

CAT GOSSIP

VOL. 2

Phone: Battersea 4358

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 35

AUGUST 3rd, 1927

Price 3d., post free



**Miss Joan Buckley's Blue Stud,
LORD MACALPINE OF STAND,
By Lancashire Bluejacket, ex Priscilla of Westfield.**

LONG-HAIR LORE.

BY MRS. CAMPBELL FRASER.

Miss Elsie Hydon, Lavender Catteries, Bogota, U.S.A., whom I often have the pleasure of hearing from, tells me of some lovely pale blue kittens by Ch. Supremacy and a granddaughter of Hendon Marco; a sample of their hair which I found carefully enclosed in her letter is of the purest and palest blue, and will uphold the sweetly pretty name of this well-known cattery. Miss Hydon is unable herself to be in England this Autumn, but her sister, Mrs. Bacon, will visit us instead. Phantom, one of the Beauties of Bogota, sends me her photo. I can only say I wish I had her here as a sister cat to my Dame Hannah; but, oh dear, how jealous little Hannah would be! Miss Hydon tells me that cats should never arrive in New Jersey during the three hottest months, for the heat tries them most frightfully, so they should be imported during the cooler time, to become acclimatised. I think the Americans seem to have obtained, and kept, the pale blue colour which we are all striving for in England—or, should I say, striving to revive. I must remark that Miss

Hydon's lovely Phantom is a daughter of that extra lovely queen, Ch. Moth, by Lavender Sunny Lad, and, of course, her own breeding.

Joyous June, the queen which won a championship for Mrs. Jephson at the last Northern Show, has been on a visit to Ch. Billy Bumpet, in his Island Home. Joyous June is one of Ch. Gentleman of Hanley's best daughters.

Mrs. Lawrence's (Tatsfield) Sprite of Argovie had five kittens by Peregrine Pickle; she is but a young queen, and a bit clumsy, so only two boys survive. Shadow, the other blue queen, is bringing up her six kittens.

In the second act of "The Gondoliers" the Grand Inquisitor sings of "Tabby cats too many," now we must revise that line, and write of "Tabby cats too few." All the same, Miss Hotson, one of our best known fanciers, still keeps up her interest in the brown tabby, and hopes to do "her bit" in working them up again. Madcap is turned 10 years, but still "in the pink." Mollie Malone, a winner with Miss Kennaway, is now under Miss Hotson's care, and, it will be remembered, was bred by her. Mollie is by Ch. Holme Surprise Packet, and is now seven years of age. She took her Ch. at the M.C.C. in 1922. She has now a good male kitten by Ch. Mascot, who probably will be heard of later. Miss Hotson advocates the red tabby cross, in order to get a richer brown colour for the "Brownies"; it will take a little longer, but she is sure will be worth the trouble. Her success in the condition of her cats she attributes to non-crowding; she keeps two queens, and they live a perfectly free and natural life, and the kittens have done the same, consequently—healthy mothers and litters.

I was sorry to hear that Mrs. McLeod and Miss Tunks have lost their winning blue queen, "Heather of Hadley"—she was an excellent shower, as well as a good mother, and excellent in eyes.

Will breeders who are anxious to send to Bubbles of Hanley kindly give Mrs. McWatt four days' notice, as she herself will be away during August. Bubbles is very fit, and goes "mushrooming" on a lead; two of his kittens may appear at Madresfield and Sandy. Mrs. McWatt had an answer for her cream male kitten, advertised in "Cat Gossip," to go to East Africa, but as she is wishful to show him, or have him shown, she is loth to send him so far from home, so his fate hangs in the balance!

In reply to the following it would be most interesting if fanciers with a good knowledge of brown tabbies would give their help and views:—Mrs. Evans (Belvedere) writes: "I am a novice, but what has struck me most since I commenced showing is the great difference of opinion as regarding B. tabbies. I am not speaking as a disappointed exhibitor, because I think that I have done very well considering all things, but I am completely in a fog as to what is actually required in a B.T.? I have spoken to old B.T. breeders, and have been told that my Brown Deer is the best of the class to-day, yet, after taking top prizes, at the last show, up against the same cats, he was unplaced. It makes me wonder what is required? Brown Deer and Billy Brown Deer are proved sires. Mrs. Timms has just had some fine strong kittens, as have I myself. According to the B.T. diagram, Brown Deer is just there for markings. I am anxious that the breed should improve, if possible, and will endeavour to breed till such is the case, but I am still asking is it some different colour, markings, or what is it that is required? Re my cattery, I have no interested cat people around me here, so I am just working out my own little designs. I keep cats outdoors and indoors, just as I feel the need of the cat. Feeding is quite a business requiring a lot of care. My studs at present are Brown Deer, Billy Brown Deer, and Tony (a new orange stud). Brown Pet and Brown Boy, mentioned in your list of winning kittens under 'Coming Cats,' No. 7, were both lost by an accident." (As an addition to the above I should like to add that at the show to which Mrs. Evans refers (Mrs. B. H. Soames judging) Brown Deer was reserve; Mrs. Kennaway's Garb, Mascot, 1st and champion; Mrs. Evans' Billy Brown Deer, 2nd; Miss Sanderson's Vixen, 3rd.) "Working up a breed is a strenuous task, full of disappointments, and any one self-sacrificing enough to do so must take their courage in both hands. I am just purchasing from Mrs. Quarry and Miss Fisk, a good litter of blues, two boys and one girl, sired by Milord o' Mendip; the dam is Willanda of Winchfield, mother of Hendon Fairfax."

Mr. H. O. Edmonds, the energetic Secretary of the Governing Council, has just returned from a well-earned holiday in the Isle of Wight.

Re Madresfield Show, Cat Section, Miss George writes to me, that "it will be a success, as we have 102 entries (175 duplicates), and cats are travelling from all parts. I think Mr. Ambrose will have his work cut out; one class has 23 entries alone."

WEEKLY ENQUIRIES.

J. B., "Hawthorns."—What is the largest number of queens a stud should have during his second season without harming him?—Two to three for the busiest weeks. Personally, I try to keep my males until close on two years before putting them at stud; this, in the long run, brings its own reward.

"Amaryllis" questions why her Persian queen's eyes vary so much in density?—This paling and

deepening of colour depends much upon health. A sick cat's eye is always pale, but I have noticed in my own cattery that eye colour also "appears" to change with the emotions of the cat.

Will Mrs. Eric Nathan kindly tell me why she called her red tabby Persian "Here-is-me"—is it because the cat says something that sounds like it?

COMING CATS.

No. 8. L.H. BROWN TABBY KITTENS.

Mrs. Evans, Brown Boy, Brown Pet; Miss Hotson, Billy Brown Deer. Mrs. Evans has, since the show season, added Billy Brown Deer to her list of studs.

Miss Hotson writes that he is a good example of the utility of the "blue" cross, his mother being Madcap, daughter of Blue Britisher. Mrs. Evans bred Brown Boy from Brown Dee, ex Gipsy, who took first prize at Croydon. Brown Pet was a lovely kitten; she was daughter to Brown Bell, who was of Garboldisham strain.

Next Week: No. 9. L.H. Chin. Kittens.

Gossip of the Week.

Our earlier readers will remember that when we took over this paper entirely "on our own," at the suggestion of our very good friend, Mr. Percival, a number of ladies and gentlemen most kindly came forward and offered to guarantee up to £5 each against any loss we might incur in running an all-cat paper (certainly a risky proposition, especially in the face of a bigoted and unfancierlike opposition!) for the first six months. This period will soon be at an end, and we are happy to say that with No. 34 we notified these guarantors that no call would be made upon them. Our gratitude is none the less sincere, for we realise that it is largely their publicly displayed faith in us that has brought about this pleasant result. We never embarked upon "Cat Gossip" as a commercial undertaking—*pas si bête!*—but, considering the very great amount of labour we put in, we do think we deserve not to lose on it! If it keeps us in "smokes" through the year we shall be content, regarding it as a hobby, and hoping to benefit the Fancy. To our friends and well-wishers we would point out that we have no staff of clerks to assist us, but do everything ourselves; nor have we, like our contemporary, other well-paying sections to fall back upon. We are entirely dependent upon Cat-dom. During the next few months stud advertisements fall automatically almost to zero, whilst, on the other hand, show reports will bring in their train increased printers' bills! We, therefore, beg our friends to do their best to assist us by prompt sending in of news items; by obtaining for us new subscribers; and, above all, by seeing to it that we get our fair share of the ADVERTISEMENTS of the Fancy—these being the breath of life to any paper! AGAIN, we offer publicly our heartiest thanks to the

following ladies and gentlemen, who so quickly and generously came forward with their guarantees:—Miss Adams, Mrs. Allen-Maturin, Miss Benthall, Miss Busted, Mr. Compton-Mackenzie, Miss Dixon, Miss J. M. Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mr. Owen Gould, Mr. E. B. Gould, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Duncan Hindley, M. Armand Steens (Antwerp), Miss Nancy Richardson, Mrs. Timms, Mrs. Veley, Mrs. Wade, Major E. S. Woodiwiss, Mrs. Yeend.

We draw the attention of readers to the Animal Lovers' League advertisement. The A.L.L. performs the beneficent work of having lethal boxes installed wherever they can find anyone willing to take charge of one, the League paying for box and upkeep. Drowning is a horrible and cruel death, which Mrs. Singleton very rightly condemned recently in our contemporary; yet from ignorance and lack of other means thousands of dogs and cats are thus tortured. The smallest subscription will be gratefully received by the treasurer of the League, which is supported by some well-known cat fanciers, Miss Hill-Shaw and Mr. Percival, for instance. We do hope the readers of "Cat Gossip" will help.

LAST "Southern Counties" we had a chat with Mrs. Harpur about a self-brown S.H. she had seen running about. She has been able to secure this peculiar cat; as a kitten he was unmarked dark brown. In the summer he became cream with a brown undercoat, and now he is a rich tobacco brown in colour. He is rather Russian in type, and his eyes are yellowish

green. His mother was a black, and his father supposed to have been sandy.

THE "Liverpool Post and Mercury" gives an account of a cat at 2 L O which, hearing the telephone bell ring, ran and applied its ear to the telephone. Then, while the engineer was replying "Hold the line, and I'll look it up," ran to a bookshelf and looked at the row of books as it had seen its master do when looking up a reference! That cat really belongs in "Li'l old New York!"

MISS HILL-SHAW'S streak of bad luck still persists: Lady Pat's litter by Ch. Tarzan were born with their eyes open, and when last we heard three were already dead.

MRS. YEATES, we learn, is staying at Locquirec, on the Brittany coast, and we are sure the whole Fancy will echo our hope that she may return strong and well after her illness.

REFERRING to our remarks on the Blotched Tabby pattern and its not being found in any wild species of feline, it is rather remarkable—in view of the scientific opinions that it has only survived in domesticated and has become extinct in wild species—that somewhat similar patterns are found in the Viverrines, which form an old and less specialised group than the true felines, which are probably evolved from them. It is also noteworthy that, as far as we have been able to observe, the Blotched Tabby pattern does not appear in ancient Egyptian cat pictures; on the other hand markings of the



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"mackerel tabby" type were very frequently depicted.

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WHAT wonderful things happen in America! The "Cat Courier" says: "While a cat was sitting sunning herself in a yard in Jeannette, Pa., a flock of blackbirds swooped down upon her and literally tore the cat to pieces!" Well, well! We expect these were the identical birds out of the pie which had been "set before the King," and were justly irritated by this treatment!

THE "Daily Mail" for July 29th contains an article by the Editor of "C. G." on Manx cats and their possible origin.

"CAT GOSSIP," write the Misses Pritchard and Norrie, "is the only paper which does justice to S.H. and the aristocratic Siamese."

MRS. GENT, speaking at the Council Meeting of the British Union, stated that "she knew one vivisector there who has twenty cats per day!" What do we do against these practices? Some 200 "young Gentlemen (?)"—medical students—attended with the avowed object of breaking up the meeting and preventing free speech. Our budding medicos are copying the reddest Communists! Several ladies were injured.

THE "Cat Courier" for July gives a portrait of Gaybrook White Prince, "a very lovely blue-eyed white, who has been doing some nice winnings in the shows since he came over from England"—which is pleasant hearing for Miss L'Estrange Walsh.

THE ROYAL CAT OF SIAM.

BY MUANG T'HAH.

THE Siamese Cat Register, Vol. II. has just appeared, and no really earnest Siamese breeder can afford to be without this little book, which gives details of some 450 cats (from 823 to 1,360). It is profusely illustrated. Of intense interest is the preface by Mrs. Veley, containing a lot of information certainly unknown to many of our readers. "About 'the cats the colour of wood ashes' a native once said to me, 'If they have more than two (kits) we think they are not pure-bred, another cat has got into the compound!'" Does not this whet your appetite for more? There are also reprinted from "Cat Gossip" Mons. Armand Steens' gallant attempts to make out a case for the Siamese as the Sacred Cat of Old Egypt, and the Editor's replies thereto; and Mrs. Veley's Siamese origin suggestions. A little work of which Major Woodiwiss may well be proud!

Mrs. French (Horsham) writes that ill-health has prevented her from carrying out her scheme of a boarding-house for Siamese only, which she broached in "C. G." this spring, and which would have received the support of several of the leading lights of this Fancy. She is just now especially interested in the chocolates, as she has a very nice

dark imported queen, which she has mated to Bonzo, and which she hopes to exhibit at the Club Show. There is no doubt some of the chocolate Siamese are very handsome. At the Paris Cat Show in May, where Siamese were the feature of the show, they were divided as follows: Classes for light Siamese (café au lait), for medium tinted (beige), and for chocolates. Mrs. French would like any information she can obtain about the dark ones. Her kittens are kept in a one-room bungalow, with their own verandah and garden, on a diet of raw English meat, Jersey milk, and plain water. Result, coats like silk and happy healthy kits. Mrs. French speaks feelingly of the kindness she has been shown by Mrs. Allen-Maturin, Miss Dixon, Mrs. Veley, and other notables in the Fancy, and winds up with the hope of "meeting the Editor of 'C.G.' to personally express the pleasure his paper weekly gives."

SIAMESE CAT CLUB.

I hope by this time that all Members who ordered Vol. 2 of the Siamese Cat Register will have had it. Any members who had not already applied for it can write to me, enclosing postal order or cheque for 5s. 6d. for a copy post free. It is a book that should be in every member's hands, giving, as it does, all registered cats from May 1st, 1924, to April 30th, 1927, with the addition of photographs of the present day champions. We should give a hearty vote of thanks to Major Woodiwiss for the care and trouble he has taken in compiling this interesting volume. I have still a few copies of Volume I on hand; if members would like to apply for them at the same price, 5s. 6d. post free, I shall be pleased to send them one. The two volumes make a complete record of all pedigrees of Siamese cats.

E. C. BUSTEED, Hon. Sec. S.C.C.

BY THE EDITOR.

I was much interested in Mrs. Scott-Russell's letter. The late Mrs. Mary Robinson had two grey females, quite evenly marked, without being tabbies; these she used to mate to her Siamese stud, and in every other litter an apparently pure Siamese would appear—mostly males. These were sold for pets. Mrs. Robinson was always doubtful if a female from these would not throw back to greys; one of which, Betty, outlived her sister, and would never mate with any cat but a Siamese; and although brought up with old Litabois, he would have nothing to do with her when ready for mating, but would fight her; yet Bobolinko and Tino mated freely with her.

E. C. BUSTEED, Hon. Sec. Siamese C.C.

(Note by Editor.—It is remarkable that it is reported of the L.H. Siamese-coloured Sacred Burmese Temple Cats that it is very difficult to get them to mate with ordinary cats.)

VISIT.

July 10th.—Miss Rusher's Ygerne (lent to Miss Sladen), to Miss A. Kent's Eubonius (Manx).

HEN ADOPTS FELINE FAMILY.

Harrisonburg, Va.—A Plymouth Rock hen, disappointed in a setting of eggs that failed to produce any chickens, has adopted a cat and four kittens. One end of the stable manger in the W. F. Nichols' farm was given to the chicken and the other the cat. When the kittens arrived, the hen swaggered over and took possession of them. She snuggles them under her as she would chicks, and even includes the mother cat.—“Cat Courier.”

The Great “What Is it?”—A queer little kitten, half rat, half kitten, has caused its owner, Miss Mary Beals, of Camden, N.J., no end of trouble. Miss Beals was arrested on a warrant sworn out by Mr. and Mrs. James Cardello, who claims their tabby cat is the mother of the freak. The case has been held for the grand jury to decide, and Miss Beals is out on her own recognizance.—“Cat Courier.”

Cats that you can maul and tease, are called Maltese cats. Some cats is recknized by how quiet their pur is, and these is named Pursian cats. The cats what has very bad tempers is called “Angorie cats,” and the cats with deep feelin’s is called Feline Cats. (Note.—The above composition on cats was written by a boy in grammar school, and he passed.) —“Cat Courier.”

BIRTHS.

July 20th.—Miss M. Hill-Shaw’s **Lady Pat**, 5 kittens by Mrs. Kidd’s **Ch. Tarzan**.
 July 14th.—Mrs. Quarry’s and Miss Fiske’s **Pink Pearl of Winchfield**, 3 cream kittens by **Bubbles of Hanley**.
 July 22nd.—Mrs. French’s Siamese, **Tweedledum of the Plain**, 6 fine kittens by Mrs. Hindley’s **Champion Simzo**.
 July 29th.—Mrs. Ogleshorpe’s **Dainty Lady of the Court**, 5 lovely kittens (3 males, 2 females) by Lady Eardley Wilmott’s **Dazzler of Henley**.

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PORTRAITS. Cats standing at Stud (not less than 5 insertions) can have their portraits published for the price of block and postage. Block becomes property of owner. Portrait may be repeated within the year for inclusive fee of **One Guinea**. For Cats not advertised at Stud the Portrait Fee with Block will be **21/-**.
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