

# CAT · GOSSIP

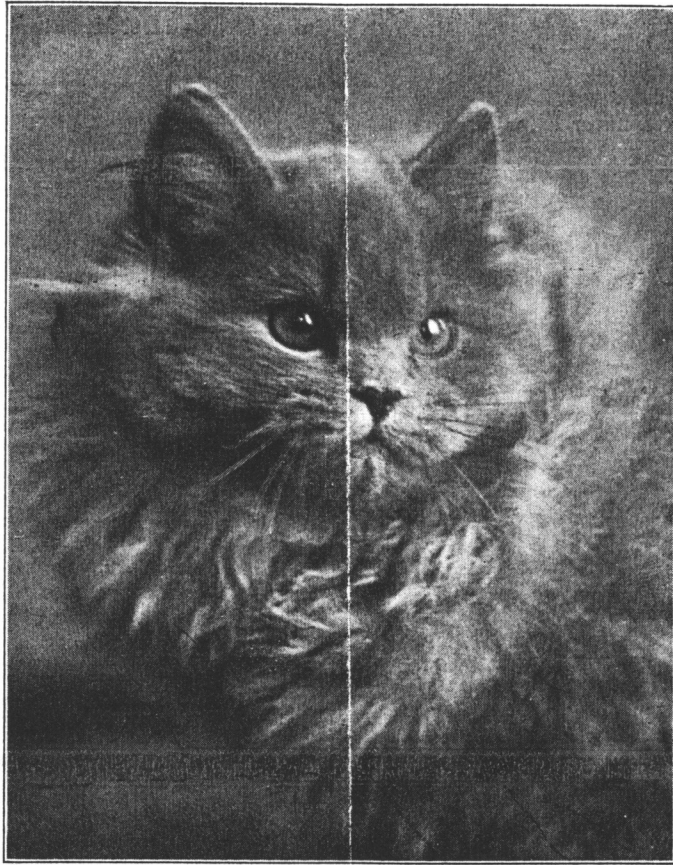
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Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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## CH. LAVENDER MOTH

(AS A KITTEN).

The American Champion, CH. LAVENDER MOTH, was sired by the late Ch. Sapphire, and one of the same litter was Ch. Lavender Supremacy. The photo was taken at the age of four months. His owner and breeder is Miss Hydon, Bogota, N.J., who owns the Lavender Cattery, and, by the way, hails from Bridgwater, Somerset. We recently gave a portrait of one of Miss Hydon's interesting Australian cats.

## LONG-HAIR LORE.

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

If this glorious weather will continue for a space I am hoping in a week or two to give you my impressions on the "Wild cats of our London Zoological Gardens," to which delightful spot I was lured the other day by the persuasions of a friend, and by that love for the animal world which with me has always been a very dominant passion. The Gardens, with their perfectly kept animals, fully fulfilled, nay more, surpassed, all my expectations, and no animal lover visiting our wonderful Metropolis should omit to pay at least one visit—they will find ample reward for their trouble—but more of this anon. Now for some country news from a friend, Mrs. Voss, Rayleigh, Essex, who writes as follows:—

"Although I have kept and bred blue Persians for a number of years I have never before had an experience like the following: One of my queens had five exceptionally fine kittens; one of these, after a few days, died from natural causes; the other four were growing fast, and looked fat and strong, when, on the eighth day, I missed one, the next day another. It seemed a mystery, until three days after that one appeared unwell in the morning and had a swollen shoulder. On coming to give the mother her tea, the kitten appeared dead. I fed the mother, then went out to feed the other cats, and on returning to look at the kitten, to my dismay found the mother eating it! This kitten was 12 days old, and big for its age. There was now only one remaining; it seemed quite well until three days after, when I found it dying, and took it away. It seemed the mother suffocated them by lying upon them, and then ate them. She had reared some lovely families, and always been an exemplary mother, and as far as I could tell was in perfect health. Her appetite was good, but she drank little. The only thing I noticed one day that her skin was 'pink'—she may have been a little feverish. I have heard since on good authority that cats, like rabbits, will eat their young if thirsty, but this cat always had drink beside her. We all know, of course, that they will kill their young if frightened at birth, or after a few days, presumably to save them from some imaginary worse fate, but I never before heard of a cat eating a kitten of that age. I wonder if anyone else has had such an experience? I am ashamed to say the mother was not sorry to find the last kitten gone, but took matters entirely into her own hands, went out, met my stud, and mated again the next day!"

The National Cat Club and the Southern Counties are giving two extra classes (respectively) to the schedule of the Kensington Kitten Show; these classes are, of course, confined to members of these two important Clubs, a fact prospective exhibitors should bear in mind, and join as soon as possible. There will be 28 classes in all, and if Pater Pluvius will remain afar off the Show ought to be a very

attractive one, and a most popular and enjoyable day.

If any of my readers do not know the divine beauty of our English Lake District let me persuade them at once to plan a tour in these "spots of delight"—Cumberland and Westmoreland. What scenes the names conjure up! "Cat Gossip" itself is to take its weekly trip to this land of "Mere and Fell," for one of our new subscribers dwells there with her pets, and tells me that in this lovely month of May—" 'Tis just a Paradise!"

## ALL YOUTH IS A POEM.

Here, then, I give you its description from the dainty imagery of our well-known lover of her blue Persian pets—Mrs. M. Estelle Oglethorpe. Her poem is entitled

## "THISTLEDOWN."

Thistledown, my little pet,  
 Nobody has ever met  
 Kitten half so sweet as you,  
 With your coat of palest blue,  
 And your wondrous amber eyes,  
 Full of startled sweet surprise,  
 Always questing? Always wise!  
 I had hoped to see you play  
 Oh, so happily, one day  
 With your kittens in the sun,  
 Fast asleep when day was done,  
 With your arms round all, and one  
 Nestling 'neath your silken gown,  
 Thistledown, sweet Thistledown.  
 But One, wiser than we are,  
 Saw your sweetness from afar,  
 Thought this earth too harsh a place  
 For your dainty wistful grace.  
 Like some wondrous lovely star,  
 Where no earthly ill can mar,  
 You shall know no sorrow's frown,  
 Dainty, perfect, Thistledown.

## DEBUTANTE'S DIARY.

A warning: Should you have an extra heavily coated queen about to have her first litter, make up your mind to give her more attention than you usually give to her more sophisticated sisters; by this I do not mean "keep fussing round," but give quiet attention when the kittens are arriving. Most queens instinctively manage wonderfully for themselves, but occasionally a case may arise where supervision and helpful help is an asset. This is usually in the case of a young female with her first kittens, and arises either from nervousness or sometimes from exhaustion when the kittens arrive very quickly one after the other.

Curious as it may sound, the trouble is that the kittens on birth become thoroughly entangled one with the other in the heavy long hair of the mother's brush, and the cause is that the mother has been unable to see to each kitten individually as it en-



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tered the world. If born alone in the night, the morning comes too late, for without our help the whole litter may be lost. This is one of the few cases where we may venture our assistance. Fortunately they occur seldom, but having recently heard of similar cases—one from Yorkshire, one from Hampshire—I thought a note on the subject would not come amiss.

### GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE.

WE think our readers will not grudge us a little holiday after the strenuous time we have had since last December. We hope to get away for a fortnight or so on May 21st. Our esteemed L.L. contributor will kindly do all "Gossip" and L.L. for us, if readers will send her all their news items by Thursday at latest every week, i.e., by Thursdays, May 24th and May 31st. As regards Siamese news, the Hon. Sec. of the Siamese Club will kindly do a Siamese column, if news items are sent to her at 89, Alexandra Road, London, N.W. 8. Do please help us thus to keep the interest going. Any advertisements intended should be sent to us before 19th, as we shall be in Vienna for the following fortnight, and **no letters will be forwarded.** Please write your news **concisely** and **clearly**, on one side of paper only, to Mrs. Campbell-Fraser and Mrs. Wade, in order to give our kind helpers a minimum of trouble. Please

send all subscriptions now due **at once**, that we may enter them before leaving.

Curly tails appear not to be so rare as one might think. Mrs. Carew-Cox writes that she had a black female which usually curled her tail over her back, but when lying down stretched it straight out. In this case the tail itself was normal, but the carriage unusual. In the case of a cat once owned by Mrs. Broughton Hawley, in which the tail was very tightly curled, forming one complete circle and very nearly a second, the tail itself must have been abnormal. We have been unable to learn whether polydactylism has ever been recorded in wild felines, and as far as abnormal tails in these go we are only aware of one instance. Mrs. Hawley has quite a number of S.H. kittens of various kinds coming along.

WE note that a Parliamentary reply stated that in the past two years 31 cats (amongst other animals) have been martyred at the Poison Gas Hell at Porton—but no dogs. We can only assume that this is because dog lovers constantly agitate against these atrocities, whereas, alas, nine-tenths of cat owners placidly fold their hands and sit quiet, serene in the consciousness that **their** cats are not likely to be victimised! It scarcely redounds to our credit, we think, that these matters are thus ignored by English Fancy papers, whereas German and Belgian papers strive against the devilries committed by fanatics, the declared aim of many of whom—which they will sooner or later attain if only met with

apathy—is to extend their atrocious work to human victims.

THE blue-eyed black kitten which Mrs. Carew-Cox advertised last week is certainly of very great scientific interest and very rare; we certainly have never seen one. A few years ago a blue-eyed "Magpie Cat" was shown, and this is sufficiently uncommon. The kitten is not bred in a manner which would lead one to expect this peculiarity, as we learn that it is sired by an ordinary black S.H. ex owner's half-bred African, which, if we remember rightly, is a grey spotted cat.

THE incident related by Mrs. Voss in Longhair Lore is noteworthy; such an occurrence is not often met with happily; but one must always, when breeding live stock, be prepared for any eventualities or abnormal behaviour on the part of the dams, such being caused, at times, by stomachic derangements, sometimes by mental derangements, such as worry or anxiety—at times by Heaven knows what. The cat, being one of the most highly-strung animals living, such occurrences might in its case be yet more frequent, were it not that the maternal instinct is so very strong in this animal. Years ago we met with a singular experience in the case of a bull bitch, which seemed in every way a devoted and excellent mother; yet when her pups were a few days old one was found dead with the bruise of a bite right across the body, and the mother was trying her best to resuscitate it. Next day a similar deplorable occurrence. A close watch was then kept, and it was then noticed that when the bitch was cleaning her pups she began to growl, more and more savagely, and suddenly made a snap at a puppy, whose last shriek seemed to fill her with grief, as she gathered it to her and vainly tried to help it. After that, she and her pups were brought in the kitchen by day, and at night placed by our bed; then if at night we heard her growl we simply called sharply "Alice!" and she subsided at once. A more devoted and careful mother, apart from this, one could not meet; and in this case it was evident that sheer excess of affection caused these murders, the bitch when tending her pups becoming simply frenzied with excitement—as it was written, "Each man kills the thing he loves." Cases of assaults by mothers on their young when in the **act of suckling**, are met with in all animals, when caused by sore teats, which the young hurt by pulling at them; but in this instance the murders were always done or contemplated when the pups were being cleaned after suckling, and it was evidently affectionate excitement worked up to an unendurable pitch which caused her action.

MALE cats are so frequently accused of a tendency to murder young kittens, that the following anecdote related by that very sincere and devoted cat-lover, Mrs. Egerton-Free (who devotes her life to alleviating the sufferings of strays, often in a most terrible condition when brought to her, and whose excellent

boarding establishment for cats is advertised in "Cat Gossip") is of great interest: "A neighbouring tradesman has a beautiful tabby tom-cat, which recently crossed the road, where there is heavy traffic, with a kitten some three weeks old in his mouth. As its eyes were full of matter and closed the owner of the tom brought it to me to be lethalled, and I could see by its markings it was sired by this cat. I asked the owner if he knew whence the kitter was brought, as there must surely be a tragedy somewhere. The mother must be dead or incapable of feeding her kits; but he had no idea. Now not an hour ago the tom cat brought in another of these kittens, half-starved and also blind. Is not this a display of reason, and also of paternal instinct and affection?"

A KITTEN Show has so often been asked for, that we hope Miss Busteed's fixture, announced elsewhere, will receive full support. The excellent work put in by this lady when Hon. Secretary of the Siamese Club, augurs well for the success of her undertaking.

"DIE KATZE"—the newly-founded Viennese cat paper, organ of the Klub der Katzenfreunde—relates an instance of a Persian kitten born after an abnormally long period of gestation, with open eyes and a very well developed coat. We are glad, by the way, to see that this paper, like the German and French papers, has taken up the propaganda against vivisection—a matter ignored only by the British Fancy, supposed to be the foremost in catdom—it is really singular!

"UNSERE KATZE"—the German cat paper, published in Berlin—has just completed its first year. This is an excellently got up and profusely illustrated paper, containing much of interest to all cat lovers, and, we are sorry to say, far ahead, in every respect, of any British catty publication.

SIAMESE items, please! Surely someone has some news.

### KENSINGTON KITTEN SHOW.

All readers of "Cat Gossip" know by this, that a Kitten Show will be held at the Philbeach Hall, Earl's Court, on July 19th next. The Show is for kittens of all breeds, litters and their dams, neuter cats and kittens. I hope all breeders will come forward to help with good entries. The last Kitten Show was held in 1922, also at the Philbeach Hall. We have no balance to run this Show on, so I would ask all intending exhibitors to send me a good advert., and a small donation would be most acceptable, and would be acknowledged with grateful thanks. I hope to go to Press shortly, so will be very glad of the adverts. as soon as possible. I hope to have the schedules out by June 20th, and entries close June 30th, so will you all kindly note these dates, and remember space is limited. Donations

and adverts. can be sent either to me or Mrs. Sharman, Coryton, Ormond Road, Hampton, Middlesex.

E. C. BUSTEED, Hon. Sec. K.K.S.  
20, Queensway, Hanworth, Middlesex.

## PARIS CAT SHOW.

Held on May 4th and 5th at the Salle Wagram. Mrs. Eric B. Nathan was one of the judges, Mr. Brooke not being able to attend. The Siamese, about 100 strong, were exceptionally good: I judged the females, and was glad not to have to do violence to my personal preferences, as I found in the two best all-round cats the long tails which I prefer, though I know that in France very short tails are tolerated and even preferred by some, so that I had promised to judge without regarding tails. The Siamese were by far the best and most homogeneous section. There were some good Persians, but they offered too great divergency in type. The best lot were those of Madame Pereyrol (largely acquired through the agency of "Cat Gossip"), including Valentino of Gaybrook, Hendon Dame Carruthers, &c. To my regret, only two or three European S.H., two indifferent "Chartreux" cats—S.H. Blues. Two Turkish pink cats; six of the Sacred Burmese, which I fear will degenerate from inbreeding, there being but one original couple. A spotted Brazilian cat, marked like a civet, was of interest. The proposed International Feline Congress did not take place. I observed that amongst the Siamese were two still very good specimens, 12 and 13 years old respectively. The attendance was remarkable, on Saturday the Hall was crowded.

ARMAND STEENS.

## BIRTHS.

May 2nd.—Mrs. Carew-Cox's Abyssinian, **Aluna**, three kittens by **Ras Isis**.

April 22nd.—Mrs. Quarry and Miss Fisk's **Pink Pearl of Winchfield**, five kittens by **Bubbles of Hanley**.

April 25th.—**Diana of Winchfield**, three kittens by **Ch. Shere Khan o' the Combe**.

April 27th.—**Willinda of Winchfield**, five kittens by **Blue Craggie**.

May 1st.—**The Limit of Winchfield**, five kittens by **Blue Craggie**.

May 2nd.—Miss Hobbs's **Spring Daffodil**, six fine Siamese kittens by **Ch. Bonzo**.

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Hon. Sec.: MRS. WADE, 89, Alexandra Road, St. John's Wood, N.W. 8.

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All correspondence re "CAT GOSSIP" to the Editor.

H. C. BROOKE.

Bishop's Hull, Taunton.

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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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