

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



1/6

APRIL 1949

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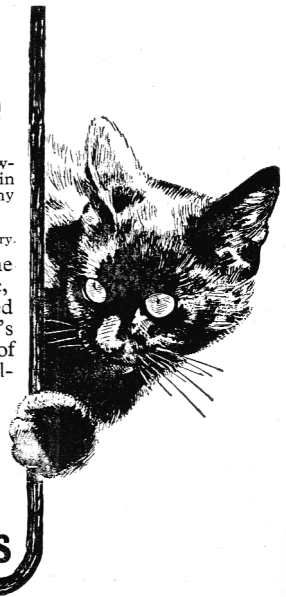
signed) Mrs. E. M. Hughes, Highbury,
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Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

VOL. I No. 4

APRIL 1949

REALLY, MR. PINCHER !

THE past month has been a truly remarkable one for catdom. It is a very long time since we had such a spate of publicity with cats and kittens as the central theme in picture and prose. Perky kittens have peeked at us from the pages of popular periodicals and—to continue with the artful aid of alliteration—proud pussies are appearing prominently on posters. There has also been a number of interesting cat items in the daily and provincial press. All of which, you will agree, is to the general good.

I would like very much to be able to report that the incidents of the last four weeks have passed off without a single discordant note. That this cannot be is due to the journalistic adventure of Mr. Chapman Pincher in the "Daily Express" under the splash heading of "CAT KING PACKS UP—' SAD ABOUT SIAMESE '." This article was certainly not worthy of a great newspaper.

Mr. Chapman Pincher's attempt to paint a word picture of the English Cat Fancy of to-day was a sorry one. He contrived to find the sensational headline beloved by so many modern newshounds, but he fell down badly in the first essential of good reporting—factual accuracy.

Mr. Cyril Yeates suddenly found himself re-christened "Cecil" and his span of service as Chairman of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy was unceremoniously shortened by Mr. Pincher by the not inconsiderable period of more than 20 years! And this was by no means all.

 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.

To hint, as Mr. Pincher did, that the recent appointment of the new Secretary to the Governing Council was made by Mr. Yeates as a defiant parting gesture to the Fancy is just sheer nonsense. Mr. Hazeldine's appointment to the post in succession to that devoted and popular official, the late Herbert Thompson, was in fact made by the Council as a body and it was a matter of selection and suitability from among a great number of applicants.

Nor is the Governing Council concerned with "mortal authority" over millions of unclassified alley-cats. It is well aware of the existence of these unfortunate animals just as much as the Kennel Club is alive to the fact that the greater part of the dog population of this country is of the mongrel type.

What Mr. Pincher didn't tell his readers was that the Governing Council works for the raising of the status of the cat by encouraging in every possible way the breeding and rearing of finer and better cats. He might also have lifted the curtain a little to reveal some of the enthusiastic and unpaid labour that goes on all over the country by those unobtrusive people who can best be styled "sincere cat lovers."

Finally, Mr. Pincher, the Manx cat, with its taillessness and high hindquarters, is no more a monstrosity than the Dachshund or Yorkshire terrier. It is a recognised and established breed—No. 25 on the list.

Do please, Mr. Pincher, come along to see us when you want your next story of the English Cat Fancy.

EDITOR

Our cover picture (by Joseph Wildar) shows REDWALLS SNOWSTORM, Chinchilla kitten winner of many Firsts at Championship Shows. Owner and breeder is Mrs. E. M. Hacking, Liphook, Hants.

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, 4 CARLTON MANSIONS, CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9.

Please specify in transmittal letter that your remittance is enclosed for a One Year Subscription to CATS MAGAZINE (U.S.A.).

Verdict for the Cats

A legal dispute recently decided in the Law Courts revealed a fascinating story of a countrywoman who dedicated her life to the work of rescuing and caring for unwanted cats and kittens.

ONCE upon a time there were two friends who loved cats. Although they lived in different parts of the country they were in constant touch with one another and their letters were always full of news about cats and kittens and their welfare. Such topics were the common interest around which their friendship grew and deepened. In course of time one of the friends died and—well, this is really the start of an unusual and interesting story which was unfolded recently in the sombre atmosphere of the Royal Courts of Justice in London.

For the background to the story we must begin with 1904, when Miss Violet Heather Amwell Harvey commenced her voluntary work at the Old Vicarage, Amwell, Herts, of receiving and sheltering cats and kittens which needed care and attention. Some were strays and the remainder were brought to her by owners who no longer wanted them or could not keep them.

The sick and maimed animals—when ill beyond all hope of recovery—were put to sleep in chloroform lethal boxes. The healthy were fed and housed until good homes were found for them.

Miss Harvey sometimes had anything from 50 to 60 cats and kittens under her care, and when she moved to a new address in Hertfordshire she transferred her humane work there and is, indeed, still carrying on without break and interruption.

Her new home meant more accommodation and, with it, more responsibility. Miss Harvey then took steps to get assistance and veterinary advice, and although she became richer in experience and gained much from the joy of service to God's creatures, there were many occasions when she was also very much poorer in pocket. Her own money she spent ungrudgingly in the cause, but such were the demands upon her resources that she was often glad to receive help in the form of grants from one of the humane societies and other casual financial aid.

Miss Harvey belongs to an animal-loving family which had for at least four generations tried to help those in need. Since 1904 she has been the hon. Secretary of the local branch of Our Dumb Friends' League.

Very naturally, her wonderful record of voluntary service won for Miss Harvey a number of friends in the quiet corner of Hertfordshire in which she operated. Many miles away she had another good friend, a Miss Dorothy Moss, who took a great interest in Miss Harvey's work and with whom she was in frequent correspondence.

Miss Moss died in 1947, and when her will was read it was found to contain a direction to the effect that her leasehold house in Wimbledon was to be sold and one-half of the proceeds was to be given to Miss Harvey "for her to use at her discretion for her work

for the welfare of cats and kittens needing care and attention." The testatrix disposed of the other half of the proceeds and directed that it should be divided among certain women (including Miss Harvey) and that her residuary estate should also be given to Miss Harvey for her use in welfare work.

of cats and kittens or protection from cruelty, but was merely a gift for their welfare.

Mr. Justice Romer, in giving judgment, held that the gift in the will was not merely a gift for animal welfare. It was a gift to be used at Miss Harvey's discretion for the welfare of cats and kittens needing care and atten-



Bobby (shown above) is one of the hundreds of cats to receive care and attention from Miss Harvey. In 1944, Bobby was found by the side of his dead mistress in a house which had been shattered by a V2. He led a miserable existence until adopted by Miss Harvey, particularly as he was a cat who liked to "walk by himself." To-day, Bobby has settled down to a happy life with a new mistress in Hertfordshire.

The directions under the will subsequently became the subject of litigation and Mr. Justice Romer presided over an adjourned summons in the Chancery Court to determine whether on the true construction of the will the cat-lover's gifts to her friend were valid and enforceable charitable gifts.

It was urged by counsel for the next-of-kin that the gift was bad for perpetuity and uncertainty and that it was not a charitable gift. It was further urged that it was not a trust for the protection

tion. It was plain that a gift to prevent cruelty in relation to cats and kittens would be good as having an elevating effect on mankind. He held that the gift was calculated to develop the finer side of human nature of which care for old and sick animals was a manifestation, and, therefore, it was for the benefit of mankind and charitable.

And so—we reach the end of a very human story with "the one that was left" carrying on the good work.

WHO'S WHO among the Breeders

MRS. G. CAMPBELL-FRASER

WITH the resumption this month of our intimate series on the breeders, it is fitting—as we are still a long way from having reached double figures in the series—that we should select as our subject another of those “pillars of the Fancy” with an outstanding record of service not only as a breeder, but also in the wider sphere as exhibitor, judge and club official.

Many years ago, at a time when your chronicler was sitting up in a high chair trying dimly to comprehend that the big letter C in the picture book really stood for

CAT, a gracious lady lived in Sussex, where she was surrounded by an assorted variety of pet animals from horses, dogs, Jersey cows and others. The canine department was a famous kennel of Pomeranians which sent out the best black toy Pom at the L.K.A. Crystal Palace Show.

There was also a cat in the collection—a Blue Longhair pedigree lady—and from that time in 1903 Mrs. Campbell-Fraser has never been without a queen of this variety.

Fifteen years later, Mrs. Campbell-Fraser moved to London, and as her interest in cats



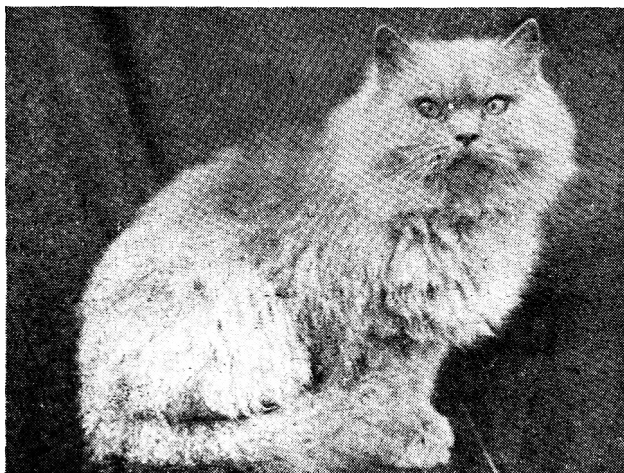
Mrs. Campbell-Fraser and Miss Lelgarde Fraser at home at Little Primrose, Godalming, Surrey, with some of their four-footed friends.

developed she registered the prefix Hendon because of its local associations and tried out her luck as an exhibitor. To-day, arising from this modest start, there are few Championship fixtures without a Hendon entry, and the fine repute of her prefix is acknowledged among breeders at home and outside the United Kingdom.

Mrs. Campbell-Fraser treasures highly the memory of two cats who moved with her from the

daughters were exported to America, France, Italy, Poland and other countries.

The Blue tradition of the Hendon stock was upheld by Hendon Dame Hanah, Hendon Ministra, Fianette (all prominent show winners), and to-day Hendon Blue Robin is carrying on the good work with many winning sons and daughters. Mrs. Campbell-Fraser has indeed been loyal and devoted to her first love



HENDON BLUE ROBIN

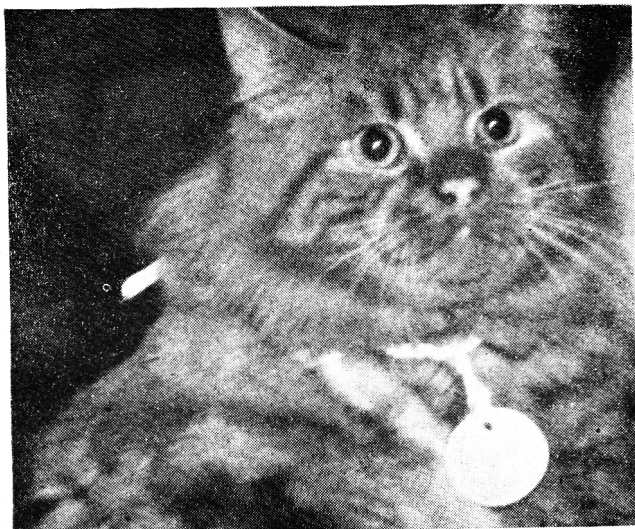
country to London—they were Hendon Pooh Bah and his brother Hendon Archibald, who was subsequently sold as a Blue stud to a Belgian breeder. Pooh Bah, a pale lavender Blue grandson of Ch. Archie II of Arrandale, proved himself a wonderful sire of champions and first prize stock, and his name can be traced a long way back in the pedigrees of many winning Blues to-day. Many of Pooh Bah's sons and

among the breeds and her record of over 45 years of breeding and exhibiting Blue Longhairs must surely be without equal among living Fanciers to-day.

Shortly after moving to Hendon (where many years later Mrs. Campbell-Fraser was to experience some exciting moments from the air raids), she turned her attention to Blacy Longhairs and her most notable achievement in this field was the success of Hen-

don Black Guron, the only Black male to beat the redoubtable Ch. Heathside Flanark in his Championship class. Guron's son, Hendon Black Gama, became a Grand Champion in U.S.A. and made Black Longhair history in

Pitti Sing. Sunrise was a litter sister to the American Champion Hendon Honey, and when mated to the "Eastburys" produced Ch. Hendon Lord Chancellor and his lovely half-brother Hendon Defendant, who won the Cham-



HENDON LYSANDER, Red Tabby Longhair Male, owned and bred by Mrs. Campbell-Fraser. Lysander (by Ch. Hendon Sir Roderic ex Hendon Marigold) was champion of his breed at Notts and Derby Ch. Show and the Southern Counties C.C. Ch. Show in 1949.

that country. Mrs. Campbell-Fraser also did well with her purchase Hendon Eastbury Boglie, whose sire was Dazzler of Henley. Eastbury Boglie proved a Championship winner and most successful sire of winning Blacks and Blues.

Between the two wars, there came a famous addition to the Hendon cattery in the form of a beautiful snub-nosed Red Tabby, a home-bred product by the name of Hendon Sunrise, sire Miss Hill's Ch. Galdorn, dam Hendon

pionship at Sandy Show in 1939.

Both these famous Reds won innumerable prizes under the best judges, including that prince of striped cat judges the late F. W. Western, and Chancellor had the distinction on two occasions of beating a well-known "Eastbury" Red male. Ch. Hendon Sir Roderic, sire of three full Red Champions, is the post-war founder of the Copper Reds. He is a son of Chancellor and Ch. Hendon Salata, who is now in her twelfth year.

(To be concluded next month)

Correspondence Corner

Readers are invited to send contributions to this feature and so to join in the useful exchange of ideas, experiences and knowledge. Letters should be concise and deal preferably with items of general interest.

I would very much like some first-hand information from owners of spayed females (Siamese for preference). I want to know if spaying after a cat has kitted does effectively silence them as regards calling, or is it likely that a false calling may take place from time to time. If so, does this happen at whatever age a cat or kitten is spayed?

Miss J. M. E., Bath, Somerset.

Since the first issue of OUR CATS has reached America, I have had several letters asking if Baralan Twinkle, whose photo you reproduced, is for sale, and whether I can supply stock like her. I thought you would be interested to know this.

Mrs. Eve Henn,

Eardington, Bridgnorth, Salop.

The first two issues of OUR CATS have reached me and I am studying them all nights with the dictionary to learn the words and cat-like expressions. Some are not in the dictionary, but I understand all as I am feeling what they mean. I am waiting with happiness for the next number.

Madame Pia Sandoz,

Meilen, Switzerland.

I am anxious to obtain a short glossary of Siamese words suitable for naming Siamese cats, words such as jewel, pearl, emerald, rose and the like. I have searched libraries for the information but without success. Could any reader please help or advise me where I can obtain a short list of names.

Mrs. K. M., 8 Oakhall,

Groveley Road, Feltham, Middx.

I am a newcomer to the Cat Fancy as an exhibitor and future breeder and I have noticed how it is being continually pointed out that the Siamese breed is far from improving in type. I would like to suggest that

at Championship shows—in kitten classes at least—a card (the size of the average award card) be placed on the pen of all exhibits.

This card should show the Standard of Points and against each item the judge should mark the points he or she has awarded. I realise that this plan would mean extra work for the already hard-worked judges, but I feel sure it would be a real help to breeders, both experienced and the less experienced. Through this scheme, I think one could more easily form an opinion as to which stud would be most suitable for individual queens.

Maurice MacMahon,

Weybridge, Surrey.

A question that has been puzzling me for a long time, and one that I would like to ask members of the English Cat Fancy, is: Why are stud fees never more than about £2 to £2 10s. for every stud, however good? Kittens may fetch from five to ten guineas. In the dog world fees vary according to the value of the stud dog. Is this price fixing a convention among cat owners? I should be grateful if any of your readers would enlighten me on the subject.

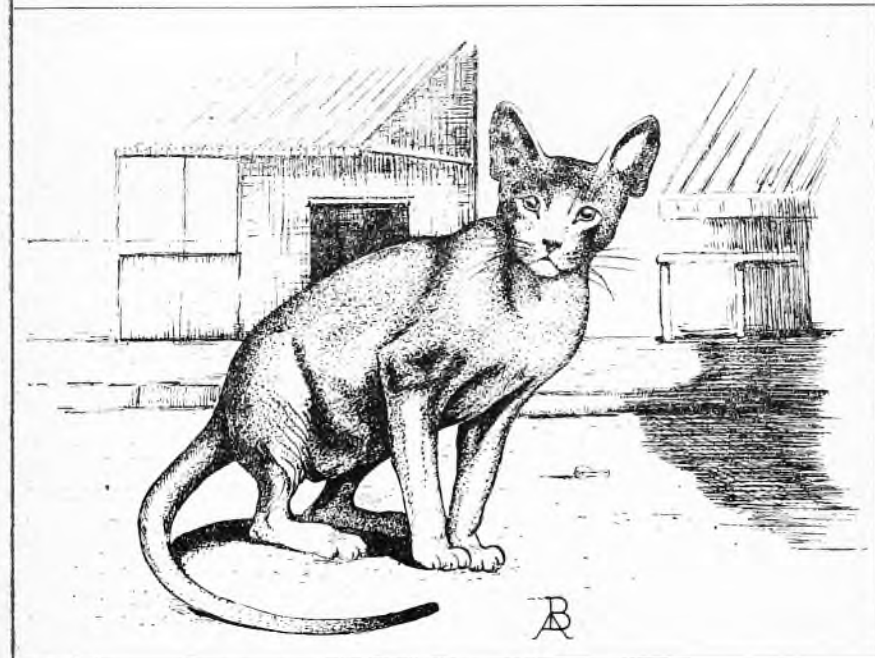
Miss F. E. Pocock (Chairman of the South Africa Cat Union), Kintyre, Main Road, Muizenberg, C.P., South Africa.

As a newcomer to cat breeding (Blue Persians), I have been more than ordinarily interested in the articles by Mr. P. M. Soderberg. Now I am faced with a little problem about grooming. Where, oh where, can I get the steel comb which a friend of mine is recommending?

J. R. K., Epsom, Surrey.

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.



(Top) TIGRINE WILD CAT

(Lower) MEXICAN HAIRLESS CAT

Export Problems Solved

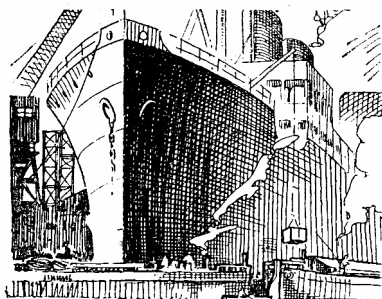
CATS generally are good travellers, but owing to the fact that it is impossible for them to be exercised on board ship, a special travelling coop is required in which the animal can live and obtain some exercise.

Experience shows that if cats are left to run loose in a strange place such as a ship, they tend to run and hide in some inaccessible place. This has actually happened.

Ships' officers and crews are always interested in the animals they have aboard, and in some cases officers have asked to be allowed to keep cats in their cabins and make pets of them for the duration of the voyage. This is only done if the owner has agreed beforehand that it may be allowed.

The best customer for British stock is, of course, the U.S.A., with Canada a good second. There are no quarantine restrictions in either of these countries and shipments can be made fairly simply by sea or air. To satisfy the Exchange Control regulations, payment must be demanded in dollars or by sterling drafts purchased through U.S. or Canadian banks. This regulation applies to the "hard currency" area, which, generally speaking, includes all countries outside the British Empire and Canada.

Import permits are required in a few cases, notably Kenya, South Africa and the Scandinavian countries. Veterinary cer-



tificates of health are required for all shipments, and as special conditions apply to some importing countries, shippers are advised to apply to experienced agents. The agents can also give information of the quarantine requirements, although actually very few countries detain cats on arrival. Australia is one of the exceptions.

Transport by air is very suitable for cats where journeys can be completed in a few hours and where aircraft are pressurised. Owing, however, to the need for additional space in view of the fact that cats cannot be exercised, the cost of despatch is in some cases much heavier than by sea.

The important point for all intending shippers to bear in mind is for them to get expert advice. Doing things "off their own bat" in a transaction of this kind may seem all very well, but it can quickly become a false economy.

An organisation with unrivalled experience in this field is, of course, the Livestock Shipping Department of Spratt's Patent Ltd., Bow Road, E.3. For over 40 years they have been helping people who wish to send or take animals abroad, and during the post-war years they have shipped many cats (mainly the pets of people emigrating to the Dominions and Empire countries).

Information and advice should be sought on the need for Export and Import Certificates (which vary for each country), freight costs, arrangements for attendance, feeding and watering *en route*.

It is not possible in a short general article such as this to quote rates. These vary in detail for each shipment. But owners going to a specialist organisation can be assured that they will receive best possible quotations for the entire transportation of the cat or other animal, with all the details of applications and form-filling carried out for them by experts who know their job.

Easter Offering

By PHYLLIS LAUDER

HERE, as American master-criminals are wont to say to their underlings, is the set-up.

Old Harry lives—rather inappropriately—at the Rectory; Blitz and Blondie live at my house, and Skittles resides at the Dower House.

If you want fashion notes and a little social chitchat, Old Harry wears a dark tabby suiting; he is as lean as Pantaloon and as healthy as Hygeia, and his early beginnings are lost in the mists of antiquity. Blitz and Blondie wear seal and blue masks respectively, and their similarity to **highwaymen** does not end with the masks. Skittles is absolutely round, six months old, and dressed in white, with a tabby tail, and a few tabby rosettes, which give him the appearance of a

plump little pierrot; he has peridot-coloured eyes and no scruples.

The egg racket started, appropriately enough, on Easter Eve. Skittles, calling on Old Harry in the Rectory kitchen, probably to suggest a round of the local dustbins, found an egg on the table, patted it, played with it, knocked it on to the floor, and tasted it. He was not able, like Archimedes, to exclaim "Eureka" but he made a sound like "Yippee!" and Blitz and Old Harry appeared from nowhere and joined him hastily.

Blondie, who believes Skittles to be her son, inspected the raw egg, and while not liking it herself, passed it as fit for feline consumption, and sat surveying the scene with the air of one satisfied that her men are being properly fed.

The Rector's wife, a practical-minded woman, waited until her uninvited guests had, with much sloshing and gargling, cleaned up the floor, and then evicted them *sans façon*.

They came to my house. Blondie had the calculating look of a housewife who thinks, "What is one egg among so many?" I yield to no one in my love for cats, but I have no illusions. I was not surprised to find her sitting on a shelf thoughtfully patting the new-laid eggs in a bowl. I shut the whole gang out into the garden forthwith.

In a few minutes they had disappeared. I took a walk through the copse and found the whole procession approaching the Dower House.

The Dowager was in the garden tending her fowls. Skittles wasted no time on the problem of the chicken and the egg; he beheld a basket on the ground; his ears

stood forward, he bunched himself together, he wagged his absurd hindquarters, and he charged.

Two eggs rolled out of the over-set basket, and one broke. Blitz, with great presence of mind, trod on the other. Skittles and Old Harry began eating in the starved manner of cats expected to sustain life on six square meals a day.

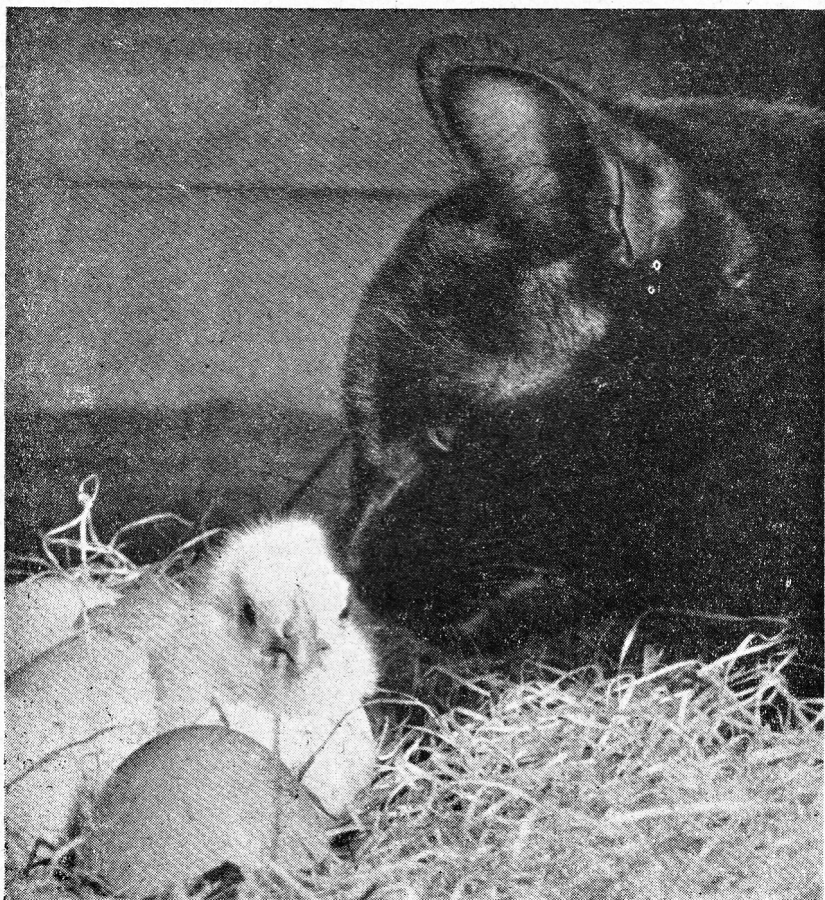
At nightfall, they slept: Blitz by the fire, Blondie (who could resist her?) on my bed, Skittles in

his blue satin-lined basket—the little thug.

But Old Harry went a-hunting by the light of the moon. Perhaps he liked to see fair shares. After all, had he not been Blondie's first sweetheart?

Came the dawn—and Old Harry!

In at my window, on to my bed and dropping it on the eider-down; departing hurriedly in case of trouble; leaving with the Lady Blondie—an Easter Mouse.



Easter Greeting

Focus on Pet Shops

All sincere lovers of animals will applaud the efforts now being made in Parliament to prevent unnecessary suffering to animals (particularly kittens and puppies) in pet shops. The Bill now under discussion is not intended to hit the genuine traders in pet animals but to stamp out cruelty in those pet shops which are nothing more than torture chambers.

MUCH misery to young animals and birds will be prevented if Brigadier Peto, Member of Parliament for Barnstaple, is successful in the House of Commons with his Pet Animals Bill.

The Bill was given its second reading and has now gone forward to a Standing Committee after Members of all shades of political opinion had spoken strongly in favour of the object of the Bill, which is to prevent unnecessary suffering to animals while they are in the premises of pet shops and also to prohibit the casual sale of pet animals in the streets.

Brigadier Peto, in moving the second reading of his Bill, explained that one of its most important parts provides for the licensing and the lawful inspection of premises and of the animals kept on the premises. According to information he had received, cats and dogs are kept underground over the week-end with little water and with little or no light. In one reported case dogs had their muzzles bound with tape in order to stop them

barking and annoying the neighbours.

He emphasised that that kind of condition does not exist in the majority of cases and that such cases are very much in the minority. But they must take steps to see that they cannot exist any longer. There have been many cases of overcrowding, which is the subject of a great many complaints, and, of course, there were complaints about lack of sanitation.

These are all conditions, Brigadier Peto said, which happen behind the scenes and not so much in the shop windows or the public part of the shop. Even in the public part of the shop animals are kept for long hours in hot sunshine or strong artificial light shining into their eyes.

Mr. George Wigg, M.P. for Dudley, referred to the widespread sale of unweaned kittens and puppies. He spoke as a father of three daughters and therefore as one who knew that the possession of a pet is most desirable in the character-forming of young children. He felt sure that the Bill would not discourage

the practice of keeping pets. On the contrary, provided the pet shops are well conducted and those who purchase pets from them are willing to gain the simple knowledge required to keep those pets, it will lead to a greater extension of the practice, with the most desirable results. There was no better way of teaching young children responsibility and regard for others than to give them a pet to care for and tend.

Miss Colman, M.P. for Tyne-mouth, also welcomed the clause which would prohibit the sale of unweaned kittens and puppies. She deplored the hawking of these young animals in streets, markets and public-houses.

Mr. Price-White, who represents Caernarvon Boroughs, said

that it might not be known that the R.S.P.C.A. receive daily complaints throughout the year as to the conduct of certain pet shops. In the London area alone the complaints average from 250 to 300 each year. All of these complaints were by no means justified, but unfortunately, when complaints were found (in the view of the Society) to be justified, their powers of prosecution are very limited under the existing law.

Mr. Price-White amused the House when he prefaced his speech with an example of the ignorance which exists among some people. "Only yesterday," he said, "I was asked if a pet shop is a place where one indulges in petting!"

A RECIPE FOR 12 RED LETTER DAYS

*It's quite a simple matter to ensure
that you have at least 12 red letter
days during the next twelve months*

- ★ First of all, you obtain a remittance for 17s. 6d. (cheque or postal order), make it payable to "OUR CATS MAGAZINE" and cross it.
- ★ Then you place it in a stamped envelope addressed to OUR CATS MAGAZINE, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W. 9.
- ★ There is nothing more to do but to await the arrival of the postman with *your* copy of the Magazine. He will be calling round about the 20th of each month for the next twelve months. Surely never before was so much real and lasting pleasure (and profit!) purchased for so small an outlay in trouble and cash.

OUR CATS MAGAZINE may now be obtained through your usual Newsagent. Please write to the above address in case of difficulty.

That Dreaded F.I.E.

Mrs. Kathleen R. Williams, the well-known and popular Southern Counties Championship Show Organiser and Siamese breeder, has always taken a prominent part in the work of research and enquiry into the greatly-feared disease commonly described as "cat flu." Her notes are therefore informative and helpful and we hope that her appeal for co-operation with the Laboratories will not go unheeded. "Combined operations" are badly needed.

THE mild, unusual weather we experienced during the winter brought sickness to humans and felines alike. As a result, there have been more than the usual number of cases diagnosed as feline infectious enteritis.

Many of us know to our sorrow that this is a 90 per cent. fatal disease. Fortunately, many cases are mistakenly diagnosed and the worst anticipated by anxious owners. It is well not to take any risk, however, and to contact your vet. immediately your cat shows any symptoms. Yellow, frothy vomit inclined to be slimy, lack of appetite, general lassitude, weakness, a desire for water but inability to drink—these are the danger signs calling for quick action.

As in all feline illness, the first thing to do is to *isolate* the patient and keep it warm at an even temperature. Do not force a sick cat to eat.

I have recorded a score of treatments, but no one treatment can be regarded as a specific cure unless it has a control. Who can say that the disease was definitely feline infectious enteritis?

Nobody is more anxious than I to have a preventative which is within the reach of all cat owners. In 1946 I called together

a committee in order to collect data, etc., on the subject. Several organisations were approached, but the cost of research into feline disease was found to be prohibitive.

Our most hopeful contact was the Wellcome Laboratories, which in pre-war days produced the Wellcome vaccine. This was a positive preventative. I am still in touch with the Laboratories, which have during the past two years made efforts to get a strain of virus established. But in no instance have they been successful in getting one from which they could produce a satisfactory serum.

This is where many of my readers can help. The Laboratories can go no further without the co-operation of animal lovers, those who lose their pets from suspected feline infectious enteritis. Bodies should be sent to the Laboratories, and it is preferred that they are sent through your veterinary surgeon, who can give a professional description of the case.

There are two American vaccines which we are not allowed to import in quantity because of our dollar deficit. The fact that a strain of virus has not been established from subjects sent would

seem to suggest that *true* feline infectious enteritis is not so prevalent as is commonly imagined.

NOTE.—Feline infectious enteritis is a virus and as such the group of sulphonamide drugs, which do so much for secondary infection (i.e. pneumonia), do not cope and can be a danger if used indiscriminately. Each group has its specific use ; for f.i.e. they are neither cure nor preventative.

Diarrhoea is also not a symptom of true f.i.e. It is believed by many that should this occur within 16 to 18 hours the patient has a good chance of recovery.

It is the fact that a culture has to be prepared from the virus that makes the quick despatch of bodies to the Laboratories a matter of great urgency.

To conclude on a happier and more hopeful note, I am in communication with the makers of a vaccine in England. When I have positive information regarding its effectiveness, I shall be delighted to write again for the benefit of OUR CATS readers and their pets.

Writing in the March issue of CATS MAGAZINE, U.S.A., Dr. L. D. Fairchild, the well-known breeder and authority on feline diseases, stresses the value of tissue vaccine as a most efficient protection against f.i.e. The difference between vaccine and serum should be noted—vaccine for prevention and serum for treatment. Dr. Fairchild says he would hate to try to raise kittens without the protection of vaccination and in the seven years that he has been using the vaccine his cattery has not suffered any major break in the immunity from f.i.e.

Editor

Should Cats be Taxed?

Two correspondents with divergent views wind up the discussion on this controversial subject.

YES! says Miss B. Bamford, of Rochdale, Lancs.

Although letter writing is not my strong point, I feel I must write to say how pleased I was to see the article "Should I be Taxed?" I think it is an excellent idea and I have thought so for a long time past. During the war I wrote to humane societies in an endeavour to secure their support for taxation. I live in an industrial area and I sometimes get very depressed by the sight of so many straying and starving cats. So many thoughtless parents get a kitten purely as a plaything for a child. After a lot of rough handling, the kitten is turned out to fend for itself as the child tires of it. I am sure anyone who wanted a cat, whether for a pet, for show, or just to carry on the noble art of mouse-catching, would be quite willing to pay for a licence.

NO! says Miss G. M. Camfield, of Worthing, Sussex.

For mercy's sake, no tax on cats! Those who advocate one are not, I

fear, very realistic in their knowledge of human nature. We know that thousands of cats and kittens are turned out of homes when they outgrow their prettiness or usefulness. How many more would there be if they were taxed?

A tax would only hit breeders and mugs like me who have a family of nearly a dozen, most of whom have come from other people who no longer wanted them. It would make it even more hopeless (if that be possible) to find a good home for one's kittens or a stray. The difficulty of finding food for even one cat and of having it looked after when they go on holidays is an excuse for most people to refuse to keep a cat of their own, though they will encourage their neighbour's cat in to have the pleasure of its company. These people are a nuisance and a tax would only increase their number.

I do not see why true animal lovers should be penalised by a tax for some fancy views about the "raising of the status of cats." The Cat Fancy is already doing this essential work.

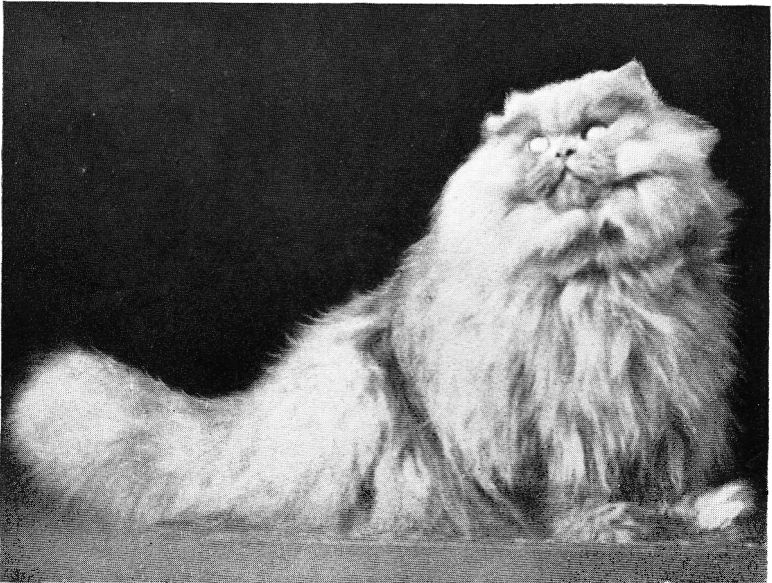


GUESS WHO ?

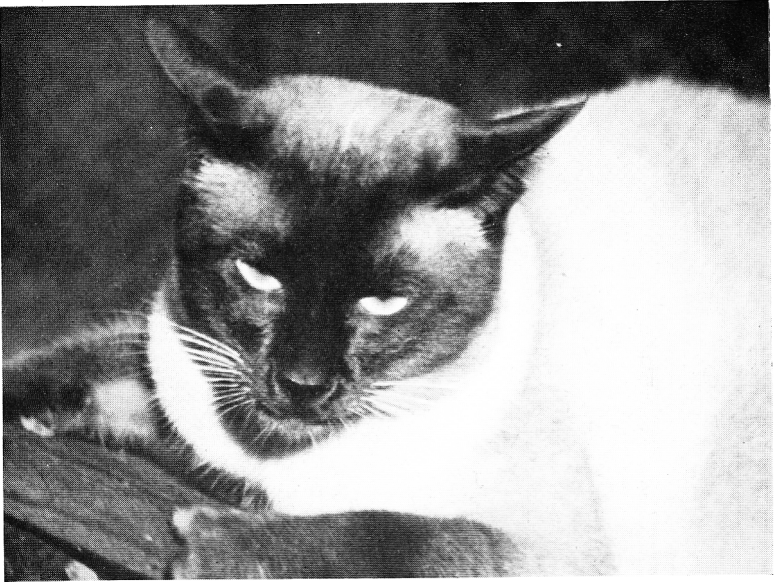
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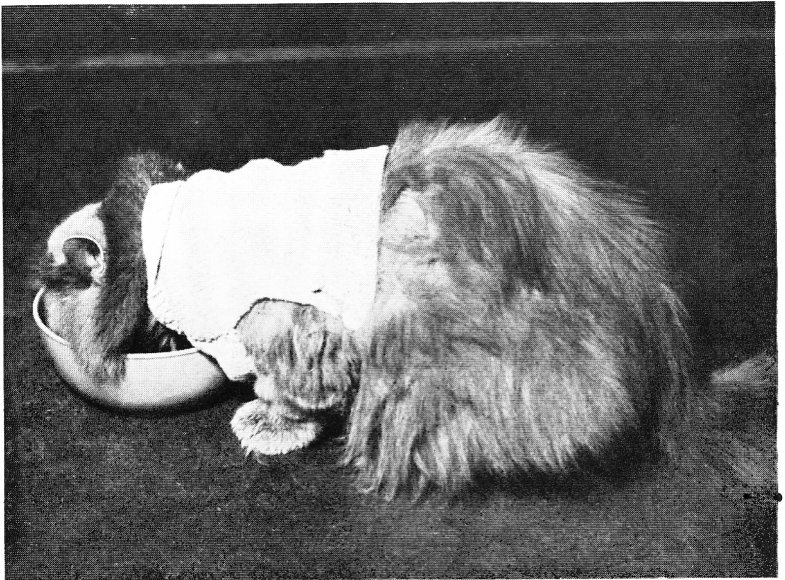
CH. SOUTHWAY CRUSADER, an outstanding 4-yr.-old Blue Longhair Male. Owned and bred by that enthusiastic Fancier, Mr. J. H. A. Martin, of Helpringham, Lincs, from Dickon of Allington ex Southway Whiz. Crusader is rightly regarded as a peer among his fellows.



As a worthy companion to Southway Crusader on this page, we present CH. GLORIA OF PENSFORD, Mrs. Joan Thompson's lovely Blue Longhair Female with a fine record of 18 First Prizes. Gloria is by Mrs. Chappell's Gathorne Gremlin ex Fay of Pensford.

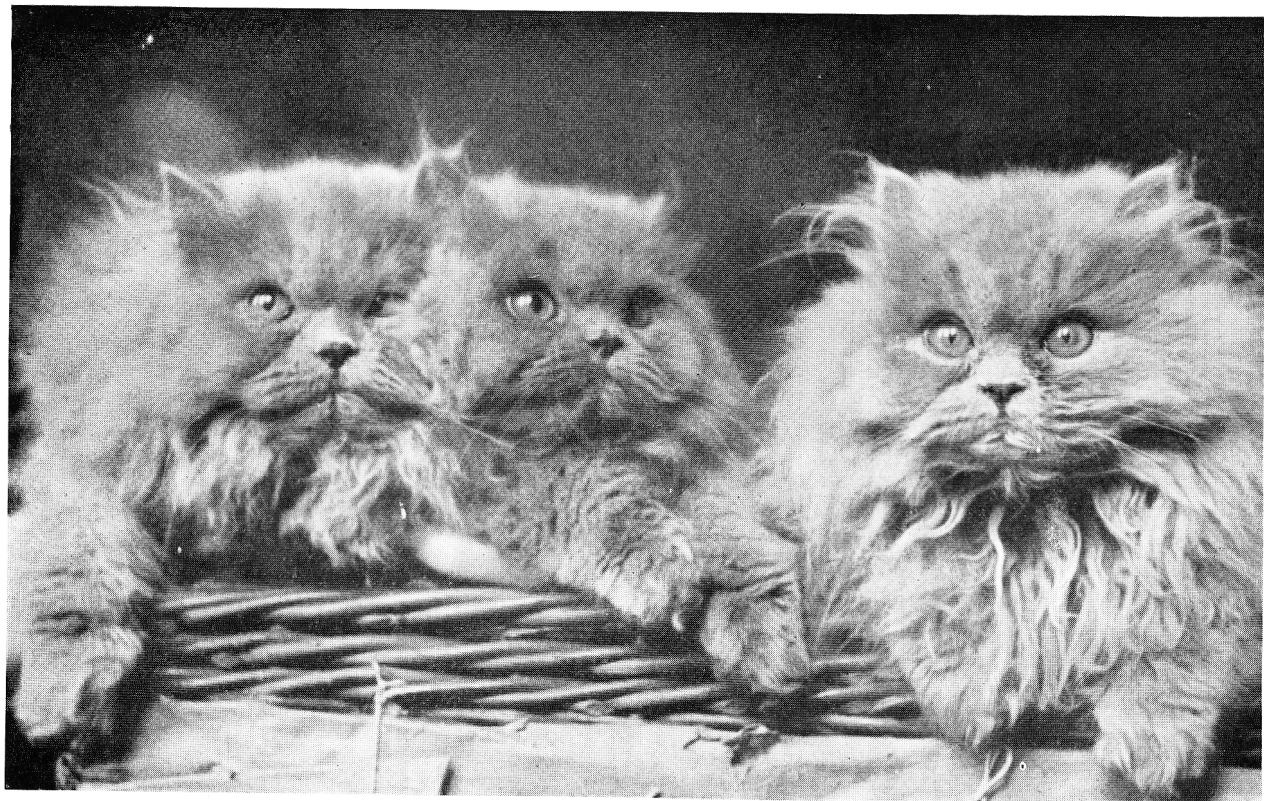


This fellow with the fine head is TYPIC PITA, well known Seal Point Siamese Male belonging to Mrs. L. K. Sayers, the Surrey Breeder and judge. Typic Pita was 1st and Champion and Best Cat All Breeds at Sandy Show, 1946. Sire is Ch. Jacques of Abingdon, dam Phantom Beauty.



Presse Diffusion

A fashion note from the Continent. The lad in the woolly waistcoat is the Blue Male TWINKLING LIGHT OF VALESCURE, favourite cat of Mme. Bridgett, Presdient d'honneur of the Cat Club de Paris, who is well known to many English Fanciers.



THREE CHAMPIONS IN ONE LITTER

These bonny girl triplets—born in 1946 and photographed at the age of 6 months—were destined to make Blue Longhair history—they all became Champions during 1948-49. On the right is Ch. MAIR OF ALLINGTON, the well-known winner at the English shows. Her sisters are Ch. MORFYDD OF ALLINGTON (centre) and Ch. MYFANWY OF ALLINGTON (left), who were exported to win top honours for the popular American Fancier, Mrs. Arvid G. Ohlin. Bred by Miss Evelyn Langston, of Maidenhead, the pedigree of this famous trio reads Ch. Deebank Michael ex VE Day. See also page 29 of this issue.

What's on the Menu?

THE cat which is in perfect condition is a credit to its owner, for this state is something which can only be achieved as the result of considerable care and attention when an animal is not able to lead a perfectly natural life. Few of our pets can lead such natural lives unless we ourselves live in the country, and even then, if breeding is our object, restriction of liberty, which prevents naturalness, has to be adopted.

Perhaps the most impressive thing about condition is that it takes a long time to produce but can be lost in almost no time at all.

When you visit a show and see a cat in perfect condition you must not imagine that this is something which has been achieved overnight with the aid of powder and brush. No amount of grooming will produce condition; it will certainly make the animal look its best on the day, but that best will be largely dependent upon general health.

It is sound health over a long period which produces the full bloom of condition, and thus the cat owner must attempt in every way to ensure that his animal is fit.

In many ways, of course, the same circumstances apply to animals as to humans, and one might almost say that if the owner knows how to keep himself fit he ought to be able to achieve the same result with his livestock. Unfortunately, however, few of us are successful with ourselves, although we usually recognise the reasons for our failures. If a man likes to ruin his digestion by the irregularity of his meals and the unsatisfactory mixtures that he eats at any one time, he will no doubt have ample time to repent of his folly; but there is not the slightest justification for inflicting similar ills on the animals for which he has made himself responsible.

The first rule for achieving sound condition is regularity in all things. Perhaps in the human sphere perfect regularity would become boring, to say the least of it, but in the animal world the same temptations to break away from the normal do not exist:

As far as possible cats and kittens should have their meals at regular times. Provided that such meals are not too close together, which would mean that the first meal was not digested before the next one arrived on top of it, one

can arrange the times to suit one's own convenience as far as the adult animals are concerned. With kittens, little and often must always be the rule, however inconvenient this routine may be.

How many times have you been told of the folly of eating between meals and how frequently have you suffered for neglecting the advice? The same rule for a sound digestion also exists in the cat world.

Meals should not only be provided at fixed times, but titbits between these regular meals should be avoided. The cat who eats cake at your tea-time may provide amusement, but it is a stupid practice on your part to indulge your pet in this way.

Middle-aged Spread

An animal usually knows when it has had enough, and the older it is the more careful it is not to over-eat. Middle-aged spread is rarely a characteristic of cats which have been treated with common sense by their owners.

It is a good rule which says, "Never leave any food about for animals to eat at will" There was once a cat breeder who was out all day, so her litter of kittens had their meals arranged in saucers with the idea that they would eat them when they felt the next meal-time had arrived. This litter did not thrive and always seemed to be suffering from internal upsets. Could one expect anything else?

To be fit a cat must have the right sort of food. That seems obvious enough, but it is not quite as simple as it sounds, for the people who breed cats successfully usually assert that they use the ideal diet. The surprising thing is that these ideal diets seem to vary according to the ideas of the breeder. This only goes to prove that the cat is an accommodating creature in the matter of food.

Scraps are Useful

Some breeders are absolutely convinced that raw meat is the ideal food for all cats because the cat in its wild state killed and ate its own food. That is not much of an argument, for man also did the same and has since altered his ways.

A cat that I know very well much prefers to feed himself, and his diet is indeed natural, for he eats rabbits, rats and smaller creatures almost in their entirety. The only remains that I ever find are the most unpleasant parts that no self-respecting cat could be expected to eat.

Most cat owners, however, are compelled by circumstances to provide the food and this has for many years been rather a serious problem, particularly so when a number of cats is kept. Food regulations prevent the feeding of food fit for human consumption to one's pet animals. Where one cat only is kept the scraps from the table, if judiciously selected, will form a very useful basis.

At least half the diet should be meat, and to-day that means horsemeat. For all of us who keep cats or dogs this food has been our great stand-by during the war years, and it looks very much as if the future for some time ahead will show little improvement. Cats certainly like horsemeat and prefer it raw rather than cooked. *If you are sure of the quality of the meat you buy*, give it uncooked. The belief that raw meat makes cats generally, and males in particular, fierce is more or less poppycock. Such meat must always be cooked before it becomes tainted.

Some cats like fish, but Gray's statement in the celebrated poem that "no cat's averse to fish" just does not fit in with the facts. If your cat likes fish, use it from

time to time, but he may be one of those who prefers hunger to fish.

Green vegetables and carrot are often appreciated in small quantities, but many cats have to be educated to eat them.

Starchy foods such as stale bread and potatoes should be used very sparingly, but the best-known proprietary biscuits, especially when soaked in gravy, are often appreciated and may well be a valuable item on the menu.

Variety is most important. Meals to which you have given some careful thought, served at regular times, will do much to produce that health whose outward expression is perfect condition. Surely that is the goal of all breeders of livestock.



Just Fancy (Concluded from page 29)

31st March. Mr. Gordon B. Allt, of Binstead, Isle of Wight, who is so popular among his fellow exhibitors, has purchased the famous Blue male Timothy of Knott Hall, bred by Mr. Felix Tomlinson. Mrs. Jackson bought Timothy in 1945. He has always been beautifully presented and is one of the most consistent post-war winning males.

Mrs. Jackson's sole reason for parting with him is her own state of health, and I hope we shall soon see her better and at next season's shows.

Mrs. Jackson's only cats now are the Cream female Ch. Oriel of Sunfield and the winning Blue, Lakeside Japonica.

FOOTNOTE.—My post is, as usual, a heavy one and the help that my late husband gave me is sadly missed. Although I endeavour to answer all letters, please forgive me if I do not deal with the less urgent ones at once. I much appreciate all letters and am touched by their kindness and interest.



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.

1st March. A well-attended A.G.M. of the Red, Cream, Tortie, Tortie-and-White, Blue-Cream and Brown Tabby Society was held to-day in London. The hon. Secretary (Mrs. J. M. Newton) had an excellent report to present. 1948 was a year of steady progress and members now number nearly 100. There is also a comfortable bank balance.

A few members of the Society, myself among them, have entered exhibits at shows in the classes provided but the Committee decided that no varieties except those in the title were eligible to compete. Members will welcome a ruling on this point and I am sure will agree with it.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Jackson for his generosity in giving photographs of the trophies to the members who had recorded wins during 1948-1949 show season. A hearty vote of thanks was also given to Mrs. Newton for her enthusiastic work on behalf of the Club.

4th March. Tea with Miss Manley, authoress of "Your Cat and Mine," in her home at South Croydon. It had many sad memories for us, as before the war her great friend the

late Mrs. MacAllan, Miss Adams (whom I considered one of the best all-round judges), Mr. Thompson and myself used to have the liveliest meetings, when Miss Manley was literally the life and soul of the party with her quick wit and repartee.

As many cat Fanciers will remember, Miss Adams was living temporarily with them at the time of her death in 1946. Her Black Shorthair "Tom" is still flourishing and in lovely condition, in spite of the fact that he has to manage with only three legs. He was caught in a rabbit snare.

I was delighted to hear that Miss Manley's book is selling well. She certainly has the right background and experience, as, apart from the fact that she and her friend bred and exhibited many beautiful cats, she has thoroughly studied them, their habits and ailments.

One of the loveliest cats she bred was the Blue-Cream Ch. Judy of Cardonald by Flick-a-Marso. Judy was one of the first Blue-Creams to become a Champion, as this variety was not eligible to compete for this honour many years ago, and the first Stud Book in which one occurs is Volume 5—1930 to 1932. Blue Haze of Cardonald was Miss Manley's first winning Blue, and among other honours she was first in her open class at the National Cat Club Ch. Show, 1929.

5th March. A letter from M. Chamonin came to-day with an attractive proposition for our Siamese breeders. Mr. W. Gunning, Institut Monnier, Pont Céard Versoix, Geneva,

suggests that in exchange for a pair of really good unrelated, well-bred Seal Pointed kittens he would be disposed to receive in his home an English lady or gentleman and give them free accommodation and food in a charming part of the district of Geneva. The length of the visit to be fixed by mutual agreement. M. Chamonin asks me to make the proposition known in this Diary. He stresses that the kittens must be of good quality as they are intended to improve the Swiss strain of Siamese.

The Cat Club of Bienne is organising an International Cat Show on 7th and 8th May under the patronage of the Swiss Cat Club. It will take place in a magnificent hall in La Maison du Peuple at Bienne in the district of Berne. A warm welcome will be given to foreign exhibitors, who will be given accommodation by members of the Cat Club. The judges will be Mme. Gertrude Bridgett (Longhairs), who is so popular with all who know her in England, and Mr. W. Gunning for the Shorthair cats. M. Chamonin will be Show Manager, which certainly ensures that it will be very well organised. I have vivid recollections of the show at Yverdon in November, which was such a delightful affair. Mme. M. Fuchs is taking a prominent part in organising the Show. Here's wishing it every success.

6th March. Visited Mrs. Donald, who is staying with her mother at Carshalton. She has returned from a very interesting year abroad. After six months in Australia and six months at the Repulse Bay Hotel, Hong Kong, spending her time dancing, swimming and playing games, she does not find domesticity very attractive, and at present she is wavering between life in England or Australia. I gave her Fay of Pensford on the eve of war because I thought she would be safer from air raids in Kingswood than in Beckenham, and

taking her home was our first experience of motoring in the blackout.

Fay was mated many times to Mrs. Jackson's Tweedledum of Dunesk, by whom she had many lovely kittens, including Glenshee Gloria (dam of Ch. Deebank Michael) and Glenshee Powder Puff (dam of the famous Thiepval Enchantress, Elf, Eve and Starlet). Fay's swan song was to produce my Ch. Gloria of Pensford by Mrs. Chappell's Gathorne Gremlin. After that, at eight years of age, she was spayed after a complicated confinement and is now a lively, robust cat living with Mrs. Donald's sister, Mrs. Bax, at Carshalton. Wherever the former decides to live I hope she continues to breed cats, as her kittens were always so well reared and healthy.

7th March. Letter from the Rev. R. L. Collins to tell me he had taken his Blue maiden queen Pauline of Pensford to be mated to Timothy of Shatterway, owned by Mrs. Sampson, of Sidmouth. At twelve years of age he is still a lovely cat and his housing conditions first class. His dam, Ferndale Trixie, born in 1934, is fit and well. This cat before the war produced several winners, including Sonia of Shatterway—Best Kitten in Show at a Blue Persian Cat Society Ch. Show. Mr. Collins's former cat was a much-loved pet, Peach of Dunesk, who died in 1948.

8th March. I have received a copy of the Regulations Governing Recognition of Breeds and Books of Record of Pure Bred Animals from America. Breeders here may be interested in the U.S.A. definition of "pure bred," which states: "A term applicable to animals which are the progeny of known and registered ancestors of the same recognised breed and for which at least three generations of ancestry can be traced."

Some novice breeders appear to think that certain cats, such as a Tor-

toiseshell male of unknown pedigree, are very valuable because they are rare, but, generally speaking, Fanciers are disinclined to pay big prices for cats which are an unknown quantity from the breeding point of view. A cat which complies with the U.S.A. regulations can be depended on to reproduce itself if suitably mated.

12th March. A trip to Birmingham to attend the first post-war meeting of the Midland Counties Cat Club at Lionel Street. Over thirty Fanciers were present from Nottingham, Lincolnshire and surrounding districts. Miss Kit Wilson and myself were the only two Fanciers from London. Miss Wilson presided and explained the objects of the Club. I was pleased to hear her say that it was a club for cat lovers, whether they kept cats for breeding or for pets. Mr. Lamb read a résumé of the History of the Club.



Mrs. Brice-Webb's OXLEYS SMASHER (by The Playmate of the Court ex Oxleys Blue Pearl).

compiled by Mr. Cyril Yeates, which stated that the M.C.C.C. was founded in 1901, with Lady Marcus Beresford as President and Miss Cope as hon. Secretary. Several Ch. shows were held between 1902 and 1938 at various places such as Cheltenham, Gloucester, Worcester, Birmingham, Leicester and Bedford.

Mr. Herod, who had been working for two years to get the Club re-started, was unanimously elected Chairman. He explained that Mr. and Mrs. Lamb had been working jointly with him to re-start the Club, and after some discussion Mrs. Lamb was unanimously elected honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

Nominations were requested for the General Committee and the following were voted in: Mrs. Herod, Mrs. Benbow, Mrs. Palmer, Miss Henn, Miss Bidmead, Miss Clarke, Mr. W. Lamb, Mr. D. H. Harrington-Harvard, and Mr. R. W. Tomlinson. Mrs. Lamb was elected Delegate of the Club to the Governing Council.

It is hoped to hold a Championship Show in Birmingham in the autumn. Particulars can be obtained from the hon. Secretary, Mrs. Lamb, Twyland, Grange Hill, Halesowen, near Birmingham.

The Chairman, Mr. Herod, has written to me: "The Committee chosen will, I am sure, be a very happy one."

Here's wishing the M.C.C.C. every possible success. I know it will receive a big welcome from all Fanciers, especially those in the Midlands. The former hon. Secretary, Miss Joyce Fair, was very popular.

I remember vividly her debut in 1926, when she achieved the remarkable feat of breeding a glorious winning Blue kitten, Northway Shelmerdine, which became a Champion in three consecutive shows in 1927.

After the meeting, Mr. and Mrs. Brice-Webb motored me to their home and on the journey we stopped to call on Mr. and Mrs. Bastow, of West Bridgford, Nottingham. Mrs. Bastow's Blue, Westbridge Angela, was nursing her first kitten. She is four years old, so there is great rejoicing, as she was thought to be a non-breeder. The sire is Southway Echo, a nice young male with lovely large round copper eyes. He is bred exactly the same way as Mr. Martin's

Internationally famous triumvirate, Champions Southway Nicholas, Crusader and Wizard.

Arriving at Mrs. Brice-Webb's, Ronada Peach came to greet us. She was still in remarkably good coat and is a very affectionate cat. Oxleys Smasher was courting a visiting queen, and Mrs. Brunton's remarks about him when she judged him in January this year are very apt: "A cat I always admire, lovely muzzle and eyes, charming pale blue coat, beautifully shown." The veteran Blue male King Kong is thirteen and carries his years lightly. A queen, eight years old, and the winning

many days and evenings John would set up a camera on a pile of books, on a chair, on the floor, on a couch, bed, anywhere the cats might be sitting, taking a nap or merely gazing. Then when he was all set to take the Picture of the Year, Oolah or Chang would stretch, yawn and walk away, or rub an inquisitive nose against the camera lens."

15th March. Mrs. Culley writes: "Miss Campbell-Fraser has kindly consented to judge all Longhairs, and Miss Yorke Shorthairs, at the Show in Manchester on 21st January. Mr. George Bolton will be judging at



Miss M. L. Rodda with Chadhurst Sambo

Thiepvall Elf (who was placed over her famous sister Enchantress by Miss Campbell-Fraser at the last Notts and Derby C.C.C. Show) complete the Ronada cattery.

14th March. Saw another delightful article in "Illustrated" entitled "Focus on Cats." Siamese are the subject this time. We are introduced by John Lesley Mackey to Chang (S.P.) and Oolah (B.P.) in many poses, the one of the latter on a radiator top is delightful and the caption reads: "Tropical temperatures please Oriental cats." I am sure every amateur photographer will sympathise with Mr. Mackey in his struggles to get good pictures of his pets. "For

Eccles." Mrs. S. S. Culley, 65 Westbourne Park, Urmston, near Manchester, will be pleased to welcome new members to the L. and N.W.C.C. Club. A delightful atmosphere prevailed at the Show last January and Southern Fanciers will, I am sure, have a very friendly reception if they make the journey north.

20th March. Miss Rodda has mated Ch. Chadhurst Juliet to her lovely winning Black, Chadhurst Sambo. Juliet is a Tortoiseshell I have always admired so much. Chadhurst Dusky is expecting a family by Sambo and Uffdown Minuet by Ch. Southway Crusader. Pre-war Fanciers will remember Miss Rodda's winning Blue

male Nogo, who has sired some good stock, and I always remember his glorious deep copper eyes and neat little ears. He has just had his 15th birthday. Nogo was the sire of the well-known Blacks Ch. Chadhurst June and Ch. Chadhurst Barry, and the latter sired the famous Ch. Black Beret. Fanciers will sympathise with Miss Rodda in the loss of Ch. Chadhurst Barry last November, aged 14.

23rd March. The A.G.M. of the Siamese Cat Club attracted a good attendance, and Mrs. Elsie Hart (hon. Secretary) had a year of continuous success to report. The Ch. Show last October made a profit of £93. The next Ch. Show (with Mrs. Hart as Manager again) will be held on 13th October at Lime Grove Baths. The following judges are officiating: Seal Pointed males, Mr. Cyril Yeates; Seal Pointed females, Mrs. Holroyd; Seal Pointed male kittens, Mrs. K. R. Williams; Seal Pointed female kittens, Miss Kit Wilson; all Blue Pointed Siamese, Mrs. Thetis Rendall; miscellaneous classes, Miss Yorke and Miss Langston. My own duties will be those of referee judge.

It was decided that all members, commencing January, 1950, shall receive a free copy of the Club's News Sheet. Non-members will have to pay 5s. Mrs. Blackman, who is concerned about quarantine conditions for cats in this country, had some interesting suggestions, and I hope to return to this subject later.

26th March. Miss Cathcart, 1 The Dug-Out, Dunstone Park, Paignton, Devon, hon. Secretary of the South-Western Counties Cat Club, writes that a well-attended meeting was held on 24th March to decide the future of the Club. The idea of amalgamating with another club was ruled out, and it was decided to hold an open show at Torquay in September, and when funds permit to resume Championship shows as in pre-war days.

The election of officers resulted in Mrs. Michelmore being again chosen as President. The Rev. R. L. Collins, who was the first Chairman when the Club was inaugurated in 1931, was persuaded to return to that position. Miss Bate is hon. Treasurer, and the Committee consists of Mrs. Sampson, Mrs. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. Woodall, Miss Sedgemore and Miss Grundy. The annual subscription is 7s. 6d.

The Club decided to have a stand at the Devon County Show in May to advertise the Club in particular and the Cat Fancy in general. The Committee were pleased to welcome Capt. Rowe and Mr. Bubb from Somerset, and both undertook to do all they could to enrol new members. The fourteen cups and trophies will be offered for members only at the Torquay Show. Miss Cathcart, hon. Secretary, will be pleased to hear from those interested in the Club and its programme.

28th March. News from Fanciers in America is always very welcome and read with great interest here. The following are extracts from the letter of Mrs. Walter E. Limpert, of Mentor, Ohio: "The February issue of OUR CATS was read with great interest. Your Diary was most informative. Having raised Blue and Black Persians for many years, it seemed that I was almost acquainted with the folks mentioned in your visits and show reports. Certainly the mention of those well-known strains of cats rang a familiar note, as our own stock can boast of some of the lineage also."

"I had the pleasure of judging the Empire Cat Club Show in New York last December. I handled the two lovely Blue imports Ch. Morfydd and Ch. Myfanwy of Allington. In keen competition the former won Best Blue female honours and later finished Best Opposite sex. They are truly beautiful, and Mrs. Ohlin deserves

much credit in showing them in such grand condition."

(These two Champions are litter sisters to Ch. Mair of Allington, and are by Miss Bull's Ch. Deebank Michael. See picture on another page of this issue.)

Mrs. Limpert continues: "While in New York I visited Miss Hydon's cattery and saw her Blue queen which she brought back from England. She, too, is gorgeous. Have not been on the Approved Judges' List long, but had assignments this winter which took me from East to West Coast and down into our deep South. It gave me a marvellous opportunity of looking over our American stock." Thank you, Mrs. Limpert, for this letter with news of British-bred cats.

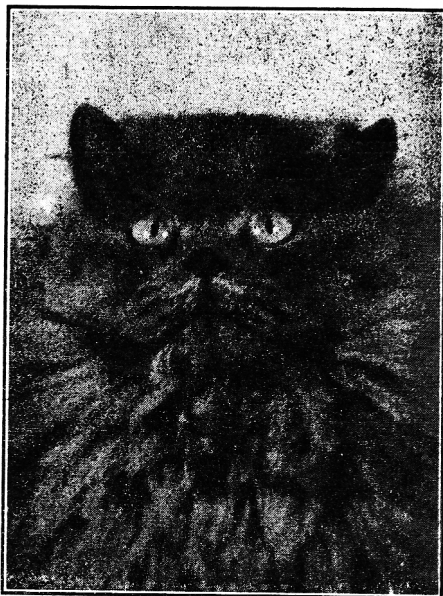
29th March. Another welcome letter from U.S.A. I sent Mrs. Cicely C. Mellor (the well-known American Fancier) a photo of my Ch. Gloria of Pensford, and had a delightful surprise in return in the form of a sheet of sticker stamps with Gloria's photo beautifully reproduced. Mrs. Mellor sails for England this month in the "Queen Elizabeth." She is first going to Somerset to stay with her mother and then on to the Midlands and London after visiting various Fanciers.

Immediately after her letter a package of animal meat, milk food and tinned fish arrived. This has been passed on to Mr. Goodenough, Inspector, R.S.P.C.A., 58 The Chase, Bromley, to comply with Mrs. Mellor's wishes.

30th March. A well-attended meeting of the Croydon Cat Club took place to-day. Faced with a demand for increased hiring fee for the Croydon Baths Hall, plus restrictions on total attendance, it was decided to alter the venue to Lime Grove Baths, Shepherds Bush. The date of the Cham-

pionship Show will now be 10th November.

Miss Helen Hill-Shaw, who has worked so devotedly for the Club, resigned the secretaryship owing to failing eyesight, and Mrs. Towe was elected to take her place. Miss Hill-Shaw was better known to pre-war Fanciers when she organised the Club



Timothy of Knott Hall has a new owner—see page 23.

shows for many years with such success. She was unanimously elected President, and it is good to know we shall still have the benefit of her kindly advice and experience. Regret was expressed at the resignation of the Club's former President, Mr. Cyril Yeates.

A misunderstanding arose about procedure in electing the Croydon Cat Club Committee. As the Committee are holding a meeting the matter is *sub judice*, and its decision will be announced later.

(continued on page 23)



Boys and Girls

I think we will start off this month with another story about Pooh, who has been in the wars. At the moment he is a very miserable cat and is sleeping on my bed during the daytime. It looks as if he has had his leg in a rabbit snare, but he is a wise old gentleman and somehow got himself free. I don't like snares for rabbits, but they are far better than those cruel spring traps with teeth. Cats sometimes get caught in those and if they are found before they die usually one leg is badly damaged. Whenever I find such traps on public ground I always get rid of them.

Titi the Annoyed

Another of my cats is Titi, a very cross-eyed Siamese, but as she is the first one I had she is quite a favourite. In some ways, however, she is rather a touchy old lady and she can get very annoyed.

At the present time she is very cross with me, but it is not my fault. I have had one of those unpleasant colds with plenty of sneezes, and Titi hates sneezing. I have only to take out my handkerchief and make the usual preparations and at once she starts to bleat like a sheep. As long as I continue to sneeze she continues to bleat, so I usually go somewhere else to finish the attack.

Sheena the Magnificent

Sheena is a Blue-Cream and is a very beautiful cat. She still has a wonderful coat although most of the other cats are moulting. She is a great friend of mine, but she is also a big disappointment. I bought her some years ago because I thought it would be interesting to have litters of kittens of mixed colours. Some would be all blue, some all cream and the rest blue and cream mixed.

One day it was quite obvious that Sheena was going to have a family and I knew the day when these kittens were likely to arrive. About a fortnight before they were due to be born we had the worst thunderstorm I have ever known and Sheena's kittens were all born dead that night. That is nearly three years ago and she has never had another family.

In this letter I have told you about some of my cats. Next month I will tell you about some of the others. Will you write and tell me about some of your pets? I'm sure that you have some interesting stories to tell.

An Animal Quiz and a Prize

To finish up this month here is an animal quiz. Send your answers to me and I will not open them until 14th May. The boy or girl who sends the first correct solution I open gets a prize book.

- (1) The young of what animals other than dogs are called pups?
- (2) What fish carries its babies in its mouth until it thinks they are old enough to look after themselves?
- (3) What mammals are there which lay eggs?
- (4) What animal has a split nail on the second toe of each hind foot? This split nail is the animal's comb.
- (5) What animal do the Red Indians call "eater of wood"?

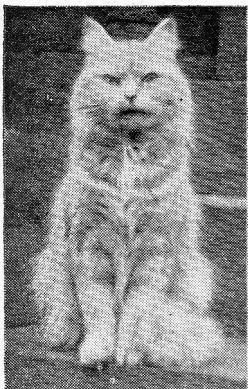
Uncle Peter

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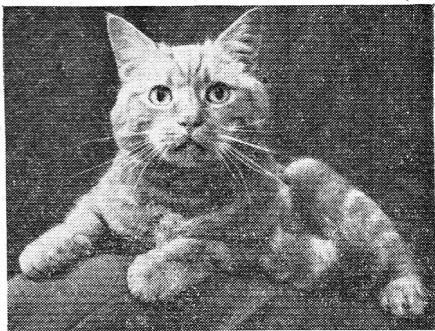
**. . well-fed, well-petted
and
properly
revered .**



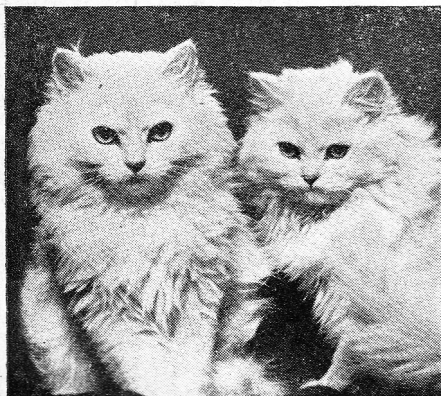
Mark Twain



HONEY, aged 12 years,
golden-haired and
golden-hearted pet of
the Hon. Victoria
Bruce, Glasgow.

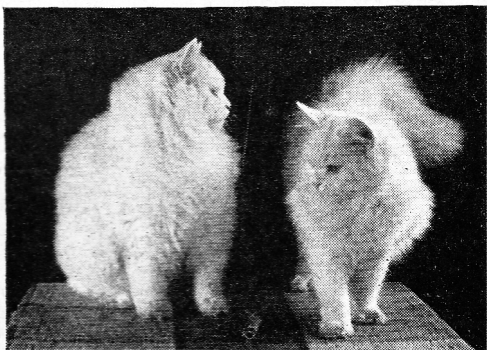


SUNSHINE, 9½ years old son of
Honey, also "belongs to Glasgie."
He is owned by Miss A. Woollard.



THISTLEDOWN and **SALITA**,
wistful Chinchilla kittens at 4½
months. Owner is Miss Elisabeth
Taylor, Blewbury, Berks.

Another picture of the lovely
Whites owned by Mlle. C.
Perrin, President of the Cat
Club of Lausanne, Switzer-
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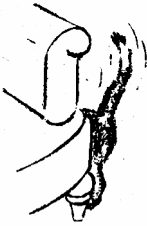
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Tailpieces

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

It is, of course, pretty well known that the headquarters of the R.S.P.C.A. in London are open all night to receive urgent messages for help from pet owners. The Society runs an ambulance service which operates over many square miles of the City and suburbs, and it is not difficult to appreciate that from time to time the night staff get some very queer requests. But the seasoned R.S.P.C.A. official got a surprise the other night when he took a call from an agitated lady of Barnes, who asked for advice on how to treat an injured tame mouse which had had an unfortunate meeting with a cat! The official was not stumped for a reply: "Treat the mouse for shock by keeping it warm and giving it a few drops of warm milk," he advised. Presumably all went well, as there is no further bulletin on the cat-shocked patient.

"Pussies" in the slang vernacular of the thieves means fur coats. The Lord Chief Justice heard all about them recently in a case in which an Italian and a Spaniard appealed unsuccessfully against their conviction and sentence for shopbreaking at Stowmarket. As a result of information given by an informer, the two men were met in London by a police inspector, whom they took in a van to the scene of the crime. During the journey one of the men was heard to say that they were going "to pick up pussies." But the inspector knew they were not going to pick up cats!

Whilst a Pinner (Middlesex) lady was taking a bath a bat flew into the bathroom and created quite a commotion. As the bat flew round the rooms of the house, Mimi, the cat, flew through the window! The squeaking visitor was eventually caught and liberated and the peace beloved by Mimi was restored.

A sad story was revealed at a Shoreditch inquest on a 68-year-old lady who gassed herself by sitting in front of the gas stove. Before she did so she made certain that her pet cat was in a place of safety. The cat was found in a bedroom, the door of which was sealed with a piece of cloth.

Members of the Solid Red and Tortoiseshell Society in America have had their interest stirred by a recent announcement of the organisation to the effect that it proposes to offer trophies for the All-American Solid Red Male and Female and the All-American Tortoiseshell cats of 1949.

Writing in a recent issue of "Country Life," C. W. Buckland describes the exploits of a cat that used to swim across a river at a point where it was approximately 75 yards wide and the current flowed at about 2 miles an hour. The object of the swim was a poaching expedition and these swimming trips went on for two or three years.

"Nine Lives—the Tale of the Cat in History and in Art," was the title of an exhibition which ran for several weeks in New York. The exhibits covered the rise and fall of various cat cults and touched on cat superstitions from Egypt to the present day. There were coffins of the pets of the Egyptians, paintings from Japan and China, prints, woodcuts, pottery, jewellery and textiles bearing cat motifs and designs.

The method of judging Siamese in this country is a controversial subject among members of the Siamese Club just now. The latest issue of the Club's News Sheet contains short articles on the matter. Mrs. Duncan Hindley, greatly disturbed at the falling standard of the breed and the rush of inexperienced newcomers who wish to become members of the Club,

expresses the opinion that, unless something is done, judging will rapidly become a farce. Mrs. L. K. Sayers, who has bred and judged Siamese for many years, maintains that faulty judges are rarely met with; they would eliminate themselves if persistent in making mistakes.

As so many cat lovers are also very fond of bird life, the following details and illustration of a cat-defying bird table for the garden will doubtless be interesting. The idea belongs to Mr. S. H. Hore, a Berkshire reader of that popular quarterly publication "The Countryman," to whom I am grateful for permission to reproduce. The

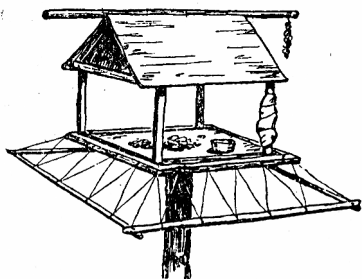


table measures 16 in. by 12 in. and should be $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. from the ground. A square frame (24 in. by 20 in.) was made from four lengths of 1 in. lath and laced to the edge of the table, as shown in the sketch. The frame swings freely on being touched, and in the opinion of its inventor a cat will soon give up the idea of trying to climb up and on to the table.

A pleasantly encouraging letter has reached me from Mr. George Dyke, who is Organising Secretary of the Melbourne Cat Club, the larger of the two clubs in Victoria, Australia. Mr. Dyke, who hails the arrival of OUR CATS as "a long-wanted link between the home of breeding and the rest of the world," reports the holding of a Charity Championship Show in Melbourne on 25th June. More news about the Fancy in Victoria is promised.

The Animal Health Trust, whose President is the Duke of Norfolk and Treasurer the Duke of Beaufort, has already established a Canine Research Station, but is not yet in a position to finance research into diseases pecu-

liar to cats. This will come in time, however, if adequate support is forthcoming from the Cat Fancy. Already the Trust has awarded a number of post-graduate research fellowships to veterinary surgeons intending to specialise in feline and canine work, and has thus benefited cats and cat-lovers indirectly. The organisation, which is unique of its kind, was founded by Dr. W. R. Wooldridge, M.Sc., M.R.C.V.S., who is now its Scientific Director. While up at Cambridge he was struck by the lack of grants available for post-graduate study for veterinarians as opposed to medical men. The headquarters of the Animal Health Trust is at Abbey House, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, to which address our readers are invited to send donations or requests for additional information.

Mrs. Joan Thompson, whose Diary contribution has become such a popular feature of OUR CATS, has been elected by the Lancs and North Western Counties Cat Club as honorary life member.

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