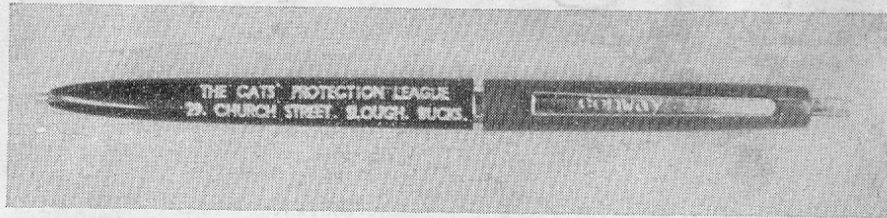


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C.P.L. PENS: 1/6 each REFILLS 6d. POSTAGE 6d.

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FAULTY PENS OR REFILLS REPLACED FREE

OTHER WAYS OF SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE

Astrological analysis of character. Letter with date of birth, stamped addressed envelope and donation for the C.P.L. to Mr Curtler, 5, Hill Avenue, Worcester.

Buy your hand-knitted dishcloths and/or Aprons to order, in aid of funds. Details from Mrs. P. Ilves, 1 Penn Street, Oakham, Rutland.

Wanted: Cloth Badges, County, Club, School Cap or Blazer. Each will earn 10p for my C.P.L. Collecting Box.

Your interest and co-operation will be much appreciated. Miss D. Gowing, Rosemary Cromer Road, Roughton. NOR 29Y Norfolk.

C.P.L. Slogan Labels are sold in Aid of Funds 15p per packet. The Cat's Protection League, 29, Church Street, Slough, Bucks.

Graphology (Character from handwriting), letter with signature, stamped addressed envelope and donation for my C.P.L. collecting box to Miss E. M. Jackson, 11, Clarence Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

Perspex Name Brooches in various colours 7½p each. Profits to C.P.L. Send S.A.E. to Miss P. E. George, Rose Villa, Ackhill Prestiegne, Radnorshire.

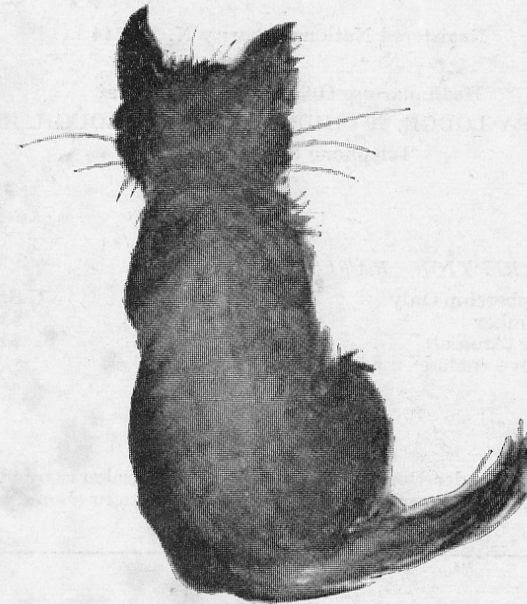
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**WILL YOU TRY
TO ENROL ONE NEW MEMBER
DURING 1971?**

Published Bi-monthly by the Cat's Protection League, 29 Church Street, Slough and Printed by Chas Luff & Co Ltd., Albion Close, Petersfield Avenue, Slough.

THE CAT

THE OLDEST MAGAZINE
DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO
CATS AND THEIR WEL-
FARE



"Perhaps the most valuable gifts which the cat can give to man are its tranquility and grace and detachment, and in this distracted era of ours we were never more in need of tranquility and grace and detachment." *Compton Mackenzie.*

MAY/JUNE 1971

THE CAT Vol. XLV No. 3 MAY/JUNE 1971

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY - FIRST OF THE MONTH

CONTENT: Short Stories — Branch and Group News — Members Letters — CAT CHAT dealing with published references to Cat Welfare and the League's activities and appeals.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Selected photos of Members cats and kittens.
Literary contributions and photos welcome. NO PUBLISHING FEES PAID.

Official Organ of
THE CATS' PROTECTION LEAGUE AND TAILWAVERS
(Founded 1927)

Registered National Charity N. 203644

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ALWAYS WANTED AT HEADQUARTERS

Unwanted birthday and Christmas presents or anything saleable.

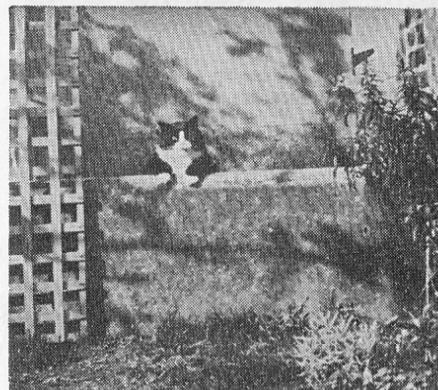
Notification of change of address.

Linen and blanket pieces, for use in the Clinic

News-cuttings concerning cats, but please make sure that the name of the paper and the date of publication is given.

Used stamps, British Foreign and commemorative.

Names and Addresses of Boarding Catteries.



ROUND AND ABOUT

Report and Comments on "this and that" concerning the welfare of cats and kittens and the work of the League generally by the General Secretary/Editor.

US — YOU & "THE CAT"

The previous issue of The Cat was somewhat "Stop-gap" in as much that its Branch Report content was practically non-existent. Branch Secretaries were unable to get their reports through owing to the postal workers' strike. No doubt we shall hear how the various Branches fared during that all too lengthy period when monetary support was cut off. Headquarters will ensure their work does not suffer for lack of support if the effect on Branch Funds is causing concern. The possibility of such an emergency has always been foremost in our minds and we naturally provided against it. Fortunately the situation did not create any monetary problems, but it is comforting to know we are "prepared".

The overall effect of the strike has been, and still is, one of frustrating delays and, locally at any rate, the complete return to "normal" is only just about a "fait accompli".

At H.Q. during the strike the incoming mail dwindled to personally delivered letters etc., by local members and enquirers etc. This gave us an opportunity to at least answer outstanding correspondence and clear up the back log of odd jobs that had waited so long for attention. We also prepared (dictated and typed) letters to press in pre-selected parts of the country. How soon, if at all, the letters will be published is another story but we did "improve the shining hour" and made good use of the time that would normally be spent in regular office routine. Now, as I draft these notes we

find ourselves frantically attempting to bring order out of a correspondence chaos.

The first flow of letters after the strike was a very mixed bag. Some, from both home and abroad, were posted days before the strike and others during the early part of it. Then came the flood under which we have been swamped for the past 3 weeks and see no means of escape if the volume maintains its present strength.

Of course the answer would be more staff, that is if it could be obtained but even "temporaries" are at a premium. So we struggle on. For the past 10-15 years we have never been, what by normal standards would be considered fully staffed and over-staffing is something Charities cannot afford for obvious reasons.

During these years we have had more than our share of staff problems, illness etc., etc., so taking everything into consideration we have not done too badly.

We appreciate the feeling of members and friends who, for reasons beyond our control, and there have been many such reasons, have not had a receipt or answer to a letter as quickly as on previous occasions. We really do our best so: PLEASE BEAR WITH US if perchance you, dear reader, should be one of those whose enquiry has not yet been answered or your remittance not acknowledged. We do deal with urgent matters first and try to introduce some system of priority but the repetitiveness of the situation does little to help stabilize our efforts. However "nil desperandum" must be our motto and

ROUND AND ABOUT—contd.

with your tolerance of our shortcomings we will succeed

THE MAGAZINE for Mar./Apl. was very late going into circulation but not our fault; we had to wait until they were accepted by the Post Office.

This issue too may be late not for the same reason but for Branch Reports which came in much later than usual and which we just could not omit. By the middle of the year issue we should be back to normal. The July/Aug. number will again be the combined Mag./Report issue.

It is with deep regret we have to record the death of yet another long standing member of the League, Miss R. Uhl., Olive Road, Cricklewood. A life long devotee to the animal cause and particularly cats. Accomplished artist and friend indeed to many inside and outside the Animal Welfare Movement.

MEMBERSHIP ENROLMENTS

FEB — MARCH 1971

15

C IS FOR CAT

By Frank Manonlson—Handy size, 7 in. x 4½ in.—220 pages—
Art paper covers—5s. 6d. including postage. From Cats Protection League, Prestbury Lodge, 29, Church Street, Slough, Bucks.

NOTE—All proceeds from the sales of the above C is for Cat will be devoted to our neutering project. *Editor.*

NEXT ISSUE - JULY 1st

BRANCH AND GROUP NEWS AND DIRECTORY

Enquiries from anyone wanting a kitten or who would adopt a cat or two are welcomed by C.P.L. Honorary representatives whose names and addresses are starred. *

But please note:— DO NOT CALL AT ANY OF THE ADDRESSES EXCEPT BY APPOINTMENT: MAKE CONTACT BY LETTER OR PHONE FIRST.

SEE INSIDE BACK COVER — FOR BRANCH AND GROUP HONORARY REPRESENTATIVES NAMES AND ADDRESSES

BIRMINGHAM

It is with regret that I have to announce that this is my last report as Secretary of the Birmingham Branch of the C.P.L.

Owing to the ill health of my parents and the pressure of a full time job I am finding it impossible to continue. As those whose names also appear in this magazine well know, the telephone never ceases to ring, day and night, starting at 7.30 a.m. in the morning, and continuing sometimes until 1.30 a.m. the following morning! People are so very inconsiderate. They forget that the work you do is voluntary, and cannot understand why you are not always available to help them immediately. Being at work all day, it is my elderly parents who have to bear the brunt of so many of these calls, which are often distressing, and this I cannot have.

Of course, the only satisfactory answer to this problem, is to have a full time paid worker in all large cities such as Birmingham.

Meanwhile, like all other Branches, we continue to struggle on with our valiant few who are willing to DO some PRACTICAL work rather than pay us lip-service.

In the past six months, we have issued approximately 200 vouchers for treatment, neutering, spaying and boarding cats whose owners would, or could not, afford to pay for them themselves. These vouchers, each worth up to £5 have been paid for out of Branch funds. We are, however, hoping to receive our quota of neutering vouchers from Headquarters in the near future.

Although we have had very few "winter kittens", we have rescued and rehabilitated more grown cats than ever before. Mr. Pennells, Birmingham's official Animal Catcher, has been helping us with trapping. A fortnight ago he brought us two homeless cats, which each had a litter the day after they were rescued. Last week he collected and brought to us a mother cat and her three

tiny kittens which he had found sheltering under an old piece of tin on a railway embankment. Still having no shelter of our own, these little cats have to be boarded until homes can be found, and even if only one kitten is kept, it is still a long and expensive stay that the mother must make at the boarding kennels.

Cat thieves are again active in Birmingham, and it is reported that up to 25 cats a week are disappearing. Will readers PLEASE stress the need for ALL cat owners to keep their cats in at night.

May we again thank our readers who have sent us gifts of jumble and goods for Bazaars. This year we are experiencing some difficulty in finding a suitable hall to hold a Jumble Sale as both the halls we used previously have now been closed. If any of our members know of a suitable hall we should be pleased to hear from them. Our future programme to raise funds also includes a GARDEN PARTY to be held at the home of our Chairman, Miss Jenkins, in June. Is there anyone else who is willing to organise a Bazaar, Cheese and Wine Party or Coffee Morning? We should welcome so much, a little help.

Our Annual General Meeting this year will be held in May. One of our speakers will be Sheila Franks, who is not only a Member of our Branch, who has rescued a number of animals, including a baby squirrel, but is well known for her success in showing both pedigree, and rescued cats in Shows all over England. Members will be notified of final details. We do hope to have an enjoyable evening, and to be supported by as many cat lovers as possible.

Finally, will you please make a note of the addresses of the various Committee Members who would welcome the following goods:

1. Material, odd scraps of wool and clean, old stockings and tights for making soft toys. Mrs. Sally Thuborn, 106, Park Hill, Moseley, Birmingham 13.

BIRMINGHAM—continued

2. Gifts, suitable for Garden Party stalls. Miss M. Jenkins, 196, Kingsbury Road, Erdington, Birmingham 23.
3. Green Shield, and other trading stamps, also names and addresses of non-members interested in our work in Birmingham. Mrs. M. Brown (Membership Secretary), 201, Ralph Road, Shirley, Solihull, Warwicks.
4. Cheques/P.O.'s etc. to our Treasurer:— Mr. A. J. Bennett, 36, Rodborough Road, Dorridge, Solihull, Warwicks.

My thanks to all the kind readers who have written to me in the past. I hope your support of our Branch will continue in the future.

BOURNEMOUTH

Our report for 1969 began with the comment that it had been our most difficult year since we formed this Group, but now 1970 has that distinction, having been much more difficult in every way. The early part was not bad and our stall at the Wessex Cat Club Championship Show in March attracted plenty of attention and was soon denuded of its stock of home-made cakes etc. etc., the Southampton Branch stall also did well. No further fund-raising event came our way during the whole year which was one long slog for fewer helpers, due to accidents, sickness and removals. Some unfortunately, dissipated their efforts, thereby increasing our difficulties and adding to the general confusion. Our Hon. Treasurer's health broke down, which was not surprising, as besides having other worries to contend with, she was one of the unfortunate victims of the great town alteration plan for which hundreds of residents have been turned out of their homes and businesses. Hundreds more being scheduled for similar treatment, including places of worship. In fact, this once lovely, healthy town is a concrete example of the low level to which the mind of man can sink, cars being treated with more respect than humans and other animals, car parks more necessary than homes and the Great God "Petrol" dispensing showers of blessings in the form of Green Shield Stamps is always sure of worshippers at every wayside shrine!

Appeals for help to find homes for cats not allowed in flats or for those whose owners had to share with relatives or emigrate. Also for many missing and advice on all sorts of catty troubles poured in from places as far apart as Sussex and Cornwall and innumerable districts between.

Some cats were lost while here on holiday and never recovered in spite of persistent enquiries over many months, but thanks to

quick co-operation by local helpers one much loved pet was restored in the nick of time for its return to Wales and another recovered after its owners had left for Coventry, but taken care of by very grateful relations who made a special journey to follow them.

But three pressing problems remain keeping owners always on the alert against thieves who make the supply to Vivisection labs a profitable pastime; the lack of a refuge for miles around and the urgent need of young workers to carry on as the older ones wear out!

CHELMSFORD

The Postal Strike caused us and our dependants quite some worry. First, because we were unable to send out our Newsletter to our loyal supporters advising them of our fund-raising activities and, second, we didn't hear anything from anybody for seven weeks and we felt very cut off and lonely! The result was that we were very poorly patronised at our February and March Saturday Sales and we had two bazaars to hold (the Spring Fair and the Easter Fair) and nothing to put on the stalls! However, as always, somehow we scratched and scraped around and managed to put on two good shows. Our knitters and apron makers set to with alacrity, as did our cake, marmalade, jam and garden plant producers. It was a really hard effort from a handful of people. Then, at the eleventh hour we received some nice bazaar gifts from our good friends far away, and at the Easter Fair another good friend, Mrs. Kalis, brought her beautiful blue-eyed Persian cat "Crumbs", who, with his begging bowl before him, persuaded many people to give 8p towards a day's food for one of his poor friends in the Shelter.

Our next big event is our first OPEN DAY at the Shelter on May 1st, and we are looking forward to meeting some of our good friends then. As well as the Shelter guests (feline) as an attraction, we shall have lots of stalls, home-made produce, etc. and we hope we shall make enough money to keep us out of the red for a little longer. What a hand-to-mouth existence it is! But we have no intention of putting our pusscat guests on short rations so we think our begging bowls will be much in evidence on that day!

Since early December when the Shelter opened, we have had an average 30-35 cats at a time in our care. Not, of course, the same ones as you will see from the numbers gone to homes at the end of this report. Some cats are so charming and delightful that they only stay overnight! But the number of hard-to-place cats is unfortunately increasing. These

CHELMSFORD—continued.

are the pensioner pussies, our old darlings, mostly in our care because their elderly owners have gone before them, and the timid cats who rush away and hide when humans approach. We do have good people who are pleased to give a home to a senior citizen cat, but mostly everyone wants to have a young cat. Many of the shy cats "come round" whilst in the Shelter and go happily off to homes, but it is obviously going to take a bit longer to gain the confidence of some of them, particularly those who have a very good reason to mistrust humans.

Of all the cats which have passed through the Shelter in the last four months, only two are what one could call really "wild" in that instead of cowering and hissing, they would attack when cornered. These two, a beautiful brother and sister, are now neutered (what a to-do that was!) and they are going back to the farm from whence they came and where we shall continue to feed them for the rest of their lives. Who knows, even they may end up nice pussies in time. We are surprised, nevertheless, at how many "wild cats" we are called upon to catch, only to find that they are perfectly normal domestic pusscats and rather shy and timid having through no fault of their own fallen upon hard times!

We appeal to you again to send us the following things, all of which will be converted into Shelter money to feed and care for the cats and kittens.

Unwanted gifts for our bazaars.

Good second-hand clothing for our Saturday Sales

Large quantities of postage stamps, British and foreign, torn off with a good margin of paper around.

Knitting wool, small or large amounts.

Our special appeal of the moment is for the "CCB FUND". (Cat carrying boxes), urgently needed as we have such a lot of cats to carry to and from the vets for neutering and for treatment, and we do need some hygienic (we have in mind fibreglass) container which can be scrubbed and cleaned in the way that ordinary woven baskets can't be.

During January, February and March, good homes have been found for 133 cats and 57 have been neutered.

We thank all friends who have helped us in any way. The pieces of blanket have been very welcome to the cats at the shelter during this cold winter. A local friend gave them a good spring mattress. In addition to finding it comfortable to sleep on the young ones have great fun using it as a trampolene.

GLOSSOP

This is a crisis report. Due to the postal strike and illness among our key members we have received practically no income at all during the past three months. Bills however are heavier than ever, particularly those for veterinary fees and petfoods.

With no investments, no legacies, no regular income we rely almost entirely on donations from readers of 'The Cat' and our own local small sales.

In order to carry on our work of rescue and rehabilitation of stray, abandoned and unwanted cats and kittens we need at least to double last year's income. If you consider this work worthwhile will you please help us over this very difficult period?

So far this year we have found homes for 24 cats and have also helped people to place unwanted kittens. 9 cats have been admitted to the shelter. At present we have 32 in residence. Some of the old and the very timid ones are never chosen for homes. Sandy a stray persian too old to neuter, Blackie with a crumpled ear, very timid little Billy Joe and Tinkerbelle, Trudy who has just made a wonderful recovery from enlarged kidneys, these and several others have been with us for some time. We are also caring for two cats whose elderly owner is spending a prolonged period in hospital after a fall. These would appreciate a few extras. If any friend would care to 'adopt' one of them I would send a list with details.

Ten new pence (2/-) each a day provides them with food and shelter.

We know that Headquarters will send us a generous quota of vouchers in order to get as many cats as possible speyed in this densely populated industrial area, and so prevent the production of at least some litters of unwanted kittens.

WE STILL NEED

1. Pieces of woollen blanket if they have not been near any cat infection.
2. Gifts for our sales.
3. Coins, picture tea cards etc. for our collector's corner.
4. Used postage stamps particularly foreign and special issue. Please leave a margin of paper all round.
5. Green Shield and S. and H. trading stamps to Miss M. Thomas, 292, Hyde Road, Woodley, Nr. Stockport, Cheshire.

A stamp for reply to letters would be welcome.

If any friends have still not received shellcraft etc. ordered from me some time ago please write again and I will refund postage.

LONDON COMMITTEE

COMING EVENTS

Saturday 22nd May THE SPRING FAIR
St. Mark's Church Hall, Compton Road,
Wimbledon

at 2 o'clock

Saturday 5th June, THE JUNE BAZAAR
The Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue
(Ashley Gardens) near Victoria, S.W.1.
at 2 o'clock.

These are our two big events. Countess Grudzinska who is organising the Spring Fair on the 22nd will be very grateful indeed for articles to sell. Please send parcels to her at 48 Home Park Road,

Wimbledon Park, S.W.19

We need stock of every kind, so anything you can send will be most welcome.

Are there any cake-makers who would offer to make a cake - or even several - for either the Fair or the Bazaar? Home-made cakes are always in demand, so please do your best.

May I repeat once more that we do need helpers, and we would be very glad to hear from anyone who would come and help on the stalls. Could you interest a friend? There must be people who would give us a hand, please do come if you can, and if you could let me know that you are coming, I would be very glad, please write to 12 The Close, New Malden, Surrey.

We have been doing some sad calculations at the end of the postal strike; it has cost us just about £200. We are that much down on the same period last year. Several kind friends have declared that a real effort must be made to fill this gap, and so there will be some very attractive tea-parties during the summer. There will be one on June 13th at Ewell, and one on August 1st at Peckham, and we hope that Lord Thomas will be receiving someday soon, if you would like an invitation to any or all of these, please write, you will be very welcome indeed. Will someone else offer to have something at home, please, for us?

We have had what I think may well be remembered as our Prettiest Party ever, in the home of Mrs. Maud Noble, whose lovely collages are a real joy to see. The afternoon raised £50 for our Extra Fund, and everyone is delighted, including the Old Cats who will benefit.

The Rescue Centre has taken in some attractive cats, a blue-cream a pure gold and a real red tabby, as well as several shades of tortie and the various patterns of tabbies; now we want the homes to settle them into.

Curio Corner needs stock. We have been

asked to find an old pencil-box, as large a one as possible, for a member. If you have a pencil-box of any kind in some cupboard, please hunt it out and send it to us.

MANCHESTER

It is true to say that the majority of charitable institutions sustained a terrible financial blow during the period when the employees of the G.P.O. withdrew their labour and so brought about the suspension of mail. We can be grateful that the withdrawal of labour took place during a period when the arrival of kittens into this sad and most difficult world was at a very low ebb due to climatic conditions. My sympathies were with the officials of charitable organisations who had to function on mini-budgets and in many cases, minus any financial income. The latter was more or less true of our branch. It is common knowledge that during the months of December, January and February there is a terrific reduction in the number of kittens born. This, therefore, was a considerable contribution towards our very existence because this obviously brought about a reduction in our financial outlay in respect of the amount of cat food being used etc. This does not necessarily mean a reduction in the number of adult cats lost, turned adrift or unwanted in their homes and similar to Headquarters and other branches, colleagues and myself have had our share of these unfortunate creatures. We have devoted time, energy and capital to the rescue as well as the care and welfare of cats and kittens desperately in need since last reporting to all subscribers to "The Cat". I could go on at length to reveal in detail my activities in regard to investigations into alleged cases of cruelty as well as the actual work involved when called out to rescue cat and kittens, but suffice it to say that good work is being accomplished in the Greater Manchester Area.

I was brought up in a home surrounded by several dogs but I well recall acquiring a semi-wild kitten from some stables and she became a favourite pet of my mother as well as myself. This little feline creature taught me a great deal about cats and their affectionate mannerisms. I learned at a very young age that a cat is a most independent creature and, therefore, possesses a mind of its own and will not, under any circumstances, be dominated by humans but this cannot be said of our faithful friend, the dog. I am not criticising the canine species but I am saying that the cat is an extremely intelligent creature and knows precisely what he/she wants and will endeavour to achieve that

MANCHESTER—continued.

aim even if it necessitates bringing into use every devious scheme that its little mind can bring to the fore. It must be remembered that the cat is the most ignored, disrespected, ill-treated, ignored and despised creature by many so-called humans and it is our duty to extend the hand of compassion towards such helpless creatures. It is not a licenced animal and, therefore, often subjected to treatment which is not contrary to the law but yet causes unnecessary suffering. There is a tremendous amount of unnecessary suffering inflicted upon cats and kittens and the perpetrators of such crimes will be called upon to give account of their deeds when the day of reckoning arrives. However, we must pursue our objectives and wherever possible rescue as many of these unfortunate creatures as possible and see to their care and welfare, veterinary attention if necessary and then find good homes. We should also, whenever the opportunity arises, endeavour to educate the uninitiated in regard to the dire necessity to extend the hand of compassion to all cats as well as other creatures in need of food, love and friendship.

Many of you will support Headquarters or respective branches and therefore I do not anticipate receiving a great deal of financial help, but do rest assured that any donation received to assist colleagues and myself in our humane work will be deeply appreciated and most gratefully acknowledged.

I read with interest the article by Loretta Bruce entitled "Quest for a Cat" in your January/February publication, 1971.

NORTH LONDON

Thank goodness for the end of the postal strike! For seven weeks we received no letters and thus no donations or gifts. With the Shelter costing £80 a week to keep going, the situation gradually became more and more serious as the strike progressed and had it not ended when it did, we might well have had to close down for a time. Among other things, the strike prevented us from sending out our usual Jumble Notices, upon which we rely so much. To add to our troubles, we were told, three weeks before our Jumble Sale was due to be held, that our usual Hall was not available to us having been adjudged to be in a dangerous condition. We hurriedly sought an alternative Hall and delayed our sale for a week.

We earnestly ask all those who would have helped us had it not been for the postal strike, to do so now. We urgently need that help.

In spite of the fact that our Jumble Sale

The reason for my having taken a particular interest in this article was primarily due to the fact that the Society of which I am the Organising Secretary and Lecturer was referred to. I realise and fully appreciate that the writer of your article did not intend to convey the impression to readers that "our office" is a confusion of bulging boxes, scattered books and an assortment of rubbish etc. I readily admit that at the time of this lady's visit to our office in her search for a suitable kitten, this would be the case because my staff would be involved in the handling of numerous gifts for the forthcoming Fair and boxes, papers and wrappers etc. would be strewn over the floor. Our Headquarters in Manchester is not a palatial office and certainly does not have the floor carpeted but one must realise that our main objective is to rescue as well as see to the care and welfare of creatures desperately in need.

I am so glad that my assistant was so helpful when your correspondent called at our office and it is encouraging to note that our well thumbed daily report book was duly recorded in her mind. It is also encouraging to know that pussie, Christened Sheba, is with Loretta Bruce because I know the lady in question and realise that this little waife may have gone to another home just as good, but certainly not better.

All good wishes to Sheba and her new owner.

Arthur Thompson

Organising Secretary and Lecturer

THE HUMANE EDUCATION SOCIETY

on the 13th March was our first 'decimal' sale, which we had dreaded so much, our takings were very good. They made up for at least three weeks lack of donations.

We have at the shelter, two pure white cats awaiting good homes, one female and one male, both neutered. The female is long haired and the male short haired. There must be a member, somewhere, with a blue carpet to show off such cats to perfection. At the moment, they both share a room with Billy, our white rabbit.

During the past two months we have found homes for many of our older cats, kittens being scarce. Why people want kittens in preference to older cats, we will never know. Kittens are so scatty and appealing, but for so short a time. A year old cat has learned its manners, is still skittish and can give so much affection. Among our recently placed older cats was a tabby tom of about 18 months whose adored master had recently

NORTH LONDON—*continued.*

died. He now has a new younger master who he equally adores and whom he follows around like a dog.

Our next Jumble Sale is on the 5th June

1971 at the Upper Holloway Hall 602A Holloway Road, London N.7. but on the ground floor and not in the upper hall as usual. The sale opens at 2.30 p.m. but much help is needed before then for unpacking.

SUSSEX BRANCH

THE BRANCH HAS SUFFERED A GREAT LOSS IN THE DEATH OF MRS. H. G. PERRY WHO FOR MANY YEARS GAVE A GREAT DEAL IN TIME, ENERGY AND SYMPATHY FOR THE LEAGUE'S WORK IN SUSSEX. AS HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE BRANCH SHE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MUCH MORE THAN IS GENERALLY REALISED BY THOSE WHO HAVE HAD NO EXPERIENCE IN THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUCH ACTIVITIES AS A BRANCH THE SIZE OF THAT IN WHICH SHE WHOLE-HEARTEDLY LABOURED IN THE CAUSE OF CATS AND KITTENS. WHILST ONE MUST ALWAYS HOPE THAT SOMEONE ELSE WILL BE FOUND TO TAKE ON THE WORK THAT WAS SO SUDDENLY DISRUPTED THE MEMORY WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE EAGER CO-OPERATION OF THE LATE HONORARY SECRETARY WILL ALWAYS REMAIN WITH US AND BE AN INSPIRATION TO THOSE WHO ARE STILL WITH US AND THOSE THAT FOLLOW ON.

ULSTER

I am writing these notes and hoping desperately that they will be in time for inclusion in the May/June issue of "The Cat". The reason for the last-minute rush is that I wanted to be able to include a report of our Annual General Meeting, which took place on 31st March, 1971. The attendance was excellent - in fact I don't think we could have coped with even one more person. We were very conscious of the fact that one familiar face was missing and at the outset Miss Gulston, Vice-Chairman, spoke feelingly of the loss sustained by the Ulster Branch in the death of our Chairman, Mr. James McClay who for so many years has presided at our gatherings. After the business, including the election of Office-bearers and Committee, a nice supper was provided and this was followed by the showing of the Film made by Mr. R. Williamson depicting the activities of the Cattery and entitled "Somebody Cares". The general opinion seemed to be that it was a very good meeting several new members joined and we were happy to welcome a contingent from Bangor - we hope they'll come again.

Now here are some things to be noted and the first is that we have a NEW HONORARY TREASURER. After a year of hard work Mrs. Livingstone, feeling a bit under the weather, asked to be released from office and her place has been taken by Mr. B. Loughlin, 20 Glenmillen Park, Belfast, 4. In future please send all money to him. Miss L. Gulston, 25 King's Drive, Belfast, 5 (Tel. 657584) copes with Welfare problems and home-finding so if you want a cat or kitten or have a difficulty in this field, contact her and she'll try to help. Next a word to our voluntary helpers (and how much we owe to them). A new Office has been created - we have a Secretary for voluntary workers and her job will be to ensure that if a helper is unable to attend for any reason and can't provide a substitute someone will be found to cope. This important job is being filled by Mrs. N. Irwin, 70 Somerton Road, tel. 79891. She is anxious to compile a list of persons who while unable to do a regular rota at the Shelter, would fill in on occasions. If you can help - please phone her. We have treasure in our new Shelter Superintendent, Mrs. Betty Tredrea, but we have to make sure she is not called upon to do work that is really the responsibility of our voluntary staff. Incidentally, in order to allow Mr. and Mrs. Tredrea to have meals in peace we have arranged that, except for emergencies, the Shelter will be open as follows:

Weekdays: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2 to 5.30 p.m.

and 8 - 9.30 p.m.

Saturdays 10.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sundays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 4 to 6 p.m.

Now that the postal strike is over the parcels are beginning to arrive again and I would like to thank all our friends who send us used stamps, tinfoil old nylons, articles for sales and wool oddments. Often the gifts are anonymous (including a recent postal order) and sometimes you say not to bother acknowledging. In view of the increase in the cost of postage I regretfully take you at your word and thank you here and now.

E. R. McKee

WEST CORNWALL

What a pity we missed out on our notes in The Cat, we were anxious to let you know that we were holding an Easter Fayre, and by the time this is published it will be but a memory. However we aim to open every Saturday afternoon in the usual way, and we hope many of you will come and bring your friends. We have the bazaar, a very good book department, foreign stamps and other worthwhile attractions.

The lists of lost cats are lengthy and worrying. Where do these cats go. Some we have been able to trace, sometimes after months of wanderings a lucky cat can be reunited with grateful owners, but no sign of so many others.

Last winter we were able to nearly empty the catteries as we found really good homes for a large number of unwanted cats. The catteries are rapidly filling up now again and soon we shall have a full house, but we continue advertising and trying to help unfortunate cats to settle in new homes.

We have been enjoying some pleasant publicity lately, and have made the local press by way of a "cat in a dangerous tree rescue" ably performed by Elayne one of our young voluntary workers. Then the fame of Nijinsky has spread far. This endearing little creature was rescued from a wintry fate by Norah Forde our treasurer and brought to us at Christmas, he has been identified after some research as a ferret crossed with a polecat. Nijinski soon made himself at home and delights us all with his quaint antics and he spends his sleeping time curled up in the paw of a siamese cat called Boski. He enjoys a nice warm scented bath, and we were happy to see a large photo of him in The Sunday Independent. It seems he is here to stay as another voluntary helper for C.P.L.

Pebbles are still going up in Ambers garden, at present a blaze of daffodils. If you would like a pebble inscribed with the name of a loved pet, please send particulars with a

donation to the funds for feline O.A.P.'s. We have a large family of these ancient cats who are enjoying their remaining years in peace and comfort.

Articles for sale in our bazaar are still urgently needed but we know postage is such a problem, so if you live in the county we could perhaps manage to collect as we often travel long distances in our cat work. So please don't forget us when you are turning out this year.

Samuel Pepys is a dear affectionate black boy; Boanerges or the 'Golden Boy' is a glorious golden Persian with an astoundingly gentle grace, glorious bush of a tail, and lovely face full of character. These two pussies were taken by surprise when, a few weeks ago the even tenure of their lives was disturbed. Into their peaceful days erupted a small bundle of quivering fur, ready to challenge both them and everything or body.

Titicaca Quoodle has arrived! A darling, very lively and now very mischievous seal-point Siamese. The two 'elder statesmen' bear with equanimity and a certain tolerance this 'upstart' who wants so very badly to be

friendly and playful, and is not always understood. They gaze at her blue eyes, (beautifully crossed), her cream chest deep chocolate 'mask' legs and skinny tail, and at rare intervals will accept the volley-ball motions of her wee body with good-humoured sufferance. They do sometimes allow their respective ears to be washed, but when the washing turns to nibbling feel their dignity to be somewhat affronted! All three have extraordinary sleeping quarters: Boanerges as high as he can get, prefers the plate-rail that runs around the room: Samuel Pepys (Pepie for short), chooses the top of our Georgian bookcase, between two small tobacco cabinets, and T.Q. a shelf where she can gaze adoringly at Bo above her.

Folk who do not know or love us, must think the Reas a queer lot, as they keep their cats on shelves! Suffice it is to say that when laps are available they are utilised also.

All three cats have one thing in common — they were unwanted, but no longer. They have brought a wealth of joy and pleasure to us, and, in turn, have our love and affection. In short they run the house! A final comment, they are each and all lovely specimens now, and many friends envy us our feline family.

CAT LOVERS

P U Z Z L E

M	A	G	G O L D E N						
A	N	G	O	R	A	R	U	X	
L	I	E	P E R S I A N						
T	E	N	D	E	R	L	Y	T	M
E	G	N	A	T R A I N					
S	R	E	Y	E	O	N			
E	Z	E	M	A	N E U T E R				
H	L	R	E	D	S	U			
F	E	R	A	L	Y	S	C	S	
E	I	L E O P A R D S							
S	T	R	I	P	E	D	E	E	I
A	O	G	S E B A L A						
S	H	I	N	E	S	D	M	N	

S O L U T I O N

A SHORT LIFE

She was gay and adventurous and my first sight of her is pictured indelibly in my mind; there she was, only a few weeks old, a black kitten with white paws and front, so like Felix my cat, that I had to blink to make sure it wasn't him, nosing around a fisherman's net along by the river. I thought she belonged to a farm nearby but it didn't strike me she had either strayed or was put out because she was a female. Next morning she had followed the milkman up to our Close, a wet, shivering and hungry mite.

Naturally, I could do nothing else but take her in and as she was so like Felix, it seemed a sort of fate that I must have her too. However, I had to watch that I was not accumulating too many, (as I already had two in London) so, for her sake I tried to find her a good home in the country, but my search was in vain. I called her Dinah and Felix and she were playmates, although he often gave her a rough-house as he was then about a year old, and much bigger of course. But Dinah loved Felix and would often sit licking him for minutes although, I am afraid, he was very nonchalant about this.

As I said, Dinah was an adventurous little puss and used to climb on any high wall or roof she came across, and also was a little terror where birds were concerned. One morning Felix brought in a pigeon and while I was busy in the kitchen, she was busy defeathering this in the lounge and when I

entered I literally could not see the carpet for feathers!

I had her innoculated against 'flu and enteritis, and later had her taken to the Vet for hysterectomy!

I had eventually to move down to London and as I could still not find either of them a home, I naturally brought them both with me. (Dinah would never stay in a basket in a car but preferred to sit up near the window in the back. They were both very good in a car and settled down in their new home very well. She used to wait for me on the wall near our side gate, miow a lot and then jump down and follow me round to the front door. She did escape out the front door once when she first came and my brother found her quite a few gardens up the road. I am afraid she regarded the roads just as she did the meadows in Ely — a playground. Felix rarely went out the front.

I had to put them in a holiday home while I was away on holiday, and the tragedy of it all was that they had only been a week back from this when she was killed by a car just opposite the front gate.

I often think of her as I come up the road now and how she licked Felix when I was taking them both to their holiday home, as much as to say "It's all right — I'm here too".

The end of a short little gay life and it was almost a year to the date from the day I saw her by the river bank.

L. Anderson

APPLESLADE

Thanks to Gladys and Rowena Haines
Who, avoiding the bother of trains,
Drove up to Barnes in a fog
To collect a cat, (not a dog)
To live at their home
Where he is quite free to roam.

OLD MAN, INKY and BEAR
And JONTY, and MIGGY, now there
With PHOENIX, and Tuttle
Whose ways are most Subtle
And FAIRY and SHADOW and MOTH
(Not the kind that eats into cloth)

Then, there's BUSY LIZZIE and CLOUD
Who of their own are so proud,
Yet show their great worth
Nursing kittens orphaned at birth
And, although they are Cats
They never catch rats

There are no rats in the place
So there's not one to chase
Even given the chance
In that beautiful glade
Where stands Appleslade
In Linwood, near Ringwood
In Hants.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday July 10th 1971

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of my beloved BARNABY who crossed the STYX on May 1970 aged 10 years. Still sadly missed by his Mummy and friends.

J. Richardson

In loving memory of our dear Pushka who died February 11th, 1971, aged 12½ years. Always remembered.

J. and S. Cooper

In loving memory of "Felix" aged three months, died after a short illness on 2nd January, 1971. So much love from such a little creature. Till we meet again soon I hope.

J. Murphy

In loving memory of our dear Sheba, kindly put to sleep in her sixteenth year. 18th January, 1971, T.W. 4728. Greatly missed by John and Colin Cirmaster.

In treasured memory of our beloved Mumsie Co-Co and Soo-Soo who passed over in April 1965. For ever in God's keeping dearest ones.

Auntie Averil

Always our thoughts and affectionate remembrances to ANDREW and HENRY 12th May and 18th May, 1966.

D. M. B. and M. C. Worthing

In loving memory of my dear 'Kitty' T.W. 4422 aged 5 years. Died after a short illness on 13th March, 1971, now gone to join all my other departed cats and kittens in care of St. Francis till we meet again.

Sadly missed.

John Murphy

Velveteen (c. 1952-1970)

How kind, how sweet, inspired with grace,
In every look and attitude;

Alas, that Time has won the race,
We grieve, but grieve in gratitude.

Adrian Bury

In ever loving memory of our beloved Stephen our dearest beautiful one who passed over June 29th 1957. For ever in God's keeping.

Averil Horsfield

CHING FINDS HER WAY HOME

..... after 3 years

That's Ching, the champion hiker, getting a "welcome home" icecream from her owner Mrs. Thyra Llewellyn, yesterday. Ching, a nine-year-old Siamese, certainly deserves it. For she has just found her way home after being lost for three years.

Ching vanished when Mrs. Llewellyn, of The Park, Stow-on-the-Wold, Glos., took her on a caravanning holiday to Ammanford, Glamorgan, 130 miles away, in 1967. Sadly, the Llewellyn family gave her up for dead. Then Ching turned up in a neighbours garden - starving and exhausted.

She was taken to a local vet, who recognised her scars from operations he had performed.

★ ★ ★

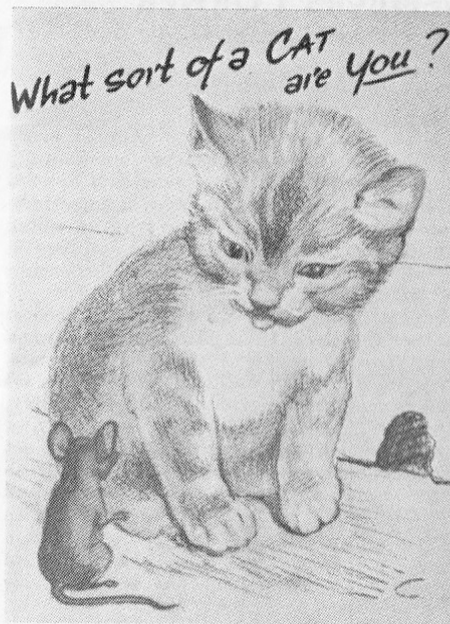


A TRIBUTE—PERCY 1962-1970

Small, white and fluffy, stepping carefully out of his basket into a new world. Cautious and curious, amber eyes wide open with interest.

Happy days - early morning adventures. Walking puposefully down the drive. Seeking adventure beyond the gates - undeterred by the voice of an anxious mistress, (So near the busy main road!). Tail up straight as a flagpole, to politely intimate that he hears, but is keeping to his purpose. Climbing the trees, chittering at the birds, hide and seek with mistress in the garden. Playful wrestling with master. Dignified, proud, always the perfect gentleman - loving friend and true comrade. Eight short years - then a tired little heart ceases to beat.

Bit of a rogue - bit of a clown. Beloved Percy.



"CAT AND MOUSE"

This term has become part of our language. It means the deliberate cruelty and torment of a strong creature toward a small and weaker.

But is it fair to cats? Mice are their natural prey. A hungry cat does not mess around with a mouse. He, kills quickly and eats. Less hungry, he might play a bit, stimulating appetite, as we would perhaps, taking a cocktail before dinner. But deliberate suspense and torture? This is a human conception. We do it. But I don't think the animals do.

Our well-fed domesticated cats still follow their natural hunting instincts and bring in the odd mouse as an offering to the family larder. Our own beautiful Polly used to bring us these presents. She adored our son, pretending to be so terrified when he chased her round the apple trees, and once after his week-end visit I stripped his bed to find a tiny grey, dead field-mouse by his pillow. He knew nothing about his bed-fellow - just as well - he wouldn't have been so keen - but it was Polly's present to him. He travelled a lot, she would climb into his suitcases, delighting to tip with her paw coins and keys from his dressing table, one by one. He said he'd never be surprised to arrive in Ankara, or Reykjavik, or Capetown to find Polly peeping out of his suitcase.

And Polly brought in little creatures, unharmed, just to play with - no malicious intent. One evening she brought in a bat - laid it on the mat - looked up at me and said "What the hell is this?" I too was stumped. It is not a bird - it is not a mouse - I timidly poked it and it fluttered, with wings, on to the sideboard. Then I realised it was a bat. I gently lifted it, placed it in the rockery, out in the night where it surely belonged. Polly watched, round-eyed. It went on its way. So often she brought in a small creature just to play with and I put them out unharmed. No "Cat and Mouse" torture. From the creatures we have much to learn.

Norah Smart

HOW THE TABBY CAT GOT ITS NAME

No doubt many of you own a tabby cat. Do you know how it came by its name? The word "tabby" is of Eastern origin and means "The Silken One". It is derived from "attabi", a kind of taffeta or ribbed silk which was manufactured in Bagdad.

One day, so the legend goes, a merchant was looking at the material and compared the bars and horseshoes on it with the stripes on a cat's coat, and from that time all brindled and striped cats became known as tabbies.

Tabbies of many colourings are to be found among household pets but probably the most beautiful is the silver tabby, which has a coat of pale, clear silver with dense black markings. The brown tabby is another striking and hardy coat.

The most familiar is the grey cat with transversal stripes encircling the legs, tail, and neck, and black markings on the body. Before the word "tabby" was generally adopted this cat was known as the tiger cat or "graymalkin", whereas the yellow and ginger tabbies were called Cyprus cats.

Most tabby cats are very handsome and intelligent. They are good-tempered and friendly too.

Their coats are not easily spoiled by our sunshine, so they can live a free and open-air life which suits them well.

They are excellent mousers.

Rose Tenent.

A. G. M. JULY 10th



Tinker Tar

WANTED

by Postal History enthusiast old letters, envelopes, postcards bearing pre 1910 Postal Markings.

Donations to C.P.L., for all material received. M. M. English, 50 Somerden Road, Orpington, Kent. BR5 4HT.

Very urgently wanted good home for Ginger. Ex stray about eight years old, neutered male, at present being boarded in Cattery pending new home. All details from: Miss J. Smallbone, Iona, 25 Norfolk Road, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

Self-contained, 2/3 roomed flat, kitchen, bathroom, W.C., access to Bakerloo line, preferably Swiss Cottage, for two professional girls and a neutered cat. Reply please to: Miss J. Karp, 60 Belsize Avenue, London, N.W.3.

MEMBERS CORNER

CATS AND MARMITE

Sinhalese Buddhists form the largest percentage of our population. Almost every household has a cat kept as a pet; incidentally it acts as a rat-controller. Our cats are fed on what we eat: rice and curries; sometimes there are curries of fish either fresh or salted and dried; dry fish roasted on embers is mixed with rice and fed to cats; fish scraps and left over milk is also fed to cats.

Several years back we tried with success another diet: a little MARMITE was mixed with White bread and given to our cats. They ate it greedily and thrived on it. In fact some of our cats preferred it to rice and curry. When we dissolved MARMITE in hot water our cats smelt it and came running to get licks of the liquid. We gave the cats fresh water in saucers. With this bread and MARMITE diet we have had no trouble with our cats. Presently we are having two tom cats, one of two years and the other of three. Their morning meal consists exclusively of bread mixed with MARMITE.

Mr. Indradasa Jayatilleke, 43, Temple Lane, Galwadugoda, Galle, CEYLON.

FOUND

friendly, handsome grey/black tabby male about five years with chipped front tooth. Owner or anyone interested to find him a good home please write to: 2 Holders Hill Crescent, London, N.W.4.

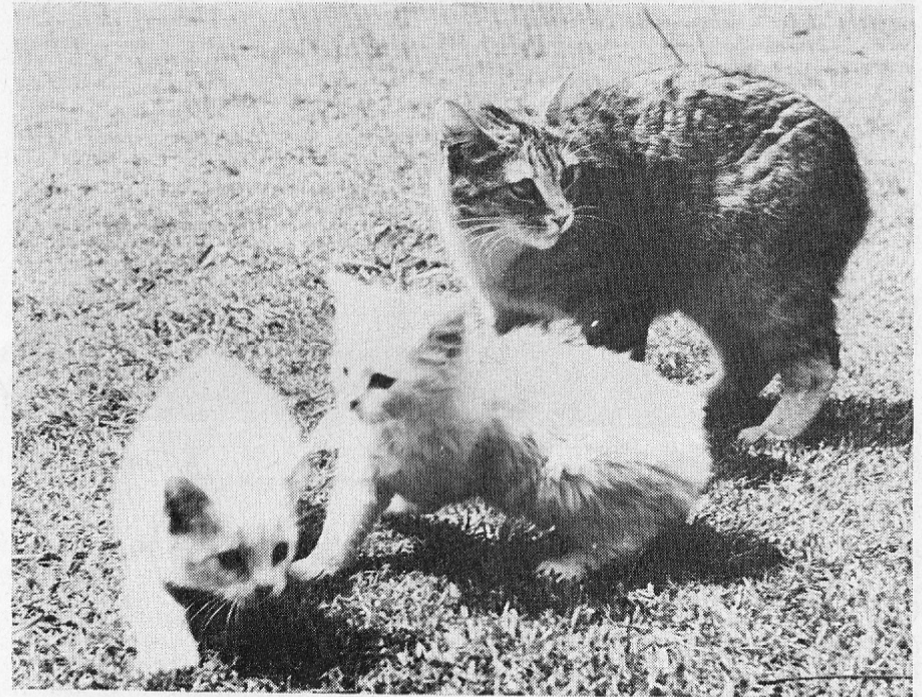
LOST

in the Congleton area, near Macclesfield, Cheshire on December 5th, after being placed in new home, but not kept in after instructions to the new owner to do so.

An adult Sandy Ginger male cat recently neutered, fairly large with white chest and paws. Any information to Macclesfield 22246 or PRESTBURY 49575. Good reward.

S.O.S.

Very good home with garden wanted for beautiful tortoiseshell cat - neutered female, aged 6 years. Owner has to leave present home for flat where pets are not allowed, Cat is most friendly and fond of children. clean and good tempered. Faces extinction if home not found. Please write Mrs. Iley Pennington, 20, Ongar Road; London, N.W.6. or phone 01-385 7499.

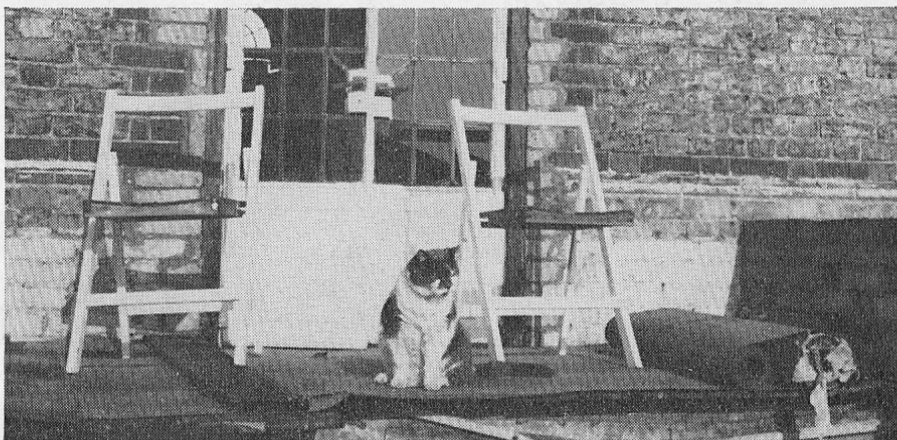


THE MANX CAT is not as graceful in its movements as its long-tailed relations and as a kitten can be much more difficult to rear. A few years ago when it was feared that the rather delicate, rumpy cats were in danger of extinction in their 'native' island, the Government of the Isle of Man established a State Cattery to perpetuate the unusual breed - the only Government cattery in the world.

The Cattery now has a long waiting list for kittens, their prices sometimes rising as high as twenty-five pounds each, and their best export market is across the Atlantic.

Ruth and Eileen Carlson of Chicago are probably the pioneers of Manx cat breeding in America. Their cattery for the exclusive breeding of tailless cats was founded in 1933. The progenitor of their stock was a 'rumpy' they purchased from the Isle of Man named Ginger of Manx who won for them the Maninagh Katedhu alias Peta

Official Mouser O.H.M.S.



PETS . . . by Con Gordon

THE SOCIAL LIFE OF THE CAT

"Cats," says my wife, "are little people." I know what she means. Those mysterious comings and goings, those discreet exits and entrances, those diplomatic treaties with the cats next door, are circumstances which all combine to give a strong impression of social and political activity going on at ground level. Pussycat, pussycat, where have you been.

As it turns out this impression is correct. The scientists have been keeping an eye on cats and their times and occasions.

A passage concerning them appears in a book, "Violence, Monkeys and Man", by Clair Russell and W. M. S. Russell (Macmillan, 63s.). What it has to say about the social patterns of rats, cats, monkeys and men, is fascinating.

Each cat (says the book) has a territory, consisting of a small home area for sleeping and resting and a network of foraging routes. Within the home area, the owner is fearless, but neighbouring cats are timid and uncertain. Every cat's home is his castle.

When a young tom grows up, or a strange tom moves into a district all the other tom-cats gather round and invite him to come outside and prove it. After a series of scraps, he and they know exactly who can lick him and whom he can lick, and where he fits in the rank order.

This accounts for the number of people who write to me and say "My young cat,

who has hitherto led a quiet and respectable life, has taken to going out at nights and coming back stinking and with his nose bloodied".

The cat is engaged in gaining his stripes, and all will be well once he has shown the other cats exactly what's what and who's who. After that he will proceed unmolested on his nocturnal occasions. He will defer to top cats, and lesser cats will step aside for him.

The book says that lady cats, contrary to common belief, are not fought over. They choose their own mates. Lady cats sometimes fight with each other, but once questions of precedence have been settled they will visit each other's homes in a social way.

Along the foraging routes, an inferior cat will adjust her timetable of hunting trips to keep out of a superior's way. If, nevertheless, a superior cat arrives at her favourite look-out point at an unusual time, and finds it occupied by an inferior, she will discreetly withdraw and wait until it is free. Cats are civilised.

Cat neighbours greet each other politely. They and their girl friends meet at the club. In a little square on the outskirts of Paris, a scientist watched the local cat club meeting night after night. The members were not meeting to mate, but simply to sit around, side by side, sometimes licking and grooming each other in a relaxed way. After a few hours the party broke up and everybody went home.

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