

CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 3

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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THE "BEST IN SHOW" PUZZLE.

A great deal of talk has been caused by the recent occurrences at Newbury and Worcester, when a beaten cat has been made Best in Show. As long as the present system of multiplicity of classes (by no means an unmixed blessing we think!) prevails, it is hard to know how such occurrences can be prevented. It is certainly very unpleasant when the verdict of the Judge of the main classes in any breed is thus publicly set at nought, as though as far as fairness goes (to the exhibits) we think the G.C. regulation quoted by Mrs. Campbell-Fraser last week cannot be grumbled at. There is no doubt, as several correspondents have remarked, that it has a bad effect when members of the general public see a cat whose pen is adorned with a third prize and also a Best in Show card. They naturally are inclined to think the judging must, at best, be very careless.

THE KENNEL CLUB.

The Dog Fancy is usually accepted as a good model upon which to base regulations. (Incidentally we have always wished the G.C. should pluck up its courage, override difficulties—which are made to be overcome—and assert itself as really governing, by copying the Kennel Club's stringent and drastic rules with regard to "warned-off" persons and shows—it can be done by hardening of hearts and presenting a courageous front. A person warned off by the K.C. is practically done for: one warned off by the G.C. can merrily go on exhibiting at all kinds of minor shows and showing himself off as a leading fancier in the eyes of the public; this should not be possible.)

The Kennel Club rule on this matter reads: "No dog shall be eligible to compete for a Special Prize (open to more than one Breed or Variety) which has been beaten in its Breed, Breed Class or Classes by another of either sex, eligible to compete for that special prize."

This regulation would apparently have obviated the recent happenings, but it does not cover all possibilities of these anomalous placings, even if it does limit them somewhat. Many are of the opinion that only cats should be eligible to compete for Best in Show which are brought out by the Breed Judge from the main Breed Classes. The disadvantage, that this would prevent a newcomer making his debut in some side-class from going to the very top, is held by many

to be of less importance than the bad impression caused by the contradictory awards. Show Committees might also do something towards avoiding them by seeing that all classes for any one breed are in the hands of one judge only—that the Blue Persian judge, for instance, is the Blue Persian judge, and that no other judge takes a Blue Persian class of any kind at that show. We believe judges would welcome this: it cannot be pleasant for a judge who has judged class after class of one variety to have his or her awards stultified and set at nought because of the contrary opinion of the judge of some minor classes.

LONG-HAIR LORE.

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

"I keep six honest serving men
(They taught me all I know);
Their names are What, and Why, and When,
And How, and Where, and Who."

Kipling.

From Hanham Court, Mrs. F. H. Stevens brings forward an interesting question for the decision of the Show Secretary and Manager. Writing as follows she says: "That reminds me, I heartily agree with what Mrs. Wade says about the advisability of putting to sleep female kittens. I have done this myself for some years, and advise those who use my studs to do the same. It is better for the kittens and better for breeders. I do wish one of the Shows would try putting on a class for kittens that need not be registered. Let the entrance fee be low, and no money prizes—just awards. My idea is this—most of us get kittens that we know are not up to show, and we do not want to register, but we want to sell them as pets, and they are often the very kittens the non-fancier thinks specially pretty, and would buy at a Show at a modest price. The class of kittens we show, with the hope of winning with, is often too expensive for the buyer of modest means, who wants a pet only. So the Show would benefit by the entrance fees and no prize money. Exhibitors would be able to put in kittens for sale without the risk of hearing 'What is Mrs. Stevens thinking of to enter a kitten with a nose like that!' and the casual cat lover would pick up a pretty cheap kitten. What do you think of my idea?"

I was very pleased to see in the "Cat Courier" (America) that Hendon Black Gama, now the pro-

perty of Mrs. Adair, has become full Champion, and his progeny are much thought of.

Cat lovers will be grieved to hear of the death of Mrs. Gwynne Williams in a most cruel motor accident. Herself, her friend, and her chauffeur were all victims. Mrs. Williams was showing two blues at Newbury on October 24th, and her queen, Bunty of Cambray, was a valued pet. Our sympathy extends to Mrs. Williams' relatives in their terrible and sudden bereavement.

A black female kitten has been purchased by Miss J. M. Fisher from Mrs. Walter Stubbs. The kitten is a daughter of Ch. Ivanhoe of Hadley, and that nice blue queen, Beatrice of Prescott, who combines the Incentes Blue Bonnet and Lanark Lad strain. Miss Fisher considers the kitten much resembles her last year's black winner, Mascot of Hadley, and is of the same breeding.

Tortoiseshells are coming more into favour. One of the latest devotees is Mrs. Oglethorpe, who confesses that next to blues they have the warmest place in her heart, and she intends to keep a really "good one" in the near future. Will her choice fall on the "tortie proper," or her charming cousin, the "tortie and white?"

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

Mrs. Allen-Maturin informs us that she has purchased from Mrs. Burke her beautiful Siamese, Kitya-Nama, the Championship winner at the Siamese Club Show. This beautiful son of Simzo, who was bred by Mrs. Burke, will be placed at stud in our columns. Mrs. Maturin had the ill-luck to lose Dicky-de-Luxe a few weeks back, as well as four kittens, from diphtheria, contracted from a cat next door.

We observe that with the New Year cats, like dogs, will have to undergo six months' quarantine if imported into this country. This will not affect the Cat Fancy very greatly, unless it be the Siamese section: Mrs. Broughton-Hawley will be unable (except at great expense and risk) to obtain from India the spotted cats she hoped to procure, and Sir Claud Alexander and ourselves will not be able to get any more wild felines.

Major Woodiwiss, we are pleased to hear, has acquired the Abyssinian kitten, Ras Reveille, who did so well for Mrs. Carew Cox at Croydon last year; and Miss Hill-Shaw has a daughter of Ras Isis, which will be shown as Judith of Cademuir.

Miss Hill-Shaw asks us to state that Mrs. Broughton Hawley's remarks in a contemporary are misleading, the S.H.C.S. still retaininbg its **original name**, a very different thing from that stated by Mrs. Hawley, and many of its best friends and subscribers being Siamese breeders.

Will anyone at the Palace having any news items for us kindly mention them to Mrs. Oglethorpe (L.H.), Mrs. Wade (Siamese), or Miss Richardson (S.H.)?

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH'S FANCIERS' SOCIETY SHOW.

NOVEMBER 21st, 1928.

No pleasanter day has, I think, been spent than that of the date of the first Cat Show held in this world famous city, under the G.C. Rules. For myself, everyone was most kind, and made my rather nery task an easy one. As for the quality of the cats that came under my hands, I can only say that Portsmouth inhabitants must be real cat lovers; their pet cats were shown in such exquisite condition, and as for the marvellous class of neuters, I have never seen anything approaching it. Had those huge fellows been "scaled" I wonder what the weight would have amounted to in the aggregate? Unfortunately, the day was a terribly wet one, but clearing towards evening the visitors to the Show floated in, and the Cat Section appeared most popular. The Wessex Drill Hall is of grand size, extremely light and airy; in fact, could not be better for the purpose, and everything was very well arranged, Mr. H. S. Howell, Hon. Treasurer and Secretary of the Society, doing everything to make the exhibits and exhibitors at their ease. I hope Dr. Beddow, who was so generous to the Show, was pleased with its great success, for the exhibits numbered 81, a fine total, and to all those ladies—Miss Ellis, Miss Carey, Miss Stroud, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. and Miss Nepean—who worked so hard in the Show's interests, a warm vote of thanks is certainly due. Mrs. Malet and Dr. Beddow were most kind in loaning their cars to we poor pedestrians, and the kindness was much appreciated, for the day was hopelessly wet, until the evening, when it appeared to me that all the world and his wife came to see "Pussydom." Now for a run through the classes, presaged by compliments and thanks to the Chairman and Committee of the Society for making my personal work such a pleasant one.

CLASSIFICATION.

Best Cat in Show, Mrs. Herbert and Rogers, Barbara of Pineland. Best L.H. Kitten, Mrs. Herbert and Rogers, Mandy of Pineland. Best S.H. Cat, Mrs. Phyllis Carter, Minnetessa. Unfortunately no special was offered for best S.H. kitten, or this would have been awarded to the Siamese kitten (entered in A.V. Household Pet Class), belonging to Mrs. Phyllis Carter. BLUE PERSIAN, Adult (25), a very fine class—1, Mrs. Herbert and Rogers, Barbara of Pineland, a charming exhibit; 2, Miss G. Morant, Blue Blaise of Richmond, very fine stand-up cat; 3, Miss J. M. Fisher, Idol of Hadley, late in coating, special for best head; 4, Miss H. G. Symes, Full of Affection, sweet like her name; r, Miss J. M. Fisher, Max of Hadley, a young promising male; h c, Mrs. Eames, Beauty of Belmont; c, Miss Nepean, Nanpean Puck, a handsome blue, also just now deficient in coat. A word here for that lovely pale blue, Jasper of Hadley, a cat with a magnificent skull, whom I had to place low owing to a defect in his car from a fight. BLUE PERSIAN KITTENS, M or F. (15); a picture class, good for type, eyes, and colour—1, Mrs. Thompson, Adam of Pensford, a coming male, who, I hear, is to become a stud cat; 2, 3, r, v h c, all went to a charming quartet belonging to Mrs. Herbert and Rogers, 2nd prize-winner remarkable for evenness and length of coat, names So Blue of Pineland, Princess Wuffley, Boy's Love, and Pretty Dick of Pineland; h c, Miss G. Morant, Wimple of Dumblair; c, Miss Carey, The Congenial Idiot. A.V. L.H. ADULT (3)—1, Mrs. Herbert and Rogers, Marigold of Pineland, fine cream queen; 2, Mrs. M. Malet, Candida of Correnden, well shaped Chinchilla (lost place through ticking on back) 3, Mrs. Broughton Hawley, Cattle Cross, a nice son of Captain Cattle. A.V. L.H. KITTEN (4)—1, Mrs. Herbert and Rogers, Mandy of Pineland, a sweet thing in creams, best kitten in show; 2, Mrs. M. Malet, Ruby of Diva, a taking tortie and white; 3, Mrs. M. Malet, Jack of Diva, Chinchilla, a nice one; r, Mrs. M. Malet, Jill of Diva, brother of above. A.V. S.H. ADULT (5)—1, Mrs. Phyllis Carter, Minnetessa, Siamese queen, good head and type, slightly dark; 2, Miss G. Morant, Abyssinian, Zula of Drumblair, a good one (it would be well to see more of this charming variety); 3, Mrs. K. M. Fraser,

Bonny, a gentle pet, with a good round head, little too broken in colour; r. Mrs. Broughton Hawley, Tablette, brown tabby, well marked. A.V. HOUSEHOLD PET or NEUTER (26). This class was such a wonderful one, so full of well-groomed handsome cats, that if I had had more than double the number of awards I should gladly have allotted them. They mostly came from near by, and are one and all a great credit to their owners; so many beauties, some rare white cats, fine blacks, tabbies, and others I was grieved to have no card for. The lucky ones were as follow—1, Miss J. Carpenter, Snooker; 2, Mrs. Bell, Tommy; 3, Miss H. G. Symes, Peter; 4, Mrs. L. A. Sanderson, blue Persian; a. Mrs. K. Gough, Felix; v h c, Mrs. E. W. Hillier, Peter; h c, Mrs. Broughton Hawley, Tar Baby; c, Miss Phyllis Carter, Winkie. Three nice Siamese kittens and three brown tabbies were entered among these "big beauties," but next year, if all is well, I hear the Committee are going to give a larger classification, so that will spell better luck for the babes. SIAMESE or FOREIGN ADULT (5), three absent—1, Mrs. Phyllis Carter, Minnetessa; 2, Miss G. Morant, Zula of Drumblair.

The feeding of the cats was, I hear, very satisfactorily undertaken by Mrs. Flint and her two sons, who made themselves most useful; in fact, all arrangements were most comfortably carried out, and myself and my daughter can but send our thanks to Mrs. and Miss Nepean, Mrs. Malef, Miss Willis, and Miss Garrett, in fact to all friends in Portsmouth who made our all too brief visit such a delightful one.

Judge: Mrs. Campbell-Fraser.

L.N.W.C.C.C.

The above Club held their final Show of the year, November 17th, in the Zion Hall, Hulme, Manchester. There were 50 entries, and I consider the exhibits the finest we have had at this Show, and beautifully penned. Miss Langston's kindly advice has borne fruit. Miss Lowe came hurriedly to our help as judge, and her task was, indeed, an arduous one, but considerably lightened by Mrs. Elliot's brisk and cheery stewarding. Several new members joined our ranks, and were heartily welcomed in the true Lancashire way. During the judging an Extraordinary Meeting was held to appoint a new Secretary, on the occasion of the Misses Waterhouse resigning; Miss Buckley was proposed, and, being willing to accept the post, was elected unanimously with great applause. Awards:—

BLUE ADULT, M.—1, Mrs. Furniss, Kemiin Mask Marvel, never seen him looking so well, and beautifully shown; 2, Mrs. Bent, The Little Duke, a little more grooming, and he might have changed places with the winner; 3, Miss Buckley, Lord Macalpine, well-known winner, but failed in brush and eyes. A.O.C. ADULT, M.—1, Mrs. Finch, Sheik of Bredon, magnificent cream, the largest limbs I have ever seen, more like a huge neuter, little long in nose, beautifully groomed, and best exhibit in show. BLUE ADULT, F.—1, Mrs. Beaven, Fidei of the Vale, beautiful colour and gorgeous eyes; 2, Mrs. Elliot, April Daisy, hard pressed by winner, even silky coat, and well groomed; 3, Mrs. Jarvis, Merry Atholine, well-known winner, eyes a little paler than winners; extra 3, Mrs. Macfarlane, Moorland Periwinkle, another grand queen. A.O.C. ADULT, F. (red hot class, and every one deserved a 1st)—1, Mrs. Tomlinson, Maythorpe Radiant Morn, rich red, good markings; 2, Mrs. Furniss, Wallflower, tortoise, well-known winner, lovely condition, failed brush; 3, Mrs. Finch, Jewel of Bredon, grand cream, even colour and beautifully penned, little short of coat. KITTENS, under 9 months—1, Miss Buckley, Cyrus of Stand, little on the dark side, but even colour; 2, failed to note; 3, Mrs. Elliot, Beda. KITTENS, under 6 months—1, Miss King; 2, Mrs. Clark; 3, Mrs. Lewin, all good blues. KITTENS, under 3 months—1 and 2, Mrs. Tomlinson, rich reds; 3, Mrs. Elliot, lovely baby blue. S.H. ADULT—1 and 2, Mrs. Curran, silver tabby, beautifully marked, leading; 3, Mrs. Jarvis, S.H., under 9 months—1, 2, and 3, Mrs. Irwin, promising trio.

HIGHBRIDGE SHOW.

Thanks to the untiring efforts of the local fanciers of Highbridge, a very successful Show took place at the Town Hall on Wednesday last, 21st November. Owing to illness of some of our usual exhibitors entries were not so numerous as last year, but quality was equalled. Mr. J. T. Ambrose, of Leicester, was the judge, and his comments were both kind and helpful. While Mr. Ambrose was judging rabbits, all the Highbridge school-children filed through the hall, and were very happy and interested—a kind thought for them by the Committee—and Mr. Ambrose explained to them what better citizens they might become by taking up hobbies, instead of wasting their valuable time, as they grew older. The winners in Cat Section were:—

LONGHAIR, A.V.—1 and special, Miss Collihole, blue queen, in fine all-round show condition; 2, Mrs. V. C. Newton, Langford, grey tabby, good eyes and markings; 3, Mrs. Carver, Pawlett, blue Persian queen, good coat and eyes. NEUTER, A.V.—1 and special, Nurse Mary, very fine blue neuter, excellent eyes and coat; 2, Nurse Mary, blue, not such good condition as 1st; 3, Miss Joan Powell, good blue; exhibits difficult to judge. In the KITTEX (under 6 months) CLASS a beautiful black kitten (female) beat the blues in an excellent class, which greatly pleased our judge—1, Mrs. G. Attfield, Highbridge; 2, Mrs. Carver, a lovely blue male; 3, Mrs. Carver, a lovely blue female. An entry of black Persian kittens (litter) was the only exhibit in its class, so this was cancelled. Next year we hope to greatly extend classes, and to have inquiries from our Siamese friends.

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H. C. BROOKE.

Bishop's Hull, Taunton.

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