

CAT GOSSIP

VOL. 4

First Edited by H. C. BROOKE

Edited by E. K. WAKEFORD

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Price 3s 6d. quarterly, post free

LONG-HAIR LORE.

By Mrs. M. ESTELLE OGLETHORPE (Tel.: Wimbledon 2889).

To keep in sight Perfection, and adore
The vision is the artist's best delight;
His bitterest pang, that he can ne'er do more
Than keep her long'd for loveliness in sight.

Sir William Watson.

With the coming of the new moon the weather has again veered round from cold and wet to bright and sunny days, but by the time these notes are in print fickle April may be giving us yet another sample of her variable moods. Yet in spite of these changes kittens are arriving in homes all over the country, and fanciers are watching with keen excitement litters that have already put in an appearance, and are anxiously awaiting further arrivals. For by the time the kittens that have already arrived are ready Kensington Kitten Show will be upon us, and then, almost before we have realised what has happened, we shall find ourselves spending another happy day at Thame.

The Annual General Meeting of the Southern Counties' Cat Club will be held at 56, Princes Gate, S.W. 7, on Thursday, April 25th, at 3.30 p.m., by the kind invitation of Mrs. Zoc Bell (Vice-President). Members will be afterwards entertained to tea, and it is hoped everyone will make an effort to be present at this popular gathering.

The news come to hand that Mrs. Yeates is to judge at Thame in September, and later at Bristol and Portsmouth, so we shall have metaphorically to put our best foot foremost and have our kittens in trim for these coming events.

Last year Portsmouth held its first Kitten Show, which was a most delightful meeting. Mrs. Campbell-Fraser judged, and found the quality of the exhibits exceptionally good, and under the kindly direction of Miss Nepean "all went merry as a marriage bell."

From all quarters one hears of the arrival of young families. In Mrs. Yeates' cattery alone three families are due this week, and when they are here I will tell you all about them.

Princess Una has presented her owner with five lovely kittens by Son o' Flick. One, however, was lost, as so often happens when the little mother, new to her duties, does not realise all that is expected of her. The remaining four are perfect, and a most lovely even blue, each one as like the other as peas in a pod, and dear little Princess has proved herself

to be the perfect mother, and is intensely proud of her offspring. She is fed rather unusually on soft roes lightly grilled, beef jelly, and Lactol, and this diet certainly seems to agree with her splendidly, for she never ails anything, and the kittens are making good progress.

Mrs. Bazeley has mated her tortoiseshell queen to her son, Ch. Colneside Cream Bunne, and is hoping for something exceptional from this union.

Mrs. Quarry and Miss Fisk also sent their lovely queen, Pink Pearl of Winchfield, to the Cream Bunne, and the result is four lovely kittens, two males and two females.

Others who have become the lucky owners of kittens by Ch. Colneside Billy Bumpet are Mrs. White, the owner of Bee in a Bonnet, and Mrs. Matthews, who each have four kittens, and Mrs. Creighton's queen has a fine litter of five by Colneside Christopher.

From Miss Wava Simner comes the news that her tortoiseshell queen, Smudge of Isleworth, has presented her with a splendid family by the late Camperdown. The family consists of one lovely tortoiseshell, one cream male, one blue male, and two tabby males, and they are all exceptionally fine kittens, especially the little tortoiseshell, who is unusually lovely, I am told.

I have received an order for a white kitten to go to Germany, so hope my dear little Jasmine will realise her responsibilities, and present me with a nice family. The history of Jasmine's arrival into the family circle is this. Mrs. Richardson, her late owner and breeder, who was giving up all her females and only going in for stud work, consulted Mr. Yeates as to what to do with Jasmine, and Mr. Yeates rang me up and suggested I should have her, as he did not want this exceptionally lovely little lady to go to anybody, and was unable to take any more pets into his own home. I was rather tempted, and inquired the price, and expected some huge sum to be mentioned for such a prize-winner, but it seemed I only had to give her owner a kitten from the first litter, but as Mrs. Richardson tells me she refused a very big sum for Jasmine when a baby kitten I trust her owner will not feel she has made a bad bargain when she receives either a son or daughter of her late pet. To bring a long story to a close, Mrs. Richardson herself motored over with her little pet, and when I saw Jasmine I could not resist her. She looked

adorable in my drawing-room. I had never handled a white Persian before, and thought her the loveliest thing I had ever seen, and though rather reluctant to add to my responsibilities, I could not let her go!

I have just heard from Mrs. Richardson that she and her husband are going to settle in Germany for a few years, and I am sure all fanciers will wish them happiness in their new life.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

WE have very little news of fanciers this week, though we have heard from several people that kittens are arriving at last, and that many more are expected shortly. Certainly the litter classes at the Summer Shows should be well filled, since the majority of kittens will not be old enough for other classes, and many people who are reluctant to send babies to Winter Shows have not the same scruples when the weather is warm.

THE judges at the S.C.C. Show, on September 25th, will be: Adults, Mrs. Ellaby; Kittens, Mrs. Bassett; Referee, Mr. Lloyd Lewis. Suggestions, donations, and specials will be accepted most gratefully by Miss K. Wilson, the Show Manager.

WE must apologise to several people for delay in answering their letters, but we have been flat-hunting this week, and it is really a full-time job. We had almost decided to buy a caravan, and park it in Lincoln's Inn Fields, but Fortune has at last been kind. As the chaotic period of moving must now follow, we are afraid that we shall still be dilatory in answering letters, though we will do our best. We will announce "Cat Gossip's" new address when we have signed the agreement—it would be tempting fate to make quite sure that the Ideal Flat is to be ours until we have it in black and white.

OUR wanderings round London during the last few days have led us to the conclusion that nine London cats out of ten are tabby and white, in the Holborn district at all events. Gray's Inn, however, specialises in black and white cats. We have not seen a single young kitten in the neighbourhood yet, so evidently the common cats are just as late as the pedigree ones—judging from the awful squallings in the Square gardens every night just now, there will be millions of kittens in June. We think that the accredited representative of the common cats, who still haunts our mat, intends to present us with a litter of accredited kittens, but we shall probably have moved before they arrive—they will be a pleasant surprise for the next tenant.

FANCIERS who use "Elastene" bedding, which has been proved invaluable for cats and kits, can now obtain it from Miss K. Wilson, of Chalkpits Boarding Kennels, Springwell, Rickmansworth. She can supply it in 12lb. sacks, or 50lb. bales, and undertakes to despatch it with the least possible delay.

WE have just heard, with very great regret, of the death of Ch. Billy Bumpet, through an accident, and are sure that Mrs. Bazeley will have the sincere sym-

pathy of all fanciers. He was not only a very famous cat, but a great favourite with his owner, who will mourn him as a friend.

WE have received the yearly publication of the Siamese Cat Club, and observe that, after last year's malcontents have left, there is a membership of 181—"not so dusty" for a one-breed club! and representing a body of Fanciers whose opinion, expressed through their Committee, surely should carry weight in any quarter.

WE observe it says: "The points of the 'chocolate' and 'blue' Siamese are the same as above except for seal brown points read chocolate or blue points."

We rather think it would have been better to describe them as "chocolate-pointed" and "blue-pointed" respectively. "Chocolate" or "blue" alone really points to the whole cat being of these colours, and may lead to misunderstandings—in fact has already done so in the Continental Press. In Paris we have seen chocolate Siamese which were not merely chocolate-pointed, but all chocolate—and very handsome animals they were.

THE Club has 22 challenge trophies, we notice.

CAT CALLS.

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

To the Editor, "Cat Gossip."

MADAM,—Your appeal for support of a Bill for the Taxation of Cats makes wonderful sob stuff, but I really cannot let it all pass without denying a good many of the strong unfounded assertions made. I do not know who is responsible for the article, but feel sure "Cat Gossip" does not believe all it has printed. Firstly, why make such a sweeping statement that gives the impression that Cats' Homes are uninspected, insanitary, and without proper accommodation? It is not true, at least not in any one of the two dozen or so Homes that I know of and have visited. Secondly, it is very incorrect to say there is nothing in the land to prevent "killing a cat on sight" (the words are not mine). Does your contributor know that it is incumbent upon all veterinary surgeons and Homes to keep a detailed record and description of any dog or cat that is brought to them? This record can be examined upon payment of one shilling, or be seen by an officer of the law at any time. If it could be proved that a statement in the record was false, there is a penalty awaiting the wrongdoer. To say that as a rule the killing (hateful word) is done by hired persons, is grossly misleading—a person is not hired, because payment is received. In all the Homes mentioned above I have found the lethalling being done by a skilled person in a proper manner. I might as well own up that I have been responsible for lethalling over 2,000 cats in quite a short time. I do not do it because I am "naturally destitute of feeling"—very much is the boot on the other leg—it is because I have so much feeling for the poor creatures that I would far sooner give them a painless death than see them eke out a miserable existence on the streets. We are far too over-populated in cats, and I would ask your contributor what he or she suggests should take the place of Homes that are interested in the welfare of the stray cat, what would the country be like if all these thousands of unwanted cats were not destroyed every year? They would be a menace to our very lives and the lives of our very treasured, very own cats!

Have cats taxed by all means, if you think it practicable, but in your effort to attain such taxation, please do not publish very misleading statements. This



Home, where I am proud to follow such an excellent vocation, never destroys a cat unless it is diseased or in pain, until every effort has been made to find its owner—this takes anything from three days to a week. A female cat or kitten not claimed is always destroyed—it would be impossible to give one away after admitting its sex. This is also a very hygienic place, is always open to inspection, so is the lethaling. We are not the one Home in a thousand, there are dozens more run on the same lines. The fault, if any, lies with the uninitiated keeper of cats, who lets them breed ad lib., and cares not what happens to them or the family. Finally, please convey the impression that it is not slaughter that is being carried on in the large cities, many of whose Homes are supported by a far-seeing City, Borough, or Town Council. I can write sob-stuff, but please let us be fair in doing it!

Yours truly,

THEO. F. MEGROZ.

Garden Home for Dogs and Cats, Bath, 18th April, 1929.

To the Editor of "Cat Gossip."

Madam,—May I further trespass on your space? In a contemporary I am now accused of introducing the "personal" element into the recent Press criticism of the G.C. and its actions. As this is a matter I have tried hard to obviate I am indeed sorry someone should suggest I have failed. The recent unfortunate episode where a decision on a matter likely to cause dissension was taken under the heading of "other business" must naturally cause criticism of the Chairman because he allowed that decision to be taken. Surely we all make mistakes at times, and as to whether the Chairman was or was not at fault can surely be investigated and settled without any bad feeling, and rules added to prevent future troubles. For myself, I do not propose to show any bad feeling because the Chairman of the G.C. and myself may, perhaps, not be in agreement on one or two matters.

I daresay if we had half-an-hour's chat together we should find we are probably agreed on most matters. To a certain extent he has my sympathy, because I do not think he has been over-burdened with "go-ahead" delegates of late years. That is the fault of the Fancy for continually sending the same delegates there year after year. There is every evidence in life that changes are necessary for progress, and I feel it is a pity the Fancy cannot be broadened out somewhat so that these changes do take place. There are many ways to ensure this broadening process which will create changes among "the powers that be." I have forwarded a few general suggestions which I thank the G.C. for placing on the agenda on the 19th inst. May I further appeal to the Chairman to send to the Press the verbatim report of the discussion in order that we may hear what the various delegates say. Further, if the Council have more important business on hand, postpone this agenda item until a Special Meeting. I am firmly of opinion were the Chairman of the G.C., with the sanction of his Council, to call a Meeting of the Fancy (i.e., Club members) to discuss the reconstitution and overhaul of the rules of the G.C., he would find an appreciable number of sound suggestions among the general body of club members. I make a further appeal that the suggestions from myself be considered on their merits, and because I happen to be a member of the Siamese and Croydon Cat Clubs that is of no consequence to the discussion at all. It may be that some of the delegates have already condemned anything I dare to suggest for discussion. For the information of anyone interested I deliberately resigned from the Committee of the S.C.C. in order to be perfectly free to constructively criticise. Those who know me, I believe, realise that I have no axe to grind whatsoever, and that I am merely striving to get the Rules and Constitution of the G.C. on to a businesslike footing. As far as I know I have no enemies in the Fancy, but directly one dares to criticise, and I have endeavoured to do so constructively, it almost appears one makes a host of "bad friends."

Progress will not come by these methods. I believe

in trying to do what is right, having rules which make people do right, and, generally speaking, to continually consult those whom I represent.

Yours faithfully,

HAROLD W. BASNETT.

16, Byron Road, Croham Heights, South Croydon, 15th April, 1929.

APPEAL.

FOR SUPPORT OF A BILL FOR THE TAXATION AND PROTECTION OF CATS.

(Continued from Page 93.)

And the present hideous state of things can be and must be altered. Only determination is needed—a scorn of difficulties, and knowing no such word as "fail." We, therefore, propose the enactment of a Bill, whose main provisions will be:—

1. That every cat of four months and over shall be taxed. (3s. 6d. suggested, to begin with.)
2. That no male cat of six months and over shall be kept except (a) as a neuter; (b) as a stud in confinement.
3. That every licensed cat shall wear a collar and identity number and badge.
4. That every cat found shall be taken to the nearest Police Station, or to the Central Clearing House, and shall be detained at least one week, during which time the owner may claim the cat.
5. That the police shall hand on the cats only to the officials of the C.C.H., who will provide cages, feed, and take charge of cats brought in by the police, and convey them to the C.C.H. in vans, ambulances, or by other suitable means.
6. That if an owner fails to claim a cat, after one week's detention he becomes the property of the C.C.H. authorities.
7. That, when an owner and licence cannot be traced, the C.C.H.A. may detain the cat, without licence, for four weeks from the day he was admitted.
8. That only vet. surgeons, medical men, or specially licensed qualified persons, may kill a cat with chloroform, or by any other means, except in cases of urgent necessity, to prevent intolerable suffering. Such cases to be fully reported to and inquired into by the C.C.H.A.
9. That every place where cats are boarded for money, or other consideration, shall be licensed and inspected; unless the cats are taken by private persons into their own homes, approved and registered by the C.C.H.A.
10. That owners keeping only one stud for the service of female house pets, at a moderate fee, not exceeding 5s., shall be required to provide suitable accommodation; and the stud's licence shall include the licensing fee of the premises, which must be approved and inspected by the C.C.H.A.

This Bill will make the cat, like the dog, someone's property. He will have a legal owner, responsible for his good treatment. There will be a recognised

place where an owner can find and claim his pet during one week at least.

There will be security against promiscuous slaughter by irresponsible persons, and cruel death. The confinement of the Tom cat will prevent the production of unwanted kittens. Females will be persons of consequence, whose kittens will have money value. They will be free from molestation by males when at liberty—now often a source of danger. It will put an end to the noisy fights that now disturb the night. Adult male cats (Toms) are disliked unreasonably, and often most cruelly ill-treated; they will be happier in a place where they will be cared for, and enjoy a sufficient measure of restricted freedom.

In a comparatively short time the streets will be cleared of "strays," and the number of "unwanted" will greatly diminish, as owners can retain only licensed cats, and only "wanted" kittens need be born. Most of the "unwanted" will probably go direct to the C.C.H., and the police will receive mainly cats injured in accidents, or cases of cruelty, who will be speedily collected by the C.C.H., where every comfort, and constant medical care will be provided.

The cats who swarm in tenements and slums present the greatest difficulty, but they are now the greatest sufferers, as the human denizens do not, perhaps cannot, feed them, or give them clean lodging. Starving, homeless, they contract disease, or become the victims of unbelievable cruelty. It is from the slums that the maimed and tortured wrecks of cat-life come so abundantly. Often they furnish the victims for the laboratories attached to our Hospitals. Yet no slum nowadays is left utterly to itself. The cats must be got away with the aid of social workers. Salvationists and religious organisations of all creeds, Scouts, Guides, and school-children, reinforcing that given by the various humane societies and the ubiquitous police.

Our contention is that no one who cannot pay for a licence can afford to keep a cat decently. Yet poor owners will be assisted when necessary by the C.C.H.A., and a system of Stamp Collection Cards, for weekly penny payments, may be devised.

There are numerous details provided for in the full scheme of the Bill, of which the foregoing is only an incomplete summary.

The cost of the licensing of cats must be amalgamated with that of dog licensing. Not all public services are expected to pay, but the benefits justify the expenditure. Mere slaughter will cease, and the degradation of the slaughterers. We shall all feel, as we look on our own happy pets, who so adorn our homes, that we have not been unmindful of "God's own forsaken," but have laboured to bring to all cats the blessing of some little share of "a place in the sun."

A Central Clearing House, with clinic, will be provided, with local depôts where needed to assist the police. A fund will be raised to

meet the expenses that will be incurred under the Bill. It is hoped that ultimately the C.C.H. will be available also for boarders; and for cats whose friends desire to pension them, so that they may receive every care, and the liberty of a guarded garden, thus fulfilling a need so many have felt when illness, or other cause, has made a pet's future hazardous. Aged and very delicate cats would be received also.

In order that the Cat may be restored to his proper position among us, with legal rights and privileges, we beg you very earnestly to promise your support for our projected BILL FOR THE TAXATION AND PROTECTION OF CATS.

F. M. BALLINGALL.
L. E. OSMOND.
M. DUDLEY WARD.

BIRTHS.

April 8th.—Mrs. Carew-Cox's *Aluna*, 4 Abyssinian kittens, by *Ras Isis*.

April 11th.—To Miss Evelyn Toms' *Princess Una* of the Court, 5 lovely kittens by Mrs. Yeates' *Son o' Flick*.

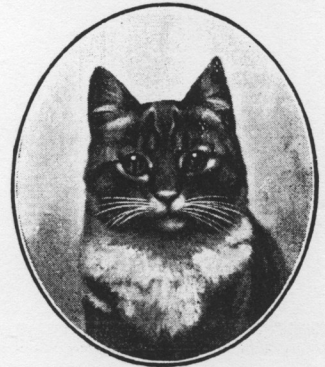
April 13th.—Miss Dixon's *Ch. Simzette*, 4 kittens by Mrs. Hindley's *Prestwick Puteh Punya*.

VISITS.

April 4th.—Mrs. Ogilthorpe's *Dainty Ladye* of the Court to Mrs. Yeates' *Son o' Flick*.

April 10th.—Mrs. Ogilthorpe's *Jasmine* of Farnborough to Mrs. Reynolds Sams' *Ch. Hercules* of Mayfield.

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SIAMESE CAT CLUB.

An extraordinary General Meeting of the S.C.C. was called at the request of 30 members, and held at Anderson's Hotel on April 10th, to discuss the action of the Governing Council with regard to the affiliation of the Royal Siamese Cat Society to the G.C.C.F.

Mrs. Burke was elected in the chair, in the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

The letter from the Committee of the S.C.C. to the G.C.C.F., protesting against any other Siamese Cat Clubs and desiring the G.C. to look unfavourably upon them was re-read.

Mr. Bassett advocated strong measures with regard to the illegality of the affiliation of the Royal Siamese Cat Society, and proposed the withdrawal of the S.C.C. from the G.C.C.F. if protests were ignored. He suggested that another protest should be made, coupled with instructions to the delegates.

Miss Fairbrother opposed withdrawal, but considered that the matter should be placed before the G.C.

It was proposed by Miss Wilson, and carried unanimously, that a special meeting of the G.C.C.F. be asked for by seven delegates to regularise the situation.

Colonel Walker pointed out that the existence of the letter of protest proved that the Committee knew of the proposed affiliation, and that the Chairman might use this point to insist that the delegates had time to protest.

Mrs. Hindley replied that the knowledge was unofficial, and that the delegates had no time to consult their Committee.

Mrs. Maturin and Mrs. Cran, both of whom were present at the G.C. meeting as delegates, supported Miss Wilson's statement that correspondence concerning Miss Busted's attitude to the S.C.C. was ignored by the G.C.

Colonel Walker proposed that a sub-committee of three should draft a letter of protest to the G.C. under legal advice, demanding an extraordinary meeting to open the question of the legality of their action in allowing the affiliation of the R.S.C.C. This was seconded by Mrs. Wade, and carried unanimously. Colonel Walker, Major Woodiwiss, and Mrs. Burke were selected as a sub-committee.

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

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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,

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