

CAT · GOSSIP

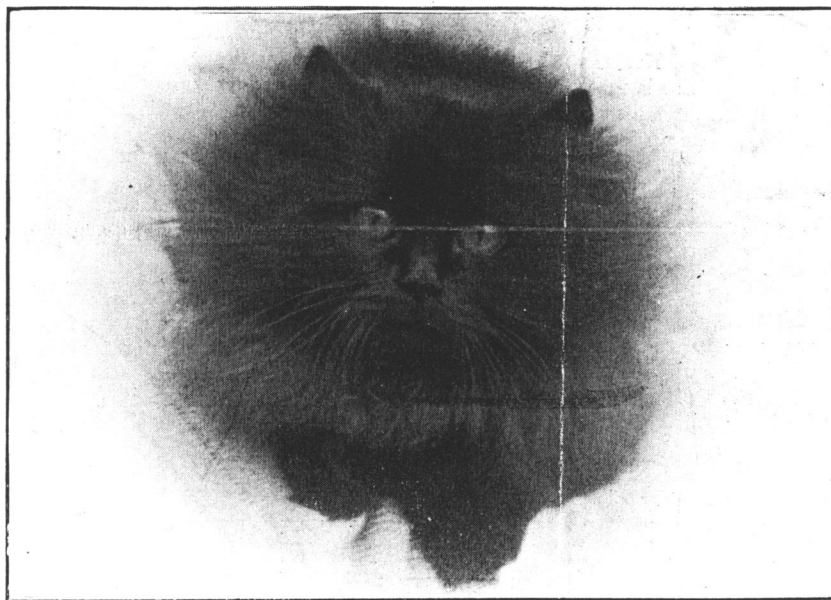
VOL. 3

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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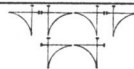
Soame Desert Chief is a son of Black Jester, ex Heathside Black Chiffon, and has steadily won, both as a kitten and also this season as an adult. Altogether he has seven firsts and two challenge certificates to his credit.

He is a fine massive young stud, black bred, being descended from Ch. Dirty Dick on the one side and Ch. Heathside Flanark on the other. He has already sired some fine kittens, and with luck his future should prove a bright one. He is placed at stud in our columns.

[We think our readers will agree the portrait is a credit to our block-maker, and that to **make and publish** a portrait like this, and **give the block to owner** for future use, is an opportunity offered by "Cat Gossip," which stud owners would be wise to avail themselves of for the trifling charge of 15s. 6d. If a larger size, as Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's last week, is desired, the charge is only 25s.]



Mrs. B. H. SOAME'S
Black Stud,
SOAME DESERT CHIEF.



LONG-HAIR LORE.

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

The various clubs of the Cat Fancy are concentrating on the end of the season, and their committees are busy winding up their yearly affairs, for in each case the financial year ends with the Annual General Meeting. All members who interest themselves in the working of their particular Club should make a great endeavour to be present at these meetings. These are pleasant fixtures, often held at members' houses, to whom it is very heartening when the attendance is good. At the General Meeting new suggestions and improving ideas are asked for, and the particular committee lend a willing ear to such, and adopt if feasible. I am wondering if the Club on the soundest financial basis will entertain the idea of a Summer Show?

The expression "freak" invariably conveys to my mind something extremely unpleasant, from which I would willingly run away, but some days ago the photo of a pretty freak was sent me, and I christened it the Pom Cat, for he strongly resembles a dear Pom I had in days gone by, imported from Ger

many. Mrs. Roach-Smith, who owns Chu-Chu, lives at Sawbridgeworth, and describes him as follows: Chu is half Persian, half Abyssinian, very darkly marked down his back, inclining to tan, a most unique colour; the fur is particularly soft, and so long that in winter it nearly touches the ground. His immense fluffy tail is carried over his back. He has been mistaken for a Pom dog and for a squirrel. Chu Chu is of a lazy disposition when about the house, and a poor mouser, but when out of doors he is quite different, and very cruel. He will wait for hours to catch birds, and climb any tree to get the nest. The villagers round about call him His Majesty, which is cute of them, for it suits him well." I wish Mrs. Roach-Smith would ask our good Editor to print the photo of this queer cat, for with his upright bearing, his prick ears, his alertness, and the smart carriage of his brush, he might well be a specimen from the toy Pom ring at the Ladies' Kennel Club Show! Perhaps he may appear at one of our own shows next season. I am sure he would attract much attention.

Re those interesting surprise packets, tortoise-shells, I hear from Mrs. Broughton-Hawley that she has mated Tortie Queenie of Toronto to Ben of Lokie, and she says that she may expect something nice, as Queenie's mother was black, her sire blue, and that some generations back Sebastian of Hyver, Jill of Hadley, and Blue Riband of Emberton grace her pedigree. Ch. Sebastian has won many championships in Canada and U.S.A., and the little lady travelled miles and miles over there as a baby kit, as she accompanied her then owner everywhere before being brought to England. This lady, having to return via New York in January, feared the cold might kill her pet, and so preferred to sell and leave her in England; thus she came under the kind care of Mrs. Broughton-Hawley.

APHORISM OF THE IDEAL HOME.

"A house is never perfectly furnished for enjoyment unless there is a child in it rising three years old and a kitten rising six weeks."—Southey.

Ch. Gentleman of Henley has had his photo taken specially for "Cat Gossip," but as Lady Eardley-Wilmot has not yet received the proofs she is afraid the result may not have been satisfactory. These further items of interest I quote from her letter to me:—"I have bought a young male, to be named Son of Eros, ex a lovely Hawkhurst queen, and with such parentage his progeny should be of the best. He is with Mrs. Bryan, of Taplow, and is being put at stud to a few queens this season. Karina has been mated to Dazzler, as also Jill, but my two new queens, Eva (mother of Wide-awake) and Melita (daughter of Simeon of Westfield), are being mated to Ch. Gentleman. Pip is shortly to have one queen, a daughter of Ch. Gentleman, ex Karin, but I am keeping him back, as he is still so young."

I am glad to learn that Miss Joan Buckley is not down-hearted after her spell of ill-luck; she has most wisely let some time elapse before putting in new

stock; but now, being quite free from infection, has purchased three new queens, one from Miss Chafer, 2½ years, with lovely eyes; another by Dazzler of Henley, 10 months old; and the third a Ch. Azure of Hadley queen, inheriting the copper Azure eye. This queen is, unfortunately, very wild, having lived entirely out of doors, and never been handled or petted, but Miss Buckley hopes to tame her by kindness—that remedy of remedies for many ills.

An excellent new idea was mooted and launched at the National this past season—a neuter kitten class. So many male kittens are bought as pets, and consequently neutered, that these kitten classes ought to become very popular, and credit accrues to Mr. Yeates, the popular hon. secretary, for the thought. Cat lovers who possess a lovely neuter kitten are now no longer debarred from becoming exhibitors.

No greater lover of the cat exists than Mrs. Archer, of Northampton; she visits nearly every one of our Ch. Shows, and is quick to help the Fancy. I have had the pleasure of her acquaintance for very many years, and am hoping to persuade her to send me a letter on her neuter pets.

DEBUTANTE'S DIARY.

With Mrs. Puss we hope all is going on well, she eats well, takes her daily run, is not troubled by strangers—in fact, leads a happy normal life. As the weeks roll nearer the ninth a teaspoonful of salad oil is very good once or twice a week. Next week: Mrs. Puss' Ideal Home.

[We should like to see a photo of the "Pom Cat."—Ed.]

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

WE are sorry to hear that Mrs. Smallwood (Goldhanger) has been very seriously ill since last October; but she is now getting stronger and able to get about, and kindly writes that she will be glad to be able to read her favourite Cat paper again.

SIR CLAUD ALEXANDER has just acquired what is without doubt the rarest and most remarkable cat in the country, in the person of a specimen of the flat-headed cat (*felis planiceps*). This is a small self-coloured cat, a native of the Malay States, and very rarely seen. It is a rather aberrant species, its dentition being somewhat different from that of most cats, and though nothing is known of its habits in a wild state, it is said to attack the sweet-potato crops. It has a very short tail, and on this account it has been suggested that it may be an ancestor of the curious-tailed Malay domestic cats, a theory we regard as quite untenable. Sir Claud writes of his specimen: "It sits in its bed as a rule, but when I go to feed it comes raging out and grabs its food from a fork. Its skull is like that of a Fishing Cat, but the very short ears give it an expression somewhat like that of a Dogue de Bordeaux."

Mrs. BASNETT informs us that she has purchased from M. Steens, of Antwerp, his beautiful Siamese stud, Vishnou, which she thinks will be an acquisition to the Fancy here. He left Brussels by the



Belgian aeroplane at 11.15 a.m., and was contentedly eating fish at South Croydon by 2.30.

BY THE WAY, we are disappointed at receiving no Siamese news lately. When we started a Siamese column we hoped members of this Fancy would keep it supplied with news items and make it interesting, it being the only existing feature of the kind. At first they supported it well, but of late there seems to be "nothing doing."

FROM Miss Smyth comes the dolorous news that she has recently lost her beautiful Siamese kittens, Ranji-Rex, and Princess Zaidee, who died a few days after him. Zaidee had won three firsts and four specials at Kentish Town. It appears they had distemper and acute gastritis. It is a sad wind-up to Miss Smyth's first season's exhibiting, which started so well.

THE BLUE PERSIAN FANCY TO-DAY.

BY MISS J. M. FISHER.

Blue Persians maintain their popularity among a very large section of Cat Fanciers. During the show season just passed we have seen many new enthusiasts join our ranks. There is something particularly fascinating about the blue Persian, and when once a cat lover goes in for blues they very seldom give them up for any other breed of cat. When a blue Fancier launches out with some other breed it is generally in addition to, and not instead of, the blue. The pluck of the novice exhibitor in taking up a breed where the competition is so keen, and in showing where the entries are bound to be larger than in any other variety, amazes me and fills me with admiration. Blues have made, and are making, great strides; we have not yet produced the perfect blue cat, but we are getting on towards it. Those who say the present-day blue could not hold its own with the famous blues of the past, should compare the photos of the old favourites in Miss Simpson's Book of the Cat with those of to-day, and if proof is wanted that progress is being made a visit to the Natural History Museum, at South Kensington, to see the winning blue Persian of 20 years ago, would be illuminating. I would like to see that cat at a show penned beside Ch. Dion of Allington or Ch. Northway Shelmerdine!

Comparing the present with the old-time blue, I think, perhaps, the greatest advance has been made in producing smaller ears and shorter noses, without in any way going back in other points. We have got the lovely deep copper eye fairly well fixed, and, though I agree that too much stress must not be placed on eye colour, I maintain that, however lovely the cat is in other respects, if it does not possess deep copper eyes it will fail to win in keen competition. With improvement in head and eyes we must now pay the greatest attention to colour. Very many of the present-day cats fail in this respect. It is a very difficult thing to produce a really

blue tone, level from head to tip of tail and sound to the skin, especially when the coat is, as it should be, long and flowing. It is comparatively easy to produce an even colour if the coat is rather short, but what is wanted, and what we are all striving for, is a long heavy coat, as blue as possible and of exactly the same colour all over, no light undercoat, pale frill, light shading behind the ears, dark spine lines or tails that are a different shade to the body. So often the perfect coloured kitten, as it grows up, gets a brown tinge on the tips of the coat, maybe owing to sunburn, or more likely to damp, and even a few days "off its feed," perhaps caused by teething, will give a paler shade at the roots of an otherwise sound coat. Any shade of blue is allowable, but it must be blue, and it is this that is so hard to get and makes the breeding of blues such an interesting hobby. I would like to tell you how to breed the perfect blue, but I am still trying to find the secret. I purchased my first blue Persian, Ch. Azure's grandmother, in 1904, and have been doing my best to improve my stock ever since; sometimes I have come near to achieving my ideal, but have never quite done so yet. If it were an easy matter to breed a winner, or when bred, to be sure of winning! most fanciers would cease to find the breeding of blues the source of interest and pleasure which they undoubtedly do to-day. So let us keep on trying, and strive in 1928 to produce a more perfect blue than has ever yet been seen in or out of the show pen.

CAT CALLS.

STUD AND BROOD QUEEN CLASSES.

TO THE EDITOR.

Mrs. Hindley evidently could not have read my previous letter very carefully, for she says I was "quite incorrect in stating that secretaries do not check the entries and point out mistakes." I cannot find, on looking through the letter that I said anything of the kind.

In an ordinary way a secretary would draw the attention of the exhibitor to a flagrant error in an entry if it was at once visible, but, as I previously stated, in many cases they are not detected. (You omitted the **not** in your issue of Feb. 22nd, Mr. Editor.)

Surely Mrs. Hindley does not imagine that every show secretary is going to check over all the cats entered in the Limit Classes and find out if they are eligible for such classes? No one but an absolute novice would suggest that it is the judge's place to disqualify any cat wrongly entered in such classes, for how on earth does a judge know offhand how many first prizes a cat has previously won?

In my forty odd years of exhibiting various breeds of live stock, I have invariably found that it is another exhibitor who lodges an objection to animals wrongly entered and awarded prizes, and not the secretary of the show, and the committee or some

higher tribunal disqualifies if necessary. Where does your correspondent get the idea that I suggested the numbers in the judge's book at the S.C.C.C. Show, in the classes referred to, were not entered by the secretary or her staff? The cats were evidently entered in the Stud and Brood Queen Classes, and consequently their respective numbers were entered into the judge's book, and, on Mrs. Hindley's own admission, the numbers of the progeny were given; therefore I fail to find any excuse for the judge awarding prizes in cases of no progeny, which was absolutely contrary to the show rules. Attention was drawn to the error, and I should have thought that was sufficient, but Mrs. Hindley evidently thinks otherwise, and endeavours to justify her action by raising an entirely different argument.

E. SYDNEY WOODIWISS.

Danbury.

SIAMESE IN THE PAST SEASON.

BY MRS. BASNETT.

Having been asked to write a resumé of the show season 1927-1928 for Siamese, I have been going carefully through my notes made at the different shows, and I think progress on the whole is most satisfactory. I shall begin with our Club Show, as that is the first show of the new season. In the adult classes Simzo, having already two challenge certificates to his credit, gained his third at the Siamese Cat Club Show last September. I had not seen him since the previous January, and as he had darkened so intensely found it difficult to recognise the Simzo as I had last seen him. His mother (the late Ch. Simple), in my opinion, possessed the finest head in male or female Siamese, and Ch. Simzo has exhibited her lovely head, but for the all-round perfect stud cat his sire, Ch. Bonzo, is supreme, and as long as Mr. Lloyd Lewis allows him to remain at public service I see no reason why the breed should go back in any way. This season gives us two new male champions, and one female champion. Ch. Simzo, owned by Mrs. Hindley, and Ch. Tai-Long, owned by Mrs. Calvert, and Ch. Bonzette of Petaling, owned by Mrs. Harvey, all sired by the illustrious Ch. Bonzo. The second prize male at the Club Show last September, Khubsurat, owned by Mrs. O'Grady, had not the dainty head I prefer, with the rather long nose, which improves the true wedge appearance, but it was a nice head, and his coat colour is pale and even, and he has dense points, with eyes a very good blue. I was pleased to see from the catalogue later that he possessed fresh blood, and should, therefore, have been a very useful stud cat, but he, unfortunately, did not live to prove his value, for which I was particularly sorry. The breed also suffered a great loss in the death of Ch. Simple this season. Her daughter, Ch. Bonzette, did not get her full honours until after her mother's death, but she does not equal her mother for density of points or perfec-

tion of head, and I could not agree with the judge when mother and daughter were competing with each other, for placing Bonzette over Simple, and for the latter's general loveliness I gave her her fourth challenge certificate at our Club Show, and second place to Mr. Wicking's Fairlight Gipsy, and third place to Mrs. Wood's Chista. If there were any doubts about the progress of the breed, they must have immediately disappeared at the sight of so much beauty found in the kittens exhibited in such large numbers at the Club Show. The quality generally being so excellent, it needed but a very minute thing to make the difference in awarding the prizes. In the male and female classes of over six months, Miss Bates' Darboy, now owned by Mrs. Maturin, ran off with the first prize card, and was followed by two ladies—Miss Stent's Herself with second place, and Mrs. Cates' Pekois with the third place; these cats have all successfully distinguished themselves as adults since their appearance at the beginning of the season. In the younger classes Mrs. Ellaby's Princess Cleo presented her son and daughter by Ch. Bonzo, and Marko, the son, was the pick of the bunch, with Fairo, his sister, also running away with the first place in her class. Princess Cleo has done much to improve the breed of late years by giving us such beautiful kittens from time to time, and I envy Mrs. Ellaby being in the position to make the most of her opportunity of possessing Princess Cleo some years ago, when I reluctantly had to refuse her, having already two Siamese queens and one blue Persian queen, with their respective families, to take with me from place to place when my husband was seeking health again after the war, and our future then was extremely unsettled. But naturally I have a specially warm corner in my affections for the veteran Princess Cleo and her progeny, and I could not have found her a more understanding or kind owner than Mrs. Ellaby had I been asked! This is all rather breaking away from my subject, so I will pass on to the others competing with Marko and Fairo. Mrs. Redfern's Wow getting second place to Marko, and Miss Dixon's Sibothurd in males. Miss Dixon's Simzette getting second place to Fairo, with Mrs. Harvey's Marigold of Petaling third in the same class, and an extra third to Mrs. Hindley's Prestwick Purda. The next show, held at Reading, saw Mrs. Harvey's Pedro of Petaling carry off his first challenge certificate, and yet another son of Ch. Bonzo, Mrs. Calvert's Tai-Long, with second place, and third place to Prestwick Puteh-Punya, owned by Mrs. Hindley. In the adult female class, Mrs. Harvey's Bonzette of Petaling won the laurels from her mother, Ch. Simple, who came second, with Miss Busteed's Kiweena third. The kitten classes saw Miss Dixon's male Sibothurd first, with Miss Smyth's Ranji-Rex second; these were over five months old, and in the female classes of the same age Miss Stent's Herself first, Miss Dixon's Simzette second, and Mrs. Coles' Simour third. In the younger classes Mrs. Scott Russell's Kuching Kara first, with the same owner's Kuching Kassim

second, and Mrs. Hallam's Chin Ram third in the males, and Miss Smyth's Princess Zaidee first in females. Looking over my catalogue I am reminded of Mrs. Scott-Russell's queen, Kuching Kama, and I should not feel happy if I failed to mention her, although she only received a v h c. Why, I quite failed to see, as she is certainly a beautiful cat, and ought to have received a prize.

At Croydon, Mrs. Calvert's Tai-Long was awarded the challenge certificate—his first—followed by Miss Busteed's Jimbois second, and Mrs. Hindley's Prestwick Puteh-Punya third in the male adults, and Miss Dixon's Ch. Simple won her fifth challenge certificate, which, alas, proved to be her last, for it was after this show the Fancy lost one of its chief beauties. The second place went to Mrs. Harvey's Bonzette of Petaling, and third to Miss Stent's Herself, competing for the first time as an adult. The kitten classes had Kuching Kara first, with Major Woodiwiss's Woodroffe Bogie second, and the same owner's Woodroffe Jubo third in males, and in females, Miss Amor's Bin-Tee first; second, Miss Smyth's Princess Zaidee. These were all kittens under six months, and in those for over six months, Miss Dixon's Sibb first, Mrs. Burke's Sumi-Ming second, and third Major Woodiwiss's Woodroffe Bowing in males, and in females Miss Dixon's Simzette first, Mrs. Cates' Fairo second, and Mrs. O'Grady's Prestwick Purula third. Mrs. Calvert's Tai-Long scored his second challenge certificate at the National Cat Club Show, with Miss Busteed's Litason second, and the same owner's Jimbois third in adult males, and Miss Stent's Herself won her first challenge certificate, with Mrs. Cates' Pekois and Miss Busteed's Ch. Kiwena second and third respectively in adult females. For kittens of 3-9 months the first place went to Mrs. Hallam's Chin Ram; second, Miss Smyth's Ranji-Rex; and third, Mrs. Ellaby's Moth in males; and in females of the same age, first to Mrs. Coles' Simour; second, Mrs. Ellaby's Bello; third to Mrs. Cates' Fairo.

(To be continued.)

The continuation of Mr. Francis Dickie's article, "Some Cat Tales," is unavoidably held over.

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All correspondence re "CAT GOSSIP" to the Editor.

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