

preventing these diseases, much heartbreak can be avoided. The cat owner and the veterinarian must work hand in hand, so that each fully understands the individual problems and their solution.

Much research remains to be done in the field of feline virus diseases. Much is being done. New and better prophylactic agents are constantly being developed; effective antiviral chemotherapeutic agents are appearing, and the viruses themselves are being studied. The years to come promise to be bright ones for the ultimate conquest of virus diseases.

(Dr. Ott is Chairman of Veterinary Clinical Medicine and Surgery at Washington State University at Pullman, Washington where he is actively engaged in teaching and research.)

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN THE FANCY

These articles of lasting interest appeared in books and magazines of around a half a century ago. The following are from the collection of Miss Dorothy Mason, who has been doing this research for the Year Book.

AUSTRALIAN CATS

from *Our Cats*, December 17th, 1910 p. 165

We are much indebted to one of our subscribers, Mrs. Mitchelson of Tarriffville, Conn., for sending us a most interesting description and photos of an entirely new breed of shorthair cats. This variety is the Australian or Kangaroo Cat. In type it is quite different from the English Shorthair. It is a small cat and should be long in the body with large ears, a long slender tail, no whiskers and



From Cover of *OUR CATS* December 17, 1910. Mrs. J. C. Mitchelson's winning Australian Cat SEALSKIN

very little hair on the ears. The shape in fact is very like the Kangaroo. The hair is very short, somewhat like the fur of a mole. In colour the Australian Cats vary, but many are a seal brown, like our frontispiece. They are exceptionally intelligent and of an affectionate disposition; they are becoming popular in the States. In one point the Australian cats resemble the Manx, as they are not prolific, seldom having more than one or two kittens in a litter.

AUSTRALIAN OR KANGAROO CATS

from *Our Cats*, May 21st, 1910, p. 532

By A. K. Richards

About eight years ago, while driving through one of the summer places of beautiful Martha's Vineyard, I saw a curious little animal leap across the road directly in front of the carriage. At first I thought it some wild animal, but the near vicinity of houses, boat-

building shop, and noisy traffic made that seem impossible. Suddenly, on the piazza of a nearby house, I saw another of the same little creatures, and I just had to alight and get a nearer view. A lady came out of the house, and, seeing my interest, offered to show me some kittens. "Are those cats?" "Yes," she assured me, "they are Australian or Kangaroo cats," My next question was, "How can I get one?" "You can buy one," she replied, "if you can prove to me you will be a good mistress to it. I never sell my cats unless I know who will have them, and how they will be treated."

I qualified, and my purchase, Dollie Gray, has been the queen of our home ever since. Her comfort and the comfort of her children is the first thought of the entire family. I wish I could describe her so my readers could realize the beauties of these cats. Unlike the Persians, their fur is very short, much shorter than the domestic cat. Their heads and paws are like very short velvet, or moleskin, and their large delicate ears are thin and hairless on the inside. Their eyes are large and sometimes button-like or bulging slightly. They are lithe and panther like in their movements, taking long leaps frequently. Their tails are long and close coated, and when they jump it curves in a peculiar way suggestive of a Kangaroo. Some think they may have Kangaroo blood back in their ancestry, but that is hardy probable, though as far as I can discover their origin is unknown. Dollie Gray's grandparents came to this country in a trading vessel, brought as a present to the lady's parents of whom I purchased Dollie. Early in the spring Dollie passed away lamented by all the family. She left me one daughter, Budget, who resembles her greatly. They are not hard to raise, but they are not prolific like the domestic cat, having but one or two litters a year, and rarely over two at a litter. Mated to the common cat they will sometimes have three offspring, but only two will have the characteristics of the thoroughbred.

I would like to see these cats better known, for they are so clean, and their lines are so beautiful. They are a delight to the eye and the most lovable pets in the world. Even the devotees of the fluffy Persian grant they are a beautiful curiosity. The points of these cats seem directly opposite to those of all other cats. Their heads should be narrow, their noses long, thin ears, large, and without hair on the inside, thin tails, long and willowly, and their paws and toes long and narrow like the hand of an aristocratic lady. They love their owners, but are generally haughty and hold all strangers in disdain.

—The Cat Review.



from OUR CATS December 17,
1910 p. 165, Australia. Owner:
Mrs. J. C. Mitchelson, Tarriff-
ville, Conn.