

# CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 3

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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## LONG-HAIR LORE.

By MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER.

(Phone: Hendon 1019.)

A play on the name of “Cat Gossip.” A week or two ago I asked subscribers to suggest; the answers have been slightly delayed in appearing owing to great demand on our space. Mrs. A. P. Leigh heads the list with “Cat’s Gospel.” Others worthy of remembrance are: “Cheery Gurgles,” “Continues Gaily,” “Contains Grit,” “Creates Goodfellowship,” “Canny Grimalkin,” “Cute Gleanings.”

Redholme, Teddington. Mr. Church writes: “I have only one cat at present, he is nine months old—Billy Buster of Teddington, by Ch. Billy Bumpet; he was r at the Crystal Palace. I intend to use Billy for stud in July, with a bit of luck. Both my wife and I are very fond of cats. We won a championship cup and 1st prize last year with a half-Persian at the R.S.P.C.A. Show at Kingston; he was 13 years old, and weighed 15lbs., but I am sorry to say he is now dead. I bought Billy Buster from Mrs. Berry as a young kitten. Now a word about the Crystal Palace: I think the judging of blues by electric light quite impossible; it does not give colour a fair chance. Billy is on the dark side, so looked quite black in his pen. I spoke to one of the judges on the subject, and he said I was quite right, colour cannot be judged by electric light, but they had to do their best.”

Now, just to “barge” in for a moment, I must bring to mind that this matter of show lighting is one that exercises the mind of the Fancy, and is a very trying one to the committees of the various Clubs when choosing their Show Hall. The choice of Halls in London is very limited; these, with the exception of some of the public baths, are rarely used for other than dancing, whist drives, etc., for which electric light is all sufficient. In dark Halls, and on dark gloomy days most of the blue judges take the exhibits into the daylight; Miss Langston did so with many, but the number must perforce be limited. When the Cat Fancy occupies its proper position it should build a Hall for itself—light and sanitary, properly ventilated from above; with the present perfecting of glass windows light should be an easy problem.

The Southern Counties hoped to welcome Mrs.

Singleton as one of their judges, but I am grieved to say she writes that she is still weak from a bad breakdown last August, and dare not, in consequence, undertake such a strenuous post, adding kindly: “Please another year I should like to be asked again, for, as you know, the spirit is willing, etc.” Confidently, I am sure my Committee will answer in the affirmative, so may 1928 bring better health to our keen fancier friend, and better luck for the S.C.C.C. in securing her expert services.

Wise words from Yewsley: Mrs. Elsie Hill writes that her venture lately into print was in no way personal, for she says: “I consider myself more a looker-on than a true Fancier. But the Fancy is growing so vastly, so many hard-working novices get left behind for lack of the necessary push required in their characters, that it seemed to me a little encouragement would not be out of place. My cattery at the moment is very small. I am a believer in complete freedom for my pets, and so cannot keep too many at a time. Zorah, however, is really looking beautiful. She is a most dense black, and so far as I can judge without seeing her beside other blacks, has the shortest nose and best shaped head that I have seen this year. Her coat is at its best now, and I hope to show her at Kentish Town in January; she is losing her eye colour a little bit, apparently this does not affect her kittens, for Marylyn, her little blue daughter, has deep orange eyes. Am interested to hear of the new feature starting in ‘Cat Gossip.’”

Mrs. Farquharson (Bletchley) is a newcomer to the cat world, but is an experienced breeder of live stock, although this is her first venture with the feline. She is concentrating on blues for the time being, and starts with a fine queen, named Nan of Bletchley.

## TWO NEW L.H. BLUE CHAMPIONS.

Dion of Allington and Northway Shelmerdine won their full titles at the Northern Show, at Newcastle, this week. Both were sired by the late Eros of Allington.

## DEBUTANTE’S DIARY (Continued).

In choosing let health (with a capital H) be the first consideration. Pedigree the second, if you wish to go in for winning stock. On purchasing a kitten, do not be too proud to inquire how it has been fed, number of meals, quantity given, and variety of food; this is a very important point, as by a sudden change of diet a baby kitten is easily upset. En-

vironment is another matter which tells greatly, a kitten born and bred indoors must not all at once be placed outside, or in a cold shut away room, the conditions under which it has been living must be adhered to as nearly as possible.

### GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

OUR confrère, M. Armand Steens, that very genuine cat lover, tells us that recently, when visiting Rome, he counted 85 ownerless cats in the Forum, near Trajan's column. They were all fat and sleek, and fed by neighbouring inhabitants. Italians are by no means noted for kindness to animals, but seem rather fond of cats.

A BECKENHAM correspondent lately sent this anecdote to the daily Press:—"On our dining-room mantelpiece used to stand a chiming marble clock, and our cat, on hearing it strike for the first time was very mystified as to where the noise originated. After that, whenever he heard the clock strike he would jump on to the mantelpiece and claw at the clock, trying to stop the noise, which annoyed him. After a few weeks he could tell the time, and just before the hour would walk into the room, and as soon as the clock struck he would claw open the glass face and stop the hands, and then, satisfied, return to his previous occupation." We think with a little care this cat could be taught to wind the clock; once well grounded in this work he should fetch a big price from some institution where there are many clocks.

SOME of the Manx papers are rather jubilant over the win of an Island cat at the Palace, especially as it has often been suggested in the daily Press that the Manx cats sold to tourists are too often artificial ones, the Simon Pure being hard to find in the Isle. Incidentally the old joke from the "Duchess of Danzig" is recalled, in which the comic man replies to a question as to whether he is happy: "Happy! I'm as happy as a Manx cat wagging his nothing!"

TABBY, of Tokenhouse Yard, is a large tabby-and-white cat, who, every evening, under the shadow of the Bank of England, causes returning City workers to queue up to see him go through his tricks. Eighteen months ago he was found by his master, wild and gaunt, in some cellars; kindness and petting have made him a devoted companion, who every night, after amusing hundreds with his voluntary performances, shares the vigil of his master, a night watchman.

WE would again advise readers, directly a cat sneezes, to apply a little Nostroline as directed, or, for the matter of that, when they themselves sneeze. Before going out in the cold, it is good, it greases the nasal mucous membrane and stops the irritation caused by contact with the cold air. Night after night, in the small hours, when one's vitality is at its lowest, and the cold is intense, we are wakened, in this horrible climate, by the threatening yet warn-

ing tickling in the nostrils presaging a cold; we reach in the dark for Nostroline, and apply it, as we do before going out. We have proved it equally efficacious for cats, and it should be used before, at, and after shows, to guard against colds.

A MOST interesting cat, but very rarely seen in this country, has just reached Liverpool from Sumatra. It is the Rusty-spotted cat, a small Indian species, about the size of an ordinary tame cat. Had it been springtime we should have purchased it for experimental breeding, but having no heatable cattery are afraid to do so. It is specially interesting to us, because some naturalists hold that it is one of the progenitors of the spotted domestic Indian cats, which appear formerly to have been quite common, but are now, all our inquiries lead us to fear, getting very rare. Mrs. Broughton Hawley has owned specimens, and is now endeavouring to obtain some more.

LAST week we omitted to state that the experiment of turning down cats to combat the rabbit plague was being tried in Australia. In Exmouth Show report we are made to say of a certain exhibit "pretty kink in tail." For pretty read "pity"—as the cat was a L.H. blue, and not a Siamese.

MRS. CRAX, as President of Croydon C.C., writes to thank those friends who have written so charmingly and sent subscriptions to the Christmas gift to our dear friends, the Misses Hill-Shaw. The amount received up to the 15th, the announced closing date, is £45, but more is expected by the week's end.

THERE was a cat in the Household Classes at Exmouth which much interested us, and we would like to know how it was bred. It was superbly ticked—better than any Abyssinian of to-day that we know—but strong and British in type; too much barred, and dark in colour; under-colour rather dull, but wonderful for even ticking; a very handsome cat. We incline to think it was one of those "British Bunny Cats," of which Mr. Louis Wain used to be so fond some thirty years ago; we remember he obtained one for us at a time when the true Abyssinian was almost extinct. It is remarkable how these cats crop up from time to time. A few years back we noticed one in the possession of the caretaker of a hall in Camden Town, where Mouse Shows are often held. There is a fair kitten near here, which occurred in an ordinary litter bred by a Taunton draper's cat. These cats, as far as we've observed, are usually well ticked, but dark, and barred on legs and tail; their type is always what we call "British." The desirable rufous or brown colour of the Abyssinian—which breed we have always considered was greatly injured by the introduction of the so-called "Silver Abyssinians"—never seem to occur in these British Bunny cats. Some twenty-five years ago or so, when the Cat Club set out to govern, we remember they deleted the "Abyssinian" from their list of breeds, and substituted "Ticks"—a policy which, had it been continued, would probably have destroyed the real Abyssinian Cat, which, according to Dr. Gordon



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Stables, was introduced after the Abyssinian War. Mrs. Broughton Hawley's neuter, Tar Baby, managed to tear the side of his face badly on the pen fastening at the N.C.C., and his head was much swollen for some time.

We are sorry to hear the Misses Cotterel, Grant, and Trefusis have lost one of their beautiful Chin. kittens, winners at Exmouth, from acute peritonitis, caused by worms.

### CATS AT ANTWERP.

DECEMBER 11TH.

The Antwerp Show was a great success, and very well attended, this city being the centre of the Belgian Fancy. There were on view 280 cats, about fifty of which were Blue Persians. In the classes for males over two years, first went to Sadi, an exhibit belonging to M. Steens, bred from Hendon Archibald, the same owner scoring in under two year class with Cyrus of Downside; in the corresponding female classes Day Dream of Henley and Tamar of Downside. Cyrus and Tamar were exported by Mrs. Kidd, and Day Dream, whose beautiful portrait in "Cat Gossip" found her purchaser, by Mrs. Oglethorpe. The judges took some time to decide on the cup winner, which was Sadi, though M. Steens himself prefers Cyrus.

In Siamese M. Steens' Vichnou won over Prestwick Periwinkle, who was first in females, Goddess Bastit, exported by Miss Dixon, being second. In

young females, Scarabée d' Ispahan, bred from a queen exported by Mrs. Basnett, was the winner. Vichnou, unfortunately, though ordinarily gentle, is of very violent temper when excited. This spring, as we recorded, being excited by the sight of a new Persian in an adjoining enclosure, he suddenly flew at poor little Ami of Dulverton, and killed him with a single bite. On this occasion, excited by the crowd, he suddenly turned on M. Steens as he was bringing him before the judges, and bit him very badly in the cheek.

In smokes there were only two, bred from Dannyman of The Cottage, some nice blacks, two Chins., two red tabbies. Whereas in Paris Siamese take pride of place, here the blue Persians are favourites. In Angoras there were some nice exhibits. But note, this is curious: what they call Angoras are the descendants of Persians which have crossed with S.H. or "Europeans." Thus, whilst some are quite fine cats, they are longer legged, bigger eared, and less chubby faced than the Persians. This classification is really only to encourage the novice cat lovers to take the plunge. There were a dozen S.H. blues, of both "British" and "foreign" type. The S.H. "European" classes were good, both in numbers and quality; in order to encourage the love of the cat amongst the general non-fancy public, these classes are made specially attractive. The cup given by the city went to a very grand tabby.

H. C. B.

## CATS AT TORQUAY.

The Cat Section of the Torquay Fanciers' Society's Show, held on 14th December, in the Drill Hall, proved a great success, though entries only amounted to nineteen all told. The day was fine, and, judging from the crowds collected in the cat corner of the hall, it would seem that the pussies were the greatest attraction. The hall is large, airy, and well lighted, and the exhibits were comfortably penned—single tier—and well fed on boiled whiting and milk by Mrs. Smale, who was numbered among the exhibitors. Though a members' show the cat classes—four in number—were open, and very generously catered for, full prize money being guaranteed and a number of specials offered, headed by a Rose Bowl by Messrs. Spratts, Ltd., for the best cat in the Show. Amongst those present we observed Mr. and Mrs. Pike, Miss Middleton, the Misses Haynes (from Brixham), Mrs. Curtis, Mrs. Jaggs, and Miss Preston. Mr. Robson, of Paignton, judged.

### THE AWARDS.

**CLASS I., LONGHAIR.** Any Variety (7)—1, Miss Cathcart, Prince Peridot, the well-known Chinchilla; 2, Miss Endacott, Ruffles, lovely blue, nice head and frill, level colour; 3, Mrs. Smale, Romeo, another nice blue, broad head, and neat ears; r, Miss Cathcart, Tourmaline, well patched tortie. **CLASS II., KITTEN,** under 5 months (3)—1, Mrs. Smale, Cissie, well grown blue, beautiful shape; 2, Mrs. Smale, Timothy, pretty pale blue baby. **CLASS III., SHORTHAIR.** Any Variety (2)—1, Miss Greenslade, a fine brown tabby (evidently a member of the Gagnone Brotherhood by his medal); 2, Mrs. Trigg, another nice tabby, beaten head. **CLASS IV., NEUTER.** Any Variety (6)—1, Miss Haynes, Bobby, beautiful blue longhair, even colour, excels in head and eye; 2, Mrs. Pike, Boy Blue, another lovely blue, wealth of coat, but dark on spine; 3, Mrs. Jaggs, nice blue shorthair; r, Mrs. Curtis, attractive black, good eyes, coat a bit rusty. **SPECIALS**—Best in Show, Miss Cathcart; 2nd best, Miss Haynes; best neuter, Miss Haynes; best shorthair, Miss Greenslade; best kitten, Mrs. Smale.

## SIAMESE AT NEWCASTLE.

The Northern Cat Club held its 3rd Championship Show on the 14th December, and I found the number of entries exceptionally good there. I had visions of spending a comfortable evening with some friends after settling my charges in their respective pens for the night, but found at 7 p.m., on my arrival, only a few pens erected. Inquiring the reason, I found that instead of the whole day being devoted to the fixing up of the necessary things, the Hall had not been available until after 3 p.m. Consequently I installed myself in front of a warm fire in the Hall until 10.30, when I was able to pen my first charge! Some of the pens, supplied by a well-known Yorkshire firm, needed thoroughly overhauling, and were not fit to trust an animal in at all, of which I saw several proofs. In fact, I was surprised to see a northern firm neglect its own by sending such shabby pens, which in many cases were decorated with pieces of string to keep the wires together! I liked the thoughtful and sanitary idea of covering the long boards with white paper supplied in a huge roll; this not only gave a clean appearance, but also lessened the chances of infection by completely covering the board on which the cat's bedding of "Elastene" rested. Amongst the southern exhibitors were many Siamese breeders. My own queen had to stay at home, as one eye had not fully recovered from the scratch received a few days ago from my Persian, now a dignified old lady, who firmly believes in teaching all things young and frolicsome the meaning of respect! Both Mrs. Harvey's male and female, Pedro and Bonzette, had a day out, taking everything they possibly could from the other exhibits, Pedro being taken out as best shorthair cat in Show. I was glad to see Mr. Ambrose, the judge, was keen on type and eye colour, the former particularly.

**MALE.** Open (5 entries)—1 and ch., Mrs. Harvey's Pedro of Petaling, looking particularly nice, and quite deserving his championship; only one championship being offered; as usual in such cases, the male scored, never a very satisfactory arrangement; 2, Mrs. Maturin's Southampton Darboj, loses in coat colour to the first, but has a longer head and deeper blue eyes; 3, r, Miss Busteed's Robinsboi and Litason. **FEMALE.** Open (10 entries)—1, Mrs. Harvey's Bonzette of Petaling, so well known that further comments are unnecessary; 2, Mrs. Cates' Pekois, loses in coat colour, but scores in eye colour; 3, Mrs. Spencer's Birk's Botany, a dainty queen of nice type; r, Major Woodiwiss' Woodroffe Sliwing, a better cat than the third, not in such good condition, v h c. Miss Stent's Herself, beautiful coat and eyes, densest points, but so small, she always makes me look twice to see if there has not been a mistake in the classing; h c. Miss Busteed's Ch. Ki-weena. **NOVICE.** M. or F. (7 entries)—1, Mrs. Cates' Pekois; 2, Mrs. Spencer's Birk's Botany; 3, Mrs. Maturin's Southampton Darboj; r, Miss Busteed's Robinsboi. **KITTENS.** M. or F., under 9 months (11 entries)—1, Mrs. Spencer's Birk's Ishi (F.), an exquisite kitten, taken out as best S.H. kitten in Show; 2, same owner's Wow (M.), another beautiful kitten, both excelling in type and eye colour, Ishi particularly in coat colour and density of points; 3, Woodgate, Fifi of Strover, a very nice little lady, having a fascinating kink at the end of her tail; r, Mrs. Baynes' Marley Cote Nick, very well grown, in splendid condition, nice type again; v h c. Brambald, Bramo, a much younger fellow, no opportunity for him in his class, promises well; h c, Mrs. Forrest's Kin-Kyroma, loses in type generally to the former exhibit; c, Major Woodiwiss' Woodroffe Bowing, good type again, fails in eye colour, condition could be better. **BREEDERS**—1, Birk's Ishi; 2, Bramo; 3, Sunya; 4, Woodroffe Bowing. **STUD** (any variety, except blue L.H.)—In a class of 8, 1, Mrs. Harvey, Pedro of Petaling; 3, Mrs. Maturin, S. Darboj.

CLARE BASNETT.

## CAT CALLS.

TO THE EDITOR.

### ILLNESS AFTER CAT SHOWS.

Surely it is not necessary for exhibitors to go round spraying their cats' pens with their pet disinfectants, when the Show authorities use what they consider a thoroughly efficient disinfectant? I feel convinced that until this practice is stopped "show fever" and other ailments contracted at shows will continue. Many drugs and chemicals used by themselves are good, but mixed with other drugs and chemicals are most undesirable. The same with various drinks and foods; e.g., claret in the ordinary sense is harmless—taken with shell-fish it is generally anything but! I am positive it is the same with this horrible mixture of disinfectants. At Reading it was foul with them when once people began, though beforehand the Show smelt nice and fresh. I sneezed, and was miserable for two days after it. I went round my cats wiping their eyes with lint for fear of damage to them, and put vaseline on the kittens' noses for fear of their breathing too much disinfectant up. They sneezed a bit, but nothing like they did after Croydon, where I was not on the spot to attend to them. At Croydon one of my kittens, Mayrian, was put in the sick ward with a bad eye. Nothing at all wrong with her

except that it watered owing to the intense cold on the journey. She was sent back with no notice to say she had been put with sick cats, and, had she been ill, might have infected all my cats. I do think if a cat does not pass the vet. a notice should be put in its package on return.

After a show my cats are all sponged down with whiskey as they leave their boxes; then their eyes are washed with cold tea; then, if not too late, they are turned outside to aerate their coats. Before shows their boxes are painted inside and out with Sanitas and water, to minimise the risk of infection on the journey. Dogs, fit and unfit, are constantly travelling by rail, and unless one's boxes are disinfected on the outside there must be risk; also they return in the same conveyance with any "isolated" cats from the show, and are thus exposed to risk of infection from them as much as if at the show together; therefore my boxes are painted outside as well as in. Blankets treated the same, and hung out in the open for two days. No fuss, no bother, only a great hope that all may be well and "show fever" prove to be a myth! All my pets gather round me again for dinner, afterwards a good sleep wherever they choose, most of them decide "by the dining-room fire."

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