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“CATS AND KITTENS” MAGAZINE, 33, QUEEN STREET, DERBY

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CATS AND KITTENS

THE MAGAZINE FOR EVERY CAT-LOVER



Established

1936

INCORPORATING THE CAT WORLD

Editor : SYDNEY W. FRANCE

General Offices : 33, QUEEN STREET, DERBY

Telephone: DERBY 45216

APRIL, 1952

A CAT'S CONSCIENCE.

A Dog will often steal a bone,
But conscience lets him not alone,
And by his tail his guilt is known.

But cats consider theft a game,
And, howsoever you may blame,
Refuse the slightest sign of shame.

When food mysteriously goes,
The chances are that Pussy knows
More than she leads you to suppose.

And hence there is no need for you,
If Puss declines a meal or two,
To feel her pulse and make ado.

Anon.

This month's Cover photograph shows a Blue Pointed Siamese Topaz,
Owner and Photographer, Mrs. I. M. Donovan.

CANDID COMMENTS

By SYDNEY W. FRANCE

PERFORMING CATS.

My recent remarks on the subject of performing animals, particularly cats, and about which I ventured to make the rather sweeping statement that I thought cats could not be trained to do tricks, has produced several letters from our readers which seem to prove that cats can indeed be taught certain tricks. Mrs. Jose Cattermole says: "In your Candid Comments this month you state that you have never heard of performing cats. For many years now an act billed as Ray Royal and her Performing Cats, has been touring the Music Halls. Being, as you know, a great cat lover, I went back stage of our local Theatre to "interview" the cats when they visited here about two years ago. They are all household pets, and I believe I'm correct in saying that they are all females. They put up an exceedingly good show of approx. 15-20 minutes, obeying Miss Ray Royal's commands without hesitation."

Mrs. M. J. Tuthill wrote me: "I have been reading your February Candid Comments 'on performing animals,' and write to say that I have once seen performing cats—and was

as much astonished as you would no doubt have been. The occasion was a small circus held in Reading in the summer of 1946. As far as I remember there were about six cats, mostly of the longhaired tortoiseshell type—their trainer was a large woman of about fifty, dressed as (or perhaps in reality) a gypsy. I must admit the cats didn't look *too* pleased, but they obeyed perfectly and at once! (and of course they enjoyed little edible rewards now and then!). I remember that they climbed up steps and sat in pre-arranged positions, forming a pattern, and my husband says they also jumped through hoops. The training must have meant untold patience and it *would* have to be 'done by kindness.' Our own grey tabby neuter, weighing 15lbs., can give an impromptu private performance of an evening—but otherwise it is a case of sheer obstinacy or stagefright!"

Miss A. M. de Lacy Lacy says: "I have been meaning to write to you re a remark you made in the February magazine 'Cats and Kittens' (which I have taken for several years) on page three, on performing animals. Oh yes!

cats can be taught to perform wonderfully, although I think you doubt it!! I have a young cousin who had a troupe of six cats, just before the last war, who he taught to do all sorts of things to order, some singly, some all together. It was most charming the 'Shows' he gave in his own house (not publicly), but he might have done that except for the war and he had to give them up to go soldiering. They just loved doing their tricks, he called them 'the Catrabats.' Also my own two cats, the photos of whom you have had in 'Cats and Kittens,' always come in on being called. I taught them from quite tiny kit's to come to their name, and it is very rarely that they do not respond. As long as you can begin early to teach them, three months old at latest, and keep it up regularly, it is quite possible. I thought I must tell you my experiences."

THE RARE BURMESE.

The way of the pioneer is hard. Nearly three years ago the present writer managed to secure breeding stock from America, and after six months' quarantine they were introduced to the public, with whom they were a hit success. Probably because of their extremely gay and happy dispositions, relative quietness, and their striking all brown

colour, combined with the appearance of a Siamese but with yellow eyes. It is not an exaggeration to say that it is simply impossible to satisfy the demand for kittens, and these at a very expensive price.

In order to let the general public see as much as possible of them, the few owners of this variety have most sportingly taken them out to the shows, including all the big London ones, and some of the smaller ones held in the provinces.

As there is yet no official breed number in the list of breeds issued by the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (it is understood that a breed number will be allocated when the third generation is registered and has bred true to type, fortunately this is close at hand) they were exhibited in what is known as the A.O.V. (Any Other Variety) as distinct from the recognised classes such as Siamese, Blue Persian, Chinchillas, and so on, and for the guidance of judges the Governing Council was given a copy of the Standard of Points by which Burmese are judged in America.

Certain judges have been most kind in their handling and judging of them, but it is most discouraging to find that a prominent former official of the Siamese Cat Club and well-known judge of Siamese, should at one show refuse to

judge them and after another make a report on them which describes the Burmese as looking like a Siamese of poor type with yellow eyes. Such discriminatory and unhelpful remarks, to say the least, cannot fail to make these few enthusiastic exhibitors dashed, as they expect to receive every encouragement in enlarging the interest in this breed of cats.

GENERAL MEETINGS.

March has gone and the annual general meetings of the clubs are over. Usually the meetings appear to be nothing more than an opportunity for the treasurer to present a balance sheet, or excuses for an incomplete one being offered, the chairman to say a few well chosen, kindly and innocuous phrases; and then the members sit down to a tea.

Some time before this members are asked to submit anything for the agenda, but usually, because of the well-known English characteristic of being afraid to speak in public there is mainly silence from the rank and file of the members. More's the pity, however. Observe the difference, in decisions and discussions, and particularly in voting, concerning matters of the club for all the rest of the year, which are decided in committee and usually by a paper vote. Remarks are made about leakages of transactions of the committees, which must at all costs be avoided. At the general meetings anything raised must be in full light of day and most often those who vote must do so by show of hands so that opponents or protagonists can be checked!

CAT LOVERS' WRITING PADS

Supplied with the following designs: **White Cat, Chinchilla Kitten, Kitten Washing, Pair of Kittens, Three Kitten Heads**

PRICES:

1/9 EACH, plus 4d. postage on one pad, 1d. on each additional pad.

CATS AND KITTENS, 33, QUEEN STREET, DERBY.

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CHINTZ CATS—AND OTHERS

By ELIZABETH ANGEL

THE name by which a particular variety of cat is known is usually inspired by the country of origin, such as Siamese, Russian blue, Abyssinian, etc., but occasionally, as in the case of the Tabby and Tortoiseshell, the name originated from the markings. The earlier names given to these common or "house" cats have an impersonal quality which suggests that the cat was not by any means a fireside pet except, perhaps, in the case of lonely old women whose patronage, since such unfortunates were usually labelled "witches," merely shed upon poor puss an unholy and sulphurous aura. When we speak of the "domestic tabby" we are perhaps voicing a deeper truth than we imagine, for it is only when the smoke has cleared from the witch's cauldron and old ladies are allowed to be domestic, that we find more homely names appearing, the cat becomes part of the household, and is suitably christened after its mistress's gown.

In the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries the tabby was known as the "brindled" or "brinded" cat, and earlier still "gray" cat or "gray-malkin." The significance of

the word "malkin" possibly has to do with the cat's playfulness or mousing antics, Malkin being a clown associated with Morris - dances. These names occur frequently in literature of the period, a familiar example is the line, "Thrice the brindled cat hath mewed," from the witch scene in Macbeth. About the latter half of the seventeenth century the name "tabby" appears to have come into common use. This was derived from a kind of taffeta, or watered silk, originally imported from the East, the water-mark no doubt suggesting a similarity with the stripes of the cat. Certain writers have supposed the word "tabby" to be a corruption of "taffety," actually it was taken from a suburb of Baghdad where this particular kind of silk was manufactured.

It is interesting to note that Harrison Weir writing in 1889, found that in Norfolk and Suffolk tabby cats were called "Cyprus" cats, a name which he traced to a kind of cloth made of silk and hair showing wavy lines on it and coming from Cyprus. He states that the tortoiseshell cat was supposed to have been brought

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Young Jane's Furry, Faithful Followers

*Reproduction and photograph, courtesy of
"Derby Evening Telegraph."*

EIGHTEEN - YEAR - OLD Jane Hitchman is wondering whether she is becoming the Pied Piper of Chaddesden—only in her case it's not rats, but cats. Wherever she goes they follow her; she has only to walk out of the house for cats to appear from nowhere and trot down the road at her heels; and when she goes into a house they wait outside for her to come out again.

And Jane, who lives at 44, The Crescent, Chaddesden, is getting worried—she thinks that one day a cat will follow her so far that it will lose its way home again. But she can think of no way to stop them. Once seven cats followed her for five miles round Locko Park, Spondon, and though she kept picking them up and throwing them over hedges, nothing would deter them.

Another time a cat walked with her to the bus stop and, instead of sitting and watching her ride away as the cats usually do, it jumped on the bus and went up to the top deck. She followed it and lifted it off, but before the bus could start the determined cat was back on again and, in the end, Jane had to hold the cat while the bus started and then drop it quickly off the back.

Ever since Jane has been able to walk, cats have walked after her—they used to follow her to school and jump on her knee during class. Now they follow her to work—she is a typist at British Celanese Ltd., Spondon—and at the end of the day a chain of works cats walk out of the factory with her.

Sometimes the cats are not even content to stop outside her house and wait for her—one night she woke up and saw two green eyes staring at her, and there, sitting on the bed, was a big black cat.



Here is Jane with her own Cat

And it is not as if she was all that fond of cats—she likes them, but says she prefers dogs and horses. She has one cat of her own, which is fifteen years old, and that is the only cat which is not so keen on following her. But there is one thing it will do—when she comes home from her summer

holiday each year it is always at the bus stop to meet her.

Unfortunately none of Jane's friends likes cats, but by now they are resigned to the fact that always when she visits them there will be several cats sitting outside the house keeping their vigil by the garden gate.

THE ORIGIN OF THE DOMESTIC CAT

By EDWIN FELSTEAD

CATS as we know them today are of several varieties, including the blue-black, grey, common striped "tabby," ginger, white, and other very mixed types. But the much-maligned "tabby" cat is perhaps the most romantic of all our felines; its ancestor was the original wild-cat which once roamed the forests of all our British Islands. It is now confined to some forests in Scotland.

Dwellers in the Nile region used the cat for catching fish. When the Phoenicians came to Britain to trade with the Silures in silk and skins, from time to time cats escaped from ships and were befriended by the Britons. At that day, however, only the "tabby" cat was known in Britain. It was not until the Romans arrived that black cats were known in these

islands. These were brought in by merchants from Persia and Arabia, who came into Roman London for trading purposes.

Mixed types of cats are interesting; parents of quite divergent types will often produce kittens that appear "pure" in type. Thus if a black cat and a white cat produce kittens, these are not always necessarily mixed in colour, but very often either wholly black or wholly white. Perhaps only one of the litter will be mixed in shade. The reason for this is that mixed races of animals often "throw back" to definite types. Many of our common "tabbies" have had parents of all and every type. One tabby cat seen recently was an almost perfect specimen of its kind, but its father was a black cat and its mother a most peculiar animal.

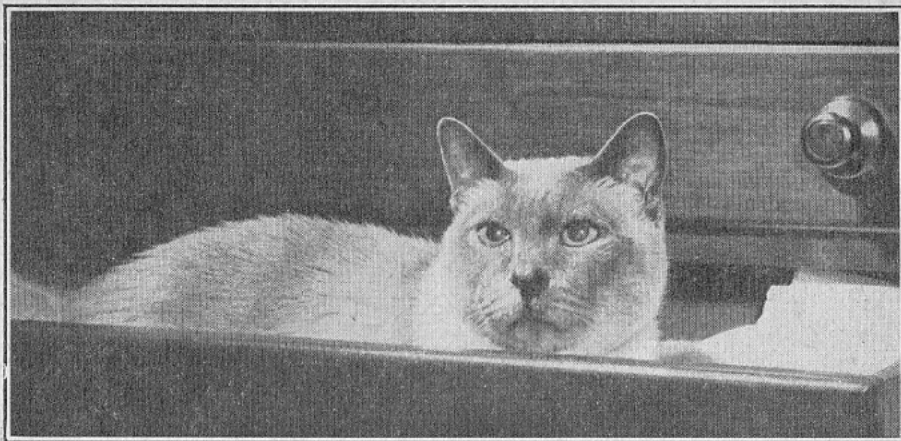


Photo by Walter Chandoha

MIKE

(English-born 13½ year old Blue-point Siamese, Mikado of Fleet)

Miss Hettie Gray Baker of 350, West 57th Street, New York, 19, well-known in America for her devotion to cats and whose book, "Your Siamese Cat," is shortly to be published in Britain, writes:

"I had seen Kit-zyme advertised often in the English cat magazines and, when a friend sent me a few tablets as a sample, I knew I had to lay in a supply because my cats were crazy about them.

Over here, we use a powder form of brewers' yeast, but it is not greeted with the enthusiasm your Kit-zyme tablets are. One shake of the bottle brings Mike running, and Kaew, a Siamese Seal-point kitten, has to eat her's fast or Mike sticks his dear face right into her's and tries to nose her out!

The improvement the last few days in their appetites is really very noticeable and as there has been no change in their diet or habits, I can credit this to Kit-zyme and to Kit-zyme only!"

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It is a natural Tonic and Conditioner—NOT a purgative

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**VITAMINS**

By Mrs. KATHLEEN BARTON-WRIGHT

SO much has been said recently about vitamin deficiency in our cats' diet that we thought this article on the subject, first published by us in 1936, would be of interest.

and they developed polyneuritis. Now-a-days the final "e" has been deleted, and these substances are called "vitamins," the reason being that they are not necessarily chemical compounds of the "amine" group.

As far back as 1881, it has been known that apart from protein, carbohydrate, fat and mineral salts, there is a constituent of foodstuffs essential to animal life which need only be present in very minute quantities. In 1912, Professor Sir Fredrick Gowland Hopkins, of Cambridge University, again showed that food given to rats which consisted of specially purified protein, carbohydrates, fats and mineral salts would not promote normal growth unless a very small quantity of milk or extract of animal tissue was added to the food. The rats ceased to grow and died at an early age. It was Funk, in 1911, who identified a crystalline substance which he obtained by fractionating polished rice and which he called "vitamine." Humans fed on rice and other cereals which did not contain this "vitamine" developed beriberi, a form of paralysis, and he also experimented with birds

Vitamins are classified for convenience in the following way:—

Vitamin A.—Vitamin A is a fat soluble body which is synthesised by flowering plants, and animals in turn obtain it from the green parts of plants. It passes into the milk and is therefore of vital importance to the growing young, *i.e.*, kittens. It is present in fish oils, the fish getting it either from some green algae direct, or by eating other fish that have already had a meal of green algae. It is also present in milk, butter, cream, and egg yolk and the amount in which it is present in these foods depends entirely upon how the cows and hens concerned are fed, that is to say how much greenstuff they are given. Margarine, which is a vegetable fat, does not contain vitamin A and is of very little use from the point of view of food value by itself. If an animal is starved of vitamin A, it has

been shown that the eyes are affected. Rats have been studied in this connection and those deprived of vitamin A showed severe symptoms of the sticky eye that cat breeders know so well, for there is scarcely a breeder who is not acquainted with this affliction in young kittens. The tear glands dry and conjunctival sac no longer gets washed and there is an effusion of pus, and finally the sticky exudate pastes the lids together. Generally such a kitten is a poor specimen physically as well. If the kittens are sucking and the mother is given an oil rich in vitamin A, such as cod liver oil, or if the kittens are old enough to take even a minute dose of cod liver oil, there will no doubt be astonishing results. I do not think there is any real external cure for sticky eye, it is simply that the queen, during the time she carried her kittens, though apparently well fed, was starved of vitamin A.

Vitamin D.—This vitamin is present in animal fats also and like vitamin A is present in cod or halibut liver oil. It is also found in butter, but in much less quantities than A, it is found in milk and egg yolk and bone marrow is rich in it. If a young animal is deprived of vitamin D, rickets is developed, and the teeth are poor.

Lack of phosphates, lime salts, and vitamin D, and excess of starchy foods all give rickety symptoms. There is a strong relationship between vitamin D and sunlight. Sunlight can convert a substance called ergosterol, present in fats, into vitamin D. So, in view of these facts, kittens which show a disposition to rickets, should be treated with cod or halibut liver oil and be exposed to as much sunshine as possible. Reasonable excess of vitamin D in the diet has no harmful effect. It has been found that cod liver oil consists of 99 per cent true fat, the other 1 per cent containing vitamins.

Vitamin E.—This vitamin is present in the wheat germ, commercial olive oil, in lettuce, meat, whole wheat, milk fat, but it is not present to any great extent in cod liver oil or whole milk. Deficiency of this vitamin causes sterility. In the female absorption of the foetus may take place. In the rat, the preliminary stages of gestation proceed normally, but the foetus generally dies on the twelfth or thirteenth day. Normally an animal gets a supply of vitamin E in the ordinary mixed diet, but it would be worth while increasing the supply of this vitamin by giving a suitable diet in cases of suspected sterility.

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WHY CATS' EYES GLOW

By JOHN COLE, F.B.O.A.

IT is popularly supposed that cats' eyes are phosphorescent, or, by some other means, self-luminous. Such is not the case. Why then, you will ask, do they glow in the dark?

To understand the answer, you must know what the inside of a cat's eye is like. Imagine an ordinary rubber ball with an oval hole in it. The ball itself then corresponds to the eye and the hole to the pupil—the black part of pussy's eye. The hole in the ball appears black for precisely the same reason as the pupil is black. Neither lets in sufficient light to illuminate the inside.

The pupil, however, is in one important respect different from the hole in the ball. It can vary its size. Not only that, but it does so automatically according to the strength of the light. We all know how our pets' pupils are mere slits in the sunlight, whilst in dull light they are large and nearly round. All animals (and human beings as well) are provided with this wonderful natural precaution against an excess of light getting to and damaging the sensitive parts of the eye.

Now, although these interior parts are not phosphorescent, they are *highly reflective*. When the light is bright—for example, in broad daylight—we do not

perceive the reflections from them, first because the pupils are so nearly closed up and secondly the intense light outside the eye "drowns" the comparatively feeble reflections. In a dim light, however, matters are quite different. Pussy's pupils are no longer small, and the reflections flash out in contrast to the comparative darkness. They are green simply because, in a cat, the back of the eye is green. In *complete* darkness, which is a condition very rarely encountered, there would be no reflections at all.

Here is a very simple way of seeing the inside of the eye in greater detail. Get a piece of mirror, about two or three inches square, and scrape away the silver backing to make a little hole about an eighth of an inch round in the middle of it. Settle pussy down with an ordinary opal electric lamp somewhere behind her, and from a distance of about two feet from her reflect the light into her eye by means of the mirror. On looking through the hole which you scraped away, you will observe a gorgeously variegated green and purple glow in her eye. If you are *very* observant, you may even see the tiny blood-vessels.

JADE CATS

By HARRY MAXWELL

WE have heard a lot about the veneration with which Siamese cats have been held in Siam. Which is all very proper. No one could listen to the penetrating howls of a new arrival, whose forebears demanded and received more adulation than Greta Garbo, without being impressed.

But what about the millions of ordinary pussies in China? Nobody seems to have thought about them except collectively as *cats*! Just that. But wait. There is irrefutable evidence that a cat—yes, any old cat—was an object of veneration among the Chinese. What did Imperial personages with power to order all sorts of barbaric unpleasantries to lesser specimens of mere mankind do, to show their admiration for the feline species?

One gesture only was considered worthy of so important an animal. Their most prized stone—Jade—must be carved in exquisite perfection in images of cats. Other animals would also be rendered from this exotic stone on occasions, but Jade Cats can be found metaphorically strolling down the centuries of cultured China.

Not only was it pussy's graceful figure that appealed

to those Chinamen who could afford to perpetuate her image in jade. No, indeed, hers was to bring much greater happiness and peace to her owner.

She was the celestial gentleman's demon dispeller! Apparently all the celestial gentlemen beset by demons adopted this simple precaution of sending them about their business, for the number of jade cats is considerable. More, the possessor of a cat in jade could count on a good share of this world's valuables.

Sometimes a very worried celestial gentleman would go one better than his neighbours and demand that the patient carver of jade produce two cats. These were usually placed head to tail and represented mystic symbols known as Ying and Yang. Just what such symbol was supposed to represent it is hard to tell from a glance at the green stone felines, but it was something propitious. If such cats were of different colours—jade and green are by no means synonymous as many people imagine—they were doubly lucky.

And puss served the celestial one in yet another manner. Let an enemy be too difficult

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MEET THE BREEDERS

BLUE NOTES

By DORRIE
BRICE-WEBB

I EXPECT many readers will be interested to know that I am hoping to run a "Cat Section" on August 4th, run in conjunction with the Beeston Carnival Week. All proceeds will be going to charity and I shall be very grateful for any help any of you can give me. Full details will be announced later, but I can assure anyone wishing to exhibit a very happy day.

I was hoping to get away for a few days at the end of April, but my plans have been altered as I am expecting a litter of kittens out of my Ronada April by Southway Echo, also about the same time Thiepval Elf is due to kitten, these will be by Ch. Astra of Pensford. So goodbye holiday, my pets always come first, especially at a time like this. One wonders how many valuable kittens are lost through leaving the little mother to get on with the job herself. I do not attempt to help if everything is straight forward, but sometimes it isn't. If the mother appears to be having a bad delivery, I always

give a teaspoonful of castor oil and this always works wonders.

If any novice wants advice on any matter, I will be only too happy to help if they will write to me direct or care of this magazine. I shall also be pleased to receive news of your pets, don't forget these are "Blue Notes" so let me hear from you.

There is to be a show at Chester on June 4th. I have been invited to judge Long Hairs. There is also one being run at Barnsley, Mrs. Hancox and myself will be judging Long Hairs. This one is being held on July 19th.

JADE CATS—Continued

to vanquish in mortal life, the Chinamen would not despair. Inscrutably and patiently he would wait, knowing that when he departed this life he would return with all speed and wreak whatever vengeance he had stored up for his enemies in the form of that delightful creature, a *plain* cat.

YOUR CATS AND MINE

By LILIAN FRANCE

HOW nice to get a sunny day once more, and how the cats appreciate it. I decided to do some gardening, and as it was Gay's (Chinki Gaylord) free time, he followed me around, rolling happily on the path whilst I tipped the compost out of the barrow. I saw the first snowdrops flowering, and already the crocuses are well through.

How discouraging a show report can be. None of us like to think we are bad losers, but we should hardly go to all the trouble and expense of taking a cat to London if it had a major fault such as a poor tail. Therefore, when we take a cat with a perfectly good one and have it so described in the official report, it is more than a little bewildering. I think it is time a little more consideration was shown to the exhibitor, who is expected to take all the kicks lying down, however undeserved.

It was Gally's (Sco Ruston Galadima) birthday on February 6th, and a lovely card came addressed to him from Mrs. Ivimey of Gloucester. What a kind thought, and what

a great cat lover she is. She wrote—"To Gally, from one who loves him."

Several people have called my attention to Mrs. Kent's report of the A.V. class which she judged at the National show. This included a Burmese kitten, exhibited by Miss Cherry Calvert Jones, which gave Mrs. Kent the opportunity to say, "it was time novices knew there was no standard of points in this country by which Burmese could be judged and it looked to her like a brown Siamese of poor type with yellow eyes." Is the inference that I, as the breeder of Burmese, sold a kitten to Miss Calvert Jones without telling her the position regarding the Burmese? This, of course, is completely untrue. We are eagerly awaiting our third generation, so that we may get a breed number. There is a Burmese Society in America, and the Burmese are recognised by the Parent American Associations. Copies of the standard of points approved by them have been sent to the G.C. for the guidance of the

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Modern Research and Cat Health

*How the work of biochemists
and veterinary surgeons helps to make
cats healthier*

IF the diet does not contain a sufficient supply of vitamins, together with what biochemists call 'trace elements,' then your cat can never be really fit and grow a lovely coat. A healthy bloodstream, good bone formation, sound digestion and nervous structure; all depend not only on the correct vitamins and mineral elements, but—what is critical—on their being present in scientifically balanced proportions. This is why 'Tibs' are so necessary for all cats and kittens.

HOW 'TIBS' CONDITION CATS

'Tibs' Cat Powders supplement the 'civilised' diet of domestic cats with vitamins and minerals which it may normally lack.

Every packet of 'Tibs' Cat Powders embodies the research of workers in the field of cat nutrition, and the 'Tibs' formula is scientifically balanced to provide minerals and vitamins which the cat needs in exactly the right proportions. Iron, copper and cobalt are present to provide fresh red blood cells and prevent anaemia; calcium and phosphorus

for healthy bones and teeth; vitamin B₁ and nicotinic acid for healthy appetite, silky coat and good general condition.



A corner of the Bob Martin laboratories where 'Tibs' Cat Powders are being discussed with visitors.

H.Q. OF CAT HEALTH

All 'Tibs' preparations are under constant analytical control in the Bob Martin laboratories at Southport. Veterinary surgeons and pharmacists who are welcome visitors, have expressed their admiration for the research and care that go into every 'Tibs' product.

Visits from the Cat Fancy to the Bob Martin laboratories and factory are cordially invited. Cat Club Secretaries who wish to organise parties should write to the Advertising Department for possible dates.

TIBS

If you would like to have a copy of the TIBS CAT BOOK for reference, please write to Room CK, Bob Martin Limited, Southport.

KEEP CATS KITTENISH

judges, so that they could judge to this standard when they have Burmese in a class. As an experienced breeder and exhibitor, Miss Calvert Jones objects to being referred to as a novice. As I bought a kitten born June, 1943, out of probably the first litter Mrs. Kent ever bred, does this make *her* a novice? Does her attitude towards these novel and fascinating cats give one an idea why there is so little progress in the Fancy and why it remains so small? There can never be progress whilst there is prejudice. I am still waiting to hear of any help or encouragement given to Fanciers by the G.C., of which Mrs. Kent is a member, but should one dare to make some trifling mistake, it is said, one is pounced on with alacrity, and threatened with all sorts of dire punishments. It is a pity something was not done about Mr. Whiting's suggestion for an exhibitors' association—not, as Mrs. Kent said, for the non-winners to air their views, but to protect us all from slings and arrows. We might then be able to do something about the Fancy being run by a handful of people, all of whom

are on the same club committees, and also delegates to the G.C. The Croydon Club's idea of members of their committee only being allowed on one other was excellent. But nothing will ever be done. The members of the Cat Fancy are peculiarly docile and long suffering. They continue to take all that is handed out to them without daring to say a word so the position will remain as it is, with a few people dictating the policy.

I paid a visit to Mrs. Linda Parker's cattery, where all her felines appeared to be in fine form. Her Burmese male, Chinki Yong Mintha, was looking simply wonderful. On seeing me he gave me a simply charming greeting.

MUCH TOO RISKY!

This is the considered opinion of all the Insurance Offices transacting the more orthodox types of business regarding the insurance of CATS.

THIS VERY FACT EMPHASISES THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE COVER for valuable Felines, and since the recent introduction of the Comprehensive Cover by the well-established

Canine Insurance Association Limited an increasingly large number of breeders and owners are taking the business precaution of insuring.

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A MONTHLY MISCELLANY

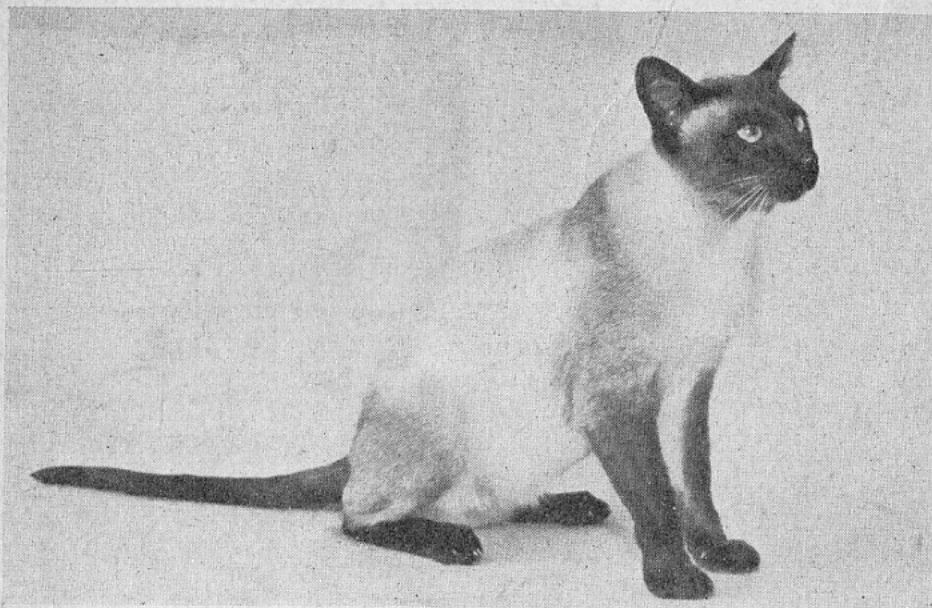
ELSIE KENT'S NEWSLETTER

WRITING last month about quarantine quarters for cats the following letter was received from a breeder who has exported a number of Siamese to various parts of the world:—"If you hear of any kittens going to Australia, tell the breeder to insist that they go to the Melbourne quarantine, and if the client will not agree to this then advise them *not* to sell. The poor kitten had a collar on, which had never been let out at all, and its neck had grown into its collar and was red raw underneath. Full of lice and fleas, ears all matted and fly blown." Not very pleasant reading is it? Nothing is too bad for the persons responsible for this sort of thing. Are there no animal societies who will try to remedy this appalling state of affairs?

Tail-piece from a letter from Mrs. "Lindale" Parker: Well I will close, I am wondering what will turn up from this house next season in the way of a controversial cat? This season it was Tilly—last season Simon Pie had quite a bit. I think it will have to be one of Maxi's—one that she has bitten the leg off—or even an "Ann Boleyn," one without its

napper. At least it would be fun having another cat as debatable as the previous two, another season. So if you see a kit in the pen next season with a wooden leg, you can be sure it comes from "The Lindale Cattery"! Linda Parker, who might appear to be an even more typical member of the cat world than most, is no fool. She knows just how to turn any controversy arising about her stock into good advertising copy, and no one can blame her if she makes a success of it.

In the news lately, the televised version of the schoolboy stories of long ago, Billy Bunter and his playmates, whose adventures in the "Magnet" delighted so many youngsters. What has this to do with a cat paper? Only that yours truly was an ardent fan of those heroes of fiction, and their escapades were perused each week. So much so, that when a story-writing competition was organised by this paper, Elsie Kent not only entered, but won a prize! Going through my childhood's books the other day, I came across a volume of Tennyson's poems awarded by the editor of the



Bynes Romeo

“Magnet” and suitably inscribed for merit! Funny, isn’t it? and a far cry from pithy paras. in 1. “That delightful little cat paper,” or 2. “That rotten little rag,” according to which section of the Fancy you belong.

New Siamese Cat Club Hon. Secretary, Katrina Sayers, has left Rydes Hill Lodge and is now installed at Barbarons, Dunsfold, Surrey. All the cats stood the move very well and are settling down in their new quarters. Ch. Killdown Jupiter is looking very nice just now, and has sired some handsome kittens who no doubt will make their debut in the show pen later on. He is, I think, the only son of the late lamented

Oriental Silky Boy at stud, and carries that perfect head so sought after by breeders. Writing of Jupiter, brings to mind the sad news received from Sydney Moran in New Zealand, who owned Jupiter’s natural brother, Killdown Appollo. Appollo was tragically killed by a dog, and it has left his owner heart-broken. It is all the more unfortunate as this particular breeding cannot be repeated.

Vacancies on the committee of this popular Club were highly contested. Result of postal ballot, this time signed by the voter, reveals the same old gang are back again. Surely the malcontents are now satisfied. Elections at the general

meeting, numbered, unsigned ballot papers, and now signed voting papers, but results come out as before. What more can be done?

Oddly enough, it was through picking up a copy of “Cats and Kittens” off a station bookstall that I ever began breeding Siamese—it must have been either the first or second number ever published — so writes Mrs. Burgess—I was utterly enthralled and determined to have a Siamese female at the earliest opportunity. It was also very strange the difficulty I had in getting one! I then discovered Mr. Soderberg, and from him purchased the most fascinating creature I had ever dreamed of. She is Foxburrow Runtie, now seven years old. Having commenced to breed Siamese, Mrs. Burgess’ next ambition was to own a stud, and with this idea she came to see me at Pewley Hill and went away with Sealsleeve Shah Petiot. Alas, he lived with her only three weeks. His place was taken

by Briarry Picardo, who was bred by Brian Stirling-Webb out of his imported queen Maleo. I saw Picardo some years ago, and thought him of wonderful type, lacking only eye-colour, as is so often the case with imported stock. Again misfortune befell Mrs. Burgess, as at ten months of age Picardo disappeared, and although searched for far and wide, he was never seen again. Well, perhaps it will be third time lucky—the resident stud at Otford, nr. Sevenoaks, is now Bynes Romeo, sired by Oriental Silky John, out of Burmons Betty, and he already has two championship certificates to his name. There is plenty of good breeding at the back of this male, and I hear he is passing on his lovely length of head and long whip tail. Good luck to him, after many set-backs it is nice to see a keen and persevering breeder reap her reward.

To Jack and Thetis Rendall, writing in a contemporary cat paper, “How right you are!”

LETTERS AND PICTURES



Chummy, who is eleven, is the pet of Mrs. Johnston of Gloucester

Natal,
S. Africa.

Dear Editor,

I have just received my January number of "Cats and Kittens" and note we are invited to give instances of unusual homing instincts in cats. I offer the following.

My father bought a Native Trading Station in Basutoland, and with it we were lucky enough to get a short haired ginger cat called Sandy McNab, it is of Sandy I wish to tell you.

This Station was thirteen miles by road from one of the Government Camps in Basuto-

land—the shorter route was seven miles, but there was a river to cross. The road was not very good, but in the winter we did use it. In the summer we had to take the long route as there was a bridge, and the river was too dangerous to cross (in those days by cart and horses). There was a boat with a native in charge, but this we only used if we were going to camp on horseback.

We had a cottage in Camp and used to stay there for week-ends, sometimes for weeks at a time, then Sandy and our little dog Betty would go with us. Sandy must have been both ways, as we did not like leaving him, but he was always in his basket, and I am sure he could not see enough of the country to help him to know the way.

We packed Sandy into his basket, put the dog in the cart, and set off for Camp by the thirteen mile route, for a long stay, as my Mum had not been well and had to be near the doctor. Sandy and Betty were quite happy the first week, but on the following Friday night Betty produced three pups—great excitement—even Sandy seemed pleased. All was quiet and peaceful until Sunday

TO THE EDITOR

afternoon. My Dad had left for the station again, and we were just in the garden when I noticed Sandy walking up the path and he sat himself down on the top step on the verandah—about three feet away from Betty and the pups—Betty for no reason I could see, flew at poor meditating Sandy. I made the peace, but Sandy was visibly "fed up" and kept his distance for the rest of the day. That evening Sandy had his supper and wandered into the garden as usual. He did not return. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday all passed. No Sandy. Then on Thursday we received a letter from Dad to say that early on Wednesday morning Sandy walked in when the early morning tea was brought to him—no sign of sore feet, his coat was perfect as usual. He was very pleased to be home again. Did he go home the way we took him to camp—thirteen miles, or did he do the seven miles and swim the river? We have no means of knowing, but he left us and reached Dad quite safely?

Some time after this we were once more in the cottage. We had been there about three weeks, as far as I can remember, and on a Saturday morning we went away for the day and

were spending the night with friends, and returning on the Sunday afternoon, leaving a good old native servant to feed Sandy and Betty. She told us the cat and dog were a bit restless on Saturday evening but did appear for food. Sunday morning—no cat and no dog. We returned to an empty house. Dad returned to the Station and there was Betty, very pleased to see him. Sandy was not seen there until the Wednesday, so once again he went back to his original home. Dear old Sandy McNab was a very fine old gentleman. One tufty eye-brow added such an odd expression to his strong face. He was a big well built cat, as far as we knew about seven years old when we lost him. He just disappeared. For weeks we hoped he would return—but no Sandy.

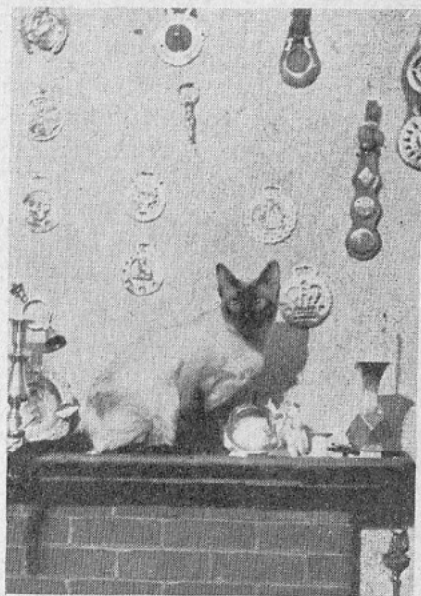
I was very interested to read yours and Mrs. I. Stocker's letters in this last issue, with regard to her cats third eye-lid growing up. I also live in the country and our nearest vet. is eighty-one miles from here, Maritzburg, and this trouble happened to my cat Jackie. He is only five years old and I was most upset, as eye-lids appeared so suddenly to be growing up, so I 'phoned the vet. I always go to with animal

LETTERS AND PICTURES

troubles, and he said there was only one cure—an operation. He came up to Underberg, and the op. only took about three minutes after Jackie went “under.” Then for the next three or four days I put Penicillin twice daily into the eyes. Jackie was so good, he made no effort to struggle. Now his eyes are perfect once more, and I am glad it is all over. He did not go off his food, and he is very fit. He eats raw ox liver, minced—and I cannot persuade him to eat any other meat, raw or cooked. I have even opened, what is to us in this country *very precious* (usually unobtainable) a tin of sardines, offered him trout—a look of disgust is all I get!

Although I have only just received my January issue, I am looking forward to my Feb. number. I just love your little magazine, and find all the letters and photos. most interesting. If I am lucky enough to visit England, I shall make a point of attending some of the cat shows.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs. A. M. White-Smith.



Mitzie

Roberttown,
Liversedge,
Yorks.

Dear Editor,

Enclosed please find my subscription for your magazine, also a photograph of Mitzie Moo on the mantel shelf looking for her Kit-zyme, and she won't come off until she gets them. She has just been mated with Mrs. Cooper's Tiki. He is a beautiful cat, so we hope to have some lovely kits as Mitzi is one off Mrs. Cooper's Kotiki. I hope you will find room for her in your magazine.

Yours faithfully,
Frances Lister.

TO THE EDITOR

St. John's,
Isle of Man.

Dear Editor,

If you have as a subscriber to “Cats and Kittens” a Miss or Mrs. Elsie Thompson in London, would you please let me have her address. She has written to me three times and I am unable to reply as I lost her address after her first letter and on the last three she omitted it.

Yours faithfully,
(Mrs.) Constance Flower.

Note.—Mrs. Thompson is not one of our subscribers, but as a regular reader of our magazine perhaps she will get in touch with Mrs. Flower.

Littlehampton,
Sussex.

Dear Editor,

I am sending a photo. of my cat Billy Badger and hope I shall see it in your magazine.

He was born eighteen months ago in a box specially prepared for his mother and was six months old when this photo. was taken.

He is very intelligent and knows if his master's bicycle goes past the house, although they all sound the same to us.



Billy Badger

When it is nearly time for his master to come home from work he goes out and sits by the gate, then when the bicycle turns the corner runs to meet him, sometimes nearly getting run over as he runs behind and sometimes just in front of the bicycle.

He loves the car too, and one day, unbeknown to us, hid in it and wasn't discovered until we had been out about an hour. He was perfectly happy.

I am enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for the return of photo., but before I close will just say how I enjoy your magazine.

Yours truly,
(Mrs.) J. Green.

LETTERS AND PICTURES

350 West 57th Street,
New York 19, N.Y.

Dear Editor,

May I ask the help of your readers in collecting stories about cats? Their kindness will be greatly appreciated.

I would like the stories to be true. And to include a brief description of the cat, its breed (if "short-haired domestic," please not "alley cat"!), its name, sex, age and the name of the owner and/or person chiefly involved. I would, of course, not use the names without permission.

No type of story is barred. I can't help preferring stories in which the cat appears in a favourable light, but I do not insist on this. I have no such prejudice in favour of protecting the reputation of humans!

Letters should be sent directly to me, at 350 West 57th St., New York City 19. They will be acknowledged promptly and with true gratitude.

Sincerely,

Hettie Gray Baker.

Pontfadog, Wrexham.

Dear Editor,

I am writing to ask if you will kindly advise me re my Siamese cat. I have a lovely Siamese neutered female, age three and a half years, rather on the small side. She eats

well of food she likes—fish, meat, rabbit, etc., but one day recently she was seeming rather quiet, and the same evening she vomited a little and brought a longish white object, rather like a piece of thin string about four inches long. I thought it must be a worm, for which I bought a box of Worm Tablets. On reading the leaflet re the tablets, I was surprised to read there was a risk in worming a cat, so thought I would ask your advice on the best treatment for her. I am quite used to cats, having had Siamese for sixteen years, but have never had any worm trouble. We live in the heart of the country and of course the cats are able to help themselves to grass medicine.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) Elsie Morris.

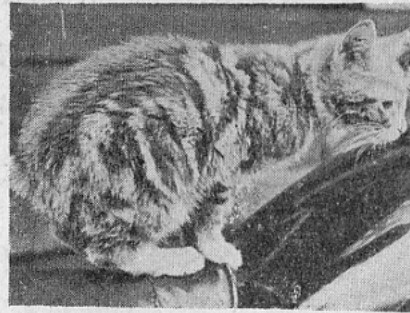
Dear Mrs. Morris,

Undoubtedly your cat needs to be wormed. It is true that there is slight risk in worming any animal, but as you have bought some worm tablets I feel sure that you will get good results by using them exactly as directed.

I shall be glad to hear from you later that you have been successful in the treatment.

Editor.

TO THE EDITOR



Rufus the right way up. In the January No. you saw him overcome by the heat

Davis Estate,

Chatham,

Kent.

Dear Editor,

I have recently become the possessor of a fine male Siamese cat. I have been informed that unless I have him neutered he will prove a bad pet as he will spray a liquid, a means of attracting females, over the furniture. As my cat is allowed full freedom to roam, we live in the country, could you inform if this statement is true?

If I have him attended to will this debar him for show purposes?

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs.) O. P. Baker.

Dear Mrs. Baker,

It is impossible to keep an entire Siamese male in the house as a pet. He will spray

and the smell is objectionable, and whatever is sprayed on will become discoloured.

The entire Siamese male should be kept in an out-building with a run, and used as a stud cat. He should, of course, be allowed to have at least an hour's complete freedom a day, but only on his own and not when any of your other cats may be out. An entire male can be entered in the Championship classes at all the shows.

The alternative is to have him neutered, about which you would have to consult your vet. He could then live in the house and the spraying would not occur again. However, at the shows he could then only compete in the Neuter classes.

Editor.

London, W.9.

Dear Editor,

Please send me six issues of "Cats and Kittens" to the above address. I enclose 6/6 for same. My Siamese cat, fifteen months old, is thoroughbred, purchased from Mrs. Fisher, N. Devon, when four months old, and has been neutered. Simon has been perfectly healthy until now. He is continually licking himself and pulling out bags of his fur. The vet. tells me he has

LETTERS AND PICTURES

eczema, and has given me some powder to be taken, and advises weekly doses of liquid paraffin. His main diet has been fish, which the vet. advises me to discontinue and feed him on offal, rabbit, etc. He misses the fish and looks very sad. Will you kindly give me your advice? Simon is a great pet, and I do want to keep him healthy. He is a lovely looking puss. Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) Florence M. Jackson.

Dear Mrs. Jackson,

I don't think it is a good idea to feed a cat only on fish, and I agree with your vet. that it is best to feed on rabbit, lightly boiled and with the bones removed, lightly roasted cat meat, and occasionally fish.

Some people grate carrot very finely and sprinkle some of this over the food together with Weetabix, half a Weetabix to a meal also crushed up with the food.

I think your cat is suffering from a vitamin deficiency and recommend you to give it a course of Kit-zyme tablets, which it will like, and at the same time it could be given condition powders.

Editor.

Bellingham,
London, S.E.6.

Dear Editor,

Many thanks for sending the two copies of December "Cats and Kittens," also for the delightful little book "Cats in Rhyme." I love the little drawings.

I did ask you in a previous letter if you had any idea where I might get a book called "Nine Lives" by Caroline Marraige, and "Ship of Solace."

I would like to ask you a little bit of advice about my cat Dimpleby. He will be seven years old this summer. He is a nice big cat and has a lovely glossy coat, but his breath is awful. He is quite healthy otherwise. I have tried to get him to take Kit-zyme, but he won't touch it, so I have to grate up about half a tablet and mix with his food, yet a cat I give "bed and breakfast" to will eat a tablet on its own.

I am enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for the return of the two snaps of Dimpleby and Horley. Thank you once more for printing them. With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) May Davies.

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Miss Davies,

You could try giving Dimpleby a Dimol A tablet before each meal for a three day course, but it may be necessary for you to get the vet. to look at him as I notice he is seven years old, and perhaps his teeth are yellow and covered with tartar, and this would require treatment by your vet.

I'm afraid we don't know from whom you could obtain the book "Nine Lives" or "Ship of Solace." I'm sorry about this. Editor.

Wolsingham, Co. Durham.

Dear Editor,

I shall be so grateful if you will advise me about my Blue Persian neuter who does not seem quite well. He is one year and eight months old and weighs 13lbs. 14ozs. Nearly three weeks ago he became very nervous, jumping at the least sound, and he refused to go out. I then found he was not soiling his sanitary tin every day. I gave him liquid paraffin and he passed a large motion which contained quite a large lump of hair. I have been giving the paraffin for

about a fortnight and there is still a little hair coming. His appetite has been good until Tuesday of this week, when he did not eat his supper and his breath was not very nice, but not really bad. I had been feeding him three times a day, but since reading your article in this month's "Cats and Kittens" I thought I was probably overfeeding him, and I have stopped his lunch. His nose is usually cold and wet, and he has plenty of energy.

Yesterday he played with his toys and was into all the mischief he could find until tea time, when he settled down to sleep, but I feel there is something not quite right. I groom him every day, but he does a lot of washing. He hates his tummy and trousers being touched and had some knots, but I have been ruthless and clipped them all off with scissors. He is not nearly so nervous the last ten days.

My other Blue Persian neuter has had two meals a day for the past seven years or more, and at eight and a half years of age is fine. He has All-Bran with a little milk at breakfast

LETTERS AND PICTURES

time and is very annoyed if we give him anything else; and for supper he has meat, fish or rabbit with brown bread, corn-flakes or puffed wheat. This seems to suit him very well. He never soils his sanitary tin, but goes out every day first thing in the morning and again at tea-time. I suppose he "goes" in the garden as he is very fit.

I thought the other cat Bonnie was "going" in the garden until he refused to go out, and I found the tin was not used daily, so the irregular actions may have been going on for longer than I know.

I had two horrid experiences with cats lately which has made me terribly nervous. I bought a Blue Persian kitten from a well-known cattery and all went well for a year, when he suddenly became ill, refusing all food and having very bad constipation. The vet. treated him for weeks and then we had him X-rayed. They said he had a hair ball, and my vet. operated on him. He found no hair at all, but the liver was "white and gritty" and I had him put to sleep there and then.

I got another youngster from the same cattery and within a few weeks he started the same symptoms as his cousin. The vet. treated him, but there was no improvement, so he too had

to be put to sleep exactly six months after I got him.

These two both had jaundice, yellow skin, pale mouths and yellow whites of the eyes, and their backs were arched up. Bonnie shows none of these symptoms, but I can't help feeling very anxious and worried. His coat sometimes goes limp and bedraggled, and then, within an hour or two, is fluffy and nice. He has Kit-zyme every day and loves it.

I enclose a stamped envelope for your reply which I shall anxiously await. I have Dimol A tablets, but as you usually advise them for loose motions, I have not given him any. As the vet.'s bill for the other two was over £27, I have not had him, but will certainly do so if you advise it.

With good wishes for your excellent magazine.

Yours sincerely,
(Miss) Sylvia M. F. Downie.

P.S.—He is flying round the room now as if nothing ailed him!

Dear Miss Downie,

It is obvious that your Blue Persian neuter has had a hair-ball, which is caused by swallowing hair, this might be prevented by keeping the cat thoroughly brushed, especially when it is moulting time.

TO THE EDITOR

When a cat has hair-ball it should be given a teaspoon of liquid paraffin night and morning until the hair is ejected. This is one of the best things. Cooked oatmeal and bread sometimes help to cure the obstructions. According to Ida M. Mellen in her Practical Cat Book, an excellent remedy is emulsion of psyllium seed jelly with liquid paraffin, 50-50, unflavoured. Give one teaspoon only, either in the milk or spread on the paws where it will be licked off.

I hope by now that your cat is well, but if not and you try this I hope it will be successful. If not you certainly must get your vet. Editor.

Knighton,
Radnorshire.

Dear Editor,

I am very worried. Recently my kitten died of gastric trouble. He was in perfect condition, then one morning he was off his food, the next day he started to vomit, and the following day he died. This is the third one I have lost in exactly the same way. Is there some reason for it, as they had never been near any other cat to catch anything?

My old cat lived for fifteen years. I would like to have another one later on, but am so

full of fear, it is dreadful to see them suffer so.

I would like to mention that the kittens were not from the same place.

Thanking you,
(Mrs.) Elizabeth Tanteum.

Dear Mrs. Tanteum,

It is perfectly clear from your letter that the trouble which your cats have had is the dreaded Gastro Enteritis, and as the germs are still about any cat brought into the house would pick them up and would be dead within a very short time.

The only thing to do is to wait six months before buying another kitten and in the meantime doing all in your power to sterilize and disinfect wherever these unfortunate cats have been. Editor.

Hendon, London, N.W.9.
Dear Editor,

In this month's magazine you say that you will answer any question regarding pussie's health.

We have a little Siamese kitten about six months old who is our dearest pet. When we got her she wasn't very fond of milk, then after we had her spayed she seemed to take a delight to milk. She is in perfect health, but her bowels

LETTERS AND PICTURES

are of a loose consistency. On reading P. M. Soderberg's book he says that some cats like milk although it doesn't agree with them. I thought perhaps she had worms, but she is not greedy with food. She likes rabbit, but has gone off horse meat, although she will take it raw. Fish she will eat as long as it is plaice, but this must be fried like our own. Do you think it is the milk and should I boil it first. Ought I to give her Dimol tablets.

(Mrs.) M. S. Richards.

Dear Mrs. Richards,

Although cats like milk so much, to my mind it certainly is not good for them except when their stomachs have been upset by something or other, and then I can recommend a milky diet, always providing the milk has been boiled.

Even then the milk should be given sparingly as there is not the least doubt that too much milk tends to make a cat "loose." I should only use Dimol A tablets in a case of definite stomach trouble and where there was obvious need for them.

Editor.

Rothley, Leicester.

Dear Editor,

I have been noting with interest and a certain amount of amusement, the varied and contradictory remarks in different magazines about the kink in Salinkia Sweet William's tail.

However, on reading last week's issue of "Fur and Feather" I felt that Mrs. Rendall's remarks that he should not be placed at public stud were a little unfair, both to the cat and to the three judges who judged him Champion!

He sired my litter of nine kittens, all of which had straight tails! and one of which, Pride of Allah, won a second prize at the Siamese Show and was judged by Mrs. France.

He has not been shown since as he has been neutered, but I hope to show him in the neuter classes later on.

I am a regular reader of "Cats and Kittens" and enjoy it very much. I wonder if you could please publish this letter.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) Violet Baxter.

TO THE EDITOR

Mynyddisa, Mold, Flintshire.

Dear Editor,

I would be very pleased if you could let me know if it is true that ginger or red tabby female cats are rare. I have heard on several occasions that they are. My sister had one given to her for a male. I knew at once it was a female, but to make sure and satisfy herself, she asked her vet. and he assured her it was a female, and also told her they are rare. When she told the person who gave it to her, she could hardly believe it, as she had never heard of one.

Are such cats valuable? It would be interesting to know, have any other readers of "Cats and Kittens" such an unusual cat. It is now six months old, and has a slim, long body like a Siamese, and *very large* round eyes which are turning deeper in colour. Her body colour is light ginger with pale buff tabby markings, two lines running down her back, a ringed tail and pale feet.

I shall be pleased to hear your comments on this.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Dolby.

P.S.—I take your magazine each month and enjoy reading it.

Editor's Note.—We should be glad to hear our readers' views on Mrs. Dolby's letter.

Palmer's Green,
London, N.13.

Dear Editor,

Can I appeal through your columns to people not to let their cats out at this time of year in the *dusk*? We all know about the dangers of letting them roam at night, but I don't think everybody realises how dangerous it is when dusk coincides with the homeward bound traffic—later in the summer, I think, it is not so dangerous.

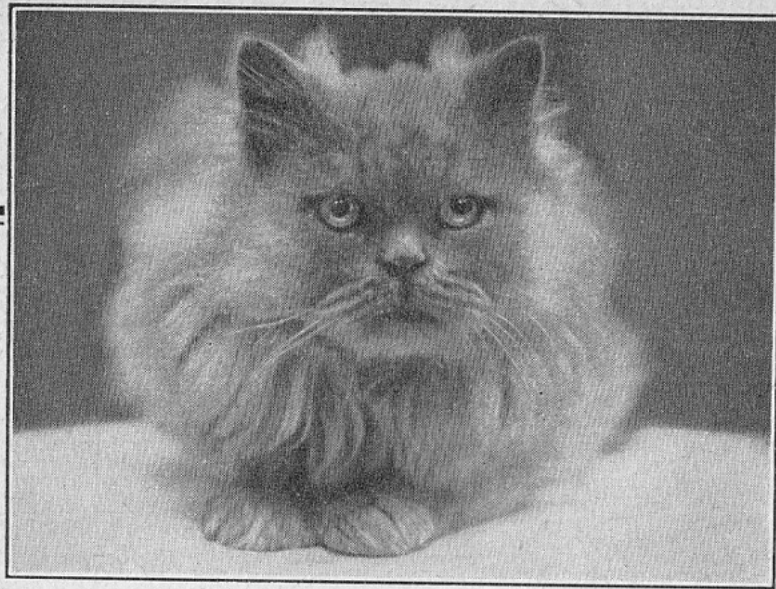
We have just had an instance of this, as my poor Siamese Frensham Khan (Roo) was run over and killed on December 7th last between 4.30 and 5 o'clock in the evening. You published his picture in your issue of November, 1950. We miss him most dreadfully, and so does his poor black friend, who cannot seem to understand what has happened and why the Siamese who lives here now refuses to be friends.

I feel I could not be without a cat, and am now owned by Clonlost Casanova, who was looking most desperately for a home.

Yours faithfully,

S. F. Benda.

P.S.—I must add that I was out at the time Roo was killed. I had never liked him going out at that time of night.



PRIORY VALENTINE

Mrs. M. E. Beedell of 243, Brixton Road, London, S.W.9, writes:—

"I thought you might like to see the photograph of my prize-winning Blue Persian, Priory Valentine. Valentine had a severe illness and, after a relapse, developed pleurisy. For weeks he would not eat, but I gave him Kit-zyme which I am sure brought him through. I gave the tablets to him by dropping them down as medicine and now he eats them himself.

I would also like to tell you about a beautiful alley cat belonging to someone I know. This cat, a young tom, recently got in a brawl over females and was bitten very close to the spinal cord. He couldn't use his hindquarters and refused all food. Kit-zyme was given crumbled up on a bit of tasty food but, when he had got the flavour, he ate the tablets one after the other. Now he is running about as usual."

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CHINTZ CATS—AND OTHERS

—from page 5

from Cyprus by merchants, and that the name also described a colour, a kind of reddish-yellow, so that possibly a Cyprus cat may have meant a red tabby or a tortoiseshell, although according to Holloway's "Dictionary of Provincialisms" (1839), the Norfolk name for tortoiseshell was "Calimanco cat" from calimanco, a glossy material. One of the most delightful of "county" names, again from a material, comes suitably enough from Lancashire where tortoiseshells are referred to as "Chintz" cats. The word chintz came originally from the Hindu "chint," meaning spotted or variegated. This name was given to a kind of stained or painted calico produced in India, no doubt the forerunner of the modern glazed, printed calico. Corres-

pondents on the subject of the "Cornwall" cat may be interested to learn that one writer has stated that a century ago all tailless cats were known as "Cornwall" cats. If the Manx really lost his tail as the result of continued in-breeding, due to the restrictions of a small island as some authorities believe, it seems not improbable to suppose that Cornish cats suffered at one time from a rather similar isolation and that there may have developed a race of tailless cats in the wilder parts of that county. Cornwall has always maintained a curiously detached position geographically and temperamentally—to this day the country folk call all other English people "foreigners"—so possibly the Cornish cats like the Cornish people "kept themselves to themselves," and temporarily mislaid their tails.

VITAMINS—from page 10.

Vitamin C.—This is the vitamin which is present in all fresh fruits and vegetables, though apples, pears and peaches contain very little. Orange, grape fruit, celery, cabbage and carrots are rich in vitamin C. Deficiency of this vitamin brings about a condition of scurvy, and it has

been found that rats, mice, pigeons and chickens have not been influenced by the lack of vitamin C in their diet, and it seems very likely that they are able to synthesise it for themselves. This may be true also for cats. The chemical nature of this vitamin is now known, and it can be prepared in the laboratory. Its chemical name is ascorbic acid.

In conclusion, it would seem that vitamin A and vitamin D are of the foremost importance to cat breeders, especially vitamin A. I feel convinced that the sticky eye found in a great many kittens is of the same nature as the ophthalmia which developed in the experimental rats which were deprived of vitamin A. So give your nursing mothers cod or halibut liver oil during the time they

are carrying their kittens. The oil, together with plenty of sunshine, should produce the perfectly healthy kitten which every breeder strives so hard to get. On the other hand, it must be remembered that these vitamins are only required in minute amounts and they cannot take the place of bulk food. They are necessary for the bulk food to have its proper effect.

CATS IN RHYME

by

LINDY LOU

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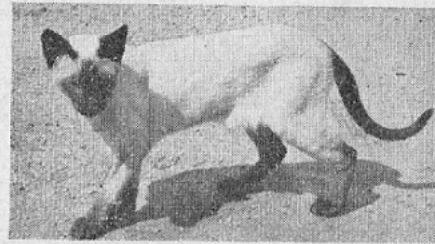
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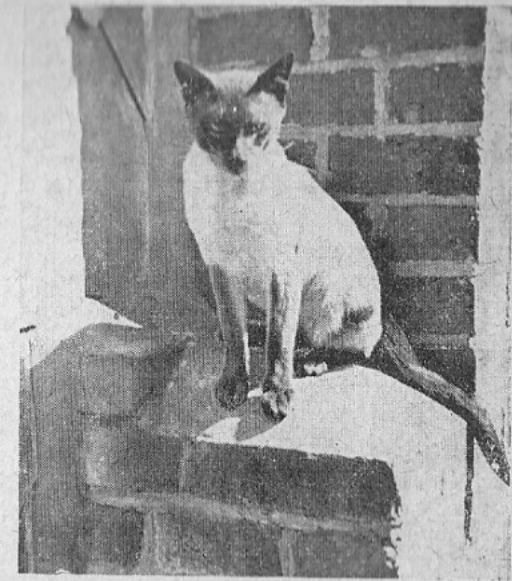
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