

## THE FANCY IN AMERICA . . . As seen through the CFA Year Book

This magnificent book with 494 information packed pages and over 500 photographs about the American cat world is of great interest to cat breeders and an eye opener to us in Britain. Sections of the book are devoted to breeders and their cats. CFA leading personalities and judges, the CFA constitution and minutes of the CFA Directors' meetings, and a number of special articles.

The first 192 pages are advertisements mainly of catteries with many photographs of leading show and breeding cats of all breeds. There are also advertisements of some of the clubs with both officials and members listed with their addresses.

The next 140 pages are devoted to various aspects of CFA, starting with the constitution and abridged minutes of the six Directors' meetings and annual general meeting, each held in a different region of the USA and Canada. These minutes also contain the accounts and financial statement for the year and next year's budget estimates.

There are photographs and brief details of all CFA judges and a table of the members of the breed committees from each region who advise the CFA Board. There are also photographs and brief particulars of the All Star award winners, the top show cats of the year, and of the Grand Champions of the year. There is an interesting biographical note about Jean Rose, director of the CFA central office and founder of the Year Book.

The next 94 pages consist of a series of special articles of which I will mention a few. Blanche Smith, a CFA judge, contributes a most interesting article on 'Seven decades of Blue-eyed Whites' and there are two accounts on Silver Persians (Chinchillas) by Doris Weston and Martha L Wise who traces the history of this breed back to Chinnie, born in 1882 and her famous kitten Beauty of Bridgeyate.

For Siamese breeders the CFA judge and author, Marge Naples, breeder of the BP, DiNapoli's Flycka-Tu of Cherlan, top Siamese cat in the 1968 All Star Awards, contributes a piece on Blue Point Siamese.

The growth of CFA and the American Cat Fancy is shown by some of the figures quoted in an article by Robert

H Winn, CFA Counsel. For those interested in unusual breeds there are accounts of the Japanese Bobtail cat by C Bess Higuchi, the Main Coon cat by Earl Eugene Eminhizer, and on the Turkish Ankara (Angora) cat by Leisa F Grant.

The final section of the book gives the list of the 353 CFA clubs with addresses of secretaries, catteries registered in 1969, the shows held in 1969/70 and a summary of the entries for each show.

To those who are dissatisfied with the role of our own Governing Council and the services it provides to the Fancy a study of the CFA constitution will be of special interest.

The affairs of CFA are presided over by a Board of 14 people, plus a secretary and treasurer. Seven of these directors are elected by postal ballot, one from each of the seven regions into which CFA clubs are grouped. The remaining seven directors are elected at the AGM by the club delegates, who meet at the annual general meeting once a year. The Board of Directors is assisted by a Director of the Central Office (with a staff of eight), responsible full time for administration, and also by a Breed Council consisting of small committees for every breed, whose members are elected from every region.

This is an excellent pattern of management with a small decision-making body which can act with the minimum of delay and which provides a whole series of services which we lack in Britain; for example:

(1) The CFA Quarterly issued to all member clubs containing current pertinent data of importance such as minutes of Directors' meetings.

(2) Publication of the annual accounts and financial statements.

(3) The Year Book which sums up the activities of CFA for each year.

(4) Rapid services to breeders in regard to registration transfers and acknowledgement of championships following the computerisation of over 200,000 genealogical records.

The editor of the Year Book, Christine Streetman, is to be congratulated on the interest and high standard of production of this mammoth volume.

J. N. STEPHENS