

# CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 3

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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## JUDGING FOR BEST IN SHOW SPECIALS.

By THE EDITOR.

We suggested last week that the G.C. might well consider the question of stud cat and brood class judging, and also the champion of champions class. To the experienced exhibitor, the C. of C. class will not be misleading; to the ordinary visitor it may be very much so. The ordinary visitor, or reader of the lay Press, naturally concludes that the cat announced as winner of C. of C. class has on the day beaten all other champion cats. In some cases this is by no means the case; the cat has only beaten certain other champions whose owners have paid the fee to exhibit them in a certain class; possibly, if the cat in question had had to meet all other champions in the show, it would only have taken third or fourth place. We know we are far from being alone in regarding this as an anomalous state of things, which might with advantage be definitely regulated.

Another thing which we think should be made clear one way or the other, is the judging for various best in show prizes, in which several different varieties compete. These are generally advertised as being awarded by all judges. At Croydon, for instance, all judges are asked to vote. At the Palace, when Mrs. Veley and ourselves, as judges of S.H. varieties, handed in our slips, we were told our votes were not wanted for L.H. specials. We make no complaint, though it is quite possible that a S.H. judge may have as good an idea of L.H. as, for instance, an "All-Blue" specialist L.H. judge may have of L.H. tabbies or tortoise—or vice versa. We have no doubt that some L.H. judges of certain varieties would not consider themselves expert in other L.H. varieties? We think it should be definitely made clear, in these cases of competition for specials by several varieties, whether all judges means all judges, or all L.H. judges; or exactly which judges are to vote on these awards.

## GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

WE publish next week a very beautiful portrait of Hendon Red Arate, the grand young red tabby which Mrs. Campbell-Fraser is advertising in our columns; and the following week a lovely head study of Mrs. Soames' Desert Chief, who joins our stud list this week.

MRS. BROUGHTON HAWLEY writes:—"How beautifully reproduced Ch. Mick of Bredon's photo is! The eyes are wonderful. So few papers seem to make

cats look alive. The 'Cat's own paper' really has brought out the real beauty of the cat. . . . Personally, I fully agree that golden-eyed whites should have recognition, if the breed of whites is to be saved from extinction. I do not see the fun of breeding deaf cats. The whites I had in India were not deaf, except one, a S.H., but what she lost one way she gained in intelligence; and when I gave her away the husband of the woman I gave her to bagged her, and she went everywhere with him on a camel in the Sind Desert when he went round his district (he was in the Political, and would live in a tent for days). Dear little Sapphire, she would have been a big winner in this country. If any owners of golden-eyed whites will support the movement and try to get the variety started by providing classes and filling them, I will certainly see if I can get over some of my old strain."

OUR friend, M. Armand Steens, writes us that British exportations did well at Ghent Show this month. There were over 200 exhibits. The cup for best Siamese went to Mme. Noclain's Scheherazada, who is no other than Mrs. Bassett's Sheelah, renamed. Sadi of Heidehof took the Blue Persian Cup for M. Steens, who also took the Blue Persian Brace Cup with Cyrus and Tamar of Downside (sent out by Mrs. Kidd), and the B.P. Team Cup; also first in kittens with Colneside Hanoum. A team of eight blue Americans were much admired, as also a brace of Civets and a brace of dwarf Spanish cats.

IN another column will be found an interesting letter from "Cat Gossip" Veterinary Adviser, on "freak" feet in cats.

WE are asked to remind our readers of the claims of the **Animal Lovers' League** to the consideration of the charitable. The League has placed, **free**, quite a number of lethal boxes in various parts of the country. Each of these boxes represents an appreciable diminution in its district of the terrible cruelty caused daily all over the country by the careless or wanton destruction by improper means of unwanted cats and dogs. A subscriber and worker writes to the Hon. Secretary (at 175, Piccadilly):—" . . . I am so grateful for the box. You cannot imagine the appalling cases I have brought to me, **maimed, blind, starving, and deserted**.—E. M." The distribution of these boxes is a most excellent idea, and one is glad to think that there is a widespread effort to relieve the sufferings of creatures that are capable of so much devotion,

and yet which too often receive so little consideration in their hour of need.

MRS. EGERTON-FREE, whose self-sacrificing work on behalf of the suffering cats, at 2, Morland Road, Croydon, was fully described in "Cat Gossip," has also founded the "Friendship for Animals League," the President of which is Frances, Countess of Warwick. This also endeavours to teach the public how animals should be treated in life, and how humanely destroyed if necessary.

WE have had inquiries of late as to back numbers, and wish to state we have **only one** complete set of Nos. 1 to 52 (Vols. I and II.). This set can be had for 14s. When that is gone, several numbers will be unobtainable.

MRS. SHARLAND writes from Exmouth that she has purchased from Miss Sedgemore the blue Persian, Sedgemere Boy, a well-known winner at West Country Shows, to take the place of her Barbe Bleue; also from Miss Wrench a lovely kitten, by Kemlin Mask Marvel; he is seven months of age, and much is expected of him.

### LONG-HAIR LORE.

BY MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER. (Phone: Hendon 1019).

With the springlike days our hearts begin to long for the hills and the green hedgerows, so what more welcome and enticing than some news from beautiful Devon? From "Amalfi," Topsham, Miss Cotterell writes:—"Am sending the promised news of Felix and his little family. He came into coat very late this year, in fact is better furnished now than he has been the whole season. I wonder as cats grow older, do they come later into coat? Felix this season has only been shown three times. At Worcester he managed to run away with the Challenge Certificate in the open class, but was not so lucky at Kentish Town. Just as the steward was about to take him out of his pen for the Chinchilla male class the photographer let off the flash lights: Felix evidently imagined the world had come to an end, and began to spit. Of course, he was left alone, as he was tactless enough to mistake the judge for the photographer, and planted a scratch on his wrist; so after apologies and inquiries had been made, it was found that no further damage had been done, and as he was subsequently handled and behaved with his usual decorum, was awarded three cards (one a nice red) to bring home. Silver Thistle, whose children acquitted themselves very creditably in the show pen this season, has been mated to Felix. Hilaria, her daughter, who inherits her dad's coat and bushy tail, is going to 'visit' Mr. Gimlette of Pittchar in the coming by-and-bye; and Isis (a Runnymede queen) is also mated to Felix; she has a round head and very short nose—wonder if it will soon be fatal for cats to have 'noses' as well as Pokes? Unfortunately in a scrap Isis had the extreme tip of the ear taken off, so cannot be shown. She is quite unmarked, and her kittens take after her. I still dabble

a bit in 'blues,' and have Nailstone Omar, I believe the best son of Buzz Buzz; he really owns a lovely head and the shortest of noses. Somehow he never runs to a profuse coat, which is so essential to winning; he sired some first-rate youngsters last season."

A note on the above letter before we go further: At the S.C.C.C. my daughter had the penning of Ch. Langherne Felix after the judging for the Champion of Champions Class. She missed his pen, took him all the way down the long hall and back again before depositing him in his own place, which, after all, was close to the platform. Being carried so far in the arms of a perfect stranger was a bit of a trial to any self-respecting cat, but the manners of Felix were exemplary. As regards the flash-lights, many of the exhibitors find them rather nerve-racking—and I am glad to say at Kentish Town later in the day the cat photography was carried on in an upper room.

A noted American breeder, Mrs. Morgan, writes that she has been told by one who has seen many English black cats, exported and otherwise, that the American blacks are the better. American judges stress in the following order—Colour, type, coat, and eye colour.

The signing of a pedigree marks its verification, and should always be done; there are times when it serves a double purpose. A short time ago a stalwart of the Police Force presented himself at my door with papers in his hand. These were two pedigree forms that had been picked up locally, and in consequence of my having signed them, I knew at once the fancier to whom they belonged, as I had sold the cats as kittens, and the police knowing my name understood where to bring them.

From Combe Head, Chard, Miss Sylvia Langhorne writes:—"I have bought back Miss Matty o' the Combe, Curzon's litter-sister, that I sold to Mrs. Stevenson as a kitten, and she has gone to be mated to Ch. John Barleycorn. She has a most lovely head, though her coat, unfortunately, is 'shaded,' just as Curzon's was; but I'm hoping, by mating her to a really sound cream, like Ch. John, I shall get some good kits from her. She is such a darling—like my poor Curzon. My blue cream, Vanity Fair, is mated to Ch. Endymion, and there, again, I'm hoping for something really good! Vinolia of Winchfield (best kitten in show at the S.C.C.C.) is getting lovelier every day. Her eyes are really wonderful now—quite red; but her matrimonial affairs are still in the future. The weather has been so terribly damp here lately that it takes all one's time keeping the cats fit. I do think a really hot, dry summer is long overdue."

An error crept into my mind at the National, and has not been corrected until within the last few days. This was, that Mrs. Yeates' L.H. black female kitten, Waratara, won the honour of best black kitten in show. What really happened was that there was no trophy offered for this, so it stands thus: Hillingdon Black Jester was best black male kitten, Waratara best black female kitten; there was no best kitten.

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### CAT CALLS.

#### MAJOR HAMILTON KIRK ON FREAK FEET.

TO THE EDITOR.

You may be interested to read a copy of a portion of a clinical article which I sent to the "Veterinary Record" in 1924:—

#### Hereditary Supernumerary Toes in Cats.

" . . . Many years ago my client had a pedigree red Persian queen, which possessed an extra toe on each foot. She mated with a short-hair black. The kittens of the union were mostly red in colour, some short haired and some long, but all had extra toes. One of this litter was red and black, and mated with a tabby. Most of the progeny had extra toes, and ginger colour prevailed. One of the females of this litter was served by an unknown gentleman, the cat which was the subject of an anal fistula (dealt with in the other part of this article) being one of the family. This latter animal had also six toes on each fore foot and five on each hind one, and the colour was red. I think it rather re-

markable that the original queen should have exerted so strong and persistent an influence upon subsequent generations of her family, for we find that her colour and freak toes were handed quite a long way down, although **the latter tended gradually to disappear.**"

You may be further interested to learn that I was called to examine a black short-hair last week, and noticed that on each foot there were **only three toes**. This fact had quite escaped the owner's observation. It is the first time I have ever seen such a scarcity of toes in any cat. This particular one was, nevertheless, quite a good mouser.

#### TO ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN NEUTERS.

TO THE EDITOR.

For nearly 11 years my red male neuter, Peter, has been my faithful companion, and a more intelligent and cleaner animal it would be impossible to have. A splendid mouser and ratter, to such an extent that my neighbour has borrowed him twice to clear her house from rats, and because of his services rendered they have sworn eternal freindship. He was bred by Mrs. Rowbotham, of Chester, a breeder of reds and torties; she also exhibited, and if any of our old cat fanciers knew her I should be pleased to hear. After her death a friend asked me to have Peter and his mother, one of the largest and most beautiful torties I have seen yet, but I had no thought of breeding in those days, so refused the

queen (and have regretted it ever since), but took Peter, then, I was told, about 14 months old, and had him neutered, never bothering about pedigree. I never had the slightest trouble with him about settling down, and we have loved each other ever since. His principal diet has been "lights" (boiled), mice, birds, and water; he never knew anything about raw meat and patent foods until I launched into the Cat Fancy four years last November, through Peter winning 2nd prize at Chester Agricultural Show. I showed him at Kentish Town, when he pulled off a 3rd; and twice I showed him at our L.N.W.C.C.C., when he got a 2nd. As he will soon be 12 years old I have finished showing him, allowing him to live on his past honours. When he sees boxes airing in preparation for the others going to shows he doesn't forget to clear off, and when they return he tells the others "he is glad he is old."

When I look at Peter and the splendid condition he is in, I do wonder whether all this raw meat and up-to-date feeding is advisable; whether cooked meat—*I mean, of course, boiled*—wouldn't be better; should like opinion? Also age of cats who have been fed on raw meat, etc. My black stud, Zebo, would eat nothing but boiled fish if I would let him have it, and he seems to thrive, and my red tabby queen, if I give her too much raw beef she is sick. Perhaps some one through "Cat Gossip" will give their views?

I do feel more and more how essential it is to keep our pussies in good health for our own sakes as well as theirs, for good health means happiness to all.

S. E. TOMLINSON.

## THE SEASON'S SHORTHAIRES REVIEWED.

BY THE EDITOR.

(Continued.)

Abyssinians, alas, make no headway. Why? They have everything to recommend them, graceful shape, lustrous eyes, affectionate nature, pretty coats. Croydon is the only show where they ever appear in any numbers. We wish we could carry on the breed, but are feeling too old to start breeding. It is, we know, a great worry to Mrs. Carew Cox to wonder what will become of the breed if and when she can no longer carry on. We know our friend will not be angry if we admit we "smole a smile" over the judging of this breed. She did not at all approve of our putting her good youngster, Ras Isis, back behind Miss Morant's young queen at Croydon, 1926; and on this account we did not judge there in 1927. As it turned out, she went further and fared worse, for Mr. House, who took the class last year, put Ras Isis behind the old veteran stud, Ras Djibuti, on the score of condition. We cannot see eye to eye with Mr. House in this, for though old Djibuti is a most wonderful sire, both as regards his age and the quality of his get, we cannot consider him up to champion form, and in Abyssinian type he is far behind Ras Isis; and type is of far more importance than condition, important though the latter be. Red Rust

has been kept at home, and Symy, who made her debut two years ago in household pet classes, and has bred some nice stock, was alone at the Palace. Considering its rarity, we can only regard it as a sad example of the apathy displayed by fanciers to S.H., that the very interesting **self-brown** exhibited by Miss Harpur at Kentish Town attracted so little attention. We were, unfortunately, unable to see it, though we had heard about it long before, but from all accounts it must be a very interesting and curious cat, and we wish it were our property!

(To be continued.)

## SOME CAT TALES.

BY FRANCIS DICKIE,

The Famous Canadian Story Writer.

(Author of "The Master Breed," etc.)

(Continued from Page 237.)

Mr. Van Vechten, in his most thorough work, "The Tiger In The House," gives a very striking incident of a cat's intelligence as recorded by Eugene Muller, in his work, "Animaux Celebres." A professor, to demonstrate to his pupils the use of a pneumatic machine, put a cat under a glass bell. The cat soon fell fainting. The professor stopped the experiment before the cat expired. It was turned loose. A few days after the same cat was put under the glass for a repeating of the experiment before another class. But when the professor started to pump, great was his surprise to find that the cat had placed one of her paws over the opening through which the air was to be drawn from her.

Mrs. Siddons once, during her cat's illness, fed it on such delicacies as cream and the white meat of chicken. On the cat's recovery these tit-bits were stopped, whereupon the cat feigned illness.

Cats forced to dwell in the cramped confines of apartments in big cities, I think in particular evidence unusual intelligence. They adapt themselves to the most unusual conditions. The strangest evidence of this, and one I believe without parallel, is that of a cat in Vancouver, Canada. It was brought up in a small flat with four young children, the eldest of these six years old. It was their constant companion, and learned itself to use the sanitary convenience of a modern flat. This from observation. The case was personally known to me, and I can give any doubting reader the address of the owner. A cat owned by the janitor of the Orpheum Theatre, at Vancouver, evinced intelligence out of the ordinary. It was given a home in a barrel in the basement, and there fed. But during the time when raising her kittens, evidently desiring delicacies, the cat got into the elevator and rode up, getting off at the top floor, where the janitor lived, and went directly to his door, one of about fifty on this floor. She had only been there once or twice before. These visits she repeated whenever she desired extra food.

There lived for some years at one of the ports of

call on an island off the British Columbia coast a grey and white tom cat, which ever so often would board the incoming steamer and ride to Vancouver, the only city on the steamer's route. Arriving in the city the cat would disembark, but always was back to make the return trip. Why he went or returned no one ever figured out, but he was a friend of the crew and treated with respect.

(To be continued.)

**VISITS.**

January 19th.—Miss Richardson's Flurry Flop;  
February 8th.—Miss Richardson's Crinkle; both to owner's Ginger Pop (Manx).

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All correspondence re "CAT GOSSIP" to the Editor, H. C. BROOKE,

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Assistant-Editor, London Agency, and Book Reviews:

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

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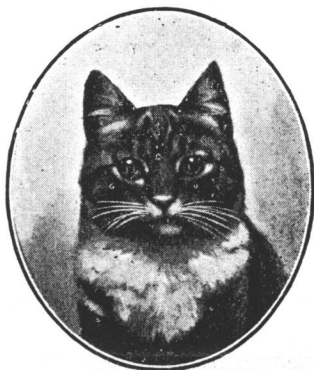
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