

DID YOU FORGET TO SEND US YOUR NEWS LAST WEEK?

CAT GOSSIP, July 27th, 1927

CAT · GOSSIP

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LONG-HAIR LORE.

By MRS. CAMPBELL FRASER.

The following article is written by a fancier who can speak with authority, having bred many winning kittens and adults; in fact, the Rudgwick Cattery might well be called the "cradle" of the creams, so sought after in the Hanley strain. Mrs. Stevenson writes:—

FEEDING AND UPBRINGING OF KITTENS.

I wonder if I am the right person to write on this subject, as I do sometimes have bad luck, but I can say that my kittens which find their way to the show pen can hold their own against any for bone and stamina. My methods, I know, are rather looked upon as "weird," if not entirely mad, by some who ask me at shows how I get such size in my youngsters, but I carry on in my own sweet way. When the kittens are ready to feed, they make it known, and I don't start to offer food until they do. When they are three weeks old I put their bed in such a position that they can get out to crawl about if they wish, and by this means, and also the appearance of the kittens, I know when to start them on diet, other than their mother's milk. I always wean on cow's milk, just as it comes from the cow, and warm to blood heat, which is the natural state, and from the first let them pick at their mother's food (I don't cut this fine), and they suck and chew at rabbit, meat, fish, or anything she may happen to have. They can't take a "lot" this way, and it certainly helps their teeth. They continue like this until I notice they are making a good meal, then I offer them it separately from their mother. I may add I never feed my adults more than "once" a day, i.e., milk in the morning and a good feed and saucer of milk at 6.30 p.m., except when they have the kittens on them, then they get as much liquid as they will take, and two meals. The kittens are weaned on two solid meals, and this they continue to have until about eight to nine months old, when they go on to the same diet as the adults, and my rule is never add a meal, but occasionally miss one.

The Coryton queens are on their best behaviour! Betty has two kits by Peter of Aldwych; the little girl is particularly fascinating. Frolic is expecting her second family on August 18th, also by Peter, and Beatrice is the happy mother of four reds and one cream, so Mrs. Sharman's hands are full.

Mr. Wilson (Messrs. Brown and Wilson), Newcastle, writes that "Never in all our long experience have our stock been so healthy and well, and required so little attention as this year. Five queens have between them had 18 kittens, and those we kept have all been reared successfully. No bad eyes, no sneezing, which one hates to see and hear when one goes to bid one's 'good morning.' Blue Bell's (dam of Blue Fox and Mistress Love) kits are good again, but not quite so fine in head as last year's kits. Hendon Fiametta was mated to Strathterry, and had three kittens, which are all remarkably good; she is now mated again to the same sire. Blue Bell we intended should visit Milord o' Mendip, and were disappointed to find she had taken her own way, and Strathterry is the father of her kittens."

En passant, I must say that I was very pleased indeed to receive the above news relative to Fiametta. She will be well remembered as the winning kitten, Iris of Hadley.

Mrs. Quarry is delighted with Pink Pearl of Winchfield's litter by Bubbles of Hanley; they are specially pale and unmarked.

Miss Joan Buckley sends the following news of her cats from The Hawthorns:—"Sarah of Stand (by Blue Derry of Hyver) had a fine litter of five boys in March, by Lord MacAlpine, of which Mrs. Forrest had the best; two more or sold, and two I am keeping—Pom-Pom and his brother, Tossiball. Both were winners at Prescot and Manchester. My other queen, Patricia of Stand, was due to kitten a fortnight ago, and I feel rather nervous, but my vet. tells me to 'wait.' Petronella of Stand, aged 12 weeks, by Lancashire Blue Jacket, ex Wendy of Stand, won the Breeders' Cup at Manchester. I have recently bought from Mrs. Forrest a sweet daughter (Betty) of Ch. Billy Bumpet; she is not so pale as are Mac's kittens, but her eyes are almost red. It was for her lovely eyes that I bought her. I have one other kitten, Sweet Lavender—daughter of MacAlpine—reserve at Manchester; has a lovely coat, but at present fails in eye colour. Mac enjoys a large wired-in run, in the garden, in which he spends most of his time. I would just like to say that I love 'Cat Gossip,' and tell everyone I can about it."

Most of the silver tabbies of Silverleigh are going out into the world to become the property of different owners, as Miss Bracey is reducing her numbers, though we do hope she will retain her special

favourites. Ch. Buffalo has sired nearly all males this season, and Sylvia ought to present Miss Bracey with another Orlando. Leo, who is on the pale side, Miss Bracey hopes to find useful for dark queens, thus, if there is call for more silver tabby kittens, Silverleigh would boast of three well-bred studs. Ch. Buffalo, Leo, and Toy, the latter a son of Judy, that naughty queen who in March last, after giving birth to a beautifully marked kitten, persisted in carrying it around, and in the end killed it; she cannot be taught to be a gentle mother, and Tiger Girl (what's in a name!) had to bring up Toy.

I mentioned Mistress Billy Bumpet in "Coming Cats," and to-day comes a letter from her owner, Mrs. Elliot (Nantwich), with good news of the first litter by this pretty queen, sired by Miss George's dainty Flick-a-Maroo. Four kittens, two of each sex, a pair of which have already begun a winning career. Beauty, a Buzz queen, has also had three strong fine kittens by Mrs. Clarke's Big-wig, one of which weighed 4lbs. when under three months. This kitten has gone to a new home in Leicester, and will be of an astonishing size if made a neuter. We shall hope to see him on the show bench. All Mrs. Elliot's cats enjoy life to the full; large sunny houses, plenty of fresh air, and space for romps. She does not tell me her diet for the youngsters, but I am sure it must be a wise one as already twelve kittens have thrived on it.

Mrs. Richardson, of Farnborough, bought one of her first Blue Persian queens from me, so that I feel possibly a little extra interest in her ventures, in which, by the way, she has been a most successful exhibitor. The following little synopsis of her cattery will interest many, for Mrs. Richardson has taken up, with young enthusiasm, cats of several different colours. She possesses two very promising young cream males by Binkie and Norma of Bredon, also two splendid blue females by Ch. Gentleman of Henley and Jinks of Hadley (the latter purchased from Mrs. de Lisle-Mullens). Sapphire of Farnborough, dam of the winning white kitten, Jasmine, who will be remembered on the bench last year, having been only beaten once, has a fine boy by Miss Edgar's Sidi Kaid. Jasmine herself has now been mated to Superlative of Mayfield, and is expecting her litter any day.

Mrs. Kennaway has had the misfortune to lose Garb, Monica from a fit, and consequently her kitten, sired by Blue Beau of Bournemouth.

Mrs. Martin Timms writes that the result of her having mated Kiss-me-quick to Mrs. Evans' Brown Deer (which I noted in No. 30) has given her four reds—no brown tabby as she fondly hopes—though Mrs. Timms says she must not complain, as the kittens are of a fine depth of colour, and extremely well marked—quite the best she has bred. Some show specimens Mrs. Timms is hoping to find in a litter from her blue cream, sired by Here-is-me; they comprise a black, a tortie, a red, and a blue

cream. They are most interesting, and the tortoiseshell is gloriously marked at present.

I am glad to hear a smoke, purchased from Mrs. Jourdain, is to be added to the Northcroft Cattery.

WEEKLY ENQUIRIES.

Mrs. Dora Wilkie wishes to know if there is to be a show in Bristol, and the date?—Yes, the Midland Ch. Show, to be held during the week of January 9th, 1928.

B. V. B., Staple Hill.—Cannot something be done with regard to the excessive railway fares for exhibitors and live stock in the cat fancy?—The Newbury Ch. Show have already set the example of a cheap return fare, while Sandy, we understand, is to follow suit. A deputation from the Governing Council is shortly to approach the Railway Clearing House to discuss the addition of cats to the list of animals conveyed to and from shows at reduced rates.

Gossip of the Week.

IF PROOF of the superiority of the feline over the canine mind were wanted, we think this greyhound racing supplies it, in a negative manner. Can anyone conceive a number of cats being such "jugglers" as time after time and week after week to rush wildly after an artificial mouse which they never catch? We think not. In the case of whippet racing the dogs are trained to chase and worry a rag, which we presume gives them some slight satisfaction; these greyhounds get nothing. Doubtless some of the more brainy greyhounds will tumble to it, and refuse to exert themselves. The reward of their intelligence will be a rope or a charge of shot.

MUCH has been written of late re the fancies of animals in picking and choosing their mates, and there is no reason why a brood queen or stud cat should not exhibit personal likes and dislikes, which may run counter to an owner's desires. The following instance, though not "catty," shows how strong such a personal fancy may be. Years ago one of our European wolves had a great affection for a male Dingo dog with whom she lived, and by whom she had had a litter. The Hon. Walter Rothschild, who was most desirous of breeding a white wolf, sent us a male which he owned, to mate with our white female wolf, the result being two white cubs, unhappily born dead. We then placed the white male with the common European wolf, and left him with her during the whole period of her heat. She called continually for her old mate, and refused the advances of the white wolf. When all signs were over we replaced her with the dingo, and in a few days she again came ready, mated, and had a litter! Owners of queens that miss, who feel inclined to blame the stud or his owner, may well ponder this.

IN response to our mild inquiry as to why a paragraph about "Cat Gossip" should be especially



addressed to "Illustrious Drinkers," appears the following by "Beachcomber" in the "Daily Express":—"Everyone knows that the people who are fondest of cats and kindest to them are the hearty drinkers and roarers of the world!" So now, dear readers, we "see ourselves as others see us!" Granted that in bygone days, we, personally, with our ultra-Continental training, always regarded Bacchus and Venus as being far the most important deities of the world's Pantheon; all the same, our imagination boggles at the idea, for instance, of the Misses Hill-Shaw in the rôle of "hearty drinkers and roarers!" or will Sir Claud Alexander fit the cap? or, outside the fancy, will Miss Sybil Thorndike or Mr. Compton Mackenzie admit the soft impeachment?—all "fond of cats."

WE FEAR that "Beachcomber" has been badly scratched some time, or that his landlady's or neighbour's cat is wont to make free with his matutinal kipper. And by inference we assume that he is not an "illustrious drinker," for we incline to think he cannot be fond of cats, which he styles "whining ruffians" (we thought it was dogs that whined most!) and "the most selfish creatures on earth," and winds up "curse them, when it suits their purpose they will fawn on you like a seedy usher." Oh dear! Oh dear! "Beachcomber" must have had a bad Katzenjammer when he wrote thus!

A WRITER in a contemporary observes that she has never seen a steward properly show off the hindquar-

ters of a Manx. Whilst hesitating to make such a sweeping statement, we admit it is difficult, especially if there is any hurry. Every exhibition animal should be trained to make the best of its most important points. It would pay every exhibitor of cats to procure (from Messrs. Spratts) a set of pens, and train their exhibits to feel at home and show off in them; especially in the case of Manx, which should be taught to stand and move in them, and show their carriage and gait, more important here than in any other breed.

ALL HONOUR to the name of Miss Marriott, of Nottingham, who left about £2,000 to establish a rescue home for cats.

IF ANY of our readers are interested in astrology we refer them to "Madame Stellaris" advertisement. Perhaps the seer will be able to tell you if you are going to breed that champion next year? Mrs. Elliot is offering some useful stock.

TYPICAL BLOTCHED TABBY PATTERN.

IF IMITATION be the sincerest form of flattery, the Editor of "Cat Gossip" should feel very flattered, inasmuch as both our American and British contemporaries have copied in all its essentials, with but some little alteration, the diagram which he published some two years ago in "Animals," when Cat Editor of that journal. We had already arranged for the reproduction of this diagram days before we saw it appear in our contemporary. For the benefit of



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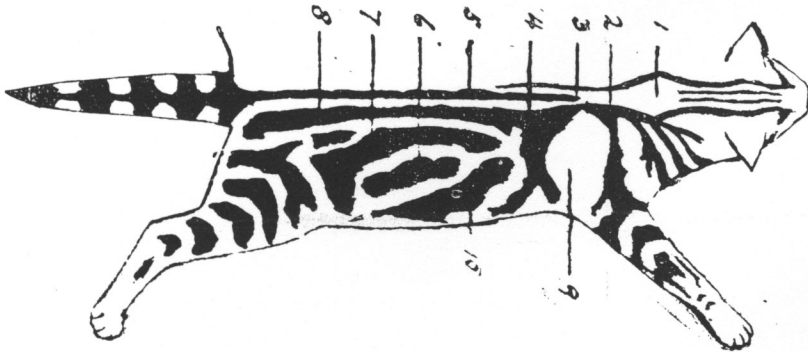
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those of our readers who do not see the papers referred to, as also of those who do, but would wish the full explanation, we give herewith the diagram properly explained, the original block having been lent us by "Animals." The diagram, we may state, was drawn in the first place by a naturalist of world-wide fame. It will be seen at a glance that the true tabby pattern differs (despite what recently appeared to the contrary in the columns of a contemporary) from the pattern of the wild cat as much as chalk from cheese. A publication of the Natural History Museum states, referring to the blotched tabby:—"It is not known as a wild species, and the presumption is that the ancestral stock has become extinct, though the domestic form still exists." The correct designation of the markings is thus shown. 1. Cervical, or neck space. 2. Scapular, or shoulder stripe. 3. Suprascapular stripe. 4. Postscapular stripe. 5. Dorsal, or spinal stripe. 6. Middle side, or lateral stripe. 7. Upper lateral. 8. Lateral dorsal stripe. 9. Postscapular space. 10. Lower side stripe.

THE ROYAL CAT OF SIAM.

BY MUANG T'HAL.

Mrs. Ellaby writes: How very interesting "Cat Gossip" is this week, and how nice to hear we are to have a regular Siamese chat. My Bonzo—Cleo family are nearly grown up, and such a level litter! Never a minute's illness (except once when the fish was not all it should be), and no medicine was then required except salad oil and grass. They are nearly all sold, but I hope to show a good male at "the" show, and also a litter. As Cleo insists on a second family this year, and has been to Newbury to Mrs. Harvey's beautiful young Padi. "Hear, hear," to your item about Mrs. Cran's tour and another Garden book. I went to see her "ruin" and garden the other day—a real pilgrimage—50 miles each way. Having read every word of her books, I loved it all intelligently, but most of all her poor half-Siamese Puss (not even "black Siamese" like Miss Hill Shaw's), who had come in riddled with shot, and was lying on a white-sheeted hospital bed on the doorstep, all bound up. We knelt and sympathised, and got a grateful "purr" and a gentle wave of the bandaged leg.



A STAGE-STRUCK CAT.

Mr. Lloyd Lewis has a cat called Mon Puying, who is six years old next September, and although she has never distinguished herself at a show, she has probably been seen by more people than any other Siamese. She has played a small but important part in "The Chinese Bungalow," with Mr. Matheson Lang, for three or four months, and is due to commence another tour with him in August. She rather enjoyed herself on her last tour, for she returned home looking extraordinarily well and in wonderful condition.

Only a few of us can boast the privilege of having visited Siam and seen this most interesting feline in its own precincts. This good fortune fell to the lot of Mrs. Croucher, who pens the notes following. Shortly after I arrived in Siam, 1920, I was given a "pucka" Siamese male kitten, and after a few months I obtained a female kitten. It was from these two that I started my breeding of Siamese cats, and when coming to England three years ago I sent them home by cargo ship, and one of their sons I brought with me. This cat, who turned out to be a fine chocolate Siamese, was very "tiger" like, allowing no one to touch or go even near him but myself. He was well known in this neighbourhood, as he used to take his exercise with me on a collar and lead, and when "walking out" was a very proud and dignified gentleman, but always ready for a fight. Much to my sorrow, he, Mary, and another female, Mai-pew-ai-ai—(never mind) died last Autumn from a disease brought by a kitten which my husband, who is now back again in the Far East, sent me in the Spring, but he succumbed to our cold climate no doubt, as these cats thrive best in the hottest of weather. Pure-bred Siamese cats are not too common in Bangkok owing, no doubt, to the female getting mixed up with "Panal" cats. "Korat" cats are very difficult to obtain, as they come from the jungles of Northern Siam, but I hope to get a pair when I return to Bangkok. One of my female cats, when she was in Bangkok, caught and killed a snake, and often polished off lizards, etc. A few weeks ago the R.S.P.C.A. took a film of two of my cats for their picture, "Cats of All Nations," I believe the picture is to be so called.

Miss Joyce Fair has bought a young Siamese from Mr. Lloyd Lewis; he is now named Northway Cherimoya.

Miss Hobbs writes of an extraordinary accident which happened to her kinky-tailed Siamese, Baa-Baa (a Bonzo son), who got his little rosette entangled in a tennis net. He must have been struggling there for a long time, as when found he was quite exhausted, with his claws bleeding and tail badly cut.

Miss Benthall writes that her Siamese, Suki Rama, supports, by the sale of her kittens, a bed in a Mission Hospital in the Punjab. She has already earned "the necessary" for 1927, and has now kittens by Beauty Boy to form a nucleus for 1928. The photo of her previous litter has appeared in one of Messrs. Sherley's adverts., and Miss Benthall promises a fresh one for our contemplated Double Illustrated Number!

Mrs. Harvey, we are sorry to hear, has lost her dear old pet, Riku, from throat trouble, believed brought by a visiting queen. No other cat can ever take her place. What makes it worse is that she was in kitten at the time. All our sympathy! Marionette of Petaling has gone to America, and has arrived safely, and is much loved. Buffy of Petaling, granddaughter of Manchu, has her first litter, which also prove Padi of Petaling a sire. Mrs. Harvey is delighted with the litter. Her cats will not be at stud during August, as she is going away.

BIRTH.

June 8th, 1927.—Mrs. Harvey's Buffy of Petaling, six male kittens by owner's Padi of Petaling.

DEATH.

July 19th, 1927.—Mrs. Harvey's devoted and faithful friend, Riku of Petaling.

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