

# CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 3

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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## LONG-HAIR LORE.

By MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER.

(Phone: Hendon 1019.)

Perennial youth—the delicate figure of Peter Pau which delights the senses of young and old who visit Kensington Gardens, emphasises the great attraction animal life has for children, for the rabbits and other pets pourtrayed around the base of Peter, attracted by notes from the pipe played by the youthful Narcissus, are polished and brilliant with the caresses and loving fingers of the 1,001 little visitors who enjoy their season of youth in these beautiful gardens. Thus we see how good it is that the love of the animal creation should enter into the education of each and every child, that humane law—the strong protecting the weak. Then truly

The childhood shows the man  
As morning shows the day.—(Milton.)

But now to leave the gardens, which hold a veritable fascination for us in Springtime, I must give you a chatty letter, as promised, from Mrs. Archer, of Northampton. She writes as follows:—"Neuters—the nicest of pets and best of pals; some people vote them stupid, but that has never been my experience; I have always found them most intelligent. I start with them when they are kittens, and find that when talked to, and the same thing repeated, they soon understand what is meant. I also find them good mousers. Perhaps they are a little indolent, but then they have nothing to do but enjoy life. At present I have two only—but such pets, full of little tricks (self-taught). Mingle, a blue son of Idol of Hadley, is about two years old, and the other is about five. A very nice long-haired brown tabby, he is really a character; if told to be a frozen rabbit, will go perfectly stiff—legs straight out. He has a little golf ball, which he will catch in his paws as many times as one will throw it; he has quite a mania for milk chocolate, of which he is given a packet every week. He has also an odd taste for raw Brussels sprouts! My neuters' food consists of boiled rabbit, fish, and beef, besides food from our own table, and occasionally they like a hard-boiled egg, milk, and always fresh water. They have complete liberty, but are not allowed away from home. I have also a little red tabby female; they are one and all the best of friends, and what games they have

scampering about together. I love my cats, and if human aid can give them a long life they have it."

Mrs. Archer's neuter so fond of Brussel sprouts, reminds me of a recent story about a bulldog, who is an entire vegetarian, and looks fit and well on his diet. My own cats, I find, are much delighted with addition of green vegetables to their meals, and a dear S.H. tabby I once had would go anywhere for a plate of asparagus; but she had strange tastes, for boiled linseed was to her as good as any jelly from the "Ritz." I could write many tales about her, for she was delightful! But perhaps—another day.

Mrs. Weightman, of Lostwithiel, is kindly taking care of Hendon Fairfax for a while; her best queen is mated to him, and Fairfax is having a regal time in that lovely spot; he is monarch of all he surveys, for there is no other male, and only two lovely ladies. He is a veritable "broth of a boy."

Amongst other clubs, the S.C.C.C. is giving a special for best cat in show to the Harrogate fixture. These ventures are the ones that help to build and enlarge the Cat Fancy, and should be warmly encouraged. Mr. Budd tells me that he and Mr. Lawson Atkinson hope to form a local society, ready for next season; this will embrace the West Riding, and keep all fanciers of this district in touch with one another. If successful, a yearly show is the idea. Good luck to their enterprise!

News from Coryton: Mrs. Sharman has just returned from an enjoyable holiday at Folkestone. Silver Caesar of Correnden is, after all, as rumour has it, to join the Allington Cattery. It will be remembered that Caesar is a son of the late Octavian of Allington, and was bred by Miss Watts; Miss Langston will be glad to have such a promising son of her lost favourite.

Mrs. Vassall, I am glad to learn, is joining the ranks of the L.H. white Persians. I am proposing her for the Black and White Club, and she is hoping to breed and show some good white kittens later on. At present a one and only queen is her proud possession; but the little lady has a lovely pair of blue eyes, and a very thick coat.

Will some expert tell me the best mating for a short-hair silver tabby, deficient markings—body colour very pure silver, but rings on tail only, sufficiently defined.

Mirza of Bredon is growing a very fine cat; his owners are all in love with him, his disposition is so charming.

From Nantwich, Mrs. Lerway Elliott writes:—  
 "You had a long letter from me in '27, telling you of my six lovely kittens by Rigside Norman, ex my cup-winning queen, Mistress Billy Bumpet. I told you, if you remember, that I brought the six up safely to the age of eight weeks on a fountain pen filler! I thought you might be interested in hearing again of this litter family. It became almost a work of art to count the number of pen-filler's full to each kitten, by the time they grew bigger. Each one had eight, three times a day, at five weeks old; multiply this by six, and it assumes somewhat terrifying proportions. And now, all six are very much alive to tell the tale—all well up to average weight and size—and the two I kept until January this year weighed  $6\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. each. Three of the litter have taken firsts, and two more have been bought by breeders for coming studs. Don't you think this a good criterion for artificial feeding? Mistress B.B. watched them with care and interest up to eight weeks, and after that left them severely alone. She is now on a visit to Flick-a-Maroo, and I hope for the coming litter as good as the last. Son o' Flick, born on Easter Sunday last year, is now the property of Mrs. Yeates, and the especial pet of that charming daughter of her's. But isn't he young to be siring kittens—and not yet a year? Good luck to him—and them! We hope to make Chester Show this year a great success—but this we cannot do without co-operation. It is to be held in August, and there will be six classes for cats and kittens. Will not every member of this Cat Chat, who reads this, save just one cat or kit to show there? The management is kindly undertaken by Miss Wrench, but it is a thankless task, if, after much stress and storm, it has been taken in vain—and the classes she and I have guaranteed, have to be paid for by us—which is only a name for poor entries. The cats will be looked after by Miss Wrench and myself, and I can promise they will receive every care and attention. In fact, if anyone has any fear about an especial cat or kitten, they can send it to me, at 'Moorings,' Willaston, Nantwich, and I will take them with me the morning of the show in the comfort of a close car, and after the show is over I will run them to the station, and see them safely bound for home—covered in glory, I hope. So please, everyone, help us to work for success, remembering that 'United we stand!'"

#### DEBUTANTE'S DIARY.

A word on bedding for Mrs. Puss' nest: Some cats have their own fancies on this matter. One of the best mother cats I ever possessed, preferred the bare wood of her box; give her whatever I liked, everything was pushed and scratched aside before the babes arrived. Once an accomplished fact I might give her what I pleased, usually a blanket, and later whenever she left her nest while the babies were young she would take one corner of the blanket and cover her little family—this was a fact. Newspaper

is quite, to my mind, the cleanest and best of bedding, and warm withal, but when the small family is some hours old a blanket can be placed beneath them, or any thickly folded undyed material—but always remember, whatever you use for Mrs. Puss' "ideal home," **leave her as much as possible in peace and quiet.** Nature teaches her better than you can. Off

"Mortals rush in where angels fear to tread!"

#### GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

AN American paper prints the following from a reader:—"I have a house cat, which I found possessed an extraordinary appetite for cheese, and every time cheese was placed on the table the cat would sit beside me and beg for this very ordinary food. Upon investigation I found that the cat ate the cheese and then went to a mousehole in the woodwork and breathed heavily into it until the mice were enticed to come out." Can you beat it?

ALL breeders of whites will read with interest this letter from Mrs. Taylor, of "The Cat Courier":—"Dear Mr. Editor, I have your letter of February 18th. I do not agree with you altogether about your blue-eyed whites. I have a theory of my own that all cats are born with good hearing, and that deafness in blue-eyed whites is caused by some shock when they are very tiny, like the slamming of a door or some such noise that would cause 'air pocket shocks.' I have known of litters born of deaf parents, being very carefully taken care of for the first two or three weeks of their life, where no shocks of this kind occurred, and the kittens all had perfect hearing. To tell you the truth, in this country we have very few deaf white cats. For some reason or other in the blue-eyed whites we find a more delicate ear drum than in any other colour species. Yes, we recognise the golden-eyed whites here as a special class, and we have some very lovely ones. By the golden-eyed whites we really mean copper-eyed, as that is the colour they all are working for, in the golden-eyed division. We have them in both the long hair and the short hair. I have run across deaf golden-eyed whites; in fact, I have found deafness in cats of every colour, but not very often. The breeders here crossed a copper-eyed white with a blue-eyed white to deepen the eye colour in the blue-eyed cat. They sometimes get odd-eyed cats, and they take that cat and breed it back to a blue-eyed. In this second generation they get wonderfully deep blue eyes. Of course, from this sort of a mixture they get sometimes mixed eye colour in the kittens, but by breeding to the blue-eyed in the next generation they are pretty apt to set the blue eye. We used to have long-faced cats here. We overcame that by breeding to very cobby blues. Then we had to breed the blue out again. They all want short-faced cats here, and that is what they are working for and getting. I sent you a money order for a couple of subscriptions earlier in the week. I hope you received it all right,



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# SPRATT'S CAT FOODS

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and that you are getting the paper started to the subscribers as soon as possible. I have been terribly busy this winter with shows, and during February have been ill with pneumonia, so that accounts for not sending the subscriptions sooner.—Gertrude E. Taylor."

THE Press takes a more broad-minded and constant interest in the Manx cat, so neglected by the "Fancy"; yet really one of the most interesting animals living. The "Express and Star" recently devoted a long article to the Manx, certainly the most interesting we have seen in the lay Press. It refers to the now almost unknown pamphlet by the Rev. Thomas Talbot, entitled, "The History of the Manx Cat; Its origin, great antiquity, and the cause of the absence of its caudal appendage, with interesting facts of its history and peculiarities, and its relation to the ordinary household grimalkin." It relates how one Train seriously published the fallacy that the Manx was half cat, half rabbit! an absurdity denounced by Dr. George Wilson as a "monstrous doctrine," for "It is not a common cat without a tail, but such a cat with a compensation for the missing member in long hind legs and in slighter modifications visible to the anatomist in other organs."

INCIDENTALLY we learn that "the famous poster artist, Mr. John Hassall, has executed a pictorial poster design of a Manx cat with a countenance which he predicts will become more famous even

than some of his most well-known work. It will be exhibited throughout the country."

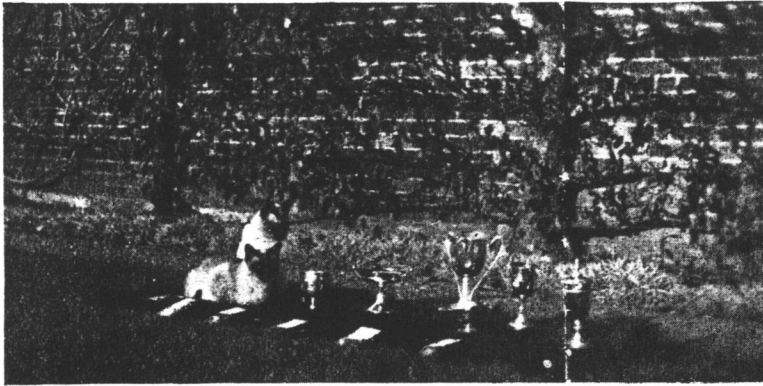
THE Paris Show will be held on May 4th and 5th, at the Salle Wagram. The judges, as at present arranged, it is hoped will be Mrs. Nathan, Dr. P. Jumaud, and Mr. H. C. Brooke.

### SIAMESE AND THEIR OWNERS.

BY MUANG T'HAI.

News about the children of the Land of the White Elephant has been woefully scarce of late. It is an old saying :: No news is good news," so we must perforce console ourselves with the hope that this absence of news at least indicate a cessation of the constant obituary notices we used to have to bring with a dreadful regularity. But do pray, all who are interested in this column, remember it is up to each one of you to do your share in making it interesting, and let us have all your news items promptly!

Mrs. Ellaby informs us that her wonderful Princess Cleo has again visited the great Champion Bonzo, and she is hoping for another Marko, who, she trusts, may be claimed by someone who will use him for the benefit of the breed, and not merely keep him as a pet. A curious fatality appears to overhang the kitten. The Moth, who has grown into a very fine cat, with gorgeous eyes and a very light coat. At the Club Show a certain betting gentle-



PRINCESS CLEO  
AND  
HER 1927 WINS.

man offered £10 for the kitten, but did not (presumably having repeatedly failed to "spot the winner") materialise to carry out the bargain; so then Mrs. Ellaby had him neutered—to go to a monastery—and again had him left on her hands. Mrs. Ellaby is desirous of finding a good home for Simon Peter of Petaling, once owned by Mrs. Harvey and by Miss Busteded. See advertisement columns.

Mrs. Cates relates that during the foggy weather recently, one of her Siamese having stayed out longer than was right, she said to The Old Lady (another queen): "Go and find Fairo!" The Old Lady went out, and shortly returned accompanied by the truant, who, by the way, has been mated to Croham Boi-Bois.

Mrs. Veley writes:—"Has anyone lost a Siamese cat in the Regent's Park district of London? I have found the present whereabouts of a stray: it is not yet captured, but is fed daily by a kind lady who is trying to get it. Sex not ascertained; a large cat, even body colour, very long tail; a fine specimen, probably about three years old. It must have been lost some time, as when found (inhabiting a flat roof)

it was nearly starved, but has been fed for about six weeks, and is gradually becoming less wild, but cannot yet be got indoors. Owners please communicate with Mrs. Veley, 8, Marlborough Place, N.W. 8, giving particulars, sex, and name of cats lost in N.W. London.

Mrs. Wade remarks: "We all complain how delicate Siamese are, yet Mr. Hirst (Hartfield) writes me that his Siamese queens live all the winter in an unheated shed. Apropos of which, I myself gave my sister a very sick kitten, which she named Wee Sickly of Bedale. She brought it up almost entirely out of doors, and it grew into one of the most beautiful Siamese I know, and won the Novice Exhibitors' Cup at the Club Show. Unfortunately, she is a firm believer in love matches, and having been mated twice to Ch. Bonzo on each occasion deliberately killed her kittens, but is an excellent mother to the offspring of her own true love, a common black cat. She goes off sometimes for days at a time, and neighbouring farmers borrow her for ridding: and this is a Siamese which started life as too delicate for my cattery!"

GROUP OF  
MRS. ELLABY'S  
SIAMESE.



**VISITS.**

March.—Mrs. Waterfield's **Marah**; Mrs. Furniss' **Vic**; Mrs. White's **Si**; Mrs. Waterfield's **Chanette**; Owner's **Buffy** of **Petaling**; Mrs. Lybbe's queen; all to Mrs. Harvey's **Pedro** of **Petaling**.

**BIRTHS.**

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 ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11th.**

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**SIAMESE KITTENS,**

Four Females, by Brian de Listenoise, ex Semiramis; 3 months old; house trained; strong and healthy. **One Guinea Each.**

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Good Quality SIAMESE FEMALE; perfect shape; house trained; six months. Two Guineas.—MISS HOBBS, 16, Eastern Road, Romford, Essex.

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All correspondence re "CAT GOSSIP" to the Editor, H. C. BROOKE, 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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OUR Veterinary Adviser will reply FREE, through the columns of "Cat Gossip," to our SUBSCRIBERS' queries about their cats; all such FREE queries to be sent as early as possible to "Cat Gossip." URGENT ADVICE will be sent by post for the fee of 2/6. This nominal fee will also be charged for Post-mortems. In these cases, the query, or the body, with the fee, must be sent direct to

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