

CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 5

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 80

JUNE 20th. 1928

Price 3d., post free

LONG-HAIR LORE AND WEEKLY GOSSIP.

BY MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER.

The Harrogate Agricultural Show, which is to take place on August 10th and 11th, presents over £2,000 in prizes, and, with its 4,500 entries, is now the largest Show promoted by any town in the North of England. Her Royal Highness Princess Mary has consented to distribute the awards. She and Viscount Lascelles take deep interest in the welfare of the Society. I am glad to say the following Cat Section has been added to this enterprising function (first day only):—Cat classes—Blue L.H., male or female; any other colour, ditto; shorthair, ditto; Siamese, ditto. Kitten classes—Blue L.H., male or female, under six months; ditto, under nine months; shorthair ditto, under six months; any variety household pet. Quite a good classification, and we shall hope a bumper entry will open the way to still a larger number of classes next year.

Lady Eardley Wilmot tells me that one of the male kittens from the litter bred by Miss Bateman, of which I spoke in a previous issue, has been purchased by an American lady, and, together with a female by Dazzler of Henley, ex Grey Friar's Jill, sailed for New York last Friday. Brookside Angela, whom Lady Eardley purchased from Mrs. Berry, is hourly expecting a litter by Barry Prince Blue, and Son of Eros has sired a fine family of five; as he is by a lovely Hawkhurst queen his progeny should be of the best.

The Southampton Cattery is busy, and Mrs. Maturin has her hands full with eight adults and nine kittens. By importing many of her stud Siamese Mrs. Maturin lends a very helpful hand to this branch of the Fancy, and being one of our oldest breeders has the necessary points at her finger tips. We feel sure that some of the nine are destined to make their mark during the coming season.

Hut 151B, Gulmarg, Kashmir, sends news of Michael, alias Hendon Synthus, who, after winning as a kitten in 1921 (best blue male kitten, Croydon), went to spend his life in India as the neuter pet of Mrs. Escourt. This kitten, sired by Hendon Wae, was bred by Miss J. Langton from her queen Weemena, and carried a phenomenal coat. Michael (his pet name) has grown enormous, and weighs close on 17lbs. Residing now up in the hills, where the tem-

perature is quite normal, he can bask in the evening before a log fire, but before he left Pindi the thermometer registered over 100°, however, the heat does not seem to have affected his growth or his health. He quite enjoys a periodical bath, and his mistress says that his coat feels beautifully soft and clean afterwards. Insects are the pests of animals in hot climates, but Messrs. Sherley's remedies and a powdering with Keatings has kept this giant blue in the pink. To quote from Mrs. Estcourt's letter, she says: "I have a friend on the look-out for a blue Persian, but they are apparently as rare as gold in India. I can't think why? because they travel very well, and are so affectionate and companionable. Michael immediately settled down in a new house and place without any bothering."

On Mrs. Rueben Wade's suggestion it was passed in Committee that subscribers could become life members of the B.P.C.S. on payment of three guineas. Mrs. Wade herself was the first to be enrolled.

"A dog and cat life" as an expression of animosity ought to be ruled out of our vocabulary. Witness the following sweet story of friendship from the "Sunday Express," a perfectly true tale:—"Sudden illness overtook our little dog, Floss, and though we took her to the vet., he said there was little chance of recovery, as she had always had a weak heart. Floss shared her kennel for two years with our cat, Lavender, whom she had mothered as a kitten. They even shared their supper of little square dog biscuits. When I called Floss on the third morning after her attack there was no answer. I opened the shed door, and saw her lying with her head just outside the kennel; Lavender was sitting beside her dead friend, miaowing piteously. For a fortnight Lavender took no food at all, and it is a mystery how she survived. She always appeared to be searching for Floss. Now she has begun to eat again, and I give her the little biscuits for her supper. But she has not forgotten poor Floss. If I give her four biscuits she eats three, and leaves one; if I give her three she will eat only two; if I give her two, she will still leave one; and when she has only one she will leave it untouched, so that Floss shall have something when she comes back." What selfless love! Nelly Eld, of Mitcham, has, indeed, one of the sweetest of pets, whom she has named with good reason "my unselfish cat."

Miss Joan Buckley has purchased a male kitten by Ch. Dion of Allington, ex Woodchurch Dawn, that

good queen belonging to Mrs. Forrest, and she hopes to rear him to be another of the North Country blue Persian studs, which she considers are on the scarce side.

The late Prescott and Darwin Shows both spelt success for the Stand Cattery. First, second, and bronze medal fell to the kittens' lot at Darwin, and extra second, third, and extra third, besides a special at the former Show. These kits, by MacAlpine, have all gone to new homes, but many other boys and girls are still at home. Petronilla (winner of the Breeders' Cup in Manchester) has three boys and a girl; Betty had seven fine kits three weeks ago, but, unfortunately, these were born open eyed, and only one was saved. Miss Buckley attributes its recovery to the kit being given quarter of a Lactol tablet every day for a week: it is now flourishing, weight three-quarters of a pound, and is already booked to a good home. Betty has a fine pair of eyes, which if the kitten inherits, together with Mac's pale coat, it should prove a "nice one." Shiela is due about June 17th, and Bunty, the timid cat, who for so long would only make her home in a big barn, has become much more docile, and will now come and be loved; thus patience and gentleness has at length won her heart, and I hope Miss Buckley will be fortunate with her prospective family, as Bunty is a daughter of our famous late champion, Azure of Hadley.

With reference to the Lactol tablets mentioned above, my readers will remember that Mrs. Wade said in a previous issue that Ch. Billy Bumpet might never have been known to the world had she not accidentally come across this remedy. Mrs. Gilbert has also found the tablets most useful for intestinal troubles in young kittens.

A delightful book for those to whom the little "four foot" is a friend, "Pan's People, The Lure of the Little Beasts," by Hon. Gilbert Coleridge, Cats, cormorants, wolves, and mice are all in its pages. Each story is engrossing!

From that pretty part of the world near Kew Gardens comes the following notes from Mrs. Thompson, all about her pets. She writes: "Pandora's five kittens by Ch. Colneside Billy Bumpet are very fat and well, and she is proving a devoted mother. We hope and anticipate that they will have excellent eyes, because her own are also so good and she has Blue Craggie and Lanark Lad in her pedigree. I went to see Leander of Pensford yesterday, and he is still the palest blue, with a fine masculine head and snub nose; at ten months he is a big fellow, and promises to be a fine cat when fully grown. Mr. Clyne is not neutering him, but is keeping him as a mate for their pretty little blue queen by Mrs. Bazeley's Yorick. Juno's kittens are expected in about ten days, by Flick-a-Maroo. She has been in excellent health all the time, and this being her first litter since last August we hope to have a strong family, which she usually achieves. Cats are a constant source of pleasure, but it is surprising the

attention they need, but they are darlings. I do hope the Kensington Kitten Show will be a great success: it is so near to us that I am helping at the Hall the day before."

DEBUTANTE'S DIARY.

Hints on entering exhibits for Shows:—

Consider the Secretary and send in entries early.

When a Show is held under Governing Council Rules, all cats and kittens must be registered, with the exception of neuters and litters. Registration should take place in good time, as if left until the last moment, and then names submitted which are not available, the exhibitors may not receive their registrations in time to enter, all G.C.C.F. numbers having to appear on the entry forms against the names of the cat.

The address of the Secretary of the G.C. is H. O. Edmonds, 37, Beemead Avenue, Kenton, Middlesex: (note new address).

Look over schedules, and see which clubs it will be advantageous for you to join, and write to their secretaries, who will enrol you in time to compete for special prizes.

In filling up entry forms write neatly and clearly, preferably in block letters.

In choosing classes in which to enter, 'tis well to come under as many different judges as possible. You thus stand a better chance for "Best in Show," as each judge votes on this point.

Be very careful to send exact entry money, as this saves much trouble and unnecessary correspondence.

'Tis a mistake to enter a cat or kitten hoping it will look better than on the day you write your entry form, either in health or condition.

Read most carefully definition of classes given in the schedule.

ON THE FEEDING OF YOUNG KITTENS.

BY MRS. ESTELLE OGLETHORPE.

At six weeks old the kittens may begin to take a little solid food, such as scraped raw beef, or a little steamed whiting, but better by far to keep to milk foods as long as possible. From this time onwards until eight weeks one may increase the quantities according to discretion, but after eight weeks other foods may be introduced into the menu, such as finely mixed rabbit, chicken, etc. Robinson's patent groats may be given in turn with Bengel's food or Lactol. I, personally, have found it a little too heating for my kittens. We often give custard to vary diet (made with a new-laid egg and a breakfast cup full of new milk, a little sugar, and a pinch of salt). These are well beaten together, and baked slowly until set.



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I give below a simple table for feeding:

- 4 weeks old—One meal of warm milk, Lactol, or Benger's food.
- 5 weeks old—Three meals daily (as above).
- 6 weeks old—Four meals daily. One of scraped raw meat (a teaspoonful), two of either Lactol, Benger's, or milk with Force, and a little steamed fish, such as whiting.
- 7 weeks old—Four meals daily (as above) in increased quantities.
- 8 weeks old—Four meals daily (as above). Minced chicken and rabbit with broth, R.P. groats may be introduced. The amount of Lactol decreased, and Benger's or groats given instead.

Two solid meals should not be given in succession. I trust the above suggestions will prove helpful. We live and learn, and as the years go by they bring with them new experiences, and we find from time to time we must change our ideas and adopt newer methods. The lesson I have learned about all others is to go very very slowly where the feeding of young kittens is concerned. Festina Lente should be our motto!

HOW TO PREPARE FOR SHOW.

BY MISS KATHLEEN YORKE.

Mrs. Campbell-Fraser has very kindly paid a tribute to the manner in which the Culloden cats have been presented hitherto at the several shows, and has asked me to say how they are prepared. I should like to preface my remarks on the subject by stating the major portion of my knowledge has been gathered

from Miss Evelyn Langston's articles in "Fur and Feather," and also several kind and useful personal hints from Mrs. Yeates, and we all know how beautifully they prepare their own candidates.

Show preparation is not a matter of days, but of persistent care and attention from early possession. Daily grooming and handling of the little ones is essential to accustom them to their show life. Good clean brushes, a steel comb (which must be constantly sterilized), a sparing use of powder, and, occasionally, a warm Lux bath for coats that are not too pale, is all that is used at the Culloden Cattery.

Some days before the show, to thoroughly clean the coat, light carbonate of magnesia is dusted in and worked with the fingers to the roots (care being taken to keep the head turned away so that it is not inhaled by the cat), and afterwards well brushed out. Pears' violet powder is very good, and I use this the day before the show, after a warm bran bath that has been given in the morning. Care must be taken when giving a bran bath that no little bits are left in the coat, so do not put the cat down until every particle has been brushed out.

Novices take note that no powder is allowed to remain in the coat, and that any judge is justified in disqualifying an exhibit for this offence.

It is impossible in a few short notes of this nature to go into the precise details of these show preparations, but I hope that what I have said may help those who have never shown before.

JUDGING CATS AT VIENNA.

(Continued from page 333.)

The pens are far superior to anything ever seen in this country. They are twice the size of an English pen, very well made of strong woven wire, and stand in two tiers on hardware staging. They are very easy to keep clean and disinfect, and are

Another clip enables the pens to be securely padlocked. When the pens are used for cats, each is provided with a neat square sanitary pan, and the size of the pens is such that there is ample room for two cats and the pan. During the show cats can, if desired, be allowed to exercise in the spacious outdoor runs, which also form a much-appreciated playground for families of kittens, where these can play and exhibit themselves to best advantage.

The deadly spirit of commercialism which (doubtless owing to the way in which we are taxed in England by a wasteful Government) is, in the opinion of many, fast spoiling the spirit of English Shows, is less marked at many Continental fixtures, where more stress is laid on the educative and interesting sides of the matter and less on that of mere prize-winning and sales. One lady exhibitor went to the trouble of a fifteen hours' railway journey—and back again—to show her two cats, though no cash prizes were offered. The official opening of the Show was heralded by a speech from the Secretary, who pointed out the economical value of the Cat to civilisation, and mentioned that International Anti-Vermin Congresses at Paris, Copenhagen, and elsewhere had all agreed that the Cat is humanity's best safeguard and protection against the ravages of rats and mice; in recognition of which the Municipality of Vienna had offered a valuable prize for competition. Neither the gate nor the entry were so good as in previous years, partly owing to the holiday time, and partly owing to the poverty having worn off. On the occasion of the first show twenty police had to be sent for to regulate the rush, and even then the public broke through the strong iron fencing. The Mauz cats, seen then for the first time in Vienna, were to a great extent responsible for the great curiosity felt by the public, the Press having given them much publicity. At frequent intervals during this Show, after the judging, gramophone records were turned



MR. H. C. BROOKE, with MRS. BROOKE and FRAU RITTMEISTER SCHMIDT (Steward). Note the double pen door.

Photo: Willinger, Wien.

equally suitable for cats, poultry, or small dogs. The doors slide upwards in two sections, so that they may be opened half-way up or two-thirds, as may be convenient. A clip enables one to hitch the door open, so that there is no risk, should one be struggling with a terrified or obstreperous exhibit, of the door closing unexpectedly and causing trouble.

on of the voice of the late Peter Alupka, the Talking Cat. Peter was found in a starving condition by a lady dentist, who made a great pet of him, and, noticing certain abnormalities in his voice, subjected him to a slight operation such as is frequently performed upon children with defective speech. Peter, who has been seen and heard by thousands in various

German towns, is now no more; but the records prove that he could very distinctly shout "Hurrah," call for "Anna" and "Helene," and when his mistress sang a verse of a well-known song Peter, shall we say, "hummed" an accompaniment in excellent rhythm and tempo! We were presented with one of these very interesting records.

(To be Continued.)

VETERINARY ADVICE.

E. Roller.—Q. Is eczema incurable in cats? If not what do you suggest as a remedy? I am using powdered sulphur.

A. I fear your remedy is of little use against eczema, and in spite of a cat's dislike for oily or greasy dressings, I feel sure a good ointment would be far preferable as a curative agent. When eczema is obstinate and recurrent ultra violet rays would probably do a great deal of good, combined with an arsenical tonic.

BIRTHS.

June 9th.—Mrs. Thompson's **Pandora** of **Pensford**, five kittens by **Champion Colneside Billy Bumpet**.

June 12th.—Miss Jones' **Dinkey Blue Girlie**, five kittens by Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's **Hendon Pish-Tush**.

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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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NOTE.—Any bodies sent to "The Editor" will be at once destroyed!

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