

# 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).

"Sweet Francis of Assisi, would that he were here again,  
He that in his Catholic wholeness used to call the very flowers  
Sisters, brothers, and the beasts, whose pains are hardly less than ours."

Tennyson.

I have recently read a little story of the famous cat, Micetto, who was owned by Leo the Twelfth. He was born in the Vatican, in the loggia of Raphael, and Leo the Twelfth reared him on a fold of his white robe. He was called "the Pope's cat," and as such received much admiration and esteem. The Pope's constant companion, his daily walk was taken in the Sistine Chapel and the vast Dome of Michael Angelo. A large grey and red cat, with black bands, he lived to a ripe old age, and when Leo the Twelfth passed away he bequeathed him to his friend, Chateaubriand, who had long been one of his admirers. Micetto, like his famous master, was a most abstemious cat, and lived on a little polenta, and was entirely weaned from all carnivorous habits. He was of a most dignified demeanour, and resented any undue familiarity from visitors to the Vatican, but was wont to unbend to his intimate friends.

\* \* \* \* \*

Miss Mary McClellan, a member of an old Philadelphia family, died recently and bequeathed an income of 2,000.00 dollars to her three pet cats. Her friend, Miss Annie Bancker, who also benefited under the will, was left as trustee of the fund.

In the copy of the "Revue Féline Belge" which I received recently, and which contains the "word picture," "Les Amours de Sadi," by Monsieur Armand Steens, there is a splendid reproduction of a photograph of Ch. Colneside Cream Bunne, and also a charming picture of the famous singer, Madame H. Fiedler-Keppler, holding in her arms her two pets, one of whom is Peter von Windeek, a great prize-winner.

The "Cat Courier," edited and owned by Mrs. Gertrude Taylor, Michigan, is a paper full of matter interesting to breeders, is printed on good paper with clear and excellent reproductions of photographs of pets and cats standing at stud.

The British Drug Houses, Ltd., are the makers of a form of Radio Malt for veterinary purposes, which,

I am told, is excellent for cats and kittens, and, as well as giving vigour, it also produces lovely long silky coats, especially in Persians. I am going to give it a good trial. I have already tried the human form of the some product, and have proved it excellent.

From Miss Hill, of Herne Bay, I hear that Ch. Princess Salyana, who was mated to Hendon Red Arate, has lost her two kittens. One was still-born, and the other died a few hours later. The mother's condition also gave rise to great anxiety, but she is now making a good recovery, I am glad to say. Galdorn and Prince Boscoe are in fine form, and are such darlings, and very spoiled. Galdorn will not go to bed until his mistress picks him up in her arms like a baby and kisses him. Prince Boscoe each morning jumps on a box and demands attention to his toilet, so the gentleman is brushed and combed, and then he jumps down quite satisfied. He is looking very pretty now, and is such a lovely colour. Miss Hill prefers the red-bred creams, as she likes the warm colour in preference to the blue-bred creams, but admits it is well we don't all think alike! Brabourne Witch, who is quite an old queen, is in splendid condition, but although she comes into season regularly she will not mate.

Mrs. Roberts, of 18, Burmester Road, S.W. 17, has splendid accommodation for pets. Each has its own room, a sun balcony in the window, and each has its liberty in the garden, which is wired in for its benefit. Mrs. Roberts takes boarders, and is also the owner of Court Beauty, a lovely copper-eyed daughter of Ch. Gentleman of Henley and Dainty Ladye of The Court, who has now two fine male and one female kitten, which are about six weeks old and almost ready to go to fresh homes.

Mrs. Joan Thompson has found a purchaser for dear little Ug, who has gone as a pet to a lovely home.

Miss Galletly, who is the owner of Eve of Pensford, who visited Ch. Dion of Allington, is anxiously awaiting the litter, which is almost due to arrive.

Princess Una's kittens are at the moment very busily engaged with a ball of wool, which they have managed to wind round the legs of all the chairs in their vicinity! Each sunny afternoon they spend in this window, which gets all the sun, and they just love it, and fall asleep in the very midst of a great romp! Princess Una is a most gentle mother, and

seldom protests at the rough usage she receives from these little scaramouches—who bite her tail without mercy and give her very little peace. She and her babes have taught me how nice the crusts of bread and butter can be since they have eaten all else besides, and I must perforce eat what is left or starve! As I end my notes Dainty Ladye is lying on the table by my side. She is my constant and faithful companion, and is never far away. Her kittens are due to-day, and she is going to have a big family, and how glad we shall be when it is all over, and the babies are safely here.

### GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

ALTHOUGH it is only a very short time since the Abyssinian Cat Club was formed, it is already making rapid progress. At the Committee Meeting, held on June 4th, at 30/31, Brooke Street, the Rules and Standard of Points were discussed and adopted, and Club Judges appointed. Six cups have been given to the Club, and there are to be offered at the Shows at which there are classes for the breed, the President's Cup, given by Mrs. Gordon Stables, being awarded to the member who wins the greatest number of points during the show season 1929-1930. Mr. H. C. Brooke's admirable account of the history of the Abyssinian Cat, which we are now publishing in "Cat Gossip," is reprinted by permission of the A.C.C. from the booklet issued to members. Pure-bred Abyssinians are very scarce at the present time, and would probably have disappeared altogether if Mrs. Carew Cox had not continued to breed them during a period when they were almost entirely neglected by other breeders. It is possible, however, that there are some which have never been exhibited or even registered, so if any of our readers know of any Abyssinian cats we should be grateful if they would write to us, or to the Hon. Secretary of the A.C.C., Major S. Woodwiss, Woodroffe, Danbury, Essex.

WE are sorry to hear from Mrs. Allen Maturin that she has had very bad luck with her early kittens, only six out of nineteen having survived the bitterly cold weather. Fortunately, she is able to report that all her adults are going strong, so we may hope for better news from the Southampton Cattery later in the year.

"PETER Simple," of the "Morning Post," seems to have a friendly feeling towards cats, for he has twice published stories about them during the last week. The first was sent to him by a reader, who writes to him: "At a farm in the parish of St. Lawrence (Jersey, C.I.) a cat has two kittens, which were born and live in a manger. Above the manger is a mouse hole, and a baby mouse which lives there has been adopted by the cat, who allows it to feed from her like her own kittens. When the little mouse runs back into its hole the cat cries after it, and is not happy until it returns. Curiously enough, the

another mouse hole under the same manger, and the cat killed and ate a mouse living in it a few days ago."

THE second is apparently a piece of news which he has collected on his own account, and we are sure that many breeders must wish that their own cats were as thoughtful of the coming generation as the F.O. cat. Our own cats invariably insist on taking particularly strenuous exercise before their kittens are born, and we are always expecting an accident to happen. "The Foreign Office cat refuses to go up the stairs. She is about to have kittens, so waits for the lift. She places herself by the lift gates, and meows until the lift appears. Having entered the lift, she refuses to move until the desired floor has been reached. Her wishes vary at different times of the day."

THE following paragraph appeared in the "Sunday Express" last week, and though it is now a little out of date, we think that it may amuse some of our readers, especially those who are Socialists: "Mr. Emrys Evans, Conservative candidate for Leicester East, came into the field somewhat late in the day, but some of his supporters were heartened by the fact that a black cat walked into his chief committee room the other day, took possession of a heap of straw in the cellar, and presented the temporary tenants with three kittens, all like the mother—coal black. This was said to presage a three-figure majority. When, however, the incident was mentioned at a meeting the other evening, a Socialist interrupter said: 'It's all very well; they may be Conservative kittens now, but kittens are blind the first nine days of their life. Wait till they get their eyes open; they'll vote Socialist!'"

WE were interested to read in the "Evening News" a few days ago that the cat at No. 10, Downing Street, evidently foretold the result of the Election, for he has been very cold in his manner towards Mr. Baldwin for some weeks. He refuses to rub himself against the legs of anyone who is not a Prime Minister or an Ambassador, and ostentatiously rubbed himself against the hat-stand when Mr. Baldwin returned from Windsor.

FOR a short time the "Cat Gossip" Office is cat-less, as our resident Russian started singing in the middle of the move, and had to be sent to the country. She was to have been mated to Prince Igor, but she has never seen a cat of her own colour since she was a baby, so she was horrified at the sight of him. She is to stay at the cattery for a few weeks, to get used to other Russians.

Mrs. Ballingall is glad to hear that her plea for gifts has resulted in donations of £2 from Mrs. Kemp, and £1 from Miss Roller, to the real Cats' Home, in Ruan Minor, Cornwall. Ladies taking holiday might give their cats a healthy change by confiding them to the beneficent care of Mrs. Eyre-Simmons, who so graciously presides over the happy "children" at Rose Marie.



## CAT CALLS.

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

In Mrs. Ballingall's letter, printed on May 29, for "carrying" read "easing."

To the Editor, "Cat Gossip."

Dear Miss Wakeford,—I quite agree with Mr. Brooke and the American writer on the subject of colour and white chins in Brown Tabbies. My experience has been chiefly with longhairs, and the same holds good. Immense harm was done before the war by the stressing of this point by judges who should have known better, the result of which was that one particular cattery carried all before it for years, and many breeders gave up in disgust. In longhairs, at any rate, the brown chin and bright colour can be achieved, as I proved in 1915, when, after seven years of struggling, the Stanhope cats were carrying all before them.

If judges will favour the bright colour and ignore the white chin during the next few years, the Brown Tabby may once again become one of the most popular and most beautiful breeds.

Yours truly,

WILFRED H. POWELL.

Elvina, 24, Golf Close, Stanmore, Middlesex.

To the Editor, "Cat Gossip."

Madam,—Last week I had the opportunity, and great pleasure, of visiting the Siamese Catteries of Mrs. Allen Maturin, at Southampton West. The housing is ideal for hot or cold weather, and the stud cats are perfectly kept. I can well recommend anyone interested in Siamese cats to call and see what I consider a well organised, kept, and run cattery. I was particularly interested in a beautiful young stud, Southampton Prince Sapphire, whose eyes alone repay a visit; they are of the deepest blue. Mrs. Maturin completes the visit by being such a perfect hostess, and made me regret I had such a short time at my disposal.

Yours truly,

THEO. F. MEGROZ.

Greenway Cottage, Greenway Lane, Bath, 31st May, 1929.

## VIVISECTION OF CATS.

To the Editor, "Cat Gossip."

Madam,—Surely Mrs. Jarvis must see that there is a vast difference between operating on a sick man for his own benefit, and taking perfectly healthy cats and removing the kidneys, piecemeal, until they die in misery (while resting on wire-netting floors), as described by Dr. Geo. Searle? Sir Henry Morris, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, stated in his evidence before the last Royal Commission on Vivisection, with regard to our operations and discoveries on the surgery of the kidneys, that they were done "quite irrespective of any experiments upon animals." "I have learnt by experience from operations on the liver and other organs in the human subject," he said. Sir H. Swomry, President of the Royal College Surgeons, Ireland, made a similar statement with regard to ophthalmic surgery. I could fill a whole number of "Cat Gossip" with medical quotations, not anti-vivisectionists, showing the dangerous and misleading effects of experiments on animals. Perhaps you can find more for the following?

Sir Thomas Watson, M.D., F.R.S., etc.: "It is constantly necessary to unlearn at the bedside the lessons of the laboratory."

Prof. Hobday, President Royal College Veterinary Surgeons: "The diagnosis of the diseases of animals cannot be compared, without sundry explanations, to that of the diagnosis of the diseases in man."

Sir James Mackenzie (late Consulting Physician to the King): "As soon as he (the student) enters the Hospital wards he finds the knowledge he has gained (by animal experimentation) of no use."

Dr. Bernard Hollander (Harley Street Specialist): "It is dangerous to draw conclusions from animals."

Sir William Banks: "I cannot see any parallel whatever between the healthy canine animal and the diseased human animal, nor can I see how experiments upon the former will help us with the case of the latter. It is impossible." (From a paper read before the Liverpool Medico-Chirurgical Society, April 25th, 1902.)

I am, yours sincerely,

ADA PARKER.

Leigh, N. 12, May 30, 1929.

## CONTINENTAL CATDOM.

The Paris Show of the Société Féline, which should have been held on May 3rd, and was then postponed, we believe on account of support, was held in the Salle Wagram on 24th. The entries were poor, according to the Paris Press. A lioness with a dog was exhibited; also an ichneumon of sorts, even more out of place at a "feline" show than the lioness. The "new cats" announced for weeks in the Press, we are told, were ordinary European S.H. "ratting cats." We know not on what lines these were judged.

Our beautifully got-up contemporary, "Die Tierwelt" (Berlin) gives an interesting article on the feline tribe in superstitions of various peoples, and three very charming portraits of some kittens of the African Wild Cat, now in the Berlin Zoo. The writer (Herman B. Peters) comments on the extreme susceptibility to domestication of these cats, the ancestors of all European cats and cousins of our Abyssinian. The naturalist, Schweinfurth, relates that he found even wild caught specimens of these cats quite tame in the huts of the Nyam-Nyam tribe. Is it not remarkable that the European Wild Cat, so much resembling these cats, and which will inter-breed with them, seems absolutely untameable? A couple of years ago Gamago's had a very pretty pair of these kittens; we travelled to London to see them, but they died a day or two later, probably from rough handling. We are never likely to see any more of them, the Sacred Cats of Antiquity, thanks to Granny Government.

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## THE ABYSSINIAN CAT.

BY H. C. BROOKE

(Vice-President, Abyssinian Cat Club).

(Continued from Page 137.)

Absence of markings, i.e., bars on head, tail, face, and chest, is a very important property in this breed. These places are just where, if a cat or other feline animal shows markings at all, they will hold their ground to the last with remarkable pertinacity. The less marking visible the better; at the same time, the judge must not attach such undue importance to this property, that he fails to give due importance to others. For instance, it does not follow that an absolutely unmarked cat, but of "cobby" build, failing in ticking and colour, is, on account of absence of marking, better than a cat of slender build, well-ticked, and of nice colour, but handicapped by a certain amount of "barring" on legs and tail. The belly fur is not ticked as on the rest of the body, and should be free from spots or stripes; the colour should be a light brown, matching the other parts.

Much has been said for and against the "el-stripe"—the darkish line which in some specimens runs down the centre of the back. Personally I am indifferent; but, if allowable, it is certainly not to be regarded as a racial characteristic.\* A little black tail tip seems to me to give a nice finish; the heels are also black. Ears large and open, and a blackish or dark brown tip to the ear is desirable. The head looks slender and pointed, but not of the wedge-shape or "marten-face" sought for in the Siamese. The heads of old males naturally tend to be more massive and round than we wish to see in the case of females and young males. Eyes: These should be large and lustrous, of kind expression; more oval than in the "British" cat. As regards colour, I prefer a bright green, personally, but a nice amber eye is certainly preferable to a "greenery-yallery," washed-out looking eye. White marks of any kind, such as on chest, throat, or toes, taboo in show specimens. The colour of the paws should be of a very delicate yellowish brown tinge, harmonising with the general colour scheme.

The character of the Abyssinian is usually very gentle, rather shy, not taking readily to strangers, but very affectionate.

In short, it is one of the most charming and interesting varieties we have, and it has time and again been shown that a really good Abyssinian can usually be relied upon to do pretty well when it comes to judging the "mixed special prizes" at Shows.

Taunton, April, 1929.

\* For the simple reason that all breeds tend to have a darker line down the back, which in some is an absolute defect; in the case of the Abyssinian it is not objectionable, and is approved by some people.

## WITH OUR CATS.

BY F. M. BALLINGALL.

The influence of music upon man and other animals is a subject that has interested both the poet and the scientist, besides furnishing the motive of many famous works of art. It seems to have been assumed that "music" was a concourse of musical sounds, however those sounds might be produced and presented. The negro barbarities of instrument and tone could never have been associated with Orpheus or Pan—not more than the Jew's harp or the paped comb beloved of children. Equally discerning, we have read, was a Hampstead cat, who, not so long ago, sat rapt during the performance of classics, while betraying impatience and indignation if anything inferior met his ears.

My sister, once on a time, possessed herself of a penny whistle. By steady application she managed to make some sort of sounds in two octaves. One morning, when the notes were soaring ceiling-wards, in ecstatic shrillness, our cat, Queenie (mis-named at birth!) entered the room. As he sought the source of the melody, he approached the musician, his eyes staring, his whiskers stiffening, and, leaping on her lap, he took hold of the whistle, and dragged it from her mouth. Both amused and surprised, she replaced it, and emitted sounds of even greater shrillness than before—not at all guessing at the cause of Queenie's behaviour. Presently, how-

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ever, she noticed his growing distress, as he patted her cheeks, rubbed his head against her arm, frequently trying again to remove the whistle.

She stopped playing, when immediately he purred delightedly, and showed every sign of relief and contentment before he went about his business. He remembered though, for directly he heard a single note, or even saw the whistle produced, he fled out of hearing. Should he not manage to get away in time, and a note fell upon his anguished ear, he would seem fascinated, and, though he would run to the door, glancing back affrightedly at the horror, he would return, jump on the lady's lap, and implore her to cease. So great was his distress that, being now assured of its reality, she was careful to practice in solitude.

(To be continued.)

**OBITUARY.**

It is with very great regret that we have heard of the death of Mrs. Forder, on May 8th, at Ashcott, Somerset. She had been an ardent admirer and breeder of Siamese for years, and owned many beautiful cats, and she will be greatly missed by the old-established Siamese breeders, to most of whom she was known, either personally or by correspondence. Miss Forder intends to keep on her mother's cats for the present.

**BIRTHS.**

June 5th.—Miss E. K. Wakeford's **Smoke**, 6 fine kittens, 5 blue-cream and 1 cream, by Owner's **Peregrine Pickle**.

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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,

Miss WAKEFORD, 30 31, Brooke Street, London, E.C. 1.

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