

CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 3

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 70

APRIL 11th, 1928

Price 3d., post free



A TRUE FRIEND OF THE CAT.
MISS PARKER.

Amongst those whom the feline tribe may acclaim as their very best and truest friends, even though their sideboards or cabinets may not be loaded with trophies won at shows, is certainly to be counted Miss Ada Parker, of Leigh, Woodberry Grove, N. Finchley. For twenty years or more this lady has been an unselfish and ardent worker in the cause of animals, and especially in that of the cat. Incidentally we may remark that, with very few exceptions, the most energetic workers on behalf of any animal, are not, paradoxically enough, to be found amongst the ranks of the "fanciers" of those animals, although at first sight one would normally expect this to be the case.) If we consider some of the lower Fancies, we fear their love of animals is very much on a par with that of the celebrated lad, whose proud mother replied to the inquiry of a friend as to what the hopeful intended to be: "I'm sure our Jack will be a butcher, he be that amazin' fond o' animals!" Were it otherwise, we should not find, for instance, some of the lower Fancies making a special feature of "the waster trade," i.e., the wilful and knowing breeding of animals for vivisection purposes! Such, in the case of the higher

"Fancies," viz., dogs and cats, is, of course, unthinkable, but the fact remains that humanitarian workers, as our correspondence teaches, have but a very poor opinion of fanciers as a whole, as the majority of them are too apt to limit their kindness to their fancy stock, and either ignore the sufferings of the rank and file, or wilfully close their eyes to all such evils "because they are fond of the animals and do not want to hear of cruelties"—a selfish attitude indeed, and how light in the balance when weighed against the attitude of those whose lives are a continual martyrdom fighting against the "devilments" which are in vogue! Of these is the subject of our sketch; an ardent cat lover, she has been specially interested in cats since early childhood. She has been an enthusiastic anti-vivisection worker for many years, a supporter of the Dogs' Protection Bill, and is the Hon. Secretary of the Finchley Branch of the British Union for Abolition of Vivisection, for which she has written several leaflets, and she has the honour of being regarded by the "torturer gang" of women and men as a very obnoxious person. When, a year ago, "Cat Gossip" (alone) revealed the intention of the heads of the College of Pestology to have the cat classed by Parliament as a pest to be legislated against, Miss Parker threw herself into the fight.* When the Cats' Protection League was formed with a view to the betterment all round of the status of the cat, Miss Parker was the first subscriber. She is now, and has for months been, busy collecting signatures to Parliamentary petitions urging that cats be exempted from vivisection (as late as 1926 "The Lancet" described cases of cats being subjected to horrible tortures for fourteen days at a time!) And she is surprised to find the "Fancy," as regards nine out of ten of its members, completely apathetic as regards such matters, on which one would imagine they would feel deeply, the more so as even exhibition stock may be lost, or stolen—and what then? There is a regular demand for a supply of cats and kittens to meet the demands of the torturers. Dealers do not keep them in stock, but if twenty cats are ordered by one of the hells, they will be supplied within a day or two! Whence? Think of it, all of you who have ever lost a cat, and try to help to fight the good fight in one way or another.

[* The definitely propounded scheme of attack on cats and cat owners, launched by a vivisector, appears to be in abeyance. How far this is due to

the prompt exposure by "Cat Gossip" we do not know, but remember "the snake is scotched, not killed!"]

LONG-HAIR LORE.

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

Mrs. Hackett, of Cheltenham, has purchased from Miss E. M. Hill that well-bred red tabby kitten, Karila of Beltinge, winner at the last S.C.C.C. Ch. Show, under Mrs. Powell. 'Tis a matter of rejoicing to Miss Hill that Karila is going to a home where she will be petted and much made of, as all the Beltinge cats are real chums—in fact, Karila travelled up to London and crossed the big city ere Miss Hill could bear to part from her, on the little lady's journey to her new home.

"About my cats," writes Mrs. Jepson, "at the moment I have five queens, one Chinchilla and four blues. One is litter sister to Mrs. Yeates' Son o' Flick, and two are daughters of my beloved Joyous June, who was killed last year. They and their only brother are by Billy Bumpet, and the boy is nice. I shall hope to show him next season, but I have nearly lost him, for whilst I was away he lost 1½ lb. in three weeks, and recently Mrs. Yeates saw him, and thought he had dropsy (he had a big tummy, and was very thin), so I put him on to paraffin, and the second day after I started he passed and also brought up a huge lump of hair, as solid as a stone, and now he is all right, and the dropsy is no more. My Chin. has visited Ch. Cupid once again. Last year she had three kittens—two good ones, and the least good was neutered; he is nice; the two died from enteritis. When I removed to here 18 months ago I put up three big runs and houses, and for a time all went well, but it was necessary to heat them, as we are 800 feet up, and as a local wag puts it, 'all four winds meet here.' Then, one bad day, my Beatrice stove caught fire, and only by the merest chance I went into the big house and discovered it just in time to get the cats out; they were very dazed and black as coal, but recovered. Since then I've had all of them indoors with the family, and really I believe they do better when they live with humans. I find the cats sleep from 12 until 5 o'clock, and then play all the evening up, and down the stairs, whereas usually one shuts them up at 6 p.m., just when they are feeling full of wakefulness. All the same, I'm afraid this was the cause of June's death, as she would sit and wait if we were out, in front of the garage, and in daylight we always had to steer clear of her. She seemed to know we wouldn't hurt her, and never attempted to get out of the way, consequently it was through this lack of fear that we ran her down in the dark, poor darling."

Miss Helen Hill Shaw has kindly answered my question last of last week regarding the lightly marked silver tabby, advising a mating to S.T. male with heavy markings by preference to any self-colour.

Le Nid, Northampton, where a large family of

smoke Persians live a life of freedom and fun, send, through the pen of their owner, Mrs. White, the following notes:—"There are twelve of us, of all ages from five months to eight years old, and our kind 'missus' says we understand nearly everything she says, and quite everything if she repeats it even once! We all roam about as we will, coming into the house when we like to, all except Big Brother, he is fond of the garden, comes into the kitchen, and as a great treat spends an afternoon in the drawing-room occasionally. We are all great friends; the other night Big Brother went to sleep cuddling Mr. Neuter Cat. One of our sisters sleeps every night on Missus' bed, and makes 'sure' by sitting at the bottom of the stairs until she comes along; another smaller sister loves to jump right up on to her shoulder, and sometimes gives her a sly kiss. We have two cousins who are very miserable if separated; if Missus is looking for one she is certain to find both. Then every now and then lots of baby ones appear, and we all have to play with them. I often wonder when they arrive, but I never know. Missus has taught us good manners, and we each have our own plate at dinner time, and come when called; not like those impudent fowls in the garden, who are very rude when they try to share our breakfast of hound's meal and fish. I chase them away sometimes. I hope you will like this news, it is all I can think of. Missus says she finds the babies most interesting, as one never knows whether they will become a light smoke or a dark, but these fancies make no difference to us."

The Gov. Council is sending out to the lucky winners the handsome silver medal, which now replace the certificate which was formerly presented on the exhibit becoming full champion. The medal has G.C.C.F. embossed on one side, and the name of the winner with date on the other; a wreath surround the centre disc, and a crown surmounts the whole. Before leaving this subject may I explain to the novice exhibitor that it is only by an exhibit winning premier honours under three different judges that a champion is made.

Mrs. Voss, writing from Rayleigh, Essex, gives a résumé of her pets in the following words:—"My cat family is small at present, last season's young stock having all gone, but more kittens are expected daily from my queen, Lorna, who was mated to Jester in January, and Jester is constantly receiving visitors, so that I am kept quite busy with my dear little cat friends. I try to make them all as happy as possible; mine like to be talked to, it makes such a difference, while they are being brushed and combed, and they do so appreciate a little love—and return it. They have as much freedom as can be arranged for them, considering they don't agree amongst themselves. There is a nice garden and orchard for them to run in. Jester is a good-natured dear cat, and agrees with all, excepting, of course, Prince Charming; those two are sworn enemies, and it is most amusing to see the one that is free paying



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the other an unfriendly visit, talking through the bars. Lorna and Meadow Sweet (Sweetie) don't agree, unfortunately, and Charming, though a sweet and gentle pet with humans, cannot tolerate other cats; he has one love and one only, and that is Sweetie. Jester has a very nice open run, covered on the top with roofing felt, with a snug bedroom at one end, having a small opening so that he can go in and out at will. During severe wintry weather he sleeps in a larger room—shut in. In his open run there is a raised, sheltered seat. I find all cats hate sitting low down on the ground indoors; they prefer to jump upon a chair, so I provide them with a raised seat in their runs, even if it is only a box turned upside down, or, better still, on its side, fixed to a raised stand, so that it forms a shelter as well. Jester has sired some lovely kittens, and last summer two travelled as far as New Orleans."

From Dunesk, Mrs. Brunton tells me she is giving up white Persians for a time, so she has parted with Narcissus to Mrs. Armstrong, of Hounslow, who takes a natural interest, as the sire was her well known Ch. Sensation.

DEBUTANTE'S DIARY.

Treat your baby kitties much as one would treat a human baby; keep them out of the damp, comfortably warm, free from draughts, plenty of air and light food—a little frequently is at first more trouble, but wiser. Many a kit succumbs to heavy meals; unfortunately we often kill through over-anxiety.

Leave your "good mothers" with their kittens as long as they wish to stay with them; they know best.

SIAMESE AND THEIR OWNERS.

BY MUANG T'HAI.

American lovers of our breed are fellow-sufferers with those on this side from the delicacy of many Siamese. Writing from Chicago to renew her subscription, Mrs. O'Brien says:—"They are very delicate, and the majority of the kittens die between three and five months. I do wish we could have a helping hand, for it is heartbreaking to see these cute and wonderful little creatures reach a certain age and then fade away with no tangible symptoms. Is there no literature upon Siamese we could procure?"

Miss Leatherdale writes:—"The Woodroffe Cattery contains four striking examples of Siamese kept under natural conditions, as opposed to those artificial ones in which many Siamese exist. Adwing, that devoted mother, keenest of ratters, and most intelligent house pet, is a cat of splendid muscular development. Sliwing, of dainty and shy habits, inherits her mother's robust constitution. Juliana, bred by Miss Bateman, is a fine big cat, who 'fears no foe,' whether in shining armour or otherwise. Bouquet, ten months, strong and hardy. All these cats lead a perfectly free life, going in and out in all weathers, and sometimes staying out all night. They seem able to digest almost anything, and they are always clean. They have stood the strain and risks of

being shown 'without turning a hair.' The only enemies against which they are not proof are those 'parasites of the alimentary tract,' which seem to worm their insidious way into every cattery. Whatever may be said about kittens, it seems clear that the more fresh air and exercise our adult cats get the hardier they become, so that even the rare and originally delicate Siamese may be the ordinary house pet, defying our climate, playing with our children, cheering us with his companionship, and keeping our property free from vermin—not merely 'a fair weather friend.' "

Mrs. Hindley writes:—"After losing my stud, Para, I decided to keep Simzo shut up, and I consider it is better and kinder to the cat to keep him either entirely in captivity or entirely free. It would be interesting to hear other stud owners' views on the subject. As Simzo has never known the joys of freedom he does not miss them, and whenever I go into his run he always trots into his house, and never attempts to slip out. There is no cupboard-love about him, in fact, I used to think he had no appetite at all, for he would never look at his meat, but would sit on the table waiting to be petted. I soon found he would eat no breakfast till he had had his morning petting. (Our own beloved Abyssinian is just the same.—ED.) Punya, though very lovable, is a greedy pig, perhaps because he does have his freedom. Having been brought up with all the other cats he agrees with all, and goes in and out just like a neuter. He is sitting on my lap as I write. He has had a good many dark queens, thanks to his pale coat, but as I've not yet seen any of his kittens older than one I do not know how they will turn out. Kechil surely deems herself of Royal blood, so much attention does she demand when she has a family! Fuss is not the word for it. Everything must be just as she wants it, or I am told all about it in her dear little Cockney voice. She is terribly jealous of the other cats, and bites my ankles if too much attention is given elsewhere. If Peraik is on my lap she creeps up and lies down behind her, and if I take no notice a little paw comes up and pats my face, and if I do not respond both paws go round my neck. Thought five years old, Kechil is playful as a kitten, and dearly loves a romp. I have two new queens, one from Scotland and one from France. With regard to Mrs. Bassett's query about blue-pointed Siamese, last season a blue-pointed queen came to Simzo—result five kittens. Some of these may still not be neutered. I can give the address of the owner, but when I heard from him he thought all the kittens would be seal-pointed."

VISITS.

February 20th.—Mrs. Tomlinson's *Sandstone*, to King of the Reds.

March 24th.—Mrs. Tomlinson's *Lady Maythorpe*, to Lancashire Evening Sunset.

February 21st.—Mrs. Dodgshun's *Carina* of Langton, to Simeon of Westfield.

CHINCHILLAS IN 1927.

BY MRS. SHARMAN.

Now for the queens. Langherne Betty of Coryton tops the list with two challenge certificates. It is curious that in both males and females only one cat should have won two certificates. Betty is a fair-sized queen of charming colour and type, with beautiful eyes. She was reserve best cat, and best female cat or kitten at the Crystal Palace. Recompense of Allington (one challenge certificate) is another charmingly dainty queen, excelling in colour, but both she and Dimple of Runnymede (one certificate) are on the small side. C. Langherne Sunshine (one certificate) is another very well-known queen; she is the living example of my previous remark anent size, for though she is such a lovely big cat that most of the queens look small beside her, there is no hint of coarseness, and she is the proof that we can have large Chinchilla queens without losing their daintiness. She was reserve best cat at Kentish Town and second in the champion of champions class. Sweet Cicely is another big queen, but she is too dark for general approval nowadays, the purer colour with even ticking being the present aim.

Kittens this season seemed to me to be far more substantial, as a rule, which is a great point to the good. Among the males the principal winners were Playboy and Jaquins of Allington, Langherne Beau, Peter-see-me, Victor of Aldwych, Comet of Runnymede, and Prince Charming of Correnden. Playboy and Beau were brothers, both of lovely type, eyes, colour, and coat, and, unhappily, both are dead. Playboy was first in his kitten class to Beau's third, but Beau was eventually elected best kitten in the show. This was at Reading. Jaquins of Allington (if I remember rightly yet another brother) is a finely built youngster, lovely colour and coat, and has a good broad head; he beat Playboy at Newcastle. Victor of Aldwych is a fine colour, and has a nice head, though his ears might be smaller. Comet of Runnymede is a nice all round kitten, but when I saw him I thought him inclined to be rusty. I am told there is a marvellous kitten called Cherub of Runnymede, but as I have not seen him, I cannot tell you anything about him. He was entered at the Crystal Palace, but not shown. Prince Charming was a beautiful kitten; he was the best male Chin kit at Kentish Town, and was more than promising, but he died shortly after. Peter-see-me won at Crystal Palace; he is a nice all-round kitten, good colour and coat.

The female kittens were a lovely lot, and I should not have cared for the judges' tasks. Nadine of Allington was unbeaten at Reading, Croydon, and Newcastle; she has an exceptionally beautiful head and eyes, and is a lovely colour too. Langherne Day Dream is a well-grown kitten of beautiful colour both in eyes and coat; she was adjudged best kitten in the show at Worcester. Mab of Allington, a lovely all-

round kit, was only shown at Croydon, where she was the best Chinchilla kitten. Candy of Runnymede, best Chin kitten at Crystal Palace, is a nice type, lovely eyes, pale colour, but small. Hilaria was the winner in the 6—9 months class at the Crystal Palace, but lost the "Best" special to Candy's eyes. Jessamy of Coryton, another good all-round kitten, was the best Chinchilla kitten at Kentish Town.

The new class at Crystal Palace for any variety neuter kitten was won by a neutered female Chinchilla kit, Zöe of Coryton, who was adjudged best Chinchilla neuter, thereby beating a full-grown neutered male.

I hope none of these remarks will give offence, as none is intended!

CAT CALLS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Re the cat that ate cheese and then breathed down a mousehole, it may interest some of your readers to know that I have seen two of my neuter cats bait a mousehole. On one occasion I was in the cellar getting some meat out of the pantry, when I noticed my brown tabby neuter begging beside me, so I threw him a little piece of meat, and was surprised to see him push it along the floor with his paw for some distance, and then place it exactly above a mousehole by the wall. He then retired to a distance of about two yards, and sat watching it all the evening! Another time, when in the kitchen, my silver tabby neuter was given a little piece of pudding, which he did not eat, but pushed along the floor to a mousehole by the kitchen stove just as the other cat had done, and then watched it for some time; becoming tired of this he ran out into the garden, and in the meantime the brown tabby came along, and seeing the piece of pudding ate it up! Soon the silver tabby returned from the garden, and went straight to the mousehole, only to find that his bait had disappeared; he could not make it out at all, and put his paw right down the hole, then withdrew it, covering the hole over again with his paw in case the mouse should escape!

E. NEWTON (Miss) (Stoke Newington).

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All correspondence re "CAT GOSSIP" to the Editor.

H. C. BROOKE.

Bishop's Hull, Taunton.

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