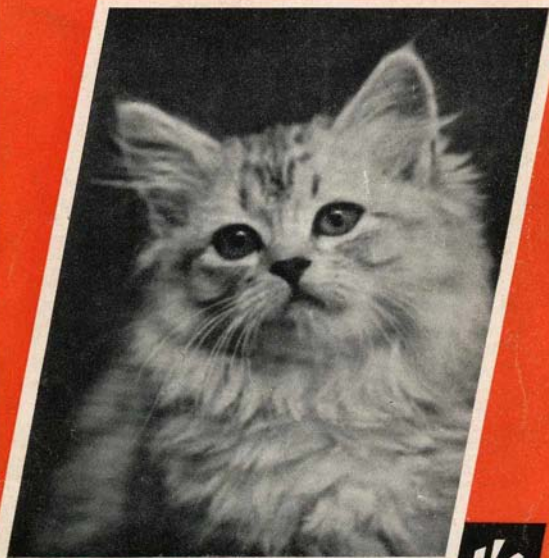


# Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



1/6

MARCH 1949

**DR. LUDWIG KOCH on CAT CALLS**

**ENTERITIS**  
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January, 1949

(signed) Mrs. E. Marlow, 28 Vereker Road,  
 Baron's Court, London, W.14.

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# Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

VOL. I No. 3

MARCH 1949

## LINKING COMMON INTEREST

WHEN this Magazine was under planning away back in October last, two ideas were kept well to the foreground until they became fixed intentions.

The first concerned the *type* of publication to be launched and the second its *policy*. That there was a real need and a unique opportunity for a serious, all-purpose periodical for cat lovers was obvious, and it was not difficult, therefore, to evolve a magazine that would fulfil these requirements.

The question of policy demanded more careful consideration. Broadly speaking, OUR CATS has been designed as a weapon for fighting the cause of the cat. There are many ways in which such a weapon might be wielded, but I don't propose to elaborate on this occasion. Later, perhaps, for there is much to be said on the subject.

Let it suffice for the present if I point out that a weapon can be really effective if its hitting powers are spread wide—and far. So, following this line of reasoning, OUR CATS sets out to do the greatest amount of good over the greatest possible amount of territory.

Evidence has now come to hand that our initial efforts have met with some measure of success, and I am encouraged to think that OUR CATS

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**GENERAL INFORMATION:** The address for all communications relating to editorial and advertisements in OUR CATS is 4 CARLTON MANSIONS, CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9 (Macauley 1462).

Publication date is the 20th of the month and closing date is the last day of the month preceding the month of publication. MSS. and photographs submitted will only be returned if accompanied by fully stamped and addressed envelopes. Photographs should preferably be of the glossy type with sharp details.

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Views and opinions expressed in the editorial pages are not necessarily those held by the Editor.

will quickly become a strong link of common interest and friendship between cat-loving communities throughout the world. Here, for instance, is a message from Mr. Charles A. Kenny, Editor and Publisher of the popular American "Cats Magazine," who writes:

The first issue of OUR CATS has just reached our office. We are indeed delighted and greatly thrilled with the contents, the make-up and the general all-round brilliancy of this publication. You have certainly covered the entire cat field both at home and abroad and we are particularly pleased with the excellent line-up of writers and their subject-matter. England should be proud of OUR CATS, just as those of us in America are proud and happy for its arrival. Please keep up the splendid work . . . and welcome to America!

From "way down under" comes another thrilling and encouraging message, this time from the Secretary of the R.A.S. Cat Club of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Here it is:

Congratulations from the feline fraternity of the Antipodes upon your timely venture. We can envisage, per medium of OUR CATS, a world-wide link-up on instructional and controversial data pertaining to cats, and feel sure your book will assist in the ultimate betterment of the species feline.

Believing as we do with Samuel Johnson that "a man, sir, should keep his friendship in repair," we shall see to it that future issues of the Magazine are so shaped that the writers of these cheering messages will maintain their optimistic outlook.

And finally, if I may be excused just one more outburst of exuberant egotism, here is a delightful note received from Beverley Nichols, the famous author and writer, who writes from his Surrey home on his return from America: "I find your Magazine charming and of real value. Please accept my best wishes for the increasing success and popularity which this much-needed new Magazine deserves."

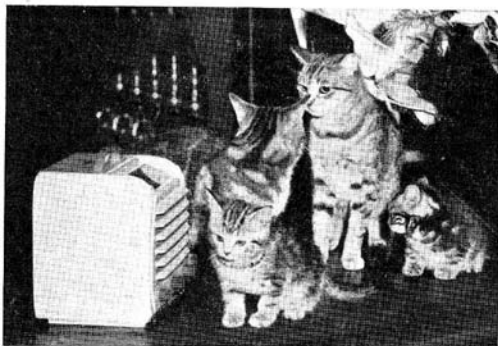
And so to a corner—to hide my blushes!

THE EDITOR

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*Our cover picture of a Silver Tabby kitten is once again the work of Thomas Fall, the experienced animal photographer of Baker Street, W. 1. Very few of these lovely Silver Tabby cats are seen nowadays.*

*"Far in the stillness a cat languishes loudly"*  
Virgil



*Daily Mail Photograph*

Whisky, Margaret, their two unbaptised kittens, and Blacky George gather round the radio for their special broadcast.

## *Cat Calls*

DR. LUDWIG KOCH *contributes some interesting and amusing reactions to his recent B.B.C. broadcast of feline conversations.*

**I**S the B.B.C. becoming cat conscious? This is an interesting speculation and certainly not an idle one, since it is inspired by recent happenings over the air.

First, the listening millions were treated to Professor Haldane's talk on genetics. Then came a television show of feline aristocrats and an interview with two leading Fanciers during "Woman's Hour." Now comes another star performer in the person of Dr. Ludwig Koch with a

15-minute broadcast at a peak listening hour under the title of "Cat Calls."

Dr. Koch's broadcast aroused tremendous interest, and at least one daily newspaper co-operated with him to the extent of valuable advance publicity—valuable because it helped the doctor to get useful reactions from listeners. After the broadcast, pictures and stories were splashed throughout the daily press of the country and we have since had confirmation

from Dr. Koch himself that the experiment was a great success. More about this later.

Dr. Koch, expert on bird and animal noises, is co-author with Julian Huxley of "Animal Language." His inimitable presentations of bird songs are the result of 25 years' study of the subject and 12 years of strenuous and patient work with his recording equipment.

He has a collection of recorded cat conversations which must be unique. It includes anything from a talk between cats on the tiles at Hampstead to a family conversation in the African jungle between a pair of lions and their cubs.

### No Two Alike

Dr. Koch is definite on one point—that all cats can express themselves adequately in their own language. English domestic cats have a particularly large vocabulary. But he warns against generalisation on the behaviour of an animal of the same group or species. Each has its own individuality (as with humans) and also its own individual voice. There are good and bad tempered and some are more intelligent than others.

Following his B.B.C. broadcast on "Cat Calls," Dr. Koch very kindly forwarded a few impressions for publication in OUR CATS.

"My broadcast," he writes, "was, I believe, the first of its kind. I had to restrict myself to 15 minutes—a reasonable time for that kind of broadcast, but much

too short to cover such a large field of experience. I would have liked to give more examples of different calls of our domestic cat, with their probable emotions expressed. There are also recordings of very rare expressions of the tiger which I was sorry not to be able to include in my demonstration.

"On the whole, however, cats which were given an opportunity to listen to the different noises from the kitten to the tiger responded nobly, and a large number of their owners wrote to describe their experiences in detail. Cats normally show indifference to the loudspeaker but register natural excitement on hearing bird calls at such close quarters."

### Ready to Fight

"From all letters received," continues Dr. Koch, "the main feature was that almost every cat was deeply impressed, showing fighting spirit on hearing the voice of my wife's Siamese, ten-year-old Siddha. I was not able to watch her reaction as she preferred to follow the broadcast in another room. But my wife observed that Siddha was always on the alert.

"How much I would like your readers to hear the stories of Mossy Mose (a Siamese), Bill (Black Persian), Tiger (18½ years old Tabby), and George (an old Black neuter) and many others whose owners wrote to tell me of their pets' enjoyment and anxiety

whilst listening to their own species and to wild foreign cats over the air.

"I can, however, give you a few short excerpts from my cat correspondence, which frequently ended with 'Yours feline' or 'Yours purringly': (1) Thirteen years' old cat, first, terrified expression on his face. Then tail and back bristled up; finally disappeared under piano and retched violently! (2) I am a large black male cat. I kept the appointment with your cats last night, and although I was not very interested in those out on the tiles nor in any of their purrings, I was worried indeed when the Siamese fellow set up his wailing. I leapt down from the window sill and asked to be let out so that I might track him down.

"(8) Scud and Juliet on hear-

ing the Siamese climbed on to the radio set, inspected it and stalked with peculiar gait, back arched, ears back and hair standing on end. If the Siamese had continued, there would have been trouble. (4) Molesey Ali Baba, Cream Persian stud cat, interested in Siamese, in the 'No, no no' serval (African bush cat), leopard cubs, lions feeding.

"(5) We all—and our three cats—were tremendously enthusiastic throughout the broadcast and long after it was over sat watching the radio intently.

"One good lady complained bitterly about my rudeness in putting on such a broadcast to frighten her beloved pet. This, however, was an exception and I was asked by others to arrange a daily 'Cat Hour.' "

And why not?

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## **Popular Torties**

The Annual General Meeting of the Red, Cream, Tortoise-shell, Blue-Cream and Brown Tabby Society was held in London on 1st March. Mr. Cyril Yeates presided over 80 members and a very happy afternoon was spent. Members were invited to an excellent tea by a well-known Fancier who preferred to remain anonymous. Mrs. Morland, owner of the winning Tortoiseshell and White male (a rare animal—since Tortoiseshell and White cats are almost always female), was unable to be present owing to distance. The membership of the Society now numbers over 90 and has increased during 1948 by 22. It is interesting to notice the enthusiasm for the varieties during the past year. Several kittens have found good homes, one of the most popular colours being the Tortoiseshell and White shorthair cats.

Valuable trophies were offered and many prizes at all shows held under Governing Council rules during the show season. One silver rose bowl was won outright by Miss Cathcart (the breeder of Brown Tabbies) and another was won by Mrs. Sheppard's Widdington Wincette—a lovely Cream female.

The Club has its own specialist judges for each breed, and the fact that the guaranteed classes for members at every show attract such large entries shows the confidence that members have in the judges appointed by the Society.

The Hon. Secretary (Mrs. J. M. Newton, Crabtree, Hamm Court, Weybridge) welcomes inquiries about the above varieties at any time.

# Correspondence Corner

Readers are invited to send contributions to this feature. Letters are welcomed, but should be concise and deal with items of general interest.

First let me say how pleased we are with OUR CATS, especially Professor Haldane's article, as it was difficult to follow in the short time allowed him for the talk on the radio. Perhaps some breeders could enlighten me about the following: There appears to be a cat illness around here which is described to me as tetanus, the symptoms being a locking of the jaw and eventually death. The two victims I have heard about seemed to have survived the 48 hours for gastro-enteritis, a third recovered when given brandy over a period. Can cats contract tetanus—from infected meat, for example?

Mrs. R. G. Taylor, Carbis Bay,  
Cornwall.

Tetanus is extremely rare in cats. A case (in your next county, strangely enough!) is reported on another page of this issue. It is the opinion of our expert that the unfortunate owners of these cats have formed the impression that the jaws were locked. Cats can clench them very tightly and the condition could very well be a symptom of enteritis. It is easier to feed a dog in similar circumstances.

The uninformed are always saying that one can teach a dog almost anything, but cats! . . . ah, they are individualists. That is pure nonsense. We have had dogs, clever and simple ones, but for the last ten years we have concentrated on cats only. We have eight now—one British Blue and the rest just ordinary cats. In my opinion, cats have more brains than dogs. Ours come when we call them by name and obey orders. I could relate all sorts of incidents by the hour.

Magdalen Munro, Hildenborough,  
Kent.

We have thirteen cats at present, and though they are a handful to look after and feed, we don't know whom

we could do without. The mothers all share the same chair and have their kittens all together. There is much I could say about the family. It is hard to make people believe that none of them has been taught its tricks. There must be something more to it than just cat instinct. I often wish I had a camera!

Mrs. Peggy Gadsby, Bromley,  
Kent.

Having just lost a treasured Siamese pet through enteritis, I was interested in the letter of R. A. S., Suffolk, in last month's issue regarding permanganate of potash as a medicine. What strength should be given?

I like Uncle Peter's idea of teaching children to be kind to cats. So often I am vexed by the way they maul kittens about, through ignorance mostly.

Had I known about the Glasgow Show on 5th February I would have gone up for the day. Is there any chance of OUR CATS publishing dates of important shows to come?

Mrs. C. J. R. E., Lockerbie.

The permanganate should be watered down to gargle strength and care should be taken to ensure that no bits are left undissolved. We are arranging for a Show Diary to appear regularly when the various dates are fixed during the next few weeks.

I was interested to read the letter in last month's issue from a New York reader who is anxious to visit some of our cat shows when she comes to England in the summer. Perhaps she and other American visitors may like to know that the Kensington Kitten and Nenter Cat Club Show will take place in London during the second week in July.

Mrs. J. M. Newton,  
Joint Show Manager.

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*It is regretted that owing to the lamented death of her husband, Mrs. Bazeley's contribution to our "Who's Who among the Breeders" series has had to be held over. The series will be resumed next month.*



Professor J. B. S. HALDANE, F.R.S., tells you

## *More about Colour*

In his opening instalment in last month's issue, Professor Haldane dealt mainly with white and tabby cats. He now turns to tortoiseshells and reveals some fascinating facts concerning his experiments to produce a new breed of pure yellow (marmalade) cats. All Fanciers—and Show Managers in particular!—will be eager to know the final outcome of these interesting experiments.

*Professor Haldane is the author of numerous books and papers in scientific journals. He has been Professor of Biometry 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.*

I HAVE not yet mentioned the yellow and tortoiseshell colours. The yellow cat is commonly called ginger, but I think marmalade is a better name, because it has a pattern of orange stripes on a yellow ground like the dark stripes of orange peel in marmalade. This is the same as the pattern of tabbies.

There are striped and blotched marmalade cats, like the striped and blotched tabbies, and the difference depends on the same gene. The tortoiseshell cat usually has most of her coat black or tabby, with irregular yellow patches. You notice I said *her* coat. Almost all tortoiseshell cats are females. And yellow males are a good deal commoner than yellow females.

To understand why this is so we must talk about the genes concerned. A black female has two

genes for black, and she gives a gene for black to all her kittens. A black male has only one gene for black, and he only gives it to his daughters. Similarly, a yellow female has two yellow genes, a yellow male only one. Of course, if the blacks get a gene for tabbiness they become tabbies. If they get two genes for blueness they become blues, and so on.

Finally, a cat with one gene for black and one for yellow is a tortoiseshell. Since a male doesn't hand black or yellow genes to his sons, all the male kittens of a black female are black or tabby and all the male kittens of a yellow female are yellow. While about half the male kittens of a tortoiseshell female are black, and half yellow.

Things are a little more complicated with the female kittens because they get a gene from each

parent. For example, if you want yellow female kittens you *must* have a yellow father. If the mother is yellow, all the kittens of both sexes will be yellow. If she is a tortoiseshell, about half the kittens of each sex will be yellow; the other males will be black or tabby, the other females tortoiseshell.

The tortoiseshell males who sometimes turn up are exceptions to these rules. Some of them are sterile. Perhaps they started life as females, and switched over to maleness some time before they were born, but didn't switch over quite completely. That sort of thing happens in insects and even in cattle. But tortoiseshell males

have been quite fertile. Perhaps they managed to switch over completely. Nobody knows.

I should certainly like a tortoiseshell male to see how he breeds, though goodness knows where I should park him, as I have got eight cats in my flat already.

Another thing which is not understood is the inheritance of the white patches which are found on the coat of most cats. Certainly several genes are concerned. If ever I have a house in the country we will breed cats there and find out. So we will if University College gets an experimental farm.

Nor do we know all that we



Ch. Longovicus Smutz, famous Tortie and White male, one of Professor Haldane's "exceptions to the rule." Smutz, owned by Mrs. Morland, of Lanchester, Durham, has mated recently. The eagerly-awaited arrival of kittens promises an event of great interest in catdom.

should about the inheritance of eye colours, particularly about those odd-looking cats with one green eye and one blue. We know about short tails and extra toes, but I haven't time to talk about them now.

The real complications in cat-breeding come in two ways. First of all, things are not so simple

of minor points to win a prize. Not only must your tortoiseshell female have no white hairs and be in very good condition, but she must have the fashionable pattern of yellow marks on a black ground. Nobody knows how the details of the tortoiseshell pattern are inherited, or even whether they are inherited at all, though I



*Photo by Louis Mandeville, University College*

**PUMA, Professor Haldane's yellow Abyssinian, who is striped only on the tail and paws.**

when several pairs of genes are working at once. Here is the sort of problem I give my students at University College: If a blue female cat is mated to a blotched ginger male, what sort of kittens, and in what proportions, would you expect if you mated one of their daughters, a striped tabby tortoiseshell, to one of their sons, a blotched tabby male? It isn't hard when you know the rules.

The other complications are due to the fact that you want all sorts

would bet heavily that they are.

Somebody may ask who am I to talk about cat breeding? The answer is that my wife and I have produced at least one kind of cat which I haven't seen before, namely, a yellow with no stripes except on the legs, tail and nose. If we can get rid of the stripes altogether perhaps we will show some of these cats.

I may also say that we didn't get these cats by chance, but by a mating designed for the purpose.

However, we are even more interested in finding out the rules of cat heredity than in making new kinds of cat.

I'm afraid I have tried to get too much into this talk. If I had my way the B.B.C. would give at least an hour a week to animal breeding and plant breeding. I believe there are enough people in Britain who breed animals and plants to make it worth while. Then I could give half a dozen twenty-minute talks on cats, and I believe I could get the whole story across.

There are some particularly

fascinating things about the Siamese which I haven't even mentioned. However, I expect there are people who think the B.B.C. grossly neglects chess, Persian poetry, fossils and fine stitching. So I am very glad I have had a chance to talk about cats.

I hope I may have induced some people to keep their eyes open for the really astonishing variety of cats which one can meet in the street, and perhaps even to choose a suitable husband for their own puss, so as to get the kind of kittens which they admire.

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## Quarantine

By FORCEPS

**U**NDER the importation of Dogs and Cats Order of 1928 a cat may only be brought into the United Kingdom (other than from the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, Northern Ireland or Eire) under licence from the Minister of Agriculture.

Each licence granted requires the detention and isolation of the animal at approved quarantine stations. There are eighteen of these, each under the supervision of a veterinary surgeon, who is responsible for safeguarding the public — and their domestic animals — from rabies.

In 1947, fifty-four cats arrived in this country from overseas. Probably this number would have been larger had owners not been deterred by the length of the quarantine period—six months—and the expense. Yet without quarantine the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture could not have kept these

islands free from rabies during the last twenty-seven years.

Could the period of quarantine be safely reduced? The answer must be in the negative because, although the incubation period can be as little as three weeks, it may be a matter of several months. Only last November a fox terrier developed rabies while in quarantine kennels in the South of England, and had to be put out of its misery. In this case it had taken seven months at least for the disease to develop, and the incubation period of rabies in the cat is not less than that in the dog.

Rabies is an insidious disease. The first symptoms may amount to nothing more than depression and aloofness, or a tendency to attack strangers and purr more over friends. Later there may be paralysis affecting the mouth. None of these symptoms would be likely to mean much to the

average cat owner. The "furious rabies" symptoms may be absent or occur too late for harm to be averted. It is for this reason that quarantine is so necessary; it enables expert diagnosis to be immediately at hand—not *after* an animal has bitten someone and got away.

In the United States, where livestock losses and Pasteur treat-

ment cost the country the equivalent of one million pounds sterling every year, 393 cats were affected with rabies in 1947, together with 26 people.

In 1946, the Bureau of Animal Industry, U.S. Department of Agriculture, reported 8,384 cases of rabies in dogs and 455 in cats. There were 10,872 cases all told, including 22 in humans.

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## *Fit for a Queen*

S.O.S. from Stud Owner—"For goodness sake print something about suitable travelling boxes for visiting queens." So here it is—from the experienced pen of Mrs. Elsie Hart, popular Fancier and Hon. Secretary of the Siamese Cat Club.

**I**T does seem extraordinary that so many owners of female cats convey or send them to the stud owner in such deplorable boxes and baskets.

There is no excuse these days for using any old crate. Boxes and baskets may be bought from most of the big stores and pet shops. The most suitable is the medium-sized rabbit box with an inner compartment. This gives adequate ventilation without draught. It should be large enough for the cat to sit comfortably.

A basket is also quite suitable provided it is covered with strong brown paper to keep out the draught. Leave the top uncovered for air. Do send a clean blanket; your cat will much prefer to have her own.

These instructions seem quite simple, but this is what we often get: Fancy baskets with one strap

only so that the stud owner has to sew up the whole lid to keep the cat inside when she returns. Another queen arrived in a tiny ferret box pushed down flat. A third was packed in a flimsy chicken box with no blanket to lie on, not even a sheet of paper. Air space was nil and the box inside covered with chicken droppings, old bran and cobwebs. When opened, it collapsed, as it was only tied with one piece of string.

All three queens were really nice specimens and worthy of better treatment. The little lady of the chicken box was so pleased with the bed and hot bottle provided for her that she just sat tight cuddling it and let the stud go hang!

Avoid using wooden boxes which have to be either nailed or screwed down. The stud owner's language is not very polite when a hammer or screwdriver has to

be found before the cat can be liberated. Many a poor queen is terrified when she is again put in and the lid hammered down.

And then there is the enormous receptacle weighing nearly a ton! All stud owners do not possess cars, and the picture of the staggerer carrying a huge box on to a bus is amusing to the on-lookers only. I have recollections of descending to the station at about 10.30 p.m. to collect a queen and finding her in an out-size dog kennel. It was during the war; my car was laid up and it was just one big joke to hope to get a taxi. I struggled with this contraption through the unlighted streets accompanied by the love calls of the queen and the ribald remarks of the armed forces emerging from the various "locals." Up the hill (one in three gradient!) towards home I staggered—and so to bed!

But I think I can cap even that experience with the queen who was brought loose in her owner's car, and as the visitor arrived at an entirely different hour to the appointment, I was not at home. When I returned—it was winter and very dark—I was met by a neighbour with the happy news that the cat had leapt from the

car as soon as the door was opened and disappeared into the forest at the bottom of my garden. The owner had departed leaving the message, "Would I phone when I had caught the cat!"

Yes, I did eventually catch her, in spite of the stalking tactics of a designing tabby and white full male from next door. Stud owners earn their money!

A final word or two about making the necessary arrangements beforehand. Do not wait until your queen has been in season about three days and then contact the stud owner, expecting to be welcomed with open arms. Decide on your stud beforehand, write the owner, and then get in touch with him (or her) the first day of the call, and you will then be told when to bring or send your queen. Once more, although the majority of potential breeders do not seem to think so, *stud fees are payable in advance*, and if the cat has to be returned by rail do not forget that another fare is involved.

Observance of these seeming small but vital points will make life much more pleasant for all the parties involved—the owner of the queen, the stud owner and the little lady in the travelling box.

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### Introducing our Zoo Page



The delightful drawings reproduced on the page opposite are the first in a series which we intend to run as a regular feature. They are the work of Alexander Ross Bryant, a 35-year-old Naval draughtsman, Portsmouth-born and a father of four young daughters. Bryant has always been interested in cat studies and his visits to London were usually spent at the Zoo. During the War he held a post in the Royal Naval Film Unit which was previously occupied by George Studdy, of "Bonzo" fame. The top picture represents a Leopard Cat and the lower drawing is of an Indian Jungle Fishing Cat.



# I be

## Should



## taxed?

### YES!

### NO!!

**T**HE case for the taxation of cats presented in our February issue by Mr. E. Keith Robinson, Secretary of Our Dumb Friends' League, has not so far evoked any passionate outbursts. We are glad that this is so.

Letters are still coming in on the subject as we go to press with this issue and a number which should have reached us in time for attention and treatment have been delayed because they were sent to any address but the correct one, which was, of course, c/o The Editor, OUR CATS Magazine. Perhaps we should have made this plainer?

However, sufficient response has come to hand to enable us to report that opinion on the controversial question of cat taxation seems pretty well divided. If anything, there is a slight balance in favour of the anti-taxers and a few very well-reasoned arguments have been put forward by these protagonists.

#### Who Would Bother?

One of the best letters came from Mr. F. Wickings Smith, a great cat lover who has had over 20 years' experience of running boarding kennels at Clapham, Bedfordshire. It was his view that very few dog owners bothered

to have their names and addresses on their dogs' collars. How much less likely, then, are cat owners to do so when they are not exercising their pets in public places? And how many would trouble to get elastic collars and to replace them when they got lost?

"Callous dog owners," continues Mr. Wickings Smith, "turn their pets adrift at licence time, and although many cat owners love their pets dearly, a great number merely keep them to reduce vermin and would disown them without a qualm. Making a different charge for neuters would need an army of experts to sex the cats. In any case, who could say whether a queen has been neutered or not?"

#### Instruct the Children

"I am extremely concerned about the dreadful fate of the unfortunate strays and I have had many, mostly females, put gently to sleep. I don't think taxation would help them much. Also, what about the necessary vermin catchers on farms, in granaries, etc.? Would they claim exemption like the working sheepdog?"

"My opinion is that the public should be better instructed as to the sexing of kittens and the desirability of neutering *both* sexes un-

*(Continued on page 32)*



# Miss Pitt & Her Pets

FRANCES PITT, to whom readers of the London "Evening News" will need no further introduction, is doubly gifted. Not only is she possessed of that rare sympathy with animals to which even the wariest of creatures will respond. She has an equally rare knack of communicating that sympathy to domestic animals in her charge, so that some of her pets have played foster-mother to the most unlikely offspring.

One of her cats, called Granny, a short-haired tabby-and-white, adopted and reared a small farmyard rat, as well as a litter of wild rabbits. Both experiments were completely successful. The young rat—later known as Samuel Whiskers, for all Miss Pitt's fosterlings have names and individual characters to go with them—was originally one of a litter destined for a tame owl's dinner. But Miss Pitt had second thoughts about Samuel, the most active of the litter.

## Washed—and Accepted

Granny Cat was turned peremptorily away from her new family of kittens and young Samuel insinuated amongst them. The cat was kept away long enough for the new infant to acquire something of a kitten smell and also for her to be in such a hurry to feed her litter when she got back that the alien element might pass unnoticed.

The meal went without a hitch. But the toilet which followed was attended with greater hazards. The first kitten was washed, so was the second—and now it was Samuel's turn. The rat's fate hung in the balance. But there was no need for alarm. Samuel was washed gently

and firmly like the rest, and from that moment was an accepted member of the family.

In time the kittens became so violent and boisterous that they had to be removed. From this point onwards, Granny Cat gave the young rat her undivided maternal attention. (Even before this, she seemed to show him a special tenderness, as if realising that he was not quite cast in the same sturdy mould as the rest of the family.) He grew into a fine sleek buck, tame and affectionate, though his tameness was his undoing in the end, for he was attacked by a wild rat and died from his wounds. Granny was devoted to him to the end of his days.

## Ready to Fight

One aspect of her motherly forethought is worth particular mention. Granny had always been a good ratter—which is by no means axiomatic amongst cats—but though she often brought him mice and even rabbits, she never included rats in her offerings and, as far as her mistress knew, she never killed a rat again.

This is only one of the stories Miss Pitt relates in her book "Friends in Fur and Feather"—a book everyone should read who is interested in the vagaries of animal life in the borderland between wild and tame. Miss Pitt's fondness for cats is by no means unreserved. Her feelings waver whenever a cat deposits a robin at her feet. It is the recollection of such motherly care and accommodation as Granny Cat showed to Samuel Whiskers which helps to restore the balance.

<sup>1</sup> *Country Life*, 12s. 6d.

Granny was ready to fight for Whiskers as well as to feed him, and another cat, Katie, showed the same fierce devotion to a foster-family of rabbits. Once a strange dog came innocently too near to the kitchen door. Katie snatched up a straying rabbit, stowed it away safely somewhere and then flew to the attack. The dog had the fright of his life. Katie actually rode him for 20 yards, laying in with her claws the whole way, and it was a long time before that dog came near the house again.

### An "Untouchable"

The most unusual cat Miss Pitt—or anyone else, for that matter—ever owned was Satan, a wild cat from Scotland, who was taken from his mother in the Highlands and brought to England in the fond hope that Miss Pitt might tame him.

Satan, a heavy and powerful cat with a shaggy striped coat of tabby pattern, was aptly named. Even as a kitten he could only be handled with thick gloves and when he grew older he was untouchable, though he would take food, spitting the whole time, from Miss Pitt's hand.

Oddly enough, he showed a certain dour affection for Beauty, a pretty long-haired tabby from a neighbouring cottage who was introduced to him when they were both kittens. In fact, he was remarkably faithful to her all his life—monogamy seeming to be the rule amongst the wild cat clans of the Grampians.

Beauty bore him many litters and he never wavered in his affections.

It was no use presenting other she-cats to him; he simply knocked them head over heels. Beauty, unfortunately, did not reciprocate this single-minded devotion and even brought up a family in Satan's quarters which was not his own. A commentary, perhaps, on what a few centuries of civilisation can do to the most well-meaning cat.

### Victims of Flu

The hybrid kittens born to Satan and Beauty inherited not only their father's physical characteristics but his hunter's ways. Imp of Satan, a tom of the second litter whom Miss Pitt kept, was an exact replica of his father, but without Satan's hatred for the human race. But the lust of the chase burned equally strongly in him. When he was only half-grown he attacked a duck and a rooster, and he had to be taken for walks with a collar and lead. Once he escaped from his mistress during a twilight constitutional. Five cockerels were found dead in a neighbour's pen next morning, and a tell-tale wisp of fur.

Curiously enough, all these hybrids proved to be peculiarly susceptible to domestic cat ailments. None of the kittens Miss Pitt sent to Edinburgh Zoo survived for long. Those she kept herself for observation and breeding experiments were all carried off, Satan and the Imp included, by a virulent epidemic of cat-flu. Only two of her domestic cats came through. The wayward Beauty was one of them.

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The two delightful illustrations shown opposite are taken from Miss Pitt's book and are reproduced by kind permission of the publishers. The top picture shows Satan, the Scottish wild cat, ready to spit and swear at the photographer.

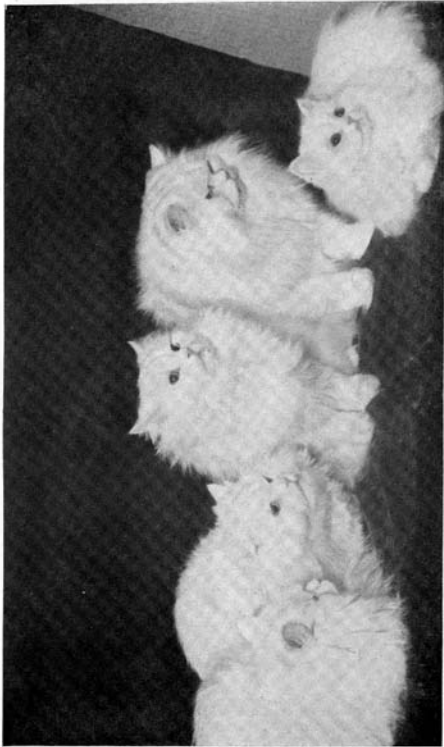
The lower picture shows an amusing incident in the unusual friendship between Tom Kitten and Eliza Ann, the Vixen. Such games as these invariably ended in a show of temper, as Miss Pitt relates that the fox would get too rough and tough for the cat. Tom Kitten would then register his displeasure by a show of claws and the two would part in mutual disgust—until the next meeting!





**MYSTIC DREAMER**, well-known 4-yr.-old Seal Point Siamese stud cat (by Ch. Jacques of Abingdon x Petite Pasht), winner of two Challenge Certificates and many other awards, including special prizes for eye-colour and palest body colour. Owner is Mrs. G. E. Matthes, of Loughborough, Leicestershire.

*“They grew in beauty side by side. They fill’d one home with glee.”*



*Photo by Freise Dufouron, Lausanne*  
This lovely Symphony in White comes to us from Switzerland, the home of so many fine cats of this type. We are indebted to Mlle. C. Perrin, President of the Cat Club of Lausanne, for this photograph of her five Whites. They are—reading from right to left—Helvetia Winnie, the famous Int. Champion Pigeon du Léman, Int. Champion Tresor-Bianc du Léman, Venus du Léman and Woogy du Léman.



The elfin appeal displayed by this quartette of Abyssinian kittens makes it simple to understand the growing popularity of the breed. This litter (best at Croydon Show last year) was bred by Mrs. V. E. Major, of Gt. Bookham, Surrey, who is also the photographer. Sire is Roverdale Sabu x Brunswycke Cheri.

## *So you want a Kitten?*

**F**EW people, young or old, can resist the charm of a playful kitten. If you do not resist it just means that one of these days you will be taking a kitten home.

There need be no cause for worry if you have thought the matter out beforehand. All kittens, whether pedigree or just alley cats, are attractive and similarly they all grow up. If it is a kitten you want you must bear in mind that in a few months it will be an adult cat. How are you going to feel about it then?

Questions of this sort are necessary as many a thoughtless person who has enjoyed having a kitten about the place has not only lost all interest in it when it grew up, but has in fact neglected it. Some cats do learn to fend for themselves in the world of dustbins, but no human has any right to condemn them to such an existence.

Perhaps you want a kitten to amuse the children. No one would complain about that provided you have taken the trouble to teach the children how to treat a kitten. Do not blame the children if they treat the cat roughly, and certainly do not consider the cat bad tempered because it has scratched the children

from fright or in self-defence. A kitten is a charming companion for any child if one will only take the trouble to see that each of these young creatures understands how to treat the other. The experience will definitely be valuable for the child.

It may be that you want a cat for yourself and feel that an ordinary cat is not quite what you need. Would you prefer something more aristocratic, in fact, a cat of pedigree?

If you can afford the price of a pedigree kitten and prices are by no means high, what could be more satisfactory? Generally speaking, any article or animal of quality gives more pleasure than something which is just ordinary and merely nondescript.

The general belief that pedigree cats lack stamina and that such kittens die easily need not worry you. It is true that the alley cat has more than nine lives, for generations of hard living have made certain that only the fittest survive. Such cats have a hardy resistance to most diseases and all forms of neglect. The pedigree cat, however, is no weakling and with sensible care and attention should give little trouble, living to a ripe old age.

Do you know what sort of a

kitten you want? There are two main types, the shorthair and the longhair.

Of the shorthaired pedigree cats, the Siamese stands head and shoulders (or should I say nose and whiskers?) ahead of all other varieties. In fact, at the present time, the Siamese is easily the most popular of all cats, either short or longhaired. What is known as the Seal-pointed type is the original colour, first imported into England nearly seventy years ago.

Siamese cats are creatures of great individuality and strength of character. All cats are independent by nature, but the Siamese is the acme of independence. It has a mind and knows it. It always does its best to make you understand its desires and intentions. If you find understanding difficult, the fault is yours.

### **Siamese Talkers**

There is no doubt that the Siamese is an ideal companion which usually confines its wealth of affection to one person only. For that one person it waits and to him it talks; the rest of the household is just tolerated.

Do not imagine, however, that Siamese possess all virtues and no vices, for that would be mere delusion. No cat could thrive with such perfect nonchalance as to make the vice seem a virtue.

Siamese cats can also be very noisy. The plaintive love songs of a Siamese female are excruciating in their intensity and this

"linked sweetness long drawn out" over many days persists until loss of voice restores the shattered peace. The male of the species can be equally vociferous. Such noises are not essential if a Siamese is kept merely as a pet. Both male and female can be neutered. When this has been done the Siamese still remains the most talkative of all cats, but the noise is no longer raucous; it has become just companionable.

### **How to Buy**

Perhaps you would prefer a longhaired kitten similar to those fascinating little balls of fluff which used to adorn the lid of the almost forgotten chocolate box.

As the Siamese is the most popular of the shorthairs, so the Blue Persian can claim pride of place among the longhairs. The beauty of a lavender blue coat, in which eyes of a deep coppery orange are set, instantly attracts the eye and very soon the affection.

If you do buy a longhaired cat you must bear in mind the fact that daily grooming will be necessary. For a person with little spare time and small patience for the performance of a cat's toilet, a longhaired cat would be a burden.

Obviously pedigree cats cannot be cheap, but an eight weeks kitten should be obtainable at a figure between five and ten pounds. The actual price will depend to a very large extent upon the quality of the particular



kitten. Siamese are on the whole cheaper than Blue Persians.

Some of you may wonder how one sets about buying a pedigree kitten. It is not difficult as there are now several monthly and one weekly periodical in which cats and kittens are advertised.

Put yourself in the hands of a reliable breeder who advertises (there are always a number in this magazine) and you will not go far

wrong. There are black sheep in all walks of life, but they are few and far between.

You should certainly see your kitten before you buy it as all kittens do not look alike nor are they equally attractive. But before you buy do make quite sure that you really want a kitten which you realise will soon become a cat. I apologise for the repetition, but it is necessary.





Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

**R**EGULARLY 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.

**2nd February.** Mrs. Parker, the hon. Secretary of the Herts and Middlesex Cat Club, presented an excellent report to the members present at their Annual General Meeting, held at the Windmill Hotel, Bushey Heath. Mr. Cyril Yeates has consented to become Vice-President, sharing the honour with Miss K. Yorke. Mrs. Price (Chairman) and Mrs. Parker were elected delegates to the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy.

Membership has increased in one year from 57 to 162, a remarkable achievement in view of the number of cats' clubs now in existence. Dr. Archer was elected to the Committee. She has taken a great interest in feline ailments, and her articles in the Siamese News Sheet on ringworm and infectious enteritis are among the most explicit I have read. Mrs. Newton was also elected, so there is now an excellent working Committee for this vigorous new Club.

Mrs. Mitchell very kindly lent her charming house and garden for a party last summer and has offered to do so again this year.

After the meeting we had an enjoyable tea and everyone was very cheery

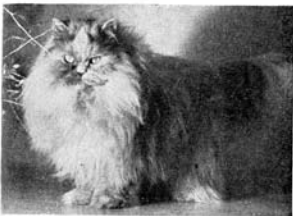
and informal, especially when a bottle of brandy was auctioned by the President, Miss Kit Wilson. Seated at my table was the youngest member of the Club, Miss Wendy Stuart, aged 13, who owns a Tabby neuter which she hopes to show next winter.

The Committee and members are hoping their next Show will be a Championship one and the probable date some time in September. Mrs. Parker, 17 Hempstead Road, Kings Langley, will be pleased to give further information about this Club.

**3rd February.** Mrs. Culley, hon. Secretary of L. and N.W.C.C.C., writes to tell me the Club show at Manchester on 15th January was a great success financially and socially. The Corn Exchange has already been booked for the next one on 21st January, 1950, and she is hoping that this date will be clear of the Championship Shows.

**5th February.** A cheery tea party at the Vicarage Hall, Kensington, organised by Mrs. Newton on behalf of the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Clubs. Miss Yorke gave an interesting talk on grooming and passed round the photographs of Topaz of Takeley as a pre-war object-lesson. Topaz is owned by Mrs. Askew, who was renowned for the splendid condition and the way her cats were presented. These remarks also apply to Miss Yorke, who exhibited the world-famous Culloden cats owned by Capt. St. Barbe.

When cat fanciers meet they are



**Topaz of Takeley (Blue-Cream)—see this Diary for entry of 5th February.**

usually eager to exchange news, so these tea parties are welcomed as occasions for a great pow-wow.

**6th February.** Tea with Miss Cottell, a young fancier living in Beckenham, who has bred her first Blue litter from *Souvenir Annette*, a queen she acquired in the spring. Mated to *Gem*, she had five pale kittens, one of which—Mr. and Mrs. Harrington-Harvard's *Trenton Virginia*—became the first prize winner at the S.C.C.C. and Manchester Shows. Another female is flying to Geneva to become the property of Mlle. Perrin, of the famous *Lausanne Cattery* with the affix "*du Leman*." Yet another was purchased by Mrs. Boulton, of Bromley, but unfortunately this one died shortly after she was spayed.

Mrs. Boulton visited Miss J. M. Fisher and bought *Heather of Hadley*, a winner at the S.C.C.C. Ch. Show. This one she intends to breed from after her unfortunate experience, although I should like to assure readers that the technique of spaying has become so familiar to qualified veterinary surgeons that there is very little risk.

**9th February.** Attended meeting of the Governing Council in the morning and afterwards had lunch with the

delegates. The majority were full of plans for the breeding season, which promises to be an early one after the mild winter.

Miss Langston showed us some of the loveliest photos I have seen of Chinchillas. *Flambeau of Allington* is a superb kitten. He has the perky, alert look I like to see in a youngster.

In the afternoon, an informal meeting and an interesting chat with Mrs. Axon and Miss Kit Wilson over tea at a nearby restaurant. Mrs. Axon sold *Noxa Fenella* (the winning Red self she exhibited at the S.C.C.C. Ch. Show) to the daughter of Mrs. Elliott. The latter bred Mr. Yeates's famous Blue male *Son o' Flick* in 1927, and it is many years since we have seen her at a cat show. The litter sister to *Fenella* was a Cream and Mr. Gordon Allt purchased her at the same Show. These two kittens were the result of mating a *Tortoiseshell* to a Cream male.

**12th February.** Visited Mr. and Mrs. Brine at Wickford, Essex, and was very interested to see their well-known Blues in their own environment. My first impression was of really deep copper eyes and all so wide awake. *Campanula of Dunesk*, who has won so well as a kitten and a cat and been awarded several eye specials, was looking lovely. One could have popped her straight into the show pen, her coat was still sound, very long, and the fine texture I so much admire. She is a very pretty queen.

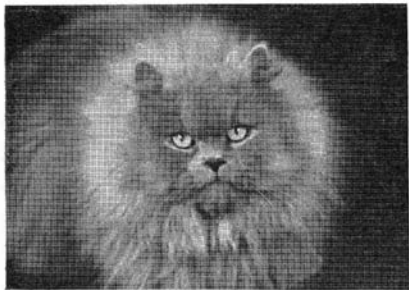
We had fun and games trying to take photographs, but am afraid the results will be indifferent as the cats were determined to gambol in the sunshine.

\* *Avernull Prince Charming* (Best Longhair Kitten K.K. and N.C.C. in July) is fulfilling his kitten promise. His head is so well balanced, and when one considers ten months is usually the plainest age for male cats, his future is very promising. It is in-

teresting to recall Miss Langston's remarks about him in her judge's report after his first show in July: "Excellent head, cobby body, short legs, large, round, good coloured eyes, sound coat of medium blue. I liked his broad face and well-placed ears." His elder brother, Avernoll Valley Angel, also a winner and the possessor of glorious copper eyes, is a nice cat but a little overshadowed by his brother. They are a credit to their sire, Valleyend Blue Prince, and their dam, Candi Pedrina. The latter was looking very fit and well and her daughter Elfinella completes Mrs. Brine's quintette of Blues.

lish it in future as a supplement to her periodical, "The Cat Fancy." It will be devoted to news from Club members and Mrs. Towe will be pleased to receive suitable items.

The Committee are applying for 8th November for the Annual Ch. Show. Mrs. Duncan Hindley is unable to judge Siamese Adults so Mrs. Blofeld has agreed to officiate. Siamese Kittens will be judged by Mrs. Sayers. As Mrs. Aitken was prevented by illness from judging Reds, Creams, Blue-Creams, etc., at the S.C.C.C. last January, and Mrs. Newton kindly took her place, the latter will judge miscellaneous classes



Campanula of Dunesk.

Congratulations to the owners on the condition of this family, which is partly due to the fact that Stanley Cottage is isolated from the road, so the cats enjoy complete liberty. I rather suspect that the good feeding includes eggs, as Mr. and Mrs. Brine also exhibit poultry!

**14th February.** Committee meeting of the Croydon Cat Club. Mrs. Towe gave me a copy of C.C.C. News Sheet edited by Mrs. Selwyn-Oxley. It was decided to take advantage of Miss Kit Wilson's kind offer to pub-

and Mrs. Aitken the Reds, Creams, etc., at Croydon. Mr. Yeates has consented to judge Abyssinians. The C.C.C. Annual General Meeting takes place at Fleming's Restaurant, Oxford Street, W.1, on 30th March.

Mrs. Towe's lovely Silver Tabby Shorthair Champion Hillcross Silver Lady has been mated to a Silver Tabby of unknown lineage, so the result will be awaited with interest.

**15th February.** Interesting Committee meeting of the Southern Counties Cat Club at the Grosvenor Hotel,

Victoria. Tea afterwards with the hon. Secretary (Mrs. K. R. Williams), who, I understand, will be writing news about the next Ch. Show in January, 1950, which she has kindly agreed to organise. The S.C.C.C. is fortunate to have a Secretary so devoted to its interests.

Mrs. Campbell-Fraser formerly held this honorary post for 17 years before the war and endeared herself to all who knew her personally. Owing to her work, and the splendid shows organised by Mrs. Sharman, the Club was in a sound position financially to re-start with its first post-war show last January.

**16th February.** Attended committee meeting of the Siamese Cat Club at Fleming's Restaurant. Mrs. Hart, hon. Secretary, will announce the judges who have consented to officiate at the Ch. Show in October at the A.G.M. on 23rd March. This meeting always attracts a large number of enthusiastic owners of Siamese and one never gets the opportunity to speak to a quarter of the members one would like to. I always enjoy this A.G.M. because members are so keen. Great credit is due to Mrs. Hart, as it is partly due to her hard work that the S.C.C. has gone from strength to strength until now it can proudly boast "the largest specialist cat club in Europe."

**17th February.** News from Miss Bull, of Thornton Hough. She has purchased the well-known male, Adrian of Pensford, from Miss Campbell, of Palmers Green. Miss Campbell has suffered from indifferent health for some years and has not been well enough to exhibit or even to visit shows except on rare occasions, and as she is not getting better it was the wisest thing to do, although she was devoted to him.

Miss Bull saw and wanted to buy Adrian in August, 1946. Adrian has sired many winners at Championship

shows, including the well-known litter sisters Campanula and Cherry Blossom of Dunesk and their brother, Mrs. Bailey's Sir Roger of Dunesk. Another lovely kitten he sired was Sweet September of Dunesk, Best Kitten in Show at the National Cat Club Show, January, 1947.

**18th February.** Sad news comes from Mrs. Crickmore. Her friend, Miss Wisker, who has been in delicate health for some time, has passed away. They always attended shows together, so she will miss her very much and we extend to her our sympathy. Miss Wisker owned some well-bred Blues and latterly the Chinchillas Poldenhills Hyperion and Redwalls Pierrette.

**19th February.** I was very sorry to hear from Mrs. Bailey, of Macclesfield, that her very lovely Blue male Oxleys David, which was second at Manchester, was put to sleep on 26th January to save him further suffering from a complete blockage of the bladder. Mrs. Bailey will greatly miss him.

By a strange coincidence, another very well bred and well known Blue male has succumbed to similar trouble. Miss Brenda Stephenson has lost Beau Brutus, who was operated on for calculi and died as a result of the operation. Cystitis or any obstruction in the bladder is a serious condition in a male cat. The passage is so small that few veterinarians will risk trying to pass a catheter. If a cat is noticed passing blood-stained urine it is advisable to consult a vet. immediately and it is necessary to keep the patient warm.

I am a great believer in warmth for cats and kittens which are indisposed. Their first reaction to pain or a rising temperature is to lie about and refuse food. Warmth is more necessary than forcing food into them in these circumstances.

I mentioned both these fine cats in

my January Diary, when they were in lovely condition and looked the picture of health. I sympathise very much with Mrs. Bailey and Miss Stephenson, as such cats are a great loss to their owners as well as to the Fancy. Beau Brutus sired Herries Bridget and her litter sister Herries Chloe, the former being Best Kitten in Show at the National Cat Club Ch. Show in 1947.

**21st February.** Telephone chat with Miss Maude, hon. Secretary of the Kentish Cat Society. She is calling a meeting in London shortly to ascertain if members are agreeable to support a cat section at the Erith (Kent) Rabbit Club Show which is to be held in June. This is not a popular month with exhibitors as kittens are usually too young to look their best, but as the bank balance is small it is a sensible idea to co-operate with another Club. Miss Maude would manage the cat section. Further information can be obtained from her at Roseleigh, Pelham Road, Bexley Heath, Kent.

**22nd February.** Volume 9 of the Governing Council Stud Book received from the Secretary (Mr. Hazeldine, 1 Roundwood Way, Banstead, Surrey). Copies can be obtained from him, price three shillings. I advise every fancier to procure this record of all the cats which have won in the Open classes since Sandy Ch. Show held on the eve of war in August, 1939.

Much other information is interesting, including a list of several hundred prefixes and affixes and the names of the Governing Council Delegates and the Clubs which they represent. Compiled by my late husband, Mr. F. H. Thompson, it represents an immense amount of work and correcting the proofs was actually the last work he did for the Cat Fancy, which—to quote the dedication to him—"For ten years he served so well."

**23rd February.** Welcome letter from Mr. Harrington-Harvard in

which he tells me Trenton Columbine and Trenton Lulubelle, purchased by Mlle. Perrin, arrived by air at Geneva, Switzerland, and were so fresh that they looked as though they had just stepped out of their own home.

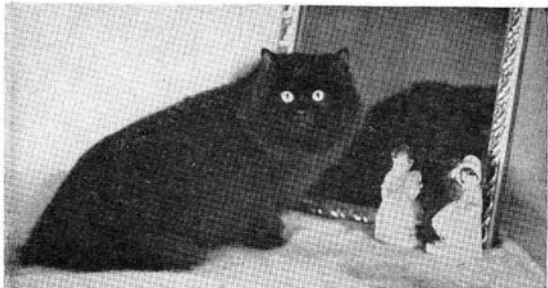
Mr. and Mrs. Harrington-Harvard's Champion Oxleys Peter John has gained his full title. Exhibited eight times in two years, he was awarded in his Open class three firsts, three seconds and two thirds—a remarkable achievement for a Blue.

One lesson these keen exhibitors learned quickly, and that was that perfect show condition is the result of good food, good housing and absolute cleanliness. I awarded this male his first Challenge certificate at Croydon C.C. Ch. Show in November, 1947, and handled him many times. I always delighted in the soft, silky touch of his coat, a sure sign of condition within and without.

I visited Mr. and Mrs. Harrington-Harvard after the Notts and Derby C.C. Ch. Show in January, and they thoroughly deserve their success. Ch. Peter John has excellent quarters and an immense run, and they and their two charming daughters are all devoted to the small cat family. Two of their queens are to be mated to Ch. Peter John and Trenton Susette to Miss Bull's Adrian of Pensford.

**26th February.** Tea with Mrs. Askew at her delightful flat near Sloane Street. It was very interesting to see how well her three cats have adapted themselves to life in London after being accustomed to several acres of garden and fields.

The senior one is the Black, Salome of Spell Land, 16 years of age and naturally very sedate at that great age. Then there is Della of Allington, a very pretty queen and the dam of several lovely cats, including Mrs. Askew's Topaz of Takeley, her Blue-Cream daughter by the Cream male Tornado of Takeley. Topaz has the pale coat softly intermingled which



The late Champion Della of Downside, Mrs. Askew's lovely Black female, who was born June, 1935.

the standard demands and would undoubtedly have been a Champion had she been exhibited. Both these females have been spayed, as Mrs. Askew thinks even a spacious, sunny flat unsuitable to rear kittens. A fallacy exists that females must be spayed at five months. If one intends them not to have kittens this age is preferable, but I know of a number which have reared families and then very successfully had this operation. Needless to add, it must be performed by an expert and qualified veterinary surgeon.

Mrs. Askew's cats have always been

renowned for their perfect condition, and she has bred and owned Black Longhair Champions in addition to the famous Blue, Ch. Heatherland Blue Boy, winner of six Challenge certificates.

**28th February.** Have had several letters from readers expressing admiration of the photographs in the last issue. An enquiry came this morning regarding purchasing one of the blocks. I understand from the Editor he is agreeable to sell these where possible to the owners at a generous discount off cost.

*All fanciers should read*

## **"THE CAT FANCY"**

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## From Uncle Peter

### *Boys and Girls*

Thank you very much for your letters. I want to see many more.

The first of the two book prizes goes to Wendy Stuart, of Isleworth, who is a member of the Herts and Middlesex Cat Club. Wendy sent in an interesting little poem called "Cat's Complaint."

The other prize will be sent to Jill Bridgford, of Macclesfield. Jill has a special pet, Rivoli Robin, who is a Red Tabby shorthair.

Now that is two prizes for the girls. What are the boys going to do about it?

Here are the answers to the questions which I asked you last month.

The man who was supposed to have cut off the sleeve of his coat so that he would not disturb his sleeping cat was the prophet Mahomet. Hundreds of millions of people in the world to-day regard Mahomet with the greatest reverence. Even if the story is not true, it does not matter, for at least it shows that the really great people of the world are expected to show consideration for others, even if the others are only animals.

The great writer who bought oysters for his sick cat was Dr. Samuel Johnson, who was first a schoolmaster at Lichfield and afterwards became a famous writer. Dr. Johnson was often very rude to his friends as well as to his enemies, but for his cat he had the greatest affection and consideration. If you ever come across the dictionary written by this famous Englishman you must look up the word "cats." When you have read it send a letter to tell me what he wrote.

It was a Welsh prince, Howell the Good, who made the first law about cats. He knew how valuable they were in keeping his wheat granaries free from rats and mice. Anyone who stole or killed a cat was heavily fined. He had to pay a pile of wheat which had to be as high as a full-grown cat.

Is your cat moulting? The weather has been so mild this winter that all my cats are moulting. Be sure to give your pets a thorough brushing each day to help remove the dead hair. Cats lick themselves so frequently that they swallow a lot of hair when they are in the moult. With long-haired cats this can be serious as this hair may form a solid ball inside the animal. When this happens the cat is often in great pain and later may become seriously ill. Daily grooming and a teaspoonful of liquid paraffin on food once a week will usually prevent serious trouble.

To finish our page for this month here are three more questions:—

Probably the word "puss" which we often use when talking to a cat was taken from the name of an Egyptian goddess. What was her name?

When Siamese cats first came to England just after 1880 they all had kinks at the tips of their tails. Do you know the legend which pretends to explain how this kink was produced?

Can you tell me why a cat is supposed to have nine lives? I cannot answer this one, so perhaps you can help me.

*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.



**. . well-fed, well-petted  
and  
properly  
revered .**



*Mark Twain*



**BINKY**, half-Siamese pet of Joan and Douglas, Little Brickhill, Bletchley, Bucks.



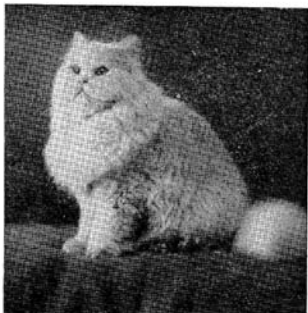
**MONTY**, 3-yr.-old, is the pet of Mrs. Mary Neilson, of Manchester, who reports that Monty's biggest worry in life is his own tail!



Blue Persian, **BARALAN MERRY FELLA**, belonging to Madame Adrian Egeter, of Zette, Belgium, with a young companion.



**TOLLERTON JULIET**, handsome Cream kitten, has been shown successfully by Miss M. E. Schofield, of Ruddington, Notts.



# Should I be taxed?

(Continued from page 14)

less they are definitely to be kept for breeding. Children should be taught the responsibility which humans have towards the furry ones, who are so dependent on them for their happiness and well-being."

Thanks, Mr. Wickings Smith, for an interesting letter.

From Mrs. F. Williams, of Eastleigh, Hants, comes the other point of view. She is in favour of taxation because she is anxious to see the cat's status raised to that of the dog. But she feels strongly that it would only make bad worse unless a cat is taxed from the time it leaves its mother to go to a new home, or is about eight weeks old, whichever occurs first.

Mrs. Williams (and others) point out that so many people will keep a kitten for its prettiness only to "lose" it when it grows towards maturity. These heartless ones might be doubled in numbers if allowed to keep an untaxed kitten and only have to pay for it at the age of five or six months.

She thinks it would be a good idea to impose a heavier tax on queens, but 7s. 6d. for a tom seems a bit steep as so many poor people like to keep their "old tom." And we don't want the backyard race to die out. It would be a good idea, she writes, to use such a tax to reduce or even abolish the cost of having unwanted kittens painlessly put to sleep.

## Tax Wouldn't Help

Finally, here are a few extracts from a letter received from a reader who is closely associated with humane and rescue work among animals. He writes: "We know conditions amongst the felines are far from perfect. In some places they are deplorable. But I feel strongly that every point which has a bearing on the future condition of cats should be carefully weighed and considered before any attempt is made to introduce something which may have adverse repercussions.

"There is the danger of too loose a usage of the word 'vermin.' To my mind there is danger in broadcasting the fact that cats are considered vermin because, to the best of my knowledge and belief, this term applies only to poacher cats under the game laws. Surely it is far better to advertise the fact that cats are protected by law. They are, in my opinion, as much protected as they are unprotected.

What guarantee is there that the status of the cat would be raised by taxation? To me it seems that its condition would be worsened if the taxers had their way."

*If readers care to say anything more on the subject of taxation, the Editor will be pleased to receive their letters. A final summing-up article will appear in next month's issue.*



## 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.

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## 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**.



# Tailpieces

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

**W**ORK has been going on for some time among members of a food hygiene unit who will advise the Ministries of Health and Food on regulations controlling cleanliness in canteens and restaurants. The working party of twenty men has been joined by a lady scientist, Dr. B. C. Hobbs, who has revealed in a series of interesting papers that she has exonerated the cat as an alleged disease carrier. Dr. Hobbs says that the cat has not been found to be a carrier of germs capable of causing food poisoning in man and it should be allowed in the kitchen provided it is properly trained and allowed no contact with food for human consumption.

A news flash from abroad reports that hundreds of cats have been let loose on the Chilean island of Guarello off the coast of Patagonia to clear rats from land which is scheduled for industrial development.

According to our contemporary, "Cats Magazine," U.S.A., several occupants of the White House have been cat lovers. Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Calvin Coolidge and Herbert Hoover all had their pets, and Mr. Coolidge, a keen reader of cat literature, had no fewer than five cats at the White House. Perhaps the best known cat of them all was Theodore Roosevelt's Blue shorthair Slippers, who had six toes on each paw.

The National Veterinary Medical Association has issued a warning against buying uncooked meat at pet shops. Some of this meat may have been condemned as unfit for human consumption on account of its being affected with tuberculosis or other disease. There is an obvious danger of cats contracting disease from this source unless the meat is thoroughly cooked; and the danger to animal-owners handling such meat before it is

cooked is by no means negligible. Where such meat has to be handled raw, it is advisable to wash the hands thoroughly afterwards. It is advisable for all shops selling meat intended for cats to sterilise it on the premises by boiling for one hour. The meat should first be cut into pieces of not more than one pound in weight. One City Corporation, on the advice of its Chief Veterinary Officer, has already obtained from Parliament authority to make by-laws to protect the public from this danger.

Last month I was able to reveal that the estimated cat population in this country is 8,200,000. Now figures have just come through for U.S.A. America has 21,000,000 cats, almost one to every seven humans.

It is nice to be able to write about "free samples" once again. Almost like old times! The makers of the well-known range of Karswood veterinary products have recently added Karswood Cat Powders. A testing sample will be sent to readers of OUR CATS on receipt of a post card, making the simple request, and addressed to Messrs. E. Griffiths Hughes, Ltd., Adelphi, Salford, 8, Manchester.

Although cats frequently suffer from deep wounds as a result of being bitten or trapped, tetanus (lockjaw) is very rare in them. Recently, however, a cat in Devonshire was found to have this complaint. It had been bitten on the leg a fortnight previously, and when seen by a veterinary surgeon had eaten nothing for four days. The leg was held out stiffly and could not be used. Tetanus antitoxin was given over a period of five days, and also penicillin. Nourishment had to be given by injection, as the cat was unable to take food or lap. Eventually, after three weeks, it made a perfect recovery and was able to bend and use the leg once more.

Owing to incorrect information supplied by the picture agency, I regret to report that the lower picture on page 19 of last month's issue was provided with a wrong caption. The picture purported to be that of the Tortie and White female Bridgeway Harlequinette, while in fact it was her fellow competitor at the Southern Counties C.C. Show, Mrs. G. Campbell Fraser's Dinkie Dell, who was bred by Mrs. Hall. I hasten to pass our editorial regrets to those concerned.

Two big wild cats have just come out of quarantine to join the London Zoo inmates. They are Reina and Beauty, two lovely pumas from Paraguay, who are already comparatively tame. In South America the puma is known as the lion of the mountains. He seldom attacks man, but is ferocious towards other animals and is a wonderful tree climber.

Talking about tree climbing reminds me that Fluffy, a little Persian kitten, tried to put on a puma-act near her Regent's Park home. For three days she was missing. Then she was discovered perched up a 40 ft. tree. The R.S.P.C.A. had to call in the local firemen, before she could be rescued.

Interviewed by Rhona Churchill in a recent issue of "The Daily Mail," Mr. Michael Joseph explained that "cats do something for me. In their company, I relax completely." He went on further to say that he found he could make decisions more easily with a cat beside him, and when he returned home from a worrying day, perhaps a trifle irritable, a few minutes' play with one of the family cats puts him right again. It did for him what a whisky and soda might do for others. Mr. Joseph revealed that at one time his wife fed and housed 14 cats as well as a husband and two youngsters.

From Miss Hetty Gray Baker, famous American cat lover, comes two interesting items for my library. The first is a copy of the Siamese Number of a finely produced periodical, "The Cat Gazette" (dated May, 1936). Pages are devoted to interesting descriptions of the leading Siamese catteries and also a brief history of the breed in America. The second item is much more recent—The Official Standard for the Siamese cat, illustrated

with eleven plates and published by Louise Selden Frith, who owns the Purachat Cattery, Maine. This admirable little work, which is dedicated "to the breeders in every part of the United States who are endeavouring to produce the perfect Siamese cat"—is one we may return to later when we publish our own articles on the breed. Thanks, Miss Baker!

Mr. Beverley Nichols recently talked about his "cat door" in "Woman's Own." This evoked an amusing response from a Willesden reader, who, with her father's consent and against her mother's wishes, tried out the idea of a special door for her cat. Then came one extraordinary night when she came downstairs for a drink of water to find—in the kitchen—fourteen cats! Her own cat sat in the middle of the floor while all the cats from miles around were sitting on the cooker, table, chairs and shelves. She was so glad her mother was asleep to be spared the sight!

MICKEY

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