outstanding development in the pet world over the past decade has been the advance of the budgerigar. This gay and cheerful little bird, which has so much to give in companionship and entertainment, is winning his way each year into thousands of new homes all over the world. Here in England, the reasons for his popularity are not hard to find. Whether he becomes a talker or not, he quickly establishes himself as one of the family. He costs only a modest sum to obtain and once he is installed in his gadgeted cage his food bill is small and his day to day management becomes a pretty simple affair.

A clever bird, the budgie! He is consolidating his position just when conditions are most propitious for there are thousands of flat dwellers in council controlled property—a section of the public very much on the increase—whose tenancy agreements deny them the companionship of a dog or a cat. A harsh and undemocratic ruling, this.

What happens when the budgie enters the household where the cat is already firmly established? Flutterings and flying feathers, you may say. This may be the result in a few isolated cases but there is plenty of evidence to prove that the two get along very well together, provided the situation is handled rationally and with firmness right from the start. From time to time we receive accounts of friendships which have sprung up between cat and bird and one of the most interesting came to hand a short while back from Mrs. W. Parkinson, a member of the Rand Cat Club living in Transvaal, South Africa.

Mrs. Parkinson wrote at some length as she was able to draw on her experiences over a considerable span of time. She kindly enclosed "supporting evidence" in the form of the two photographs we have reproduced and we feel sure our readers will be interested to see a few extracts from her letter. She writes:

"Several years ago we were given a little yellow budgie by friends. At this stage I had several cats plus a mother and kittens. I wondered how they would agree, but had little trouble with them. At first the cats seemed as though



Photo "The Star"

Tommy, the Tabby, and his budgie friend



Photo "The Star"

they would like to eat Joey, but once they realized he was one of the family I had no more reason for concern. Joey would wander about all over the house and if the cats thought he was likely to come to some danger they would run to protect him. He would crawl on their backs, pull at their whiskers and would join the mother cat and her four babies in their box.

"When Joey died by misadventure, he was succeeded by Tinkles and the cats were so pleased to have another budgie that they immediately made friends. We got a larger cage for him and at times all four kittens would sleep in the cage with him, also a small white cat that I had kept from a previous litter. I also had a Tabby (Tommy in the photograph) and he too used to go into the cage. But now he is too big and so he lies over the top instead. I have at times gone out for hours on end and left the cats and the bird together in the cage.

"Poor Tinkles met with an unfortunate accident one day—flying under the wheel of my son's bicycle—and from the moment he was killed the cats would not go into the cage again. They sniffed at Tinkle's body on the floor and walked away as if they knew just what it was all about. A few weeks later Billy Boy, another yellow budgie, joined the household. Immediately she was installed in her cage the cats gathered around and one went straight inside and started to wash the bird. Billy Boy surprised us all by producing several eggs! She now has a companion and I hope that budgies, cats and our golden cocker spaniel will be with us for many a long day yet."

A pioneer in Wales

By DOROTHY L. CLAVIER, F.Z.S.

IT is now nearly four years since I came to live in Pembrokeshire the furthest West of all the Welsh counties and about 250 miles from London. Since then I feel that the status and value of the cat has improved in this part of the world.

When I first moved here, I was appalled at the condition of many of the cats that I came across, also my respect for the feline rose when I learned of its immense powers of self-preservation. Here I have come across the kindest and most cruel people ever to cats; also the cruelty that arises through ignorance.

One of my first acquaintances was the R.S.P.C.A. Inspector. He told me that he never went out without coming back with his boxes filled with cats to put down; they had been left in empty buildings or their owners no longer wanted them. He had destroyed over 1,000 cats in the previous year from this small town and surrounding district. This Inspector has now retired and the present man is young and very keen. He has recovered cats from trees and found homes for countless kittens, but he and his wife have their hands full disposing of unwanted cats.

I felt that progress had indeed been made, when recently the R.S.P.C.A. brought their first successful prosecution in the local courts, but this was not for cruelty to cats but to pigs. The pigs were eating each other. The bench was very shocked and the fine was heavy.

Our Inspector told me he had never come across a county with so many cats with diseases of the ear.

Pembrokeshire used to be known as "the county of three-legged cats." The gin trap was a menace. Cat lovers were not the only ones here urging its aboli-

tion. This is also known as "a breeder's county," and the famous Pembrokeshire Corgi often fell foul of the gin trap. When rabbits were numerous they were one of the chief exports. I have heard tales of how the trappers would set their traps and then retire to the pubs and drink all day—the pubs open here all day four days a week. The trappers of course hated the law when it was passed and have resisted it. And now the rabbit is popping its head up from the burrows again!

I would like to emphasize that the gin-trap is banned, not only for rabbit trapping, but for every other purpose too. I found a farmer the other day who informed me that he had *sold* all his traps but two and these he was keeping to trap rats. I explained the law to him, but did not urge him to get a good cat as he had three greyhounds which he used for rabbiting, and I am not sure that a greyhound would know the difference between cat and rabbit.

Mad—but harmless !

We have also managed to stop the greyhound trainer who used to let his dogs out to practice their sport on the many cats that graced the doorsteps in the main road at five in the morning. But I have not managed to persuade the cat owners that the place for pussy at night is indoors.

I found that at first I was accepted here as being mad but harmless, a person to be tolerated and humoured. A lot of people are quite fond of me now and I have received the honour of a nickname—"Mrs. Cat." Neither I nor a cat was a thing to be noticed until

that wonderful T.V. show from Olympia in 1956 of the National C.C. Show. I went up to it and the word went round that "we might see Mrs. Cat." So trade was brisk in the pubs that had T.V. "Mrs. Cat" was nowhere to be seen, but the cats caught on and the stir and interest was immense.

About a week later I held my own exhibition, not a planned one. I just happened to take a couple of cats into town for a trip out.. It was the first time many of the locals had ever seen a Siamese. One old inhabitant quoted having seen one fifty years ago in Milford Haven. Most of all every one wanted to see a Blue Persian, "like they had seen on the T.V.," but I did not know of one this side of Gloucester.

A grateful fishmonger

Then of course came the hordes of moggies owned or found by various people and I was asked how much this or that one would be worth as it was the same as was on the T.V. I became evasive, and said value all depended on condition and feeding. The next thing, the local fishmonger expressed his wish to give me a small commission on my fish in token of his "grateful affection." I presented him with a C.P.L. box for his counter. The cat and I were in! We had some use for someone.

The farmer I tackled in a different way. He liked cats, he had twenty to catch rats, but he would not believe that they would catch rats if they were fed. He was a gambling man so I had a bet with him that if he fed his cats on a small meal every morning they would double their kill. I explained my reasons, that they would be stronger, and would not waste time eating when they should be killing. In a few weeks time he came in to pay the wager. He was very pleased. The cats cost him 10s. a week to feed but had saved him pounds on his grain stocks. The whole place was littered every morning with dead rats.

A farmer's wife I know who loves cats and is able to feed them well because her husband owns the knackers yard, showed me last week a beautiful Tortoiseshell. She told me it would not live very long. When I asked her why, she told me that the Tortie was a rat eater. I asked her what she meant and she explained that cats that lived solely on rats as this one preferred to do, seldom lived more than five years and were always skin and bone. None of her cats were neutered, but I did not mention this to her as she obviously welcomed all kittens and strays and the forty odd cats I saw round the place had no trace of ear trouble or fleas, their coats glistened, and all looked very content with their lot. The array of colour and type was an interesting genetical study.

May is here now. The countryside is full of lovely flowers in this beautiful county, but cats born in May are unlucky. Even local born Siamese breeders will not register kittens as born in May, but put down the date as April or June, for they fear they will not sell them. The only way to break the bad luck is for the offending kitten to be drowned.

TV ban deplored

After the National T.V. show in 1957, I was asked to take some cats along to the old people's hospital. I took books as well and the interest was very gratifying. I think the decision to ban the T.V. from the shows was a wrong one, for it deprived many people of a great pleasure, old people, children and those too far away from London to get to a show. Most people here did not know there was such a thing as a pedigree cat before T.V.

Since these broadcasts too, the demand has grown for books on cats from the library. When I first came here there was only Mivert's book on cats in the library which I leapt upon, having tried to get hold of it for a long time. Now they have a copy of every cat book that

is published and from the date stamps inside the covers, they are much in demand.

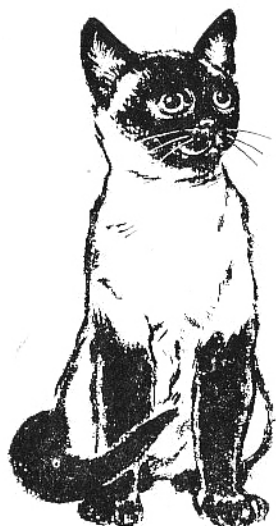
There is one trade here that we are powerless to stop. That is the dog and cat dealer. I often try to tell people when they ask me to sell their cats that I am not a dealer, but if I do not sell them they go to the dealer who gives

them about £2 for a litter of Siamese. The pedigree doesn't matter; this is forged later.

One day perhaps, a law will be passed concerning this traffic, or perhaps a miracle will occur and the cat will become a treasured possession as it was in Roman times. To progress we must turn back the clock!



Mrs. A. Stevenson, of Natal, South Africa, is doing a little pioneering in the Fancy. Here she is seen with two Burmese kittens, a breeding pair, sent out to her in March by Mr. V. Watson. Although Burmese are already being bred in Johannesburg and Pretoria, Mrs. Stevenson's kittens are the first Burmese to arrive in Natal. They are SHWEDEGON APERTIF, bred by Mrs. B. Robinson of Redruth, and KERMAK AKASHAN, bred by Mrs. J. K. Weatherston, of Rutherglen, Lanarkshire.



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Cats love the flavour. They'll often take a spoonful when they refuse everything else. Before show-time; to build up a mother-cat; or start kittens on additional feedings, there's nothing more naturally good — than Brand's Essence.

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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

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

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Setting the pace

By the EDITOR

DURING ten years' association with OUR CATS it has been my privilege to see a large and varied amount of promotion literature connected with our Fancy—show catalogues, newsletters, year books, posters, leaflets and journals of one kind or another emanating from every corner of the cat world.

The standard of presentation and production has rarely been more than average. Much of the material has been truly mediocre with poor printing and poor paper and all too frequently some well-intended effort has been marred by slipshod editing and lack of preparation. Not a good advertisement for the Fancy, you may be saying, and I would be inclined to agree! Much more attention should be given to this important part of the Fancy's activities.

There are of course exceptions to the general rule, but they are extremely rare. So it becomes rather a red letter day when some outstanding example is brought to my notice. Such an example came thumping through the letter box a short while back, bearing the American postmark. It was the 1958 Year Book of the Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc., which last year celebrated its fiftieth birthday.

The C.F.A. is of course an organization of great influence on the other side of the Atlantic with its 86 clubs functioning actively and promoting nearly 100 shows in seven different regions. Its Honorary President is much-loved

English-born Miss Elsie Hydon, a Longhair breeder and judge of high repute, to whom the Year Book is dedicated in appreciation of her many years of devoted service and wise leadership. Miss Hydon went from Bridgewater, Somerset, to America about fifty years ago, taking with her the Blues who later were to establish her famous Lavender prefix. In later years, on the occasions of her visits to her native country, Miss Hydon always stayed at the Hertfordshire home of her close friend Miss Kathleen Yorke, Chairman of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy. It was Miss Yorke who selected the outstanding Blue Chu Chu for Miss Hydon. His photograph has a place of honour in the Year Book as a founder of the Lavenders in the States.

America's first big show

The C.F.A. Year Book cannot be faulted in any department and full marks must be credited to the editor Mrs. Joan Van Zele, both for the idea and its execution, and her team of helpers. It is a spiral bound job of 130 pages on quality art paper which has ensured excellent reproduction of the illustrations in the 50-odd pages of cattery announcements. The type face used is a clear and readable light Gill Sans.

An introductory section under the heading "How We Began" reveals the interesting fact that on a hot May day in 1895 (the thermometer hit 96 degrees!) 176 cats were exhibited in Madison Square Garden, New York, by 125 owners. The fixture was organized by Mr. James T. Hyde, an Englishman, and the idea came to him after he had

attended our own Crystal Palace Show, then the big event of the cat world. Prior to 1895 there had been minor cat shows in America but it was the New York fixture which attracted general attention.

Round about the turn of the century the Beresford Cat Club was formed in Chicago. It was named in honour of Lady Marcus Beresford, a prominent figure in the English Fancy who had done much to aid breeder-exhibitors in America, particularly in the Chicago area. Mrs. Clinton-Locke, founder and first president of the Beresford C.C., was the first woman in America to operate a cattery. A stud and register of cats was issued in 1900. A year later the first cat magazine made its appearance under the title of *The Cat Journal*.

When Louis Wain judged

The Fancy was by now really under way and forging ahead. Clubs and shows sprang up in a number of cities and the American Cat Association was formed. The Beresford C.C. ceased to exist as an association but it continues to this day as a loyal member of the A.C.A. In 1908 Beresford held its annual 3-day show and Louis Wain was the guest judge from England. The famous cat illustrator caused a sensation when he hung the Best in Show award on the cage of Mrs. Clinton-Locke's Seal Point Siamese female Lockhaven Elsa. Never again was the breed looked upon as a "novelty!" But Louis Wain can't be blamed for the rift that occurred in the American Fancy that same year! Trouble had been brewing for some time and it resulted in the formation of the C.F.A.

The financial statement included in the Year Book provides one with an insight into the mounting strength of the Fancy in America, particularly when one realizes that there are other organizations functioning in like manner to the C.F.A. But it is really C.F.A.

who "set the pace" and if some of those good folk concerned with the financial health of cat clubs and societies in other parts of the world feel a trifle envious over the figures I am able to present, then who can really blame them?

C.F.A. revenue for the year ended 31st January, 1958, totted up to the respectable total of \$29,425 and disbursements \$25,966. The main source of revenue comes from registrations of cats and kittens, transfers, cattery registrations, certified pedigrees, etc., and this mass of office work is undertaken by the Association's Recorder. Her work during the year under review produced a revenue of \$19,735 and the outgoings for this department totalled \$10,404, including the Recorder's salary of \$4,499 and office help amounting to another \$4,000. An interesting item is cat registrations at two dollars each producing over \$10,000.

What's in a name?

The Secretary's salary is shown at \$2,950 and that of the Treasurer at \$458. Expenses incurred over the year by the various officers and committee members account for another \$3,000, printing costs are \$2,888 and advertising \$1,377. (*N.B. The dollar stands to-day at approximately 7s. sterling.*)

Imagination gets stretched to the limit in the final section of the Year Book where over 2,500 cattery names provide the material for a real good wallow in nomenclature! Here's just a few names which caused me to blink—Best Mouse-trap, Do-Win, Fur-Fun, Happycats, Killarney Kats, Kno 'Em-Lov 'Em, Nev'r duneten.

What's in a name—when it's needed for a cattery!



News from "Down Under"

SEEMS like the breeze is coming from the Arctic wastes ! We have had a few days of it and it should at least do the Longhair coats a bit of good.

First, a Sydney item held over from last month because of pressure on space. It concerns the second Ch. Show of Cumberland Cat Club in the lovely Pasadena Hall at Lidcombe. They had a wonderful day and a splendid entry. Visitors and judges were welcomed by Mrs. Donmall (President) and much credit for a smooth running fixture belongs to Mrs. I. Paris, the efficient Secretary.

Major awards went to Mrs. W. Hicks' fine Blue L.H. male St. Chad's Mischief; Mrs. Devine's female Lindy of St. Elmo; Miss Meek's male kitten Honky Tonk Kute Atom Too; Mrs. Cheney's female kitten Mayfield Lady Louise; Miss Rapley's brood queen Lee Anne of Ellington and her litter; Mr. Houlihan's best Siamese exhibit from Victoria Lihan See-See; Mrs. A. Thom's male Gaye Sultan; Mrs. Ousley's female Marmion Sweet Song and the kittens shown by Mrs. Houlihan and Miss L. Greenfield. Miss B. Saker drove over from Melbourne, quite a long trip, to show her nice cats.

There was a very tragic happening at the conclusion of the Show. Whilst being taken from his cage, the beautiful Blue male cat Ashdown Shamrock, recently imported from England by Mrs. Vize and Mrs. Gains, was taken very sick. In spite of all efforts by veterinary officers, Shamrock died on the Sunday. This is a very sad loss, not only to the owners, but to our cat world generally.

Memorial to a judge

St. George District Club Show was held at the very nice Coronation Hall, Arncliffe, where four judges and eight

stewards were on duty. The Secretary, Mrs. Martin, is to be congratulated on a well run and happy fixture. This lady learns very quickly ! An innovation was a results board presented to the Club as a memorial to the late judge Phil Brown by Mrs. Abbott. I was introduced to Mr. Sturgenor, of Wellington, New Zealand, who seems to be enjoying his Australian holiday.

Among the Persians, main winners were Mrs. Hick's Blue male St. Chads Mischief; Mrs. Freeman's Blue female Ch. Marlee of St. Elmo; Miss Hore's male kitten from New Zealand Illawarra Bryn Bogan; Mrs. C. Elliott's female kitten Crama Sally Sue. Siamese winners were Mrs. Thom's male Gaye Sultan; Mrs. Abbott's female Pic Point Blue Frost; Mrs. O'Donoghue's kitten Kaylee Casandra. Mrs. Abbott also won with her two Abyssinian entries bearing the Finisterre prefix.

I am very sorry to report that an old N.S.W. cat stalwart and club president Mr. Bill Miles, has had a long and serious illness. We are all hoping he will soon be fit again.

On a happier note, one of our leading Siamese breeders of long standing, Miss G. Williams, was married recently and is now Mrs. Kaufman. Gabrielle's cattery Bluemead is well known over Australia and New Zealand.

The Blue Mountains Cat Society which was formed recently at Springwood, New South Wales, by Mrs. E. Cross had its constitution and membership approved by headquarters last month. They are centred in a lovely spot and its cool weather should be conducive to good L.H. coats. Executive as follows : President—Mrs. P. Hyde; Secretary—Mrs. Hyde; Treasurer—Mrs. A. Ledwidge; Publicity Officer—

Mrs. Cross, who must feel happy that all her hard work has at last borne fruit.

Melbourne News

The Siamese Cat Club of Australia is holding its Championship Show this month, for which a N.S.W. judge has been invited. I notice from the *Newsletter* that Mrs. Cole (wife of the Club President) has again accepted a committee vacancy. She is a grand worker for the Club. Melbourne Cat Club's Ch. Show in the Lower Town Hall was a most successful fixture and attracted a lot of visitors eager to see the feline aristocrats. Best Longhair was a Blue male shown by Mrs. D. J. Picken, Kashan Solomon, and Opposite Sex a lovely Chinchilla, Spada Angelique, shown by Miss E. M. Beattie. Best Siamese went to Mrs. L. Wilson's B.P. male Sonivil with Mrs. Leighton's S.P. female Tanglewood Fair Lady, Best Opp. Sex. Best Kitten was Yonalin Belinda (shown by Mr. and Mrs. V. Bumak) and Best Opp. Sex Kitten Lihan Jasper in the same ownership. I think Jasper is a litter brother to Lihan Leita who was shown in Sydney recently and was awarded Best Siamese Exhibit among 168 entered. It was the first attempt, I understand, by Mr. Houlihan, who bred both kittens and so merits warm congratulations.

New Body for Queensland

Things have been happening in the Northern capital Brisbane and a new governing body for Queensland has emerged called the Council of the Federated Cat Clubs, which will control all cat activities in the State. Formed late in May, this body has already affiliated five of the six existing clubs. The executive is as follows: Chairman—Mr. J. Vautier; Vice-Chairman—Mr. G. S. Norman; Secretary and Longhair Registrar—Mrs. R. J. Herbert; Treasurer—Miss E. Etheridge, plus two delegates

from each affiliated club. Anyone requiring information should contact Mrs. Herbert at 584 Lower Bowen Terrace, New Farm, N.8. Brisbane.

Sydney's Big Show

On the last day of May, the old Cat Fanciers' Association staged a lovely fixture at the Royal Show grounds, Sydney, in the Hordern Pavilion. The event was blessed by a lovely day, a very big entry and good organizing by Secretary Harry Wynne. Six judges and twelve stewards were on duty. Chief winners included St. Chads Mischief, Mrs. Hick's Blue Persian male; Miowera Royal Keepsake, Miss Haswell's female; Mayfield Aristocrat, Mrs. Freeman's male kitten; Mayfield Lady Louise, Mrs. Chaney's female kitten; Carlton Prince Yo Yo, Mrs. Carne's S.P. Siamese male; also same exhibitor's female Yadbeer Cindy Lou; Shannon Prince Krita, Mrs. Wharton's Siamese male kitten and Mrs. O'Donoghue's female kitten Kaylee Casandra. Prominent in other Shorthair classes were Mrs. Abbott (Burmese and Abyssinians), Mr. Allen (Burmese) and Mrs. Donmall (Abyssinian junior). One very small boy was pleased with the Longhair exhibits, but puzzled by the Siamese. He was heard to remark to his mother: "These must have been shorn, mum!"

From New Zealand

I received the *Newsletter* from Miss Menzies, but too late for inclusion last month. Christchurch Club has not held a show so far, but let us all hope their luck soon changes. The cat stork of Dunedin has been working overtime it seems and must have left two consignments with Mrs. Cleeves—eleven in one litter is a great effort. The *Newsletter* congratulates Miss D. Hore, of Palmerston North, for her wins at the Sydney Royal Show. Miss Hore and her Dad, are still winning at every show; they

leave for home this month. Thank you, Miss Menzies, for the invitation to Australian breeders and exhibitors to visit your N.Z. shows.

Another Invitation

I would welcome enquiries from anywhere regarding OUR CATS and subscription rates. Such a nice gift to a friend, a year's sub. I think every club or body of fanciers should ensure that their secretary is kept well posted with

news of what's going on in the rest of the cat world. I also think that every club should occasionally advise members, particularly new ones, of the advantages of subscribing not only to OUR CATS (which is a "must") but also to their own and other club journals.

A big cheerio to cat lovers everywhere. Our cat world is shrinking. From London to Aussie now in two hours! Over for breakfast and back for lunch—wonder how much more than 2s. 6d. it will cost!

New books received

THE OBSERVER'S BOOK OF CATS, by Grace Pond (*Frederick Warne & Co. Ltd.*, 5s. net). This offering is assured of a wide readership because it is the thirtieth title in a very popular pocket series covering a miscellany of subjects. It is such excellent value that it cannot fail to add substantially to the growing army of cat lovers and doubtless it will influence many in their choice of a pedigree cat. The author is well known in the Fancy as a breeder, club member and show manager of the National Cat Club. She has obviously gone to great pains to prepare a concise and readable book which will claim the reader's attention from start to finish. All the recognized breeds and varieties are described with their standard of points and there are sections dealing with cats in the Commonwealth and America, the stud cat, ailments, grooming, first aid, exhibiting, etc. But undoubtedly the big attraction for purchasers of the book will be the 32 plates in full colour letterpress. Bearing in mind the technical difficulties in reproducing so much colour contrast over a small area, the standard is excellent. Everyone will have their own particular favourites in this parade of pedigree cats in colour. My own are the Brown Tabby on the dust jacket, the Shorthaired White Kitten and Black Shorthair (plate 16),

the British Blue and the Russian Blue (plate 25) and the Tabbies occupying plate 29.

CATWISE AND KITTENISH, by F. Tschudi Broadwood (*Blandford Press*, 7s. 6d. net). This is a practical book by a personality who is well qualified to write on the subject of feline care and management. For many years she has bred her Tschudi strain of Seal Pointed Siamese at Send, Surrey, and their upbringing has always been her one absorbing hobby. Denis Somerfield, the owner of a Tabby, has made a valuable contribution to the book with his lively and accurate illustrations. Mrs. Broadwood manages to cut out the frills and get down to the real knotty problems which are sure to confront the owner of a cat or kitten at some time or another. The section dealing with the exhibiting of cats is provocative . . . more than a little!

THE CATS OF WINKLE BAY, by Judith M. Berrisford (*Thomas Nelson & Sons Ltd.*, 10s. 6d. net). Something for the kiddie-widdies. Marmaduke Mittens pawed it all the way to Winkle Bay in search of a new home. After a series of exciting adventures as a ship's cat he returned to dry land, where he finds a happy home with old Mrs. Rose and a longhaired charmer named Amanda.

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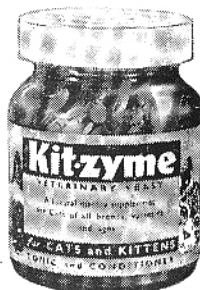
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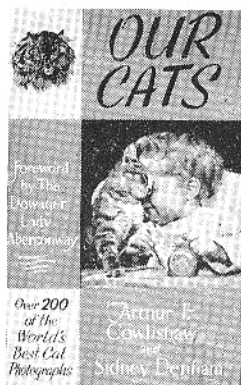


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