

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



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FEBRUARY 1940

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Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

VOL. 1 No. 2

FEBRUARY 1949

THANKS FOR THE FLOWERS!

THE launching of any new publication is a pretty anxious time for the poor old Editor, particularly in these days when fresh ventures—hedged round by paper restrictions—are very much the Cinderellas of the publishing profession. However, thanks to you, dear Sir or Madam, we are very nicely through with the first issue of OUR CATS and quite a few of our anxieties are well behind us. Indeed, we find ourselves in such a position that a little optimism is justified.

The postman has been a frequent caller since the distribution of our first issue and the anticipated mixed bag of brickbats and bouquets has not materialised. Instead, it has been flowers all the way! A few mild protests were noted here and there but these were voiced only by those readers who were anxious to have future copies delivered flat. These complaints were justified because folding in wrappers creased the pictures down the centre. Arrangements have been completed to ensure that in future all copies are despatched in envelopes that will take them unfolded.

Frankly, I expected our readers to be a little more critical than they were; to say, perhaps, that although they liked the Magazine 'as a job

(Continued on page 11)

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Colour in Cats

A few weeks ago, cat lovers were provided with a real treat by the B.B.C. when Professor Haldane gave a 15-minute talk on "What sort of Kittens will your Cat have?" Thanks to a kindly gesture by this eminent authority on genetics, OUR CATS is able to reproduce not merely the broadcast talk but the complete script from which the talk was taken. The second instalment, to appear in next month's issue, will deal largely with Tortoiseshell Cats and Professor Haldane's interesting experiment to produce a new variety—a Stripeless Marmalade Cat.

I AM going to talk about cats. Most of our domestic animals have been more or less degraded by domestication. They are slaves even if they are willing and loving slaves, like the dog. The cat and the bee have not lost their honour. The bee remains a citizen of the hive, and is prepared to die defending it against the human giant who takes its honey. The cat accepts some of our moral ideas. It quite agrees with us that it must be gentle with our babies as well as its own. But it thinks that food is there to be eaten. And it prefers to choose its own mate. The dog not only accepts human notions about stealing food. It may try to apply them to cats.

We had a dog with a very high moral tone who not only refused to steal food from the kitchen table, but sneaked on the cats when they did so by barking loudly. He had too much respect

Professor Haldane is the author of numerous books and papers in scientific journals. He has been Professor of Botany at University College since 1937 and was President of the Genetical Society, 1932-36. Genetics is the science that deals with the facts and problems of descent and heredity.

for their claws to try to stop them himself.

However, I am not going to talk about how cats behave, but about how their colour and hair length are inherited. We know a

good deal about this, because there are no breeds of cats differing in a great many characters like breeds of dogs or horses. So all kinds of crosses are frequently made, and we know what to expect from each. We can even predict how to make new sorts of cats; and the predictions come off. We don't yet know all the rules, especially those about eye colour. The rules are far less complicated than those of contract bridge, and there is no reason why every owner of a cat should not learn them.

Let's begin with a very simple case, the white cat. He or she may have blue or yellow eyes, more rarely one blue and one yellow. The blue-eyed ones are generally, the yellow-eyed sometimes, deaf. If you mate a white cat with one of any other colour, then in most cases some kittens are white and some not. And if you breed enough kittens, you

It would be very much better for a little more of this or a little less of that. But, no; OUR CATS has been generally accepted and welcomed, which is cheering and heartening news. Copies of the first issue have been sent all round the world, but it is too early yet for me to be able to report generally on any responses from overseas, except, perhaps, to say that many of our American friends have already entered subscriptions.

It is quite impossible for me to answer individually all the many congratulatory messages and good wishes for the success of OUR CATS. I would, therefore, like everyone to know that their letters have been greatly appreciated.

Three letters stand out among the many received. The first—from a Buckinghamshire reader who described himself as "a mere male"—expressed the view that to him the great appeal of OUR CATS was its adult style and absence of gush. "To me," he wrote, "it always seems that it should be possible to appreciate the beauty, intelligence and friendship of cats without indulging in a lot of baby talk."

The second appreciation—one we esteem very highly—came from Collie Knox, author, critic and hard-hitting newspaper columnist, who wrote:

I like cats immensely. They are not to be cajoled, or led up any garden. They are at once the friends and critics of mankind. The slogan of your timely and admirably produced *Our Cats*—"an independent journal"—is highly apposite. For is it not devoted to the most independent and contrary creatures on the earth? They "growl" when they are pleased and wag their tails when they are vexed. I have, in my time, been owned by six cats. For no man owns a cat.

The third letter—written in big sprawling letters—was from an aged pensioner living in a London suburb. It said that the writer was over 80 and her greatest joy in life was the companionship of her two cats. She had bought our first issue from the local bookstall and was so pleased with it that she had decided to put aside 4d. each week so that she could buy it regularly.

Such letters make life worth living!

THE EDITOR

find that about half are white. That is to say, the white cat gives something to half its children, which makes them white. That something is called a gene.

We know that a white cat has a gene for whiteness in every cell in its body, and we know where the gene is kept in the cell, and roughly what it is made of and how big it is. I won't trouble you about that, except to say that it is much too small to be seen even with a microscope. The gene is a unit which gets copied each time a cell divides, usually, but not quite always, accurately.

True-Breeding Whites

As a white cat gives a gene for whiteness to half its kittens, you see that whiteness neither increases nor spreads in the population unless white cats, on an average, have more or less kittens than coloured ones. Occasionally, of course, two white cats mate. If so, on an average, a quarter of the kittens get a white gene from neither parent, and are coloured. Half get one from one parent only, and are whites. Finally, a quarter get the white gene from both parents. They are whites too, but differ from the ordinary white in that they produce nothing but genes for whiteness. So all their kittens are white, no matter what mate they find.

An animal which gets the same sort of gene from both parents, like these true-breeding whites, is called homozygous, or a homozygote. One which gets a different sort of gene from each parent, like most white cats, is called heterozygous, or a heterozygote. I'm sorry for these long words. But they really aren't any worse than leg byes, penalty kicks, Sicilian gambits, or little

slams, about which people learn for fun.

I'm afraid I've got to give you one other pair of words. We say whiteness is dominant over colour, and colour recessive to whiteness. That means that one gene for whiteness will do the job of two, and that two coloured cats can never have a pure white kitten, though two white cats may have a coloured kitten.

Now let's talk about coloured cats. Forget for the moment that most of them have some white in their coat. Most London cats are black, but tabbies are pretty common. If you look carefully at a tabby you will see that all its hairs have some black in them. But on some parts of its body each hair has black bands and also yellow or white bands. These banded hairs are very like the hairs of a wild rabbit, mouse, and many other animals.

Tabby Varieties.

The tabby cat is unusual in having the banding restricted to some areas of its back and sides, instead of having all the hairs banded. It agrees with the rabbit and mouse in having very pale hair on its belly. I am going to use the word tabby for all cats which have a pattern of black and grey hairs. Some people only use it for what I shall later call the blotched tabby.

Now the difference between tabby and black cats is due to a gene for tabbiness of which all tabbies have one, and some two. This gene is dominant. So two black cats never have tabby kittens, but two tabbies may have black ones. You might think that for this reason the number of blacks was bound to increase. But this is not so, because some tabbies are homozygous, and give

nothing but tabbies when mated with a black. Of course, if you buy a tabby from a stud, with nothing but tabby ancestry for a number of generations back, it will probably be homozygous. But only about one tabby in six or seven that you see in the street is homozygous.

If you look more carefully at tabby cats, you will see that there are several different varieties of the tabby pattern. Much the commonest kinds are the striped or Cyprus, and the blotched. The

You occasionally see a blue cat in the London streets. They are much commoner in some other places, for example in Brittany. There are two sorts of blues: the Maltese, corresponding to the tabby, and the Russian, corresponding to the black. Blue is due to a recessive gene. Or, in other words, most cats have a gene for strong colouring. As a matter of fact, they mostly have two, because the blue gene is rather rare. This means that if you have a blue female, and mate

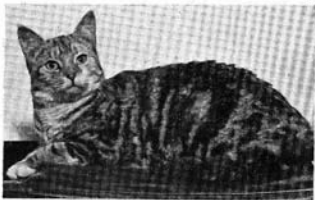


Photo by Louis Mardville, University College

JUNO. Professor Haldane's charming example of a blotched tabby female. Two blotched tabbies will never have a striped kitten.

striped tabby has a lot of rather narrow stripes mostly running up and down, and resembles the wild cat. The blotched tabby has fewer and broader stripes, and they form a pattern on its flank with a kind of ring on each hip. Once again the difference is due to a single gene. The striped type is dominant. So two blotched tabbies will never have a striped kitten, though as we saw they may have black kittens.

There are several other genes that behave in the same way.

her to another blue, all the kittens will be blues. But if she mates with the first tom she meets, it is about five to one that he will be homozygous for strong colouring, so all the kittens will be full black or tabby.

You may have luck and hit on a heterozygous tom. If so, about half the kittens will be blue on an average. Of course, you can't expect exactly half to be blue. In a litter of four, where you expect half and half, there would be nothing surprising in getting four

blues or four blacks, just as you might get four toms or four queens, though on an average the sexes are born in equal numbers.

Recessive Siamese

Other characters which behave in the same way as blue are silver and Siamese. The silver cat has no yellow pigment in her hair, so a good silver tabby is a very pretty creature. The Siamese is born white, but gradually darkens till its nose, paws, and tail tip are black or dark brown, and the rest of its body light brown or light tabby. Both these characters are recessive. That is to say, two

silvers or two Siamese will never have a fully coloured kitten, but there are some complications which I haven't time to discuss.

The long hair of Persian cats is also due in the main to one recessive gene, but it certainly takes more than one pair of genes to make a good Persian, and there is a good deal of difference in the hair length of short-haired cats. Still, it is true that if a Persian mates with a short-haired cat the kittens will usually have fairly short hair, though you will get long hair in the next generation if you mate them together.

(To be concluded)



Correspondence Corner

May I send my warmest congratulations on the first issue of your magazine, which has been enthusiastically received over here. It should soon become popular among American fans because it is so tidily and clearly presented. My daughter and I are visiting London in June and we would love to visit some of your shows. Could you advise us what to see

Mrs. M. M. D., New York.

Thanks for good wishes. We have since had most encouraging news about reception given in America to first issue of OUR CATS. Sorry that the time of your visit does not coincide with any show activities in this country. Suggest instead that you arrange a meeting with one or two of our Fanciers.

Your readers might be interested to know of my experience in the present wide outbreak of infectious cat enteritis. I treated my pet myself and brought her through, although, of course, she is still weak. I gave her small quantities of brandy (with a small syringe) and dosed her with a

diluted solution of perm. of potash. After three days she was able to take warm milk.

R. A. S., Suffolk.

Thanks, R. A. S., for the information. There is as yet no proven serum for cat flu. An American serum has been partly successful and a supply is being tried out in this country.

Can you give me any information concerning the food parcels which American friends are sending over to help cat owners in this country? I understand that these parcels are actually available now, but I am quite unable to get any definite or helpful advice.

P. R. C., Tunbridge Wells.

This is one of several letters we have received on the subject of American food parcels. It is true that organisations have been set up in America and that some parcels have actually reached this country. We are seeking further information both on this side and from America, as we feel very strongly that the reception and distribution of these parcels should be in the hands of experienced officials of responsible organisations. We feel, too, that due consideration should be paid to cases of real need.

WHO'S WHO among the Breeders

MISS EVELYN LANGSTON

THE British Cat Fancy was, of course, sadly depleted and weakened during the war years, and it is only now that it is stirring and stretching like a young giant refreshed after a long sleep. Its complete recovery—like our national recovery—must of necessity be a slow process. But it will surely come, and when it is achieved much of the credit will be due to "the old hands"—those who carried on through the difficult years and squared their shoulders to the many worrying and peculiar difficulties.

Such a stalwart is Miss Evelyn Langston, who is an obvious selection for an early place in this series of interviews with the Fanciers. Miss Langston—better known as "Bunty" to her many friends—has achieved a really remarkable record. Despite long tiring duties in the musical profession—she is a Professor of Singing at the Royal Academy of Music and a distinguished F.R.A.M. who has trained many well-known singers—she has contrived to find the time, energy and enthusiasm to win world-wide recognition as breeder, exhibitor and authority on Longhairs—Blue Persians and Chinchillas. Her record at the shows is unique; she has exported Allington stock all over the globe, and as a judge she has officiated many times in



Paris, Holland, Switzerland and Germany. Within the circle of the home Fancy, Miss Langston is highly respected and admired and it is a generally accepted fact that none has worked harder and achieved so much.

The life story of one so experienced and successful is packed with interesting incident and our difficulty has been the usual editorial one—what to omit! Miss Langston contrived, however, to collate the more important items and to present them with a degree of continuity and rhythm right from "the opening chord." That's what a musical training does!

How many of the experienced Fanciers of to-day commenced serious breeding during their schooldays? Miss Langston revealed that she was "round about 14" when her father gave her a Blue Persian kitten for passing a piano examination. Her family were all real animal lovers. In

fact, when the doctor was attending her mother and found her surrounded by cats, including a wonderful Chinchilla given to her as a wedding present by the Countess of Portsmouth (who bred him), he laughingly forecast that the expected child might very well turn out to be a cat!

Miss Langston was born at the little Wiltshire village of Allington; hence her famous affix. Following the gift of the B.P. male, which was a very pale blue, there came a second present in the form of Sylvia, a little Blue Persian female . . . and that is how the Allington Blue Persians began.

The male, a regular Don Juan of a cat, sired several nice litters and had

exhibitor was the Countess of Aberdeen, who was famous for her Blue Persians and Skye terriers.

The little novice had cause to remember this show, for just as she was penning her cherished kitten, a man told her to take it home as it wouldn't win a prize. She very nearly took his advice, but decided to stay. The kitten was awarded Best Exhibit in the show! Miss Langston added that this was her first and last experience of real bad sportsmanship amongst exhibitors.

Mother of Eleven!

Following a stay in London, where she studied at the Royal Academy of Music, Miss Langston's family moved from Aberdeen to Edinburgh. And here the queen Sylvia mated with a local Black Persian and the kittens used to be sold for various war charities.

Then came another family move to London, and Sylvia came too, with one of her daughters, Seraphina, who turned out to be a wonderful brood queen. She once had and reared a litter of eleven and she was the grandmother of the first Blue champion, Ch. Marise of Allington, a daughter of Ch. Azure of Hadley. Marise kept her deep copper eyes and very sound true blue colour until her death at a ripe old age.

During one of the 1914-18 war years, Miss Langston went to a show at the Horticultural Hall and there fell in love with the Hawkhurst cats, bred by Miss Clements and famous for their type. Two queens were purchased, Doreen and Prunella of Allington. These were sent chiefly to Hawkhurst studs and very soon Miss Langston began really serious breeding activities. She purchased the lovely Chinchilla kitten bred by Mrs. Sinkins which became Ch. Dulcibel of Allington, and soon after another two Chinchilla queens which ultimately became Ch. Vera of Allington and Ch. Midget of Hyver.

In 1922, the Langston family moved



Ch. Pedro of Allington, Miss Langston's idea of a perfect head and the best Blue Persian male she has ever bred.

a whole series of erotic adventures which took him as far as five miles afield on occasions. He failed to return from one of these expeditions and the youthful Miss Langston regretfully came to the conclusion that the proper verdict was "death through poaching."

At 15, Miss Langston showed her first B.P. kitten on New Year's Day in the cat section of the annual championship show promoted by the Aberdeen Kennel Club. The principal

to Maidenhead, and by this time Miss Evelyn had really won recognition as an exceptional breeder of Blue Persians and Chinchillas. Soon she had bred Ch. Prudence of Allington, a daughter of Araminta of Allington and Barry Blue Prince.

Miss Langston has always realised the important part played by the queen in the breeding of exhibition stock, and one of her lucky purchases was the kitten who became Ch. Nadine of Allington. This queen was the mother of Ch. Desmond of Allington (her first male Chinchilla champion) and her name is to be found in the pedigrees of most of our Chinchillas to-day. The brother, Dante, was exported to America and became Ch. Dante of Allington. Nadine was bred by Mrs. Newton of the Correndon affix. She, with Dulcibel and Masterpiece, were Miss Langston's best-loved cats and Dulcibel always had to go away with her on holidays; otherwise she went on hunger strike.

A Lightweight Champion

In 1928, Miss Langston won the magnificent Victory Cup of the National Cat Club outright with Ch. Marise, Ch. Dulcibel and Ch. Mab, the last-named being a tiny but exquisite little Chinchilla queen who never weighed more than 5 lbs.

The first Blue stud she kept was Sursum of Allington, a son of Doreen of Allington and Ronnie of Hawkhurst. A little later she bred a Blue male who, although only one season at stud, had a great influence on Blue Persians. This was Eros of Allington, who sired Ch. Dion of Allington and Cupid of Callow, amongst others, the last-named becoming the sire of Ch. Mischief of Bredon. Eros had lovely type, large open eyes and a very long sound coat. He died on his second birthday from "show fever." A fancier had written to Miss Langston telling her that she (the fancier) had lost several kittens. Miss Langston read the letter and rolled it up, intending to burn it, but instead

she left it on a table. Later she found one of her kittens carrying the ball of paper in its mouth. Within a week this kitten was dead and she lost nearly all her young stock.

Lady Eardley Wilmot very kindly gave her a little son of Eros, who later became Ch. Dion of Allington, and in 1932 Miss Langston bred Ch. Patrick



Ch. Mab of Allington presents an object lesson in perfect grooming.

and Petrach, sons of Ch. Mischief of Bredon and Dionetta, a daughter of Dion and a Ch. Billy Bumpet queen. This was a wonderful combination and these two cats were also responsible for Ch. Pedro and Darling of Allington, amongst others. Unfortunately, in 1934 Dionetta contracted pneumonia and died before her litter was born. This was a case of a "nick" in breeding, and an up-to-date example is that of the stock produced by Dickon and Mr. Martin's Southway Whiz.

Later, Miss Langston purchased from Mrs. Yeend as a tiny kitten Masterpiece, a son of Ch. Mischief, and another daughter of Ch. Dion, Mistress Dianetta. He won two championships and beat every cat that ever beat him at one time or another.

Just before war broke out, Miss Langston added to her stock by breeding Dickon, a son of Masterpiece, and the Chinchilla Macduff, two splendid sires. When war came she contrived somehow to keep her stock going, feeding the first few years almost entirely on chicken heads, which she used to fetch in large quan-

tites from London. These and fish scraps kept the cats in good health and condition.

Peace-time feeding is along different lines. Horseflesh is the main item and it is supplemented by various kinds of out-of-date powdered milk, fish and chicken heads, also some vegetables. The meat is either roasted or cooked in a pressure cooker.

Miss Langston's views on the breeds she has done so much to bring to perfection will be heeded with respect. She regards Chinchillas as exceptionally intelligent, full of character and unequalled for their aristocratic appearance. They have a certain ethereal quality and are veritably the fairy princes and princesses of the breed. They are not delicate, but one has to proceed more gradually with weaning than with Blues.



Ch. Mair of Allington, Miss Langston's best-ever Blue female, exhibited with outstanding success during the 1948-1949 show season.

The chief drawback at present is the lack of outcrosses, as so very many strains disappeared entirely during the war. Miss Langston has recently been able to get different blood in Stourbank Silver King, and she mated Foxburrow Flame to Sarisbury Simba before he went to Holland. She intends to keep their son, Flambeau of Allington, as a future stud. She has

also a Blue-Chinchilla daughter of Masterpiece and Ermine and has kept her daughter by MacDuff. She hopes to get something really pale from this kitten (who has good green eyes) by mating with one of her Chinchilla studs. This is an interesting experiment to establish entirely new blood.

Miss Langston is very pleased with the high standard of Chinchilla kittens shown this season. Recently, so many dark and patchy cats have been exhibited and it is quite wrong to say that the Chinchillas of to-day are paler than before the war. When she entered the Fancy in 1916 the pale, pure unmarked but sparkling colour was well established. Ch. Midget of Hyber was paler than any queen she has ever had, and she has always kept the purity of colour of the "Langhernes" as an ideal. The frosty tickling, however, we must retain, but it must be a delicate sprinkling only.

The type of the present day Blue Persians is on the whole excellent, although there are still too many cats with small eyes and ears too high and close together. Eye-colour and coat-colour, generally speaking, are not so good as before the war. Miss Langston's favourite colour is a moderately pale blue. The very pale Blues are so often nearly white on frill, flanks and stomach. Also, there are very few sound level Blues with long coats. It is very easy to breed level colour if the coat is comparatively short, but before the war there were plenty of cats with long flowing coats that were sound and level. Of her own present-day Blues, Ch. Mair comes nearest to this ideal.

It is natural that during a career so long and concentrated Miss Langston has met with some amusing incidents. On one occasion, Ch. Vera got into the coal cellar and came up absolutely filthy just as she was due to start off for the Crystal Palace Show. Miss Langston did the best she could for her, but the judge's report was "nice cat but rather dark."

Should I be taxed?

We enter into this controversial subject with our eyes wide open, well aware of the fact that it has caused acrimonious discussions in the past. In our opinion, however, it is an interesting topic and a matter of general interest. The case presented below by Mr. E. Keith Robinson, Secretary of Our Dumb Friends' League, for taxation is not intended to be the first shot in a bitter and protracted battle of words. We shall, however, be pleased to devote a little space in our next issue to the best letters received on the subject.



FOR some time past the organisation with which I am associated has advocated that the status of the cat be raised to that of the dog. Discussions on this have crystallised, and during the past few weeks attention has been given to this subject in the press.

We should value the criticism and reactions of readers of this Magazine as we are desirous of knowing exactly what support may be expected. Our views are these: That the cat, admittedly a very delightful and lovable companion, is treated by many people as an outcast. This is particularly due to the fact that cats are cheap, that they breed easily, and that there are always a number of kittens to be had for the asking. We feel that were a tax to be imposed, the cat-owning public would value more highly that for which they had paid and would be more likely to treat their purchase with greater consideration.

Think for a moment of the awful life that a stray cat leads;

compare it perhaps with your own life. If you can honestly say that you would not mind the existence, then you can truly say there is no need for a tax on cats.

The cat is a cleanly animal; he loves his home, he likes the warmth and comfort and the good food that is given him. He becomes a stray through no fault of his own. He is reduced to fear, fear of the next brickbat that will invariably be thrown at him, fear of every human, who may deliver another kick, continually looking for such scraps of food as are thrown out either for the birds or as waste.

His best meal, probably for weeks, is a piece of putrid meat or decayed fish. He gets no milk, only water, and that more often than not is puddle water. In times of drought he gets very little to drink; his only hope is if someone carelessly leaves a tap running in an exposed place. His fur becomes matted, his struggle for existence is so desperate that he has no time to

groom himself, he loses his habits of personal cleanliness. He is a prey to disease, and that disease can be communicated to other cats, may be your own, if he got out and came into contact with one of these luckless strays.

We are so frequently told that a cat we know to have been straying for many days is not, in fact, a stray, but belongs to "somebody up the road." There is no proof that this is so, but we have to leave him until he becomes such a derelict that it is obvious that he is a stray, and then he is often too terrified to rescue.

Miserable Strays

If cats were taxed, then this would not happen, because some provision would be made for them, as is made for dogs at the moment. They would have to wear a collar, but it could be laid down that this collar should be made of elastic. This collar would have to have the owner's name and address clearly marked on it, or on a metal disc attached.

We know that the introduction of a scheme for the taxation of cats would mean that many real strays would have to be humanely put to sleep (after being kept for seven days, which is the statutory time for stray dogs to be kept) because it would be obvious that they were indeed strays, which at the moment can only be a matter of surmise. Surely every thinking person will agree that death is preferable to the miserable existence of straying.

What form should this tax take? My League advocates that it should be at least 7s. 6d. for a grown tom or a female and that it should be 2s. 6d. for a neutered cat. From a purely economic point of view it would tend to lighten the burden of the taxpayer.

Revenue Aspect

Cats can communicate certain diseases to human beings, and most certainly to their fellow cats. The cost to the League in London alone is approximately 1s. 4d. per stray cat, which, considering it saves 120,000, is approximately £8,000. Therefore economically and hygienically it is an advantage, but to our minds the advantages to the cat far outweigh any other consideration.

The sole protection for cats at the moment is the 1911 Protection of Animals Act. The measure of protection afforded to cats is the same as that afforded to stoats, weasels, rats, mice and similar rodents. We have been castigated for designating cats as vermin. It is not that we consider them as vermin, but under the laws of the land they are so treated.

It may be that an alternative form of registration could be conceived. We cannot quite see what would give the same protection, but we would always consider anything that was workable and would achieve the object in view.

A Few Quaint Ideas

WRITING during the seventeenth century, Sir John Denham, a well known but minor poet of the period, said:

" Kiss the black cat,
And that'll make ye fat.
Kiss ye the white one,
And that'll make ye lean."

The idea that the black cat is an omen of good fortune is still repeated even if belief has worn a little thin. Why black should represent good fortune is rather difficult to understand, for it is not a colour associated with cheerfulness in the western world. In the Far East, where so many things seem topsy-turvy from our point of view, the black cat is an animal of ill omen. For the Chinese the arrival of a black cat is supposed to be the forerunner of poverty and disease.

In this country we chain our dogs and allow our cats to roam free, but in the Far East the reverse used to be the case. The cat wore a collar and was kept on a chain, for it was firmly believed that if the cat went out of the house good luck accompanied it. Probably cats did not appreciate this close confinement, but then, as now, apparently human good takes precedence over animal comfort.

One of the strangest ideas connected with cats is that which presupposes that the human eye is attractive to cats. In the middle ages, and even later in this country, no cat was ever allowed in a room with a dead body. It was definitely believed that the cat would immediately attack the corpse and tear out the eyes. Such a belief is difficult to understand unless there is some connection with a medieval belief that cats could be used for the cure of eye troubles.

Topsell, who published his "History of Four-footed Beasts" in 1607, gives the following cure: "For the pain and blindness in the eye by reason of any skins or webs, this is an approved medicine. Take the head of a black cat which hath not a spot of another colour in it and burn it to a powder in an earthen pot, leaded or glazed within, then take the powder, and, through a quill, blow it thrice a day into thine eye." Rather an acrobatic feat it would seem!

This same powder was also considered a sovereign remedy, for the common sty.

A most interesting fact connected with the cat in rather a different way was the belief that catnip, beloved of cats, was a herb not only of great medicinal value, but was also capable of producing good fortune. This plant, which was called "nepe" in the eighteenth century, is different from our ordinary catmint, but is probably the same plant as the American catnip.

Naturally, for the charm to work it had to be collected at the right hour of the day and hung out in a net when the moon was under the earth. This dried herb, when combined with the powdered head of the black cat, had few rivals for astonishing cures and strokes of good fortune.

The history of the domestic cat goes back much further than the beginning of the Christian era, and in all countries and ages mystery and magic have been closely associated with it. In some countries this common domestic animal even acquired a religious association, but that must be another story.

"King of the Cats"

Being the second and concluding instalment dealing with the remarkable career of Mr. Cyril Yeates, who is shortly to retire after a record period of service as Chairman of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy. This instalment tells largely of the many fine cats bred and exhibited by Mr. Yeates and the late Mrs. "Gretta" Yeates.

A PART from the fact that he has controlled the destinies of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy since 1926, perhaps the most outstanding contribution made by Mr. Cyril Yeates to the general cause of the cat was made during the period 1923-1936, when he ran the big two-day shows at the Crystal Palace. These years between the two wars were halcyon times for those who bred good cats and those who liked to see them.

These National Shows at the famous venue on Sydenham heights were the high-spots of each season. They were popular because of the wide interest they inspired and because of the excellent organisation behind their promotion, and in this connection it is worth while recalling that for many years Mr. Yeates gave his time and energy with the prospect of no other regard than that which springs from knowing that a labour of love has been well and truly performed.

Brief reference was made in our

January issue to the important part which Cyril Yeates and his late wife "Gretta" played as breeders and exhibitors. The untimely death of Mrs. Yeates in 1937 robbed the Fancy of a great figure, as for nearly 30 years there was hardly a show of importance that she did not attend either as exhibitor or judge. Every exhibit she penned was perfectly shown, and she did much good work to enhance the prestige of British stock overseas. As an all-round judge she had few equals.

"Gretta" Yeates never took out a prefix or affix for her many famous cats because she felt that an attachment of any kind prevented her from giving the name she considered most suitable. Black, Blue and Tortoiseshell Longhairs were the breeds she went in for most, although she was interested in all colours and varieties.

Among the Blacks she owned was Dawn, a well-bred queen who went with the Yeates from camp to camp during the first world

war. On her return to civvy life, Dawn bred many prizewinners when mated to Barry Blue John and Rigside Dandy, two of the best Blue studs of that day.

Other Blacks Mr. and Mrs. Yeates showed with success were Ch. Dainty Duchess, Ch. Sally Cat, Ch. Zulanda, Ch. Nanook, Ch. Jill of Ashburnham, Ch. Soame Desert Chief (as a kitten), Waratara, Ch. Marlene and Ch. Nightfall.

Of the many Blues, Ch. Misty Morning was a notable female and Princess Myra was the first Peke-faced Blue to be shown in this country. The last-named was not exaggerated in type and her face was quaint without being ugly.



Son o' Flick, famous Blue stud who sired over 800 kittens and had many show winners among his progeny.

Lovely June Rose was, in Mr. Yeates's opinion, the best Blue queen they ever owned. She was a very sound pale blue with almost red eyes and, mated to Ch. Colneside Billy Bumpet, she gave an outstanding Blue kitten in Bright Knight, voted Best in the Show at Newbury in 1925.

Other Blue females which did well were Townfield Footprint, Winsome Witch, Jewel of Rayleigh and Mitzi of Bredon, of whom, when Best in Show at the B.P.C.S. Show in 1934, the late Mr. Western wrote: "I doubt whether we have ever seen a better headed queen. This exhibit should give us a photograph, which would be a 'head study' for the Fancy for all time." Alas! poor Mitzi contracted flu from which she never fully recovered.

Father of Champions

Turning for a moment to the Blue males from the Yeates's cattery, Son o' Flick stands out on his own. He was a wonderful stud cat and during his long career he sired over 800 kittens. Among the most famous of his offspring were Barrie of Branston (who went to America, where he became a Champion and was five times Best in Show in his first season), Ch. Raleigh, Ch. Heatherlands Blue Boy and the well-known Smoke Ch. Suffolk Dumpling. The late Capt. W. H. Powell described Son o' Flick as "the most wonderful stud cat of all time which, year after year, came to the shows looking like a youngster."

Townfield Harmony was another nice Blue stud which Mr. Yeates owned in partnership with his breeder, Mr. Bolton. Townfield Harmony was a good cat excelling in colour and eye, and among the many fine cats he sired

were King Kong and Tweedledum of Dunesk.

Cats of other breeds shown successfully by Mrs. Yeates were the two lovely Tortoiseshells, Ch. Devonshire Duchess and Ch. Chintz, the Tortie and White Ch. The Mock Turtle, the Smoke Ch. Mounette, the Chinchilla Ch. Tabsfield Mignonette and the Blue Cream Ch. Rani of Brux.



Our picture of the happy pre-war years shows the late "Gretta" Yeates with two of her beloved Blue Persians, Misty Morning and Princess Myra, who were winners at the National Show at the Crystal Palace in 1921.

In Shorthairs, the Whites Ch. White Abbess and Lady Be Good were notable winners at the shows and the Manx Ch. Mannik was

Best Shorthair in Show at the Crystal Palace in 1933.

Despite this amazing array of aristocrats, one honour always eluded Mr. and Mrs. Yeates. It was their ambition to get Best Cat in Show at a N.C.C. Show, but they never did, although Mrs. Yeates took the special for Reserve Best on more than one occasion.

This Best in Show honour continues to elude Mr. Yeates as the Derby eludes Gordon Richards! In 1944, he bred and won with Ch. Black Beret, then sold him to Mrs. Cyril Tomlinson, for whom Beret promptly won the coveted honour!

Still One Ambition

Finally, and as a fitting conclusion to our appreciation of two remarkable personalities, we are able to disclose that Mr. Yeates has one great ambition left. It is to breed a copper-eyed White as good as Kellythorpe China Chip, Best Kitten in Show at Sandy just before the last war. Whites with sound copper eyes are often shown at Continental shows, but although we have some nice specimens in this country, at the present time they all fail in **depth** of eye colour.



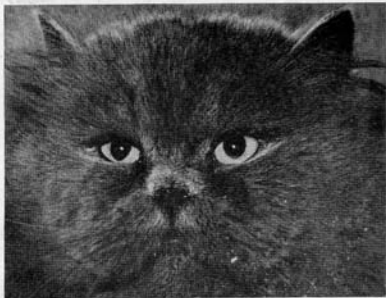


Graphic Photo Union

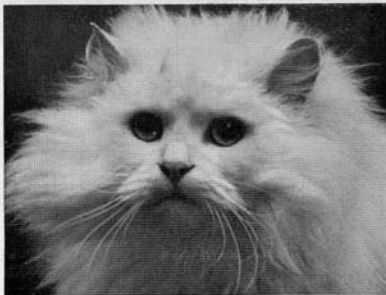
TWELVE EYES OF BLUE!

This lovely study will delight all cat lovers, whether they are devotees of the Siamese breed or not. Bred by Mrs. Denys Highton, Tenterden, Kent, this sextette was voted first prize litter at the 1948 Siamese C.C.C. Show.

Heads — they win . . .



OXLEYS PETER JOHN, famous Blue Persian stud belonging to Mrs. D. H. Harrington-Harvard, winner of 85 prizes and now a full Champion.

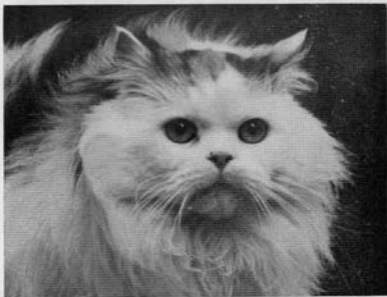


BIRCOTTE GYPSOPHILA, Miss I. Sherlock's blue-eyed Longhair male, was another first prize winner in his class, Sire is Ch. Lotus Moliere.

at the Southern Show

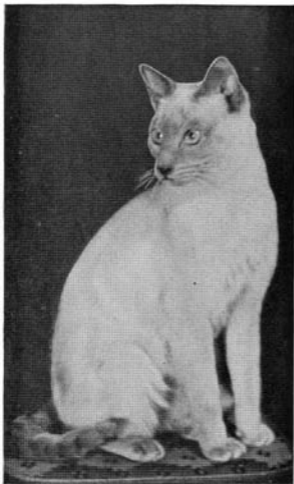


DANEHURST SHERRIFF, eloquent-eyed Cream Longhair kitten, won for Mr. Gordon B. Allt, F.Z.S., who has a fine cattery in the Isle of Wight.



BRIDGEWAY HARLEQUINETTE, well-known Tortoiseshell and White female, exhibited by Mrs. P. Chapman, was a distinguished winner.

All pictures by Sport & General Agency



Presenting one of the best-known Blue Pointed Siamese males—the 3-yr.-old CH. PINCOP AZURE KYM. by Zy Azure Taio (Blue Point) ex Bratton Tor Katrina (Seal Point). Kym, who is owned by Mrs. O. M. Lamb, of Halesowen, near Birmingham, is the winner of five Challenge Certificates and was adjudged Best Exhibit at the Siamese Club Championship Show, 1948.

Spring Kittens

NOW that February is here breeders are beginning to think about the first litters of a new season. The more experienced among them have already given the matter serious thought, as the breeding of any livestock cannot be a haphazard affair if real success is to be achieved.

It is a golden rule never to breed from stock which is not in really first-class condition; a state which can only be produced by careful attention to breeding stock throughout the difficult days of winter. Restricted exercise and short, sunless days are a handicap which has to be overcome by judicious feeding and the provision of sufficient exercise to keep the animal free from superfluous fat.

Plain Common Sense

If you have not kept your queen in this condition you may well find that she is difficult to get in kitten. The time and expense entailed in sending her away several times to the stud is the penalty which may have to be paid for past neglect.

This desire for first-class breeding condition is not a fetish—it is just plain common sense.

The carrying of kittens imposes no severe physical strain on the queen, but the rearing of a litter of four is another matter. Even a fit queen sometimes shows signs of the strain of suckling a litter, and when weaning is complete is a shadow of her former self. How much more difficult is the task for an animal that is out of condition at the start.

A Breeder's Duty

All cat breeders aim to produce kittens which are healthy and vigorous, but they do not all succeed. There is an obvious obligation involved, for the future owner of a kitten must reasonably expect that the animal he purchases is capable of developing satisfactorily to maturity. Yet one hears frequently of disappointments and losses. It is only natural that a number of kittens will die as a result of the sheer inexperience of their new owners, for even the healthiest kitten cannot thrive where there is gross mismanagement. Other kittens die, however, because they have not been reared correctly for the first eight weeks of their lives. Such cases are an implied criticism of the breeder.

What can a purchaser of an

eight-week kitten reasonably expect?

In the first place, it should be a typical specimen of the breed it represents.

The kitten should be up to weight for its age. This will be an indication that it is a "good doer" and has been well nourished by its mother for the first month, and that later its diet has been suitably augmented by the breeder during the period of weaning.

The following remarks apply to the Long-hair varieties only and would require some modification if Siamese were under consideration.

Weight at Birth

At birth a Long-haired kitten should weigh somewhere round about 4 oz. and the aim should be to increase weight each week by the same amount. If the kitten were under 4 oz. when born it would be unreasonable to expect this full increase each week.

Scales are of great assistance to the conscientious breeder, for they tell a tale which must be heeded. If the kitten is not developing satisfactorily it may, of course, be that the queen is not producing sufficient milk. This may be a characteristic of the particular queen, but it can usually be remedied in part by additions to diet which are known to have an effect on the production of milk. There is no need to enumerate such foods here as they are all well known in all households.

A kitten which is slightly under weight at four weeks when weaning usually starts can make up the leeway during the next month if the breeder is an experienced rearer. It is not a question of overloading a small stomach, for disaster and setback follow such methods, but little and often with the right kind of food is sound policy. The right food is that which suits the individual kitten.

As some gardeners have "green fingers," so also some cat breeders have "Blue" or "Cream" fingers, as the case may be. This skill is either an innate gift or the result of much experience and intelligent thought. Finally, it can be said that an eight-weeks kitten should weigh 2 lb. Such a kitten has usually been well reared.

Free from Pests

The purchaser can also expect that the kitten will be reasonably free from external, and completely free from internal parasites.

There is more than one variety of external parasite, but very rarely does one meet with any other than the flea. For a breeding queen whose coat harbours a host of fleas life must be intolerable, and for the kittens she is rearing development is bound to be retarded.

The task of keeping cats free from these pests is not difficult if the animal is carefully groomed and the coat periodically dusted with insect powder. As the flea feeds on its host, first-class condi-

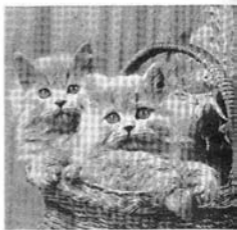
tion in the breeding queen is not possible unless she has been freed from such pests. As in the case of so many cat troubles, even here prevention is far better than cure.

With a kitten cure is difficult. Insect powders which will not upset the adult often affect disastrously the bowels of a kitten, and setbacks of this kind cause loss of progress which is hard to regain. Many kittens, too, have their eyes affected by insect powder.

No one who has ever experienced any form of running eyes in kittens will risk this misfortune. A queen should not be allowed to rear a family until the breeder is quite sure that external parasites have been exterminated.

Internal parasites in the form of worms of any variety are even more serious. The sensible breeder, determined to avoid trouble, will treat all queens both before and after mating. Medicines for this purpose are drastic in their action and must not be used later than the third week if one observes that the queen is "in kitten." It is dangerous to ignore the possibility of worms, for they often exist when one feels convinced that such is not the case. If a queen has worms, her

kittens will invariably develop them, and it must be remembered that a kitten under four months may not be treated. Internal parasites may cause death and they will definitely retard development.



These bonny Blue Persians are spring kittens by Neuburie Bambi ex Eireanne Pride. Breeder is Mrs. E. Marlow, who has for many years conducted a cattery in West London.

Thus, successful breeding depends almost entirely on attention to details provided the original stock is sound. If you attend to these details, your breeding operations during 1949 will probably be successful for you and satisfactory to your customers.

TO OUR FRIENDS IN NORTH AMERICA

Subscriptions to *OUR CATS* are being kindly received by Mr. Charles A. Kenny, "Cats Magazine," Room 1204, House Building, 4 Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh 22, Pa. The rate is \$3.50 for 12 issues post free. A few single specimen copies will be available occasionally at 25 cents. When remitting to Mr. Kenny, care should be taken to indicate clearly that the remittance is intended for the English magazine, *OUR CATS*.



Just Fancy

Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

REGULARLY every month, Mrs. Joan Thompson—popular and active figure in the Cat Fancy for many years, breeder and International judge—will turn the pages of her diary to reveal the most interesting entries concerning personalities, both human and feline.

9th January. Tea and a very pleasant meeting with Mr. Cyril Yeates at his Kensington home in Pembroke Gardens. It was strange to see only three White Longhairs at a home which one has always associated with Blues, although at various times I have seen almost every other variety there. Each of his two White queens has a famous daughter. Last Throw is the dam of Mrs. Carbert's blue-eyed White Ch. Galtres Fairy Princess, and Anna Marie is the mother of Mrs. Black's orange-eyed White Ch. Princess Laska, also Mr. Yeates's ten months' old male kitten.

10th January. A pleasant surprise from Mrs. Cicely Mellor, well-known American cat lover, in the form of a box of toilet soap with a Siamese or Longhair cat embossed on each tablet. There was also a box of labels (bearing a cat portrait) to stick in one's books. The sticker reads: "This book belongs to —."

These will be an asset, although I must confess I seldom lend my cat books now as I have had so much trouble in getting them returned. Every cat book written before the war is out of print, so they are irre-

placeable unless one is fortunate enough to procure a second-hand copy.

The deficiency in cat books is being rapidly overcome by new works. Mr. Soderberg's comprehensive "Cat Breeding and General Management," Miss Manley's excellent "Your Cat and Mine," Mrs. Hart's "Shah-Pashah," and others are examples. These are serious books to help breeders and others to keep their cats in good health and condition.

11th January. A letter from the popular hon. Secretary of the Notts and Derby Cat Club, Mrs. Iris Hancox. The gate at the Show on 3rd January was a record one. I was sorry to hear she had a severe fall the day before the Show and had to retire to bed after it, but she was certainly bright and cheerful on the day and lived up to the old adage, "the show must go on."

Attended a pleasant Committee meeting of the Croydon Cat Club; tea and a chat afterwards. The following judges were invited to officiate and I have since heard that the majority have accepted: Siamese adults and Blue-pointed adults and kittens—Mrs. Duncan Hindley; Siamese kittens—Mrs. Blofeld; Blue Longhair adults—Miss Campbell-Fraser; Blue Longhair kittens—Miss Yorke; Chinchillas—Mrs. McLeod; Reds, Creams, etc.—Mrs. Newton; Blacks, also Whites—Mrs. Cattermole; Abyssinians (not decided at present); Shorthairs—Miss Wilson; miscellaneous classes—Mr. Yeates. The date



Planet News

Mrs. Iris Hancox, popular Show Manager of the Notts and Derby Cat Club, with a winning Blue Persian male—Mrs. Brice-Webb's Oxleys Smasher.

of the next Ch. Show will be early in November and the venue Central Baths Hall, Scarbrook Road, Croydon. Mr. Towe will be organiser again, and I am sure he will be ably assisted by Mrs. Towe, who produced at the meeting a fine photo of Stonor Kate, the Manx female who was Best in Show last November.

12th January. Received a copy of No. 6 edition of the Governing Council's "List of Cats at Stud," 82 S.P. Siamese, 16 B.P. Siamese, 46 Blue Longhairs, 13 Creams, 10 Chinchillas, 5 Blacks, 4 Whites, 3 Brown and 3 Red Tabbies are listed; all other varieties of Shorthairs number only 5.

Owing to confusion between the Stud Book and the Stud List, Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's famous cats are missing from the List, but breeders will be pleased to hear the following are at stud: Ch. Hendon Sir Roderic (Red), who has sired three Red

Tabby champions: Elegance of Hadley (Blue), also a winner; and the Black, Hendon Black Diamond.

Another well-known breeder omitted is Miss Bull; her Cream males are at stud, Walverdene Major, also her new acquisition the winning Cream, Widdington Whynot, and her Blue, Deebank Sturdy.

13th January. I suspect a cat lover in the editorial chair of the weekly periodical "Illustrated." It publishes frequent cat pictures and this week the two centre pages are devoted to seven delightful studies of a tabby-and-white kitten in natural colours. It is called "Brief Encounter," and the caption tells us: "Miss Muggins (the kitten) cost 7s. 6d. and was purchased in a shop at Seven Dials."

14th January. Sad news from Miss Langston. Her winning queen, VE Day, has succumbed to a heart

attack. She was the dam of the famous Etter sisters Ch. Mair of Allington and the American Ch. Morfydd of Allington. VR Day was only just over four years old and there was every reason to hope for some more lovely progeny from her. All fanciers will sympathise with Miss Langston and hope with me that Ch. Mair, who is to be mated to Ch. Southway Crusader, will have lovely kittens to compensate her.

15th January. Breakfast with my fellow judge, Miss W. Fitzwilliam, as



Walverdene Major, Miss Bull's successful Cream stud. He was born in May, 1945.

a prelude to judging at the Lancashire and North Western Counties Cat Club Show at Manchester. Congratulations to the hon. Secretary and Show Manager, Mrs. Culley, and the Committee on a well-organised and successful event. A record entry of 94 exhibits awaited us.

Miss W. Fitzwilliam's classes were as follow: Siamese males (3)—First, Mrs. Hopley's well shown Mowgli of Leonee, Siamese female (10)—

First and Best Exhibit in Show, Mrs. Wridgway's Sapphire of Saltrina. There were 23 Siamese kittens in two classes, the two first prize winners respectively being Mrs. Bulger's Shannon Shamrock and Mrs. Lord's Sir Timothy Shrimp. First prize litter, Miss Allum's Siamese, First Any Variety Shorthair Neuter, including Siamese, Mrs. Hardy's Rip Van Winkle.

We shared a very long judging table and as I paused in judging my classes I got the impression that the Siamese were a very representative collection. Miss Fitzwilliam subsequently confirmed that they were in many cases better than those we had seen at Championship shows.

Some very lovely cats awaited me. First and Best Longhair Exhibit in Show, Mrs. Harrington-Harvard's well-known Oxleys Peter John, shown in faultless condition. Second to him and very close up, Mrs. Bailey's Oxleys David. Best Longhair female adult, Mrs. Culley's Blue queen, Herries Chloe, who was awarded the special prize for best eyes in Blue adults. Miss Hirst's exquisite Chinchilla male, Rockwood Huntsman, won in A.O.C. Male (Adult class), and in A.O.C. (female class) the winner was Mrs. Carbert's Black, Chadhurst Winsome, a very nice cat with perfect brush. Miss Hirst's lovely Chinchilla, Rockwood Harriet, was the winner in Any Colour Longhair kitten (6-9 months), and Mrs. Harrington-Harvard's Trenton Virginia, a pale blue, good all-round kitten, the winner in the 3-6 months class. Best British Shorthair Adult was awarded to Mrs. Bridgford's Rivoli Roldn, a glorious Red Tabby male with lovely head and eyes. Best Neuter in Show was Mrs. Kirkus's Karulino Pysche, a beautiful Blue Cream in wonderful coat. There were several other classes but the above were the principal winners.

It was the first time the Committee have been able to prevail on the pro-

prietors of halls in central Manchester to let one for a cat show. In spite of the drizzling rain all day the attendant turned away hundreds of persons, owing to the safety regulations of the Onward Hall having to be observed. Next year the Manchester Corn Exchange will be the venue, a hall about six times larger. The Committee are anxious to hold a Championship show in the near future. As they quite rightly observe, London shows mean long and in many cases too expensive journeys for Midland Fanciers.

Before the judging, an amusing opening speech was made by Mr. Terry Lee, who was playing Dick Whittington's cat at the local Palace Theatre. He told us he had played the part for eighteen years all over Britain, Australia and South Africa. He attended cat shows to observe the habits of the aristocrats. His correspondence is considerable and mostly laudatory, but occasionally someone writes to tell him, "Oh! they never do that!"

Mrs. Taylor, enthusiastic owner of the three Blues, Beaucort Dandi, Penelope of Pensford, and a queen by Ch. Black Beret, had come all the way from Carbis Bay, Cornwall, to attend the show as a spectator. She intended travelling to London afterwards and waiting to see the S.C.C.C. Show.

Mr. and Mrs. Bailey, owners of Oxleys David, leave Macclesfield about March to live near Launceston, Cornwall, much to Mrs. Taylor's delight. Between them, their Blues should give the Fancy a tremendous filip in that part.

I was invited to speak about the Show on the Midland Regional programme but had to give the facts to the B.F.C. representative, as at six o'clock I had to be on my way to spend the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson and their daughter at Sheffield. Miss Brenda Stephenson met me and that evening was spent until the early hours not in talking about cats but partly listening to the

exquisite music of "Les Sylphides" and "Swan Lake."

16th January. A real cat chat with Miss Stephenson and a visit to the cattery. Her cats enjoy an ideal life; complete liberty in seven acres of garden abounding with everything dear to catty hearts, lovely shrubs and trees to climb and a lake to wander round, and all well away from the road. The house where her cats live is a converted summerhouse, very spacious, with a vast assortment of shelves, baskets, etc., for the small family of five.



Manchester Evening News

Mrs. Joan Thompson, our diarist, with Mrs. Culley's Herries Chloe (by Beau Brutus), Best Longhair Female at the Manchester Show.

Beau Brutus lives with the queens, but does not trouble them although a keen stud. He was looking very fit, also Glenshee Felicity, who has not grown a good coat this winter, which has penalised her by keeping her away from shows. She is, however, a very lovely Blue with an excellent head and small, well-placed ears. Juliette of Dunisk was not looking her best owing to an indisposition she appears to have contracted from a kitten which Miss Stephenson took compassion on and boarded.

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We can accept a few more announcements for inclusion in this popular DIRECTORY. It is regretted that larger display advertisements are not yet possible on account of limited paper supplies.

Please write for details and rates

We shall be pleased to arrange your subscription to the monthly CATS MAGAZINE published in America

CATS MAGAZINE, the popular American monthly publication, is now available to cat lovers in the United Kingdom. By a special reciprocal arrangement with the Publishers, subscriptions may be sent care of OUR CATS. Subscription rate (by the full year only) is 13s. post free for 12 issues. Specimen copies or individual single issues are not for sale.

Send your remittance, made payable to OUR CATS MAGAZINE,
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Associated Press

This young exhibitor obviously believes in getting "into" as well as "down" to the important job of grooming."

From Uncle Peter

BOYS AND GIRLS.

Here is your second page. I am afraid that I have had to write it before you have had much time to send me many letters or to try to win one of the book prizes. It will not be long, however, before we get these little matters settled. Our prize winners will be announced next month.

Have you ever had to bath a cat? I have, and it was not a very pleasant task, I can assure you.

Pooh was a most inquisitive cat and he did not possess the manners of a real gentleman. One day there was a large saucepan of custard in the kitchen which appealed to his nose, and then, of course, to his appetite. The saucepan was by no means full, and try as he would he could not get his tongue down to the custard.

I suppose cats can think for themselves, but I'm afraid that they cannot always understand what will happen if they do certain things. Pooh's intelligence was of that kind and as a consequence the unexpected happened to him.

Up on the edge of the saucepan he perched himself, but all his weight was on one side and over went the saucepan and in went Pooh! A blue cat covered with custard may be amusing, but he needs an immediate bath.

A custard-covered cat has lost his dignity, so poor Pooh stood perfectly calm while soap and water restored him to his normal colour.



If you ever have to bath your cat, make quite sure that you dry him carefully. It is a very good plan to finish him off by putting him in a basket near the fire and then gradually to move him further away as he gets drier. When he is completely dry and has cooled off he may run about as usual.

Before I finish my letter I want to ask you a few questions. If you do not know the answers, I will tell you the stories some time.

Do you know who cut off the sleeve of his coat so that when he got up from his work he would not wake up his cat who had fallen asleep on his sleeve?

What great English writer went to the fish shop each day to buy an oyster for his sick cat?

Who was the first prince in the British Isles to make a law about cats?

That is all for this month.

Uncle Peter

Your replies to Uncle Peter should be addressed to OUR CATS Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9. Please remember to write "Uncle Peter" at the top left-hand corner of your envelope.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Additional space for small prepaid advertisements under this heading will be available in future issues. The rate is 3d. per word per insertion (minimum 12 words) and instructions must be received by *not later than the last day of the month preceding the month of issue.* Please write "copy" clearly and post with appropriate remittance to OUR CATS MAGAZINE, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W. 9.

For Sale

THE DUNLOP RUSSIAN BLUES, Short-haired lovely kittens. Miss Redford, 25 Rudall Crescent, Hampstead, N.W.3. Tel.: Ham 6499.

SIAMESE Male Kittens by Larkwood Clover, born January 29th, 1949. One same sire born June 26th, 1948.—Miss Martin, 11 Middle Green Road, Slough, Bucks. Slough 2E771.

SIAMESE Kittens, first litter S.C.C.C. Show, 1949, sire Ch. Stades Cross Shabid.—Mrs. J. Varcoe, St. Helier, High Road, Wilmington, Kent. Durdod 456.

Miscellaneous

POUSSETTS (Pussy's own Tonic) gives good health for 7 months for 1s. 6d. Send P.O. note.—Alexander, 1 Sunninghill Road, London, S.W.11.

1948 ANIMAL LOVERS acclaim "Animal Features" "Pussy" Magazine interestingly different. It's new, original and personal. Bring you ideas, friendly philosophy and news

Books for your Library

YOUR CATS AND MINE. (C. F. Ducret, Ltd., 7s. 6d.)

Catherine Manley's book, to which we made passing reference last month, is a sound, workmanlike job. It reminds one of a good old country pie—was steak-and-kidney pudding. No frills or fancy trimmings, but good solid meat inside, guaranteed to please and satisfy. The book is dedicated to "my friend Helen MacArthur," whom many Fanciers will remember with affection as a genuine worker in the cause of the cat. Miss Manley's chapters on illnesses and their treatment are splendidly presented and contain much to interest both the experienced and the novice. We recommend particularly her explanation as to the nature and action of bacteriophage, a subject on which she is well informed and knowledgeable. All cat owners who are concerned to keep their pets fit and active should make a point of getting this book and keeping it in a handy place.

CATS FOR PETS OR SHOW. (Williams & Morrow, Ltd., 6s.)

This is an 86 pp. work by Ian Harman containing a number of well-chosen illustrations. Pride of place is given to a Fife-faced Red Tabby by name Dol, Ch. Callvion Shar-lootey. The history of the cat from the days of the Pharaoh is given, with many unusual and interesting anecdotes. Chapters are devoted to the cat's peculiar psychology, as well as its physical make-up. The various breeds are dealt with in some detail and useful tips are given about exhibiting and the treatment of ailments. Mr. Harman takes us over a whole lot of ground in a short time.

on all pets. Annual subscription 6s.—National Animal Clinica, 115 Fairholme Avenue, Romford.

At Stud

SCORUSTON RAVISANT (Blue Persian), sire 1st Ch. Southway Nicholas, dam Sco-Ruston Kalis.

MOLESEY ALI BABA (Cream Persian), sire TyvedGedem of Dunask, dam Malisary Mischief. Fee for each stud £2 2s. and cartage to registered quoms only.—Gordon B. Ait, F.Z.S., Donahum Cattery, Pitts Lane, Bicester, near Ryde, L.O.W. Ryde 2794.

BOURNESIDE CATTERY, Alkham, 3 Commonfield Road, Banstead, Surrey. Tel. Burch Heath 2794. FELHAM PUFFBALL, Cream L.H., sire Ch. Widdington Warden, dam Felham Hazel. Siring winning Creams and Blue Creams. Fee £2 2s. and cartage.

Wanted

WANTED AT STUD early spring, Golden Persian for two females. Pedigree not essential.—Gensler, Lydeard St. Lawrence, near Taunton, Somerset.

"YOUR CAT AND MINE"

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Tailpieces

A regular newsy feature
with a selection of the best
items from home and overseas

THE current issue of the *Malton Readership Survey*—a weighty work of facts and figures collected for the guidance of those in the publishing and advertising professions—reveals some interesting facts about pet ownership in this country. The number of cats is given as 8,900,000 and the number of households owning cats as 4,280,000. The corresponding figures for dogs are 8,680,000 and 3,990,000 respectively. Households in the well-to-do and middle classes which own cats are shown at 98 per cent. and a further 97 per cent. is credited to the lower middle class. According to the Survey, there are more cats owned than dogs among the families of the working classes and the poor, and the percentage of households of all classes which own neither cats nor dogs is round about 86

There is news that the county of Kent is to have a hospital for animals, planned by the local Committee of the Animals' Health Trust. The hospital, with a trained staff, will be at the disposal of veterinary surgeons. An appeal for £8,000 for the scheme is being made.

My reference last month to the possibility of great expansion in the Australian cat world because of the vast immigration plans now in progress, has already brought an interesting response. Mrs. G. E. Matthee, the well-known Loughborough breeder, tells me that Mrs. F. B. Donmall, late of Chichester, has arrived in Sydney with her two cats, Southwood Simplicity and Graceline Da-Yook, and is thus equipped to start a new strain down under. Mrs. Donmall bred the popular *Shoreline* stud *Mythic Dreamer*, who is now with Mrs. Matthee.

Mrs. Kathleen Barker, of Farnborough, has two unusual pets in *Figaro*, a 6 months old kitten, and *Sammy*, a hare (or should it be

leveret?) who is two months his junior. The two are great friends and share a sleeping basket. *Horace* has been reared with the aid of a fountain pen filler.

There was some waconscious and rather grim humour in David Lyndoe's forecast feature in a recent issue of the *Sunday People*. He warned that 1948 is likely to be "pretty tough on cats and dogs." Not bad forecasting when we are suffering from a serious outbreak of the dreaded gastro-enteritis, and when headlines in the daily press announce that aid in the form of a special horse blood serum is being flown from America! The serum is reported to have produced remarkable results when it was used during an outbreak of cat flu 18 months ago in Missouri. Lyndoe predicts that dogs are in for a rough time later in the year.

On the evening following the Southern Counties Show, six of the aristocrats of catdom kept a date at the Alexandra Palace, where they were televised. Their behaviour on the screen was exemplary and everything went off without a hitch or slip (except in the introduction by announcer Miss Joan Gilbert when she referred to Miss Kit Wilson as organiser of the S.C. Show when credit should have been given to Mrs. K. R. Williams). The cats displayed by Miss Wilson were Miss Evelyn Langston's Blue Persian Ch. Mair of Allington and Chinchilla kitten Flambée of Allington; Mrs. Axon's Tortie and White Ch. Noxa Teena (who was once featured on the front page of *The Times*); Mrs. Anderson's Abyssinian Brunawyck Figaro the Rev. Basil Eton's British Blue Ch. Sylvan Joey and Miss Sladen's Mass Stogor. Kate A. "gatecrasher" into the programme was a Tortie and White who was eventually introduced by Leslie Mitchell as Smirky, the canteen cat.

Miss Jean Fagg, who lives at Tyler Hill, near Canterbury, is known all over the country for her kindness to animals. Even the police take lost dogs to her because they know they will be given a good home until a new owner is found. Miss Fagg, who is 24, manages also to keep six cats and a donkey.

This month's issue of "Vogue" contains a picture of Olivia Manning with her Siamese pet. Miss Manning, novelist, short story writer and critic, is married to R. D. Smith, the radio producer. And the issue of "Life International" for 31st January sports a full-page picture of Ernest Hemingway, famous author of "For Whom the Bell Tolls," taking a bath. With him are his three cats, Boise, Principe and Princessa.

Private Members' Bills to be introduced in the House of Commons during the present session include one by Brigadier Peto, M.P. for Barnstaple, who will present the Pet Shop Bill. This will aim at having pet shops regularly inspected and seeing that the animals are kept under good conditions.

The Beresford Cat Club of America—the oldest club in the States—is celebrating this month its fiftieth anniversary. It is named after our own Lady Marcus Beresford, who was a great figure in the British Fancy many years ago. Some may remember her as the President of the Cat Club, which became defunct in 1904. It was at a Beresford Show in 1908 that Louis Wain, the famous artist, shook the American Fancy from coast to coast when he gave Best Cat award to a Siamese queen. Siamese were little regarded in America at that time, but interest was so stirred by the award that a Siamese Cat Society was in active operation in the year following Wain's surprise decision. The American magazine "Cats" is featuring The History of the American Cat Fancy in its February issue and it will tell the story of the introduction of the Siamese breed to America. In this connection, I would like to invite readers' attention to the fact that subscriptions to the popular American monthly journal may now be placed through OUR CATS—see announcement on another page of this issue.



Activity in Scotland

Just as we go to press with this issue, news has reached us of the first open show organised by the newly-formed Scottish Cat Club. It was held on 5th February at the Typographical Hall, Glasgow, which was filled to capacity by interested spectators. Judges were Mr. A. Wilson (Longhairs and Varieties) and Mr. P. Connor (Siamese). Best in Show and winner of the Willowgrange Cup was Mr. Connor's Blue Persian female Baby, whilst Miss J. M. Tomblin's Siamese Willowgrange Shooting Star was Best Opposite Sex and Best Male. There were entries in nine classes and chief winners were Mr. Connor's Baby (best Blue female), Mr. Connor's Baroda (best Blue kitten), Miss Tomblin's Willowgrange Shooting Star (best Siamese male), Miss Tomblin's Kingarnie Lucinda (best Siamese female and kitten, also best A.V. Kitten), Mrs. McPhail's Gathorne Gomery (best Longhair male), Mr. J. Tomblin's Monty (best household pet). A second show is planned for the coming autumn.

It is regretted that owing to pressure on space this month the page of Readers' Pets has had to be held over until next month's issue.

***pity the stray
in a
practical way***

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