

CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 3

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 82

JULY 4th, 1928

Price 3d., post free

LONG-HAIR LORE.

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

Through the courtesy of Mr. E. C. Brown, City Librarian of Chester, I have received the following explanation of the origin of the phrase—"To grin like a Cheshire cat." He writes: "It is not an old saying, and no old writer or collection of proverbs gives it. The first known mention of it is in the works of 'Peter Pindar' (John Walcot, M.D.)—'Lo! like a Cheshire cat our Court will grin'—c. 1794—1801. It is not a very common saying, its present popularity is undoubtedly due to the humorous use made of it in 'Alice in Wonderland.' Numerous attempts have been made to elucidate it in 'Notes and Queries,' but with no result. The phrase is used in many connections, and the above information I have taken from books on Cheshire Proverbs."

From Radford House, Bexhill, Mrs. B. H. Soame sends the following: "You ask for news of my cattery, well I am not having a good breeding season so far, I am sorry to say; three of my queens have been left with only one kitten apiece, owing to the horrible east winds. The last few weeks with a glorious sunshine, and biting wind, have caught us humans pretty badly, let alone our tiny pets. I have one miniature black kitten who is a source of amusement to many. He is now seven weeks old, perfectly well and lively, but weighs only 6ozs.; a week ago he weighed 6ozs., so is improving. He would never go to his mother (though he is not tongue-tied), but has been in consequence fed with a fountain pen filler with a little tube attached, which he sucked greedily. I am now giving him tiny meals of scraped fish to eat, and Virol and milk from his pen-filler. If he were a toy Pom he would be invaluable, but as it is he is far too pretty and lively to put to sleep. I have had another gift of a blue queen from the Hendon stock, and mated her to Mr. Freeman's Craggie. It seems strange to me to have two blues once more. I notice Mr. Yeates referred recently to the litter of three from Soame Blue Rae and S. Desert Chief. Alas! they were amongst those caught by the east wind. They were a most lovely even silver blue—so to appease Rae, I have again mated her to Desert Chief. There is no doubt in my mind that blue and black mixture produces most charming light blues, particularly even in colour, also any blacks from this cross are extra dense. Is it not

wonderful how one's little flock increases! I have now about 25, and as I have seven queens in kitten, I look like having a busy time. Soame Flamett's lovely litter still go strong, but I have sold the black female for breeding purposes. It is a strong thing, this wonderful queen always gives a 'harlequin' litter, no matter by what sire; this time it consisted of five colours, last season it contained six. When I was wondering the other day how I could give my cats more room, my daughter suddenly thought: 'Why not wire in the rosary pergola?' 'Tis an idea worth copying, for the netting is hardly perceptible, and it is a pure pleasure to see how the wee ones love to gambol and play the whole length of the garden."

Mrs. A. M. Royd is judging at the coming Harrogate Show, on August 10th, and the good word has come through that all the classes are guaranteed.

The postmark of Nantwich always brings pleasant news from the pen of our friend, Mrs. Elliot, but the bulk of her budget is this week, I am sorry to say, unavoidably crowded out, and we must just look forward to it with increased zest in our next issue; however, as I see she has a very smart young queen for disposal I must say a foreword about the said young lady—Michaelmas Marguerite of Henley. Anyone wanting a thoroughly well-bred young queen, would make a clear start in the right direction. Marguerite was born September 29th, 1927, and her sire, Barry Prince Blue, is known for his lovely colour and deep copper eyes, now the property of Lady Eardley Wilmot, but formerly owned by the late Mrs. Esdaile. Before going further I should like to correct a popular error. Barry Blue Prince, sire of Barry Prince Blue, was not "fathered" by Barry Blue John, but by that lovely headed cat, Craignour of Hawkhurst, from whom comes the even pale blue of this line.

Miss Sylvia Langhorne has sent Vanity to visit Flick-a-Maroo this time; her kittens by Ch. Endymion o' the Combe are now the only ones left in the Combe Head Cattery; one of these Miss Langhorne says is absolutely blue—not blue-cream—the daintiest little fellow, and so absurdly affectionate that he won't even go to his food until he has been picked up and petted—then, and not till then, he falls on it!

That beauty spot, our English Lakes, have claimed Mr. and Mrs. Oglethorpe for the past few weeks, making their headquarters at the Waterhead Hotel, Corriston, they have been touring the district, and thoroughly having a "good time." They are calling

at Lancaster and Derby on their return journey. Every lover of the picturesque and the old will joy to hear that our Government are restoring the ruins of that famous pile, Furness Abbey.

Miss Grayson is taking care of Mrs. Oglethorpe's sweet kittens during her absence. Some of these I hope we shall see at the Kitten Show on the 19th.

This week's Monomark: Caress, but don't Coddle!

Next week: Mrs. B. H. Soame on "Brown Tabby Revival"; and Debutante's Diary, Feeding Kittens on Show Day.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

From the Editor of that beautifully got-up American paper, "Pets," comes the following appreciation:—"We surely enjoy 'Cat Gossip.' It is one of the snappiest publications which come to our exchange table. You are to be congratulated on the issuance of such an attractive and lively periodical. We always watch for it." Such appreciation is pleasant. "Pets" deals with every possible kind of pet stock, and is exquisitely printed with high-class illustrations. It is published at Battle Creek, Mich., U.S.A.

ANOTHER appreciation, from Canada. Miss Helen M. Elliot, of Toronto, writes:—"Renewing my sub., and thanking you for continuing to send after it had run out. 'Cat Gossip' always contains something interesting, and I found your article on brown tabbies in 75 especially so. I have so often seen judges give the winner's ribbon to a cat with good type and coat, but with poor colour and markings, rather than to one of the correct colour and fairly good markings, but not so good in type. What we brown tabby breeders want are cats with that rich tawny colour, and they are very few and hard to get. I was quite surprised some time ago to read an article in 'Cat Gossip' from one of your brown tabby breeders, who was hoping to improve the brown tabbies, and to do so was breeding her queens to blue, silver tabby, and cream males. I don't know how the cream would be, but I consider the blue or silver very bad for colour. A good black sometimes brings good results, especially if he has red in his breeding. I am also interested in smokes, and have a very handsome male, but at present have no mate for him but a black, and don't know how that will turn out. Perhaps some time later on I may try and get a female out from England. I wish some of the smoke breeders would send pictures of their cats to 'Cat Gossip.' There have been so many lovely pictures on the cover, but never a smoke or brown tabby."

From Edinburgh Mrs. Blackie writes:—"My chief reason for subscribing to 'Cat Gossip' is because of its humanitarian spirit, not caring only for prize cats."

We very greatly regretted to see that recently a writer in a contemporary quoted some articles from the lay Press, tending to argue that animals have no (or but little) fear or comprehension of impending pain or death. We think it a thousand pities that

any paper making the least pretence of being friendly to animals should quote such theories, which are **exactly those used by such vivisectionists as do try to excuse their doings**, in the hope of blinding the public to their cruelties. It is idle to blink the fact that since the dawn of life this world has been the scene of carnage and cruelty untold; and such arguments as that about the giraffe and the lion, specious though they be, stand no investigation by coolly reasoning persons, for surely the ruling Power—(if such there be) call it Nature or what you will—might just as well in the first place have arranged matters so that the lion and the giraffe could have reached their development without this constant cruelty? Arguments of this kind always seem to us to be but vainly seeking to find and drag in by the hair any excuse for the cruelty of the governing Force. It is idle for us to try to measure the degree of fear or appreciation of danger, pain, and death felt by various living creatures. It varies so greatly according to their brain power, and not only is it more acute in some species than in others, but it varies also in individuals of the same species; even in man it varies largely according to his status in the human race, and again in individuals of the same status. When a race of creatures has for countless generations been accustomed to certain dangers, it is clear that in time these will be regarded more or less with indifference, or, philosophically, as incidental to existence; but to argue on this account that there is no suffering as we ourselves understand it, is to presume far too much, and to what this state of mind may lead we see when we note that a certain doctor, following this trend of thought, published the views that the majority of soldiers in the war had not the intellect or understanding to grasp the risks, deducing this because they sang or played cards within a few minutes of an attack, etc.—just as rabbits will come out and play and feed a few minutes after the dying shriek of one of their number has died away. This sort of argument, this **anxiety to prove that animal suffering is but trifling**, leads and incites to callousness, and an animal or Fancy paper is the last that should find room for it; such theories enunciated, even as a quotation, in such a place, are likely to be eagerly seized upon by the cruel to excuse their deeds.

"CAT COURIER" tells us: "We have an entirely 'different' new cat book out. 'The Modern Cat, Her Mind and Manners,' by Georgina Strickland Gates, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology, Barnard College, Columbia University. This book deals with the psychology of the cat, and should be intensely interesting to all lovers of the animal, and we feel sure that our readers will need this book to keep their 'cat book library' complete. The book is charmingly written, and gives an insight into the cat's nature that many of us do not stop to consider." Is it not remarkable that while Germany and France have many such books, we cannot think of a single English book of this nature?

SANDY Show, August 30th. We observe this well-



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known fixture provides 20 kitten classes. Schedules will soon be ready. See preliminary advert.

We are in agreement with Mr. House's remarks on the standard for Abyssinians, and wish to point out that the description of "tail" attributed to us in Miss Simpson's "Book of the Cat" is due to either a clerical or printer's error. No proofs were submitted to us at the time, so we had no opportunity of correcting it. The tail of the Abyssinian should match its (should be) slender build. We think Mr. House's standard can hardly be improved, except that we like the ears rather large, and why "more rounded"? We note with pleasure that Mr. House makes no reference to the so-called silver Abyssinians, an alien colour which we always held to have done a lot of harm to the breed, introducing a grey tinge instead of the beautiful hare or orange tint we used to see thirty odd years ago. Where is it now? Our own queen is the only one we know which shows it today. How many show the black and orange ticking—a double ticking? A very beautiful property.

We observe it repeatedly stated in our contemporary that "Sieger" is the highest award in the show at German, etc., shows. This is scarcely correct—"highest award" would naturally correspond with our "Best in Show"—but there may be quite a number of "Sieger"—which title may be awarded to the best specimens in several sections. In one instance referred to it was a case of "the one-eyed man being king amongst the blind," and the "Sieger" was very far from being "Best in Show."

From Australia, the following is written to the "Cat Courier": "We have wondered upon reading of your American standard for the Australian cat. We have never seen or heard of one here. We have a small native *cat, more like a ferret, with brown tone of coat spotted with a lighter shade, but which we have never known to be tamed; and, of course, we have the regular ordinary domestic short-hair cat, which we believe, is to be found in almost all countries." *This is, of course not a cat at all, but a Marsupial (Dasyure). Evidently the handsome "made" variety we recently illustrated has died out in Australia—a pity, for it was well worthy of being fostered. In America it has apparently also lapsed.

VISITS.

Siamese: April 9th.—Mrs. Arengo-Jones' queen to Mrs. Allen-Maturin's Southampton Darboy.

April 22nd.—Mrs. Forden's queen to Ni-Perm.

April 27th.—Hon. Mrs. Clive Behren's Primrose Dame to S. Darboy.

April 28th.—Mrs. Cardell's queen to Ni-Perm.

May 20th.—The Countess of Essex' Stumpy to S. Darboy.

BIRTHS.

June 5th.—Mrs. Darbyshire's Siamese, Salma Mana, 4 fine kittens by Mrs. Hindley's Champion Simzo.

June 15th.—Mrs. Hackett's Karita of Beltinge, 5 kittens by Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's Hendon Red Arate.

June 30th.—Mrs. Oglethorpe's "Ladye Fayre of the Court" (by Milord o' Mendip ex June Rose), 6 lovely kittens by Mrs. Yeates' Son o' Flick.

JUDGING CATS AT VIENNA.

(Continued from page 343.)

So lang der alte Steffel
Am Stephansplatz no' stehet,
So lang die blaue Donau
Durch d' Wienerstadt no' geht.

So lang hoert die gemuetlichkeit
Beim Weana niemals aus!

As we fully expected, the prehistoric method of having special prizes awarded by two or three club officials, instead of by the judge, has led to some ill-feeling, and we strongly advise the Vienna Club to adopt an up-to-date method in this respect; also to take steps to teach the budding fanciers and the public what a tabby is. At present they do not seem to realise that tabby is a special kind of marking, and tabbies of all sorts are entered under all manner of curious descriptions, there being no classes for them as such; yet they have a number of nice tabbies. A tortie and white male was on view, a very fine cat; one magnificent S.H. blue, of real British type—if his colour gets more even when in fresh coat, a corker, with round head and glorious eyes. This cat, it appears, won in the voting (by ticket) by the public for best cat in Show. It seems that only in England are we so very crazy about L.H.! and fail to appreciate the beauty of S.H.! The "Political Cat" was also there, a proof of what silly asses some people make of themselves by taking everything too seriously. The cat is black, white, and red—the present national colours of Germany. When he first appeared at a Leipzig Cat Show he was labelled, for fun, as the "Reichskatze"—as we might say, national cat. This offended the susceptibilities of a certain political party, which declared the description to be a "profanation," and demanded the removal of the label, which was done after much serious argument, and the cat is now known as the "Political Cat."

Here is not the place to dilate on the pleasures of our visit: on the jolly evenings spent in jolliest company—on our pilgrimage to lay flowers at the feet of the "Waltz King," where, fiddle in hand, he stands in the beautiful Stadtgarten; on our wanderings in the Kaerntnerstrasse, surely the most magnificent street this side of the Atlantic; on all that was shown to us, on the kindness and open-hearted friendship displayed to us by those who, despite ill-fortune, still remain, as before, probably the kindest and jolliest people of any city, as when our opening verse was written, long years ago.

Viennese "gemuetlichkeit" can only be understood by those who have had intimate personal experience of it! And so, with sad hearts, we turned our backs on the City of Laughter, Love, and Light—"The City of Enticement," as an English novelist has so well styled it—the city of good-fellowship, whose name will surely be found engraved on our hearts when we die; and we frankly admit the tears stood in our eyes when we waved adieu to dear friends as the Arlberg Express drew out of the station, and the tapering spire of "old Steffel"—the noble St.

Stephen's Cathedral—grew smaller and died away in the distance, and we settled ourselves—happily with an interlude in Paris to "let us down gently"—to a return to a cold land of inhibitions, of piffing restrictions and "You mustn't do that"—where, after the Continental life we love—we always feel ourselves in bondage!

Wien! Ein donnerndes Hoch! Vivat, Crescat,
Floreat! And "Auf Wiedersehen!"

SIAMESE AND THEIR OWNERS.

BY MUANG T'HAI.

Mrs. Allen-Maturin (who is offering an imported male Siamese) writes:—"I have a very fine pair of blue-pointed Siamese, lovely shaped heads and eyes, by Darboy, which should be useful to anyone wishing to breed blue-pointed Siamese. I am the possessor of sixteen Siamese, and the feeding and care is no slight job."

Mrs. Darbyshire has left Weston-super-Mare to reside at 19, Canowie Road, Redland, Bristol.

Rather surprising to read in "Cat Courier" that the U.S. have only one Siamese imported from the land of the White Elephant. This the property of Mrs. Naatz, Hon. Sec. of the American Siamese Club.

THE CATS' PROTECTION LEAGUE.

The report of the first year's working is to hand. The objects of this long-wanted body are:—

To ensure the proper understanding and treatment of cats by means of educational propaganda, lectures, literature, etc.

To endeavour to check the present over-production of unwanted kittens with a view to preventing the sufferings of strays.

To secure the proper carrying out of necessary operations, and to stop their performance by unqualified persons.

To watch narrowly all legislation affecting or likely to affect cats.

To provide, in a manner to be decided later, suitable homes for cats during the absence of their owners.

To co-operate with all well-conducted shelters and to assist them with educational literature, etc.

It has designed, and provides for 6d., a safety elastic collar with address tab, in which a cat cannot get hung up. It has given various "Talks," with lantern slides, at semi-public meetings—an excellent way of interesting the public in feline welfare. It has caused to be investigated numerous cases of cruelty to cats, and several persons have been fined for perpetrating them. Its first branch was opened at Worthing in November. We are glad to note that this young Society is in a healthy financial state, but, of course, more subscribers and workers are wanted to increase the scope of its work. We feel flattered that the report mentions "Cat Gossip," alone of the Fancy papers, as worthy of cat-lovers' support. The Hon. Secretary is Mrs. Avery, 104, Baron's Court Road, W. 14.

PUSSY ON HOLIDAY.

Have any of your readers ever taken their town cats to the country and watched their delight in the surroundings? We are staying at a secluded spot, country and sea combined, and my two follow me for long distances, sometimes so far that I have to carry each in turn. As we journey on the grassy sea wall by the marshes I watch their impressions of the surroundings so new to them. To one the sea is a thing of wonder; he sits down to contemplate it for hours if not disturbed. To the other it is of no importance; but the sheep are fascinating—they smell of the mutton he loves and lives on, and his great regret is that one will never stay for him to thoroughly investigate. Then there are the broad dykes that wet one's paws and the shaky plank to cross which he dares not risk. The frogs at night—Oh! so cold when one takes them up in one's mouth to carry home that they have to be dropped. Finally, when I follow them home about 10 p.m. they are two weary and wiser pussy cats, with just one thought—supper, after a perfect day.

(Mrs.) F. E. TURNER.

MOLLY AND THE MIRROR!

One day we put her in a garden house where there was plenty of shade, and for a long time she hid in the darkest corner. Then gradually, day by day, she came a little more into the light, until on one memorable occasion we found her gazing with big open eyes at the sun. From that day to this she has never looked back, and, save for a slight blemish on one eye, which is rapidly clearing away, she is perfect. The mirror is once again in demand, and one of these days will be replaced by a larger one!

Never has there been such a brave little cat as Molly. Through all tribulation she has made no complaint, even in pussy language, and by her quiet bravery has won our admiration and esteem. Our love she has ever had.

ANONYMOUS.

SANDY SHOW.

30th AUGUST, 1928.

20 KITTEN CLASSES. NUMEROUS SPECIALS.

Schedules Ready Early in July.

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Spratt's Pen and Feed.

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ADVERTISEMENTS. Displayed Advertisements, Stud or others, 3/6 per inch, cash, up to 4 insertions: 4 to 13 insertions, 3/4 inch: 13 and upwards, 2/9 inch. Standing Advertisements of Cat Clubs, 35 words, 2/6. Sales, Wants, &c., 1d. per word.

PORTRAITS. Cats standing at stud (not less than 5 insertions) can have their portraits published for the price of block and post age, i.e., from 15/6, according to size, or two done together £1 2s. 6d. the two. We challenge competition in this offer. For Cats not advertised at stud the portrait fee is £1 1s. 0d. [N.B.—The Blocks become the property of owner of cat, and may be used for printing stud cards, advertisements in Schedule, &c.]

All correspondence re "CAT GOSSIP" to the Editor,

H. C. BROOKE,

Bishop's Hull, Taunton.

"CAT GOSSIP" VETERINARY SERVICE.

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

"Cat Gossip" Adviser, "Croyland," Finchley Rd., London, N.W.

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

MISS RUTH HUME, The Hawthorns, Finchley, has for Sale TWO of the beautiful MALE SIAMESE KITTENS by Ch. Tai-Long and Gohlin (registered Watana), mentioned in "Cat Gossip" May 30th.

Will anyone, wanting a female, by these two cats, order soon. In accordance with Mrs. Wade's proposal, females not booked by July 18th, will be destroyed at birth. Telephone, Finchley 1181.

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For the cure of Cat Ailments and Diseases SHERLEY'S MEDICINES are unrivalled. Based on a practical and unequalled experience, these medicines are used the world over by all principal owners and breeders.

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Absolutely even pale true blue, snub-nosed, winning son of Hendon Arac, grandson of Pooh Bah. Both parents 1st prize winners. Siring "Grade One" Kittens.

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MRS. CAMPBELL-FRASER, The Approach, Hendon, N.W. 4. Hendon 1019.

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Son of Shaitan's Son, Grandson of Ch. Aldermeer Shaiton. Grand head. Sire of many winners, including three 1st's and one 3rd in Kitten Class, Croydon, 1926.

Fee, **30/-** (prepaid) and carriage.

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Fine son of Barry Bluejohn. Massive wide head, small ears, short nose, orange eyes. Sires First Prize and Cup-winning Kittens.

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Magnificent Blue Persian. Winners of 2 Championships, and Sire of many Winners. Fee **30s.**

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CEDALIT: Preventive Against Vermin, supplied to Siamese Cat Club. One Sack, 60 lbs., carriage paid, 11/6. 1,000 testimonials. JEAL, Hounslow, Middlesex.

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ROBINSONBOI, son of Robin Goodfellow, ex Queenie. **LITASON**, son of the late Litabois, ex Rubetti. **JIMBOIS**, son of the late Manchu, ex Souti II. All proved sires. Fee for either, **25/-** Rail and portage extra.

Apply MISS BUSTEED, 20, Queensway, Hanworth, Middlesex. Queens met at Feltham Station, S. Railway.

SIAMESE AT STUD.**SOUTHAMPTON DARBOY.**

Typical shape, eyes, and points. Winner of 5 Firsts, 9 Seconds, 9 Thirds.

Also **SOUTHAMPTON NI-PERM.**

Grandson of Siam of Bangkok.

Fee for either **30s.** prepaid, and carriage.

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