

CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 3

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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LONG-HAIR LORE.

By MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER.

(Phone: Hendon 1019.)

From Downside Lodge, Carshalton, Mrs. Kidd sends the following topical letter:—"I hardly know what to tell you about my pussies, as owing to illness at the beginning of last year I was unable to mate my queens till the summer time; consequently I had only two litters during the year. One from John of Downside and Moonlight; all the kits went abroad, and are doing well there. Unfortunately I was without a breeding smoke queen last year, so I mated one of my blue queens to Ch. Tarzan, and had five lovely kittens, but, alas! an accident put an end to all but one of these. The one left I have kept, and he promises to be a very handsome blue smoke. This year I have a very nice smoke female, with glorious eyes. When she comes in season she will be mated to Tarzan. My dear old smoke queen, Ch. Twilight, is still flourishing; she is now eleven years old, and has not been breeding for a long time. One of my blue queens, a daughter of John and Moonlight, is to be placed out on breeding terms, as I have not room for so many. John and Ch. Tarzan are both in grand condition, and they each did well with kittens last year, and I am hoping for the same success this year."

I wonder if my readers who do not belong to the Blue Persian Cat Society ever see the Blue Persian Stud List? It embraces 51 blue studs and five black studs, and makes most interesting reading from the breeders' point of view. It is a venture which other clubs would do well to copy. The list is sent free annually to all B.P.C.S. members, and is printed in good type on excellent paper. Grandparents on both sides are given.

To rear healthy kittens it is not necessary to be surrounded by all the conveniences of modern invention. Miss Grayton tells me Hushwaite, where she lives, is 20 years or more behind the times—no gas, no electric light, just oil stoves and lamps, and yet she has no difficulty in rearing fine bonny healthy kittens. Of course, the cooking of food, especially of those cereals which require careful watching and long boiling, is a bit of a trial, for if you leave the food it goes lumpy, and if you turn the stove up to hasten matters it smokes! Most unpleasant for the cook. However, Miss Grayton gives the following

useful hints for the weaning stage, and as she has been so successful I do not think I could do better than to quote her feeding. "Rosie's kittens were more than two months' old, nearer three, before they had any raw beef, and they were huge kittens, with massive limbs. I did not put them on to raw meat sooner, for Rosie tried to hurry matters, feeding them on live mice when they were only four weeks old, after which they were violently sick. The kittens' first food was Bengers, later Robinson's patent groats, gradually getting to steamed fish for dinner and supper. When about seven or eight weeks old I gave them boiled fish at dinner time and tripe at supper time, or vice versa. My present litter, as I really felt unable to stand long enough over the oil stove to cook the food, I brought up on Lactol when they first began to lap, then steamed fish and tripe as the previous litter. I am now giving them cod liver oil biscuits boiled with their fish or well steeped in rabbit gravy, boiled rabbit, and with their raw meat I mix a little well-boiled rice (or macaroni for a change), as I find in this way they chew it better instead of bolting it.

Mr. Clyne, who purchased that lovely blue kitten, Leander of Pensford, from Mr. Thompson at the recent Kentish Town Show, is immensely interested in "Cat Gossip," so we shall hope later to see a photo of this blue boy in our columns.

The Pensford Cattery is quite a tiny one; in fact the cats are just dear personal pets, but Mrs. Thompson holds a wonderfully encouraging sequence. Juno was the best blue female kitten at the S.C.C.C. in 1925, Mercury of Pensford best blue male kitten S.C.C.C. 1926, Leander of Pensford best blue male kitten S.C.C.C. 1928. Without any manner of doubt Mrs. Thompson ought never to miss showing at the Kentish Town Ch. Show.

L.H. Blacks, Season 1927: In my notes on these, in last issue, I accidentally omitted the name of Hillingdon Black Prince, who gained the distinction of best black kitten at the M.C.C. In mentioning Ch. Azure of Hadley, the phrase should have read: "So long our only blue male champion."

Miss Jessie Langton has disposed of her blue male kitten by John of Bedale, ex Wuffy, to Mrs. Jourdain, of Hampstead. The kit's name was Willoughby.

DEBUTANTE'S DIARY.

Queens, on returning from visits, should be kept for several days under strict supervision, until all

signs of restlessness have disappeared. It is customary to pre-pay all stud fees, and due notice should be given to the stud owner on despatching a queen. The basket of the female on its journey should at these times have extra care, as the queens are more prone to contract cold when their blood is in a heated condition. Damp and draughts should be avoided.

SIAMESE AND THEIR OWNERS.

BY MUANG T'HAI.

Mrs. Darbyshire sends us the following pretty narrative of cat and dog friendship:—"Here is another witness to the great affection that is sometimes seen between those proverbial enemies, the cat and the dog. When we first got our two-months-old Siamese kitten, she was terrified of Sandy, the Cairn terrier, and her little tail perpetually resembled a bottle-brush; now, at a year old she is his greatest friend, condescending at times to eat with him from the same dish, whilst his daily ambition is to clear off in double quick time the dainty lady's leavings in the shape of Lactol and Hemo Ration. They play at 'hide and seek' together continually, and also have tremendous wrestling and biting matches, never hurting each other, but growling and whining each in its own language, as though it were a real battle. Often, if Mani is sleepy, the dog will come and incite her to the combat, by pats and teasings, smiling the while all over his little brown face; and, again, the cat will tickle him back to life and a game when he is stretched on the rug dead to all the world. One day recently, Sandy was sitting at the gate, and his impudence resulted in a scrap with an Alsatian; we feared Mani would have injured herself in her frantic efforts to get out to his assistance when the noise of battle reached her ears, but so far, happily, there has been no occasion for the dog to take up the cudgels on her behalf. When away for a few days, Mani Puss was very unhappy, and on her return could not do enough to show her joy at seeing her own folks; her kisses and attentions were an embarrassment to us and to Sandy, and her attempts to purr and croon her delight at the same time were too pathetic to be funny. And yet, with all this demonstration of affection, she is at times as irresponsible to many of our wishes and orders as the most Sphinx-like of her tribe, and we often quote Rudyard Kipling's 'The cat who walked by himself.'"

Mrs. Allen-Maturin writes:—"I was so sorry to hear of the death of Lady Vyvyan; it is to her that I owe my great love for Siamese cats. I was staying with her in Gibraltar 37 years ago, when she had a most lovely litter of Siamese kittens, with their parents. I had never seen or heard of a Siamese before. I absolutely lost my heart to them right away, and on the termination of my visit, as Major Maturin and I were leaving Gib. for England, Lady

Vyvyan presented me with a beautiful male kitten, which we smuggled on board the trooper, and I managed to keep him in my cabin for the short voyage home. I christened him Gib-el-Tarik, the old name for the 'Rock.' When I had been home a few months I heard there was to be a Cat Show at the Palace; we were then quartered in Essex, so I took him down, planted him in his cage, and fetched him away next morning. He took 2nd prize in the male class, there being only three, and I remember that the cats on either side of him died of poison. Why mine escaped is a mystery; it was thought some brute put poison in the cages; there was a great do-do over it, but I never heard what the result was. 'Gibby' had a most fascinating short kinked tail, which was the admiration of everyone; alas, now, kink tails are no longer approved! Somehow I have always found the male cats so much more full of personality and affection than the females, though the latter are sweet. So that is how I made my debut into the Siamese world."

Mrs. Cran writes:—"I have had a very wonderful present from my two stewards at Croydon Show! Lady Fester Fraser and Lesley Dudley combined together and bought me Miss Dixon's glorious kitten, Sibö. He is a son of Champion Simple, and when I came to judge him the little fellow gave me a start, for he was so like the wonderful and beloved Tatty Bogle. My daughter remarked it, too. When Sibö came to my old home in Kent, with all his prize cards and his pedigree, I found he is the great-great-grandson of Champion Carlisle Lad, who was Tatty Bogle's father. So here I have again the very image of my dear lost cat, and the same blood stream—a joyous and happy discovery. Sibö's father is the great Ch. Bonzo, and I have not felt that I do the Fancy any harm in having Sibö neutered, for there are plenty of Bonzo beauties to carry on. I love Siamese cats; there is nothing nicer than to have a beautiful specimen of this interesting and remarkable breed to companion one's days. I hope Sibö will live with me for many many years, as beautiful Tatty did."

Mrs. E. Stroud writes from Toronto that she has had many prizes for Lanfine Isma in her wonderful palace designed by her owner. The palace is made of cedar wood, lined with silk and carpeted with velvet. Isma reclines on golden silk cushions, and her toilet arrangements are hidden behind an Oriental screen. Lighted by electricity, this luxurious travelling saloon measures 42 inches long, 24 inches high, and 24 inches wide. With its Royal inmate it has been photographed on the front page of a Buffalo, New York, newspaper—Isma having travelled there in search of her latest mate, and "written up" by many other papers.

Miss Leatherdale is leaving Dulverton, and after 26th inst. will be found c/o Major Woodiwiss, at Danbury. Frivol, she writes, has just been sold to America.



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GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

A SAGE once remarked: "It's always one d— thing on top of another"; the diphtheria scare-mongers have ceased from troubling the cat for a while, now comes this new bogey:—"Cats and Wireless: The house cat may be a source of wireless interference, in the opinion of N. D. Parham, a Washington, D.C., wireless enthusiast. Mr. Parham, in a letter to the American Radio-Manufacturers' Association in praise of its booklet on interference to good broadcast reception, observed that the booklet referred to all potential trouble makers except the house cat. He wrote that, as everybody knows, there is a good deal of electricity generated in the cat's fur, as well as plenty of static when she parades on the backyard fence, and on cold nights one may actually see the sparks jump from a cat's back when it is stroked. The cat, he argues, inasmuch as the booklet declares all types of electrical sparks cause undesirable noises in a nearby receiver, thus becomes a potential source of radio interference." Poor puss! We are glad to say the terrible time of the last six weeks is now over, bar the "paying," which be sure a rapacious Government will not let us forget! So we are now once more at liberty to devote ourselves to "Cat Gossip," which we have only kept going with difficulty of late, worried and worked to death as we were, and we hope you will all help us, with NEWS, "Cat Calls," and the harmless necessary advert!

WE draw attention to the advertisement of the celebrated Chinchilla, Ch. Langherne Felix, whom Miss Cotterell places at stud. Mrs. Yeend also offers the services of that grand cream, Ch. Mick of Bredon. A beautiful study of the head of this cat will appear in our next issue.

Mrs. MacWATT, writing to send on her stud advertisement of Bubbles of Hanley, says that this good cream has been out of luck this past season, owing to an ingrowing eyelid. This has now been operated upon, and Bubbles is looking very fit and well. His stock, however, have been doing very well.

TORTOISESHELLS IN 1927.

On looking over some old catalogues I am reminded of many notable winners. Mr. T. B. Mason's grand Royal Queenie, which did not start on her winning career until she was 6 years old, and then won four 1st prizes straight off; Primrose of Thorpe; Ch. Holme Model Maid, a consistent winner from 1919 to 1923; Ch. Rokeles Dorcas, Rokeles Rosamund; Swinton Denorah, and more recently Eastbury Topsetta; Ch. Devonshire Duchess; Lady Maythorpe and Lancashire Merry Maid; and a question arises in my mind as to whether the tortoiseshells have improved? A few days ago, on turning up some of the earlier books on cats, I read under the head of tortoiseshells: "The colour should be distinct shades of red, yellow, and black, and these should be broken

up into small distinct patches." On looking at the tortoiseshells at the recent show I wondered whether, beautiful cats as many of them were, we had not rather departed from this ideal? I remarked on this to a well-known judge, and his answer was that "they should be like tortoiseshell." On returning home I studied my best piece of tortoiseshell, and could not help thinking that instead of "well defined patches," we had rather got a mixture of red and black and yellow hairs, except about the head and legs. Let it not be supposed that I do not admire many of the present-day winners, but I have a longing, probably quite a mistaken one as many may think, to see a tortoiseshell which a little more resembles a tortoiseshell and white, without the white. Mrs. Neate's Master Maid, Mr. Adams' Ginger Belle, Mr. Gilbert's Pompilia, Mrs. Evans' charming pair, Honey Bee and Lady Bird, have all been amongst this year's winners, and Mr. Peter Little's beautiful Orchid made a successful debut at the Crystal Palace, but was, alas, lost on her return home.

TORTOISESHELL AND WHITE.

Mrs. Yeates' Mock Turtle has carried all before her, first in kitten classes and finally as an adult. At Kentish Town how her brilliant colour and chess-board patches "felt the eye"! Mr. Blandford, a recent recruit to the Fancy, has done well with Gay Sally, and Mrs. Kennaway has supplied some winners of lower degree. Would Ch. Dame Motley have had to stand down, and Mock Turtle, and how would either of them have fared if competing against those "lights of other days"—Ch. Wynstay, Leale Flower, Butterfly Rosette, and Minorelle of Thorpe—
—I wonder?
E. L. KENNAWAY.

A REVIEW OF LONG-HAIR CREAMS.

During the show season of 1927-1928 the popularity of this charming breed has greatly increased, and this should encourage fanciers to go ahead and do what has been done in other breeds, fix the colour, and I want to emphasise this point, breed creams from creams. It would be very interesting to present-day fanciers if someone who knew the earlier creams, the Romaldkirk Heavenly Twins and other noted winners, would tell us how they originated, were they bred from reds, torties, or tabbies? It might help us to get rid of the blue shadings and so-called tabby markings which the judges complain of to-day. In adult classes Madam Dolli, a newcomer to the fancy, won two championships at Reading and Croydon with Colneside Cream Bunne. He is a big fine cat, a lovely colour, but shows blue shadings. Ch. Mick of Bredon, a grandson of Ch. Shere Khan and Ch. Meg, winning his three championships at The Palace, Newcastle, and Worcester, and his sire, Ch. Shere Khan o' the Combe, winning yet another championship at Kentish Town; Ch. Mignonette o' the Combe, that very dainty lady,

winning championships at Reading, Croydon, The Palace, and Kentish Town. Miss Fair, showing the lovely Ch. Meg of Bredon, winning at Worcester and every time shown; Mrs. Richardson, with Norma of Bredon, another big winner; Mrs. Longhurst, showing Bennihurst, a fine young son of Ch. Endymion of The Balcony, who won several prizes at Newcastle; Mrs. Finch, who took Sheik of Bredon to Worcester; Miss Darlington Manley winning second at Croydon with Pam of Hanley; and Mrs. Newton, showing a nice queen at Reading, are all new fanciers in creams, and there should be a big increase in entries in the kitten classes next show season. Cream kittens are most fascinating, and always attract attention at shows, and take their share of honours in open and mixed classes. The kittens shown at Reading were a lovely lot, and it is a great loss to their owners and cream fanciers generally that most of them have since died, Mrs. Stevenson and Mrs. Quarry and Miss Fisk, who showed some most promising kittens, having the misfortune to lose several during the show season. Mab of Bredon was a big winner; she has been sold, and I am hoping that her new owner will join the fancy and show her next season. Mab is being mated to Ch. Mick, so should have some good kittens. Mirza of Bredon also took many prizes, and won the special for best long-haired kitten in show at Croydon, and, owing to a mistake, at The Palace Mab was taken out, instead of Mirza, for best in show, Mab winning reserve. Mirza has been sold to Mr. Budd, of Harrogate, who is intending to show him next season. Miss Langhorne, who had very bad luck with her breeding queens last year, bought Vinolia o' the Combe from Mrs. Quarry and Miss Fisk, and she won best kitten in show at Kentish Town. We hope she will change the luck for her mistress. The above shows the increased interest and progress in creams of to-day, and we hope that the kittens this season will have better all round type and have sounder colour than ever before.
S. E. YEEND.

VISITS.

January 8th.—Mrs. Richardson's **Robinetta** (Brown Tabby L.H.) to Mrs. Sidney Evans' **Heathside Bracken** (Sable).

January 11th.—Miss Castle's **Meh-Tuk-Tim**:

January 22nd.—Lieut.-Colonel Crosse's **Victoria Mary**: both to Mrs. Hindley's **Ch. Simzo**.

January 18th.—Mrs. Cates' **Pekois**:

February 2nd.—Mrs. Redfern's **Miss Lumfun**: both to Mrs. Hindley's **Prestwick Puteh-Punya**.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LILYS.—You ask what to feed your cats on in summer when you cannot obtain rabbits, which you use largely in winter. Personally, we are always a believer in meat; we shoot rabbits all the year round, also use beef, and, when we had many, goat and horse, which last, we believe, Sir Claud Alexander uses largely. Many, however, for one reason or another, prefer some of the excellent prepared foods made by firms, such as Spratts' Patent, Sherley, or Chappell's Hemo Ration, some of which we should doubtless freely use if we lived in Town.

CAT CALLS.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES' CAT CLUB SHOW.

To THE EDITOR.

As I was judging Siamese at the above Show, I should like to answer this query. It is gratifying to know that Major Woodiwiss only found one fault in my judging, as, being a novice at the job, I certainly expected much criticism!

As a matter of fact, though, this was not a fault on my part, as far as I know. The matter was discussed with my steward at the time of judging, but I decided to award all the prizes in the stud and brood queen classes, and, where there was no progeny present, to judge on the merits of the cats. Surely it is the Show Secretary's business **not to accept the entries** in these classes if there is no progeny entered and she does not wish the cats to be judged? If the owners have paid entry fees and the cats have been accept as bona fide exhibits in that class, the judge has no alternative but to judge them and award the prizes; otherwise it would certainly not be fair to the owners.

Will you give us your opinion on the subject, Mr. Brooke? As I have not seen the Show Secretary since the Show, and have only had a card from her to say the awards were all O.K., I presume that she is satisfied with my awards.

GRETA HINDLEY.

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All correspondence re "CAT GOSSIP" to the Editor,

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Bishop's Hull, Taunton.

Assistant-Editor, London Agency, and Book Reviews:

M. SHERIDAN-JONES, 11, Tunley Road, London, S.W. 17.

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NATIONAL ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY,

Office: 92, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

THE ANTI-VIVISECTION HOSPITAL, THE BATTERSEA GENERAL HOSPITAL (Incorporated).

BATTERSEA PARK, S.W. 11.

Please send a Generous Contribution for:—

(1.) Main Hospital,

(2.) Cancer Department (Non-operative treatment),
To the SECRETARY.

A lady urgently appeals for help from animal lovers (especially cat lovers), to keep up Home for deserted, lost, and unwanted animals in beautiful free natural surroundings. Kindly note this establishment is not to be confused with a "Shelter" where animals are destroyed, nor with a temporary "Boarding House." It is a genuine permanent Home of Rest for these poor little orphans of the storm—the animals living as "children" with advertiser in house and garden. Owing to the death of a generous benefactress, who subscribed £100 a year, advertiser is in sore straits. Will you help to keep intact present happy family of 33 cats and 2 dogs by sending your mite? Highest references supplied. Please, Please, Help —MRS. EYRES SIMMONS, "Rosemarie," Ruan Minor, Cornwall.

Beautiful Self-Red PERSIAN KITTENS, by Ch. Shazada; Dam, Orange Fluffkin, by Ch. Wynstay Ruddiman. Sound in colour, strong and healthy. Males, Five Guineas each.—MISS FITZWILLIAM, Slingsby Hall, York.

Copper-Eyed BLUE PERSIAN KITTENS, about 4 months; Sired by Ch. Colneside Billy Bumpet, Hendon Alexis, and Flick-a-Maroo, ex Queens of excellent pedigree. Males, £3; Females, from 30s.—GRAYTON, Hushwaite, York.

SERVANTS AND SITUATIONS.

Try a 26 advertisement in the "SOMERSET COUNTY GAZETTE" series, circulating over 25,000 a week.

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