

CAT · GOSSIP

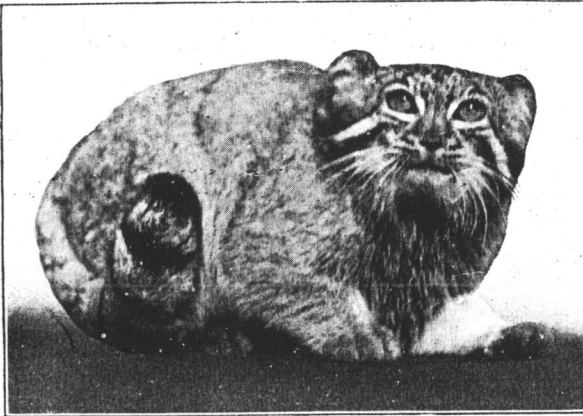
VOL. 2

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 51

NOVEMBER 23rd, 1927

Price 3d., post free



MANUL CAT (*Felis manul*).

WE BELIEVE Sir Claud Alexander has owned the Manul Cat of Central Asia, otherwise we doubt if living specimens have been in private hands. In pre-historic days this cat, also known as Pallas' Cat, appears to have existed also in Europe. It is the longest coated wild species known, and certain naturalists have deemed it probable that our L.H. cats are derived from it, a theory which is, at least, open to doubt. It measures rather under two feet, with a short bushy tail of less than one foot, and the main colour is greyish yellow.

LONG-HAIR LORE.

By MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER.

(Phone: Hendon 1019.)

I hear from Mrs. Green that Ch. Tiger Lily, who was out of coat at Reading, is coming on nicely, she has been so industrious bringing up two families in rapid succession that it was no wonder she had to take a back seat in consequence. Rufus, her red tabby son, who carried off first honours in his open kitten class, is none the worse for his first show; he was sired by Mrs. Green's own stud, Devonshire Cream, and the same litter also numbered two other red tabby males, and a tortie female. One of these red tabby males can be exchanged for a blue male if any breeder is anxious to start reds. The pedigree, of course, would have to be equally good. Mrs. Green is a very busy woman, but the Wolborough Cattery, situated in that lovely country near Newton Abbot, S. Devon, thrives notwithstanding.

Sales:—Miss J. M. Fisher is buying from Mrs. Brunton (Midlothian) the winning blue female kitten at Croydon, Sweet Lavender of Dunesk; she is daughter of that lovely queen, Wildflower, one of the sensations of last year. It was her first kitting, the sire being Milord o' Mendip.

Mrs. Oglethorpe now owns Lady Fayre, whose breeder was Mrs. Yeates. We all admired her at Reading, and, curiously enough, the pedigree runs very similar to Sweet Lavender's, the kittens owning the same sire, June Rose, the mother in the one case being the grandmother in the other.

Bad luck comes to all of us at times, but I don't care to accentuate it in these columns; however, I was intensely sorry to hear that Mrs. Kennaway had, through an accident, lost a most promising B.T. kitten, son of Ch. Mascot, who was to have made his debut at the Palace; this variety is so scarce that not one can be spared, especially in so sad a way. Mrs. Sharman has also had the misfortune to lose Langherne Frolic, of whom she writes the following: "You know Langherne Frolic of Coryton was never very strong, because the railway turned her out of the Worcester van at Oxford, and then put her in the Oxford van on the floor just inside the door on a bitter day before Christmas. She had congestion of the lungs, and for a fortnight had inhalations every two hours, day and night; she recovered, but her lungs were always delicate, and any excitement caused asthma. On Saturday week before Croydon Show I gave her her first good powdering, and it made her cough badly; her wheezing started straight away, and though I did everything possible she got steadily worse. On the following Friday my V.S., Mr. Driver, saw her, and said emphysema had started, from the fighting for breath, and the only thing to do was to put the poor darling to sleep. It was particularly grievous, as she was in most wonderful coat and fettle generally. With regard to the rest of my Cattery, I have had Zoë, Frolic's kitten, neutered, and she is making her debut as such at the National C.C. Jackie is staying at home until his sunburn has come out. Mrs. French has kindly given me a Siamese kit, by Ch. Simzo; she has settled down beautifully with the others, and we call her Mwanza. Poor Frolic's little son is getting on nicely now, though at the time of his mother's death he was very upset, as he was still with her when I found her temperature was over 106."

Petronella of Stand, Miss Joan Buckley's cup win-

ner, is looking lovely, and may visit the C.P. Show; also Betty Bumpet, a deep-eyed daughter of Woodchurch Dawn and Ch. Billy. Tossibob of Stand, and that pretty fellow, Lord McAlpine, are all in the best of health; the latter slept for 48 hours on his return from Reading, to make up for his long journey, which had started at 9 a.m. on the morning previous to the Show day.

In reply to Mr. House's remark re the black L.H. female class at Newbury, "How long, how long?"—in a contemporary—I being the owner of the youngest of the veterans! I must find a reason for this long back lane without a turning! The real veteran of the class, Ch. Zulanda, born as far back as 1919, really beats us all, for she has been most successful in providing posterity.

I hear that Mrs. McClure's Hillington Dr. Bogie may go to Morocco.

Mrs. Egerton Tree, who says the terrible things she sees in the course of her rescue work amongst poor cats almost break her heart, and have quite cured her of any ideas as to women on the whole being more tender-hearted than men, found some little temporary consolation in the second prize of her three months' cream, Shalimar, at Croydon.

WEEKLY ENQUIRIES.

Did any exhibitor take advantage of the newly inaugurated railway rates for the return journey from Croydon Show?

J. B., Hawthorns, would be glad to know how to remove sunburn from blue kittens?—Time and change of coat are the only cure; it is most noticeable in the palest kittens, and can come from other causes than sunburn; running in damp grass, and with tiny kittens from the mother cat's constant licking. We know that brown coats are bad for the Show bench, but we must also remember that the sun is life.

"Peter" wants to know how many "firsts" he has to win before becoming a champion?—Three fits as an adult in his open class, under three different judges.

SOME CATTY SUPERSTITIONS.

The peasants of Southern Slavonia believe that the Evil One dwells in a black cat, and avoid meeting such by night, when the Fiend is empowered to suddenly resume his proper form and to seize upon and destroy a lonely traveller. . . . Highly respected is the cat by some of the Malayan natives, who believe that as punishment for killing a cat the guilty person in the next life is compelled to carry and stack as many tree trunks as the cat had hairs, each trunk to be of the thickness of a cocoa-nut palm. . . . The Jakuns, one of the semi-wild Malayan tribes, are convinced that a cat precedes them on their toilsome journey through Hell to Paradise, spraying water as they go to make the infernal atmosphere more bearable. . . .

"UNSERE KATZE."

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

Mrs. Woodhouse (Little Baddow) writes that she has a beautiful blue Persian which habitually carries her tail curved over her back, in the fashion of a pug or Chow. We remember thirty years ago Mrs. Stoneham used to exhibit and win with a very fine black S.H., Dicky Darling, with similar tail carriage. Long before that, when the animals now known as Palm Civets were called Paradoxures, and but little known, the presence of a specimen at the Zoo with this abnormality caused some naturalists to regard it as a racial characteristic. One of Mrs. Woodhouse's cats has just produced a litter of eleven.

MADAME DOLLI, the famous dancer, whose Cream Bunne has just scored two championship certificates (with which Mrs. Bazeley is delighted), will shortly be in England for a little while, and has purchased a blue male kitten, son of Ch. Billy Bumpet, which she will take back to Italy with her.

MESSRS. CHAPPEL draw attention to their cat foods, to which our esteemed collaborator, Mrs. Campbell-Fraser, has ere now referred in terms of praise. We have only just made acquaintance with their foods, which our cats seem to enjoy.

CROYDON SHOW echoes:—We are glad to hear the "gate" reached the satisfactory figure of £35. The shorthair section, of course, badly missed the wanted support of the Ballochmyle cats, absent on account of Sir Claud Alexander's recent bereavement.—The "Lilmay" Cup, presented by Mr. H. C. Brooke for best Manx or Abyssinian not being a full-blown champion, appears to have been wrongly awarded to the white Manx, Mona Villish Veen, as she had already gained her title.—We are sorry to hear that Miss Hill Shaw is far from well; in fact, she was suffering on the Show day, which naturally proved a great strain on her. We do not suppose that Mr. House's award, placing that wonderful old stud, Ras Djibuti (nearly twelve), above the good youngster, Ras Isis, who was strongly fancied for first by their owner this and last year, will find any supporters, but, as the awards stand, the veteran should have a look in for this cup. Isis, by the way, being the name of a goddess, is somewhat of a misnomer for a male, especially with the prefix Ras!—Chelsea White Ensign had a good day, winning quite a lot of black or white specials; the blue Britisher, Bilateena, took the S.H.C.S. Breeders' Bowl, and Ch. Stephanie of Cademuir the Blue Russian Cup.—In the present state of scarcity of brown tabbies, it is deplorable that Joe Beckett has to be shown in the neuter classes, where he scored well.—In the short-hair section report, of course, read "Brown Star," instead of "Sweetheart," as the winner, Mr. Taylor's old crack taking pride of place.

We shall hope to be at the Palace next week, unless this horrible climate settles us before then. Any urgent communications can be sent to us there: or (addressed to H. C. Brooke) at the Regent Palace Hotel, W., until first post Friday morning.

MR. YEATES may well be gratified with the entry for



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the National Cat Club's Show, at the Palace next Wednesday, having booked the satisfactory score of 372 cats, representing 1,014 entries, as against 351 and 980 respectively last year.

THE third Show of the German Angora Cat Society will be held at Munich on November 28th.

By inadvertence our contributor omitted mentioning the brown tabbies at Croydon, and now writes: In brown tabbies Mrs. Kennaway won 1st and champion with Ch. Garb: Mascot. Miss French was 2nd with Joanna Godden, a beautifully marked cat, and Mrs. Kennaway was 3rd with Vixen. In kittens Miss French won 1st and 2nd with Timothy Bastow and Jennie Mallard, and Mrs. Alexander came 3rd with Tabs. What a pity it is that there are not more brown tabby breeders! How splendid, could one reach the standard of that lovely cat owned by the late Miss Frances Simpson, Ch. Persimmon. I liked best of all Mr. Toots, but, alas! he is neutered, and although his owner still has his dam, she has never produced another Mr. Toots. I do believe, however, that this noble breed of cats is slowly improving, and fanciers are showing more interest in them, and should in every way be encouraged.—M. E. Ogletorpe.

Curiosities at the Royal Canadian Cat Club's Show.

Toronto schedule is out. We observe whites have 11 classes for blue-eyed, 11 for yellow-eyed, and 5 for odd-eyed cats. Blue Persians only 11 classes. Masked silvers have 11 classes, shaded silvers, 8.

The schedule gives description of the properties of each breed. Shaded silvers are thus described: "Pure unmarked silver, shading gradually down the sides, face, and tail, from dark on the ridge to pale on chin, chest, belly, and under tail; legs to be same tone as face. General effect to be much darker than a Chinchilla." Masked silver: "The body colour of a masked silver should be either Chinchilla or shaded silver, face marked like a smoke, very dark silver or black."

Australians are very different to those whites shown by Miss Wilson last January, and approach more those described by "Cat Gossip." "The head is to be wedge-shaped with Roman nose, muzzle pinched, whiskers very short or not at all . . . wrinkles on forehead and chin . . . hindlegs higher. . . . Paws high-arched, bony in appearance; claws unsheathed. . . . Colour: Those marked with white are eligible to championship points."

Abyssinian tails are described as short and thick; probably this is due to an inexplicable mistake in Miss Simpson's Book of The Cat, which somehow resulted from no proofs having been submitted to me at the time.

The scale of points of the Cat Fanciers' Association to be applied to all breeds and colours, runs: Colour, 25; coat and condition, 25; head, 20; type, 20; colour of eyes, 10. Mrs. Taylor, of the "Cat Courier," is judge.

SIAMESE AND THEIR OWNERS.

By MUANG T'HAL.

Mrs. Ellaby wishes to thank the donors of the many specials she "scooped" with her team at the Club Show. It was really a remarkable litter, that from Ch. Bonzo and Princess Cleo, and it was awaited with fear and trembling, for the night after the Princess returned from her visit she escaped and stopped out all night, returning to breakfast next morning, a fatuous smile on her face, escorted by two long-haired tabby toms! Great was the relief when it was seen the litter was O.K.! All the time she was in kitten she persisted in sitting on a narrow radiator, from which she occasionally fell off, so that really but faint hopes were entertained of the success of the litter. Marko, the Club Show sensation, is now happy as a country gentleman at ease, living principally on rabbits, at the Duchess of Bedford's Devonshire estate. Fairo is still winning for Mrs. Cates; Delio has gone to Mrs. Yeates; and Lady Thompson has a sister of the same litter. It is hoped that this very successful alliance may be repeated with equally good results. One of the best Siamese in America is Miss Elsie Inslee's Ch. Siamese Star O'Sumi, never yet defeated. A real gem, from the photo. She was sired by a son of Ch. Bonzo.

Mrs. Baker's Koung enters our stud columns.

Mrs. Cran kindly writes as follows concerning

THE TEMPLE MARK:

"The real person to question about this mark is Miss Busted, who, I believe, has considerable data. My own information is but scanty. On the backs of some highly-bred Siamese, just by the shoulder-blades, may be found two distinct marks. They are said to be the distinguishing marks of the true Temple Cats, those which are held to be most sacred and are most treasured by the priests. I have never heard the full story, and so cannot name the god who once picked up one and left the shadow of his hands for ever on its descendants, nor do I know why he picked it up. There may be a very pretty legend somewhere behind those shadowy marks, which do not blend and make a saddle; they are distinct, as though one with sooty hands had lifted a pale-coated cat, gripping his neck rather low down. They are not often seen. They are certainly a distinctive mark, and not an accidental marking. I have observed them for many years, and only within the last few years learned the name of them, and

INFORMATION DESIRED.

the outline of their legendary origin. It would be interesting if some 'Cat Gossip' reader will enlighten us further? I would like to know if any imported cat has the Temple Mark: if it is widely known among Siamese breeders: and how persistent it is in recurrence among our home-bred stock? I

would also like to know if there are any more chocolate Siamese with golden eyes in England? I was very much interested in Mrs. French's litter at Croydon, and can imagine a wonderful and quite distinct class in this colouring. This kitten was very attractive in appearance; the other chocolate kit had greenish-gold eyes; the rest of the litter were all blue-eyed cream and seal; the dam being an imported cat."

[Note by Editor.—For analogous legends, compare that about the John Dory fish; also the very pretty **Legend of the Tortie and White**, a charming Indian cat legend, which has appeared, we believe, only in "Cat Gossip" as far as this country is concerned. (See "Cat Gossip" No. 14.) In our Special Illustrated Siamese Show No. 43, Mrs. Croucher referred to a brown Siamese cat with yellow eyes. At the same time "golden-eyed Siamese kittens" were advertised in a contemporary. We wrote begging for full details, provided they were pure-bred kits; receiving no reply we drew certain conclusions, which readers will probably share.]

BIRTHS.

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