

CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 4

First Edited by H. C. BROOKE

Edited by E. K. WAKEFORD

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BEDA.

Owned by Mrs. E. Lerways Elliott.

You may be interested in the following. It is absolutely true, although I admit, without one had literally seen it, it would be hard to believe. The above is a portrait taken in the days of her youth, shortly after Beda came to me—taken on a happy day, for Beda has been a delicate kitten, difficult to rear, and seldom has she looked fit to sit for her portrait. Now she is seven months old, and developing nicely, with her sire, John o' Bedale's, lovely mouth, and great wistful eyes, and I am hoping great things from a mating with Son o' Flick when ready. Well, whilst I was away on a visit to my mother a couple of months ago, my husband ordered a Cairn puppy from a prize litter near by. I admit my heart sank when I heard the news, for although I love dogs I did not want to risk trouble among the cats. When he eventually came I took him out to introduce him to his future friends. To my surprise Beda jumped down from her chair, went up to him somewhat timorously, rubbed her nose affectionately against his, to which he amicably responded, and led him off to her own saucer of milk, showing him by eating herself that he was welcome to have some, too, and from that moment they have become real pals—sleep in each other's arms, share the same bone, and always go into the garden at the same time. As Cinders is five months old, and Beda seven, I cannot help thinking it an out-of-the-ordinary incident, for dogs and cats seldom agree.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

"Cat Gossip" has to be in the hands of the printer so many days before it is published that we have not had time to receive the copious news from fanciers, which we hope will be overflowing our letter-box during the next week. Many cat fanciers, of course, hibernate in the winter, and no one hears anything about them until the warmer days arrive, but there must be some who are lively all the year round, and who have some news to send about themselves, their cats, and their future kittens.

We hear from Mr. Brooke that some of the staunchest supporters of "Cat Gossip" are a little uneasy lest the humanitarian policy of the paper should be abandoned. We can assure them that our own views and Mr. Brooke's are essentially the same, and that we have no intention of devoting our columns entirely to the interests of breeders and exhibitors. We hope that our non-fancier supporters will send us notes from time to time of any charities known personally to them, and of any enterprises for the welfare of animals, so that we may draw attention to them. In this way they will not only be helping "Cat Gossip," but will be furthering the interests of their favourite charities, and introducing them to a wider public. Many of the Societies which are doing excellent work for animals are not over-burdened with surplus funds, they cannot afford to advertise extensively, and so they are bereft of the many advantages of publicity.

ALTHOUGH there is to be no change of policy in this direction, we feel that many of our readers can suggest interesting new items which might be included in these columns—if they can put pen to paper and tell us about them. We ourselves have always been able to see room for improvement in every paper which we have taken regularly, and though we have never written to an Editor to say so, we hope that our readers do not share our lethargy. In our own case it is really excusable, for since we earn a precarious living by writing for the Press, we cannot afford to get into the black books of Editors, but the readers of "Cat Gossip," having nothing to lose, can be as frank as they like. We may add that we have no black book, and can appreciate criticism, however drastic it may be.

THIS is, of course, the slackest time of year for advertisements, but stud owners should already be

turning their attention to the important business of advertising, and later on there should be dozens of kittens in search of new homes. We intend to increase the size of the paper again as soon as the number of advertisements justifies such a step. We suggest that as many cat fanciers are also interested in dogs, poultry, fancy mice, and other animals, they should give a spice of variety to the advertisement columns by advertising all their live stock, and not only their cats and kittens. Goats, particularly, should find a ready sale, since so many people believe in rearing their kittens on goat's milk when they can -- and they have certainly had excellent results.

FEEDING, not only of kittens, but of cats, has probably caused more discussion than any other matter connected with the cat fancy, and it is a question which can never be settled, because the exponents of all schools of thought can point triumphantly to fine, healthy specimens, fed according to their own ideas. Raw meat, though theoretically an ideal diet, is often a pitfall to dwellers in the country, whose butchers live at a considerable distance and deliver only once a day, even in the hottest weather, and, on the other hand, we have watched a fancier, who lived, perhaps, too close to her butcher, feeding her kittens on meat which was frozen hard, while she discoursed to us on the necessity for a raw meat diet. From the stud owner's point of view, any cat which has to be fed according to very strict rules is a nuisance, and the stud fee paid for "little Mopsie, who must sleep in a warm bedroom and can't eat anything but liver" is hardly earned.

We heard recently of a gun-dog breeder who has just fitted up her kennels regardless of expense, the equipment including every modern comfort for the dogs—kitchen, bathroom with hot and cold water, maternity ward, and telephone (we may have invented this last detail)—and ultra violet ray apparatus for the puppies. There are few cat fanciers who can contemplate doing things on this magnificent scale, and they would have to charge fabulous prices for their kittens if they did, but we should be interested to hear whether anyone has experimented successfully with "Vita" glass in the kittens' quarters. Some of the most practical poultry breeders have already proved its value in the rearing of chickens, and it seems to us probable that the ultra violet rays, admitted by this glass but not by ordinary glass, should be equally beneficial to kittens. THE "Observer" devotes a long article to the question, "Are Cats Deteriorating?" It is chiefly based on the opinions of Mr. Henry Gray, who is thus quoted: Mr. Gray holds, in something of a paradox, that the character of both dogs and cats is deteriorating because of the great attention paid to breeding nowadays. "The tile cat or the back-yard cat," he says, "is disappearing, and the high-bred cat is taking its place. Watch a Persian cat in the street. It will remain perfectly quiet with lorries running both sides of it. It will let itself be run over quietly.

But the common cat is like the street-arab. It can fall from the top of this house without getting hurt. I get no common cats brought to me as accident cases, but plenty of thoroughbreds."

We hardly agree with this: a valuable cat usually shut up cannot be expected to have the "road sense" of an "alley-cat," any more than an inhabitant of Widecombe-on-the-Moor would cross Piccadilly Circus with the ease of a born Londoner. But we do believe that show-life, pap-feeding, etc., etc., is ruining the stamina of cats, which nowadays have half a life instead of the proverbial nine!

THE ORDER OF THE BATH.

"Around in sympathetic mirth,
Its tricks the kitten tries;
The cricket chirrups on the hearth,
The crackling fagot flies."

Goldsmith.

A blazing fire, plenty of hot towels, a brush and comb, and in a room near by two deep enamel bowls, one full of a creamy lather made from green soft soap, and another full of plain warm water, with, perhaps, a dash of ammonia.

We recently bathed five baby kittens in this manner.

It took, I think, about 20 minutes for each one—perhaps a little longer. At all events, they were all completed in the interval between lunch and tea.

In the room with the big fire a basket kennel was placed on a table and covered by a warm rug, whilst



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inside were a hot-water bottle and a big clean white blanket.

The kittens were bathed one by one. Whilst one of us held the wee nute, the other rubbed it well with both hands, with great care, especially when the face was reached, and keeping the little body always under water.

It was then lifted into the rinsing bowl, and when the worst of the water was squeezed away, wrapped in a hot towel and carried directly to the fire, where we held it softly in our lap, and rubbed gently until almost dry, finally brushing and combing until it became a veritable powder puff!

It was then placed in a warm kennel. During the whole process there was not a single protesting cry, purrs were the order of the day, and it was a pretty sight to see the mother, on the top of the kennel all the time, peeping down at her immaculate offspring, for all the world as pleased as if all the work had been done by her dear little self!

M. ESTELLE OGLETHORPE.

WITH OUR CATS.

By F. M. BALLINGALL.

It is well known that cats like to have their babies born in a quiet, darkened place, which is the best they could choose, and such should be always provided for the expectant mother. There is a little Puss who resides in a large boarding-house, where she is made much of by the guests. They are wont to be just as noisy in their amusements as modern youth knows how to be, and Pussie had her thoughts about this when it became nearly time to select a nest for the coming babes. Her human "mother"—how impossible to speak of the "mistress" of a royal cat!—was very fond of her, and had thoughts about this, too. She prepared a dainty nest, and took Pussie to inspect it. Pussie inspected it; it was believed she approved. A few days later, however, she was missing!

Next door was a large Nursing Home. All was quiet here; everything done decently and in order; shaded lights, soft voices—all very nice and suitable indeed.

Seeking anxiously for the little pet, her good friend determined at last to inquire if anyone in the Home had seen the missing Puss. She was invited to come in. Safe and cosy in the quiet house, there was Pussie with her new-born babies!

It was not permitted that they should be removed—the mother would not like it. So the family remained till the day when Pussie decided that they were now old enough to go home. One by one she carried them there in her mouth, and, when all had arrived, settled down happily in her own house.

The quaint thing is that Pussie has now repeated this operation three times! Invariably, at the right moment, she leaves for the restful Nursing Home, where her babies pass their earliest weeks in quietude, and are then gently transferred to their

rightful residence. I am told that the amiable proprietor has said that she must think seriously of sending in a bill for **accouchement** expenses!

(To be continued.)

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ADVERTISEMENTS. Special Rates for a short time only. Displayed Advertisements, Stud or others, up to 4 insertions, 3/- per inch: 4 to 13 insertions, 2/6 per inch: 13 and upwards, 2/- per inch. Small Advertisements, 3d. a word: three insertions for the price of two. All rates cash.

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 Foreign News and Exchanges to be sent to the Foreign News Editor, Mr. H. C. BROOKE, Bishop's Hull, Taunton.

All other correspondence re "Cat Gossip" to the Editor and Proprietor,

Miss WAKEFORD, 10, Red Lion Passage, London, W.C. 1.

Telephone: Holborn 3894.

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