

# CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 4

First Edited by H. C. BROOKE

Edited by E. K. WAKEFORD

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## LONG-HAIR LORE.

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

- "Stately, kindly, lordly friend,  
Condescend  
Here to sit by me, and turn  
Glorious eyes that smile and burn,  
Golden eyes, love's lustrous meed,  
On the golden page I read.
- "Wild on woodland ways, your sires  
Flashed like fires;  
Fair as flame, and fierce and fleet  
As with wings, on wingless feet  
Shone and sprang your mother, free  
Bright and brave as wind or sea.
- "Free and proud and glad as they,  
Here to-day  
Rests or roams their radiant child  
Vanquished not, but reconciled;  
Free from curb of aught above,  
Save the lovely curb of love.
- "Dogs may fawn on all and some,  
As they come;  
You, a friend of loftier mind,  
Answer friends alone in kind,  
Just your foot upon my hand  
Softly bids it understand."

Swinburne.

Thus Swinburne writes of his cat. Thus he sees him. We are told comparisons are odious, but Swinburne speaks what is in his mind and in his heart. Probably he felt that his friend was in need of a champion, and probably she was in those days of not so very long ago.

Mrs. Zoe Bell, Vice-President of the Southern Counties Cat Club, had kindly invited the Club to hold their Annual General Meeting at her house, in Princes' Gate, on April 25th, and a very enjoyable fixture it proved. Preceded by a Committee Meeting, the following members were present: Miss Lea, Miss J. Langton, Mrs. Sharman, Mrs. Yeates (Hon. Treasurer), Miss K. Yorke, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Campbell-Fraser (Hon. Secretary), Miss Dixon, Miss Ava Simner, Miss Nicholls, Miss Campbell-Fraser. The date of the next Ch. Show was fixed for January 22, 1930. Mrs. Sharman kindly offered to undertake it. Mrs. Thompson was elected Hon. Treasurer, on the regrettable retirement of Mrs. Yeates. A very satisfactory balance sheet was passed, and tea and conversation proved a pleasant finish to a happy afternoon. I myself was sorry not to be present, but had an important engagement to Bournemouth, where my husband and I spent a lovely week-end.

A charming story of her pet comes from Mrs. Gil-

bert, who owns a little tortoiseshell queen called Pompilia. Pompilia became the mother of a litter of kittens, but these were all defective, and had eventually to be put to sleep. A friend brought a day-old motherless puppy, and asked if she might leave it with Pompilia, and Mrs. Gilbert agreed, taking no responsibility, as Pompilia is not always very amiable. However, she was delighted with her new baby, and, in spite of its squeals and barks, and its strong restless ways, she loves and feeds it, never many minutes away from it, and the puppy, now a week old, curls in under her paws happy and content.

I have to-day visited Miss Toms, and seen dear little Princess Una with her delightful family of three males and one female, all the same pale blue, the female alone, perhaps, differing slightly from the others in being, if anything, a paler shade than her brethren. What a happy family. It was with difficulty I tore myself away from this delightful circle, but they are all coming to stay with me later, and then what happy moments are in store.

Last week I promised to tell you all about the cattery of Miss Joan Buckley. Morning Mist (by Blairgowrie of Downside) is nearly five years old, and until last April only had one kitten in each litter, and always females. At last she had a litter of three, but still all females, so her owner decided to part with her, and Miss Buckley bought her, and in the following October she produced three males and one female. Lady MacAlpine (by MacAlpine, ex Morning Mist) is in kitten to Cyrus, and her family is due on May 9th. Cyrus, who is by Ch. Dion of Allington, ex Woodchurch Dawn, is a lovely cat of a sound medium blue and very deep copper eyes, and this is his first family. Petronella of Stand, who was best female in show Manchester, 1929, is, it is hoped, in kitten to Ashton Pride. She is a lovely queen, very cobby, and a splendid mother. Christobel (by Colneside Christopher) is in kitten to MacAlpine. She is very tiny, only weighing 5½ lbs., but as this is her third time of calling her owner did not like to keep her back any longer. She carries a coat of a lovely true blue, has the deepest copper eyes, and very snub nose. Flickers (by Flick-a-Maroo, ex Melesine of Allington) is also in kitten to MacAlpine, and Miss Buckley hopes great things from this litter, as Flickers is a real beauty. Besides these queens there is also Ramée, a very pale blue daughter of MacAlpine, and Simba, a lovely son of MacAlpine, ex

Morning Mist. Simba was third under Miss Langston at Bradford, and won two first prizes, two specials, and a silver cup at Manchester. What a delightful place the MacAlpine Cattery must be. The kitten room is 20 feet square. The studs' pens 8 x 5 feet. At present the queens are sleeping in the stable under the kitten room, and all the cats, except MacAlpine himself, who has a large run, run loose in the garden for several hours daily. Miss Buckley must be a most energetic fancier, for she has herself spring cleaned her cattery and white-washed the whole place.

What a wonderful advertisement is a good photograph of one's pets. Without exaggeration I think I can say I have received letters of admiration from all over the world since The Aristocrat's portrait appeared in "Cat Gossip" some little time ago.

The Blackthorne Winter is still with us, and the nightingale has scarcely been heard in many places, but in the New Forest and the Dorset lanes and hedgerows one finds masses of primroses, bluebells, celandines, and dog violets, and everywhere is a lovely misty green, whilst the fields are gay with happy families of lambs, who still seek the shelter of the hedgerows when the winds are keen.

### GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

ALTHOUGH we have no definite news from any catteries this week, several of our friends have given us excellent reports over the 'phone of the progress of their kittens. This year's kittens, though so late in arriving, seem to be exceptionally strong and sturdy, and infant mortality is comparatively rare. We hear that Sou o' Flick is siring particularly fine youngsters, many of whom should make their debut at the kitten shows.

We wonder whether any enterprising breeders of Siamese are thinking of training their kittens for a career on the "Talkies." We went to see and hear a talking film this week, and it occurred to us that the characteristic Siamese voice would record very well, even better, in fact, than the human voices of American film stars. Most of the Siamese that we know personally are only too ready to talk, in season and out of season—but specially in season—so there should be no difficulty in persuading them to lift up their voices at the right moment. There is no cat film star at the present time, so far as we know, though we once saw two very charming Siamese in a picture which was shown to the trade a year or two ago. They were supposed to belong to the ruler of a principality remote from civilisation, so their presence was not really very appropriate.

SEVERAL kindly people have written to ask us to make some provision for the tabby and white cat who haunts our doorstep, lest she should be left alone in the world when we move. We can assure them that she has a perfectly good home of her own at a fried fish shop—which should be a cat's Paradise—

and prefers us out of sheer perversity. We have not seen so much of her lately, and think it probable that our Russian kitten has been making rude remarks about her personal appearance, Russian being a most useful language for this purpose. Our kitten, by the way, is coming of age this month, and intends to settle down into a sober cat, and to give up chasing cotton reels down the stairs.

We learn that The Medici Society has commissioned "Moira Meigh" to write a cat anthology, as a companion to their already published "Mongrel, Puppy, Whelp, and Hound," which dealt with dogs only. "M. M." has written asking permission to include in it Mr. H. C. Brooke's article on "The Signboard and the Cat," which appeared some time ago in "Cat Gossip," and of which she writes: "I had intended hunting out material for an account of Cats and Signboards . . . reading your article makes me feel that I could not achieve anything half as delightful."

It should hardly be necessary to mention that in "Continental Catdom" last week the statement that "deafness is partial and only affects one of the eyes" was an obvious slip, one of the ears being meant.

### CAT CALLS.

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

To the Editor, "Cat Gossip."

Dear Miss Wakeford,—As the exporter of about two dozen cats and kittens to Germany during the last twelve months, I feel I cannot let your "Berlin correspondent's" assertion "that many of the mated cats sent to Germany have not bred" pass without dissent. Only one of the queens I sent did not breed. That queen was the very last cat to visit my studs, being mated late in September. I returned the mating fee in full, and this queen is now in kitten to a young son of Silver Cæsar of Correnden that I sold to this queen's owner, and I think has her kittens by now. As to "a commercial proposition," it may interest your readers to hear that the profit I made last week on sending a young full champion, mated to and well in kit to another full champion, amounted to 9s., which I did not think very excessive considering it meant many hours of correspondence chiefly in a foreign language. Your "Berlin correspondent" should confine herself to facts, and not jealous fancies.

Yours sincerely,

EVELYN LANGSTON.

8, Cranford Rise, Maidenhead, May 2nd, 1929.

### Re PROPOSED BILL FOR THE TAXATION AND PROTECTION OF CATS.

To the Editor of "Cat Gossip."

Madam,—Please allow me a little space to comment on the proposed Bill, the terms of which, last week, I read with mingled feelings, of which despair was predominant; that some of the clauses, though high sounding and ambitious as a literary effort, should be, on consideration, so impracticable.

Many whose pets are dear to them and who are sufficiently affluent, would not mind paying a small tax, especially if the funds so accumulated were used for the welfare of the cats themselves, but it is well known that the cost of collection of any small tax would not ensure a surplus, and is an exceedingly uneconomic suggestion.



The result of such taxation would be the signal for a wholesale massacre, the remembrance of which would be a thing of horror.

It is incredible and ironical that any person with feeling could contemplate, even in imagination, the wholesale destruction of millions of cats, whose owners either could not, or would not, pay the tax demanded; the friend of the poor could not be kept; and numerous cats who do such splendid work in the warehouses, offices, and dock estates, performing an invaluable service to man in the destruction of vermin.

We might then confidently look forward to increased cost of living due to destruction of food, and an increased possibility of plague. (It has been advocated as a first step toward the elimination of plague in India that the cat population should be maintained at a high level.)

The detention of the male cat is unreasonable. Is the Troubadour to spend his days in prison whilst his mistress calls in vain? One male cat at large can effect as much mischief as six or more collectively; why descend to absurdity?

Every owner could adopt the collar, with name and address of owner, for cats which are allowed freedom; such has been my own practice for many years.

There exists, I am aware, some misapprehension about vivisection. I have been assured on medical authority that there is no vivisection apart from that authorised by the Home Office, with definite purpose in view—medical research and investigation. Such investigation licence will only be granted to responsible persons who can show cause. Copies of the regulations dealing with vivisection are issued by the Home Office to those concerned. If any person is known to carry on such practice without licence, the police should be informed. The cat has legal rights, and is, moreover, a very unsatisfactory animal for laboratory use, and for this reason the number used is exceedingly small. All operations are conducted with the same humanity as that accorded to the human subject. Let us be pitiful when facing the truth, but if our minds become obsessed by the cruelties of life, we ourselves will become fitting subjects for the lethal chamber.

The surprising ignorance on the subject of the cat could be enlightened by educating the human unit in the home, and in the schools, by lessons, lectures, and films.

The animal clinic has made its appearance, both travelling and stationary, why not support this already established and practical measure for life and welfare?

If the regulations in Cat Shelters could be amended to admit of the sale of healthy cats to responsible persons if desired, as Mr. Brooke suggested, many useful lives might be saved. Life for the fit, only death for the diseased and starving, was the meaning of my story "No Reprieve," in "Cat Gossip" recently.

Anyway it is unlikely that our legislative bodies would sanction any measure likely to increase the possibility of plague, and the destruction of food by rats.

Liverpool.

LILY JARVIS.

### SHOW DATES FIXED.

Sandy Kitten Show, August 29th.  
 S.H.C.S. Show, June 26th.  
 Kensington Kitten Show, July 17th.  
 Siamese C.C. Show, September 25th.  
 Yorkshire County C.C. Show, October 9th.  
 Newbury C.C. Show, October 29th.  
 Croydon C.C. Show, November 13th.  
 N.C.C. Show, December 4th and 5th.  
 Northern Counties C.C. Show, December 11th.  
 Midland Counties C.C. Show, January 9th, 1930.  
 Southern Counties C.C. Show, January 23rd, 1930.  
 All are Championship Shows with the exception of Sandy and Kensington.

### BIRTHS.

April 28th.—Mr. Albert Edwards' **Bulan** (No. 15283). 5 Siamese kittens by Mrs. Marion Harvey's **Valentino** of **Petaling**.

### COW'S MILK FOR CATS.

Much has been said and written against cow's milk for cats and kittens; that it is poor in nutriment, indigestible, unnatural, germ-carrying, and a cause of worms. Mr. H. C. Brooke has at least one cat which never drinks milk.

I have recently reared a litter of Siamese kittens entirely without any but their mother's milk, and kept their mother without milk for several months at a time. I must, however, admit that the mother got very thin, and that the kittens were small, and not very fat when I sold them at about four months of age; and that the absence of milk in their diet did not prevent them from getting worms. On the other hand they stood the cold weather remarkably well.

An article on milk, by Sir W. Arbuthnot Lane, appeared recently in the "Daily Mail," and just then I attended a lecture on the same subject by a Government Milk Inspector.

From these sources I gathered the following information. Fresh food is always better than dried, tinned or condensed food. Milk is a highly nourishing, perfectly balanced and comparatively cheap food for human beings and animals. Photographs were shown of chickens, pigs, and puppies reared with and without cow's milk. In each case the milk-fed animal was much larger than the milkless one.

Clean milk keeps fresh a very long time. It should be kept in a clean basin covered with a plate and set in a pan of cold water, in a place where the air is pure. Pasteurising is necessary for babies, and, presumably, for kittens. (Whether a cat ever reaches the age of immunity to tuberculosis in milk, as humans do, may be doubted.) To pasteurise milk, place the open bottle in a saucepan of cold water, bring the water to the boil, and keep the water boiling for half-an-hour. Then cool the milk as quickly as possible. With human beings milk was found to increase height and general fitness, to prevent chilblains, to promote high spirits, and to provide considerable protection against infectious diseases.

Besides experimenting with my own cats I have frequently asked cat owners how they fed theirs. In the large majority of cases cow's milk was the staple food. In many cases the cats were largely fed on white bread and milk. Most of the cats about which I inquired were in excellent condition. Next door to me there is a large family of common cats which are always "full of beans," plump, well-grown, and with coats like satin. Their chief food is cow's milk. Last summer I saw two litters of splendid Siamese kittens belonging to Major Woodiwiss, which were reared mainly on boiled cow's milk.

Many dried or condensed preparations of milk are recommended for cats as well as for human babies, in place of fresh milk. I learn that babies fed on such foods require plenty of fresh fruit juice. A man in America tried giving orange juice to his Siamese



cats with disastrous results. Cats never voluntarily take fruit. So presumably fruit is bad for them. A well-known woman doctor wrote some time ago that after extensive experiments she was convinced that only a very small proportion of the nutriment was destroyed by boiling milk, which is confirmed by the fact that I have seen some very fine babies whose chief food from the age of nine months to two years was boiled milk.

Goat's milk, said to be more nourishing, sometimes gives babies diarrhoea. I tried my cats with it for some weeks. One absolutely refused to drink it. The other took it under persuasion, but was several times sick, and had diarrhoea. However, I have heard of several breeders whose animals flourished on goat's milk. Its freedom from tuberculosis, enabling it to be used raw, is a great advantage.

I get the most perfect Jersey cow's milk I have ever known, thick with cream, and so clean that it never goes sour, but I have to pay eightpence a quart. "Fancy giving it to the cat!" people say. Little Puma enjoys half-a-pint of it daily, and I am hoping her kittens will thrive on it.

**A warning.**—I have proved the truth and importance of my vet's advice. He said that a kitten badly infested with worms, causing gastric inflammation, must not have **any** milk. The sole diet for such a kitten should be raw meat juice. Any cat with worms should be fed on lean, fresh raw meat till the worms are expelled.

PHYLLIS K. M. LEATHERDALE.

WITH OUR CATS.

BY F. M. BALLINGALL.

(Continued from Page 86.)

The primeval innocence of the first creatures that might, had they had words, have called themselves men, saw no difference between the inhabitants of the garden in which all dwelt. They were brothers. Ages later, when history records what science has discovered of the primeval man, there is still evidence that he conceived of no essential separation between himself and the rest of the beings around him. As the centuries rolled on, and man, straying into the colder regions, killed the reindeer that he might clothe himself in their skins, he acted from necessity. It was long ages after this that first he tasted flesh. Yet, though he killed, though he ate, he never supposed that he was **destroying**. He sacrificed the valued animals, even as he sacrificed the wife and the servants, that their souls might be free to accompany the soul of the dead who had owned them to the other world. Whether he ate the body or not, mattered nothing. **He** was not in the body, for **he** could not know death. To kill, simply for food, was always a matter for regret. Even now a true Moslem will crave Divine permission before

he slaughters. In fact, from the earliest ages belief in the soul in all created things was the normal belief. The grandest hymns of Zoroaster contain tributes to animals. "We honour the souls of the swift, wild animals; we honour the souls of just men and women." According to him it was the Devil who, so to speak, invented cruelty to animals. He it was who killed the proto-animal, Geus Urva, whose soul, dwelling always in the presence of God, hears, and carries to Him the cries of all suffering creatures. It is a beautiful conception.

Obviously, with this realization of the soul of the animals co-existed the recognition of mind. "The mind of man and the mind of trees, birds, and beasts, is just the one mind of heaven and earth, only brighter or duller by reflection: as light looks brighter when it falls on a mirror than when it falls on a dark surface, so Divine reason is less bright in cow or sheep than in man." These are the words of the great Chinese philosopher, Choo-Foo-Tsze, writing in the 13th century. Celsus, a man of deep learning, wrote—in the second century, this—that "only absurd pride" contended that man alone had reason, and that for him the universe had been created.

While Western civilisation has gradually discovered this "absurd pride," and, therefore, given itself leave to kill for the pleasure of killing, and torture living, sentient bodies in the name of "scientific re-

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search." It is, after all, a comparatively modern growth; and it is precisely "scientific research" that is surely overtaking "absurd pride," and restoring to us the faith of primal innocence. The leading exponents of evolution are among the strongest believers in the reasoning powers of animals, and, indeed, assure us that all the qualities and endowments of man had their germ in the primal creation.

I think it would be difficult for me to select the best example of reasonable action in cats that I have myself observed, but I will tell this story of Hector, because I love to recall our "merry rogue," who was so like a human boy in his delightful naughtiness—Hector of the round, chubby face, the smiling blue eyes!

(To be continued.)

**AMERICAN NOTES.**

A "Cat" Show de Luxe:—"Cat Courier" relates that a lion show was recently held at Los Angeles, and caused great interest. The chief winner was "King of Luna Park," who seemed as pleased as his owner, and was photographed holding his silver cup in his jaws. The same paper relates how one of its readers, hearing squeaks proceeding from the roots of a large tree which had blown down in the night, started digging, and found a squirrel with two young. Only one of the youngsters was left alive, and this was put with a cat, who is suckling it as if it were one of her own kittens.

Both "Cat Courier" and "Cat Review" refer in sympathetic terms to the recent change in the management of "Cat Gossip"; "Cat Review" remarking: "We find our little English cousin very interesting, and like the fair-mindedness of its Editors. We are wishing Miss Wakeford a full measure of success and Mr. Brooke a speedy recovery to good health."

Looking at the beautiful portraits of cats in our American contemporaries we cannot but wonder what is wrong with English fanciers, who seem not to care about having good or clear portraits of their cats published.

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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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