

# CAT · GOSSIP

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Edited by H. C. BROOKE

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**A Charming Happy Family: Cat with Doves and White Rats.**

[Block by courtesy of *The Cat Courier*, Detroit.]

## LONG-HAIR LORE.

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

For the past—Happy Memories.

For the present—Fair Greetings.

For the future—Bright Hopes. Anon.

Good news is to the "fore" for our New Year. Miss E. M. Hill writes from Beltinge, Herne Bay: "You will, I know, be glad to hear that Galdorn took 1st and Ch. at Newcastle on December 12th—now he has only one more to get. We are so pleased. I took him up to King's Cross, and sent him on the 1.15 p.m. Miss Busted very kindly mothered him. I felt horrid, left behind, for I have never sent any of the 'children' alone before, and poor Mrs. Higginbottom must have been worried to death with all my instructions!! But she was a perfect saint, and Galdorn came back looking lovely, with a coat shining from real hard brushing! Both Galdorn, my red tabby, and Prince Boscoe, my cream, are fine sires, and have winners in every litter. Ch. Ginger Belle of Barnsley is Boskie's daughter, and Galdorn sired Blazing Boy, Anne Good-Cat, and Chintz, all first prize winners. I began to show in 1923, and have bred Ch. Princess Salyana, Ch. Tiger Lily of Wolborough, *Whatmer*—now full champion in Australia—Raybec, Ch. Cream of France, and Ch. Galdorn. So Beltinge hasn't done so badly, has it? Of the success of my cattery, the bulk of the praise is due to my kind friend, who helps me, adores all the pets, and is much better at looking after them than I am."

From Sunbury Way comes news of Mrs. Freda

Smith's little chums, who, it will be remembered, used to be located at Gunnersbury. Beside Dainty Dulcie of Rayleigh and Colneside Sonia, Mrs. Smith adds: "I have more additions to my catty family. Billy Buster of Teddington has come to stay, and I hope he will prove a good stud a little later on." (In parenthesis I must here put in a note on my own that Mr. Church kindly sent me a very handsome photo of this young male, who carries a specially fine head and coat.) "His pedigree includes Ch. Azure of Hadley and Ch. Billy Bumpet, and his mother was Brookside Fluffles; he has a beautiful head, and looks very lovely. Another addition is a female kitten, born last June, a lovely white Persian with orange eyes, who really is one of the prettiest things I have seen for some time. His father is Rob Roy of Hounslow. The third addition is a rather nice, but very small female smoke, whose pedigree is quite excellent on both sides, including the Dragon of the Cottage, Ch. Dannyman, and Danny's Dabchick. I am hoping to show the white kitten and Billy Buster at Kentish Town."

I have always a warm spot in my heart for the "doggies," and Mrs. Smith tells me she is interested in breeding red and also blue Chow Chows. Good luck to her happy family!

Mrs. Hackett writes: "It has been impossible to show the kittens, Nikomis and Minnehaha, since Madresfield. I did hope to take them and Karita to the Palace, but it was not to be, and now the date of Croydon makes it impossible owing to our family gathering for Christmas, and as for the New Year I shall be done in Monmouthshire—the distance is too great. Had I been in Cheltenham it would have been easy enough. Never mind, better luck later on. Karita is very fit, and now getting such a handsome coat and ruff—such a deep dark red. She has grown huge—but still tears about like a young thing after her kittens and my young queen, Mayfly (of the beautiful eyes), whom I had from Mrs. Reynolds Sams when two months old. Karita seems quite to forget that she is a staid lady of some two Summers, but she and her dear kits are all well and happy, and that is everything."

## DEBUTANTE'S DIARY.

I feel much interest in the Débutantes of the Cat Fancy, and hope they will one and all accept my good wishes for 1929, and may success attend their delightful hobby.

I enjoy passing on the items I have learnt while in touch with our pets in the hope they may be of some use to beginners and their pussy cats. This week I should like to give a word of warning, which, if followed, would frequently save suffering and even the life of many kittens.

On the purchase of a kitten, keep it for the first two or three days entirely on light food, such as Lactol, Ridge's food, Robinson's patent barley, etc. In these two or three days the kitten will settle down to its normal habits, and be "at home." On any of these foods—three or four meals a day—there is no fear that the kitten will starve. The opposite often takes place, the kitten eats heavier meals, gastritis is set up, and the poor mite succumbs, laden with undigested food.

Mrs. Singleton wrote on this subject some years ago, and, I believe, said "Keep the kitten on light food for a week."

### GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

ALL matter for us early to Cleve Hall, Champion Hill, S.E. 5, please!

MR. YEATES kindly writes us pointing out that the G.C. rules **would** prevent the provision of classes for unregistered kittens for sale purposes. Far be it from us to dispute Mr. Yeates' authority as to the scope of the G.C. rules, which we have not in front of us. But, personally, we still harbour a doubt as to whether these rules could be made to cover a sort of "market" for the sale of kittens, provided it be purely a matter of selling, and not of competition. Still, as Mr. Yeates observes, "Unless we insist on registration we have no hold on anybody." We have been accused of being up against the G.C.—we are NOT—au contraire, we want to see them extend their powers and bring all cat shows under their jurisdiction—except, perhaps, two classes or the like at all-round shows. The K.C. arrogated such powers unto themselves, and we conceive it is about time for the G.C. to add to its prestige and its scope in a similar fashion. It can be done, and we conceive those who hinder such a forward step are but the Stick-in-the-Ruts a correspondent refers to this week in another column.

Mrs. Oglethorpe, remarking "I thought the last number of 'Cat Gossip' better than ever," informs us that her Blue Princess of The Court has arrived in Australia in A1 form.

SIR CLAUD ALEXANDER informed us a couple of weeks ago that local festivities prevent the Faygate cats from being entered at Croydon.

THE "Amberette" discussion still waxes keen. We were amused to see that Mr. House's question, "What is the difference between a Tabby and a Self?"—the meaning of which we should have thought must have been absolutely obvious—was mistaken by the writer concerned au pied de la lettre, and that Mr. House is advised to refer to the book of points of the R.C.T. Club! Well, well, talk about

the inability of a Scotchman to see a joke! All the same, the same writer turns the tables rather neatly on Mr. House by suggesting that his words as to the inadvisability of damping the ardour of B.T. fanciers by too strict judging, are equally applicable in the case of a breed yet in the making, such as Red Self! THE "Revue Féline Belge" contains a long article on S.H. Blues by the Belgian judge, G. Hasse. SIR CLAUD ALEXANDER writes he is on the track of another tortoiseshell male.

MR. YEATES expresses his surprise at our supporting the Golden-eyed Whites. Well, because ten years ago a certain group preferred the blue, that does not bind us to share their opinion. Unless, with our national conceit, we write the feline lovers of all other countries down as asses, there must be some reason for the golden-eyed being preferred, or at least placed equal to the blue-eyed, in every other country? We believe no one with any scientific knowledge can deny that the blue eye, however beautiful, is a sign of deterioration—hence the deafness so often found with it. Mr. Yeates' comparison of the orange-eyed Siamese is an unhappy one for his cause: the blue eye is a **racial characteristic** of the Siamese cat, but it is by no means so in the white L.H. or S.H. cat—most of these having yellowish eyes. A really rich copper eye in a white cat is very beautiful—a "greenery-gallery" one very ugly. This stick-in-the-rut rejection of novelties is not the method by which mouse and rabbit fanciers have produced their multitude of varieties.

### WHITES, BEAUTIFUL WHITES.

To my mind the White L.H. is one of the most beautiful and fascinating of all the varieties, and yet, I greatly fear, the most neglected at our Championship Shows. Why I can never quite understand, as the general public admire these pure white creatures, as pure as newly fallen snow, with their long flowing coats of finest texture, their shell-pinked ears, pink noses, and their glorious round eyes of blue, which remind one of an Italian sky.

These attributes, all of which tend to enhance their beauty and thrill the onlooker with amazement and admiration that such beautiful felines not only exist, but are living things. Such has been my experience as a breeder of these exquisite snow-clad felines.

I am often amused at the eulogies that are passed on my pets by visitors to the Gaybrook Cattery (which consists of twenty all told adults and kittens). Whenever I visit the cattery, which is pretty frequently during the day, I am greeted with purrs and cries of delight. This it is that makes it such a fascinating hobby. Each cat and kitten has a totally different character all its own. Thus they endear themselves to us by their own particular personality. Before closing my notes on Whites, I must not forget to mention **type**, which has been my chief endeavour to attain in breeding, and for which I have bred with more or less successful results.

I am the happy possessor of a L.H. White kitten, the nearest to perfection I have ever bred, with broad skull, the tiniest ears, snub nose, and large round eyes of deepest blue. This kitten shall never find its way across the water. Nothing would induce me to part with such a gem. I consider a kitten of this type and standard a great asset, as the progeny of such a one must produce something really worth while. **Type** is what we breeders of L.H. Whites must all strive to attain, and thus popularise this most fascinating of breeds—The Blue-Eyed White. *Toujours en avant.* E. L'ESTRANGE WALSH.

### CAT CALLS.

(Publication of letters does not necessarily indicate that they represent our views.)

From Sir Claud Alexander, Bart.  
N.C.C. SHOW.

I am glad you have published the letter of your anonymous correspondent, for these things do more harm underground than in the open, but I now call for the writer's name, whether "an interesting controversy arises" or not. I do not, however, expect to get it, as such writers generally produce excuses for not revealing their identity.

Now as to the personal part of the letter, the facts are these: (1) When asked to be referee, I did not want to do so, but under pressure from the Committee, owing to the difficulty of finding one, I consented. Perhaps I was wrong, but it did not occur to me, nor, I imagine, to any of the Committee, that shorthairs were in the least likely to get into any such competitions.

(2) At the Show I was called upon to decide first between Miss Langston's Chinchilla and a tortoiseshell; secondly, between the former and a blue longhair. Then it was found that Lady Alexander's cat would enter the competition, and accordingly Mrs. Yeates was substituted for me as referee. As she decided in favour of Miss Langston's cat, no one has suffered any loss.

As to the general question, it is very easy for ruling bodies, such as the G.C., to make rules, but it is difficult to be certain whether they may lead, and the appointment of a referee is a case in point. Obviously a referee must be competent to judge all varieties, but our professional all-round judges can be counted on the fingers of one hand, and nearly all our amateur all-rounders on those of the other. A large show will usually absorb most of them, though naturally show promoters are unwilling, for economy's sake, to engage more professionals than they can help. Exhibitors are, for the most part, specialists, and they are usually unwilling to forego the chance of showing, so the unhappy committees are left hunting high and low for some more or less capable person with as little connection as possible with any exhibit or exhibitor, in many cases all for nothing, since the judges are often an odd number, or all of the same opinion. It would be far better to rescind the rule, and let the Show Committees find a person acceptable to all concerned on the day. Many a person would be competent to place a particular set of cats, who might be quite incapable of dealing with another set. Without hunting for referees, the question of judges is difficult enough, as every show promoter knows. As an example, Miss Hill-Shaw this year invited me to judge longhaired blacks and whites, adding that my doing so would not prevent Lady Alexander showing her shorthairs or me mine.

The progress of the cat world to-day is being greatly retarded by a too old-fashioned conservatism and a habit of putting the most uncharitable interpretation on everything (the proverbial "cattiness"), quite out of keeping with the present times, when many horse and agricultural societies hand their judges a catalogue with their books, and the Kennel Club, in its wisdom, has decreed that there is no reason why one should not show one breed and judge another at the same show.

[Note by Editor.—We can see no earthly reason why the practice referred to by Sir Claud in his closing sentence should not be universal. What Sir Claud writes as to "too old-fashioned conservatism" is just what we have incurred odium by repeatedly remarking.]

Mr. Yeates' letter in no way covers the point I raised. In the first place I did not criticise the appointment of Sir Claud Alexander as referee on the ground that Lady Alexander was exhibiting, for the referee judge, I presume, was appointed long before any entries were received, and the G.C. Rule, No. 29, was evidently framed with the idea that exhibitors might know who would be the referee at the particular show they intended sending exhibits to before they made their entries.

If the occasion mentioned by Mr. Yeates was the only one, at the N.C.C. Show, on which the referee's opinion was required, it surely makes an absolute farce of the G.C. Rule, and the sooner this particular Rule (viz., No. 29) is scrapped entirely, or altered to read that the judges shall call in a referee, whom they shall select at the Show, if they are unable to agree, the better it will be for the Fancy generally, and there will be no more unfortunate episodes. It would also obviate the difficulty Mr. Yeates mentions, in finding people who have to forego showing on the off chance of their being required to act as referee.

As regards the report Mr. Yeates mentions, I had not heard it before; but it rather bears out my contention, that rules should be strictly adhered to. The general public cannot know what was in the minds of the N.C.C. Committee, but naturally imagine a rule means what it says. If the N.C.C. Committee did not intend to include the referee judge, they should have said so, and thus have saved comment.

PRINCIPIA NON HOMINES.

[Note by Editor.—We cannot but think both Sir Claud and Mr. Yeates attach a too personal application to the remarks made by "Non Homines."]

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