

# The Red Colorpoint

by Madeleine Christy

Today our Red Colorpoint cats are a recent addition to the growing Shorthair family and many of these attractive cats can and do surpass other Siamese (from which these cats are derived) in the showroom.

I will give here only a brief outline of the methods and results of several years breeding these beautiful cats. Unfortunately time prevents mentioning many important factors in the production of good ones.

The breeders that I know of who are best known for producing the first Red points are Mrs. A. DiFilippo, who has very nice Reds, the breeder from whom I got my start, Mrs. Berger from California and later my own efforts yielded some early Colorpoints. Mrs. DiFilippo, from whose cattery I obtained a Tortie, Sundust Zorina of Madali, has produced this cat from 16 years of pure bred Siamese stock.

The first step in producing the Red Colorpoint is to breed a Siamese female to a Red Domestic. The progeny will be all black hybrid Siamese with green eyes. Then one breeds back to a Siamese of the best type to produce a Tortie-Point. It takes four to five generations of pure bred Siamese to produce a Tortie-Point female, and she should be comparable in type to the best in the Siamese breed.

Tortie-Point females are very exotic looking creatures whose points are a mixture of seal, red and cream, with cream, chocolate or seal body color. They approximate more nearly the Siamese type that we have been striving for, and because of that, they too, must, someday have their own recognition. Their eye color is the deepest I have ever seen.

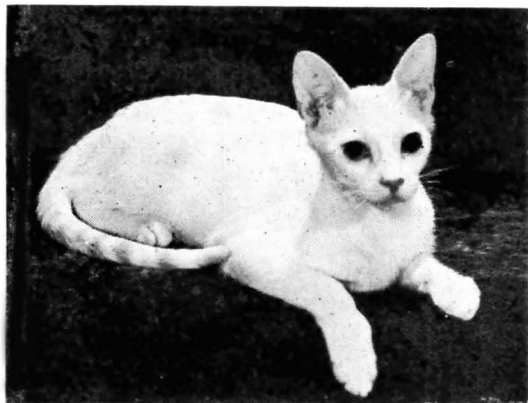
It is now known that a Red Point male can be bred from a Tortie Point or a Red Point female regardless of the color of his sire. whereas a Red Point female can only be bred from a mating in which red pigment is present in the genes of both parents. These kittens, when born, are snow white, like Siamese kittens, with the exception that the skin is a reddish color, from which one can distinguish the Red Colorpoint litter. The kittens begin to develop their Red Point color when a week old and it is amazing how deep it can become. We have found that we are able to produce from these Tortie Point females, bred to various point color Siamese, Red Colorpoint males only, and either sex Seals, Blues or whatever color factor was present in the sire. From a Red Point male, however, bred to a Tortie Point female, we produce the following: Red Points in males and females, Tortie Points, Seals, Blues and Chocolates. Breeding Reds to Reds produces all Reds. The Chocolate Tortie point is the most striking looking cat in color, and

*Year Book, 1964*

produces beautiful Red Colorpoints.

I have read the article in OUR CATS magazine, from England, and find I disagree with the author in approving of the Gold Point color as acceptable in the "Red Point." In some Siamese breeding the original red of the cross has been diluted at times to gold or orange in the points. Those I have seen are not what I would call the true Red Colorpoint. The description by the author of his production of the Reds is a very good one.<sup>1</sup>

Many have obtained a start in producing the Red Points by the one outcross to a self Red Domestic with a Siamese, to introduce the color "Red" into restricted color pattern; however this is a long hard struggle



Ch. Sudo's Sunset Chrissie of Madali.

to undertake today, for now we can purchase the best in Tortie Points which will produce the Red Colorpoint male, and from there one can line breed back to the Tortie.

Many have been concerned that the Red Points do not as yet have the bone structure or type of the Siamese. The question has also come up about what

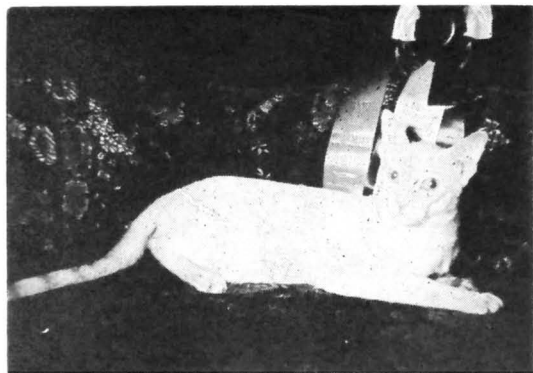
will become of the Seals, Blues, Chocolates and other colors produced from our Tortie or Red Point breedings. Let me state that none of these other colors will reproduce any other color but their own when bred to a mate of like genetic inheritance. The Reds breed true if the red factor is in both parents.

It is interesting to note that the Tortie Point is the only cat carrying the red gene aside from the Red Colorpoint. I think many of the kittens from these matings surpass some of the Siamese Seals, Blues or Chocolates which are being shown today. There is more opportunity now for observing these cats for they have been accepted in several Associations and more Red Points are being bred and shown. Those that cannot be shown can always be sold as pets, to be altered of course.

In Red Point breeding it is most important to select the right color combination. Some have bred the Frost or Lilac to the Reds, thinking that it will purify the coat color to white, but instead of helping, this has caused the tails and legs to become barred, even showing markings

on the body; some have the definite Tabby markings, also. It does not in any way intensify the red color in the cat. We must strive for the Red Colorpoint with the pure white body color. If there is any color on the body it should be on the spinal column only and of the same color as the points or a pinkish color.

In the foregoing I have tried to give some of my beliefs, practices, and experiences in trying to produce good Red Points. We have bred here many who have become All Western and gone on to make All American. In 1962-3 RM Sr. Ch. and Gr. Ch. Madali Red Dawn went Highest Scoring Red Point Siamese. In ACFA, Red Dawn was Royal Inter American Highest Scoring Siamese Red Point Male.



Tr. Ch. Madali Red Chinga

the eye color in many is deeper than in the Siamese. I also think that these cats should be classed with the Siamese in the shows. Someday, by work and perseverance, we may achieve this goal too.

Those who have worked hard for many years to develop and improve the Red Colorpoint have made much progress and are approaching their goal of recognition in all Associations. Most Associations recognize them as Siamese; many of these cats have taken high honors in show finals. I personally feel the type is becoming excellent,

For those interested in the article mentioned, it appeared in the October 1963 issue of OUR CATS magazine. The author was Dr. N. E. Archer, the title ON RED POINTED SIAMESE.

Dr. Archer mentions that the officially recognized colors of Siamese all have the same basic pigment, melamin. The Red Point however, has a different pigment. Red coloration is thought to be transmitted by a sex-linked factor.

Another article of interest is in OUR CATS April 1963 TORTOISE-SHELL AND RED POINT SIAMESE.—Ed.