

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



1/6

DECEMBER 1949

SEASONAL FEATURES AND FINE PICTURES

Feline Photography

I CAN always talk quite feelingly on the subject of cat and kitten photography because so much of my time is spent in wrestling with the various problems connected with suitable illustrations for this Magazine. During the year, I must handle several hundreds of photographs, good, bad and indifferent, and it is my experience that a whole lot of material (films and plates) is wasted through ignorance and haste.

The number of photographs which I can use in any one issue is, of course, somewhat limited and this restriction has the effect of raising the general standard of those accepted for use. It is therefore a case of "so many sent, but few are chosen." The failures are so often due to faulty exposure and incorrect treatment of the subject. "Sharpness"—the quality most desired—is lacking.

Photography is a subject which frequently pops up for airing in feline publications. This is not surprising when one reflects on the wide possibilities in this field and the positive charm and appeal that cats and kittens, particularly the latter, have on the negative.

From time to time cat lovers are offered admirable advice on the subject, but, to my mind, there has been no better offering from the point of view of value and all-round usefulness than the "Cats and Kittens Photo Guide" published by the Focal Press at 1s. 6d.* It is one in a series of excellent little books designed to help and encourage photographers and the author, Philip Johnson, has contrived to pack a lot of fine material and pictures into his 56 pages. After reading his book, I could only arrive

at one conclusion—Mr Johnson not only knows photography, *he knows cats!*

You will make a great mistake, he warns in his foreword, if you think you can ignore the independence of puss and trick her into serving your photographic ends. It just doesn't come off. There is no infallible technique, no secret tricks guaranteed to secure good cat photographs. Certain precautions and preliminary preparations may pave the way; the rest is up to you.

One piece of advice rather impressed me. It is that in order to do the cat justice pictorially, the camera lens should be at approximately the same level.

Provided you have the equipment, the subjects and the enthusiasm, there is no need to wait until next spring or summer before you decide to try out your luck with the camera. Present-day films are so fast that indoor photography is well within the scope of most cameras and for all practical purposes a sunlit patch of carpet in a light-coloured room is almost as well lit as a sunny corner of the garden.

The Focal Guide tells you in plain language how to make the most of these opportunities and it also advises you about artificial light, lighting effects, the use of reflectors, flash bulbs, etc. Fireside shots have interesting possibilities and useful pointers here are to work at the right distance and to concentrate solely on getting a sharp picture of the animal, leaving the background to more or less look after itself.

EDITOR

* *Cats and Kittens Photo Guide* (1s. 6d. net) The Focal Press, 31 Fitzroy Square, W. 1.



S'CUSE MY BACK!

Why not a back view for a change? This provocative study by Ylla, who is internationally famous for his animal portraiture, is one of the many fine illustrations in the photographic guide book reviewed on the opposite page.

Her Operation

By FORCEPS (Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons)

AN interesting and unusual case has recently been reported in the "Veterinary Record," the journal of the National Veterinary Medical Association (the veterinary equivalent of the B.M.A.).

The subject was a six-year-old black and white Shorthaired queen, which had had several litters of kittens in the past without any trouble. She was again pregnant and expected to have her kittens at any time, and when, on the Sunday, she was noticed to be off her food and rather listless, this was thought to be natural in the circumstances.

On the night of the following Tuesday, a quantity of fluid was passed, and it was assumed that the kittens were on their way. There was no straining, however, or signs of distress, and a further 36 hours were allowed to elapse before professional assistance was summoned.

The animal was seen on the Thursday morning. She appeared to be rather apathetic to her surroundings but purred when fondled. According to her owner the animal had taken no solid or liquid food since the previous Sunday.

The temperature was 103.8° F. and the pulse weak and thready with a rate of 120 per minute. . . . The animal seemed disinclined to move, but adopted the natural crouched posture when left alone. . . . Abdominal palpation revealed the presence of one large kitten, although no foetal movements could be appreciated. The cat showed no sign of resentment during this phase of the examination. A diagnosis of foetal death, with failure of the cervix and the vagina to dilate, was made and a grave prognosis given.

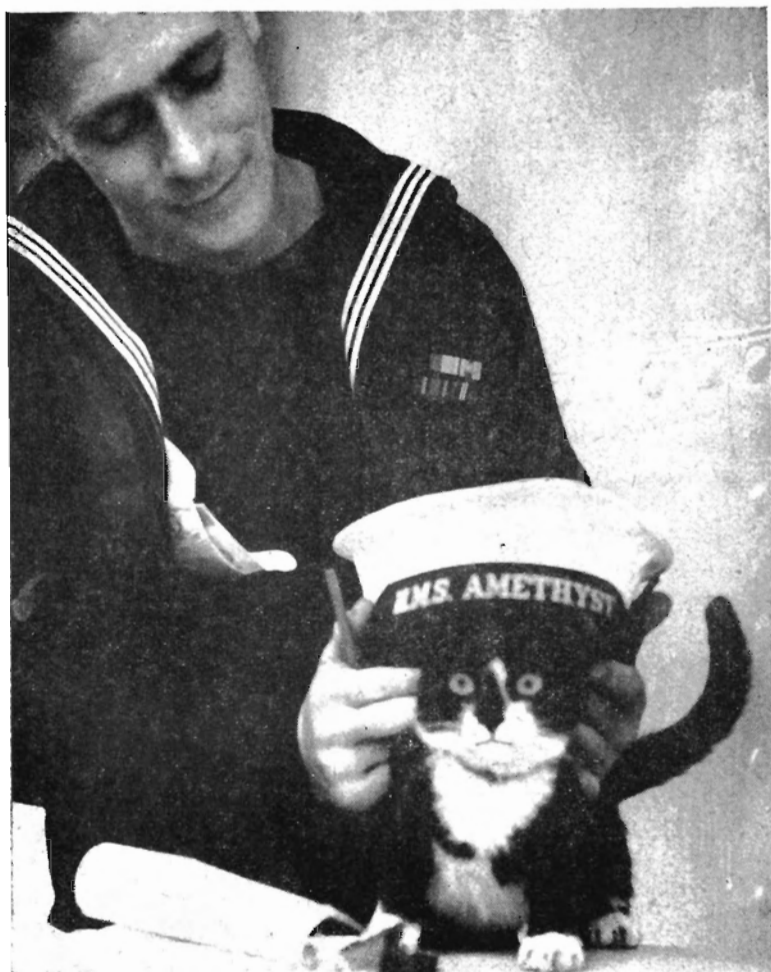
It was decided to remove both uterus and ovaries although the cat's condition rendered such an operation hazardous, the operation was performed on the afternoon of the same day.

The animal was anaesthetised with nembutal given into a vein, only one-third the computed dose being administered before deep anaesthesia was obtained. This was a bad sign. On opening the peritoneal cavity, a blood-stained fluid was immediately apparent and as much as possible was drained off and soaked up with sterile swabs. Part of the uterus was extremely congested, being a deep purple, almost black, colour. It was gently withdrawn from the abdomen, extreme care being necessary to avoid rupture of the organ, which could then be seen and which had become twisted.

The uterus and ovaries were removed and the abdomen was swabbed out as completely as possible; 100,000 units of procaine penicillin were placed in the abdominal cavity and 100,000 units injected subcutaneously.

The temperature on the completion of the operation was 100.8° F. and the pulse rate 80 per minute.

The case is recorded because of the apparent rarity of the condition in small animals. It is suggested that twisting of the uterus must have occurred after the passage of the allantoic fluid, and was followed by re-closure of the cervix, which must have been open to allow the passage of the fluid. It is remarkable that the animal should recover so well from such an internal catastrophe plus the effects of a major abdominal operation.



Photograph by courtesy of "Evening Standard"

HAIL AND FAREWELL TO SIMON, V.C.

We had hoped that this picture would be an illustration to our account of a happy and historic event—the presentation to SIMON, V.C., ship's cat of H.M.S. Amethyst, of his V.C. decoration by the Lord Mayor of London. Instead, alas! it must serve as our farewell to a brave and gallant cat whose exploits have stirred the whole world. Simon's death at the quarantine station in Surrey came as a great shock and bitter blow. His illness, due perhaps to the changed conditions and the vagaries of our climate, was of short duration and the best professional skill could not save him. Simon now lies buried in the P.D.S.A. Pets' Cemetery at Ilford and plans are afoot to ensure that his grave and also his memory are suitably marked and remembered. His successor, Simon II, a pretty little black and white kitten from Camden Town, has already joined the Amethyst at Plymouth. Farewell, Simon, with Thomas Hardy we say, "pet was never mourned as you."

Colour Inheritance

By ALBERT C. JUDE

LAST month it was mentioned that for his experiments to find a principle of heredity Mendel chose the common garden pea for his medium, and that he did so because of its marked differences in characteristics.

For the first experiment, the tall garden pea was crossed with the dwarf. It had previously been established that tall and dwarfs had individually bred true through many generations. The result of the tall crossed with dwarfs was hybrids, all of which were tall. These hybrids were then mated amongst themselves, and produced tall and dwarfs in the proportion of three to one.

The dwarfs were tested and found to breed true through many generations. The tall were also tested, and one third were found to breed true to tallness, whereas the other two thirds behaved like their hybrid parents and gave three tall to one dwarf amongst their offspring.

When working similarly with green and yellow seeds, and with smooth and wrinkled seeds, the results were exactly the same. In every case the hybrids show only one character of the pair under

observation—tallness, yellowness, smoothness. The other character seems to have been lost, yet, when the hybrids are crossed, the "lost" character reappears, showing it was not "lost," but only masked by the other.

Then, too, the proportions in the F_2 generation are the same; one which breeds true for one character; two hybrids; one which breeds true for the other character. The character which appears in the hybrid is known as a dominant, and the "hidden" character is known as a recessive. In order to account for the reappearance of the pure strains in the F_2 generation, Mendel suggested that a germ cell carries one character or the other of a pair, but not both. He claimed that although both members of a pair of alternate characters are present together in the hybrid, they separate when that hybrid forms its germ cells, half of them receiving one character and half receiving the alternate characters.

This separation of alternate characters is called segregation. This and the resulting purity of the germ cells are the two fundamental ideas in Mendel's theory of inheritance.

This theory, when put into practice, is exactly what takes place in the crossing of colours, but, to make the explanation clear, we will keep to the characters for tallness and dwarfness, and say that when two hybrids are crossed there are four possibilities in regard to the mating of the germ cells:

(1) A tall carrying female cell might meet a tall carrying male cell, giving a pure tall individual ; or

(2) A tall carrying female cell might meet a dwarf carrying male cell, giving a hybrid ; or .

(3) A dwarf carrying female cell might meet a tall carrying male cell, again giving a hybrid ; or

(4) A dwarf carrying female cell might meet a dwarf carrying male cell, giving a pure dwarf individual.

So if it were a matter of pure chance which germ cell should meet which, the result of the mating of the two hybrids would be one pure tall, two hybrids, one pure dwarf. As tallness is dominant to dwarfness, the pure tall and the hybrids all look alike, and only their subsequent breed-

ing results will reveal their true constitution.

The dominance of one character over another is not a necessary feature of Mendelian inheritance. There are cases where the hybrid, instead of showing the dominant character, shows a mixture of the dominant and the recessive, or something between the two. There are instances of this in cats, in Andalusian fowls, and so on. In some animals, as in the rabbit and mouse, black is dominant to white, but in cats it is the reverse.

There are cases of unexpected results from the mating of pure-bred parents, and these seem at first to contradict Mendel's law. They are spoken of as reversions to ancestral type. But when these cases are carefully sorted out, they are usually found to support the theory rather than oppose it. They are usually the results of the re-combination of certain factors which have been separated from each other in two different strains, but which were all present together in a common ancestor.

Next month the origin of colours in cats will be described.

Let's go to a Show

Brief details of the remaining Cat Shows which are fixed to take place during the 1949/50 Season are given below for the information and guidance of our readers. We shall present more detailed information from time to time as it becomes available. Make a point this time of attending as many Shows as you can. There is no better place at which to make friends and to pick up useful points about cats, their breeding and management.

1950			
9 January	...	*Notts and Derby Cat Club (see advert.)	... Nottingham
21 January	...	*The Lancs and North Western Counties Cat Club	... Manchester
23 January	...	*Southern Counties Cat Club	... London

* Denotes Shows with Championship status.

It's a Gay Book!

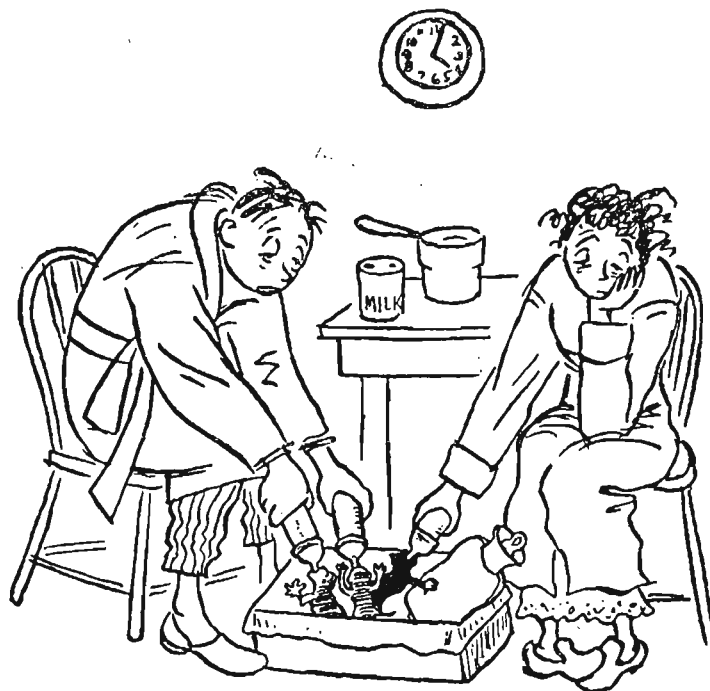
A BOOK which has deservedly won world-wide popularity among cat lovers is Margaret Cooper Gay's "How to Live With a Cat." It is good news that an enterprising London publishing house has put it within our reach in this country. In America the book is regarded highly as a work of exceptional interest and outstanding ability.

Miss Gay is an American who has owned a pet shop for six years and who has from the age of two been surrounded by cats and kittens. She writes with a refreshing gaiety and wit and the cartoons by Roberta

Macdonald, whom we recognise as a regular contributor to "The New Yorker," add just the right piquancy to a tasty literary dish.

Mr. Arthur W. Moss, Chief Secretary to the R.S.P.C.A., who contributes the foreword, aptly describes the book as "a welcome addition to the gaiety of nations" and the drawings as "lifelike in their feline waywardness."

"How to Live With a Cat" is the kind of book one can pick up and enjoy at any odd moment and this must be regarded as an attribute in



Are you really that anxious to raise kittens?

these days of rush and bustle. It is so nicely "partitioned" that one is able to open it anywhere at any time and feel sure of finding something of interest to read. The opening chapter, for instance, is packed with absorbing material with a historical background. But then the appendix, which covers "sensible and silly stories, sayings and superstitions," is, to my mind, equally unusual and interesting.

In between these two sections there are chapters dealing with Nine Ways to Get a Cat, How to Buy a Cat, How to Feed a Cat, How to Feed a Kitten, How to Raise Kittens from Scratch, How to Help a Cat Raise Kittens, On Caring for a Cat, Accidents and Ailments, Dat Old Debbil Sex, Crime and Punishment, and How Smart is the Cat.

"When You Consider"

Miss Gay has given a lot of care and attention to the subject of feeding and very clearly she has had considerable experience in this connection. One has to bear in mind that she writes from an American viewpoint, which means freedom from restrictions where dietary is concerned.

If, finally, you would like a sample of Miss Gay's light-hearted and yet withal practical style before you decide to buy this entertaining book, here it is. "When you consider that a hundred generations of 'pure breeding' can be wiped out in an evening's stroll when the moon is high, and that every female cat likes to take that stroll, the wonder is that there are any pedigreed cats for anyone to buy. That's why you pay from two guineas or so up to one hundred for a pedigreed cat. Any time a healthy, pure-bred kitten is sold for less than four or five guineas the breeder loses money on the deal. The breeder has to feed the mamma cat the year round. The kittens tucked away some milk and eggs and meat while they were being weaned. A stud fee was paid to some other breeder; or, if the breeder of your kitten kept a stud cat, the cost of feeding him just about balanced the money saved by not paying a stud fee. A veterinarian was called in at least once, and there were dozens of little inconsequential expenses that added up. There's four or five guineas accounted for, with little or no allowance for emergencies or work. If cat breeders charged for their work, goodness knows what kittens would cost."

"How to Live with a Cat," by Margaret Cooper Gay (8s. 6d.). Reinhardt & Evans.

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THE STORY OF TIMMY

(Photograph by courtesy of
the Nursing Mirror)



A REALLY delightful new children's book has made a timely appearance under the title of "The Story of Timmy, Princess Elizabeth's Siamese Kitten."* The author is Phyllis Guest, whom we are pleased and not a little proud to recognise as a regular reader of OUR CATS Magazine. She is well known for her nursing activities throughout the Corsham district of Wiltshire, and if, as we understand, this is her first venture into juvenile story-telling, then we are sure that her publishers will be anxious to secure further work from her pen. The story of Timmy is engrossingly told and the line illustrations by the author are an entertainment in themselves.

Timmy, the Siamese kitten, was the pick of a litter of five. His father was Holway Tito, owned by Mrs. Alexander, of Brockley, Bristol, and his mother was the author's own Susan Muffet. He was, in fact, the finest kitten Susan ever had and so it came about that he was selected to

be educated and groomed for presentation to Princess Elizabeth. In spite of Timmy's good points and his outstanding friendliness he broke all the rules of perfection by having a very curly tail!

All children—even some of the older ones with rings under their eyes!—will enjoy Nurse Guest's narrative of the progress of Timmy and his triumphant journey to Buckingham Palace. There are many illustrations besides the thumb-nail sketches and the book is indeed splendid value for half-a-crown. You can get it from your bookseller.

There is a sad postscript to the story, but you needn't tell it to the children. News of Timmy's welfare was often received at Corsham. Then quite recently there came a sad note from Princess Elizabeth stating that when Timmy went with her to live in Clarence House, he was not welcomed by neighbouring cats. He became involved in a fight and was so badly injured he had to be put to sleep.

* The Story of Timmy (2s. 6d.) published by H. A. & W. L. Pitkin Ltd.

“Just a little turkey”

By PHYLLIS LAUDER

I THOUGHT we were very lucky to get a fine turkey, and before putting the dish back into the refrigerator after our Christmas luncheon, I chopped a piece off one of the legs for Blitz and Blondie. It would have been shabby not to give them a share, considering they had spent the whole morning basking in the turkey-scented steam from the oven, and all the previous day gazing wistfully at the refrigerator. Besides, Blitz was marching about apparently in torture uttering anguished howls, and Blondie was already on the table with her blue mask thrust dangerously near the knife and her tail standing up like a flag-pole.

I had not reckoned on entertaining Old Harry, but I was not altogether surprised to see his gaunt shape on the window-sill and his pink nose pressed against the pane. I thought that probably the Vicar's household had not been so fortunate as we had. If they had only got chicken for their Christmas dish, they would hardly be able to spare any for the Ancient One.

I pushed Blondie off the table and opened the window. Old Harry said “Happy Christmas,” or something to that effect, and Skittles shot up on to the sill, presumably from the nether regions, and bounced confidently on to the floor, where Blondie bestowed an affectionate kiss near the tabby rosette on the side of his head.

As Skittles is an absolutely round kitten, he never looks as if he were in need of sustenance; but it seemed improbable that an old lady living alone would have a turkey. So I carved another slice, and soon the

four of them were round a large plate on the floor. Seal tail, blue tail, herringbone tail, white tail with small tabby rosette. . . .

Then the Vicar's wife appeared at the window and cried: “Heavens! You're not feeding them *again!*”

“What do you mean, again?” I asked, and added: “Just a little turkey, for Christmas. . . .”

“But they've had it!” said the Vicar's wife.

“Certainly they've had it,” I agreed. The members of the gang were now washing themselves; the plate was empty.

“I mean, they've had turkey *already*,” said the owner of Old Harry exasperatedly. “We had ours early; the children wanted to go and play in the quarry. I put down a big plateful.”

The cats were wandering out through the side door.

“All of them?” I asked.

“Oh, yes,” said the Vicar's wife, beginning to laugh. “Skittles had been in the kitchen all the morning, and your two turned up the moment I started cutting up a bit for him and Harry!”

I looked across her shoulder towards the countryside; Blitz and Blondie and Old Harry were marching purposefully towards the copse. Ahead of them, Skittles pranced joyously.

“You don't think . . . ?” I asked.

The Vicar's wife turned her head. “I *do* think,” she said.

“But an old lady alone,” said I; “only a poussin, I daresay, or a brace of wood-pigeons. There wouldn't be

any left. She wouldn't have a turkey! "

"She has!" said the Vicar's wife. "Her granddaughter's with her for Christmas, and her son sent one of those nice little French ones."

"Come on!" said I, diving through the side door.

It is not far through the copse, but we saw no sign of them. "How can they know what time we all have lunch?" I babbled. "What would they do if we all had it at exactly the same time . . . ?"

As we drew near, we saw that our old friend was standing outside her cottage. "Happy Christmas!" she called, beaming. "Have you come for your little darlings?"

"I shouldn't call Old Harry a little darling," muttered his owner. "But let it go!"

"I daresay," the old lady was saying, "that neither of you could get a turkey this year, but fortunately I was lucky, so the dear little pets haven't had to go without!"

She looked fondly down. There was a plate on the path, and they were licking up the last bits.

"I seem to have seen those tails somewhere before." I murmured feebly.

"They will all be ill!" snapped the Vicar's wife. "The pigs!"

They didn't look ill. There was an aura of satisfaction about them. Nothing could make Old Harry look fat, and nothing could make Skittles look any fatter, but somehow all their coats seemed sleek, and all their whiskers were spruce. There was a general glow.

"What a blessing!" said the Vicar's wife.

"What?" I asked.

"That Christmas comes but once a year!" said the Vicar's wife, grimly.

IDEAL GIFT BOOKS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

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Compiled by Hamilton Fyfe. This is a cheerful anthology of poems, all about cats. Great poets of all ages pay homage to their "Stately, Kindly, Lordly Friend," and Hamilton Fyfe has excelled himself in gathering together the wisest, wittiest and most charming collection of verse about cats that one could wish for. 7½" x 5". Illustrated by Clare Dawson. 3.6d. (by post 3/10d.) Available from Booksellers or from **THE BANNISDALE PRESS, 46-7 CHANCERY LANE, LONDON, W.C.2.**

Cat and Camera

"In this pleasant volume are cats of all descriptions — playful, greedy, sleepy, thirsty, lonely, watchful cats: cats plaintive and cats adventurous: cats by the fireside and cats down the garden path: but all alike in being portrayed with kindness and a spirit of fun." *Sunday Times*. Beautiful photographs. 8½" x 5½". 8/6 (by post 9/3). Available from Booksellers, or **THE FOUNTAIN PRESS, 46-7 CHANCERY LANE, LONDON, W.C.2.**

NOTTS AND DERBY CAT CLUB

Fifth Annual CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

will be held on

Monday, January 9, 1950

at

**Victoria Baths Hall
Nottingham**

8 Popular Judges

Full particulars from

Secretary and Show Manager:

**MR. J. F. BARKER, SYLVAN HOUSE,
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DERBYSHIRE.**

WHO'S WHO among the Breeders

MRS. M. BRUNTON

BREEDERS of Blue Longhairs in this country are a small and select circle. They have one big day each year when they assemble in London to display their stock in friendly rivalry; a day when they can exchange experiences and compare notes without the distraction of noisy Siamese and other less well-behaved feline varieties! On these occasions—such is their enthusiasm for the game—the air becomes decidedly “Blue.” And their charges with the flowing coats and lovely copper eyes gaze on the scene from their pens with the dignified unconcern of their kind.

The numerical strength of this little coterie may be gauged from the fact that at the last Blue Longhair Championship Show there were between 50 and 60 exhibits penned by 38 breeders and exhibitors. There are, of course, many other devotees of Blues all over the country who for one reason or another do not put in an appearance at the annual show of their Society.

The “hard core” of our Blue breeders to-day are a small group of Fanciers with high ideals and plenty of patience. They have, too, an acute awareness of the need for all-round improvement in the standard. Some have had over 30 years' experience and these would be the first to admit that they have still a whole lot to learn.

A place of honour within this group is well merited by the subject of this month's interview,



Mrs. Brunton, of Southwater, near Horsham, Sussex, who appreciates better than most that coat and condition can win 30 out of 100 in the Scale of Points. Her stock with the Dunesk affix have had a wonderful run of successes in the show pen and many of her cats have been exported to improve the pre-war standard in U.S.A., India, Switzerland, Germany and France. To see a Dunesk exhibit is to see perfection in condition and grooming.

Mrs. Brunton can certainly lay claim to more than a passing interest in Blues, for it was in 1923, when she was living in Scotland, that they first attracted her attention.

“It was,” she says, “an advertisement in ‘The Scotsman’ that caught my eye and started

me off. It was for a Blue Persian kitten that sounded marvellous to me as up till then I had had only a much-loved household pet. He was fluffy black and white with green eyes and a brick-red nose, which would seem to indicate some Chinchilla influence in the parentage.

"The advertised kitten simply 'got me,' but the price of a guinea asked for him seemed an enormous figure to me in those days. A little bargaining brought the price down to 17s. 6d., and when he finally arrived home I thought he was absolutely 'it.'

"My Toodles—so he was christened—was a delightful companion, but—and this was a big 'but'—he was slate blue with a long nose, pale eyes, large ears and a pointed face. To my uninitiated mind he was all a cat should be—until I met Miss Frances Simpson, who soon changed my ideas!

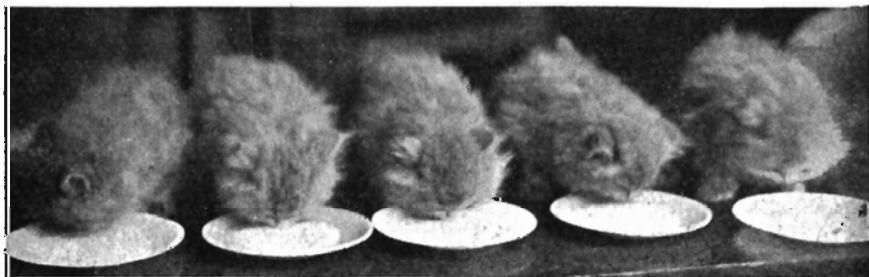
"Having obtained her address from a daily picture paper, in which she was mentioned in connection with Blue Persians, I got in touch with her. She sent me her book, 'Cats for Pleasure and Profit.' At my request she got me a kitten. It was a dainty little pale blue kitten with a long silky coat. I was thrilled with her, but, alas! she was not a strong kitten and only lived to be

five months old. Meanwhile, Toodles was neutered and became the pet of the house.

"I was now back where I had started, so, taking my courage in both hands, I set out for London. We were then living near Edinburgh, at Dunesk. This was the name of our house and is the origin of my affix.

"It was a case of 'third time lucky.' First, I called on Miss Simpson, who gave me some addresses, and having been to see for myself how pedigree cats should be kept and what they should look like, I returned home. Very shortly after this Miss Simpson sent me Meadowsweet and from this point I never looked back. By Larry of Hawkhurst ex Putchina, bred by Miss Sybil Robinson, she was the founder member of the Dunesk Blues. From her comes the sound pale coat of many of her descendants.

"Meadowsweet was an exceptionally strong, healthy cat and a great credit to her breeder. She lived to be 19 years old, producing a kitten at the age of 14 years. This kitten is now about 15 and flourishing! Meadowsweet, alias Bubbles, although never shown at Championship shows, produced a Best in Show and Best Blue Kitten in nearly every litter, bestowing on them her wonderful stamina and lovely pale flowing



A lovely Dunesk litter of level quality "with but a single thought!"

coat. She was a marvellous breeder, always having five or six kittens from the first litter onwards.

"Cornflower of Dunesk, Delphinium's mother and the first kitten I ever showed, was Best Kitten in Show at Lanark, and subsequently repeated this performance at several other Scottish shows. All this was most exciting and made me want to try my luck farther afield. So she went to Reading and brought home a silver cup and several firsts.

"Among dear old Meadowsweet's winners were also Darling of Dunesk, Dobbin, Blue Thistle, Buttons, Dickie and Dainty Maid of Dunesk, and Best Blue kittens also included Boy Blue (who incidentally went to the maker of 'Boy Blue' Toffees!), Dewdrop, Dainty Dinah, Wanda, Butterfly, Rambler Rose, Sweet September,

Cherry Blossom, Robin Redbreast, Dusty, and now Wild Violet of Dunesk. Many of these were also Best Kitten in Show.

"Ch. Dewdrop of Dunesk was one of my best cats. She won 10 firsts and 13 specials and Best Kitten at the B.P.C.S. Show and subsequently appeared at the Crystal Palace as an adult, where she was beaten for Best in Show by a casting vote. She was a descendant of Wildflower of Dunesk (winner of two Championships) and a daughter of Mrs. Yeates's June Rose. Ch. Dream of Dunesk was another of my best cats and it was one of my greatest griefs when she was killed by a car. International Champion September Sunshine was one who did wonderfully well in America, where he was Best in Show, and Daydream, Tweedledum and Campanula all won Championship certificates.

SWEET SEPTEMBER OF DUNESK, son of Champion Dream of Dunesk, was "Best Kitten" at the 1947 National Cat Club Show and winner of 9 Firsts.



"To those thinking about cat breeding, the best advice I can give is: Don't overcrowd; two or three cats do better than a dozen. Give them their liberty as much as possible, feed them well and keep them spotlessly clean. Breed your own winners by careful selection and line breeding and above all *don't coddle your cats*. I keep the windows of their homes wide open in all but the very worst weather.

"They say life begins at 40! It can do if you breed cats and it certainly got very exciting for me the other day. Southway Rascal brought in a snake. Josephine jumped into a tank of water and

out again in a flash. Chinaboy, her 3 months old son, swallowed a yard and a half of string (olive oil came to the rescue!) and a little later he splashed into our fishpond and started swimming for dear life until hauled out to dry off.

"To my mind, Blues of to-day, with a few notable exceptions, are far behind those of pre-war days, both in quality and quantity, and there is great scope for enthusiastic breeders to improve this lovely variety. Small eyes, pale eyes, unsound colour and short coats are all too prevalent. So let us set to work to make the Blues the finest breed of all."

Scotland Gets Going

THE first post-war show held by the Scottish Cat Club in Glasgow last month (writes Miss Kathleen Yorke, who was the judge) was a great success. Quality of the exhibits was exceptionally good in some of the classes and both the number of entries and spectators must have given satisfaction to the Committee and their indefatigable hon. Secretary and Show Manager, Mrs. Morfydd Richardson.

I thoroughly enjoyed my day and the task of judging was facilitated and rendered pleasant largely through the co-operation of Mr. P. P. Connor (Chairman) and Mr. P. Forbes (Vice-Chairman), who kept the gangways clear, and Madame Gibbon, C.C.P., and Mrs. K. R. Williams, who stewarded so efficiently, although at times their tasks were really difficult.

I was much impressed with the household pets and neuters, which were a great credit to their owners and breeders. There was not a poor specimen among them. The first prize pedigree neuter Merizem, a Siamese, was a lovely typical cat of his breed. A pity he was neutered. Incidentally, my first prize Siamese male, shown by Mrs. Stephen, was not shown in the catalogue.

Best Exhibit lay between a beautiful Siamese female, Proud Petronelle (by Slades Cross Shahid ex The Tschudi Nun), bred by Major Murrell and owned by Mrs. E. H. Grant, and a gem of a Cream male kitten, Anlaby Beau (by Deebank Panda ex Walverdene Champagne), bred by Mr. Snowden and shown by Mrs. Carbert. Beau was the purest, soundest unmarked Cream I have handled for a long time.

Best Exhibit born North of the Border belonged to Mr. P. P. Connor, who is a pre-war judge of Blues. He produced my Best Blue, a very good female, excelling in type, eye colour, shape and all-round quality. Bettina was by Glen Errick ex Jean of Pensford, bred by Mrs. McPhail, who won first, second and third with her Blue kittens, which were shown to perfection. Bettina won a lovely trophy offered by the Cat Club de Paris and presented by Mme. Gibbon for the best cat bred over the Border.

Judging so many cats made the day a full one and I was sorry that little time remained available for chatting to exhibitors. May the Scottish Cat Club flourish and prosper after this auspicious start!



Mrs. M. Brunton's Blue Longhair Champion DREAM OF DUNESK (by Colneside Bright Angel ex Appleblossom of Dunesk) won her three Certificates at consecutive shows.



Champion DEWDROP OF DUNESK was Best Blue Cat and Reserve Best Cat in Show at the Crystal Palace in 1933. "She was one of my best cats," says Mrs. Brunton in the preceding article.



Associated Press

HURRY UP, I'M NEXT!



"What's going on up there?" enquires lovely LEO LIONHEART OF SNOW WHITE. Photo submitted by American Fancier, Mrs. H. F. Obergfell, of St. Louis.



Photo by Henri Dimont

A very successful show in Paris which won world-wide publicity was recently staged by the Cat Club de Paris. Miss Kathleen Yorke (second from the right in our picture) flew over from this country to judge and she is holding Mme. Remande's lovely Cream female Widdington Wallaby, to which she had just awarded first and Champion. Miss Kit Wilson, Chairman of the G.C.C.F., is persuading Wallaby's litter sister, Mme. Gibbon's Widdington Wisteria, to face the camera. Other officials in the picture are—left to right—Mlle. Urruty, Signorina Asinari (Italy) and Mme. Sigwalt.



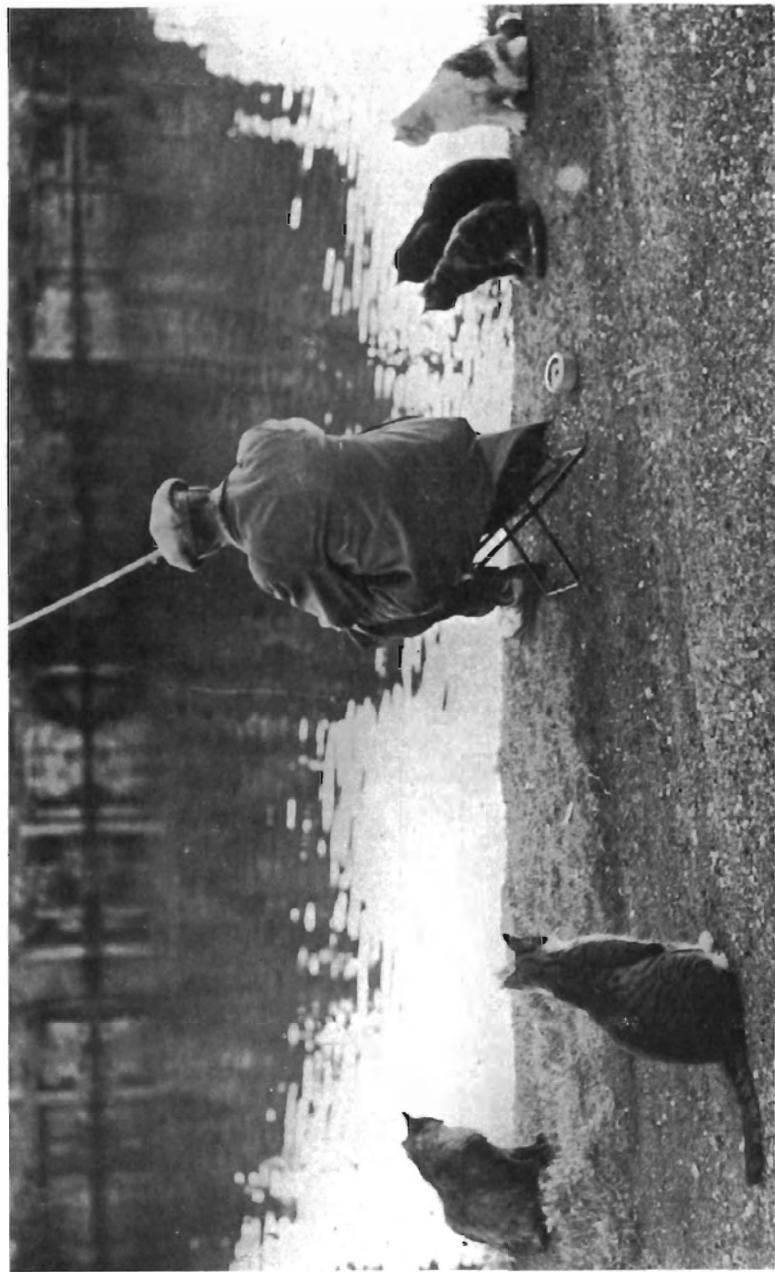
FLEURY OF ALLINGTON. Chinchilla by Sarisbury Simba, strikes an appealing pose. Owner is Mme. Remande, member of the Cat Club de Paris.



DEEBANK PENNY, belonging to the popular Northern Fancier Miss Bull, of Thornton Hough, Wirral, was Best Blue Kitten at the recent Show of the Midland Counties Cat Club.



As through the day the angler plies his skill, five patient felines gather for the kill.
Did Fortune smile? Alas, we cannot say. They mourn, perhaps, "the one that got away"!



As through the day the angler plies his skill, five patient felines gather for the kill. Did Fortune smile? Alas, we cannot say. They mourn, perhaps, "the one that got away"!

Kitten Economics

AS far as breeding is concerned we are now in "the close season," but it will not be long into the New Year before some queens are sent away to be mated.

There are queens which are helpful to their owners in that they do not pose the question "to mate or not to mate" during the months of winter. On the other hand, there are others which seem to maintain their cycle of calling through the whole fifty-two weeks. Many Siamese are notoriously unhelpful in this respect.

There are few animals which in a state of nature breed all the year round, and in the case of the cat it is without doubt domestication which has produced the unnatural females.

The breeder who sets his face firmly against winter litters is adopting a policy of wisdom, for spring and summer are the seasons when young stock should be growing. Hours of daylight and sunshine all play their part in the healthy development of young, and, although the chemist has found ways and means of making up for the deficiencies of nature during winter, the cat breeder

would be wise not to resort to such help unless it is really essential.

If one can make a generalisation from facts which do not relate to hundreds of breeders, but merely tens, the past breeding season has been one remarkable for the large number of kittens produced from the so-called unprolific breeds.

My own experiences would certainly confirm the general impression that I have obtained from my friends that the average output per queen this year has been several times higher than I have ever experienced before. As I have told you, queens of mine which have been decidedly difficult in the past have more than pulled their weight.

The reason for this marked fertility and also improved ability to rear the families which have been produced is difficult to find. I know in my own case I assumed that it was due to my leaving more to the cat herself while I tried to provide conditions as near to Nature as it was possible to provide. It would be expecting too much to assume that all breeders had adopted similar methods and had been rewarded with similar results.

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an opportunity for improving considerably the quality of our stock.

When everything that is produced will sell there is a danger that kittens which are not worth rearing will be coaxed through a difficult kittenhood to a maturity which will not be capable of producing first class offspring. A policy such as this is foolish in the extreme.

In most litters there is a weakling at birth and when kittens are numerous this will be discarded at once. That is all to the good.

Most queens have as much as they can do to rear four kittens adequately, so when the larger litters come along several of the females can be painlessly destroyed immediately.

More kittens are sold as pets than as potential breeders, and one usually finds that males are much more in demand for this reason. Although to-day the spaying of females is comparatively common, the ordinary person who wants a pet cat seems much more inclined to have a male neutered. With that attitude, I think I agree.

Naturally there is some difficulty in deciding which are the outstanding kittens when they are newly born.

To the novice breeder I would certainly say: Obtain the help of someone who has had considerable experience. After that, destroy any unwanted kittens as soon as possible.

What I have written should not be regarded as pessimism; perhaps it might be termed sound sense with a dash of humanity. If you agree with me I hardly expect to hear from you, but if you disagree I am sure that I shall know in the not too distant future.



MRS. K. R. WILLIAMS'
DONERAILE DEBUTANTE

Winner of 1st and Championship National Show, January 1948, and best Siamese in Show. Dam of Ch. Doneraile Drusilla, best Siamese at many shows in America.

"I am, indeed, pleased that cats are now 'upsides' with humans and dogs, in having a special yeast tablet of their own.

The firm of Phillips, well known for its 'human' form of Tonic yeast and latterly for its Vetzyme for Dogs, have introduced it to the Cat Fancy.

During the experimental stage, I co-operated with the manufacturers and can confirm, from my own experience, that KIT-ZYME is of great value, not only as a 'natural' conditioner, but also in whelping, rearing and indeed in many and varied cat ailments.

I previously used the B vitamins separately in tablet form, but I did not obtain the same results as from KIT-ZYME. I am sure KIT-ZYME will soon be regarded as an essential supplement in the diets of cats."

KATHLEEN R. WILLIAMS.

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Miscellaneous

WARNING TO OWNERS. Never dispose of cats unless you are certain they are going to a good home. There is a big demand for cats by the vivisectors, who may subject them to agonising experiments. For further information apply to:—National Anti-Vivisection Society, 92 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

THE TAIL-WAGGER MAGAZINE, the monthly British Dog Magazine for dog owners and dog lovers everywhere. Fully illustrated and complete with informative features and instructive articles. Annual subscription 7s. 6d. (inc. postage) for twelve issues.—The Tail-Wagger Magazine, 356-360, Grays Inn Road, London, W.C.1.

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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.

It would be something of a misnomer to regard my contribution this month as a Diary. The usual shape is altered because so much space is devoted to reports on two outstanding Championship Shows—one held in this country and the other on the Continent. The Show held in Copenhagen is covered in greater detail because it is my experience that British Cat Fanciers and cat lovers generally are so interested to have news of activities in other countries, where habits and customs are different.

10th November. A perfect sunny day for Croydon Cat Club Championship Show, so well managed by Mr. and Mrs. Towe. They emerged on the day very calm and collected after a number of very late nights dealing with the preliminary work. The publicity in a national paper on the previous Sunday probably helped to ensure a very good "gate." The Lime Grove Hall was thronged during the afternoon and one only had time for snatches of conversation. The Burmese male exhibited by Mr. and Mrs. France, "not for competition," was naturally an attraction and he was in constant request by photographers.

The Best Longhair Cat in Show was Major Dugdale's Blue male Harpur Blue Boy. He was looking

in fine fettle and his coat one of the soundest and longest in Blue adults. My Ch. Gloria of Pensford was the winner in Blue females. The Best Longhair kitten—Mrs. Brunton's Wild Violet of Dunesk—was an attractive Blue kitten presented in this owner's usual immaculate style. Best Shorthair Cat was Mrs. A. S. McGregor's Inwood Shadow, a very lovely Siamese queen with exquisite colouring, bred by the exhibitor.

The winner in Siamese males was Mrs. Duncan Hindley's Prestwick Penglima Pertama. Congratulations to his well-known breeder and owner, who has bred yet another Siamese Champion and to whom we owe deep gratitude for all she has done for so many years for this variety. When one peruses the Stud List and the catalogues one realises that nearly all the winners boast a Prestwick for a sire or dam or are bred from sons and daughters of this famous strain.

Miss Pat Tucker's Red Tabby Vectensian Rio Tinto scored a second notable win for her young breeder-owner by securing Best Shorthair Kitten award. Best Longhair Neuter was Mrs. Burn's Squire, a lovely Smoke in perfect condition, and the winning Shorthair Neuter Mrs. Fabrian's fine Siamese Hielan Sprig.

Congratulations to Mrs. Cyril Tomlinson on her Tortoiseshell becoming a full Champion. She was also awarded Championship with her Red Tabby Ch. Pekeholm Paprika and Ch. Black Beret. It was nice to renew acquaintance with Miss J. M.

Fisher's beautifully marked Ch. Dandy of Hadley.

Miss Bull (all the way from Cheshire) had a popular win with the Cream male Widdington Whynot, and his breeder, Mrs. Sheppard, won with the adorable Ch. Widdington Wincette. Miss Langston won the male and female Chinchilla classes with her lovely pair, Flambeau and Felicity of Allington.

The Champion of Champion Class for Longhairs was awarded to Miss Audrey Steer's handsome veteran Ch. Langherne Winsome. I did not enter Ch. Gloria in this class as my sentiments echo those quoted by the judge on the day, Mr. Cyril Yeates: "I do not like the title of the class Champion of Champions, which is a misnomer, and it was for this reason that these classes were abandoned years ago."

My own opinion is that the results of such a class could not carry weight unless every living Longhair or Shorthair Champion in the country was entered.

The winner in the Ch. of Ch. Shorthair class was Major Murrell's Ch. Slades Cross Shahid. Shorthair exhibitors who were awarded Challenge certificates were Miss Rochford with her Russian Blues Dunloe Silver Toes and Pavlova; Miss Bone's Abyssinian female Merkland Adowa, Miss Sladen with Ch. Stonor Kate, Miss Pat Tucker's Red Tabby Vectensian Copper Eyes; the Rev. B. Rees with his handsome Ch. Sylvan Joey; Miss Dennis with her Silver Tabby Punch of Barnes; Mrs. Axon with Noxa Teena; and Mrs. Ridger's Black Manor Nicodelia.

The number of cats and kittens entered was slightly fewer than 1948, but they were entered into a larger number of classes, and as the show attracted so many spectators it was a great success financially and otherwise.

16th November. Left Northolt to fly to Copenhagen, taking with me Dandy of Pensford, litter brother of Ch. Astra of Pensford. By courtesy of the captain Dandy was allowed to travel in the plane with me, and as there were few passengers occupied the seat beside me. He whimpered a little when the engines revved up for the take-off, but once on our way he calmed down and arrived quite unperturbed at journey's end.

Mr. Eriksen, President of Racekatten Cat Club, his wife and Mr. and Mrs. Eisenhuth were awaiting us at the airport and we were soon whisked off to the Hotel Cecil, where I was staying, for a jolly little supper party. I was lost in admiration of the excellent English spoken by two members of the party and subsequently marvelled at so many Danes speaking our language so fluently.

18th November. Off to Gruntvigs Hus to judge the International Championship Show of the Racekatten Cat Club. I found 131 cats and kittens awaiting me. The method of judging is more exacting than in any other country in which I have judged, as every exhibit has to have a written report. The judging book is printed with the following six qualifications: (1) type, (2) head, (3) eyes (shape and colour), (4) ears, (5) pelt, and (6) tail.

This report is written in triplicate, the second copy being a stiff card which is tied to the pen of the exhibit. Fortunately, it was a three-day show, as by this method it took me two whole days to judge. Doors were closed round about 10 each night, and after this the Committee had an alfresco supper in the hall—an agreeable end to a busy day. I left round about midnight.

The Committee and Mrs. Eisenhuth were indefatigable. They were up until 5 a.m. on the day of the Show and left some time after myself each night. Mr. Eriksen had an impro-



An exceptionally fine photograph taken at the recent Show held in Copenhagen under the ægis of the Racekatten Cat Club. Fru M. Hjilda (Sweden) is holding her White Longhair Tussa (entered not for competition) and Mrs. Joan Thompson (centre), who was judge for the event, displays Fru Anna Poulsen's fine Siamese female Fut of Jorna, winner of the Grand Prix. On the right, Fru M. Hamann (Denmark) is holding the winning Russian Blue. Truly an International occasion!

vised bed fixed up on the show premises and the cats were never left. A number of them went to their homes at night or to the hotels where their owners were staying.

The Best Cat in the Show was Mrs. Martha Hansen's Red Longhair Ch. Red Queen of Tigris. This is the cat I so much admired in April, 1947, when I last judged in Copenhagen, and wrote in my report on that occasion: "If there had been a special prize for Best Cat in Show she would have been my choice." This time there was such a special prize and it reflects great credit on the owner that this lovely cat was in even better coat than before. Her head, eyes and type are lovely and she has a rich, red flowing coat. Mrs. Hansen proudly showed me a lovely little gold watch which was presented to her by Mme. Ravel, of Paris, when she also made Red Queen Best in Show in Denmark, 1948.

Another equally lovely exhibit was a glorious Chinchilla neuter, Mrs. Ruth Pedersen's Boy Ankara. This cat had a lovely head, amazingly large eyes even for a Chinchilla, and a long dense coat which was more heavily ticked than is customary with our own present-day Chinchillas.

All the Chinchillas had this accentuated ticking, but with it they usually had the advantage of deep sea-green eyes and fine physique. If "Best Cat in Show" could have been chosen by exhibitors, I believe this lovely cat would have been their choice. But our Governing Council rules state (Rule 17, section F): "Neuters can only compete for prizes and specials confined to neuters."

The Creams were much too dark and I withheld the Grand Prix, equivalent to our Challenge certificates. I think the colour is due to the fact that the majority are bred from Reds.

English exhibitors will remember the Blue male Topothelot by Idmiston Blue Treasure, which was bred by Miss Chafer, of Doncaster, and which won as a kitten at the first post-war Ch. Show in England. He was sold to the late Mr. Knud Hansen and later became the property of his present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Gribner. Topothelot became a Champion some time ago and, like all the champions at this Show, did not compete in his open class. He is a very pretty cat, although not so masculine as the average Blue male reared in England. He was well groomed and presented

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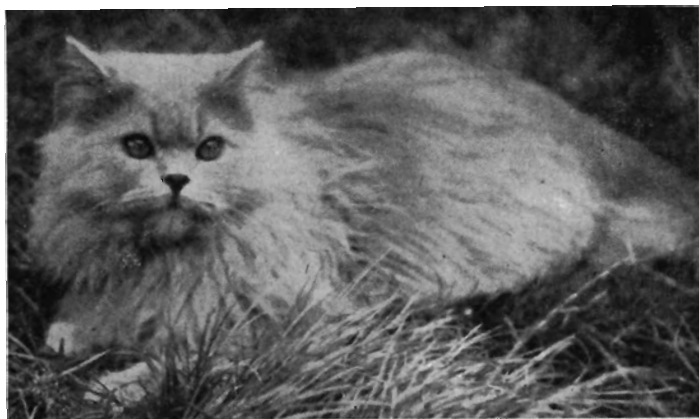
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and looked a picture as he reposed in his pen.

Mrs. Anna Frederiksen exhibited two outstanding pale Blue kittens, Teddy and Linda of Boliemosen, which after judging I found were litter brother and sister, each winning in its open class. Mrs. Frederiksen also won with a superb orange-eyed White, Neptun of Bollemosen, which I see by my catalogue was by Sweetheart du Bosquet. These three were a great credit to their sire and their breeder also deserves full marks for

into three age groups, one to two years, two to four years, and over four years, and from these one selected the winners of the Grand Prix.

My choice for Best Siamese adult was Mrs. Anna Poulsen's female Fut of Jorna, a slenderly built cat with a lovely head, short coat of beautiful colour and texture, and rich but deep seal points with front paws as dark as her mask and ears, and a nice whip tail. The Best Siamese Kitten was Mrs. Magnusson's Proud Minnie, bred



TOPOTHELOT (bred by Miss Chafer, of Doncaster), now a **Champion in Denmark.**

their condition. Another beautiful White kitten was Mr. Kastholm's Blanco da Roma, sired by Snowboy du Bosquet. This latter affix is owned by Mme. Gay, of Berne, Switzerland, by whom I presume these sires were bred.

Mrs. Lisbeth Lind presented an enchanting litter of five White and two Blue Longhairs bred from a Blue dam and a White sire. They romped home as first prize Longhair litter. Mrs. Skytte Birkefeldt, of Aarhus, Jutland, presented her Siamese male Champion Monty of Birma and Mrs. Hansen her female Champion Pudsig, both in perfect condition. Each sex (excluding these two) were divided

in England by Major Murrell. This kitten was awarded the special prize for best eyes in Siamese. I was interested to hear that some Danish exhibitors thought her points too dark for her pale rich cream body colour, but, judged by our standards, she is a gem.

In Russian Blues the Swedish exhibitor, Fru Karin Olsson, won his final Challenge certificate with Anita of Finlandia, bred by Mrs. Lis Landberg, who also bred the winning male Dimitri of Finlandia. Shorthairs were few in number, but Mrs. Jonsson's Silver Tabby female Graamis was a lovely exhibit, and Mrs. Karnoe's neuter Silver Tabby

Péné de Karno was the most perfect mackerel marked Silver I have ever seen. Even the mayoral chains round his neck met in symmetry. There were many other lovely exhibits, especially the progeny of Baroness V. Bach's cats with her Gyldenlunds affix.

Over 4,000 persons paid for admission, and to add to the revenue there was a tombola with all the prizes given by members of the Committee. This side-show was most attractive as it was flanked by dozens of pots of rose-coloured begonias.

An exhibit which was rather a mixed blessing was a show of radiograms which gave forth everything from the classics to be-bop nearly all day. It was a new experience to be judging cats to the strains of "Softly awakes my heart"!

However, it was a grand Show with an excellent entry and a gate which more than satisfied the Committee. Literally I blessed the Committee, who chose two of the most gallant stewards a judge could wish for. They were Mrs. Hjelde, all the way from Stockholm, and Mrs. Hamann, of Copenhagen. Except for a short break for lunch and a cup of tea they were busy all the day carrying cats into the room where I was judging.

Mrs. Lind, owner of the winning mixed litter of Whites and Blues, exhibited eleven kittens altogether and sold nine of them at the Show.

At nine o'clock on Sunday evening about twelve exhibitors left for Stockholm, apparently very cheerful, although they had an all night journey in front of them. When I finally left at midnight the Committee, with one man to help them, were taking down the pens and clearing everything ready for a carrier to take next morning.

21st November. A very enjoyable day in the country with Mr. and

Mrs. Eisenhuth, and in the evening to dine at their home. They had been much too busy to exhibit their three lovely Chinchillas and their Siamese female, which they call "Father's cat" as she is the special pet of Mr. Eisenhuth. We thoroughly enjoyed relaxing after the show and playing with the cats. How elegant they all looked and how well they behaved in a room containing much lovely porcelain, which I was told they never knock over or break.

22nd November. To lunch with Mr. and Mrs. Langberg and a great talk about cats and cat clubs. Mrs. Skytte Birkefeldt also a guest. She visited the Kensington Kitten Club Show in July and knows London well as her daughter is living in Knightsbridge. Mrs. Lis Langberg is on our Siamese Cat Club List of Judges and we may see her officiating here some time in the future. Mr. Langberg is hon. treasurer for a society which caters for stray and unwanted cats, and is much interested in this humane work.

23rd November. In the evening to visit Mrs. A. Hansen and her son George, who speaks excellent English and was such a patient and willing interpreter for me at the Show. Their two Siamese, Ch. Pudsig and her companion, were in perfect condition. One of them was the dam of a five weeks old kitten which had incredible intelligence and agility for such a baby. Mrs. Hansen presided over the tombola at the Show, so she also was relaxing. Mrs. Eisenhuth and Mr. Eriksen also there, so it was a happy farewell.

24th November. Left Copenhagen on a dull day and flew home all the way through mist and cloud with visibility nil until we were within a few hundred yards of Northolt. Home at 5 o'clock to find masses of letters, most of which have been answered.

An interesting item was the issue of "Illustrated," with the wonderful pictures of a Siamese and a mouse, especially the one where he (or she) is poised on one back leg ready to administer the coup de grace. The sequel to the publication of these pictures was even more interesting, as in the "Sunday Pictorial" we saw 2" headlines. "The Ballet of Death," and the question, "Is cruelty justified in the search for the unique?"

Personally, I think the attitude to take over these pictures is to admire the photography. We read it was a real live mouse, but it looks singularly unconcerned in its precarious situation! We are told that a trick was used which the photographer would not divulge. (A sheet of glass

between cat and mouse may be the trick!—Ed.). In any case, to even suggest that hunting and killing is a paramount instinct in a cat is absurd. In my experience it plays a very minor part in the life of pedigree cats. They certainly have a lot of amusement stalking birds and puffing themselves up and looking fierce, but generally it must be the nit-wits among birds which allow themselves to get caught.

Greetings to cat lovers everywhere in Britain and Overseas and Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas. Please do not forget to provide for the comfort and well-being of your pets if you are leaving home to celebrate elsewhere.

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with a selection of the best
items from home and overseas*



GINGER, a marmalade cat belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Windle, of Marston Green, Warwickshire, has cultivated an amusing friendship with Oscar, a young barn owl. They sleep together and eat from the same plate. Oscar was adopted when he was just a tiny ball of fluff that had strayed and fallen from its nest.

"Tec, most precious ginger cat, so dearly loved by all. October, 1939—June, 1949." So reads the small gravestone erected to the memory of their pet by Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Graham, of West Wimbledon. Tec was just an ordinary cat who cost a shilling or two as a kitten. He used to walk on Wimbledon Common with his mistress and her Scottie dogs, and the home of the Grahams was the poorer with his passing.

The Canine Insurance Association, Ltd., of 61/2 Gracechurch Street, E.C.3, has specialised for nearly 25 years in providing protection for pet owners. Their All-In Household Pets Insurance scheme now includes cats for the first time and annual premiums range from 14s. 9d. per animal. Fanciers will be interested to know that cover includes death from any cause, including breeding risks and veterinary fees. An advertisement in this issue provides additional information.

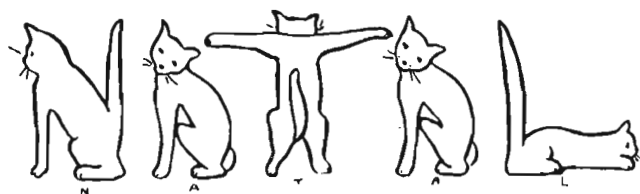
An interesting item of news comes from South Africa, where cat lovers are growing in numbers and getting

together on a well-organised basis. The Natal Cat Club was formed in the summer of this year and is affiliated to the South African Cat Union in Cape Town. The hon. Secretary, Mrs. Maunsell, of Durban, tells me that the Club has 55 members so far and very soon they hope to arrange their first small show and issue some form of newsletter. The sketch reproduced below is Mrs. Maunsell's work and it is looking most effective on the Club's notepaper. Rather cute, don't you think?

Alfred Middleton, 12 years old, of Mottingham, Kent, has been awarded the animal rescuers' "V.C." He mastered his fear of heights and rescued a cat from the top of a 40 ft. tree at the height of a bad storm. "I was scared stiff," he said, "but remembered the advice of my father, who is a window cleaner, and never looked down."

Mickey, black and white cat living at Kingston, Surrey, nearly got into trouble when he saw a safe door open and decided to pop inside for a sleep. Workmen saw the door open and slammed it shut. Nine hours later Mickey's cries were heard and he was rescued in an almost unconscious condition.

An interesting party is scheduled for cat lovers on 14th January at 21 Holland Park, W.11. Organiser is Mrs. F. de Clifford, local representative of the Cats' Protection League.



Besides an exhibition of feline photographs there are to be appropriate musical items (Scarlatti's Cats' Fugue, Kitten on the Keys, etc.) and games (cats' quiz or 20 feline questions). Even the tea includes langues de chat, and with the prospect of an extra item in the form of a puppet show, a good time should be had by all.

Two interesting items concerning cats were recently reported by the "Evening Standard" News Service. The first story concerns Nigger, a Black Longhair on the staff of the White Rock Pavilion at Hastings. Apparently Nigger is in for a happy time shortly as a series of concerts is under way and the items will consist largely of serious pieces of music. He hurries away and hides when a dance band is playing in the Pavilion, but will sit quietly all through a symphony concert. The second news item is about Blackie, who for years has been travelling at sea on the Weymouth-Jersey-Weymouth service. He was actually born on board the railway steamer Roebuck. Now Blackie has decided that he'll go no more a-roving and that Jersey is the place for a fellow to retire to. He has set up home in the cargo sheds there and shows no signs of moving.

"In the so-thorough search for fair-shares-for-all taxation, cat owners should contribute 10s. for each cat, by the compulsory purchase of four small boots at 2s. 6d. each. These to be soled and heeled only by a Government department." Letter to a London newspaper from a Kentish reader.

Mr. Walter Hetherington, of Warfield, Berks, had a greyhound puppy which was so weak at birth that its life was despaired of. So he put it in a greenhouse with a farm cat as an experiment. Everything turned out splendidly. The cat took to the puppy and reared it and the two animals are now firm friends. The puppy has been christened Nupton Pussy.

In another court action at Croydon, Surrey, the owner of a large house at Upper Norwood was fined £10 and costs for failing to abate a nuisance. An order had been made against her prohibiting her from keeping cats and dogs. The solicitor for the pro-

secuting Council stated that the woman lived alone and at one time had nine cats and two dogs kept indoors. Although they were well cared for, they were never let out of the house and the whole place was "indescribable." She had been fined £2 for disobeying an order earlier in the year and had elected to go to prison rather than pay the fine. In her absence the Council cleaned up the house and took away 170 milk bottles. The woman protested against the second fine and declared that she must have her pets; they are "all I have to love."

MICKEY

A REMINDER!

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To the Children

From Uncle Peter

Boys and Girls

The new puppy has arrived so now I have my hands full. All puppies are lacking in house manners; they are disobedient and also destructive. That does sound terrible, I know, but it is true and that is why the early training of a new pup is so important.

Dogs are intelligent creatures and can be easily trained if you have enough patience. You must never frighten a puppy when you are training him because if you do you might as well stop the lesson at once. A frightened puppy cannot think so he cannot learn.

Remember, too, that lessons should not be too long. You know how quickly you get tired of lessons, particularly when they are about things in which you are not interested.

When the lesson has been successful you should always give the puppy a little titbit to eat. If you do that he will be anxious to do well next time because he will remember what is to come when he has finished.

Have you noticed at a circus how the trainer always gives his animals something to eat when they have done a trick successfully? You watch very carefully when you go to your next circus!

Some people believe that animals have to be treated cruelly before they can learn to do tricks, but I don't believe you can teach an animal anything unless you are kind and patient.

Sheena's four babies are now really big kittens and I am hoping that I shall be able to keep them to amuse me until Christmas. Perhaps they will go as a Christmas present to someone like you. I hope so, particularly if you will remember that small kittens must not be treated roughly. Usually a kitten only scratches when it has been frightened.

Have you made your bird table ready for the winter? For those of you who want a pleasant winter hobby bird watching is just the thing. It will surprise you how many different types of birds you will see feeding from your table even if you live in a big town and only have a small garden. If you live a little way out in the country, many more visitors will come to see you. Try to find out how many different birds live near you.

Birds often have a very hard time in the winter and thousands of them die from lack of food or water. If you have a bird table and put food and water on it each day, you will be doing something really useful and also providing yourself with a fascinating hobby.

Only a day or two ago there were six or seven goldfinches flying about on the long grass in the grounds here. That really was something, for these birds have become very scarce here during the past few years. When we find a number of goldfinches flitting about together we call it a "charm of goldfinches." Did you know that?

A Happy Christmas to you all

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



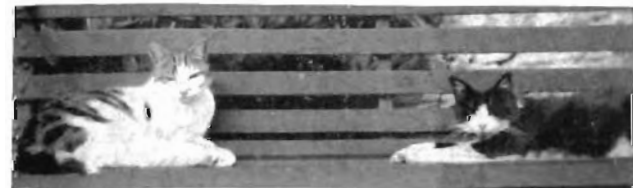
Pamela Anne Jones, of Guildford, Surrey, is the young lady with a smile. Her charge is 9 months old SHEEPFOLD JOSEPHINE, bred by her father, Mr. Leslie Jones, who is a life member of the Blue Persian Cat Society.



Presenting HEATHER OF HADLEY, Blue Longhair maiden queen belonging to Mr. N. V. Boulton, of Bromley, Kent. Heather was bred by Miss J. M. Fisher from Cedric of Hadley ex Deebank Meadowsweet.



Wide-eyed SIR WILLIAM RUFUS, intelligent marmalade Manx, has been shown successfully by Mrs. M. Whitehead, of Wootton, Hants.



The two well-cared for pets on the garden seat (left) are BONNIE and PAL, a black and white Manx. Their home is with Miss C. W. Brown, of Douglas, Isle of Man.

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

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