

CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 3

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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LONG-HAIR LORE.

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

Talking to Mrs. H. J. Aubrey at the Kensington Kitten Show the other day our conversation turned on the Midland Ch. Show, which this year is fixed for the 8th of November, and is to be held in its old home, the ancient City of Worcester. Mrs. Yeend is kindly giving her services as Show Secretary and Manager, and as annual Hon. Secretary of the Club is keen on its further advancement. The Show is always a delightful and friendly one, Mrs. Aubrey's kindly personality dominating. The following are the promised judges:—L.H. blues, Miss Ethel Savory; R.C. and T., Mrs. Wardle; Chin., S.T., and smokes, Miss White Atkins; black and white and S.H., Mr. Ambrose; Siamese, Mrs. Hindley. We hope there will be a bumper entry.

From Captain B. MacCunn's book, "The Care of Cats," I quote the following: "Too many people, I think, still regard a cat either as a plaything, purely and simply, or as a walking mouse-trap."

The Island, Swallowfield, is a dainty address, and from there Mrs. Knapp writes: "I have not a cattery, Maroo is my only cat, and she is a house pet and a very adored and petted person. She is a great hunter, and a wonderful mother to the babes. She brings them in all sorts of things to play with, bunnies, birds, rats, and mice galore. I sometimes seem to spend my day collecting and removing corpses!" Maroo, the blue queen mentioned above, was bred by Mrs. Edwards, and did some winning during her show time. Her sire was Blair Athol, and her dam was one of the Downside cats, named Blue Tit. Flick-a-Maroo is one of her illustrious sons.

It is not universally known that the great Show in the Park of Sandye Place, Bedfordshire, is invariably held on the last Thursday in August. Given a fine day this is one of the most delightful functions of the year. The floral enthusiast, the canine lover, poultry, pigeons, and rabbits are all catered for; honey, butter, eggs, home-made bread and cakes fill their appointed tents, and the beautiful pillow-lace and leather-work of the district command the attention of even the uninitiated. Last, but not least, comes a fine spacious marquee for the cats and kittens; 23 classes are provided, and with such a popular judge as Miss Evelyn Langston needless to say that they will be well filled. Entries close August

20th. I hear music is not forgotten, as the massed Bands of H.M. Scots and Irish Guards are to be in attendance. We shall, indeed, be merry if glorious weather such as the present continues. (It's raining sheets as we read this!—Ed.)

A remark voiced the other day set me thinking. Thus it ran: I am a cat lover, **you** are cat exhibitors --and all the way from America, in their popular monthly, "Pets," comes the true solution. "Pèts" stands always for the health and happiness of all animals dependant upon humans; for everything that adds to the comfort of those humble creatures which must look to man for their well-being. Everyone who has ever owned a pet is the better for having had that experience. For in the dog's eye, as it turns to its master, there is a staunch loyalty that approaches divinity; in every movement of the cat there is a beautiful grace, that had its origin in a power not of earth; in every bird's throat there is a glorious music*; in the bright dartings of the goldfish there is evidence of a celestial authority showing itself in beauty as well as in well-ordered motion. If we put watch our pets, we'll find "Earth crammed with Heaven." Surely the cat lover and the cat exhibitor need not be two **separata** entities, and thousands of voices from our cousins on the further side of the "Herring Pond" refute the notion.

The handling of cats and kittens at our shows is by many deemed a nuisance, and a contributor writes to ask if it would not be possible for the judges to rub their hands on a towel saturated with some innocent disinfectant before passing from one exhibit to the other? If this question should meet the eye of any of our judges, an answer **for** or **against** would be valued. (Many judges do so rub!—Ed.)

In a rural scene described by P. C. Wodehouse, in his new novel, "Money for Nothing," we find the ubiquitous cat "stropping" her back against the **village trough**.

Mrs. Reuben Wade is just off for a month's holiday to Seaton.

Miss J. M. Fisher has bought a **L.H. brown tabby** kitten, sired by the late Ch. Garb: Mascot, from the litter shown at the Kensington Kitten Show which won 2nd prize in litter class. This ardent fancier has always a soft spot in her heart for this variety, as her earliest Persian pet was a brownie.

(* We beg to except the 3 a.m. cock-a-doodle-doo-o-o-o!—Ed.)

Next week we are to have a clever and humorous article from the pen of that rising young Scotch journalist, Richard Carol; it is entitled "The De'il's Cat."

DEBUTANTE'S DIARY.

"The sun, whose rays, are all ablaze with ever living glory."—W. S. Gilbert.

As a child of the sun, and doting on its bountiful beams, for I was born in an eastern tropical clime, it goes much against the grain for me to say "beware of the sunshine." However, in the case of young kittens a word of warning is necessary, especially during such great heat as we have been lately experiencing. The northern aspect at this time of year is best, and kittens, if allowed to run in the garden, should only do so morning, "early" morning, and evening, **before** and after the sun has quitted the zenith. Sleep and quiet is taken by every animal in natural conditions during the intense day heat, and kittens are no exception to this rule. By "even time" the babes wake up to life, and joyful are the evening romps. Any of us who live in the country and study the fluffy birdlings will know that this rule also applies to them. The pea-hen with her dainty crested chicks, the song birds with their young, and more especially all species of water fowl. Mrs. Duck, of the farmyard, will choose the longest and deepest grass in which to lose herself and bonny family during the hot hours—for sunstroke affects young ducklings just as much as kittens. Even our adult cats creep away from the mid-day sun, telling us plainly that the more susceptible **infants** should be given shade during these hours. We have of late suffered so from lack of warmth in our summer months that it has come upon us as rather a surprise, and old ways of caution have been, as regards our young pets, overlooked, hence this reminder.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

THERE is certainly no excuse for anyone going away for the holidays and not making proper provision for their cats, for we have boarding-houses enow! The latest is the "Chalkpits" establishment at Rick-mausworth. One of the partners running this is Miss Katherine Wilson, whose reputation as not only an animal lover, but also as an animal protector even at personal risk, must be a guarantee of good treatment. Cats are not kept cooped up, they have pens 8 x 5 x 12 feet, with a tree for climbing purposes, which adds so much to the pleasure of a cat. The pens have moveable sides; as regards the dogs, they have the benefit of 10 acres of exercising ground. Miss Wilson's partner, Miss Adams, has had the useful experience of years of practice with the People's Dispensaries for Sick Animals of the Poor. We observe in the prospectus the comforting statement, "All dogs and cats taken on veterinary certificate of good health only."

INCIDENTALLY, Miss Wilson is hon. manager of the coming Siamese Cat Club's Show. This is her first venture in this arduous task, and it also being Mrs. Hon. Secretary Wade's trial trip in office, those desirous of helping the breed are begged to do all they can to help and to lighten the burden to unaccustomed shoulders.

THERE was an amusing scene last week at the Stoll Studios, at Cricklewood, when 67 people turned up with all manner of cats, for which Sir Harry Lauder had advertised. Their part, it seems, is to crowd round a bedroom door when opened by the comedian, and the first trial, out of which ten cats were retained, resulted in "a certain liveliness."

THE remark made in L.L. by Mrs. Campbell-Fraser, a neat cat lovers and cat fanciers, certainly "gives furiously to think." There is no doubt that a large proportion of animal fanciers are not real animal lovers, but only in the game for profit or fame. We do honestly believe that the percentage of "lovers" is larger in the cat world than in any other, but there is no blinking the fact that fanciers as a whole are not regarded by non-fancy animal lovers as being genuine lovers; and when one sees the fuss and commotion made about some fourth-rate win for instance, or similar matter of minor importance, and the apathy displayed towards matters of real weight to the animal world, one cannot be surprised if those outside the "Fancy" give us even less credit than is our due.

We were pleased to note Captain Powell's remarks in our contemporary re copper-eyed whites. His heart would have been gladdened had he been with us at Vienna Show. Are there any such cats in this country? If so, will owners let us know, and if sufficient we will consider a special or guaranteeing a class for them, either L.H. or S.H., at a show this season. But not for **yellow** eyes! real **golden** or **copper**. We, who know, assure you Captain Powell in no wise exaggerates when he writes such a cat would be "as beautiful an exhibit as could be found anywhere."

"CAT COURIER" contains an illustrated article on Mrs. Soames' cattery. There is also an interesting article on the "Theater Cats of Broadway," one of which rejoices in the name of Ringworm. The Johnson Theater cat is a perfect giant, and terribly afraid of mice. Lester, the Knickerbocker Theater cat, has an uncanny prescience as to whether a piece will be a success or not. On first nights, if the show is to be a success, Lester pets and purrs with the waiting performers in the wings; if it is bad, he sits backstage, and no amount of cajoling will move him!

THE same paper tells us of a Montreal cat which has adopted two baby owls, and of a California cat which jumped on the back of a duck and was carried aloft, holding on until the duck settled again. California can also boast of an organised gang of cat thieves, who burgle catteries, and then, when a reward is offered, "find" the missing felines.



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SIAMESE AND THEIR OWNERS.

By MUANG T'HAJ.

The Siamese Club's Show, as will be seen from Mrs. Wade's announcement, has secured Royal patronage, and quite a galaxy of notables will be present. This should make for a good gate, which in turn is good for the sales. Verb. sap! We note "Cat Gossip" Veterinary Adviser will officiate.

Miss Ruby Cooke, of Teignmouth, writes that she has had a very deadly form of distemper introduced by a cat brought by a visitor, which died itself and caused the death of Miss Cooke's favourite four. It is only a couple of years ago that Miss Cooke, distressed by her losses after shows, determined to give up exhibiting. Miss Cooke only has Little Lotus Flower left, and she is in kitten to Beauty Boy. Miss Cooke writes she is quite in accord with the views expressed by Mrs. Wade and others as to the female kitten; especially in the case of this sensitive breed it is terrible to think of their coming into the hands of those who neither understand nor appreciate.

We are sorry to hear that circumstances have compelled Mr. Bramhald to give up Siamese.

Mrs. Reeve was delighted with the wins of her Whytecotte-Li-Chee at the Kitten Show, this being

her first time of exhibiting, though she bred this litter and their sire, Beachcomber.

Mrs. O'Brien writes from Chicago: "I do wish some of your breeders would write and help us about rearing Siamese. We are very interested, and would send and buy more if they would advise us. We find them so hard to raise, and lose so many from bronchitis and worms. What do you give for worms? I have given worm remedies and lost all the kits within a few hours. Mrs. Smith, of "The Cat Review," wrote me that is almost an axiom in her family, "When you get out the worm medicine get out the spade at the same time!" I was interested in the correspondence about female kits: I don't think we shall ever come to that here; one dealer claims to sell all her male kits at approximately £12, and females at £15, and to have them all booked before they are born." If any readers wish to correspond with Mrs. O'Brien her address is 740, North State Street. She expresses the intention of joining the Siamese Club, and is very interested in all S.H.

BIRTHS.

July 13th.—Mrs. Aubrey's **Ch. Langherne Beauty**, one kitten by Miss Langston's **Cesar of Correnden**.

July 18th.—Mrs. Aubrey's **Langherne Daydream**, six kittens by the Misses Cotterell Grant and Trefusis' **Ch. Langherne Felix**.

THE SIAMESE CAT CLUB SHOW.

The Annual Siamese Cat Club Show will be held at the Philbeach Hall, Earl's Court, on September 26th. The schedules will be going to print next week. His Imperial Highness Prince Vonvardya of Siam, His Excellency the Siamese Ambassador, Sir Edward Cook, Financial Adviser to the King of Siam, and Lady Cook, and members of the Siamese Legation have most graciously consented to be present at the Show. His Imperial Highness will present the silver cup which has been most kindly offered by our President, Mr. Compton Mackenzie, for the best exhibit in the Show (to be judged by both judges), shown by a member who has never yet won a first prize with a Siamese cat. His Imperial Highness will also present the special prize cards. We are deeply indebted to Mrs. Adams for having procured for the Club this very great honour. Amongst others who have promised to be present is Mrs. Kellogg, the wife of the United States Ambassador, and she says she will ask all the Americans she can to come to the Show. Now please will you all do your utmost to make the Show a great success. We need the help of every single member. It is no joke running a Show, and we want the co-operation of all. Please help us by giving donations, however small, and send along your cats to be shown to our distinguished visitors. All the cups belonging to the Club will be offered, including the new cups generously given by Miss F. Dixon, to replace the Chee Moo Cup, and Mr. Newman Flower's Challenge Cup for a neuter. There are also numerous specials. Major Hamilton Kirk is kindly going to vet. for us. I shall be away from August 1st to September 1st. But letters, of course, will be forwarded. Please do help us all you can.

PHYL WADE.

SIAMESE TOPICS.

By A. F. O'BRIEN, in "Pets."

If you are not of an affectionate nature, if you are not demonstrative, if you have no vocabulary of sweet names, such as a mother uses to her baby, if you do not at least crave love, then don't buy a Siamese. Without love, a Siamese will simply shrivel up and die, for it is the "lovinest" creature in the universe, to my way of thinking. A Siamese likes to be called "Honey-child," "Love-bird," "Sweetie," "Pet," and "Baby-doll." Every Siamese knows his pet names, expects them, demands them. He will sit and look at you with eager, bright, searching eyes, and just wait for you to start something. He will climb on your lap and put his paws clear around your neck, rub his cheek against yours, and almost turn inside out in a perfect ecstasy of happiness and content. He will not stand being shut up alone long, but will utter plaintive, piercing cries, for every Siamese wants to be with the family—with you! A Siamese loves company, and will rub against the legs

of your friends, and in his way extend the glad hand of fellowship, and try to make them feel at home. On the contrary, should a Siamese cat hiss at your visitor, I'd say you'd better cut him off your list. You can't fool a Siamese. A Siamese is a mind reader, and is uncannily bright. Your Siamese will warn you, and you will find that usually he is right, and that the person to whom he shows his dislike by this violent hiss is a creature of treasons, stratagems and spoils. Just wait and see.

If you wish to instil certain habits of diet in your Siamese cats, to familiarise and make them accustomed to articles which you believe contain the proper vitamins or calories to improve their physical conditions, for mercy's sake, start them in young, because, alas, too soon do they acquire the cynical sniff and politely upturned nose of the food connoisseur in the cat which has certain set habits of eating. Get them young; the younger the better, because you can hornswaggle a flock of infant Siamese into eating anything. I let them get hungry, and then give them a mess of herring all mixed up with cooked string beans or with stewed celery or asparagus or spinach, and they certainly clean it up. To be sure, I have gone into my cat nursery after a meal and gazed at the empty dishes—for each has his own dish, as it prevents scrapping, clawing, and, most of all, gorging—and I have often on these occasions discerned in connection with their distended abdomens—full little bellies—a slightly ruminative, reproachful look as they gazed upon me, as though to say, "Well, I wonder what the old girl's going to try on us next—beans—spinach—celery? It tastes sort of good at that!"

Not so the adults. They pick out the fishiest daintily, and leave all the beans. You can't put anything over on them. I have been told to give them orange juice, and have added prune juice and tomato juice. If these things are good for babies, why not for cats?

Mr. Swanson, of Delaware Towers, Chicago, Ill., has a beautiful Siamese kitten five months old by his female Cryse. This kit, after being apparently perfectly healthy, suddenly developed rickets so badly that it entirely lost the use of its hind legs, and had to be carried and placed on its pan. Mr. Swanson had been giving the cat fairly large doses of cod liver oil daily. Believing that much of the kitten's strength was being used up in an effort to digest the oil and also the tablespoon of orange juice which he was advised to give, and feeling that the kitten would not live anyway, Mr. Swanson decided to experiment. He threw away the cod liver oil and the oranges, and began feeding a diet of raw liver, a little beef, and two pints of goat's milk, per week. He says that the kitten is perfectly recovered, and runs and jumps and plays like a normal kit-kat should.

Another feature which Mr. Swanson added to the treatment of this kitten—was sunshine. Lacking an enclosed porch, Mr. Swanson bought a large bird cage, and each day the kit was placed in the bird

age, and the cage set on the fire escape, in the sun. Undoubtedly this sun bath greatly contributed to the kit's cure.

PERSIAN V. THE ANGORA.

By C. E. SPRINGER, in "Pets."

The majority of cat owners do not know the difference between the Persian and the Angora cat. As a matter of fact they are not alike, other than that both are Orientals. The Persian cat originated in Persia; the Angora cat in Angora Turkey.

So confused on the subject are many cat breeders that when they enter a long-haired cat in a show, particularly if it is the exhibitor's first show, she will say that her cat is an Angora. When, as a matter of fact, the cat is a Persian—nothing like an Angora—and, furthermore, the cat association rules call for the Persian type of cat.

In fact, the first long-haired cat that I ever saw was called an Angora cat. As I recall it now, it was a Persian. The fact is that the Angora cat has not existed in this country for years. In fact, even in its own country it is not so numerous, for during the war it was greatly neglected because of lack of food. Indeed, in some of the famine-stricken districts these lovely Angora cats were used as food.

The types of the Angora and Persian are directly opposite. The Angora is small, has a small head, rather a short, narrow and pointed nose, and full round eyes set close together. The ears are large and pointed, the chest and rump are narrow. The body is long, lithe, and graceful, with somewhat short slim legs, and small paws. The long tail trails when walking, the fur heavier at the base of the tail tapering to a point at the tip end. The coat is gorgeous, covering the entire body, hanging in tufts and clusters, the hair being so fine that it has a tendency to wooliness.

A number of years ago when living in Pasadena, my neighbour, a Russian, owned a remarkably beautiful cat, which she had brought from Europe, and which she said was of Angora breed. The cat was white, of a small type, with beautiful long hair which actually trailed when walking, and which was so fine that it was nearly always matted at the roots. Apparently this cat never had the "out of coat" periods which characterise the Persian. Also, I have yet to see a Persian with that beautiful long, thick hair which this cat had.

(To be continued.)

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H. C. BROOKE,

Bishop's Hull, Taunton.

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