

CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 2

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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Price 3d., post free

LONG-HAIR LORE.

By MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER.

(Phone: Hendon 1019.)

Those of us who can remember those grand cats, Brayford Victory and Persimmon, are looking round in these re-awakening days of the Fancy, to find breeders who will be persevering enough to work up again the glorious Brown Tabby Longhair. It will take time and patience, but will be worth while—fundamentally the stock we have to work with is far from strong, but three generations of sire and dam carefully balanced might evolve much, and would, at any rate, produce specimens nearer show type than we see to-day. There are times one feels quite wickedly! on the subject of neuters, and I was in just such a spirit when I first set eyes on those superb neuters, Mr. Toots, Chips, and Joe Beckett. Toots and Chips are both L.H.; Joe Beckett S.H.; and Toots is just a living picture of a warm-coloured brown tabby. Oh! the pity of it, that any of the three should not have re-started a brown tabby strain of their own, and so enriched the Fancy. Well, alas, now it is too late to mourn over the impossible—possible—and we must just enjoy the following interesting letter which Mrs. Beckett has kindly written about her pets:—“I have been asked to give some particulars about my tawny Tabbies, but as the article deals with Longhair Lore I suppose that my dear Joe Beckett will be out of the picture! As a humble follower of the Fancy, my Tawny Tabby Chips (born in 1923, same pedigree as Toots and Beckett) was my first venture, and I showed him at Croydon ‘just for fun’ in 1923, when he won two firsts in the radius classes. This honour seems to have been too much for his humble mind, for he decamped, and I did not see him for over a year—and the months passed by and no sign of the Prodigal’s return! In 1924 Josephine, a short-hair, and Tawny Tabs, a long-hair, both females, were on the bench at Croydon. The latter was very much like Mr. Toots, and in 1924 Mr. Toots, Joe Beckett, and Davie were shown as kittens, all winning prizes, but there were no enquiries about them, and that was the reason for my showing Mr. Toots and Joe Beckett in the neuter class the following year. The latter are devoted to each other, lead the simple life, and are keen followers of the chase, in the way of rats and

mice, of which I receive many votive offerings. I heard early one morning this year that my Prodigal was on the kitchen window sill, and so it proved, for on my saying ‘Kiss me, Chips,’ he reared his head up in the old way for his usual caress. I can only say if the Prodigal of old looked half as disreputable as my Chips, he must, indeed, have looked a sorry sight. After practically shaving Chips I have kept him in captivity ever since, except when he goes out on a lead. I showed him at Croydon last week in the company of Mr. Toots and Joe Beckett, where he took second prize, and very proud and pleased I was at their success.”

Another fine animal in the way of a brown tabby shown at most of our Ch. Shows is that enormous neuter, Micky; he has done quite a considerable amount of winning, and is the property of Miss Lily Smith, that kindly lady whose clerical services are so valued by our show secretaries. Particulars of Micky’s pedigree are unknown, but although he loses on head, he would still have been at the moment a considerable asset to the breed.

I wonder if any of my readers know that delightful old-world village of Bramber, Sussex? The ruins of its Castle, the green with its pond, and the many quaint timbered cottages, with narrow bye-ways, all speak of a past now almost forgotten. Bramber, within easy reach from Brighton, is well worth a visit, but let me warn would-be visitors to choose fine weather, for floods are frequent and of no mean extent, but I am getting away from my subject. Bramber has a museum! and our felines play a large part in it—to me, looking back, it appears a veritable chamber of horrors! Here you will find the skeleton of a cat, discovered years ago in the old chimney—poor puss, who mourned your sad fate? No one knows; but a step further and we find ourselves surrounded by kittens of all colours. Bands of them, holding tiny instruments, fiddle, cornet, and bassoon. Dancing partners, dressed in divine coats and frocks; sleeping beauties; courts of law, in wig and gown; tea parties, al fresco parties, and many other of these little innocents, lifeless, but still apparently gay—immured in glass cases to astound the eye of the animal lover. Fifty to one hundred kittens, beautifully preserved for posterity to gaze upon—the strange, incomprehensible work of one man—whose name, I am glad to say, I have forgotten.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

WE tender our sympathy to Mrs. Aubrey, on the sudden death from pneumonia of the lovely Chinchilla kitten, Langherne Beau, which took best in show at Reading. This sad loss has damped the pleasure given by the win at Croydon of best L.H. kitten by the cream.

Mrs. HARVEY has sold her Siamese stud, Padi of Petaling, to a Norfolk purchaser; we hope he will still remain available for service.

JOHN of Bedale, the maligned, the defamed, the calumniated, bids fair, whether or no he has housemaid's knee or sleeping sickness, to attain fame far beyond that of his rivals, for does not the Daily Press blazon forth his likeness, with the intimation that he is to appear in a new British film?

MISS BUSTEED wishes all Siamese fanciers to support the Midland Counties' Show, and if any who are doubtful about sending will communicate with her she will endeavour to arrange to look after their cats or take them down with her.

WE have received a complaint, couched in a most extraordinary tone, from a certain exhibitor, that errors were made in reporting on her Manx at Croydon. When this exhibitor has been a few minutes more in the Fancy, she will, perhaps, appreciate that the work of an independent reporter, especially at a one-day Show, is extraordinarily difficult. Judges' reports are easy; judges have their books to refer to. The independent reporter, beginning late, has to go round when the pens are crowded. Had this lady written in a proper spirit, pointing out the error, we would gladly have rectified it; such errors must from time to time occur in every paper. Instead, the lady has chosen to write in a most offensive strain, practically asserting that our reporter purposely "crabbed" her exhibits, and threatening that if such a thing occurs again all of us concerned in this crime "will be in the soup." In our 40 years' experience of exhibiting and Press work, we've never had such a letter; if every exhibitor whose stock is incorrectly reported on behaved like this, no Fancy paper could be run! The lady also complains that the reporter's opinion does not coincide with that of the judge! Independent reporter's opinions often do differ from those of the judges! We hope that when this complainant has been in a Fancy for one quarter the time we have, she will have learnt not to impute dirty motives on the slightest provocation. Incidentally, we beg to assure her she need not have the slightest fear that any reference to her cats will ever again be made in our columns!

The Lilmay Cup, wrongly awarded to Ch. Mona V.V. at Croydon (she being a champion and ineligible), goes to Miss Cochrane's Ellan Vannin, a daughter of the late Ch. Katzenjammer's Ghost and Mona. The letter informing us of this also states that Miss M. Hill-Shaw is still very unwell, and in pain; we know everyone will sympathise.

WE have received from Berlin the first few numbers of the German cat paper, "Unsere Katze" ("Our Cat"), and can safely say it absolutely puts in the shade any catty paper that has ever been produced in this or any other country. Whereas papers of this nature usually confine themselves mostly to purely "Fancy" and "Breeders'" matters—and thereby miss the support of the vastly more numerous body of cat-lovers who are not "Fanciers" (most of whom, as we know from our own correspondence, find purely Fancy matters very boring), the German paper, which is of good size, excellently printed on good paper, and beautifully illustrated, not only caters for "fanciers"—it is the organ of several Cat Clubs—but provides for the great body of cat-lovers. Whatever their tastes may be, matter of every kind connected with the cat is provided for them: poems and literature, by writers of all nations and all periods; portraits, and reproductions of the works of cat painters; veterinary, scientific, legendary, historical, natural history, and humanitarian matter dealing with the feline tribe is to be found in this paper, which would be a credit to any country, and, considering that the Cult of the Cat is but in its infancy in Germany, is really a marvellous production.

"CATS have no affection," say some mental deficient! Mrs. Hopwood writes in the "Evening Standard": "My parents owned a dog and cat which were great friends, always sitting side by side in front of the fire, and sometimes kissing each other. The dog died, and was buried at the bottom of the garden. Some months afterwards pussy, immediately she was released in the morning, would go straight down and lie on the dog's grave, remaining until carried in to bed. This was continued daily for a week. Then one day I called in vain for Pussy. I went down the garden, and found her dead on the dog's grave."

THE very conspicuous cheek-markings of the Manul in our picture last week, make one wonder why, in almost every cat which is marked at all, these markings occur. Again, what is the reason that practically all spotted felines have a white mark across the back of the ear? This is found in tiger, jaguar, leopard, ocelot, serval, leopard cat, and others—that is, in spotted felines of S. America, India, Asia, and Africa. It is very remarkable. The theory was put forward by someone, we do not remember now by whom, that Nature intended these marks, showing up clearly when the cat was hidden, to represent butterflies, and thus attract birds within range. Ingenious, but hardly likely we think! Even were this the explanation in the case of small breeds, why should tiger and jaguar be thus marked? for the occasional capture of a problematical small bird thus lured to its doom would be of little benefit to these large felines. THE Midland Counties' Cat Club's Show is undoubtedly the most important of the up-country fixtures, and this will be held at Worcester on January 12th. It will be observed that members have certain



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CATS AT HIGHBRIDGE FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION.

The above was held on 23rd November in the Town Hall, Highbridge (Som.), with great success. The Cat Section was, as always, an attraction. But I really do wish that people would prove their interest in the Cat Fancy by sending exhibits, and so helping to inaugurate a centre here for a good section. Everyone was gay, and the lower part of the Hall quite cheery, in spite of the cruelty of the elements, but the cats had a scare when the cocks started crowing, and one really had hard work to keep from laughing when, during the opening speeches, a loud crow interrupted the speakers at every sentence. Mr. Wallington judged the cats, and awarded first and special for best in show to Son o' Flick, who held quite a reception of admiring strangers round his cage for the remainder of the day. Two blues, belonging to Mrs. Brown, took second and third, and her two fine blacks, eight months old, had third and special in the household pet class. I saw no super-cat, but I did notice that all were fine, healthy, well grown specimens.

In the Blue Adult Class Mr. Chappell took first with a fine blue female, and Mrs. Brown second and

third. In the Neuter Class Nurse Sauverin took first and second with two handsome dark blues.

By the way, are cats scarce in China? I met with someone showing two nice blues, but who remained careless, and she told me that she had lived in China for four years, and before coming home again sold a pair of half-grown blue Persians for £33. It makes one feel half inclined to take one's next holiday there—with a freight of cats for luggage!

Will everyone who reads this, try and keep one kitten or cat to show at Highbridge next November? All will have a real welcome, and a jolly good luncheon afterwards at the hotel. And any classes will be put on if guaranteed.

E. LERWAY-ELLIOT.

"POWDERPUFF."

A CHILD'S POEM TO HER CAT.

"Oh! she was fair and lovely,
Oh! she was soft and fat,
She was a perfect darling,
She was my own dear cat.

She had a pair of bright eyes,
She had a sweet pink nose,
Her tail was long and fluffy,
Trailing behind her toes.

Her coat was soft as swansdown,
She had four sweet white paws,
She was, and I tell you truly,
The very sweetest of cats!"

MARY A. BURNINGHAM.

HOW I BECAME A CAT EXHIBITOR!

I have kept cats of various breeds for 15 years, but have bred white Persians in the proper orthodox way for only about 10 years. A dear black male of mine, only a common garden cat, but the best pal I have ever had (in cats, of course), had cancer of the bowels, so I knew I would have to have him put to sleep, but before doing so I wanted to have another one to take his place. Having always had more than a sneaking regard for a white Persian, but not knowing the "ropes," I did not know how to procure one. So one day a friend of mine saw a shop window and a large crowd of people in front admiring a small white Persian puss. After inquiries we found out that the dear little mite had been left at the shop by a French lady, a refugee, "to be sold." Next day I took my dear old Blackie to the lethal chamber, and brought my white kitty home. She was half-starved, and very nervous, but my patience and kindness were soon rewarded, as she grew into a pretty little cat. I only paid 12s. for her, but to-day she is priceless. She had been in season "on and off" for some time when I realised that I would have to find a mate for her, only I did not know how to do it. So I sent an advert. to the "Evening News," but had it returned "not suitable." I was in a fix, and did not know what to do next. I asked my newsagent whether there was no paper for "cats"; he told me he knew of none, but sold me "Our Dogs" to see whether that would help me. It seems hardly possible! Someone pointed out to me that a cat show would be held at the Crystal Palace, and that if I would show there I might be able to make the acquaintance of a fancier owning a white Persian male. So I made it my business to find out all about it, and Miss Lea, our Hon. Secretary (then), advised me to join up and chance my luck. I did, and this little cat proved the best 12s. worth I have ever had in my life. She is getting more beautiful every day as she gets older, and I am often asked why I don't show her any more. She is terrified of the show pen, but gentle and sweet, will not scratch or bite, but what use? Her beautiful large round open eyes are "odd" blue and golden, but for them she would have been a champion. It is such a pity! Her coat is 4-5 inches long, fine and silky in texture, and her ruff surrounds her lovely face like a halo; she has tiny well-placed ears, the shortest nose I shall ever wish for in any cat, and her head is as round as a billiard ball. She stands on very short legs, and has long silky tufts between toes; short long-haired brush, and perfect hearing, which she invariably passes on to her progeny. I don't think she will breed much longer; but no matter, I shall always keep her as a pet and pensioner until she is taken, but hope she will live to a great age yet, as she is a wonderfully healthy cat.

PEGGY CATTERMOLE.

SIAMESE CAT CLUB.

A Committee meeting of the above Club was held at Messrs. Fallowfield's, by the kindness of Mrs. Duncan Hindley, on Friday, November 18th. Present: Mrs. Veley, Mrs. Allen Maturin, Mrs. Wade, Mrs. Cran, Miss H. Hill-Shaw, Mr. Lloyd Lewis, Mrs. Basnett, Major Woodiwiss, Miss Dixon, and the Hon. Secretary. Mrs. Veley took the chair. The minutes of last meeting were read and signed. The resignation of Major Woodiwiss as Chairman was accepted, and it was proposed by Mrs. Veley, seconded by Mrs. Wade, that Mr. Lloyd Lewis be elected as Chairman; this was carried, and Mr. Lewis then took the chair. The Hon. Secretary presented a rough copy of the Show accounts, and said the printing bill was still unpaid, and when this was paid it would leave a balance of £15 9s. 9d., but that the balance for 1926 was £16 14s. 6d., which, therefore, showed a deficit of £1 4s. 9d. on the 1927 show. We were down on donations, entries, and had heavier advertising. It was proposed by Mrs. Cran, and seconded by Miss Dixon, that these accounts be passed. Proposed by Miss Hill-Shaw, seconded by Mrs. Cran, and carried unanimously, that Mrs. Wade be appointed judge of Siamese at the M.C.C.C. Show, in January next. The date of the General Meeting of the Club was fixed for February 1st, 1928. After some further business the meeting terminated.

E. C. BUSTEEL, Hon. Secretary.

BIRTHS.

November 6th.—Mrs. Hart's Siamese queen, 6 kittens by Mrs. Harvey's Padi of Petaling.

November 6th.—Mrs. Harvey's Buffy of Petaling, 6 kittens by owner's Datoh of Petaling.

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CAT CALLS.

To THE EDITOR.

THE TEMPLE MARK.

Referring to Mrs. Cran's remarks re the above in Siamese cats, contained in your last issue. Is it not high time the breeders of this fascinating cat gave their full attention to improving the various points as laid down by the Siamese Cat Club, instead of trying to encourage mis-markings because of some supposed legend which may have originated from someone with a too imaginative mind?

The chocolate pointed Siamese with golden or greenish-gold eyes surely should be discouraged, and for my own part I should imagine it is a "throw back" to a previous ancestor, for if I remember rightly, the mother of the kittens referred to has a big patch of white on her chest; something rather unusual for a pure-bred Siamese, whether imported or otherwise.

E. SYDNEY WOODIWISS.

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