

GENETICS FOR CAT BREEDERS

Roy Robinson

Pergamon Press, Ltd. Headington Hill Hall, Oxford 1971

190 Pages

Interest in cat genetics, as evidenced by the relatively recent articles on the subject in various cat magazines, has prompted the publication of a book on the subject. Roy Robinson, who has written on cat genetics for years, has directed his attention to the breeder and provided a good reference book.

Mr. Robinson covers the basic material of heredity, reproduction and coat color genetics succinctly and with clarity; and he has devoted a chapter to breeding practice which places on as scientific basis as possible the art of cat breeding.

There are one or two good-natured slams at American exotic terminology for which Mr. Robinson can be forgiven. He should know, however, that it is part of American "know how" in the business of cats to provide legend as lagniappe.

The discerning reader will raise an eyebrow over the "light phase" Burmese and be surprised to find two genotypes listed for red and sorrel Abyssinians which are one and the same dilution. Abyssinian breeders will be disappointed for there is only a discussion of ticking, and no in depth consideration of color in the breed.

The reviewer feels that Mr. Robinson has provided a good book for the interested breeder. Unfortunately cat breeders, for the most part, are too conditioned to cook book recipes for achieving wins in the show ring and are loathe to tax their brains on genes. These same breeders know that most cat geneticists have never bred or shown fancy cats. Cat genetics as a science and the breeding of show cats as an art are still two different worlds. Mr. Robinson at least has started a bridge between those worlds.

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